

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB

BULLETIN

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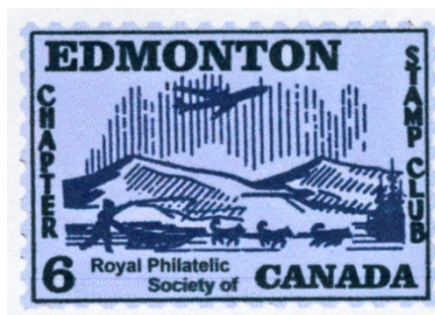
Mailing address: P.O. Box 399, Edmonton AB T5J 2J6

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) or email to jhimka@ualberta.ca.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



You as an Edmonton Stamp Club member set the direction for our activities. Some of you may think that Monday evening at St. Joseph High School is just a time to sell parts of your stamp collection and acquire new items of interest.

On 8 September we are holding our Annual General Meeting. There will be reports on various items including membership, auctions and estates, programs(education). You will

also be asked to review financial statements and a report from our auditors (thanks Ian and Ken).

We have to decide the frequency of our national shows. We discussed this in May at the club, realities of costs and volunteer requirements.

We also will be asking for someone to shadow Brian in the Treasurer role. Succession planning.

As we start another year, I'd like to thank Anita and Lois of the Edmonton Catholic School Division for making the cafeteria available for our use. Special thanks to the custodial staff at St. Joseph.

As for me, dear reader (apologies to Stephen King), I'm enjoying several philatelic journals I got from the free items table at our meeting in June. Cutting the lawn can wait till it cools later.

"The postage stamp is a flimsy thing." E.V. Lewis.

Your President David V. Pattison

Casimir Gzowski

Ed Dykstra
eddykstra(at)shaw.ca



This stamp shows a portrait of a great Canadian who was actually an ethnic Pole from Tsarist Russia. Just behind the portrait you see a steam locomotive and a steel bridge. This man contributed greatly as an engineer to the early development of Canada.

Sir Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski, the engineer, was born in St. Petersburg, Russia on 5 March 1813; he died in Toronto on 24 August 1898. He began his [engineering](#) career in Canada in 1842. As a superintendent of public works of the Province of Canada, he improved waterways and canals and constructed roads, harbors, and bridges. Later he built the Canadian portion of the [St Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad](#) (1846-53) and constructed the [Grand Trunk Railway](#) line from Toronto to Sarnia (1852-60). He designed and built the international bridge between Fort Erie and Buffalo, NY (1870-73), a difficult job because of strong currents, ice, and winds. At the same time he served on a commission to study inland waters from the

Atlantic to Lake Superior; its report of 1871 anticipates the system now known as the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Gzowski was the first chairman of the Niagara Parks Commission and planned the park system along the Canadian bank of the river. Together with several other engineers he formed the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers and later served as its president (1889-91). Established during his term of office, the gold Gzowski Medal has been awarded annually for outstanding written contributions to engineering. Keenly concerned over the defence of Canada, Gzowski fought for the strengthening of the Canadian militia and served in it as lieutenant-colonel and colonel. Appointed aide-de-camp to Queen Victoria (1879), he was awarded a KCMG¹ (1890) in recognition of his services in the military and engineering fields.

Peter Gzowski, a legendary Canadian journalist and broadcaster who hosted “As It Happens”, “Morningside,” and other shows, was a great-great-grandson of the engineer Sir Casimir Gzowski. Those were great shows Peter hosted.

There were three guys going through a tunnel, an optimist, a pessimist, and a realist. “This is a long dark tunnel,” said the pessimist. “But there is a light at the end of this tunnel,” said the optimist. “That light is from an oncoming train,” said the realist. The train engineer said: “There are three idiots still on the track!”



¹ Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George. Not to be confused with the KCMG engineering company. – Editor.

A Remarkable Queen Consort

Wayne Madden
wmadden(at)shaw.ca

Collectors of stamps featuring Canada's Royal Family usually focus on jubilees, royal weddings, coronations, and memorial stamps. The two most popular persons featured on royalty stamps are Her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and Queen Elizabeth, the late Queen Mother. Now I am beginning to discover that stamps featuring the late Queen Mary, Consort to King George V, may actually be a treasure chest for collectors.

The first British-born Queen Consort since Queen Catherine Parr (the last wife of King Henry VIII), Queen Mary (1867-1953) is not featured on many stamps, partly since few commemorative stamps were issued before the 1960s. Born Princess Victoria Mary (May) of Teck, she was engaged to Prince Albert Victor, older brother of King George V. After the prince died in 1892, she fell in love with and married his younger brother, Prince George, Duke of York. In 1901, they made a world tour that included travel across Canada. They became Prince and Princess of Wales in November of that year, and King and Queen in May of 1910.

Queen Mary believed in hard work and placing duty before personal desires, traits she handed on to her granddaughter, the future Queen Elizabeth II. During the First World War, she made frequent visits to hospitals to visit wounded soldiers. When a younger royal complained that she was tired and hated hospitals, the Queen replied, "We are British royalty. We are never tired and we love hospitals." After the war, she was the mainstay of support for the King, whose health was failing (partly due to an injury during the war and partly due to heavy smoking). During the abdication crisis of late 1936, she maintained that King Edward VIII should place duty before his personal desires; when he abdicated, she gave full support to the new king, George VI. She took a major role in the cultural education of her granddaughters, Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret. During the Second World War, she actively promoted the collection

of scrap iron for the war effort and once more visited wounded servicemen in hospitals.

In February 1952, when the new Queen Elizabeth II returned from Kenya after the death of King George VI, she made a point of being the first to curtsy before her granddaughter as the new Queen Regnant. Queen Mary passed away in March of 1953, ten weeks before the coronation, making it very clear that that event was not to be postponed on her account. It is said that Queen Elizabeth wore the crown for Mary on one visit before her death.



Canada issued two stamps featuring Mary, along with her husband. In 1908 George and Mary, as Prince and Princess of Wales, appeared on a half-cent stamp that was part of an issue of eight stamps commemorating the tricentenary of Quebec. This was the last time stamps of that denomination were issued in Canada. The last time Queen Mary appeared on a Canadian stamp was on a three-cent stamp, part of the issue of six stamps to honor the King's Silver Jubilee.

Newfoundland issued both definitive and commemorative stamps featuring Queen Mary on seven occasions. On the 1928 Newfoundland-Labrador series 3¢ stamps, reissued in 1931, she appears on the same stamp as the King. However, on other stamps she appears alone. The first was on the 1897-98 Royal Portraits stamp, when she was Duchess of York. The last was the 1938 7¢ stamp (reissued in 1941-1944) issued to honor the first anniversary of the Coronation of King George VI. That series of four stamps is also notable as it was the first issue to have a stamp for Princess Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth II).



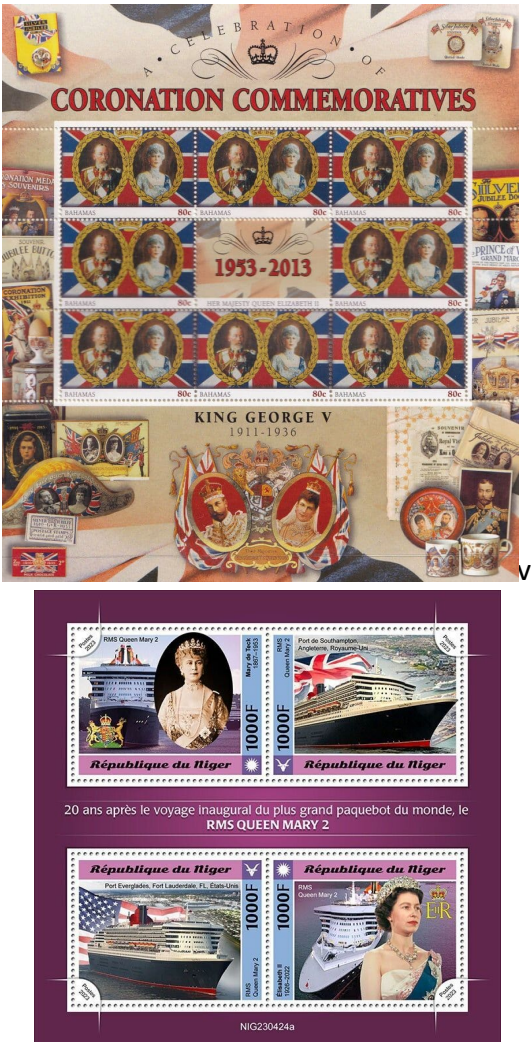
Stamps featuring Queen Mary were also issued by New Zealand in 1935 for the King's Silver Jubilee and Rhodesia/the British South African Company in 1910. On all these stamps, the Queen's portrait is alongside that of the King's. The Rhodesian issue included seventeen different values ranging from one half-penny to one pound. It is interesting that Great Britain never issued a stamp featuring Queen Mary. I was unable to get an answer a few years back when I made an inquiry as to why no such stamp was ever issued.



However, during the time I have been researching this topic, I had two big surprises. The first was to discover a very attractive miniature sheet issued by the Bahamas in 2013, part of a series to commemorate the Diamond Anniversary of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. There are eight stamps featuring the portraits of both Queen Mary and King George V against a background of the Royal Union Flag. The sheet also shows a variety of popular royalty collectables from that jubilee year (1935).

The second is even more surprising. This is a miniature sheet of four stamps issued by the Republic of Niger in 2022 to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the inaugural voyage of the *R.M.S.*

Queen Mary 2. In addition to views of the ship on all four stamps, Queen Mary is featured on the upper left stamp and Queen Elizabeth II on the lower right stamp. Imagine that! A landlocked desert country with a strong French and Islamic heritage, and often ruled by military governments issuing stamps that celebrate the anniversary of one of the few ocean passenger liners still crossing the seas, along with two remarkable Queens.



I will be very happy to get both these miniature sheets for my collection.

FUN FACT: Queen Mary is the only consort to a reigning monarch to have known every one of Canada's sovereigns from Queen Victoria to King Charles III at some point in their lives.

WHAT DID THE ENVELOPE SAY TO THE STAMP?

STICK WITH ME, BABY, WE'RE GOING PLACES.

Ships on Stamps

Tim Graff
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Okay, I'm not a sailor or even the son or grandson of a sailor. In fact, this summer I didn't even want to get into my son-in-law's boat to go for a ride. The closest I can connect myself to boats and ships, and yes, there is a difference, is to my Swedish father-in-law who loved sailing in the wildest weather, and a friend of mine who was commander of the naval reserve in Winnipeg (seems like an odd place to recruit sailors).

Despite my anxiety around any body of water that is deeper than my shoulders or if travelling on some water-borne craft, floating outside my ability to swim to shore, I really do enjoy looking at all those stamps that picture ships in all their variety. Now here I'm referring to ships, not boats, and this is the difference: "a ship can carry a boat, but a boat cannot carry a ship." You get into a boat to go fishing, but you get into a ship to fight a war. I'm sure you understand the difference, even if you enjoy your 200HP Sea Ray SPX190.

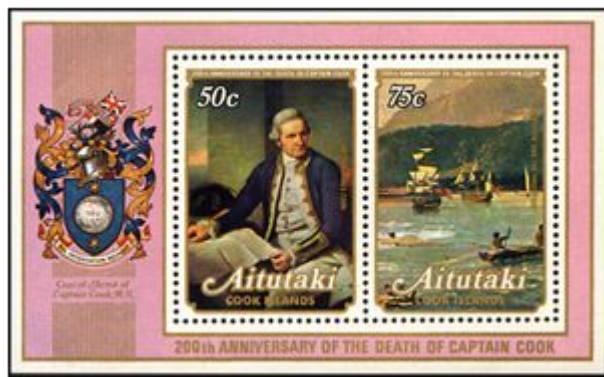
As I've mentioned in previous articles, I'm a worldwide collector and therefore, do not admit to any special knowledge or insight about ships on stamps. I just enjoy the few that I have.

As I've mentioned in previous articles, I'm a worldwide collector and, therefore, do not admit to any special knowledge or insight about ships on stamps. I just enjoy the few that I have.



My US collection is my largest, but I can't say that the US has produced the best ship stamps. Even so, I'll start with this 4c (Scott #233) featuring the Fleet of Columbus and issued in 1893.

Many of us may have been taught that these three ships were the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria, or at least these were the religious nicknames for these ships.



Continuing in the explorer theme with ships on stamps, I now take you to Aitutaki (Scott #172a). This small souvenir sheet commemorates the 200th

anniversary of the death of Captain James Cook (1728-1779). His ship was the *Resolution*, and he visited the Cook Islands in 1773 and 1779, of which Aitutaki is one. Interesting though, he never did actually land at Aitutaki. I'm sure a wave was enough!

Aitutaki? It's the second-most populated island in the Cook Islands, but still, there are fewer than two thousand inhabitants. Three to five centuries before Captain Cook "discovered" them, the Cook Islands had already been settled by Polynesians. – Editor.



I find that there are some countries that I just can't associate with ships even though they sit next to a large body of water. One of these is Ajman which produced a transportation series in 1967, one of which has the image of what

appears to be a passenger ship (MI 131A). Perhaps it made onto the stamp because it was owned by Sheikh Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi III whose image dominates this series.



In contrast, Australia, a country surrounded by water should be expected to have a few ships on stamps like this one that is part of a 1984 series of clipper ships. The Sobraon (Scott #896) was launched from

Plymouth, England in 1866 and sailed to Sydney in 75 days, which was pretty fast back then. She was considered an elite passenger ship, with space for 90 first class passengers and 40 "others."

Of course, I must mention the Canadian "Ship Series" which featured quite a variety of ships, from rigged ships to steamers to schooners to ice vessels. However, my favorite Canadian ship series of stamps (Scott #2386i) is the one celebrating the centenary of the Canadian Navy (1910-2010). This pair featured the HMCS Niobe, a Diadem class cruiser, given to Canada in



1911 by Britain as the Royal Canadian Navy's second ship. The other half of this pair pictures the HMCS Halifax, a frigate that

started serving the Canadian Navy in 1992 and continues to this day, like all the other elderly pieces of equipment our armed forces have to put up with.



So, what ships on stamps are in your collection? Do you have a favorite? Next club meeting and auction, see if you can find one or more to add to your collection, but in doing so, always remember the difference when looking: "a ship can carry a boat, but a boat cannot carry a ship."

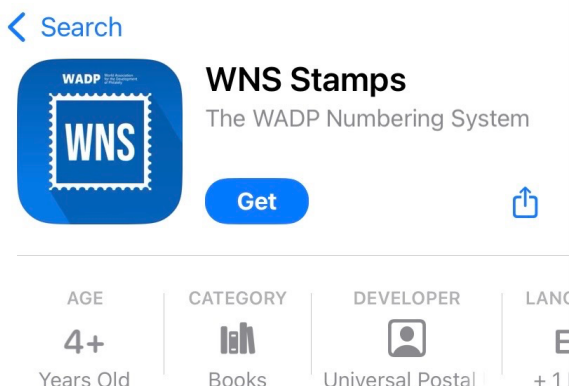
May the winds be ever in your favor, carrying you safely to your destinations far and wide.

Universal Postal Union (UPU) – Stamp Identifier App

Judy Madden

headachesolvers(at)gmail.com

The UPU has developed a free WNS app that is available in iOS and Android versions. It allows users to scan a stamp with their mobile phone camera to identify it. To use, open the app, click on the ID tab and either upload a photograph of the stamp from your phone or use the phone camera to take a picture of the stamp while in the app. The AI software scans the image and compares it with metadata provided by the Post Offices themselves. It does not collect personal data from users.



According to the article I read in the August issue of *Stamp Collector*, additional functionality will be added. To enlarge the database, users will be able to use an online preregistration platform to add stamps issued between 1840 and 2001 (in other words, at present, don't look for older stamps using the app). The app also connects to ecommerce sites where stamps are available for purchase. For what it is worth, I tried identifying two stamps, and I kept getting the message

Error Something went wrong.

Dear user

You wish to use the intelligent authentication function of a stamp. If possible please place the stamp on a contrasting surface to optimize perforation detection.

At this point I would say that the word artificial describes the level of intelligence perfectly when it comes to identifying stamps. However, as I collect world stamps, and there are many countries that do not have any characters on the stamps that can be entered using a standard keyboard, I will retry this functionality periodically. On the other hand I took some time to search for "owl" to see what it would bring up. It brought up numerous stamp on owls, along with **Fowler's** toad, water **fowl**, **knowledge** and anything with a subject that contained owl in the name. Rather useful if you are a topical collector and you want to know which stamps have been issued (from 2002 forward) with your topic. I also did a search on "whales," and yes, the stamp I tried to use the identifier for is in the database CA021.2022. I believe that the app should have identified it.

Edward Gorey

John-Paul Himka
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I expect some of you who are reading this issue of the *Bulletin* recognize the cover image. But if not, here's the story.

Back in the nineties, I used to teach an evening class on Thursdays. I would come home exhausted. The kids were asleep. Then came the highlight of my week: my wife and I would watch the TV show *Mystery!* hosted by Diana Rigg on Masterpiece Theatre. It aired so many great series, like *Prime Suspect* and *Poirot*. And *Mystery!* always opened with an alluring and mysterious bit of animation based on the drawings of Edward Gorey. A screen shot from that animated opening is what you see on the cover.

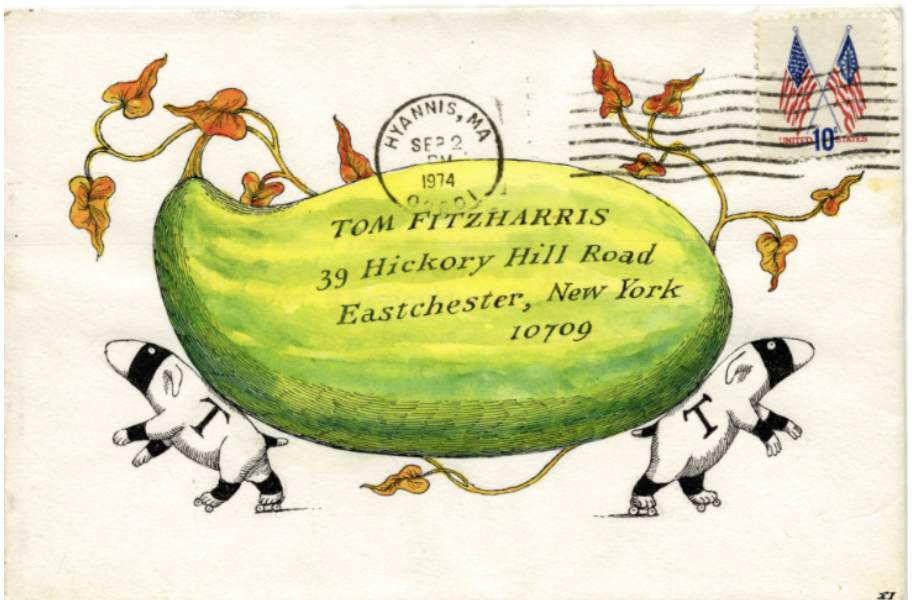
Edward St. John Gorey (1925-2000) was an American illustrator who favored Victorian and Edwardian motifs. The opening illustrations for the *Mystery!* animation are excellent examples of his style.

I have a soft spot for almost-but-not-quite philately. For example, see my article on Anna Banana in the January 2025 issue of this periodical. Well, I discovered that Edward Gorey illustrated envelopes. I couldn't resist. I had to reproduce some of them for this issue of our *Bulletin*.



I've taken my illustrations from:

<https://www.theparisreview.org/blog/2025/01/09/the-illustrated-envelopes-of-edward-gorey/> The site has more information.



Our Spring Show

Ed Dykstra
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The Edmonton Stamp Club held its annual stamp show Saturday 29 March -- Sunday 30 March. It was well attended with approximately three hundred collectors paying the "Toonie" admission fee. Doug Hunter of the Edmonton Food Bank was on hand to cut the ribbon opening the show and to visit with collectors and dealers. City councillor and mayoral candidate Andrew Knack was also present to welcome all to the show. Twelve dealers were on hand to buy and sell a huge variety of stamps, postal history, postcards, and ephemera. Traffic was brisk on both days.

There were 127 frames of exhibits, making the show's Grand Award winner a candidate for the American Philatelic Society's "Champion of Champions" exhibition at the Great American Stamp Show (GASS). The winner of the show's Grand Award was Dr. Joel Weiner, a member of the Edmonton Stamp Club. The judges were very impressed with the exhibits and gave compliments to many exhibitors. (Photo of Joel and the judges below.)

The junior table was very active. Jeff Pacey, member responsible for the junior table, said there were more younger collectors than the year before. We certainly hope this will continue as a trend for the future of our hobby!

Another big success was the free evaluations offered by the club's experienced members. Members of the public who brought their or their parents' collections were given an approximation of their value.

Speaking of FREE, there was the usual table full of free goodies, from older catalogues, stamp magazines to a few tools of the hobby. Thanks to people who bring these items and thanks to people taking them home as well!





Earle Covert receives another award for one his Exhibits. Sadly, Earle passed away about a month after. He attended and exhibited in our stamp show almost every year. He will be missed by many.



The junior collectors' table just before the actual opening of the show.

Summer Auction

Our Summer Auction was held on 14 July. It was an unmitigated success financially; eighty lots were donated gratis for the auction. There were forty-one bidders. The food bank weighed our donation at 10 kilos. Below are some photos taken by Jeff Pacey.



They Won (23 June)!

 A photograph of Chris Johnson, a middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a dark grey polo shirt, standing in a room with other people in the background.	 A photograph of Fred Tauber, an older man with white hair, wearing a maroon long-sleeved shirt, holding a yellow ticket that says "TICKET".
Chris Johnson won the door prize	Fred Tauber won \$35 in the 50/50

Arno Karnapke

The club received word in late August that Arno Karnapke passed away from cancer. He joined the club in 2014-15 and was given the number 2450. He set up a dealer's table at the 2024 Spring Show.

In the photo on the left, he is pictured with something he simply found – sheets of Chinese stamps taped to a frame! He brought it to the club in May 2024.



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

8 and 22 September
3 and 17 November
12 and 26 January
9 and 16 March
11 and 25 May

6 and 20 October
1 and 15 December
9 and 23 February
13 and 27 April
8 and 22 June

Annual General Meeting
8 September 2025

This is Jax, he is the official Stamp Licker at the Post Office in Portree, Isle of Skye, Scotland. He works everyday, waiting for customers who come in for a free lick. And a pat. An important public service carried out by a very good boy 🐶👍

@soulseeds

