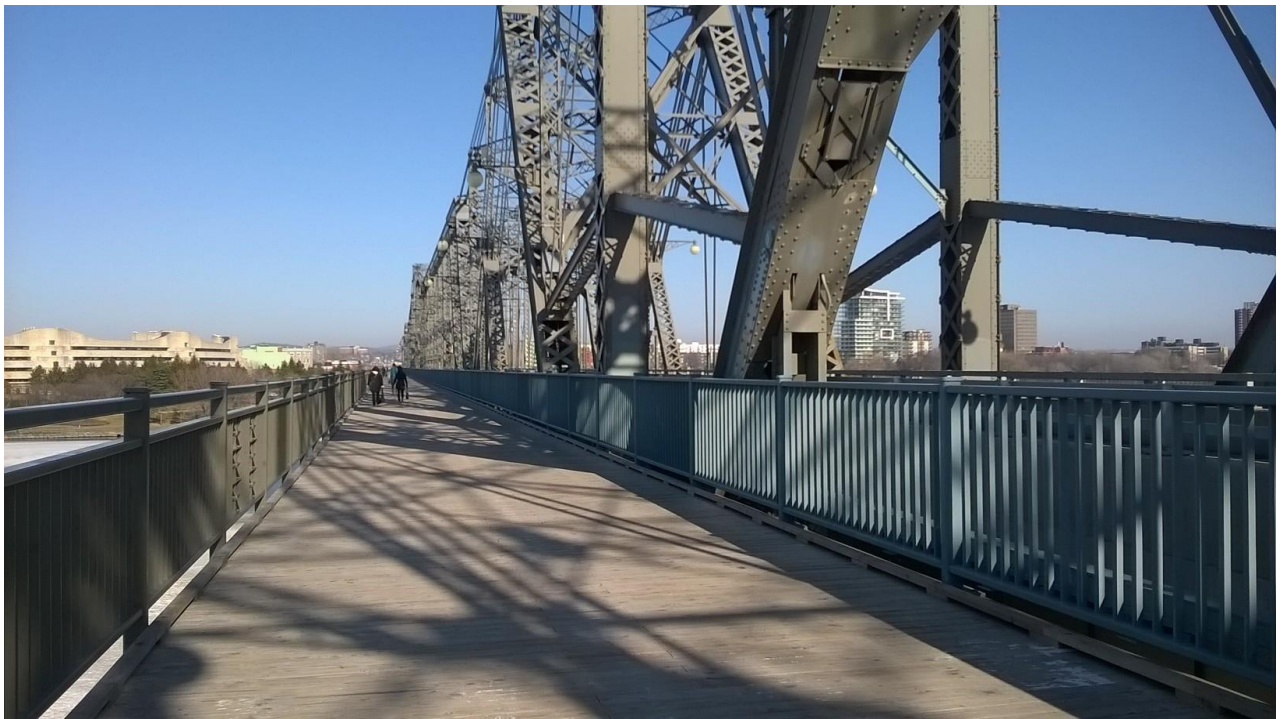


IATM Skillbridge

Building bridges between
Postmuseum, Stockholm Sweden and
Canadian Museum of History,
Ottawa Canada

13th -17th of April 2015



Introduction

In April 2015 Hanna Nydahl, Curator and Lotte Edsbrand, Director and manager of Public & Collections from Postmuseum, Stockholm Sweden visited Canadian museum of History in Ottawa, Canada. The aim of the journey was to gain new skills and knowledge and exchange ideas and thoughts about paper conservation techniques, exhibition and storage. Since we are facing similar challenges and opportunities, we believed Canadian Museum of History would be a good partner for us. Both museums also recognize the need to develop networks of expertise for advisement on the subject of philatelic materials.

The stamp market in Sweden is introducing new glue techniques, colours and materials and so the Swedish Postmuseum has started to exhibit and partly conserve stamps in a new manner.

The visit we proposed to Canadian Museum of History focused on the collection of stamps as well as meeting colleagues to learn more about how they work with their collection: the storage, exhibit and conservation laboratory. The Postmuseum in Sweden does not have a lab and we were interested to learn and take part of their models for preservation. We were also interested in taking part of the conservation in terms of exhibition as well as how they deal and work with digitalization, security, databases and education/learning.



Our host during the week was Bianca Gendreau,
Manager Research, Contemporary Canada and the World.

The first day we were welcomed by our host Bianca Gendreau, Alan Elder, Manager of First people and prehistoric collections and Dean F. Oliver, Director of Research. After a first tour of the museum and lunch, we visited Myriam Proulx, Project Process Analyst. She explained the project managers' role and how she works with LEAN management in order to structure projects and personnel at the museum.



Postal room

In the afternoon we met up with Wanda McWilliams, Director of collections and John Staunton, Collections Coordinator. They gave us a tour of the collection rooms, including the stamp and the postal rooms.



Stamp room



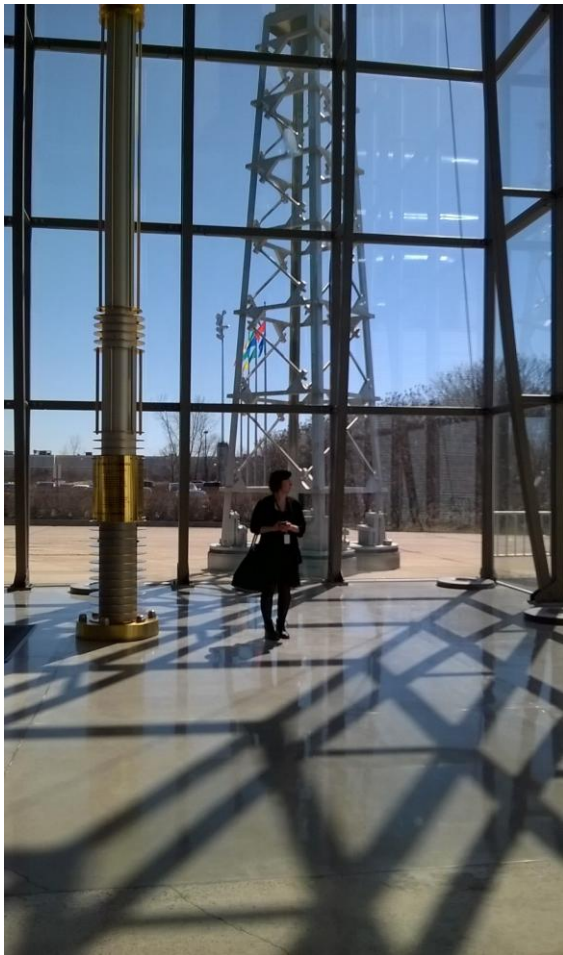
The philatelic material is stored in plastic pouches which are placed in standing binders. The stamps and the first day covers of an edition are stored together in the same pouch.



Library and Archives Canada

The original philatelic collection from the Canadian postal museum was split into two parts when the postal museum was incorporated into the Canadian museum of history. One part belongs to CMH and the other to Library and Archives Canada. The collections are not identical and are used for different purposes. The one in CMH is accessible for the public, exhibition and research. The collection at Library and Archives Canada can only be seen when an appointment request is sent. The researcher will have to specify what philatelic pieces they want to see. Since both of the collections were interesting for us, Bianca quickly arranged a visit there.

The philatelic material at the Library and Archive Canada is divided into stamps, stamp proofs and mother-dies. It is stored horizontal.



Paper lab at Canadian Museum of History



Amanda Gould, paper conservator, made a presentation of her work and showed us the stamp database. We talked about their use of stamp related terms in their database and how that relates to the terminology we use. We also discussed conservation treatments, materials and techniques and the need, possibilities and advantages of networking between institutions and countries.

We will probably face similar (future) problems when it comes to conservation of new types of composite stamps, for example composites of plastic, textile and paper.



More labs and conservation discussions...



The Canadian Stamp Collection Exhibit



Cathy Mitchell Exhibition Designer, Chantal Baril Senior Scenographer, Bianca Gendreau and Amanda Gould gave us an in depth tour of the stamp exhibition.

We talked about exhibition design and the difficult choices we face when deciding which objects to exhibit.



The Archives & Digitization Processes and Standards



Benoit Thériault, Jonathan Wise and Vincent Lafond had prepared a lovely presentation of the textual, photographic and audio-visual archives at the Resource Centre. We also visited the storage rooms and discussed storage issues and preservation of material.

Afterwards we were treated with a walkthrough of the digitization process and were generously given copies of the Digitization Standards used at the museum.



The Children's museum

The children's museum is a very hands-on exhibition that focuses on the diversity of cultures, travel and communication. For us it was both inspiring as well as working as a confirmation of what we do in our own museum.



Stockholm, August 2015



Lotte Edsbrand & Hanna Nydahl