

# The Bulletin

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May 2018

## **Story of a Stamp by Alan Craig**

Sirmoor, an Indian Feudatory State, first issued a stamp in 1876. This stamp had a rectangle border enclosing some simple floral motifs and a text which proclaimed "Sirmoor State Postage Stamp" in English and in Hindi Scripts. The stamp, which had a value of 1 pice, was printed in either pale green (1876) or blue (1880) and was perforated 11½ all around. This stamp was replaced in 1885 by one bearing a portrait of the Raja of Sirmoor – Raja Shamsher Prakash.

Some time after the first stamps had been taken from issue a High-Court Official observed that they were being offered in a stamp dealer's catalogue at a price many times the original face value. This information was conveyed to the Raja who, seeing a windfall in the offing, ordered that more of these stamps be printed. A search for the printing stones was in vain so a lithographer (a person who could engrave 'stones' for printing stamps) was summoned, given a picture of the stamp in the dealer's catalogue and asked to prepare some new stamps. This was done, and in 1891 new supplies were printed in various shades of green and blue.

Alas – the lithographer had made errors which did not allow the new stamps to pass as originals. Firstly, he had engraved the first 'o' of Sirmoor as a 'd' such that the name of the state now read SIRMDOR. Second, as he had been working from a catalogue picture which showed (continued page 4)

## **Upcoming Meetings**

- Saugeen Stamp Club  
Tuesday May 1
- Kincardine Stamp Club  
Wednesday May 2
- Owen Sound Stamp Club  
Wednesday May 16
- Guelph Stamp Club  
Tuesday May 1  
Tuesday May 15
- KW Philatelic Society  
Thursday May 10

## **HE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN.....Walt Berry**

It certainly appears old man winter wants to hang around for sometime yet. The late winter storm of the last few days should keep many off the road and safe at home. This would hopefully be sometime to spend preparing an exhibit for our annual show coming up on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**At our last meeting, I was remiss in asking members for donations for the lunch counter – pop / water / sandwiches/ donuts etc.** Please consider this request as it is a good resource for the club – volunteers will be needed to assist during the day.

It is hoped all club members will have time to attend the show and support the dealers who are present. Visit the dealers as they may be able to help fill in a few blank spaces in your collection or get you started on a new topic / country of interest.

Don't forget that a draw will take place near the end of the show for the donated PENNY BLACK. A great opportunity to pick up one at a very reasonable price – TICKETS ARE ONLY \$1.00 each

Spend time to enjoy our collective hobby!!



**DON'T FORGET YOUR GOODIES FOR THE STAMP SHOW ON THE 5TH**

### **What's coming up:**

*See the Grand News for complete details for the following:*

April 27/28 – Springpex 2018 Hamilton  
Stamp Club

May 5 – Saugeen Stamp Club Annual Show

May 6 - Mayday Show Stratford Stamp Club  
CANCELLED

June 22-24 – Royal \*2018\* Royale, St  
Catharines

### **One Page Exhibits - Upcoming Topics**

*May: Airmail*

*June: Watercraft*

*July : Historic Buildings*

## ***Another Measured Moment.....Jim Measures***

### **Yousuf Karsh**

A prominent American magazine issued a list of the 100 people they considered the most influential people of the 20th Century; only one Canadian made the list - Yousuf Karsh! It is not surprising that over half of their choices were American but they did include such people as: Adolph Hitler, Pope John Paul II, Brazilian footballer Pele and Australian Cricketer Donald Bradman.

Yousuf Karsh was noted as the world's greatest Portrait photographer. This is likely in part due to his portrait of Winston Churchill, taken in Ottawa during WWII. This portrait known as "The Roaring Lion portrait" this picture was used as an example of British determination to withstand whatever Nazi Germany may throw at them during the war. It has been used many times on stamps of countries around the world, most often at the time of Churchill's death in 1965.

I attended a 1960 lecture by Karsh in Toronto where he told of taking that photo. He was given just 15 minutes with Churchill as he came out of the House of Commons after making a speech seeking Canadian assistance with the war effort. Churchill lit up a cigar and stood impatiently waiting for the picture taking to be over. Karsh, a non-smoker did not like the appearance of the picture he saw through the lens, so he snatched the cigar out of Churchill's mouth and immediately snapped the shot. Churchill's indignation showed clearly and that photo became the world's view of Britain's war-time Prime Minister.



In his lecture Karsh emphasized that it is necessary to capture the essence of the person to obtain a great portrait; to do this he often uses the hands to show the subject's character or occupation. This is seen clearly in his self-portrait, showing him viewing a negative, that was used on a Canadian stamp honouring him in 2008.



## Saugeen Stamp Club

Chapter 220, Royal Philatelic  
Society of Canada  
Chapter 1538, American  
Philatelic Society  
Chapter 21, Grand River Valley  
Philatelic Association

Meeting at St. Matthew's  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
356 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hanover, Ontario  
Use 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue Entrance

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We are on the web!  
<http://saugeenstampclub.webplus.net/index.html>

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(cont. From Page 1) the perforations of the stamp, he had incorporated these perforations into his new stamp design. These stamps, it must be remembered, were being prepared to sell to collectors as originals – but the collectors of the day were not duped and the stamps did not sell well. Subsequently – the coffers of the Raja did not prosper and alternatives were sought for the disposal of the stamps.

It is here that the story takes its most ironic twist. In 1892 armed with large stocks of bogus stamps, which had been produced the year before, a decision was made to officially issue the stamps through the Post Offices of the State – and thus a new issue was born. I know of no other example of a bogus stamp becoming an authorised issue – and few stamps indeed that can compete with this colourful “Story of a Stamp”.



(from Fun Philately October 1998)

**ROYAL OAK STAMPS**

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