



Owen Sound Stamp Club

Newsletter

Next Club Meeting: November 21st November 2001

First off, many thanks to Charles van Rompu for standing in as editor for the October issue of the newsletter! Not only was he able to get you all the news, but in a more timely fashion than I have ever managed to do. If we want to get the best out of the monthly mini-auction idea (see p.4) then I really will try to avoid the procrastination habit that seems so deeply ingrained.

Bob Watson (Ed.)

Canadian Connections

The Canadian Stamp News, 26 (12), published the results of the Canadian Study Group's annual poll of foreign stamps with a Canadian connection.

- Favourites included:
- a stamp from the Isle of Man showing Prince William skiing in Whistler, BC;
 - a Russian stamp of the 1972 Summit Hockey Series;
 - an Irish stamp depicting a Canadian built ship, the *Jeanie Johnston*, which was used to bring thousands of immigrants to Canada and the USA;

A series of six stamps from the Marshall Islands showing "Ships of Discovery", of which no less than four had played an important role for Canada: the *Golden Hind*, the *Matthew*, the *La Grande Hermione* and the *Half Moon*.

However, the most popular were two issues from Iceland. First was a semi-postal souvenir sheet, issued on October 9, 2000 celebrating 125 year of Icelandic settlement in Western

Canada. It shows a painting by Arni Sigurdsson (1874-1970) *The Landing at Willow Point-1875*. Willow Point being an Icelandic settlement just about a mile south of present day "Gimli" Man. (For illustration, see **Lot 2**, on p.4).

Second place went to four stamps commemorating the Vikings landing in "Vinland" (Newfoundland) some 1000 years ago and was issued on March 16, 2000 (for illustration, see **Lot 1**, p.4).

The reason for pointing out these winners is the fact that three of the six were issued by countries who supported our O.S.S.C. annual shows in 2000 & 2001. Indeed, the winning designs from Iceland were donated by them and available for sale at the last show. As we still have examples of these, we thought they would make a good way to introduce the club mini-auction at the next meeting, November 21st. Since both have a face value of ISK 250/255 (c. C\$3.80) and since our club benefits from your enthusiasm and generosity, we expect a lively auction on these items.

Charles van Rompu.

New GB definitives on watermarked paper

The following is reproduced from a message that appeared on 14 Nov in the rec.collecting.stamps.discuss internet newsgroup .

Britain's first definitive stamps on watermarked paper since the advent of the Machins nearly 35 years ago will be issued on 6 February next year. Royal Mail is to issue a prestige book as part of the celebrations of the golden jubilee of Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne. One of the panes in this book will contain two stamps based on the Wilding portrait of The Queen used for the first issues of her reign until they were replaced by the Machins.

Decimal Wildings appeared in an earlier prestige book, The Definitive Portrait, issued as part of the run up to the Stamp Show 2000. (An international stamp show under Royal Mail

patronage is held every 10 years.) Those were printed on the same coated unwatermarked paper as the Machins and were considered to be "too good" by a Royal Mail spokesman. This was because all pre-Machin stamps were on watermarked but uncoated paper. Coating the paper gives a smooth surface resulting in a better image. In an attempt to recreate the appearance of the original Wildings, the new stamps will be on uncoated paper. To avoid the controversy which two of the Wilding watermarks caused, the watermark on the new stamps will be the figure 50. (The earlier watermarks included the QEII cypher – whereas she is Elizabeth second of England but the first of Scotland.)

Although the new stamps will reproduce the values of the

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Lifeboats – on and off stamps

As Charles mentioned last month, I was away for a couple of weeks in England. Did a little local travelling and one excursion took me to Cromer which is a small seaside town on the north coast of Norfolk (that's part of the lump sticking out on the east side of England). There I found a small museum run by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Along one wall was a very fine RNLI thematic display of first day covers. I wish I had more time to study them (I managed little more than a quick snap - *see right*) but was surprised at how many stamps honouring the lifeboat service had been issued.

When I got home, I did some reading about "Lifeboats around the World" (could be a collecting theme?) and the following story emerged.

In the beginning, people who used boats soon found that sailing in bad weather was best avoided. Sure, accidents happen, and boats have always been lost at sea – sometimes the crew could reach safety, sometimes someone would rescue them and sometimes they drowned.

As commercial pressures and the sizes of trading ships increased in the late 1700's and early 1800's, there was a corresponding increase in the number of shipwrecks and loss of life at sea. Some coastal municipalities did sponsor some life saving efforts but drowning at sea was widely considered an occupational hazard of being a sailor.



Photo of a cover on display at the Cromer RNLI museum, Norfolk, U.K.

In 1824, Sir William Hillary of the Isle of Man successfully appealed to the public for funds to establish the "National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck" – renamed the "Royal National Lifeboat Institution" 30 years later. Since its inception, the RNLI has remained an overwhelmingly volunteer organisation funded entirely by public donation. It became the model for similar institutions in many other countries from the Netherlands to Australia but not Canada or the US which largely relies on the Coastguard for rescue services.

Bearing in mind the number of stamps issued depicting lifeboats and commemorating the lifeboat services of many countries, it seems ironic that I don't recall seeing any semi-postals on the subject. [If anyone knows otherwise, I would be most interested to hear of it].

Bob Watson



The RNLI is funded entirely by private donations. Doubtless, the biggest contributors are shipowners, insurance companies, and those who have been rescued. However, collecting boxes and fund raising efforts, such as this Christmas card by Giles, certainly help.

What's New from Canada Post – (and elsewhere)...

Very early in the New Year 2002, Canada Post will issue a stamp to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne. This stamp will be available on the 2nd of January.

Just one day later, January 3, 2002, to celebrate the Lunar New Year two stamps will be released depicting "The Year of the Horse". Just as in the past they will be a 48¢ and a \$1.25 souvenir sheet.

The NHL series which were so successful in 2000 and 2001 will continue in 2002. Launching date is mid-January to bring the attention to the NHL All-Star FANTasy which will be held from January 30 - February 3 in Los Angeles CA.

In 1952, the first Canadian born Governor General was appointed. To underline this event a "50 Year Canadian Born Governor General" stamp of 48¢ will be issued.

From the 8th till the 24th of February, Salt Lake City in Utah will be hosting the Winter Olympics. Canada Post, a sponsor of the Canadian contingent, will issue four stamps of 48¢ each. For the subject sports they have chosen: freestyle aerials, curling, women's hockey and short track speed skating.

No less than Four Universities are celebrating anniversaries in 2002: Halifax's Saint Mary University has its 200th, Toronto's Trinity College and Quebec's Laval University both have their 150th while, last but not least, the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg celebrates its 125th. Four stamps will commemorate these events.

The above is only the beginning of a long list of new releases announced by Canada Post. Later in the year we are expecting, among others, a "Masterpieces Art" series which will use a work by Alex Colville. A joint issue with Hong Kong is planned to show Coral. For the second year in a row the Tulip Festival in Ottawa will bring us some colour. Tourist attractions will come in the USA and International rates, while Aboriginal Art will be featured in the 2002 Christmas stamps. I will keep you informed during the course of the year.

A Bit Of International Now ...

The Government of Liechtenstein announced that when the Post Office was privatized on January 1, 2000, all stamps issued and not used between 1967 and 1995 were invalid for postal purposes. This led to a huge opposition from dealers around the world. After listening to these protests it was decided to extend the validity for two years till December 31, 2001. (Although this also happens to be the date the Euro will enter the scene, Liechtenstein uses Swiss Francs as its currency and so will not be changing to the Euro itself). Liechtenstein has now decided that stamps sold but not used between 1967 and 1995 can be exchanged for valid stamps between January 1 and March 31, 2002 at a discount of 15 %, with a maximum of SFr5.88 million to be exchanged for SFr5.0 million. I do not think too many of our readers will have large quantities of mint stamps to use in this exchange programme but you should realize that the removal of SFr5.88m worth of stamps from the market could have an influence on the value of these stamps, and also on the SFr5m stamps which will be issued in early 2002 for the exchanged ones.

The introduction of the Euro has various effects on various countries: Austria and Germany have a very liberal exchange policy; Portugal is much more restrictive on issues between 1995 and 1999; France, Belgium, Italy and Holland have no exchange policy but will allow stamps with the old currency to be continued to be used. Luxemburg and Finland have yet to decide. Åland disallows old currency alone after June 30, 2002, while double denominations will be accepted. The viewpoints of Ireland, Greece and Spain are unknown (at least to me).

This brings us to NEW issues.

In 2002, Liechtenstein will issue 13 series comprising a total of 27 stamps on 4 dates. The total value will be SFr39.80 (c. \$37.00) [Not bad for a whole year].

Vatican City announced three Christmas stamps, a booklet containing four (same) Christmas stamps, a series of four showing "Gold Objects of the Etruscan Museum" and one stamp to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Institute of Higher Studies. All these will be available on November 22. They also announced that their "2001 Year Collection" will go on sale December 6, 2001. It will be in Italian, German, French and English and will cost L104,000 or €53.71 (c. \$75.00).

So-long till next month – don't spend all the money on Christmas gifts, save some for next years stamps.

Charles van Rompu.

New GB definitives on w^{marked} paper (cont. from p1)

originals in pre-decimal currency, they will be made into 1st and 2nd Non Value Indicators, prepaying the two basic rates for inland letters. They will be valid indefinitely. The Wilding decimals in the 1998 book did not, strictly speaking, have a currency denomination; instead, they merely had a figure written in words (twenty, twenty six, thirty seven). This is, I believe, contrary to UPU requirements. The new stamps will avoid this problem

Although the intention is to reproduce the appearance of the original stamps I do not believe that they will be from traditional acid-etched photogravure cylinders as the Wildings were. Modern cylinders used by all printers currently contracted to Royal Mail are engraved by a computer-controlled diamond stylus or laser. So it is possible that the objective will not be fully realised.

I have heard a rumour that the uncoated paper intended for the new Wildings will also be used for other stamps during the jubilee year, including Machins. I do not believe it. The coating is an essential part of the appearance of the sculpted Machin head and neither The Queen nor the Post Office (Consignia plc) will contemplate any deliberate degradation of the image.

A few Machins are known on uncoated paper as a result of errors. (The ends of paper rolls which are gripped during the dipping and coating process do not get coated and stamps printed on them are supposed to be removed by the printer and treated as security waste.)

Still, you never know; some operative might just load the press with the wrong paper. I live in hope.

Douglas Myall (Deegam)

Next Meeting: November 21st.

Auction

Following up on the idea of holding mini-auctions at our regular meetings, we will start by offering three lots on November 21st:

Lot 1:

Iceland (2000)
#: ?
val.: ?
start bid: \$1.00
MNH
4 stamp sheetlet



Lot 2:

Iceland (2000)
#: ?
val.: ?
start bid: \$1.00
MNH
Souvenir sheet



Lot 3:

Åland (1995)
#: ?
val.: ?
start bid: \$1.00
MNH
Year collection: 11 stamps in mini-album.

Auction rules (provisional):

Lots will be on display at the club meeting at 7:00 pm.

The auction will take place at (or around) 8:00 pm

Vendors may not bid on their own lots, though they may set a starting (minimum) bid.

Submitting items for auction:

Any member who would like to submit items for auction should provide a description to the Newsletter editor at least two weeks prior to the next meeting. The lots themselves should be available for display at the meeting at 7:00 pm.

A commission of 10% of selling price is payable to the OSSC by the vendor. The commission is waived if the vendor is a member of the OSSC.

The auctioneer reserves the right to limit the number of lots accepted for any particular auction.

OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

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 10th St. E. and 4th 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:

President: **Bob Watson** (519) 376-1270
327 11th St. W., Owen Sound, N4K 3S9
email: rhwatson@sympatico.ca

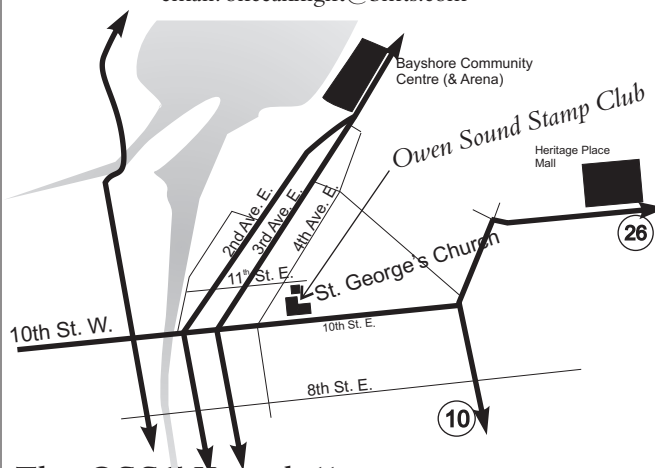
Vice-Pres.: **Charles van Rompu** (519) 538-4673
305 Trowbridge St. W., Meaford, N4L 1K8

Sec./Treas.: **Bob Ford** (519) 376-4788
721 8th Ave E., Owen Sound, N4K 3A5
email: robford@log.on.ca

Committee: **John Cortan** (519) 395-5817
P.O. Box 295, Ripley, N0G 2R0
email: royaloak@primeline.net

Bob Ebel (519) 534-5024
P.O. Box 1294, Wiarton, N0H 2T0
email: louise.ebel@sympatico.ca

Ken Knight (519) 534-4455
R.R.2 Wiarton, N0H 2T0
email: onceaknight@bmts.com



The OSSC Newsletter

Editor: Bob Watson 327 11th St. W., Owen Sound, N4K 3S9
rhwatson@sympatico.ca

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.