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1) President’s Message

Once again, our club has decided to celebrate the holiday season by supporting local food banks and agreed to send Loblaw’s Food Cards in $100 denominations to The Canadian Cancer Society, Salvation Army, Martha’s Kitchen, The Canadian Mental Health Association and Alzheimer Society of KFL&A.

Funds came from the sale of consignment material this year. We should all be proud of our outreach project this year.

Richard Weigand
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2) Editor’s Comments

Also, our Fiftieth Anniversary Issue of our Newsletter is here and we are going to celebrate this milestone with a double issue! We will have a small party and all the trimmings to celebrate this major event!
This club year, this newsletter is featuring four series:

- Famous Canada women honoured on our postage stamps.
- Famous US Women honoured on their postage stamps.
- British Colony history and stamp issues.
- Canadian Millennium Series

As always, if you have a topic that you want to appear in this newsletter, please contact me.

A copy of each of your newsletters is recorded with Library and Archives Canada!

Editor – Richard Weigand

3) British Foreign Post Office - Morocco

The British post offices in Morocco, also known as the "Morocco Agencies", were a system of post offices operated by Gibraltar and later the United Kingdom in Morocco.

The First Post Office

The first office was established in Tangier in 1857; mail was simply bagged there and forwarded to Gibraltar just across the water, where it received the standard "A26" postmark. From 1872 Tangier had its own postmark, but this was applied alongside the stamps (allowing for the Gibraltar cancellation to mark them), so usages of British stamps from Morocco are best determined on cover. Several examples of GB Queen Victoria stamps cancelled Tangier do exist, including at least one horizontal strip of 6 1d reds from plate 123. (This item was lot 417 in the H R Harmer sale on December 12–14, 1960.)

Since the offices were under the control of Gibraltar, they switched to the use of Gibraltar stamps when they came into use, 1 January 1886. Additional offices opened in various Moroccan seaports during the 1880s, and inland at Fez (1892), and Meknes (1907).

The stamps were overprinted "Morocco Agencies" beginning in 1898, initially at the offices of the Gibraltar Chronicle and then, later, in London, yielding several variations in the appearance of the overprint.

Direct Control

On 1 January 1907, the British Post Office took direct control of the post offices, operating them until Moroccan independence in 1956.
From that point on, all stamps were overprints on British issues, in no less than three different currencies.

British-currency stamps were available at any office, and primarily intended for parcels and, later, airmail. Both regular and some commemorative issues were overprinted, all with "MOROCCO / AGENCIES", up to the Edward VIII issue of 1936. Subsequently, unoverprinted stamps were used, until 1949, when they were again overprinted for use at Tetuan (at that point the sole remaining office, except for Tangier, which had its own overprints).

#4 Canada Millennium Series - #10 Canada's Cultural Fabric

Issue Date January 17, 2000, GT4 Tagging, TRC Paper with Perf 13.3 by 13.4 Souvenir Sheet of 4.
Printer Ashton Potter, 1 million stamps issued, 46c Regular Postage price per stamp.

Scott # 1827 NH $9.00 for sheet or $2.00 per stamp. Used $9.00 per sheet or $1.50 per stamp.

Upper Left-L'Anse aux Meadows

In the year 2000, Newfoundland celebrates the L'Anse aux Meadows Viking settlement, considered one of the first landings in North America by Europeans. The UN declared this a World Heritage Site in recognition of the valuable archaeological remains discovered there.

Today three buildings have been restored for visitors to capture the time the Norse, led by legendary Leif Ericson crossed the unknown seas and found this new land. The Vikings called this land Vinland, Land of Wine.

Upper Right- Immigration-Pier 21, Halifax

Between 1928 and 1971, Pier 21 in Halifax, was Canada’s "Front Door' to 1.5 million immigrants, wartime evacuees, displaced persons, refugees, war brides and their children.

This pier was also the departure for half a million Canadian soldiers heading to battlefields in Europe during World War II.

Officially reopened in July 1, 1999 as a national historical site, it was a symbol of hope, dreams and opportunities for newcomers. Various support groups assisted these new immigrants and helped establish new roots in a new land and establish our vibrant multicultural country we enjoy today.

Lower Left - Neptune Theatre, Halifax

On November 14, 1606, Marc Lescarbot, a lawyer and playwright from Paris, presented his Le Theatre de Neptune en la Nouvelle-France, at Port Royal near Annapolis Royal in Nova Scotia. This performance featured a Roman mythological god of water, Neptune, and his court sailing out in full regalia to meet Jean de Biencourt de Poutrincourt, a French colonizer in Acadia.

Today, in Halifax, this tradition continues, hosted by this world class theatre company presenting plays that wow audiences that come from around the world.
Lower Right- Stratford Festival

The brainchild of Tom Patterson, the Stratford Festival began hosting plays by William Shakespeare. This venue continues to draw talented actors to present these timeless plays to audiences that come from around the world. Today, this festival is considered one of the jewels in the crown of North American classical theatre.

Bibliography:
Unitrade 2015 Specialized Canadian Stamp Catalogue, Page 352,353
Canada Post Millennium Collection Book Expressions of a People, Unique Postage Stamps and Photographs of the Year 2000
L’Anse aux Meadows and Pier 21 Page 10
The Neptune Story and Stratford Festival Pages 18
http://www.neptunetheatre.com/
https://www.stratfordfestival.ca/

5) Famous American Women – Louisa May Alcott
(November 29, 1832 – March 6, 1888)

Louisa May Alcott was born in Germantown, PA. She was an American novelist and poet best known as the author of the novel Little Women (1868) and its sequels Little Men (1871) and Jo’s Boys (1886).

Raised by her transcendentalist (one who seeks an understanding of the world and man’s place in it) parents, Abigail May and Amos Bronson Alcott in New England, she also grew up among many of the well-known intellectuals of the day such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry David Thoreau and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, all of whom were family friends.

Alcott was taught by her father, Amos Bronson Alcott, until 1848, and studied informally with family friends such as Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Theodore Parker. Residing in Boston and Concord, Massachusetts, Alcott worked as a domestic servant and teacher, among other positions, to help support her family from 1850 to 1862.

Louisa May Alcott’s early education included lessons from the naturalist Henry David Thoreau who inspired her to write Thoreau’s Flute based on her time at Walden’s Pond. Most of the education she received, though, came from her father who was strict and believed in "the sweetness of self-denial."

Alcott’s family suffered from financial difficulties, and while she worked to help support the family from an early age, she also sought an outlet in writing. She began to receive critical success for her writing in the 1860s. Early in her career, she sometimes used the pen name A. M. Barnard, under which she wrote novels for young adults that focused on spies, revenge, and cross-dressers.

As an adult, Alcott was an abolitionist and a feminist. In 1860, Alcott began writing for the Atlantic Monthly. When the American Civil War broke out, she served as a nurse in the Union Hospital at Georgetown, DC, for six weeks in 1862–1863.

Scott # 862 Part of the Famous American Series
1940 - American Authors Set of 5
MNH $1.00, Used $.75
She intended to serve three months as a nurse but, halfway through, she contracted typhoid and became deathly ill, though she eventually recovered. Her letters home—revised and published in the Boston anti-slavery paper Commonwealth and collected as Hospital Sketches brought her first critical recognition for her observations and humour. She wrote about the mismanagement of hospitals and the indifference and callousness of some of the surgeons she encountered. Her main character, Tribulation Periwinkle, showed a passage from innocence to maturity and is a "serious and eloquent witness". Her novel Moods (1864), based on her own experience, was also promising.

Published in 1868, Little Women is set in the Alcott family home, Orchard House, in Concord, Massachusetts, and is loosely based on Alcott’s childhood experiences with her three sisters. Her novel Little Women gave Louisa May Alcott financial independence and a lifetime writing career. The novel was very well received and is still a popular children’s novel today, filmed several times.

Her Boston home is featured on the Boston Women’s Heritage Trail. Her childhood home Orchard House is now a museum that pays homage to Louisa May Alcott and her family that focuses on education.

Bibliography:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisa_May_Alcott
https://www.biography.com/people/louisa-may-alcott-9179520

6) Famous Canadian Women

Pierrette Alarie
(November 9, 1921 – July 10, 2011)

Opera Singer - Leopold Simoneau (1916-2006) and Pierrette Alarie (1921-2011)

Scott #2180
Denomination 51 cents
Part of 5 stamp set focusing on Opera
Issued October 17, 2006
Lowe-Martin Printer
Pane of 10
Vertical Se-tenant Set of 5
Perforation 12.6 by 13.1
Mint $1.00, Used .60
The Life of Pierrette Alarie

Pierrette Alarie, CC [Order of Canada] and OQ [National Order of Quebec] was a French-Canadian coloratura soprano. She was married to the French-Canadian tenor Léopold Simoneau.

Born in Montreal, Quebec, Alarie was the daughter of a choirmaster, assistant conductor of the Société Canadienne d'opérettes, and of a soprano and actress. She studied voice and acting early and performed on radio from the age of 9, first as an actress and later as a singer of popular music. While studying voice with Victor Issaurel, she made her debut in 1938 at Les Variétés lyriques in the operetta The White Horse Inn. She also sang Marie in La fille du régiment and the lead role in Mireille. On a scholarship she went to the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia to complete her studies with Elisabeth Schumann.

Pierrette Alarie won the Metropolitan Opera Auditions of the Air and made her Metropolitan Opera debut on December 8, 1945.

She married French Canadian tenor Léopold Simoneau in 1946. The two had met in Montréal in the early 1940s. The couple left for France in 1949 where she made her debut at the Opéra Comique in Paris. She sang the lead role in many operas. As a team, Alarie and Simoneau gained celebrity in Europe and were invited to all the major festivals, Aix-en-Provence, Salzburg, Glyndebourne, Edinburgh, as well as major opera houses such as Vienna and Munich.

Alarie also had an important career in North America, appearing in opera and in recital in San Francisco, Philadelphia, New York City, New Orleans, etc. Pianist Gérard Caron accompanied both Alarie and Simoneau in their recitals in the US and Canada.

In Canada, Alarie performed frequently on television, Radio-Canada and CBC. She also performed regularly at the Canadian Opera Company in Toronto and the Vancouver Opera.

Alarie gave her last performance in Handel’s Messiah with her husband in Montréal, on November 24, 1970.

Retirement

After retiring from singing, Alarie became active as a teacher she taught first at the Ecole Vincent d’Indy in Montréal and later at the Banff Centre. She founded, with her husband, the Canada Opera Piccola in Victoria, British Columbia in 1982.

Honours and Legacy

In 1959 she received the Calixa-Lavallée Award. In 1967, she was made an Officer of the Order of Canada and was promoted to Companion in 1995. In 1997, she was made a Knight of the National Order of Québec. In 2003, Ms. Alarie received a Governor General’s Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Artistic Achievement.

Personal life


Bibliography:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pierrette_Alarie
Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps, 2015, Page 422

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7) History of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The Birth of an Idea

The Battle of Solferino, fought in northern Italy in 1859, was a decisive episode in the struggle for Italian independence, in the birth of the Red Cross movement and also in the creation of the Geneva Conventions. The bloody battle between the Austrians and a French-Italian alliance lasted for hours before the Austrians were driven into retreat. The casualties have been estimated at anything from 30,000 to 40,000 men. Thousands of wounded were left on the battlefield, far too many for the victors’ small medical teams to cope with. It happened that a 31-year-old Swiss businessman named Henri Dunant was travelling through the area and was utterly horrified by the battle (which he afterwards said compelled young men to be murderers) and by its aftermath. He helped to organize people from the nearby villages to bring water, food and aid to the wounded, regardless of their nationality. He persuaded the French to release a few captured Austrian doctors to help and he paid for the hasty creation of makeshift hospitals.

In 1862 Dunant wrote an account of what he had seen in which he suggested that national armies should have efficiently trained non-combatant volunteers to give help to the wounded of both sides. He also wanted international treaties to guarantee the protection of those involved. He sent copies to important figures all over Europe and he made a strong impression.

Dunant came from Geneva, where he had grown up a devout Calvinist with a deep interest in charitable work. In his twenties he engaged in business activities in North Africa and Italy and helped to create the international Young Men’s Christian Association.

In 1863 the Public Welfare Association in Geneva set up a five-man committee to consider Dunant’s ideas. Gustave Moynier, the association’s president and a prominent local figure, and Dunant himself, were the key members. The committee organized an international conference in Geneva in October to start things moving. Delegates from countries including Austria, France, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Prussia, Russia, Spain and Sweden attended and, on the 29th, approved the proposals of the committee of five. This effectively marked the launch of the Red Cross movement. The symbol of a red cross on a white background reversed the Swiss national emblem of a white cross on a red background. Later, in Muslim countries, the Red Cross would become the Red Crescent.

In 1864, the Swiss government organized a conference in Geneva at which delegates from European countries as well as the US, Mexico and Brazil signed the first Geneva Convention ‘for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field’, which set up rules on the lines Dunant had advocated and would, in time, be accepted as international law by almost all the countries in the world. In that same year the first Red Cross volunteers in a battle wearing the Red Cross symbol attended an action in Denmark.
Dunant had been hugely successful, but the fly in the ointment was that he and Gustave Moynier had come to dislike each other intensely. From 1864 Moynier was president of the committee of five, which would subsequently become the International Committee of the Red Cross. He regarded Dunant as a romantic, impractical idealist and soon forced him out of the movement. Dunant had spent far more time on the Red Cross than on business and, in 1867, he went bankrupt, which enabled Moynier to have him expelled from the committee. A warrant was issued for Dunant’s arrest on a charge of fraudulent bankruptcy. He left Geneva and was reduced to living in poverty in various European cities. Although he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1901, he was an almost forgotten figure when he died in 1910 in a Swiss nursing home at the age of 82.

Moynier had died that same year. Meanwhile, the Red Cross movement had flourished. Its work began to extend from the military sphere to a far broader range of peacetime disasters and needs. The British Red Cross Society was founded in 1870 and the American National Red Cross Society goes back to 1881. The First World War dramatically increased the need for the organization and the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the International Red Cross Committee in 1917. There are now Red Cross and Red Crescent societies in almost every country in the world, with more than 90 million members, volunteers and staff. Henri Dunant’s reputation has been amply restored and he is now revered as the founding spirit of one of the greatest humanitarian organizations in history.

The Formation of the IFRC

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) was founded in 1919 in Paris in the aftermath of World War I. The war had shown a need for close cooperation between Red Cross Societies, which, through their humanitarian activities on behalf of prisoners of war and combatants, had attracted millions of volunteers and built a large body of expertise. A devastated Europe could not afford to lose such a resource.

It was Henry Davison, president of the American Red Cross War Committee, who proposed forming a federation of these National Societies. An international medical conference initiated by Davison resulted in the birth of the League of Red Cross Societies, which was renamed in October 1983 to the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and then, in November 1991, to become the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The first objective of the IFRC was to improve the health of people in countries that had suffered greatly during the four years of war. Its goals were "to strengthen and unite, for health activities, already-existing Red Cross Societies and to promote the creation of new Societies"

There were five founding member Societies: Britain, France, Italy, Japan and the United States. This number has grown over the years and there are now 190 recognized National Societies - one in almost every country in the world.
Jean-Henry Dunant

Jean-Henry Dunant was born on 8 May, 1828 in Geneva, to a middle-class Calvinist family. His early initiatives included participating in the creation of the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA) in 1852 and the World Alliance of YMCAs in 1855.

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

This is a non-governmental organization, Non-profit organization with the focus on humanitarianism support. Headquarters are located in Geneva, Switzerland. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is an international humanitarian movement with approximately 17 million volunteers, members and staff worldwide which was founded to protect human life and health, to ensure respect for all human beings, and to prevent and alleviate human suffering.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems are the symbols from which the movement derives its name, Genève 2005. The movement consists of several distinct organizations that are legally independent from each other, but are united within the movement through common basic principles, objectives, symbols, statutes and governing organizations. The movement’s parts are:

History of the Canadian Red Cross

The Canadian Red Cross is one of the most active charity organizations in Canada, and works to provide relief during times of need to people throughout the country and the world.
Major General Dr. George Ansel Sterling Ryerson, soldier, regimental surgeon, later Colonel-in-Chief of the Canadian Army Medical Corps, founder of the Red Cross movement in Canada.

In the spring of 1885, Dr. George Sterling Ryerson set the foundations for what would later be known as the Canadian Red Cross Society by sewing two strips of red fabric onto a piece of white cotton and draping this over horse-drawn wagons transporting injured men.

Today, the Canadian Red Cross has expanded and developed deeper relationships with local communities, the Government of Canada and other humanitarian organizations around the world.

While Ryerson was inspired during Louis Riel's North West Rebellion in a way that would foretell the Canadian Red Cross' development in the country, it wasn't until 1896 that he officially founded the Canadian Red Cross, which was the first overseas branch of the British Red Cross to become established.

On May 19, 1909, The Canadian Red Cross Society Act was approved by Parliament, and decreed that the Canadian Red Cross would serve as an auxiliary to the Government of Canada for Canadians, which was a measure that was in accordance with the Geneva Conventions. With this act, the Canadian Red Cross became an independent charity organization and no longer a branch of the British Red Cross.

In the century that has passed, the Canadian Red Cross has supported federal, provincial, municipal and territorial governments in their efforts to help people who have been impacted by adversity.

The Canadian Red Cross Making a difference

From relief during emergencies and disasters to improving the knowledge that Canadians possess regarding first aid and CPR, water safety and violence and abuse prevention, the Canadian Red Cross is an organization that strives to help people enjoy a better quality of life and gain vital skills.

The programs that the Canadian Red Cross provides offer individuals the chance to volunteer, enhance their abilities to communicate in interpersonal relationships, swim safely and efficiently, act decisively during a major incident and help others in need. When emergencies occur, the Canadian Red Cross works to give people access to food, shelter and other items they may need to feel secure.

To show your support for the Canadian Red Cross and to help make a difference in the lives of people affected by adversity today, please donate online or at your local office.
Each contribution can help the Red Cross continue its lifesaving work both in Canada and in other countries around the world.

Editor:

There is a specialty hobby in collecting red cross stamps from the 190 countries that support this humanitarian organization. Perhaps, as a club there are members who would be interested and we can start a study group??

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http://www.ifrc.org/en/who-we-are/history
https://www.redcrossmuseum.ch/
http://www.redcross.ca/history/artifacts/dr-george-sterling-ryerson-medical-kit
http://postmarks.tripod.com/red-cross-stamps.html

8) Home Student Stamp Enthusiasts
By Val Mayers

On Monday November 19, 2018, I attended a group session of homeschooled students and parents to introduce the hobby of (stamp collecting) philately. There were fifteen students there and seven parents in attendance.

After a short introduction, each student was given a booklet published by our CSDA. The ages of the students ranged from 3 to 17 years. The three to four-year olds were given glue sticks and we dumped a box of stamps on the floor and they dug in!

The older students were shown how to use tweezers and hinges and, after a little practice they also dove into some boxes of stamps.

The interest ranged from flowers, space, dinosaurs and Super Heroes. Three girls are in 4H Clubs and were collecting cows, horses and chickens on stamps!

After two hours it was time to clean up and, after a promise of another session everyone helped clean up.

In the spring of 2019, we will get together again and I will focus on soaking stamps off paper.

We were also able to provide Post Office published annual books for each child to take home.

One parent is interested in stamp collecting and I invited her to join in as well.

It was a very exciting and rewarding afternoon sharing a hobby that I enjoy so much.

Thank you to all who have donated stamps and supplies, without which I could not do this.

9) Sir Rowland Hill and the History of the Modern Post Office
Legacy

Sir Rowland Hill, KCB, FRS (3 December 1795 – 27 August 1879) was an English teacher, inventor and social reformer. He campaigned for a comprehensive reform of the postal system, based on the concept of Uniform Penny Post and his solution of prepayment, facilitating the safe, speedy and cheap transfer of letters. Hill later served as a government postal official, and he is usually credited with originating the basic concepts of the modern postal service, including the invention of the postage stamp.

Youth

Hill was born in Blackwell Street, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, England. Rowland's father, Thomas Wright Hill, was an innovator in education and politics, including

At the age of 12, Rowland became a student-teacher in his father's school. He taught astronomy and earned extra money fixing scientific instruments. He also worked at the Assay Office in Birmingham and painted landscapes in his spare time.

Post Office Reforms, Its Importance and Practicability

Rowland Hill first started to take a serious interest in postal reforms in 1835. In 1836 Robert Wallace, MP, provided Hill with numerous books and documents, which Hill described as a "half-hundred weight of material". Hill commenced a detailed study of these documents and this led him to the publication, in early 1837, of a pamphlet called Post Office Reform; its Importance and Practicability. He submitted a copy of this to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Thomas Spring Rice, on 4 January, 1837. This first edition was marked "private and confidential" and was not released to the general public. The Chancellor summoned Hill to a meeting in which the Chancellor suggested improvements, asked for reconsiderations and requested a supplement which Hill duly produced and supplied on 28 January, 1837.

In the 1830s at least 12½% of all British mail was conveyed under the personal frank of peers, dignitaries and members of parliament, while censorship and political espionage were conducted by postal officials. Fundamentally, the postal system was mismanaged, wasteful, expensive and slow. It had become inadequate for the needs of an expanding commercial and industrial nation.

Due to the Chancellors discussions with Queen Victoria, a meeting was held with Rowland Hill. During this meeting, the Queen wanted postal reforms because she felt that this was a vital link to keep the citizens communicating in business and personal life. This was also a source of revenue that could grow substantially.

The Old Postal System - Receiver paid the Postal Rate

There is a well-known story, probably apocryphal, about how Hill gained an interest in reforming the postal system; he apparently noticed a young woman too poor to redeem a letter sent to her by her fiancé. At that time, letters were normally paid for by the recipient, not the sender. The recipient could simply refuse delivery. Frauds were commonplace; for example, coded information could appear on the cover of the letter; the recipient would
examine the cover to gain the information, and then refuse delivery to avoid payment. Each individual letter had to be logged.

Postal Rates

Postal rates were complex, depending on the distance and the number of sheets in the letter. Also, literacy was only slowly gaining ground so the postal clerk often made mistakes in the rates charged.

'Low and Uniform Rates' - Use Colours to determine prices

The pamphlet above called for "low and uniform rates" according to weight, rather than distance. Hill's study reported his findings and those of Charles Babbage (inventor of the first computing machine) that most of the costs in the postal system were not for transport but, rather, for laborious handling procedures at the origins and the destinations. Costs could be reduced dramatically if postage were prepaid by the sender, the prepayment to be proven by the use of prepaid letter sheets or adhesive stamps (adhesive stamps had long been used to show payment of taxes, on documents for example). Postal rates could be viewed easier if the colour was different for each rate.

Letter sheets were to be used because envelopes were not yet common; they were not yet mass-produced and, in an era when postage was calculated partly on the basis of the number of sheets of paper used, the same sheet of paper would be folded and serve for both the message and the address. In addition, Hill proposed to lower the postage rate to a penny per half ounce, without regard to distance. He first presented his proposal to the Government in 1837.

Postal Addresses Remain Fixed

Rowland Hill spent time walking the streets of London and talking to the postal delivery staff. He realized there was another real problem with postal delivery. At that time, home owners also owned their house number. So, when they moved, they took their house number with them and installed it on their new home. Therefore, a row of homes had a wide variety of numbers. When someone moved there was no way for the postal delivery person to know, suddenly the house number had changed! Where did the original home owner live now!

Later on, the London Council agreed and St Paul’s Cathedral in London became the center and all houses were renumbered from #1 (closest to St Paul’s) and onward and outward. This took time to implement and the end result was a much faster delivery system.

House of Lords

In the House of Lords, the Postmaster, Lord Lichfield, a Whig, denounced Hill’s "wild and visionary schemes." William Leader Maberly, Secretary to the Post Office, also a Whig, denounced Hill’s study: "This plan appears to be a preposterous one, utterly unsupported by facts and resting entirely on assumption". But merchants, traders and bankers viewed the existing system as corrupt and a restraint of trade. They formed a "Mercantile Committee" to advocate for Hill’s plan and pushed for its adoption. In 1839 Hill was given a two-year contract to run the new system.

The Penny Black, the World's first adhesive postage stamp.

New Postal Rate

The Uniform Four Penny Post rate was introduced that lowered the cost to four pence
from 5 December 1839, then to the penny rate on 10 January 1840, even before stamps or letter sheets could be printed. The volume of paid internal correspondence increased dramatically, by 120%, between November 1839 and February 1840. This initial increase resulted from the elimination of "free franking" privileges and fraud.

**Mulready Envelope - A New Invention in Postal Delivery**

Prepaid letter sheets, with a design by William Mulready, were distributed in early 1840. These Mulready envelopes were not popular and were widely satirized. According to a brochure distributed by the National Postal Museum (now the British Postal Museum & Archive), the Mulready envelopes threatened the livelihoods of stationery manufacturers, who encouraged the satires. They became so unpopular that the government used them on official mail and destroyed many others.

However, as a niche commercial publishing industry for machine-printed illustrated envelopes subsequently developed in Britain and elsewhere, it is likely that it was the sentiment of the illustration that provoked the ridicule and led to their withdrawal. Indeed, in the absence of examples of machine-printed illustrated envelopes prior to this it may be appropriate to recognize the Mulready envelope as a significant innovation in its own right. Machine-printed illustrated envelopes are a mainstay of the direct mail industry.

In May 1840 the World’s first adhesive postage stamps were distributed. With an elegant engraving of the young Queen Victoria (whose 21st birthday was celebrated that month), the Penny Black was an instant success. Refinements, such as perforations to ease the separating of the stamps, were instituted with later issues.

**Later life**

Rowland Hill continued at the Post Office until the Conservative Party won the 1841 General Election. Sir Robert Peel returned to office on 30 August, 1841 and served until 29 June, 1846. Amid rancorous controversy, Hill was dismissed in July 1842. However, the London and Brighton Railway named him a director and later chairman of the board, from 1843 to 1846. He lowered the fares from London to Brighton, expanded the routes, offered special excursion trains, and made the commute comfortable for passengers. In 1844, Edwin Chadwick, Rowland Hill, John Stuart Mill, Lyon Playfair, Dr. Neill Arnott, and other friends formed a society called "Friends in Council," which met at each other’s houses to discuss questions of political economy. Hill also became a member of the influential Political Economy Club, founded by David Ricardo and other classical economists, but now including many powerful businessmen and political figures.

**Impact on European Postal Services**

Within two years, many European countries were sending their postal representatives to visit England, and Rowland Hill and learn more about these innovations. Many countries started to change their systems to match England’s because of its ease, efficiency, cost savings and revenue potential for the government.

**Sir Rowland Hill**

For his services Hill was knighted as a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath in 1860. He was made a Fellow of the Royal
Society and awarded an honourary degree from University of Oxford.

Death

Sir Rowland Hill died in Hampstead, London in 1879. He is buried in Westminster Abbey; there is a memorial to him on his family grave in High gate Cemetery. There are streets named after him in Hampstead (off Haverstock Hill, down the side of the Royal Free Hospital) and Tottenham (off White Hart Lane). A Royal Society of Arts blue plaque, unveiled in 1893, commemorates Hill at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead.

Legacy and Commemorations

The Birmingham statue in the City's General Post Office, circa 1894, shortly after its opening.

Hill has two legacies. The first was his model for education of the emerging middle classes. The second was his model for an efficient postal system to serve business and the public, including the postage stamp and the system of low and uniform postal rates, which is often taken for granted in the modern World.

In this, he not only changed postal services around the world, but also made commerce more efficient and profitable, notwithstanding the fact that it took 30 years before the British Post Office's revenue recovered to the level it had been at in 1839. Uniform Penny Post continued in the UK into the 20th century and, at one point, one penny paid for up to four ounces.

There are three public statues of Hill. The earliest is in Birmingham: a Carrara marble sculpture by Peter Hollins unveiled in 1870. Its location was moved in 1874, 1891 (when it was placed in the City's General Post Office) and 1934. In 1940 it was removed for safe keeping for the duration of the Second World War.

A marble statue in Kidderminster, Hill's birthplace, was sculpted by Sir Thomas Brock and unveiled in June 1881. It is at the junction of Vicar and Exchange Streets. Hill is prominent in Kidderminster's community history. There is a J D Wetherspoon pub called The Penny Black in the town center and a large shopping mall linking Vicar Street and Worcester Street is named The Rowland Hill Shopping Centre.

In London a bronze statue by Edward Onslow Ford, also made in 1881, stands in King Edward Street.
Statue of Rowland Hill by Edward Onslow Ford, 1884, at King Edward Street, London. There are at least two marble busts of Hill, also unveiled in 1881. One, by W. D. Keyworth, Jr. is in St Paul's Chapel, Westminster Abbey. Another, by William Theed, is in Albert Square, Manchester.

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

In recognition of his contributions to the development of the modern postal system, Rowland Hill is memorialized at the Universal Postal Union, the UN agency charged with regulating the international postal system. His name appears on one of the two large meeting halls at the UPU headquarters in Berne, Switzerland.

At Tottenham, north London, there is now a local History Museum at Bruce Castle (where Hill lived during the 1840s) including some relevant exhibits.

The Rowland Hill Awards, started by the Royal Mail and the British Philatelic Trust in 1997, are annual awards for philatelic "innovation, initiative and enterprise."

In 1882 the Post Office instituted the Rowland Hill Fund for postal workers, pensioners and dependents in need.

Philatelic commemorations

In recognition of his contributions to the development of the modern postal system, Hill is memorialized at the Universal Postal Union, the UN agency charged with regulating the international postal system.

For the centenary of the first stamp, Portugal issued a miniature sheet with 8 stamps mentioning his name, later on his death centenary omnibus issue of stamps commemorating Hill were produced by approximately 80 countries. Altogether, 147 countries have issued stamps commemorating him.

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Editor: There is a specialty hobby in collecting Sir Rowland Hill stamps from the British Colonies and African countries. Perhaps, as a club there are members who would be interested and we can start a study group??
10) The Golden Age of Postcards

Great Britain

The global postal system made a number of innovations during the 1800s that helped create this new postal age. One such innovation was the introduction of uniform penny postage stamps in Great Britain in 1840 that made mail delivery easy and affordable. The postage stamp quickly gained popularity. Prior to that, prices for shipping letters was based on the distance the mailman had to travel.

Stamps also changed how fees were collected. Originally, fees were not collected up-front from the sender but, instead a surprised recipient would find a mailman on his or her doorstep, demanding payment. Under that system post offices had been losing money, for recipients would often refuse their mail and the postman would be sent away unpaid. In 1837, Rowland Hill proposed that letters be charged by weight, not distance, and the fee be collected in advance from the sender. This new procedure transformed the postal system and it paved the way for people to send postcard letters for a very small fee.

Cards with messages had been sporadically created and posted by individuals since the beginning of postal services. The earliest known picture postcard was a hand-painted design on card, posted in Fulham in London by the writer Theodore Hook, to himself in 1840, and bearing a penny black stamp. He probably created and posted the card to himself as a practical joke on the postal service, since the image is a caricature of workers in the post office. In 2002, the postcard sold for a record £31,750.


The first advertising card appeared in 1872 in Great Britain and the first German card appeared in 1874. Cards showing images increased in number during the 1880s. Images of the newly built Eiffel Tower in 1889 and 1890 gave impetus to the postcard, leading to the so-called "golden age" of the picture postcard in years following the mid-1890s.

The direct ancestor of postcards is envelopes printed with pictures on them. These first decorative envelopes are believed to be first produced by D. William Mulready, E.R.W. Hume, Dickey Doyle, and James Valentine. The envelopes were often printed with pictures of comics, Valentines, musical notes and patriotic pictures (Patriotic Covers) during the Civil War period of 1861-1865.

Austria

Austria became the first country to publish the postcard, but not the first to conceive of the idea. A few years earlier, German postal official Dr. Heinrich von Stephan submitted a proposal for such an object, which was then fiercely debated and not executed in North Germany until July 1870, a year after Austria introduced the postcard to their country.
Within two years, variations of the postcard had quickly spread across Europe. Canada introduced the postcard in 1871 and the United States introduced officially issued postcards in 1873. In 1875, delegates of 22 countries met in Switzerland as the General Postal Union and established a standard postage rate and government issued card to be exchanged between countries in the union; four years later they renamed themselves the Universal Postal Union.

The first postal card was suggested by Dr. Emanuel Herrmann, in 1869, and was accepted by the Austrian-Hungarian government in the same year. The first regularly printed card appeared in 1870, a historical card, produced in connection with the Franco-German War. The first advertising card appeared in 1872 in Great Britain. Cards showing the Eiffel Tower appeared in 1889. A Heligoland card of 1889 is considered to be the first multi-colored card ever printed. Prior to photography came the lithograph print, woodcuts and broadsides - the technology for mass printing of artwork simply wasn't available. Printing technology quickly advanced in the nineteenth century, especially amongst French and German publishers who experimented with special edition postcard sets by the most eminent artists of the time period. In Great Britain, a ban on larger dimension postcards slowed down artistic innovations in postcard design, whose measurements were standard in most European countries in the Universal Postal Union - The standard size postcard has remained largely unchanged even up to the present day.

Europe 19th Century
As their popularity grew, postcards became a primary way to send friends and family a snapshot of one's surroundings while traveling, or even photographs of one's home or family during the Yuletide. Common postcards from the late 19th century included scenes from British and French colonies, and also scenes from Morocco, Egypt, and India. Women, in many of these cards cover their faces with a burqa or veil. Such cards are valuable for researchers interested in the iconography of indigenous people in colonies, and is a popular topic for those interested in collecting old postcards.

United States of America
The first American postcard was developed in 1873 by the Morgan Envelope Factory of Springfield, Massachusetts. These first postcards depicted the Interstate Industrial Exposition that took place in Chicago. Later in 1873, Post Master John Creswell introduced the first pre-stamped "Postal Cards", often called "penny postcards". Postcards were made because people were looking for an easier way to send quick notes. The first postcard to be printed as a souvenir in the United States was created in 1893 to advertise the World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago. In the USA, the earliest known exposition card appeared in 1873, showing the main building of the Inter-State Industrial Exposition in Chicago, and was meant to advertise the event. This card as well as other early advertising cards, usually bore vignette designs and were not originally intended for souvenirs. During this period all privately printed cards required the regular two cent
letter rate postage, whereas the official USA
government printed postcards required only
one cent.

Private Mailing Card Era, 1898 - 1901
The Post Office was the only
establishment allowed to print postcards, and
it held its monopoly until May 19, 1898, when
Congress passed the Private Mailing Card Act,
which allowed private publishers and printers
to produce postcards. Initially, the United
States government prohibited private
companies from calling their cards "postcards",
so they were known as "souvenir cards". These
cards had to be labeled "Private Mailing Cards".
This prohibition was rescinded on December
24, 1901, from when private companies could
use the word "postcard". Postcards were not
allowed to have a divided back and correspondents could only write on the front of
the postcard. This was known as the
"undivided back" era of postcards. From March
1, 1907 the Post Office allowed private citizens
to write on the address side of a postcard. It
was on this date that postcards were allowed
to have a "divided back".

Divided Back Era, 1907 - 1915
By this period, a divided section for
writing was almost universal, except in a few
monopolistic governments. Prior to and during
this period, a majority of American postcards
were actually printed in Europe, especially in
Germany whose printing methods were
regarded as the best in the world.

Golden Age of American Post Cards
On these cards the back is divided into
two sections: the left section is used for the
message and the right for the address. Thus,
began the Golden Age of American postcards,
which peaked in 1910 with the introduction of
tariffs on German-printed postcards, and
ended by 1915, when World War I ultimately
interrupted the printing and import of the fine
German-printed cards. The postcard craze
between 1907 and 1910 was particularly
popular among rural and small-town women in
Northern U.S. states. In 1908, more than 677
million postcards were mailed.

Some post cards also depicted many
peculiar and exotic scenes or events, including
natural disasters. One such series of postcards
trace the aftermath of the 1908 Dallas flood;
wherein men in bowler hats sail past flooded
electrical poles and submerged taverns in
make-shift rowboats; men in suits sit atop
flooding train cars, waiting for help in the
deluge.
Early Modern Era (White Border), 1916 - 1930

During this period, American technology advanced allowing them to produce higher quality cards, although often publishers produced cheaper inferior ones in order to compete in the saturated market place. Public appeal changed and greeting card publications declined. However, the view card market remained strong. The cards of this era were usually printed with white borders around the picture, thus the term "White Border Cards".

Linen Card Era, 1930 - 1945

Changing technology now enabled publishers to print cards on a linen type paper stock with very bright and vivid colours. View and comic cards were the most often published. Sets and series were few and far between and the greeting card was almost exclusively replaced with the new French-fold cards. Among the best cards of this era are the political humor cards of World War II.

Modern Chrome Era, 1939 - Present

The Union Oil Series began in 1939, launching the new era of photochrome cards. Photochromes, commonly called "Modern Chromes", are still the most popular cards today. Since the earlier days of fine printing craftsmanship, these are the best reproductions to come along in years and commonly sought by collectors. Despite the increase in postal rates for postcards from one cent to significantly higher prices, postcard popularity continues to rise. The old greeting postcard style is making a big return, though usually seen as reproductions of older cards, despite new original art is being produced.

View Cards

View cards have, since postcards began, been the mainstay of the collecting field. People have long collected and traded cards of their home towns and places they have visited. View cards offer historic reference to buildings, streets, and even towns which may no longer exist or that have changed significantly over time. Even views produced in the photo chrome (modern chrome) era may no longer look the same. The earliest cards offer much in the social history of the times as we look at early forms of travel and the beginnings of telegraph, telephone and power lines. The messages written on the cards often give us insight as to the picture shown or the sentiments of the day.

Historical Cards

Historical cards are printed to commemorate events such as war, social problems, expositions, parades, coronations, politics. These cards offer much to the serious collector in the way of increased value. This is a wide-open field with much to offer anyone interested in twentieth century history. Often this type of card was made of a real photograph with few copies being offered for sale.

This is especially true of disaster cards depicting floods, fires, wrecks. Often the historical significance of a card comes form the message written by the sender.

Art Cards

The art card is probably the most important category in antique postcards. Unlike the view or greeting card, most art cards were special interest cards when they were printed and, in most cases, brought a much higher price. This rarity, combined with the
skill of the artist of this period, make these cards very popular among collectors today. To better understand this popularity, think of these cards as 3 1/2" x 5 1/2" original high-quality prints, which they are, instead of as postcards. Artists could make more of a profit off their works by selling postcard prints of their work and this created extra income. This booming market drew the very best artists of the period, creating a wealth of quality material unmatched in the art world. Also, at this time, various publishers have produced series of "Old Master" art reproductions, often with intensity and depth of colour as they spared no expense in printing the best quality.

Deltiology

Deltiology is the formal name in the USA for postcard collecting, and remains the third largest collectable hobby in the world. It is surpassed only by coin and stamp collecting. [Baseball/sports card collecting is limited to the USA and isn't really popular overseas.]

The popularity of post cards and the collecting of them can be attributed to their broad subject appeal. Almost any subject imaginable has been, at some time, portrayed on a postcard. The broad subject range comes as a result of the social use the cards were designed for and it remains the most popular form of souvenir for travelers as well as an economical means of advertising a business product or service. The standard card showed an image on one side and the other side was left blank for writing the address and a short message to the recipient.

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11) Christmas Party and Awards Night

On December 10th our club met to celebrate the Christmas Season and to present our two awards.

We had a lively group and wives of several club members also attended and it was good to see them again this year.

Our Donald O. Thompson Award was given this year to Bob Gardener in recognition of all the work he has undertaken with professionalism, supporting and leading us in our Spring and Fall Festivals. Well deserved, Bob.

Our Exhibit Award will be given out at a future meeting date.
12) **Canada Post stamp prices to increase on Jan. 14, 2019**

CBC News

Canada Post says the cost for an individual stamp on a letter sent within Canada will jump to $1.05, instead of a loonie, starting Jan. 14, 2019. Other increases for mail within the country range between a dime and 35 cents depending on the size of the letter. The cost of sending letters to the United States will go up between seven and 20 cents, while overseas mail will need an extra 15 to 20 cents to get there. The new rates are the first increase since March, 2014. Canada Post said the increases should generate $26 million a year in revenue for the postal service, of which $11 million will come from consumers and the remaining $15 million from small and medium-sized businesses. Regulatory text posted online Monday estimates that the new rates will cost the average Canadian household about 65 cents next year. The average cost for small businesses that use stamps to pay postage will be about $14.21.

**Struggling revenue**

Canada Post has long pointed to declines in letter mail as more Canadians opt to send emails instead of a written note. The regulatory text says that letter mail volume has almost been cut in half since 2006 — about two billion letters — and along with it revenue for the Crown corporation. Federal rules require Canada Post to set postage rates that are fair, reasonable and enough to help defray the costs of operation. "Given the current rate at which letter mail volumes are declining and the other financial pressures faced by Canada Post, it may no longer generate sufficient revenue to meet its service obligations in the future without regular changes in its rate structure," says a posting in the Canada Gazette, a government publication detailing new federal rules and regulations.

The postal service was ordered in September to increase pay for suburban and rural postal employees by 25 per cent, which the agency said would cost $550 million by the end of the year, including a charge of $130 million that was put on its books in the final quarter of 2017.

Postal workers went on rotating strikes in late October, but about a month later the Liberals legislated an end to job action after Canada Post complained that a backlog of parcels had reached historic levels ahead of the crucial holiday shopping period.

13) **Centennial Study Group**

*By Peter Kasserra*

**KSC Centennial Varieties Report**

A group of Kingston Stamp Club members embarked some months ago on a study of the Centennial Definitive Series issued by the Canadian Postal Service between 1967 and 1973. This series consists of 9 low-value (1¢ - 8¢) and 7 high-value (8¢ - $1) stamps which were designed to celebrate Canada’s one hundredth anniversary in 1967. The low-value stamps depict hand-drawn scenes from different parts of the country alongside Anthony Buckley’s portrait of Queen Elizabeth II. The high-value stamps feature landscape paintings by the Group of Seven, all intended to represent Canada’s diversity.

During the active issue-time of this series some 4½ billion stamps were printed on presses operating continuously with two plates being used concurrently. As these plates wore out, they were replaced with new plates up to a maximum of 7 plates for a given value. These facts alone had the potential for introducing numerous varieties into the end-product due to the vast number of stamps issued, wear of the
plate in use and minor engraving errors on the replacement plates.

In addition, there were several significant changes introduced in Canadian stamp production during this period that impacted the complexity of the Centennial series. A few of the major changes were:

1. The use of papers that contained whitening agents. This interfered with the optical scanning equipment designed to read the Winnipeg Tagging introduced in 1962. As a result, the phosphorescent Ottawa Tagging was developed which itself had to be changed from the OP-4 type to the more stable OP-2.

2. Stamp sizes were changed from imperial measurements to metric ones in September 1967. The new designs were therefore slightly smaller than the original stamps especially in the case of low-value stamps as they were re-issued.

3. Yellowish Dextrine gum as an adhesive on the backs of stamps was replaced by white PVA (polyvinyl alcohol) gum. The PVA gum itself underwent some chemical changes during this period resulting in shade variations of the white gum colour.

4. For the first time, two different printing companies – British American Bank Note Company and Canadian Bank Note Company – were employed in the production of these stamps. They used different papers, different gums and different perforating equipment. The latter especially has resulted in many different perforations among the 16 values of the Centennial series.

The Centennial Issue has therefore offered unparalleled opportunity for the philatelist to study varieties of every form and description. 50 years later these studies are continuing including that by our own group consisting of James Gould, Peter Kasserra, Val Mayers, Guy Monette, Bruce Murduck and Richard Weigand. We began with the high-value pictorial stamps for which a somewhat lower number of official varieties had been created during the process of designing and printing stamps. It is important to note that varieties are broadly categorized as constant or inconstant. The former includes changes in paper, perforations, gum, fluorescence, tagging and even color.

Those varieties that are created unintentionally are also called errors and oddities and often significantly add to the scope of a varieties study. That is especially the case for some of the low-value Centennials.

The group’s recent work has been focused on the 2¢ Centennial stamp commonly called the Pacific Totem Pole stamp. Many of the above-mentioned varieties exist for this stamp and have previously been identified in great detail by D.R. Harris (see bibliography below) on mint stamps by plate and sheet position number. The best-known of these is the “Blinky” variety which is based on how the two pairs of eyes on the Totem Pole are printed. In the normal state all four eyes are fully open represented by a solid dot of color within a clear circular outline. Various combinations of missing dots and partial dots result in what appear to be “blinking” Totem Poles. Hence the term “Blinky” of which more than 30 are listed in the above-mentioned study of mint stamps.
This report only deals with variations found on used and a few mint singles of the 2¢ stamp. I examined hundreds of used stamps with a microscope at 10-30x magnification and using a flat-bed scanning technique produced an enlarged picture of the flaw. A limited number of these enlargements are included in this report (and many are not) with a brief note describing the printing flaw or error.

Where the variation could be matched to one already described by D.R. Harris his “Variation Number” is included on the picture. It should be noted that a study of used stamps poses the added issue of erroneously identifying a cancellation spatter of ink as a printing or design flaw. If you find one, I apologize in advance and welcome your feedback. Many of the varieties are likely to fall into the inconstant category although I found a few repetitions as well as some “Blinkys”. When studying used stamps, the question of how many repetitions constitute a constant variety has yet to be answered. Furthermore, the plate number or the sheet position number can rarely be established for used stamps.

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14) Fall Festival 2018
By Bob Gardner

Eastern Ontario Stamp Festival Review

The Kingston Stamp Club held its Fall Festival in a new location and with a broader vision. The Festival was held on October 20, 2018 at Crossroads United Church 690 Sir John A. Macdonald Blvd. This setting was exceptional. The hall was considerably larger than past venues, had ample parking and was easily accessible for both the dealers and public in attendance. This year the club changed the title of the event as part of our continuing efforts to reach a more distant audience. As part of this initiative we advertised in the local press in Napanee, Perth and Brockville as well as Kingston.

The Festival had good attendance from both our members and the general public. Feedback from both groups was very positive. The dealers in attendance also were impressed with the venue, enthusiastic participation and generally good sales. All of the dealers have agreed to return next year.
At the venue we were able to organize our own kitchen. Congratulations to the spouses of the Executive Committee for their excellent work. Under the leadership of Nancy Weigand and with the participation of Dorothy Mann, Judy Gould, Linda Luhatala and Jennifer Gardner drinks, treats and luncheon sandwiches were available.

The club has been enthusiastic about the venue and has appreciated the support from the church. We view this setting as the potential “home” for future events. With that in mind our Spring Festival that we have organized with the local coin club will be held at Crossroads United Church on April 27, 2019 and the Fall event, the Eastern Ontario Stamp Festival will be held in at the same location on October 26, 2019.

15) Kingston Stamp Club
By Jim Gould

Canadian Varieties Study Group

Varieties are defined as “something differing from others of the same kind”. In the stamp world, collecting varieties can be a challenging undertaking that may occasionally (but more often does not) reveal a stamp of significantly higher value than the normal or regular issue.

Our Club has formed a small study group of 5-6 members interested in identifying variations that have been created during the process of designing and printing stamps. This is of course not unique to Canadian stamps, and varieties can be found in stamps all over the world. Broadly speaking varieties are categorized as constant or inconstant and include differences in paper, color, perforations, gum, fluorescence and tagging. Those varieties that are created unintentionally are also called errors and oddities and can generate great excitement among stamp collectors. Varieties or errors are a fact of life in the stamp world when a normal issue in a major country involves 15-20 million stamps or more. Below are examples of a Canadian variety and an error.

Constant Variety: Iroquoian (2nd native from right)

Medallion on Chest (regular)
No Medallion on Chest (variety)
St. Lawrence Seaway (regular issue)

St. Lawrence Seaway (Central Image inverted)

Editor: You are welcome to join our study group (phone or text Peter Kasserra at 613-483-4387) if you are interested.