

Lawrence A Walker, omi (1911–2000)

FATHER Lawrence Anatole Walker died 28 April 2000. He was born 8 June 1911 at Côteau Station, QC. He was a priest of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and was professor and later Bursar of the University of Ottawa. Always interested in philately, he had a general collection of stamps while at the same time specializing in Canadian material. He had become known, particularly in the past 30 years, as a result of his interest in Québec postal history.

Father Walker was a pioneer in recording the postal history of Québec. He was the first to publish articles and books on its postal history in a systematic fashion. He wrote more than 28 studies and compilations, including the series entitled *Philathèque* (six titles), the counties of Québec, also grouped by larger regions (nine titles), particular postmark types (five titles), photocopies of his collections (seven titles), and his best-known work, *Les bureaux de poste du Québec*, published in 1987. In addition, he published more than one hundred articles on the postal history and the postmarks of Québec in periodicals such as *Philatélie Québec* (FQP), the *Cahiers de l'Académie* (AQEP), the *Bulletin d'histoire postale et de marcophilie* (SHQP), *Reflets de la philatélie au Québec*, and the *PHSC Journal*. He was a founding member of the *Société d'Histoire Postale du Québec* (SHPQ), and until recently was a member of all the important philatelic societies of North America.

Over the past thirty years, he participated actively in the diffusion of knowledge on postal history through his publications, lectures, and his participation in local, national, and international exhibitions. He regularly took part in exhibitions at the Lakeshore Stamp Club (Montréal), at Orapex (Ottawa), and at international exhibitions, including *PhilexFrance* in 1989. In 1995, he bequeathed his Québec postal history collections, containing more than 50,000 items, to the National Archives of Canada, with the wish that they be accessible to all researchers.

He has been honoured on several occasions by different philatelic organizations, including the *Fédération québécoise de philatélie* in 1994 and the *Salon des collectionneurs de Montréal* in 1995. He received the PHSC's Stan Shantz Award in 1984 for his joint authorship of a series of articles on Canadian duplex cancellations, and was named an honorary member of the SHPQ. He was named a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada just before his death.

—Cimon Morin