

SEMI-POSTAL STAMPS

BY ALF BROOKS ©

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\$1⁰⁰



The Buffalo

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WINNIPEG PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Western Canada's Oldest Stamp Club
Website: <http://www.wps.mb.ca>

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Semipostal: A stamp sold at a price greater than postal value, with the additional charge dedicated for a special purpose. Usually recognized by the presence of two (often different) values, separated by a “+” sign, on a single stamp. (Linn’s web site).

A number of countries issue semi-postals each year, the surcharge usually dedicated to the use of a designated charity. For example, Germany this past year issued five different stamps or sets with surcharges for causes such as sports, environmental protection, the Youth Stamp Foundation and the Federal Association of Voluntary Welfare Work; this last one benefited from two issues, as a surcharge on the Christmas stamps also went to the Association.

Switzerland issues two sets of semi-postals annually. The *Pro Patria* issue, in recent years a set of four, dedicates the money raised from the surcharge to support cultural and social projects, with totals of approximately 3.5 million francs each year coming from the stamp surcharge and other projects. And in 2000 Switzerland issued a set of four semi-postals to support the *Pro Juventute* Foundation. *Pro Juventute* spends its proceeds on programs related to children, such as programs to help parents raising and educating their children, principally through the use of family advisors. Young people age seventeen and older can volunteer to help families under stress. “Telephon 147” is a children and youth help line that receives over 35,000 calls annually, helping young people cope with the challenges in the areas of friendship, love, sexuality, health, violence, addiction and drugs. For thirty years a “Letters to Parents” program gives parents information to aid in the challenges of raising their children.

The four *Pro Juventute* stamps for 2000 were:

- 70+30 centimes: St Nickolaus and helper Schmutzli distributing gifts on December 6;
- 70+35 centimes: Children talking;
- 90+45 centimes: A picture from a children’s



book, “Little Albert;”

-90+45 centimes: Children sledding.

And how about Canada? In 1974, ’75 and ’76 we had a number of semi-postals, the surcharges for the 1976 Montréal Olympic Games. I have read that they did not sell well to the general public, and Canada Post did not issue another semi-postal until 1996, the 45+5 cent “jigsaw” stamp to support literacy. While catalogues do not list them as such, Canada’s War Tax issues of 1915-16 could also be called semi-postals. The first two, one cent and two cent, were commonly used for postage; the 5, 20 and 50 cent values were intended for fiscal use, but some were postally-used. The last five issues, all 2 cents plus one cent, were the only surcharged values.

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EXHIBITING WORKSHOP

An exhibiting workshop is planned for late January or early February. This is a chance for exhibitors to get help preparing their exhibits for the upcoming Stampshow 2001. Members can bring along their exhibits to show to experienced exhibitors/ judges for tips on how to improve on their display, or for fresh ideas on new page layouts or incorporating new material into the exhibit. Exhibits in all stages of completion, from stockbooks with just stamps and covers, to exhibits entered in past shows are welcome. If you have never exhibited before and would like to, this is a good opportunity to find out what the judges are looking for when they assess the exhibits. If you plan to attend, please bring along the material you plan to exhibit, Vario pages or stock sheets, and tongs.

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Application filed July to April

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Regular	\$2.00	\$25.00	\$27.00*
Others	\$2.00	\$18.50	\$20.50*

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RENEWALS

Lapsed memberships or late renewals (paid after September 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 December. Deadline for article submissions and advertising copy is the 15th of each month preceding the month of issue.

WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.WPS.MB.CA](http://www.wps.mb.ca)

COMING EVENTS

7:00 p.m. 1st & 3rd Thursdays
(except Jul. & Aug.). Visitors always welcome.
Main Floor, Deaf Centre Manitoba, located at the corner of 285 Pembina Hwy. & Nassau St.

2001

- Jan. 4 -Business Meeting
- Auction
- Jan. 18 - Business Meeting
- Presentation -
Alf Brooks - "The
Computalist"
- Feb. 1 - Business Meeting
- Auction
- Feb. 15 - Business Meeting
- Presentation -
Clark Grierson

The first meetings of each month reserved for Auctions.

The second meetings of each month reserved for formal programs.

THE W.P.S. IS ONLINE

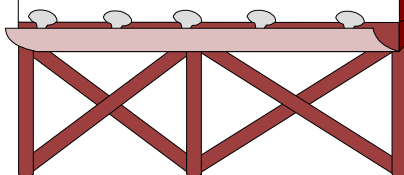
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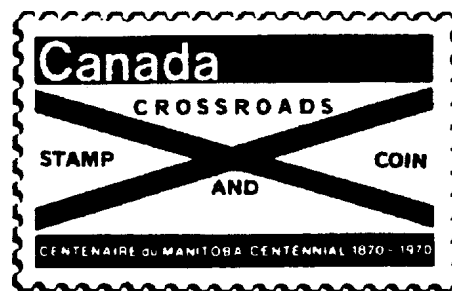
**Red River
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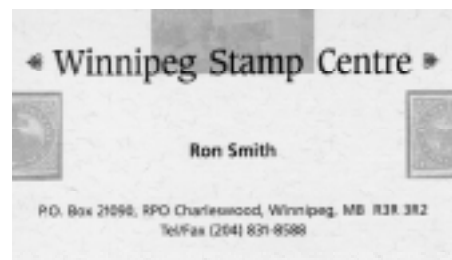


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EDITOR NOTES...

This time last year many of us were recovering from the “end of the millennium” celebrations and remembering the spectacular scenes we saw on television as midnight came to the time zones. There were some, however, who maintained that the new Millennium did not begin until 2001 (a definite minority, it would appear, I have seen no ads for Millennium parties lately). This minority, however can take heart from two illustrated issues from France, one for December 31, 2000 marking the coming of the third millennium, and for January 1, 2001, “2001 nouveau millénaire”.

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The above item offers you a second chance to put an end to a collection, perhaps because of what you see as too many issues or silly issues; a number of collectors, I have read, did just that a year ago.

• • • • •

Something that did end last year was the youth stamp club at All Saints Church. Ole Hellsten, rightfully, I submit, decided that after five years devoted to the project, it was time for another to take over. Is there not one of us who could do this? I am sure that Ole and others would offer help to start it all again.

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BUFFALO CHIPS



Linn’s reports that the number of world postage stamps now exceeds 420,000, with about 1,300 new stamps issued every month. Nearly sixty of their International albums would be needed to house all stamps through to the end of 2000.

Need help? The International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors is for you. It publishes *The Circuit* six times a year and offers members a number of ways to buy, sell and trade stamps. You can contact them at ISWSC, Box 150407, Lufkin, TX 75915-0407, USA. Send along an addressed stamped envelope or an International Reply Coupon.

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Letter to the Editor:

The Slide Presentation of the Falkland Islands on Nov. 23 was the collection of the late John Ayre of St. John’s Nfld.

This collection was sold at Hamers-London some years back. We are very fortunate to have slides of this collection for reference purposes.

Don Fraser

Thank you for the letter and the presentation, Don.

And to all reading this: This is the first letter I have received while editor. I am sure others have something to say on many topics. Please write.

• • • • •

Darren Pollock’s article, “Insects on Stamps,” continues this month and

will conclude in a subsequent issue. My apologies to Darren, I said he was a “former” WPS member last month. He is a member in good standing, although given the difficulty of attending meetings on Thursday evenings all the way from Amarillo, Texas, we have not seen much of him lately.

• • • • •

By now most of you who collect Canada in various forms have seen the information on the cost of mint for 2001. What will it cost to save one of each issue? My conservative calculation comes to over \$30.00, and does not take into account having to buy a complete booklet in some cases in order to obtain a single stamp.

Plus the six new definitives of December 28 - Plus envelopes and postcards - Plus changes - Plus surprises - Plus tax.



Timbres Magazine of France published the accompanying illustration of a factual error on a ‘stamp’ of The Sovereign Military Order of Malta. Founded in 1099 at Jerusalem, the Order’s motto is “Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum” - to defend the faith and to serve the poor. We are likely more familiar with the Saint John’s Ambulance Association, founded in 1877 as an offshoot of the Order to train people in first aid. The Canadian Association was organized in 1884. The ‘stamp’ is likely a label issued to commemorate a convention of the Order in Canada in 1992. It was later reissued with merely “Canada.”



Last November eBay abruptly blocked the purchase of stamps and coins by bidders in Germany, France and Austria, and later added Italy, stating that the sale of such items was restricted by the countries named. "Ebay

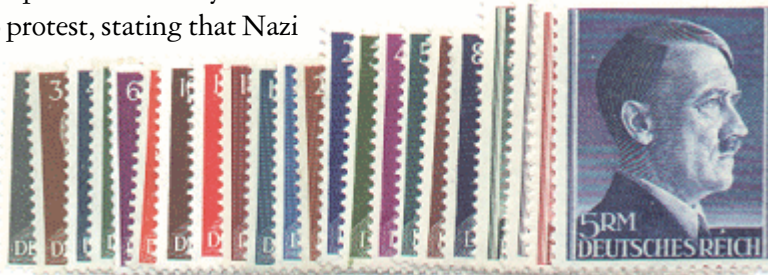
policies, such as our Nazi-Related Items policy, take a broad stance to what items will not be allowed. We have to act conservatively with such items to protect our community members and our venue from potential liability." Bidders in Germany were the first to protest, stating that Nazi era stamps and coins were freely traded in Germany. What is illegal, under Section 86 of the German Penal Code, is to use such items as "means of propaganda, the contents of which are intended to further the aims of a former National Socialist organization." It is illegal to use National Socialist items such as the swastika for propaganda purposes and for fomenting hate crimes.

EBay was likely reacting to "L'Affaire Yahoo." Last May, in France, the International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism, and the Union of French Jewish Students,

sued Yahoo for allowing the sale of Nazi items. Ebay later revised the policy, and now allows stamps such as the "Hitler head" definitives to be sold, but bans the sale, for example, of a cover that has a swastika-marked censor tape. According to one European dealer, items with swastikas are big sellers to American buyers.



Every dollar you spend on buying catalogues, to keep up with new issues and price changes, is a dollar you cannot spend on stamps for your collection. But as a collector you need information that catalogues offer.



Ja, ist OK to collect and trade my stamps, but its verboten to collect my postal history in some countries! Was ist los??

This month Stanley Gibbons will launch the site "allworldstamps.com." Here a collector will find all the Gibbons catalogues, free, with information on over 350,000 stamps - every stamp from the Penny Black to the latest issues.

Each stamp will be accompanied by an image, description, SG number and current market value. Prices for each stamp will be given in all major currencies and kept constantly up to date.

No word from Scott, Zumstein, Michel, Yvert-et-Tellier or others.

PRECANCEL COLLECTING

Precanceled postage stamps have been in existence on one form or another for more than a century and have experience an interesting history. They have been the topic of study for a large group of dedicated collectors and they have also been shunned by some general collectors who consider precancel stamps undesirable.

The fact of the matter is that precancels provide an interesting demension of chracter to a stamp. Many precancels clearly indicate a point of origin for the stamp.

As a general rule, only definitive stamps are precanceled. And, as many collectors consider all precancels to be "used" stamps, they are often available for less than the price of the same stamp in unprecanceled condition.

There are numerous varieties of precancels, but two commonly recognized categories are locals and Bureau prints.



Locals exist in many different forms, including "typesets" which are printed from electroplates.

Handstamps, mimeographs, laser printers and almost any other printing format imaginable have been used to create local precancels.

Bureau prints are precancels that were printed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, D.C. They first appeared in 1916, and have been thoroughly documented through BEP records.

Because of this, collecting Bureau precancels is a popular area of precancel collecting. Although the number of available precancels is great, like all collecting areas, completion is not a requirement. A collector can have a lot of fun accumulating and studing the many different precancels that can be discovered.

INSECTS ON STAMPS - GOOD GUYS AND BAD GUYS PART 2

BY DARREN POLLOCK

(Darren is a member of WPS; he now works as an entomologist in Amarillo, Texas).

Part II (Continued from last month)

Other harmful insects have made their way onto postage stamps; most of these are pests of crops, trees, and other human commodities. The asparagus beetle



stamp from Madagascar (1993) is part of a set of beetles, none of which are native to Madagascar. Solomon Islands issued a set of five stamps in 1990 showing five different harmful insect species, including the sweet potato weevil illustrated here. The migratory locust has been a pest in Africa for many years; in 1964, Mali issued a set of three stamps with the theme "war against the locust".



The 5f value shows a map of Africa with the area invaded by these grasshoppers from 1928-1942. The other two values show a locust flying over a map of Mali, and an airplane applying insecticide over a locust. In 1967, Austria issued a stamp commemorating the 6th International Congress on Plant Protection showing an adult Colorado potato beetle. The

final example shown is from Iran, from a series of two stamps devoted to the fight against harmful insects. The illustrated 6r value shows a bark beetle, while the 2r value shows a locust.



While mankind is constantly at war with various harmful species of insects, there are some species that are highly



revered. The domesticated honeybee, *Apis mellifera*, is revered not only for its production of honey, but also for its value as a pollinator, and of course, for its intriguingly complex life history and habits. The fact that we hold this insect in such high esteem is evident by the number of postage stamps depicting images of the honeybee and of apiculture. Many different countries have devoted a stamp, or an entire series of stamps to the honeybee. The first example shown is from the Soviet Union, and illustrates a bear breaking into an early-style



beehive suspended in a tree. Apimondia is the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations, and every two years, a congress on apiculture is held in a

host country throughout the world. Many of these host nations, including Hungary (1983), Japan (1985), Poland (1987), China (1993), and Belgium (1997), have issued stamps commemorating both the honey bee, and their hosting of the Apimondia congress. Shown here are Apimondia stamps from

Poland, Soviet Union, and China. The stamp from Tanzania (1986)

shows worker bees performing one of their most important tasks — pollination.

Poland, Soviet Union, and China. The stamp from

Poland, Soviet Union, and China. The stamp from

Poland, Soviet Union, and China. The stamp from





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