

NEW WAYS TO ENJOY OUR HOBBY DURING THE PANDEMIC

by Gordon Smith

Philately is great for introverts, where we all like to be in our own spaces at home messing with our accumulations, stock books, and albums. However, by halting the ability to have large gatherings, this pandemic has helped me to realize how much I enjoy getting together at stamp club meetings, trading groups and shows to swap yarns, share information with new acquaintances, learn something new about people and their collecting interests, and feel that spark of excitement when I find something of interest in a box of material for sale.

The Batman First Day Ceremony at New York Comic Con 2014

By Derwin Mak

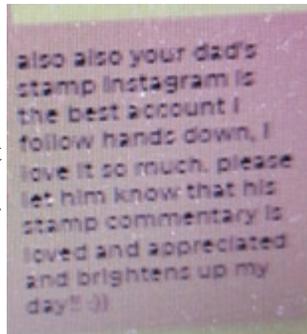
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, January 11, 2021



Fortunately, the internet has opened new horizons for me. I have travelled around the world popping in on virtual presentations from other clubs. I have learned techniques

for exhibiting postcards, what happens when Comic-Con meets stamp collecting, that NASA (the United States space program) has an European competitor, and how the guts of a web auction site works.

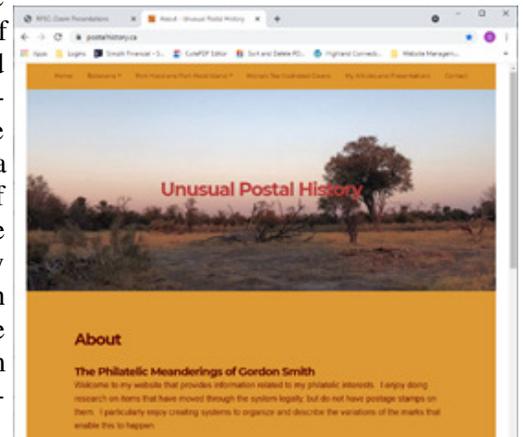
Inspired by an article by Ingo Nessel, who I believe spoke at Novapex 2018, I set up an Instagram account where I show stamps that I just like the look of. I have been accumulating these stamps for years but had no way to organize them into an exhibit. Now they are available at stampgraphics . I have people from Russia, Iran, Chile, Guatemala, Denmark and even some of my children's friends in their 20's following the account to see what I post. Organizing these stamps to put on the internet is helping me to see the common elements of these stamps that attracted me to them in the first place, and who knows, maybe this activity will help me to figure out the story around which to create a physical exhibit in the future. Maybe I will create some new stamp collectors along the way!



I have spent time writing articles about my interests. This has become a great way to meet people who share my interests. I have become good friends with an editor in California, who helped me to write three articles and a special publication over the last year on postal history topics related to Botswana. I have submitted articles to the Canadian Philatelist and this journal on the Rev. Nathaniel Cole, a cachet creator and stamp dealer with connections to Port Hood. I have also submitted an article on the Rev. Cole to the Ches-

tico News, the newsletter of the museum in Port Hood, NS and I have agreed to write a series for them about postcards from the area.

I have updated my website that I first put together in 2004 to show my research on Botswana Meter Marks. I migrated the site to new program that makes it infinitely easier to update and have expanded it to include other material about non-stamped postal history of Botswana, the postal history of Port Hood and Port Hood Island, and the Morse's Tea Company of Halifax. I have been sharing my website with people I have contact as I am doing my research.



So, I hope these examples show that, despite these hard times forcing us to change our ways of doing things, we can still "get out" to enjoy our hobby and meet people with similar interests. Let us be grateful for the opportunities that this pandemic has created for us to reach out to a broader group around the whole world where we can show our interests, learn things, and make new friends in philately. Stay well and enjoy your stamping!

NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB CENTENARY

Dennis Bedley has provided a much clearer strike of the 1982 machine cancel for the Club's Diamond anniversary (originally shown in the September 2018 issue of the Post).

