

Father and daughter have burst onto world stage

Patience and cumulative expertise has put Jean-Jacques Tillard and his daughter, Livie-Laure on the world stage of stamp exhibiting.

The stamps of their homeland, St. Pierre and Miquelon, have long been the focus of Jean-Jacques and his 12-year-old daughter.



People IN STAMPS

By Melanie Cummings

Together they are an award-winning force, both garnering gold in August, at a Portland, Oregon competition where Livie-Laure entered 'Marianne Surcharge Saint-Pierre et Miquelon' and Jean-Jacques submitted 'La Surcharge Saint-Pierre et Michelon Gothique de 1885.'

Born in Sainte-Pierre, the 42-year-old Tillard is not only the president of the philatelic club of Saint-Pierre, he is also an expert everything stamp related to Saint-Pierre and Miquelon.

They are a group of small islands in the North Atlantic Ocean, 25 kilometres



Jean-Jacques and Livie-Laure Tillard.

from the coast of Newfoundland.

The islands are part of France and the European Union and the only remnant of the former colonial territory of New France that remains under French control. It also has some of the oldest settlements in the Americas dating from at least the early 16th century. The current population of the archipelagos is about 6,125.

Tillard began collecting stamps at age 10, and by 12 decided he wanted to own the complete collection of stamps featuring Saint-Pierre and Miquelon. He even set a deadline for himself, to finish the job by the time he hit age 30. He bettered that personal challenge by buying the last two missing stamps in 1992, when Tillard was just 27 years old.

"I had the advantage of working at the post office of Saint-Pierre from the age of 16, so I could buy stamps and reach my objective," said Tillard who after 24 years retired from postal work in 2006.

With his amassed expertise, Tillard set to work on writing his first book, published in 1999 and another bilingual one in 2004, as well as many articles on the subject.

He contributed his own design to the pack he'd gathered at the Federation Internationale de Philately (International Philatelic Federation) Philexfrance stamp exhibition in Paris. It's a talent that runs in the family. Tillard's wife has designed seven stamps for Saint-Pierre and will do another one for Christmas 2008.

This year he opened for business, specializing in the stamp subject that has been his intrigue from the get go.

He branched out into the whole exhibiting scene when Francois Brisson



World gold medal from St-Petersburg 07.

who is the president of the Lakeshore Stamp Club out of Montreal, told Tillard in 2005 to display his life's work. Tillard immediately followed through on the suggestion producing a one-frame exhibit of 'La surcharge Saint-Pierre et Michelon Gothique de 1885.'

"One year later, I won gold in my first regional exhibit show. Later, the same year, I won another gold at the national level and then others in 2007," said Tillard.

With these results, he qualified for international league competition, representing Canada in St. Petersburg, Russia. He won gold and became the first 'Canadian' to win in the one-frame competition.

"What is incredible is that in April 2006, I did not win any philatelic prizes, but just 14 months later, I was winning gold at the highest level," said Tillard.

His daughter Livie-Laure has followed in her dad's illustrious footsteps. Her interests are focused on Marianne stamps (which depict the bust of a proud and determined woman wearing a Phrygian (soft, red, conical) cap and symbolize liberty, equality and frater-



Chicago, Chicagopex, Tillard with Judge.



Portland, APS stamp show left to right: Jim Taylor (exhibitor) David Allen (president of the SPM philatelic society) Joelle Olaisola and Jean-Jacques Tillard.

nity) as well as overprinted Saint-Pierre and Miquelon stamps.

This year has also been a banner one for Livie-Laure. With dad's help, she put together a two-frame exhibit entitled 'La Marianne surcharge Saint-Pierre et Miquelon.' The display won gold alongside her dad's at the Portland, Oregon competition in August. The duo pulled off the same result at a competition in Chicago, Illinois in November. One month earlier Livie-Laure pulled off a silver at the Royal*2007*Royale in Toronto, Ontario.

"It was great and fun to win gold together at Portland and Chicago," said Tillard. "We are happy to represent Canada because this country helped me to begin in this competition."

Stamp people...

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Tillard is hoping one day to follow in Verge's footsteps.

Up next, at the end of the month is the AmeriStamp Expo in Charlotte, North Carolina for the Champion of Champions and then Tillard will travel to Bucharest, Roma-

nia in June 2008 for the world stamp show competition. This time he's vying for top honours in another category. He'll be entering two multi-frames.

The father-daughter team will be racking up the air miles through 2008 while Livie-Laure competes in Indianapolis, Indiana in June 2008, and the world level event in China, in April 2009. ☐

