

January 17, 2004
The Ottawa Citizen

STAMPS • CHARLES VERGE

His passion is our postal heritage

During his many years at Canada Post as a senior manager, Peter John Kaulback worked tirelessly to ensure the preservation of Canada's postal heritage and artifacts. Mr. Kaulback died Jan. 2 at the age of 55.

Mr. Kaulback was a man of varied philatelic interests and collected stamps the same way he enjoyed life: with vigour, vitality and pleasure. In my many dealings with him, he always had a smile, an anecdote or some interesting information about Canada Post heritage or a new stamp or philatelic heritage discovery to share.

He was president of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group and a former president of the Ottawa Philatelic Society. His sudden departure will leave a major gap in the hobby and those organizations that relied on him for advice and leadership.

Richard Logan, mace bearer for the Senate, is now president of the Ottawa Philatelic Society. Mr. Logan has been collecting stamps since 1946 and his interests are Canada, United States, Israel and Austria. He is also a featured writer in *Canadian Stamp News* and the *American Philatelist* and plans to put together a history of the Ottawa Philatelic Society, founded in 1891.

The society meets Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Hintonburg Community Centre, 1064 Wellington St., three blocks east of Parkdale Avenue.

The RA Stamp Club meets Monday nights at the RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. with president John Irwin taking the chair.

Do you know what Abraham Lincoln, Harry Truman, Bing Crosby, Walt Disney and Rock Hudson have in common? According to a new booklet from the United States Postal Service, they were all postal workers. The first two were postmasters, the last two were letter carriers, and Mr. Crosby was a clerk.

The 64-page history of the postal service is replete with sometimes known, sometimes arcane, but always interesting information. *The United States Postal Service: An American History: 1775-2002* is available without charge from: Historian's Office, USPS, 475 L'Enfant Plaza S.W., Washington, DC 20260-0012.

Thank you to readers who have offered input on the column. I will follow up on these comments in future columns and welcome more.

Charles Verge is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.
Write c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd.,
Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4.
E-mail: vergec@sympatico.ca.

March 13, 2004

The Ottawa Citizen



The photo used in this commemorative stamp, celebrating the life of Canada's 24th governor general, Ray Hnatyshyn, was taken by Canadian Press photographer Paul Chiasson.



CHARLES VERGE
STAMPS

Hnatyshyn remembered

March 16 marks the 70th anniversary of the birth of the late Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Canada's 24th governor general. Canada Post will issue a single domestic letter rate stamp (49 cents) celebrating his life and achievements.

Mr. Hnatyshyn was appointed governor general in January 1990 after a long legal and political career. During his tenure in office, Mr. Hnatyshyn and his wife Gerda established the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards and the Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Volunteerism in the Arts. He was also committed to literacy and supported Canada Post's Literacy programs by establishing the Governor General's Flight for Freedom Awards for Lifetime Achievement in Literacy. After retiring, Mr. Hnatyshyn returned to the practice of law and was chancellor of Carleton University from April 2002 until his death on Dec. 18, 2002.

Mr. Hnatyshyn could frequently be seen strolling down Sparks Street Mall at lunch time. It is there, one day in 1998, he stopped my youngest daughter, then 18; he remembered her and her name from having met her six years earlier in Montreal when he opened CANADA 92, the World Youth Philatelic Exhibition. She had been a master of ceremonies and had accompanied him through a tour of the exhibits. When he passed on, she was the first to tell me and said, "My Governor General died today."

The new stamp shows the late governor general in formal dress, tipping his hat with a smile against a background depicting part of his heraldic coat of arms. The photo was taken by Canadian Press photographer Paul Chiasson on the day Mr. Hnatyshyn assumed office. It was designed by Susan Mavor of Vancouver and printed by Lowe Martin of Ottawa using four colour lithography and two metallic inks. This is Ms. Mavor's first stamp design for Canada Post.

Two recent handbooks may be of interest to readers. For baby boomers and older people, I recommend *Topical Stamp Collecting: A Universal Hobby for Seniors* (\$3 U.S.). The other is for those of you who may have started a collection of John F. Kennedy material in the 1960s or may wish to start one now. *John Fitzgerald Kennedy and His Family on Worldwide Stamps* (\$22 U.S.) Both handbooks are available through the American Topical Association, Box 57, Arlington, TX 76004-0057, USA or american-topical@msn.com. Postage is extra.

CHARLES VERGE is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. E-mail: verge@sympatico.ca.

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Queen Mary II is shown on a British first-class stamp, part of a set of six stamps showing great ocean liners.

Royal Mail launches ocean liners

BY CHARLES VERGE

The world's largest cruise ship, *Queen Mary II*, is shown on a British first-class stamp (1st), part of a set of six stamps showing great ocean liners. Royal Mail, the British post office, issued the set on April 13 to commemorate the Queen's Jan. 8 launch of the ocean liner named after her grandmother Queen Mary, wife of King George V. Queen Mary died in 1953.

This Cunard line ship was built in France and La Poste, the French postal service, has already issued a 0.50 stamp on Dec. 12, 2003 showing the ship.

Although the *Queen Mary II* is not scheduled to visit Canada until September 2004 when it will undertake tours of Atlantic Canada and Quebec, Canada Post will issue a stamp for the founder of the line, Sir Samuel Cunard. This stamp, as well as its mate honouring Sir Hugh Allen, another great Canadian shipping magnate, will be launched in Halifax on May 29, the opening day of the 76th annual convention of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.

The first *Queen Mary* is shown on the 42-pence stamp (worldwide postcard rate). The other four ships shown in the Great Britain series are the *Mauretania*, sister ship of the *Lusitania*, shown on the 47-pence basic airmail letter rate up to 10 grams; the *City of New York* (57 pence airmail rate to Europe); the *Great Western* (68 pence airmail letter rate between 10 and 20 grams; and the *Canberra* (E stamp for letters to the European Union).

The stamps, based on paintings, were designed by John Gibbs.

Microsoft Corporation has named one of its projects after the Penny Black, the world's first adhesive postage stamp. The software under development echoes the revolutionary changes to the British postal system with the introduction of penny postage in 1840. Before the Penny Black, postage was calculated on each letter, based on weight and distance. The Penny Black brought in a uniform rate and shifted the cost of postage, which had been typically paid by the addressee, to the sender.

Microsoft is looking at charging senders of spam (unwanted Internet advertising) a fee to ensure the delivery of messages. For readers interested in more information the project is described on Microsoft's website at <http://research.microsoft.com/research/sv/PennyBlack/>.

The 43rd annual ORAPEX stamp exhibition is next weekend (May 1, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and May 2, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) at the RA Centre, 2451, Riverside Dr. For the 17th year, the show is an accredited national level show which means exhibits garnering a vermeil medal or above are eligible to compete at the international level. The quality of the exhibits is exceptional and, if that is not enough, more than 40 dealers will be there to entice you with new additions to your collection like the British stamps mentioned above.

Charles Verge is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. E-mail: vergec@sympatico.ca.

STAMPS



A series of stamps in the shape of starfish features the chocolate chip starfish, which has protuberances resembling chocolate chips.

Shapes, images, and scents

BY CHARLES VERGE

Collectors may be interested in the release of these unusual issues.

Vanuatu, a Pacific Ocean state, has issued a four-stamp series in the shape of starfish. Starfish, or sea stars, are creatures that can regenerate damaged or missing parts. The rhinoceros starfish, also known as the chocolate chip starfish, is featured on the 35-vatus stamp. The 90v denomination is the necklace or marble starfish, which has only one known predator: the dancing shrimp.

In May, the British Post Office issued six stamps for the 200th anniversary of the Royal Horticultural Society. Although the flower designs seem to be photographs, the images were created without the use of a camera. The ghostly silhouettes of the flowers were designed by Barbara and Zafer Baran who used the latest digital technology and 19th-century experimentation to create the modern equivalent of a photogram, an image made without a camera. The results of the Barans' experiments are reminiscent of photogenic drawings. William Henry Fox, the father of modern photography, invented this type of positive-negative process in 1840.

Michel-Rundschau, a German publisher of stamp catalogues, is also known for its survey of new issue stamps worldwide. Their report for the 2002 issue year, released last January, indicates, for the second year in a row, a decrease in new issues by postal authorities. In 2002, the number dropped below 13,000 for the first time since 1996. Prior to 2001, numbers had increased each year since 1992. Michel-Rundschau concludes that a worldwide collector (and there are still a few around) who wanted to purchase all 12,532 new stamps issued in 2002 would have had to fork over \$10,679.20 to complete album pages.

Switzerland was the first country to issue an "embroidered" stamp in 2000. Now, five postal entities have similar stamps. Bischoff Textil of St. Gallen, the firm who made the Swiss stamps, produced the embroidered Teddy bear stamps issued by the Gambia, Grenada, Grenada's Carriacou and Petite Martinique, St. Vincent, and Sierra Leone. The Teddy Bear on all five stamps is brown with different background colours and borders for each issue.

Russia is one of a list of countries that have scented stamps. The "Gifts of Nature" series consists of five five-ruble circular stamps featuring strawberries, a pear, a melon, two apples and a pineapple. Special scented gum on the reverse side provides the scent.

Charles Verge is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. E-mail: vergec@sympatico.ca.

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December 14, 2004
The Ottawa Citizen

STAMPS

Holiday gifts for your hobbyist

BY CHARLES VERGE

It's time for holiday tips on what to buy your favourite hobbyist. Canada Post is a good source for a varied range of gifts.

For golfers, how about a deck of golf-ball shaped playing cards (\$8.99) or the Open Championship of Canada Commemorative Frame (\$49.99) that contains commemorative stamps mounted above actual golf tees, along with commemorative coins.

The Tulip stamp series plates (\$29.95) have a third (City of Vancouver) and fourth (Monte-Carlo) plate. The first plate (Bishop) is no longer available, but the second (Ottawa) is.

Toy antique and modern mail delivery trucks are \$6.99 and \$9.99. Plush rabbits, dogs, cats and goldfish (\$9.99) match up with the October pet stamps issued for stamp collecting month.

Collection Canada 2004, showcasing late 2003 definitives and 2004 commemoratives, sells for \$54.95 with \$40.16 worth of stamps. This is a high quality publication with essays, some by well-known authors such as Roch Carrier.

These gift suggestions can be found at selected post offices, stamp dealers or through the National Philatelic Centre, 75 St. Ninian St., Antigonish, NS B2G 2R8 or by calling 1-800-565-4362.

New editions of specialized Canada catalogues are out. This year, Unitrade Press (99 Floral Pkwy, Toronto, M6L 2C4) has an English version (\$42.95) and a French supplement (\$5). The 11th edition of Darnell's catalogue (\$42.95) is available through its publisher, Rousseau Inc., 230 St. Jacques Street, Montreal, H2Y 1L9. As well, Rousseau has a catalogue of Canadian EFOs (Errors, Freaks and Oddities) (\$39.95). Stamp dealers also carry these books.

For something more specialized, I recommend André Rondeau's reference collection of the 1903-1908 Edward VII issue with spaces for 63 examples of colour shades and varieties. About 20 collections will be prepared and the price will depend on completion and quality of the stamps (\$100-\$300).

This and two other reference collections; the last postage-due stamps of Canada (1960s-70s) and the 19th-century 3rd Bill stamp issue, are available from Ian Kimmerly, philatelist, 112 Sparks St., Ottawa, K1P 5B6 or at 235-9504.

Charles Verge is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. E-mail: vergec@sympatico.ca.

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STAMPS • CHARLES VERGE

Tourist series different for 2004

Look for a drastically changed tourist attraction series this year. Instead of having two booklets of five different sites bearing the U.S. and International rates respectively, as in previous years, each booklet of five stamps will show only one site and will be at the domestic rate.

Changing them to 49-cent stamps is in response to many requests from postal patrons. In addition, this new format for tourist attractions will target events rather than places.

First off the mark will be the 50th anniversary of the Quebec Carnival. The booklet will feature Bonhomme Carnaval prominently in front of the Ice Palace. Other tourist attraction stamps proposed for this year will likely include the previously announced 100th anniversary of St-Joseph Oratory in Montreal, the 25th anniversary of the Montreal Jazz Festival and the 125th anniversary of the Canadian National Exhibition.

The United States Postal Service has stubbornly refused to produce personalized stamps even after multiple requests from both houses of Congress, collectors and the general public. However, these stamps, which bear a photograph of your choice, are appearing on U.S. territory courtesy of the United Nations Postal Administration.

Visitors at the United Nations headquarters in New York are able to have their photographs taken and reproduced on a label next to a postage stamp. This is the model invented by the Australians in 1999 and used by most of the 20 countries that have personalized stamps.

Two types of 20-stamp panes were available when the UN postal service introduced this service in November 2003. The first is for visitors and features five different stamps with blank labels where the photos will be placed. One stamp shows the UN emblem and the other four have photographs of different views of the UN's headquarters. The other pane is for mail order customers and is differentiated from the on-site pane by the labels, which have two different designs. One features the name United Nations in many different languages while the other shows a peace dove on a globe.

If there is no lineup, the time of production of the sheets of stamps with photographs is 90 seconds from the time the digital photograph is taken to the time the pane of stamps is handed to the customer. As is customary for this type of stamp in most countries, the sale price is near double the face value of the stamps. In the UN's case, it is \$14.95 U.S. for a face value of \$7.40 U.S.

The initial printing is of 100,000 panes and the stamps are valid for postage only when mailed from the UN headquarters in New York. For more information write to the UNPA at Box 5900, Grand Central Station, NY, NY 10163-9992 or by e-mail at unpa@un.org.

Less than a month after England won the World Rugby Cup, Great Britain put out a souvenir sheet of four stamps celebrating the victory. A last-minute addition to the 2003 stamp program, two of the stamps are domestic rate (1st) and two are airmail rate for the up-to-20-gram letter (68 pence).

If you travel south during the winter and spring, you might want to check www.stamps.org/directories/dir_ShowCalendar and you will get a calendar for the stamps shows being held in the U.S. throughout the year and forthcoming years as well.

Charles Vergé is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. For questions and comments, write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. E-mail: vergec@sympatico.ca.

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The Ottawa Citizen

THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

STAMPS • CHARLES VERGE

Monday, February 24, 1851.

Breakfasted at Ellah's Hotel
with Mr. Rutter & Honble Jas
Morris Post Master General
Designing postage stamps
for him



Sir Sandford Fleming wrote, 'Breakfasted at Ellah's Hotel with Mr. Rutter and Honble. Jas Morris Post Master General Designing postage stamps for him.' Lore has it Sir Sandford drew a preliminary design on a napkin during the breakfast. Later, he went back and attached the red essay to this page.



Fleming received letters franked with the very stamp he designed.

Fleming wrote about famous stamp in his diary

A reader, Phil Potter, suggested this column use more illustrations and added that Sir Sandford Fleming, who designed the first three Canadian stamps, including the well-known three-penny beaver, would make a good column subject. The timing is very apt as a page from Fleming's diary, dated Monday, Feb. 24, 1851, with a red beaver essay attached, was sold last Saturday for \$110,000 U.S.

Fleming was a designer and inventor throughout his long life (1827-1915). At 18, with some formal training in surveying and engineering, he emigrated to Canada from Scotland. In 1858, as chief engineer of the Northern Railway, he proposed a railway to the Pacific. From 1867 to 1880, he was chief engineer of the Canadian government, responsible for the construction of the Intercolonial railway and much of the Canadian Pacific. After his retirement in 1880, he turned to problems such as international timekeeping, inventing the time zones we use today. In 1880, he was appointed chancellor of Queen's University.

On Fleming's diary page is one of only two recorded red essays of the three-penny beaver done by Toronto engraver James Ellis and based on Fleming's design. The stamps were to be printed in Toronto, but Sir James Morris, Canada's first postmaster general, concerned about possible forgery, opted for engraved stamps from a New York firm, Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson.

There are four known Ellis essays, two black and two red. One of each is in the Canadian Postal Archives in Gatineau. The other black essay is in The Brigham Collection of Mississauga and now joined by the red essay sold a week ago.

The essays differ in that the Ellis lettering is red on white while the RWH&E essay and the printed stamps have white lettering on a red background. Between the black and red Ellis essays, the size of the beaver differs. On the black, the beaver's back is taller and the body is beehive shaped. The red Ellis beavers are closer in appearance to those on the printed stamps.

Charles Verge is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4.
E-mail: vergec@sympatico.ca.

Stamp your own Valentine



CHARLES VERGE
STAMPS

Sending Valentine's Day greetings through the mails has been popular since the mid-19th century. However, postal administrations did not get on to the bandwagon until the 1980s when they saw the financial advantages resulting from Valentine's Day stamps.

In the last 10 years, special Valentine's stamps have been turned into general greetings stamps issued at the beginning of the year to ensure sales in time for Valentine's Day. Canada Post never issued this kind of stamp since, I presume, it felt its Greet More and successor Picture Postage stamps could replace them. Instituted in 1994, these stamps with blank centres allow the postal patron to put anything tasteful in the centre of the stamp.

Because these stamps are available all year long, they can be used for all kinds of events where greetings or invitations are warranted. One such stamp used for my daughter's wedding invitation was shown in my Sept. 27 column.

The only time Canada Post celebrated Valentine's Day with a postal issue was in 2000. They produced a 46-cent Valentine's Day letter sheet showing a red heart where the stamp should be. These sheets, similar to aerogrammes of the past, did not seem popular and the experiment was never repeated.

On another Valentine's note, the Friends of the Canadian Postal Museum hosts its fifth Ball in support of the postal museum. With more than 500 guests, this year's Ball is the largest. Last year, \$80,000 was raised for the museum. Much of that went to animation programs for visitors and school groups. Sponsor groups have increased dramatically, and this year the amount raised should be much greater.

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I knew the National Postal Museum in Washington had some beautiful U.S. material and artefacts on display. What I didn't know was the Postmaster General of the U.S. also has vaults full of material. The current postmaster, John E. Potter, who is also Chief Executive Officer of the United States Postal Service, decided to share this wealth with collectors. He asked the postal service's manager of events, Michael Krop, to prepare a display to be shown in different venues, principally at stamp shows.

I attended the winter meeting of the American Philatelic Society recently in Norfolk, Virginia, and had the opportunity to admire the display. If the few pieces shown at Norfolk are any indication, the "vault" must have a lot of spectacular material. The theme of the exhibit is stamp production and the innovations in this area since the production of the U.S.'s first stamps in 1847.

Among the items the postal service shows are die proofs of the Inverted Jenny it asked the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to produce after the sheet of the 240 stamps with the inverted centre was found in 1918.

Another item of interest, particularly for younger people, was the utility pack that served as a mail pouch for the *Apollo 15* space flight, when stamps, envelopes, cancellation devices and ink pads travelled to the moon and back.

Mr. Krop says there is much more material in the vaults but no plans to create new displays. He expects the exhibit's next outing to be at the American Philatelic Society's annual convention in Sacramento, California, Aug. 12-15. If you have a chance, go and see this remarkable exhibit.

CHARLES VERGE is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. For questions and comments, write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4.
E-mail: vergec@sympatico.ca

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The Ottawa Citizen



The release of this stamp honouring singer Paul Robeson has provoked controversy over his political views.

Phenomenal, controversial life honoured



CHARLES VERGE
STAMPS

The United States Postal Service has been criticized recently for its Jan. 20 issue of a stamp honouring Paul Robeson (1898-1976).

Mr. Robeson is considered by many to be a Communist sympathizer, and the controversy is reminiscent of the postal service's commemoration of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo in 2001. She, too, was known as a Communist supporter, having given shelter to Leon Trotsky after his escape from Russia.

John Hotchner, of the postal service's Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee, said critics should note others who supported controversial philosophies — such as Charles Lindbergh, known to have had Nazi sympathies — have also appeared on U.S. stamps.

Mr. Robeson, an acclaimed actor, singer, athlete and activist, is the 27th in a Black Heritage series, which started in 1978 with a stamp on Harriet Tubman.

Accepted in 1915 on an academic scholarship, Mr. Robeson was only the third black student at Rutgers University. As a varsity athlete, he won 14 letters in football, baseball, basketball and track. In 1917, he was the first black named All-American. He was elected valedictorian. With a graduate law degree from Columbia University, he quit his job as a law clerk after a white secretary refused to take dictation from him. The lack of opportunities for black lawyers became apparent to him.

He made his professional acting debut in 1921. In 1924, Eugene O'Neill cast him in two plays and he made his screen debut. In 1931, he became the first black man to play Shakespeare's *Othello* with a white cast.

In addition to acting, his voice made him famous. With his deeply resonating bass-baritone, he is considered to be the singer who gave prominence to Negro spirituals. His theme song *Ol' Man River*, from the musical *Showboat*, was written with him in mind.

Paul Robeson was a phenomenon, a Renaissance man, of varied interests and accomplishments, including speaking and writing some 20 languages. He was a champion of racial equality and increasingly became a militant advocate of labour and left-wing political and social causes.

He never publicly acknowledged membership in the Communist Party. However, there is no doubt he was an ardent apologist and defender of the Soviet Union and Joseph Stalin.

Mr. Robeson was also honoured on a stamp from East Germany in 1983.

CHARLES VERGE is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. E-mail: verge@sympatico.ca.

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Is this a postage stamp? The search for an answer leads to some interesting historical background.

How to be a philatelic detective



CHARLES VERGE
STAMPS

When is a stamp not a postage stamp? A stamp is considered a label when it is not issued to pay or help make up a postage fee.

Many labels, however, look like stamps and can be mistaken for them. This is particularly true for labels from foreign countries. Collectors may find them difficult to identify. I am grateful to Michael Braham for sending the example pictured above.

The first step to identification is to determine the stamp's country of origin. Normally, postage stamps bear the name of the country, except for Great Britain where only the monarch's head appears. If there is no country listed, then the writing and portrait can give more information. There are two languages on our example above. The top words, *Viribus Unitis*, are Latin while the words below, *Kaiserin Elisabeth*, are German. *Kaiserin Elisabeth* means Empress Elisabeth and *Viribus Unitis* means Strength through Unity. The Internet comes in handy here. *Viribus Unitis* is not only the flagship (1912-1918) of the Austro-Hungarian navy but also the motto of the Imperial Family. Empress Elisabeth, "Sissi," was the consort of Emperor Franz-Joseph of Austria-Hungary, who reigned 1848 to 1916.

So, is this a stamp or label? We have an inkling it is a label because it carries no monetary denomination, but we still have no proof. What now? Sometimes, the Internet may help. In this case, it didn't. I checked catalogues of Austrian postage stamps and it was not listed there. I was almost sure this was a label. I asked a German friend who said he thought this might be an Austro-Hungarian charity label issued in the mid-1860s because the portrait of the Empress showed a young woman, probably on her wedding day.

Armed with this knowledge, I e-mailed the America Philatelic Research Library with a request for help (www.stamps.org and go to Library Services). They were quick to respond and identified Mr. Braham's "stamp" as a seal issued around 1908 in support of the Society to Help Combat Tuberculosis in Children. What fascinated me was that 10 years before the issue of this label, the empress had been assassinated at age 61. Why use a portrait of the empress as a young woman? In a biography, I learned that in her youth, the empress had been considered one of the most beautiful women in the world and in her later years, she hid her aging face behind hats and veils. This might explain the portrait on the label.

The verdict is this stamp is a label that had several printings over many years and was issued in many colours. It sold for 4 hellers except for three re-issues in 1910 that sold for 10 hellers.

CHARLES VERGE is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. E-mail: verge@sympatico.ca.



Many countries reproduce religious art on stamps, such as this painting of the Last Supper by J. de Juarez on a stamp from Spain.

Easter art a favourite among collectors



CHARLES VERGE
STAMPS

Collecting religious stamps has always been a keen interest of many. Christmas is most popular because it not only has a religious side to it but a major secular one as well. Easter collecting ranks second for those interested in religious stamps, according to the Guild of St. Gabriel, one of the oldest religious stamp collectors organization in the world. The guild celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2003.

Easter stamp collecting came to the fore in the 1960s when the collecting of art on stamps became popular as a result of France issuing spectacular art reproductions three or four times each year. Other countries then followed.

Many of the great European artists portrayed some aspects of the life and times of Christ including his Passion and Resurrection. For example, the Last Supper or the Passover Supper is shown on stamps of Liberia (El Greco), Argentina (Fra Angelico) and the one, pictured above, from Spain (J. de Juarez) while the Resurrection can be found on stamps of Burundi (Pierro della Francesca), Togo (M. Grunewald) and Ghana (Albrecht Durer). Although many of these stamps come from African countries, Caribbean countries issued them as well. Other Easter stamps were issued by European and American countries, with the Vatican leading the list.

Easter collectors also have the possibility of collecting secular stamps related to their theme including bunny rabbits, Easter eggs and flowers like lilies, daffodils, crocuses and other spring flowers.

The most well known are the Russian Easter eggs. A set of three of these were illustrated on Liechtenstein stamps in 2001. In the 17th century, after Easter services, the czar exchanged the Easter kiss with the senior clergy and then gave eggs to Moscow aristocracy and nobility. At first these were goose eggs, hens' eggs and wooden eggs. They were painted in garish colours on a gold background and produced by woodworkers, icon painters and engravers from the armoury as well as monks. Some 37,000 eggs were needed between Easter and Ascension to allow sufficient coloured eggs for everyone. In the 18th and 19th century, state-owned and private glass-works manufactured eggs from milk or crystal-glass, which was then cut, gilded and decorated with picturesque ornaments, monograms and delicate miniatures. The most famous were the Fabergé eggs the later czars offered to their wives.

In 2002, Finland issued a most unusual stamp for its Easter offering. It showed a witch flying on a broomstick. For the Finns and many other people, Easter is not only based on religion but also on legends and folklore. At one time, superstitious people believed that witches broke loose while Jesus was buried in his rock tomb. They were then driven away by Easter fires. This legend likely originated in Central Europe before appearing in Finland.

Happy Easter weekend.

CHARLES VERGE is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. E-mail: verges@sympatico.ca.

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The Ottawa Citizen

STAMPS

TOP QUALITY EXHIBITS AT ORAPEX THIS WEEKEND

BY CHARLES VERGE

Ottawa has more stamp collectors than most cities in Canada. This is why stamp dealers love to come to ORAPEX, an annual national stamp exhibition. More than 40 dealers will be at this weekend's show at the RA Centre (2451 Riverside Dr.).

ORPAEX is accredited as a national level show by the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. It is one of only four permanent national shows in Canada where exhibitors are judged and can move on to international levels. Two other shows are held in Edmonton in March and Vancouver in October. The fourth is the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada's convention which moves around the country and will be held this year in Halifax, May 29-31.

At this weekend's 43rd annual ORAPEX, 120 frames of exhibits are displayed by Canadian, U.S. and British collectors including well-known Ottawa stamp dealer, collector and former author of this column, Ian Kimmerly, who will show his collection of Solomon Islands from 1907 to date. I cannot list all of the excellent collections on display, so I encourage you to tour them yourself and spend some time examining the work the exhibitors have done. I also recommend you stop and view the special youth exhibits put together by the students of Mutchmor, Hopewell and Woodroffe schools. Stamps, covers, postcards, supplies and literature can also be found at the booths.

For the first year in memory, Canada Post will not have a sales counter at the show. It seems they were unable to find a retail agent interested in taking on this two-day task. However, there will be special postal cancels available as well as commemorative envelopes. Ask for these at the show's reception desk as you come in.

Seminars scheduled for today include the annual meeting of the Postal History Society of Canada where its president, Douglas Murray of Charlottetown, will speak on the Winged Cancels of Canada (1 p.m.). These are the large rectangular box cancels that prominently feature the flying wing logo of Canada Post. A British North America Philatelic Society St. Lawrence regional group meeting will be held at 2:30 p.m. Harry Meechum will speak on British postal rates from 1952 on. At 4 p.m., the chief of the Canadian Postal Archives, Cimon Morin, will give pointers on how to do philatelic research using the websites of the Canadian Postal Archives and Library and Archives Canada.

Tomorrow, at 10 a.m., I am scheduled to make the day's first presentation about the difference between an exhibit's title page and the synopsis document that an exhibitor prepares for judges. This seminar is sponsored by the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors. Have you ever wondered how exhibits are judged and what judges look for in an exhibit? Attending the judging critique might be of interest. This question and answer session between judges and exhibitors is scheduled for 11 a.m.

At 12:30 p.m. there will be a meeting of the British North America Philatelic Society's Squared Circle Study Group and at 1:30 p.m. the Canadian Aerophilatelic Society meets. Finally The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada sponsors a judging seminar given mainly for judges but of interest to exhibitors. The subject of the seminar is single frame exhibits. All these meetings will be held in the Courtside 'A' room in the East Wing of the RA Centre.

The ORAPEX stamp exhibition is open today from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and tomorrow 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free and there is ample free parking.

*Charles Verge is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4.
E-mail: vergec@sympatico.ca.*

May 15, 2004
Ottawa Citizen

PAGE L13

STAMPS

EXHIBITS DETERMINE SUCCESS OF ORAPEX

BY CHARLES VERGE

ORAPEX 2004, held at the RA Centre on May 1 and 2, was an unqualified success. Both attendance and exhibits increased in number over last year — a great sign for the hobby.

One of the pet peeves of many shows is that you could fire a cannonball through the exhibit rows and not hit anybody. Well, the 43rd ORAPEX was an exception. There were many people in the frames throughout the whole show.

Why the resurgence of interest in the exhibits? I think it has to do with the new display features that make exhibits more appealing to the viewer. Although there are others, the ones most prevalent at ORAPEX were the one-frame exhibit and the display divisions.

These features attract more attention for two reasons. The one-frame may well be described as the short story of philatelic exhibiting. It has to tell a story in very compact terms, get the attention of judges, and impress with its research. The 16 pages tend to be packed with excellent material and a story line chock-a-block with information tailor-made for a shorter time span.

The display division allows people to add non-philatelic paraphernalia to their exhibits. This is material that includes postcards, coins, paper money, maps, photos, autographs, small three-dimensional objects and any other visual material that enhances the story line. These holistic exhibits have proven to be of greater interest to viewers who have little or no interest in stamps.

Doug Lingard, a member of the organizing committee, says he and other members handed out 100 questionnaires to "100 more or less randomly selected show visitors." The questionnaire asked visitors where they came from, whether it was their first visit to ORAPEX, and how they found out about the show. Although only 30 replies were received, organizers feel it was worthwhile and intend to expand it next year. Of the responses, 21 visitors came from the Ottawa area and nine from elsewhere, including one from Perth, Australia. Ten respondents indicated this was their first visit to ORAPEX (five from Ottawa and five from elsewhere). If extrapolated, this small survey could indicate a full third or more of those attending the show had never been before. This is an extremely encouraging sign.

Only three of the 30 responses mentioned they found out about the show through paid advertising. Sixty per cent said they read about it in *Canadian Stamp News* (11) or this column (7). Nine said they came to the show as a result of receiving a letter from a stamp dealer saying the dealer was attending the show. I thank Mr. Lingard for sharing this information with me.

The overall winner at ORAPEX 2004 was Michael Rixon from the Lakeshore Stamp Club who showed a postal history exhibit entitled *To, Through and From Montreal — pre-1851*. He was given a framed Lunar New Year uncut press sheet donated by Canada Post. In addition, the exhibit also won four other awards including the pre-1900 Medal of Excellence from the American Philatelic Society and the Best Postal History Plaque from the Ottawa Philatelic Society.

The youth Grand Award was won by 11-year-old Ben Soicher of Ottawa with a one-frame exhibit entitled *Cross the Country and Down the Hill*, a look at skiing. The Ralph D. Mitchener award for the most innovative, creative and humorous exhibit was won by Doug Lingard showing a one-frame exhibit entitled *Canadian Philatelic Disaster Covers*. In the exhibit he pokes fun at the misadventures caused by overzealous philatelists and eager letter readers. The resulting mangled or semi-destroyed envelopes and letters are not usually seen in a philatelic exhibit.

Charles Verge is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. For questions and comments, write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. E-mail: verges@sympatico.ca.

STAMPS

Canadian content on the expedition

BY CHARLES VERGE

The long awaited and highly publicized issue of three U.S. stamps commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804-1806 went on sale May 14. The story of how captains Lewis and Clark crossed the continent to explore the lands west of the Mississippi is well known, as is their 16-year-old Indian interpreter, Sacagawea. What is not well known, though, is that a number of Canadians also made the trip.

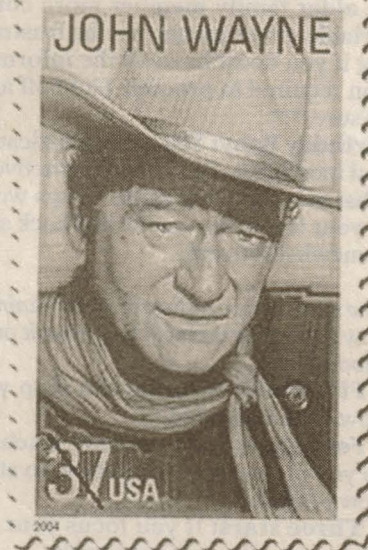
Among them was Toussaint Charbonneau, a free fur trader, born in Montreal and living amongst the Hidatsa Indians. The Hidatsa had captured Sacagawea, a Shoshone, and had sold her as a slave to Charbonneau, along with another Shoshone woman. Charbonneau considered them his "Indian wives." He applied to be an interpreter on the Lewis and Clark expedition and to bring along the women to interpret, as well. Neither Lewis or Clark spoke French or any of the Indian languages so a private in their troop, François Labiche, became an interpreter: the captains spoke to Labiche in English, he to Charbonneau in French; he to Sacagawea in Hidatsa, and she to her people in Shoshone.

Sacagawea started the expedition six months pregnant and gave birth to her son, Jean-Baptiste Charbonneau, during the trek. The child became a favourite of Clark, who offered to raise the boy at the end of the expedition and educated Jean-Baptiste until he returned to frontier life at age 18. There, Jean-Baptiste met Prince Paul Wilhelm of Wurtemberg, who was on a scientific voyage and was intrigued by Jean-Baptiste's cultural and frontier skills. The young man accompanied the prince to Europe and enjoyed the royal lifestyle for six years, acquiring a background that later set him apart when he returned to the western frontier. Jean-Baptiste died at age 61 in 1866 and was buried in Danner, Oregon.

Other members of the expedition who hailed from Canada were Baptiste Deschamps, a boatsman, Pierre Dorion, a trapper and interpreter, and Georges Drouillard, a hunter and Indian sign language interpreter.

*Charles Verge is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4.
E-mail: vergec@sympatico.ca.*

THE DUKE REMEMBERED



As part of the Legends of Hollywood commemorative stamp series, the U.S. Postal Service honours Marion Michael Morrison, better known as John Wayne. The stamp's image was unveiled at a fundraising gala for the John Wayne Cancer Institute. The postage stamp goes on sale Aug. 1.

Shipping pioneers get perforated

BY CHARLES VERGE

In response to collectors' requests, Canada Post has issued the first self-adhesive Canadian stamps to be fully perforated. The stamps, honouring two 19th-century Canadian shipping pioneers, were issued at the 76th convention of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada last month in Halifax. For the better part of the 19th century, Sir Samuel Cunard and Sir Hugh Allen were entrusted with delivering Canadian mail to Europe and were instrumental in advancing Canadian steamboat shipping.

The commemorative stamps are printed on heavy paper that can be peeled off from the back. This interesting approach was pioneered by Lowe Martin, a security printing firm that has recently come to be a permanent stamp printer. Although the peelable strips are die-cut from one side of the stamp to the other, the die-cuts on the dozen or so sheets I have seen do not seem to be impressed deeply enough. If care is taken, the stamps can be removed without damage.

At the philatelic society convention, one of the many comments heard about Canadian stamps was the difficulty had by collectors and dealers of acquiring recent Canadian issues. Small press runs, targeted distribution, and the popularity of some issues account for the scarcity of these stamps.

For example, Canada Post printed only 1.5 million of each of the first three 2004 Tourist Attractions. In addition, the stamps for the 50th anniversary of the Quebec Winter Carnival; the 100th anniversary of the founding of St-Joseph's Oratory; and the 25th anniversary of the Montreal Jazz Festival were mainly distributed in the locality where the event was held. The 150th anniversary stamps for the Army Cadets were sold out because army units and cadets bought them in large quantities. The 100th anniversary stamp for the Montreal Children's Hospital is also believed to be sold out; likely because it shows three bears as the main image. Is this good for the hobby? Probably, because it ensures demand and enhances the difficulty of acquisition. However, some modicum of national distribution must be ensured.

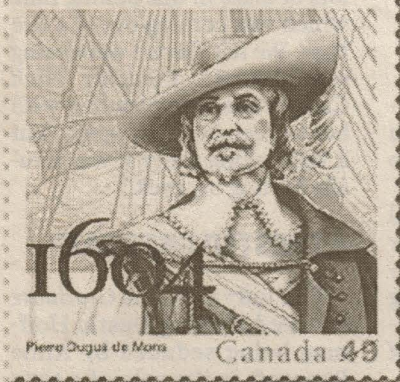
The voting is now on for Canada's most beautiful stamp for 2003. This year, for the first time in its 14 years of existence, the most-beautiful stamp poll leaves the confines of *Canadian Stamp News* and makes its way into thousands more hands. If you are a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada or the Fédération Québécoise de philatélie, or if you subscribe to *Canadian Stamp News* or Canada Post's *Details* magazine, you will have the chance to participate in the stamp poll. The four-page, full-colour poll will be inserted in the next issues of the publications of each group. I encourage you to participate as the results of the poll will be shared with Canada Post's Stamp Advisory Committee and the poll might have an influence on future decisions.

In July 2003, Canada Post prepared Picture Postage stamps and made them available to patrons on Canada-Alaska cruises on the *Norwegian Sky* out of Vancouver. There was a small print run and properly used copies have not been seen by collectors. Now comes news that the Netherlands Antilles have done the same. Their sheets of 10 stamps and three labels look suspiciously like the ones prepared by Canada Post.

Although the images are different, the layout of the sheet is the same. This is not a coincidence. The Netherlands Antilles Post Office is operated by Canada Post International, the instigator of the Canada-Alaska cruise stamps. They were available on the Holland America line's *MS Rotterdam* during a 10-day Panama Canal cruise earlier this year.

Charles Verge is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. For questions and comments, write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. E-mail: vergec@sympatico.ca.

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The Ottawa Citizen



Pierre Dugua de Mons established the first populated French settlement at Ile Sainte-Croix, in what is now Maine.

Joint issue marks 400th anniversary of New France

BY CHARLES VERGE

Canada Post issues a new 49-cent stamp today to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the founding of New France. The first populated French settlement was established by Pierre Dugua de Mons at Ile Sainte-Croix, located in what is now Maine and part of the United States since 1797.

France issues a similar stamp in Euros (.90) on the opening day of the French national exhibition, Le Salon du Timbre 2004, being held from today until July 4 at the Parc Floral in Paris. France will also provide a souvenir pack containing four copies of each of the stamps, with text and a map of Ile Sainte-Croix as drawn by Champlain, whose picture accompanies the text.

Although he does not appear on these stamps, Champlain will be the link to the stamps Canada Post intends to issue for this anniversary.

Stamps in Canada are rarely issued on weekends. The Pierre Dugua de Mons stamp is the second this month; the first was the 49-cent stamp launched in Regina by The Princess Royal on June 6 for the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

Canada's D-Day stamp is based on *The Assault*, a painting by Orville N. Fisher, a Canadian war artist who landed on Juno Beach with the Third Canadian Infantry Division. From a captured gun position and under enemy fire, Fisher worked with a pad strapped to his arm. He made several sketches that became the basis for the painting.

This is the second D-Day stamp issued by Canada; the first in 1994 was part of a series from 1989 to 1995 commemorating the Second World War.

Interest to note is one of the veterans of this invasion was actor James Doohan, well known as "Scotty" in the original *Star Trek* series and movies. He is portrayed on a \$1 stamp issued by the Caribbean nation of St. Vincent in 1996. Capt. Doohan of the Royal Canadian Artillery was hit on the leg and hand and lost a finger.

If you purchased an official First Day Cover from Canada Post with the second issue of the Audubon Birds, launched May 14, you may have noticed the cover is cancelled May 21. This is an error but since all covers were cancelled on May 21 rather than May 14 it is an oddity, not a rarity. Canada Post indicates it will not re-issue First Day Covers with the correct date.

Two philatelic websites of interest: <http://www.faulquemont.com/phil.htm>, a bilingual site on chess stamps. More than 125 postal entities have issued stamps on chess; Canada and the United States have not. A French-only site on Christopher Columbus has a section on Columbus stamps at <http://www.cristobal-colon.net>.

Charles Verge is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. E-mail: vergec@sympatico.ca.

July 24, 2004
The Ottawa Citizen



Canada Post will issue these Olympic stamps on Wednesday.

Oversights on Olympic issues

BY CHARLES VERGE

I have a birthday surprise coming from Canada Post with two stamps to be issued on July 28 to honour the XXVIII Olympiad to be held in Athens, Aug. 13-29. These stamps will be added to my "birthday collection" (stamps and postal history related to one's own birthday). The stamps also celebrate the 100th anniversary of Canada's involvement in the Summer Olympic Games.

In 1904, the Galt Football Club travelled to St. Louis, Missouri, to represent Canada in the III Olympiad; the second to feature football (also known in North America as soccer). Canada beat two U.S. teams to win the gold medal. The soccer stamp shows women playing the game in front of a goal net woven into the word Canada. Internationally, Canadian women's soccer teams have been successful in recent years, although they failed to qualify for this year's Games.

The other stamp shows Spyros Louis, a Greek shepherd who won the first Olympic marathon of the modern era in 1896 when the Games were re-introduced after almost 1,400 years. It was from the city of Marathon that Pheidippides, a Greek soldier, ran to Athens to tell his compatriots of the Athenian victory of General Miltiades over the Persians. Legend has it he ran the 42 kilometres between the two cities, delivered his message and then collapsed and died. Today's marathon races are 42 kilometres long.

It's disappointing that the gold medal-winning Galt team isn't mentioned on the football stamp or on the selvage of the stamp sheets. Also missing is any reference to the win of Canadian Billy Sheering in the 1906 Games, the last time the Games were held in Greece. It would have been easy to add Sheering's photograph between Louis's likeness and the stylized ancient Greek marathon runner.

Recently, I wrote about the Pierre Dugua de Mons stamp issued June 26 to celebrate the beginning of the 400th anniversary celebrations of the founding of New France. The background design of the stamp shows de Mons' ship, the *Don de Dieu*. While rummaging through a box of \$1 U.S. covers and assorted postal history at a stamp show in Indianapolis, I found a vintage postcard showing a replica of the ship. It was posted somewhere in Canada and bears a King Edward VII stamp. There is no postmark but I presume the postcard and the ship's replica were printed and built in 1904, the 300th anniversary of the event the June 26 stamp commemorates. The postcard makes a nice collateral piece beside the stamp in my collection.

Charles Verge is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. E-mail: vergec@sympatico.ca.

STAMPS

Personal history drives many collections

BY CHARLES VERGE

Last month, at a stamp show in Indianapolis, I was very excited to purchase a 60-year-old envelope addressed to and redirected from the Seignior Club, known today as the Château Montebello. (This is the same show, mentioned in my last column, where I also purchased the 100-year-old postcard of the *Don de Dieu*, the flagship of Pierre Dugua de Mons whose likeness and ship appear on a Canadian stamp issued June 26.)

People begin collections for innumerable reasons, but often a personal link exists among them. I began collecting, in 1991, the postal history of Papineau County in Quebec. My mother was born in 1921 in Fasset, the village to the east of Montebello, and from Nov. 11, 1942, to March 26, 1945, my father was the manager of the Seignior Club and by extension the club's official postmaster. He died in 1948, when I was 11 months old, and it wasn't until more than 40 years later that I discovered this "postal" link with my father.

Although I have other Seignior Club envelopes in my collection, the one purchased in Indianapolis is special to me. It was cancelled at the club's post office on Jan. 28, 1944, and is the first in my possession that may have been cancelled by my father.

The original buildings of the Château Montebello were built in 1930 on what were the grounds of the Seigneurie de la Petite-Nation, home to Louis-Joseph Papineau and his family. Papineau was honoured on a Canadian stamp in 1970 on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his death. Over 10,000 red cedar logs, transported by the Canadian Pacific Railway all the way from British Columbia, went into this architectural marvel designed in the shape of a star and the world's largest log building.

The Lucerne-in-Quebec Community Association purchased the *seigneurie* and dependencies on Oct. 5, 1929, and a post office was opened on the grounds on June 1, 1930, under the name Lucerne-in-Quebec. It changed names to Seignior Club on July 1, 1933, when the association sold the property to the Seignior Club, a private company. This post office operated until Dec. 24, 1970, a few weeks after Canadian Pacific Railways purchased the property.

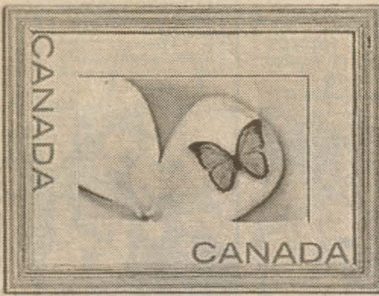
In my last column, I also wrote about the new Canadian Olympic Games stamp issued July 28. I wrote that Canada won the gold medal in soccer (football) at the Games in St. Louis in 1904. In an e-mail, reader Stephen Halchuk, a collector of soccer stamps, points out that in some circles, the Galt Club's win in 1904 is not considered a gold medal performance. He says many soccer and Olympic Games aficionados "consider that the first editions of the games had football as a demonstration sport." The first official winner is considered to have been Great Britain in 1908. According to the Rec. Sport. Soccer Statistics Foundation, no medals were won in 1904 but the International Olympic Committee later awarded Canada a gold medal. Its website, found at www.rsssf.com/tables/ol1904f.html, lists the names of the Galt Football Club players who participated in St. Louis.

Charles Verge is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4.
E-mail: vergec@sympatico.ca.

August 7, 2004
The Ottawa Citizen

August 21, 2004
The Ottawa Citizen

STAMPS



Don't try to buy this stamp separately from its greeting card package.

The butterfly conspiracy

BY CHARLES VERGE

When is a new stamp not a new stamp? According to Canada Post, some stamps are merely "an extension" of an already produced product.

This question arose when Canada Post issued four "new" stamps available only when purchasing the "Write Me ... Ring Me" Premium Greeting Cards.

For Canada Post, these stamps are just a customized version of the already existing silver frame stamps in the Picture Postage series issued in 2001. The cards sell for \$5.95 each and contain two domestic-rate (49-cent) postage stamps and a prepaid 15-minute long-distance telephone card for Canada and the U.S. The idea is the buyer uses one stamp and sends the card to someone they wish to hear from. The other person is encouraged to write (using the other stamp) and call (using the phone card).

The four designs on the cards are replicated on the postage stamps and the phone card: a flower petal and blue butterfly; a close-up of a bulldog's face; a red rose; and two children embracing at the beach. They are based on stock photographs supplied by Relizon, the company that produced the greeting cards. The four self-adhesive stamps had a print quantity of 25,000 each (12,500 cards) and have serpentine die cuts.

According to Canada Post, the greeting cards will be available indefinitely. The stamps will not be available in any other format or in any other Canada Post product and will not be registered with the Universal Postal Union. This means the stamps will not have a World Numbering System identifier, rendering them "illegal." They could be banned from exhibitions sanctioned by the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie.

These stamps are of interest to philatelists because the centre design has been printed while the previous silver frame was blank, allowing the buyer to select a design or sticker. The new stamps have a prescribed design.

Stamp cataloguers have a policy that stamps, to be listed in the stamp catalogues and to be defined as stamps by collectors, should be available to the general public without artificial restrictions imposed on their distribution.

In Britain, since March 31, postal patrons can no longer purchase stamps above the £1.50 denomination. Collectors, however, can still purchase them by mail order from the British Philatelic Bureau.

The same thing is happening in Canada. Have you tried to get an \$8 Polar Bear or a \$5 Moose stamp at your post office recently? Or does the machine spit out the ubiquitous black-and-white label before you can ask for the stamps? Wondering why? Retail postal outlets earn higher commission rates on sales of labels than of stamps.

Charles Verge is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. E-mail: vergeg@sympatico.ca.



Soccer stamp features girls from Ottawa

In my July 24 column, I wrote about Canada's Athens Olympic stamps. One of them showed young girls playing soccer in front of a goal net woven to look like the word Canada. What I failed to mention is that the four girls shown on the stamp all play for Ottawa area teams. The four are Tracy Miller from the Goulbourn Soccer Club (centre, about to kick the ball); Allison David (to the left) and Sonia Allison of the Gloucester Soccer Association (also running for the ball). The goaltender is Melissa Cordick of the Kanata Soccer Association. The photograph used by Pierre-Yves Pelletier, the designer, was taken by Photolux Studio/Imagination photo services. At the time, the girls were between the ages of 12 and 13.

One of my readers sent me a whole lot of questions seeking advice on how to collect modern Canada. The last question was rather a statement and in light of the above live people on a Canadian Olympic stamp, I thought you might be interested in my response.

Q: "Doesn't this ongoing set (Hockey All-Star Game) violate the rule against honouring living people, other than royalty? If it's the All-Star game that is being honoured, then why issue a set each year? The NHL was honoured in 1992 on its 75th anniversary. The All-Star game takes place every year, as does the Grey Cup and various other sports awards that only warrant single issues."

A: This is a real debatable issue. First of all, there is no hard and fast rule that says "no live people," nor, contrary to belief, is there a rule that says we cannot honour a person (except for deceased governors general and prime ministers) unless they have been dead for 10 years. The Americans have this rule and I presume most Canadians think it also applies in Canada.

September 4, 2004
The Ottawa Citizen

Back to living Canadians. The first living Canadian appeared on the Nursing/Health stamp of 1958 and since then many other living Canadians have appeared as models for generic people on stamps. Since the nurse, who was really a secretary who modelled for the stamp, I think there are more than 50 Canadians who are alive and are on Canadian stamps, including the eight astronauts in 2003 and Barbara Ann Scott, one of the four live people on the Petro Canada stamp of 2000.

I would like to see more live Canadians on stamps, without forgetting those of the past. If you want the hobby to survive, you must "go with the times." Postal patrons don't want dead politicians and old historical events. That's for stamp collectors who are nostalgic for the years of small numbers of stamps issued in large quantities that have little value today.

Postal patrons, who buy 80 per cent of the stamps, want Shania Twain, Bryan Adams and Céline Dion; cute puppies and cats; pretty flowers and birds; and trains, ships and planes. They also want hockey players, astronauts and events they can remember.

To me it is incomprehensible that we cannot put people such as Oscar Peterson on a stamp: Austria did. At this time, Canada Post's stamp advisory committee members — I am one of them — are struggling with this issue and I think you might see more live Canadian icons on stamps.

Charles Verge is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. E-mail: vergec@sympatico.ca.

STAMPS

Check out stamp club meetings

BY CHARLES VERGE

Stamp collectors have returned from their holidays, and the Ottawa stamp clubs have begun their weekly meetings. The RA Stamp Club and the Ottawa Philatelic Society, the oldest stamp club in the country having been founded in 1891, have a full and well structured program scheduled for the next few months.

The RA Stamp Club meets Monday nights at 8 p.m. with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. at the RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive (near the Billings Bridge Shopping Centre). Use the west entrance and go to the second floor. More information can be had by contacting the president at irwinj@agr.gc.ca.

The OPS meets Thursday nights at the Hintonburg Community Centre, 1064 Wellington St. (about three blocks east of Parkdale Avenue). The room is reserved from 6:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:45 p.m. For more information about the club contact the president at 725-0260 or e-mail at dicklogan@rogers.com.

The 9th annual Eastern Ontario Postcard club show and sale of postcards and related paper ephemera is being held today in the Merrickville Community Centre. The show is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. I will be missing it again this year as I will be out of the country, but each time I have attended it has been a great show; people are friendly, and browsing through boxes of postcards, old letters and old paper and books is great fun, and — who knows — you might find the elusive something for your collection. I have on many occasions.

September 18, 2004
The Ottawa Citizen

Congratulations to Canada Post on receiving a World Mail Award for its Borderfree for Merchants program. This is basically a commercial partnership between Canada Post and Borderfree Ltd. that helps Canadian consumers obtain landed cost pricing (in Canadian dollars) on goods they purchase from U.S. merchants. The program also helps Canada Post develop its "direct to home" (catalogue and online) business. More information can be had at the Borderfree website www.borderfree.com/solution-2.jsp.

Sir Gawaine Baillie (1934-2003) was a famous race car driver in the 1960s and was married to Margot Beaubien of Montreal. Lady Baillie is the daughter of the late Conservative senator Louis Beaubien. Sir Gawaine was also a stamp collector, and a good one at that. It is said he spent four hours every morning working on his collections. The auctioneering firm of Sotheby's has been entrusted with the sale of the collections by the family. They value it at over \$26 million. They also rank Sir Gawaine as one of the greatest collectors of the 19th and 20th centuries, putting him on par with King George V and Thomas Tapling, MP, whose collection forms the basis of the holdings of the British Library. Sotheby's will be selling the collection in 10 parts. The Canada and British North America section will be sold in Part 7 in May 2006. I'll have more on the subject closer to the time of the sale.

Charles Verge is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. E-mail: vergec@sympatico.ca.

New rates, new looks

BY CHARLES VERGE

Canada Post has a slew of new definitives for 2005 to cover the new rates in effect Jan. 17. From that day on, it will cost 50 cents to mail a first-class letter in Canada, 85 cents for a U.S.-bound letter and \$1.45 to all other countries.

The new 50-cent stamps include the popular "Flag over ..." design in a booklet format. The booklet will contain five different designs showing the Canadian flag flying over each of the five regions of Canada, instead of the one single stamp we usually see.

Accompanying them will be a second stamp of Queen Elizabeth dressed in "street" clothes, based on a Bryan Adams' photograph for the Queen's Golden Jubilee. After several years in decline, sales of the first stamp have increased, perhaps due to fans of the photographer. We will see how the new version's sales go.

Rounding out the January definitives will be three stamps of lilies in a coil format for letter rate and booklets for U.S. and international rates. In early 2005, look for the Lunar New Year's Year of the Rooster stamp and souvenir sheet. Also, six more NHL hockey stars — will they be issued if there is a strike? These will be followed by fishing-fly stamps, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and celebrating EXPO 2005 in Aichi, Japan. It is the second time, since 1998, that Canadian stamps depict fishing flies. They were popular the first time and, based on the new design, they surely will be again.

Daffodil stamps will be up in the spring in time for Easter, the Canadian Cancer Society's Campaign and wedding announcements.

The Audubon birds series, begun in 2003, concludes with four more stamps at the domestic letter rate and one at the U.S. rate. Several bridges celebrate anniversaries in 2005 and four will be shown in rather original designs.

One of Canada's oldest magazines, *Maclean's*, will be honoured by a single stamp on its anniversary. Homer Watson will be the artist recognized in 2005's art series on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of his birth.

These stamps will be unveiled at the 77th convention of the Royal Philatelic Society in London, Ontario.

Charles Verge is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. E-mail: vergec@sympatico.ca.

October 2, 2004

The Ottawa Citizen

October 16, 2004
The Ottawa Citizen

STAMPS



Eight cents of each stamp sale goes to programs preventing family violence.

U.S. stamp wins design award

BY CHARLES VERGE

The United States has won the philatelic world's equivalent of an Oscar or Emmy for a stamp depicting a chalk-drawing of a child in a family violence situation. The 34th Asiago award for the best designed stamp of 2003 went to the 45-cent U.S. stamp, of which eight cents goes to programs that help prevent family violence. Six-year-old Monique Blais of Santa Barbara, California, is the young artist of the drawing used on the stamp.

Canada won the 30th Asiago competition for its 1999 low-value definitives series showing hands of handicraft makers. This series is still available in most post offices.

Look for tribute stamps for the opening of the new War Museum, the Battle of the Atlantic, and the value of search and rescue to be issued in the last half of Canada Post's 2005 stamp program, starting in June 2005. In conjunction with the opening of the War Museum, Canada Post honours the Canadian artillery and Canadian war brides with two special envelopes bearing the new museum stamp.

In the continuing series commemorating the 400th anniversary of the founding of New France, a single stamp will be issued for the 400th anniversary of Port-Royal, Nova Scotia.

For the first time, FINA (Fédération Internationale de Natation Amateur) will hold its world championships in North America. Two stamps will be issued for this July event in Montreal.

Sept. 1 is the 100th anniversary of the creation of the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Each will get a stamp to celebrate the event.

For October, stamp collecting month, four stamps to support collecting will show extreme sports: skateboarding, snowboarding, mountain biking and wall climbing.

For the 42nd year in a row, a series of stamps will be issued for Christmas. The three stamps (domestic letter rate, U.S. and international rates) will feature mangers from the crèche collection of Saint Joseph's Oratory in Montreal.

Canada Post recently signed an agreement with China for a joint issue, in the form of two stamps, likely to be issued in the fall of 2005 to celebrate the 35th anniversary of China-Canada diplomatic relations. Also, a joint issue with Ireland will see two stamps honouring each other's national parks, Waterton Lakes in Canada and Killarney National Park in Ireland. Interestingly, both parks have been shown on their respective country's stamps before and, coincidentally, in the same year, 1982.

Charles Verge is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. E-mail: vergec@sympatico.ca.

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France's Marianne de Lamouche definitives will be available in January.

The tale of Marianne

BY CHARLES VERGE

Since 1944, the likeness most frequently seen on French stamps is that of Marianne. She graces virtually all of France's definitives.

Marianne represents the allegory of France and dates from 1797 when Count de Barras, a member of the French Directoire, chose the given name of the wife of a friend, Marie-Anne, to symbolize the new regime. The name was seemingly simple and had no royal connotation.

However, a recent discovery establishes the first written mention of Marianne to designate the Republic appears in 1792 in Puylaurens, near Toulouse. At that time, people sang a song in the Provençal dialect by the poet Guillaume Lavabre: *La garisou de Marianno* or *La guérison de Marianne* (Marianne's recovery).

Under the French Restoration and the Second Empire, Marianne became the code word for a secret clandestine republican society. Gen. Charles de Gaulle is credited with bringing her back into prominence in 1944 with the first French Marianne stamp, the Marianne d'Alger, issued in Algeria in preparation for France's liberation. These stamps are also known as Marianne de Dulac, by the name of the designer. To differentiate the many Marianne stamps, collectors use the name of the designers, a practice adopted by the French people and the state.

In 1967, a competition was held to choose the design of the next Marianne. The president picked the winner from among 10 finalists chosen by a panel.

This practice has continued and President Jacques Chirac this year chose a new Marianne for France's postage stamps. From nearly 50,000 entries, regional juries reduced that to the best 500 while a national jury further refined it to 100 images, which became the subject of a popular vote by the French people. Ten finalists, featuring startling and imaginative interpretations of the "spirit of France," were hung in front of the National Assembly in Paris before the president chose the winner.

The design of Thierry Lamouche, a 49-year-old illustrator from Paris, was the winner. The Marianne de Lamouche definitives will be available in January.

The Ottawa Fall Stamp Fair is being held today (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and tomorrow (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) at the Travelodge Hotel, 1376 Carling Ave.

Charles Verge is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. E-mail: vergec@sympatico.ca.

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STAMPS



Darrell Ertzberger and Matthew Whelan of Washington, D.C., used PhotoStamps to create a personal postage stamp of Chena, their beloved pet.

Let's get personal

BY CHARLES VERGE

Americans seem enamoured with the possibility of putting a personal photograph on their postage stamp. But contrary to Canada where Canada Post oversees Picture Postage, the U.S. version of personal postage, PhotoStamps, was not a product of the United States Postal Service.

More than 800,000 stamps in panes of 20 were produced by the Los Angeles based company Stamps.com., a postal-service licensed provider of Internet-based postage. In the first 20 days in August when the personal postage stamps were available, 800,000 stamps were sold.

The PhotoStamps program was a market test authorized by the United States Postal Service. All PhotoStamps postage produced during the test period is considered valid U.S. postage. The test ended Sept. 30 and USPS is to make a decision on the future of PhotoStamps by Jan. 1.

In the meantime, Stamps.com has requested the USPS extend the PhotoStamps test, or start a new test. The request is expected to be considered during the postal service's evaluation of the test run. Stamps.com also wanted to continue taking PhotoStamps orders while the program was being evaluated. That request was denied.

Deputy Postmaster General John Nolan said the USPS is examining every aspect of the product. For example, it wants to ensure the PhotoStamps barcode is in the best possible spot. "We want to get it right the first time," he said. "We don't want to have to keep tweaking it."

Security is another USPS concern, Nolan said, citing The Smoking Gun web site. That site tried to get stamps processed featuring Lee Harvey Oswald, the Unabomber and Salvatore "Sammy the Bull" Gravano. Though these were rejected, the website successfully ordered stamps featuring Monica Lewinsky's blue dress, Slobodan Milosevic and others.

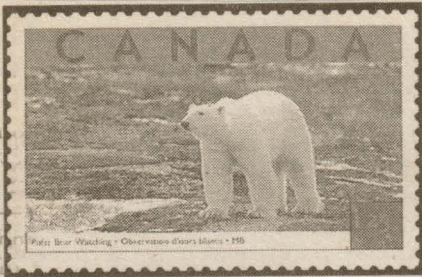
"This is the kind of thing we are looking into as well," Nolan said.

The USPS itself and its Citizen Stamp Advisory Committee are split on the merits of postage bearing private photographs. Only the New Year will tell us if the U.S. public will get its wish for more PhotoStamps.

I am fascinated by the lengths postal administrations will go to come up with new and original designs for their stamps. The latest comes from Austria where two stamps were issued in a souvenir sheet format on Sept. 20 to honour the Swarovsky crystal factory. The two stamps, produced with the help of the company, show a crystal swan and an abstract crystal piece. What makes them original is that there are six small pieces of crystal embedded in each of the stamps.

Charles Verge is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. E-mail: vergecs@sympatico.ca.

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Three of the five tourist attraction stamps issued in 2003 are amongst a survey of the top five favourite stamps. The Polar Bear Watching stamp won top honours.

Polar bear licks 'em all

BY CHARLES VERGE

The survey is in and the polar bear wins, paws down.

Readers of *Canadian Stamp News*, *The Canadian Philatelist*, *Philatélie Québec* and *Canada Post's Stamp Details* voted the Polar Bear Watching stamp the favourite of 2003. In fact, the expanded survey (it used to be limited to readers of *Canadian Stamp News*) shows three of the five tourist attractions issued that year are amongst the top five favourites.

The other two were Niagara Falls and the RCMP Depot Division. I wouldn't call the RCMP stamp beautiful but it proves the appeal Mounties have with stamp collectors.

A superb rendering of Maple Leafs in the Fall and Canadian volunteer firefighters round out the top five. The least favourite list is topped by the Queen's Coronation Jubilee stamp followed closely by the stamps honouring the Lutheran World Federation Congress, the American-Canadian Hellenic Association, the Year of the Ram Lunar New Year and the World Cycling Championships.

There were two other categories in the poll. Voted 'most relevant' stamp was the RCMP Depot and 'least relevant' was the Year of the Ram according to the nearly 3,000 people who mailed in the ballot. The only stamp to make the top 10 in all four categories was that issued to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Queen's coronation (10th as favourite, 1st as least favourite, 5th as most relevant and 4th as least relevant). In my view, this reflects the dichotomy of views of the general population as well as those of stamp collectors when it comes to the Queen. There seems to be as many adamant monarchists as there are republicans in this country.

I can tell you, my colleagues and I on the Canada Post stamp advisory committee take these polls to heart and we consult them when we make our selection of stamps for future years. However, the committee looks at the stamps to be issued over many years, not just for one year to ensure a balance. As well, as for any poll, there are some strange responses we need to consider. For example, dozens of writers requested more stamps emphasizing Canada's multicultural society on stamps but then the respondents proceeded to put the four multicultural related stamps of 2003 in the top six least relevant and in the top 10 least favourite.

In 2004, there were five tourist attraction stamps issued and none are planned for 2005. They were the most sought after of the year with their low printing of 1.5 million each. One of these was issued to celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. Joseph Oratory in Montreal. The Oratory has a very active stamp club. Le Cercle philatélique de l'Oratoire has organized a most interesting exhibition of worldwide stamps solely related to St. Joseph. It is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Dec. 12.

Charles Verge is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Write to him c/o *The Citizen*, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. E-mail: vergec@sympatico.ca.

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STAMPS

04 12 11

Holiday gifts for your hobbyist

BY CHARLES VERGE

It's time for holiday tips on what to buy your favourite hobbyist. Canada Post is a good source for a varied range of gifts.

For golfers, how about a deck of golf-ball shaped playing cards (\$8.99) or the Open Championship of Canada Commemorative Frame (\$49.99) that contains commemorative stamps mounted above actual golf tees, along with commemorative coins.

The Tulip stamp series plates (\$29.95) have a third (City of Vancouver) and fourth (Monte-Carlo) plate. The first plate (Bishop) is no longer available, but the second (Ottawa) is.

Toy antique and modern mail delivery trucks are \$6.99 and \$9.99. Plush rabbits, dogs, cats and goldfish (\$9.99) match up with the October pet stamps issued for stamp collecting month.

Collection Canada 2004, showcasing late 2003 definitives and 2004 commemoratives, sells for \$54.95 with \$40.16 worth of stamps. This is a high quality publication with essays, some by well-known authors such as Roch Carrier.

These gift suggestions can be found at selected post offices, stamp dealers or through the National Philatelic Centre, 75 St. Ninian St., Antigonish, NS B2G 2R8 or by calling 1-800-565-4362.

New editions of specialized Canada catalogues are out. This year, Unitrade Press (99 Floral Pkwy, Toronto, M6L 2C4) has an English version (\$42.95) and a French supplement (\$5). The 11th edition of Darnell's catalogue (\$42.95) is available through its publisher, Rousseau Inc., 230 St. Jacques Street, Montreal, H2Y 1L9. As well, Rousseau has a catalogue of Canadian EFOs (Errors, Freaks and Oddities) (\$39.95). Stamp dealers also carry these books.

For something more specialized, I recommend André Rondeau's reference collection of the 1903-1908 Edward VII issue with spaces for 63 examples of colour shades and varieties. About 20 collections will be prepared and the price will depend on completion and quality of the stamps (\$100-\$300).

This and two other reference collections; the last postage-due stamps of Canada (1960s-70s) and the 19th-century 3rd Bill stamp issue, are available from Ian Kimmerly, philatelist, 112 Sparks St., Ottawa, K1P 5B6 or at 235-9504.

Charles Verge is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. E-mail: vergeg@sympatico.ca.