

PHILATELIC HISTORY

Library and Archives Canada

Preserve Our Philatelic History

by Cimon Morin
Manager, Canadian Postal Archives

The hobby of stamp collecting has existed in Canada since the 1860's when beginnings were established in the Maritimes, Montreal and Toronto. In the 1870's stamp collectors started to form societies and clubs in order to organize themselves. Since the 1920's, their activities have included philatelic shows and exhibitions. The first major exhibition in Ontario was organized in August 1928 when the American Philatelic Society held its convention in Toronto.

When one wants to study the hobby of philately (i.e. the people, collections formed, organizations, exhibitions, dealers, etc.), the researcher needs to consult the published information in stamp magazines of the past. It is, with some exceptions, the only source of documentation relating to our hobby. In most instances, the archival records (i.e. personal papers, correspondence exchanged between collectors, researchers or dealers, photographs, unpublished notes and research) have vanished and have been lost over the years.

While collectors have done well in bringing together the best collections, they have not done very well in preserving the records relating to the hobby. The philatelic community has a rich history and much diversity. It has brought together a number of prominent and great collectors who gave the hobby their time, energy and dedication.

During the past years, Library and Archives Canada (IAC) - the new name resulting from the amalgamation of the National Library of Canada and the National Archives of Canada has put some emphasis on collecting these type of records, and have been successful in some areas, thanks to the cooperation of philatelists. In terms of acquiring, preserving and documenting the hobby, the IAC has been able to acquire the publications and the papers or archival holdings relating to societies and individuals. This listing is a selection of such records from the Toronto area. In knowing more about ourselves as a whole, we will bring new life to our hobby as well as pride for our philatelic past and present.

Details about the IAC archival holdings can be searched on the web site available at:

www.collectionscanada.ca/philately-postal

Consult the General Inventory database for additional details.

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THEMATIC PHILATELY

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ThemaGroup Takes Off

As announced in the last issue of PhilaJournal (No.8), that a Thematic Group was being formed as a service to the Philatelic Alliance members, eleven individuals initially show interest in participating. However, seven philatelic collectors: Frank Alusio, Peter Butler, Bob Hattam, George MacLean, Gord Payne, Garfield Portch, Suren Selvaraj, representing North York, Scarborough and West Toronto Stamp Clubs, attended the first gathering at the residence of Garfield Portch in Etobicoke. After a brief introduction of each other in terms of what we collect, our interest and what is expected from the group, a general discussion ensued basically on the collecting aspect of thematic philately.

In addition, there was an overhead presentation by Frank showing the difference between Topical and Thematic collecting and some of the various elements that a collector should look for to make his/her collecting interests more enjoyable and challenging.

The program of the ThemaGroup is tailored to evolve on the fancy of its members. Initially it will focus on the collecting aspects. In time, as we progress, the Group will move into the exhibiting aspects progressing from producing a One-page, a One-frame, Multi-frame, non-competitive, and competitive postal and Display Division exhibits.

The aim of the Group is "to gain knowledge from each other experience."

The surroundings, along with refreshments, were kindly provided by Garfield. Thanks old pal!

Other collectors who would interested in joining the Group, or would like more information on what is all about, may contact Frank by

tel: 416-621-8232 or e-mail: falusio@sympatico.ca



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LAC holdings on the hobby of Philately (Toronto area only)

Canada 82 Youth Exhibition, 1978-1983.50 cm textual records, 6 photographs, 1 poster (R3063). **Canadian Association for Philatelic Exhibition**, 1947-1963. 4 cm textual records (R3065). **Fred Jarrett** 1929-1946. 6 cm of textual records, 4 sheets of postage stamps, 1 v. (610 p.). **Michael Madesker**, 1970-1992. 34 cm of textual records, 16 prints: 13 posters, 3 show cards, 4 architectural drawings: blueprints, 1 diagram, 1 strip of 7 labels, 10 medals, 1 badge: cloth patch (R4245). **Douglas Patrick**, 1931-1980.8.23 m textual records and other material, 296 audio reels (75 h) (R3332). **Royal Philatelic Society of Canada**, 1959-1992.91.5 cm of textual records, 592 photographs: col. slides, 31 photographs: b&w, 18 photographs: col., 1 plaque (R3941). **Harry Sutherland**, 1900-2003. 4.78 m of textual records, 18 photographs, 3 discs, 2 posters, 1 postcard, 4 postal covers (R2095). **Toronto Stamp Collectors Club**, 1892-1990. 87 cm of textual records, 1 photograph: b&w. (R4669). **Canadian Philatelic Dealers Price lists collection**, 1872-1991. 1.90 m of textual records (DAPI992-314). **Philatelic Societies collection**, 1888-1994. 4.40 m of textual records. 298 labels, 1 poster, 25 photos b&w, 8 covers (DAPI995-151) for the Philatelic Library holdings consult at: http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianetJ020127_e.html