

Guest Editorial

Jacques Poitras

Philately in the Province of Quebec

PHILATELY has profound roots in Quebec. Our oldest clubs, La Société Philatélique de Québec and l'Union Philatélique de Montréal, were founded in 1929 and 1933 respectively. The two clubs are members of the Fédération Québécoise de Philatélie.

At this moment, about fifty clubs (totaling about two thousand collectors) are members of the Fédération, covering almost the whole of the province from Gaspé to Hull/Gatineau. Although the majority are French speaking, large English-speaking or bilingual clubs such as the Lakeshore Stamp Club and the Ottawa Philatelic Society are also members of the Fédération (Montreal's Baltic Club also adds to the cultural diversity of our membership.)

About twenty clubs are either Youth clubs, or Adult clubs with a Youth section. In 2017, the Fédération produced *My Treasure Chest*, a philatelic guide for kids in French and English that has been distributed all over Canada. It also organizes regular seminars to give kids a good introduction to our pastime. Youngsters are invited to draw their own stamps on a given subject.

This year, to honour the 100th anniversary of aerophilately, planes were the subject. The drawings are presented at the Lakeshore Stamp Show for a public vote, and the three best stamps are reproduced by the Fédération as custom stamps (in sheets, booklets, and on special covers). This year's best Youth stamps will be on display (and on sale) at the Fédération's table during the BNAPEX 2018 convention.

Among our clubs, two have a national instead of a purely regional scope. L'Académie Québécoise d'Études philatélique is composed of about fifteen top level philatelists. Six times a year they hold meetings. Each member must present a program to a meeting at least once every two years. These conferences cover the whole spectrum of philately from thematic to specialised subjects and postal history. The public is invited to participate.

The Société d'Histoire postale du Québec (SHPQ) plays a major role in the dynamics of philately in Quebec. Three times a year it publishes the Bulletin d'Histoire postale et de marcophilie for its seventy-five members from all over Canada. Founded in 1980, to date the SHPQ has published more than fifty different specialised studies about Quebec postal history. Currently it is publishing *The Catalogue of Quebec Postmarks* series.

Three books in this ongoing series have already appeared—the pre-Confederation period, Broken Circle Postmarks, and the Classification Guide, a rational organization of Quebec postmarks.

We are proud to host the BNAPEX convention this September in beautiful Quebec City and hope to make it a great philatelic moment to remember.

Jacques Poitras

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