

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB

BULLETIN

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SEASONS GREETINGS

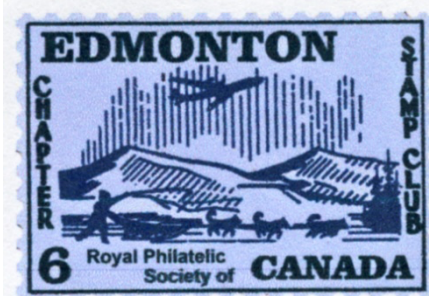


FROM THE SOUTH EDMONTON POST OFFICE

Regular meetings:

St. Joseph High School Cafeteria, 10830 - 109 Street,
6:00 pm

Check Page 20 for meeting dates



The Edmonton Stamp Club dates back to 1912. The Club is Life Chapter #6 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and Chapter #680 of the American Philatelic Society. **The editor welcomes communications of all kinds – letters, comments, and articles.**

These may be forwarded to John-Paul Himka, Edmonton Stamp Club, Box 399, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2J6, or click “contact” on our website (edmontonstampclub.ca) or email to jhimka@ualberta.ca.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



What a year the club has had, a year of sorrow for the members that passed away, some who we did not expect.

My year in review: No, I don't mind sharing. Starting 7 November 2022 – my tripping on a door stop at St. Joe's, breaking my cheek and nose; my blood clot in my right leg in April; and my finding out I have esophageal cancer in August.

Radiation and chemotherapy are getting close to the end. I'm looking forward to the rest period before surgery. No, I didn't lose my hair from the chemo, but I lost quite a lot of hair on my arms from various needle bandages. A big thank you to the staff and volunteers at the Cross Cancer Institute for getting me through it.

Now, a few bright spots. My article, "Christmas 1933: the Pander S4 Postjager First Flight," was brought to the attention of *The Canadian Aerophilatelist*, which republished it in their September issue.

John-Paul submitted our *Bulletin* to the APS Star awards and got us a vermeil award. WELL DONE.

Judge 4 mentioned the sour picture of the club president, so I am presenting this new picture where I am smiling.

The picture was taken 11 November 2022, the third day after my fall.

Remember the Food Bank on 18 December!

-- Barend



Queen Elizabeth II – A Tribute in Canadian Definitives: Part 3

Tony Doughty

The Second Karsh Series

The second Karsh issue consisted of nine stamps, all with the same photograph of Her Majesty taken by Yousuf Karsh, but printed with different background colors and different denominations. Like the Second Cameo series, these stamps do not constitute a contiguous concurrent definitive series of stamps as such. They are again nine different denominations of the same stamp issued at periodic intervals pending postal rate increases.

The stamps' orientation returns to a horizontal format as designed by the Yousuf Karsh, Tom Yakobina, and Chris Candlish trio. The full progression of nine stamps was denominated from 37¢ to 47¢ (only seven different denominations are shown in the illustration below); the stamps were printed by either the British American Bank Note Company (37¢, 38¢, and 39¢), the Ashton-Potter Company (40¢, 42¢, and 46¢), or the Canadian Bank Note Company (43¢, 45¢, and 47¢).



Several different papers were used in the production of the stamp panes, including: Harrison paper (37¢, 38¢, and 39¢); Peterborough paper (40¢ and 43¢ [low fluorescence and medium fluorescence]); Coated Papers paper (42¢ and 45¢), and Tullis Russell Coatings paper (46¢ and 47¢). The papers may display different fluorescences on the gum side, and different levels of brightness on the face. The 43¢ sheet stamp is the only one in the series identified as being printed on two different paper fluorescences.

For the booklet stamps: Rolland paper 37¢ (Bk 98); Slater paper 38¢ (Bk 102) and 39¢ (Bk 113); Peterborough paper 40¢ (Bk 126), 43¢ (Bk 155), and 45¢ (Bk 179); and Coated Papers paper 40¢ (Bk 126), 42¢ (Bk 140), and 45¢ (Bk 179A).

Of particular note are the 43¢ Booklets 155 which were variously printed by Ashton Potter Limited (Bk 155 and 155D) on Coated Papers paper or the Canadian Bank Note Company (Bk 155A, 155B, and 155C) on Harrison paper (Bk 155A and Bk 155B) or Peterborough paper (Bk 155C).

As best as I can determine from complete booklets and myriad stamps: Booklet 155 stamps are printed on non-fluorescent paper and display a light face under UV light (12m issued). Stamps from Booklet 155A and B are printed on nonfluorescent paper; they display a dark face under UV light (12m issued). Booklet 155C stamps are printed on a dull fluorescent paper (3m Issued), and Booklet 155D stamps are printed on a medium fluorescent paper (4m issued). The different booklet paper fluorescences are not specifically identified in the Unitrade catalogue. *Can anybody please confirm or refute these findings?*

All stamps are reported as being lithographed using five colors. All stamps were printed in panes of 100 subjects, except the 46¢ stamp which was printed in panes of 120 subjects. All but the 37¢, 46¢, and the 47¢ stamps were also issued in booklets of ten subjects and no booklets of thirty Queen Elizabeth II stamps were issued. The pane layout of booklets of ten changed during the issue period. All denominations and formats are tagged GT4. The stamp perforations differ between issues and between booklet or sheet stamps.

In this progression of stamps, the Karsh photograph captures the most relaxed Queen ever depicted on Canadian stamps to date. She's smiling with a slightly opened mouth – two firsts in the Elizabethan era. The stamps start a short period of full face-on photographs, and several lasts: the last stamps to depict the Queen wearing the coronet of state, the last stamps to depict the Queen in a formal head of state role, and the last definitive progression to be printed in both sheet and booklet format. This is the last of the Queen Elizabeth II definitive stamps to be issued in perforated formats.

The Happy Pair

Another happy Queen. Bryan Adams took the single photograph used for the next two stamps, and Gottschalk+Ash International was the designer. Both stamps were printed by Canadian Bank Note Company only in booklets of ten subjects.

Booklets 281 and 301 share the same photograph but with different denominations. These stamps are unique in that they are the first stamps depicting Her Majesty to be issued in die-cut format – straight with square corners. They are also the first stamps to depict Her Majesty not regaled in the uniform of state; instead, she is happily attired in conventional every-day outdoor wear and with the jewelry of state replaced by a simple three-string necklace of pearls – introducing what I refer to as the “informal” series of Canadian definitive stamps.

These are the first Queen Elizabeth II definitive booklets to be issued on self adhesive paper.



The stamps are also unique in that they appear to be monochrome stamps, brown or blue-grey, but the printers’ inscriptions on the booklet panes clearly indicate that six (on the

49¢) and seven (on the 50¢) colors respectively were used printing these stamp booklets.

These booklets were issued in a flat booklet plane of ten subjects in a five-column, two-row format. But they were designed to allow the booklets to be folded between the stamp columns two and three, better to fit a wallet or purse. This is the first time rouletting had been used in booklet design in the Elizabethan era.

To accomplish this, the stamp pane is vertically rouletted between the stamps in columns two and three. What is unique here is that the rouletting was applied in different booklet issues using different rouletting coarsenesses. This gives the discriminating philatelist three different booklets to be collected: 5 large slits with wide spacing, 23 small slits with narrow spacing (see below) or 29 slits with even narrower spacing across the two rows of stamps. Careful examination of these stamps can reveal the rouletting indentations on stamps from columns two and three. However, I have found to my dismay that the booklets rouletted with 5 slits across the pane tend to fall apart at the rouletting – handle with care!



The End of an Era – Almost!

Many changes and unique design features have been used on the Queen Elizabeth II definitive stamps over the many years of Her reign, but there are still more surprises to come.

In the next part of this brief investigation, I will explore some other unique design features on Canadian informal definitive Queen Elizabeth II issues that may have been missed or overlooked along the journey.



Edmonton South Post Office on Whyte Avenue

Barend Wissink
wissink(at)mcsnet.ca

On the south side of Edmonton, on 105th Street and 82nd Avenue, stands the only post office in Edmonton worth mentioning. Built between 1911 and 1913 in the Edwardian free style, the exterior of red brick and Tyndall stone (limestone quarried in Tyndall, MB). The clock tower was too short for the liking of the engineer and was heightened in 1914-15 by ten feet. All postcards in this article (thanks to Keith Spencer) are pre-1914, with the shorter clock tower.

In 1977 Canada Post abandoned the old Strathcona post office, and the building sat empty until January 1986; but in 1985 it was put under historic building protection.



In 1986 the City of Edmonton took ownership of the post office for the sum of one dollar. The City of Edmonton in turn transferred building ownership to the Clarion Hospitality Group for

the same dollar. The Federal Member of Parliament Jim Edwards orchestrated a four hundred thousand dollar grant for restoration of the building (one of the early Whyte Avenue restorations). The Hansens (owners of the Clarion Hospitality Group) then proceeded to obtain a two million dollar loan from the Alberta Treasury Branch. The post office came with a three-foot crawl space sitting on a four-foot wide foundation. This was reengineered into a full basement. A sidewalk-level atrium was added to let natural light into the basement. This added an extra 4952 square feet to the building. A glass elevator was added to the west side, allowing access to all three floors.

As of 2010 the building had been divided into nine different businesses, the ground floor being leased out to Chianti, which serves darn good Italian food.

Why would I even mention this building in the *Edmonton Stamp Club Bulletin*? Since this grand old post office has been converted into a market square, is this building no longer tied to our postal past?

So why the interest?

Well, as everyone knows, I've been going to the Cross Cancer Institute for the last month, going straight down 82nd Avenue, past this nice old post office. What did I notice?



The post office has a huge “for sale” sign on it. I scrambled to find information on it, thinking: Wouldn’t this be an excellent place for the Edmonton Stamp Club?

Now let’s get some information:

- three usable floors
- basement 4592 sq ft
- main floor 6035 sq ft
- second floor 6785 sq ft
- total of 17,412 sq ft

As far as I know, Chianti is the only tenant at this time. At present the second floor is completely empty, making this an ideal space for the club to meet. With this type of space we would not have to rent a place for future shows. We could even have a permanent display. Peter would not have to bring the circuit books home – he could work from there. Executive meetings can be held there; consignment auction material could be stored and dispersed from there. Coffee materials could be stored and only have to be topped up, with no need to haul things home.

We could get rid of our frame storage space and store the frames in the basement.

Now the details:

- asking price: \$7,250,000
- taxes 2023: \$115,171.22



How would the club pay for this building and its upkeep?

Simple. At this time I have a one thousand dollar commitment from two people. All we have to find is 7998 kind souls with financial resources who are willing to donate \$1000 each. Details can be worked out by the accountants amongst us. (What do you say, Malcolm and Brian, are you willing to take a stab at this little project?)

MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYONE!
THINK BIG, OR GO HOME!

Jenny and Plenty of Money

John-Paul Himka
jhimka(at)ualberta.ca



Homer Simpson holding inverted Jennies before he discards them as junk because the airplane is upside down.

See the clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxwgQdLt4As>

I guess the biggest philatelic news of the previous month is that an inverted Jenny, in near perfect condition after secretion in a safe deposit box for many decades, was sold for two million dollars. Here I'm just going to list the various prices at which these inverted air mail stamps have been acquired since the error was produced in 1918. I'll not proceed chronologically, but from lowest price to highest price. All prices are in US dollars. Some information is missing – apologies for my limitations.

- \$0. A block of four was acquired at no cost at all in 1955, when someone stole it at the American Philatelic Society show. Three of the stamps were eventually recovered, but the FBI never made an arrest.
- \$24. A pane of 100 purchased at the post office on 14 May 1918.
- \$15,000. The pane resold a week after purchase.
- \$20,000. The same pane resold again, the very next day.
- \$115,000. One of the stamps stolen in 1955 and later recovered was donated to the American Philatelic Research Library in 1980 and was auctioned off the next year.
- \$126,000 - \$575,100. Five stamps were sold in this price range in 2014.
- \$175,000. The so-called Princeton block, which had previously sold for much more, was sold at this lower price in December 1982.
- \$295,000. No. 76 (minor flaw) sold in May 2018.
- \$299,000. No. 79 (minor flaw) sold in February 2017.
- \$389,000. No. 28 (minor flaw) sold in February 2017.
- \$500,000. The Princeton block sold at this price in 1979.
- \$1.35 million. No. 58 sold in May 2016.
- \$1.593 million. No. 49, the one that had long been kept in a safe deposit box, sold in 2018.
- \$2 million. No. 49 resold in November 2023.

In addition to the stamp being featured on *The Simpsons*, it also played a part in the comedy *Brewster's Millions* starring Richard Pryor (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRWyQELLODg>). Much of this info comes from *The New York Times*.

Recent Russian Stamps Featuring Occupied Territories of Ukraine

Patrick Moore
patrick.moore(at)snaful.de

The November issue of the Michel catalog monthly *Rundschau* includes listings and numbers for Russian stamps for the first half of 2023. Among them is a set of two in June as installment 22 in the long-running series “Regions of the Russian Federation.” They honor Donetsk and Luhansk, respectively. A few weeks later, another two stamps appeared as installment 6 in the series “Lighthouses of Russia.” One of the two shows the lighthouse at Sarych in Crimea (the other one is on the Kola Peninsula).



Donetsk and Luhansk People’s Republics

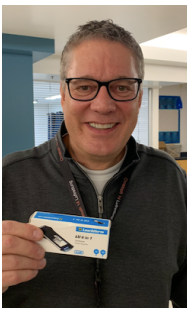


Annexation of Crimea and Southern Ukraine by the Russian empire, 1783

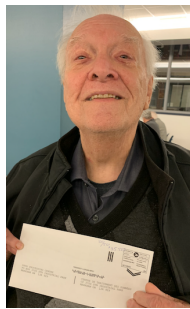
I don’t know how Michel gets their Russian stamps because I suspect that stamps are banned under EU sanctions. It is hard to tell because the new issue business here in Germany is nearly dead following the collapse of the two biggest wholesalers at the start of the century. Local dealers, such as they are, usually stock only the new issues of the most popular European countries. Before the invasion of Ukraine, Russia used to market their new stamps via a Vienna-based subsidiary of the state firm Marka, as a company licensed in Austria. Marka showed prices in euros, but you paid on

their site via a Russian bank (Sber) at prices based in rubles. Ergo, if the ruble was weak, you paid far fewer euros from your account than their site had suggested. At the start of 2022, Marka delivered stamps ordered in 2021 subscriptions but took down their site later in the spring. They charged the same prices as their outlets in Russia, which meant face value except for the restricted-printing artsy souvenir sheets.

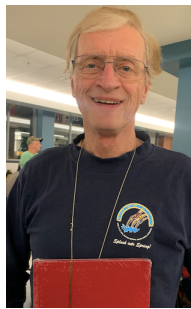
Winner Winner Chicken Dinner



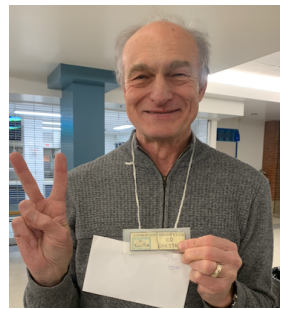
Joe Strigl won the door prize on 6 November: a magnifier with extra functions



Also on 6 November, Brian Heibert won the 50/50 – \$35.50



On 20 November Dave Ellis won a stockbook



Acting prez Ed Dykstra won \$42 on the 50/50 on the 20th; the two fingers signals that this is his second 50/50 win in less than a month!



(Thanks, Jeff)

Letters By Mail
By Tony Doughty

Letters by Mail

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Letters by Mail

Each of the stamps in the table above can be assigned any of the three values shown in its column in the chart below. Assign one of the three letters to the appropriate stamps shown above, to create a crossword puzzle consisting of 10 common five letter words.

Words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	-

Correction

In the last issue of the *ESC Bulletin*, I included a list of laureates of our Distinguished Service Award. However, I omitted some information. The award was not given out in 2020 and 2021 because of Covid. And in 2022 the award was given to John Bucci.

Coffee and Cookies Are Back!

Bring a couple of quarters.



Answer to the Puzzle on the Previous Page



From Jeff Pacey

Last Christmas I saw billboards that had the same message. This stamp was issued in 1953. I guess it's been a concern for some people for a long time.



World Stamps Project

We look around our club, and what do we see? Elderly gentlemen in the main – only very few younger men and very few women of any age. Is our beloved hobby fading out? As we look around us and perceive that the whole world is going to hell in a handbasket, we might think: so is our hobby.

But is this really the case?

Not necessarily. The fact that the *club* is not appealing to the youth really means nothing. Every organization – from churches to bowling leagues – has been abandoned by the younger generations. In fact, there was a famous study published in 2000 entitled *Bowling Alone*. It was written by the political scientist Robert D. Putnam. Putnam demonstrated that *joining*, so common decades ago, was

undergoing free fall. And Putnam wrote his study even before smartphones took off.

Younger people use their phones to socialize, date, shop, play, read newspapers and books, and listen to the news, podcasts, and audiobooks. They supplement their phones with tablets like the iPad and with laptops for more complex operations and information.

It follows, then, that much which clubs have traditionally offered has been replaced by online services. We have an auction in the Edmonton Stamp Club. Does it offer more than eBay? The fellowship that we enjoy at our club is in person. But much of today's youth prefers digital fellowship.

Of course, our beloved hobby immediately also began to make use of the new opportunities. All philatelic organizations, dealers, and press now have an online presence. But I have been surprised to learn of philatelic projects that lie outside the traditional venues. One of these is the World Stamps Project:

<https://worldstampsproject.org/>. Here is how it introduces itself:

Welcome!

The purpose of this site is to create a knowledge base about varieties of postage stamps. This site is dedicated to philatelic studies, to broadening boundaries of collecting and to serve as a source of reliable, in-depth information to collectors, sellers and specialists all over the World.

This site is a Wiki. Every contributor can add varieties from own collection and edit descriptions. It's simple, it takes only three steps to do it. And in case you don't have enough information about your stamps don't worry about it, other members will fill in the gaps.

So, what it is is a collectively produced site for sharing knowledge about stamp varieties, like a Wikipedia devoted solely to a branch of philately. It's been developed by a prominent Slovenian philatelist, Boštjan Petauer. At the moment, it needs a great deal more contributors. The listings of Canada are very thin. There is no listings at all for Ukraine. It might be a good venue to share your philatelic knowledge with younger people.

Cat Got Your Tongues?

If there are opponents of speciesism in our club, then I suggest they will eventually nominate Jeff Pacey's cat Rufus for a Distinguished Service Award. He has figured now in a number of our bulletins. I guess that's because, as his owner demonstrates photographically, Rufus is a cat that just loves the *ESC Bulletin*.



Our Website

<https://www.edmontonstampclub.ca/>

There's too much on the club website for me to cover it all here. But I can begin.

Topping the Home page is our club logo within a collage of philatelic items. Then two paragraphs, entitled "ESC Our Story," provide essentials about our club. A red banner to click on says "Benefits of ESC Membership." These include the club auctions, the *Bulletin*, access to catalogues and research materials, and many other perks, including our annual Christmas dinner. It also explains how to join, the dues structure, and where we meet when. Nearby is also a green banner to click on. It says: "Donate." I was expecting to see a link to PayPal or Apple Pay or credit card registration. I was wrong. The section explains why we need donations but does not provide an easy way to make them. Maybe we need to think about this, especially if we want to buy a post office on Whyte Avenue.

Meeting Dates

The Edmonton Stamp Club meets Mondays at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of St. Joseph High School, 10830-109 Street. Park to the north of the school and use the main entrance at the southeast corner of the school. For information about the club call 780-467-4825 or 780-437-1787.

2024

4 December	5 and 26 February
18 December (Christmas meeting)	4 and 18 March
8 and 22 January	8 and 22 April
	6 and 27 May

REMINDER

At our 18 December meeting, we will have our Christmas meal. Please bring a ten-spot to help defray the costs of the dinner. And while we will be eating delicious seasonal food, many people in Edmonton will not be eating much at all. Our club is dedicated to improving food security for everybody, and at our 18 December meeting we will also be collecting for the Food Bank. **So bring some groceries or some cash to donate to our club's cause.**

