

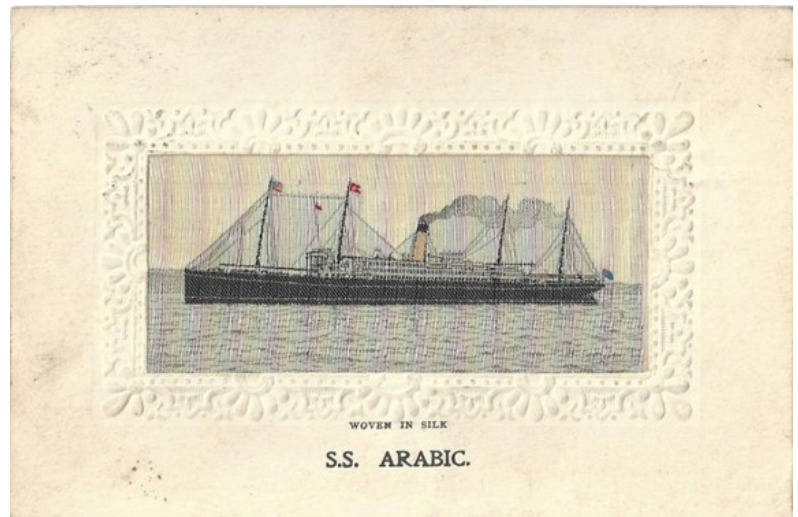
## Cover Story - Secrets of a Postcard

By John Sayers (Toronto Postcard Club - [www.torontopostcardclub.com](http://www.torontopostcardclub.com))

I collect volumes of ephemera about ocean liners, including postcards. Many postcards. And some of them have information and cancellations on the back that is just as interesting as the ocean liner image on the front.

This postcard of the White Star Line's *Arabic* (Figure 1) is a prime example of the information that can be gleaned from a postcard.

The sender could have enclosed it in a White Star Line envelope which would have been in the stationery in their cabin on board, but in a possible show of disdain for the cost of the expensive card they took their chances with the postal system. This is a 'circle' of friends that didn't seem to worry about mon-



ey.

Many postcards of the era sent from foreign lands succumbed to stamp collectors, (Continued on page 3)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<b>Cover Story</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Introduction to...</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>From the GRVPA</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>What's Up In...</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Who, What and When</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Article: Combining Philately &amp; Astronomy</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Calendars</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Legal Stuff</b>	<b>18</b>

### Introduction to...Collecting U.S. Precancels

By Norm Macneall

Precanceled postage stamps are defined as stamps that have been canceled before being affixed to an envelope or mail matter. The reason for the practice is to save time. Somewhere along the way, someone realized that canceling 100 stamps in a sheet was quicker than cancelling them 1 at a time. So, precanceled stamps were made available to large companies that did a lot of mailing, such as mail order companies like the one who put out the SEEDS catalogue for farmers.

The U.S. Post Office offered these precancels at a slightly lower postage rate known as a 'discount rate', and in the United States, precancels are often (Continued on page 10)

## From the Grand River Valley Philatelic Association:

### From the Editor:

Hi Everyone!

I hope that your holiday seasons have all been merry and bright, and that this missive finds you refreshed and ready for plenty of stamp-related shenanigans! Head on over to the **Upcoming Events** section, there's quite a few Exhibitions coming up to keep you busy! Take a look at **What's Up In**, too for other clubs' meetings you might want to check out.

I've received a bounty of contributions for the **Cover Story** column in the last month – thank you to Jerry, George and John! If you have a favourite cover, please feel free to put something together and send it to me. I'll happily keep it in my back pocket...

Don't miss this issue's "First" – the first article I've been able to include, this one is on **Combining Philately and Astronomy**. Thanks, Paul!

I am – as always – in search of ideas or contributions for the **Introduction to...** column, along with articles.

If you just want to 'get your feet wet', anyone is welcome to submit a paragraph or so about a meeting or event that you've been to, or something stamp-or-philately-related that caught your eye. I'll include these in the **Out and About** section!

In Service,

Wendi Trauzzi,

Editor, Grand News



### From the President:

We just learned that the Oakville club has decided to disband. It is with regret that this has happened. I hope our other clubs are doing well. If any member clubs are having viability issues, please contact myself or any member of the executive so that assistance can be offered. The GRVPA is only as strong as its member clubs.

Joseph Servos



## Springpex

Presented by

**Hamilton Stamp Club**  
Fri., Apr. 24 & Sat., Apr. 25, 2020

ST. JEAN DE BREBEUF SECONDARY SCHOOL  
200 ACADIA DRIVE, HAMILTON ON L7W 1B8

FRIDAY, April 24

Silent Auction Ends– 7:00 p.m.

Viewing – 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Voice Auction Start– 7:30 p.m.

Viewing – 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Sales Circuits – 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, April 25

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

20 Dealers \* Sales Circuit \* Youth Booth

Stamps & Supplies \* Silent Auctions

Web site: [www.hamiltonstampclub.com](http://www.hamiltonstampclub.com)

(Cont'd from pg 1)

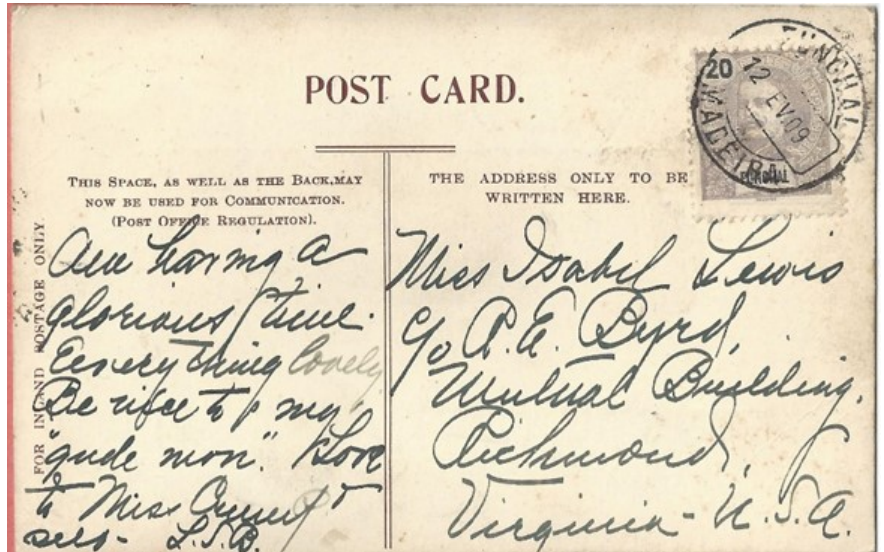
who peeled the stamp off the back of the card to add it to their stamp collection. This Portuguese stamp is unmolested (Figure 2). And it has a very clear cancellation. Even more important it is officially over-printed for exclusive use in Funchal, the capital city of the autonomous Portuguese region of Madeira. For any stamp collector recipient, a FUNCHAL over-print stamp would have been a rare and welcomed acquisition.

But who were the recipients? Two names are shown. There's Miss Isabel Lewis, in care of R.E. Byrd, in Richmond, Virginia. It appears that the sender didn't know Miss Lewis' address. But she (who asks for care of her 'gude mon') does know how to contact R.E. Byrd.

Does the name 'R.E. Byrd' ring a bell with you, the reader? It did with me. It's Richard E. Byrd, the famous Antarctic explorer whom we would have recognized if it had said 'Rear Admi-

ral Richard E. Byrd'. Byrd was born in 1888 in Virginia, the son of one of the British founding families of Virginia, and so would have been only 19 years old at this time. His father had the same name, but in that era it would be more likely that it would be the son who was in contact with unmarried and apparently trendy young women.

There's one question that this card cannot answer: Where has it been all these years?



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**Appointments can be arranged at other times**

## What's Up In...

Reports included from the following clubs:

X	Bramalea Stamp Club	X	Kitchener-Waterloo Philatelic Society
X	Brantford Stamp Club	X	Oakville Stamp Club
X	Burlington Stamp Club	X	Owen Sound Stamp Club
X	Cambridge Stamp Club	X	Oxford Philatelic Society
X	Guelph Stamp Club	X	St. Catharines Stamp Club
X	Hamilton Stamp Club	X	Saugeen Stamp Club
	Kincardine Stamp Club	X	Stratford Stamp Club
X	Kitchener Waterloo Cambridge Reg. Post Card Club	X	Waterloo Region Stamp Club

### BRAMALEA STAMP CLUB

Meets the **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday** (from 2 to 4 pm), October to June and the **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday** (from 7 to 9 pm) year-round at Terry Miller Recreation Complex, Williams Parkway (between Dixie Rd and Bramalea Rd.) Brampton. Visitors cordially welcome. Information: Bob Thorne 905-792-3526 or Email [bob-thorne70@gmail.com](mailto:bob-thorne70@gmail.com) Website: [bramaleastampclub.org](http://bramaleastampclub.org) or check our Facebook page under Bramalea Stamp Club.

#### Upcoming Meetings & Features:

February 2: Sunday Afternoon: Voice auction, buy/sell/trade  
 February 18: Tuesday Evening: Landscapes  
 March 1: Sunday Afternoon: Voice auction, buy/sell/trade  
 March 17: Tuesday Evening: Springtime  
 April 5: Sunday Afternoon: Voice auction, buy/sell/trade  
 April 21: Tuesday Evening: Hobbies

We wish to (belatedly) welcome our new Sales Circuit management team, David and Jan Hymers. They took over this important volunteer position from Paul Williams in late October 2019. Paul deserves a big THANK YOU! for his years of service to Bramalea as circuit manager. And thanks, too, to the dynamic duo of David and Jan for stepping up.

After successfully co-hosting the 2019 Royal Philatelic Society of Canada national stamp exhibition with West Toronto Stamp Club and Canadian Stamp News, Bramalea Stamp Club is anticipating an even bigger event, **CAPEX22**. Plans are underway to hold this international stamp exhibition in June 2022 in the greater Toronto area. If it comes to pass, one-frame exhibits and literature will be the focus of the first Canadian international show since CAPEX96. So, if you are an aspiring exhibitor, this will be your chance to participate in an international exhibition, right here at home. Stay tuned!

Ingo Nessel

### BRANTFORD STAMP CLUB

Best wishes to everyone for 2020. We got the new year started off with our Annual Show on the 11th. Although damp, the weather cooperated and we had a very successful event. Our Feb 4th meeting features Joe Servos as guest speaker, and we hope to have Dave Lopeke out on Feb 18th to preview the Canada Post 2020 stamp issues. March 3rd will be Kiloware Night, and our president Paul will be

## What's Up In...

(continued from prev. page)

speaking about Japanese stamps on the 17th. On April 7th we will have a Show and Tell night. Our major auction takes place on April 21st. Attendance remains strong and we have added some new members recently.

Ed Kimberley

### BURLINGTON STAMP CLUB

Members, don't forget the Burlington stamp show on Feb 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 this year. It's a chance to visit the best darn sales circuit in Southern Ontario. Tom W has planned a great show for Feb.15<sup>th</sup> & I am sure we will have a great turnout of members & visitors. Check out the various stamp shows in & around Ontario, & visit them, as people from other clubs always visit our show!

Our meetings are being very well attended. John G. has added lots of new COUNTRIES & PAGES to our ever-growing sales circuit. Bob Schrock is working on a speaker for a future meeting & Norm is going to be asking if the membership would like another AUCTION NIGHT. 'Til next time, HAPPY COLLECTING!

Norm, Reporter

### CAMBRIDGE STAMP CLUB

Here's hoping that 2020 is off to a good start for one and all. Our club capped off 2019 with a Christmas dinner which I hope was enjoyed by all who could make it.

Due to changes in rental structure and policy at the Reuter Centre where we have met for many years, effective January our regular monthly meetings have now been moved to: St. Luke's United Church (at 1620 Franklin Blvd.). Members and visitors please take note. We have also moved our start time to 7 pm (it had previously been 6:30). Date remains the first Thursday of the month. So far so good at the new location... and, have to admit that it was nice to avoid the ongoing roadwork in downtown Preston! We look forward to offering our members a varied program for the remainder of this year, although much of it is still to be determined.

The last few months we have also held an additional meeting once monthly at a senior's home where one of our members is resident and broken out our "treasure box". Our intent is to carry on with these, although scaling back to every other month.

Steve Klages

### GUELPH STAMP CLUB

Happy New Year everyone! We had our Christmas party on December 18<sup>th</sup> - lots of food, it was a great last meeting for 2019.

We are going back! For those of you who have attended our October shows over the years, you may remember that we used to have Guelphex at the Evergreen Seniors Community Centre, 683 Woolwich St. <https://gwsa-guelph.ca/>. After trying different venues - and the last venue changing the show date on us - our directors decided to go back to the Evergreen Center. We hope to see you there on **October 24, 2020**. It is a more expensive venue, but it has lots of space and easy access for the dealers and our visitors. Note that there is extra parking in Riverside Park located next to the center!

With Valentine's Day coming, you might want to check out this interesting pair of stamps from the Republic of China: Scott 3980 and 3981. They came out on February 14, 2011. The heart shapes include a QR code. The \$5.00 stamp decodes with the Chinese characters and the English words "Happy Valentine's Day" The \$25.00 stamp decodes with "I love you". I guess love is more expensive than happiness.

## What's Up In...

(continued from prev. page)

Don't forget your Valentine!

<https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Taiwan/Postage%20stamps/2010-2019?year=2011>

P.B. Latour

### HAMILTON STAMP CLUB

Springpex is on April 24 & 25. It is held at St Jean de Brebeuf Secondary School, at 200 Acadia Drive. (south of Stone Church Road - between Upper Wentworth

and Upper Sherman) The auctions will be on Friday from 5.00 until 10.00 PM. Stamp Clubs will also be there. Dealers will be there on Saturday from 10.00 until 4.00 PM. The junior collectors are also there on Saturday.

We look forward to seeing you again. Lunches are provided for Friday evening and at noon on Saturday.

Clarence R. Maitland

### KINCARDINE STAMP CLUB

### KITCHENER WATERLOO CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL POST CARD CLUB

Kitchener Waterloo Cambridge Regional Post Card Club meets for the 2nd time in 2020 on Wednesday March 11.

The doors open at 6:30 and the program begins at 7:30 pm. The evening's guest speaker will be Libby Walker from the City of Waterloo Museum in Conestoga Mall. Libby has been going through the museum's image collection and will present 20 post cards that she feels are important to the history of Waterloo; whether due to the image, the message, the sender or the addressee. The venue is Kitchener's Victoria Park pavilion, 80 Schneider Avenue.

As always, everyone is welcome at all KWCR PCC meetings and there is no admission charge. Members can browse, buy and sell post cards. Please bring indoor footwear so the snow and slush can be left in the lobby.

Also, don't forget about Post Card Memories, our annual show, at Bingemans, on Sunday, April 26, 2020 from 9:30 until 4:00 pm. Contact [rychmills@golden.net](mailto:rychmills@golden.net) or (519) 742-4990, for more information.

Thanks, Gus Knierim

### KITCHENER-WATERLOO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Believe it or not, it has been said that philatelists and skiers have something in common: they both share a hobby that peaks if you will, during the winter months! While many might debate that assertion, the sense some feel of being confined to the house might lend weight to the argument.

Within the area of the G.R.V.P.A., winter tends to take us from outdoor activities to the more indoor and introverted activity of stamp collecting. In light of this, we celebrate the presence of a goodly contingent of KW Philatelists who defied the threat of freezing rain to participate in the Called Auction on Sunday, January 12, 2020. A considerable host of interesting lots was offered at that event.

Items that did not sell will be made available at a Silent Table Auction on February 16. Yes, the KW group meets yet again on a Sunday, from 2-4 p.m. Participants are invited to peruse the books of the Royal Sales Circuit and to make Show-and-Tell presentations of interesting material.

On Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> a speaker will be present: Steve Johnson will discuss the contents of several

## What's Up In...

(continued from prev. page)

fascinating and unique collections. In addition, the Stratford Sales Circuit will be available.

The April 9<sup>th</sup> gathering will feature a Table Auction and the presence of the Cambridge Sales Circuit. Once again, participants are invited to bring items for Show-and-Tell presentations.

This year, Stampfest will occur on Saturday, April 18, 2020 (10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.), at Trillium Lutheran Church, 22 Willow St., Waterloo.

Olaf Poulsen

## OAKVILLE STAMP CLUB

I have some sad news. Earlier this month I submitted my resignation as president of the Oakville Stamp Club. A meeting was held yesterday at which it was decided to disband the club since nobody wanted to volunteer to take my place. I do wish to thank those clubs who came to our rescue in the latter part of 2019 and hope that they continue to prosper.

Regretfully, Roy Honess

## OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

Hello Everyone,

Hope this note catches you in good cheer, full of great food. Hope you all still have your New Years Resolutions intact. Our December meeting was cancelled because of bad weather, so our January meeting was a carry over of December's Christmas party. Lots of the specialty foods and pastries, as well as some hot cider. We also had our Funny Munny Auction, which is usually a great time for all - especially when you put the dollar value up to \$1,000.00 dollars per one dollar of face value! Makes for some pretty expensive stamps, (Ha ha ha!)

John C. Lemon, President, Owen Sound Stamp Club

## OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Preparations for our Annual Show and Bourse on March 21, 2020 are now in full gear. Please mark this date on your calendars. We are celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual OXPEX Show, as well as our 40<sup>th</sup> OTEX (Oxford Topical Exhibition) at the Woodstock Christian School. The "Woodstock Show" is considered by many to be one of the best and it is a wonderful place to get your foot into exhibiting your favorite collection. We have arranged for some top-notch judges for the exhibits! Entry forms and the Rules and Regulations are on the website, and are due for submission by February 1, 2020. We look forward to seeing your exhibit!

We are continuing to disperse a collection with the proceeds going to the Canadian Diabetes Foundation. These items have been greatly reduced from the catalogue value, and are available for purchase until spring. You are invited to attend our meetings, and perhaps grab some awesome deals. Most of the collection is MNH and consists of primarily of British Commonwealth stamps.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our show and bourse on March 21<sup>st</sup>!

Kindly, Henny Uyl, President

## SAUGEEN STAMP CLUB

The Saugeen Stamp Club meets year-round on the **FIRST** Tuesday of the month at St Matthews Lutheran Church - 356 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Hanover ON. N4N 3L5 **Visitors are most welcome to attend and share out meeting fellowship and hobby.**

## What's Up In...

(Continued from previous page)

On a sad note, we will make a donation in honour of Martin DeKeyzer who passed away on December 27<sup>th</sup> – he was a well-respected member of the club and as many will recall, Martin donated a penny black to many area clubs for the sole purpose of promoting stamp collecting as a hobby. Martin will be missed by his many friends.

Our plan for a mini club fair has changed!! Originally planned for February 1<sup>st</sup> – this is now planned for Saturday, **March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020** at our usual meeting location: St. Matthews Lutheran Church. TIME: 10:00 TO 12:00 - doors open at 9:30. Will feature a silent auction (3 lots / person MAX.), table for high value items, individual member sales at their table location.

Also, our annual show is on the first Saturday in May (MAY 2 2020) – plan to take a drive and visit!

Walt Berry

## ST. CATHARINES STAMP CLUB

The St Catherine's club has been doing well with two or three significant recent postage stamp legacies. Considerable interest has kept attendance and involvement up in recent weeks, and some of the recent stamp acquisitions will also be available at the January auctions and sales.

With Christmas and holiday celebrations over, the club will be looking to some new initiatives. Our President indicates that we have a new club project under way, which involves collecting stamps produced by all the numerous stamp-issuing agencies all around the world.

David Pitcher

## STRATFORD STAMP CLUB

At our most recent meeting Lutzen R. did a presentation on four countries that have used the same symbol on their stamps for a period of forty years or more. This was very interesting as the mystery of the four countries unfolded. They were Sudan (Africa) with the Camel symbol; Finland with the countries' Coat of Arms as the symbol; Norway with the Posthorn and Crown in an oval, with a number in the centre; and Denmark the symbol with waves on each side of a number as the symbol. Our meetings are the fourth Thursday of the month. All are welcome.

Ron Holm, Reporter

## WATERLOO REGION STAMP CLUB

The year 2020 received a robust start from our "New Year's Festival" penny sale. More than 80 lots of stamps, covers, souvenir sheets, and supplies were offered. While preparing for this event we discovered archival bags called Celebrate It, at the Michael's store. The acid free, transparent pouches protect your stamps while they also allow easy viewing. Highly recommended!

We are excited that a NEW LOCATION has been reserved for our stamp show in November. Both collectors and dealers will enjoy the increased space available at the Armenian Community Centre in Cambridge.

After our second-place award in the CSN cover contest, we are offering a workshop to our club members entitled "Making Your Own Cover". We will demonstrate how to create covers and will encourage members to submit individual entries into this year's Canadian Stamp News contest. Perhaps your club will also promote this endeavour?

We are eager to invite new guest speakers to visit our club. Could we arrange an "exchange" of speakers with your club? To discuss these opportunities, please contact Robert at 519 - 214 - 0210 or [rwhstamp@gmail.com](mailto:rwhstamp@gmail.com)

Robert Hadley, reporter



## Who, What & When

A listing of contact information, as well as meeting times and locations, for our member clubs.

### Bramalea Stamp Club

Meets the **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday** (from 2 to 4 pm), October to June and the **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday** (from 7 to 9 pm) year round at Terry Miller Recreation Complex, Williams Parkway (between Dixie Rd and Bramalea Rd.) Brampton. Visitors cordially welcome. Information: Bob Thorne 905-792-3526 or Email [bobthorne70@gmail.com](mailto:bobthorne70@gmail.com)  
Website: [bramaleastampclub.org](http://bramaleastampclub.org) or check our Facebook page under Bramalea Stamp Club.

### Brantford Stamp Club

Sept. to Nov. and January to May: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month / June & December - 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday only  
Branlyn Community Centre (phone (519) 758-1444), 238 Brantwood Park Road, Brantford. Access to the facility is via the east (on the left when facing the facility) end around the back. (doors open at 7:00 pm, meeting begins at 8:00) Web: <http://brantfordstampclub.com/> / Contact: Paul James (519-751-3513) [pamjames1027@execulink.com](mailto:pamjames1027@execulink.com)

### Burlington Stamp Club

September to June: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month (7:00 pm). Burlington Seniors Centre, 2285 New St. (off Teen Tour Way), Burlington ON. Contact: Norm Macneall (905-336-8685) [macneall@cogeco.ca](mailto:macneall@cogeco.ca)

### Cambridge Stamp Club - UPDATED

November to June: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, 7:00 to 9:00 / No meetings in July & August  
St. Luke's United Church, 1620 Franklin Boulevard  
Currently experimenting with a second meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, at another location.  
<https://cambridgestampclub.weebly.com/> / Contact: Steve Klages [klagesss@gmail.com](mailto:klagesss@gmail.com)

### Guelph Stamp Club - UPDATED

September to May: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 6:30 / June to July: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month only  
Dublin Street United Church, 68 Suffolk St. W. (at Dublin St.) / Contact: Joe Servos (519-823-2578) [jservos@bserv.com](mailto:jservos@bserv.com) / [guelphstampclub@gmail.com](mailto:guelphstampclub@gmail.com)

### Hamilton Stamp Club

September to June: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday (6:30 to about 8:30 pm)  
Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School, 1824 Rymal Road East, Hamilton  
<https://hamiltonstampclub.ca/> Contact: Charles Morreale - [cmorreale@teksavvy.com](mailto:cmorreale@teksavvy.com) - 905-664-2066

### Kincardine Stamp Club

Jan. - Dec., 1<sup>st</sup> Wed. (7:00 pm),  
Davidson Center (Billiards room), 601 Durham St., Kincardine

### Kitchener Waterloo Cambridge Regional Post Card Club

Victoria Park Pavilion, 80 Schneider Street, Kitchener, ON  
See website for meeting info: [www.kwcrpcc.com](http://www.kwcrpcc.com) Contact: [rychmills@golden.net](mailto:rychmills@golden.net) / 519 742-4990

### Kitchener Waterloo Philatelic Society

The Kitchener-Waterloo Philatelic Society meetings are *usually* the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month in the evening from 7 until 9 p.m. in the Community Room at Albert McCormick Arena in Waterloo. **To make attendance easier in the winter we are experimenting with afternoon meetings.** Therefore, the January meeting is now 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sunday January 12 and the February meeting is Sunday February 16 also from 2 until 4:00 p.m.. Thanks. <https://www.kwstampclub.org/>

### Owen Sound Stamp Club

September to June: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month (7:00pm to 9:00 pm). St. Mary's High School, Hillyer hall

## Who, What & When (Continued)

(student lunchroom), 555 15<sup>th</sup> Street East, Owen Sound, ON <http://www.owensoundstampclub.org/>

### Oxford Philatelic Society

September to May: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. South Gate Centre, 191 Old Wellington Street South, Woodstock ON <http://www.oxfordphilsoc.com/>

### Saugeen Stamp Club

January to December: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month (7:30 pm)

St. Matthews Evangelical Lutheran Church, 356 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Hanover ON. Entrance to the meeting located in the northeast corner of the church complex on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The club's welcome sign will be at the sidewalk.

<http://saugeenstampclub.webplus.net/>

### St. Catharines Stamp Club

September to June: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month (6:45 pm to 8:45 pm). Grantham Lion's Club, 732 Niagara Street, St. Catharines ON / <http://stcatharinesstampclub.ca/>

### Stratford Stamp Club

September to June: 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month (except December) 7:00 pm. at Avondale United Church, 194 Avondale Ave., Stratford N5A 6N4

### Waterloo Region Stamp Club

September to June: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month (6:30 pm to 8:30 pm) at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Elizabeth Room (usually – check the TV monitor near the door to be sure), 54 Queen Street North, Kitchener ON <https://waterlooregionstampclub.weebly.com/>



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(Cont'd from pg 1)

used for 3<sup>rd</sup> class & 4<sup>th</sup> class mail, such brochures, flyers etc.

In the 1930s, the Post Office added town names to track where the precancels were being sent from. The biggest mailers at the time were Sears/Roebuck and Montgomery/Ward, who both sent catalogues across the country hoping to increase sales and orders from outlying areas that had very little population.

There are 2 types of precancels, Bureau & Town & Types. Bureau precancels are printed at the Bureau of Engraving & Printing in Washington D. C.. The practice became common around 1923, with denominations of 1 cent to 10 cent stamps done by rotary press. The number has grown steadily to a total of nearly 9,500 different precancels issued in denominations of ½ cent to \$1.00 values. Bureau precancels are identified by Scott Catalog Number & the Precancel Style Number.

From the 1930s to the 1950s, when mailing catalogues, various companies would purchase pre-paid stamps from the Bureau (*Cont'd on page 4*) and have their initials printed across the top of the stamp. These included M.W.C., which stood for Montgomery/ Ward, and also S.R.C. which stood for Sears, Roebuck Catalogs. Sometimes, the months and years were added.

With Town precancels, the scope and ways to collect them are almost unlimited. Some ideas include collecting a single City or State, or a specific series of stamps (such as Presidential, War & Defense, Liberty series). You can also collect 3, 4, or 5-letter towns from the various states; possibly concentrating on a particular series such as the 8 cent Liberty stamp, 1930 Presidential series, 1 ¼ Gallatin issue.

Odd town names such MOSCOW Arkansas, TORONTO Iowa, Kansas Ohio, WATERLOO Iowa, ONTARIO California, BURLINGTON Iowa, Indianola Iowa, Kentucky Michigan, Washington (county) Colorado, Maine N. Carolina are all popular.

(Continued on Page 14)

## Upcoming Events

### BRAMALEA STAMP CLUB - ANNUAL SHOW AND BOURSE

Sunday, February 1, Judith Nyman Secondary School Cafeteria, 1305 William's Parkway, Brampton ON. Wheelchair accessible / free parking / refreshments available / stamp displays.

### BURLPEX 2020

Feb 15, 2020 9:30am - 3pm, Burlington Seniors Centre, 2285 New St., Burlington, Ontario, L7R 1J4. (Off QEW, south on Guelph Line, then right on New Street a few blocks.)

Our annual Burlington Stamp Show, BURLPEX with 12 stamp dealers, free parking, food vendor, silent auctions, wheelchair accessible and great stamp club circuit books.

Phone 1-905-332-8901 Email: [tomw1901@gmail.com](mailto:tomw1901@gmail.com)

### TORONTO POST CARD CLUB

Annual Postcard Sale – February 23, 2020 – see advertisement in this issue.

### SAUGEEN MINI FAIR

Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 10:00 TO 12:00 (doors open at 9:30).

Silent auction (3 lots / person MAX.) - Table for high value items - Individual member sales at their table location.

### WOODSTOCK STAMP SHOW

March 21, 2020

### STAMPFEST – APRIL 18, 2020

Trillium Lutheran Church, 22 Willow Street, Waterloo ON

<http://www.kwstampclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/2019-Map.jpg>

### POST CARD MEMORIES

At Bingemans, on Sunday, April 26, 2020 from 9:30 until 4:00 pm. Contact [rychmills@golden.net](mailto:rychmills@golden.net) or (519) 742-4990, for more information

### SAUGEEN STAMP CLUB ANNUAL SHOW

Saturday May 2 2020, Knights of Columbus Hall, 963 Bruce Road 4 – between Hanover & Walkerton

Hours 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Free admission & free parking

Door Prizes / exhibits / Dealers / Circuit Books / lunch counter

Further information contact: President Walt Berry [wsberry@sympatico.ca](mailto:wsberry@sympatico.ca)

### MAYDAY STAMP SHOW

May 3, 2020 at the Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans Unit 261, Stratford ON

## Upcoming Events

(Continued)

### SARNIA STAMP CLUB

[www.sarniastampclub.ca](http://www.sarniastampclub.ca) presents LAMPEX 2020.

Show and Bourse at (New location for 2020) **Northern Collegiate Institute & Vocational School, 940 Michigan Ave, Sarnia, ON Canada N7S 2B1** ([click here to get to map](#))

SATURDAY May 9, 2020, 9:30 am -- 4:30 pm

Free Admission--Free Parking--Everyone Welcome - Dealers \*\* Displays

In Canada:

From 402 Highway - Take Indian Road North exit to lights at Michigan Avenue. Turn right - School parking lot is on your left side

From Windsor/Chatham - Take Modeland Road (Hwy 40) to lights at Michigan Avenue. Turn left and drive approx. 1 Km (2 lights) - School is on your right side

### GUELPHPEX

at the Evergreen Seniors Community Centre, 683 Woolwich St. <https://gwsa-guelph.ca/>. After trying different venues - and the last venue changing the show date on us - our directors decided to go back to the Evergreen Center. We hope to see you there on **October 24, 2020**.

### WATERLOO STAMP SHOW

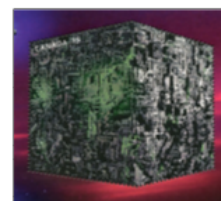
November 2020. A NEW LOCATION has been reserved for our stamp show in November. Both collectors and dealers will enjoy the increased space available at the Armenian Community Centre in Cambridge.



## MEDALLION STAMPS



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## Combining Philately and Astronomy

By Paul B. Latour

Besides being interested in philately I am also interested in astronomy and often these interests blend. My interest in astronomy and science began when my parents took me to the Brussels' planetarium when I was 12. (Fig 1). November 11 this year offers us an extra activity beyond remembering our fallen Canadians. On the morning of Monday November 11 the planet Mercury will transit (meaning cross in front of) the sun. The event for our locality will begin at 7:35 am EST and will end more or less six hours later. Remember not to look directly, or through a telescope at the sun, as you will burn your retina. Set up a pinhole projection system. See this NASA video for a simple how-to: <https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/12638>

Transits are very important to astronomy as they allow a refining of various measurements such as the distance to the sun known as an astronomical unit (AU), diameters of solar bodies and more. And



Figure 1: Brussels planetarium issued 1974

yes such events are a reason to illustrate and issue postage stamps. Here is a short list, just to get you started on a new topical collection. All the following stamps celebrate Captain Cook's trip to Tahiti in 1769 to record the transit of Venus. Look these up for fun:



### TORONTO POSTCARD CLUB

## 39<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SHOW

**Sunday, February 23, 2020**

**10:00am to 5:00pm**



**JAPANESE CANADIAN CULTURAL CENTRE**  
**6 Garamond Court, Toronto, M3C 1Z5**  
**(Don Mills Road and Eglinton Ave E)**

**TPC MEMBERS FREE**  
**ADMISSION \$5.00**

**40 dealer tables • Free parking**

**Full Details at [www.torontopostcardclub.com](http://www.torontopostcardclub.com)**

## Combining Philately and Astronomy

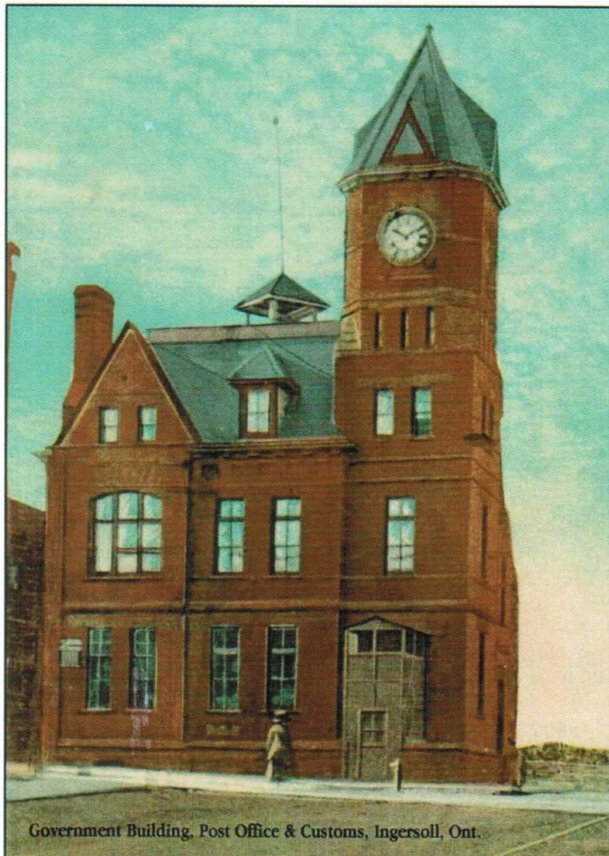
(Continued from Previous Page)

- Norfolk Island, 1969, Transit of Venus, Scott # 122
- New Zealand: 1969, Captain Cook and the transit of Venus, Scott# 431
- South Africa: 2012, showing two transits, Scott# 1480, (souvenir sheet)
- Great Britain: 2018, The Endeavour voyage, Scott# 3759 and 3760, these are two stamps se-tenant and picture both James Cook and the transit of Venus.
- Mauritius: 2011 for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary: transit observed from Rodrigues, Scott# 1095
- St. Helena: 1979, showing Cook's equipment tent, Scott# 325
- Tuvalu: 1979, Showing Cook at a telescope, Scott# 116



Figure 2: Belgium/Europa souvenir sheet celebrating astronomy, issued 2009.

(Continued on next page)



### OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY

presents

### 70<sup>th</sup> OXPEX & 40<sup>th</sup> OTEX

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020

9:30 AM - 4 PM

**Woodstock Christian School**

800 Juliana Drive, Woodstock, ON N4V 1B9

- Free Admission & Parking • Framed Exhibits
- 15 Dealers • Youth Gift Bags • Sales Circuits
- Draw Prizes •

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<http://www.oxfordphilsoc.com/home.html>

*(continued from previous page)*

- Portugal: 2012, showing Teodoro de Almeida, Scott# 3420

I could not find any stamps to celebrate a transit by the solar system's innermost planet Mars.

Two interesting links with history and comments on some of the stamps listed above

<http://www.ianridpath.com/stamps/2018.htm>

<http://www.ianridpath.com/stamps/cook.htm>

Sadly, no stamps have been issued to celebrate Jeremiah Horrocks, considered the father of British astronomy, and the first astronomer to observe the transit of Venus on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 1639, a full 130 years before the Cook expedition. Horrocks' life and work is wonderfully documented in the book by Peter Aughton *The Transit of Venus*, Phoenix Paperback, 2004

*(Continued from page 10)*

Chicago, Illinois is the largest mailing center, and has 90 different precancel types.

There are also various types of precancels to collect. Some of these are known as DOUBLE LINE ELECTROS, HANDSTAMP WITH LINES, HANDSTAMP WITH BARS, & also VINYL HANDSTAMPS.

For more information, check out the PRECANCEL STAMP SOCIETY at

<https://www.precancels.com/>.

This is by no means all the available precancel information.

*The 2 stamps shown in the picture below were one of the reasons I got interested in precancels.*

*Norm Macneall*



Stamps, Postal History &  
Postcards for Collectors

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[www.iekphilatelics.biz](http://www.iekphilatelics.biz)



# February

**2020**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Bramalea Stamp Club – Annual Sale and Bourse
2 Bramalea Stamp Club	3	4 Brantford Stamp Club Saugeen Stamp Club St. Catharines Stamp Club Waterloo Region Stamp Club	5 Burlington Stamp Club Guelph Stamp Club Kincardine Stamp Club	6 Cambridge Stamp Club	7	8
9	10 Hamilton Stamp Club	11	12 Oxford Philatelic Society	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 BURLPEX 2020
16 Kitchener-Waterloo Philatelic Society (2:00 to 4:00)	17 Family Day	18 Bramalea Stamp Club Brantford Stamp Club St. Catharines Stamp Club	19 Burlington Stamp Club Guelph Stamp Club Owen Sound Stamp Club	20	21	22
23 Toronto Post Card Club – Annual Sale	24 Hamilton Stamp Club	25	26 Oxford Philatelic Society	27 Stratford Stamp Club	28	29



# March

## 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Bramalea Stamp Club	2	3 Brantford Stamp Club Saugeen Stamp Club St. Catharines Stamp Club Waterloo Region Stamp Club	4 Burlington Stamp Club Guelph Stamp Club Kincardine Stamp Club	5 Cambridge Stamp Club	6	7
8	9 Hamilton Stamp Club	10	11 K-W-C Regional Post Card Club Oxford Philatelic Society	12 KW Philatelic Society	13	14
15	16	17 <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> Bramalea Stamp Club Brantford Stamp Club St. Catharines Stamp Club	18 Burlington Stamp Club Guelph Stamp Club Owen Sound Stamp Club	19	20	21 <b>Woodstock Stamp Show</b>
22	23 Hamilton Stamp Club	24	25 Oxford Philatelic Society	26 Stratford Stamp Club	27	28
29	30	31				

# Grand News

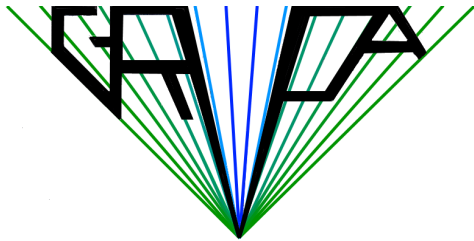
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The Journal of the Grand River Valley  
Philatelic Association

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Please submit your contributions digitally, either in the body of an email, or as attachment in either plain text or Microsoft Word format. Please clearly indicate in the Subject line what you are sending. You are welcome to include illustrations (clipart), scans and pictures in .jpeg, .bmp or .png formats. (Please, NOT .pdf!) All contributors are asked to adhere to the following guidelines:

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Thank you!

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