

HUNTSVILLE PHILATELIC CLUB NEWSLETTER

September 2010



American Philatelic
Society Chapter 597
www.stamps.org



Germany Philatelic
Society Chapter 15
www.gps.nu



Southeast Federation
of Stamp Clubs
www.stampclubs.com



www.stampclubs.com/huntsville/index.htm

This newsletter is published monthly by the Huntsville Philatelic Club. Meetings are held on the First and Third Tuesdays of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Fern Bell Recreation Center, 107 Sanders Road SW. Visitors are always welcome.

MEETING CALENDAR

Sept 7 *United States First Issue: Varieties, Shades, Multiples, & Cancellations*
from Wade Saadi's 1847 Issue Exhibit, CD
presentation by the U.S. Philatelics Classics Society

Sept 21 Philatelic Auction Night, Visitor's Welcome

All regular club meetings begin at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted. Auction sellers are asked to arrive 15 minutes early to allow for viewing of auction lots.

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Heinrich Hahn hhahn@bellsouth.net
Vice Pres: Ray Pietruszka pietrij@mindspring.com
Treasurer: Mike O'Reilly mcoreilly@yahoo.com
Secretary: Arthur Cole hpc-stamps@att.net
Directors: Dave Nicolas (past president),
Kathy Campbell, Bob Adams, Don Hill, and Fred Muhl

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Huntsville Philatelic Club - P O Box 4384
Huntsville, AL 35815-4384

Annual dues are \$12.00 per individual and \$3.00 per additional family member. Dues are prorated for new members and renewals are payable in January.

HUNTSVILLE PHILATELIC CLUB NEWSLETTER

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www.stampclubs.com/news/news-huntsville.htm

SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF STAMP CLUBS

The Southeast Federation web site is a great source for information about any and all stamp collecting activities in the Southeast region. www.stampclubs.com

STAMP CLUB NEWS

- August's first meeting featured one-page exhibits. **Kathy Campbell's** topical exhibit of Lady Slipper flower stamps was the judges pick for first place and won the very thoroughly wrapped mystery prize. The next one-page exhibit night will be Nov. 2nd.
- August's second meeting was the club's regular and well attended, monthly auction night.
- The annual audit of the club's financial books has been completed by **Frank Crown** and he reports no irregularities were present.
- October is National Stamp Collecting Month and **John Burnett** is asking for help getting an article with photos together to submit to the Huntsville Times to publicize stamp collecting and our club.
- **Wanted:** Theme ideas for HUNTSPEX 2011.

SOUTHEAST REGION STAMP SHOWS

September 11 **MONTAPEX 2010**
Montgomery Area Stamp Club, Holiday Inn, 2598 Cobbs Ford Rd., Exit 179 I-65, Prattville. Contact Dwayne Selix, stamper98@mindspring.com; 334-365-2992.

September 24-26 **SOUTHEASTERN STAMP SHOW**
Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs, Cobb County Civic Center, 548 S. Marietta Pkwy., Marietta, GA. Scott Mark, mark_s@bellsouth.com, www.stampclubs.com

October 23 **ANNUAL CSRA STAMP SHOW**
Greater Augusta Stamp Club, Americas Best Value Inn, 3023 Washington Road (at I-20 Exit), Augusta. Contact Peter Igel, igelsp@bellsouth.net; 706-868-6769.

November 20-21 **FALL STAMP SHOW 2010**
Stamp Dealers Association of Georgia, The Mansour Center, 995 Roswell Street, Marietta. Contact Kim Conti, cc1999@bellsouth.net; 770-426-6504.

EROS

by John Burnett

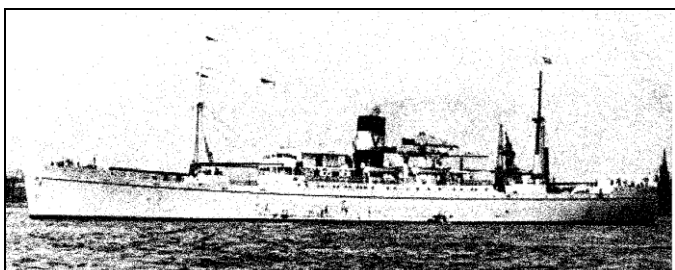
With this article are illustrated two covers from my King George VI, Canadian collection. Both covers ended up at the same location and figuring out just what happened was a real challenge.

The first cover (with a stamp on it) is addressed to Paris from Montreal. The cancel dates the mailing as May 29, 1940.

The second cover without a stamp was mailed from Aquadell, Saskatchewan on May 24, 1940 and is addressed to a Canadian army trooper in care of the "base Post office" in Ottawa Ontario for forwarding to an active duty military person.

Both covers end up in Montreal for sea transport to England (mail to Paris was routed via London) and the Canadian trooper was probably in England awaiting deployment.

The mail was loaded on the 5888 ton ship SS Eros which also carried raw copper, ferro chrome and small arms.



On June 3, 1940 the Eros departed Montreal and was nearly across the Atlantic when on June 7 at 0322 she was spotted by U-48 and fired upon from a range of 3000 meters. Eros was seriously damaged and the crew of 62 abandoned ship, U-48 left after seeing the crew abandon ship.

Eros was taken in tow by HMS Berkley and assisted by HMS Bandit, an ocean going tug that was nearby looking for another ship that had sent a "mayday" call the day before. HMS Bandit towed the sinking SS Eros to Tory Island, off the coast of Northern Ireland, and beached her. Eros had some holds flooded and some were still dry. Once beached the cargo was off loaded including the mail.

The cover to France was stored in a dry hold while the cover to the army trooper ended up wet (as evidenced by the condition of the envelope and the missing stamp)

Both covers were marked "SALVED FROM THE SEA" which is a British term meaning salvaged, and then forwarded to London for continuation of their journey.

During the period all this was happening France fell to the Germans and so our cover received another hand stamp "SERVICE SUSPENDU", meaning mail service to France had been suspended due to war. This envelope was returned to Canada and was received by the Dead letter Office in Ottawa on August 14, 1940, where it was opened the address found and noted in pencil in the upper left corner of the envelope, the envelope was then officially sealed by postal sealing tape.

The envelope to the Canadian trooper was forwarded but to this day the contents have not been removed as they became totally stuck together by being submerged in water in a flooded hold.

You might think "how does he know all this stuff about these envelopes?" The answer "the internet" and lots of time devoted to the research. This is something you can do just as easily as me and I encourage you to try and write something about your collection for the club newsletter.

