

The Bulletin

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The 10 Most Valuable U.S. Stamps

by John Ortved

“Some are firsts, others have printing errors and others are simply rare and old—all factors that make these the most sought-after U.S. stamps.”

JOHN ORTVED

1. The Inverted Jenny



(Courtesy of Siegel Auction Gallery)

Debatably the rarest stamp error in U.S. history, the Inverted Jenny is among the most mythical. The plane depicted on the stamp is the JN-4HM, built by the Curtiss company in the middle of World War I (95 percent of U.S. pilots trained on JN-4s during WWI). Philately, like many other hobbies, enjoys the self-referential: this was the first plane used to deliver mail. A printing error caused the blue vignette—the airplane and the air around it—to be printed upside down, while the red border framing the scene was printed correctly. The error only appeared on a single sheet of 100 stamps, which has since been broken up, so that mostly single examples of the stamp exist, though there remain two blocks of four. In 2016, a single Inverted Jenny sold at auction for \$1,351,250.

The Jennies—military biplanes—were modified for government airmail service with extra fuel tanks, a different engine, and a hopper for mail. They often crashed. In fact, the very first U.S. Post Office Department airmail flight on May 15, 1918 ended in disaster. The pilot flew in the wrong direction and crashed in a farmer’s field, ironically next to a property owned by Otto Praeger, the postmaster official in charge of airmail. “None of the first day’s mail made it,” says Scott Trepel, president of Siegel Auction House. “They had to send it the next day.”

(cont. on pg 4 and in future issues)

Upcoming Meetings

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Saugeen Stamp Club
Cancelled

Kincardine Stamp Club

Owen Sound Stamp Club
Zoom Auction
September 1

Zoom Meeting
September 15

Guelph Stamp Club

KW Philatelic Society

Check with the club
before going to its meet-
ing. It may be cancelled.

ONE PAGE EXHIBITS

UPCOMING TOPICS

NEXT MEETING -

Design a Covid
Stamp

NEXT MEETING + 1 -

Airmail

NEXT MEETING + 2 -

Flowers

NEXT MEETING + 3 -

My Favourite Stamp

President's Message.....

Hello, Hello, Hello. We are not over the threat of COVID 19 just yet – there is some talk about a 4th wave and a third booster shot coming to bring it to an end. I trust everyone has kept well over the last 18 months or so and will continue to do what they believe to be the right thing to address their personal situation.

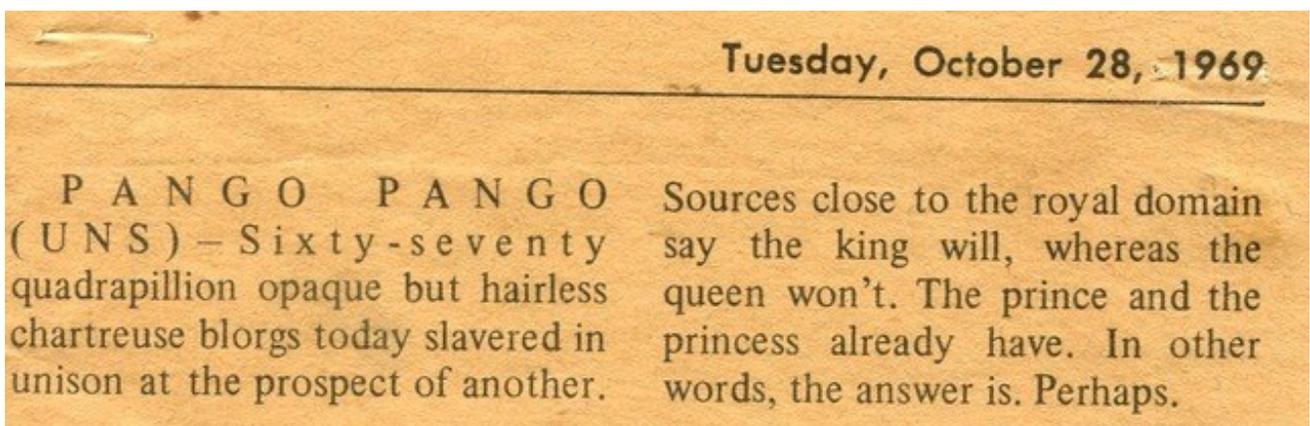
On a positive note – in discussion with our meeting venue, they have indicated they are planning to reopen the Church as of October 1st – subject to current restrictions. We are planning to have our first meeting on December 7th. This meeting has been suggested to be a version of our Christmas gathering and a charity auction with all funds raised going to a local food bank. Members are asked to bring material for the auction as in previous years – bring along their favourite treat for a social time and enjoy the opportunity to meet up with other members after a long shut down. This was decided as there have been no meetings for the handout of the president's funny money. Members must bring along some cash to bid on the donated items.

Other club business which must also be addressed is:

- 1/ Election to replace the club treasurer (Ralph relocated to New Brunswick)
- 2/ Update the club mailing / contact list for any member who has moved (email etc)
- 3/ 2022 Member dues
- 4/ 2022 show date & location – Walkerton Legion May 7th 2022

Keep Well & Safe - see everyone on December 7th

And to lighten the mood with some silliness: (submitted by Bill Findlay)



Another Measured Moment.....

BA - HUMBUG *to Canadian Weather*

Ed. Note: A copy of a press release sent out in February 2011 - Thought it was an interesting comment as our first meeting since Covid is in December and also given the recent debilitating heat wave we have had. But this won't happen again. So see you in December.

While we are Canadians and would never want to call any other country home, members of the Saugeen Stamp Club say ***Ba-Humbug*** to our Canadian weather! It is bad, but not so bad as in many parts of the world, Queensland Australia as an example.

The Saugeen Stamp Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Hanover Library. We have 62 members and usually have 35 or more at each meeting. Our December meeting is usually a Christmas party with additional family members attending. This year (December 2010) our Christmas Party was "Scrooged" by our Canadian weather.

On the first Tuesday of December, members in Hanover reported that they couldn't even get to the Library from their home in Hanover, so the Party was postponed until January. In spite of this a few members from: Kincardine, Palmerston, Walkerton, & Clifford came early, to eat out before the party, but found that it was "Scrooged".

On the first Tuesday in January, Highway #4 was closed between Hanover & Durham, (our President lives in Durham), and an accident south of Neustadt closed off members coming from the south. The postponed Christmas party was "Scrooged" again.

Then on the first Tuesday of February, radio & TV reports were warning that we were about to have the "Blizzard of the Decade". There was no sign of bad roads and reports predicted that the storm was coming on Wednesday, so a few of us showed up for the very late Christmas meeting, only to find that we had been "Scrooged" yet again. Most members were intimidated by the weather reports and we had the smallest turnout in several years.

No Fear! We are Canadians! We will cope with this "*Ba-Humbug*" weather and we know that May is coming and we will celebrate our Spring Show on 7 May; not only because of the gathering of philatelists from near & far, but also because our Canadian "*Scrooge*" weather can't catch us in May.

But isn't Hurricane season coming?

Other uses for 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/>

Meeting: St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church
356 9th Street,
Hanover, Ontario
Use 11th Avenue Entrance

Club Officers:

President: Walt Berry
519-887-6999
wsberry@sympatico.ca

Vice-President: Peter Kritz
519-364-4752
pkritz@coldwellbankerpbr.com

Secretary: Mike Wagner
519-901-0366
mikewagner@hotmail.ca

Treasurer: Peter Kritz
Temporarily (Address under Notices)

Sales Circuit: Bill Findlay
519-369-5689
billfindlay74@gmail.com

Bulletin Editor: Diane Jarvis,
905-299-5854
laurielady@gmail.com

Owen Sound Zoom Auctions

The links to see items and read the terms and conditions follow below:

https://stampsmarter.org/AuctionSQL/Auction_Owen_Entry.php?operation=insert – Please use this form to enter your individual lots for auction

https://stampsmarter.org/AuctionFiles/Cat_OwenSC.aspx – You may view listed items in the current auction on this page. These will be the same scans used during the auction

<https://stampsmarter.org/AuctionFiles/OwenTCs.html> – Terms and Conditions - please read if you are listing or bidding in the auction

2. 1847 Issue Block of 16 of Ben Franklin



1847 Ben Franklin stamps (courtesy of Siegel Auction Gallery);

The Boston Tea Party (Credit: Ed Vebell/Getty Images)

The year 1847 is a huge one for stamps: this was the first year that you could purchase stamps from the United States government and affix them to a piece of mail as a method to prepay for its delivery (the legislation was passed in 1845). These are examples of the very first U.S. Federal stamps. Naturally, a great deal of correspondence was exchanged before 1847—the United States Post Office Department was established in 1792—but those letters were mostly paid for by the receiver.

Benjamin Franklin, who along with George Washington graced the first stamps, has a fascinating history with the post, filled with intrigue. In 1775, upon his return from England, Franklin was named postmaster general of the independent colonies by the Continental Congress. But long before, the Crown had named him postmaster general of the American colonies in 1753, a post he shared with William Hunter. Franklin was fired from that job when, in 1774, it was discovered that he had been opening mail (between English authorities) and feeding the correspondences' contents to his rebel friends—in what's become known as the Hutchinson Affair.



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JOHN CORTAN
Phone: 519-395-5817
Email: royaloak@hurontel.on.ca

Box 295
Ripley, Ontario
N0G 2R0

Shop phone: 519-395-5717

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