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# The Buffalo



PUBLICATION OF THE  
WINNIPEG PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
Western Canada's Oldest Stamp Club  
Website: [www.wps.mb.ca](http://www.wps.mb.ca)

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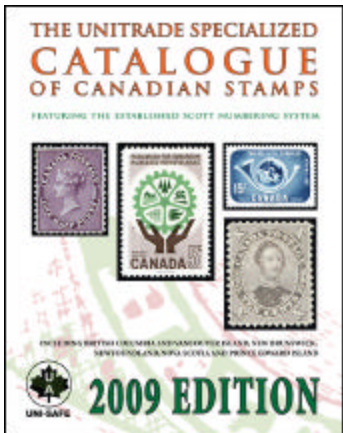
**Varieties Unleashed**  
by Robin Harris

Alf Brooks sent me an e-mail in mid August asking if I would supply a monthly column on Canadian stamps for *The Buffalo* ... "with pleasure", I responded, "if you can supply me with a topic, even better". Sometimes coming up with just the right topic is the hardest part of putting an article together.

I wear many hats in the philatelic community (listed here in no particular order): editor of the *Corgi Times*, a bi-monthly newsletter of the Elizabethan II Study Group (with a mailing of about 140 copies of which at least seven are WPS members); webmaster of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada ([www.rpsc.org](http://www.rpsc.org)); member of the Canada Post Stamp Advisory Committee; editor of the *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*; author of several specialized catalogues of modern Canadian stamps; developer of a website devoted to Canadian stamps and the Great Britain Machins ([www.adminware.ca](http://www.adminware.ca)).

For this article, I will wear the "Unitrade" hat.

The *2009 Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* is now complete (Aug 20th) and at the printers. This was the fourth edition I have had the privilege to edit. It is hoped/expected that the catalogue will be available for sale from your local stamp dealer by the end of October. Here is a brief synopsis of what the last 12 months was like.



Shortly after the catalogue begins shipping the e-mails start arriving. These are almost always of the "here is another mistake" type. Although I wish there were no mistakes in the catalogue, these types of e-mails are welcome in that the mistake(s) is immediately corrected and one less problem to worry about for the next catalogue. Surely there cannot be any more mistakes to be found!

Canada Post's new issues are added to the catalogue generally at the time the stamps are issued. It takes almost a half an hour to add a new stamp issue to the catalogue. This includes scanning the stamp, "tweaking" the image, checking the Canada Post information in their *Details* magazine, perfling the stamp, etc., etc., etc.

The Unitrade catalogue uses the established Scott Numbering System. For this past year I was in contact with Scott Publishing on several occasions about various numbering "issues". One of these calls included *complaining* about the re-numbering that Scott did on the definitives in the number range of 1681 to 1714B. The complaining didn't help - it was a done deal already. I was also in contact with Scott shortly after the 3c Lacewing insect definitive was reported to me with the shifted inscription error on four stamps, asking Scott to assign a number to the variety - which they promptly did! Two other calls I had with Scott dealt with the "flipped" Lighthouse image number assignment and the unique Quebec 400th anniversary stamp that was printed by France (did you obtain this stamp yet - it costs \$4.99 from Canada Post in Antigonish?). Last but not least, I called Scott a couple of times as the catalogue was nearing completion to get numbers for the latest stamp issues. I was able to get numbers up to and including the Beijing Olympic stamp issue (Scott must have the stamps in hand before

they assign a number). For the last couple of years I have wanted to add Canada's Christmas Seals to the catalogue. It turns out that this year is the 100th anniversary of these items in Canada. I was in contact with Andrew (continued on page 3)

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**Application filed April, May, June**

Regular	\$2.00	\$40.00	\$42.00*
Senior	\$2.00	\$30.00	\$32.00
Others	\$2.00	\$25.00	\$27.00*

\* includes dues for following year

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**RENEWALS**

Lapsed memberships or late renewals (paid after November 30th of each year) are charged a \$1.00 reinstatement fee. All new applicants must undergo a 60-day orientation before receiving full membership privileges. The Buffalo is published monthly except in July and August. Deadline for article submissions and advertising copy is the 15th of each month preceding the month of issue.

Sept 4	Meeting and Auction
Sept 18	Business Meeting Presentation: Dick Johnson - "Postage Dues, or How People Try to Do the Post Office and What the Post Office Did About It
Oct 2	Meeting and Auction
Oct 16	Business Meeting. Presenta- tion: "The Very First WPS Olympic Games"
Nov 6	Meeting and auction
Nov 20	Business Meeting Presentation: Gord Turnbull - "The Edward VII Booklets; Are They Really Real?"
Dec 4	Meeting. Charity Auction

NB: The first meetings of each month are normally reserved for auctions. The second meetings of each month are reserved for formal programs.

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**Buffalo Advertising Rates**

-1/10 page  
(Approximately 2 1/4" x 2 3/4") @ \$30 pa

**Members' Adlets**

- up to 30 words
- (average of 5 characters per word)
- 1 issue—\$1.00
- 5 issues—\$2.00
- 10 issues—\$3.00

**Terms of Payment**

- payable to Winnipeg Philatelic Society in a single payment at the time of the agreement.

**NOTICE  
YOUTH CLUB MEETING**

The WPS Youth Club will be meeting on Saturdays at the usual place  
St Luke's Anglican Church,  
130 Nassau St N at Stradbrook  
Winnipeg, MB  
free parking available on  
the north side.

Enter via North Side Entrance  
Meeting from 1pm to 2:30pm  
Meeting Dates  
Sept. 27 Oct. 11 Oct. 25 Nov. 8  
Nov. 22 Dec. 6.  
Contacts are

Gerry Babij @ 736-4276 or  
John Salmi @ 895-2781

(Continued from page 1)

Chung who just happens to be publishing, with a couple of other collectors, a specialized catalogue of *National Christmas Seals* this fall. He furnished me with scans of all of the seals, along with a basic price list. As a result, this listing, with all of the seals illustrated, will appear in the 2009 catalogue for the very first time.

Another issue that was raised over the past several months from several different people was how to handle the XF material that is receiving extraordinary prices. This kind of classic material is very scarce and can attract very high prices from the discerning collector. One thought was to add a new column for "XF" (both mint and used) on the classic issues - this was not really feasible for a couple of reasons. Plan "B" was to add an XF percentage premium at the beginning of various sets but this too had a couple of problems associated with it. In the end, I decided to add two new pages to the introduction that illustrates and describes several "gem" stamps that sold over the past year or so at auction for double the catalogue price. This will show collectors what this kind of material can command ... if you have both the interest and, more importantly, the money for it.

The last three weeks before the catalogue needs to be completed are the most hectic, so to speak. The pricing information comes in from various dealers across the country about the first week of August. It took about 13 hours over a couple of days to update the specific pricing that was received for this edition. I spread out the submissions from all of the sources across a couple of desks and turn each page from each source at one time, work on the pricing for that page, then turn to the next page of the catalogue, viewing each source for any suggestions. My fingers are crossed that I didn't change a price from say \$3.00 to \$35 instead of \$3.50 (don't laugh, it happens about twice each year).

For those in the computer world, the catalogue is produced using the Adobe InDesign program. It consists of some 26 parts/files. When the catalogue is completed, Adobe PDF files are generated for each part to be sent to the printer. These total nearly 1.2Gb of data. This is uploaded over the internet to the printer. It took about 14 hours with my rural, 7-mile wireless 'high speed' connection to upload all of the files. I will *not* see any proofs, only the final printed product along with each of you in late October/early November. The people at Unitrade Associates (the actual publishers and distributors of the catalogue) in Toronto will see a proof, but not I.

The 2009 edition has 24 more pages (a total of 632 now) but is still priced at \$42.95 - the price has not increased since I took over, but we have now added "tons" of new information and hundreds of pictures with probably 75+ new pages added (after careful formatting) over that time.

By the way, the most compliments that I hear about the catalogue have to do with the cover design. That is the *one* part of the catalogue I have *no* involvement with! Keep those compliments coming.

It continues to be a real joy to edit the Unitrade catalogue. I look forward to starting the 2010 catalogue! There are still several items on my "wish list", some of which have been there since I took over as editor some four years ago.

## Editor Notes by Alf Brooks

Yes, me again. Once again you can see my name as editor of *The Buffalo*. Axel is unable to continue for this year (and thanks for your work, Axel), so, because I believe that the WPS needs its *Buffalo* I decided on a comeback. This will be in partnership with Mike Blande, who will do the publishing, the "putting it all together." And, as you have heard me say before, and will likely hear again, the other partners in this endeavour are all members of WPS. Please do not be shy, submit an article on one of your philatelic interests for the members to see. Robin Harris has contributed the article telling us of the Unitrade catalogue, and promises to write on Canadian collecting each month.

An interesting website is <http://www.japhila.cz/hof/> A "Virtual International Philatelic Exhibition." An exhibit of local interest is "The Canadian Pacific Railway, Railway Postoffice Postmarks used in Southern Manitoba, The 'Glenboro Line.'" And there are many more, many countries, many languages. Thinking of exhibiting? Have a look.

**From Mike Zacharias:** The auctions will continue but will not be open to the public. In the past we generally have only 4-5 "visitors" from outside the club. Some of them have become members, so it is a great way to advertise for the club, but since the auctioneer license is no longer pro-rated (i.e. we paid \$17/ auction). We must now purchase an annual license for \$395, so it does not pay to go "public". On the positive side, we save \$100/ auction in advertising costs and keep our \$2 000 bond which @ 3% interest generates an additional \$60/year.

**From Judy Lipsey:** Number 58 of 59 household hints at the back of a cookbook, 1970's era: "You can get by without stamps too, for in town mailings. Reverse the position for your friends address and your own return address and omit the stamp. The mailman will return your letter to your friend for postage. Next, a big paddy-wagon will drive up and take you away to the federal pokey, for defrauding the mails. Thus you have saved five cents, plus board and room for the next twenty years".



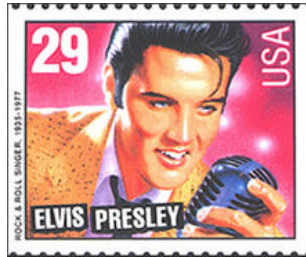
# Buffalo Chips

Rantings from Russ  
By Russ Thompson

Here we go again! US Post will issue a Year of the Ox stamp in 2009 featuring a lion costume.



Many of you know the answer: What is the best-selling commemorative stamp of all time? The USA Elvis Presley. And how many sold? 517 million



The Europa theme this year is Letter Writing. The issue of Austria is pictured. Does anyone write like this today?



Klaksvík in the Færoe Islands grew from five small districts in the Northern Isles in the middle of the 19th century. This year a stamp has been issued to mark the amalgamation of the districts into the Islands' main fishing port.



Well, it finally happened! Your president has gotten off his duff, pushed his laziness aside, and written an article for *The Buffalo*. It wasn't, however, that my philatelic duty, or even a large dose of guilt, got me going. No, it was the phone call from our new (old) editor, Alf Brooks, that did it. Alf came at me like that famous "Uncle Sam" recruiting poster – "I WANT YOU," he said, "to do an article for *The Buffalo*!" Feeling meek and vulnerable at that moment, I whimpered "Yes, sir," and, so, here it is. And he didn't want it for December or January; no, he wanted it right now, for September! At least he left the topic open, so I'm apt to ramble a bit when I get going.

So, what's been happening, philatelically, over the last few months? For some of you probably not much, as quite a few do little with their stamps over the summer. Others, however, keep the albums active all the time. I've been working on US definitives this summer, sorting, perfing, and filling in holes from the past ten or so years. It's daunting work, aggravating, heaven knows time-consuming, but satisfying when a page is finally filled. Only those who deal with British Machins or the Canadian Centennials, with their interminable papers and tagging, can reach the same level of frustration!

And while we're on the US bandwagon, I see that another "inverted Jenny" sold for the mere sum of \$825,000! There always seems to be an "inverted Jenny" on sale somewhere. Maybe it's the same one selling over and over. So, if expensive stamps are all over the place all the time, why can't I find all the cheapies I need, the ones Scott lists at 20 cents each? One of those great mysteries, I guess.

And why can't I find Canada mint 1375; or 1376ii, the "copper glow" variety of the \$1 Yorkton courthouse and the \$2 Truro normal school? They catalogue at only \$10-\$35 each, but I have scoured the dealers coast to coast with no luck! Several have said to me they have no interest in stocking varieties; that's a pity, as it lessens the scope for an interesting collection. I noticed lately, too, that the design for the US 2008 "Love" stamps was created by (horrors) a CANADIAN, Paul Zwolak of Victoria. Will there be a "hue and cry" from the south of the border when the fact sinks in, as there was a few years ago when the great shame of US stamps being printed in Canada was discovered? Guess we'll have to wait and see.

And last, but not least, we were pleased to see Rick Penko back for a short visit this summer. A number of Club members got together with Rick for some banter and refreshments amid his hectic schedule. It sounds as if he's enjoying Dallas and his new job maybe too much. Yes, folks, we may have lost him, at least as long as his "green card" status holds out.

That's it for now from the prez. You know, this wasn't a tough job at all, after I got past the first few sentences. So, if some of you get an "I want you" call from Alf don't say – "Sorry, wrong number," – just meekly say "Yes sir" and contribute a few lines for our *Buffalo*. It will be appreciated by all of us.

## MICHEL Reviews By Alf Brooks

**German Specialized Catalogue 2008 Vol.1 (1849-April 1945).** 1040 pages, over 90 000 price quotations. €66.00

**German Specialized Catalogue 2008 Vol.2 (from May 1945).** 1280 pages, over 110 000 price quotations. €66.00

These two volumes give the collector of German stamps all the information that is needed. Major revisions for this year:

- German occupation issues of 1914-1918
- German Reich semi-official airmails
- German Foreign Post Offices and Colonies
- American and British Allied Occupation issues

Significant price changes in:

- Old German states of Bremen and Helgoland
- German Locals and Allied Occupation issues
- German Republic coil issues

### MICHEL Germany Catalogue 2008/2009 with CD-ROM MICHELsofteasy.

1104 pages, €66.00

- Price increases for Upper Silesia, postage dues of Gdansk, Bohemia and Moravia, General Government and Second World War Occupation issues
- Price reductions of CEPT issues.

**MICHEL Austria Specialized 2008.** 488 pages, over 32 000 price quotations. €46.00

Improvements for this edition:

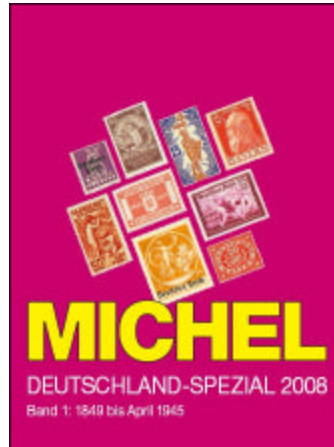
- Postal stationery with imprinted stamps included for the first time, 80 pages
- The non-issued Dalai Lama stamp of 2005 included
- Newly-detected varieties of the Dollfuss stamp of 1934

Prices are generally stable, with increases for miniature sheets of 1990 on. Significant price increases are noted for clearly postmarked stamps and letters mailed for non-philatelic purposes.

### MICHEL Switzerland/Liechtenstein Specialized 2008 .

488 pages, about 37 000 price quotations. €46.00

- The addition of 70 pages listing the postal stationeries of the two countries
- Swiss airmail and official stamps have gained in value
- Price increases for League of Nations and ILO, especially on cover
- Swiss Pro-Juventute issues show an upward trend for prices
- Liechtenstein prices have generally remained stable



Other recent MICHEL publications:

- South-West Europe 2008
- Southern Europe 2007
- Overseas (Japan, Korea, Mongolia)
- Overseas (Middle America) 2008/2009

**Dear Phil,**

Just how stupid do governments think stamp collectors are? I quote part of a recent press release:

“The tiny Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan will celebrate 100 years of its hereditary monarchy;...Bhutan Postal Corporation, in conjunction with Creative Products International,... has chosen to produce a unique first-of-a-kind CD-ROM stamp that will deliver in sight and sound the message of this country’s most historic year.” The “stamp” is about five inches square and is a CD-ROM with information about Bhutan and this anniversary.

Sure, you can stick it on a large envelope, but it is not a postage stamp where I come from. This is a “souvenir” to rip off stamp collectors!

Isn’t this stupid?

Are stamp collectors stupid enough to buy this abomination?

Disgusted!

Dear Disgusted,

Yes.

Yes, at least enough of them.

Phil



# MINUTES OF THE WINNIPEG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

**Last meeting was informal  
Ergo minutes not available**

## Hot off the news wires

A new variety of the Newfoundland #43 has been submitted for verification. Only one copy seems to be in existence. When questioned about other copies that may exist the postmaster general said it was noted in the records that the image on the stamp was that "only a mother could love" and all other copies were destroyed before they were sent out to the general public and the single stamp was retained by a Mrs. Kristjanson. The expected catalogue price for this very rare variety is expected to be listed at \$0.02 as it is expected demand for this stamp will not exceed supply.



## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE WINNIPEG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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