

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB BULLETIN

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**2013 Spring National Stamp Show
March 22, 23, 24**

West Edmonton Mall Conference Centre



With thanks to Ken Kluchky for introducing us to the World Wildlife Fund thematics, and enticing us with this joint Australia - China stamp issue.

Regular meetings: Feb 11 & 25, Mar 11 & 18, Apr 8 & 22
St. Joseph High School Cafeteria, 10830 - 109 Street, 6:30 pm

Editor: Alan Meech

The Edmonton Stamp Club

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, comment and articles. These may be forwarded to Box 399, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2J6 or ameech@telusplanet.net. □



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Spider Man, Spider Man, Does Whatever a Spider Can

Many years ago I recall chatting with a fellow collector who was quite annoyed and complaining. His anger was with countries that were issuing large quantities of what he called “garbage” stamps, stamps that depicted every topic under the sun; he was especially irate when describing some stamps featuring comic book characters, and remarked what a poor choice for a stamp topic—“utter nonsense” were his words. I myself am a topical collector but nodded, actually agreeing with him over the issue of comic books depicted on stamps.

Now it wasn't too long thereafter that both Canada and the U.S. began issuing larger and larger quantities of new stamps featuring every topic under the sun, and then there came stamps that even depicted comic book characters. Canada honored Superman along with several Canadian comic book heroes with its Comic Book Superheroes issue (Scott #1579-1583) back in 1995; and the U.S. has issued several comic book stamp sets in recent years, including the Marvel Comics Superheroes issue (Scott #4159a-t) in 2007, a sheet of 20 different stamps, 10 depicting characters and 10 depicting covers of their comic books, including two stamps for the Amazing Spider-Man.

This got me thinking again about the discussion with the collector many years ago,

and what should justify commemoration on a stamp. Some of the reasons I came up with include significance to our history, economic impact, part of our cultural mosaic and perhaps even the impact in our daily lives from any of several perspectives, often without us even realizing it. And here is what I discovered when I put our caped crusaders in leotards to this test.



1995. Canada honors Superman.



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U.S.A. 20-stamp issue of 2007 honoring Marvel Comics superheroes.

The Amazing Spider-Man has been around for 51 years, Superman for 74 years, Batman almost as long, and even Wolverine debuted more than 35 years ago. These characters (and many others) are probably going stronger than ever in their history, they have huge fan bases covering every age and financial demographic, with constant exposure from a host of sources beyond just the comic books: in fact, many fans have never even read a comic book but have become fans nevertheless. The comic book catch-phrases are part of our culture—who hasn't heard the words, "Look up in the sky. It's a bird, it's a plane...?"



The Amazing Spider Man.



Stan Lee, creator of Spider-Man (left), with Edward Neehall, author of this article, (right).

Superman's financial value is estimated at over \$1,000,000,000 – yes, that's one *billion* dollars, with Spider-Man not far behind. And in the past 12 months several different copies of the earliest Superman comic book have sold for over \$1.5 million dollars each, while the first appearance of Spider-Man, a comic book called *Amazing Fantasy #15*, has also now broken the million dollar mark at auction, and this is during a time when the global economy is still in turmoil.

So, I now have to conclude that the old stamp collector many years ago was actually wrong when it came to comic book characters being featured on stamps—there are a great many reasons to justify an honour for these masked heroes. They are part of our lives whether we care to admit it or not, and I certainly look forward to many more such honours in the years ahead. In the words of Stan "The Man" Lee, the creator of Spider-Man, "Excelsior"! □

Edward Neehall

Circuits Extension

Several out-of-town clubs receive our stamp circuits, and are good customers. We'd like to extend this, to the benefit of both vendors and purchasers. Are you connected with a coffee group, a club, or other group that might be interested in receiving our circuits? If so, contact Carol Warren, circuits manager, at carwarren@shaw.ca or phone 780-962-1234.

Another Canada Post Surprise

How can Canada Post squeeze another dollar out of the event of the 100th Anniversary of the Grey Cup in Canada, and the Canadian Football League? They have already produced a set of coil stamps with souvenir sheet. This was followed by a set of booklet stamps with another souvenir sheet. What's left? Make a stamp to congratulate the winning team on the centenary of the Grey Cup?

Enough Grey Cup stamps were waiting to produce 30,000 booklets on the day of the game. Canada Post had the logos of the two teams playing—Calgary Stampeders and Toronto Argonauts—prepared and waiting the result of the big game. On 25 November 2012 the winner was the Toronto Argonauts. On 28 November the congratulatory stamp for the winners was in the Toronto post offices.

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Do you see the differences between these two Grey Cup stamps? Figure 1 shows the original stamp issued on 16 August, and Figure 2 shows the issue of 28 November. The 28 November stamp has a bilingual “congratulations” printed on the top of the booklet. The second point of note is the Argonauts logo printed on the upper right of the stamp. Because of the background of the stamp a metallic silver had to be used instead of white when printing the logo.



Figure 1. Stamp issued on 16 August.



Figure 2. Stamp issued on 28 November, “Congratulations at top, Argos logo over player’s head at right.

I congratulate Canada Post and the Canadian Football league with their eight teams for maximizing the publicity and commercial additions to the event when the Grey Cup had its 100th playing. Canada Post said that they had this stamp on their web site immediately after the game. What web site? I get “details” and all other Canada Post publications and they had no mention of this stamp. What I have problems with is that this is the second time in the last three months that I had to find out about a Canada Post stamp issue from a U.S. philatelic publication. □

Richard T. Barnes

Edmonton Stamp Club

2013 Spring National Stamp Show



March 22 - 24

Friday, 12 - 8 pm; Saturday 10 - 5 pm;
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Demon Definitives 16 12 2012

The European Bison

© Peter F R Kirchmeir

At last, a buffalo stamp that has won an Asiago International Award. Asiago has chosen Poland's 2011 Europa stamp as a best example of the stamp artist's skills. The stamp comes as a single as well as in a mini-sheet of nine^{2,3}.



Poland's 2011 "Europa" stamp shows a white outline of an European aurochs (buffalo) against a green symbolic forest resembling a bamboo forest (Poczta Polska)³. An added feature is that juniper scent is infused into the paper.

The stories of the two bison species are very similar. The European bison became extinct in the wild by 1927⁴. In North America, this almost happened; however, the Canadian government at the turn of the 19th/20th century managed to obtain a buffalo herd and thereby was instrumental in their conservation. In Europe, their bison was re-introduced into the wild from captive stock in zoos. This is the lowland bison, also known as the *wisent*. It is not as large as our wood buffalo, but is a bit fiercer. Any trip to Elk Island National Park will provide you with a *bison bison bison* specimen².

The only recipes for preparing buffalo meat for consumption are based on our buffalo. One set of recipes is found at bisonbasics.com⁵.

I can attest to the great taste of buffalo meat. A few years ago, during an archaeological field school in Bodo, Alberta, we had the good fortune of accepting a buffalo rump roast. This roast was a gift, because we archaeologists were finding huge numbers of buffalo bones in several bone beds, and some of the surrounding ranchers thought that it would be good for us to experience what a buffalo tasted like. There are at least two buffalo ranches near our expedition. And believe it or not,

one rancher was trying to raise musk oxen—in this semi-arid desert climate.

The roast was large. It was red. It eyed us with contempt, knowing our ignorance of its ways. It was a conundrum. None of us twenty had ever seen so much meat in one chunk, let alone prepared one so juicy for eating. Bu never underestimate the innovative and conniving spirit of archaeologists. After some consultation in our dining tent, and the use of the internet, we decided not only to ignore our ignorance but to roast the beast in grand style: buffalo wellington, with all its fiddly preparation and cooking, was our final choice. It was decided that one student was to be left in the cook shack to follow the snaffled recipe. One part of the recipe called for basting every twenty minutes.

It was a hot, sunny windy day. Pint after pint of water slaked our thirst. Lunchtime came and we speculated on how our buffalo wellington was coming along. This was in the days when cell phones were relatively new. We had sporadic reception from the digging site back to the camp site, so much so that we could not get a definitive answer to our culinary questions. Expectations ran from “Ugh, it will be gamey,” to “Wow will you ever love it” and everything in between.

We returned to our digging. We retrieved hundreds of smashed buffalo bones, with bit a few large identifiable chunks. Mosquitoes buzzed, mourning doves cooed, magpies squawked, white or brownish butterflies hovered, grasshoppers jumped beside us and ants crawled over our excavated floors, and sweat dripped all over the place. All this sweat, dirt and buffalo bone excavation made us more and more hungry.

At last: quitting time. We piled into the bus. Our lone cell phone was activated. Progress reports came in. “Boy, it sure smells good.” “You should see the juice coming out of it.” “We’ll make some gravy.”

The dinner that night, in the open dining tent, with breezes wafting the scent of the buffalo wellington, was one of the best meals of my life. I have eaten buffalo since, as roasts, hamburgers and in other concoctions but none have measured up to that buffalo wellington.

I am so glad that buffalo have been introduced to several forests around the world. Yum! Yum!

Sources

1. *Linn's Stamp News*, Sep 24, 3012, p. 17
2. <http://www.poland-today.pl/thebison-recipe-for-success-poland-gets-international-stamp-award/>
3. <http://europa-stamps.blogspot.ca/2011/04/polan3-2011.html>
4. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_bison
5. <http://www.bisonbasics.com/recipes.html>

Stamps a Fire Hazard?

Jeff Pacey noticed an interesting article in a recent issue of *Macleans*. The Vancouver fire department is apparently greatly increasing the number of annual inspections it makes of various commercial and industrial enterprises in the area.

Among them is a wonderful bookstore called MacLeod's, which has been under the same ownership for about forty years, and is packed with books, as one would expect. Unfortunately, the inspectors seem to think of books in terms of “fire load” and consider that they represent a hazard, despite the premises having sprinklers installed, etc. Apparently, the same inspectors have taken an interest in a local stamp store that has lots of stock. Both premises have taken steps to be more in line with the fire department's requirements but by the nature of their business, they are under close inspection.

Will you one day look up from your home stamp desk to find a fire inspector looking over your shoulder? Thanks, Jeff. ☐

Dr. Who

Dr. Who is a long, long running British science fiction television series that has many devoted fans. To mark the 50th anniversary of the series, Royal Mail is issuing a series of stamps showing each of *eleven* actors who have played the title role, as well as a miniature sheet that shows four of the hero's iconic enemies.

The stamps and sheet are to be issued at the end of March. ☐

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Christmas Chocolate and Canada Post

Did you notice that this Christmas, in Canada Post offices, boxes of candy (Nestlé's Turtles) were for sale? I did, but I did not bother with them because I did not want Turtles candy for a gift this Christmas. In addition, I do not collect postal history, just stamps. However, there was a two-page article by Charles G. Verge, "Canada's post offices selling candy with personal postage". I made a photocopy of the article but missed the name of the publication, issue and date. Can any member help me with this information? I do have the *Linn's Stamp News* with an article on this item. The four pieces of candy come in a small envelope-like box with \$1.29 prefixed postage (Fig. 1). I assumed that as usual the \$1.29 postage is directly printed on the box. As the wife likes to tell me, "I was wrong." It is a stamp (Fig. 2) attached to this box.

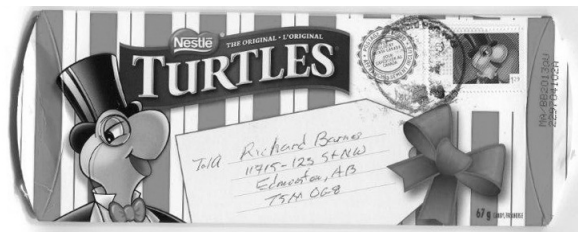


Fig 1. Nestlé Turtles package, franked at upper right with an actual stamp.



Fig 2. Turtle stamp affixed to the mailing box.

November 5 was the date scheduled for issue of this stamp; however, there was a snafu and it was not available until November 19. This stamp is printed in sheets of 50 using an existing picture postage frame. The text, graphics and denomination are gray while the vignette is (surprise, surprise) chocolate brown in colour. The tagging is pink fluorescence—the only Canadian stamp I am aware of with this colour of tagging. Perforation is 13¼.

The information in the philatelic magazines is that Nestlé purchased over 100,000 stamps. This stamp is not listed on the Canada Post web site. The literature says that neither any Canada Post outlet nor the National Philatelic Centre can sell these stamps. The only way that a stamp collector can get this stamp is to buy the box of chocolates. Only un gummed stamps, mint or used, should be available to the stamp collector. Am I just cynical, but I am waiting for a dealer to have mint

examples for sale sometime in the future.

This turtle stamp is strictly part of the advertising program for Nestlé. The literature states that there is no connection to the earlier Franklin the Turtle set of stamps nor the latest Picture Postage set of 12 stamps. It is a stand-alone stamp that in my opinion should be in any Canadian stamp collection. □

Richard T. Barnes

Molanosa, Saskatchewan

Molanosa is a small, isolated community located in Northern Saskatchewan. It is approximately the geographical centre of the province, and is located on Highway Number 2, 70 kilometers south of La Ronge, close to the north end of Montreal lake.


The name "Molanosa" was selected by local people who combined the first two letters of each of the words Montreal Lake Northern Saskatchewan.

(*Ed note:* patchwork place names such as this are also relatively common in Alberta. Think of Lundbreck, Carmangay or (five points for figuring this one out) Hemaruka). □

Ernie Wlock



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Biography of a Stamp Collection

(late summer, 2005)

Of course, “biography” sounds a bit weird for something like a stamp collection, but if a fellow like me, at the age of 86, looks back at his beloved hobby he started at the age of eight, the term “biography” might become more acceptable. Well, was it plain stubbornness or dedication that kept me going all these years? I really don’t know. In 1978, after our son Ralph and our dear Renata had already given up again a short “career” of stamp collecting, I still decided to display everything I had accumulated of stamps on the table-tennis table in our basement, compose a suitable write-up about it, show and read it to my whole family, just to get them informed about those “damn stamps” that “Dad spends so much time with.”

Now, 27 years later, I kind of do it again, with a different motive; more as a preparation for the eventual disposal of the whole works, after I am gone.

The write-up of 1978 was written in German about my collecting activities, before our arrival in Canada. The following will be somehow a translation of suitable parts thereof. Here is one part, slightly modified.

It must have been around 1928 when I developed my interest in postage stamps. My father, who worked for the German Postal Service, wasn’t very enthusiastic about it. He made it quite clear to me that I should not expect any favours from him, derived from his position as a

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typical Prussian-style German civil servant. It could—well, in those days it would—have cost him his job. What a difference to today’s work ethic!

It all may have started when a buddy in my class gave me a few “foreign” stamps. His father operated a barge on the Elbe River, all the way down from Czechoslovakia. “Foreign” was still something very far away in those days...something special. Then one of my mother’s friends, Marie Meyer, whose brother had collected stamps, but had died in World War I, donated that collection to me. It was a very old Schaubeck album with some nice if not very valuable; worldwide, but I still recognize many of them, so many years later.

From another of my mother’s friends, Anni Jurgschat, came a couple of handfuls of German inflation-time stamps. And our good neighbour, Werner Stein, foreign correspondent with a well-known metallurgical factory, Schäffer and Buddenberg, in my native city of Magdeburg, contributed about once a year a handful of stamps, mostly from European countries, enough to keep my interest in stamps alive. Once I spent some 30 pennies of my scarce pocket money for a small packet of “kiloware” which turned out to be “junk” of course.

But I didn’t give up; and in 1934 my father bought me a KaBe “whole world” album. I still remember the stamp shop in the Grosse Münz Str, where we went together to and where I sometimes looked at the display of stamps in the store window. In January 1945, that area was bombed to ruins and rubble. During the 1930s I also bought the new issues of German stamps directly at the post office, but in 1939 I finally subscribed to the Philatelic Agency in Berlin in order to receive all new issues. During my absence during war and prisoner-of-war time, until 1945, my father took good care of my account there.

When I came home in February 1947, I committed the biggest blunder in my collecting career. Most of the letters I had sent home from PoW camps in Canada carried two stamps (Canada #257 and 260) necessary to provide air mail service. My parents had saved all the letters, and now I washed off all the stamps. It still took about another 15 years to realize the big mistake. But it shows that I really wasn’t very knowledgeable about stamps in those early years.

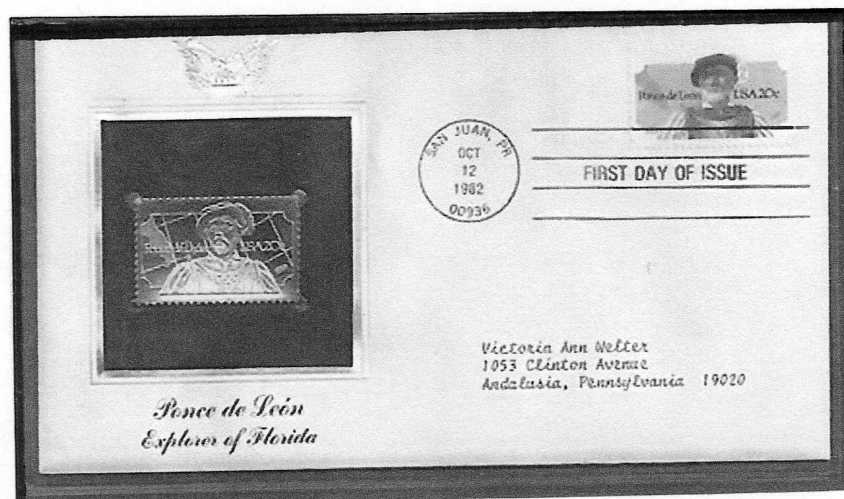
There was neither time nor money for stamps during 1947 and 1948. Those were quite turbulent times for me. An acquaintance of my mother smuggled my stamps (can I call that already a “collection”?) through the “Iron Curtain” to Hamburg, where I had settled down. Blank album pages, Schaubeck but not KaBe, very poor wartime quality, became available again. *(To be continued)* □

Siegfried Osterwoldt

Ponce de Leon, Gold Foil Cover

On a recent visit to one of my friends, I was shown this U.S. first day cover, which I borrowed in order to write this article. It was made by the U.S. Postal Commemorative Society and authorized by the U.S. Postal Service.

The cover was issued October 12, 1982 at San Juan, Puerto Rico.



It's a high quality gold foil cover and is absolutely beautiful.

So who was Ponce de Leon?

Juan Ponce de Leon was a Spanish explorer whose achievements include the conquest of Puerto Rico and the discovery of Florida. The Spanish treasury received great wealth from Puerto Rico, and Spain's claim to the mainland was established with his discovery of Florida.

Ponce de Leon sailed to the new world with Columbus in 1493. He remained on the island of Hispaniola (the island now shared by Haiti and the Dominican Republic).

As a boy, he had delivered messages at the royal court. Later, he served in many campaigns against to expel the Muslims as Ferdinand and Isabella drove them out of Spain in the reconquista.

As a reward for his service, he was given the right to find Bimini, the Fountain of Youth, which was supposed to be one of the islands of

the Bahamas. He thought he had landed on an island, but in fact he landed at what is now St. Augustine, Florida. Because he saw lots of flowers, he named it "Florida" which in Spanish means flowers.

Five years later he returned to Florida, but his expedition was met by local indigenous resistance, and Ponce de Leon was struck in the leg by an arrow and later died of his wound in Cuba. □

Ernie Wlock

Coming Events 2013

Mar 22-24	Edmonton Spring National Stamp Show, Fantasyland Conference Centre, West Edmonton Mall. See www.edmontonstampclub.com
April 5-7	Lakeshore Stamp Club, Dorval QC, Sarto Desnoyers Community Centre, Dorval. For information contact Gary Misener, Exhibition Chairman, gmisener@sympatico.ca .
May 4-5	Orapex 2013, Ottawa. Information from Robert Pinet at (613) 745-2788 or pinet.robert@gmail.com or from www.orapex.ca .
May 24-26	PIPEX, Red Lion on the River Hotel, Jantzen Beach, Portland.
Jun 21-23	Royal 2013 Royale, Winnipeg. Contact al.wingate@shaw.ca .

Vatican Fund Raising

When you see photos of the crowds standing inside the magnificent curve of Bernini's colonnades in Rome, remember that they cost money to keep up. In fact, the Holy See is taking the unprecedented philatelic step of issuing special stamps to help pay for the restoration of the columns.

This is to be a "limited edition" (undefined). Two stamps will be issued, each of €10 face value, one showing the (barely) current Pope Benedict XVI and one showing Pope Alexander VII, who commissioned the work from Bernini. Check the papal philatelic web site for further information. □

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2013 Meeting Dates

The Edmonton Stamp Club meets Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of St. Joseph High School, 10830 - 109 Street. Because of recent concerns about school security, entrance to the school is from the main doors on the southeast corner. Or, take your luck and park to the north of the school and use the western entrance on the north facade, where you might find a Club member waiting to open the doors. For information about the regular club call 451-0420 or 437-1787; for the junior clubs, phone Linda at 913-1244.

Jan 7 & 21, Feb 11 & 25, Mar 11 & 18, Apr 8 & 22

May 6 & 27, June 10

Edmonton Spring National Stamp Show, Mar 22-24, 2013

Edmonton BNAPS (British North America Philatelic Society) meets monthly. All BNAPSers welcome. For information contact David Piercey at 437-2771 or Steven Friedenthal at 458-1233.

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