

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB

# BULLETIN

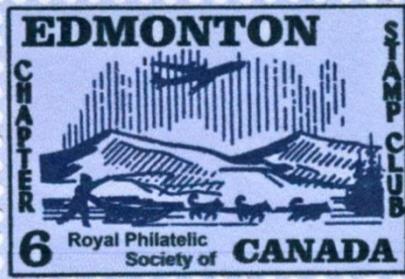
Volume 106, Number 5 May 2017 ISSN: 0046-1318  
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Website: <http://www.edmontonstampclub.com>



USA No. 1 Used – Summer Auction  
July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 (cat \$400)

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

**May 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**June 12<sup>th</sup> (ELECTIONS)**



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, 25<sup>th</sup> day of each**

**month.** 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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# Volunteer/Elections

The June 12, 2017 Edmonton Stamp Club meeting is the Annual Election Meeting. I think that we, the members of the ESC have enjoyed a successful and enjoyable year in 2016-2017. This is due in no small part to the time and effort people you elected to the ESC Board put in to administration, planning and implementing ongoing operations, as well as the programs and events.

The ESC functions solely on the efforts of volunteers. Without ESC members volunteering all the services of the provided by the Club for organizing the Spring Stamp Show, auctions, circuits to paying bills would not get done. We know the ongoing need for members to sit on committees, offer presentations to the membership at meetings, setup and cleanup at every ESC meeting, etc. Now is the time to start thinking about what you can do to keep the ESC functioning next year. Please talk among yourselves and tell any Board member if you can be available to help the club in any way. If you have some time you can give to the club but do not know what needs to be done ask a Board member.

As usual some of the present members of the ESC Board are stepping down. There are vacancies on the Board for both Executive and Director Positions. Members have to look at themselves and talk among themselves to look at getting members to volunteer to let their names to stand for election to the ESC Board at the June meeting.

The ESC does not have a list of nonelected positions; Editor, Web manager, Summer Show Chairman, Membership Chairman, Circuit Book manager, Coffee manager, Auction Manager, Mailman, Summer meeting/auction manager, 50/50 coordinator, Estate Committee, what am I missing? We need a volunteer/nomination for a Treasurer. It is not a threat but no treasurer, then no auctions and all that entails.

The Edmonton Stamp Club is only successful as the membership and its volunteers make it.

Richard Barnes

eBay



GERMANY-C40-C42\_MNH, (24 bids) \$486

# NOTICES

Edmonton Stamp club

**ELECTIONS**

For the board of directors will be held

June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## 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](mailto:bikethom@telusplanet.net)

Frank von Hausen, [fvhstamps.com](http://fvhstamps.com), 1-866-684-8408, 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.

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.

### NOW DUE

Membership \$Dues\$

July 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 / 2017-2018 Club year

**Don't lose your privileges**

\$30 per year for individual, \$40 for family

## Time to 'fess up!

By: G. Hulings Darby  
International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

If you are reading this, 1) you collect more countries than the one you call home, and 2) you have at least a few stamps that you can't figure out. Yeah, those. The ones in a glassine in the back of a drawer that you avoid opening.

The odds are that you are correct in believing that they are not actually postage stamps. They could be poster stamps, cinderellas, fantasy labels, postal savings stamps, locals, back-of-the book (BOB) items, or revenue issues that are largely ignored by the catalogs. Perhaps others on this list will be covered in later columns, but, for now, let's consider one that looks like a revenue issue.



The "patient" is WHATZIT fig.1. While identifying this stamp may initially seem daunting, a stepwise approach can finally bring one to a reasonable conclusion. The best, and simplest, place to start is with the currency unit. Abbreviations, three letters followed by a period, appear above and below the numeral "4." As a WW collector, one should have a passing familiarity with the Cyrillic alphabet, or at least ready access to an alphabet conversion chart. Hooray for the

Internet.

Even with the low contrast image provided, the Cyrillic letters "D," "I," and "N" above the "4" are clear. In the unlikely event that "dinar" does not come immediately to mind, there are lists of currencies, with their associated countries, which can be consulted. (There are only two that begin with "din," and this stamp just doesn't look Peruvian!)

Most of these lists, unfortunately, list only Persia (Iran) in connection with the dinar, although the dinar also was or is a currency unit in Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Sudan, and Tunisia. However, one can take advantage of an editorial policy of Scott catalogues.

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If no country name is clearly discernible on the stamp, but the currency unit is given, that currency unit becomes the index entry. Thus, all one need do is look up "dinar" in the index. Going to the page cited, one finds "Yugoslavia." Scott does not direct the user to Algeria, Bahrain, etc., as the names of these issuing entities appear on the stamps.

We now know that the stamp is from Yugoslavia, or one of the states that were incorporated into that entity.

Looking next at the abbreviation under the numeral, and the rather lengthy inscription, one can see the similarity to the type face employed on the 1918-1919 Slovenian stamps numbered 3L1-3L55 found near the beginning of the Yugoslavia listings. [Note that typeface styles change over the years; paying attention to this can save much time when using a catalog.]

The inscriptions now need to be translated, at least approximately. For this, a computer is essential. Don't be alarmed! This is simple enough that you'll not need to call a ten-year-old to do it for you. There are two ways to go about it; I used both.

The easiest text to read on fig. 1 is the larger print at the bottom. Using an iPad, through "settings," I changed the keyboard to display the Macedonian alphabet. This selection was arbitrary; I just wanted to get to the right part of the world. I knew that Google Translate's artificial intelligence (AI) would tell me if I were wrong. I brought up Google Translate, and chose the "Detect Language" option. Going into hunt-and-peck mode, I entered the inscription, matching the characters on the stamp the best I could to those on the keyboard. The AI immediately detected Serbian, and suggested that I had mistyped one character. After making the correction, the translation "National Defense" was returned.

We've narrowed the patient down to Serbia, and pegged it as a war tax issue.

The lengthy inscription at the top was much harder to read, do the combination of low contrast and archaic typeface. I needed more guidance. I turned to the remarkable LEXILOGOS.COM website, and entered all text via a within-the-site Serbian keyboard. [Accessing the site will explain why this works better than changing the device's keyboard.] After some fine tuning, the somewhat awkward, but none-the-less understandable, translation "Stamps for Special Contributions for Fund" appeared.

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The identity of the patient as a Serbian war tax issue was confirmed.

Subsequently, I found a reference [Let's Collect Stamps, by Ervin J. Felix, Whitman Publishing, Racine, WI, 1966], that states, in part, in defining "dinar". "This was a unit of currency value of Serbia before World War I." Scott listings show Serbian stamps denominated in dinars still being issued in 1920.

This stamp is part of a lengthy series. The series appears on eBay, but, at the time of this writing, only as overprinted "HRVATSKA" (Croatia) along with other text. These overprinted stamps are of little value.

Solving the "mystery" of an unknown stamp is educational, rewarding, and fun. Try it. I promise, it won't hurt!

I must admit that I am still groping with my computer compared to stamp collectors like G. Hulings Darby, when it comes to maximizing the power of a computer. Hopefully I am making progress. The web is a great resource for stamp collectors. Because it is comfortable I still start when trying to identify unknown stamps using my philatelic library of catalogues, particularly Scott, reference books and legal filing cabinet of clipping files. Also I find it extremely helpful to contact fellow stamp collector who have a collecting interest in the area that I think the unknown stamp comes from.

G. Hulings Darby was correct in his analysis of Fig 1. Using this information a Yugoslavia collector added additional information to provide a fuller understanding of this stamp. In 1918 the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes was created. 1929 it had a name change to the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Whatever the name the country it was officially trilingual; Serbo-Croatian, Slovenian and Macedonian. It also used two alphabets Latin and Cyrillic. Needless to say Balkan stamp identification can be interesting. This stamp is not in the Scott catalogue. It was issued in 1940 by the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.

Richard Barnes



# Local Mail: of Great Britain

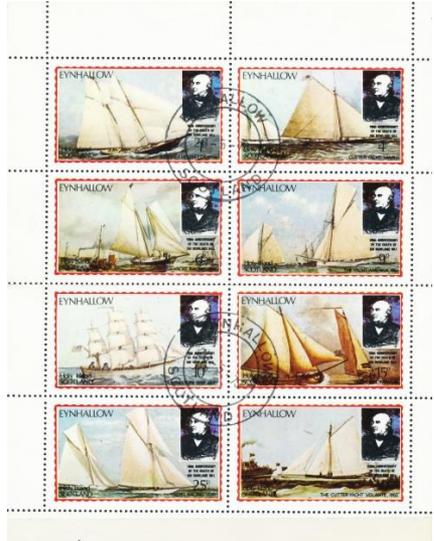
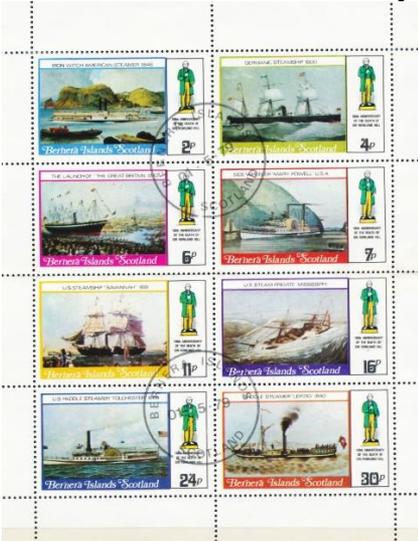
by Robert Schutte

The Island of Pabay is located 2.5 miles from the village of Broadford on the South side of the Isle of Skye, off the West coast of Scotland.



Stroma was once a populous island in the Pentland Firth, finally deserted in 1962 now it's only inhabitants are a herd of sheep and various other wildlife.

Great Bernera (Scottish Gaelic: Bèarnaraigh Mòr), often known just as Bernera, is an island and community in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland.



The Holy Island of Lindisfarne is a tidal island off the northeast coast of England. It is also known just as Holy Island. It constitutes the civil parish of Holy Island in Northumberland. Holy Island has a recorded history from the 6th century. Celebrated as a place of worship for the followers of St Cuthbert, the priory on the island was also the place that the illuminated manuscript of The Lindisfarne Chronicles was made.

# Unknown

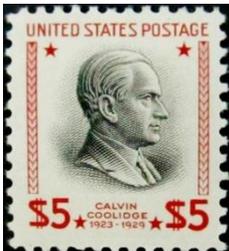
Richard Barnes

I was forwarded this information from a fellow collector. He could not identify these stamps (Fig 1).



The following information was provided by Jack Kifedjian of the Armenian Philatelic Association.

The two Armenian stamps belong to the Second Yessayan pictorial sets that were issued during the early Soviet period, 1921-1922. At this time, the stamps were only issued for postage by applying a surcharge in new values. The unused stamps were eventually sold in the philatelic market place having the star-in-diamond censor mark applied on the face of the stamp. The Soviet authorities at the post office used this star censor mark on other pictorial sets with the new values. In a way, the stamps, while in sheets or blocks were cancelled-to-order (CTO) with the star-in-diamond marking and then sold in the West. Also, this mark verified the stamps to be genuine issues released by postal officials.



USA-1\_U, (38 bids) \$280 / USA-834, (15 bids) \$60

## TAXES!!!!

Jeff Pacey

Now here is a subject we can all agree to hate. We all know taxes are a necessary evil in order to make our society run but that doesn't make a visit from the tax man any easier.

An article on page A2 of the Feb 10, 2017 issue of the National Post discussed the history of taxes in Canada. When the British colonies began to unify into what we now know as Canada in 1867 all taxes were raised from duties and excise taxes. The tax system really didn't change much until World War One. With the need to raise revenues to fund the war effort the government began to expand the tax system. This is when income tax was brought in as a "temporary measure". I'm sure we can all agree that once a government has figured out a new way to tax the population they never let it go. Tax reform is just a fancy way of saying that they are changing how they charge us not how we will keep more money in our pockets.



The really interesting line was about government income in 1929. That year seven percent of government funds raised came from the Canadian Post Office. The post office was providing what was at that time an important means of communication and goods delivery. On top of that it made money! Apparently lots of money since seven percent of government revenues was nothing to be sneezed at. Compare that with today when it is a loss making sinkhole that seems to do it's best to alienate customers and stamp collectors alike while paying the higher up CEO's paycheques that would seem to be lottery winnings to the average Canadian.

The two sure things in life are death and taxes. Sometimes I'm not sure about death.....

# 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.

**2017**

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>  
**June 12<sup>th</sup> (elections)**

**2017**

**Summer Meeting July 31<sup>st</sup>**  
 July 31<sup>st</sup> (Summer Auction)  
 West Jasper Sherwood  
 Community League,  
 9620-152nd Street

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 780-458-1233.

## On eBay (Canadian dollars)



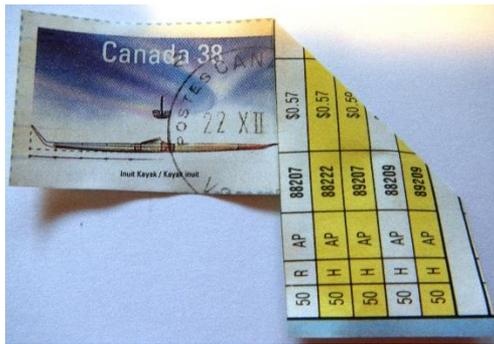
CAN-99\_MH, (8 bids) \$6 / CAN-100\_MH, (19 bids) \$21 / CAN-101\_MHR, (16 bids) \$39



CAN-102\_MHR, (11 bids) \$86 / CAN-103\_MHR, (15 bids) \$53

### Are These Collectable?

I was going through some kiloware. I came across this pair with a nice cancel. I thought something looked funny but couldn't put my finger on it. After I had soaked it off the parcel paper that it was on I figured it out what was wrong. There is nothing quite like ripping off Canada post by cutting a photo of stamps out of a catalogue and gluing it to the parcel you are mailing.



I bought an auction lot at one of our club meetings. There was a binder in the box that you could tell hadn't been stored very well and it had a musty smell. I was pulling mint stamps out to salvage them for postage when these two came out. You can see that they had been put in touching each other. The high moisture levels caused the ink from the front of the one stamp to transfer to the glue of the back of the other one. They are completely valueless for any collection but I am adding them to my mint Canada collection as an oddity and a warning to properly store my collection.



# TÂNIA LOVES STAMPS

Posted on February 11, 2016

by Tânia Raposo

I was not one of those stamp collector kids that inherit the hobby from their grandparents. I started collecting stamps (as well as riding a bike) while studying Graphic Design in Portugal.

Where I grew up there weren't a lot of antiques fairs, at least I don't recall going to any. While studying at University in Caldas da Rainha there was an antiques fair at the city park every second Sunday of the month, and it was there I came across this affordable hobby.



Some of the first stamps I bought.

From left to right stamps by: Heinz Schillinger (2), Hatem El Mekhi, Willem Henri Lucas, Anthon Beeke and Otto Treumann (2)

I bought stamps from a man that would sell them at 13 cents each — the more you'd get, the cheaper they were.

I had no knowledge of stamp values, so I would just browse his stamps and pick them based on what I thought was beautiful, interesting, or sometimes funny or dumb.

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### American Royalty.

From left to right stamps by: Piotr Naszarkowski, Czeslaw Slania, unknown (2)



Some weird nonsense stamps, which I find are still awesome! From left to right stamps by: Saatchi & Saatchi, DEPT and unknown

Initially, I had no specific boundaries or a set goal. I didn't know that there are people who collect stamps following a system — only cars, flowers, mushrooms or just by country. I just collected everything I liked. As my collection grew, I started to organize them by country since my subjects were so broad; this was the easiest way to keep them in order somehow. As with everything you collect, with time you start to find out more about the subject. I remember the first time I came across the website of Kat Ran Press, and how I felt somewhat proud that I had so many “designer stamps”. I hadn't bought them because they were from famous designers, I had bought them because I thought they were cool.



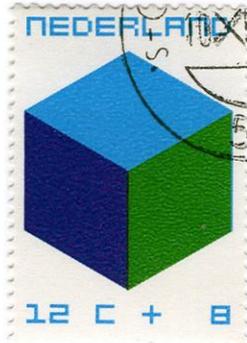
From left to right stamps by: Unknown (2), Kern, Jan van Krimpen, Walter Brudi, Karl-Erik Forsberg, Thomas F. Naegele and Piet Zwart.

Of course with time (and knowledge) I bought more stamps from designers I admire, which I first have seen featured on the Kat Ran Press website.



From left to right stamps by: Leif Anisdahl, Gerrit Noordzij (2) and Jurriaan Schrofer

As you can see, my stamp collection is all over the place and not always in the best condition, but I am very happy with it, it is my own. I love my stamp collection!



From left to right stamps by: J. L. Tinoco, Karl Oskar Blasé, R. Nellemann, William Pars Graatsma and Babs van Wely

Every time I need to mail something I always ask for stamps at the post office. It is so sad that the culture of stamps is slowly disappearing. I hate those stickers so



much!

However, I am always happy when countries like Germany and the Netherlands, known for their awesome stamp design tradition, still keep up their reputation and release good contemporary stamps.

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Design: Henning Wagenbreth, 2011

If you like stamps too, I highly recommend following the Instagram accounts of @graphilately, @katranpress, @linns\_stamp\_news and @mintneverhinged.

And if anyone has beautiful stamps around they don't



want, send them my way. letters with us on Instagram or tweet at us @alphabettes\_org with the hashtag #letterlove.

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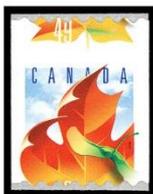


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