



*Bringing stamp and postal-history*

*collectors together since 1919*

# BC Philatelic Society

## NEWSLETTER

### Stamp Store Etiquette

by Brian Grant Duff

Visit your local stamp dealer at least three times a year or, ideally, once a month. Have an idea what you're looking for and share it with the dealer. Once the shopkeepers get to know you, they will likely set things aside for you and also give you better deals.

Your local stamp dealer is a collector just like you, but their collection is their inventory and it is always on display and for sale. Treat that inventory as you would treat your own collection. It has been assembled with the same joy of acquisition and care.

Keep it in order while you look and handle things gently. You can bring your own tongs, magnifier, and reference materials, but most dealers are happy to supply these and they may be suspicious if you carry a bag, newspaper, or catalogue that unpaid items can be hidden in.

To this end, as you pile up items you want to purchase, keep them in one place where everyone can see them. Do not spread them all over the counter. If you decide you do not want something, give it back to the staff to put away again.

If you have material to sell or trade, call in advance and make sure such a transaction is acceptable. You may not have to make an appointment, but you might want to arrive at a convenient time for both parties.

Stamp shops can be extra busy during the noon hour, in the early evening, and immediately before auctions. Try and come in early in the day when everyone is fresh and has time to serve you well.

If you like a dealer, tell your collector friends and let that dealer know what you are up to. Give that dealer the opportunity to buy your surplus stamps, or take them on consignment. You can take the proceeds in cash or trade.

If you have some suggestions for improvement, make them discretely and during a quiet time. If you are angry or disappointed with something, give the dealer an opportunity to make it up to you.

It is okay to speak to other customers and share your hobby, but you should not solicit their business while you are in the shop. If you want to promote your stamp club, website, or stamp show to that dealer's customers, ask for permission. Most dealers are only too



Brian is not only knowledgeable, he's informative. Check out his life-story on page 10 to find out why collectibles are in his blood.

happy to put up a poster or add a link to their websites, for the good of the hobby. Get on their mailing or emailing list yourself. This is a great way to keep in touch.

If you want a discount, ask for this before (not after) you have chosen your purchases, and do it discretely so that the dealer is not put in the awkward position of having to give everyone present that same discount.

Try and buy something every time you visit a shop, even if it is only a collector magazine, or supplies. You'll feel you have gotten something for your time and so will the proprietor. Just remember: The collecting community is small and we all need to have good relationships with one another.

*Brian Grant Duff operates All Nations Stamps and Coins at the Bay in downtown Vancouver. He has operated stamp shops, and conducted auctions, for two dozen years, in Vancouver and Toronto.*

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This is the official newsletter of the BC Philatelic Society.

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# A Message from the President



Welcome all to the 2007-2008 collecting season! We're starting out on an excellent footing with many new

members having come on board just in the last year.

This edition of the newsletter brings us a new editor in Keith Lowe, who is also a new member of the BC Phil (along with his son, Patrik). I would like to take this opportunity to thank our past newsletter editor, Clive Bellian. I have always appreciated the warmth that Clive brought to the publication.

Clive really took the newsletter out of the dark ages and brought it into the digital era, so we could put it on the website while keeping it very warm and human. Keith assures me that the same level of commitment to create a quality newsletter will continue.

Overall, BC Phil is a very healthy club at the moment. We have a strong core of members who attend meetings on a regular basis, are very generous and supportive of each other and are truly passionate about the friendships they've made.

We currently have 94 carded members — not accounting for all the family memberships, which would put us over the 100 mark.

Some of these members, who live outside the Lower Mainland and even outside BC or in other countries, never really get the opportunity to attend meetings, but they faithfully send in their membership fees, year after year.

The fact that we're not only sustaining membership, but are also attracting new members (despite the declining state of the hobby in North America) is extremely positive.

One of our real strengths is in

the quality of the members. They are a great group to hang around with, and this is one of the reasons why the auctions and "Swap and Shops" work so well.

We are also one of the few clubs who consistently meet weekly. While we usually have a core of 15 to 20 members showing up regularly, probably 90 per cent of the members attend at least one meeting over the course of the calendar year.

As your president these last few years, I've had my share of successes and my share of some controversies (like the time the Vancouver *Courier* misquoted me as saying there were no women in our hobby!).

• • •  
**It's the club itself that  
will face the biggest  
challenge this coming  
year**  
• • •

When all is said and done though, I have found the role of president to be both rewarding and challenging. However, it's the club itself that will face the biggest challenge this coming year: the selection of a brand new executive during our Annual General Meeting, scheduled for March 2008. Major changes are coming.

Unfortunately for the club, our current treasurer, Mike Strachan, will not be standing for re-election, as he's planning an extended European trip to trace the paths of his father and uncle as they soldiered in the Second World War.

As for myself, I've been dealing with personal health issues that limit my ability to deal effectively with stressors, and I'm still learning how to retire gracefully—six years into my retirement!

Largely because of this, and after careful consideration, I've decided that this will be my last term as president of BC Phil.

I've enjoyed the experience of meeting and representing our members and certainly will remain actively engaged in club activities.

As of this moment, it is not clear who will run in the March elections, causing uncertainty. BC Phil has a long and proud history

though, and during previous challenges, we've always found a way to muddle through.

I very much hope that someone in the club decides to take up this challenge and follow in the past presidents' footsteps because the club deserves that leadership and requires it.

Meanwhile, I've stayed busy, lining up speakers and planning programs. The new club calendar is included in this issue.

We've also stabilized our meeting space, as I've signed a new contract for the next year with the church, guaranteeing us use of the facilities at our current rent until July 2008.

Vanpex 2007 was the most successful ever. I've been just amazed by the feedback we've gotten. The people I've talked to were thrilled with it. It was extremely well-organized and it boasted wonderful exhibits.

The dealers did great business and the banquet was excellent. The staff at the curling club, headed by Manager Doug Bradley, couldn't have been more generous with their time, or more reasonable to work with. It was just wonderful.

In large part, this success is due to the dedicated work of the Vanpex 2007 committee: Chairman Mike Strachan, Jim Miller, Eric Ranger, Tim Woodland, Derren Carman, and, OK... me.

Our organizing committee is taking a well-deserved break for 2008, so we're going to need new, young blood to take the lead in organizing Vanpex 2009.

In the meantime however, I would strongly encourage the members to support former President Trevor Larden in organizing a club-level show for next year so we don't totally lose the idea of exhibiting. Be sure to read the article about the proposed show in this edition of the newsletter.

As far as I'm concerned, exhibiting is the best way for any collector to organize his thinking about his material and to get the most benefit from it. For a long time I mistakenly considered exhibiting an elite activity; something wealthy collectors did for medals and glory. I've changed my mind about that. Both times I've exhibited have been wonderful

(Cont. on page 3)



### ...PRESIDENT (cont. from p. 2)

learning experiences and made me feel that my collecting had a real purpose.

We have also entered the digital age with the purchase of a digital projector and 100" projection screen. I'm really looking forward to using it and encourage all our members to brush up on their PowerPoint and take advantage of this large screen experience for our future Speaker Nights and any other uses you can think up. Thanks to Derren Carman, Mike Strachan and Fritz Graf for helping with the projector set-up and screen installation.

A special thank you is also in order to Kelvin Tung, who has kindly offered to mail the fall edition of the newsletter. He has consistently been a strong supporter of the club and we hope we can keep building this relationship in the future.

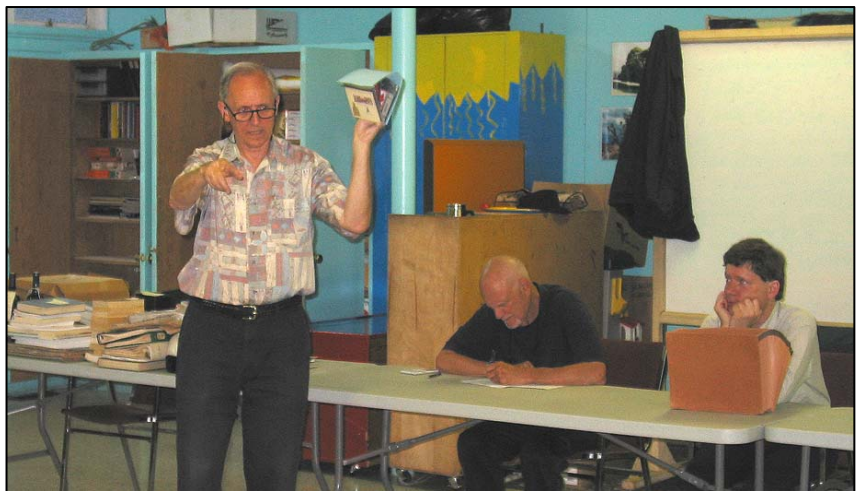
And thank you to **all** the members at the BC Phil who have made the experience of being your president so worthwhile for me, personally.

Best Wishes,  
Bob Ingraham, President B.C.P.S.



*The first Pitcairn Islands issue, Scott #1-8 (including 5A and 6A) were so popular that they were reprinted as many as six times, depending on the value. Sheets that were sent to Pitcairn for distribution were numbered, while those sold to dealers through Crown Agents weren't. This set of stamps includes no notable varieties, except for the 3d value. At least one sheet of 60 stamps of this value is known with the Type 4 Crown Agents watermark inverted.*

*Only a few copies of the inverted watermark variety have been found. More probably exist since virtually all of these Pitcairn Island stamps went directly into stamp collections — more are probably waiting to be discovered. While the 3d stamp is currently valued at about US \$1 in mint or used condition, a presumably mint copy of the inverted-watermark variety was reportedly sold in 1991 for £700 (currently US \$1,404) in 1991. (Source: Gibbons Stamp Monthly, December, 1991, page 31)*



Our itinerant BC Phil auctioneer, Mike Strachan, takes a bid on Canadian souvenir sheets during the Summer Auction on July 18. Other members of the auction team were (seated, from left): Trevor Larden and Leslie S.S. Upton. The well-attended auction featured about 42 lots and raised an extra \$109.50 for the club. What'll we do without you, Mike?

### Scott 2008 Catalogue Review by Tom Burpee

The 2008 Scott catalogue, Volume 2, made its appearance in Canada in mid-June. The cost was \$95 CDN, up from \$88 the year before. It was available from Amos, the US publisher, by internet as early as mid-May, so it seems the delivery to Canada was a bit delayed this year. The price changes this year were mostly increases, though there were some major differences from last year.

First, there were noticeable increases in Canada's earliest stamps, Scott 1 to 13, but primarily for the mint copies that few of us get to see. Second, while increases were found in all the early sets up to the Admirals, very few are seen after that. By contrast, last year saw increases across the board. Third, there were few increases amongst Canada's imperforates and modern varieties. Fourth, there were some price reductions amongst the modern dollar stamps (Scott to 272, 302, 321, 411 and 465B) and, surprisingly, amongst some of the modern perforation varieties. Finally, we could find only two new varieties in this year's catalogue, Scott 1164e and 2005a.

We think Scott is judging the market fairly well. There has been great demand for Canada's early stamps and continued strong demand for the hot sets from the Small Queens to the Admirals. We were a bit surprised there were no increases for the Scroll or Arch sets as they seem to be doing increasingly well at auction.

As for our modern stamps, (i.e. those issued after 1930), there is only moderate demand but lots of supply, judging from the regular appearance of modern varieties at Canadian auctions. So, lots of stamps available and only moderate demand results in few price increases.

This trend regarding our modern stamps goes back 30 years, with the only exceptions generally being some of the varieties such as stamps without gum and those with rare perforations.

**(From the Canadian Stamp Auction Website. Used with permission.)**

Information in this article has been abridged. View the entire article on-line at [www.canadianstampauctions.com/Commentary/Number\\_97.htm](http://www.canadianstampauctions.com/Commentary/Number_97.htm)

Anyone wishing to make a contribution to the next issue of this newsletter is encouraged to contact the editor, Keith Lowe, at (604) 241-0409 or email [lowelyscribe@yahoo.ca](mailto:lowelyscribe@yahoo.ca)

## 10 Exhibiting Tips by Bob Ingraham

I served as the VANPEX exhibits chair for five years. It was educational, and I want to pass on some of what I have learned. Here are 10 tips which I believe are worth considering for collectors who want to exhibit (also a brief word about “one-page exhibiting” at the bottom).

**1. Find a new “hook.”** You *could* assemble an exhibit of re-entries of Canada’s Admiral stamps or colour varieties of Great Britain’s Machin Heads. But you know, those exhibits have been done before — probably a thousand times. Finding a new way look at stamps and covers will hook viewers and judges alike, and will be more fun for the exhibitor.

**2. Tell a story.** A philatelic exhibit is not just a stamp or postal-history collection. It’s a purposeful assemblage of stamps and/or covers, perhaps with collateral items that illustrates a philatelic point you are trying to make or a story you’d like to tell. Do not include anything in your exhibit that falls outside its stated scope.

**3. Do not “overwrite” your exhibit.** While you may be convinced that your words are golden, it’s the material in your exhibit that will win a medal, not excessive verbiage. *Careful proofreading is important.* If you are using a word processor, take advantage of your spell checker!

**4. Employ the KISS principle.** It might be possible to get six covers on a single page (by overlapping and using windows), along with a complete set of a dozen or so stamps, a photograph or drawing or two, and maybe a map, not to mention a 600-word description (in a 4-point font). Possible, but it would be a design disaster! So **keep it simple.** A single cover on a page, with perhaps a small photo or other illustration, along with the write-up, is visually more appealing and satisfying than the crowded page (and easier to create). You could even devote a page to a single stamp, thus highlighting the stamp and showing how creative you are!

**5. Use standard fonts.** The fonts that are used by 99% of print publishers were not created by Microsoft, but have been around for decades, even centuries, and will continue to be used, simply because they are readable. Computers give the wannabe publisher access to kazillions of goofy, nearly unreadable fonts, but exhibitors should avoid them like the plague.

Serifed fonts (the ones with little points at the ends) have a classic look because they *are* classic. It’s said that the points represent marks that chisels made in stone by Roman stone carvers. It just makes sense to use a seriphed font, like **Times New Roman**, for an exhibit of classic stamps, and a more modern font, like **Helvetica Nieu**, for more modern stamps but, believe it or not, handwriting or printing by hand is still acceptable. The appearance of an exhibit, while important, carries far less weight than a good philatelic story supported by the appropriate philatelic and collateral material.

**6. Do not decorate your sheets unnecessarily, or use gaudy stationery.** Use white or off-white pages. Quadripped pages are acceptable. Avoid frame lines, which eat up valuable display space. At the same time, don’t be a slave to standard practice.

**7. Create a useful synopsis.** Most exhibitions require synopses, and all judges appreciate them. Think of a synopsis as a sales pitch for your exhibit. A useful synopsis concisely outlines the purpose of the exhibit, provides general information about the content and plan of the exhibit, and points out philatelic items that are unusual or rare. A good synopsis guides the judges in their study of your collecting area, greatly improving the quality of the judging and maybe even the award given.

If you write the synopsis *before* actually starting to put your exhibit together, you can use it as a guide. Your exhibit may evolve as you work on it, but you can always rewrite the synopsis to reflect changes.

**8. Exhibit for yourself, not for the judges (or other collectors... or medals.)** Medals are in fact relatively unimportant. The real rewards in exhibiting come long before the exhibition, when you are working to acquire specific items, when you do research on them, and when you write up and design your exhibit. You’ll never have a better opportunity to learn about your collection.

**9. Burn the midnight oil to create your title page.** The importance of the title page cannot be overstated. It introduces your exhibit (and you!) to your fellow collectors, the public, and the judges. The title page should concisely state the purpose of the exhibit and outline what the viewer will see. It should be visually stimulating (don’t be afraid to combine graphic elements with your text), and it should lead the viewer naturally to the next sheet. *Do not promise what you cannot deliver.*

**10. Don’t take the judges too seriously.** It is common for the same exhibit to do well at one exhibition and less well at another, even though the exhibitor may have followed the advice of judges and tried to improve it. Judges are just collectors who have decided that judging is one way they can enjoy their hobby and give something back to it. They don’t know everything, and sometimes they make mistakes. Far more often, they provide useful feedback. At the end of the day, *you* are the best and final judge of your exhibit.

I hope that these tips are helpful to exhibitors, and perhaps will inspire collectors who haven’t yet exhibited. But all the exhibiting advice in the world won’t replace the lessons you learn when you create an exhibit, especially your first one. Good luck!

*One-page exhibiting requires the display, in one frame, of 15 stand-alone exhibit sheets by 15 different exhibitors, plus a title page. The exhibit sheets have no relationship to each other, and each is judged separately.*

*Teams of 15 exhibitors compete with other teams; awards are based on aggregate points for each frame.*





## Autographed FDC's by Mike Strachan

In the spring of 2002, former society president Trevor Larden asked me if I knew about the upcoming unveiling of the "coral" stamps by Canada Post at the Vancouver Maritime Museum (VMM). "What's that?" I asked. Trevor's explanation started me on a philatelic sideline that has given me lots of pleasure.

The typical stamp unveiling, sponsored by Canada Post, usually involves joining forces with an appropriate venue and inviting prominent guests and dignitaries to participate. In the case of the coral stamps (Canada #1948-1951) the venue was the VMM; and the guests and dignitaries included John Polak, General Manager of mail operations at Canada Post in Vancouver; James Delgado, Executive Director of the VMM; and Alan Chiang, Deputy Postmaster General of Hong Kong Post.

Once the ceremony was over, the attendees were treated to some delicious finger-food and provided with FDC's by the Canada Post staff. It was at that time that I had the rather brash idea of getting the dignitaries to autograph my FDC's and to provide me with business cards. Unfortunately, Alan Chiang had already departed, but I was successful in obtaining the autographs of Messrs. Delgado and Polak.

At this point I decided to get the autograph of Alan Chiang too, as well as those of the stamp designers. The stamps were designed at Signals Design in Vancouver and at a design company in Hong Kong. Gus Tsetsekas, a principal member of Signals Design, was at the event and assured me it was okay to approach his designers at work.

I subsequently got the autographs of Signal designers Geoff Kehrig and Bonnie Zabolotney. Getting the last two autographs entailed emailing Hong Kong Post for agreement, then mailing the FDC's to Hong Kong. It worked perfectly and the FDC's now display the autographs of Alan Chiang and Bon Kwan the designer. The whole process took about four months to complete.

The illustration shows the coral stamps FDC. Several other FDC's had to travel for autographs — #2026 and 2027 to Copenhagen, #2041 & 2042 to Halifax, and the Society of Graphic Designers stamp (Aug. 16, 2006) to Winnipeg (August 16, 2006).

One of my favourites is a Vancouver Aquarium stamp. The unveiling was held at the Vancouver Aquarium to coincide with its fiftieth anniversary. Photographer Grant Faint captured the image of his

daughter Karen peering into the beluga pool when she was seven-years-old. The FDC shows the autographs of: Grant and Karen, Vancouver mayor Sam Sullivan, Al Burnett of Canada Post, designer Kevin Van Der Leek and MLA Lorne Mayencourt. Former and current Vancouver Aquarium directors Murray Newman and John Nightingale are also represented.

At this point I have eleven autographed FDC's in my collection, and I plan to continue to add to it. It's lots of fun, so thanks Trevor, for your original question!

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## Victory Issue in Hong Kong — the first commemorative set after the Second World War by Clayton Lam

The omnibus Victory (or Peace) stamps commemorating the end of World War II were issued worldwide — especially in the British Commonwealth countries. However, the design of the Victory stamps in Hong Kong was distinctively different from the rest of the Commonwealth. In local currency, Scott #174 and #175 (Stanley Gibbons #169 and #170) had face values of \$0.30 and \$1 respectively, and were the first commemorative stamps issued after the war, in 1946.

An optimistic British gentleman named Jones designed the stamp while the Imperial Japanese Army was holding him as a P.O.W. He chose the word "Resurgo" (Latin for: "to rise again") and illustrated the concept by depicting a phoenix rising from the flames, under a portrait of King George VI. The original phrase in Chinese characters on the left panel was meant to envision a great peace for the British and the Chinese. Ironically however, one of the Chinese translations for "Great Peace" is "Japan"! Therefore, the last two Chinese characters were changed, to more accurately reflect Jones' intended meaning.

This Victory issue was also very dear to Canadian hearts. As a part of the Commonwealth, Canadian troops were sent to the Pacific to reinforce the garrison protecting the Hong Kong colony in 1941. The two regiments — the Royal Rifles of Canada from Montreal, and the Winnipeg Grenadiers — were under heavy attack, by the Japanese. This Victory issue pays tribute to all the brave soldiers who fought in that battle. Hong Kong is grateful to have had Canada as an ally.

# **PALMARÈS VANPEX 2007**

## **June 8-10, 2007, Richmond, BC**

### **BCPS TROPHY AWARDS**

**Grand Award Trophy:** Ian Mowat, Victoria, BC: *Yukon Revenues — 1899-1962* (6 frames)

**Reserve Grand Award Trophy:** Ed Kroft, Vancouver, BC: *Rishon Le Zion (Palestine): From Settlement to City* (5 frames)

**Section 1 – Traditional Philately-Canada & B.N.A.**

**Category – BC Binks Award:** Ian Mowat, Victoria, BC: *Yukon Revenues*

**Section 1 – Traditional Philately-Great Britain &**

**Commonwealth – C. S. Neville:** David Piercey, Edmonton, Alberta: *Newfoundland: The Postal Issues 1865-1908* (8 frames)

**Section 1 – Traditional Philately-Foreign Category –**

**C.P. Bainbridge Award:** Ed Kroft, Vancouver, BC: *Rishon Le Zion (Palestine)*

**Section 2 – Postal History Award:** Louis Fiset, Seattle, Washington, USA: *Japanese-Canadians in World War II* (4 frames)

**Section 3 – Topical & Thematic Category – The Ted Lane Award:** Tong Yuen, Richmond, BC: *The Rise and Fall of Hitler's Empire* (6 frames)

**Section 4 – Postal Stationery Award:** Gray

**Scrimgeour, Victoria, BC:** *World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893* (5 frames)

**Section 5 – Aerophilately & Astrophilately Award:**

**Jim Davidson, North Vancouver, BC:** *The First Jet Airliner: The Story of the De Havilland Comet* (4 frames)

**Section 6 – Revenue Award:** Ian Mowat, Victoria, BC: *Yukon Revenues*

**Section 7 – Other-Display Class Category-Blair**

**Henshaw Award:** Jim Davidson, North Vancouver, BC: *Spitfire Summer: The Battle of Britain – July 10 - October 31, 1940* (3 frames)

**Section 8 – Post Card Award:** No exhibit applicable

**Section 9 – Illustrated Mail Category:** No exhibit applicable

**Section 10 – One-Frame Award:** Robert K. Lane, St. Albert, Alberta: *RPOs on the Mysterious Estevan Line* (1 frame)

**Section 11 – Award for Collectors under the Age of 12:** Jared Barron, Edmonton, Alberta: *Maple Leaf Stamps of Canada* (3 frames)

**Section 12 – Award for Collectors 12-15 Years of Age:** No exhibit applicable

**Section 13 – Award for Collectors 16-21 Years of Age**

**– Mary & Julius Shore Award:** Jinu Vergheese, Kolkata, West Bengal, India: *Pre-India* (1 frame)

**Militaria Category – Lt. Col. William “Bill” Bailey**

**Award:** Jim Davidson, North Vancouver, BC: *Spitfire Summer*

**Novice Award:** Yong-Xin Chen: *Postal History of Taiwan Strait (1949-1989)* (1 frame)

### **NON-JURY AWARD**

**People's Choice Award – Decided by Vanpex**

**Attendees:** Tong Yuen, Richmond, BC: *The Rise and Fall of Hitler's Empire*

### **AWARDS FROM PHILATELIC ORGANIZATIONS**

**A.A.P.E. Gold “Award of Honour” pin (National Level):**

**Jim Davidson, North Vancouver, BC:** *The First Jet Airliner: The Story of the De Havilland Comet*

**A.A.P.E. Gold “Award of Honour” pin (National Level):**

**Tong Yuen, Richmond, BC:** *The Rise and Fall of Hitler's Empire*

**A.A.P.E. “Creativity in Philatelic Exhibiting Award”**

**pin (National Level):** Bob Ingraham, Vancouver, BC: *37 Days in Vietnam — A Hospital Corpsman's Story* (1 frame)

**A.A.P.E. Silver “Award of Honour” pin (Regional Level):** Mohammed Faizullah, Kolkata, West Bengal, India: *Animals Kingdom* (1 frame)

**A.A.P.E. Youth Grand Award:** Jared Barron, Edmonton, Alberta: *Maple Leaf Stamps of Canada*

**A.A.P.E. Novice Award:** Yong-Xin Chen: *Postal History of Taiwan Strait*

**American Topical Association “First Award” – Best multi-frame topical exhibit:** Tong Yuen, Richmond, BC: *The Rise and Fall of Hitler's Empire*

**American Topical Association “Youth Award” – Best Youth topical exhibit:** Jared Barron, Edmonton, Alberta: *Maple Leaf Stamps of Canada*

**American Topical Association “One-Frame Merit Award” – Best one-frame topical exhibit:** Mohammed Faizullah, Kolkata, West Bengal, India: *Animals Kingdom*

**British North America Philatelic Society – “Best BNA Exhibit”:** Ian Mowat, Victoria, BC: *Yukon Revenues*

**British North America Philatelic Society – “Best 2 ‘n’ 4 Exhibit”:** Louis Fiset, Seattle, Washington, USA: *Japanese-Canadians in World War II*

**British North America Philatelic Society – “Best Researched BNA Exhibit”:** Robert J. Elias, Winnipeg, Manitoba: *Paper Texture of Canadian Wilding Definitives* (1 frame)

**Best North America Philatelic Society, Pacific Northwest Regional Group – “Best Exhibit” awarded to one of their members:** Ian Mowat, Victoria, BC: *Yukon Revenues*

**British North America Philatelic Society, Pacific Northwest Regional Group – “Youth Meritorious Award”:** Jinu Vergheese, Kolkata, West Bengal, India: *Pre-India*

**British North America Philatelic Society, Pacific Northwest Regional Group – “Youth Meritorious Award”:** Jared Barron, Edmonton, Alberta: *Maple Leaf Stamps of Canada*

**Postal History Society of Canada – “Best B.N.A.**

**Postal History Exhibit”:** Bill Topping, Vancouver, BC: *Union Steamships — Way Mail* (5 frames)

**American Air Mail Society – Medal of Excellence**

**Award:** Jim Davidson, North Vancouver, BC: *The First Jet Airliner: The Story of the De Havilland Comet*

**Winner's name in blue font indicates a member of the BC Philatelic Society**



### NATIONAL LEVEL

#### Gold

**Robert J. Elias, Winnipeg, Manitoba:** *Paper Texture of Canadian Wilding Definitives*

**Louis Fiset, Seattle, Washington, USA:** *Japanese-Canadians in World War II*

**Ed Kroft, Vancouver, BC:** *Rishon Le Zion (Palestine):*

**Robert K. Lane, St. Albert, Alberta:** *RPOs on the Mysterious Estevan Line*

**David Y. Lu, Qingdao, Shandong, People's Republic of China:** *The International Aerogrammes of China (1948 – 1949) (1 frame)*

**Ian Mowat, Victoria, BC:** *Yukon Revenues*

**David Piercey, Edmonton, Alberta:** *Newfoundland: The Postal Issues 1865-1908 (8 frames)*

**Bill Topping, Vancouver, BC:** *Union Steamships — Way Mail*

#### Vermeil

**John Burnett, Oak Harbor, Washington USA:**

*Canada—The Small Queens 1870-1897: The Stamps and Their Use (10 frames)*

**John Burnett, Oak Harbor, Washington, USA:** *Canada — The Stamps of 1937-1938 Used to the UPU (7 frames)*

**Derren Carman, Pitt Meadows, BC:** *Gepprüft: German Civil Censorship in France 1940-44 (6 frames)*

**Jim Davidson, North Vancouver, BC:** *Spitfire Summer*

**Jim Davidson, North Vancouver, BC:** *The First Jet*

*Airliner: The Story of the De Havilland Comet*

**John Eldridge, Halifax, Nova Scotia:** *Halifax During the Squared Circle Period (7 frames)*

**Peter Jacobi, Surrey, BC:** *The Historical Kootenays (10 frames)*

**Robert K. Lane, St. Albert, Alberta:** *RPO Usage on the Manitoba & North Western Railway (1 frame)*

**Gray Scrimgeour, Victoria, BC:** *Some Postal History of the Numeral-Issue Period (7 frames)*

**William Schultz, West Chester, Pennsylvania, USA:**

*The Sweet Sixteen—Earliest Pennsylvania Post Offices (1 frame)*

**David H. Whiteley, Winnipeg, Manitoba:** *Air Mail covers to Overseas Destinations, Except North America and Mexico (1927-1945) (4 frames)*

#### Silver

**David A. Cooper, Sr:** *My ship sank! When can I come home? (1 frame)*

**Bob Ingraham, Vancouver, BC:** *37 Days in Vietnam — A Hospital Corpsman's Story*

**Mohammed Mujibullah, Kolkata, West Bengal, India:** *Pre-India 1852-1947*

**Mohammed Mujibullah, Kolkata, West Bengal, India:** *Railways (8 frames)*

**Gary Sagar, Vancouver, BC:** *Postage Stamps of New Zealand: King George V Issue—The Dependencies (1915-1919) (2 frames)*

**Gray Scrimgeour, Victoria, BC:** *World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893 (5 frames)*

**Anthony Sales, Richmond, BC:** *The Christmas Saga (5 frames)*

**Winner's name in blue indicates a member of the BC Philatelic Society**

### NATIONAL LEVEL

#### Silver (cont.)

**Tong Yuen, Richmond, BC:** *The Rise and Fall of Hitler's Empire*

#### Silver-Bronze

**Bill Bartlett, Saanichton, BC:** *USA Air Transport Issue 1941-1950 (2 frames)*

**Jim Carde, Brantford, Ontario:** *Shades of Canadian Postal Stationery Post Cards — 1871-1929 (4 frames)*

**Alex Hadden, Richmond, BC:** *Canada Celebrates the Scouts and Guides (5 frames)*

**Cathie Osborne, Sequim, Washington:** *Bell Foundries (1 frame)*

**Roger Packer, Burnaby, BC:** *The Puppet Empire of Manchoukuo (7 frames)*

#### Bronze

**Ursac Mircea, Calgary, Alberta:** *Winter Olympic Games (3 frames)*

### REGIONAL LEVEL

#### Vermeil

**Yong-Xin Chen:** *Postal History of Taiwan Strait (1949-1989)*

#### YOUTH

**Jared Barron, Edmonton, Alberta:** *Maple Leaf Stamps of Canada*

#### Silver

**B.V. Thomas, Richmond, BC:** *Some Somali — A Sampling of British Somaliland (2 frames)*

#### YOUTH

**Mohammed Faizullah, Kolkata, West Bengal, India:** *Animals Kingdom*

**Jinu Vergheese, Kolkata, West Bengal, India:** *Pre-India*

#### Silver-Bronze

**B.V. Thomas, Richmond, BC:** *Norway in World War II (2 frames)*

#### YOUTH

**Mohammed Iqbal, Kolkata, West Bengal, India:** *Red Pennys — 1840 (1 frame)*

#### Bronze

**Peter Jensen, North Burnaby, BC:** *Red Postage Due Stamps of Canada on Covers (3 frames)*

**Johnson Wan, Honolulu, Hawaii:** *Introduction to Washington-Franklin Heads (1 frame)*

#### YOUTH

**Swheta Khatri, Kolkata, West Bengal, India:** *Religious (1 frame)*

#### Certificate

**B.V. Thomas, Richmond, BC:** *Stand-Alone Large Covers (1 frame)*

# "WORDSEARCH"

Here's a puzzle that's fun **and** educational! Find and *carefully* circle the philatelic words listed below. They may be found horizontally, vertically or diagonally. After you have located all the letters, use the remaining letters to spell out some good advice from modernist architect **Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe**.



ALBINO		ARROW BLOCK	
BALLON MONTE		BARRED	
BATONNE PAPER		CANCELLATION	
CLICHE	COIL	COVER	DUTY PLATE
FISCAL		FORGERY	FRANK
GUTTER		HOLED	IMPRESSED
IMPRIMATUR		JUBILEE	KEYED
LITHO	MIXED	MOIRE	MONSTER
NADRUCK		ODONTOMETRE	OFFSET
OVERLAY		OVERPRINT	PAGE
PANE	PARAPH	PENNY	PERCE
PERFORATION		POCHETTE	
PROVISIONAL		QUADRILLE	RELIEVO
RIBBED		ROSACE	
SAGGIO	SEA POST		SE TENANT
SHEET		SIZE	SPANDREL
SPECULATIVE ISSUE			STAMPS
STRIP		SURCHARGE	TONED
TRANSFER		TRESSE	UNUSED
VALUE		VARIETY	VIGNETTE
WOVE		XYLOL	ZINCO

As part of a philatelic tribute to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the TD Bank Financial Group, Scott #2092 features Toronto's iconic TD Tower. Its architect is the subject of our puzzle.

STUMPED?  
Look on p.11



**Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe**, eminently quotable Chicago School architect who designed the TD Tower in T.O.



## BCPHIL-PEX 2008?

As everyone is probably aware by now, Vanpex 2008 has been cancelled. That's the *bad* news (especially in light of how successful Vanpex 2007 was). The *good* news is that Trevor Larden, past-president without portfolio, has graciously agreed to chair a simple club level show in lieu of Vanpex. This is tentatively scheduled for a Saturday in March or early April 2008 and will be a non-competitive venue to encourage newcomers (and former wallflowers) to show their stuff in a supportive atmosphere. Accent will be on variety, with local members getting priority. Trevor is looking for a minimum of 18 exhibitors who will agree to show up to four frames before confirming the event so it's going to require a BIG membership commitment to pull this off. Local judges will be on hand for willing participants, but non-competitive frames will definitely be included. "I want FUN, not blood, sweat and tears," proclaimed Mr. Larden, in his best Winston Churchill impression. Watch for our January edition of the newsletter for more information as it emerges. In the meantime, you can check out Bob Ingraham's article in this edition for tips on how to make your exhibit really sing.

## ROGER'S

### Really Useful Household Hints!

- ❖ To keep suitcases or other large items dust-free when storing under the bed, slip them into a dry-cleaner bag
- ❖ Instead of wrapping lettuce and celery in foil to keep fresh in the fridge, rinse out a large, empty potato chip bag (keep the lettuce and celery in separate bags)
- ❖ If in danger of sunstroke, or just feeling the effects of heat, run cold water over the inside of your wrists. This cools the blood as it flows through to the rest of your body and quickly lowers your body temperature

Courtesy of Roger Packer

## ...BUT DID YOU KNOW?

### Seven fun facts about the history of the United States postal system

By Patrik Lowe (age 12)

\*\*\*\*\*

On July 26, 1775, the Second Continental Congress created the Post Office Department, the forerunner to the U.S. Postal Service.

According to William Whitney's 1889 *Century Dictionary*, a 'blind-reader' was: "In the United States Postal Service, a clerk whose duty is to decipher obscure or illegible addresses."

The first stamps in Hawaii were made in 1851 because missionaries wanted a reliable postal system so they could send letters back east to their family and friends. The two-cent blue stamp is so rare, it is only owned by a few collectors. Worth between \$150,000 and \$250,000, it is the only stamp in history to have been shared between two sovereign nations and the only stamp for which a collector was actually killed.

The first American post offices were bags that hung in taverns, and ship captains handled the mail.

The first humorous stamp in America was issued in 1963. It was a five-cent mail delivery stamp that was made to honour the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of free city mail delivery. Designed by Norman Rockwell, it featured a mail carrier with an umbrella, being followed by a small, smiling boy and a little dog.

Richard Fairbanks's home in Boston, Massachusetts housed the first post office in America, which was established in 1639, while a post office built in 1683 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was the first to be specifically created as a post office.

Before 1883, products were sometimes advertised on the backs of U.S. three-cent stamps.

## Philatelic Phunnies



### JIM MILLER LTD.



SOME GOOD FRIENDS OF THE PHIL!

The B.C. Philatelic Society Newsletter is printed three times a year and is free to all members of the Society.

-----  
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 Secretary: Duff Malcolm

# Background to a Collector

By Brian Grant Duff

I began collecting when I was just seven. I was periodically hospitalized and instead of comic books, my maternal grandmother provided me with stamps to while away the hours. Although I recovered from the illness, I soon fell victim to the stamp bug.

Eventually I was using up all my paper route money to pay for mail order stamps, as well as show and bid board purchases. (You know how it is, you get a big Harris Statesman Album and you just have to fill all those spaces.)

I collected secretly all through my teenage years, and even sent approvals to some of my collector friends — somehow “Seaspray Stamp Company” just doesn't have the right ring to it.

In 1983 I started working for F.E. Eaton & Sons, third generation Vancouver stamp dealers who had started the Stanley Stamp Company in 1937.

I worked as a clerk in their licensed departments in Eaton's and the Bay.

A year later they sent me to Toronto to establish their auction and store presence. While there, I worked closely with Frederick Eaton until he returned to Vancouver, leaving me with an office and secretary on Bay Street.

I managed Eaton & Sons' Toronto auctions and traveled as a representative of the firm. At that time I had joined the North Toronto and Toronto Stamp Clubs, and was active in the Canadian Stamp Dealers Association. I was there for the 1988 Gerald Wellburn Colonial British Columbia Auction and routinely handled stamps valued at up to \$40,000 apiece.

In 1989, Eaton & Sons consolidated their business to Vancouver, and I returned to their head offices at Bentall Centre. After a year there, they offered me the choice of taking over either Eaton & Sons' auction or retail operations. I chose to run their retail shop and did so for a decade until Eaton's went broke (not my

fault though!). In the meantime, Eaton & Sons had disappeared too.

In the wake of all that I took over *All Nations*, a Vancouver stamp shop that had been established way back in 1949. I set up an Internet presence for it, and then moved the retail end of it into the downtown Bay store.

Ironically, the Bay stamp and coin department had originally been run by Eaton & Sons when I started with them — so I had come full circle in my working career.

My wife Sarah and I first met at a church youth group when we were just teens. She followed me to Toronto, but I stupidly sent her back home to look for somebody who wasn't a workaholic, low-paid stamp dealer.

Luckily, when I moved back to Vancouver, I discovered that Sarah had left the guy she had married and returned here with their young son, Thor.

...I stupidly sent her back home to look for somebody who wasn't a workaholic, low-paid stamp dealer.

We've been married nine years, and both she and Thor sometimes assist me at shows.

Sheila, my eight-year-old daughter, also sometimes accompanies me to local shows. She likes postcards too, especially ones that depict pugs, as we have a new pug puppy at home.

As for my Nana, who started me collecting, she's still going strong at 95. We used to attend shows together when I was a child, and she still saves me clippings of any stamp stories she finds in the Vancouver Sun.

In a strange twist, she had looked after Harry Sutherland, a distinguished Canadian Philatelist, and only recently deceased Secretary of the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Foundation, when he was a boy. Harry was always kind to me when I worked in Toronto and Nana would knit him socks every year at Christmas. He always called her “Miss Jean”.

My other Granny's brother, Peter Chance, was the Chairman of Christie's for many years and called sales in England, France and Switzerland — so you could

say I have collectibles and auctioneering in my blood.

When I joined Eaton & Sons, I sold my Canada and World collection and focused on United States revenues for a time. It was tough to find nice-looking examples of these in Canada, but at least I wasn't competing with most of my customers.

Since moving back home to Vancouver, I've mainly collected postcards (such as the Zieher type) that depict the stamps, coins, and banknotes I carry in my store and sell at auction. Again, I tried to pick a collection that didn't mimic most of my client's collections, or have them thinking I was saving all the best stuff for myself.

I particularly like the Canadian Maritime cards with the actual-sized Canadian coins incorporated into the designs, and the Hibben and other postcards that have British Columbia ties.

While it's true that the Internet has greatly changed the stamp business (essentially replacing the Yellow Pages as our means of meeting new clients), I still enjoy running a shop to buy, sell and auction in.

Many of my clients have been with me from the beginning and continue to follow me along my circuitous stamp dealing path.

I like to promote the hobby with current news stories in the hope of starting — or rekindling — greater stamp interest among the media consuming masses. Having a department store location is supposed to assist in this task too.

The other day, a client brought in a 1939 Royal Visit cover addressed to “The Bay Coin and Stamp Dept., Vancouver”. It serves as a reminder that I am carrying on a tradition at the same location, extending back nearly 70 years!

I also sell through the *All Nations* website and I continue to write newsletters discussing current collecting trends.

I enjoy the challenge of paying a fair price for a collectible, then finding it a home for it at a fair price too.

It's certainly never dull running a shop with weekly auctions, while raising a family (and a pug) at home.



# Stamp News from the Royal Vaults

(Originally published in the May 1893 edition of the Canadian Philatelist.  
Reprinted with the kind permission of the Royal Philatelic Society.)

## A REVERIE

### CAPTAIN MILDMAV

As I sit beside the fire, here, idle hand and idle brain,  
Memories of the past are crowding through my dreaming heart again;  
While I watch the embers flickering in a feeble, dying blaze,  
Fondly I recall the glories of my stamp collecting days.

Again I see my little album with its covers cloth and gold,  
As I think about the treasures many that its pages used to hold.  
Many years have come and vanished since that eventful day,  
When my little album came in ever bright array.

How well I can remember those happy days of yore,  
Made bright by Philately, but they, alas, too soon were o'er;  
Through after days of darkness†, and whate'r ill betide,  
My album's been my helper, a friend both true and tried.

I lift it from the mantel, its wonted place of rest,  
Where it lies in peace unblemished like a birdling in its nest.  
I view my fair colonials as I turn its pages o'er,  
Such a vast array of treasures has ne'er been seen before.

Here rests the stamps of merry England, the mistress of the sea,  
Others may be rare and costly, but they have no charm for me.  
Their colors are the brightest, the prettiest ever seen,  
And surrounded by a circle is the photo of the Queen.

Here the beaver clad in brightest red of this fair Canada of ours,  
An emblem of its vastness, an emblem of its powers,  
It tells of far off-times, way back unto our birth,  
Through after years of trouble, till now, a nation of the earth.

As I gaze upon my treasures, some dimmed, some worn, some old,  
And think of stories they could tell but which must be untold,  
A gentle stream of singing comes floating softly by,  
Like Zephyr's breezes bringing a seraph melody.

St. John, N.B., May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1893.

### **Editor, Canadian Philatelist:**

DEAR SIR, The warning notice published to me a short time since, relating to the manufacture, in this city, of bogus "split" provisionals of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, need only now be supplemented by giving the names of the persons referred to. These are two brothers, B.F. and H.L. Coombs, both minors, but old enough to know better. The chain of circumstances which led me to feel convinced that these fellows were making bogus splits, and so to the publication of my former notice, has now been fortified by the most positive proof, incapable of contradiction, and I therefore give the names of these youths to the philatelic fraternity, as dangerous frauds and impositors† whom all persons will do well to avoid. Beside the New Brunswick 5¢ provisionals, these fellows have been manufacturing similar split stamps of Nova Scotia, and, worst of all, Prince Edward Island, besides cancelling New Brunswick remainders to order, by the sheet, and so doubling their value. I propose to force them out of the stamp business once and for all.

† sic.

**R.W. Hannington, Barrister-at-law, &c.**

*Answer to the Word Search quote on page 8: "First you have to learn something, then you can go out and do it."*



The British Columbia Philatelic Society meets 7:30 pm every Wednesday (except during the summer) at:  
The West Burnaby United Church 6050 Sussex Avenue, Burnaby. Call today about becoming a member!



# BC Philatelic Society Program Schedule — 2007-2008

## September

- 5<sup>th</sup> Welcome Back Social / Swap and Shop / Stamp Grab / Treasure Hunt / RPSC circuit books / Social
- 12<sup>th</sup> Speaker Night: Past President Roger Packer presents "*Collection of Early Used and Unused Picture Postcards of Hawaii, 1900-30*".
- 19<sup>th</sup> September Auction: Up to six philatelic lots are welcome, as well as additional donation lots. 10% of the hammer price of regular lots goes to the club; all of the money from donation lots goes to the club.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Club Program - Book Night: A wonderful night to share the new books in our lives.

## October

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Social / Swap and Shop / Stamp Grab / Treasure Hunt / RPSC circuit books / Social
- 10<sup>th</sup> Speaker Night: Arlene Sullivan will test your knowledge of philately with a *Stamp Quiz*. Prizes and fun with our new projector.
- 17<sup>th</sup> October Auction: Up to six philatelic lots are welcome, as well as additional donation lots. Ten per cent of the hammer price of regular lots goes to the club; all of the money from donation lots goes to the club.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Club Program: "Still Missing" -- We all have dreams of acquiring long-sought-after items. Tonight, let's share those dreams, illustrating them with pictures, stories of ones that got away, and short sets of stamps.
- 31<sup>st</sup> Happy Halloween! Donation Auction —All of the money earned from your generous support, both philatelic and otherwise, goes into the club's general operating fund so we can continue to enjoy great philatelic experiences.

## November

- 7<sup>th</sup> Social / Swap and Shop / Stamp Grab / Treasure Hunt / RPSC circuit books / Social
- 14<sup>th</sup> Speaker Night: "*Spitfire Summer — The Battle of Britain July 10-Oct. 31, 1940*". BC Phil member Jim Davidson presents the story of Germany's first defeat in the Second World War. An impressive collection of stamps, booklets, post cards, Anniversary and FDCs.
- 21<sup>st</sup> November Auction: Up to six philatelic lots are welcome, as well as additional donation lots. 10% of the hammer price of regular lots goes to the club; all of the money from donation lots goes to the club.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Club Program: "Gotcha!" —Members tell true stories, illustrated with stamps, covers and collateral items that they endlessly searched for, and finally found. Value is unimportant; it's about the stamp or cover that's significant to you and you alone!

## December

- 5<sup>th</sup> Social / Swap and Shop / Stamp Grab / Treasure Hunt / RPSC circuit books / Social (tea, coffee & cookies)
- 12<sup>th</sup> Speaker Night: Retired metallurgical engineer Peter Jacobi presents "*Cominco Ltd. — A Successful Canadian Mining Company.*"
- 19<sup>th</sup> Xmas Auction (with Santa?): Up to six philatelic lots are welcome, plus additional donation lots. 10% of the hammer price of regular lots goes to the club; all the money from donation lots goes to the club.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Merry Christmas to all our BC Phil members! (Please note: there is no meeting scheduled for Dec. 26, due to holidays)

## January

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Social / Swap and Shop / Stamp Grab / Treasure Hunt / RPSC circuit books / Social
- 9<sup>th</sup> Speaker Night: Vice-President Derren Carman assumes the guise of President Colonel Doctor Adamov Derrenski Johannovitch Karmanov, to regale us with "*The Story of Glorious Russko-Manchzhuri*", showcasing the fictitious state's postal emissions.
- 16<sup>th</sup> January Auction: Up to six philatelic lots are welcome, plus additional donation lots. 10% of the hammer price of regular lots goes to the club; all the money from donation lots goes to the club.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Club Program: *A one-page exhibit night*, based on a new exhibiting technique popular in the U.S. and Eastern Canada. Members display 1-3 pages that stand on their own and have no relationship to one another. (See Bob's article on page 4 for more info.)
- 30<sup>th</sup> New Year's Donation Auction: First chance to offer your generous support to the BC Phil for 2008. All donations go to the Club. Need not be "stamp-related". Feel free to contribute anything of value.