

*Bringing stamp and postal-history**collectors together since 1919*

BC Philatelic Society NEWSLETTER

China Held the 2009 World Stamp Exhibition

Please share the joy of the emblem and mascot of the 2009 World Stamp Exhibition held in China under the theme "A gathering in the City of Peonies". The emblem, with a stamp-shaped blue background, features an ancient city gate of Luoyang, the host city, below a blooming peony with its seven petals in the shape of pigeons. The mascot, called the "Peony Messenger", is a flying pink peony with a green message on its hand, which extends the host city's warm welcome to guests from home and abroad.

According to the organizing committee, 63 countries had applied to participate the seven-day exhibition with another 40 countries and regions to come. The exhibition is to receive an estimated 600,000 visitors from China and overseas.

By Mulberry Sang



Joseph Wolff, president of the Federation of International Philately (FIP), Hongchang Guo, mayor of Luoyang the host city and Brian Trotter, director of the Organizing Committee for London 2010 World Stamp Exhibition were relaying the flag at the closing ceremony, Luoyang city, China in April 15, 2009
----- Editor's Note

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NEWSLETTER

Mark Your Calendar for Sept. 25/26 VANPEX 2009 "Lite"

Bob Ingraham

VANPEX 2009, scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Sept. 25/26, at West Burnaby United Church, will be another "lite" version of the large annual exhibitions that the BC Philatelic Society has sponsored in recent years.

Rising costs of venues and decreasing numbers of volunteers, exhibitors, and dealers have made the big shows of the past an impossibility. Unlike the big shows, VANPEX 2009 will be a regional-level show with fewer judges, no judges' critique, no banquet, and no parade. (Actually, we've never had a parade.)

Doors open at 10 a.m. on both days; they close at 6 p.m. on Friday, 4 p.m. on Saturday.

The theme for this year's exhibition is the 100th anniversary of powered flight in Canada.

On February 23, 1909, the "Silver Dart," a derivative of an early biplane built by the Aerial Experiment Association, led by Alexander Graham Bell, was flown by John Alexander Douglas McCurdy for a distance 1.2 km over the frozen surface of Baddeck Bay, Nova Scotia. It was the first powered, controlled flight in Canada.

Derren Carman, VANPEX 2009 exhibits chair, is designing souvenir show covers which will commemorate the Canadian Centennial of Flight celebrations. He has established an enviable reputation as the creator of several popular souvenir covers for previous exhibitions.

Exhibitors who choose to have their exhibits judged will be eligible for the same types of medal awards and certificates that were given

out at the larger shows. Exhibit applications can be downloaded from the club web site at www.bcphilatelic.org.

Plans call for 70 frames of exhibits. By late September, however, only a handful of exhibitors had sent in applications to exhibit, and fewer than half of the frames had been filled. Eleven dealers have committed themselves to sell at the bourse; in the church venue, that's a full house!

Set-up will start at about 9 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25. Volunteers are needed.

VANPEX chair Trevor Larden notes that there is free parking at West Burnaby United Church, and that there is no admission fee for the exhibition. Church members will be selling light snacks and lunches, and door prizes and 50/50 draws will be offered both days. For additional information, go to our web site.

A Hospital Corpsman's Story -- 37 Days in Vietnam ----- *Bob Ingraham*



A U.S. Navy Corpsman Goes to War, A philatelic exhibit based on my experiences in Vietnam won a silver medal at VANPEX 2007 in Vancouver, BC, sponsored by the British Columbia Philatelic Society. The exhibit, titled "37 Days in Vietnam — A Hospital Corpsman's Story," also won the "Creativity in Philatelic Exhibiting Award" from the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors. It includes covers, letters, and postcards that I posted during my tour of duty in Vietnam. If interested, please visit: www.ingraham.ca/bob/-IMAGES/vietnam_exhibit.pdf

A Very Special Presentation
by Mr. Michael Sefi,
Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection

Although she owns one of the most fabulous philatelic collections on the planet, Queen Elizabeth II is not a stamp collector. This information comes from an impeccable source: Michael Sefi, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, which is the personal property of the Queen, spoke to the BC Philatelic Society about his job at our daytime meeting on June 29. He was in Canada on holidays after supervising the opening of an exhibit of a small part of the Royal Collection at the Museum of Civilization in Hull, PQ.



Michael Sefi with Lillian Au, Manager of Media & Community Affairs of Canada Post's Pacific Region

Sefi is a retired chartered account and member of the British Philatelic Society who became Deputy Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection in 1996, and replaced Charles Goodwin as Keeper in 2003. Mr. Sefi and his two assistants formulate policies for further acquisitions, for conservation, and for public displays, which are regarded as good public relations for the royal family.

While philately does not consume the Queen

as it does most of us, she is acutely aware of the value of her collection, estimated at several million dollars, and she approves (or disapproves) beforehand of significant purchases.

One of those recent purchases was of a large cover, discovered a few years ago in London, franked with a block of 10 of the world's first adhesive postage stamp, the Penny Black, the largest such block known on cover and certainly one of the most valuable: following Sefi's advice, the Queen purchased it at auction for £143,850.

(The Queen is no spendthrift, however: Sefi told us that his instructions were to buy the cover only if other material held in the collection could be sold to cover the cost, which is what transpired.)



The largest known block of Penny Blacks on cover is a recent acquisition of the Royal Philatelic Collection.

The Royal Collection also contains other astonishing rarities:

- Proofs of the stamp that was intended to be the world's first stamp, the Penny Black, printed in light blue, with more detailed engraving. Postal officials turned the proofs down and asked for the heavier design in black that we are all familiar with.

- The famous Mauritius two-pence blue stamp of 1847, insured for £2.5 million. Sefi noted that it's a philatelic myth that the stamp's famous "Post Office" inscription was done in error. "Post Office" identifies the stamp as an issue of the Mauritius post office department.

- Rare collateral items, among them two crude water colour drawings of a proposed design for what became the Penny Black, and a mock-up, created in 1839, of what we now call stamp booklets. Stamp booklets would not become available for another 65 years.



This extremely rare mint 2d Mauritius is insured for £2.5 million when it goes on display.

The Royal Collection was begun by Queen Victoria's second son, Prince Alfred (1844-1900), the Duke of Edinburgh, in the 1850s, within a decade of the appearance of the Penny Black. As a naval officer, Alfred was able to buy stamps in foreign ports. Part of that collection passed to Alfred's nephew, George (1865-1936), the Prince of Wales and future King George V.

George V enthusiastically enlarged the collection while narrowing its scope to Great Britain and the British Empire. Knowing of his hobby, the London Philatelic Society presented him with a stamp album as a wedding gift. That gift became one of 328 albums currently in the royal collection.

As monarch, George V received examples of all the new imperial and domestic issues printed in Great Britain and most of those stamps issued in the autonomous member countries of the empire, such as Canada. George shared the growing continental European interest in perforation, colour and paper varieties, but was indifferent to watermark varieties.

King George VI (1895-1952) inherited his father's collection and enjoyed philately.

And what of other current members of the Royal Family? Sefi said he would be very much surprised ever to see Prince Charles, or either of his sons, Prince William and Prince Henry, asking if they could please their mum's stamp collection. None of them has any apparent interest in philately.



Watercolour renderings for the printer of the 1d and 2d values of the world's first postage stamps

Sefi was an amateur, if seasoned, collector, when he became Keeper of the Royal

Collection in 2003. Most of us would probably consider it a plum job, but we have to ask ourselves whether we would enjoy having the Sefi's responsibilities. For example, when Sefi travels with items from the Royal Collection, and his travels take him all over the planet, he never checks them in as luggage but carries them by hand in a briefcase.

As a representative of the Queen, Sefi is never free to comment on anything that might be construed as controversial. As a collector, however, he will comment on some personal likes and dislikes. One of those dislikes? The Penny Black. He wishes that postal officials had stuck to the original blue design.

----- By Bob Ingraham, with Dr. Peter Moogk and David Tinker; Photos Courtesy by David Tinker and All Nations Coin & Stamps.



The Alien Posts in China (1834-1920)

----- By Mulberry Sang

The alien posts in China originated with the post established in Canton (Guangzhou) in 1834 by Lord Napier of the British. At that time, letters and entire letters originated from Canton bore the word CHINA in red 5mm tall. The Napier post office in Canton was established in 1834 and closed in 1839 when the British forces evacuated the city. The CHINA handstamp was used on Canton letters from September 12, 1834 to January 13, 1835.

Since the signing of the Nanking Treaty in 1842, Great Britain, France, the United States, Russia, Germany, Italy, Belgium and Japan established successively post offices at treaty ports along the coast and on the Yangtze River (Changjiang) to accept and deliver international and treaty port mail articles.

These alien post offices in China competed not only with the newly installed Chinese Customs postal service, but also with the well-founded Hong Kong post and the Municipal local posts at various treaty ports. By the end of 1922, they were withdrawn in compliance with a resolution adopted by the Washington Conference. Prior to this, Germany withdrew its alien post in 1917 and Russia in 1920 on account of World War I.

Russian Post Office in China

In 1858, Russia became the first of all countries to install its post office in Peking (not a treaty port). It was initially called a postal agency, but in 1899 promoted to the status of post office. Afterward Russian post offices were established in Tientsin (1896), Shanghai (1899), Kalgan (1899), Hankow (1899), and Chefoo (1899). It installed post offices in many places in Sinkiang, Mongolia, and the Northeast Provinces



A rare photo showing a group of international representatives gathered outside the German post office in Peking China in 1900. Altogether 8 Allied Powers set up their special post offices one after another in China during the Boxers' Rising Period.

----- Editor's Note

German Post Office in China

In 1886, Germany set up its alien post inside its Shanghai Consulate, which was initially called "postal agency" and in 1897 converted into post office. Later, sub-agencies of Shanghai were installed in Tientsin in 1889 and in Chefoo in

Picture Postcard Mania in Great Britain (1902-1914) By Mike Strachan

For a period of about 20 years up until 1914 Europe was in a postcard mania. Postcard use had not been very popular in Great Britain until Edward VII's coronation in 1902, but in the next dozen years about two million postcards a day were handled in Britain's mail system, the peak being in 1907.

Every conceivable subject was portrayed on the picture side — the ingenuity of photographers, printers, and publishers was endless. How did the British postal system deal with this volume of postcards?



This postcard in Mike Strachan's collection was posted by his grandmother, Anne Strachan, on March 27, 1913, to her brother, William Sutherland, in Toronto. The postcard pictures Commerce Street in Elgin, U.K., home of the largest concentration of Scotch distilleries in the world and near the battlefield where Macbeth's army defeated Duncan's army and killed Duncan, providing the historical basis of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.

Mail handling was very labour intensive, with even small villages having numerous postal workers. Bawtry, a small town in Yorkshire, had a postal staff of 14 in 1908. Mail collection and delivery were frequent, as well.

A typical example was the operation of the Mansfield, Nottinghamshire main post office. It was open daily from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Sundays 8-10 a.m. for registration of letters only). From it, four deliveries were made per day in the town, at 7 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 2:45 p.m. (except Wednesdays), and 7 p.m. (local only). One 7 a.m. delivery occurred on Sundays. Letters for outside destinations were dispatched 12 times per day, and parcels nine times per day. A local letter could be posted in Mansfield before 2:30 p.m. and delivered at 7 p.m., making possible evening arrangements. The written message was often brief, as the half-penny postcard rate was affordable.

I have a postcard written by my grandmother in Elgin, Scotland to her brother in Toronto in 1913. The picture side is a photo of Commerce St. in Elgin, and the message simply states, "Sorry for being so long in sending a PC. Hoping you will excuse me. How are you getting along? Will be looking for a PC soon." For overseas within the Empire the rate was one pence, as it was for domestic letters (unchanged since 1840!). One would think that the handling of all this mail was a financial burden for the post office. A look at what the post office paid for stamps gives a clue. One of the main suppliers of stamps was the De La Rue Company. Their quoted rate for one-and-a-half pence Jubilee 2-colour stamps was 10 1/2 pence per 1,000 in quantities of 96 million. The rate for 1/2 pence KE VII's in 1907 was probably comparable, and these 1,000 stamps would have sold for 500 pence, for a profit of 489 1/2 pence. The bulk purchase of 96 million stamps thus produces a "profit" of 195,800 pounds. However there was a huge army of postal workers to pay.

The start of the First World War marked the beginning of the end for these halcyon days for the frequent mailing of picture postcards. In June,

Cont. from p.6

1918 would-be postcard posters suffered sticker shock when they learned that mailing a postcard would now cost them a penny, double the previous rate. We might laugh at that today, but in 1918, if you saw a penny on the ground, you'd pick it up and consider it a lucky day!

The picture postcard didn't die out, of course. We still send them today, usually when we're on holidays, knowing full well that hey'll probably arrive in the mail well *after* we've returned home.

Sources: *What the Postman Saw*, compiled by Andrew Brooks, Fred Fletcher and Brian Lund, published by Reflections of a Bygone Age, Keyworth, Notts., 1982.

The De La Rue History of British and Foreign Postage Stamps, by John Easton, Faber and Faber, 1958.



Cont. from p.5

1892. In 1900, it opened post office in Peking, Tientsin (promoted from sub-agency), Chefoo (promoted from sub-agency), Tangku (closed in 1906), Kiaochow (closed in 1905), Foochow and Hankow. Furthermore, new post offices were established in 1901 in Chinkiang, Kaomi (closed in 1906) and Shanhaikwan (closed in 1902); in 1902 in Weihsien (closed in 1914), Amoy and Canton; in 1903 in Ichang (closed in 1908), Tsingchow (closed in 1905) and Nanking; and in 1904 in Tsinan and Swatow. In addition, there were railway post offices, postal agencies and postal service stations. It is to be noted that besides those closed earlier, as indicated in parentheses, all German postal establishments were closed by 1917.



French Post Office in China

The French Post Office, which was re-organized from the Army Post Offices in China, was first established in 1862 in Shanghai and subsequently in Tientsin (1889), Chefoo (1898), Hankow (1902), Peking (1900), Foochow (1902), Amoy (1902) and Ningpo (1902). All the above eight postal establishments were called "French Post Offices". In addition, six Indo-China Post Offices were established in Canton (1900), Yunnanfu (1900), Mengtsz (1900), Kiungchow (1900), Chungking (1902) and Pakhoi (1902). French adhesives were not used until 1863.



Belgium Post Office in China

In 1908 the Belgium King Leopold II approved a Belgium Post Office in China, and current Belgium stamps, surcharged "Chine", reached the Belgium Consul in China in August the same year. Being advised of this case, the Chinese Postal Secretary, T. Piry, curtly rejected the idea and contacted the Ministry of External Affairs (then called Waiwubu) for action. So the surcharged stamps were all returned to Belgium but a very few left in China. The existence of copies of handstamped "specimen" was not known for over 14 years, until Baron Vinck de Winneseale published an inventory of the M.G.Caroly collection in 1922. Since then, less than half a dozen sets have appeared in stamp auction around the world, which become one of rare stamps of China at the time.



-----to be continued in the next issue

A Visiting Exhibitor's Story

By Rein Vasara

Editor's Note: BCPS member Rein Vasara attended ROSSICAPEX 2009 as an exhibitor on the weekend of June 26-28 in Santa Clara, California. The annual exhibition is sponsored by the The Rossica Society of Russian Philately. In the following report, Rein modestly fails to mention that he won two silver medals.

My interest in Russian philately took me to two exhibitions in the USA two summers ago. This winter I decided to enter two exhibits, the maximum allowed, in ROSSICAPEX 2009, and began to research, assemble material, compose and arrange 256 exhibit sheets — 16 frames of 16 sheets each. At deadline, I was ready to print sheets and mount material, but I had underestimated the time and work it takes to see an exhibit all the way through.

When the time came for me to start the two-day drive to Santa Clara, I had been able to print sheets for only one frame. I took exhibit material, computer, paper, and mounts with me, prepared to work overnight on the road. Arriving at a motel, I unpacked, only to find I'd left the power cord behind!

I arrived at ROSSICAPEX, at the Santa Clara Convention Centre, as exhibits were being mounted in frames. Dismayed at a prospect of 16 empty frames resulting from my shortcomings, I was ready to make formal apology for the omission. But the organizer, David Skipton, Jr., sent me to Treasurer Michael Gutter, who kindly printed out the sheets. By 10 a.m. on the opening day, they were up! — just ahead of a judges' special and delayed tour.



BCPS member Rein Vasara scrambles to assemble his ROSSICAPEX exhibits in June. Despite last-minute glitches, Rein's exhibits were mounted in time for judging and each won a silver medal.

ROSSICAPEX 2009 Photo

Fulfilling my promise allowed me to participate in ROSSICAPEX with a clear conscience. I attended all the events I could, and appreciated all the more the work of others. I left on Sunday with an overwhelming sense of gratitude, and a resolve to give my unqualified support to the next call for exhibits, at Westpex in 2011.

I express my admiration to our own BC Philatelic Club officials and exhibitors, who too have stories, many untold. I encourage BC Phil members to exhibit at VANPEX and elsewhere.



ROSSICAPEX 2009

**ROSSICAPEX 2009 Silver Medal Winner
Rein Vasara
World War I. Prisoners-of-War in Russia
World War I. Prisoners-of-War in Russia.
Postal Stationery**

Rare Audrey Hepburn Stamp Sells for A Fortune

Bob Ingraham, Member of BC Phil Society

A rare Audrey Hepburn stamp that was supposed to be destroyed before it was issued sold in a Berlin auction in May for €67,000 (CAN \$104,000). The stamp was created in 2001 by the German government as part of a issue of stamps featuring movies stars.

Fourteen million of the stamps were printed, but they were never released because Audrey's son, Sean Ferrer, objected to the design, which featured Audrey in one of her most famous photos as Holly Golightly.

It is believed that 30 proof versions of the stamp escaped destruction when an unknown employee at Deutsche Post took the stamps and used them to send letters postmarked Berlin.

Five of the stamps have surfaced since 2004; one of sold at auction in 2005 for €53,000 (CAN \$82,000) in 2005.



Postal Delivery from World War II Sixty-Seven Years on, A Letter Arrives at Last

On Aug 19, 1942, the 21-year-old infantryman from Toronto jumped out of the a landing craft and into a torrent of German fire on a French beach near Dieppe, a strategic disaster in which 913 Canadians died and nearly 2,000, including Mr. Beal, were taken prisoner.

Three days later, an aunt in England, perhaps concerned at the news of the ill-fated mission, sent him a letter, which Mr. Beal, now 87, will hold in his hands for the first time today.

Still unopened nearly 67 years later, the letter wound up on e-Bay recently, where a friend recognized the name and bought it for him. The friend, a fellow military man named Captain Peter Boyle, will present the errant piece of mail to Mr. Beal today at Toronto's Fort York Armoury.

----- By Anthony Reinhart

Delicious Recipe ---- Gingery Chicken Wings

Roger M Packer, Member of BC Phil Society

During the 1980's Roger Packer and his friends would rent an apartment in Hawaii for 6 weeks. Roger, who loves to cook, was always on the lookout for tasty and easily prepared dishes. This recipe came from one of the daily newspapers in Hawaii. It has become a firm favourite at his house and a requested item when he goes to potlucks.

4 pounds of chicken wings combined with 2-inch piece of root ginger that is peeled and diced, 3 garlic cloves peeled and crushed, 3/4 cup of brown sugar, 1/3 cup of soy sauce, 3/4 cup ketchup, 1/4 cup white wine or sherry.

Mix all together in a larger bowl, put in wings and refrigerate for at least 6 hours. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Place the wings in a shallow roasting pan. Cook 45 minutes to 1 hour. Eat and enjoy!!!



Mr. Clayton Lam, BC Philatelic Member, is in front of Greenland Post Booth at Hongkong 2009 Asian Stamp Exhibition in May, 2009.

The B.C. Philatelic Society Newsletter is printed three times a year and is free to all members of the Society.

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NEWSLETTER

BC Philatelic Society Program Schedule Aug 2009 - Jan 2010

AUGUST, 2009

* Monday morning, August 31, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. — Swap & Shop Social, with circuit books from the RPSC

SEPTEMBER

* Wednesday evening, September 9, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. — Swap & Shop Social, with circuit books from the RPSC

* Wednesday evening, September 16, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. — My Really Small Topical Collection Night, a chance to share topical or thematic collections represented by so few issues that you may have a complete collection already, perhaps of only one or two stamps! Bring up to six of your very small topical collections or stories to share with us.

* Wednesday evening, September 23, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. — Monthly Auction

* Thursday evening, September 24, 9:00 p.m. — Set-up for VANPEX 2009, at West Burnaby United Church. We are in serious need for volunteers to come out to help with this big job.

* Friday, September 25, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. — VANPEX 2009, at West Burnaby United Church

* Saturday, September 26, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. — VANPEX 2009, at West Burnaby United Church

* Wednesday evening, September 30, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. — A Post-VANPEX Show & Tell Free-for-All: Show us your...philatelic stuff! Medals from VANPEX? Let's see them! (It's OK to brag.) Stamps and covers you bought at the VANPEX 2009 bourse, new purchases from other dealers, collateral items, favourite philatelic books, etc,

OCTOBER

* Monday morning, October 5, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. — Swap & Shop Social, with circuit books from the RPSC

* Wednesday evening, October 14, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. — Swap & Shop Social, with circuit books from the RPSC

* Wednesday evening, October 21, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. — Monthly Auction

* Wednesday evening, October 28, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. — Swap & Shop Social, with circuit books from the RPSC

NOVEMBER

* Monday morning, November 2, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. — Swap & Shop Social, with circuit books from the RPSC

* Wednesday evening, November 11 — Remembrance Day (no meeting)

* Wednesday evening, November 18, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. — Monthly Auction

* Wednesday evening, November 25, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. — Speaker Night: BC Phil member Bob Ingraham presents a slide-illustrated talk based on his VANPEX 2009 exhibit, Icarus Falling — Three Airline Tragedies of 1954.

* Monday morning, November 30, 10:30 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. — Swap & Shop Social, with circuit books from the RPSC

DECEMBER

* Wednesday evening, December 9, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. — Swap & Shop Social, with circuit books from the RPSC

* Wednesday evening, December 16, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. — Monthly Auction

* Wednesday evening, December 23, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. — Alphabet Night (last meeting until Monday morning, January 4, 2010) — It's been some time since we had a night devoted to a "Show & Tell" about philatelic items from our collections which represent a letter of the alphabet. Tonight, it's the letter "T". Bring up to six items, which suit this program to a...T!

JANUARY, 2010

* Monday morning, January 4, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. — Swap & Shop Social, with circuit books from the RPSC

* Wednesday evening, January 13, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. — Swap & Shop Social, with circuit books from the RPSC

* Wednesday evening, January 20, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. — Monthly Auction

* Wednesday evening, January 27, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. — Speaker Night: Yichuan Sang (Mulberry Sam), BC Phil newsletter editor, presents "An Untold Story of Chinese Classic Stamps".



VANPEX 2009 / 25 & 26 SEPTEMBER 2009
*Honouring Aerophilately on the
100th anniversary of powered flight in Canada*
West Burnaby United Church
6050 Sussex Avenue, Burnaby, BC

