



The Young Collector

By Joseph Perrone

TIMBROMANIACS WANTED!

Recently, I was playing Balderdash with my friends, a game in which players make up definitions for obscure words, trying to fool opponents, and attempting to guess the correct definition for the word.

'Timbromaniac' came up. Since I knew that timbro means stamp in the Italian language, I guessed correctly that this word must refer to a person who is passionate about stamps. This is an excellent way to describe me. I am a timbromaniac, or stamp nut!

I think a common misconception about stamp collecting is that it is a dorky hobby, a useless waste of time. Our job as timbromaniacs is to show sceptics that it can be fun and even worthwhile. To start with, philately is a hobby that can be pursued during an entire lifetime. Collectors can pick it up at an early age, drop it to go to university, and pick it back up again when they have more free time. This is also the path that most of my fellow enthusiasts follow.

Unlike sports, which I dearly love, the chance of injuring yourself at a desk with small pieces of paper is relatively small. A paper cut is about as bad as it gets in this hobby. An older person may not be a hotshot shortstop in baseball, or able to slide home as well as they once could, but they can always collect stamps. Another bonus is that the hobby is not seasonal. If it is too cold to play soccer and the snow is two feet deep, you can still place a stamp in an album or do research.

Some detractors might make the point that sweeping the floor is not seasonal and yet it isn't fun. They think that organizing stamps is like watching paint dry. All they know about the hobby is relatively uninteresting. They don't realize that collecting stamps is actually entertaining. The best reason to collect stamps is that it is fun. It can also be a game for the intelligent and inquisitive young mind.



Once a collector finds a certain area that they like, they can expand upon it until it grows into a collection. Here, I would like to make a prediction. The future of stamp collecting lies with kids who are interested in their heritage and in their country's history. I

find it fascinating to own stamps that my grandmother would have used, and to see the stamps that my ancestors from Ireland, Italy, and Ukraine would have used to communicate with their distant loved ones.

In the old days, the only way to communicate with someone at a distance was to write a letter. So, you can walk hand in hand with the past through postal his-



tory. As a Canadian, I am proud of the role that Canada played in the Second World War.

I own and continue to collect Canada's 1942 War Issue, and I most enjoy the various patriotic covers that were used to help promote the war effort. These are often visually exciting and have terrific slogans like, 'Blast Hitler,' or 'Win the War.'



I enjoy Canada's history and am thrilled to own many small portraits of our various leaders and many scenes of important events. One of my favorites is the seven-cent stamp of the 1908 Quebec Tercentenary Issue depicting the French Marquis de Montcalm and the British General Wolfe who commanded their respective armies at the Battle of the Plains of Abraham. Both men died in the battle, and the British won Quebec from the French.



It is often pleasurable to research your favorite stamps and find out who designed them and, in some cases, engraved them. My favourite engraver is Robert Savage. He most notably engraved Canada's 1911 Admiral Issue. It would be interesting to collect a particular artist's work and potentially make an exhibit of it. So many aspects of collecting can arouse passion.

Not to mention that all of this research improves the mind. Not only is stamp collecting fun, it sharpens the intellect, and increases your knowledge of the world. I have seen how stamp collecting has helped me in my school studies. It gives me the drive to learn more and to investigate a subject until I know it thoroughly.

My parents and I are impressed with the researching skills that I have developed. In fact, it's often impressive to others when I can share the story of Canada's history with a stamp. For instance, I showed my family the stamp bearing the portraits of Montcalm and Wolfe when I was learning about the French and Indian War in school, and explained to them why it was so important.

Stamps preserve our history. I have realized that what is history to me was everyday life to my ancestors. They heard the roar of early airplanes, and watched the first moon landing. They saw the rise and fall of the Nazis, and the rise and decline of the Communists. To me, it is incredible to see with my own eyes what they saw, and all of it through the world of philately.

Timbromaniacs wanted! Enlist at your nearest stamp club. ☒

The POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF CANADA

offers its members:



APS affiliate 67
PHS Inc. affiliate 5A
RPSC affiliate 3

- A gold medal-winning quarterly publication, the *PHSC Journal*
- A research website with searchable:
 - Back issues of the *PHSC Journal*
 - Post office listings of Canada
 - Up-to-date Canadian cancellation databases
 - Articles and exhibits
- Ongoing online project on BNA Postal Rates
- Study groups, many of which publish their own newsletters and databases
- Postal history seminars and awards
- Research funds
- The fellowship and knowledge of other Canadian postal history enthusiasts
- www.postalhistorycanada.net

Join today!

For a membership application form please visit our website or contact the *Secretary*:

Postal History Society of Canada

10 Summerhill Ave., Toronto, ON M4T 1A8 Canada

EMAIL: secretary@postalhistorycanada.net

OTTAWA FALL STAMP FAIR 2018

15th Annual



RA Centre,
2451 Riverside Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
in the "Courtside Rooms"

October 20th and 21st, 2018

Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm

Sunday: 10 am - 3 pm



**FREE ADMISSION
FREE PARKING**



*National Level Dealers Selling
Quality Stamps & Covers*