

Guest Column

The National Archives of Canada preserve our Philatelic History

By Cimon Morin

The hobby of stamp collecting has existed in Canada since the 1860's when beginnings were established in Montreal and in the Maritimes. 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 exhibition in Quebec was organized in 1925 by the St. Lawrence Stamp Club of Montreal.

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records (i.e. personal papers, correspondence exchanged between collectors, researchers or dealers, photographs, unpublished notes and research) have vanished and have been lost over the years.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 too 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 to the hobby their time, energy and dedication.

During the past 15 years the National Archives of Canada (NAC) has put some emphasis on collecting these types 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 NAC have been able to acquire the papers or archival holdings relating to societies and individuals. This listing is a selection of such records from the Montreal 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 NAC holdings can be searched on the NA web site www.archives.ca. Consult the "Postal Archives" section or the "General Inventory" database on *ArchiviaNet*.

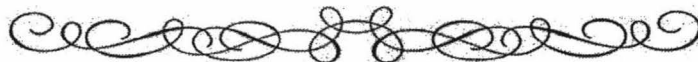
National Archives holdings on the hobby of Philately
[Montreal area only]

- Canada 1982 International Youth Exhibition fonds, 1988-1992
- Charles J.G. Verge fonds, 1900-1992
- Collection Fédération québécoise de philatélie, 1988-1992
- E. Phillip Weiss fonds, 1959-1965
- Fonds Anatole Walker, 1779-1996
- Fonds Denis Masse, 1909-2002
- Fonds Union philatélique de Montréal, 1933-1996
- George C. Marler fonds, 1887-1981
- Montreal Philatelic Society fonds, 1980-1914
- Third Canadian Philatelic Exhibition Scrapbook, 1925
- Wally Gutzman fonds, 1977-1982



Editor's note ... the National Archives of Canada is on our club newsletter mailing list and they have copies of all issues starting from Vol. 1 No. 1.

It is a source of considerable pride to note three names on the above list ... Charles Verge : Anatole (Larry) Walker : and Wally Gutzman All members of the Lakeshore Stamp Club!



The A.P.S. and L.S.C.

As a Chapter Member of the American Philatelic Society we are required to file an annual report with them and one of the questions is: "How many of your Members are also Members of the APS?". Not knowing the answer, we suggested that they tell us ... from our Membership List. This they did, and asked if they could solicit new members from our List. We had no objection, and three have signed up. NOW: if we can get only TWO more to sign up before the year-end, our Club will benefit from a subscription-free membership next year ... a savings of US \$30. Plus, we receive \$15 worth of free literature from them! This is not to be sneezed at!!

So: I am calling on those of you who are not members of the APS to please consider joining! I have membership applications available for the asking ... 683-9687.

I assure you that the US \$30 membership fee is well worth it. By signing up you will be doing yourself and your Club a real favour. *Go for it!!!*

Ray Ireson : Membership Secretary : Editor