

**EDMONTON STAMP CLUB**

# **BULLETIN**

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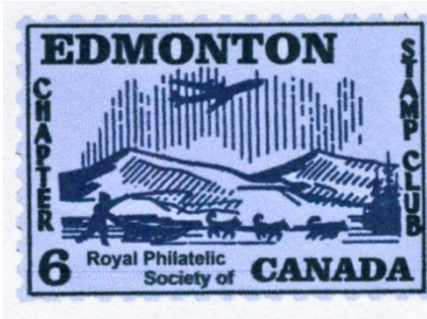
Website: <http://www.edmontonstampclub.ca>



**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](http://edmontonstampclub.ca)) or email to [jhimka@ualberta.ca](mailto:jhimka@ualberta.ca).

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## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Our stamp club's fearless leader, David Pattison, has his arm in a sling so he could not prepare the usual President's Message. But he did wish everyone a Happy New Year and happy collecting in 2025. He also shared a cartoon with us.



### Happy New Ear

Tim Graff  
tbgraff(at)gmail.com

For most of my life my hearing was just fine, until about ten years ago when it began to go south. And for more than five years now, I've worn hearing aids. They help, but they are far from perfect. In big rooms, with lots of people talking, I struggle to hear what others are saying right in front of me and this is why I, along with many others, sit towards the front at club meetings.

Of course, hearing something is better than not hearing at all, in other words, to be deaf. Deafness has been a malady of many throughout human history. The Bible speaks of it on more than one occasion with Jesus being recorded as healing a deaf man (Mark 7:31-37). However, it was perhaps Helen Keller (1880-1968), herself both deaf and blind, who brought the issue to greater awareness in the twentieth century.

Deafness may not be one of those thematic specialties found on popular lists, but there have been some two hundred stamps issued on this theme, often connected to sign language. Although there may be many stamps indirectly related to the theme of deafness, like those featuring Alexander Graham Bell and others impacted by deafness, I would like to focus on a few samples that are more directly linked to this theme.



As already mentioned, Helen Keller (pictured here along with Anne Sullivan) is perhaps the matriarch of this disability, and she is featured on this United States stamp (#1824) issued on 27 June 1980.



On 20 September 1993, the United States issued this 29¢ American Sign Language se-tenant pair (Scott #2784a) with the mother signing “I love you” to her child.



Great Britain, celebrating the International Year of the Disabled in 1981, issued this commemorative stamp, again featuring sign language (Scott #938).

Kenneth S. Rothschild is perhaps the world’s best-known philatelist and historian covering postage stamps and postal stationery related to deafness. He has not only collected some two hundred different “deaf” stamps from around the world, but also promotes the hobby among the deaf. You can check out his YouTube video presentation at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8jclIEQc6yw>.

I am thankful for our club’s attempt to improve the ability for all of us to hear by using a microphone and speaker system. Nothing is ever perfect though, and those of us with hearing disabilities will continue to sit closer and perhaps not catch everything you say when



we're talking with one another amidst the noise of other voices and floor cleaners. When you do encounter me or someone wearing hearing aids or someone who asks you to repeat yourself, please be patient, speak a little louder and slower and you will help us all have a happier new year and "new ear."



## Organizing a Philatelic Collection

### Part 3 – Measuring Perforations

Tony Doughty  
(no email)

I find the perforation gauges listed in the Unitrade catalogue for some stamps to be often misleading or incorrect. I have therefore established my own routine for gauging the measurement of perforations or serpentine on Canadian stamps.

I scan the stamp image adjacent to a centimeter ruler, as shown in Figure 1, usually at 2400 DPI. I import this scanned image into the word processor. and enlarge the image to best fit a whole page (quarto or foolscap depending on the stamp size) to 300% scale or more.



Figure 1

With this enlarged image, I crop the ruler and stamp into two separate images. I replicate the separated stamp image and rotate one image 180 degrees so that I can compare the paired perforations of one edge of the stamp against itself.

Consider the "Atlas of Canada" stamp shown in Figure 1. Comparing the vertical perforations as shown in Figure 2 the perforations match perfectly along the vertical edge, the stamp is therefore uniformly perforated along that vertical edge.

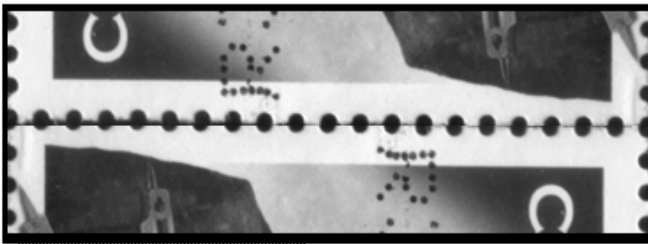


Figure 2

Next I compare the horizontal perforations against the rotated image as shown in Figure 3. The perforations do not match along the horizontal paired edges therefore the stamp edge is bi-gauge or tri-gauge perforated along that edge.

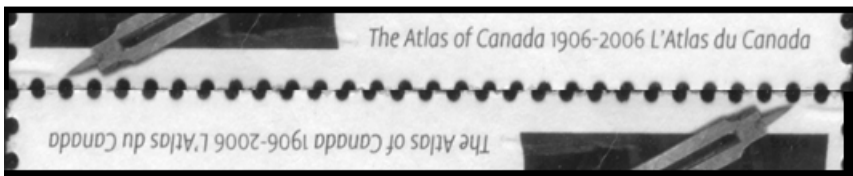


Figure 3

By judiciously cropping and sliding the rotated image an exact match between the perforations can be achieved at the mid-point as shown in Figure 4, indicating the stamp is actually bi-gauged horizontally.

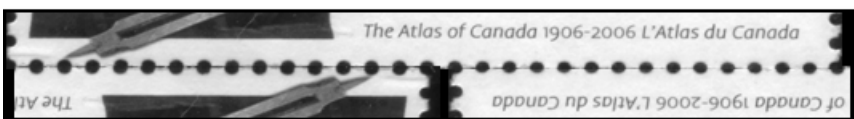


Figure 4

Using the centimeter ruler against the stamps allows me to accurately measure the perforation gauges along each side of the stamp as shown in Figures 5 and 6 below.



Figure-5

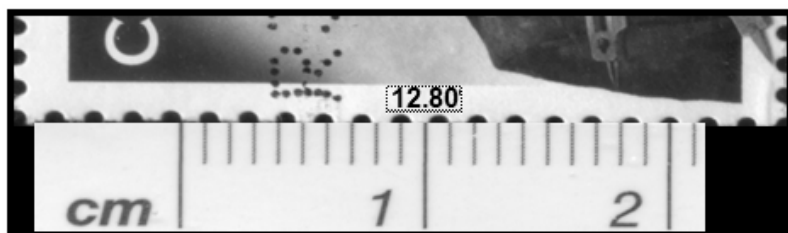


Figure-6

Having accurately measured the actual perforations along both stamp sides, I set up new measurement pages as shown in Figures 7 and 8 below. The rectangular box below the perforation gauge measurement on page 2 (Figure 8) allows me to attach a small glassine envelope containing the actual stamp or stamps I used in the analysis that can be used to demonstrate the unaided measurement techniques to any doubting Thomas that later requires confirmation of my research. The text boxes at the bottom of page 2 (Figure 8) allow me to pencil in the appropriate data for the stamp. I add these pages, and the incorporated stamp or stamps, to my album adjacent to the appropriate stamp listing for future reference.



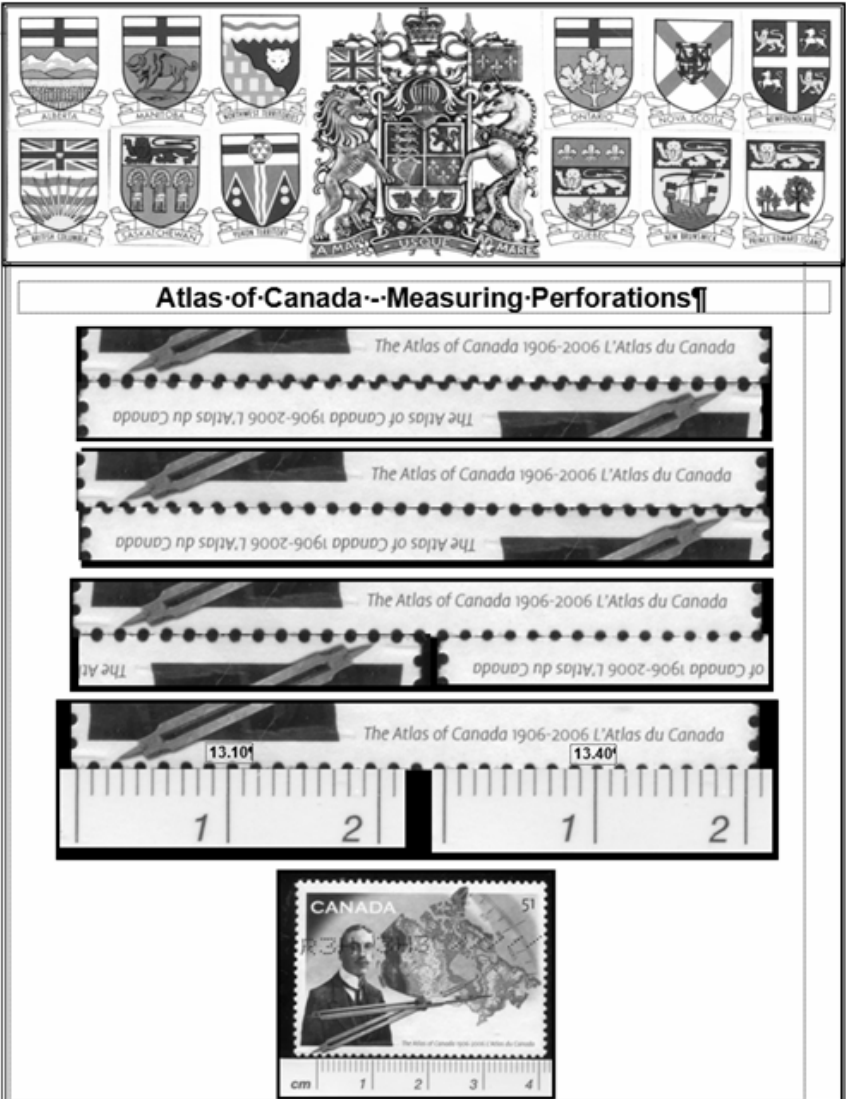
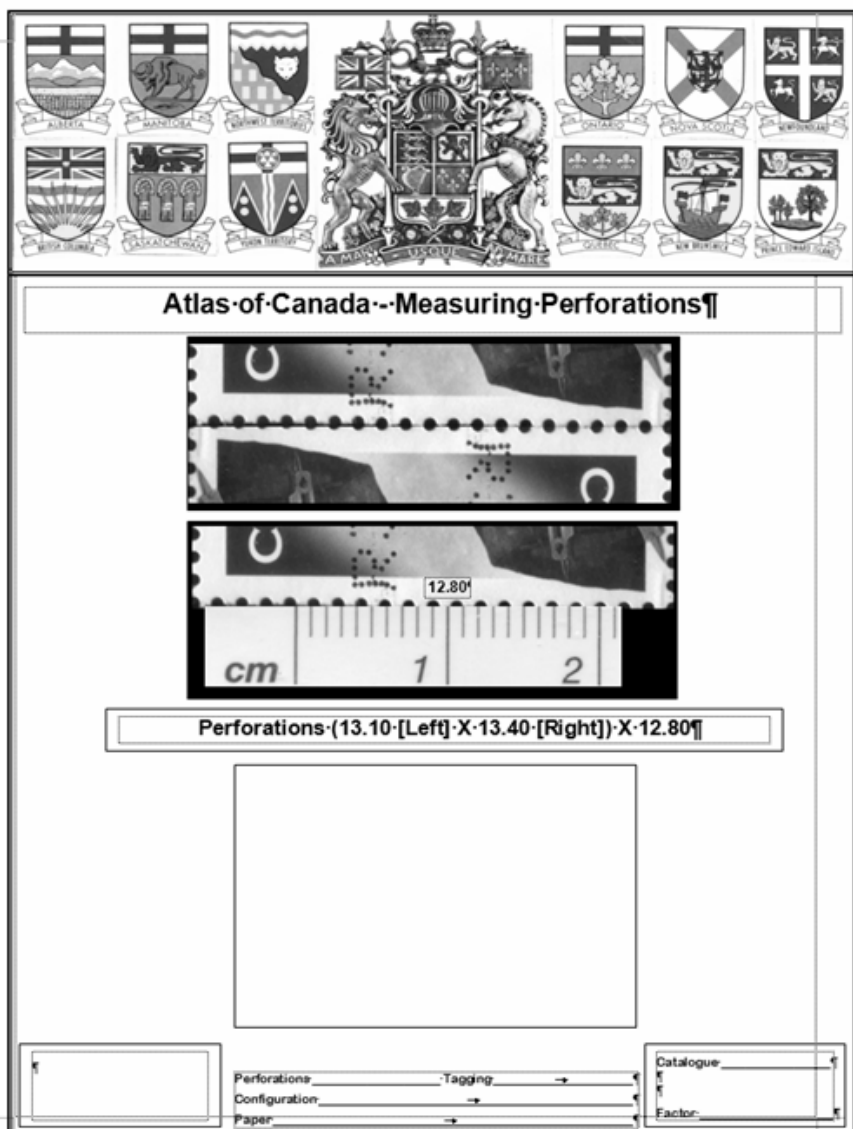


Figure-71





## Anna Banana, 1940-2025

John-Paul Himka  
jhimka(at)ualberta.ca

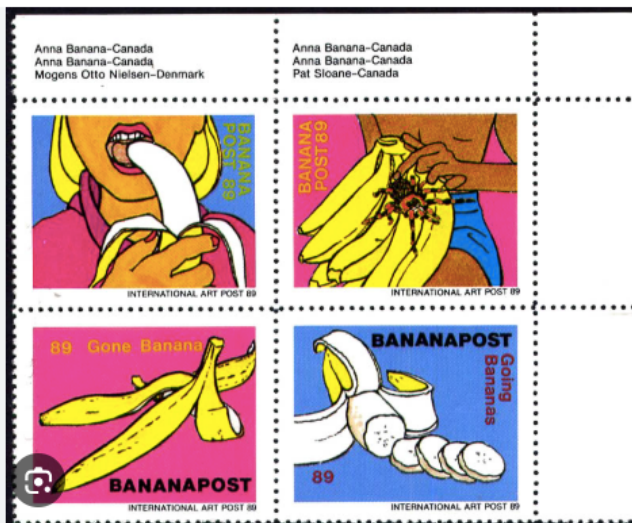
I have been engaged in stamp collecting off and on since I was about nine or ten years old. I also have a long-standing aesthetic and academic interest in visual art. My wife was trained as an art historian, and we visit the museums wherever we travel. But I had never heard of Anna Banana.

Then, this morning, before getting back to work on this issue of the Edmonton Stamp Club *Bulletin*, I read an obituary in the *Globe and Mail* of a recently departed artist born in Victoria as Anne Lee Frankham who later changed her name to Anna Banana. What grabbed my attention was the following sentence: “Adherents of mail art delighted in being able to purchase a sheet of her fake stamps for a reasonable sum.”

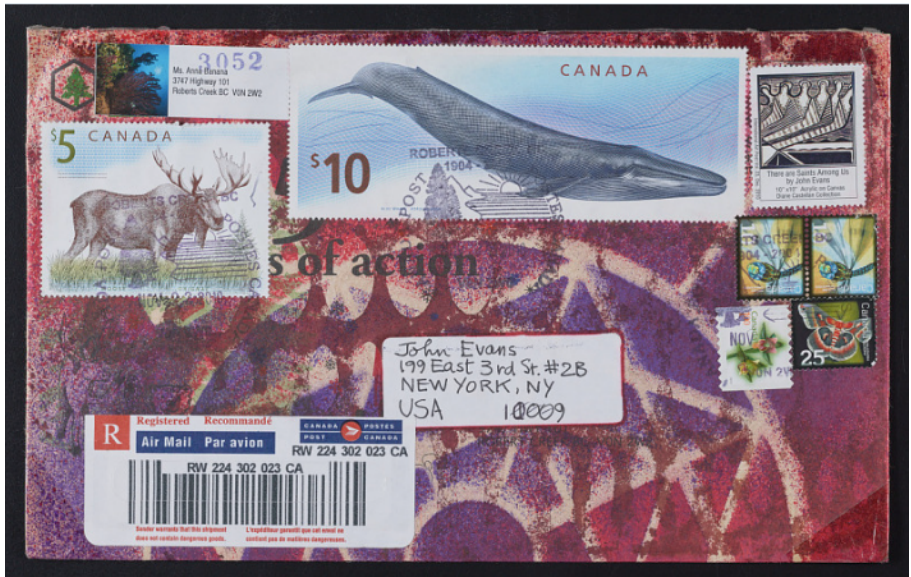
Hmmm. A cinderella story.

Anna produced these art stamps and promoted stamp art for over thirty years. In 2021, however, she finally stopped doing the stamp thing and sold her century-old Rosbak pinhole perforator.

Here’s an example of her work:



At least one of her pieces of stamp art ended up in a major museum, the Smithsonian in Washington, DC. The online description reads: “Mail art by Anna Banana sent from British Columbia, Canada to John Evans features a collage of found material such as Canadian postage stamps and artistamps on a geometrically patterned envelope.”



From the *Globe and Mail*'s obit: “Though not widely known by the public, Anna Banana was considered an important figure in the art world for her creativity and fun-loving spirit. Asked why bananas, she’d respond: ‘They have appeal.’”

## Bullion, Metal Stamps, Jerry Parker, and K. Bileski

Richard T. Barnes  
rtbarnes(at)shaw.ca

[Richard presented this topic at our club meeting on 6 January 2025 – Editor.]

Government mints have produced and are still producing coins and metal stamps. Private mints such as the Franklin Mint and

the Danbury Mint also print coins and metal stamps for the stamp-collector market and bullion collectors. To my knowledge, the Canadian Mint and only one other company have manufactured metal copies of Canadian stamps. This other company was Jerry Parker Ltd, which changed its name to Numistamps in 1972.

Over the years in Edmonton, I picked up a few silver reproductions of Canadian metal stamps. To find out what I had, I went on the computer and found out that these metal stamps were made by a Canadian, Jerry Parker, in BC. I did not realize that sites on the computer disappear over time and that after 80 years of age I would no longer remember detailed information. I recently picked up a set of copper metal stamps produced by Jerry Parker [Fig 1]. There was a typed note with this lot from the original seller, K. Bileski [Fig 2]. The note described this 1967 Canada Centenary set of fourteen metal stamps. Ever the salesman, Bileski had to embellish his important participation in the creation of this set. He also spelled the first name of Jerry Parker incorrectly as Gerry Parker. Typically, this lot was the result of his buying up the Parker estate.



Fig 1

While Gerry Parker struck nearly all of his stamp copies in silver a few also were made in copper. The finest consecutive group is the 12 provincial Flower stamps plus the 2 flag stamps, all leading up to the 1967 Canada Centenary.

In a way I was responsible for everything as the Canadian Post Office issued the stamps based on the set of 12 Provincial Flower cards I had printed long before the stamps came out. Parker then struck his copper stamps with permission of the Canada Post Office.

The set of 14 copper stamps were retailed at \$70.00. I am selling what few sets were found in the Parker estate at \$20.00 for the set.

K. Bileski

## Fig 2

This time when I went to look up Jerry Parker on the computer, he was not on many philatelic sites. His metal stamps are mainly on the bullion/coin sites. Jerry Parker started making his metal stamps in 1967-68 while living in BC. He moved his operation to Ohio, USA in 1972, mainly to reduce his customs and mailing costs. I did find a list of these metal stamps dated 1972 [Fig 3]. This list does not provide a detailed inventory of these items, but you can work with it. Comments have #25 and #26, the US stamps, as being harder to find. There is confusion between writers; some list the base metal as bronze and others say it is copper. I did not see any of the silver-coated bronze metal stamps or #28- 40, just the bronze-only metal stamps listed on the bullion sites.

Searching through my Canadian collections I found a public but not government event cover with a cachet for the World Curling Championship Regina Saskatchewan, 19-24 March 1973. What is special to me about this cover is that it has a Jerry Parker silver metal stamp as part of the cover design. The metal stamp is understandably a copy of the 6-cent Canadian Curling stamp [Fig 8-9]. This is probably the only



event for which a Jerry Parker metal stamp was incorporated into a cover design.

The odd metal stamps that I have picked up along the way did not come with the original Parker cover. There are many styles of Parker covers in different formats. Four of these formats are illustrated [Fig 4-7]. Forty-five hundred of each metal stamp were manufactured.

Here is a listing of Jerry Parker's Stamp Reproductions from an advertisement I received directly from Jerry back in 1973.

Back then Jerry address was PO Box 880, Ladysmith, British Columbia, Canada.....

1. Expo 67 -Silver- (3000) 1967

2. Royal William -Silver- (4000) 1968

3. Mathew -Silver- (4000) 1968

4. Britannia -Silver- (4000) 1968

:

5-6. 2 more 1968 ship silver stamps....

7-12. 6 more 1969 ship silver stamps...

13.-16. Expo 70 4 silver stamps....

17.-22. (1971) Canadiana series stamps..

23. U.S. Frigate Constitution in both Silver and Bronze (S&B).

24. Curling (1972) -Silver-

25. Louisiana Statehood (1972) -S&B-

26. Credo (Washington) (1972) -S&B-

27. Haida Canoe (1972) -Silver-

28.-39. Flowers of Canada (1973) -Bronze-

40. Canada Coat of Arms Unity (1973) -Bronze- (Issued as a set of two).

Fig 3





Fig 4

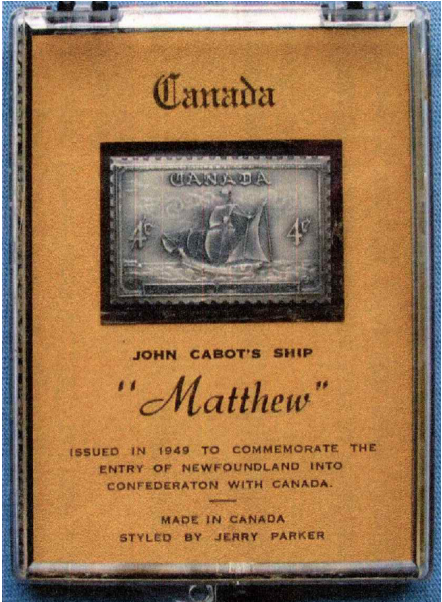


Fig 5

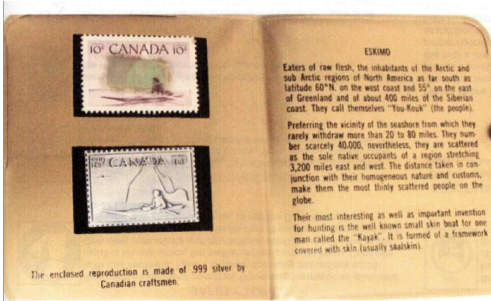


Fig 6

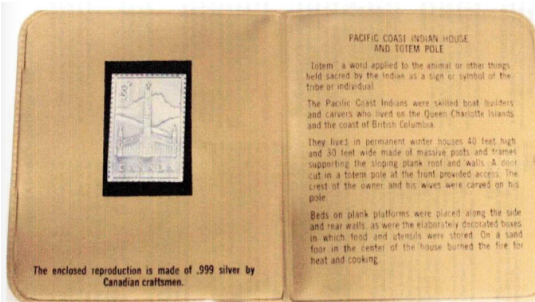


Fig 7



Fig 8

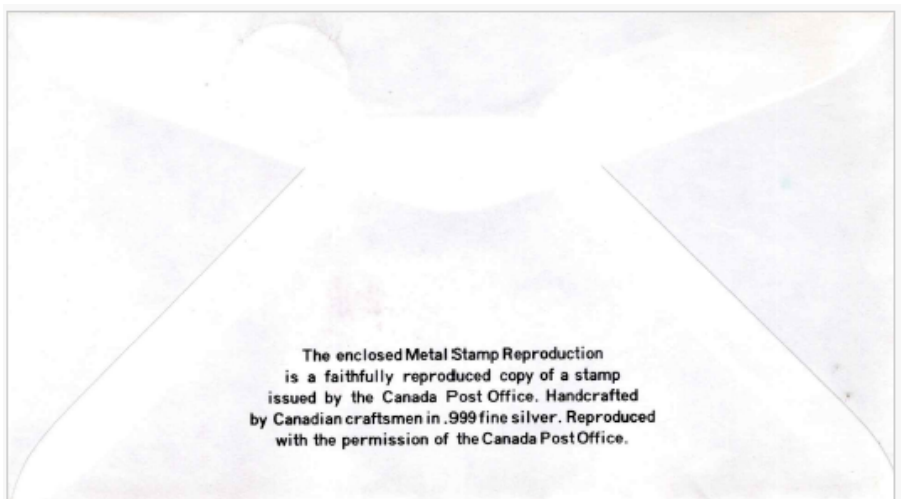


Fig 9

A black and white cat named Rufus is shown interrupting the author's stamps. The cat is black with a white patch on its face and is being held by a hand. In the background, there are some stamps and a blue object.

**Rufus Interruptus.** Rufus interrupting my stamps again. You can't hear it, but he's purring. – Jeff Pacey

## Starbuck(s)

Ed Dykstra  
eddykstra(at)shaw. ca

I came across this cancel on the stamp commemorating the French Explorer La Vérendreye, who was the first European to see the Rocky Mountains. This was around the mid-1700s. The stamp seems to show him looking ahead for something. A place to rest for coffee perhaps? It is the cancel that captured my imagination, as it says “STARBUCK,” a town in Manitoba. This is far from the Rockies so perhaps he took a coffee break near what became this town. It would have been a much different coffee break in the 1700s in French Canada than what we would get in Starbucks today. However, we can say La Vérendreye was here before the town of Starbuck by a hundred years, and the town of Starbuck is a hundred years older than Starbucks coffee. Alas, there is as yet no Starbucks in Starbuck. So maybe this could add a little more purpose to having French Roast Starbucks Coffee! Enjoy! Or: À votre sante!  
À bientôt!



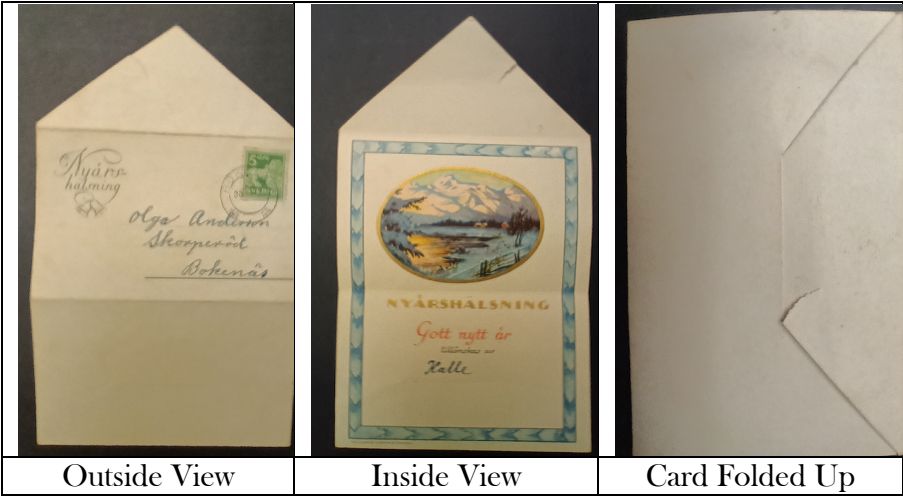
The Card Is the Envelope

Ed Dykstra  
eddykstra(at)shaw. ca

Here is a small Christmas and New Year card from Sweden, from about the 1920s-30s. It is like a folded letter that was in use before the modern envelope. A beautiful painting reproduced in an oval with gold-colored ink. All the greetings are preprinted, and all you did was add your name. In this case it was signed with just the sender’s name: “Halle.”

The small triangular part tucks into a slot in the back of the card. Just add a stamp, and it is good to go. No strikes. Just the circular date cancel strike.

Another keeper from a pile of “stuff.”  
So, All the Best in 2025 to all of you!

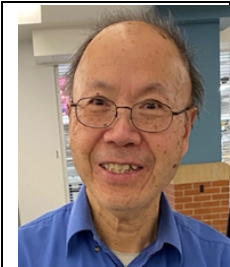

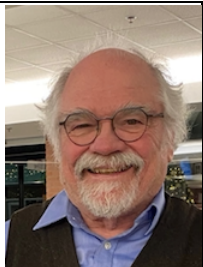
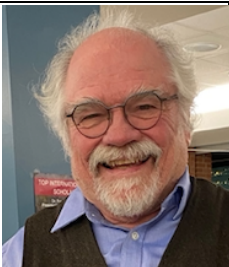


New Postal Rate for Domestic Mail

Canada Post says: “For a domestic letter (30 grams or less), the price of a single stamp would increase from \$1.15 to \$1.44. When purchased in a booklet, coil or pane, the price would increase from 99 cents to \$1.24 per stamp. The proposed rate changes would also affect other products....”



Winners

			
Editor was ill, lost the name, but the gentleman above won the door prize on 16 December	Tim Graff has a big smile. So would you if you won \$54 on the 50/50 on 16 December	Mark Boyce won the door prize on 6 January	Mark Boyce again, with even a warmer smile. He also won \$42.50 on the 50/50 on 6 January

Christmas Dinner at the Stamp Club  
(16 December)





## 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.

### 2025

20 January  
10 and 31 March  
12 and 26 May

3 and 24 February  
14 and 28 April  
9 and 23 June

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