



# Owen Sound Stamp Club

# Newsletter

Next Club Meeting: August 15<sup>th</sup>

August 2001

Stamps have hit the headlines a couple of times this month – and not just in relation to increases in postal rates either! First off, the CBC gave a good bit of coverage to the recently released “Roses” issue and had a chat with an expert in Windsor about the varieties represented on the stamps. Charles van Rompu talked about these recently but, just to remind you, there are four stamps depicting the four main pure rose colours: white, red, pink, and yellow.

I suppose I could have used these to mail the newsletter this month, but that would have given the impression that the right hand had some inkling what the left was doing.

Anyway, the second “headliner” was an article in the *National Post* about Ron Brigham winning the Prix d’Honneur of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (see below).

At one of our club meetings some months back, I recall that someone raised the matter of what should be done to restore the profile of stamp collecting as a respected hobby. It seems to me that having stories like these on the mainstream news is just what’s needed.

*Bob Watson (Ed.)*

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*The following is from an article by Adrian Humphreys that appeared in the National Post on August 2.*

## **Ontario businessman named top stamp collector in ‘a squeaker’**

An Ontario businessman, whose stamp collection is so exquisite Canada Post mined it to find the best copy of this country's first stamp for a commemorative reissue, has been named the world's top stamp collector.

Ron Brigham, 57, beat out some of the world's wealthiest collectors at an exposition in Belgium with his \$8-million assemblage of thousands of Canada's earliest postage stamps to win the Grand Prix d’Honneur of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie, the international stamp federation.

"It's pretty tough competition. You're competing against people named Dupont and Ferrari and the Prince of Monaco. For a kid from East York it is quite a thing," Mr. Brigham said.

Mr. Brigham, who was born in Vancouver and raised in East York, is the first Canadian to win the award and his collection is the first featuring Canadian stamps to be chosen.

Michael Nowlan, spokesman for the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, said Mr. Brigham's win marks a coming of age for Canadian stamps. Indeed, Mr. Brigham has been frustrated competing against countries with a richer postal history.

"It was very difficult for Canada to win because you come up against a very old Swiss collection or an English collection. Great Britain was the first to put a stamp out and it is very difficult to win with a modern country," said Mr. Brigham.

His winning assemblage, called "The Pence and Cents of Canada: 1851-1868", comprises more than 2000 stamps, mounted in eight, seven-foot frames, and includes Mr. Brigham's favourite item in his vast collection – a bottom margin mint pair of 12-penny blacks, issued in 1851. The 12-penny black is one of the most sought-after Canadian stamps with about 100 copies believed to be in existence.

"I certainly wouldn't take less than \$600,000 for this pair," he said, underscoring how a hobby that starts with steaming stamps off envelopes can grow to a multi-million-dollar obsession.

His collection also features the three-penny Beaver, Canada's first stamp, issued on April 23, 1851.

When Canada Post wanted to reproduce this stamp for a commemorative issue this year to mark the 150th anniversary of Canadian stamps, they came to Mr. Brigham: Part of his collection includes the original die proof of the stamp.

"Canada Post couldn't get it from the archives in Ottawa or Montreal because I had it. They came and photographed it and then modernized it with the computers they have today and put out the stamp," he said.

Mr. Brigham began collecting when he was nine years old. "The family sat

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## What's New from Canada Post

Yes, yes, Here we are again, like Gas, like Hydro, like anything else, Canada Post is increasing its rates. Effective January 14, 2002, the postal rates will go up again. Our 47¢ will go to 48¢ (for local); USA will go from 60¢ to 65¢ and International will go from \$1.05 to \$1.25 and the in between stamp of 75¢ will go to 80¢. Definitive collectors will have a field day getting all these new issues: Queens, Flags, Stylized Flags, Animals, self-adhesives etc. etc. Wait for more news!

Let's look at our International information for a change.

**Liechtenstein.** A Principedom in Europe, between France, Germany and Switzerland, uses the Swiss Franc as its currency and as a result will NOT change to the Euro. It has a native hero they are honouring with a stamp: the composer, Josef Gabriel Rheinberger, who was born March 17, 1839. The 100th anniversary of his death is November 25, 2001 and Liechtenstein will commemorate the event with a special stamp to be issued on September 3rd. Rheinberger lived most of his life in Germany and in 1991 he died in Munich. His grave was destroyed in 1944 and in 1949 his remains, along with those of his wife Fanny, were transferred to his homeland and reburied in VADUZ. During his active life he produced many works, mainly Organ and Church music. Among the people he taught was Wilhelm Fuertwangler. When he died he left at least 200 printed works. If any of you is interested in his music. NAXOS records released his organ works Vol. 1 Sonatas 1-4. #8.554.212. Indigo is the place to get it.



Besides this stamp, Liechtenstein has many more stamps to be enjoyed: Europe, Water, Easter Eggs, Scratch pads, Village views, Historicals, Pictorials, Environmentals, and Votives are only a short list. Contact me if you would like more details.

**Åland** (close to my heart). Besides the Windmill stamps (3), the details of which you could have picked up at the last show, Åland is releasing a few more stamps this year.

On September 3, 2001 they will release their "Old Tail Wagging Companions Series". With a population of 26,000 people and a canine population of 3,000 dogs, it's clear, dogs are the "in" thing in Åland. Two dogs, a Dachshund and a Golden Retriever will be featured on two stamps. Their value is expressed as 1st and 2nd Class. (FIM 2.70 & 2.30).

We are looking forward to the release of yet another "Church". The church of Föglö is the 14th stamp in the Church series. €0.34 is the value (in the olden days this was FIM 2.00 (another thing we may have to get used to). Only ½ million stamps will be printed. These really are collectors' items. Back to the church for a minute. This church, St.

Mary Magdalene, has a nave, built in the 14th century and the towers go back to 1170.

Also on September 3rd we will see the last of the FRANKA labels, in national currency. A Charolais cow takes the centre stage. Denominations: FIM 2.30; 2.70; 3.20 & 3.50.

Åland informs us that after Dec. 31, stamps without the Euro value will no longer be available over the counter. Collectors can still order till Dec. 31, 2002, and at stamp shows they are participating in. Åland is a fascinating stamp issuing entity. Any one who want more info, please contact me.

**Vatican City THIS JUST IN:** They are to release TWO new series of stamps as well as a souvenir sheet and some postal stationary. One series depicts the Pilgrimages of the Pope in the year 2000. It consists of 5 stamps: €0.26 €0.41 €0.62 €0.77 and €2.58. They are printed by Joh. Enschede of Holland and only 450,000 series will be released on September 25. The Souvenir sheet contains 1 (different) stamp L 3000 (€1.55).

Also on Sept. 25, they will make available a series of 5 stamps, €0.10, €0.21, €0.41, €0.52 & €0.77 (perf 13) for the Remission Of The Foreign Debt For Poor Countries. Panels, painted in the 14th and 15th century by Carlo di Camerino, from the Art Gallery of the Vatican Museums are shown on these beautiful stamps. Besides the reproductions of these panels, is the text in Italian "Remissione Debito Estero Al Paesi Poveri".



Besides these two series and the sheet. The 50th anniversary of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, (UNHCR) was the reason behind the release of 60,000 Aerogrammes, also on Sept. 25. These are printed by Cartor of France.

Pictures were provided to challenge the Editor. Hopefully he had time to put them in.

*Charles van Rompu.*

## The OSSC Library

Sheila Gunby has been working hard at cataloguing a whole load of philatelic material that has been acquired one way or another by the Club.

If you should have any literature to which you no longer refer but you feel others might find useful, maybe you would consider discussing the matter with Sheila at an upcoming meeting?

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around the table and sorted stamps. You learned your geography that way, you learned your history."

Mr. Brigham founded Sure-Grip Fasteners Ltd when he was 22. His business success helped fund his hobby. He also started Brigham Auctions, a philatelic auction house.

An international win is an expensive, time-consuming venture. "It's like the Olympics; you have to jump a hurdle each time. You have to earn a spot to compete," he said.

It takes a collection at least five years to make it to the international championship round.

A collection has to win national and

continent-wide competitions and then a minimum of three gold medals at European contests (with only one gold medal in a year allowed) before becoming eligible for the Grand Prix d'Honneur.

Sixteen collections competed this year and the 38 judges narrowed the field to two. Mr Brigham then faced a head-to-head vote against a German collector presenting a magnificent collection of Peruvian stamps.

The judges gave Mr. Brigham the victory – just 19 votes to 18 with one judge abstaining.

"It was a squeaker," he said.

"It is all very formal at this dinner; the audience is some to the wealthiest





people in the world in fancy dress and tuxedo and they had to count the votes three times it was so close."

The second part of Mr. Brigham's Canadian stamp collection, "The Large Queens", is eligible to compete for the Grand Prix d'Honneur next year.

It includes Canada's rarest stamp, the 2c large Queen on laid paper, issued in 1868. Only two are known to exist: Mr. Brigham's which is the cleanest and best centered, and one in the collection of a Los Angeles company.

"The Post Office ran out of the regular paper and substituted a laid paper, which is handmade, during printing and over the years they have all been destroyed but two."

## Identifying Common Stamps: Australia "Roo" Series (cont.)

	Wmk.			
	Perf.	12		
S.G. #	ultra/blue	9	38	26 (23)
Scott #	ultra/blue	8	48	40

Continuing from last month with the identification guide for Australia's first stamps: the "Kangaroo & Map" series.

Incidentally, the full guide is available on the Internet at: [www3.sympatico.ca/rhwatson](http://www3.sympatico.ca/rhwatson).

### The Watermarks

For descriptions of AU1, AU2, and AU3, see last month's newsletter.

#### AU5 – Multiple Small Crown over A

SG: W 7

Scott: Wmk 203 – Small Crown and A - Multiple





This was in general use for Australian stamps from 1926 to 1930.







#### AU6 – Multiple Small Crown over CoFA

SG: W 15

Scott: Wmk 228 – Small Crown and C of A - Multiple.

With few exceptions, this "Commonwealth of Australia" watermark was used on all Australian stamps from 1931 to 1950.

	Wmk.			
	Perf.	12		
S.G. #	chestnut	73	107	132
Scott #	brown	-	96	-
	yellow-brown	49	-	121

	Wmk.					
	Perf.	12				
S.G. #	violet	10	39	27 (24)	108	133
Scott #	purple	9	-	-	-	-
	violet	-	50	41	97	122

Sometime between 1991 and 2000, Stanley Gibbons did some renumbering just to keep everyone on their toes. The numbers in parentheses are for those using old catalogues.

## At the last meeting...

Fritz Siedel pointed out that the latest edition of the Michel catalogue (widely used in Europe) has its prices in Euros. This is rather more convenient than German DM for those of us on this side of the Atlantic. The Euro is valued at somewhere between C\$1 and U\$1. (Oh, OK, so he told us at the June meeting but I forgot to include it last month).

## Next Meeting: August 15th.

The next meeting of the Owen Sound Stamp Club will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, **August 15<sup>th</sup>**, in St. George's Church, Owen Sound (as usual).

**Royaloak Stamps** (John Cortan) will be bringing stamps, philatelic materials and supplies as well as a quantity of 16 page stockbooks available for the special price of \$12.50 ea or 3 for \$34.00.

## Upcoming Events:

**Queen's Bush Stamps** (Reg Powell) will be at our September meeting (September 19<sup>th</sup>).

Our annual auction will be held at our November meeting (Nov. 21). Further details next month.

## From Other Clubs in the Area...

### Collingwood Stamp & Coin Club Show

I understand that Collingwood Stamp & Coin Club are having their show on August 18 at the Leisure Time Club, Minnesota St., Collingwood with 22 dealers (some coins, some stamps).

Haven't received any official notice about this but Collingwood is a nice place to visit anyway!

## The \$ 1,000,000 Dollar Question

A difference this time... Real Prize, Real Challenge. Real postage required!!!!

**Who was... Fred Jarrett ? 1889 – 1979**

*Clue. Canadian, Speed Typist, 1974 Order of Canada.*

Mail in your answer before September 5th and (if correct) win a Year collection of ÅLAND OR ICELAND!

Editors address. on back page (*Hey, don't send to me! I don't know the answer - couldn't even find Fred Jarrett in the new Canadian Encyclopaedia I had just bought to help me win such competitions. Send your answers to Charles van Rompu – Ed.*)

Answers to last month's questions:

1. The Royal Philatelic Society was called **The Canadian Philatelic Society**, (founded in 1887)
2. In **1959** Queen Elizabeth gave her Royal Assent and the name was changed to Royal Philatelic Society.

*Charles van Rompu*

# OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

## Chapter 191

### Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

[www3.sympatico.ca/rhwatson/stampclub](http://www3.sympatico.ca/rhwatson/stampclub)

The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the basement of St. George's Anglican Church (on the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> St. E. and 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. E.). The main business of the evening is typically to check out the stamps in circuit books from the North Bay Philatelic Society, the Royal Philatelic Society and/or the Peninsula Philatelic Circuit. Members also trade stamps and covers between themselves.

There are presently about 30 active members whose interests cover just about everything at all levels from beginner to expert. New members are always most welcome.

For further information, see us on the Web or contact any of the following Club officers:

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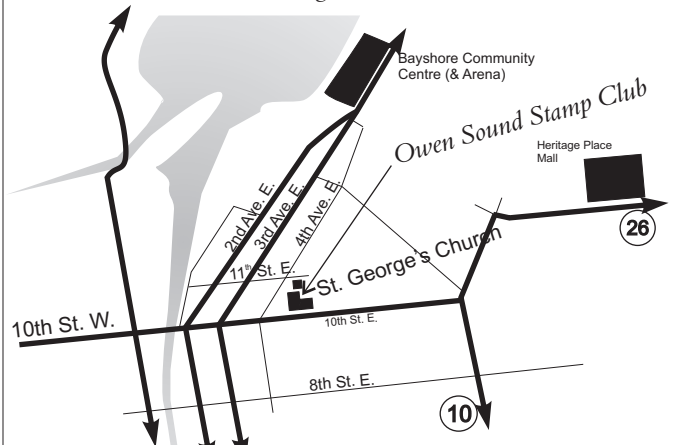
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## The OSSC Newsletter

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The OSSC Newsletter is distributed monthly to members of the Owen Sound Stamp Club.

Opinions expressed by contributors to this newsletter are those of the named author and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Owen Sound Stamp Club (nor of the editor).

Contributions are always most welcome. If any reader has news, information, opinions, or announcements that might be of interest to the OSSC membership, please contact the editor.