

Philateliography Canada

June, 1991
Volume 1 #1

This is the inaugural issue of a BNAPS study group dedicated to literature. This study group had its formations at BNAPEX '90 in Galveston, when one evening, Bob Lee asked me if I were interested in a study group on literature. It was late one evening, in the hospitality suite, and I said I would think about it. Next day I mentioned it to Earle Covert, and by the time the banquet came around, Earle had a list of 10 paid charter members, with me being the chairman of the study group.

Since Galveston, I have managed to gather an additional member, the person who first caused Bob Lee to bring up the topic. Dues are \$12.00 Canadian, \$10.00 U.S. and will last until additional funds are required to print and mail the newsletter.

This issue has a review of The Care and Preservation of Philatelic Materials done by Ray Saintonge.

Ideas for future issues: Ray sent me a letter talking about a few subjects that the group could work on besides book reviews. These include a project to update McCready's list; create a whole new annotated bibliography of Canadian Philatelic Periodicals.

Ray Saintonge is looking for information and (photo)copies of *Canadiana* published by "Mariahelf" in 1902 at Grenfell, N.W.T. (i.e. Assa. and now Sask.). This is McCready number 85; he doubted its validity himself, but included it anyway. Ricketts shows it as being from "Maria East, Canada", which is even more perplexing.

Ray is also looking for information on a publication called *Philatelic Express*, published by JCM Publications of 845 McCarthy Blvd., Regina. Ray has issue vol. 1, no. 1 for April 1979, but knows nothing of its longevity. Ray states that various ads dedicated to its own promotion show a picture of the cover of another issue of the magazine dated March 1972. Has anyone heard of this publication, and do you know of any further issues?

I plan to start a classified section, to allow members to buy and sell their surplus literature. Why don't you send in your ad with your duplicates, or your wants?

Write me with your ideas for future articles, columns. etc.



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List of J.N. Sissons, Un-numbered sales:

Sale Nos.	Date	Sale Nos.	Date
1-5	May 16-18, 1946	43-46	Apr. 26-28, 1950
6-10	Sep. 12-14, 1946	47-49	Sept. 19-20, 1950
11-15	Jan. 30 - Feb. 1, 1947	50-51	Nov. 30 - Dec. 1, 1950
16-20	Feb. 27 - Mar. 1, 1947	52-53	Feb. 8-9, 1951
21-24	Mar. 28-29, 1947	54-55	Apr. 18-19, 1951
25-27	Oct. 23-24, 1947	56-58	June 19-21, 1951
28	Nov. 20, 1947	59-60	Sept. 26, 1951
29-30	Feb. 10, 1948	61-62	Oct. 10-11, 1951
31-32	May 14, 1948	63-64	Nov. 7-8, 1951
33	Oct. 1, 1948	65	Dec. 12, 1951
34	Nov, 5, 1948	66-67	Jan. 10, 1951
35	Dec. 3, 1948	68-69	Feb. 13-15, 1952
36-37	April 1-2, 1949	70-71	Mar. 12-13, 1952
38-40	Nov. 3-5, 1949	72-73	Apr. 9-10, 1952
41-42	Mar. 15-16, 1950	74	No Sale

Sales after 74 were numbered.

Membership List June/91

1. Paul Burega	2. Earle L. Covert	3. Robert Lee
4. Bill Walton	5. Charles Livermore	6. Chuck Firby
7. Vic Willson	8. Bill Robinson	9. Jeff Switt
10. Robert Lemire	11. Ray Saintonge	

Classified Ads.

Wanted: Maresch Sales 1,3-4,7-8,9-10,13,18-19,26-27, 34.	Your classified ad could appear here.
Paul Burega, Box 15765 Merivale Depot, Nepean, Ontario K2C 3S7	
For Sale, Sissons Sales. Most sales available from #1 to current.	For Sale, LCD Auction. Most sales available from #1 to current.
For Sale, Maresch Sales. Most sales since 1965 available.	Paul Burega, Box 15765 Merivale Depot, Nepean, Ontario K2C 3S7
Paul Burega, Box 15765 Merivale Depot, Nepean, Ontario K2C 3S7	

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Collings, T. J. and R. F. Schoolley-West. The Care and Preservation of Philatelic Materials. London, British Library and State College, American Philatelic Society, 1989. 55 + viii pages, hardbound, illustrated, glossary, bibliography, \$19.75.

It is a noteworthy irony that less than one year after my acquisition of this book its cover shows very clear marks of fading from exposure to light. The damage in this case is only a matter of aesthetics, and does not detract from the value of the contents. It does, however, help to bring into focus the kind of problems faced by both philatelists and book collectors.

Several decades ago librarians came to realize the holdings in all of the world's libraries were self-destructing. Philatelists, who also deal with paper, are only more recently coming to appreciate the nature of the problem. The primary, though certainly not the only, culprit was the very development which by the 1830's would begin to bring cheap literature and literacy to the masses: the manufacture of paper from bleached wood pulp instead of from the more durable and more expensive cloth fibres. Just as the modern advances in medicine bear the seed of overpopulation, so too did this new technology bear seeds of its own nemesis. Amazingly, a book published in 1800 or even 1500 is likely at this time to be in better condition than one published in 1900.

This short book cannot provide detailed instructions for the proper treatment of affected material. Had it attempted to delve too deeply into the dull technical details of paper conservation it would certainly have lost its intended audience, to whom the message of this developing crisis must be brought. It does give us a brief description of the problems at issue and a summary insight of what might be done to attack each.

For those of us who are interested in philatelic literature, the issue is doubly significant. Much of our literature comes, in the proper sense of that term, as limited editions; that is to say, a maximum of 500 copies were produced. Nevertheless, they can be had in most cases for a far lower price than a stamp printed in the same quantities. To make matters worse many were also printed on paper of inferior quality such as newsprint, and many others are simply not available in any publicly accessible library. Ironically, most stamps, which were themselves originally intended as ephemeral items, are often printed on a paper of much better quality than the literature.

In the first of its three chapters the authors explain those problems that arise from the nature of the materials themselves. These brief explanations relate to paper, ink,

photographs, hand colouring, graphites, phosphors, textiles, seals and adhesives. The second chapter looks at the external factors of temperature, relative humidity, light, biological vectors, pollutants and acidity. Finally, it looks at ways of minimizing damage from improper storage and exhibition mountings, and concludes with notes about health and safety problems connected with philately.

As a result of my reading I am certainly considering the abandonment of hinges as a mounting medium for stamps. I was already suspicious of the acidity in the paper of most albums some time ago. In that regard an article in the September 1987 issue of *Philatélie Québec* did not give a very promising picture of albums available for Canadian stamps, and I certainly see no incentives on the horizon for industry to start producing archival quality albums subject to strictly controlled standards. At the price of some of the updates to albums they could certainly afford it.

Let me finish with a perhaps depressing observation by the authors.

Our constantly changing way of life may also have an effect upon the condition of material at some time in the future and because of this there can be no hard and fast rules laid down. Much of what can be recommended can never be more than a compromise. The careful application and appreciation of the techniques given in this book will assist in the considerable extension of the life of items in collections today, but regrettably it must be accepted that collections will continue to deteriorate as they have done since they were first produced.