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NEWSLETTER

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Issue 4

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Stats for Sept.

As we are half way through our second year, it is time to have a look at our stats for this September compared to last September. As you might have expected, the numbers are continuing an upward trend.

Here is a comparison of September usage for 2005 and 2006.

Average daily	2005	2006
Hits	540	1618
Visits	69	116

This points out two things:

- 1) the number of visits (this is unique visits per day) has increased by approximately seventy percent and
- 2) each of these visitors to the site is staying longer and visiting more pages - approximately 75% more pages. All good news.

The Stradivarius - is it the real thing?



Thousands of violins bear the name of the famous Cremona craftsman, but very few of these were made by Stradivari. He labeled all of his instruments using the Latin Antonius Stradivarius Cremonensis Faciebat Anno [date]. The date is either printed or written by hand. About 650 of his instruments survive today.

Since Stradivari set the bar high for quality in the manufacture of musical instruments, manufacturers for centuries afterward used his name both as tribute and for marketing purposes.

Copies made after 1891 may also have a country of origin printed in English at the bottom of the label, such as "Made in Czechoslovakia," or simply "Germany."

A violin's authenticity (i.e. whether it is the product of the maker whose label or signature it bears) can only be determined through comparative study of design, model wood characteristics, and varnish texture. This expertise is gained through examination of hundreds or even thousands of instruments, and there is no substitute for an experienced eye. [Source: Smithsonian Institute]

What's it ??? - August



August's "What's It" has not yet been correctly identified, so here is a hint ... it is used to iron a specific item ... any idea what that item might be???

What's it ??? - September



September's "What's it", shown above was correctly identified as a hat stretcher by Troy MacDonald from Borden/Carleton in P.E.I. He recognized it as his mother-in-law had one. Thanks Troy for your correct answer!

**Add your shop to
antiquesincanada.com
\$50.00 for one year
email me:
marjorie@antiquesincanada.com**

Travelling Again

In September Peter and I were on the road again but not around Canada visiting antique shops. We took a bit of a break from this and travelled to England where we completed the "Coast to Coast" walk. This is a 190 mile walk from the west coast to the east coast. We walked along cliffs, through bogs, over moors and dales. We crossed mountains, farmland and overflowing streams.

There were no computers at our stop-overs so I apologize to those of you who were trying to reach me. Alas my e-mail box became full so if you tried to send me a note it may have bounced back. You can now safely send it and I promise a speedy reply.

Homestead Antiques, Gifts & Gardens



This lovely antique shop is located in beautiful Summerside, PEI on the historic walking tour. It is recognized as "One of the Island's Great Experiences" with close to 3000 sq ft of pure pleasure.

This is just one of twelve antique shops in PEI which are listed with Antiques in Canada. When you go to PEI be sure to visit them all.

Ephemera

As I was delving through some antique information the other day I came across the word Ephemera. Interesting word ... I did a little research.

According to the dictionary It has two meanings:

- 1) a short lived thing.
 - 2) printed matter of passing interest.
- This second one was definitely the meaning for which I was looking.

I then searched a little more ... and found the following excerpt from the article "Ephemera - There's Something in it for You" in the "Antique & Collectibles Trader", Volume 63, Spring 2006.

Ephemera - it covers all paper collectibles that are fragile and transitory. That includes documents, manuscripts, postcards, Valentines, greeting cards, menus, timetables, posters, books, brochures, and all things paper. Some definitions also extend to other non-paper items of transitory nature.

Ephemera takes up very little space, is easy to store, relatively easy to find (depending on what you collect), and incredibly interesting. There are still lots of great ephemera 'finds' out there and you won't have to take out a second mortgage on your home to build a great collection.

So, for all you folks out there who would like to collect something antique and don't have much room, ephemera might be the answer.

Or if you like food ... collecting menus will enlarge your food interests without enlarging your waistline. Some menus are elaborate with beautiful artwork.

You will find more information at <http://www.ephemerasyociety.org>, the home page of The Ephemera Society of America, Inc. It is a non-profit organization formed in 1980 to cultivate and encourage interest in ephemera and the history identified with it.



A Cameo stamp (such as the one shown above) is a good example of ephemera. It is an early form of trademark or logotype, produced between 1850 and 1880 for use by merchants, manufacturers, service providers, and institutions. Called "stamps" originally, these corporate identity emblems were nicknamed "cameos" by modern collectors due to the embossing.

<http://www.ephemera society.org>



Another example would be a cigar box label devised in the middle of the 19th century to improve the presentation of their products and to protect themselves against counterfeits.

<http://www.ephemera society.org>