

The Bulletin

VOLUME 26, NO. 5
MAY 2023

The Letter Opener

adapted from an article in the APS by Charles Epting

I'm not sure there's a phrase in philately that seems so self-explanatory, yet embodies such complexities, as "postal history." I used to tell people I collected postal history when in fact all I was doing was chasing down mass-produced commemorative covers. These covers are beautiful and mean a lot to me, but they're not postal history. Likewise, first day covers and their ilk are not postal history.

It is easy to say what postal history is not — but what is postal history? The term itself comes from the great British philatelist Robson Lowe, and is generally meant to include the study of rates, routes, markings, and means of transportation.

I like to think of postal history as the investigative journalism of philately: How did the cover reach its destination? Who carried it along the way? When was it sent and when did it arrive? Where did it transit through? What do the different postmarks indicate? Once we can answer these questions, we can consider ourselves a postal historian.

Back to postal history. Advertised mail is a perfect example. Through much of the 19th century, one had to collect their mail at the post office. If a letter was not called for in a certain period of time, the postmaster would place an advertisement in the local newspaper to inform the recipient. In today's world, where the threat of identity theft is seemingly lurking around every corner, I do not think that publishing such a list of names in the newspaper would be looked upon favourably. But for decades, this was merely standard operating procedure.



Likewise, if someone in North America wanted to send a letter to Europe in the mid-19th century, he would have to check the day's newspaper to see which ships would be departing when. Sometimes, the particular ship that carried your mail determined the postage. Around 1839, it was twice as expensive to send a letter by steamship as it was by sailing vessel. Missing a particular ship might mean that a letter took a completely different route.

So, why is postal history important, then? Why should we care about the practices of postal clerks centuries ago, or what postmarks they used, or whether a letter was carried by steamboat or railroad?

The answer to that is simple. Postal history IS history. Whenever people established a new community, one of the first priorities was setting up a post office. How else would once far-flung places such as Chicago and Winnipeg and Vancouver have been able to develop if they were not connected to the rest of the world? A robust postal service allowed North America to grow, and in turn, it's growth fundamentally changed the way the postal service operated.

Upcoming Meetings

Saugeen Stamp Club
Sat July 8

Kincardine Stamp Club
Wed July 5

Owen Sound Stamp Club
Wed July 19 Mtg
Thurs July 13 Zoom

Guelph Stamp Club
Wed July 5
Wed July 19

KW Philatelic Society
Thurs July 13

Oxford Zoom Auction
Fri July 21

Check with the club
before going to its
meeting.

ONE PAGE

EXHIBITS

UPCOMING

TOPICS

July -

Swimming

August -

Red

September -

Message from the President

And the show went on!

Thanks to many volunteer members who performed the necessary tasks to make the show a success. Every volunteer stepped up to do what had to be done right from; picking up / setting up the frames / taking down the frames & returning them to storage; / managing the reception table / selling door prize tickets; and the feeding the hungry attendees with items donated by members; managing the club sales circuit – and a host of other roles to make the annual show move forward as another event to attend. The annual show is an opportunity to show an individual's collecting interests and this year there were 23 frames of exhibits on a variety of topics. WELL DONE!!

In speaking with the dealers, they indicated being happy with their attendance and their sales. Thanks goes to these dealers who travelled great distances to attend with philatelic material which attracted many collectors to the table with a pocket full of cash. Also, a note of thanks must also go out to all the members and visitors who supported the show by attending and buying from the dealers.

Members are reminded that our July meeting has been changed from the usual first Tuesday of the month to the second Saturday July 8th (1:00 – 3:00 PM). The RPSC sales circuit will be available to members and all sales must be in CASH ONLY. Insomuch as this is the 25th anniversary of the Saugeen Stamp club, members are encouraged to bring along any/ all memorabilia of the club for display. Also, this will be another pizza & pop meeting courtesy of the club treasury. Thank you for all you do – it is appreciated!

Just as an additional reminder:

Our July meeting will be Saturday
July 8, 2023 1:00 – 3:00 PM

RPSC Sales Circuit
Pizza and Beer (oops) Pop
The Clubs 25th Anniversary Celebration
Bring memorabilia of the club if you have any

*Visit our new and improved Webpage for all
information and past Bulletins
saugeenstampclub.org*

Another Measured Moment

Coronation of King George VI

Since we are now going through the season of a Coronation for King Charles III, it is appropriate to look back at past Coronations and the philatelic response to the occasion. In the case of New Zealand, they issued a set of 3 stamps showing the new King and Queen in 1937. These stamps were overprinted for use in NIUE and this Registered First Day Cover from NIUE to New Zealand shows the overprints. It is interesting to see that it took, a month, from 13 May until 11 June for this cover to get to the addressee according to a backstamp on the cover.

Prior to that, New Zealand had honoured Coronations but had marked the Silver Jubilee of King George V with 3 stamps and the 1937 Coronation stamps have a very similar design. For Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation in 1953 they issued a set of 5 stamps, but perhaps that is a little overdoing it.

In the literature received from NZ Post and various newsletters from NZ Stamp clubs that I hold memberships in, as I write this, I have not seen any reference to Coronation stamps for King Charles III, although several club newsletters have shown copies of proposed British King Charles III definitives.



Saugeen Stamp Club

Chapter 220, Royal Philatelic
Society of Canada
Chapter 1538, American
Philatelic Society
Chapter 21, Grand River Valley
Philatelic Association
Website: [https://www.rpsc.org/
chapters/saugeenstampclub/](https://www.rpsc.org/chapters/saugeenstampclub/)
Club Website:
saugeenstampclub.org

Meeting: St. Matthew's
Evangelical Lutheran Church
356 9th Street,
Hanover, Ontario
Use 11th Avenue Entrance

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Owen Sound Zoom Auctions

The links to see items and read the terms and conditions follow below:

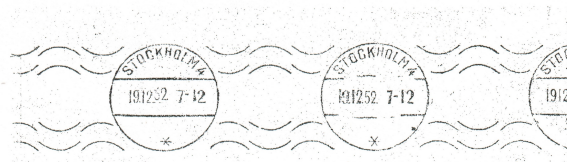
[https://stampsmarter.org/AuctionSQL/Auction_Owen_Entry.php?
operation=insert](https://stampsmarter.org/AuctionSQL/Auction_Owen_Entry.php?operation=insert) – Please use this form to enter your individual lots for auction

https://stampsmarter.org/AuctionFiles/Cat_OwenSC.aspx – You may view listed items
in the current auction on this page. These will be the same scans used during the
auction

<https://stampsmarter.org/AuctionFiles/OwenTCs.html> – Terms and Conditions - please
read if you are listing or bidding in the auction

A Piece of Postal History in my Collection

This envelope was mailed from Argentina to an Arthur Wiman in Stockholm, Sweden in
November of 1952. In December of 1952 it was redirected to Salt Lake City, Utah. This
Swedish cancellation is on the reverse side of the envelope.



The inclusion on the envelope "Ex Libris Impresos" means "Printed Book Plates"



Although this mail traveled much of the world it did reach its destination, speaking well of the
international postal system

Royal Oak Stamps

Now dealing only in Philatelic Supplies
Contact John Cortan Phone: 519-395-5817
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