

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB

BULLETIN

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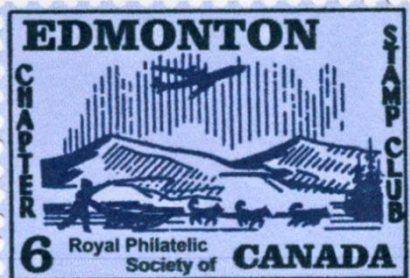


Canada #135_MNH, block, (22 bids) \$63 - ebay

Regular meetings

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

Check Page 16 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 Fred

Tauber, Edmonton Stamp Club, Box 399, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2J6, or click “contact” on our website or email to fxtauber@shaw.ca

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By the time you read this message, the Summer Meeting and Auction will be over and the new stamp season will be started. Since our last general meeting quite a few changes have been made.

The Website, Webmaster and provider has been outsourced. Our former Webmaster, Fred Tauber needed a much needed rest and difficulties with our old site made it very difficult for him to continue, many thanks for all the good work, Fred. He has consented to putting out

a bulletin bi-monthly, if you have the flair for this type of work, I am sure Fred would like to talk to you. The good news: the website is up and running, lots of sweat and tears but doing fine.

Thanks to the Summer Auction committee and all of those who helped. Volunteers are needed if you can help please do so. Thanks to Ken Bailey our questionnaire has been completed and I am looking forward to seeing what we can do to make our club the best in the west.

Barend

Yes, the auction was over. The lights went out, the alarm rang loudly, the fire department came to the door. Everybody, OUT! The auction stopped at lot number 54. By the way the food was great.

At the next board meeting, it was decided, the auction will continue later.

In order to give all auction team members and helpers adequate time to “set up” access to the Central Lions Recreation Centre will be **11:00 am** Saturday, November 5th, 2022. That is correct, 11:00 am with the full program for ESC members and public suggested to start at 1:00 pm and end by 5:00 pm.

John Bucci

NOTICE

HACKERS TRY TO GET YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

A recent form of phishing is rampant on the internet. They use public information about the ESC board of directors and send requests for payment from these names. **Delete, do not reply.**

DUES ARE DUE

JUNE 30TH FOR 2022-2023 CLUB YEAR

Individual \$30, Family \$40

Ebay - Canadian Dollars



USA #13_U, (44 bids) \$252



USA #28_U, (32 bids) \$240



USA #32_U, (32 bids) \$796



USA #38_MH, (19 bids) \$437

Keeping Me Joyful

I had previously written a note to the “Bulletin” on the use of the Imperial Russian Government’s use of stamps during WW I as currency because of a shortage of metal for coins. For me one of the joys of stamp collecting is that I am always learning and finding more information on subjects that I thought I was knowledgeable about.

In the ABPS News, Spring 2022 there is a short two-page article “Russian Currency Stamps” by Carlo Consolante. In this article was information that was new to me, and I hope the members will find interesting.

The Germans counterfeited the 15 and 20 Kopek stamps, changing the last three lines to anti-Russian messages. The purpose was to undermine the value of Russian currency and destroy confidence in the Imperial Government.



German counterfeit 15 and 20 Kopek stamps overprinted to the reverse with anti-Russian messages.



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Surcharged anti-Russian messages:

"Has the circulating equivalent of with bankrupt silver coins"

15 Kopek stamp

"Has the circulating equivalent of a robbing and deceitful ruler"

20 Kopek stamp

Richard Barnes

Mailbox

After losing mail to porch pirates at Xmas 2019 I decided to fight back. Being a sheet metal worker, I built my own security mailbox. It's 18 ga galvanized steel. It's 18" wide, 4" deep and 24" tall at the front. The door is 11" by 13.5". The back and sides are 1 piece of metal broken into shape. The front is 4 panels plus the door (hasp and padlock are from Home Depot). The bottom is expanded metal to allow snow, etc to fall through. There is a 2" angled piece on the inside near the top to allow mail to be dropped in but will prevent hands being stuck in to grab things. It is riveted and bolted to the steel railing. This was a prototype so if I was to make another one there would be some minor changes but all in all I'm happy with it.



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After I had installed it, my girlfriend's comment was that it looked professionally built. I told her that I hoped so as I am a Red Seal Journeyman.

Jeff Pacey



TOPICAL COCONUTS

By Ed Pitts

Angelo Secchi, Society of Jesus, is our next man up in our Astronomers on Stamps series. Note to chauvinistic self: check for ancient Greek female astronomers. The good Padre may be a bit out of chronological sequence here, but no harm done. Father Secchi’s fields of expertise included oceanography, meteorology and physics but it is for his work in astronomical spectroscopy, the measuring the various forms of stellar radiation such as X-ray, infrared and ultraviolet rays, among others, that he is best known. There have not been many stamps issued in his honour, so this column will be rather brief.



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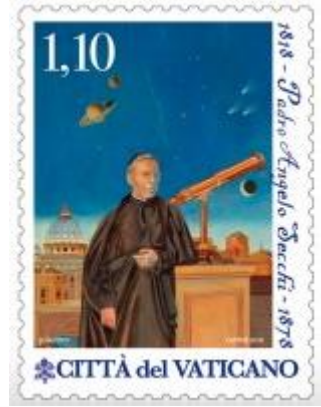


Our guest star was born in Italy in 1818 and died in the same country in 1878, but during his life he travelled to England, the United States, France and Germany. Quite the traveler for a man of his time. A Catholic priest, Secchi served as director of the observatory at the Pontifical Gregorian University (then called the Roman College) for 28 years. His work in astronomical spectroscopy led him to be one of the first astronomers to state that the Sun was, indeed, a star.

Born in Reggio Emilia, he studied at the Jesuit school there and at 16 he joined the Society of Jesus in Rome. Studying at the Roman College, he showed a knack for the sciences, and in 1839 he became tutor of mathematics and physics there. He became professor of physics at the Jesuit College in Loreto in 1841, and three years later started studying theology in Rome and was ordained a priest on September 12, 1847. In 1848, During the Roman Revolution, the Jesuits were expelled from Rome so Secchi spent the following two years in the United Kingdom at Stonyhurst College. Here he met Alfred Weld, the Jesuit astronomer who was head of the Stonyhurst Observatory and who helped set him on his path to astronomy.

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After that it was off to the United States of America, teaching at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.



While in the U.S., he encountered Commander Matthew Fontaine Maury, the first director of the United States Naval Observatory in Washington, a person he kept in touch with for many years.

Back in Rome in 1850, he became head of the college observatory at age 32 thanks, in part, to the good references provided by his then late associate Francesco de Vico. Badly in need of repair, the observatory moved to new digs at the church of Sant'Ignazio where Secchi remained as director until his death.

In 1870, the remains of the Papal States around Rome were confiscated by the Kingdom of Italy and in 1873 the observatory was also to be seized. Secchi put his foot down here and after threatening to leave the country for better jobs in other countries, he and his observatory were left alone.

He died in 1878 at age 59, in Rome.

Well that's it for this edition of Topical Coconuts. Hope to see you next time.

The Unexpected & Intriguing, Number 2: Part 2 **A Trio of Distinguished Scientists**

John Woollard

Continued from July 2022

Next, the Presenter or Author.

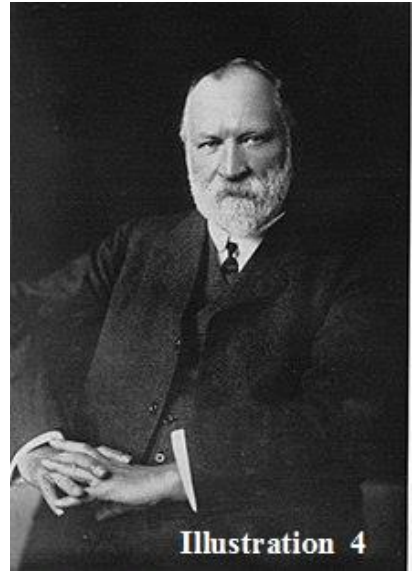
His biographer hails him as “The greatest amateur astronomer in South Africa since the days of John Herschel ” so again this was no 10 mere nobody. Alexander William Roberts, D.Sc., FRSE, FRAS, FRSSA, [Illustration 4] ⁽¹¹⁾ was born in Farr, Scotland on 4 Dec 11th 1857. During his youth he had developed an interest in astronomy but did not receive enough encouragement to pursue it, so trained as a teacher. He taught school for four years, next worked for two years as an Assistant at the University of Edinburgh, then emigrated to Cape Province in 1883 where he took up a teaching position at the educational institution run by the Free Church of Scotland, Lovedale Missionary Institution, where he remained on staff until 1920, even serving as principal for two short periods. In 1894 he married Elizabeth Dunnett. The couple had three children, two daughters and one son.

Inspired by the night sky of the southern hemisphere and having met the Royal Astronomer, David Gill, who was a fellow Scot, Roberts interest in astronomy was re-awakened. He made countless observations of what are called ‘variable stars’, that is, those whose brightness varies periodically. This can happen because ‘the star’ in fact consists of two close together and rotating around a common centre of mass, a ‘binary star’. Over the next thirty years he published more than 100 scientific papers on this topic, the Paper referred ⁽¹²⁾ to in this Post-Card being one of these. Indeed, by 1894 he had discovered twenty new variable stars in the southern skies. His expertise in the field was recognized, for that year he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, then in 1898 elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. A year later he was awarded an honorary DSc by the University of the Cape of Good Hope.

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He actively promoted the development of colonial scientific culture and was elected president of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science in 1913. Curiously, he chose to communicate much of his work through Edward C. Pickering, the director of the Harvard College Observatory. As a result, Robert's work was soon lost from public view until it was digitized in 2006. Moreover, with the death of Pickering in 1919, he ceased further research. Instead, he began to focus on politics and race relations in South Africa, teaching at the South African Native College at Fort Hare.

His teaching career at Lovedale fostered a commitment to the interests of his African students and their communities. Among his pupils were activist and academic Davidson Jabavu, the physician James Moroka, and Swazi King Sobhuza I.¹³ In 1920 Roberts was appointed to the South African senate to represent 'native' Africans; he also served as senior member of the Native Affairs Commission. Despite his liberal instincts he acquiesced to the movement toward racial segregation as advanced in the Natives (Urban Areas) Act and the Native Administration Act. Roberts nonetheless wanted to retain non-racial franchise rights in Cape Province; he resigned from the Native Affairs Commission just as the all-white parliament was poised to remove Africans from the common voters' roll. He died on 21st Jan 1938 in the town of Alice, Cape Province. You can still get a glimpse of him though, for there is a crater on the Moon called the Roberts Crater¹⁴, in honour of both him and his near contemporary, the Welsh astronomer Sir Isaac Roberts.



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Lastly, the Sender

The Secretary of the Society was another astronomer. William Henry Finlay¹⁵, FRAS, was born in Liverpool on 17 June 1849. His father was a mathematics teacher at the prestigious school, Liverpool College, so it is perhaps not surprising that he studied mathematics also, at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated in 1873 as a ‘Wrangler’, in other words, with what we would now call first class honours. It was thus on the strength of his mathematical ability that he was appointed that same year as First Assistant to the Royal Observatory, Cape of Good Hope. He must have performed very well, for in November of that year he was elected as fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. That was also the year he married Catherine Spademan, on 18 December. They had one son and three daughters.

From initially being inexperienced in practical astronomy he went on to become an expert in the use of the Heliometer. His particular interest was in comets, presenting a paper on them to the SAPS in 1880, with several such papers over the following years. He was the first astronomer to record the ‘Great Comet’ of early September 1882 [Illustration 5¹⁶].



1882 Nov 14.

Illustration 5

This brilliant comet was soon visible to the naked eye and even perceivable next to the sun. It later broke into two pieces before finally fading from sight in February 1983¹⁷. In September 1886 he sighted another comet that is now known by his name. The Finlay Comet has a period of six years and a half, so, having appeared at the end of 2014, it will be visible again in 2021. I think I now have to look out for that re-appearance!

His other astronomical work included the preparation of star correction tables and determination of Stellar parallaxes, in collaboration with David Gill, the Royal Astronomer at the Cape Observatory. His mathematical interests ranged beyond the skies, and in 1887 he undertook an analysis of the tidal records of Table Bay and Algoa Bay. He also was involved in the determination of the relative longitudes of Cape Town, Aden, Delagoa Bay, Quelimane and Zanzibar, all of which studies led to a number of other publications.

His mathematical skills were in demand, for from 1880 to 1889 he served as Examiner in Mathematics and Physics at the University of the Cape of Good Hope (UCGH). Ill health forced him to retire from the Observatory in 1898, at which time he returned to Britain. Upon recovery, he missed Africa and after returning to Cape Town he stood in temporarily in 1909 as Professor of Mathematics at the South African College. From 1913 to 1915 he served again as Examiner in Mathematics for UCGH, and in 1914 was appointed professor at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, to replace the incumbent who had enlisted for WW1. He continued working there, teaching mathematics and surveying, until his death in 7 December 1924.

9. Keith Snedegar “Mission, Science, and Race in South Africa, A W Roberts of Lovedale 1883 - 1938”, Lexington Books, Lanham, Maryland, 2015.

10. ‘Land-marks of the universe’: John Herschel against the background of positional astronomy, Stephen Case, *Annals of Science*, 2015, 72, p 417

11. Illustration from

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_William_Roberts

12. “The Variation of La Caille 6887 (R. Arae)” in ‘Transactions of the South African Philosophical Society, 1890-189’, 1896, Volume 8, page xliii (Minutes of meeting of 26 April 1893).

13. On-line review of Snedegar’s book:

https://books.google.ca/books/about/Mission_Science_and_Race_in_South_Africa.html?id=oblzCgAAQBAJ&source=kp_book_description&redir_esc=y

14. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roberts_\(crater\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roberts_(crater))

15. Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 1925, volume 85 (Feb.), p 309.

16. <https://www.thevintagenews.com/2016/03/20/the-history-of-space-photography-copy/>

17. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Comet_of_1882

Ebay auctions



CANADA #27_MH, (17) \$249



CANADA #45b_MH, (23) \$124

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 south-east corner of the school. For information about the club call 780-467-4825 or 780-437-1787.

IGNOR LAST ISSUE DATE NOTICES

*2022

September 12th & 26th
 October 3rd & 24th
 November 7th & 21st
 December 5th & 19th

*2023

January 9 & 23
 February 6 & 27
 March 6 & 20
 April 3 & 17
 May 1, 15 & 29
 June 12 (elections)

***Meetings could be cancelled at any time. (Covid-19)**

Edmonton BNAPS

(British North America Philatelic Society) will meet on the last Sunday of the month. All BNAPSers welcome.

For information contact David Piercey at 780-437-2771 dpiercey@telus.net or Steven Friedenthal at 780-721-3669 sfriedenthal@shaw.ca

Queen Victoria



CANADA #62_U, (16 bids) \$97