

Kingston Stamp Club Chapter 49 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

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1) President's Update

Fall activities seem to be going well. The annual festival was again successful, thanks in particular to :

Tony Baxby	Dealer Liaison
Colin Batsford and Don Thompson	Plan/Layout
Tom Thompson	Brochure
Val Mayers	Consignment Management
Robert Price	Setup
Robert Saunders	Door Prizes
Many others	who assisted in setup, take down, front and children's table

The October Auction ran well with a new set of organizers, Ted Luhtala as auctioneer and Colin Batsford as bookkeeper and Mel Campbell as runner.

Our Bourse has doubled its size this year and in time for the visit to the Cobourg Club. Thank You to Doreen Day for keeping up with the organization of the regional binders.

The Royal Circulation Books have arrived and hopefully there is something of interest for us.

Meeting Schedule

November 13	Royal Books Second Night
November 27	Auction Night
December 11	Annual Christmas Party
January 8	Trading Night
January 22	Auction Night
February 12	Trading Night
February 26	Trading Night

All our meetings include Bourse and Consignment Tables.

A truly significant innovation this year is the establishment of our club newsletter, one that is being produced four times a year no less.



I was happy to see the positive response from our members as well as most providing the voluntary financial support.

Overall we have enthusiasm as a strong feature of our club, case in point, we are adding Ted Luhtala and Robert Price to our key volunteers.

This fall we also recognized a long term past member of our club – Karl Duttle – with the status of Honorary Life Member and a Commemorative Plaque.

Bob Chadwick

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2) Editor's Comments

Welcome to the second issue of the Kingston Stamp Club Newsletter. As your editor I hope you find this publication keeps you abreast of the club's activities and the philatelic articles continue your voyage to knowledge.

Some of our members have a short note clipped to this issue; your dues for this 2006-2007 year are due. This newsletter is a benefit of membership; please send your dues in as soon as possible.

I want to thank Don Mann for proof reading this issue. Please let me know of any errors in your club's newsletter as older eyes and spell checks can miss items now and then.

Enjoy.

Richard Weigand

Editor



3) Edith Cavell

Remembrance Story

Edith Cavell – Nurse – British Martyr WWI

“I know that patriotism is not enough, I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone.”

Edith Louisa Cavell RN
Born 4 December 1865
Died by firing squad 11 October 1915

By Richard Weigand and Dave Williams

The Early Years

English nurse. Edith Louisa Cavell was born on 4 December 1865 in Swardeston in Norfolk, England. Died from German firing squad on 11 October 1915.

Edith had been born in a large Georgian-style farmhouse in the English village of Swardeston in the county of Norfolk. Her father, a vicar, was a strict Victorian. A loving and understanding mother balanced her father's rigidity in the closely-knit family. Edith, born on 4th December 1865, was the oldest of four children. Despite his limited means, the vicar taught his children to share with those less fortunate. Before their evening meal, they made a habit of carrying a portion of meat to the poorer families of the village. Austerity, sacrifice, and prayer punctuated Edith's upbringing. Throughout her entire life, she rarely found reason to smile. The vicar taught Edith at home in her early years, because he could not afford a governess or a private school. Nevertheless, she attended a special school at Laurel Court, run by Miss Margaret Gibson, during her middle teens. She became proficient in French and Miss Gibson subsequently recommended her as a governess to the Francois family in Brussels.

The Early Nursing Years

By then Edith had grown into a straightforward, humourless woman of medium height and seemingly frail build with an unswerving respect for truth. She wore her brownish hair brushed straight back. With thin lips and a determined mouth, she scorned fun and mischief, but the four Francois children liked her despite her rigid sense of discipline and self-reliance. She became a nurse in 1895. The shy and retiring Nurse Cavell did not marry, nor was there ever any great love in her life.

The Berkendael Medical Institute

In 1901 Antoine Depage, a gruff but brilliant Belgian surgeon, grew increasingly frustrated in the religious orders that controlled Belgian nursing. He wanted to shift to a non-denominational system with professionally trained personnel as developed by Florence Nightingale in England. He hoped to thus provide physicians all over Belgium with trained nurses while simultaneously creating a new career for young ladies of good education. He proposed to start with a nurses' training school at his Berkendael Institute. To implement it, he sought a matron who had administrative experience, teaching capabilities, an understanding of the Belgian people, and fluency in French. He also wanted someone who had been trained in the manner of Florence Nightingale. Edith qualified on all counts and one of the Francois children, Marguerite, who by this time had become Madame Graux, presented Edith's name for the job. Soon after, she accepted the position.

Edith opened the school on 1st October 1907. Her discipline was strict but scrupulously fair. She stressed duty and service to others, as well as ethical conduct, cleanliness, dedication to work, and punctuality.

By 1911, she was a training nurse for three hospitals, 24 schools and 13 kindergartens in Belgium. She was a brisk, businesslike, rather straight-laced woman with a high crown of graying hair and gray eyes.

As a teacher, she was aloof, detached, and professionally correct at all times. She guarded her independence vehemently and thus had frequent clashes with the temperamental Doctor Depage. Neither of them yielded and it remained for the tactful and diplomatic doctor's wife, Marie, to smooth over the difficult moments between the sedate Matron and the emotional surgeon. In the process, Edith came to know and deeply respect Marie Depage.

Through her talents as both a teacher and a capable administrator, she soon improved the level of Belgian nursing and began attracting more recruits. By 1909 she had 23 probationers and, by 1914, at the onset of First World War, her school had become a source of nursing personnel for hospitals, communal schools, and private nursing homes.

The First World War

During the First World War the Germans occupied Belgium, and Cavell sheltered British, French and Belgian soldiers at the Institute, from where they were helped to escape to Holland, which was neutral. Cavell's humanity and loyalty to Britain led her to protect Allied troops trying to avoid German capture early in the war. She considered it a part of her duty to others, a lifelong obligation encouraged by her father, the Vicar of Swardeston.

Many other officers and men of the British Expeditionary Force had been cut off from their units and left behind in the retreat from Mons. The fugitive soldiers were in a difficult position. Some, aided by civilians, had reached the Belgian coast. But, when Antwerp fell, the Belgian army had retired to link up with British units on their right, and had opened sluice gates behind them to flood the low-lying country and hold up the German

army's advance. That also had cut off the escape route to the coast for stranded Allied soldiers.

Peasants, priests and nuns cared for some of the fugitive troops. Unwounded Allied soldiers who disguised themselves as labourers or miners risked being shot as spies—a danger soldiers were prepared to face.

The Escape Route to Freedom

Then, on a fateful September day in 1914, Herman Capiiau, a young engineer in a village near Mons, arrived at Miss Cavell's office, telling of a battle that had been fought at Mons in southwest Belgium. Herman Capiiau was an engineer by trade but, since the outbreak of World War I, he had played a key role in an escape organization that was sheltering British and French soldiers trapped behind the German lines after the Allied defeat at Mons. He explained that a number of Allied soldiers had been separated from their units in the confusion of the struggle, and sympathetic nuns and villagers had hidden them. As the Germans advanced, they were shooting not only any stragglers they found, but also the civilians who harboured them. One of the soldiers, Lt. Col. Dudley Boger, who had a leg wound, had grown a beard in the three months he had been lying low, and was wearing the black hat and floppy tie of a typical Belgian factory worker. His colleague, Company Sgt. Maj. Frank Meachin, also dressed as a labourer, had packed rolls of cloth between his shoulders to turn himself into a hunchback. That, he hoped, would explain to any inquisitive German soldier why such a tall, strongly built man was not serving in the army.

Capiiau cautiously led the pair across the greasy cobbles. German patrols were frequent, and he was forced to try three different routes before reaching the Berkendael Medical Institute, a training school for nurses on the outskirts of the Belgian capital. Capiiau asked Cavell to take in two English soldiers who had accompanied him, disguised as Belgian labourers. Capiiau said that it had become too dangerous to hide them in the countryside any longer and he had, therefore, brought them to Brussels, where he had been referred to Miss Cavell. Edith trusted Capiiau and the sight of the two English soldiers, distressed and facing execution if caught, put an end to any hesitation she felt. The two men were admitted into the building, and Capiiau handed a letter of introduction to the school's matron, a British nurse named Edith Cavell. There was a brief, hushed conversation, and then Capiiau left the matron's office and slipped away into the night. It was 8 p.m. Sister White, the assistant matron, was summoned. "These men are fugitive soldiers," Cavell told Sister White. "Give them beds in the empty surgical house." Both men, Sister White later recalled, looked dirty and tired, and she put them to bed immediately. She admitted the two Englishmen and assigned them to empty beds, where they received food and immediate medical attention. When they had sufficiently recovered, Edith provided them with expert guides who escorted them to Holland. The entire venture was successful enough to be the forerunner of a much greater involvement for Edith.

Boger and Meachin were the first of more than 200 British, French and Belgian troops who would be hidden and cared for by Cavell and her staff during the next 12 months.

The Traitor Libiez

Boger and Meachin when first separated from their unit were lucky to contact a helpful Roman Catholic priest. This priest led them to the home of a woman named Libiez, the widowed mother of a local lawyer, and she hid them in the loft of an outbuilding at the bottom of her garden for several weeks.

All occupied countries have their share of traitors. On October 26, 1914, German intelligence received a tip that Libiez was concealing two British soldiers. Within hours, a company of cycle troops of the *Landsturm* swooped into town and searched both Libiez's home and those of her neighbours. Twice they returned, but the fugitives had been alerted in time and had slipped out to mingle with a crowd of curious Belgian civilians in the street. Boger and Meachin were clearly embarrassing their gallant host, and the following night two nuns, Sister Marie and Sister Madeleine, arrived with a hurricane lamp to guide them to a convent in Wasmes. Libiez's son—a member of the Belgian escape organization—then took over escort duties and accompanied the British soldiers into Mons, where they stayed three days at the home of Louis Dervaire in the Rue de la Gare. There, they had their photographs taken and were given fake civilian identity cards. Capiiau then escorted them to Cavell's institute on November 1.

Cavell still considered Boger and Meachin to be in danger and, with the help of two English civilians living in Brussels (who so far had been left alone by the German authorities), arranged for them to be accompanied by a guide out of the city. Boger, still lame, was to travel down the canals to the border aboard a coal barge, while the sergeant major, which could walk but could not speak French, would be disguised as a peasant collecting fish in Holland.

The two soldiers stayed together as far as Ghent. Meachin made friends with a Belgian smuggling newspapers across the frontier into neutral Holland, reached the border and made a dash for it. Eventually, he got back to England, returned to the front and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Colonel Boger was recaptured when German soldiers raided a cafe where he was having a drink; he was sent to a POW camp at Ruhleben for the rest of the war. He was later awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

The Arrest

Despite an order from the German authorities that anyone sheltering Allied troops would be shot, Cavell's secret work continued. She wrote to her cousin, "I am helping in ways I may not describe to you till we are free."

The head of the escape organization, Prince de Croy, left his large country chateau near Mons to warn colleagues in Brussels. He called on Cavell in her office and told her he was going into hiding. "I expect to be arrested," she said firmly. "Escape for me is futile and unthinkable." The prince realized it was hopeless to try to dissuade her and departed, eventually managing to cross the border to safety.

On 5 August 1915 Otto Mayer of the German secret police arrived in the Rue de la Culture. Cavell was driven to police headquarters and questioned. But nothing of importance was

found in the institute--Cavell had, in fact, sewn her diary inside a cushion.

There is some controversy over the confession Cavell made to Mayer. On being told that other members of the organization--35 had been arrested--had admitted their guilt, she spoke freely about the help she had given to Allied soldiers. "Had I not helped," she said later in a letter from her prison cell, "they would have been shot." Cavell was accused of providing comfort and medical attention to enemy soldiers and was tried by a military court in Brussels. Although more than 200 troops had passed through her hands, the only document incriminating the nurse was a tattered postcard sent, rather unwisely, by an English soldier thanking her for helping him to reach home. Cavell was sentenced to death, along with four Belgians.

Court Martial and Firing Squad

In August 1915, Cavell and several others were arrested and tried by a court-martial that took 12 days to complete. Cavell made a full confession and was sentenced to death on 7 October 1915.

Despite the efforts of Baron Oscar Von Der Lancken, head of the political section of the German government during the occupation of Belgium, Major General Von Sauberweig ordered Cavell's execution the following morning. His reminder to the firing squad was that "It is very sad to have to shoot this woman, but she is not a mother and therefore you will do your duty as soldiers."

Two firing squads, each of eight men, carried out the execution at dawn on 12 October 1915, at the national rifle range in Brussels. Cavell was still wearing her nurse's uniform. The only other person shot that morning was the architect Phillippe Baucq for publishing an anti German newspaper. The other two convicted Belgians had their sentence commuted.

The words she spoke to her last English visitor, Stirling Gahan, the English chaplain in Brussels, became almost as famous as Admiral Horatio Nelson's at Trafalgar. "I know now that patriotism is not enough," she said. "I must have no hatred and no bitterness towards anyone." Despite the efforts of Brand Whitlock, U.S. minister to Belgium, to his words fell on the deaf ears of the German Court and the sentence was carried out.

The Aftermath

Despite the German efforts to keep this death quiet the Belgium people were so angry that the story leaked out bringing German military authority under major disrepute.

Although the German action was justified according to the rules of war, the shooting of Edith Cavell was a serious blunder. Within days, the heroic nurse became a worldwide martyr, and the Germans were universally described as "murdering monsters."

Kaiser Wilhelm condemned the execution and ordered that no woman should ever be executed again facing a firing squad. The career soldier Major General Von Sauberweig was drummed out of the army in disgrace.

As a result of her execution, Allied morale was strengthened, and recruitment doubled for eight weeks after her death was

announced in England. Within two years the US entered the war. The German war effort was doomed and an armistice was signed on November 11, 1918.

State Funeral



After the war was over King George V and Queen Mary visited Belgium and among their activities, visited the grave of Edith Cavell with Field Marshall Earl Haig and placed a wreath on her grave. At this time a decision was made to remove the remains to England. Full military burial ceremony was carried out in May 1919 as this brave woman was moved from Belgium to her final resting-place in her hometown of Norwich at Norwich Cathedral.

The Echo of Courage Continues

In 1928 Dr. Gottfried Benn the medical officer at the execution said Edith died instantly.

"I remember her as an active woman who paid for her deeds as a brave daughter of a great nation," Benn said to a United Reporter, after breaking a 13-year silence, "to set the record straight".

The memory of Edith Cavell has been kept alive ever since that dark day in 1915. Numerous books have been written about her. Statues of Cavell were erected near the National Portrait Gallery in London and at a busy road junction in Tombland, in Norwich. A statue in St. Martin's Place, just off London's Trafalgar Square, prominently displays words spoken by Edith Cavell, "Patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness for anyone."

Sybil Thorndike starred as the nurse in the film *Dawn* in 1930, and Anna Neagle played the same role in *Nurse Edith Cavell* in 1939. Joan Plowright played Cavell in a successful play on the London stage in the 1950s.

The grave of this stubborn, brave nurse lies beside the ancient walls of Norwich Cathedral. Each October, on the Saturday nearest the anniversary of her death, a short service takes place, and female members of the Royal British Legion lay wreaths at the side of a simple stone cross.

At her home village of Swardeston, in the heart of the unspoiled Norfolk countryside, there is a constant trickle of visitors to the medieval church. "There is such enduring interest in Edith Cavell that we simply had to do something about it," commented the vicar, the Rev. Phillip McFadyen.

Canada's Recognition of the bravery of Nurse Edith Cavell

a) \$1.00 stamp issued December 4, 1930

On the date above Canada Post issued this definitive stamp on the 15th anniversary of the death of Edith Cavell.

Stamp Specifics

Scott Number 177

This is part of the Arch and Maple Leaf Series featuring King George V on the lower denominations and scenes of Canada on the higher denominations. The handsome dark green stamp shows Mount Edith Cavell in the background with the slopes of two other mountains converging at the bottom, in front of a large mountain lake.

b) Mount Edith Cavell



The federal government decided to name a mountain after this war hero as a tribute to the dedication and heroism performed by her during World War I. The picture above is the Mount Edith Cavell Hostel with Mount Edith Cavell in the background. Located in the Jasper National Park

Mount Edith Cavell

Elevation 11,033 feet / 3,363 meters

Location – Canadian Rockies, Alberta

Latitude 52° 40' N Longitude 118° 03' W

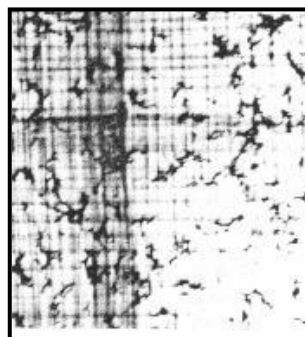
The 3363-meter peak of Mount Edith Cavell towers over every other mountain in Jasper National Park. In a cirque valley on the northeast slope of the mountain is the famous Angel Glacier. In a narrow valley below this spectacular setting is the hostel, providing excellent access to the entire area. Hike to the foot of the glacier and explore the moraines, which mark its steady retreat during this century. Experience the brilliant colours of the delicate Cavell Meadows or sit by the turquoise waters of the lake below.



4) Preservation and Care of Philatelic Material -Factors Involved in the Removal of Stamps from Paper

A postage stamp is commonly composed of several layers including the adhesive, the fibrous paper, a coating on the printed side, the printing ink itself and, frequently a phosphorescent tagging overlay. A cancelled stamp off cover or paper, of course, may also have all or a portion of the cancellation on the stamp as well. A further element, which can sometimes be a factor, is the proximity of the stamp to (or even over) ink used for writing on the cover or paper from which the

stamp was removed. All of these elements can dramatically impact the preservation of the stamp.



The fibrous nature of paper can be easily seen upon an examination of backlit papyrus, Illustration 1.

Very commonly, the paper used to manufacture a stamp is highly acidic. When a stamp is mounted on an alkaline album page, the acid of the stamp may migrate from the stamp itself to the album page. This migration is affected by such factors as humidity, type of mount used, and composition of the tagging material, if present on the stamp. If the album page is acidic to begin with, acid from the album page may migrate into the stamp and can contribute to the deterioration of the stamp.

Many types of alkaline album pages are buffered, a compositional characteristic that results in the maintenance of the album page's alkalinity. The latter contributes to reduction, often elimination, of the acidic degradation of the stamp. More and more paper mills are offering papers of this characteristic, and the papers are referred to as non-acidic, alkaline-buffered, and acid-free.

There are three common ways of making paper chemically: the sulphate, the sulphite, and the soda methods. Kraft paper is made using the sulphate process; writing and printing paper are made by the sulphite method; and the soda process manufactures papers for fine books and journals.

The term "Kraft" means strong. The manufacturing process uses caustic soda in combination with sodium sulphate to make a strong, brown wrapping type of paper from wood pulp. The first sulphate pulp made in North America was at the Brompton Pulp and Paper Company in East Angus, Quebec, in 1907.

Collectors who soak stamps off paper will notice that stamps on kraft paper made in the U. S. readily separate from the paper without problem provided the soaking process is kept to an absolute minimum. Stamps on kraft paper manufactured in Canada, however, require exceptionally careful soaking so as to avoid a bleeding of the sodium sulphate from the kraft paper into the stamp. This bleeding results in there being a reddish color on the back of the stamp.

The bleeding or absence of it, during the soaking process is due to the fact that U. S. kraft papers generally have a hard coated surface, while Canadian kraft papers commonly have an uncoated soft surface.

When soaking stamps off of paper, be certain that the water is tepid and not hot. Furthermore, check the soaking stamps frequently. Remove and wash the separated stamp in clear water as soon as possible. In certain instances -- see below in the section dealing with inks -- additives to the water used for soaking stamps may be warranted.

Two general precautions concerning soaking stamps warrant mentioning here. First, be extremely careful when soaking stamps off coloured papers, particularly the red and green papers used for envelopes for greeting cards at Christmas time. Stamps on such coloured papers should be soaked separately and with care as the colours of the envelopes commonly run and can taint other papers in the water.

With regard to soaking stamps off of coloured papers, Heiss (1999) has recently reported that he has had good success removing stamps from red papers by soaking the items in water to which table salt has been added. He recommends one tablespoon of table salt per one-third cup of water, and suggests that collectors experiment with the method to determine the optimum salt concentration to be used.

Barlie (1999) has reported a technique, which she has found useful for the removal of stamps from coloured paper. She places a bowl in a sink and fills the bowl to the brim with warm water. She next places the stamp on paper in the water and adjusts the dripping water flowing into the bowl so that the water is flowing over the brim of the bowl but slowly enough that the stamp won't be washed over the edge of the bowl. She finds that this method causes the dye released from the paper to be washed over the brim of the bowl before the dye has a chance to soak into the stamp.

Another method described by Politis (1999) involves an initial soaking of the stamp on paper in hot water, following which he peels the stamp off the paper as soon as the gum is soft enough to allow the stamp to be safely removed from the paper. He finds that, in most cases, the coloured paper won't have started to run when the gum becomes soft enough to remove the stamp. Then, the gum remaining on the stamp can be soaked off in the usual manner.

A second general precaution regarding soaking stamps is to use the type of stamp tongs having broad tips. These spade tip type of tongs facilitate secure holding of the wet stamp without the risk of damaging the stamp, which can so easily happen with the sharply pointed tipped stamp tong.

How should used self-adhesive stamps be best removed from paper? The answer to that question is of interest with regard not only to used self-adhesives, but also with regard to removal of the self-adhesive from the backing on which unused stamps are found when purchased.

Many collectors have had some success with soaking these self-adhesives in water followed by a gentle rubbing of the back of the loose stamp to remove any traces of the adhesive. It is a valid question as to whether or not this will remove the entire adhesive. The latter could be best achieved, of course, if we knew the solvent used in the adhesive. The Preservation and Care of Philatelic Materials Committee has asked the United States Postal

Service to identify the solvents in the adhesives used on the various self-adhesive stamps issued by the United States Postal Service. The postal authorities responded that their specifications neither tests for, nor recommends, any particular solvents to remove the adhesive since that is not considered part of the stamp performance requirements specified by USPS. Thus, the committee was unsuccessful in obtaining the solvent information requested, but we are continuing to pursue that information.

As an alternative to the removal of unused self-adhesives from the backing on which it was purchased, Baadke (1997a and 1998) suggests that a single self-adhesive be cut out to give a small surrounding backing border after the adjacent stamps have been removed. This may not appeal to the individual who is concerned with what the effect of the backing and the adhesive will be over time.

Collectors who save complete unused panes of the self-adhesive stamps should pay careful attention to what, if any, effect the backing paper and/or the adhesive has on the stamps themselves. Any collector who saved the first self-adhesive issued by the United States postal authorities in 1974 will recall how those stamps became seriously damaged in storage.

At least prior to 1993, the United States Postal Service has never had a paper designed specifically for postage stamps. In part, the reason is that, even though the United States Postal Service produces on the order of 40 billion stamps per year, the paper needed for that production is less than what the Washington Post uses in one month. Another reason for the United States Postal Service not having a paper designed specifically for postage stamps is that paper manufacturers offer over two dozen different coated papers satisfactory for printing stamps.

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5) Kingston Stamp Festival 2006

By Colin Batsford

This is our Seventh Year as a Festival, how time flies by! Although the day was cold and we had rain as well as some icy weather conditions, attendance was good and our ten dealers all had an enjoyable and profitable day meeting the local stamp collectors.

We had Oxfam, Concession Area, Youth Table, and Club Consignment Table and Exhibits again this year.

Our exhibitors were:

- Colin Wright “Russia”
- John Engels “Australia One Penny Red Kangaroo Issue”
- Don Thompson “ Canadian Errors”
- Ron Barrett “ Canadian Postal History- Defunct Post Offices”

We want to thank all of our exhibitors for their informative exhibits.

We want to thank our dealers and Canada Post for the hourly draw prizes.

Pictures By Ted Luhtala

Pictures are worth a thousand words, so here are a few show pictures!



Welcome Table



Exhibits

KINGSTON FESTIVAL 2006



A busy day



Val Mayers on our Consignment Table



Oxfam Table



We even collect stamp ties!



Don Mann getting ready for the festival.

Christmas Wishes

As this is the last issue of our Newsletter before Christmas (yes it is here again and so soon), on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Kingston Stamp Club, we wish you and yours the best of the holiday season.

