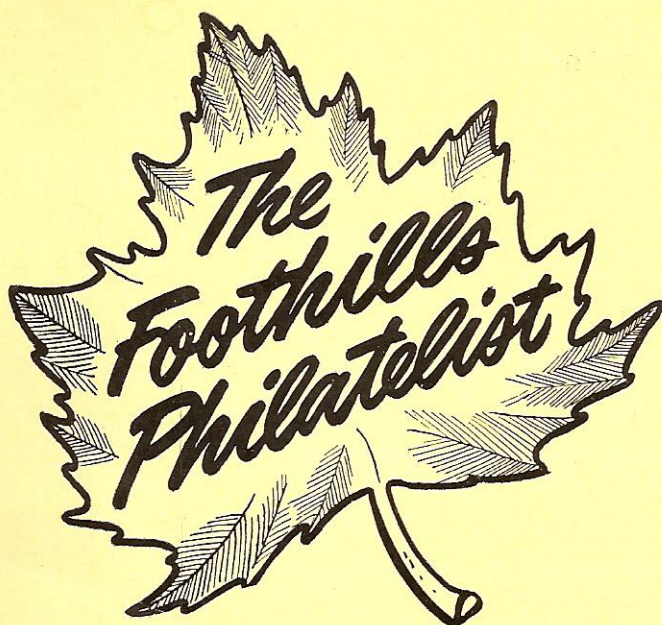


COMPLIMENTARY

Vol. 1, No. 4.

Whole No. 4.



MAY
1950



First Day Cover Courtesy J. Benningen, Calgary.

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Published Monthly at Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

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MAY 1950

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Calgary, Alberta, Canada

EDITOR J. Sanders

ASSOCIATES T. R. O'Connor, Joseph Chogi

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE EDITOR

RECONSTRUCTION IN HOLLAND

Our cover design this month shows a First Day Cover of the new Summer Health stamps issued by Holland on May 2nd, 1950.

These stamps will be available for postal purposes from May 2nd, 1950, until June 30th, 1950, inclusive, and carries out the theme of Holland's Reconstruction Program.

The values, colours, and designs of the stamps are as follows:

- 2 plus 2 cents: Reddish brown, fragment of the monument honouring the P.T.T. resistance.
- 4 plus 2 cents: Green, a dike worker in action.
- 5 plus 3 cents: Gray, building reconstruction in Rotterdam.
- 6 plus 4 cents: Purple, harvesting machine with tractor in the Wieringer Lake District.
- 10 plus 5 cents: Blueish Grey, reconstruction of the railroad bridge at Moerdijk.
- 20 plus 5 cents: Blue, reorganization of the inland navigations.

Designs are the well known Haarlem draughtsman, Frans Lammer. The stamps which are valid until the 31st of December, 1951, are in the dimensions 24.25 mm. by 31.5 mm.

For the first time since the distribution of Summer Stamps, these stamps will be placed on covers specially prepared for this purpose (First Day Covers) and which will be available through the stamp trade, and specially prepared for this purpose by the Philatelic Service of the Headquarters of the P.T.T. A special label with the inscription "eerste dag van uitgifte" (first day of issue) will be attached to all First Day Covers.

Our appreciation to Mr. B. A. Rohrick, Chief Engineer of the Hudson's Bay Company in Calgary, for translation of the original source of information.

— NEW ISSUES —

BERMUDA—An official bulletin has been issued cancelling the order to cancel the Perot Stamps on April 8th, 1950. They will remain on sale for approximately one year.

CANADA—Covers have been received dated April 18th, 1950, with special cachet for first Jet Plane Mail from Toronto to New York. The cachet shows a crown with wings on top, and it bears the inscription "First Official Airmail, Jetliner Toronto to New York."

They are backstamped April 18, 1950, in New York.

CHINA—The U.P.U. issue has been overprinted "Senkiang" in purple.

ISRAEL—A special cancellation was used on April 4th, 1950, to commemorate the Music Festivals in the settlement of Ein-Gev on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

On March 30th, 1950, a new travelling post office commenced operation in Upper Galilee with its base at Tiberias. It leaves Tiberias every morning and passes all the settlements and colonies of the Upper Galilee up to Kfar Giladi, and back in the evening to Tiberias. The cancellation of the first run was March 30th, 1950, and the Latin characters were GALILEE SUPERIEURE (Upper Galilee in French) and the same in Arabic and Hebrew.

A travelling post office in the NEGEV area began operations on March 28th, 1950, with its base at BEER SHEBA.

Courtesy "Stamps"

ISRAEL—On, or about, the 5th Day of Iyar, April 22nd, 1950, a two value set was issued to commemorate Israel Independence Day. The 20 pruta value, which is red brown, was designed by M. Kara and shows the immigration of persecuted Jews prior to the establishment of the State. The 40 pruta, which is dark green, was designed by Messrs. Wind-Struski and this symbolizes the gathering of exiles into the Independent State.

Courtesy "Stamps"

ITALY—A single commemorative depicting the Fountain of the Four Seasons, designed by Renzo Gerla, was issued on April 12th, for the International Trade Fair. Colour, brown; denomination, 20 lire.

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES—Stamps of the Netherlands Antilles are being used in Curacao.

NEW ZEALAND—The Canterbury Centennial issue will be placed on sale on November 20th, 1950, coinciding with the opening of CANPEX.

JAPAN—The Third in the Cultural Series was issued on April 10th, 1950. Face value of 8 yen, this green stamp shows a portrait of Soseki Natsume, author and poet.

THE Superior Album

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Philately *In Institutional Life*

★ ★ ★

By C. L. LOWMAN, M.D.

Chief of Staff, Orthopaedic Hospital, Los Angeles

(With grateful permission of "Stamps" New York, for permission to reprint.)

★ ★ ★

THE background of my interest in philately in institutional life dates back over the past twenty years during which I have been an active collector. My boyhood interest had been re-awakened through helping my own son start out along the road of collecting stamps. Within a year the discovery of several philatelist adult acquaintances increased my interest and led me to foster stamp collecting at the Orthopaedic Hospital where I am the Chief of Staff.

Very early I noted that stamps established a valuable approach to the hospital boys and girls and soon it was a regular pleasure to see young patients' faces light up in expectation when I dug into my pocket to bring forth more stamps. Any effort or trouble I have been put to has been many times repaid.

When a boy or girl must go to a hospital his mind is likely to be full of worry and fear, or he may be so discouraged or apathetic that he thinks he cares little about anything. My approach is to find one boy in a ward who has already started stamp collecting. To him I am immediately a "good guy," a friend with a common bond that obliterates the discrepancy of ages and reduces the latent fear he may feel toward "the Doctor." I continue by capitalizing on the interest of the one or two more boys who make an immediate response. They have albums and accessories brought to the hospital and start to work on the new stamps they receive. Soon, still other boys in the ward begin to ask questions, look at the stamps and decide that they too would like to collect.

During the years when our patients remained at the hospital for periods of weeks or months we were able to have a stamp club with regular meetings for patients and ex-patients. At present the patient day stay has been greatly lowered, seriously affecting stamp club and other hospital club activities. In addition, the recent danger of blackouts and now the transportation problem have made it necessary to stop or curtail evening activities at the hospital for former patients.

To make a hospital stamp project worth while requires devotion and

sacrifice. For the in-patients we have until recent months had the devoted attention of Mrs. Newman, our "Stamp Lady," who visited the hospital every week, bringing stamps and accessories and coaching the beginners. Except for Mrs. Newman there has been an unfortunate lack of club leadership from the philatelists of the community.

Nevertheless, looking back to the number of satisfied collectors among our patients and ex-patients, I know that the stamp collecting which they began at the hospital has meant a great deal in their often restricted lives. Many of these boys and girls are now fully grown and although a large number are still badly handicapped, using braces and crutches, they earn a livelihood and continue with "the hobby which stuck."

All who help to start juniors in collecting should realize that although some youngsters lose interest temporarily and stop collecting, at some critical time in later life they may turn back to this hobby which is so well adapted to get mental release from worry, anxiety and tension.

I have just heard from a young man who was fifteen or sixteen years old at the time he was in our hospital stamp club. He has gone through medical college and within two years of graduation has had a relapse of arthritis and is now bedridden. Now he turns back to collecting as a release from discouragement and boredom. He recently wrote me as follows: "My collecting began at age seven. My father and grandfather both were collectors but not until I became a patient at the Orthopaedic Hospital in Los Angeles where there were enough enthusiasts to form a club did I really settle down to serious study. Stamps meant most, I think, while making a slow recovery from arthritis with exercises, pool work and physiotherapy. The treatments might have been abandoned had it not been for the hour or so of stamps at each visit to the clinic. Now that I am quite seriously limited in movement my stamps are again giving amusement and advancing the recovery of function for my fingers. I have been forced to exercise my ingenuity as well. I use a stock book as an album, while a metal adapter

on my forefinger enables me to use tongs."

As more advanced addicts of the hobby who know the respite of losing ourselves for a few hours playing with our stamps, we should all be ready to lend a helping hand to the juniors who, the Lord knows, must shoulder heavy burdens in the years not so far ahead. Just as training and discipline are necessary to prepare them for life, so also is grounding in interests that will make for leisure time satisfaction. It will be remembered that the anxieties which put many out of the running during the depression years were mitigated greatly for those who had a creative hobby. Certainly, stamps collecting stabilized many and kept them from dependency or actual physical illness.

Schools are awakening to the motivation basis possibilities of philately in relation to fixed subjects such as geography and history. Still more important are the opportunities for broadened interest socially, and for character development.

At present I have under my care a lad aged seventeen from the desert country who suffered an attack of infantile paralysis two years ago. At first he was so shy that he seemed to suffer. He felt out of place, was apprehensive, but too weak to remedy matters. I brought stamps to other boys in his ward and he gradually became interested and started to collect. He was sent home to convalesce and nearly a year later returned a different boy. Of course, his whole hospital experience had had a developmental effect, but I feel sure that he received his first impetus towards improved mental health from a philatelic source.

This boy writes: "It is my opinion that stamp collecting is educational as well as entertaining. I first became interested in stamps while at the Orthopaedic Hospital convalescing from an attack of infantile paralysis. I never thought I would be interested in that sort of thing but not having much else to occupy my time I decided to start. I will never be sorry I did. After getting started I found it very interesting and have continued ever since. Stamp collect-

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ing not only helps pass away the time but makes one forget his troubles. It is good too to feel that one can keep working with, and adding to one's stamps until some day one has a really good collection."

The dragging hours spent lying in bed day after day with body or legs in plaster casts make for boredom and irritability or act as stimuli to downright mischievousness. The muscles of a growing organism require movement and action; the nervous and mental mechanism need something to do to keep in a healthy state. Interest built up by philately may be sufficient to block everything else from attention. Hence, for the restless patient who has been operated recently it is as good as an opiate. The threshold of the sensory mechanism has been raised against all other sensations and lowered to the absorbing interest stimulus created by the stamps. In every-day words, the patient's attention is distracted and he looks out, not within.

It is well known that extraversion and not introversion makes for mental health. In stamp collecting the patient's mind is directed to something outside himself, e.g., his stamps. Then, through association with others with a common bond he is drawn into healthy social contacts. The development of this healthy habit may hold over into his later life.

Therapeutic use for philately is also found in cases of neurotic, emo-

tionally unstable persons whose sensori-motor mechanism is so easily disturbed that they are jerky and jittery, both mentally and physically. Active games, noise and motion are too exciting, tending to make their condition habitually worse. The absorption of attention in an activity which challenges an alert, active mind but at the same time slows down the nervous mechanism has a profound corrective effect in handling this type of patient.

An older girl, a patient of years gone by, came to us with extreme deformities from infantile paralysis. These required years of reconstruction surgery and rehabilitation—physical, social and educational. In one of her letters is this paragraph: "My stamp collection means the difference between present happy contentment and a former restless boredom with my lot in life. Stamps furnish me with long hours of very pleasant entertainment and relaxation. To me they are educational and all-absorbing."

In short, from a mental hygiene standpoint there are excellent possibilities in the stamp hobby for the sick and disabled.

REVIEW

CARRYING THE MAIL

In a colorfully illustrated forty-four page booklet, James Gray, Inc., prominent lithographers, lettercraftsmen and printers of New York City tell the dramatic history of the evolution and growth of the modern postal system. Beginning with the story of the messengers of King Sargon's court in ancient Chaldea, the booklet continues through the first postal systems of Europe under the House of Thurn and Taxis through the colorful English stage coach era, to the courageous pioneering of America's great postal network. Interesting tales of the "Boston Post Road," "Ben Franklin's Contribution to the U.S. Mail," "The First Post-Carrying Trans-Atlantic Steamship," "The Opening of the West Through the Pony Express" and many other stepping stones in the history of the mails are featured. The booklet, titled CARRYING THE MAIL—is a valuable addition to the reading and reference library of every one interested in stamps.

CARRYING THE MAIL may be obtained from James Gray, Inc., 216 East 45th Street, New York 17, N. Y., enclosing a fee of fifty cents for each copy desired.

MAILED THAT SUBSCRIPTION YET?

The Bileski Story

★ ★ ★

Forty-year-old Kasimir Bileski is a man who made a childhood hobby pay off.

A "bug" on stamps in his youth, Mr. Bileski is regarded as one of the foremost stamp authorities and operators in this country. Millions upon millions of stamps pass through his hands, and that's in a literal sense.

Only a few months ago, Bileski purchased approximately 300,000,000 stamps at an auction in Hamilton, Bermuda. He was the major buyer at a government sale of contraband stamps. His purchases—their weight ran to about 1½ tons—cost about \$20,000.

Bileski, who receives about 1,000 letters weekly in his mail order stamp business, was a school teacher in Saskatchewan before he decided in 1931 to turn his avocation into a full-time job.

DOCTOR CLIENTS

Bileski says that most of his clients are "older people" and that they include "an enormous amount of doctors." Bileski considers that one of the values of stamp collecting, where children are involved, is that it serves to "counteract this comic book craze."

He calculates that there are about 120,000 varieties of stamps—that would be the single collection with one of every possible type of stamp. He estimates the value of such a collection, if it were possible for any one person to gather all the stamps involved, at \$1,500,000.00.

Bileski has his own private stamp collection as well as an assortment of letter covers. In the latter category he prizes a number of envelopes and notes once in the hands of Hitler.

One envelope carried no address. It has a cartoon of Hitler's face atop a gorilla's body and apparently was delivered to the German leader without trouble. Another envelope that Hitler apparently had saved was addressed to: "Adolf Hitler, Master of the World."

—CP Newsfeatures.

PERFORATIONS ANALYZED

When stamps are in sheets the perforations are large or small holes surrounded by stamps. But when the stamps are torn apart the perforations are pieces of holes partly surrounding stamps. Lots of people collect these holes when they are attached to stamps, and, according to the number of holes a stamp is more valuable and vice versa, as the case may be. If a stamp is supposed to have a certain number of holes and has two holes too far too short, or if it has two holes too far too long, it might be worth a lot more or a lot less according to what you might be able to get for it.

There are a lot of holes; little 'uns and big 'uns. And when they are all mixed round the stamp they are compound. "Com" means "worth" and "pound" means "money", hence they are worth more money. When a lot of little holes are pasted over a lot of big 'uns they are 'mixed." Some people measure these holes with a gauge, but that is only because it takes too long to count them. Some people collect stamps which have holes only a quarter too far too much or too less, but they are cranks because a quarter of a hole is not a very big one. There are a lot of cranks in stamp collecting and some people would collect holes without stamps, but you can't do that because you must have the stamp to keep the holes together. I don't know what they do with the insides of small holes, but the insides of big holes are used to throw over brides and things like that; but you can't throw the holes themselves. Perforations are a very interesting study to those who understand.

—Pacific Stamp Review.

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3. Promotes and assists the junior collectors, enabling them to obtain the proper start in the fundamentals of stamp collecting.
4. Promotes the welfare of Philately in a manner worthy of the hobby, and worthy of the multitude of people who are its adherents.

★ ★ ★

CLUB MEETING DATES

Meeting dates for May, June and July, to be held in the Calgary Herald Board Room, are as follows:

May 27	2 p.m.
June 8	8 p.m.
June 15	8 p.m.
June 24	2 p.m.
July 6	8 p.m.
July 13	8 p.m.
July 22	2 p.m.

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Address all correspondence regarding membership or other information direct to the Secretary-Treasurer, name and address as shown above.

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"In Defence of Magpies"

To beginners or intending collectors, greetings! As that great artist, Marie Lloyd, used to sing, "a little of what you fancy does you good," which brings us to the magpies. The magpie collector, seldom regarded seriously, is the antithesis of the specialist and, to jaundiced eyes, of the genuine philatelist. He is the purist's bane; like Shakespeare's Autolycus, "a snapper-up of unconsidered trifles."

Usually of the fraternity of small collectors, his album is an entirely fascinating hodge-podge, bringing all philatelic time and space. Victorian postal stationery, striking air mails, portrayals of ancient art, curious fiscals, odd Crown Colonials lie cheek by jowl with many red entries and the exquisite engravings of early U.S.A. In other words, he thoroughly enjoys every minute of stamp collecting, undeterred by text-book advice or the frowns of superior persons. The superficial and the snob look down their noses at all his works. He gets infinite enjoyment and mental refreshment for a very small outlay, and for him the most ordinary stamp may, if it pleases him, earn album space.

And Good Luck to him, say I! Every item issued for legitimate postal use is worthy of philatelic respect, and nothing is more distasteful than to hear stamps referred to in such terms as "common rubbish". As for fiscals, why not, if you fancy them. With a blank album and a packet of mounts an endless and wonderful field, my friend, is yours. "What!" you exclaim, "turn my album into a junk shop? Not Pygmalion likely!" But any junk shop of the right type at least has character, and a well written-up and arranged collection of the philatelic "junk" YOU YOURSELF FANCY will be an expression of your individual temperament and personality worth twenty albums full of the stamps fashion or convention decrees no collection should be without. In collecting, at least, we can defy the current craze for standardisation and be our own individual selves. The magpie's hoard often sparkles and always interests.

Don't be intimidated!

—Bashi's.



**DID YOU MAIL THAT
SUBSCRIPTION YET?**



JOE'S Canadian Round-up

Hello Folks!

Have just heard that Ottawa has pulled another fast one on us. It seems that the current four-center has now been put on the market nicely overprinted O.H.M.S. Can't give you any date because I don't know, and it seems that Ottawa did not bother to send out the usual announcements. If any of you folks know what the date of release is I would be mighty interested in knowing.

Had a look at the material up for auction at the Foothills Stamp Service the other day. They have some nice Canadian items going under the hammer and I would suggest you folks get in your bids before the closing date. If you are not on their mailing list, drop me a card and I'll see that you get a copy of all their future lists.

Had a good turn-out at the club last Thursday. It seems the Foothills Philatelic Exchange has some mighty interesting features coming up this year and I would recommend that all you local collectors pay them a visit and find out what the score is. A lot of the fun I have in collecting stamps is derived from my memberships in the various philatelic organizations.

Need any money for your holidays? The boys down at the Foothills Stamp Service tell me that they have some money tucked away in the bank that's just aching to be used for a good Mint Canadian collection or stock. If you know of any of your friends who have mint Canada for disposal tell them to get in touch with me and I'll put them in touch with the right party.

Any questions on Canadian stamps? That's what I'm here for and I'll do my level best to answer all your questions. Just drop me a line in care of this mag. Do not enclose any stamps but give a full description. If you want a personal answer you'll have to send me a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Next month I'll tell you something about the "Weeping Princess" among other things.

See you then.

—Joe.

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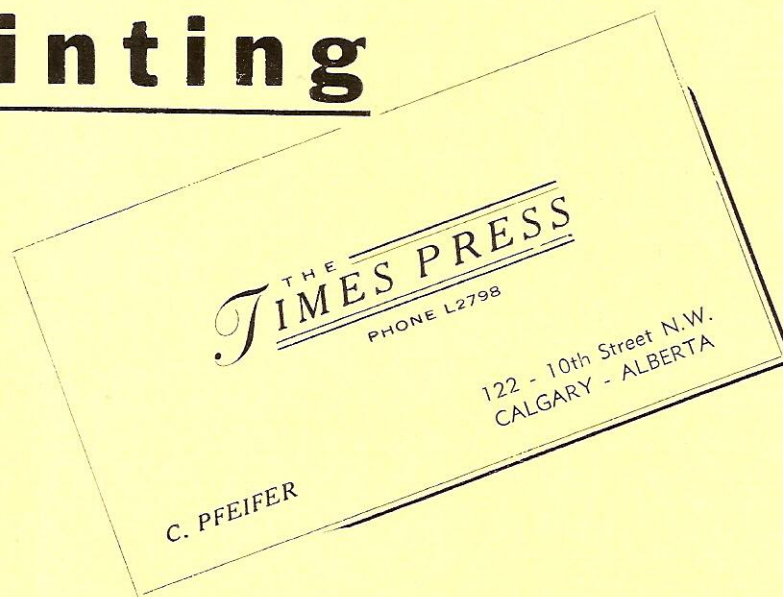
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