

The Bulletin

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JUNE 2020

Iceland to stop Issuing Stamps

Information collected from several sources including Linn's Stamp News and Iceland Review and Canadian Stamp News

Iceland Post has closed its stamp and philatelic department, Postphil, as a cost-cutting measure, and also plans to stop issuing postage stamps in 2021.

Iceland Post dates back to the year 1776 when Christian VII, king of Denmark (and at the time also Iceland) ordered a mail service to be established in the country. Two years later, regular postal sailings begun between Iceland and Denmark, once a year.

The news of Postphil's closure came in an Aug. 20, 2019 email letter from Vilhjalmur Sigurdsson, head of philately for Iceland Post. In that letter, Sigurdsson mentioned three possibilities about the future of Iceland as a stamp-issuing nation: It may stop issuing stamps, it may issue very few new stamps each year, or it may give the responsibility for producing stamps to a private contractor.

He was quoted as saying, "We will continue to release new stamps in 2020 and a few in 2021. These are releases that were already lined up.

On May 7, the Nordic nation's postal service is slated to issue 11 stamps highlighting eight subjects, including the centenary of the Icelandic Meteorological Office, the Supreme Court of Iceland and equal voting rights for all Icelandic citizens as well as the 50th anniversary of Iceland's membership in the European Free Trade Association and the Reykjavik Arts Festival.

Another two stamps depicting a chick and a piglet will be issued as the fourth part of an ongoing series featuring young domestic animals. A second pair of stamps featuring whitewater rafting and whale watching will be issued as part of a tourism series. Lastly, another two stamps will highlight ancient postal routes, which is the theme of the 2020 "Europa" series (an annual set issued by various European postal services)

On Oct. 29, Iceland Post will issue another 12 stamps highlighting seven subjects with a few issues slated for 2021.

After that, Iceland Post will stop publishing new stamps. However, we have a stock of stamps that will last us many years without having to print new ones."

He added: "Having said that, if the government feels that it's culturally important to continue issuing new stamps, Iceland Post is ready to continue to do so. But before that, there must be a negotiation with the government of how the cost is covered. Iceland Post simply cannot continue to cover the cost of releasing stamps." The company is undergoing the finalization of a service agreement with Icelandic authorities that is aimed at ensuring the company's sustainable operation and modernization.

As for Postphil, "it has closed down for good and will stop serving stamp collectors, domestic and foreign, altogether."

Upcoming Meetings

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Saugeen Stamp Club
Cancelled

Kincardine Stamp Club
Cancelled

Owen Sound Stamp Club
Cancelled

Guelph Stamp Club
Cancelled

KW Philatelic Society
Cancelled

Check with the club before going to its meeting. It may be cancelled.

ONE PAGE EXHIBITS

UPCOMING TOPICS

NEXT MEETING -

Design a stamp
(see details pg 2)

NEXT MEETING + 1 -

Airmail

NEXT MEETING + 2 -

Flowers

NEXT MEETING + 3 -

My Favourite Stamp

Message From the President

The year 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic will go down in the history of our community and communities around the world. The population for the best part has never experienced a situation of this magnitude. Businesses closed down; workers laid off; people told to stay home – do not have visitors and do not visit even family. Some people began hoarding such staples as toilet paper & cleaning supplies. First responders held the line and stood fast in their role – many without the necessary personal protection equipment to safeguard their own wellbeing. Thank first responders every chance you have an opportunity.

There are people providing advice (and a lot of the advice is bad).

– PICK A KNOWLEDGEABLE AND TRUSTWORTHY EXPERT AND FOLLOW YOUR GUT FEELINGS.

As responsible members of the community, we will continue to pay our room rental at St Matthew's Church for the duration of the pandemic. At this time, it is unknown when we will resume our monthly meetings and but we will attempt to advise members as soon as possible.

One decision made – the Saugeen Stamp Club will hold another mini stamp fair (similar to our March meeting) ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 3RD 2020.

Members staying home have had a great opportunity to look over their collections and perhaps seek out a new topic or country to add to their collecting interests.

The most important advice is: **STAY WELL & STAY SAFE.**

**If Satan lost
his hair,
there would be
hell Toupee.

I'll see
myself out.**

**STOP COMPLAINING
Rest at home is better than
Rest in Peace !!!
6 ft away is better than 6 ft
under !!!❤️**

Design a Stamp

Since we will not be meeting for a while I thought we could have a little contest for the best design of a stamp commemorating the Coronavirus of 2020. I know, I know, no one wants to discuss it any further but maybe we could get it out of our system by designing a stamp. Hand drawn or computer generated. Who will come up with the best design. We will see at our next meeting.

What's Coming Up

All shows for the next few months are cancelled. The next one listed as tentative is in September. We will keep you up to date on any changes.

Another Measured Moment.....

Earliest Air Mail

In the 1800s, there was some need for communication between Great Barrier Island, {size approx. 20 X 30 miles}, Located about 100 miles from Auckland and the rest of New Zealand, the residents of the island felt cut off and the copper mining company was frustrated over the difficulties with communication. This became more acute when *S.S. Wairarapa*, a ship that had delivered supplies and mail to the island, met with disaster on Miner's Head.

Previously in Europe stockbrokers had used pigeons to notify dealers of share prices prior to the introduction of the telegraph in the 1850s. And in the 1870s during the siege of Paris, pigeons were used to carry messages between the French forces in Paris and other cities. Prussia then initiated the first aerial warfare by releasing trained hawks to hunt down the pigeons. Perhaps the first "*Red Baron*" was a hawk.

In 1896, Mr. W. Fricker had made several flights with carrier pigeons from Great Barrier Island to Auckland, and in 1897, he opened a regular mail service using "*Pigeongrams*" with Miss Springall, the government Post-mistress as local agent.

The use of these required very light weight papers and those used were known as "*flimsys*" Catalogue listings for these stamps range up to \$15,000.00 with used copies on a complete flimsy, up to \$30,000.00. There are only 8 designs listed with the last 2 being triangular. In 1997 New Zealand Post marked the centennial of Pigeon post service with a 2 stamp set reproducing the 2 triangular stamps. Originally the Triangular stamps were a blue 6d for mail from the Island to Auckland and a red 1s for mail from Auckland to the Island. The difference in cost being to cover extra difficulty in training the birds to fly that route. The reprinted stamps of 1997 have the denominations of 40c & 80c and a few changes in the wording, but overall they look very similar to the original "*Pigeongram*" stamps.



Saugeen Stamp Club

Chapter 220, Royal Philatelic
Society of Canada
Chapter 1538, American
Philatelic Society
Chapter 21, Grand River Valley
Philatelic Association

Website: <https://www.rpsc.org/chapters/saugeenstampclub/>

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From the Editor:

If anyone has any news or items to share during our hiatus please forward them to me either by email or by snail mail I would love to get them for the Bulletin. I will publish the Bulletin as usual during the coming months.

My mailing address is: PO Box 1571, Wingham, ON N0G 2W0

Everyone stay safe and healthy 'til we meet again

10 Fun Facts about Stamps

1. In terms of the Retail Price Index, one penny in 1840 would be worth 32p at today's prices. In terms of average income, however, it would be worth £5.61.
2. The word 'stamp-collector' predates postage stamps by more than a century. In 1710, it was used for a collector or receiver of stamp duties.
3. The word 'philately' was first recorded in 1865.
4. A British Guiana one-cent magenta stamp was sold at auction in New York in 2014 for a record £5.6 million.
5. The previous owner of the stamp had died in jail in 2010 after being convicted of murdering an Olympic wrestling 1 champion.
6. The Royal Mail was created by Henry VIII in 1516. From then until 1840, postage was generally paid by the recipient rather than the sender.
7. In 1973, Bhutan issued a stamp that could play their national anthem if put on a record player.
8. The UK is the only country that does not display its name on its postage stamps.
9. The first non-royal to appear on UK postage stamps was William Shakespeare in 1964.
10. In 2013, Belgium issued stamps that smelt and tasted of chocolate



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