# Stamps on the Bay



The Voice of the Owen Sound Stamp Club

# Meeting Cancelled due to Health Safety Volume 2, Edition 2, March 2021





# From the President

Hello my philatelic friends!

We're coming up to Zoom time again! It's warmish outside and the snow is melting. I hope that continues. A nice spring would be more than welcome!

Our March meeting will be on Wednesday night the 17th at 7:00. Thank you to all who joined in last month including four guests from the Saugeen Stamp Club or was that five

including Ralph Wyndham down east? The Saugeen Club has not started their own Zoom meetings yet so we have put out an open invitation for Saugeen members to join us. At least ten of us belong to both clubs so it makes sense to work together to push back those Covid blahs and scratch that philatelic itch.

For those of you who have not joined in yet – please give it a try. Zoom can be used on older computers, laptops and little wee tablets. I had to buy a computer video camera which is great because I can plug it in to my computer and also my television system which is great for doing family Zooms. My little tablet comes with a camera and I use it when I want to do individual Zooms.

The meetings are developing quite well, being fun and informative. In our March meeting we'll have lots to do. After the usual reports we will discuss the possibility of starting a monthly online club stamp auction. Bill Findlay, Randy Rogers, Phil Visser and myself attended a stamp auction held by the Oxford Philatelic Society and we have lots to discuss to get ourselves moving in that direction too.

Presentations this month include 'Looking for a Needle in a Haystack'. Randy Rogers will show us how to search for stamp images online. Bill Findlay has a small presentation 'Talkin' Topical' which will be fun for sure! Jim Molineux has been working on a quiz for us to present sometime soon. Don't forget to put your two cents worth in. Show and Tell time is always available to all! If you have a presentation let me know ahead of time if you can. Small presentations can usually be added any time without warning.

We still have a few people who haven't yet paid this year's dues. Please send a \$20.00 cheque to Bob Ford, his address is on the back page. Thanks!

Marion Ace

Owen Sound Stamp Club Acting President

PS: We need a vice president or if you are up for it...a president!

# **Editors Greeting**

Time flies when you are having fun. Living in my "man cave" has been great and productive for organizing my collection, or should I say accumulation. Its incredible what has been accomplished, but daunting with what still needs attention. Hopefully this sentiment can be extended out to all the members and readers of this newsletter.

Inside these pages is a shorter article written about a philatelic discovery when full attention is paid to some postal history. Marion Gibson has shared an article from a dealer in the United States, and even if the topic may seem ordinary, none of us knows everything, and something new may just be learned, even for a seasoned collector. One major purpose of having a club is learning from each other.

A report is also included about our last electronic meeting. Perhaps this may encourage members who haven't attended a Zoom meeting to join for a pleasant evening about our common hobby and reconnect with those distant memories of live in person meetings. So far I have not heard of anyone having a computer problem with this program, even when the computer is some ten years old. Email or call me and I will try to help you through the process.

A recent auction contained a large Owen Sound Postal History collection. It was a suggested selling price of \$4,000, and alas my bid was considerably less than the winning bid of \$5,600. I didn't think that Owen Sound was such a hot collecting topic. However, the wonders of postal history is finding other auctions sites offering individual items which when accumulated and organized, may just make a collection of value. It was certainly surprising to see the final sale price. Perhaps writing about this topic will develop internal competition between club members to have an Owen Sound postal



history collection. Just like writing about number cancels, stamps on stamps and more introduced these collecting ideas within the club.

To the left is a teaser scan, hinting at one of the items mentioned further in the newsletter. Happy reading.

#### An Early Owen Sound Stamp Collector by Phil Visser

While searching for local postal history, this postcard became attractive due to the clear squared circle cancel. Organizing this collection has been an eye opener also as it led to research on the post card itself, and on the reverse side, the written communications. Thus, this short story will share what can be found when one investigates all the facets of a particular piece of history.



To begin, the post card itself. A question arises on why post cards are being used at all. In 1865 Heinrich von Stephan proposed the creation of "open post sheets<sup>1</sup>." This idea was not accepted by the German Post Office and so went no further. Further in this history search document, mention is made of a newspaper article by Dr. Emanuel Herrmann suggesting that "the time and effort involved in writing a letter was out of proportion to the size of the message sent." A suggestion at a cheaper and more practical method provided for more efficient communications. The Austrian Post office accepted the idea and implemented a "Correspondenz-Karte" on October 1, 1869. This post card had an imprinted postage design in the upper right corner.

Here in Canada, the first postcard was issued on June 1, 1871<sup>2</sup>. The same website provides that "in 1875, an agreement between Canada and the USA set the international rate for postage for postcards between the two countries at the same rate as domestic postcards." This last point is important, becasue it was mailed from Owen Sound to Warsaw, New York. Since it was mailed on February 26, 1896, the postcard was valid mail between the two countries. Another important thing to recognize is that the mailing cost is 1 cent, a 67% discount on the normal mailing cost of 3 cents for a letter. The use of a 1 cent postcard continued until 1943, even with all the letter postage rate changes over the intervening years from it first printing till the 1940's.

Postcards were listed in the Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps for many years, but recently the editor recognized that a much more in-depth resource was available for reference purposes. This reference is "Webb's Postal Stationary Catalogue, 8th edition," printed in 2019. This postcard is listed as P13 in the catalogue, and doesn't have any significant value, simply because the vast numbers that were printed. With the significant reduction in mailing cost, businesses would see their mailing costs decline and would later print common business uses on the back side of the card.

attracting reason for this purchase. According to the Squared Circle Study Group of the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS), this hammer cancel was in use in Owen Sound from March 3rd, 1894 to July 4th 1899, The date of mailing is February 26th which is found between two lines. This is termed a "blank time mark." Blank time marks were used up to 1897 after which the time designators of "A", "B" and "C" were used. The latest recorded date of the squared cancellation is given as July 4, 1899<sup>3</sup>.

Our current version of organized stamp collecting in Owen Sound was formed in 1985. There were certainly other clubs/groups that met regularly before the Owen Sound Stamp Club was formed, but their history is unknown now. Looking at the reverse side of the card shows much more about the reason for mailing this card.

B. Thaman, Warsaw, mil. Dear Sie received your letter with I received your letter with stamps inclosed. I can ge a " o canada host - daid enor Scotto no. 404 Cat 8 3.00 If you would like toget it -I would take a couple more kills & some other good stamps. Drop a card at once and let me know if you want it. Very Jule Jan bui Very Truly Arthur & Jan bui Arthur E. Rankin

A scan of the back side is difficult to read in this newsletter, but the contents read as follows: Dear Sir:

stamps enclosed. I can , get a 1 cent Canada Postcard error, Scott No. 407, cat(alogue) \$5.00. If you would like to get it, I would take a couple more Bills & some other good stamps. Drop a card at once and let me know if you want it.

It is interesting to see which card the author was referring to. Webb's Catalogue mentions several cards valued at more than the typical \$2.50-3.00 price.

While the writing at the time is script, it was easy to read the contents. Several of the earlier pieces of postal history are very difficult to read and so a certain amount of "interpretation" is needed.

One question remains, who was Arthur E. Rankin? A quick search using the Google search engine provided two Arthur Rankins. The first listing provided an Arthur Rankin as the brother of Charles Rankin, who assisted with Charles surveying activities in Grey and Bruce Counties. Since that date is the 1840's, this person is unlikely to be the author of this postcard. But there is one side note to mention. An error by Charles Rankin in his survey of the Saugeen First Nations land, is now proceeding it way through the courts. While the outcome is uncertain, the error was an incorrect bearing (compass direction) that ended the reserve lands at its present location in Sauble Beach.

However, the second listing is more likely to have been the author of this postcard. Google reports that an Arthur E. Rankin was the Master of North Star Masonic Lodge #322 from 1909 to 1911. These dates work in nicely with the mailing of the postcard in 1896.

So, what started out as a simply lovely cancel on a postcard has unwrapped a treasure box of information. Perhaps some other time in the future there will be more articles

As mentioned above, the squared circle cancel was the

about Owen Sound stamp collectors.

1 World Post Card Day; https://worldpostcardday.com/ history

2 http://www.vintagepostcards.ca/Postcard\_Eras.html#

3 https://bnaps.org/ore/SCSG-SquaredCirclePostmarks/ SCSG-SquaredCirclePostmarks.htm

#### February Zoom meeting and Show and Tell

This is a new feature, by combining the meeting information as well as the Show and Tell section. In reality, the meeting is all a Show and Tell, with many members participating. Marion welcomed all those who attended. According to my figures, fourteen (14) members attended as well as three (3) "guests." Several members of the Owen Sound Club are also members at the Saugeen Club in Hanover. To the dual members, all three guests are well known. My first request to join the meeting was from Ralph W., who joined us from his newly established retirement home in New Brunswick. Also joining in were Diane J., editor of the Saugeen Newsletter and Rose V.S. The meeting proceeded smoothly.

Some discussion went on about inviting other guests as well as potential members. To that end, our computer guru has put a new link on our website whereby someone may join in to find out about our club. After creating the link, I received two emails from the link, one each from Randy and Marion. Now we hope the closet collectors in our community may be curious enough to participate and open a pathway to membership with us. Our treasurer reported the club finances remain solvent, with two outstanding bills to be paid dealing with printing and mailing of the newsletters.

We also received sad news that Gerd's wife passed away at the beginning of February. We extend our condolences to you Gerd. A few months ago it was mentioned that Dieter A. and his wife were having health problems. Dieters wife has slide downhill very fast and may be on her last legs.

Randy shared a new purchase, a Catalogue of Australian Official Perfins. These are stamps that were used in the administrations of the various Australian states, For example, a perfin of NSW is a stamp mailed from the government of New South Wales. Other perfins I have in my collection in clude "T" (Tasmania), "VG" (Victoria Government) and "SA" (South Australia). Besides these already mentioned are the "OS" (Official Service). Perforated Initials have been used to curb the theft of postage stamps from government or industry stocks for the free use of stamps for personal use or the refund for stamp returned to the Post Office. Randy also shared that he had been approached by a mother who had a child interested in collecting stamps. Randy sent off a letter with duplicates and we may have a budding young collector. On this topic, I shared how some other clubs were creating young collectors by giving youngsters topical stamps that they are interested in. But this is an individual effort. Are there children in your neighbourhood interested in some piece of nature, are there stamps that tie into their interest. Try it, and see what seeds can be planted.

Following these parts of the meeting, we slipped into a few presentations prepared by Bill Findaly, Randy Rogers and myself. Bill started off the presentations with a talk about the Pilgrimage to Compostela, or more commonly known as the Camino de Santiago. Several Spanish stamps were shown of cathedrals people would visit on their tour to Santiago de Compostela. Bill added that "Compostela" is translated as Field of the Star. Several routes can be followed to reach Santiago and the starting point can be found in any place in Europe, including from the Baltic, Berlin, Paris as well as from the low countries, and the UK. Modes of travel vary and is an individuals choice, either walking, riding a donkey or bicycling.

Randy provided a ten question quiz titled Phun Philatelic Phacts. It makes me wonder if Randy is learning the German language! After each question was asked, we learned the answer which provided to be interesting in how much had slipped from my memory. My presentation is repeated in the first article of this newsletter.

Marion Gibson shared this information with me for inclusion in this newsletter. "Reproduced from the 'Philatelic E-News' email newsletter from Jay Smith & Assoc. Free to all interested collectors who supply their name, email address, AND full postal address. A note about collecting interests is appreciated, but not required. Contact js@JaySmith.com" or Jay Smith & Associates, P.O. Box 650, Snow Camp, NC 27349.

# A WAY YOU CAN INCREASE THE VALUE OF YOUR COLLECTION WHEN IT IS SOLD

#### by Jay Smith

If your collection includes used stamps, your collection can have more value when it is sold if the used stamps do not have large hinge remnants. This is particularly true for stamps worth more than a dollar and especially for older stamps.

Furthermore, if you remove hinge remnants soon after you purchase stamps, you will have years of enjoyment of nicer looking stamps. This reminds me of the situation in which a person is preparing a home for sale; the person spends days cleaning and painting. Looking upon their (now) much nicer looking home, the person wonders "why did I not do that years ago so that I could enjoy it?" The same is true of a stamp collection; improve it for your enjoyment.



If you (carefully) soak the accumulated hinge remnants off of used stamps, they will be more desirable to a potential buyer, whether that is a collector or a dealer. Furthermore, soaking just a few old stamps can turn the soaking water an ugly brownish/ yellowish color ... and your stamps will look a lot brighter. It is amazing how dirty stamps can get!

A used stamp with hinge remnants invites potential buyers' concerns that there could be a defect hiding under that hinge remnant. If the buyer is a dealer who plans on putting the higher-value stamps into stock, the dealer may be concerned that his/her potential buyers will not purchase (or not be willing to pay as much for) a used stamp with a hinge remnant on it. However, most dealers just do not have time, nor the labor resources, to soak hundreds of stamps just to be able to put them into their stock.

As a dealer, I face this problem on a daily basis. I don't have time to soak, dry, and press hundreds of used stamps, and my staff is already very busy with many other tasks. Yet, because used stamps with hinge remnants may had hidden faults, it is not acceptable to me to put them into my stock until they are soaked. I would not want one of my clients to receive such an item, soak it him/herself and discover a problem. (In fact, some dealers won't accept the return of a stamp that has been soaked (after being purchased) because theoretically a problem might have been caused by the soaking process.)

If a dealer offers you a used stamp with a big hinge remnant on it, it is completely appropriate for you to ask the dealer to soak the stamp and re-offer it to you. (Exceptions include stamps with aniline inks.)

Collectors of mint stamps may be proudly thinking "I don't have that problem!" Well, you potentially do have such a problem in terms of mint stamps with hinge remnants; it is just that if you do have such stamps, there is nothing you can (or should) do about them. It is too risky to try to pry hinge remnants off any stamp. It is also a bad idea to try to humidify the stamp and "lift" the hinge remnant -- you may end up with a stamp with disturbed gum (sometimes even visible from the front) or a future potential buyer may be concerned that the stamp is regummed, not just with disturbed gum.



You might not think that excess hinge remnants on used stamps is much of a problem. However, surprisingly, quite a few of the collections I buy contain used stamps with several layers of hinges on them, causing the stamps to have a curved or warped appearance in the album.

NOTE: Modern self-adhesive stamps are

beyond the scope of this article. I welcome your tips, tricks, and suggestions for dealing with them.

When soaking used stamps to remove hinge remnants, there are a few caveats and tricks to keep in mind:

1. If the hinges will release in cold water, use cold water. The warmer the water, the greater the possibility of damage to the stamp's ink, the cancellation's ink, or the physical stability of the paper itself. Cold water will take longer; be patient.

2. It is not unusual for a properly used stamp to still have some gum on the backside. Sometimes it popped off the envelope or perhaps it was just incompletely soaked the first time. Furthermore, there are many stamps with proper, but "favor", cancellations that are not as desirable if the stamp still bears gum. Lastly, if a (used) stamp still has gum that could have been soaked off, there is always the possibility that it will somehow get stuck after being placed in the album, and then potentially damaged when it is later removed from the album. In my opinion, it is usually appropriate to remove all the gum if you are not risking damaging the stamp (see below regarding soluble inks). [Exception: CTO stamps from P.R. China should NOT have their gum removed.]

3. NEVER "rub" the backside of a stamp. You can very gently "wipe" material off the back, but there is a fine line between "wiping" and "rubbing". Too often rubbing damages the paper surface. What I do is, after the stamp has been soaking for an ample amount of time, place the stamp face down on the heel of my palm and use the side of a long/smooth (NOT spade-tip) stamp tongs to "wipe" or "scrape" excess hinge material or gum off the stamps. (This

takes some practice and can easily damage a stamp, thus practice on stamps that are expendable.) I then soak the stamp for a couple more minutes and "wipe" again.

4. Do NOT soak stamps printed with aniline inks (soluble in water). A stamp with even slightly dissolved ink is worth far less than a stamp with large hinge remnants. For example, certain early red U.S. stamps and certain early red or green British stamps are in this category. (In some cases, such as the green British stamps, the soluble ink was used as a deterrent against attempts to wash cancellations off of stamps.) Some or most of these stamps are best left on pieces of the envelope!

5. Do NOT soak stamps that have cancellations that have soluble ink. This is difficult to know in advance, but I have learned from experience that if I have a large group of stamps all with the same type of cancellation (a problem I have sometimes seen in modern used Danish stamps), to TEST-soak a couple examples before trying to soak a large group of them.

6. Do not soak any more stamps than you can get out of the water within a few minutes. Do not leave stamps in the water any longer than necessary. If you don't have time to complete the project, don't start it.

7. It is perhaps even more important to allow enough time to fully dissolve, or at least greatly loosen, the adhesive. NEVER try to pry or peel a hinge or paper off the back of a wet (or dry) stamp. That will almost always end in philatelic disaster. Unless the stamp adhesive is unusual, the hinge or adhesion will eventually easily come off.

8. Use fresh, clean water for each group you soak. When soaking old stamps, I use fresh water for EVERY batch and with NOT more than 10 stamps in a batch. The dirt and dissolved gum from one stamp WILL at least partially redeposit on other stamps. Similarly, if you are soaking stamps off envelope paper, the chemicals in many papers (especially colored papers) can affect everything in the batch.

9. If there is any dissolving of stamp inks or postmark inks, these will very likely stain any other stamps in the batch. For this reason, small batches are better. If I want to soak 50 old stamps and if I am in a hurry, I will likely divide them into five different groups in five containers and start each group 3-5 minutes apart. If one group develops a staining problem, at least it is limited to that container.

10. If you are soaking modern stamps and you are confident that you have everything under control, you probably just have not yet had enough bad experiences. There is NO reason to be confident! If you are not a little nervous about it, you are not doing it right!

11. If any stamps are on colored paper, or if you have any concerns about stamp inks or cancellation inks, soak them separately. You can get very cheap and clean short drink glasses or coffee mugs at a thrift store and have 20 different items soaking in 20 different containers. TIP: Lay down a cloth towel under the containers to catch the inevitable drops/spills of water.

12. For larger on-paper items, or for larger batches if I am feeling brave, I use photographic dark room developing trays. They have a patterned bottom, to promote settling to the bottom, and a pour spout in one corner. Such trays are inexpensive but be sure to use NEW trays that have never

had chemicals in them.

13. Unless you live alone and thus won't get yelled at for spilling stamp soaking containers, I suggest using lowheight, broad-bottomed, heavy-weight containers. If you use something taller or that is prone to being knocked over... they WILL be knocked over. The containers MUST be extremely clean – do NOT use anything that has contained food (because of the oils) unless you are absolutely sure it is oil-free and clean.

14. Also, unless you live alone, do NOT use a sink or bathtub for soaking. Beyond the obvious problem of soaps, oils, and other contaminants on the surface of such a fixture, you will be in big trouble if you stain the sink or tub. My favorite story is from a friend by the name of Michael (he knows who he is) who had the brilliant idea to soak a large bag of Hong Kong revenue stamps in the family's (only) bathtub. There were at least several thousand small pieces of paper bearing stamps. What he did not think about was that often revenue cancellations very easily dissolve in water and that such cancellations are often red or violet or magenta. In addition to not getting the stamps out of the bathtub fast enough, thus preventing everybody in the family from taking a bath or shower for two days, he PERMANENTLY STAINED the bathtub a magenta color! Bathtubs can be replaced, but they are costly. However, more importantly to us philatelists, that same staining permeated all those thousands of revenue stamps, making them virtually worthless. If he had done the soaking in cold water, quickly, a few stamps at a time, in a glass or similar container, he would not have had any of those problems. While this incident did not cause a divorce, it did not help the relationship with his wife.

Soaking is only the first two-thirds of the process. The stamps must then be dried and flattened. My suggestions include:

A. Use a two- or three-stage drying process. This takes time, but it is important for getting the best results. You can scale these up or down depending upon whether you are working on a couple stamps or a couple thousand stamps at a time.

B. It is important that stamps NOT be allowed to dry in an uncontrolled, unflattened situation. When it is wet, stamp paper can physically change its shape and features. Allowing stamps to dry without being flattened will often result in an irregular, warped, appearance that often cannot be flattened out without repeating the entire soaking process; sometimes the warping damage is permanent.

C. It is important to know if any of the stamps still have any adhesive on them. Sometimes you simply cannot safely remove 100% of the adhesive when soaking If you have any such concerns, to avoid sticking, you must closely monitor the stamps as they are drying and very frequently move them to fresh drying materials. For such items, I use "facial tissue" (i.e. Kleenex, UNscented and UNtextured) and I move the stamps to a fresh area of the tissue every 30-60 seconds! (If they do stick to the tissue, the tissue can be almost instantly removed with a small amount of moisture.)

D. For more typical stamps, first place the stamps on a highly absorbent material to drain. I use two layers of clean (unprinted!) paper towels then the stamps, then two more layers, etc. Sometimes I will end up with a stack 3-4 inches high. Because paper towels are usually textured, NEVER press them; you will push that texture into the stamps. I

typically have the stamps in this "sandwich" for one to two hours. (When I am done with this step, I spread the papers out around the house, but not on wood furniture, so that they will dry for re-use and not become mildewed. (If anything becomes mildewed, it must be discarded.)

E. Then, while the stamps are still slightly damp, I move the stamps into proper made-for-purpose stamp or photograph drving books. (If I have any concerns about some stamps still having adhesive. I use a different process as noted above.) After such drying books have been used a few times, the pages can become "wavy" or they may develop tiny mildew spots. Be sure you are using areas of the pages that are flat, or can be pressed flat. If there are any mildewed spots, they need to cut out of the page or the page must be removed. [After each batch/use, the book must be dried standing open with the pages fanned out; sunlight exposure may be helpful.] If such a book is still in good shape after 20-30 uses, you are doing well. Drying books are a consumable supply; order several at a time. Do not use any parts or pages that are stained or mildewed. I like the books that alternate blotter pages with smooth-side pages. The smooth-side pages help to avoid sticking (as long as you put the backside of the stamp toward the smooth-side page).

F. I usually put several large, heavy books on top of each stamp-drying book. Do not stack up multiple stamp-drying books. Do not put an in-use stamp drying book on a wood surface that you care about. It is important not to leave the stamps in these books too long because otherwise you WILL develop mildew problems.

G. After a few hours or a day, I remove the stamps from the drying books. Modern stamps will probably be done at point. Early stamps will probably be dry by now, but they may benefit from additional pressing. For pressing I use a "stamp press", which looks like a miniature version of a bookbinding press or ancient printing press or an evil torture device for squishing fingers. White Ace made a very good, but inexpensive, stamp press; they are no longer in business, but you can find used stamp presses in online auctions. (Sometimes I have used ones available, but not at this moment; I generally have 3-4 of them in use at any one time). I place the stamp between smooth, clean layers of facial tissue (always UNscented and Untextured); that "sandwich" is placed between layers of blotting paper and then into the press. The benefit of the facial tissue is that it can be more easily removed from the stamp if there is any sticking; also you won't have to (as often) replace the blotting paper.

While these kinds of tasks will seem to some like a lot of bother, others will find it excellent "therapy". It can be quite satisfying and can make a collection of used stamps look a lot more attractive.

By the way, I am in need of a stamp soaker if you might be interested in such a job for your spare time.

Lastly, I am a proponent of stamp mounts, for all stamps, not just for stamps being collected in mint, never hinged condition. Stamp mounts can help to prevent soiling of stamps and prevent abrasion of the stamp surface, etc. They also avoid use of hinges which will build up in layers over the decades. We are only the temporary custodians of our stamps; anything that we can do to protect them will be appreciated by future generations of collectors. Club Executive President Marion Ace (519)934-1998 P.O. Box 286 Tara, ON; NOH 2NO marionace@bmts.com

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At the end of another Edition, the hope is that the subject matter has been interesting. It is easy to think that we know what is needed to further our collections. Yet the benefit of being in a club is sharing our knowledge. Jay Smith's article has reminded me that even something as simple as soaking stamps has different things to it. Yes, I have experienced the sharing of ink problem with certain stamps, discovering thins under the hinge remnants and finally having stamps stick to pages from the glue residue left on the stamp. This last event can usually be remedied with a little soaking on the stamp and page, but some stamps have been permanently added to the book! That last problem has been solved with the use of "Stamp Drying Books." All in all, I have to agree with Jay that purchasing stamps with hinge remnants has led to several disappointments. I guess that is why many eBay sales are a low fraction of the catalogue value, besides questioning the catalogue pricing if they are appropriate. But that is another topic and has been referred to with the Stamp Tips from UPA Auctions.

Happy collecting and please share what collecting activities has helped develop the collection into an organized and coherent collection. Don't forget to look at the Club website and try out the Circuit Book Explorer and then make a purchase.

## **SOAPBOX**

What is the definition of "Postal history?" Oxford English Dictionary defines "history" as (1) the study of past events; (2) the past considered as a whole; (3) the past events connected with someone or something; (4) a continuous record of past events or trends. With respect to Postal history it is easy to think of the origins of mail, but it can be extended to yesterday. Recently Canada Post sent the following scan to every household to encourage everyone restricted by the current pandemic send the postcard to someone. At a recent meeting of the West Toronto Stamp Club, I learned that there are six different versions in English, as well as six different ones for the French Speaking population (English and French reversed). If you still have the one received through the mail, and not saving them yourselves, could you mail it to me, the Editor? Address can be found above. Many thanks.

