

# Birmingham - Ferndale Stamp Club Newsletter



## February 2025



Scott #5826

During the Middle Ages, it was common belief in England and France that February 14 was the beginning of the birds' mating season, which added to the idea that Valentine's Day must be a day for romance.

English poet Geoffrey Chaucer was the first to record St. Valentine's Day as a day of romantic celebration in his 1375 poem *Parliament of Foules*.

Notes from our club meetings –

Preparations continue for our clubs upcoming show, FERNPEX 2025, on February 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at Sokol Cultural Center. The show announcement has been published in the APS monthly journal and announcements mailed to previous attendees.

President Rusch noted that stamp shows were at one time profitable for local clubs, allowing them to financially sustain their yearly philatelic activities. However, in recent years, both show attendance and dealer participation have decreased. Clubs need to find alternative ways to fund their activities.

The January 21<sup>st</sup> club meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. Be sure to check local weather and school closure reports – if the Birmingham School District closes on a club meeting day – our meeting is cancelled.

Club Meetings –

February 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at the NEXT Senior Center, Birmingham. We meet in Room #4 at the rear of the building.

Upcoming Events –

FERNPEX 2025, Friday and Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, at Sokol Cultural Center, 23600 West Warren Ave., Dearborn Heights.

Toledo Stamp Expo 101, Friday and Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, at Graystone Banquet Hall, 29101 Hufford Road, Perrysburg, Ohio

Modern Stamps Public Stamp Auction #526, March 1<sup>st</sup>, at their Oak Park facility.

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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

# Canada's First Postal Card

Walter Koster



Officially authorized on June 1, 1871, Canada's first postal card (Webb P1) was printed by the British American Bank Note Company Montreal & Ottawa. Post cards issued by the Canadian Post Office are referred to as "postal cards" to differentiate them from the privately mailing and advertising cards introduced in the late 1890s. The one cent rate, including the price of the card and prepaid postage, was only one-third the letter rate. For only one cent, government authorized postal cards could be addressed to any destination in the Dominion and be delivered in the same manner as letters.

The design features an ornate line-engraved border with a medallion bearing a portrait of Queen Victoria in the upper right-hand corner. The same portrait of the Queen appears on the "Large Cents" issues of 1868. The color is deep blue. The basic design proved so attractive and practical that it endured with only minor alteration for almost 11 years.

Cards were printed on rough surface stock in sheets of nine. The earliest reported postmark (ERP) recorded by The British North American Philatelic Society (BNAP) Postal Stationary Study Group is June 10, 1871. The Postmaster General's report of 1871 states that by December approximately 1.47 million cards were issued.

Beginning July 1, 1872, the United States accepted Canadian postal cards if franked with an additional one-cent stamp. The first United States postal card was not issued until May 12, 1873.

Boggs, Holmes, Unitrade and Webb each assign unique catalog numbers to cards issued during the 1871 – 1898 period. They also differ significantly on dates of issue, quantities issued and color varieties.

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*Reference:*

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*Canada, Its Postage Stamps and Postal Stationery, by Clifton A. Howes,  
September 17, 2011 [eBook #37457]*

*The British North America Philatelic Society, Ltd. (BNAPS) Postal Stationary Study Group  
Vol.1, No. 1, November 1981*

*The British North America Philatelic Society, Ltd. (BNAPS) Postal Stationary Study Group  
Vol.7, No. 1, March 1988*

*The Postal History of the Post Card in Canada 1878 – 1911, Allan L. Steinhart, 1979*

*Don't forget your "significant other" on Valentine's Day!*





# The Aquarium at Belle Isle

Michael Swope



First opened on August 18, 1904, the Belle Isle Aquarium is the oldest public aquarium in the continental United States and, at the time of its opening, the third largest in the world. A carving of Neptune, the Roman god of the sea, greets visitors above the entryway, inviting guests into the long, domed-ceiling structure that houses over 50 tanks of fresh and salt-water aquatic life.

The aquarium was designed by architect Albert Kahn (1869-1942). Glass sea-green tiles line its walls and ceiling to give it an “underwater” feeling. The aquarium was shuttered by the city of Detroit in 2005 due to budgetary constraints, however, dedicated Friends of the Belle Isle Aquarium maintained the building until its much-anticipated reopening on September 15, 2012. Since then, fundraising efforts by the non-profit *Belle Isle Conservancy* have continuously worked to improve and restock exhibits.

The 1905 *Photostint* color post card shown above was produced by the Detroit Publishing Company. The 1903, 1¢ blue-green, Franklin postage stamp (Scott #300) is affixed and circle date stamped at Highland Park, Michigan on May 7, 1908.



Ref: Post card from Author's collection; [DetroitHistorical.org](http://DetroitHistorical.org)