

eBay and the Modern Stamp Dealer

Vancouver BC, Canada January 23, 2010 -- Stamp collecting is the 'old fashioned' hobby that everyone has heard about, but only philatelists - serious students of the hobby, and often of the trade, really understand.

Very few young people start stamp collections nowadays, which should spell extinction for a hobby or business. The reasons include computers, and computer based toys, gaming and the web. But here's the difference; although there are also few stamp shops left in business, over a thousand stores, world wide, have morphed into live auctions, often with an on-line presence.

The mother of all stamp auctions is eBay. In the inevitable dot.com way, eBay began with a quite small presence in web based auctioning, or facilitating auctions, as their lawyers style it. 10 years ago it was free, now it's a huge cash cow, and postage stamps for collectors is one of the largest categories. We tried to add up how many stamp lots were listed today on eBay, but depending on the search criteria, we reached differing totals. The lowest one was 136,529.

John Connolly, a Vancouver BC, IT Sales and Marketing veteran, and a stamp collector of 42 years, began to also buy and sell stamps in the 1970s; and to list his lots for sale on ebay five years ago. His early success was curbed by eBay policy changes, and the need eBay saw for more controls on buyers and sellers. "The amazing thing is that their system works at all" declares Connolly, "with the dozens of layers of Microsoft and other operating systems, eBay, Paypal, UPS and many International Postal Services and others add perhaps a hundred more application programs".

Connolly's approach to these challenges he indicates, is a zen like new patience, and finding ways to go around policy and computer road blocks. "Why offer customers too many choices and decisions to worry about -- it's far better not to list stamps with faults, and not to leave buyers with a need to assume things" he explains. "and instead of fussing about an increased need for sellers to do clerical work, how about cutting and pasting

Three months ago I made the comments in the Buffalo that we needed more articles, pictures, etc otherwise we would be seeing blank paper. Well I am gratified to say that we have a nice stream of items coming that allow the Buffalo to reflect the broad collecting habits and hobbies of it's membership.

I hope with our feature article, we can get comments and input from the readers about their experiences with private retail postal outlets.

Keep them coming, we will find room for all.
Your Editor

repetitious terms, and simply staying away from the type of listings which create extra documentation. A record December's sales and gain is the pudding's proof" he concludes.

Mr. Connolly has also recently acquired Canada's 5th largest live and on-line stamp auction, the 20 year old Steveston B C Stamp Auctions Ltd, and is working closely with the current owners, to understand and continue their unique success story.

Forwarded from one of Ken K.'s connections.

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Is a Retail Postal Outlet an agent for Canada Post and does it have to follow the same rules and rates???

The following item was forwarded to the Buffalo by Alf Brooks. It is a topic which is prime for the Buffalo. Please feel free to write to/e-mail the Editor with your comments and thoughts to buffalo_editor@mts.net

Canada Post, *from a random blog:*

" I learned something over Christmas that I feel compelled to share with you. This won't change your life dramatically or help you survive the apocalypse but it will save you some \$\$\$.

I recently mailed two identical packages via Canada Post one week apart. One would think that the postage should be exactly the same...well, let me tell you...

Pkg # 1 was mailed from an actual Canada Post Office. Postage came to \$11.74. Since I knew a second identical package would be mailed in about a week's time, I bought sufficient postage for the second pkg while I was there.

(Continued on page 3)



The Buffalo



PUBLICATION OF THE
WINNIPEG PHILATELIC
SOCIETY
Western Canada's
Oldest Stamp Club
Mailto: Box 1425
Winnipeg, MB
R3C 2Z1
Website: www.wps.mb.ca

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**WINNIPEG
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

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July 1st Each Year:

Regular-	\$35.00	Senior-	\$25.00
Spouse†-	\$20.00	Junior-	\$15.00

† A spouse of a member may become a member with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities of membership, but does not receive *The Buffalo*.

Application filed July to April

Admission Fee	Dues	Total
Regular	\$2.00	\$35.00
Senior	\$2.00	\$25.00
Others	\$2.00	\$20.00

Application filed April, May, June

Regular	\$2.00	\$40.00	\$42.00*
Senior	\$2.00	\$30.00	\$32.00
Others	\$2.00	\$25.00	\$27.00*

* includes dues for following year

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS \$350.00

RENEWALS

Lapsed memberships or late renewals (paid after November 30th of each year) are charged a \$1.00 reinstatement fee. All new applicants must undergo a 60-day orientation before receiving full membership privileges.

The Buffalo is published monthly except in July and August. Deadline for article submissions and advertising copy is the 15th of each month preceding the month of issue.

**Scandinavian Collectors Club Of
Manitoba**

Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesdays
7pm-10pm

Slide Shows, Show & Tell,
Circuits, Speakers, etc.
Visitors Welcome.

Info:

Roger Fontaine @ 254-4900

Calendar of Events

Feb 4	Meeting & Auction
Feb 18	Meeting & Presentation
Mar 4	Meeting & Auction
Mar 18	Meeting & Presentation
Apr 1	Meeting & Auction
Apr 15	Meeting & Presentation
Apr 30 - May 2	Annual Show Fri 1-7 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-4

NB: Meetings start at 7:30pm
Meetings are held at
Scandinavian Cultural Center
764 Erin Street, Winnipeg, MB.



Since 1894

David E. Pritchard
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**NOTICE
YOUTH CLUB MEETING**

The WPS Youth Club will be meeting on
Saturdays at the usual place
St Luke's Anglican Church,
130 Nassau St N at Stradbrook
Winnipeg, MB

free parking available on
the north side.

Enter via North Side Entrance
Meeting from 1pm to 2:30pm

For more information contact
Gerry Babij @ 736-4276 or
John Salmi @ 895-2781

If anyone has Canadian covers
cancelled on 01/01/01, 02/02/02,
03/03/03, 04/04/04 or 05/05/05
please contact Marjorie Huges (at
the coffee station).

**Wanted: Canada Scott 44a.
Registration Stamps F2a, F3a,
War Tax MR2c1, MR2d1, all
should be VF MNH, War Tax
MR2d1, MR5, both Used VF,
CDS.
Call G. Sickert @ 254-7380.**

Buffalo Advertising Rates

-1/10 page
(Approximately 2 1/4" x 2 3/4") @ \$30 pa

Members' Adlets

- up to 30 words
- Average of 5 characters per word)
- 1 issue—\$1.00
- 5 issues—\$2.00
- 10 issues—\$3.00

Members may place two adlets a year at
no charge

Terms of Payment

- payable to Winnipeg Philatelic
Society in a single payment at the time of
the agreement.

Wanted:
Good used UV Lamp.
Call Don Flatt @ 253-2253

Post Cards

Buy • Sell • Trade
Call Ken @ (204) 489-2249
Kards@mts.net

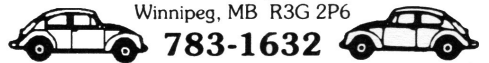
Home Visits

Office Visits

Service at YOUR PLACE of convenience
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783-1632
Lawyer, Notary Public

Day, Evening and Weekend Appointments Available

WANTED: WPS Show covers from 2006
and earlier, WPS Royal ephemera.
Contact Don Bahuaud through
buffalo_editor@mts.net or in person at any
meeting.

When it came time to mail Pkg #2, I went to the local retail postal outlet (RPO). I handed the pkg to the clerk to be put in the outbound mail bag, I was informed that I did not have sufficient postage attached. The clerk proceeded to inform me that I needed to purchase an additional \$6 worth of stamps.

After explaining how I knew exactly what the postage should be, the clerk offered some lame excuse that Canada Post is unionized and they can say and do anything with impunity and if I wished to mail that pkg from this RPO then I needed to purchase more stamps.

I told the clerk to stuff it and took back my package and headed to the "real" Canada Post Office, where I would raise hell...

Much to my surprise, the Canadian Postal Clerk took my package, weighed it and tossed it in the mail bag, and it was it's way...When I asked if the amount of Postage I had put on the parcel was right she shook her head and said "yup, no problem"...

The Truth comes out:

Canada Post Offices charge postage for packages at the published Canada Post rates. Franchise locations such as Retail Postal Outlets can charge whatever they like.

So remember if you regularly mail packages at RPO locations; you are probably paying too much.

RPOs are found in shopping malls, drug stores and private businesses everywhere.

From now on, all of my mailing will be done from a real Canada Post location.

Still perplexed by what I was told by the girl in Shoppers, I fired off an email to Canada Post for clarification.

This is the reply I got from them:

Thank you for your message to Canada Post.

A postal outlet is not a federal government agency and is not owned or managed by Canada Post. For example if the postal outlet is within grocery store or pharmacy it would follow the stores working hours, therefore if the store must be closed, so will the postal outlet inside.

Only Canada Post Depots and Corporate Post Offices are obligated to follow the price of stamps and postal products that are legislated by Canada Post. Any commercial and private establishment may charge extra fees as a convenience to their customers. It is at their discretion to apply additional service fees to products that they sell. We suggest visiting a Corporate Post Office in order to avoid paying additional service charges that corner stores or

other establishment may implement on their products.

Regards,
Veronika Strofski
Customer Service "

How's that for privatization?

Spring Show 2010

By Al Wingate

Once again the show committee is busily preparing for the upcoming show and bourse to take place at the Sunova Center in West St. Paul. We are looking forward to a much nicer atmosphere for this year's show as the Sunova Center is brightly lit and the venue is large enough that we will be able to have everything together in one big room.

The show will open at 1:00 pm on Friday April 30th. The hours are 1 to 7 on Friday, 10am to 6 pm on Sat, May 1st, and 10am to 4pm on Sunday, May 2nd.

The theme of this year's show is the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Navy. Another advantage of the new venue is that there are no stairs to negotiate right from the outside walkway to the bourse floor. No longer will people get lost trying to find the exhibits on a different floor in a separate area.

We are diligently trying to get at least a few different dealers to attend but the regulars will be back and they always have a good selection of material for us to expand our collections.

Having a regional show is important to our club and the club members who wish to compete with their exhibits at a higher level. I don't know if everyone is aware of it, but for a member to exhibit at a national show, such as the Royal, the exhibit must have first won at least a large Silver award at a regional show.

If we didn't host a regional show our members would have to go out of province in order to qualify their exhibits for national exposure. To fund a show of this size we must have dealer participation, so I urge all of our members to support the dealers who are supporting our show. Come out and see their wares, and open your wallets. Check out the exhibits while you're at it and perhaps you may get the bug to enter an exhibit yourself. Last year I exhibited for the first time in my life and I must tell you all that it was fun to put together the exhibits, and it was a good learning experience. I highly recommend it to all of you to try it at least once.

For those wanting to exhibit this year Robert is the guy to see. If people would like some guidance on how to prepare exhibits Robert is willing to hold an exhibiting seminar to help you out. Let him know, it won't happen unless some people are committed to attend.

As we repeat every year, to make this show a success we need the help of a lot of volunteer members. We have to set up tables for the bourse, put the frames in place, provide security and reception during the show, man the post office sales table, man

(Continued from page 3)

the junior table, and then take it all apart when the show is over. Diane will be asking people to sign up, and I urge all of you to make her job easier by willingly filling in the blanks on the sign up sheets and then showing up to help when the time comes.

It is a new venue and it is not hard to find. Check out the map. Access to Kapelus Road can be from either Main Street or McPhillips Street. In both cases the turnoff to Kapelus is just past the cloverleaf at the perimeter highway. As well, the Sunova Center can be accessed directly from the perimeter west bound lane. Just turn right off the perimeter just west of Main Street and you can't miss it.



I hope to see everyone at the show enjoying the exhibits, shopping with success for what you need, and socializing with friends and collectors. I should mention that food and beverage service will be available during the show at the venue, staffed by volunteers from the West St. Paul Community Club, cash sales only.

Don't forget to sign up with Diane!!

PHILATELIC PARAGRAMS

Many times you may take a minute and stop the sorting, cataloguing, mounting, and wonder – HAS STAMP COLLECTING ALWAYS BEEN THIS FUN – well back to the rum toddy.

Here is a glossary of Philatelic Terms as viewed by Mr. Chas W. Weinert as presented on Page 41-42 of the India's Stamp Journal January 1947 entitled "Philatelic Paragrams." My thanks to our intrepid sleuth for bringing this to my attention. Your Editor

Approvals : The stamps which cost you ten dollars and which you told your wife cost 10 cents.

A Pair : The Seller and the Buyer.

Beginner : The man whose wife wishes he had never started.

Buying at Auction: Something you wanted badly but stopped bidding on only to buy it from another at twice what it sold for at auction.

Changeling : Removing a good stamp from a dealer's book and substituting your own inferior copy.

Covers : When mounted in albums they make a good excuse for buying another sectional bookcase.

Double Impression: What you think you see after the second night out with the boys at any convention.

Errors : The mistakes you make when you rush in to buy where experience fears to tread.

Find: What we all hope will happen to us someday.

Fugitive Colours: When in doubt try soaking in water. Like touching wet paint to see if it is wet.

Grill : To challenge every other remark by the speaker of the evening.

Locals : The stay-at-home members of any Society who religiously pay their dues but never take part in, or support any of the activities.

New Issues Service : An excuse to mortgage the home if you attempt to buy every new stamp out.

Non Collector : The wife who uses your ten cent Famous Americans on her bridge invitations.

Off Centre : He who constantly interrupts the meeting.

Pane : That through which the light dawns after you've bought counterfeits for genuine.

Paper Chase: Going from one dealer to another trying to save a dollar.

Philatelist : One who has collected stamps for 40 years. Before that he was just a stamp collector.

Plating: A subject in which you can devote years of your life on one stamp. A nice way to acquire bifocals or reading glasses.

Se Tenant : Husband and wife collectors.

Shades : The difference that makes a 30c stamp a \$5.00 item.

Shoe Box : The graveyard for everything not mounted or placed in your stock books.

Side Lines : Reading the advertisements.

Skinned : What you get when you buy rare stamps at bargain prices.

PART II in the next Buffalo

**Minutes of the Winnipeg Philatelic Society
January 7th, 2010**

Russ Thompson called the meeting to order at 7.30.
Thank you to all for a very successful charity auction and holiday part. Michael Zacharias announced that there we collected \$1340.00 from the auction.
Sid Kroker announced that the Red River Bourse will next be held Jan. 10, 9 am-4 PM. at the Best Western Charter House Hotel.
Bev Barr let use know that there would be a WAG exchange meeting on Jan. 16, the stamp sale is slated for April 8-10.

Bob Stanley reminded us that if anyone wants to join any of the stamp societies, such as Royal Philatelic, BNAPS, etc, he has the membership forms.

Debbie Birch announced that some members have not paid their dues for 2009-2010. If you do not pay up, you will be removed from the mailing lists.

Bill Pooley let us know that at the next meeting, the presentation will be by Dick Johnson on Early Transatlantic Jusqu'a Markings.

Robert Zacharias says that the next big auction will be March 20, 2010, 12 lots maximum per member with a \$2.00 minimum bid. He will take lots at the next three meetings only.

Draw: Karl Ramussen, George Elias, Marjorie Hughes, and Jack Price.

**Minutes of the Winnipeg Philatelic Society
January 21, 2010**

Russ Thompson called the meeting to order at 7.32.
Al Wingate announced that there will be a show committee meeting next Thurs. at the Zacharias home, 7.00 p.m. The theme of this year's show will be the

100th anniversary of the Canadian navy. Diane Malinowski has the volunteer lists, which will be circulated. Please be generous with you time and sign up. The dealers are being contacted now. We have not heard about Royal 2013, but we have conditional approval.

Ken Kristjanson let us know of a change to the monthly auctions. We usually have full tables of lots, so from now on, payouts will take place at the next meeting, and not at the end of the auction.

Robert Zacharias says that the next big auction will be March 20, 2010, 12 lots maximum per member with a \$2.00 minimum bid. He will take lots at the next two meetings only.

Robert also wanted to ask us all to look carefully through any lots taken last meeting. One lot is missing. It is a coil, imperf pair.

Adj. 8.47.

Draw: Russ Thompson, Gunther Sickert, Len Kruczynski, and Debbie Birch

Tonight's presentation is by Dick Johnson, Early Transatlantic Jusqu'a Markings.



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CHANGES TO THE MONTHLY AUCTION NIGHT

THE CLUB AUCTIONS HAVE PROVEN TO BE A BESTSELLER. THE AMOUNT AND VARIETY OF NEW MATERIAL THAT COMES UP FOR AUCTION EACH MONTH IS INCREDIBLE. FOR THESE OLD EYES

IT'S LIKE CHRISTMAS ALL OVER AGAIN. ITS A WIN WIN ALL AROUND.

TO STREAMLINE THE PROCESS THE EXECUTIVE WISH TO HAVE THE VENDORS SETTLEMENTS BE CONCLUDED AT THE FOLLOWING MEETING, NOT AUCTION NIGHT.

THIS WILL ALLOW MIKE TO HELP ROBERT SPEEDUP THE BUYERS PAYMENTS.

Your Auctioneers

Test your visual acuity and find Philatelic Terms for British India

A	L	W	A	R	L	I	N	E	H	C	N	O	O	P	T	I	C	R	S
E	S	I	D	N	U	B	B	A	B	M	M	Q	W	E	R	T	Y	O	A
R	S	O	D	E	I	I	U	S	R	B	P	A	S	D	F	G	H	S	P
M	U	S	E	I	S	G	Q	T	I	N	D	I	A	E	R	A	V	I	P
I	E	T	O	T	G	N	Q	T	N	R	X	U	C	R	P	A	R	N	H
L	A	P	O	H	B	O	O	E	Z	U	E	J	O	A	C	O	Q	E	I
L	C	R	S	D	E	K	R	Z	E	J	E	S	M	D	F	P	A	A	R
I	I	N	M	A	D	O	G	A	C	M	I	N	P	I	G	L	S	R	E
O	T	O	J	I	D	S	B	A	M	R	A	I	A	D	S	I	D	T	E
N	O	T	R	N	B	C	J	A	A	I	O	D	N	I	H	J	E	K	S
P	C	A	I	X	E	Y	R	H	R	N	F	A	Y	P	T	T	V	E	R
I	F	U	H	N	C	Y	K	A	S	W	R	L	C	C	E	M	V	O	T
O	A	J	Y	Q	N	R	V	R	E	E	A	A	C	N	A	I	G	T	Y
A	E	A	F	R	A	E	C	O	M	S	T	N	I	V	L	R	E	S	M
T	N	M	T	H	E	M	H	E	L	I	O	T	I	O	P	E	L	I	C
N	I	M	C	S	R	N	K	R	D	R	O	I	L	A	W	G	U	E	O
E	M	U	N	Z	O	J	L	L	B	A	Y	Q	F	J	C	L	C	Q	C
G	R	O	V	A	R	Y	O	P	E	H	U	R	P	L	E	U	X	U	H
A	A	L	F	X	S	G	O	M	R	D	G	I	N	O	M	L	A	S	I
M	R	A	W	A	L	A	H	J	K	I	S	H	A	N	G	A	R	H	N

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

IN THE

WINNIPEG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Box 1425, Winnipeg, MB, R3C 2Z1

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ PROVINCE _____
 POSTAL CODE _____
 EMAIL _____
 PHONE _____
 COLLECTING INTERESTS _____

_____ REGULAR @ \$35.00
 _____ SENIOR @ \$25.00
 _____ JUNIOR/ SPOUSE @ \$20.00

(ADD A ONE-TIME \$2.00 ADMISSION FEE)

IF YOU HAVE A FRIEND, ACQUAINTANCE OR FAMILY MEMBER WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OUR CLUB, PLEASE PASS THIS APPLICATION FORM ON TO THEM. WE WILL SUPPLY YOU WITH A REPLACEMENT BUFFALO.

THANK YOU!
 WELCOME!!

Terms to Find:

ALWAR	BAMRA	BARWANI
BHOPAL	BUNDI	COCHIN
CHARKHARI	DHAR	FARIDKOT
GWALIOR	EAST	INDIA
COMPANY	IDAR	INDORE
JAMMU	JHIND	KISHANGARH
JHALAWAR	POONCH	???????

HINT: Women love this type of wool sweater
 (Last issue's hidden word - HOLSTEIN)

Place mailing label in same
 direction as this text