

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB

BULLETIN

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

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



Vancouver Island #4_U, VG, (16 bids) \$329 (on eBay)

Regular meetings

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

February 4th & 25th

March 4th & 18th

2019 National Spring Show

March 23rd & 24th



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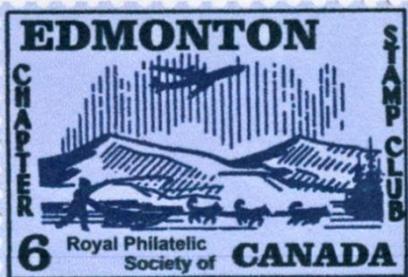
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The Edmonton Stamp Club dates back to 1912. The Club is Life Chapter #6 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and Chapter #680 of the American Philatelic Society. **The editor welcomes communications of all kinds—letters, comments and articles. 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

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NOTICE

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 Auction Committee is now accepting auction lots for 2019.

See Rod Verrier, Carol Warren at any club meeting.

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.

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Recent eBay



CAPE OF GOOD HOPE-13b_U, (8 bids) \$30



MADEIRA-15_MHR, (21 bids) \$75

President's Message

The members of the Edmonton Stamp Club cannot say that their Board is not doing enough to keep them from being bored with the club. The Spring Show needs members to contribute Fun Frames. It is an opportunity to show off the stamps that you have been working on and display the stamps you have devoted your time to collect. If you do not know what the fun frames are, if you want to participate see Fred Tauber at the front table when you come into the meeting. Jim Laukau needs volunteers for the Spring Show. We have tasks at the Spring Show ranging from sitting and greeting at the Club Desk to putting up and taking down frames and all in between. Everyone can be a meaningful and useful volunteer. Barend Wissink in March prior to the Spring Show has arranged for display space at the Old Strathcona Antique Mall on Gateway Boulevard. We will set up a table with displays to advertise the Spring Show and the ESC in general. He needs volunteers to man the table and assistance to setup and take down the displays. Please see Barend if you can help.

There is still room to submit lots for the Summer Meeting Auction. Fred at the front desk has the forms and information on submitting Summer Meeting auction lots. He is also the man to receive the auction lots for the club.

25 May 2019 there will be a meeting of stamp collectors in Red Deer from at least four different Alberta cities. In addition to the Board Members meeting there will be: the circuit books from Calgary, Lethbridge and Edmonton, tables are available for \$5.00 to any member who wants to set up a table and be a dealer for the day (the tables will be round), and there will be a 200 lot auction in the afternoon. The auction is limited to 5 lots per member and there is a 10% commission charged. To reserve a dealer's table and or submit auction lots contact Jim Senecal at 403-547-7681. Participation in both the dealer's tables and the auction is on a first come basis. If you are interested then you need to act promptly. There is a signup sheet at the front table along with detailed information at the Club Front Desk at our meetings. Please sign up so we can inform the Calgary organizers of the number of members attending. They need the numbers in order to make the necessary arrangements. The signup sheet is also important so we can see who would like to go but does not have a ride and arrange carpooling where necessary.

The benefits of stamp club membership.

About 20 years ago I joined the Edmonton Stamp Club. I knew practically nothing about stamp collecting but had been given a box full of albums and stock books full of stamps. When I looked at it I was sure I had a small fortune there because I had stamps with Queen Victoria, Hitler stamps, Queen Wilhelmina stamps and a pile of Hungarian stamps. One of my co-workers was a stamp collector so I asked him over to take a look at my fortune. You can imagine the look on my face when he told me it was worth about \$1.98. I offered him the whole box but he said “No Thanks”. He then convinced me to come to a stamp club meeting to check out what stamp collecting was all about.

So I went and was impressed at what I saw and learned that night. I met several nice people and none tried to impress me with their knowledge of stamps. I was shown how the auction works and where to get a cup of coffee for 25 cent. I joined the club that same night.

For the past 20 years four of us drive in from Sherwood Park to enjoy a night of stamping.

What impresses me most with this club is that you don't need to be an expert in stamping to enjoy this hobby. I once met a lady who collected stamps with cows on them, another collected locomotives on stamps. I learned that there are no rules or regulations on how you collect stamps. Some collectors never touch a mint stamp with their bare hands, others just chuck them in a shoe box. As long as you enjoy how you do it, it will be your hobby.

If you are not a member, why not come out and give us a try. You will meet lots of nice people willing to help and show you around.

We have a members auction at every meeting, also a silent auction and an estate auction (To buy you have to be a member), where you can get bargains galore and the coffee and cookie is still 25 cent. No matter what you are looking for, sooner or later it will show up in one of three auctions.

We meet every other Monday at St. Joseph high school cafeteria on 109 street. Doors open around 6 pm and the meeting lasts till about 9:30

You can check us out on www.edmontonstampclub.com

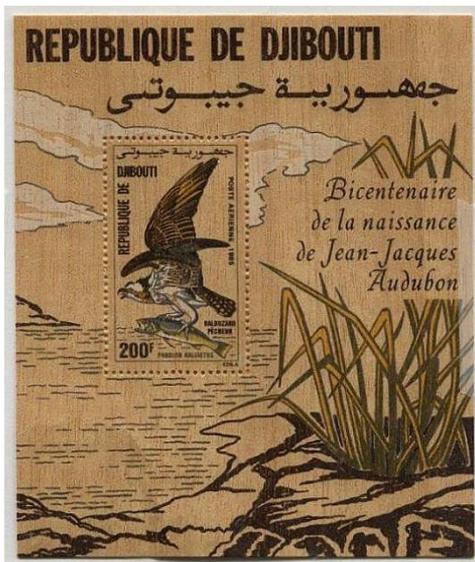
Hope to see you there soon.

Bill Vanderstelt

A Surprise

Richard Barnes

In the past few months I was successful in purchasing a few auction lots of Djibouti stamps. Much to my satisfaction these lots of stamps filled many holes in my stamp album for the years 1980 through 1999. According to both the Scott Catalogue and the Yvert et Teller catalogue there are very few souvenir sheets issued in this time period. A quick count in Scott lists 13 regular and airmail souvenir sheets. The best known of these souvenir sheets are three exotic sheets printed on wood. Scott #593A [Fig 1] is the most common example.



Imagine my surprise when I opened the last lot only identified as 12 Djibouti souvenir sheets and did not have a single souvenir sheet listed in either of my catalogues. All the souvenir sheets in this lot are CTO. Most used Djibouti stamps in my experience are actually CTO. The CTO on the stamp is as expected dated with a cancel that corresponds to the year of issue. However in my limited sample, the CTO souvenir sheets display a cancel that is usually at least one year after the date of stamp issue and can be as much as

three years past the date when the stamps were issued.

The souvenir sheets not listed in the catalogues appear to have a souvenir sheet for each stamp in the set. An example of this is the 1983 airmail set Scott #C184-C186 [Fig2, Fig3, Fig4] and corresponding souvenir sheets [Fig5, Fig6, Fig7].

Next Page



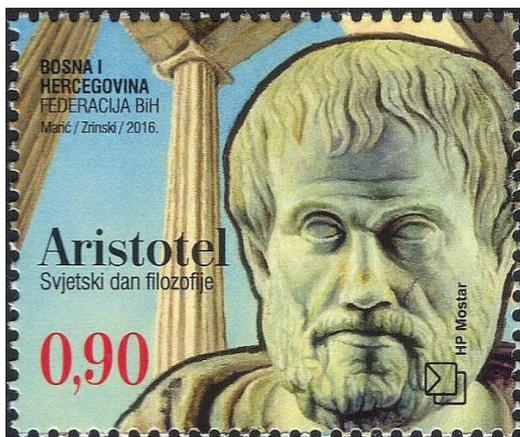
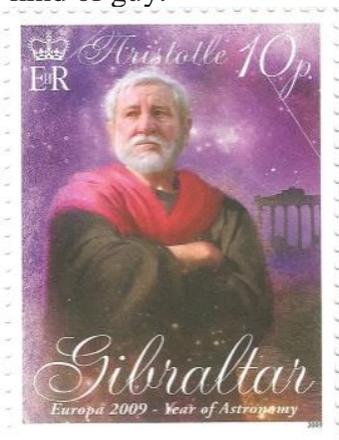
Topical Coconuts

By Ed Pitts

Greetings, fellow philatelists!!! This is the first of what I hope to be a series of Bulletin articles combining my interest in stamps along with some of my other hobbies. This month's column starts a history of astronomy as depicted on postage stamps, including some of the people and technology involved. Astronomy may not be your cup of tea but bear with me in the next few months and you might learn an interesting fact or two about the heavens above us and the men and women who explored them.

This month's Topical Tidbit spotlights Aristotle, the famous Greek philosopher, and his views of the universe surrounding him. There may have been humans (Neanderthals, Cro-Magnon...?) before Aristotle who stumbled came to the same conclusions but whoever they may have been, but our version of history has nothing to say about them. Aristotle (384-322 BC), along with Plato, are considered the "Fathers of Western Civilization", but sadly, like Plato he got most things wrong when he theorized (philosophized?) how the Earth fit in with the rest of the physical universe.

Aristotle, like pretty much everyone else, thought that our lovely blue planet was the centre of everything. The one important thing he did get right, however, and the thing that qualifies him for this month's Topical Coconut, was the idea that the earth was round, more precisely a sphere. He figured this out primarily by observing that the shadow of the earth cast on the moon during a lunar eclipse was always circular and realized that the only shape that always casts a circular shadow is a sphere. Aristotle is also a great source of witty quotes, such as "*The end of labor is to gain leisure.*" My kind of guy.



Next page

The stamp I have chosen to illustrate Aristotle's contribution to the science of Astronomy is one of a set of four issued by Gibraltar to celebrate the Europa 2009 Year of Astronomy. The others were of Galileo, Copernicus and Newton. The catalog number for Aristotle's stamp is Gibraltar #1198 as best I can determine, but I am new to this catalog searching, so beware. The four stamps are readily available, and I will likely use more of them in future columns. Another example of the great philosopher is depicted on the stamp from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Continued from page 5

Now we will address the mundane operations of the ESC regular meetings. It will be necessary for members to be wearing their name tags to be eligible to receive the door prize. **No Name Tag No Door Prize.** To enhance the comfort of members please do not talk while anyone is addressing the general membership at the meetings. This includes the regular meeting auction. If you feel it is necessary to talk during an event please take it outside into the hall.

Richard Barnes

Duplicates

The APS requested individual stories on how we handle our duplicates. I hope this note may be of interest to readers of "The Bulletin".

My circumstances restrict my ability to purchase stamps so controlling my duplicate stamps is very important to me. I started collecting stamps above the Arctic Circle 2,000 km from the nearest stamp collector. I did have the advantage of being acquainted with two very good stamp dealers and a well-known auction house. The dealers would accept material from me in return for an instore credit. The auction house would accept everything from collections, cigar boxes (I could afford cigars at that time) to banker's boxes of desk cleanings. I also was able from ads in publications to trade stamps. After five years I sat down and calculated that I was turning over my duplicate stamps within roughly a year and a half. I was also spending hour for hour working on filling up my albums and getting my duplicates out of my stamp room.

I retired and moved to a city. Over time I lost my dealers and the auction house. Again because of time I am losing my long time regular stamp traders. Finding new individuals to trade stamps, probably because of the internet is much more difficult.

Next page

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.

Edmonton Stamp Club
National Spring Show
March 23rd & 24th, 2019

Summer Meeting/Auction
July 29th, 2019

2019

February 4th & 25th
 March 4th & 18th
 April 1st, 15th & 29th
 May 13th & 27th
 June 10th (elections)

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.

Fortunately being in the city I am a member of a very active stamp club. The club provides many venues to dispose of duplicate stamps. We have twice a month club auction and a silent auction. We also have circuit books which go beyond the confines of our local city. The club has an annual summer meeting and large auction which focuses on higher catalogue value material. I still send material to National Auction Houses but this is restricted to better items and collections. These National Auction Houses have become more selective in what they take now probably because they have more of their own duplicate material to dispose of. In 2014 I revisited the time it took me to dispose of my duplicate material. I was holding my duplicates just over two years before disposing of them. I was spending two hours working on duplicates for every hour I spent on my albums. The last five years my duplicates have piled up because I am now involved with the work of the Board of the stamp club. It is taking me up to five months to get the few stamps I have purchased into my albums. For me time is the biggest factor in my ability to dispose of my duplicate stamps. If any member has further suggestions on how to dispose of duplicate stamps, I would appreciate knowing about it as I think other members would.

Richard Barnes

What's a stamp collection worth?

Walter Kerber

LETHBRIDGE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

A lot of people have collections of things handed down from parents or estates. The question then arises as to a value. The question asked should be "What value did the person collecting put on it?" If the value is high, a fortune, then the collection was an investment and not from a hobby.

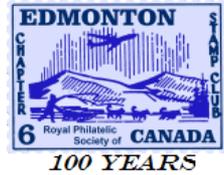
What is my stamp collection worth? A good question. It is worth as much as the next person thinks. Everything I collect in my collection is for fun, for my personal enjoyment and no more. There are some items that have some value, but most is very ordinary things. Most of the items in my hoard of stuff can't be found in a catalogue, because odd things are of interest to me. I question why some stamp items are and where do they come from.

Although I concentrate on a few countries, there are things from all over the world that are curiosities, which may be worthless, money wise, but worth the world to me, because I have it.

This is where catalogues come into the picture. Finding items in a catalogue gives you direction and an indication of price, but that item in your possession might be worth more in your hands, because it is a rare use of a stamp, or postmarked from a special place. Another person looking at the same item would toss it aside into the junk pile, being of no interest. Catalogues are for reference. They are made by people to be used by stamp dealers to set prices for stamps they sell. Stamps that sell at auctions are in a totally different price bracket, because it is the bidder that determines the selling price. If there is something of interest in a lot, my bidding will reflect my desire for possession and value becomes secondary. If I like it, I want it.

So, don't ask me how much my stamp collection is worth, because it has no value. What will happen to my collection when I die? Good question to those who look after my affairs. If everything goes to plan, all the collection will pass onto someone who will get to have more fun with it. Who cares about catalogue value and the wealth in a collection? Worrying about a valuable stamp collection takes all the fun out of it. Let's have fun. Walter Kerber is a long-time member of the Lethbridge Philatelic Society.

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB 2019 SPRING NATIONAL STAMP SHOW



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The Theme of this year's show is: Pandas



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Edmonton Stamp Club Spring Show

March 23th & 24th

Draw: Club Meeting April 1st, 2019

THE PANAMA CANAL STORY Part 6 Continued from January 2019 Pages from the award-winning Exhibit

Ray Ireson

This prosperity demanded improved postal services. Being unable to provide this, New Granada allowed foreign postal agencies to operate on the Isthmus. From as early as 1847 a treaty had been signed with Great Britain: British Post Offices were established at Panama and Chagres (the latter re-located to Colón in 1854), and their messengers conveyed mail across the Isthmus. But the mail they handled was carried only by BRITISH SHIPPING LINES.



Folded letter dated July 8, 1857: Panama to Saint Thomas (Danish West Indies). British P.O. Crowned Circle handstamp; rated 4d in manuscript. Carried by a R.M.S.P.C. vessel.

By 1875 R.M.S.P.C. had lost mail contracts, and several Caribbean ports became non-contract ports. The Company then started its own mail service between those ports, using their own stamps where there was no British Post Office. These saw very limited use and were withdrawn in 1880.



The R.M.S.P.C. rate was 10c per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, compared with a 4d (8c) rate levied by the British Post Office in the Caribbean area. This 10c value was the only denomination issued. Although this was a private printing, two different forgeries exist.

Next page



PACIFIC STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY [founded by William Wheelwright] was granted a charter in 1840 to operate along the South American West Coast, from Valparaiso to Panama. Both this Company & the R.M.S.P.C. were strongly linked to the Isthmus of Panama.



The P.S.N.C. had their own stamps printed in 1847, but never put them into use. Ten years later they presented them to the Peruvian Government for their trial use pending the introduction of their national postal issues.



Issued (Cert.)



Reprint



Crude Forgery

The two values [1 and 2 Reales] were released on December 1, 1857 & withdrawn on February 28, 1858. The same two values were later reprinted in different colours, but none were put into circulation. Forgeries of both printings are numerous.

This folded letter dated April 12, 1850 from Lima, Perú to Bordeaux, France was undoubtedly carried by both the P.S.N.C. and R.M.S.P.C.



The red handstamp 'PANAMA TRANSIT' was applied by the British Post Office (Foreign Branch) in London to letters destined for France to indicate the additional amount of postage due for letters originating beyond Panama [42 décimes in this case].

Further examples of mail transported by the P.S.N.C and R.M.S.P.C.

Folded letter from Guayaquil, Ecuador to New York



British Post Office Agents along the West Coast of South America were supplied with this type of handstamp to be used when postage had been paid only as far as Panama. [known only in Red]



Stampless cover from La Union, Salvador to France



The British Postal Agent in Panama applied this type of handstamp to transient mail passing through his hands. [known in Black, Red and Green]



A final example of mail transported by the R.M.S.P.C., from Panama.

Stamps of Great Britain were supplied to the British Postal Agency at Panama in 1865 and to the Agency at Colón in 1870. All British Postal Agencies operating abroad were furnished with an obliterator bearing the identifying number assigned to it.



PANAMA - C35

1873 Issue
Plate 13



COLON - E88

[These two Agencies closed for public business on June 30, 1881, but continued to exist as transit offices until March 31, 1921.]

Cover from Panama to St. Thomas, Danish West Indies.



Strip of three and a single 1d of the 1858 issue [Plate 87], cancelled by obliterator C35.

Plus the Agent's circular date stamp [introduced in 1847 and withdrawn in 1867.]



To be continued

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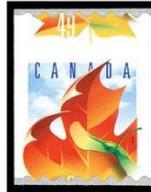


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