



LET'S TALK EXHIBITING

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PARLONS EXPOSITIONS

SOCIAL PHILATELY IN DISPLAY EXHIBITS

The term “social philately” has been used for at least the past 40 years, ever since it was explicitly introduced in Australia to refer to exhibits which incorporated a social aspect into one’s Treatment and Development, to the point where the exhibit was as much about events and person-ages (“social stuff”) as it was about pure philatelic story telling. Most often, social philately exhibits were replete with collateral material, such as newspaper clippings, photographs, picture post cards and other paper ephemera concordant with the philatelic material being shown.

“Social Philately” is used in Great Britain as a particular Class within which one may choose to enter their exhibits, and has its own guidelines. However, the term is uncommon in North American exhibiting; instead, other terms like “Special Studies” (e.g., *APS Manual of Philatelic Judging*, Third Edition, 1990) [MOPJE], and “Open Class” or “Open Philately” (e.g., *FIP Guidelines 2018*) contain what might otherwise be considered social philately exhibits.

For our purposes, “Display Exhibits” in the current *MOPJE, Seventh Edition*, provides the guidelines within which to prepare a philatelic exhibit that emphasizes in some way the socio-historical aspects of what one is presenting. Once one settles on a theme and develops a story line, one is then free to introduce collateral and non-postal material to both complement and expand upon the exhibit’s story line and its philatelic material. And, as a rule of thumb, such collateral material can approach 50 per cent of all the material in the exhibit, *as long as the exhibit maintains its philatelic integrity*.

Examples of current display exhibits being shown in Canada are few, but they are increasingly common at American APS WSP shows. The recent Royal 2021 Royale Virtual included one entitled “Remembering Edith Cavell” by Marilyn Gendek of Australia, and the recent BNAPEX 2021, also virtual, had one too, titled “Canada’s C-Force in Hong Kong & its Forerunner: From a Social Philately Approach”, by the Toronto exhibitor Sam Chiu.

Let’s take a look at Chiu’s exhibit to see how he has woven non-philatelic, but clearly concordant, material into his display of the postal history of Canada’s C-Force in Hong Kong during the tumultuous times of World War II.

C-Force was the name of the 1200-member strong military contingent sent from Canada to Hong Kong in defense of Hong Kong Island from possible Japanese invasion. At the battle of Hong Kong in December 1941, the

LA PHILATÉLIE SOCIALE EN EXPRESSION LIBRE

Le terme « philatélie sociale » a été utilisé depuis au moins les quarante dernières années après avoir été explicitement introduit en Australie en référence aux collections dont le traitement et le montage comportaient un aspect social, à tel point que la collection portait davantage sur des événements et des personnages (« éléments sociaux ») que sur un récit strictement philatélique. La plupart du temps, les collections de philatélie sociale sont remplies de pièces connexes, comme des coupures de journaux, des photos, des cartes postales et d’autres éphémères en papier se rapportant aux pièces philatéliques exposées.

En Grande-Bretagne, il existe une classe « philatélie sociale » ayant ses propres règles et à laquelle les gens peuvent inscrire leurs collections. Cependant, le terme est peu commun en Amérique du Nord. Nous employons d’autres termes, par exemple, « études particulières » (Special Studies dans le *APS Manual of Philatelic Judging*, 3e édition, 1990) [MOPJE], « classe ouverte » ou « philatélie ouverte » (directives 2018 de la FIP) qui englobent ce qui pourrait être considéré comme des collections de philatélie sociale.

Aux fins du présent texte, « *Display Exhibits* » (expression libre), dans la septième édition du *MOPJE* actuel, fournit des directives sur l’élaboration d’une collection philatélique qui, d’une certaine manière, fait ressortir certains aspects historiques et sociaux. Lorsque l’auteur a choisi son thème et trouvé le fil conducteur de son récit, il peut introduire des éléments connexes non postaux pour compléter le tout et donner de l’envergure à ses pièces philatéliques. Ces éléments connexes peuvent avoisiner environ 50 pour cent de toute la collection, *pour autant que cette dernière maintienne son intégrité philatélique*.

Il existe peu d’exemples de ce type de collections au Canada, mais elles sont de plus en plus répandues aux États-Unis dans les expositions de la World Series of Philately (WSP) de l’American Philatelic Society (APS). La récente Royal 2021 Royale virtuelle en présentait une intitulée « Remembering Edith Cavell » de Marilyn Gendek, d’Australie, et le dernier BNAPEX 2021, aussi virtuel, en comptait une intitulée « Canada’s C-Force in Hong Kong & its Forerunner: From a Social Philately Approach », de l’exposant torontois, Sam Chiu.

Jetons un coup d’œil à la collection de Sam Chiu pour voir comment il a inséré des éléments non philatéliques, mais de toute évidence compatibles, dans sa collection sur l’histoire postale de la Force-C du Canada, présente à Hong Kong à l’époque tumultueuse de la Seconde Guerre mondiale.

« Force-C » était le nom du puissant contingent militaire de 1200 membres dépêchés du Canada à Hong Kong pour défendre l’île contre une possible invasion japonaise. Lors de la bataille de

Canada's C-Force in Hong Kong and its Forerunners — From a Social Philately Approach 1941-1945

Mission

From a Social Philately approach, the postal history of Canada's C-Force in Hong Kong (HK) and the postal history of its forerunner for the Winnipeg Grenadiers (WG) as Y-Force in Jamaica, are shown.

Introduction

- Canada sent 2 battalions in defence of Hong Kong (HK) in 1941;
- Winnipeg Grenadiers (WG) and Royal Rifles of Canada (RRC) comprising of 1975 men and 2 nurses; including a small contingent of various HQ staff;
- WG served garrison duty in Jamaica from June 1940 to Sept 1941 replacing British Forces who were called back to defend the British Isles;
- Shortly upon return to Winnipeg, WG were then shipped in Oct 1941 as C-Force to HK;
- This exhibit shows the postal history of WG as forerunners to C-Force and C-Force in HK, as POWs in HK camps and repatriation after WWII;

Rarity/Importance
Dark purple matting used to indicate important or rare items

Original research
shown by magnifier

Plan

Chapter	Frame	Postal History of C-Force & its Forerunners
Chapter 1	1.1	1 Forerunner: WG as Y-Force in Jamaica
	1.2	1 Enroute to Hong Kong
	1.3	1 Arrival in Hong Kong
	1.4	1/2 Detained in Hong Kong
	1.5	2 Returned / Undeliverable mail
	1.6	2 POW mail from Hong Kong
	1.7	2 Mail to POW received in HK (& Japan)
Chapter 2	Individual Correspondence	Contents
2.1	2 Gresham Correspondence (WG)	Y-Force covers (from Jamaica) showing 6 different censors
2.2	3 Twist Correspondence (WG)	Y-Force covers, letters to Ian Morgan at Dept. of National Defence
2.3	3 C. E. Smith Correspondence (WG)	Letter from HK, WG Commemorative Book (Dec 1939), Winnipeg newspaper cutting of WG news by family 1939-41
2.4	3 Lester Correspondence (RRC)	RRC & Dept. of National Defence covers/letters to POW family, cover from POW upon return
2.5	3/4 Benton Correspondence (WG)	POW PS cards from HK, Casualty List, photos
2.6	4 Dowling Correspondence (RCCS)	Covers with letters to POW Camp in HK, LPW airmailers, Notice to Allied POW, Welcome Card (Winnipeg), Notebook
	4 Epilogue	

Historical Timeline

- 1940.05.27 WG as Y-Force departed for Jamaica from Winnipeg;
- 1940.06.20 WG arrived in Kingston, Jamaica;
- 1941.09.13 WG departed Kingston, Jamaica;
- 1941.09.23 WG arrived back in Winnipeg;
- 1941.10.23 RCC departed Valcartier;
- 1941.10.23 WG departed Winnipeg;
- 1941.10.27 C-Force sailed from Vancouver on TSS Awatea & HMCS Price Robert (150 men only);
- 1941.11.02 arrived then departed Honolulu;
- 1941.11.15 arrived then departed Manila;
- 1941.11.16 10AM arrived in HK;
- 1941.12.08 8AM Japanese started attacking, start of Battle of HK, 1st Canadian casualties of WWII;
- 1941.12.11 by noon, lost Kowloon peninsula, all troops retreated to HK island;
- 1941.12.19 Japanese landed on HK island the night before and attack early morning;
- (same day) death of C-Force Commander Brigadier Lawson, also Major Gresham & CSM Osborn (in 1946 was promulgated the 1st Victoria Cross of WWII, only from Pacific Area);
- 1941.12.25 capitulation of HK; 290 C-Force members die in battle with 493 wounded;
- 1942.09.26 closing of North Point Camp, most Canadian POWs were then in Sham Shui Po Camp;
- 1943.01.19 Tatsuta Maru brought 1st group of Canadian POWs to Japan (665 POWs);
- 1943.08.15 Manyu Maru brought 2nd group of Canadian POWs to Japan (376 POWs);
- 1943.09.23 2 Canadian nurses that served with C-Force departed HK on 2nd Gripsholm exchange together with 22 other Canadian civilians from HK;
- 1943.12.15 Toyama Maru brought 3rd group of Canadian POWs to Japan (98 POWs);
- 1944.04.29 Naura Maru brought last group of Canadian POWs to Japan (47 POWs)(136 Canadian POWs were to die in Japan Camps);
- 1945.08.15 Japan surrendered;
- 1945.08.16 Japanese forces everywhere laid down their arms in response to Imperial Rescript from the day before;
- (Same day) Union Jack raised over Sham Shui Po Camp, British officers took over camp control;
- 1945.08.18 4PM US Air force dropped "Notice to Allied POW & Civilians" bilingual flyers into Sham Shui Po Camp (Dowling Correspondence);
- 1945.08.30 Rear Admiral Cecil Harcourt arrived the day earlier on HMS *Indomitable* was transferred to HMS *Swiftsure* to establish a British Military Administration in HK;
- Of the 1975 C-Force members that went to HK, 557 did not return after the war;

Philatelic Timeline (those established by exhibitor's research are in RED)

- 1941.10.27 & beyond, no Canadian mail reached HK before invasion to C-Force members (Breakey Correspondence);
- 1941.11.02 3 bags of mail/150lbs at Honolulu c/o US Army PO (Clarke in Webb);
- 1941.11.19 HMCS Price Robert departed HK taking a bag of mail/92lbs (Clarke in Webb);
- 1941.11.20 earliest mail sent by C-Force in HK;
- 1941.11.22 no parcel post service set up yet for C-Force (C.E. Smith Correspondence);
- 1941.11.29 last C-Force surface mail departed HK on eastbound transport (later mail was Detained in HK);
- 1941.11.29 last C-Force airmail departed HK (later mail was Detained in HK);
- 1942.04.15 Dept. of National Defence form-letter informing families how to send letters (Tett);
- 1942.05/06 1st time Canadian POWs were given one PS card each to write home (Tett, Greenhouse);
- 1942.07.10 about 1/4 of POW a second mailing, then no mailing for next 9 months (Greenhouse);
- 1942.08.25 1st POW mail received in New York from 1st MS Gripsholm exchange, 650 items (Clarke);
- 1942.10.31 Dept. of National Defence form-letter informing families 2nd Gripsholm exchange on hold carrying parcels/ letters already full (Lester Correspondence);
- (2nd Gripsholm exchange/sailing was delayed until Aug/Sept 1943, parcels were off-loaded, chocolates were donated to NY area hospitals);
- 1943.08.23 2nd batch of incoming mail from both POW & civilians, 46 items only (Clarke);
- 1945.08.28 last day of Japanese control of PO in HK;
- 1945.09.05 British reopened PO in HK & Kowloon;
- 3 years 8 months in captivity, POW received 3 letters was "fair average" (Endacott/Greenhouse);

Insignia/cap-badges of members' units shown in this exhibit

Winnipeg Grenadiers WG Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps RCAMC Royal Canadian Army Chaplain Corps RCACCh Royal Canadian Corps of Signals RCCS Royal Rifles of Canada RRC

1.1.1 Forerunners : WG as Y-Force in Jamaica

- WG arrived in Kingston, Jamaica on Jun 20, 1940 & departed Sep 13, 1941;
- Exhibitor research shows there were 3 different periods of censorship procedures;
- Period 1:** ERD (earliest recorded date): 1940 Jul 6 (cover in exhibit);
- LRD (latest recorded date): last days of July 1940;
- Important features: 1) no sender's name & rank were needed on cover; 2) oval censor marking signed by censor or by signature hand-stamp;
- Period 2:** ERD: 1940 Aug 5 (in exhibit); LRD: 1940 Dec 23 (in exhibit);
- Important features: 1) sender name & rank were required on cover; 2) oval censor marking signed by censor or by signature hand-stamp;
- Period 3:** ERD: Jan 1941; LRD: 1941 Sep 2 (in exhibit);
- Important features: 1) sender's name and rank were required on cover; 2) censored by circular generic censor marking "Military Censor Y Force no.4";

Photo of an iconic HK image of a Rickshaw puller, taken by Benton on his arrival in Nov 1941. Benton's shadow was shown on the lower left corner.

Photo Credits: Images of most WG members were from WG Commemorative Book (exhibitor owns a copy from C.E. Smith Correspondence); Y-Force newspaper clippings (exhibitor owns, from Smith Correspondence); photos from Benton Correspondence; Others are from website of Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association (exhibitor is a member);

Figure 1.

city was attacked and overrun. Two hundred and ninety Canadian soldiers lost their lives in the fighting, the force capitulating on Christmas Day, and the survivors were taken as prisoners of war. Then followed four years of subsistence in the POW camps, with at least as many perishing from starvation as had died in battle. At War's end, the remaining survivors were gradually repatriated to Canada.

Chiu's exhibit follows the history of C-Force, from its beginnings in Jamaica (as the Winnipeg Grenadiers Y-Force even before it was sent to Hong Kong), through their Hong Kong posting, their POW years, and their eventual repatriation. Along the way he introduces us to some of the men who fought, died, or were captured and later repatriated. He uses a lot of postal history in terms of family correspondence, often exerting passages from letters, and showing us how the mail was delayed or suspended due to the war, with relevant censor or directional markings.

He shows us the POW cards that the Japanese produced in allowing POW mail from captured C-Force troops (Figure 3). And he shows us covers of the letters home during the process of repatriation. He has had access to a lot of family correspondence, previously unrecorded by the philatelic community.

As collateral material he shows us the insignia or cap badges of the Canadian regiments that participated in C-force (e.g., Figure 1). He shows us pictures of individual

Hong Kong, en 1941, la ville est attaquée et envahie. Deux cent quatre-vingt-dix soldats canadiens y laissent leur vie. La force capitule le jour de Noël et les survivants sont faits prisonniers de guerre. Suivent quatre années de subsistance dans des camps de prisonniers où au moins autant d'hommes qu'il en est mort durant la bataille meurent de faim. À la fin de la guerre, les survivants sont graduellement rapatriés au Canada.

La collection de Sam Chiu trace l'histoire de la Force-C de ses débuts en Jamaïque (en tant que Force-Y des Winnipeg Grenadiers, même avant qu'ils soient déployés à Hong Kong) en passant par son affectation à Hong Kong, ses années dans les camps de prisonniers et son rapatriement. Chemin faisant, il nous présente certains des hommes qui ont combattu, sont morts ou ont été capturés et plus tard, rapatriés. Il puise beaucoup dans l'histoire postale au moyen de correspondance familiale citant souvent des passages de lettres et nous montrant comment le courrier accusait des retards ou était suspendu en raison de la guerre tout en mettant en évidence les marques pertinentes de censure ou les marques directionnelles.

Il nous montre également les cartes de prisonniers de guerre que produisaient les Japonais pour autoriser les troupes captives de la Force-C à envoyer et à recevoir du courrier (figure 3). De plus, il montre des plis expédiés au pays pendant le processus de rapatriement. Il a eu accès à beaucoup de correspondance familiale jamais consignée par des philatélistes.

À titre d'éléments connexes, il expose des insignes ou des insignes de casquette des régiments canadiens ayant participé à la Force-C (figure 1) ainsi que des photos individuelles de soldats et



Figure 2.

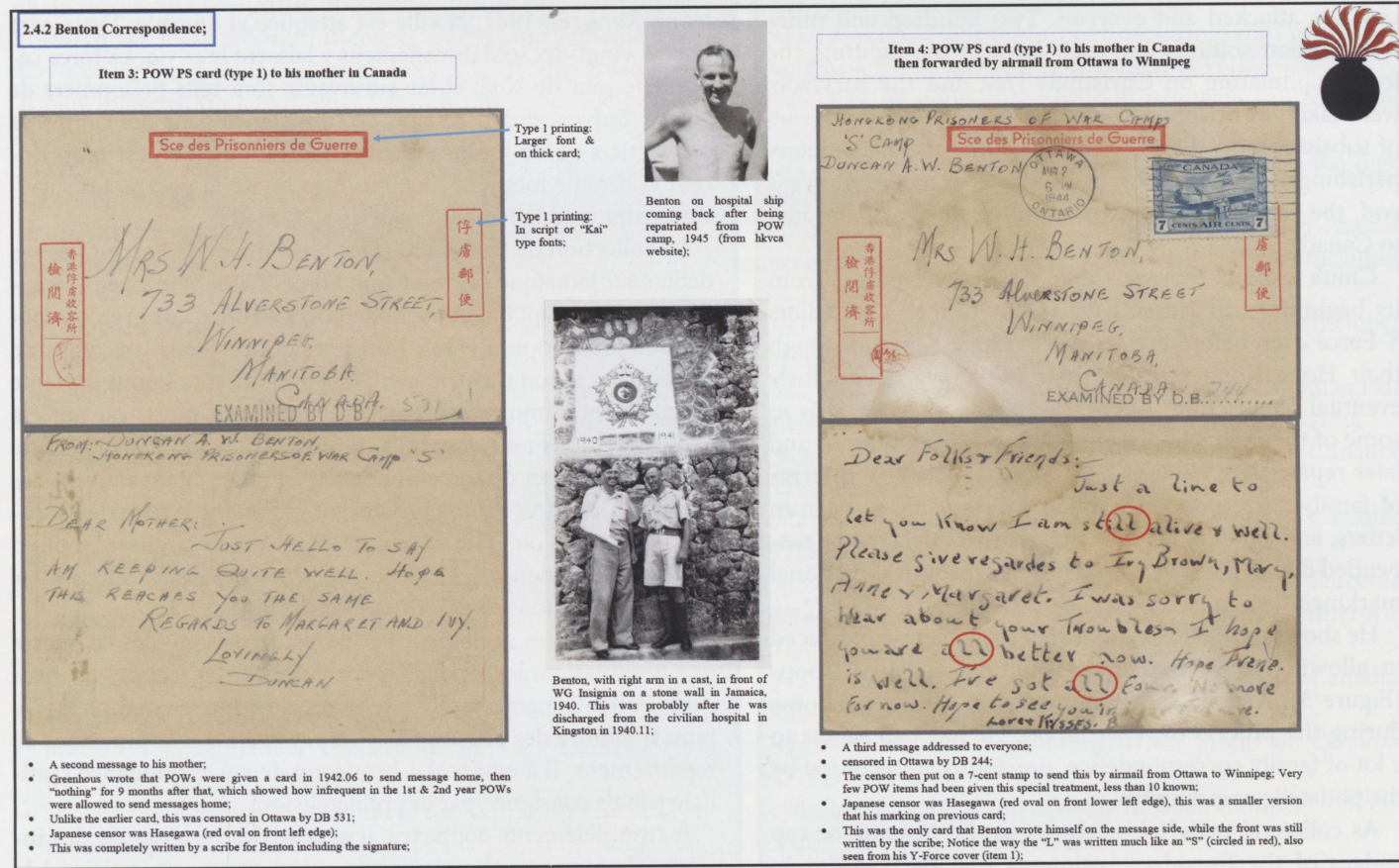


Figure 3.

soldiers themselves, and, if they died, he places a standard Canadian Red Cross poppy nearby, in acknowledgement of each individual's wartime sacrifice (e.g., Figure 2). He even shows excerpts from a POW's diary, with relevant passages about prisoner deaths by name; a prisoner's notebook with his sketches and drawings; and an example of an actual flyer dropped by US airplanes over one of the prison camps soon to be liberated.

Take a look at only the three pages from his 32-page, four frame, exhibit reproduced for this column, and see how he has woven his collateral material into his philatelic material in order to give us an appreciation not only for the events that befell the members of C-Force during the War, but also for the extensive research he has managed to produce in the creation of this exhibit.

Not all of us may have the ability to form a Display exhibit of such complexity and uniqueness, but the principal of how to incorporate non-postal and ephemeral material into an exhibit holds. *It must support and amplify the philatelic material we are showing* and without overwhelming the philatelic material. Nuff said. ☒

Previous columns in this series may also appear on the RPSC website at <http://www.rpsc.org/exhibiting.htm>. Readers are encouraged to use any of them to facilitate further discussion at club meetings, and to promote novice exhibiting at local and regional levels. The author can be reached at dpiercey@telus.net for further discussions about exhibiting.

place à côté de ceux qui sont décédés un coquelicot de la Croix-Rouge canadienne en reconnaissance de chaque vie sacrifiée à la guerre. Il nous montre même des extraits d'un journal de prisonnier de guerre avec des passages pertinents sur la mort de prisonniers qu'il nomme; le cahier de notes d'un prisonnier avec des esquisses et des dessins; un exemplaire d'un vrai prospectus largué d'un avion étatsunien sur l'un des camps qui devaient bientôt être libérés.

Examinez seulement les trois pages de sa collection de trente-deux pages, quatre cadres, reproduites ici et notez la façon dont il a intégré les éléments connexes aux pièces philatéliques afin de nous donner une idée, non seulement des événements qui ont touché les membres de la Force-C pendant la guerre, mais aussi de la recherche exhaustive qu'il a réussi à réaliser en créant sa collection.

Nous n'avons pas tous l'habileté de monter une collection d'expression libre si complexe et si unique, mais l'essentiel de l'incorporation d'éléments non postaux et éphémères à une collection est là. *Ces éléments doivent soutenir les pièces philatéliques que nous exposons et leur donner de l'envergure sans les écraser.* D'après Nuff. ☒

Des articles antérieurs de la présente chronique sont aussi accessibles dans le site de la SRPC au <http://www.rpsc.org/exhibiting.htm>. Nous invitons les lecteurs à les utiliser pour animer les discussions aux réunions et encourager les débutants à participer aux expositions locales et régionales. Vous pouvez joindre l'auteur à dpiercey@telus.net si vous souhaitez parler davantage d'expositions.

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