The Chattanooga Stamp Chronicle
June, 2018

MAY MEETING MINUTES

We opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes were voted on as was the Treasurer's report. We had a visitor, Mr. Cantrell. We also have a new club member, Terry Elsea.

A suggestion was made that we put a limit on the number of lots a person can bring to the auctions. Mrs. Bricker was invited by club president Mike Ezell to attend the meeting because of a letter he received. Gene Bricker won a Vermeil award for outstanding newsletter. Mike Ezell also presented Gene with a mug bearing his initial and a cake was brought to celebrate.

We broke for refreshments. We then continued with the auction.

Rebecca Gilbert, Secretary

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Thank you! My thanks to the members of the Chattanooga Stamp Club for the recognition of the newsletter award. It would not be possible without the contributions of the members toward its success.

Count your age by friends, count your life by smiles.
MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greeting Fellow Collectors

Here we are almost at the end of May. This year is flying by and great things are happening. The month that everyone anticipates every year is here. It is our month for the club picnic. We will be meeting at the River Front Park Pavilion #4. We can start gathering anytime starting around 3:30 PM and we will eat at 5 PM. The meat will be provided by the club and we ask that you bring at least two sides. The picnic always gives us a break from the regular meetings and to have a good time of fellowship and fun. I hope that you are making plans to attend. I will be calling those of you who were not at the last meeting so that I can get you on the list. You can also email me at mhezell@gmail.com to let me know you are coming and how many will be with you. Looking forward to enjoying this time with you!

Mike Ezell

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APRIL U.S. STAMP ISSUES (Correction)

April 6
STEM Education

April 21
Peace Rose

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MAY U.S. STAMP ISSUES

May 1
U.S. Airmail (Blue)

May 23
Sally Ride

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SOUTHEAST REGION STAMP SHOWS

June 16-17 HUNTSPEX 2018 Huntsville 2018 Stamp and Postcard Show, Huntsville Philatelic Club, Calhoun Community College, Bldg. 1, Wynn Dr. & Old Madison Pike, Contact: Michael O'Reilly, mcoreilly@att.net, 256-527-4601, www.stampshows.com/huntsville_hpc.html

August 3-5 Americover 2018 American First Day Cover Society, An APS World Series of Philately Show, Hilton Atlanta Northeast, 5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Norcross, Georgia 30092-3416, Contact Chris Lazaroff, showinfo@afdcs.org, http://www.afdcs.org/show

What to do when you inherit stamps?

For a detailed discussion of what to do when you inherit stamps, see the article at: https://stamporama.com/articles/display_article.php?id=RASd3nKLqcQNo

This article begins:
“To a stamp collector, inheriting a relative’s stamp collection is almost like winning the lottery. But a non-collector who inherits a stamp collection has a dilemma: he or she has heard that stamps may be valuable, but hasn’t a clue how to find out the value of their new collection, much less how to turn it into cash. This article is intended to help sort out the confusion.”

The article begins, 1. Become a collector 2. Donate your collection 3. Sell your collection, and gives an extensive discussion of the various ways to deal with the inheritance. It is too long to adequately cover the details here. Log on to the web site and learn the positive and negatives of the options.

Welcome New Members

Membership Number  Member Name
517      John Burnett
518      Terry Elsea

Welcome to these new members. John Burnett provided the article on page 3 in this issue of the Chattanooga Stamp Chronicle.

EXPONET, (http://www.exponet.info/index.php?lng=EN) contains more than 1000 active exhibits. They are completing the transfer of other information.
EXPONET – virtual philatelic exhibition – is an Internet space designed for storing, exhibiting, searching and studying the electronically displayed philatelic material (exhibits).
Canada - Little Known Facts of WWII
Part 1
(By John Burnett)

I have been an active collector of the postal history of Canada in WWII for the past 50 years. During that time I have discovered some interesting postal history facts that seem to have been lost on collectors (or at least exhibitors).

This is part 1 of a series of small articles that will address a number of these discoveries, they are not meant to be the "see all do all" of historical facts but simply meant to provide club members with things to keep an eye open for when visiting that bourse table and perhaps to help judges make an assessment of relative scarcity of some material shown in an exhibit.

This first article concerns a very scarce piece of Canadian postal history that is quiet difficult to identify and yet it has the identification just staring at you from the cover.

It all starts on the 26th of May 1940 at the little town of Dunkirk on the shores of France where approximately 350,000 British troops are surrounded with their backs to the sea.

Britain mounts an operation called "Operation Dynamo", where she mobilizes 850 ships and boats (mainly boats) to evacuate her troops from the coast of France. In case you don't know the difference between a ship and a boat, the classical definition is "you can carry a boat on a ship". Amazingly by June 4 this operation is complete and 338,000 troops were evacuated, many of them open longboats towed behind ships.

When all that could be evacuated were, Great Britain had left 75% of all her supply of small arms, cars, trucks, (see figures 2 and 3)

Most importantly Britain had left 70% of her Army Infantry Officer Corps in the hands of the Germans! It's a recognized fact that had Hitler decided to invade at that time the only thing Britain had to defend herself was an unarmed army and an armed Home Guard generally carrying personal shot guns.

Great Britain had another important use for its army officers that Churchill was not prepared to give up and that was to supply the Office Corps to the Indian Army and African Armies.

To alleviate this issue Churchill put out a call to Canada to "lend" England some officers from the Canadian Army, what he asked for were Captains and below in rank. Canada put out a call for volunteers and thus was created the "CANLOAN" Operation. It is recorded in the Canadian Military archives that 622 Canadian Infantry Officers were loaned to the British by 1944 and that early on, many were Majors who took a demotion to be part of this force.

Figure 4 shows a CANLOAN cover Mailed from Montreal on February 14, 1945

Figure 1. Just an example of the types of boats used in Operation Dynamo, here a tug pulls a small pleasure craft the 22 miles to the English shore.

When all that could be evacuated were, Great Britain had left 75% of all her supply of small arms, cars, trucks, (see figures 2 and 3)

Figure 2. Small arms piled on the beach of Dunkirk by the Germans

Figure 3. Just a sampling of Britain's cars, trucks, and armored vehicles left on the beaches of Dunkirk.

With the vast majority of CANLOAN officers joining the British forces in 1944 in time for the invasion of Europe at Normandy there are not going to be a lot of these envelopes around for us collectors to find.

Of the 622 officers who joined British forces 43 were killed in action, the group acquitted themselves extremely well suffering many casualties and earning decorations disproportionately to their numbers. On a recent visit to Ottawa I went to see the CANLOAN memorial to her 43 Killed In Action members, located on a quiet street in the diplomatic area of Ottawa.

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THE INTERNET AS A RESEARCH TOOL

The Internet provides a valuable research tool for collectors.

— The virtual Air Mail Stamp Museum is well organized and beautifully illustrated.

http://www.afdcs.org
— The American First Day Cover Society’s site features online access to its auctions through a catalogue and bidding form. It also offers its handbooks through an online order form, as well as the opportunity to join the society or renew membership.

www.stampshows.com
— A list of stamp shows worldwide. The site is advertising heavy, but the information is free.

www.usps.com/cpim/ftp/bulletin/pb.htm
— The U.S. Postal Service Bulletin, which is archived back to 1995. Once you have found what you want in the index, the online versions are displayed in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format.

www.stamporama.com
— StampoRama is similar in concept to Lloyd de Vries’ Virtual Stamp Club, but is less extensive. It has some interesting features including mentoring. To access some of the more advanced features, membership is required ... but free.

https://unstamps.org/
— The United Nations Postal Administration’s Web site is user friendly and informative for collectors. The U.N. site is devoted to collectors and makes a visit an enjoyable experience.

http://virtualstampclub.com/
— News and information about stamp collecting. Operated by Lloyd de Vries.

https://arago.si.edu/
— Site of the National Postal Museum. The premier online resource for the study of philately and postal operation

http://www.stampnewsnow.com/Online-Stamp-Show.html
— By Stamp News Publishing. A resource for collectors.

There are other sites for collectors, and this list is not close to complete. Enjoy!

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"Neither rain, nor snow, nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds"

- Greek historian Herodotus wrote about the Persian messengers in his history of the Persian Wars. This is inscribed on a stone face of the New York post office building.

SEARCHING FOR MORE ACTIVE COLLECTORS

The question posed often still remains: How do we get more of what appears to be many lone wolf stamp collectors into the organized philatelic world of societies, clubs, and shows?

One of the reasons for concern is that seemingly the hobby is in somewhat of a decline — APS membership is down, stamp clubs have shrinking membership, the traditional downtown stamp store has virtually disappeared, and most shows have seen interest and attendance decrease. This is based on two main causes — aging collectors and the lack of younger people picking up the hobby. It is when we take a look at the lack of new collectors replacing the old timers that we can begin to see the true picture.

How many of us have lamented that our children and grandchildren generally show little interest in stamp collecting, that they have too many other interests: computers, the internet, video games, cell phones, and extracurricular activities.

It is easy to conclude that philately is in decline, in fact dying, and that this is inevitable and nothing can be done about it. One can disagree. The perspective is that the interest in stamp collecting is on the rise and the future of our hobby is going to be a positive one.

Two articles in the philatelic press would reinforce optimism. In the January 6, 2012, issue of Mekeel’s & Stamps, John Leszak’s editorial, “Reaching Out to Casual Stamp Collectors,” makes some telling observations. Leszak believes that organized collectors are outnumbered by casual collectors by about 200 to one and may really be more like 500 to one. These casual collectors do not belong to organized philately, are not aware of the APS or the stamp periodicals, and generally collect non-traditional material such as gold foil, topical, and preassembled collections that we may generally frown upon.

Nevertheless, they are stamp collectors and we need to take a look at how we can better reach them and at least let them know about all that organized philately offers.

Another impressive editorial appeared in the January 30, 2012, issue of Linn’s Stamp News and was written by Michael Baadke. What prompted his article was a report from the online reference site Wikicollecting stating that postage stamps ranked first on a list of 75 collecting categories (antiques was second, coins fifth, comic books tenth, and postcards 73rd). Baadke also believes: “The stamp hobby remains healthy” and “has fans all over the world.”

In the light of the realization that there are an enormous number of stamp collectors out there, and in fact, the hobby is both healthy and on the rise, we probably need to reevaluate our pessimistic views and figure out ways of better reaching more of these avid hobbyists.

Adapted from the article, “ Searching for More Active Collectors”, in the March/April 2012 Stamp Insider Magazine by Thomas Auletta
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