

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB

BULLETIN

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HENRY ALEXANDER,

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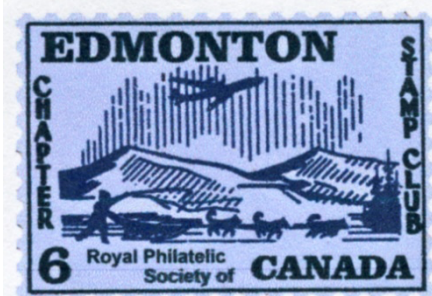
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Regular meetings

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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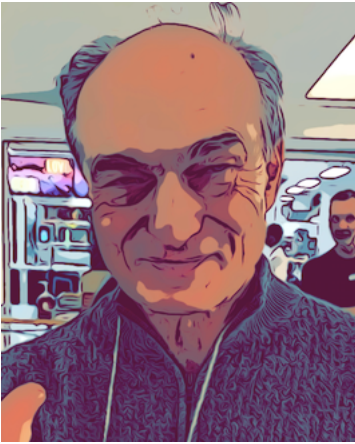
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ACTING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello all!

I am filling in a big pair of shoes as Barend is home recovering from his operation to remove cancer of the esophagus. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Barend. It was sure good to see you and Margret at the club Christmas party. Thanks for the Christmas presents! Good to know you are home again after your stay in the hospital!

As a club we seem to be in pretty good shape. We will be having a Board meeting soon as well as a Show Committee meeting. Good action in the auction. Thanks auction committee: Roman Zrobok and Joe Luisz and many others up front “keeping score.” And all those circuit books: thanks to Peter Kuester for coordinating this. Thanks to Keith Spencer for doing all those programs! See Keith, who organizes this, if you would like to share something with the club. And let’s all give Fred a big hello and handshake for all the work he does as we sign in every meeting. And you are reading this in the *Bulletin* that our *Bulletin* editor John-Paul Himka produces for us. Thanks, John Paul. Thanks everybody and those I may have missed – you too, Good work!

Let’s get ready for the show, which is coming sooner than we think. When you see the volunteer sign-up sheets by Fred’s table you will know the show is coming soon. Watch for that and sign up for whatever you think you can do or want to do. Thanks in advance. Our theme is the 150th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union. The UPU was set up way back in 1874 to allow the passage of mail from any place in the world to any place in another country in the world. This is still the case. So you can mail Mr. Putin a postcard and go tell him off! It might be filtered

out and returned: REFUSENIK! (– not a sneeze). But the point can be made at least to someone in the postal system over there.

We have a great hobby and a great club. Thanks for your participation.

– Ed Dykstra

Queen Elizabeth II – A Tribute in Canadian Definitives: Part 5

Tony Doughty

The Queen in the Royal Blue - Unitrade 2365



The Queen in the Royal Blue stamp was again designed by Gottschalk+Ash International and printed by Canadian Bank Note in booklets of ten subjects. It was printed on Tullis Russell Coatings paper and released 11 January 2010. The tagging is again 4.0mm wide between the stamp with a semicircular indentation adjacent to

the “P” symbol and a rectangular cut-out flanking the copyright date once more in the bottom left corner of the tagging frame.

But the tagging on the top and bottom edges only of each stamp is microprinted with contiguous maple leaves. There appear to be fourteen rows of the maple leaves between adjacent vertical stamp pairs and only nine rows on the top and bottom marginal tagging. Each of the tiny maple leaves appears to be at random angles from the vertical. Needless to say, the leaves are extremely small and a high-powered magnifying glass is needed when viewing the tagging under UV light.

Repeating the use of microprinting within the stamp design, this stamp displays the sentence “Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada / Sa Majesté la reine Elizabeth II, Reine du Canada” almost diagonally along the top of the shawl across the stamp.



**The Queen wearing a Yellow Hat –
Unitrade 2617 (“P”) and 2698 (63¢)**



The Queen wearing a yellow hat stamp was designed by Entro | Gottschalk+Ash International and printed by Canadian Bank Note only in booklets of ten sub-

jects. It was printed on Tullis Russell Coatings paper and first released on 14 January 2013 with the “P” denomination and rereleased on 11 December 2013 with a 63¢ denomination. The photograph was taken by Chris Jackson of Getty Images.

On both denominations, the tagging is again nominally 4.0mm wide between the stamps with a semicircular indentation adjacent to the “P” symbol and a rectangular cut-out flanking the copyright date, which continues to be in the bottom left corner of the tagging frame.

For the third time in this definitive series this stamp displays the inscription “Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada / Sa Majesté la reine Elizabeth II, Reine du Canada” is clearly printed as a shading around the brim of the Queen’s hat.



Another first on this stamp issue is the use of microprinted wording in the tagging frame. The top and bottom edges of both the “P-” and 63¢-denominated stamp are microprinted with contiguous wording in a two-row format, the upper row commencing in English and the second row commencing in French. The tagging in the top edge of each stamp reads:

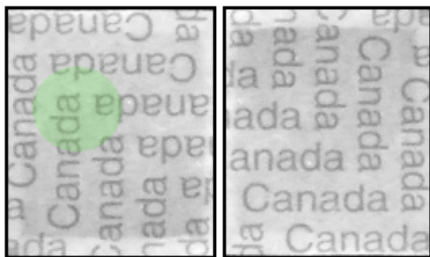
CORONATION ANNIVERSARY / ANNIVERSAIRE DE COURONNEMENT
 ANNIVERSAIRE DE COURONNEMENT / CORONATION ANNIVERSERY

While the tagging on the bottom edge of each stamp reads:

CORONATION ANNIVERSARY / ANNIVERSAIRE DE COURONNEMENT
 ANNIVERSAIRE DE COURONNEMENT / CORONATION ANNIVERSARY

The spelling error was not corrected on the 63¢-denominated reprint of this issue. A magnifying glass is beneficial when viewing and reading the tagging message under UV light.

Another first on this stamp issue is the introduction of microprinting on the gum side of the stamp. Now referred to in the catalogs as “underprinting,” it exists as a security feature on many definitive and some commemorative stamps today.



The underprinting consists of the word Canada printed in a stepped and rotated direction repeatedly across the gum side of the stamp. On any one stamp production, the wording can be vertical or

inverted relative to the picture on the front of the stamp. The actual vertical or inverted pattern of the underprinting depends on the orientation of the picture on the face of the stamp. When stamps are printed tête-bêche the underprinting and the picture on the face of the stamps will appear inverted on the adjacent tête-bêche booklet layout.

In the next part of this tribute to Her Majesty on definitive stamps, I will reveal even more design details on the Queen Elizabeth II series of definitive stamps. Stay tuned for the Corgis and the return of EIRR.

Bolus and a Botanical Surprise (Number 6 in the Series “The Unexpected & Intriguing”)

John Woollard
John.woollard(at)concordia.ab.ca

I recently acquired this fairly ordinary-looking postcard [Illustration 1], catalogued by Higgins and Gage as No 8,¹ and was delighted with the path of discovery on which it took me.

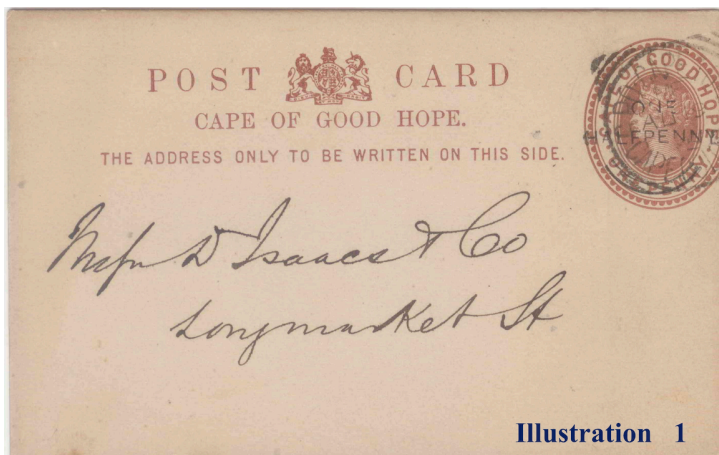
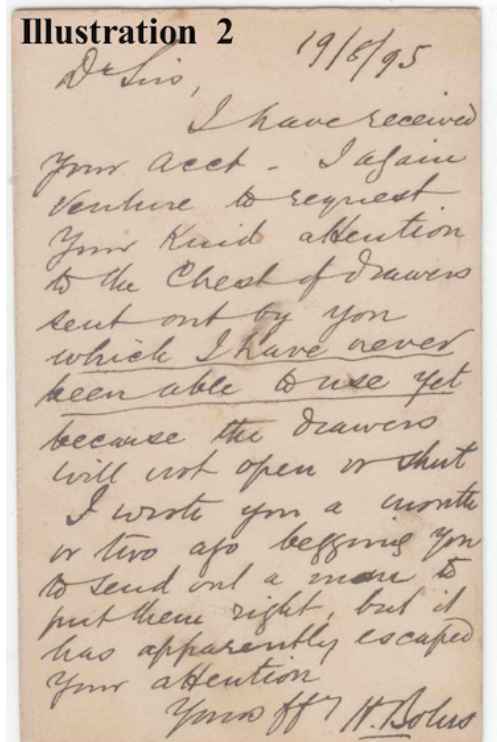


Illustration 1

¹ *Higgins & Gage World Postal Stationery Catalogue*, Section 3, ed. E.G. Fladung (Pasadena: Higgins & Gage Inc., ~1980).

The preprinted stamp on the postcard is denominated at 1d but has been overprinted, rather weakly, "ONE / HALFPENNY." The postmark is a squared-circle design, "G.P.O. Cape Town / Cape Colony," dated MF / AU 19 / 95. Addressed to Messrs D. Isaacs & Co, Longmarket St [Cape Town], the message on the reverse [Illustration 2] reads: "19/8/95 / Dear Sir / I have received / your acct - I again / venture to request / your kind atten- / tion / to the Chest of Drawers / sent out by you /



which I have never / been able to use yet / because the drawers / will not open or shut. / I wrote you a month / or two ago begging you / to send out a man to / put them right, but it / has apparently / escaped / your attention. / Yours ffy / H. Bolus."

A number of questions arise, the first of which is probably "why was the stamp on the postal stationery card overprinted?" The basic card before overprinting (H&G 2: size 121 mm x 73 mm or approx 4¾ x 2⅞ inches) had been introduced in July 1882, when a postcard service to any part of the Colony was introduced at the rate of 1d, and in a burst of enthusiasm a total of over seven million cards were produced in nine printings.¹ That seems like a lot, but perhaps it was not unreasonable. As a comparison, by 1879 in Britain, with a population of about 35 million, over 150 million postcards were

¹ W.J. Quik and G.G. Jonkers, *The Postal Stationery of South Africa*, Part I (Rotterdam: Filatelistenvereniging Zuidelijk Afrika, 1998), 10.

being sent annually through the post.¹ The population of Cape Colony at the time was approximately one million, of whom about a quarter of a million were of European descent,² hence most likely to be literate; so in 1882 it could be expected that there would indeed be a market for several million cards over the coming years.

What the Post Office could not foresee was that in 1889 the domestic rate would be lowered to ½d, in line with UPU rates, although the Cape was not then a member. Accordingly, a new card (H&G 3), denominated with the new rate but of the same size and brown color, was printed, although in nothing like the same number. Then in 1892 a fresh ½d card was issued, again of the same size but now with text and stamp in green (H&G 5), adhering to UPU color guidelines for internal-use postcards. Thus twelve years on from their introduction, the Post Office still had plenty of the 1882 cards in store, so evidently in 1894 a portion of that stock was overprinted "one halfpenny" for internal use. Accordingly, these cards are only found from that date onwards, many in 1895, with quite a few being used as printing stock for various businesses.

To complete the details of that aspect, a little while after the Cape Colony formally joined the UPU in 1895, a fourth ½d card (H&G 14) was issued in 1898, still properly in green but in the larger, standard size adopted by most European nations in the UPU, namely 139 x 88 mm (i.e. 5½ x 3½ inches) or thereabouts.³

The postcard's message speaks for itself. We all know of abysmal support nowadays from suppliers who lose interest in our business once we have bought something: clearly they follow in a tradition, long-standing even if not proud. However, the negligent

¹ Gerald J. Elliot, *Postcards: A Short History 1869-1918* (2014), <https://ellott-postalhistorian.com/articles/Postcards.pdf>.

² https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/1911_Encyclop%C3%A6dia_Britannica/Cape_Colony.

³ "The Golden Age of Postcards," *Kingston Stamp Club Newsletter*, 13 (2), No. 50 (2018), 17-21. Text largely from: <http://www.arthistoryarchive.com/arthistory/photography/History-of-Postcards.html>.

company was well known in its time as one of the leading suppliers of furniture and furnishings, so they did have a reputation to be guarded jealously. Thus in 1893, when the Orange Free State determined to build a palatial new City Hall [Illustrations 3 and 4] in Bloemfontein, Messr D. Isaacs & Co provided the “beautiful curtains and carpets.”¹ The company even manufactured items themselves, presumably using local timber, so you can occasionally find one of their pieces being sold as an antique [Illustration 5].² Maybe the malfunctioning chest of drawers was just like this one? As an indication of the company’s success, in the early 1900s they built their own five-storey building in Longmarket Street, Cape Town. Although it passed out of their hands in the 1930s,³ it is still there in part, but now incorporated into more modern structures [Illustration 6]. I do not know when they ceased trading, but suspect they could have been a casualty of the Great Depression.



What about the sender, H. Bolus? I was delighted to find that this was no ordinary testy character, but a well-known and significant member of South African society at the turn of the century. Harry Bolus [Illustration 7] was born in Nottingham on 28 April 1834.⁴ He was educated at Castle Gate School, whose Headmaster George

¹ <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/sites/923020027>.

² https://www.bobshop.co.za/item/187485231/a_spectacular_d_isaac_of_cape_town_oak_chest_of_drawers_with_stunning_detail_awesome_handles.html; viewed 28 July 2023.

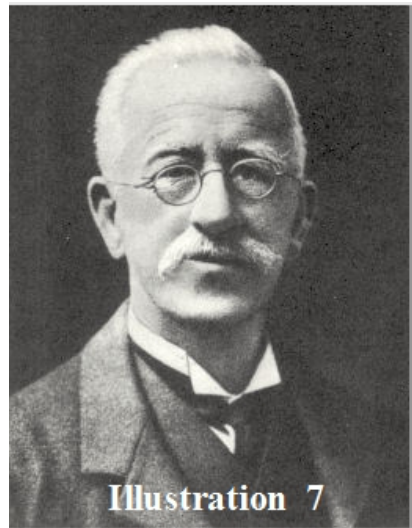
³ <https://www.artefacts.co.za/main/Buildings/bldgframes.php?bldgid=4269>.

⁴ https://www.s2a3.org.za/bio/Biograph_final.php?serial=283.

Illustration 5**Illustration 6**

Herbert was in correspondence with a Cape businessman and enthusiastic amateur botanist, William Kensit of Grahamstown. Kensit asked Herbert if he could recommend a young man to help him with collecting plant specimens, and the choice fell on Harry.¹ Thus in March 1850, at age sixteen, Harry arrived in South Africa, where he apprenticed to Kensit, presumably also helping him in the management of his store.

He must have learned well, for two years later he moved to Port Elizabeth where he was employed as a bookkeeper for a General Dealer, trading mainly in imported goods. During this time he took

**Illustration 7**

¹ <https://www.artexpertswebsite.com/pages/bolus.php>.

a short holiday back to England, when he extolled the opportunities in Africa to his brother Walter, who joined him in 1854. In 1855 the two of them opened their own General Dealer business at the inland town of Graaff-Reinet, which was becoming a hub for traders and explorers venturing to the interior. Although it seems Walter never actually lived there himself for any extended period, Harry did and entered thoroughly into community life, serving on various boards and organizations, including the Midland Fire Assurance & Trust, which he helped found, and the Board of Executors. In 1857 he married the sister of his former employer, Sophia Kensit.

Meanwhile Walter had moved to Cape Town where in 1869 he took over an existing financial brokerage business. This was prospering, and he persuaded Harry to join him, so in 1874 together they opened Bolus Brothers, Brokers and General Agents in Castle Street – the first stockbroking partnership in South Africa.¹ The business flourished, and they took in family members from the next generation; indeed, the business continued in the family at least until the 1970s. In 1884, having become rather wealthy, Walter left active involvement in the partnership and returned to England with his wife and daughter, leaving Harry as senior partner to continue trading lucratively for another decade, until he too retired from business in 1895, the very year this card was sent. At that time he was living in the suburb of Kenilworth, although that important detail is not given on his card. He assumed the company had the necessary information on file.

Almost as soon as Harry was in Cape Town, he again got involved in numerous community associations, and continued being active that way well into his retirement. One wonders what Harry Bolus was like as a person. He was an active member of the Unitarian Church, whose precepts guided his life of integrity and correctness. These were important assets for his career as a stockbroker, but could he have seemed a little stiff and too correct at times?

¹ Various details of Walter's story were generously shared in a private communication from Mr. W.A. Stevens, a descendant of the family.

Apparently in 1870 he was renting a house in Hof Street, Cape Town, when the owner declared bankruptcy. The house was thus advertised for sale by auction, but the agents failed to inform Harry. Consequently, when the auctioneer and eager crowd appeared on his doorstep on the appointed day, he refused admission, insisting upon the requisite month's notice; so the sale had to be postponed by a month!¹ His principles also included the belief that everyone should make their own way in the world, including his own offspring, so they did not greatly benefit from his wealth.

Harry and Sophia had four children, but their firstborn, a boy, died of diphtheria at age six, in 1864. Harry was particularly distressed by this death. As it happened, and presumably building on his first experiences in Grahamstown, in the preceding years he had been attending at the local college a series of lectures on botany by a friend, Professor Francis Guthrie. The latter suggested that as a distraction from his loss, Harry start collecting plants on his own account. This hobby soon became a lifelong passion, accomplished with skill and expertise. He set up his own herbarium, collected intensively both locally and throughout the region, corresponded with noted international botanists, published numerous papers and articles, provided hundreds of specimens for important herbaria, paid several visits to Kew to consult the botanists there, and became an expert on local orchids. To add to that, he made fine botanical drawings of some of his specimens, being works of art in their own right. Their only daughter, Ethel, often accompanied Harry on his collecting trips, until sadly she too passed away in 1890, at age twenty-four.

As a measure of Harry's botanical standing, by 1873 he was elected a Fellow of the Linnaean Society. Rather than bequeathing his considerable wealth to his offspring, Harry used some of those assets to set up a variety of scholarships as well as to help found a Chair in Botany at the South African College (now University of Cape Town) which later became known as The Harry Bolus Chair of Botany. He also gifted his large collection of botanical specimens to the College, where it still forms the basis of the Bolus Herbarium, and

¹ http://home.freeuk.com/iancx/Cx_book_chapter_19.html, 134.

where his grandniece, Louisa Kinset, was installed as chief curator. As the crowning achievement of his botanical success, he even had five plant genera named after him. He was a founding member of the South African Philosophical Society in 1877, was its first treasurer for four years, as well as president in 1886-87, and served on its council for thirty years. In 1903 he was awarded an honorary DSc by the University of the Cape of Good Hope in recognition of his botanical contributions to southern African science. In 1911, while on a further trip to England, he died of heart failure on 25 May.¹

So, quite an excursion from a simple card of complaint, and for me there was an additional surprise lurking. While in Botswana several years ago, I took the accompanying photograph of this attractive legume [Illustration 8]. Up to now I had not paid much attention to its Latin binomial, *Bolusanthus speciosus*, beyond using it to look up data in botanical texts; but now I realise that the genus is named after this very same Harry Bolus who wrote my card! What a good reminder that there is often more of a story than one expects behind those obscure Latin names! I shall now look on that plant with a great deal more interest if we ever get back to southern Africa.



Illustration 8

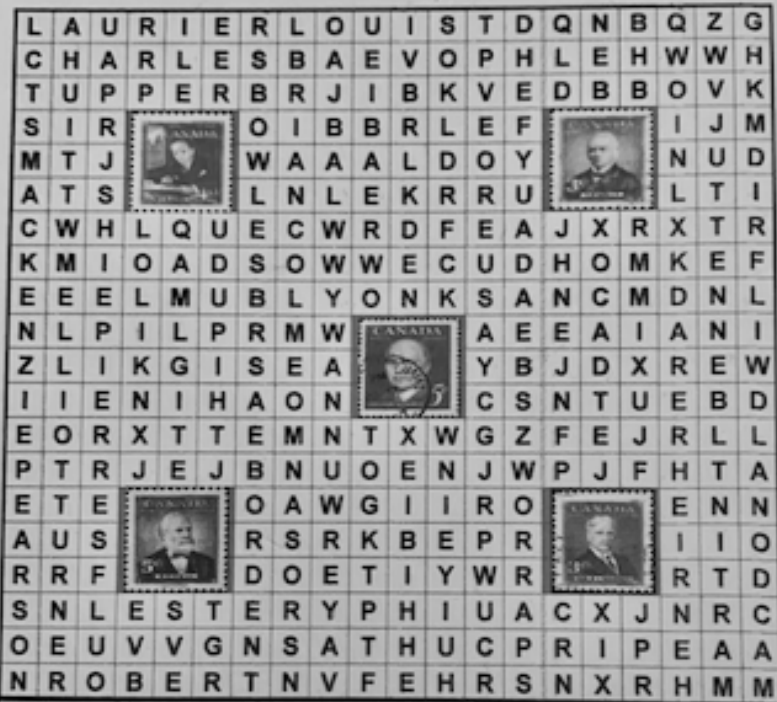
¹ Details from:

https://www.s2a3.org.za/bio/Biograph_final.php?serial=283.

Canadian Prime Ministers

By Tony Doughty

Prime Ministers of Canada – Word Search



Prime Ministers of Canada – Word Search

The following names of Canadian Prime Ministers appear in the word-search puzzle above. A name appears only once in the puzzle, so words like John or Sir, although repeated in many names are embedded in the puzzle only once.

How many of the following names can you find in the puzzle?

- Alexander MACKENZIE. Sir John Alexander MACDONALD. Sir John Joseph ABBOT. Sir John Sparrow THOMPSON. Sir Mackenzie BOWELL. Sir Charles TUPPER. Sir Henri Charles Wilfrid LAURIER. Sir Robert Laird BORDEN. William Lyon Mackenzie KING. Arthur MEIGHEN. Richard Bedford BENNETT. Louis St LAURENT. John George DIEFENBAKER. Lester Bowles PEARSON. Pierre Elliott TRUDEAU. Charles Joseph CLARK. John Napier TURNER. Martin Brian MULRONEY.

Advertisement

We have a club member who is keen to sell a two-volume collection of German stamps. The member has calculated the catalog value to be \$4,400, yet is only asking \$500 for the whole thing. *Schwer zu glauben!*

Interested? Who wouldn't be? Call Keith Spencer at 780 437-1787.

Stamp shows / Exhibitions

Royal*2024*Royale

Hosted by the Fredericton & District Stamp Club.

September 20-22, 2024

Fredericton, NB

Other upcoming shows:

Mar 9/24 **WINPEX 2024**

Mar 16/24 **72nd OXPEX & 42nd OTEX**

Mar 16/24 **Fredericton and District Stamp show and sale**

Mar 23/24 **Edmonton Stamp Club Spring National Stamp Show**

Mar 30/24 **BURLPEX 2024**

BNAPEX Convention



BNAPEX, the annual stamp show and convention of BNAPS, is held in different locations from year to year.

BNAPEX 2024 Kingston 23-25 August 2024

BNAPEX 2024 will be held in August in the historic city of Kingston, ON.

- ▶ [BNAPEX 2024 Kingston web pages](#)
- ▶ [BNAPEX 2023 Halifax Palmares](#)
- ▶ [Previous BNAPEX conventions](#)

From the Editor

This issue of our *Bulletin* has been a bit delayed because I was ill for a month and a half. I'm all better now.

I have been very fortunate as editor in that I have received many interesting texts to share with members of our club. I see, though, that I'm going to need more material. So, *please* consider writing something up for the *Bulletin*. What's the most interesting/valuable item in your collection? Why do you collect what you collect? Reminiscences. Long-time members remember such colorful personalities as Ian Patterson, who contributed so much to our club. Why not share your stories? Pet philatelic peeves? And of course, I

am always delighted to receive studies based on deep research. These really put our club on the map. I see that we are, generally, a well educated and articulate bunch, and I am proud to publish the contributions of our members.

In short: take your fingers off the tongs for a while and hit those computer keys!

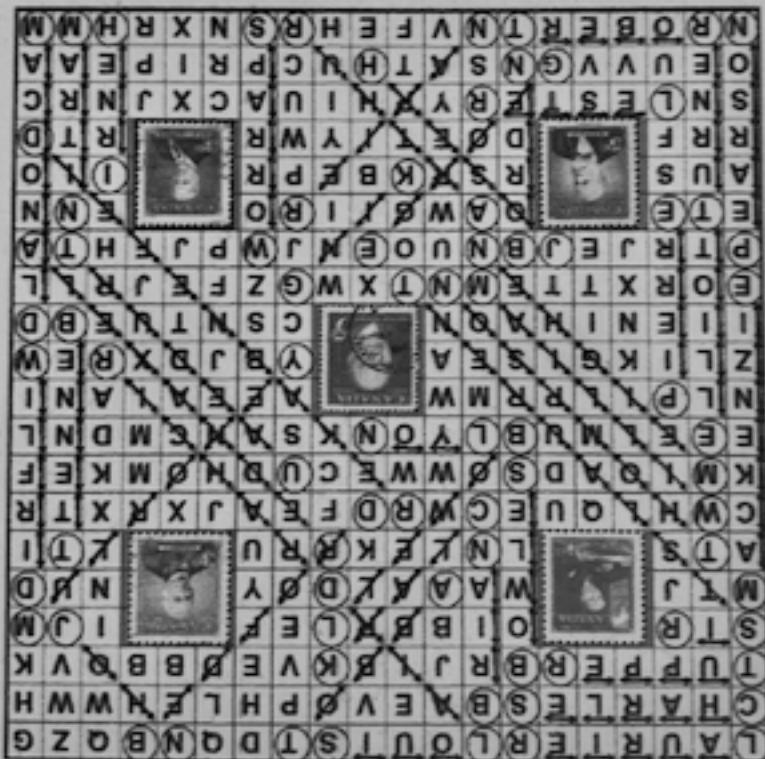


"Great news, the burglars only took your stupid stamps."

Planet Philatelic

- R. Maresch and Sons has now been in the stamp business for a hundred years!

Canadian Prime Ministers Solution



- Canada Post wants to raise the domestic mail rate to 99¢.
- The American Philatelic Research Library has one of the world's largest and most accessible collections of philatelic literature. It's nearly four miles of shelving, containing more than 23,000 book titles and 5700 journal titles as well as catalogs (general and specialized), government documents, auction catalogs and price lists, stamp show programs and palmares, exhibits (copies of philatelic exhibits), CD- and DVD-ROMs, and research and archival collections:
<https://stamps.org/services/library>.

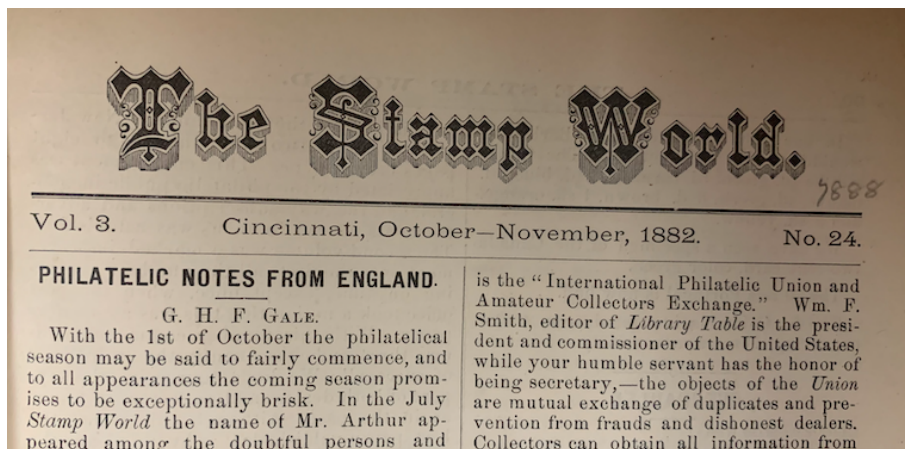
Meeting Dates

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

26 February
4 and 18 March

8 and 22 April
6 and 27 May



(This image and the one on the cover were photographed from an old philatelic publication lurking in one of the box lots at a recent club auction.)

- Visiting Toronto? You might pop into the Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library, specializing in British North American and Canadian philately.
<http://www.greenefoundation.ca/library.htm#about>
- Did you know that the Postal History Society of Canada holds a monthly Zoom meeting for its members? They get prominent postal historians to speak. Find out more here:
<https://www.postalhistorycanada.net/php/Library/av/index.php>