

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB

BULLETIN

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

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



German Air Post Semi-Postal Stamps

Issued 1912, Scott Specialized CL1-CL3

Used on mail flown by
Zeppelin LZ10 – Schwaben

The flights raised money for charities under the
Patronage of the Grand Duke of Hesse

Regular meetings

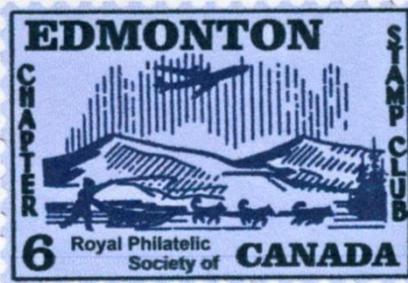
St. Joseph High School Cafeteria, 10830 - 109 Street, 6:00 pm

February 5th & 26th

March 12th & 19th

Edmonton Spring Show March 24th & 25th

Central Lion's Recreational Centre
112 street & 111 avenue



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

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Help

John Woollard

The Edmonton Stamp Club received a request for help. It concerns a 1900 cover from the Orange Free State to England. This cover was sent during the Boer War. It had insufficient postage on the letter so the sending post office taxed it 15d. The first question is where was the bottom left overprint put on, Africa or England? There is a crayon pencil T beside the hand stamp. Question number two. Is this the British postage due upon receipt of this letter? The most puzzling question for me is what postal department with the initials I.S. B. put the handstamp on this cover?



Finally, John concluded with this reply;

I think after several bits of input from various ESC members, Ian Wright has come up with a convincing explanation.

I very much doubt Latin would have been used; was it ever used in postal abbreviations? Maybe. Because another cover from the USA to Britain had a similar hand-stamp, I am pretty sure the mark was applied in Britain, so suggestions of an African or Military origin are also doubtful. But coming up with a similar mark from a manual or reference book is exactly what I was hoping for. The one snag is that the attachment as it got to me had only text and no illustration! Interestingly, the abbreviation is rather close to what I was guessing at. It is also interesting that a Google search finds absolutely no hits for the phrase "inbound service branch", so I suppose that unit underwent an early demise.

(T 15c Taxe stamp of the OFS and the converted 3d to pay tax stamp of the **Inland Section Branch London**)? - editor

NOTICE

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB SPRING NATIONAL SHOW

MARCH 24TH & 25TH

**Central Lion's Recreational Centre
113 St & 111 Ave**

SPRING SHOW FUN FRAMES

AT NO COST TO EXHIBITORS, OPEN TO
EDMONTON STAMP CLUB MEMBERS ONLY
RULES AND REGULATIONS AND ENTRY FORMS
ARE ON LINE. CLICK – “SPRING SHOW 2018”
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DEADLINE, MARCH 3RD, 2018

Trading Post

200 WW STAMPS (75% large \$4), Canada packet 200 stamps (75 % large \$5), mint Mexico 100 (large \$4), foreign mint stamps \$8, plus SAE (self-addressed envelope) for each order. ESC members, postage free. Harold Towlson, 60 Ivanhoe Road, Buffalo, NY, 14215, USA.

Want a stamp exchange particularly with GB Machins and commemoratives of Royalty, also ships, trains, planes and such. Keith Thompson, 1109 Larch Place, Canmore, AB, T1W 1S8 or bikethom@telusplanet.net

Frank von Hausen, fvhstamps.com, 1-866-684-8408, Email: 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.

Stamp Exchange Wanted; Europe + Russia, Canada and USA by Serbian Stamp Collectors. English correspondence, Brainislav (Brane) Popov at popasremac@gmail.com. Serbian correspondence at miroslavpopov85@gmail.com. Miro Popov, President of the Stamp Club, Novi Sad.

Russian Overprints on Soviet Stamps

During our preparation for the note Russian Jewish Autonomous Oblast overprints I became aware of a large part of Russian stamps and philatelic activity that previously I had not come across. I continued my search for more information on the production and usage of overprinted Soviet stamps following the disintegration of the Soviet Union. I had minimal success other than finding many lots of Russian local post stamps described such as miscellaneous Russian locals or Butterflies on Russian locals. Santa must now be keeping up with the times and monitoring the net or listening to me talking to myself in my stamp room because I received in my Christmas stocking the two disc CD stamp catalogue Russia- Post 1990 Locals made by Ralph Phillips.

This catalogue identifies 40 different Russian locations issuing overprints on Soviet definitive stamps after the demise of the USSR. My estimate is that there are somewhere near 15,000 different stamps produced for the listed 40 Russian jurisdictions. Equally inventive is the imaginative ways stamps were produced. I used scans from the first Republic listed in the catalogue, Adigeya, to illustrate the conceptual creation of the Russian-Post 1990 Local stamps. There are individual stamps overprinted with the new mail authority and new denominations. These stamps can be with or without the addition of a design in the overprint.



Very few locals were overprinted using one value on a single sheet (Fig 1). The preferred method of overprinting was to overprint a series of values in strips (Fig 2) or blocks (Fig 3). They then proceed to produce overprinted stamps over two stamps (Fig 4). The printers reverse the design and every gyration imaginable using one overprint on two stamps. As expected they overprint three stamps (Fig 5). Not to waste a good overprint and the stamps left over when printing the three stamp strips the printer used the end block of four

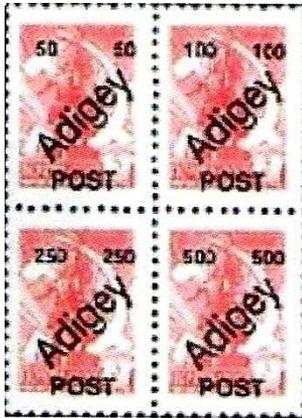
horizontally stamps (Fig 6). Overprinted blocks of four stamps, as expected,



Fig 2 ↑

Fig 3 ↓

Fig 4 ↓



are printed in strips, the stamps in the block can be horizontal or vertical. Additionally, the overprint on strips of five blocks can be repeated again over on different Soviet stamps.



Fig 5



Fig 6

An example of this is the Adigei 1992: Reptiles WWF set of 25 stamps is composed of five strips of overprinted blocks from five different Soviet stamps. The overprints are the same on each set only the base stamp changes (Fig 7 & Fig 8). I have not provided all the different ways that the Russian overprinted local stamps were printed. This is the only catalogue

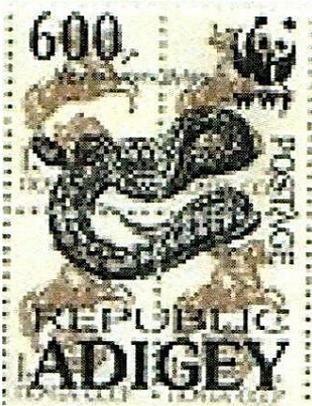


Fig 7

of this material that I know is currently available. For myself without the base structure provided by the Ralph Phillips “Russian- Post 1990 Locals” catalogue, I would not be able to build a coherent collection of these stamps.

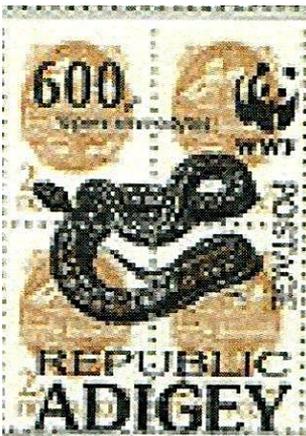


Fig 8

Nothing in this world is perfect; just listen to SWMBO when she is talking to me. Surprisingly the Caucasian Republics, Armenia, Georgia (Fig 9) and Azerbaijan are either under represented or missing from this catalogue. Absent from the Russian-Post 1990 Locals catalogue are the Ukrainian, Crimea and Sevastopol locals produced by overprinting Soviet stamps. The Scott catalogue states “Numerous trident overprints on Soviet stamps exist. Many of them are legitimate local issues and were in official use. Locally produced stamps also exist.”

Local stamps are not covered by Scott but this implies that there are also fraudulent stamps produced. Can any member assist in providing information and or a catalogue of these Ukrainian local stamps?

Europe has a long tradition of using local post stamps. R.J. Sutton’s “The Stamp Collector’s Encyclopedia”, states “, local stamps are those issued privately or officially whose postal validity is restricted to a particular district, route, or service, and are not available for general or international use”. After roughly 70 hours of web searching I did not find even one site offering used stamps listed in the Russian- Post 1990 Locals catalogue or Ukrainian stamps. There was for these Russian 1990 locals only one listing of unused post cards and one listing of 5 used covers but all the covers appeared to be written by the same person. There was not one listing for a cover barring a Ukrainian 1990s Local stamp. All the stamps I have seen on the web are mint never hinged. In passing I observed these

stamps in the mid- 90s and I have noted a substantial reduction in current asking prices for these stamps.



Fig 9

I have come to the conclusion that most if not all these stamps with the possible exception of Ukrainian overprints are bogus produced to separate stamp collectors from their money. Ralph Phillips mentioned a two-part catalogue in his introduction to his catalogue. This is the Conquest catalogue, CTC Publishers Ltd, P.O. Box 395, Vilnius 2004, Lithuania. Neither of us were able to locate this publisher nor have we seen this catalogue for sale on the web. This is the second time I tried to locate CTC Publishers or their agent. I conducted my first unsuccessful search when I was interested in the State of Ajman stamps printed in 2000 (Fig 10). This is a dead country for which even the bogus stamp printers had stopped printing stamps by 1973. It is our opinion that the Conquest was produced in limited numbers to advertise CTC or their affiliate's wares to agents and previous buyers of their fraudulent stamps.



Fig 10

A couple of other factors helped me develop my skepticism of the genuineness of these Russian- 1990 Locals. First compare the overprints between the central design of the overprints and format of the overprinted stamps between the 40 different localities. They are too similar to be a coincidence whether, birds, reptile, chess,

etc. Secondly unpopulated, very low population regions have substantial numbers of sets. Even Spitsbergen (Norwegian Arctic Islands) and Russia Antarctica are locations listed in the Russia-1990 local catalogues. The printers continued printing Russian-Locals at least until 2013 (Fig 11) {stamps for the topical market after the Soviet stamps ran out?}.



Fig 11

From my web searching it appears that there are more Ukrainian local stamp sets printed than official Ukrainian stamp sets in the 1990s. The printers of the Russian-1990 Locals had access to Ukrainian stamps using them to produce Russian-1990 Locals (Fig 12).



Fig 12 It is not a big stretch to conclude these printers had an involvement in printing Ukrainian local stamps particularly the locals of the Crimea and Sevastopol (Fig 13) not bearing the Trident design.

I collect “Sand Dunes”, Sahara Republic, Greek occupation overprints on Turkish stamps, etc. I found them to be a challenging area of study and collecting within my primary areas of interest Middle East and North Africa. The Russian-1990 Local stamps, in my opinion, are another such a philatelic area for research and collecting. I have made many assumptions and

expressed opinions in this article that requires information to refute, confirm or modify my statements. If any member can clarify or add information, please contact me directly or submit a note for publication. This topic is an interesting phenomenon within modern philately that deserves further investigation.



Richard Barnes

Japan On Ebay



JAPAN-1_MNG, (14 bids) \$99 / JAPAN-2_U, (25 bids) \$152



JAPAN-4_U, (29 bids) \$202 / JAPAN-5d_MNG, (24 bids) \$67

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 780-451-0420 or 780-437-1787.

**March 24th & 25th 2018
Spring Show**

**July 30th 2018 Summer
Meeting / Auction**

2018

February 5th & 26th
March 12th & 19th
April 9th & 23rd
May 7th & 28th
June 4th & 18th

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

location: Temple Beth Ora, 12313-105 Avenue (entrance from south parking lot door)

South America on Ebay



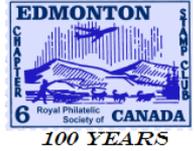
BOLIVIA-C15b_MNH, zeppelin, double ovpt, (2 bids) \$196

GUATEMALA-22a_MH, invert, (19 bids) \$195



GUATEMALA-126a_U, ovpt invert, (5 bids) \$14 / GUATEMALA-C292_MNH, (8 bids) \$23

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB 2018 SPRING NATIONAL STAMP SHOW



Mar 24-25, 2018

Saturday 10-5pm, Sunday 10-4pm

**Central Lion's Recreational Centre
113 St & 111 Ave**

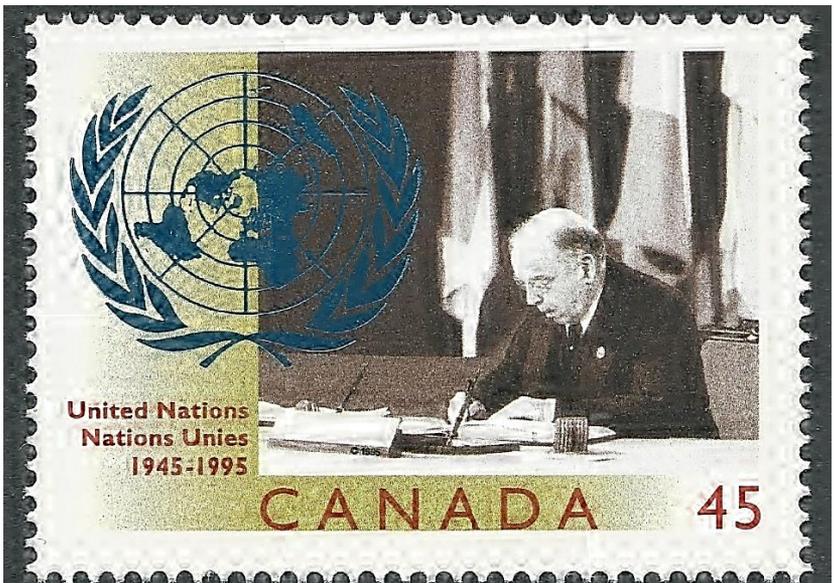
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Edmonton Stamp Club Spring Show Raffle 2018 50 cent Admiral



(pictured actual stamp)

1 for \$5 or 3 for \$10

Mint, Never Hinged, Very Fine (cat \$390)

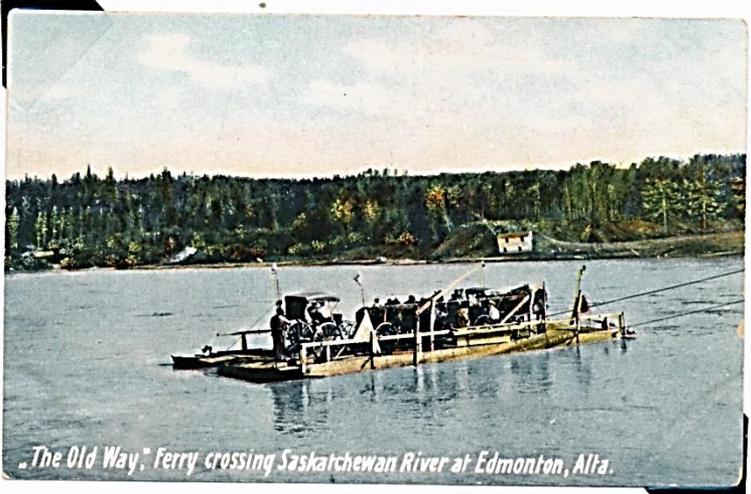
Edmonton Stamp Club Spring Show
March 24th & 25th
Draw: Club Meeting April 9th

4TH IN THE SERIES

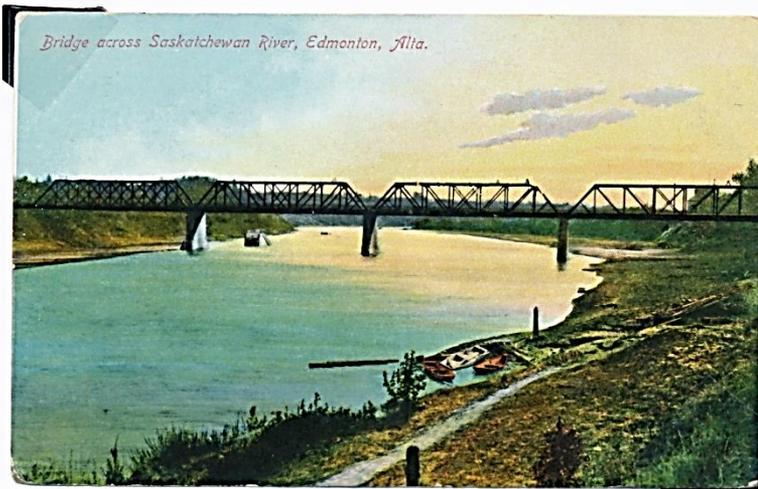
THE EDMONTON BRIDGE (LOW LEVEL BRIDGE) by Barend Wissink

In the late 1890's Edmonton was separated from Strathcona five months of the year because the ferry on the North Saskatchewan was ice bound.

A bridge was in order. Note the first post card is of the ferry crossing.



In March of 1898 pier construction started for the then called Edmonton Bridge, it wasn't called the Low Level Bridge until the High Level Bridge was built. Oops a slight problem occurred in the spring the water level rose 4 ft above the already built piers, back to the drawing board, and corrections were made.



The charter for for the Edmonton Yukon & Pacific Railroad was granted. The bridge was completed in 1900, linking the cities together. From 1900 to 1902 this bridge was a ordinary traffic bridge. In 1902 rails were added linking it to the Calgary & Edmonton Rail-

Next page



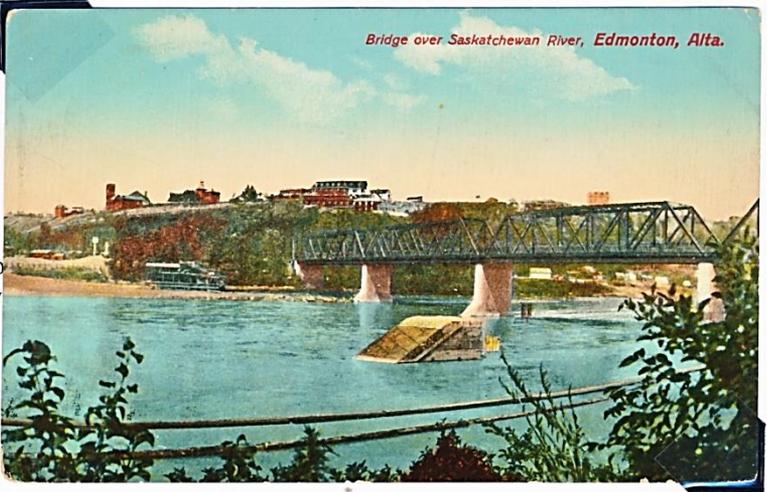
road station on 103rd St. & 82nd Ave. to the north station on the bottom of McDougall Hill.

The post card on this page was mailed August 3rd 1905, about one month before Alberta became a province

The bridge itself is a four span

Pratt truss with a total length of 669 ft. north bound, it has 3 piers in the water. Along with train use it saw street car use from 1908 to 1939 which ran on a gauntlet track. Trolley buses used the bridge from 1939 to 1965, along with regular car & wagon travel from 1900 to present day, it was twined in 1948 and rail track removed in 1954. The great flood of 1915 which wiped out most of the river valley businesses threatened the bridge,

on June 29th the river rose up even with the bridge deck 34 ft. above the high water mark. To prevent damage to the bridge they parked a train loaded with coal and sand to keep weight on the deck preventing the deck from



being wrenched free by debris, needless to say it survived. HAPPY 117TH BIRTHDAY

Barend has more bridges in Alberta, stay tuned.

The Simplicity of Basic Forgery Detection

stamps@gotstamps.com

Part two

Adhering to the belief that expensive stamps are heavily forged, we now look at two mint stamps from an early German State which catalog \$300 apiece. However, one of these Bremen #5 is a forgery. Looking at pictures #5 & #6 can you tell which one is authentic?



pic. 5



pic. 6

Unlike the Baden example above, both of these stamps have a very sharp appearance. Both are clean and have the same coloring, and what appears to be an exact make up. Yet one of them is a forgery. If we look at the numbered items in pictures #7 & #8 we see that there are differences between the two.



pic. 7



pic. 8

The numbered items tell us the following:

In the middle of the circle of the letter P in POST is a dot on the authentic stamp and no dot on the forged stamp. (see picture #7a)

Between the legs and under the crossbar of the A in AMT should be a dot if authentic and would be missing in the forged copy. (see picture #7b)

& In the upper and lower lobes of the S of STADT should be a single dot in the real stamp and missing in the forged stamp. (see picture #7c)



pic. 7a



pic. 7b



pic. 7c

Given the 3 items above you should be able to determine that the forged stamp is the one on the right (pictures #6 & #8). Without the reference material it would be impossible to differentiate between an authentic copy and a forged copy of this \$300 stamp. Making a mistake could cost a buyer good money.

There are some stamps worth more used than unused. Many of these stamps typically have forged cancellations to make a mint stamp appear postally used. When a forger decides to forge one of these stamps, it is usually forged with a fake cancellation or is actually placed on an envelope and is postally used to make the stamp appear valid. A postally used forgery may have some value to some collectors, but will normally never have close to the value of its authentic counterpart, and to most collectors would be worthless. The following example of Lubeck #4 (pictures #9 & #10) shows a mint copy of the authentic stamp, which is valued at \$19 and its forged counterpart, with cancellation, valued at \$575 if authentic. This example concentrates on the stamp itself and not the cancellation.



pic. 9



pic. 10

Next page

Pictures #11 & #12 point out three items that are used to differentiate between an authentic and forged copy of this stamp. There are many other indicators, but these three should suffice in demonstrating that you would not want to pay anything close to \$575 for the stamp in picture #12.

The numbered items should be interpreted as follows:

- 1) The authentic stamp should have 2 dots between the griffins heads. On the forged copy there are none.
- 2) Below the horizontal line of the lower center ornament there should be 4 dots. Most forgeries contain no dots, as is the case with this example.
- 3) The vertical concave rule between the upper and lower ornaments on the right should be 5.3 mm long. It is much shorter than this in the forged copy depicted in this example.



pic. 11



pic. 12

All of the examples up to this point have compared a forged copy against an authentic copy. This is the preferred method (many dealers build up collections of both authentic and forged stamps to be used for forgery detection of new stamps acquired) as it's very easy to see the differences.

The following examples will look at a single copy of a stamp and the indicators used, to help determine authenticity versus forgery. It will be apparent when visually inspecting the items, that it's harder in making the final determination, but is still straightforward, in these examples, for the novice to make the correct assessment.

To be continued

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