



# Owen Sound Stamp Club Newsletter

Next Club Meeting: September 16<sup>th</sup> October 2002

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a Showcard for the Royal Show to be held next May. I gather the people in and around Hanover are really getting together on this to make the whole thing work but they will be looking for volunteers in the Owen Sound area. If you are interested in helping out at all, make yourself known!

The latest issue of the Saugeen Stamp Club Newsletter included a worthwhile reminder of the free literature available from many postal authorities around the world - much of it in English.

Canada Post's quarterly "Details" magazine not only includes

background on its upcoming issues but seems to be cultivating the habit of including special offers from philatelic organizations – the current issue contains an application form for the Royal Philatelic Society promising a free gift to the first 250 new members.

*Bob Watson (President)*

### "Illegal Stamp Issues"

While browsing the stamp literature lately it has become very obvious that illegal stamp issues are becoming a real problem – especially for topical collectors. Now, we are not talking forgeries here (that is a different subject entirely) but about perforated labels that purport to be stamps but have no postal validity whatsoever.

These illegal issues take two forms. First there are the labels sporting the name of a real or fictitious part of the world that does not issue stamps. Before you ridicule anyone who might be conned into buying a sheetlet of 48¢ cats issued by Manitoulin Post, what if the inscription was Republic of Adygea? Would you be so sure then?

Secondly there are the illegal "stamps" that bear the name of a legitimate postal authority but not issued by them. Typically, the names chosen for such scams will be of countries unlikely to notice because they have more important problems on their minds than prosecuting illegal stamp publishers. Countries



*A nice souvenir sheet of cats from the non stamp issuing region of Russia known as the Republic of Adygea*

that have had their names taken in vain include: Afghanistan, Angola, Estonia, Laos, Morocco, and just about all the ex-Soviet Republics. There has even been a rather odd souvenir sheet purporting to have been issued by the Falkland Islands.

While there is general agreement that such issues are to be discouraged in every way possible, there is most vehement disagreement on whether such issues should be illustrated, or even discussed in more than the most vague terms, on the grounds that someone might get wrong ideas.

Guarding against buying illegal issues is tough. Apparently, even Scott lists some recent "stamps" from Afghanistan although no legitimate issues have been released since 1989.

Of course, it's the topical collectors who are particularly vulnerable here. Not only are they likely to be less familiar with a country's issuing credentials than the national collector but the subject matter is likely to be extraordinarily tempting!



*An "illegal" sheetlet (not) from the Falkland Islands designed to appeal to topical collectors.*

## Stamp of the Month...

by Bob Watson

There must be few Canadian stamp collectors who aren't familiar with the 50¢ *Bluenose* stamp (Scott #158:1929), widely considered one of the finest engraved stamps ever issued. According to the official records, that particular stamp was designed by Herman Herbert Schwartz, engraved by Harold Osborn, and printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company Ltd.

Another stamp, also designed by Herman Schwartz and engraved by Harold Osborn, is the 13¢ *Britannia* of the King George V Jubilee series (Scott #216:1935)

To my mind, this is an equally beautiful stamp that completely captures the power and grace of the old "big yachts". The stamp design was based on a painting and shows *Britannia* with bermudan cutter rig as she would have appeared at the time the stamp was issued. A steam vessel can just be made out in the left background – most probably this was the Royal Yacht, *Victoria and Albert*.

*Britannia* was designed for Edward, the Prince of Wales, in 1892 by G.L. Watson, widely considered one of the finest yacht designers of his time. Built on the Clyde for about £10,000, she was launched in the Spring on 1893 and rigged as a gaff cutter typical of the racing yachts of that time. From the beginning she proved to be a winner both in home waters and on the French Riviera and her prize money was more than sufficient to pay for her upkeep.



"Britannia" with gaff rig

Yacht race at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century



In 1897 there was a collapse of big class yacht racing and over the next five years *Britannia* changed hands several times before being bought back by King Edward VII and converted for use as the royal cruising yacht. In 1913 she was restored to racing rig under the ownership of George V and enjoyed limited success for a season before being consigned to a mudberth for the duration of the war. The King brought her out of retirement in 1920 and she proved so successful over the season that a complete refit seemed to be justified. And so it proved to be. Over the next few years, captained by Philip Hunloke, she won many races in spite of her age and outdated gaff rig.

The move to bermudian rig for the "big yachts" had begun in 1923 but it was not until 1931 that King George agreed to change *Britannia's* rig to the new style. The conversion was not a

success and, of all things, windward performance suffered significantly.

It was also at about this time that the new "J-class" racing yachts were introduced and it became plain that *Britannia* was no longer competitive.

Following King George's death in 1936, *Britannia* was stripped of her gear and scuttled off the Isle of Wight in a quietly dignified ceremony. She will be remembered as an extraordinarily successful racing vessel that handsomely reflected on her two royal owners.



The deck of a racing yacht of the 1920s – note the size of the boom and lack of any kind of handrails!

## From the Internet ...

The following is the (very lightly edited) text of a message posted to a stamp newsgroup on the Internet...

This last Saturday I found myself making an emergency trip from Texas to Indiana (a 1200+ mile) drive.

On the way back, I have the usual landmarks. A gas station here, an airport there, a BBQ place there. Places I know I've seen before, places that give me reference to how much further I have to go.

One place in particular is a gas station. It is about 3/4ths tank of gas from the previous place I fill up. The gas station is rather dated in that the attendant pumps gas for you, still checks the oil, tire pressure, fluids, washes the windows, says thank you. Oh how the world has changed. The gas station is also part of an antique shop.

About 3 years ago I noticed a "Tom Corbett Space Cadet" stamp album on display. I had one of these as a child. It has only 54 pages - not much for a stamp album - but it offered spaces for the stamps that a 10 year old was likely to acquire at that time. This could only be gotten by sending in a collection of labels from some sort of breakfast drink - perhaps it was Ovaltine - I can't remember.

It was priced at \$5000.00 - yes, five thousand dollars!

I merely noted on each visit that it hadn't been sold.

This time (on Thursday) I again visited and entered the shop. There was a lady in attendance there (previously it was always a man). I mentioned the album to her and she exploded saying

"That old fool - put the wrong danged price on another item."

I asked what it should be and she replied it should be \$5.00.

Needless to say I grabbed it! It was packaged in a plastic bag, sealed at the top to protect it.

I tossed it on the truck seat and thought little about it until today when I opened the bag. It opened at the back of the book and I leafed through it toward the front until I got to the inside of the front cover. It offered a place for the owner's name and address (as if this would be a valuable item).

There in a very childish scrawl - from a long time ago was written:

My name and address from 1952.

I do not know how this would have shown up in an antique shop in Arkansas - since I am from Indiana. My family never had a 'garage sale' - nor did we ever have a sale of items from the house. If anything went out the door, it was thrown away as rubbish.

I'd written underneath each stamp how I received the stamp. Under one was Uncle Claude, Another was from Barbara at the library, another from Mom. Another from Aunt Helen.

This is something out of Twilight Zone - or maybe not.

However this did happen, I cannot question. I am in awe and will covet this wrinkled and old collection of pages until the end of my days!

Dakota

## Stanley Gibbons new Catalogues

Stanley Gibbons has recently issued a flyer giving details of their range of catalogues, albums, and philatelic supplies.

Perhaps the most important change over previous years is the introduction of a new catalogue: "The 2003 Commonwealth and British Empire 1840-1952 Catalogue" which will replace the old two volume "Part 1" covering the Commonwealth to date. It is priced at £39.95 + £12 p&p (equivalent to about \$100) with "...prices reviewed at even greater depth..." and "...many more alterations and additional content throughout...". There was no mention of how post 1952 (QEII) material would be listed.

Other catalogues include the "Simplified Catalogue of Stamps of the World" at £100+p.&p. in four volumes. This includes basic descriptions and prices of stamps from all countries (including Commonwealth).

There is also a range of specialised catalogues covering single countries or regions at prices varying from £8 to £30. These are not updated annually and the "Portugal & Spain" catalogue, for example, was published five years ago. The World is covered in 22 parts (some of which are out of print).

Finally, there are nine topical catalogues covering: Aircraft, Birds, Chess, Fish, Fungi, Motor transport, Railways, Shells, and Ships priced between £7 and £23.

If anyone would like more specific details, let me know or contact Stanley Gibbons at 5/7 Parkside, Christchurch Rd., Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 3BR, U.K.

## Interesting Covers...



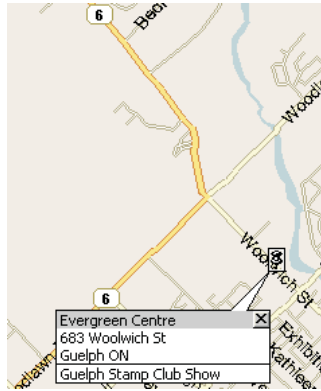
## Next Meeting: October 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Auction Report:

There was an auction at the September meeting. No details to hand but some great bargains for the buyers. (Don't miss out on maybe even better ones at the October meeting)!

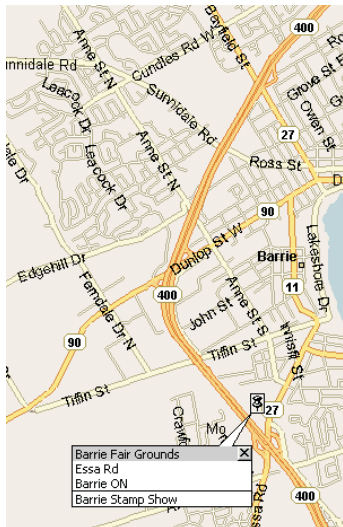
### Upcoming Events:

The **Guelph Stamp Club** is holding its Annual Show at the Evergreen Centre, 683 Woolwich St., Guelph, on **Oct. 19th** from 10:00 to 4:00

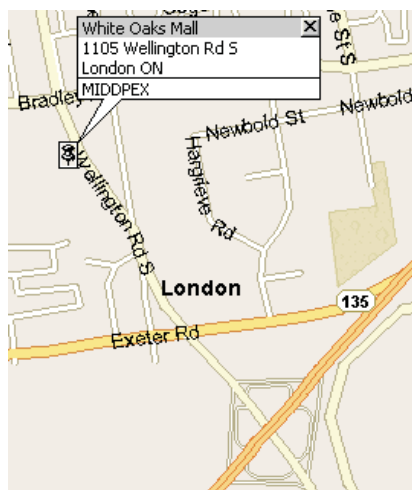


The **Barrie District Stamp Club** will be holding their Annual Exhibition and Bourse on **Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> October** from 10:00am to 4:30pm in the Trillium Room of The Event Centre at the Barrie Fair Grounds.

*This is a new location for this show!*



The **Middlesex Stamp Club** is holding MIDDPEX 2002 at the White Oaks Mall 1105 Wellington Rd., London, on **Oct. 26th, 9:30 – 5:30.**



# 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 trade, buy, and sell stamps and philatelic material. An auction is held at 8:00pm.

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.

Annual Membership fees: Full: \$10; Family: \$15; Junior: Free. In addition, all members and visitors are asked to contribute \$1 each meeting which is passed directly to St. George's Church in appreciation for allowing us to use their room.

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.

For further information, contact any Club officer:

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