

**EDMONTON STAMP CLUB**

# BULLETIN

Volume 108, Number 6 May 2019 ISSN: 0046-1318

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

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



Bermuda #53\_MH, (11 bids) \$126  
(on Ebay)

Regular meetings

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

**May 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>**

**May 25<sup>th</sup> (Red Deer)**

**June 10<sup>th</sup> (elections)**



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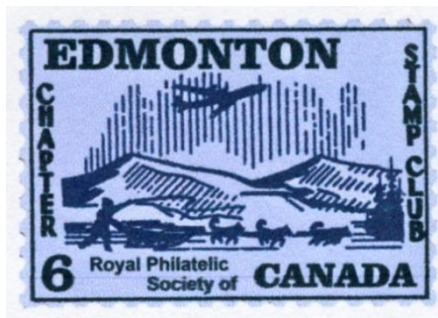
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The Edmonton Stamp Club dates back to 1912. The Club is Life Chapter #6 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and Chapter #680 of the American Philatelic Society.

**The editor welcomes communications of all kinds—letters, comments and articles.**

**Deadline, 7 days before first**

**monthly meeting.** These may be forwarded to Fred Tauber, Edmonton Stamp Club, Box 399, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2J6, click “contact” on our website or email to [fxtauber@shaw.ca](mailto:fxtauber@shaw.ca)

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## Big Changes Coming – President's Message

It is time to think about the upcoming elections for the Edmonton Stamp Club Board in June. The costs of operating for the ESC are going up as you know from the rising costs you face in your day to day living. How the ESC will deal with this fact of increasing costs will be decided by the Board you elect this June. There will have to be a balance arrived at between Club income and Club programs. Questions such as do we increase membership fees, do we introduce a two-tier membership system, one rate for members wanting a black and white paper Bulletin and another rate for members wanting a color emailed issue of the Bulletin?

Because of family obligations two members of our present financial team, Rod Verrier and Jim Louchau are leaving their ESC treasurer functions. We need a new Treasurer. This may result in a very different payment system for our regular meeting auctions.

We are maintaining our membership numbers, barely. The newly elected Board must address this issue. Both the quality of the programs and services available hinges on the membership number. The mean age of the present membership is a critical factor in the expected short-term necessity to replace our volunteers providing present services.

Not only do we, as members of the Edmonton Stamp Club need to think long and hard about participating in and/electing the new ESC Board in June. We must think about what services the Club is providing and how we as members can assist the Club if we want the Club to remain the most active stamp Club in Canada.

Richard Barnes

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# NOTICE

## EDMONTON EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

### HACKERS TRY TO GET YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

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

The Summer Meeting & Auction  
July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Central Lions Rec. Center

**DOOR PRIZE**  
**No Name Tag – No Prize**  
At the regular meetings

Dave Ellis asks members if they have any bulk stamps to donate to the club for the kiloware table? I am running low on stamps that have not been put out already. You can just bring them to any meeting.

## Trading Post

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Email: [fvhstamps@aol.com](mailto:fvhstamps@aol.com). We buy & sell stamps of Canada, European, foreign and topicals. Postcards, postal history covers, Catalogues, Albums & accessories. Many discount prices. Weekly auctions.



Dominica #85\_MH, (17 bids) \$192  
(Ebay)

## THE STAR MINE SUSPENSION BRIDGE

12<sup>TH</sup> in the Alberta Bridge series 2<sup>ND</sup> in the Coal Mine series by Barend Wissink

The Star Coal Mine First opened in 1912, by J.N. Murray who sold it in 1913 to Great West Coal Co. 1914 it changed again to the Star Mine Collieries and stayed that way until 1935. It changed to the Rosedale Collieries Ltd 1935 to 1953 and the last was the Star Coal Mines Ltd until the mine shut down in 1957.

The gallery was on the North Bank of the Red Deer River and since the North side didn't have a railway track the tippie was on the South (Rosedale) side. The miners went from Rosedale via rowboats back and forth to the mine.



In 1919 there was a aerial cable car system constructed which transported both the coal and miners to the south side to the tippie and the CNR track.

In 1929 negotiations with the CPR resulted in a bridge being built in 1930, 7 miles down stream allowing the mine to move the tippie to the North side of the river to eliminate the aerial

cable car system. This didn't solve the problem of getting the miners to the mine from Rosedale, a suspension bridge was built and was used until 1957 when the mine closed. In 1958 the face of the hill mysteriously caved in and closing the entrance of the gallery. The coal seam averaged 4 ¼ ft in thickness and produced 4,340,100 tons in a 44 year span at 200 tons per 8hr shift.

In 1931 the original suspension bridge was built and was used by employees of the mine. The bridge itself is 384 ft long, it has a wooden timber tower on both ends with suspension cables strung up from the towers. The main function of the suspension cables is to hold up the deck. The deck cables are strung across the river and are held up by vertical cables from the suspension cables. The Suspension cables themselves are anchored by cables to big blocks of concrete. The original decking was wood, later replaced by a galvanized steel expanded mesh. In 1958 the Alberta Government took over the bridge and its maintenance.

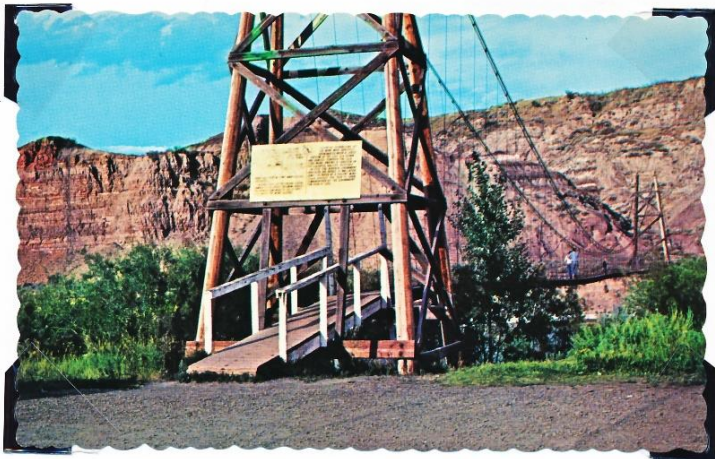
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Now a bit about the first post card. It was put out by the Vogue Studio of Drumheller in 1945. A close look of the post card shows great detail of the bridge and the mine itself, the tipple with the big star on it, along with the rail cars for loading with piles of mine timbers and the maintenance buildings. The entrance of the gallery, which can be seen on the first post card is to the left of the tipple. None of this mine exists anymore except the bridge.

Our family spent a lot of time in this area on vacations and the swinging bridge was one of our favorite sites to visit and despite the big yellow warning signs telling you not to sway the bridge, to the delight of the boys and the look of terror of their mother, it happened more than once. Ah what memories!

I haven't found a lot about The Vogue Studios but next summer a trip to Drumheller might be in order.

This relatively new post card mid 70s to mid 80s shows the bridge as a tourist attraction, a brand new post card is needed to show what this bridge looks present day. This is also a Vogue Studio post card. The back reads



Made in Canada Dexter Color Canada Ltd. Cornwall Ontario. Copy & Pub. by Vogue Studio Drumheller, Alta.

As a foot note there were 139 working mines in the Drumheller Valley (no I'm not going to write about all of them). Unless someone in the club has post cards on the subject.

Main coal areas in Alberta 1. Drumheller Valley 2. Crowsnest Pass 3. Lethbridge 4. Edmonton 5. Coal Valley.

Barend Wissink

# Topical Coconuts #3

By: Ed Pitts

Welcome to the third installment of “Astronomers on Stamps”! Have I been writing this column for that long? Wow, how time flies when you are having fun. This month’s lucky subject is Hipparchus of Nicaea (c. 190 = c. 120 BC). Yes, I know, another old Greek guy (insert heavy sigh here). Is that a testament to a possible bias in our Western history or an indication that other civilizations just weren’t fortunate enough to have record of their discoveries survive? Probably some of both.

Born in Nicaea, in the Kingdom of Bithynia (now Turkey), and probably breathing his last on the island of Rhodes in current day Greece, what makes our friend eligible for fame and a mention in this column? Well, after reading an **extensive** list of his discoveries and accomplishments, including the establishment of trigonometry, I have come to the conclusion that this dude is a prime candidate for the “Greatest Astronomer You Never Heard About” award. He is most famous, though, for his discovery of the precession of the equinoxes, a discovery made in passing, while working on other projects. Right now, if you are anything like me, you are likely asking yourself just what the heck is the precession of the equinoxes. To cite Wikipedia:

In astronomy, axial precession is a gravity-induced, slow, and continuous change in the orientation of an astronomical body's rotational axis. In particular, it can refer to the gradual shift in the orientation of Earth's axis of rotation in a cycle of approximately 25,772 years. This is similar to the precession of a spinning-top, with the axis tracing out a pair of cones joined at their apices. The term "precession" typically refers only to this largest part of the motion; other changes in the alignment of Earth's axis—nutation and polar motion—are much smaller in magnitude.

In layman’s terms, as best as I can translate, it means that because the earth is tilted in its axis, and wobbles around like a spinning top, an arrow exiting the North Pole straight up describes a circle. Right now, that arrow is pointing to Polaris, current holder of the title of North or Pole Star. This arrow will circle around, pointing to other stars, such

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as Thuban in the constellation Draco, before returning to point back again at Polaris, in constellation Ursa Minor in a little less than 26,000 years from now. Even though I enjoy astronomy and there might be a stamp or two issued to commemorate this historic event, I do not think I will wait up for it.

As mentioned, this is only one of many discoveries Hipparchus made as an astronomer, mathematician and geographer. Quite the brilliant mind. I encourage you to find out more about this fascinating figure.



Greece, Scott #835

The stamp I have included showing the profile of Hipparchus was issued on Oct. 21, 1965. His visage is paired with that of an astrolabe, a device used to tell time at night from the position of the stars.

Some researchers believe he was responsible for the development of this device but that seems to be open to debate.

Well, that's it for this month. I hope you got some enjoyment and perhaps a bit of astronomical enlightenment from my little tale of Hipparchus of Nicaea. See you next time.



# Alberta-Wide STAMP Gathering

Saturday, May 25, 2019  
Red Deer

HELD AT

**Liberty Christian Assembly**  
Unit 1B, 6315 Horn Street  
(Highland Green Professional & Medical Centre  
located just off Taylor Drive)



*Stamps issued for  
Alberta's Centennial  
in 2005 and 75th  
anniversary in 1980.*



## SCHEDULE

- 9:30-10:30 a.m. Presentations by the Calgary, Edmonton and Lethbridge clubs concerning recent activities, challenges and future plans. To be followed by open discussion.
- 9:00 a.m.-1 p.m. Circuit books from the three clubs available for viewing and purchases.
- 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Opportunity to shop at tables set up by various members.
- 1:30-2:30 p.m. Auction viewing takes place.
- 2:30 p.m. Auction is called.
- 4:00 p.m. Gathering scheduled to conclude (after buyers pay and sellers get paid out).  
*(The British North American Philatelic Society is also offering seminars: TBA)*



*In 2007, Canada Post issued a stamp featuring famous Red Deer landmark, St. Mary's Church. It was designed by Douglas Cardinal who grew up in the Central Alberta city.*

## DETAILS

Member Tables are available for \$5 on a first-come basis by contacting Jim Senecal at 403-547-7681.

Auction is limited to 200 lots and will be conducted by the Calgary club. There is an initial limit of 6 lots per person. The minimum bid is \$3 and a 10 per cent commission applies.

Admission is Free but participants are asked to register to facilitate contact for future events.

Coffee Provided on a donation basis.

Central Alberta residents interested in reviving the Red Deer Stamp Club should contact Peter Fleck at 403-348-9916.

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# Meeting Dates

The Edmonton Stamp Club meets Mondays at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of St. Joseph High School, 10830 - 109 Street. Park to the north of the school and use the main entrance at the south-east corner of the school. For information about the club call 780-488-5288 or 780-437-1787.

## Red Deer Meeting

May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## Summer Meeting/Auction

July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

2019

May 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>  
June 10<sup>th</sup> (elections)

*Edmonton BNAPS* (British North America Philatelic Society) meets from time to time. All BNAPSers welcome. For information contact David Piercy at 780-437-2771 or Steven Friedenthal at 780-721-3669.

## Latest Ebay



Canada #4\_U, (22 bids) \$32 /



Canada #4d\_U, (25 bids) \$221



Canada #46\_MH, (18 bids) \$104 /

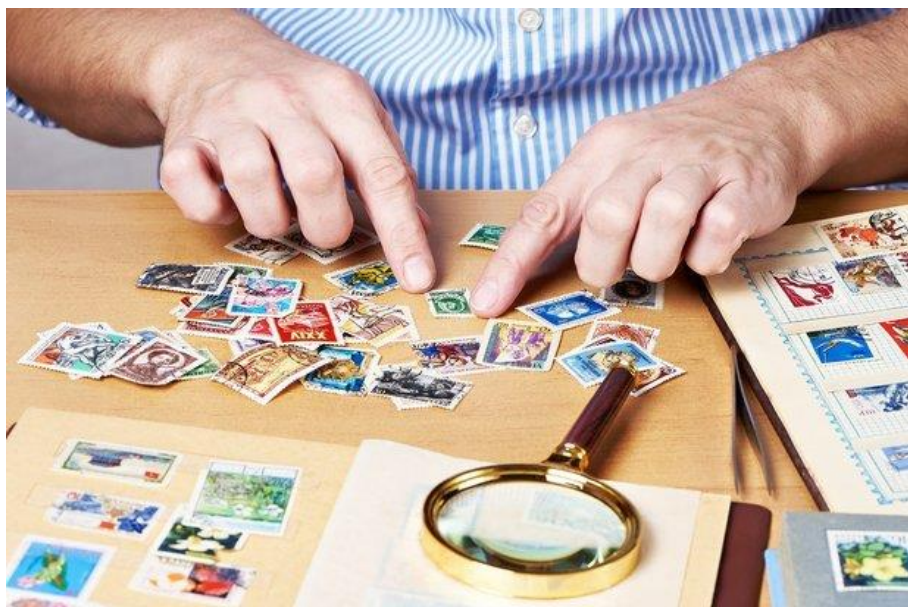


Canada #47\_MH, (20 bids) \$116

## Why Do I Collect.....

During the Christmas break while surfing through the general interest items in Google news one caught my eye....Collectables That Are Worthless. Thinking that I could identify most of the list, I was curious what would be written. Sure enough Stamps was on the list, as well as vinyl records, Beanie Babies, Happy Meal Toys, comic books, Norman Rockwell collector plates, Cabbage Patch kids, Hummel figurines, baseball cards from the 80's and 90's, and a few more. Keith Spencer could tell many stories about collections that are passed along as part of an estate where the new 'owner' cannot believe that there is not a fortune in the collection.

I believe that the article was fair in its evaluation of stamp collecting. It noted that stamps are filled with variables; condition, age and rarity play a big part in any potential value. One interesting sentence was the advice not to collect any postage stamps from the past 70 years, which I believe most of us could agree with. I know for me stamp collecting is my hobby, and if anything shows any value, well it is like winning a lottery. Enjoy your hobby.



Jim Lockau

# A Label's Story

I was asked if I could identify the stamp that this label was attached to?



Just like my fellow stamp collector who sent me the label I checked my German stamp catalogues and clipping files paying attention to the year 1941 and Semi-Postal stamps. I, in turn could not find the label/stamps. When in doubt read the writing on the stamp. I then checked the web for Cervený Kriz. He was the founder of the German Red Cross. While reading the Red Cross articles I located the label. It is

part of an issue of two semi-postal stamps issued by Czechoslovakia-Bohemia and Moravia stamp Scott # B3-4 (Fig 2 & 3). The funds from these semi-postal stamps went to the German Red Cross. These stamps were issued on 20 April 1941 which was Hitler's birthday. I do not know if there is any significance in the date of issue.



GERMANY-BOHEMIA & MOVARIA\_Michel 63-64, red cross tabs

Vertical and Horizontal

Richard Barnes

# THE PANAMA CANAL STORY - Part 8

Continued from March 2019

Pages from the award-winning Exhibit

Ray Ireson



Among the countless Europeans inspired by Humboldt's vision of a canal was JOHANN W. VON GOETHE. In 1827 he said, "All of this is reserved for the future. But I should wonder if the United States were to let an opportunity escape of getting such work into their own hands ..... I am certain they will do it! Would that I might live to see it!! ..... but I shall not." How prophetic he was !!



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Early in the 19th century the fledgling United States had begun to consolidate her geographical territory. In 1803 the LOUISIANA PURCHASE was concluded with France. FLORIDA was ceded to the United States by Spain in 1819.



Meanwhile, Spain's grip on her American colonies was slipping. In 1821 the Viceroyalties of Perú and New Granada declared their INDEPENDENCE.



"L" [for LANSÁ] Overprint missing.  
Stamp was not issued regularly in its original state



Concern was felt in the U.S. that France and Russia might move to return Latin America to a colonial status. U.S. Secretary of State, JOHN Q. ADAMS, urged his President to declare that new European colonization in the Western Hemisphere would not be tolerated.

Addressing Congress in 1823, President JAMES MONROE declared the Western Hemisphere to be strictly for Americans. The "Monroe Doctrine" had been born.



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Letter from TEHUANTEPEC to Tuxtla Gutiérrez: June 7, 1847.  
Boxed "Tehuantepec" straight-line cancel: rated 2 Reales.

MEXICO was a contender  
for a canal site.

Her ISTHMUS OF TEHUANTEPEC is only 130 miles wide, but the height of the mountains made such a route impossible.



NICARAGUA was another contender.

HORATIO NELSON was only 21 when he participated in a British naval raid against a Spanish fort 80 miles up Nicaragua's San Juan River.



The intent was to establish a link to the Pacific, but disease virtually wiped out the attackers and the raid was unsuccessful in the end.

But the British did establish a "Protectorate" on Nicaragua's Mosquito Coast, & in 1849 they seized the town of San Juan del Norte.



It was re-named GREYTOWN. This action angered the U.S., as it was feared the British might have plans to build a canal there.

Fragment of three 4d GB 1880 issue [plate 17] - (the 1/- rate)  
cancelled by British Post Office Agent, GREYTOWN: February 15, 1881.

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Nicaragua wanted a canal and tried to interest the French in such a project.

LOUIS NAPOLEON, from his prison cell in Ham, laid plans in 1846 for a canal through Nicaragua. He said he would renounce politics if France would



free him in order that he could undertake the project. But after his escape he had no further thoughts of any canal.

Die Proof in black for 1869 5 fr Napoleon



With her rivers (San Juan & TIPITAPA) and her lakes (Nicaragua and MANAGUA) Nicaragua seemed to be an ideal location for a canal as very little cutting would be required.



In 1849 the American tycoon, Cornelius Vanderbilt, became interested in a canal through Nicaragua. He undertook to build one and despatched a team of engineers to survey possible routes. However, he did not get the needed financial backing.



Nicaraguan Postal Card with country map in background design

1 - San Juan del Norte 2 - San Juan River 3 - Lake Nicaragua 4 - San Juan del Sur

[see next page]

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Undaunted, in 1851 he launched "Vanderbilt's New & Independent Line for California, via Nicaragua". Passengers from New York disembarked at SAN JUAN DEL NORTE, then a 121 mile trip up the SAN JUAN RIVER took them to LAKE NICARAGUA. Crossing that left an 18 mile overland trip to SAN JUAN DEL SUR, from where they continued their ocean voyage to California.



With Nicaragua being 500 miles (two travel days) closer to the United States than Panama, Vanderbilt's service applied this cachet to all the mail it carried.

Vanderbilt later faced stiff competition, but all Nicaragua route operations were eventually closed down by the actions of an American filibuster, William Walker, whose ambition was to take over Central America. He was captured and transported to the U.S. aboard USS WABASH (stationed at Aspinwall) in May 1857. He went back later but was re-captured and executed in September 1860.



Stampless letter from Philadelphia, May 4, 1857, to USS Wabash at Aspinwall.

To be continued

# The Stamp Gallery

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## Recent Ebay



France #63a\_MH, (16 bids) \$108 / #1\_MH, (32 bids) \$686 / #24\_MH, (32 bids) \$597



France #41c\_U, (25 bids) \$313 / #47a\_MH, (34 bids) \$490 / #54\_MH, (17 bids) \$208

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