

Meter Cancels.

Meter machines were developed before WW I but the war delayed their use until the 1920s. Early SPECIMEN and dated examples from Canada can be found with 1923 dates. Pitney-Bowes Co. of the U.S. produced the first meter machines. These were introduced in various cities. With their ease of use for large mailing and good accountability for postage, they



were used by larger companies in the 1920s. Other companies competed for business and different types can be collected to show the varieties used. While never having the interest that stamped mail generates, from a postal history perspective, metered mail shows the same usage, and for modern mail it may be the primary way to show many postal rates. Early metered mail from the 1920s and 1930s to foreign destinations, for example, is quite scarce. Advertising covers and slogans add greatly to their appeal.

XXI. MAJOR SOCIETIES ASSOCIATED WITH CANADIAN PHILATELY

Stamp collecting and postal history collecting societies are numerous, and many might help you study your specialization. For example, a person who specializes in Canada's involvement in WWII might find advantages in belonging not only to a Canadian society but to any one of the numerous societies dedicated to the study of WWII. Listed below are the four key societies that focus on the stamps and postal history of Canada.

Canadian-Oriented Philatelic Societies

(A) BNAPS (The British North America Philatelic Society)

BNAPS, the sponsor of this book, is a society dedicated to the study of Canadian philately. You can reach them online at www.BNAPS.org.

Membership carries many privileges:

1. BNAPS produces two quarterly journals. *BNA Topics* is a scholarly publication containing many articles on varied Canadian philatelic subjects. *BNA PortraitS* is a quarterly journal that contains the business issues and news of BNAPS.
2. Regional Group membership allows you to be in regular communication with members close to you geographically. Regions within BNAPS all work a little differently, from one that holds monthly meetings to one

- that meets for a long weekend annually. Noncollecting spouses or partners are always welcome, and some great friendships can be developed through attendance at regional group meetings.
3. Study Group membership provides contact among members having similar specialty interests. BNAPS has an ever-increasing number of study groups as one of its foundations. We like study group membership because it allows us to put forward different ideas so that the other members can critique them, and support or explain them by showing pertinent material. This sharing of information allows the hobby to grow. As a new member in BNAPS, you will get a year's free membership in any study group you want. Study group membership is not expensive (the fees usually just cover the cost of mailing newsletters).
 4. BNAPEX is the acronym for the annual get together of BNAPS members. This three-day event moves from city to city in North America. It usually has a bourse with many of the best Canadian dealers available in one location. There is usually a 120–180 frame stamp exhibit with a showing of some of the finest Canadian stamp exhibits in existence.
 5. BNAPS is dedicated not only to publishing meaningful books on the topic of collecting BNA but also to creating books showing some of the great exhibits created by members of BNAPS (see section XXII). Members of BNAPS get a significant discount on the books published by BNAPS; in fact the discount on a book sometimes can be large enough to pay for your annual dues in BNAPS.
 6. BNAPS also carries stamps and postal history items for sale on their web site. Members who want to make things available to a knowledgeable market place use this sales area.

(B) CPS of GB (Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain)

Established in the 1930s, this society was established to support collectors of Canadian philately who resided in Great Britain. It is now one of the premier Canadian philatelic societies, and deserves your time and attention.

1. The CPS of GB publishes a quarterly journal titled *Maple Leaves* and, like *BNA Topics*, it is a scholarly journal with many and varied subjects written by some of the most recognized names in BNA philately.
2. The CPS of GB maintains an interesting and useful web site at www.canadianpsgb.org.uk, where interesting articles maybe found. At this web site, you'll see that membership fees for this society can be paid in pounds, or even in USA or Canadian dollars. This is convenient for those of us in North America.
3. CPS of GB holds an annual convention in the British Isles. This convention is noted for its social side, with many programs designed to entertain the noncollecting partner.
4. The society maintains an extensive lending library for members. Its catalogue lists the weights of publications held. Mailing costs might be

such that borrowing books by U.S. or Canadian members may best be done through BNAPS or the American Philatelic Society.

5. CPS of GB holds two auctions a year, providing another location for collectors of BNA material to find relatively hard to locate items.

(C) PHSC (Postal History Society of Canada)

This society is dedicated to the postal history side of collecting Canada, and produces an excellent journal.

1. The *PHSC Journal* is a quarterly publication that by all measures is a high-quality publication, with articles written on many subjects concerning postal history.
2. The society has two web pages. At www.postalhistorycanada.org, the member or collector can link to many other societies and study groups. This web site also has a number of features open to all collectors, including some articles, lists of new Canadian post offices, and lists of trans-Pacific steamship sailings. In addition, for members, at www.postalhistorycanada.net there is a developing database web site containing back issues of the *Journal* and some study-group newsletters, and lists of Canadian post offices and their postmarks. Certain data are open to all collectors.
3. The PHSC has a number of active study groups available.

(D) SHPQ (Société d'Histoire Postale du Quebec)

SHPQ is a French-language philatelic society, highly regarded but without an English translation available. Membership here is recommended for anyone collecting the mails of Quebec.

1. SHPQ produces a journal—*Les bureaux de poste du Quebec*—dedicated to the study of the postal history of Quebec.
2. The society maintains a French-language web site at www.shpq.org.

Generalist Philatelic Societies

Earlier in this section, we described societies that serve the collectors of BNA material. There are a few societies serving the general stamp or postal history collectors that bear a mention in this book. The two most important generalist societies for those of us in North America are the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and the American Philatelic Society.

(A) RPSC (Royal Philatelic Society of Canada)

Canada's national society serves all collectors and produces the *Canadian Philatelist*, its philatelic journal, six times a year. Subjects in this journal can be anything dealing with stamps, shows, judging, and the many things we philatelists desire. Information about the RPSC can be found at www.rpsc.org.

1. Probably the most important service offered to the collector is the insurance available at a discounted rate.
2. The society has sales circuits available; the member must bear the expense of mailing the circuits.

3. There are numerous chapters (local stamp clubs) around Canada, and a complete list of them is available on their web site and in each issue of the *Canadian Philatelist*.
4. The RPSC is the “keeper of the keys” when it comes to philatelic judging in Canada. The RPSC gives accreditation to Canadian regional-level, national-level, and international-level philatelic judges.
5. There are numerous slide programs available for those who wish to present a program at their local club.
6. The RPSC holds an annual convention, and exhibiting and winning a high award at their Royal/Royale show is major accomplishment.
7. On the RPSC web site, there are useful suggestions about estate planning.

(B) APS (American Philatelic Society)

Very similar to the RPSC, the APS offers the same amenities as the RPSC. For those of us living in the USA, the insurance program is more logical because insuring across the border is sometimes impossible. The society can be found on line at www.stamps.org.

1. The APS produces *The American Philatelist*, its monthly stamp journal. It is a very well done magazine. Like the *Canadian Philatelist*, *The American Philatelist* has articles on all kinds of stamp issues.
2. The APS sponsors a number of nationally-ranked philatelic events around the USA. The winner of each of these stamp shows gets to compete in their Champion of Champions show held each year at their annual convention.

There are numerous societies out there that specialize in any number of particular topics. If you specialize in airmail within Canada, perhaps a membership in the American Air Mail Society would serve your needs. You will have to explore your area of specialization to determine if membership in any of these societies meets your needs.

XXII. CANADIAN LITERATURE RESOURCES

We have worried about how to write this section of our little book. While we could produce a long list of publications we have used over the years, that would only be of value to you if you want to collect what we do! However, we did promise to present a summary of useful books. We'll describe Canadian literature resources in two ways: first, through a list of publications that will help every BNA collector, then by direction to detailed, specialty publications.

Basic References. There are some classic books that every BNA collector should either own or be familiar with. Aside from numerous catalogues (mostly just lists of stamps and their prices), these three books describe Canada's earlier stamps.

The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada, W.S. Boggs, Chambers Publishing, Kalamazoo, Michigan (1945). This two-volume book (available also as a reprint)