

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB

BULLETIN

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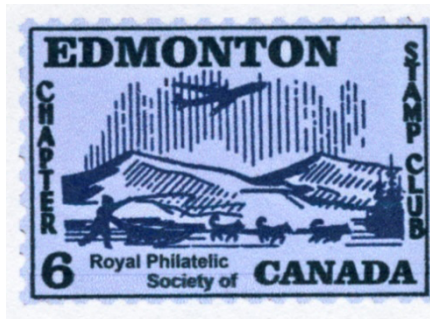
Website: <http://www.edmontonstampclub.ca>



Regular meetings

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

Check Page 12 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.

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We have some exciting presentations coming up at club meetings. Dave Hetke talks on 3 November. Next is Ed Dykstra on 17 November, followed by Steven Friedenthal on 1 December. Stamp enthusiasts are already calling these presentations spellbinding, riveting, and not to be missed. Plan to attend. Education is a cornerstone of the Edmonton Stamp Club.

As of next year our club will have been meeting at St. Joseph High School for fifty years. Do you have pictures from those early meetings? We're building a Stamp Show theme around ESC and St. Joseph High School. We'd love to use your photos.

Our Club continues to support junior stamp collectors. So far there are eighteen high school students in a stamp club at Paul Kane High School in St. Albert. Marcel has been checking with Catholic Junior and Senior High Schools in Edmonton. If you know of a junior stamp club or individual junior collectors, we'd love to work with them. New blood in stamp collecting is welcome -- and needed.

Your President,
David V. Pattison

Nothing echos like an empty mail box.-- Charles M. Schultz (aka Peanuts cartoon author)



The Stamp Collector

Judy Madden
headachesolvers(at)gmail.com

A few months ago I stumbled upon a picture of "The Stamp Collector" by Curt Bruckner (aka Curt Echtermeyer) on a page of Revival House Antiques. I had to laugh because there was something very familiar about it. It was painted in 1957. I suppose if he painted it now, we would see a laptop open on the desk along with the albums already there. (In case you were thinking you might want to buy the painting, don't: the painting has been sold.)



Canada's First Commemoratives

Wayne Madden
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If asked to name my favorite stamps in my collection, I would say they are the 1897 Canadian stamps issued to honor the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. These were the first commemorative stamps issued in Canada – and at a time when very few commemorative stamps had been issued anywhere. Great Britain, for example, would not issue its first commemorative stamps until 1924 and 1925, for the British Empire Exhibition in Wembley (and it took a great deal to convince King George V, an avid stamp collector, to agree to that).

The 1897 issue celebrated an unprecedented historical event, the Diamond Jubilee of a sovereign of Great Britain and the British Empire (of which the Dominion of Canada was a self-governing member). The closest any previous sovereign had even come to serving sixty years was King George III (1760 to 1820), who died months before the sixtieth anniversary of his reign and, due to mental illness, his son, later King George IV, had ruled as Regent since 1810. (It may be argued that a cause of the old King's mental illness were the lifestyles of his sons, particularly that of the Prince Regent.)



A total of sixteen stamps in denominations ranging from ½ cent to \$5.00 were issued with a mintage ranging from a high of 20 million for the 3¢ stamp to a low of 13,550 for the \$3.00 stamp. For the 6¢ stamp, and all denominations from one dollar and up, fewer than a

hundred thousand stamps were printed. The perforation for all stamps was 12. Design was done by Lyndwode Charles Pereira and Peleg Franklin Brownell. The Printer was the American Banknote Company using the Intaglio/Recess printing method. Stamps up to the 8¢ denomination were printed in panes of 100 with the higher denominations printed in panes of 50.

Although there are many symbols decorating the stamp, they do not distract from the portraits of the Queen. In fact, it is possible to look at the stamp, and the portraits stand out enough that it is very possible not to really notice the background design, which includes a heraldic (Tudor) crown, sceptre, the Queen's monogram, VRI (for Victoria Regina Imperatrix), leaves, and scrollwork. Portraits chosen for the stamp are the well-known portrait of Queen Victoria as a young Queen in 1837 by Alfred Chalon and a portrait of her in middle age dating to 1867 and taken by Alexander Bassano.

It is the later portrait of the Queen that is of interest. The crown worn by the Queen is a small and simple gold and diamond crown. When her husband, Prince Albert died in 1861, she was only forty-three years of age. Unlike today, periods of mourning after the death of a family member were quite long, with many strict restrictions grieving family members were expected to observe regarding dress and permitted activities. Queen Victoria took her mourning to the ultimate extreme, remaining in that state until her own passing in 1901. During mourning, wearing of colored jewels such as those on the imperial state crown (sapphires, rubies, etc.) was not permitted, but wearing simple diamonds was permitted. The small crown, which can be viewed with other crown Jewels at the Tower of London, is decorated only with diamonds.



In 1897, postal rates were 1¢ for drop letters and postcards, 3¢ for letter mail, and 5¢ for registered mail. (Good grief! Things *have* changed since then!) The highest postal rate was \$3.59, raising a question as to why the \$4.00 and \$5.00 stamps were produced in the first place. For collectors today, it is possible to get good examples of most lower rate stamps at very reasonable prices. However, the 6¢ stamp and the high rate stamps (\$1.00 and up) are somewhat costly with the middle rate stamps falling in between. I am fortunate to have all the stamps up to and including the 50¢ stamp in my collection. As for the higher rate stamps... unless I win the lottery with one of the tickets that I never buy... well... one can dream.

A Postscript:

It could hardly be expected that there would soon be a future sovereign who would see a Diamond Jubilee, but in 2012, Queen Elizabeth II did celebrate her Diamond Jubilee and as we know, would go on to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee (70 years) before her passing.

For the Diamond Jubilee, Canada Post embarked on a very ambitious program issuing keepsake folders each month from January to June. Each folder showed pictures of all stamps bearing her portrait from one decade of the Queen's reign with one select stamp reproduced on a pane of four stamps. Then on 7 May 2012 a two dollar stamp with a design modelled on that of the 1897 Jubilee issue was also issued. Designers were Jorge Peral and Rodrigo Peral. Printing was done using intaglio/silkscreen/laser technology by Canadian Bank Note Company and the perforation is 13+.

The portrait of the young Queen was the Dorothy Wilding portrait used on the 1954 low value definitive series (stamps of a value of 1¢ to 6¢). In spite of a lot of searching, I have not been able to find out who did the older portrait of the Queen (and looking at that portrait, I can see why). The background is similar to that used on the 1897 series except for the St. Edward's Crown and Queen Elizabeth's monogram (EIIR). The 2012 stamp is also bilingual. The date, 2012, is hidden just under the leaf on the bottom of the left hand side of the stamp.



Products available in this issue included a pane of eight stamps, a single stamp on a souvenir sheet that also includes a larger version of the Dorothy Wilding portrait, and a numbered and signed uncut press sheet (very suitable for framing) that included four panes of eight stamps and eight souvenir sheets. A total of 2500 uncut press sheets were issued. A total of 1.4 million stamps were printed. There was also a first day of issue cover that included the Dorothy Wilding portrait in its design.

Fun Fact:

After the 1897 Jubilee issue, the next stamp with a value of one dollar was issued in July of 1923 as part of the King George V Admiral Issue. Another two dollar stamp was not issued until March 1972, a definitive stamp showing Quebec City. The next five dollar stamp was only issued in January 1983, a definitive stamp showing Point Pelee National Park.

Sources of Information for this article include:

- <canadianphilately.blogspot.com> *Canadian Philately: The Stamps and Postal History of Canada 1851 to Present* by Brixton Chrome: *The 1897 Jubilee Issue.*
- <www.postalstamps.ca> *Postal Stamps: The Diamond Jubilee Issue.*
- <www.allnumis.com> *Allnumis: Alain Martineau; \$2 2012 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee.*
- <postagestampguide.com> *Postage Stamp Guide: Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee*

The Junk Box #26

Ian Paterson

[This is a blast from the past, a short article cribbed from the November-December 1975 *Edmonton Stamp Club Bulletin*. It fits with our Spring Show theme: "Fifty Years of Edmonton Stamp Club Meetings at St. Joseph High School." This issue of the *Bulletin* already states that that's the place meetings are held. Many of us remember the author, Ian, fondly. I certainly do. Let's resurrect him for our entertainment and enlightenment. – Editor]

I usually agree with the philosophies of that erudite premier of philately, Herman Herst, whose writings I have long relished. However, I do take exception to his remark (in the reprinted article which appeared in the last E.S.C. Bulletin) in which he says "...there is no value in junk." Now depending on how you define "value" the above statement may or may not be true.

I am the first to admit that damaged, defective stamps have a very depreciated value. It is unfortunate that some collectors, supposedly to save money, buy poor quality stamps because they are available at lower prices. It was many years ago, and it was once again Mr. Herst himself in his writings who said "...the best buy is the top quality at the top price." This has served as one of my guidelines and is just as valid today as when I first read it. There is always a demand for top quality; there is not a great demand for the multitude of second grade material which abounds in all stock books. Don't get me wrong, I do not criticize the collecting of a defective copy if, and only if, it is available at a price which is relative to its condition. A very fine copy at full retail is a much better buy than a thinned copy at half retail. If this is Mr. Herst's definition of value, I agree.

However, there is another category, which I prefer to call "junkque" (with a spelling like that it has to carry a little more prestige), and this junkque is valuable only in the eyes of the beholder. "One man's drink is another man's poison" comes fairly close to defining this sort of junkque. A box, bag, or accumulation of

the foregoing may not have much monetary value, but may appeal to a collector's interest. The hours of fun in the sorting and finding have in themselves much value. Too often we overlook the fun value of stamps. However, let us not deceive ourselves into believing that a collection formed from this material will be worth a fortune. Be that as it may, there is nothing wrong with any class of junk, provided it is bought at a junk price and will satisfy your collecting interests.



Board

Our board met again on 27 October. Once again we discussed the necessity of recruiting a new Membership Chair. Fred has done a great job for years, but he's ready to retire from the position.

Keith Spencer, who has organized the programs for years and who has often made presentations himself to the club, is unable to drive at night anymore. But we have some presentations arranged for future meetings. They are outlined in the President's Message on p. 3 of this publication. The board has noted that we need to improve our audio and visual equipment.

As previously mentioned, national shows will be alternating between Edmonton (2026) and Calgary (2027). We will try to break even on this year's Spring Show.

There was also an intense general discussion about what we can do to generate more revenue, reduce expenses, and eliminate events that lose money.

Who Won?

Not the Jays, unfortunately. But we do have club winners, including the editor who complained in the last issue that he never wins.

			
Norman Selman won the door prize, 6 October	Ed Dykstra won \$29 in the 50/50, 6 October	John-Paul Himka won the door prize, 20 October	Fred Tauber won \$29.50 in the 50/50, 20 October

Here’s an Idea

John-Paul Himka
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I was talking with my daughter about influencers. It turned out she knew quite a bit about them and even had a close friend who was one. The friend had developed a large following with photos of her dog and was rewarded with various free dog products.

As we talked, we worked out a concept together. What if the Edmonton Stamp Club had its own YouTube channel, its own vlog (video blog)? And we figured out a format. It would feature one of the big junk boxes that appear often enough in our auctions. And then we’d have a gang of three or four of our most knowledgeable experts pull out items and talk about them. There are so many philatelically erudite people in our club, people like Keith Spencer, Richard Barnes, and so on. They wouldn’t have access to the box before the video session. But they’d extract items one at a time and comment on them. We could call it “Old-Timers Talk Stamps.” We’d need someone with video skills to do it. Could be the biggest sensation since *I Love Lucy*.

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

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

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

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

We are now able to accept eTransfers at our email address:

edmontonstampclub@outlook.com

Use eTransfers to pay for:

- Membership Dues/Tags**
- Bulletin Subscriptions**
- Payments On Account**
- Donations**

Please insert a message into the eTransfer to advise us what the funds are for. For questions or concerns, please email us at the above email address.