

Birmingham - Ferndale Stamp Club Newsletter



May 2025



Scott #969

Gold Star Mothers are a national organization of mothers whose sons and daughters died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. These mothers volunteer work at veteran hospitals and veterans service groups.

Remember our Gold Star mothers on Mother's Day, May 11th and on Memorial Day, May 26th, when we honor those service men and women who died while serving our country.

National Limerick Day is May 12th – so, here I offer a stamp dealer's limerick:

*A stamp dealer named Ken, quite astute,
Had topical stamps of fruit.
With a smile and a hoot,
He sold them for a lot of loot.*

Notes from our club meetings –

Club president Rusch noted that our club auctions continue to offer a variety of donated and purchased-at-discount philatelic material, however, there does not seem to be enthusiasm to buy. Changes may be necessary to improve the club auctions.

Preparations continue for BIRMPEX 2025, scheduled for Friday and Saturday, December 5th and 6th at Sokol Cultural Center.

Club Meetings –

May 6th and 20th, 6:00 p.m. at the NEXT Senior Center, Birmingham. We meet in Room #4 at the rear of the building.

Upcoming Events –

Modern Stamps Public Stamp Auction #528, May 17th, at their Oak Park facility.

The West Suburban Stamp Club Show, May 23rd & 24th at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland on Friday 10:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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Ken Rusch, President
Fred Como, Vice-President
Phil Kwasny, Secretary
Robert Helbig, Co-Treasurer
Faisal Qureshi, Co-Treasurer
Michael Swope, Editor

T. Eaton Company

Walter Koster



Featured here is a First Day Cover (FDC) created and issued for sale by Eaton's Stamp Corner of the T. Eaton Company Ltd. of Montreal to commemorate the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth on May 12, 1937. The cover is franked with a 3¢ carmine Portraits of Their Majesties (Scott #237) stamp issued on May 10, 1937, two days prior to the Coronation. Front postal marking includes an "Montreal, P.Q., May 10, 1937, 9AM" circular date cancel, and British ensign with bilingual "Coronation / Couronnement H. M. King George VI and H. M. Queen Elizabeth" slogan cancel.

Founded in 1869, the T. Eaton Company Ltd., commonly known as Eaton's, was an iconic Canadian department store which at its height held a retail presence in every province. From its beginnings as a retail store in Toronto to its eventual bankruptcy and absorption into its long-time rival, Sears Canada, Eaton's significantly shaped the Canadian shopping experience. In 2002, most Eaton's stores were converted to Sears stores or closed.

Eaton's Stamp Corner was the stamp and coin department in Eaton's stores. Many collectors still recall purchasing stamps and coins there, or at other retail stores such as Gimbels, Woolworths, Hudson's, and Macy's, as well as at local "five and dime" stores popular in the United States in the early to mid-20th century.

The following remembrances are drawn from collector online forums.

“Gimbles in New York City was a gold standard for retail stamp trade. They had a terrific stock of albums and stamps, and innovative sliding frames to efficiently display more stock.”

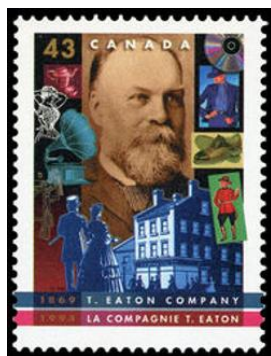
“Here in Detroit, the Hudson's stamp and coin department (originally downtown and later at Northland) lasted until the 1990's”.

“Both Woolworths and Raymonds in downtown Boston had a stamp and coin departments.”

“Macy's in Herald Square had one up until the early or mid-90s.”

“I remember buying stamp supplies and packets at my small time five and dime store where I grew up.”

In 1994, Canada Post issued a 43¢ stamp (Scott #1510), plus a booklet pane of ten stamps (Scott #1510a), to recognize Eaton's founder, Timothy Eaton, as “retailer to the nation.”



References:

<https://forums.collectors.com/discussion/927172/do-any-department-stores-still-have-coin-and-stamp-departments>

https://www.reddit.com/r/coins/comments/1864ovj/sears_had_a_coin_and_stamp_department/

<https://thestampforum.boards.net/thread/9946/time-department-store-stamp-counters>

Memorial Day May 26, 2025

John McCrae (1872-1918)

“Flanders Fields”

(Last Stanza)

The torch; be yours to hold it high.

If ye break faith with us who die,

We shall not sleep, though poppies grow

In Flanders fields.



Kresge Building

Michael Swope



On May 19, 1930, S.S. Kresge Company moved into its new home at Temple and Second Avenues in Detroit's Cass Park. This 250,000-square-foot headquarters was designed by Albert Kahn and commissioned by Sebastian S. Kresge (1867-1966), founder of the S.S. Kresge Co. The company opened its first store in 1898, a simple five-and-dime, and soon grew into a major national retailer. By 1929, it had exploded in size to 597 stores and required more space than its previous headquarters at Grand Circus Park.

In 1962, Kresge opened its first store with the name Kmart, and the retailer would formally change its corporate name to Kmart in 1977. Five years earlier, in 1972, Kresge abandoned the Temple/Second Avenue building for a new 906,000-square-foot headquarters in suburban Troy, which it in turn, left in 2006 after merging with Sears Holding Co.

Over the years, the Art Deco gem became the Metropolitan Center for High Technology and in 2014, it was rebranded yet again, as The Block at Cass Park, serving as a research, startup and creative space owned by Wayne State University.

The featured color postcard is linen and has no publisher marks. The (now missing) postage stamp was cancelled at Dearborn on May 17, 1946. It bears the 1946 United States Easter Seal, Cinderella stamp (Green's #46-1; Mosbaugh's #1Xa 14.00).



*Ref: Postcard from Author's collection
HistoricDetroit.org*