



DISPATCH



KWPS NEWSLETTER



Everyone Welcome!

KITCHENER-WATERLOO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets the second Thursday of each month, September to June

PLEASE NOTE NEXT MEETING IS

SUNDAY, January 12, 2020 • 2 - 4 pm

Albert McCormick Community Centre

(BEHIND THE LIBRARY)

500 Parkside Drive, Waterloo N2L 5J4

• free parking •

GRT stops 3627 and 3628 are less than 50m from building

Come and meet friends and fellow collectors

✉ **Enjoy the Hobby!** ✉

**FOR MEETING INFORMATION
SEE PAGE 2**

K-W Philatelic Club meeting dates and information

January 12th Meeting 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Note: this is a Sunday!

Buy Draw Tickets [Carol]

Called Auction [Joe]

No Sales Circuit or table auction at this meeting

Show and Tell

Check out Handouts Table

PLEASE NOTE

- There will be a "Called Auction" at the January 2020 meeting
- January 2nd, 2020--deadline to bring lots to Leighs office for the January "Called Auction"

February 16th Meeting 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Note: this is a Sunday!

Buy Draw Tickets [Carol]

Table Auction [Joe]

Royal Philatelic Sales Circuit [Craig]

Show and Tell/Clothesline [Leigh]

Check out Handouts Table

Why I Like Stamp Collecting

by Ayn Rand (1905-1982)

Ayn Rand was a Russian-American writer and philosopher. She is known for her two best-selling novels, *The Fountainhead* and *Atlas Shrugged*, and for developing a philosophical system, she named Objectivism. Educated in Russia, she moved to the United States in 1926. She had a play produced on Broadway in 1935 and 1936.



An interesting perspective on stamp collecting by best-selling author Ayn Rand published in the Minkus Stamp Journal, Vol. VI, No. 2 – 1971. The U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp in her honour in 1999, Scott #3308.

I started collecting stamps when I was ten years old but had to give it up by the time I was twelve. In all the years since I never thought of resuming the hobby. It left only one after-effect: I was unable to throw away an interesting-looking stamp. So, I kept saving odd stamps, all these years. I put them into random envelopes and never looked at them again.

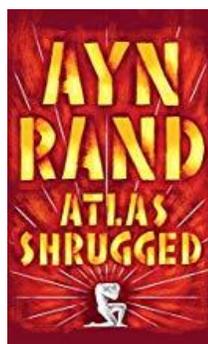
Then, about a year-and-a-half ago I met a bright little girl named Tammy, who asked me – somewhat timidly, but very resolutely – whether I received letters from foreign countries and, if I did, would I give her the stamps. I promised to send her my duplicates. She was eleven years old, and so intensely serious about her collection that she reminded me of myself at that age.

***Once I started sorting out
the stamps I had accumulated,
I was hooked.***

My first step was to acquire a Minkus Master Global Stamp Album. In a year and a half, it has grown to four volumes, plus four special albums. And, my collection is still growing, at an accelerating rate. No, I have not forgotten Tammy. I send her piles of duplicates every few months, and I feel very grateful to her.

I am often asked why people like stamp collecting. Such a widespread hobby can have many different motives. I can answer only regarding my motives, which I have also observed in some of the stamp collectors I have met.

The pleasure lies in a certain special way of using one's mind. Stamp collecting is a hobby for busy, purposeful, ambitious people; because, in the pattern, it has the essential elements of a career, but transposed to a clearly delimited, intensely private world.



Written in 1957

A career requires the ability to sustain a purpose over a long period of time, through many separate steps, choices, decisions, adding up to a steady progression toward a goal. Purposeful people cannot rest by being idle, nor can they feel at home in the role of passive

spectators. They seldom find pleasure on single occasions, such as a party or a show or even a vacation, a pleasure that ends right then and there, with no further consequences.

The minds of such people require continuity, integration, a sense of moving forward. They are accustomed to working long-range; to them, the present is part of, and a means to the future. A short-range event or activity that leads nowhere is an unnatural strain on them, an irritating interruption or a source of painful boredom. Yet, they need relaxation from their constant, single-tracked drive. What they need is another track, but for the same train. That is, a change of subject, but using part of the same method of mental functioning.

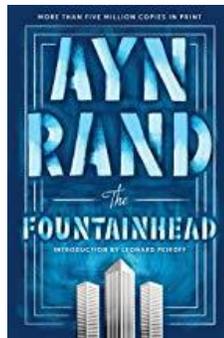
Stamp collecting fulfills that need. It establishes a wide context of its own, interestingly enough to hold one's attention and to switch one's mind temporarily away from exhausting problems or burdens.

The pursuit of the unique, the unusual, the different, the rare is the motive power of stamp collecting. It endows the hobby with the suspense and excitement of a treasure hunt; even though the treasure may be simply an unexpected gift from a friend, which fills the one blank spot, completing a set.

This mood of lighthearted benevolence is particularly important to people whose careers deal with grim, crucial issues. For example, a writer who studies the trends of the modern world, or a surgeon who faces the constant question of life or death. It is not an accident that a great many doctors are stamp collectors.

Careers of that kind require such a ruthless discipline of total dedication that one can become almost depersonalized.

This is why an hour spent on an activity whose sole purpose is one's own pleasure, becomes such a restoring, invigorating life-line.



Written in 1943

When one turns to stamps, one enters a special world by a process resembling a response to art. One deals with an isolated and stressed aspect of existence. One experiences the sense of a clean, orderly, peaceful, sunlit world. Its rules and boundaries are strictly delimited – the rest is up to one's individual choice. But one does not choose blindly; one deals with firm, intelligible, changeless things. There is constant change in the world of stamps, and constant motion, and a brilliant flow of colour, and a spectacular display of human imagination. But there is no change in the nature and purpose of stamps.

It has been asked, why not collect cigar bands, or coins, or old porcelain? Why stamps? Stamps are the concrete, visible symbols of an enormous abstraction -- of the communications net embracing the world.

An inextricable part of even a casual glance at stamps is the awareness of what a magnificent achievement they represent. For a few pennies, you can send a letter to any place on earth, to the farthest, most desolate corner where human beings might live -- to Greenland or the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (population 1,000).



The first issued postage stamp began with Great Britain's Penny Post. On May 6, 1840, the British Penny Black stamp was released.

While the world politicians are doing their best to split the globe apart using iron curtains and brute force, the world postal services are demonstrating – in their quiet, unobtrusive way – what is required to bring humankind closer together. It is the voices of individuals that stamps carry around the globe; it is individuals who need a postal service. In a sense, stamps are the world's ambassadors of good-will.

A stamp album is like a world tour, with the advantage of focusing selectively on the best aspects of various cultures, and without the bitter disadvantages. Speaking aesthetically, I should like to mention the enormous amount of talent displayed on stamps – more than one can find in today's art galleries. Ignoring the mug shots of some of the world's ugliest faces (a sin of which the stamps of most countries are guilty), one finds real little masterpieces of the art of painting. In this respect, the stamps of Japan are consistently the best. But my personal favourites are two smaller countries whose stamps are less well known – *Ryukyu Islands and Iceland*. If this were a competition, I would give the first prize, for the beauty of design, to two stamps of Iceland that feature stylized drawings of trees.