

My View of the History of the PHSC

Gray Scrimgeour (Member 136)

Thirty years ago, for the 10th anniversary of the founding of the PHSC in 1982, I wrote a brief history of the Society.¹ At that time, I was living in Toronto; I retired to Victoria in 1992. Late in 2011, I volunteered to review the history of the PHSC again for the 40th anniversary. This is not a comprehensive review, but one based on a skeleton of the Society's history with notes about some PHSC members that I know or have known. Each made a contribution to our Society and to Canadian postal history. They are not alone; many others have given thought, time, and effort to making the PHSC a strong and effective organization.

Stan Shantz, Member 1

The 25th anniversary issue of the *PHSC Journal* (published June 30, 1997) contains a much fuller history of the origin and early days of the PHSC than my 1982 summary. Tom Moore described how the London Philatelic Society presented a September 18, 1971 seminar (Fig. 1) that led to the organization of a postal history society.² Michael Millar³ discussed this seminar, and also how a committee composed of Stan Shantz, Peter Wiedemann, Fred Schiller, Arnold Benjaminsen, and Michael worked on the logistics of forming "The Postal History Society of Ontario" (PHSO). Also in Issue No. 90, Bill Clark remembers Stan Shantz, who was the driving force behind the movement to form the PHSO.⁴ Stan was a reporter and copy Editor for *The London Free Press*, and wrote the philatelic column in that newspaper. He also was a

postal history dealer and auctioneer. Stan is commemorated in the PHSC by the Stan Shantz Award, presented annually to the author of the article deemed most worthy in the *PHSC Journal*. I never met Stan; he passed away in May 1973. In April 1974, the London Philatelic Society produced a cover dedicated to Stan (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1. Label that advertised the September 18, 1971 postal history seminar. (Courtesy of Bob Smith.)

Mike Millar (Member 4) and Fred Stulberg tutored me and others in the RPSC in judging. They gave a great presentation on how to judge (which they called their dog-and-pony show) across the country. Brian Plain recalls attending the show in Kelowna.

Del Allen and *Post West*

Between 1974 and 1976, the Western Canada Postal History Society published 14 issues of *Post West* (Fig. 3). Del Allen, living in Edmonton then, was the organizer and Editor, and Don Bowen was the printer. I

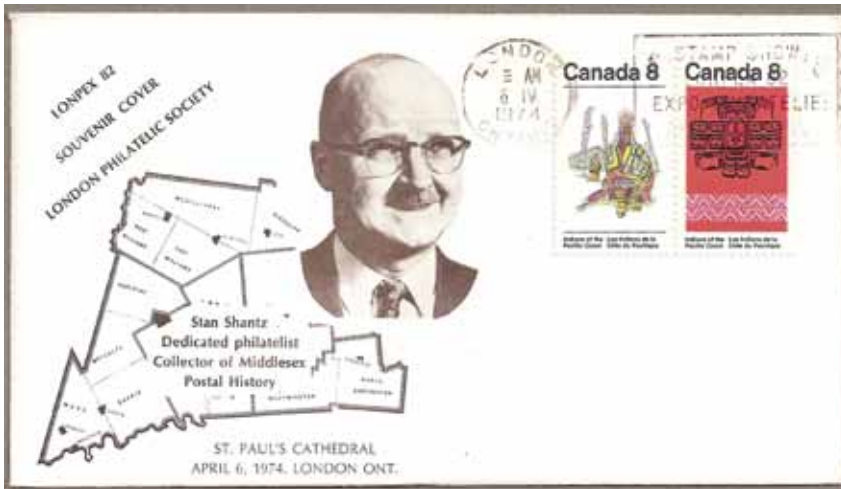


Fig. 2. Souvenir cover dedicated to Stan Shantz. (Courtesy of Bob Smith.)

joined the group in the summer of 1974. I met Del and several other WCPHS members (including Don Fraser and Harold Wilding) at the 1975 BNAPEX in Scarborough, Ontario. Anyone collecting western Canada postal history should own a set of *Post West*; my issues are kept right beside my *PHSC Journals*. In *Post West*, Harold Wilding (PHSC Member 60⁵) contributed lists of post offices for all of the Prairies, based on records that were in the Winnipeg post office. I met Del a few years ago at a show in Vancouver, and recently I have purchased some very nice covers from him through eBay.

Bill Robinson

Bill Robinson⁶ collected postal history of all of Canada, including RPO and military material. In *Post West*, Bill wrote a series of articles summarizing the postal history of Yukon offices. This series was

continued later in the *PHSC Journal*. With Bill Topping, Bill Robinson compiled books of post office lists for each western province and the territories. Current collectors now take these lists for granted, but they were not available until 1983 to 1990. Bill was on the executive of PHSC, BNAPS, and the RPSC, all at the same time.

Bill recruited many of us from the Post West group for membership in the Postal History Society of Ontario (PHSO, the first name for the PHSC), and arranged for Bob Lee to send out application forms with his auction catalogues. I applied for membership in the PHSO in early 1975. By moving west, I was able to see Bill much more often than when I lived in Ontario. We'd usually see each other at monthly 21 Club meetings in Vancouver. In 2009, he was pleased to have helped with completion of a new edition of the *Catalogue of Canadian Railway Cancellations*.

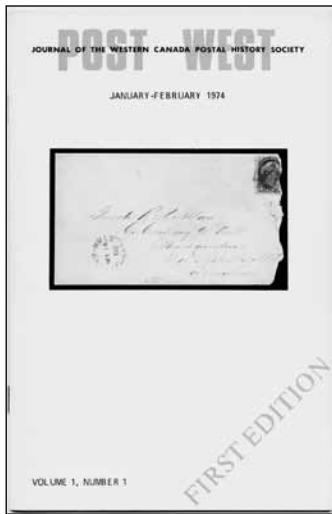


Fig. 3. *Post West*—a journal of western Canada postal history—was published between 1974 and 1976.

Peter Wiedemann

Peter Wiedemann (Member 2) was the first President of the PHSO, then Secretary-Treasurer, and looked after the printing of the *Journal*. With Issue No. 12 (March 1977), Pete became Editor of *The Postal History Society of Ontario Journal*, whose first eight issues had been called *The Postal Histo-Mine*. Issue No. 14 (August 1977, p. 25) announced the change to *The Postal History Society of Canada Journal*, which became simply the *PHSC Journal*.

Pete collected squared circle postmarks of Canada. He had a large accumulation of postal stationery cards with Goderich receiving postmarks. At the Royal 1979 show in Cambridge, Ontario, John Frith said to me that he was missing Goderich in his squared circle collection. I introduced him to Pete, and said that John would like

to trade for a Goderich strike. I'll never forget Pete's reply, "What date would you like?"

Pete had a collection about Canada's Dead Letter Offices. At a Toronto national show, he exhibited a three-frame exhibit of DLO material. Included was a real rarity: a DLO ambulance cover that was misaddressed and returned to the DLO. [I was the sleepy DLO clerk who had misaddressed it.]

Headquarters to Ottawa

In April 1979, Andy Palochik of Ottawa became Secretary-Treasurer and a few months later the Editorial role also moved to Ottawa, with Ken Mackenzie (Editor), Jim Brennan, and Bob Smith becoming the Editorial Board. The PHSC often had regional meetings. For example, a regional meeting of the PHSC was held on Sunday, May 13 at ORAPEX '79 (Fig. 4). At the meeting, Andy Palochik gave a talk on "An Introduction to Postal History." With Issue No. 25 (March 1981), Bob Smith became Editor. Eric Manchee joined the Editorial Board with Issue No. 38 (June 1984), and became Editor with No. 41 (March 1985).

Andy Palochik developed a wonderful exhibit of Eastern Arctic Patrol covers, at a time when that topic was considered by the judges at Canada's national shows to be too modern for a top award level. With some of that material approaching 90 years old, award levels have deservedly risen. I remember lots of enjoyable cover-trading sessions with Andy and Kevin O'Reilly, including one memorable trade at our home when we divided a lot of 18 covers three or four times until everyone was happy.



Fig. 4. Some of the attendees at the 1979 PHSC regional meeting in Ottawa at ORAPEX were (left to right) Mrs. White (?), Gray Scrimgeour, Doug White, Doug French(?), Andy Palochik, Miss Cochrane (?), Ken Mackenzie, Bill Cochrane, Steve Thorning, Stan MacLeod, Bob Smith, Dave Dixon, unidentified. Photo by Ron Kitchen, from the collection of Bob Smith.

The 1980 PHSC Annual General Meeting was held at Stampex '80 in Toronto on July 5th. Fig. 5 shows the group present at the AGM. The Society had a table at the show to provide information to potential new members.

On Saturday, April 2, 1982, the London Philatelic Society hosted our 10th anniversary meeting. The PHSC Annual General Meeting was held in conjunction with the London Philatelic Society's annual exhibition and bourse. One speaker at the AGM was the late Edward Phelps, a charter member of the PHSO (Member #17).⁷ He showed and described the register of a 19th century postal inspector for Southern Ontario in a presentation titled, "The Life and Times of Gilbert Griffin."

I have a photocopy of an 18-page booklet entitled *The Post Offices of Lambton County, Ontario, Canada: A Historical*

Directory, 1837-1970 written by Edward Phelps. It lists all of the post offices of the county, and gives their locations and postmasters. It was prepared for SarpheX XVII, Port Huron, Michigan, May 23, 1970.

Frank Campbell

Frank W. Campbell (Member 50) was a leading authority on Canadian postal history.⁸ Ed Phelps purchased a lot of reference material owned by Frank Campbell, and I think also the rights to Frank's books. *Canada Post Offices 1755-1895* had been published by Quarterman Publications, Inc. of Lawrence, Massachusetts. However, Campbell's *Canada Postal History* was only available in loose-leaf form, produced on demand by Frank.

Frank wrote many articles and books about Canadian postmarks. For example,



Fig. 5. Attending the 1980 annual general meeting were (left to right): Front row: Bob Smith (Vice President), Gray Scrimgeour (President), Dave Dixon (Director), Andy Palochik (Secretary Treasurer), Max Rosenthal (Director), Steve Thorning (Director), and Pete Wiedemann (Director). Back row: Kevin O'Reilly, John Frith, Gordon McDonald, Wayne Curtis, Wally Gutzman, Geoff Newman, and Owen White (Vice President). I still always carry a pen in my shirt pocket. Photo by Ron Kitchen, from the collection of Bob Smith.

he published 16 articles in the *PHSC Journal* and 5 dozen articles in *BNA Topics*. His *Canada Post Offices 1755-1895* is fairly easily available through philatelic auctions. However, three of his books, *Canada Postal History*, *Canada Postmark List to 1875*, and *Post Offices 1876-1905 in Alberta-Assiniboia-Saskatchewan* are less well known, and are more difficult to obtain.

I never met Frank but we exchanged many letters. In 1980, he sent me his own, marked-up copy of *Canada Postal History*. I believe that my packet consists of pages marked up by an editor (presumably by the wife of Al Hoch of Quarterman Publications). I thanked him for his kind gesture, and considered this a unique item until I saw in several auctions two other copies described the same way.

The letter that Frank wrote me in

November 1980 says:

Dear Scrimgeour

I am giving everything away.

This is mostly the CANADA POSTAL HISTORY that Hoch's wife of Quarterman mused up so much that it could not be published.

She left out most postmarks, and cut the 1841 postal list into 8 parts and scattered them thru the book, childishly.

And some parts are missing.

But all in all there are things you will like.

Phelps sent the THING to Noble to get together a year ago but I have not heard from him.

Yours sincerely, FWC,

I am well but have a very bad left knee from a fall.

Yours sincerely,

Eyes bad, fingers still at age into 95.

Frank W. Campbell

This volume deserves to be republished. Quarterman Publications, Inc. of Lawrence, Massachusetts attempted to do so. Frank was not satisfied with the projected product, took the book from Quarterman, and he and Ed Phelps had several postal historians start the project. None completed the job.

The latest generation of PHSC members probably is not familiar with this whimsical but very useful book. They should be. Dated 1958, by now it is in the public domain, and PHSC should preserve and distribute it. Frank Campbell is commemorated by the PHSC in the Frank W. Campbell Award presented for major contributions to the study of BNA postal history in publications other than the *PHSC Journal*.

Frank Campbell used to write and tell about a bushel basket of obsolete postal devices that was left anonymously at his door. He borrowed and studied these for a long time, and published a full description of them (with illustrations) in one of the many addenda to *Canada Postal History*. Art Leggett wound up with the batch, and slowly sold the hammers to a collector in Great Britain. That collector's Canadian hammers eventually returned to Canada and have been dispersed.

I remember several other (until now unpublished) incidents related to the 10th anniversary meeting. This meeting was the only time I met Ted Kilish (Member 16). Ted had provided the marvelous illustrations for the Richardson flag cancel book. At London, we had a trade: my collection of flag-cancel covers for his broken circle cut squares (most northern Ontario, but also some territorial Saskatchewan). Win-win for both of us.

Ron Kitchen

The ride back from London to Toronto on Sunday, April 6 was memorable for several reasons. Andy Palochik, Bob Smith, Ron Kitchen, and I were together in one car. We left London mid-morning, and near Woodstock on Highway 401, a spring blizzard started. Before we got to the Niagara Escarpment, we were still able to travel but visibility was decreasing. We didn't know at the time, but behind us, Highway 401 was closed to all traffic. When we got near Milton, the sun came out and the snow stopped, much to our relief.

Somewhere in the snow, Ron mentioned to me that he had "some Hudson's Bay Company covers", and he said he thought I might be interested in them. He'd bring some next time he came from Ottawa to Toronto. Sure enough, next trip we had a trade: a half dozen covers from the Rev. Smithurst Red River correspondence for a big batch of military mail (he chose it from the stock of Sudbury Stamps, and I paid for them). Another win-win for two collectors, plus a big sale for John Frith and Harry Machum of the stamp company.

As an addendum to this last incident, after CAPEX '96 I went to Ottawa for a visit that included attendance at a relaxed, summer RA Club meeting. There, Ron said he had a story to tell me sometime, but didn't expand. He passed away on August 3, 1997, and I assume his story was about his "Hudson Bay covers." From what I have learned, he purchased the large and rare Smithurst correspondence from an antique dealer in Elora, Ontario. The Smithurst letters (most of which were

eventually sold by Bill Longley) are the fullest representation of the Hudson Bay period (1820s to 1850s) of Red River mails.

Ron took group photographs at the PHSC meetings he attended. A number of these are in the *Journal* and five of his photos are included with this article.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Ron would ride “shotgun” with Bob Smith in touring around Eastern Ontario photographing then-current and former post office buildings. Several weeks after one such outing, two very large Ottawa policemen showed up at Bob’s door, asking if he had been photographing a certain rural general store. It appeared that the store and post office had been robbed shortly before, and they were following up on the case. An inspection of Bob’s collection of post office photographs (including the one in question) convinced them of his innocence.

Allan Steinhart

Allan Steinhart joined PHSO about the same time I did (in 1975). He collected RPO postmarks in his teens, developed a good collection, and sold the stamps at a Maresch auction to get money for his business. He was elected President in 1978, replacing John Barchino (Member 8). Allan remained on the PHSC executive while he was alive, as Past President and as one of the two Vice Presidents. It’s hard for me to realize that there are now many members of PHSC who did not buy covers from Al. Of course, most older members did. Some of their purchases were described in the book written as a tribute to Allan.⁹

I got to know Allan starting just before the time of CAPEX ‘78 (the international

show held in Toronto in 1978). He had a dealer table at that huge show, where several long-time PHSC members first met him. PHSC shared a booth with the Scandinavian Collectors Club. I spent many hours at the PHSC booth, making long-lasting friends with many PHSC members and meeting some of the many new members we signed up at CAPEX. One was stalwart Bob Smith, who has been Editor twice, President, Vice President, and is my close friend. The Prairie Beavers, led by Ed Richardson, had a booth near ours. Most of their members had come all the way from Texas for CAPEX.

Allan developed into a major postal history dealer, specializing in all Canadian areas especially his favourite: trans-Atlantic mail. He made buying and selling trips to London several times a year, and to all the eastern US national shows and important auctions. He said he had about 75 auction agents around the world, and bid directly at many tiny auctions. He was an active bidder at the Toronto auctions, always using the bidding number 69. He developed a daily weekday routine of eating a very light breakfast, reading new auction catalogues each morning, walking to various stamp stores in downtown Toronto (visiting some twice per day), and doing errands, then eating a very large dinner, and working long into the night on studying and pricing covers.

I worked at Allan’s table at both CAPEX ‘87 and CAPEX ‘96. Both occasions were learning experiences. I met many dealers and customers, and usually was able to find material in the big stock to meet their desires. By 1996, there were 149 boxes of covers, and most came to CAPEX – and that

brought eager purchasers.

Allan was a postal history mentor for many of us. Because of his extended positive influence on the PHSC, he is commemorated by a large section on our web site.

For many years, Fred Stulberg could often be found at Allan's bourse table. Hearing the postal history chatter of the two of them was enjoyable and enlightening. They analyzed covers, discussed rates, and pontificated. One of them often would say in jest something like, "We two know more about Canadian postal history than everyone else." I wouldn't have bet against that statement, although some of their "knowledge" may have been invented.

I think now is the time to identify the writer of a previously anonymous article in the *PHSC Journal*. The article "Lot 11, P.E.I.: A New Report" appeared on page 80 of Issue 81, without an author's name. It is a report illustrating the only reported strike of LOT-11/P.E.I. with PAID removed from the centre. Allan Steinhart owned this cover and wrote the article. He wanted Jim Hennok (who avidly collected numeral postmarks) to know about the cover, which was sold quietly to another collector. However, he didn't want to get blamed for not selling it to the man who once stored his cover stock free.

Allan visited Jim's store often. He would go to the basement, where Cam Grosjean and Bruce Anderson worked and Al's covers were stored. Jim would usually be on the main floor, which housed his art gallery. Jim was a nonsmoker; Allan and Cam would go outside, and each smoke a cigarette. Before coming back into the

store, Allan sometimes would breathe the last puff in, and release it just inside the front door to tease Jim.

At Jim's store, we paid full price for Allan's covers. At the St. Lawrence Hall bourse, we usually got a 10% discount. One Sunday, Jim saw the latter happen, and shook his head, and wondered how and why Allan gave the discount. After Jim left, Al explained to me that the 10% discount was Jim's cut if the covers sold in the store, so it was Jim's money that paid the discount.

CAPEX '87 and the 15th Anniversary Issue

Allan Steinhart, Eric Manchee, and I produced a 200-page issue (No. 50) to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the PHSC and also CAPEX. The issue includes articles on a wide variety of topics, designed to stimulate interest in all facets of Canadian postal history. Our society shared a booth with the British North America Philatelic Society at this show. CAPEX '87, just as CAPEX '78, brought a large batch of new members to the PHSC. Louise Kaye and I worked in Allan Steinhart's booth for the show. Don Kaye worked with Christoph Gartner, just down the hall.

PIPEX 1989 and the 1989 PHSC AGM

The PHSC Annual General Meeting was held in western Canada for the first time, on June 25, 1989 in Edmonton at PIPEX (Pacific International Philatelic Exhibition, the annual show sponsored by the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs and hosted for 1989 by the Edmonton Stamp Club). Ontario attendees were amazed at

how late in the day it stayed light! The AGM was held in Edmonton again in June 1992.

The Editorship of the Journal came west in 1990. Bob Lee took over from Eric Manchee then. In 1992, David Roberts of Toronto became Editor. Eric then devoted his effort to the production of The Ontario Post Office Atlas, the completion of which was announced in June 2003.¹⁰

At the May 1, 1993 regional meeting at ORAPEX / ROYALE in Ottawa, George MacManus gave a talk on a 1939 flight

from Moscow to the World's Fair in New York. Ron Kitchen's photograph of those attending the meeting is shown in Fig. 6.

CAPEX '96

The last CAPEX was held in Toronto June 8 to 16, 1996. This was the 100th anniversary of the discovery of gold in the Klondike, and a number of us urged the show organizers to commemorate this discovery. They did, and so did the PHSC. A 132-page issue (No. 85) was devoted to the postal history of the Yukon. For the



Fig. 6. This photograph taken at the May 1993 regional meeting shows (left to right) John Powell, Kimmo Salonen, Dave Nickson, Graham Locke, Eric Manchee, David Roberts, Colin Troup, Bill Wegman, Ralph Mitchener, Gunter Jansen, Jeff Switt, George MacManus, Gus Quattrochi, Leo Beaudet, Andrew Chung, Bob Smith, and Kevin O'Reilly. Photo by Ron Kitchen, from the collection of Bob Smith.

Northern Canada Study Group, I organized and mounted a non-competitive, 20-frame exhibit related to the Gold Rush, using material from over a dozen collectors. It was shown next to Ken Kutz's "Klondike Gold" non-competitive exhibit, in a log building in the centre of the exhibition hall. I had brought most of the 250 copies of a book showing the study group's collection. I drove from Victoria to Toronto with them and the big exhibit in the trunk of my car. Almost every copy of the book was soon sold. PHSC had a table at CAPEX and recruited 19 new members. Louise Kaye and I again worked for Allan Steinhart at the show. Al exhibited there for the last time. His museum-like exhibit of stampless-period mail is illustrated on the PHSC web site. He and I ate dinner a number of times at Sai Woo, and while the other exhibitors were at the formal banquet, we were enjoying burgers and conversation at Pat and Mario's, a restaurant within walking distance of Al's apartment. Allan died only a few months after CAPEX.

The Journal and its Forerunners

Until the advent of the PHSC's website, the *PHSC Journal* and its forerunners were the only glue holding the Society together, and for that reason its Editors have played a very important role over the years in the PHSC.

The Editor of the *Postal Histo-Mine* and the first three issues of *The Postal History Society of Ontario Journal* was Graham Noble (Member 31). Graham was a knowledgeable postal history dealer who was also a student of history, and showed up with a table at many of the shows. He dealt mostly in

Ontario postal history. His large Ontario collection (sold by auctioneer Bob Lee) rivaled the collection of Harold Cusden (whose collection also was sold by Bob Lee) in number of post offices represented in his collection. Harold faithfully attended every St. Lawrence Hall bourse, and often added about a dozen new offices each visit.

As mentioned above, Peter Wiedemann took over the Editorship with issue #12, published in March 1973, and continued in that position until issue #18, with which he had some assistance from Andy Palochik and Bob Smith. In fact, #18 was published only in August 1980, after issues #19 (September 1979) and #20 (December 1979), which were edited by Ken Mackenzie. In the late 1970s, Bob had been urging Ralph Mitchener to join the Society, and Ralph had replied that he would join only when and if #18 appeared. True to his word, he became Member 576. Ken was a Research Officer at the National Postal Museum in Ottawa, and was *Journal* Editor until the end of 1980 (Issue #24).

Bob Smith took over the Editorship with issue #25 (March 1981). This was of course in the pre-computer age. Typing was done on an IBM Selectric typewriter, and pages were laid out on a light table by waxing columns of print and figures on backing sheets, which were then sent off to the printer. The average number of pages in each issue grew during this period. Bob's last issue of that tenure was #40 of December 1984.

Eric Manchee became Editor with issue #41 and carried on to #60 of December 1989. Eric was interested in the postal history of Eastern Ontario, and put together a gold-

medal exhibit on the Bathurst District.

Robert A. Lee took over the reins from Eric for issues #61 to #70 (June 1992). Bob was a well-respected postal history dealer in Kelowna, B.C. who ran a philatelic auction house. I did not have a chance to attend any of Bob's auction sales, but wish I had. My friends always enjoyed this social event, where they also could buy covers.

David Roberts edited issues #71 to #83 (September 1995). David's occupation involved work on *The Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, at the University of Toronto. The DCB, a prime resource for many of us, is now online at <http://www.biographi.ca/index-e.html>.

Bob Smith became Editor again (starting in December 2002) for Issues #84 to #112. During this time, he initiated computer production of the *Journal*.

Gus Knierim was Editor for the period spanning #113 to #142 (Summer 2010), the longest single tenure of any of our Editors. Gus is a printer by trade, and he brought the visual appearance of the *Journal* to a whole new level of excellence, including the judicious use of colour.

Larry Goldberg became Editor with Issue #143. He, as the current Editor, is carrying on the tradition of providing the membership with a wonderful *Journal*.

The *PHSC Journal* has grown and matured, and is now being recognized in literature competitions. It was awarded a Gold in 2005 at the 7th National Literature Exhibition in Toronto and a Vermeil at the 2007 APS StampShow in Portland, Oregon.

Advances in Postal History Research

Postal historians doing research in the 1950s and 1960s did a remarkable job,

given their limited access to official records. The annual *Reports of the Postmaster General* and the *Canada Official Postal Guides* (and sometimes their monthly supplements and weekly bulletins) were available to them. These resources provide the basic elements of the postal system. However, specific details about individual post offices and mail routes became accessible only in the early 1980s after the Post Office Department was transformed into the Canada Post Corporation and a large holding of older records began to be transferred to the National Archives (now Library and Archives Canada) in Ottawa. Tom Hillman (now retired) was instrumental in acquiring and organizing these records. In 1985, he compiled an invaluable inventory of Record Group 3 (RG3)¹¹. Researchers can now go to Ottawa and examine a wide variety of reports and communications on almost any topic related to the Post Office Department. Some of this material is on microfilm and can be purchased or read through interlibrary loan.

The 21st century brought a new method for delivery and storage of postal history information to Canada. *PHSC Journal* Issue No. 108 (December 2001) announced the launch of the web site of the Canadian Postal Archives [now accessible at collectionscanada.gc.ca]. Cimon Morin (now retired as Head of the National Postal Archives) aided by urging the funding of this project and selecting which postal records would be first to be transferred online. The site contains the postmastership cards: card files for almost every post office ever opened in Canada, containing a list of postmasters and the period of their employment, as

well as the opening and closing dates for the office, at:

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/post-offices/index-e.html>.

While a few errors have been entered into the online data, this series of cards once available only in the basement vault of the National Postal Museum is now instantly accessible from anywhere in Canada. Another often-used section has Canada Post Office publications to 1900 (e.g., the *Canadian Official Postal Guides* and POD circulars) at: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/postal-publications/index-e.html>.

The elements of Tom Hillman's inventory and its finding aids are now available online through the Library and Archives web site.

As the expansion of the internet and the worldwide web continue, one may now perform searches on virtually any Canadian postal history topic, and find relevant information using combinations of keywords. Newspaper articles, census records, birth and death registries, and a variety of secondary sources are often available for our topics. For example, the Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online at <http://www.biographi.ca/index-e.html> presents and extends the previously printed information about important Canadians.

The Electronic Age Arrives for PHSC

By March 2002, PHSC had its own web site, created by Dave Newman. This site was primarily meant to advertise the Society and attract new members. Bernard Marshall took over maintenance of this site in early 2006. Payments for dues and books

could now be made using PayPal. In 2007, a list of Canadian post offices opened since 2001 and some Pacific steamship sailing dates were added.

Issue No. 132 (December 2007) announced that PHSC had a new web site: www.postalhistorycanada.net.

This password-protected site was developed by Rob Leigh to contain postal history databases and to archive study-group newsletters. The original web site has been incorporated into the new, massive site. Each year, the amount of material on the site increases. There is a database of postmark, a growing, significant achievement. The duplex postmark and machine slogan cancel books were added, and are kept up-to-date. All back issues of the *PHSC Journal* are available. Study-group newsletters are archived at the site. A book about barrel postmarks was completed and published online. An Allan Steinhart Memorial Website has been developed; it now includes two of Allan's books, the 40 articles he wrote in *Canadian Stamp News*, his CAPEX '96 exhibit, and the catalogue of the sale of his collection. There are now eight exhibits in the barely-started PHSC Exhibit Project. All of these resources are available free to members of the PHSC. Gus Knierim commented to me that "There is no Society that I am aware of that has databases that are as significant as the ones we are working on... I see that PHSC has been able to adapt to the new way of doing things without killing the past." The high speed and low cost of data delivery by electronic means is now supplementing the printed word. Future increases in printing and mailing costs may eventually squeeze

out the paper *Journal*, but PHSC is adapting well for any such change.

While preparing this article, I thought a lot about the development of the PHSC in the 37 years that I have been a member. When I joined, the average age of the members was a lot lower than it is now. Most of the young, active collectors at that time were looking for hobby topics that involved research, not just catalogue filling. Most of us were working then; many of us now are retired. Although Canadian postal history was not in its infancy in 1975, the hobby has matured since then. Our *Journal* and our Society have matured along with the hobby. We have achieved much with a small budget. Many volunteers have worked for this achievement, and renewal of this volunteer process continues. Many factors will force future changes on the PHSC, but I am sure that the present foundation will be adapted to meet the coming challenges.

Acknowledgments.

Gus Knierim, Kevin O'Reilly, Brian Plain, and Bob Smith helped greatly with the preparation of this article. Membership numbers have been included only for pioneer members (numbers of 60 or under).

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TORONTO'S FIRST POST OFFICE
ADMINISTERED BY THE TOWN OF YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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