

Stamper

April 2023

Newsletter from the Lethbridge Philatelic Society

Canada's Stamp Enthusiasm Lacks

The Lack of excitement in Canadian Stamps is in parts due to any lack of support by Canada Post for the Stamp Collecting hobby. Over the last few years there are the standard issues every month. There is no mention of special issues or any new releases until shortly before. Most countries list their years stamp program. Some countries even display images of stamp months in advance so collectors can pre-order them. Will there be new definitives in Canada with King Charles III and when, or have we, as Canada, left the Commonwealth as other countries have?

Several years ago, a representative gave a talk for Canada Post at a meeting of the Lethbridge Philatelic Society. I asked him why Canada Post was reluctant with Stamp issues. His reply was, that the post office didn't really care, because Stamp revenue was only a small part of one percent of sales.

That must be why some issues after that catered to sports and fans of comic characters over the years. Past releases centered on history and honored past dignitaries in walks of life. People were featured after their deaths, with many collectors shocked, by the Post office featuring Sport and music celebrities, currently still active.

Canada has much to see and offer beyond what we see as stamps on mail. This is a way of advertising to the world. Labels on Packages and letters don't. So why have so many hardened collectors stopped collecting current Canadian Stamps? They are Boring and Stuck in the Mud. Many anniversaries and events have been missed because of a lack of foresight and an archaic system of suggesting stamp issues.

To say the least, Canadian Philatelists are disappointed.



The Lethbridge Philatelic Society

The Lethbridge Philatelic Society meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 P.M. (except July and August). Meetings at **Insight**



LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA

Insight

#1 1718-3 Avenue south,
Lethbridge, Alberta

Next Meeting: **March 9, 2023**, in the downstairs conference room.

Website:

<https://www.lps57.ca>

Contacts:

- President **Darcy Lutz** 403-625-1571
- Past President **Kel Hansen** 403-345-6405
- Secretary **Tony Pargeter** 403-315-2247
- Treasurer **Robert Budd** 403-381-8640
- Raffle Secretary **Bob Hlatky** 403-942-2023
- Edmonton Books **Walter Kerber** 403-388-9174
- Club Books **Andre Vandebek** 403-308-2692

Mailing Address: 196 Heritage Circle West, Lethbridge, AB, T1K 7H8



OF AN EDITION OF 20,000

THE ROYAL SUCCESSION
COMMEMORATIVE COVER

Royal Mail Talents House 21 South Gyle Crescent Edinburgh EH12 9PB

Britain's Transition First Day Cover

IN MY OPINION

BY WALTER KERBER

What is mint?

In a recent article, I read about Gum on stamps. In today's collecting circles it is customary only to collect pristine stamps as "Mint". Yet when they are in the album, you only see the front. You do not see the back. Was it an un-cancelled stamp off an envelope, or a perfect mint stamp from the post office or a stamp from an old stock book that only has half the gum? Usually perfect mint means a well entered stamp with perfect gum and no fingerprints, demanding a hefty premium.

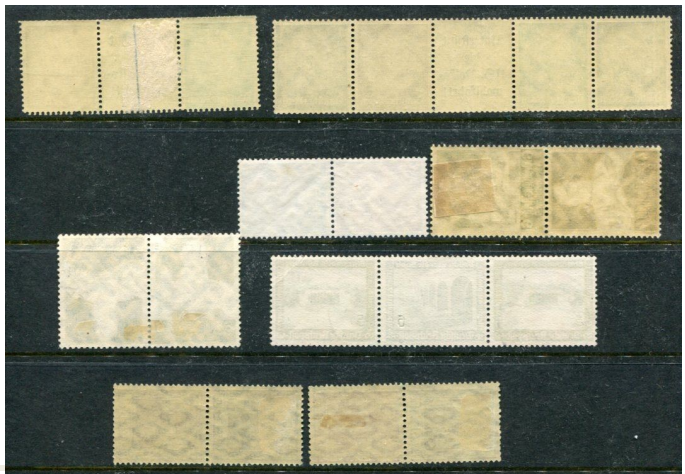


It also explained that a lot of earlier stamps issued had no gum. In humid climates gum was unpopular because sheets of stamps adhered together. Some souvenir sheets with one or two stamps only had gum on the stamp part, forcing buyers to add glue to the edges to mail them.

During war years in Germany they referred to spare gum, where it was applied in thin streaks. Perfect gum isn't always the perfect stamp. Canada used a gum, which didn't stick properly and was a matt almost undetectable type in the 70's. If you remove a self-adhesive stamp from a booklet and dust the back, is it still mint? The gum is intact and the stamp is perfect but doesn't have the thick backing.

Recently, I was going through a bunch of DDR definitives that were mint. I compared them to the ones in my album. Any hinged stamps I traded for the perfect ones, but I noticed a problem. Where the "mint" stamps I had acquired actually true mint. The gum on the stamps in the album had a rough almost cracked appearance. The gum on the new set was perfectly glossy smooth. An alarm bell sounded. Where these stamps retreated or re-gummed to make them appear fresh mint, or were they altered?

Sometimes original gum isn't perfect, but it is better than faked gum to make them look perfect.



Right: Back side of set of Stamps on E-Bay, to show Gum surface.

Are your Stamps the wrong color

Philatelists are picky in their stamps and meticulously look at Colors. In a recent article I was reading in a German Stamp paper, it brought up the familiar precautions in handling postage stamps. In dealing with used stamps, on paper, you need to remove them unless they are saved on cover. This article recommended soaking them in cold water. I remember that warm or hot water could cause stamps to shrink, but it can also drastically affect the inks on stamps. Some colors might be water soluble, causing one to wash the stamp clean except the cancel, as in the Spanish ATM stamps. There might also be color shade changes in others.



Another important part of this removal process pointed out, is the container we do this in. What was it used for before? Is it clean? Any detergents or chemical cleaners would change the stamp into Rare items of wonder. If we use our hands, the natural oils on our skin could cause changes. Any creams, oils or lotions would be murder to those little bits of paper. Mint stamps should therefore only be handled with clean cotton gloves and tweezers.



Color changes also come from other sources. At a club meeting a few years ago a collection of mint Canada on album pages was brought in for auction. The odd part was that these stamps were in perfect shape, but had a brilliant look to them. All the colors looked like they were turning pale. Obviously these pages were on open display in intense light like sunlight, causing extreme fading. Although that doesn't happen to stamps preserved in a standard way, there are postage stamps that come with a warning to color sensitive inks. A yellow US stamp and a Bavarian stamp from the turn of the 1900's if left in bright light will disappear and become a plain piece of paper, with no image.



Why the Secrets

For several decades I have patiently with stamps and catalogues made crude pages for my Postage Stamp Album. Then I learned that there are companies like Minkus and Scott that made and sold page sets for the years. I also learned that there were fancy pages with pockets for the stamp from Lighthouse and others, at a price. Recently I found a website that had every page for every stamp in most if not all countries already made up, just for the printing. Although these just had descriptions and boxes for the stamps, it was too late for me to move stamps from the old loose-leaf pages.

At a recent club meeting we viewed an album that is coming up for our May Annual Stamp Auction. The perfect pages for every stamp looked like someone spent a lot of time putting them together, researching a lot of facts on all the stamps. The amazement was rather short lived when in a computer file I discovered similar album pages, already done with descriptions and images. Soon I found the website where you can download these Album pages in printable PDF formats for almost any country up to about 2008, in color.

There is a fellow, older wanting to retire from doing them, who has been at it a long time. He found out that these are popular and has some listed on Ebay. He has now decided to continue his work, but seems to have trouble getting the images.

This asset has been a secret in the philatelic world. Obviously many knew about these and other sites, but for some reason these collectors decided to keep such a valuable resource to themselves. I like making my own pages, using post office sites for information and images of new releases. Most sites also contain technical data that give the sizes, except Canada Post, which only features sizes in the Details magazine. To put them together I use Publisher, Using a border for the page and placing the images where I want them, sizing them according to the data. Information can be added as desired.

So where is this site??

<http://tim.mond.free.fr/>



New Netherland
Stamp depicting
Railroads



The
Calgary Philatelic Society
presents...

Spring Bourse 2023

STAMP SALE AND AUCTION

* Dealer Tables * Circuit Books * Juniors Section * Auction
* Door Prizes * Refreshments Available * Free Admission * Everyone Welcome

Saturday, April 15: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday, April 16: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Auction called Sunday at 4:00 p.m.

HELD AT THE

Kerby Centre
Ground Floor Gymnasium
1133 - 7 Ave. S.W., Calgary

Calgary Philatelic Society
P.O. Box 1478
Calgary, AB T2P 2L6

www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com



Stamp Collecting is about Trading

Let's Do Just That
What do You Need?
What do You Have?



403 308-2692 Andre

The Lethbridge Philatelic Society

Presents the

BIG ANNUAL AUCTION

May 11, 2023

At:

Insight

**#1 1718-3 Avenue south,
Lethbridge, Alberta**

**Featured will be collections, stamp lots
from members and a silent auction**

**Members and guests are invited and
members from other clubs.**

ALL WELCOME

Announcements

- **Next Meeting :**
- April 13, 2023
- May 11. 2023, The Big Annual Auction
- And June 8, 2023



Classifieds:

Classifieds are free, one per month per member E-mail yours to :kerber1227@gmail.com by month end.

Free ADS For Members
Let's Trade Stamps:

Call Walter 403 388-9174
Canada, Germany, Greece, Austria, Swiss.
Call Andre 403 308-2692

Wanted : any old copies of Canada Post "Details" brochure
Call Andre :403.308.2692

Nations Stamp Websites

- Canada:** Latest stamps | New in store | Canada Post
- England:** <http://www.collectgbstamps.co.uk/default.asp>
- Germany:** Neuerscheinungen | Shop Deutsche Post
- Austrian:** Philately news 2021 - PostAG
- Denmark:** Frimærker
- STAMP Pages :** [http:// tim.mond.free.fr/](http://tim.mond.free.fr/)
- Poland:** Poczta Polska Philatelic Shop - Welcome
- USA:** <https://store.usps.com/store> - go to "postal store"
- Edmonton:** <http://www.edmontonstampclub.com/Newsletter.html>
- Calgary** Philatelic Society – The Calgary Philatelic Society
- Stamp Collecting World:** <https://www.stamp-collecting-world.com/>