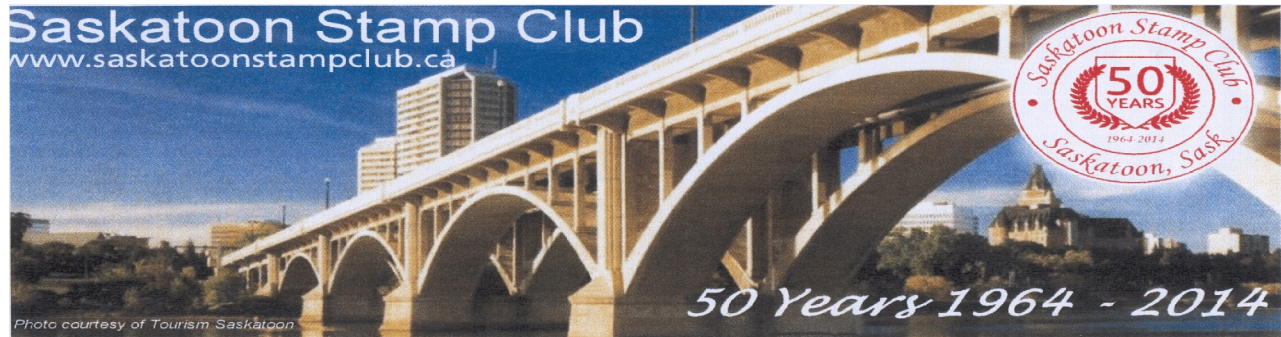


## SASKATOON STAMP CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 14, No. 3

September 2014



### EXECUTIVE:

President - Ernie Wlock; Past-President - Martin Schofield; Vice President - Mark Reineke; Secretary - Douglas Smith; Treasurer - Janice Newman; Librarian - Peter Sakkit; Circuit Book Coordinator - Donald Waters; Webmaster - Jim Wood; Newsletter Editor- Martin Schofield; e-mail: [mschofield@sasktel.net](mailto:mschofield@sasktel.net) ; Telephone: 306-652-8137

### MEETING PLACE:

Meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday's of each month except July and August when we meet at mid-month. Meetings are held at St. John's Anglican Cathedral Hall , 816 Spadina Crescent East and are open to the general public. Doors open at 6:00 pm for bourse, circuit books, trading and fellowship. Short business meeting at 8:00 pm followed by a program including Stamp Auctions, Slides, Presentations by members or guests. Contacts - Secretary - Doug Smith, 139 Cowley Road, Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 3Z6. 306-249-3092 or President - Ernie Wlock, 306-280-1244. Membership fees are \$15.00 per year.

### PHILATELIC JAVA GROUP MEETINGS:

The Stamp Club Philatelic Java Club meets every second Thursday at Market Mall from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Check our web site for updates [www.saskatoonstampclub.com](http://www.saskatoonstampclub.com)

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### *President's Philatelic Page*



It was just a few years ago that our member Jurgen suggested that we have meetings during the summer months. We decided on having one meeting per month rather than two, well it turned out that our July meeting had just over 30 members in attendance, seldom do we have 30 members, it must be a couple of years. Our August meeting had just over 20 members sign the attendance sheet. Thank you to all who found the time to attend the meetings.

We are starting up a new season with the September 9th meeting. We are always open for suggestions this is your club and only with our combined efforts will we see our club grow and continue to be successful, if you have an idea let, hear what it is.

Usually with the September meeting we start collecting membership dues, again this year all members that are paid up to date at the end of October will have their name entered for next year free membership.

Our next venue is the annual Coin and Stamp Show on October 25 & 26. The two clubs held a meeting this week, and all is going well except we require a stamp club representative for the joint committee, any member wishing more info please see the President.

Last item is the Penny Ticket Auction Sale. We are planning this for the September 23 meeting, more on this at the next meeting.

Trust you all had an enjoyable summer, the past two weeks have been great, now that its cooling see you all at the meeting, doors open 6:00 pm.

Philatelically Yours, Ernie

**Your display ad could be in this space. Following are the costs to insert your advertisement for one year.**

**Full Page \$25**

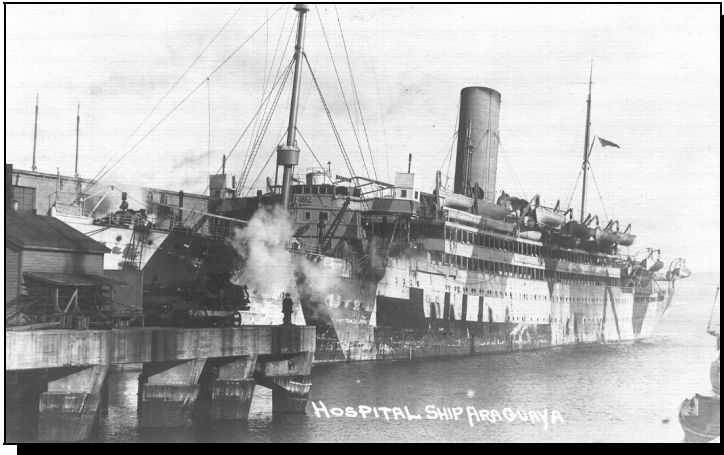
**Half Page \$10**

**¼ Page \$5**

**Business Card \$2.50**

**Ads can be submitted in PDF, jpeg, Bitmap, MSWord, or Wordperfect, any other format can be scanned and copied, ie: your business Card.**

## A Tale of Two Ships and Two Nursing Sisters by Debbie Marshall



Postcard from the Editor's collection.

This is a tale of two Great War hospital ships and two nurses who served on both at different times. Each woman faced the threat of death at sea. One would survive, the other would not.

Hospital ships plied the Atlantic during the Great War. They transported the wounded home to Canada and transported medical staff back to Britain to rejoin their units. In June 1918, Marguerite Condon was one such nurse, enroute to Canada on HMHS Araguaya. The ship was full of

patients-yet Marguerite must have felt it was a break to take care of wounded men in a state of the art hospital enroute to Canada rather than under canvas on the Western front. She had already spent much of her time there as a nurse. As her grandson Gordon MacLean writes: "She had fairly recently graduated as a Nurse in Boston when the war commenced & signed on with the initial contingent of the Harvard Medical Unit which got her to the battlefields of France by mid-1915. After a year of service, she obtained a commission in the Canadian Army Medical Corps and alternated between service in the field & serving on Hospital ships convey wounded soldiers home." Although now on board the Araguaya, Condon had previously served on the Llandovery Castle.

On June 27, the same day that the Araguaya left the dock for Canada, the Llandovery Castle was nearly back to Britain, empty save for its medical staff and ship's crew. There were 258 people on board. These included 94 members of the CAMC, including 14 nurses. One of those nurses was 35-year-old Alexina Dussault. The Montreal native was one of 120 graduates of the Royal Victoria Hospital nursing program who were now serving overseas. She had enlisted in September 1914, and like Marguerite Condon, had also served on other hospital ships, including the Araguaya and the Letitia (both in 1917). Alexina had also served in France at No. 2 Canadian Stationary Hospital and at the Ontario Military Hospital in Orpington, Kent.

All electric lights on board the Castle were burning and a huge electric cross was lit over the bridge. There were strings of green







Sinking of the HMHS Llandoverly Castle

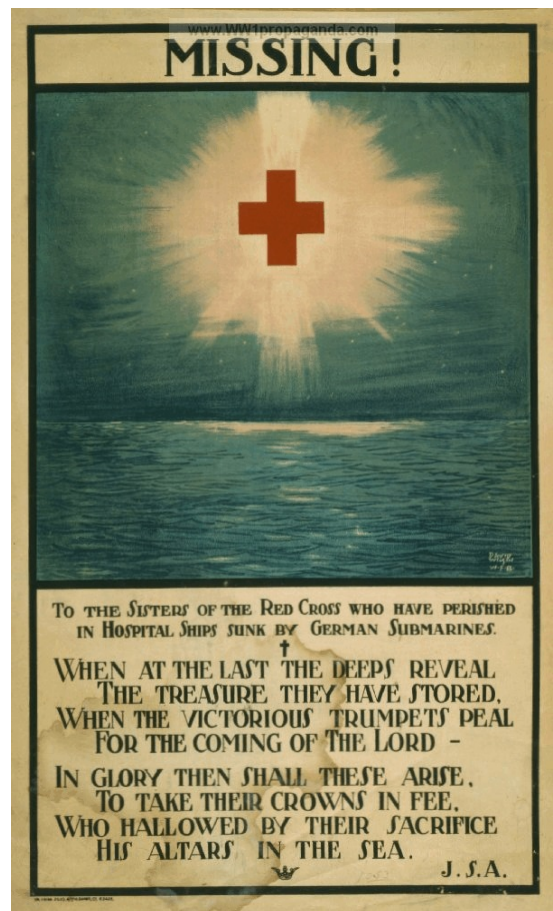
and white lights hanging along the side of the ship, all to alert any enemy submarines that she was a hospital ship and not to be subject to attack. Unfortunately, as I have described in other blogs, this did not deter Lieutenant Helmut Patzig, the commander of German U-boat 86 from firing on the ship. All 14 nurses on the Castle were killed when their lifeboat was sucked under the ship. Lifeboats that did manage to get away from the

sinking ship were rammed and fired on by the German sub. Only 24 people survived. Patzig later defended his actions by suggesting that the Castle was carrying troops, an untrue allegation that could have been checked if the u-boat crew had boarded and inspected the ship (as it was allowed to do).

An interesting twist to the story is that Marguerite Condon told her son (Gordon's dad) that the "Araquaya", on its return voyage was involved with the recovery of the murdered Nursing Sisters' remains & she personally witnessed them being brought on board." I have not been able to positively confirm this. The destroyer Lysander picked up survivors. However, I have read an account from a member of the crew of a different ship (not the Araguaya) that passed through the area soon after the sinking. He reported seeing bodies floating among the wreckage of the Castle. This would suggest that Marguerite's story could well be true.

*This article was copied off the internet with permission from the blog: Finding the 47 Canadian Nurses of the First World War*

Editor's note: Nursing Sister Marguerite Condon was born January 4, 1889 and was enlisted in the Canadian Army Medical Corps on June 10, 1916 at the age of 27. She previously served with the Harvard Unit, BEF. She survived to tell her story.



## **Selling a Stamp Collection - Ernie Wlock**

I am often asked by people who have come into possession of an unwanted stamp collection, it may be through an inheritance or the person may have just lost interest in the hobby, as to the value of the collection. First of all, don't get your hopes up. Many people see boxes or albums full of old stamps and think "Bonanza". The reality is that the vast majority of stamps are common and are worth very little, even very old stamps. Most collectors pursue the hobby for enjoyment and not as an investment. So, don't go and buy that new car yet. Still there are exceptions and some collections can be worth a great deal.



**How can you get an idea of a collection's value?** The easiest way is if the collector left some records that detail the contents of the collection and its value. If the collection was insured, that can be a guide. Collectors value their collections at retail, what it would cost to replace it buying from a dealer. When you go to sell it, don't be surprised if you are offered only 10-20% of the book value, or even less.

**Do it yourself.** This involves a lot of time and effort. Go to a public library and get the Scott Postage Stamp Catalogue. It comes in six volumes. Locate each stamp and you will arrive at the "catalogue value", the price you would pay from a dealer to buy the stamp.

You can expect to get a small percentage of this amount when selling your collection.

**Hire an appraiser.** An appraiser will examine the collection and provide a written estimate. You pay a fee for his services which should be agreed to ahead of time.

**Go to a dealer.** A dealer may offer to buy all or part of your collection. Remember they make their living by buying and selling stamps and are always interested in paying as little as possible. You can find a dealer in the yellow pages or on the internet.

**Go to a Stamp Club.** Contact a stamp club in your area. You may be surprised when a member may offer to purchase the entire collection. All stamp clubs have auctions of their members items and they also have consignment auctions from collectors looking to dispose of their collections. Don't spend too much time doing any sorting of the collection. Clubs have members that are experts in making auction lots and they know what size lots are best for the club. Auctions fees

may vary, but you can expect the club to charge at least 15%, this includes the making of auction lots.

**Take the collection to a club meeting.** There are members who are experts on stamps and may be able to advise you on what the collection is worth. You may find a club in your area by checking the internet or club listings in newspapers. Tourism offices are also a good source for information. (Continued next page)

**Contact a Stamp Auction House.** If the collection is valuable, a stamp auction may be the route for you to go. Remember you cannot just ship your collection to them. You must get approval first, as they have many auction lots before yours. Secondly, be prepared to wait one to three years before the lots are all sold. They put a portion of your collection in each auction because they do not want to flood one auction with similar items. You can make arrangements for interim payments.

**On-line auctions such as ebay.** You will get bids if you provide a good description of the collection. Depending on the size of the collection you may want to break it down by country. Also if there are valuable stamps you might wish to sell these individually.

**Consider a donation.** Stamp clubs are always willing to accept donations. These they will auction to members to help pay for meeting room rentals. Also most clubs work with junior collectors and arrange for free stamps for this group.

*The forgoing was prepared for the Saskatoon Stamp Club.  
For more information, we may be contacted at our website:  
[www.saskatoonstampclub.ca](http://www.saskatoonstampclub.ca)*

**2014**

**Meeting dates:**

**Sep 9th and Sep 23rd**

**Oct 7th and Oct 21st**

**Nov 11th and Nov 25th**

**Dec 16th**

**We are now collecting membership for the year 2015. Pay early and be in the draw for a free membership for the year 2016. All those who pay on or before October 31st are eligible for the draw.**



# SASKATOON STAMP CLUB

50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
1964-2014

*Three Founding Members*

**Al Robb**

**Harry Voss**

**Arie VanDuyvendyk**

*Congratulations and thank-you for 50 years of service  
To the stamp club and it's members.*



52nd



SASKATOON

COIN & STAMP SHOW

October 25 & 26, 2014

Ramada Hotel & Golf Dome

806 Idylwyld Drive North

Buy – Sell – Trade

Stamp & Coin Dealers

Coins, Stamps, Bank Notes, Postcard & Displays

Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm Sunday 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Adult Admission \$4.00 - Children 12 and younger free

Celebration of the Saskatoon Stamp Club's 50th Anniversary

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