# Canadian local Christmas seal

**By John Denune Jr.**

What was believed to be a scarce United States local Christmas seal recently was discovered to be from Canada.
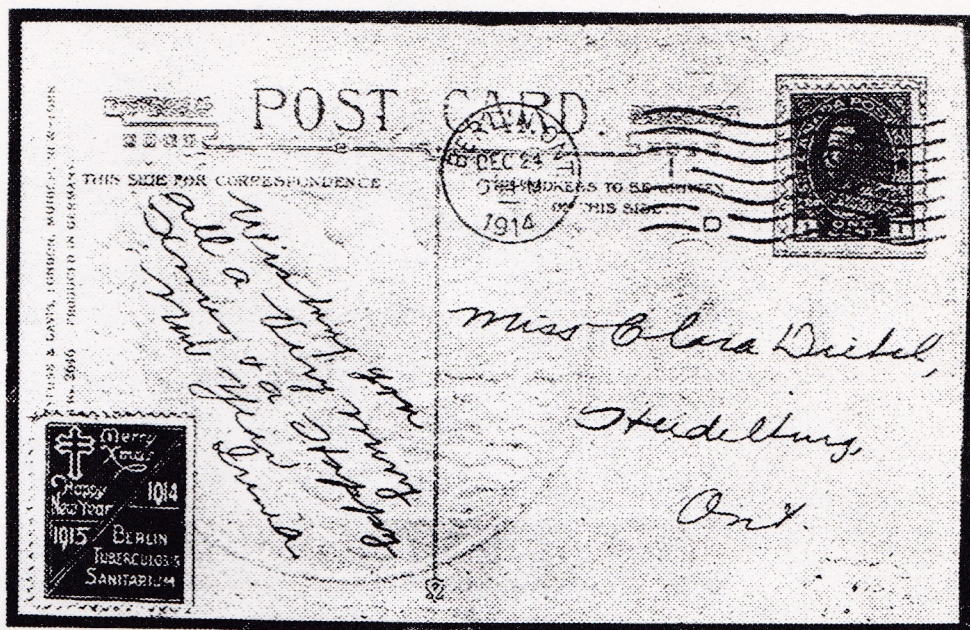
The Berlin Tuberculosis Sanitarium seal issued in 1914 always was considered to be from Berlin, Wis. However, a recently discovered postcard bearing the seal was postmarked Dec. 24, 1914, from Berlin, Ontario, Canada.

Unfortunately, the seal was not tied on the card by the postmark, so the seal could have been added years later. When I looked into this matter, though, I found that this was not the case.

Part of the answer was found in an Aug. 5, 1951, letter written by Dick Green. Green was the original compiler of *Green's Catalog*, the bible of United States and worldwide tuberculosis Christmas seals.

Green stated in the letter: "As to the Berlin TB seal, Annis owns the only copy I have ever seen. The nearest to any information that I ever received was from the Chamber of Commerce [of Berlin, Wis.] in 1938 stating that Berlin, Wis., never had a TB sanitarium and that no seal, to their knowledge, was ever issued . . . I think it perhaps comes from some other place."

This letter was written to Charles Lorenz, a dealer who ran the collector's service for the National Tuberculosis As-



This 1914 postcard from Berlin, Ontario, Canada, bears a copy of the local Berlin Tuberculosis Sanitarium Christmas seal. Before the discovery of this postcard, the seal was thought to be from Berlin, Wis.

sociation. On Oct. 19, 1953, Lorenz ran an advertisement in *The Berlin Shopping News* of Berlin, Wis., searching for the 1914 seal. He was unable to locate a single copy.

I found Berlin, Wis., on a modern atlas but was unable to locate Berlin, Ontario. I dug up an old pre-World War I atlas, though, and located the town.

Today, Berlin, Ontario, is know as Kitchener. The city is famous for having the largest Octoberfest in North America.

The Berlin Tuberculosis Sanitarium was located in Berlin, Ontario. Its name has been changed to the Freeport Hospital. ■