

# Federated Philatelist

Newsletter of the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs

No. 196, October, 2011

## Canadian Remembrance Day



1959 Calgary, Alberta and 1965 Vancouver, British Columbia slogan cancels for Canadian Remembrance Day

— By Gordon Demke

On Remembrance Day, November 11 of each year, Canadians pay special tribute to and remember those who sacrificed their lives during the First World War, the Second World War, the Korean War, and all other conflicts in which members of the Canadian armed forces have participated.

The poppy is an important symbol of Remembrance Day and comes from John McCrae's famous poem *In Flanders Fields*:

*In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

McCrae was a Canadian soldier and physician during World War I and wrote the poem in May 1915, following the death of a close friend in the second battle of Ypres in Flanders, Belgium. McCrae, 1872-1918, was himself a casualty of that war, dying in France in January 1918, during the final year of the war.

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# Canadian Stamps of Remembrance *(continued from page 1)*



1968 Canadian stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of John McCrae's death.

Several of the memorials that honour Canadian men and women who sacrificed their lives during wartime are commemorated on Canadian stamps. Two of the memorials are located in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada's capital.



1968 issue for the 50th anniversary of the end of World War I

A 1968 issue commemorates the 50th anniversary of 1918 Armistice that ended World War I. The stamp features the Canadian National Vimy Memorial located on Vimy Ridge near Arras, France. On the memorial is inscribed a list of the 11,285 Canadian war dead who have no known graves. The memorial was designed by the Canadian artist Walter Seymour Allward, and is entitled "The Defenders and the Breaking of the Sword." The memorial is 200 feet tall and stands over area where the battle of Arras was fought.

The battle of Arras was the first World War I battle in which all four divisions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force participated together. When the memorial was created, France deeded 250 acres of the battlefield to Canada to honour the role that Canadian troops played during the battle and during the war.



1938 Memorial Chamber, 1939 National War Memorial

A 1938 issue shows the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. The right foreground of the design shows the Alter of Remembrance, which lists the 112,000 Canadians who have died for their country since 1867.

A 1939 issue shows the National War Memorial on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. The memorial was originally constructed to honour Canadians who died in World War I. The dates 1939-1945 and 1950-1953 were subsequently added for those who served in World War II and the Korean War. The memorial features 22 figures advancing through a granite archway, representing all branches of the armed forces who served in World War I. Atop the arch are two large bronze figures representing Victory and Liberty. The War Memorial is the site of Canada's annual National Remembrance Day Service. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is at the base of the memorial.



1975 Royal Canadian Legion issue

In 1975, Canada issued a stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion. This veterans group includes those who served in the Canadian armed forces, as well as those who served in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and provincial and municipal police forces. The organization's symbol is at the left side of the design.

— Reprinted from the October 2011 issue of the *Calgary Philatelic Society*, Calgary Philatelist.



# The Federated Philatelist

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# From the Editor's Desk

In a few weeks we celebrate Remembrance Day in Canada and Veterans' Day in the United States. Both are on the same date, November 11, and originally honored the veterans of, and those who died in, the "war to end all wars"—World War I. The holidays have since taken on a deeper meaning, and honor military veterans and the casualties of that war and of all wars since then.

The article which begins on page 1 deals with the stamps that have been issued by Canada to celebrate the Canadian Remembrance Day.

Several US stamps also honor the US Veterans' Day holiday and those who served in World War I, World War II, and the wars in Korea and Vietnam.



2001 issue honoring US veterans

On page 7, you will find the second in a series of articles on Northwest Federation member clubs. The British Columbia Philatelic Society, founded in 1919, might well be the oldest member club. While I have never had the opportunity to attend any of their meetings, they certainly do have a fine newsletter and web site. On page 8, you can also read a list of award winners at their recent VANPEX show.

Getting information for these articles has been something of a challenge. The officers of several large US and Canadian clubs have failed to respond to my emails requesting information. I hope that we can turn that around. My goal is to publish an article on every member club. The Northwest Chapter of the American Air Mail Society is tentatively scheduled as the next club in the series—probably in our December issue. Would you like to see an article on your club in the *Federated Philatelist*? If so, please contact me.

On page 6 is an obituary for Richard W. Helbock, a prominent postal history collector who published *LaPosta: A Journal of American Postal History* continuously since 1969. I'm a subscriber myself, and enjoy the varied articles on many different subjects in postal history.

Helbock had ties to the Northwest, and lived in the Portland area for many years. In recent years, he and his wife, Catherine "Cath" Clark have lived in Australia and published *LaPosta* from there. The good news is that Cath Clark plans to continue publishing *LaPosta*.

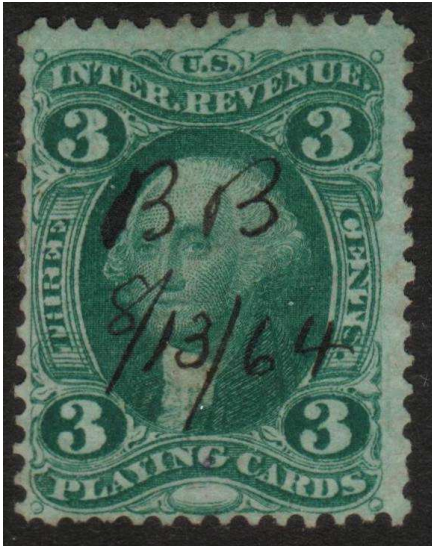
We are nearing the end of 2011. While most of the year's Northwest stamp shows are over, a few more remain. See page 8 for a list.

It isn't too early to be thinking ahead to 2012 shows. After a year's absence, PIPEX will return next year in Portland. Our next four Federation PIPEX shows will all be in Portland, from 2012 through 2015.

Another major show, the Royal \*2012\* Royale, comes to Edmonton on June 1-3, 2012. For more information, see [www.royal2012royale.com](http://www.royal2012royale.com).

—Larry Mann, Editor

## Striking First Issue Revenue Coincidence



Scott R17c with "B B 8/13/64" manuscript cancel

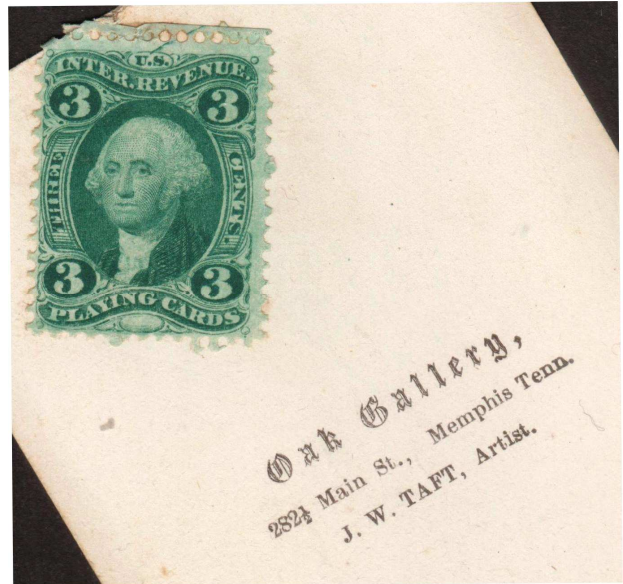
— by Paul Malan

The First Issue of U.S. revenue stamps, used from 1862-71, is my specialty. I've collected it intensively for more than 30 years. Thus, I have the major varieties almost complete (major varieties being defined as ending with a lower case "c", which refers to those stamps which are printed on old paper and perforated all around), as well as considerable depth of material, particularly cancellations.

Approximately 15-25 years ago I somehow acquired two examples of Scott R17c, the 3 cent green stamp originally intended to facilitate paying the tax on playing cards. Both stamps are illustrated. One has been soaked and the other is still affixed to the back of a photograph. Since this is a rather scarce stamp, currently cataloging \$150, it is a little surprising that I bought two of them. I suppose that, as often happens, I had forgotten about the first one when the opportunity to purchase the second one came along. Or maybe the second one was priced so low that I couldn't say no.

What is odd about these stamps is that each of them has an extraneous line starting at the top center and extending up and to the right for at least 4-5 mm. This extra line could only come from a crack or scratch in the printing plate. And since the lines are almost identical, they must have come from the same plate position. This represents quite a coincidence, since the plate contained 170 subjects. What makes the situation even odder is the fact that the Scott Catalogue doesn't list a cracked plate or a scratched plate for R17. It seems incredible that such an obvious printing variety could have existed for almost 150 years without being brought to the attention of the editors at Scott. Could it be that the two copies which I possess are

Scott. Could it be that the two copies which I possess are the only ones which still exist? I doubt it. I suppose that eventually I will need to do my philatelic duty and submit both stamps for expertising.



A second copy of R17c on the reverse of a photograph of an unidentified southern gentlemen. The photograph is from J. W. Taft's *Oak Gallery* in Memphis, Tennessee.



Enlargement showing the plate crack or scratch in both copies of Scott R17C

*Reprinted with permission from the author and from the Oregon Stamp Society Album Page, Vol. XXXIII, no. 10, December 2010, pp. 12-13.*

# The Early Days of Stamp Collecting



The following article is from a talk given by John Walter Scott (1845-1919) who has been called the "Father of American Philately" in a biography in the American Philatelic Society's online "Hall of Fame."

Scott was an early collector, and became one of the first dealers in 1860, while living in London. He moved to New York City in 1863.

His early one-page price lists evolved into the first multiple-page postage stamp catalogue, published in 1868. Scott was the President of the APS from 1917-19.

Scott's talk about the early days of stamp collecting was given on September 12, 1888 at a meeting of the Staten Island Philatelic Society in honor of John Kerr Tiffany (1842-1897), who was then American Philatelic Association President.<sup>1</sup> Tiffany is also a member of the APS "Hall of Fame" and his entry describes him as "America's most prominent philatelist of the 19th century."

Thanks to Bill Geijsbeek, who found this article while doing philatelic research in old periodicals. It is taken from the January 1, 1889 issue of The Philatelic Beacon.

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GENTLEMEN: As I have been called upon to reply to the title of Patriarch of Philately, I naturally feel for the long, gray beard, bald head, and other signs of old age, and begin to think that the wrong man has been called up, but when I look around this festive board and see the stalwart men seated at the table whose first collections were purchased at my store twenty years ago, I feel that with all due modesty I must acknowledge the distinction.

On my right, I see C.B. Corwin, who as a beautiful, blue-eyed, curly-headed boy was one of my early customers. Then in direct contrast is President Dejonge, whose tall form and jet black beard is one of the well remembered figures of early day stamp days in New York. Our distinguished guest, President Tiffany, although not often seen, was a frequent correspondent.

I well recollect the first stamps sold here. An entire collection consisted of only a few hundred stamps, and the small proportion of these that a dealer had for sale were nailed on boards the same as coins, and it was lucky for the purchaser if he happened to be the first one who had taken it down for examination, because then it had but one hole in it.

Going back further in the past, I was a constant attendant at the Birchin Lane Stamp Exchange, held every

afternoon at about four o'clock. This was before stamps had any commercial value, when dealers were unknown, about the year 1859-60 in London.

The exchange consisted of a number of narrow courts opposite the Royal Exchange. Philatelists, (not then known by that name) were literally stamp collectors in those days, and only added to their albums such stamps as they could find on old letters or obtain by exchange of duplicates at the recognized mart at Birchin Lane, where the "Bobby" as the London policeman is called was not looking; for such large crowds collected in the narrow thoroughfare, that one or two policemen were kept busy in making a pathway through the crowd, continually crying "Stamps, move on."

I well recollect with what awe the assembled crowd first saw cash paid for stamps—a gentleman actually paying a sovereign for a set of the 1853 U.S. envelopes, all neatly cut round, and no extra charge on that account.

I think that that purchase did more to sound the death-knell of exchanging than the efforts of the combined police force, for soon after I noticed a woman who dealt in newspapers have a supply of stamps for sale which had been left with her to dispose of on commission.

Then another woman, who was irreverently called the "Old girl of London Wall," started to trade in stamps. She was a great character. Catalogues now made their appearance, and dealers began to spring up all over England, France, and Germany, and I, like another Columbus, discovered America, and in what is more, found two or three already engaged in selling stamps, and strange to tell, one of them is at it still, while I have gone over to the majority, that is, left the dealers, and remain what I always was and always expect to be, an enthusiastic stamp collector, and I think there is little chance of any of us losing our love for the science, while it is the means of bringing old friends together from all parts of the country to talk stamps and partake of good cheer.

## Note

<sup>1</sup>The name of the American Philatelic Association was later changed to the American Philatelic Society, as the organization is known today.





## Richard W. Helbock, 1938-2011



Richard W. “Bill” Helbock died from a heart attack at his home in Australia on May 15, 2011. Since 1969, Helbock was the publisher of *LaPosta: A Journal of American Postal History*. He was an enthusiastic postal historian since the 1950s, quickly making a name for himself through postal history society memberships, stamp clubs, exhibiting, judging, lecturing, and conducting auctions.

Helbock became a stalwart of the postal history field, authoring over 25 books, monographs, and CDs on postal history. He also served as editor of the *American Philatelic Congress Book* from 1999-2005, the *Military Postal History Society Bulletin*, and *The Alaska Philatelist*.

Among Helbock’s most recent honors, he received the Distinguished Philatelist Award from the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society in 1991 and the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs in 2003. In 2007 he was awarded the American Air Mail Society L.B. Gatchell Literature Award for his four-part series, “Reaching Out to the Islands.”

Helbock grew up in Portland Oregon, and was a 1960 graduate of West Point. He became a geography professor, first at the University of Pittsburgh, then at New Mexico State.

In the 1960s, he began corresponding with Chuck Whittlesey, an Oregon collector who specialized in postal history, and in 1969 he began publishing *LaPosta*. When he returned to live in Portland in 1980, he devoted his full time to *LaPosta* and other postal history publications, living and publishing in a woodsy house near the Tualatin River.

Helbock published and co-authored two books that deal with Oregon and Washington postal history: Chuck Whittlesey, *Oregon Postmarks, a Catalog of 19th Century Usage*, and Tim Boardman’s *Washington Post Offices*.

In the 1990s, Helbock emigrated to Australia and continued to publish from there. A celebration of Bill’s life was held June 5, 2011, and his ashes were placed under a

fig tree in Australia. Helbock’s wife, Catherine “Cath” Clark, plans to continue the publication. She was the ad manager and editorial assistant for 12 years, as well as handling circulation. She will operate as Interim Editor until the position is filled.

Tim Boardman, past president of the Pacific Northwest Postal History Society, wrote the following remembrance of Bill Helbock:

The first time I met Bill Helbock was at a monthly meeting at Doc Nichol’s house in the fall of 1982. The Oregon Post Offices book had just come out and he was at a meeting with Chuck Whittlesey. He smiled and replied, “Why don’t you do it? You’re the Washington collector of the group.” I had only been collecting for two years, and by the end of the conversation he had convinced me to do it, and even offered the microfilms with which to do the research.

Of my many mentors, Bill was my earliest. As I went through the microfilms, I absorbed much of the information, providing the basis for my knowledge of Washington and its postal history, and it all traces back to that conversation with Bill.

After he moved back to Portland he was part of our group, and we would visit his home in our monthly rotations. He and Cathy were gracious hosts, and occasionally he would have the latest *LaPosta* to hand out to us.

I find it sad to say goodbye to an old friend, one who has passed too soon. I take comfort in knowing that in his passing he is in good company with the likes of Chuck Whittlesey, Bill McGreer, Wayne Houston, John White, Jim Raley, Wes Shellen, Howard Mader, Ed Payne, Doc Landis, Guy Reed Ramsey and other collectors who have advanced our hobby through their efforts.

*This obituary is taken from a letter by Cath Clark in the summer 2011 issue of LaPosta and from the spring 2011 issue of The Oregon Country, published by the Pacific Northwest Postal History Society.*

**Royal \*2012\* Royale**  
**Edmonton, June 1-3, 2012**

**West Edmonton Mall**

Celebrating the life of Sir Sam Steele of the Northwest Mounted Police and 100 years of organized philately in Edmonton

For more information see  
[www.royal2012royale.com](http://www.royal2012royale.com)

## Federation clubs, Part 2: British Columbia Philatelic Society



2009 cover commemorating the 100th anniversary of flight in Canada. This was produced for the B.C. Phil's annual VANPEX show.

Founded in 1919, the British Columbia Philatelic Society, known popularly as "B.C. Phil," is one of the oldest clubs in the Northwest Federation. The purpose of the society is as relevant today as it was in 1919: "To educate and publicize the hobby of philately to as wide an audience as possible, to recruit new members, and to form bonds with collectors and clubs throughout North America and abroad."

The society is an affiliate of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and the American Philatelic Society. It meets weekly, from September through June, at West Burnaby United Church, 6050 Sussex Avenue, in the Vancouver suburb of Burnaby, just a short walk from Metrotown SkyTrain Station.

B.C. Phil has 80 members, including 10 life members: David Allen, Ken Barlow, June Gibson, Basil Hunter, Trevor Larden, Roger Packer, Eric Ranger, Gene Smith, and Bill Topping. Life members are selected according to their service to the Society and their term of membership; once selected, they are no longer required to pay annual membership fees.

B.C. Phil has sponsored stamp shows since 1927. Their VANPEX (Vancouver Philatelic Exposition) became a national level show in 2001.

B.C. Phil publishes a newsletter three times a year. Editor Yichuan Sang (a.k.a. Mulberry Sang) does a fine job in creating a newsletter that is colorful, attractively designed, and full of articles that appeal to many different collecting interests. The most recent issue, August 2011 through January 2012, contains articles on *The Postal History of Tibet*, *Indian CEF Stamps in China*,

and VANPEX, held on September 23-24. All of their newsletters from 2007 to date can be downloaded from their web site, <http://www.bcphilatelic.org/>.

The club owns a small philatelic library of general and specialized philatelic catalogues and literature, all of which can be borrowed by any member. The size of their collection was recently increased due to a bequest by life member Bill Robinson, who passed away in December 2010.

B. C. Phil meetings include varied activities and programs. Speakers are usually scheduled at least every other month. Meetings also include monthly auctions, "show and tell," book nights, debates, etc.

Throughout the year, BC Phil schedules some 20 Swap & Shop Socials, half on Monday mornings and half on Wednesday nights. The meetings include refreshments and a chance to peruse circuit books from the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Dealer members often bring stamps and covers to sell and trade, and there's always lots of philatelic chatter.

B.C. Phil's current officers include President Duff Malkin, Vice President Trevor Larden, Treasurer Darren J. Carman, and Immediate Past President Bob Ingraham.

In addition to the newsletter editor, Yichuan Sang, several volunteers perform key jobs. These include Eric Ranger, the society's Archivist, Auction Committee Chair, and chair of the VANPEX Awards Committee. Mike Strachan, Trevor Larden, Leslie S.S. Upton, and Derren Carman help with auctions. Duff Malkin arrives early for every meeting to set up tables and chairs and organize the snack table. Fritz Graf, their "handyman-on-call," is always prepared to lift, carry, deliver this or that here or there, drill a hole, mount a bracket, pound a nail, wield a screwdriver, or repair an exhibit frame. Fritz often serves as a generous "taxi driver" for members who no longer drive.

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST 2011 STAMP SHOWS / BOURSES

**includes other major shows and holidays in bold**

2011			Revised: 9/20/2011		
SHOW DATES					
FRI	SAT	SUN	SHOW NAME	Location	Type
	Oct. 8	Oct. 9	Tri-Cities Stamp & Postcard Show	Richland, WA	show
		Oct. 9	Fenwick Show	Renton, WA	bourse
Oct. 14	Oct. 15	Oct. 16	CALTAPEX 2011	Calgary, AB	show
	Oct. 22	Oct. 23	NWSDA Collectibles Show	Portland, OR	bourse
	Oct. 29		Olympia Stamp Club Show	Olympia, WA	show
	Nov. 5	Nov. 6	SEAPEX Stamp Show	Seattle, WA	show
	Dec-24	<b>Dec-25</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS (Sunday)</b>		
		<b>Jan-01</b>	<b>NEW YEARS DAY 2012 (Sunday)</b>		
<b>Repetitive events</b>					
	Rose City Stamp Fair - 2nd Saturday of the month at OSS clubhouse			Portland	bourse
	Collectors Corner - 4th Saturday of the month at OSS clubhouse			Portland	bourse
<b>Future major shows</b>					
	January	27-29	<b>APS AmeriStamp Expo 2012</b>	<b>Atlanta, GA</b>	show
	June	1-3	<b>Royal 2012</b>	<b>Edmonton, AB</b>	show
	August	16-19	<b>APS StampShow 2012</b>	<b>Sacramento, CA</b>	show
	January	???	<b>APS AmeriStamp Expo 2013</b>	<b>TBD</b>	show
	August	8-11	<b>APS StampShow 2013</b>	<b>Milwaukee, WI</b>	show
	January	???	<b>APS AmeriStamp Expo 2014</b>	<b>TBD</b>	show
	August	7-10	<b>APS StampShow 2014</b>	<b>Hartford, CT</b>	show
	August	???	<b>APS StampShow 2015</b>	???	show

**PIPEX 2012 – May 11-13 in Portland**  
**PIPEX 2013 – May 10-12 in Portland**

**PIPEX 2014 – May 9-11 in Portland**  
**PIPEX 2015 – May 8-10 in Portland**

### British Columbia Philatelic Society

See page 7 for a portrait of the British Columbia Philatelic Society, which meets weekly from September through June, at West Burnaby United Church, 6050 Sussex Avenue, in the Vancouver suburb of Burnaby. The location is just a short walk from Metrotown SkyTrain Station.

B.C. Phil's annual show, VANPEX, was held on September 23-24 this year. First-time exhibitor "Simo" won the grand award and gold medal for *Queen Wilhelmina with Young Head – Suriname issue of 1892*. Peter Jacobi won the Reserve grand award and gold medal for *The Smelters of BC*. Other gold medal winners included Peter Jacobi, *Early Post Offices of the East Kootenays*; and Bob Toombs, *India to Canada Airmails via the Persian Gulf, 1938-1941*.

Vermeil award winners included Fritz Graf, *The First 50 Years of Commemorative Stamps of Switzerland, 1900-1949*; David Foreman, *Malay States and*

*British Borneo, 1867-1907*; Eric Ranger, *Canadian Cello Packs*; and Dr. Ron Warneboldt, *Polio: Will it Soon be Eradicated?*

Nancy Bell and Trevor Larden received a Silver award for *A Postcard Trip through the North East of England (Northumberland, Tyne, and Wear)*.

Silver-bronze award winners included "Viking," *Allied Nations Posts*; and Brian Thomas, *From Empire to the State of Japan to Two Republics*.

Bronze award winners included Brian Thomas, *The Americas in World War II*; Tom Balabanov, *Canadian Jubilees and Emirates Wallpaper*; Mike Strachan, *Dare to be Dull*; and Brian Thomas, *Greece in World War II and The Port of Yokohama and Philanippon*.

A Court of Honor included three one-page exhibits by VANPEX 2011 judges: Rob MacGuinness, *The Canada Trust Nature Seals*; Arlene Sullivan, *Stick n' Tick Labels, 1983-84*; and Norman Sung, *Shanghai, China*.