

The **Canadian Philatelist** Le **Philatéliste canadien**

November/December 2008 novembre/décembre - VOL. 59 • NO.6

Dear Friends,

Happy Holidays and a hearty Ho-Ho-Ho! fr

The letter from your class arrived in our mo
started to get very busy here at Santa's Worksh
day of Christmas preparations, the elves, Mrs. C
gathered around the fireplace to see what you

Hearing from so many of our friends all a
great surprise! I began reading out loud so w

ter you had written together in class. Before
ad taken a turn reading. We spend many

the North Pole reading together
you do at school and at h
has gone b

harness
again next year

Merry Christmas to everyone!

Your good friend,
Santa Claus

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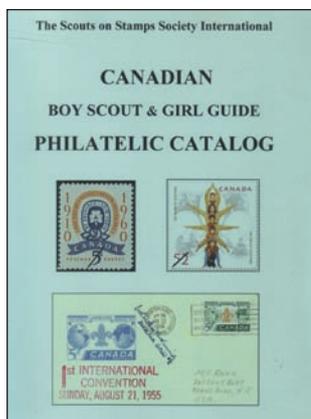
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Journal of THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANADA
Revue de LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE DE PHILATÉLIE DU CANADA



CANADIAN BOY SCOUT & GIRL GUIDE PHILATELIC CATALOG

By Tony Manson. Published by the Scouts on Stamps Society International, Inc., 2008. ISBN 978-0-9796338-1-2. Wire bound, 242 pages, black & white with covers in colour. \$29.95; SOSSI members \$24.95 plus shipping and handling. 8.5 X 11 inches. Available from SOSSI, Lawrence Clay, P.O. Box 6228, Kennewick, WA 99336, USA. E-mail secretary@sossi.org

The *Canadian Boy Scout & Girl Guide Philatelic Catalog* is a comprehensive work presented in a visually pleasing format. Readers

will have no difficulty in finding their way through the plethora of philatelic material spanning nearly the entire 100-year history of scouting; for example, the cachet and cover sections of the catalogue illustrate and list in excess of 1,000 philatelic items.

Unlike the usual stamp catalogues that generally provide a complete checklist of all issued stamps, this publication also qualifies as a handbook in addition to a checklist. It details the known and reported Boy Scout and Girl Guide philatelic items that a number of collectors made available to the author for the publication of this work. However, Manson readily admits that it is not a complete work; more than likely there is other Scout- and Guide-related material in existence that remains unreported. Collectors are encouraged to report these items.

Each of the five postage stamps that Canada Post has issued to commemorate Scouts and Guides is illustrated. Accompanying these images are relevant data such as date of issue, designer, printer, perforation size and so on. An interesting section depicts the various scout-related picture postage stamps.

Slogan cancels are always favourites with postal history collectors and Scout and Guide postal slogans are no exception. Starting with the earliest reported slogan, "HELP THE BOY/LOCAL CAMPAIGN/THIS WEEK" OTTAWA, ONT. 1927-1932/TORONTO 1927, Manson has numbered and illustrated subsequent examples up to the end of 2007.

Arranged chronologically, the catalogue illustrates cancellations and covers from the earliest ones known to the end of 2007. Included in the 1,000-plus illustrated items are 139 covers from the 8th World Jamboree held in 1955 and an additional 137 covers from the 15th World Jamboree held in 1983.

The catalogue is divided into a further 11 sections, in addition to a two-page introduction. Sections 1 and 2 consist of issued stamps, commemorative covers and slogan cancels whereas Scout and Guide Events cancels are listed and illustrated in section 3.

Cachets (the earliest one pictured dating back to 1913 to commemorate the Boy Scouts' Rally held in Paris, Ontario, on May 24) take up the next seven sections. Cachets produced in 1940 and thereafter are listed separately by decade. The latest illustrated cachet commemorates the Canada's Centennial Scouter Conference hosted by Vancouver, November 29 to December 2, 2007. Appendices consisting of 18 pages of illustrated material including Boy Scout Message envelopes, Canadian covers from non-Canadian World Jamborees, a glossary, Jamborees in Canada and a checklist of Scout and Guide cachets complement the catalogue.

For collectors of Boy Scout and Girl Guide postage stamp material, this catalogue will be a most useful addition to their philatelic libraries. It will also be useful for potential collectors casting about for a new collecting specialty as it provides a snapshot of the type of material that is available for the formation of a collection.

For the wider readership, this publication will be of interest to all devotees of the Scout and Guide movement.

Tony Shaman