

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB

# BULLETIN

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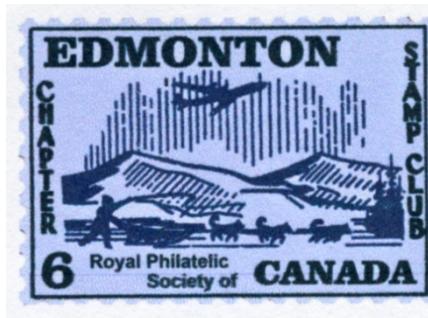
Website: <http://www.edmontonstampclub.ca>



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).

The Edmonton Stamp Club respectfully acknowledges that we are located on the traditional territory of the First Nations, the Inuit, and the Métis peoples. We recognize the land as an act of reconciliation and gratitude to those whose territory we reside on or are visiting.

## 2025 - 2026 Board of Directors

Area code 780 (unless otherwise noted)

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Philately and philanthropy are closely related. The Edmonton Stamp Club and its members have a long history of giving back to the community. Donations to a myriad of charities, some, such as the Parkinson Association of Alberta, got close to home (my thoughts are with my good friends Jeff and Carrie).

ESC will once again be hosting a Christmas dinner as part of our regular club meeting on 15 December at St. Joseph high school at 7 PM. Treasurer Brian has tickets. \$30 each, and bring a guest if you so wish. Email the club to confirm your attendance. Food donations or cash to the Edmonton Food Bank, please. Be generous to those in need.

The culinary arts chefs and students will be preparing turkey and ham with all the fixings. Good food and fellowship for all.

At the Christmas dinner, Doug Hunter from the Edmonton Food Bank will be our guest speaker. How we can make a difference in the community.

I've invited various stamp clubs across Canada to write a guest column or article for the *Bulletin*. Our good friends in Penticton have written an article on a King of Denmark. Have a read.

Your Board of Directors continues to work with sharp pencils to tighten our budget. We're also undertaking a major membership update and drive.

We've had some informative presentations at the club this year, the latest being from Steven Friedenthal on collecting postal slogans. Lots of slides talked about and many questions after. Our Club is more than a stamp shop, and education is a

cornerstone of how we engage and grow our club and philately. Speaking of growing philately, Bob has eighteen students in the Paul Kane high school stamp club. Marcel is looking for other junior clubs.

David V. Pattison, President

When you send someone a Christmas card you've let them know they are worth the price of a stamp. Melanie White.

## **Christian X – the “Riding King” of Denmark**

Gordon Houston

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[Gordon Houston is a member of the Penticton & District Stamp Club, which has a cohort of philatelic writers. In fact, members of their club have published eighty-three articles in their local newspaper. One can only comment: Holy cow! At our president's suggestion, I contacted the Penticton club to invite a guest article from one of their authors, and Gordon stepped up to the plate and hit a home run. Unfortunately, I was unable to find a picture of the stamps that he mentions at the end of his article. – The editor.]

I was never too excited by the earlier postage stamps of Denmark; lots of dull numerals of value or kings' heads. But after reading the story of King Christian X during World War II, I no longer think his little portraits are dull. He was born in 1870 and became King of Denmark in 1912, after a career in the military that involved lots of horses and cavalry. He was not immediately popular as king, as he tended to be cantankerous and authoritarian. The “Easter Crisis of 1920” was brought on by his difficulty coming to terms with the parliament and politicians of the day; he abruptly dismissed the existing parliament. Threats of mass demonstrations and a general strike in Copenhagen forced him to back down and take on a much

more symbolic role. However, his cranky character would come in useful in the years ahead.

Denmark intended on remaining neutral during World War II as it had been in the First World War, but a sudden invasion by German troops on 9 April 1940 put an end to that as the flat country was quickly occupied. I liked the sad and interesting Danish movie *April 9th*; it is available (free) on YouTube. Germany imposed much milder terms on Denmark than on other countries it occupied, and the Danish government was allowed to remain for handling internal matters. Unlike nearby Norway and the Netherlands, the king remained in place to give the occupation a display of normalcy. Maybe the king could show his face occasionally?

Christian X had other ideas. Every single day, in spite of rain, wind, ice, or cobblestones, he donned his full military uniform, got on his horse, and rode from Amalienborg Palace alone through the streets of Copenhagen. Citizens would wave and doff their hats – he saluted them in return. A crowd of cyclists, particularly delivery boys, followed behind. A salute from occupying troops would be coldly ignored. It was a small action, but it showed the Danes that they couldn't be intimidated. People started wearing small metal badges with the initials of the king on them. A patriotic song “Der rider en Konge” was sung.



On the king's 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday in 1942, Adolph Hitler sent a long, effusive telegram, congratulating him. Christian replied with five short words that Hitler interpreted as more or less "Up yours!" Hitler was furious ; the episode is termed the "Telegram Crisis." The Danish government was dismissed by the Nazis.

Concerns began mounting about Denmark's Jewish population of eight thousand souls. It is now described as only a legend that the king wore a yellow star at this time, but there is no question that he considered this. A diary entry of his says, "I could not meet such a demand against Danish citizens. If we receive such a demand we would best meet it by all wearing stars of David." With encouragement and funds from the king, resistance groups and ordinary citizens smuggled Jews by boat into neutral Sweden. 7500 escaped, 476 were captured and sent to Theresienstadt. Pressure from the Danish king, government and Danish Red Cross may have saved many of these. The final count of fifty-two deaths is horrible, but a small fraction of those lost in other occupied countries.

The king continued to enjoy huge popular support, standing as a rallying point for resistance and helping to end collaboration. Unfortunately he fell from his horse in October 1942. He became a virtual invalid and was treated as a prisoner from 1943 to 1945, passing away in 1947.

A fitting memorial are Danish stamps #259 and #261; the king riding through Copenhagen, followed by cyclists.



## British King George V Commemoratives

Wayne Madden  
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These days, rarely a month goes by when stamp issuing authorities do not issue one or even two or more issues of one or more stamps (usually more) to commemorate some person, historic event, or special occasion. This was not always the case. It was only at the 1920 Madrid congress of the Universal Postal Union that a rule prohibiting stamps “of temporary validity” (i.e., commemorative and charity stamps) for international mail was lifted.<sup>1</sup> Of course, this does not mean there were not commemorative stamps issued prior to that congress. The United States first issued commemorative stamps as early as 1892 (celebrating the four-hundredth anniversary of Columbus’s voyage to the Americas) and Canada issued the Diamond Jubilee commemoratives in 1897. Great Britain, on the other hand, did not issue its first commemoratives until 1924, to celebrate the British Empire Exhibition held at Wembley in 1924 and 1925. The purpose of this exhibition was to stimulate trade and strengthen bonds within the British empire, while also demonstrating British accomplishments and strengths at home and abroad. As part of the preparations, It was desired to issue commemorative stamps. However, would H.M. King George V approve? Although an enthusiastic stamp collector, the king did not approve of Great Britain issuing commemorative stamps, which he considered as “un-English.”<sup>2</sup>

Nevertheless, in spite of his own dislike of commemorative stamps, the king did see the propaganda value of the stamps, and so a competition was held. One design, a very modernist design by Eric Gill, was approved by the Stamp Committee. Well, His Majesty may

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<sup>1</sup> “Australia and the UPU – the Effects of the Madrid and Stockholm Congresses,” *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, February 2007.

<sup>2</sup> “A Reflection of the Times: Paul Brittain Examines Changes in Stamp Designs over the Years,” *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, February 2007.

have been flexible on the idea of commemorative stamps, but he was decisively NOT flexible when it came to modern art of any kind. He vetoed that decision. Keep in mind that British stamps that contain the image of the sovereign require his or her approval. The happy result was the choice of a design by Harold Nelson featuring the always dependable British lion.<sup>1</sup>



Issued in April 1924, two stamps were produced, a red 1d stamp and a brown 3½d stamp. The stamps featured a left-facing cameo profile of the king on the right side of the stamp with the roaring lion on the lower left side of the stamp. The purpose of the stamps is stated in the upper left hand corner as "British Empire Exhibition 1924." As the exhibition continued in 1925, a second printing was issued in May 1925 with only the date changed.

It was another four years before the next commemorative stamp issue, this time an issue of five stamps to commemorate the Ninth Universal Postal Union Congress, held in London from 10 May to 28 June 1929. As the two previous conferences (Madrid and Stockholm) had been marked with commemorative stamp issues, it was decided to do the same for the London conference although, once again, the king was reluctant to have a commemorative stamp issue. Five stamps and designs were approved, ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2½d, and £1. Final royal approval was needed for the designs, but this was delayed as the king was seriously ill. In the end, it was H.M. Queen Mary who approved the designs.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Chris West, *A History of Britain in Thirty-six Postage Stamps* (New York: Picador, St. Martin's Press, 2013).

<sup>2</sup> "Great Britain: The 1929 Postal Union Congress Issue," *Gibbons Newsletter*, [www.stanleygibbons.com](http://www.stanleygibbons.com), June 2025.



At first, it was decided to produce just the four low-value stamps, and the £1 value was added later. The stamps were issued on 10 May 1929 with the low-value stamps replacing the definitive issues during their period of sale. Therefore the three lowest values were also issued in roll and booklet form. Designers were F.W. Farleigh for the ½ d and 2 ½ d stamps, E. Linzell for the 1d and 1 ½ d stamps, and Harold Nelson for the £1 stamp which shows the king on the left hand side of the stamp and St. George and the dragon on the right hand and center of the stamp. All stamps name the event commemorated, "Postal Union Congress London 1929."<sup>1</sup>

While the low values are easily available either mint or used at a reasonable cost, the £1 stamp, which was not available at all post offices, but was available at the London Post office until 1937, is somewhat more expensive. (My 2021 Stanley Gibbons catalogue shows prices of £750 for a mint stamp and £450 for a used stamp. I shall have to appreciate that stamp by looking at the pictures.)

The final issue of commemorative stamps in the reign of King George V were for his silver jubilee in 1935. By that time, the king's health was clearly failing as a result of a riding accident during the First World War, his smoking habit, and being seriously ill with pleurisy in 1928. Nevertheless, the jubilee celebration was a welcome break

<sup>1</sup> Ibid.

from the rigors people endured during the Great Depression, and people were ready to cheer and celebrate their king's jubilee. After returning from the Thanksgiving celebration at St. Paul's Church, procession back to Buckingham Palace, and balcony appearance, the king is reported to have remarked, "I had no idea the people loved me so much."

I cannot find any record of what the king felt about having commemorative stamps issued on this occasion. However, as the dominions, colonies, and dependencies that made up the British empire issued commemoratives for this occasion, it would hardly do for Great Britain not to issue their own. The design on this stamp, created by Barnett Freedman, is very modern (interesting as the king hated modern art and design). The design, produced by the new process of photogravure, features the king in the center, the occasion for the stamps ("Silver Jubilee") along the top, and the value of the stamps along the bottom. A stylized crown and the date 1910 are on the left side of the stamp, with stylized wreath and branch symbols along with the date 1935 on the right side. Use of color and shading give the stamps a three dimensional appearance so that the king's portrait stands out.<sup>1</sup>



The 1935 Jubilee Issue and the 2½d Prussian Blue Variation

There is another point of interest with this issue – the Prussian blue variation of the 2½d stamp, possibly Great Britain's most famous error. The color of this stamp should be ultramarine. When the trials

<sup>1</sup> West, *History of Britain*.

were produced for the king's approval, stamps in both colors were shown, and he preferred the ultramarine color. Somehow, three sheets of the Prussian blue stamps got into circulation and were discovered by A.J. Stavridi, a businessman who had sent his secretary to the post office to buy stamps and noticed some stamps were of the wrong color. To make a long story short, stamp errors, once let out, are like gossip and cannot be taken back very easily. About two hundred copies of that stamp are estimated to be in existence.

Will I ever have a copy of the Prussian blue variation? In 2011, a block of four sold for \$36,400.<sup>1</sup> I noted a copy on Regal Stamps listed at a not-so-cool £14,250. Spink Auctions listed one at a starting price of only £3000; it sold for £3500. Rowan S. Baker listed one at £9995. Hmm! Once more, I think I will be quite satisfied just to look at pictures of that stamp.

**Fun Fact:** All three sheets of the Prussian Blue error were sold from a post office in Edmonton, North London. Fort Edmonton, now our city of Edmonton, was named for that town.

## Banksy

John-Paul Himka  
jhimka@ualberta.

Edmonton City Center is hosting a fantastic exhibition of the works of the British artist Banksy, famous for his stencil graffiti. The exhibition runs until 11 January 2026, so there's still time to see it. My wife and I were, in the words of our youth, blown away.

I am always happy to discover an unexpected philatelic connection, so I was delighted when I came across a minisheet of stamps issued by Ukraine among the displays. I snapped a picture of it, which appears on the front cover of this issue of the *Bulletin*. The stamp came out on 24 February 2023 to mark the first anniversary of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. Banksy's art costs very

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<sup>1</sup> Ibid.

little to produce, but he earns millions of pounds from sales. Most of that money he uses for philanthropic purposes, such as saving refugees fleeing on dicey boats in the Mediterranean.

Much of his art concerns populations in trouble. As one can see from the exhibit here in Edmonton, he has strong feelings about the plight of Palestinians. And he also makes art about the tragic situation in Ukraine since the invasion. He himself travelled to Ukraine to create stencil art. The mural below served as the basis for the minisheet shown on our cover.



## A New Movie and Some Older Stamps

Ed Dykstra

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There is a new movie out about magicians, or illusionists. It's the third installment in the franchise "Now You See Me." The new movie was released on 14 November and is called "Now Your See Me: Now You Don't" or simply "Now You See Me 3."

Three magicians get put together by a mysterious person to steal the largest diamond in the world from the evil Vanderbergs and give it to the people. Great show! Morgan Freeman is the mysterious voice they hear on their cell phones. He assembles them to use their talents for this good purpose. He lives in a castle, Chateau de Roussillon, a museum with lots of devices that illusionists used over the years. Cool place. Time to see if this fine chateau made it on a stamp from France. So glad Scott catalogue has an index for all the many commemorative stamps, especially all the castle and chateau stamps France has. Not on the list! Too bad.

A bit of digging on the web on the cell phone and you'll find there is no Chateau de Roussillon. It is fictitious. Of course. This must be part of the Illusion. The castle they used is in a town called Sárvár that has a castle called Nádasdy, named after a Hungarian aristocratic family. This did make it on not one, but two Hungarian stamps! Good for Hungary or Magyar Posta! As for the neat stuff inside the museum, including a strait jacket from the great Houdini, it's back to Hungary for that too. All that stuff is in an actual magician museum just outside Budapest, the capital city of Hungary. The stamp with the castle on it is from the 1960s. It is a 10 Forint stamp and missing in almost all collections as it is the high value of its set (Sc 1291). The newer, full color stamp from 2018 is a view of the whole estate (Sc 4479) and one of three in a set.

I will buy the Scott 1291 10 Forint stamp from anybody who has one. And the newer Scott 4479 for that matter. Thanks! Enjoy the stamps and the movie.

Illustrations of the castle stamps are on the next page.



Scott 1291



Scott 4479

## Looking Closely at Stamps

Judy Madden

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Have you ever taken a long look at your stamps with a magnifier or a microscope? When I was younger I used to bemoan the “boring” single-color definitives. Now I enjoy taking the time to look at them with a magnifier, marvelling at the detail in the engravings. What skill the engravers had!

Now, one sometimes has to search the stamps for the elusive date that is often well hidden in the stamp image. But there are other interesting things to be seen in stamps. When Sir Sanford Fleming designed the three pence beaver, he put a happy face in the sun. Most of us view that as something a child might do; however, Fleming was a freemason, and the sun with a face is symbolic of the highest masonic officer, the Grand Master. The sun’s position in the design (rising in the east) is consistent with Masonic symbolism, where the sun represents intellectual light or knowledge.<sup>1</sup>

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[https://tuckahoelodge347.org/lodgeContent/windingstaircase\\_2021/02%20February%20-%20Canada%27s%20Three-Penny%20Beaver%20-%20A%20Masonic%20stamp.pdf](https://tuckahoelodge347.org/lodgeContent/windingstaircase_2021/02%20February%20-%20Canada%27s%20Three-Penny%20Beaver%20-%20A%20Masonic%20stamp.pdf)



On a recent visit to Les Garvey, he pointed out that under extreme magnification one will see bear paws in the clouds of the 1998 \$2 Canadian Polar Bear stamp. They were microprinted on the clouds, in part, as a security feature.



If you have the time, take a closer look at your stamps, and enjoy the detail.

## Miscellanea

It's time for a nice photo of Rufus, Jeff Pacey's cat and our *Bulletin's* mascot:



- The ESC board met on 24 November.
- We have a replacement for Fred Tauber, who has served as membership chair for many years. The new chair will be Jack Martel. He will assume his duties in March.
- The summer auction has been a drain on our finances in recent years, and therefore it will be discontinued.
- Our treasurer, Brian Heibert, is looking for an assistant to help him, especially with spreadsheets from the auctions.
- Eastern Auctions held the first part of a major sale of Canadian classics on 22 November. Sales realized more than \$2.35 million. For details, see *Canadian Stamp News*, <https://canadianstampnews.com/a-landmark-auction-for-canadian-classics/>.

**HELP WANTED**

John-Paul Himka  
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However many times I have read our bylaws, I have kept missing a rather important passage, to wit: "It shall be the responsibility of the Board to annually appoint:....An Archivist, who shall be responsible for collecting and archiving the historical records of the Society." And I was not the only one on the board not to notice this passage. I've been on the board a few years now, and no one has called attention to our omission.

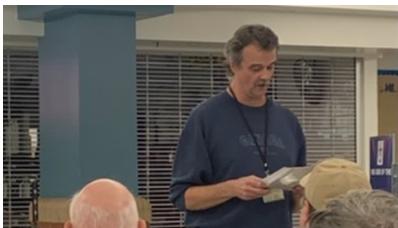
But our neglect was brought home to me late last month when Pat Bates brought me a small box of photos and written materials that she had collected when she was the archivist of the Edmonton Stamp Club. She had read in the *Bulletin* that the theme of our spring show is going to be the fifty years our club has been meeting at St. Joseph Catholic High School. That box now lies on the already overflowing floor of my study. We need an archivist, someone to take care of our records. Eventually these materials will need to be culled and deposited in the City of Edmonton Archives. Already, many of our historical records are housed there:

<https://cityarchives.edmonton.ca/edmonton-stamp-club-fonds>. Not surprisingly, the deposited records stop in 2015, when Pat stopped serving as archivist. The city archives are located at 10440-108 Ave.

The point of this notice: We need to have someone step up and assume this important function. Any literate person with half of an empty shelf somewhere can do the job. It's not much of a time commitment, especially since these days most of our important documentation is digital.

## Recent Presentations

As our president stresses, education is fundamental to our club. We recently had two excellent, informative presentations.



Dave Hetke spoke about World War I flying ace Wilfred "Wop" May and his connection to the post, 3 November.



Steven Friedenthal on collecting slogan cancels, 1 December.

## The Winners

			
Peter Kuester won the door prize on 3 November	Bret Dykstra won \$40 in the 50/50 on 3 November	Peter Kuester again. Won \$28 in the 50/50 on 17 November	Handsome Ian Campbell won \$34.50 in the 50/50 on 1 December

## Tribute to a Friend

On 9 August 2025 we lost a longtime friend and mentor, Arno Karnapke. He lost his battle with cancer.

I got to know Arno in the 1980s, when he worked for Calgary Stamp Shop. After he quit, he went to work for me in The Stamp Gallery in Calgary. In 1990 he took courses in forestry, working as a forest ranger out of Camrose and Edson.

After taking over his family house in Pincher Creek, he worked several jobs in the local area.

Arno and I reconnected in 2010 at a Calgary stamp show, when I asked him to help me run The Stamp Gallery here in Edmonton from 2014 to 2019. He also worked during COVID with John Bucci and Les Garvey.

He was a passionate collector of Germany and its territories, such as Danzig and Silesia, accumulating many cancels and covers. He also had an eye for classical art on postcards and stamps, from all over the world. He had an extensive collection of articles and pictures of rare and unusual stamps and covers.

He will be missed.

His friend,  
Ihor Rudyk



## 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.

### 2025-26

15 December

12 and 26 January	9 and 23 February
9 and 16 March	13 and 27 April
11 and 25 May	8 and 22 June

*Edmonton Stamp Club  
Christmas Dinner*

*15 December*

*\$30 and Food Bank Donation*

