

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)

describes early BNA stamps and postal history. It was based mainly on the comprehensive collection of Alfred Lichtenstein.

The Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps. Volume V, North America, Robson Lowe, London, England (1973). This large book covers Canada to about 1950, and is especially helpful with early postage rates.

B.N.A. Book. Stamps of British North America, Fred Jarrett, privately published, Toronto (1929). This reference work was the competitive target of the Boggs volumes. Jarrett's large section on early postmarks is still very useful.

There are books devoted to single stamp issues. For example, the Large Queen stamps and their postal history are described in *The Large Queen Stamps of Canada and Their Use 1868–1872* by H.E. & H.W. Duckworth. George Arfken (sometimes with colleagues) has produced postal history monographs on the Pence, Decimal, Small Queen, and late Victorian-Edward eras. Steinhart wrote a book on the Admiral era postal history. There are monographs devoted to the Small Queens by Hilson, to the Edward and Admiral stamps by Marler. Study groups and articles in journals have updated information from these books. Robin Harris has produced a series of book describing many of the Elizabethan stamps of Canada.

Articles in philatelic journals are essential information. Back issues of *BNAPS Topics* are online in the Horace Harrison Library on the BNAPS web site. A searchable index is available, too. The *Canadian Philatelist* is archived at the RPSC web site, and the PHSC web site allows its members to read the issues of the *PHSC Journal* online. The other major journal about BNA stamps is *Maple Leaves* by the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain.

Specialized Publications. Today, you as stamp collectors—setting out on whatever specialization you choose—have a tremendous tool available to you and that is the Internet. With the Internet, you can access various archives, talk to strangers in foreign countries, and “Google” just about any question you have. We recommend that you utilize the www.BNAPS.org web site, look at the Education section, and read some of the articles on specialization that are there.

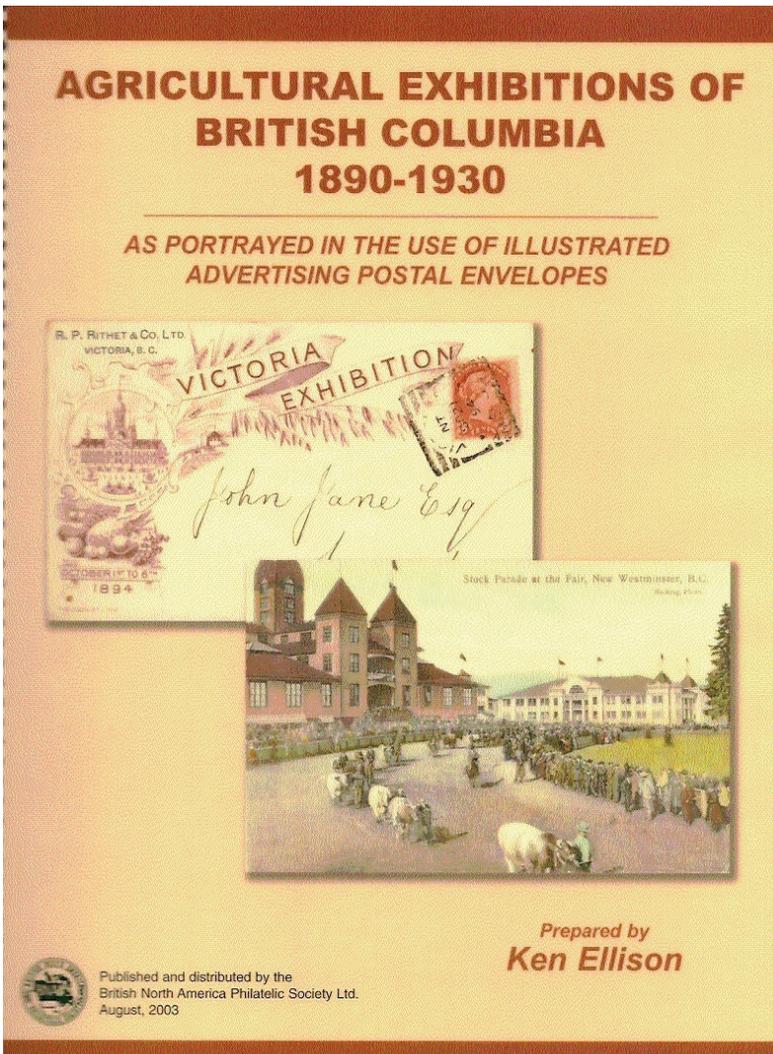
After determining your specialization, look at the BNAPS bookseller and see if there are books dedicated to your area of interest. There are books on individual types of cancels, books on revenue stamps, and books on areas of postal history. Look too at the very well regarded BNAPS Exhibit series. These books, which picture past medal-winning exhibits, are a treasure trove of information and technique on how to present a serious study. Many of the exhibits available in these books have been broken up and no longer exist. BNAPS has elected to record these fine exhibits in hopes of preserving our philatelic history.

As a member of BNAPS, think seriously about joining a study group that interests you. There you can share information or learn from other study group members. Some study groups have archived their newsletters (both BNAPS and PHSC have this feature). At the study-group level of publications, there is room for error; the members are trying to elicit other opinions or confirm their findings and

assumptions. As a member you are free to write up, or challenge what is being said in someone else's paper. It's this exchange of ideas that creates a finished idea that can then be *formally* published.

Shown below is an example of one of the booklets of the BNAPS Exhibit series, one on *Agricultural Exhibitions of British Columbia 1890–1930* by Ken Ellison. This is a pretty specialized collection but it shows what might be done, what is available, and how to present such a narrow topical subject.

Whatever you do, enjoy your collecting. If you are like us, you will find that it can be many years of fun.



AN INTRODUCTION TO BNAPS

The **British North America Philatelic Society Ltd., BNAPS**, is an international organization devoted to the collecting and study of the stamps, postal markings, and postal history of Canada and its pre-Confederation colonies. Whether you are at the start of your Canadian adventure or have already developed areas of expertise you will find a warm **BNAPS** welcome when you become a member. Our members, whether general collectors, respected dealers or distinguished authors, enjoy good conversation and correspondence about all aspects of BNA philately.

PUBLICATIONS

BNA Topics, the journal of BNAPS, is published quarterly and mailed to all members. Each issue is packed with information and original articles about BNA philately. The journal is fully indexed and a cumulative index for its first fifty years is available.

BNA PortraitS, the Society's newsletter, is also published quarterly and contains news about the social and business side of **BNAPS**.

The **BNAPS** publishing program regularly produces handbooks, catalogs and reproductions of members' award winning exhibits to further its educational objective of expanding the understanding of BNA philately.

BNAPS books are available to members at significant discounts from the retail price.

SPECIALIZED STUDY GROUPS

Popular areas of activity within BNAPS are the many study groups which afford members the opportunity to communicate with each other over shared interests. Each study group publishes its own newsletter in which members exchange opinions and report findings. The Study Groups are responsible for the seminar presentations at the annual conference; and, provide an opportunity for members to discuss their recent discoveries and puzzles.

BNAPS REGIONAL GROUPS

In several areas of Canada and the United States BNAPS members have formed regional groups which meet in addition to the annual convention. These meetings provide yet another opportunity for the discussion and swapping of BNA materials.

PHILATELIC EXCHANGE CIRCUITS

Members enjoy access to the web-based BNAPS exchange circuit and the opportunity of disposing of unwanted or duplicate material and acquiring new items at very reasonable prices – see what is available at <http://.bnaps.org/circuits/circuits.htm>

BNAPS Web Site <http://bnaps.org/>

BNAPS maintains an award winning web site which provides general and specialized information about BNA philately. Included are up-to-date sources of information about society activities, a puzzler page offering members philatelic challenges, a BNAPS youth site (to encourage younger collectors), links to relevant web sites and information about the history of **BNAPS**.

To become a member of **BNAPS** go to the BNAPS website and click on 'Join BNAPS'

ANNUAL CONVENTION

Each fall **BNAPS** meets for its convention and exhibition at locations alternating between Canada and the United States. If you have ever attended a typical stamp convention or commercial bourse and found yourself wandering about aimlessly knowing practically no one, then a **BNAPS** convention will be a real treat for you. Highlights of each convention include top-notch BNA exhibits by members, a nucleus of well stocked BNA dealers, study group seminars, and spouse activities. Here you will have a chance to meet and make friends with more collectors who share your interest than you ever thought possible.