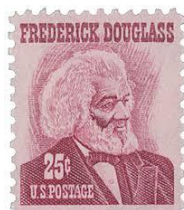


Birmingham – Ferndale Stamp Club Newsletter



September 2025

On September 3, 1838, Anti-slavery leader Frederick Douglass began his escape from slavery by boarding a train in Baltimore dressed as a sailor. He rode to Wilmington, Delaware, where he caught a steamboat to the free city of Philadelphia, then took a train to New York City where he came under the protection of the Underground Railway network.



Scott #1290

The 2025 Fall season begins meteorologically on September 1st, and an astronomically on September 22nd.

Notes from our club meetings –

Interesting discussions and auctions highlighted our August club meetings. Club members that attended the Haimann/Beech presentation at West Suburban Stamp Club provided an overview.

At our August 4th meeting, Marty Brown made a presentation of Proprietary tax stamps on post-Civil War tintype photographs.

Noted: The passing of club member Jerry Sheyachich on July 9th. He had not attended meetings in past two years due to health.

At our August 19th meeting, Charles Wood reported on activities at the Great American Stamp Show in Schaumburg, Illinois; and, Dana Markey made a brief presentation on “A letter from my cousin”.

Also noted: Our October 21st club banquet is set for Shields Restaurant in Troy; Birmplex volunteers needed to staff greeting desk; ideas discussed on methods to expand our philatelic hobby.

Club Meetings –

September 2nd and 16th, 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 #531, September 20th, at their Oak Park facility.

Midwest Stamp Dealers Association show at Macomb County Community College, September 26th & 27th, 10a-5p, 10a-3p, 14000 12 Mile Road, Warren, 48088

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Canada Postal Card, Webb P15

Walter Koster



Canada, Webb P15, 1896, 2¢ Bilingual, Royal Coat of Arms

Introduction of one of the most striking Canadian postal cards ever produced occurred in September, 1896. Created for use to Universal Postal Union (U.P.U.) countries, the new 2¢ P15 card was beautifully engraved and printed in brilliant vermillion, a bright shade of red with a distinct orange undertone. The frameless design featured a bilingual inscription with a small reproduction of British Coat of Arms. The stamp in the upper right corner resembles the 2¢ green, “Large Queen” stamp (Scott #24), issued April 1, 1868, but with the head of the Queen turned to the left.

The P15 card was cut to a slightly larger size than the P3 and P4 U.P.U. cards, approximately $5\frac{1}{8} \times 3\frac{1}{8}$ inches (130 x 80mm) versus $4\frac{5}{8} \times 3$ inches (116 x 75 mm), and printed on very light buff stock. December 18, 1896, is the earliest reported postmark (ERP). Webb lists shades of vermillion as a primary variety, along with a rare scarlet color, most likely only existing in proofs of the final design. The inspired design and beauty of the P15 card would endure in future U.P.U. cards.

The used P15 card (above) includes a Quebec, Canada, circular date cancel and a “Le Creusot, Saône-et-Loire” receiver. Le Creusot is an industrial town in the Saône-et-Loire department, region of Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, in central-eastern France.

Reference:

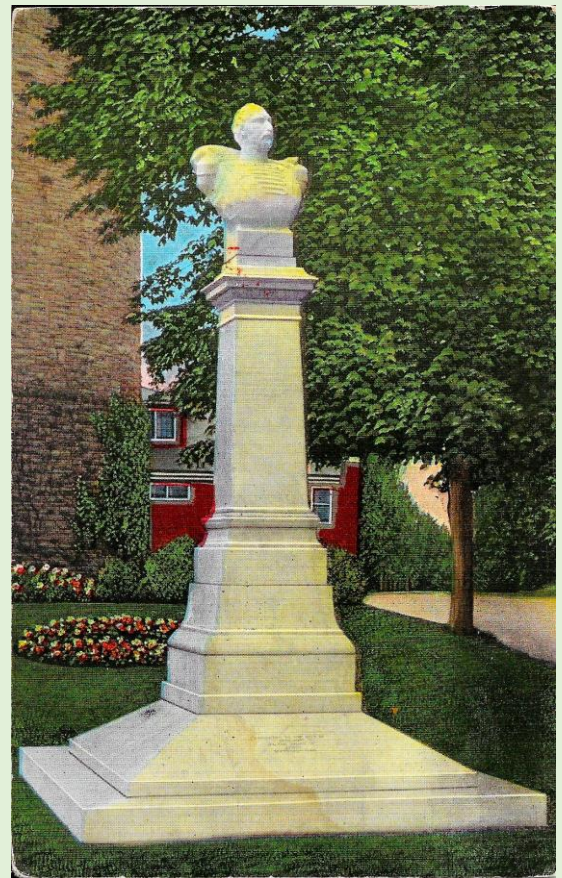
The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada, by Winthrop S. Boggs, Volume 1, Copyright 1945; *Canada & Newfoundland Postal Stationary Catalogue*, Fourth Edition, J. F. Webb, 1983; *Canada, Its Postage Stamps and Postal Stationery*, by Clifton A. Howes, [eBook #37457]; The British North America Philatelic Society, Ltd. (BNAPS) Postal Stationary Study Group, *Postal Stationary Notes*, Vol.1, No. 1, November 1981; *The Postal History of the Post Card in Canada 1878 – 1911*, Allan L. Steinhart, 1979

Ypsilanti

Michael Swope

The city of Ypsilanti, Michigan, was officially named in 1825. It was named after Demetrios Ypsilantis, a hero of the Greek War of Independence. Initially, the area was known as Woodruff's Grove, but the name was changed to Ypsilanti in honor of Ypsilantis's contributions to the Greek fight for freedom.

Brothers Alexander and Demetrios Ypsilantis were prominent figures in the Greek struggle for independence during the early 19th century, belonging to an aristocratic family with deep historical roots in Constantinople. The Ypsilantis family, connected to the Byzantine imperial dynasty, played significant roles in the administration of the Ottoman Empire and maintained strong ties with Russia, which was perceived as a protector of Orthodox Christians. Alexander Ypsilantis, a major general in the Russian army, became involved with a secret society committed to Greek liberation, and led an insurrection in 1821 aimed at rallying support for Greek independence. Despite his efforts, he faced defeat and was later imprisoned.



Demetrios Ypsilantis

His brother Demetrios also contributed to the revolutionary movement, participating in the Peloponnesian uprising and eventually serving as the president of the national assembly at Argos. Both brothers were instrumental in the broader context of the Greek War of Independence, which eventually culminated in Greece's recognition of independence in 1832.

Shown above is an unused, natural color postcard, depicting the white marble bust of Demetrios Ypsilantis. The monument, erected in 1928, sits in front of the famous Ypsilanti Water Tower at Washtenaw Avenue and West Cross Street. The post card, circa 1950, was made by the E.C. Kropp Company of Milwaukee and published by the Stofflet News Agency in Ann Arbor.



*Alexander Ypsilantis
Scott #354*

Alexander Ypsilantis was honored by Greece for his patriotism in 1930 with the issue of a 40 Lepta commemorative postage stamp, Scott #354 (at left).