



Owen Sound Stamp Club

Newsletter

Next Club Meeting: March 19th
March 2003

Well, lots of fun last month with the biggest turn-out we've had for a long time – great to see you all there! The auction seemed to go pretty well and, although I don't have the figures to hand, I can't believe the club didn't do very nicely out of it all.

Apart from the many long time members present it was our pleasure to welcome a new member, Pam Raymond from Meaford, who has recently discovered the hobby and seems to be wasting no time in getting well stuck into it. We also had a visitor who had a collection to dispose of and was after some advice on the matter.

Now, moving right along...

As you must all be aware, our show is coming up in early May and, actually, things seem to be falling together pretty well at this stage. One of the trickiest things about organising these annual events has been what should be the simple matter of

getting everyone interested in helping out together for "Show-committee" meetings. To try and get over this, I thought maybe we could fix the time, date, and place (see p.4) and just say "welcome" to anyone that can make it, and "See you next time", to those that can't. We had the inaugural meeting last March 5th at which we had two members present (Good on ya, Kim!) and got all the business sorted that needed to be (I hope).

At our March meeting, Allan Charlesworth will be bringing in his stocks of stamps (see p. 3). Because of all the goings on last month, I never did get to talk about watermarks - maybe next time...

Bob Watson (President)

Stamp of the Month...
Bob Watson

For four months in 1898, Omaha, Nebraska, hosted the Trans Mississippi International Exposition and a concurrent Indian Congress that was designed to showcase the developed West from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Coast.

Business and community leaders from the 24 states and territories lying west of the Mississippi River envisioned the Trans Mississippi Exposition as a way to revitalize the regional economy and to show that the West had recovered from the financial panic of 1893. The Indian Congress was included to demonstrate that the Indian Wars were truly over and, now that settlements had been reached, there should be no concerns that native unrest need be considered in future developments.

Over 2,600,000 people came to view the 4,062 exhibits which featured social achievements, economic productivity, and community growth of the western region. The Exposition covered about 100 city blocks and was housed in a grand array of fine looking buildings constructed just for the show.



*Scott# 286:1898 -- "Farming in the West"
Shown at 2x actual size.*

The Omaha Public Library has a collection of material relating to the Exposition including 1800 photographs taken during the event by F.A. Rinehart – the official (and only) photographer. These photographs include 500 portraits of participants in the Indian Congress. The Library's collection also has the original "Secretary's Report" which contains information about the features, displays and other events along with other memorabilia such as tickets, programmes, press passes, stock certificates, and medals awarded at the

Trans Mississippi.

A series of stamps depicting scenes from the West was issued to celebrate the fair. Following the philatelic outcry arising from the high price of the Columbian Exposition series of five years earlier (16 stamps from 1¢ to \$5), this series included just 9 stamps (1¢ to \$2).

As is typical of stamps of this era, the artistry is magnificent, and the engraving skills are simply incredible!

What's New ... Charles van Rompu

Louis Braille was born on January 4, 1809, in Coupvray, France. The son of a saddler, at the age of three he was blinded as the result of an accident in his fathers workshop.

Braille was 12 when he was introduced to a crude and difficult system of “night writing” for dispatches developed by Captain Charles Barbier of the French army. Various forms were tried before, from engraving, knotted cords and notched letters in wood. In 1810 in Vienna the first book for the blind was published, in which Latin Capital letters were embossed, but the reading of this form was too time-consuming and it took up a lot of space.

Braille realized the superiority of raised dots for tactile reading and came up with the system that now bears his name. This was submitted to the Paris Institute for the Blind and, following enormous political fights, it was declared the official method of teaching and reading worldwide in 1878.

This was a long intro to what I had to tell you. But before we go there you can experience the feel of Braille script on you calculator or touch tone phone no. 5, or on your computer keyboard the letters F and J.

It was March 1903 that a lending library for the blind was created in Zürich Switzerland. To commemorate this 100th anniversary, Swiss Post will issue a special stamp on March 6th. This stamp, designed by Sandra di Salvo, who resides in Winterthur is a real beauty in simplicity, thereby reflecting the reason for its existence. It is 33 x 28 mm. A red rectangle. “Is that really a stamp??” is the puzzled reaction at first glance. In his uncertainty the viewer then takes a closer look at the red area, where it takes a great deal of effort to read the text printed on it.



Thanks to the Braille lettering, visually impaired or blind persons are immediately able to ascertain that the item is a Sw.Fr. 0.70 stamp.

The embossed characters on the stamp show (sorry you can not feel these here).

Louis Braille died in Paris on January 6, 1852 from a lung disease when he was just 43.

If Vincent van Gogh were still alive, he would celebrate his 150th birthday on March 30th. On that day in 1853, Anna Cornelia, wife of the Dutch Pastor Theodorus van Gogh, gave birth to a son, whom they christened Vincent Willem, after his two grandfathers.

On January 2nd, TPG Post (the privatized Dutch Post Office) issued a souvenir sheet with 10 different reproductions of Vincents oeuvre and a series of 3 different self-adhesive stamps showing a self-portrait, a terrace in front of a café by evening and a grainfield, making it a good example of his life’s work from rough farm life to ecstatic landscapes. The sheet has 10 @ 39¢ while the self-adhesive ones are valued at 39, 59 and 75 Euro¢. Vincent’s work has appeared on the stamps of many countries, but Dutch Post have shown the works of their famous native son just twice: the first instance was a reproduction of a self-portrait on a 25+8¢ semi-postal (Scott# B268:1954); the second was when they issued two stamps to mark the centenary of his death (Scott# 754/5:1990).

The self-stick booklets of van Gogh stamps in the Netherlands are going to be printed in England, by WSP, the printer who has the rights to use Courvoisier's name on the stamps.

The Republic of San Marino has included a reproduction of one of van Gogh's works in it's series *Grandi Maestri della Pittura* or Great Masters of Art. The work chosen is titled “Wheatfield with flight of crows”. Only a couple of days after finishing this work he killed himself.



Part of the van Gogh Souvenir Sheet

The Braille Alphabet									
Braille Cell	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	
	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Braille letters are based on a cell of six points that are embossed on the paper.

Numbers are represented by the first ten letters preceded by the number sign (#).

Additional symbols are used for accents and some letter combinations.

#	1	2	3
4	5	6	7
8	9	0	

Youth Activities... by Kim Scarrow

At our meeting last November, the members present all pitched in and helped put some stamp packages together for children. These packages of 125-150 used stamps went into a stamp kit along with: an album, a pair of tongs, a magnifying glass, some stamp activity sheets, information on stamp collecting from Canada Post, and other assorted goodies such as stamp tattoos and stickers.

I took these kits to the Children's Ward and the Rehabilitation Wing of the Grey Bruce Health Centre in Owen Sound where, judging by the warm thank you letter from the staff there, they were much appreciated.

More kits are being assembled!

It's our hope that these kits will provide some comfort and entertainment for patients during their hospital stay, as well as introduce and nurture an interest for our amazing hobby of stamp collecting.

I would like to thank all the club members for their contributions and continuing support in promoting the "Kids Stamp Kits" and the stamp box that we use at shows. It's great to have such enthusiasm.

Alan Charlesworth will be bringing his stocks of stamps to the upcoming March meeting and declares these will include:

A Wonderful Selection of **British Commonwealth** both mint and used

QV to QEII

with special interest in the following areas:

Australia and Australian states Barbados (large run) Cape of Good Hope
Cayman Islands Falklands Fiji Ghana Great Britain J a m a i c a
Malta New Zealand Papua New Guinea Sarawak Tristan de Cunha

Plus many topical sets

and an extensive run of **Canada** from earliest to present including:

Used:

4a 3d Beaver (1852)
14 1¢ QV (1859)
17 10¢ Prince Albert
18 12½¢ Chalon QV
24-30 2-15¢ "Large Queens"
35-45 1-10¢ "Small Queens"
50-57 ½-50¢ "QV Jubilee"
66-73 ½-10¢ "Maple Leafs"
81,82 7-8¢ "Numerals"
93 10¢ Ed VII
99-101 Quebec Tercentenary
158 "Bluenose"

Also...

Some early provinces incl.
Nova Scotia #2 (Used)

Many other items too numerous to mention.

Bring your want list and wallets, see you there!!

Mint:

86 Imperial Penny Postage
105i, 119, 122, 126dpr, 131, 132*
141 Macdonald
177 \$1 Mt. Edith Cavell
201 13¢ Quebec Citadel
with small defects at bargain prices:
46 20¢ QV "Widow Weeds"
50, 58 Jubilees
79 5¢ Numeral
91 5¢ Ed VII
116, 119, 123, 125pr, 127, 134pr*
158 Bluenose
225 Niagra Falls
226 Victoria Parliament
262 \$1 Destroyer

* Admirals

From the Internet ... Bob Watson

The following message from Ann Mette Heindorff of Denmark was posted recently as a warning of Faeroe "illegals" that are, apparently, circulating in N. America:

The below is a translation from Danish of the original email; the translation is approved by the Faeroese Post:

"The CEPT-stamps 1980 (Scott #53 and 54) were engraved by Czeslaw Slania, and the stamps were to be printed in Finland.

"The printing plates were produced in an etching process that had never caused problems. That summer the [Finnish] Printing Works had moved out of Helsinki to a suburban area, and the printing of these stamps was one of the first ones to take place in the new premises.

"However, enormous problems occurred with the original printing plates. Having tried several printruns with new plates the result was far from satisfactory, and we [in Torshavn] were notified that Finland was about to give up, and that we had to wait for delivery till after the summer holidays -- then they would give it another try.

"However, we insisted on delivery as contracted, and wanted to make the quality control ourselves of the stamps delivered.

"Having received the stamps we realized that the problems were so huge, that we didn't stand a chance. We asked the Swiss Printing Works to help out, and they promised to do so. At this moment we also changed the layout of one of the stamps -- the face value was moved to the other side of the stamp.

"Later we had the Finnish prints burned at the dump in Torshavn, but unfortunately some of the material was not completely incinerated, and a portion of the remainders were stolen from the dump and circulated on the philatelic market; some of these items were presented during Pacific 97 in the US.

"Only later the Finnish printers found out that the problems with the printing plates were caused by the water supply in the new factory. The water contained iron, which destroyed the chemical process of the plates in the printing.

"The story is pretty undramatic. The only dramatic element is the constant rumour-mongering about these stamps. If anybody should be tempted by offers to purchase this material they must know that we have a verdict that any such material is our legal property, and that we are entitled to claim it back, which we have done in several cases, and will do again whenever we come across it. Because of the verdict no serious auction house will accept this failed material for sale.

(s) Knud Wachter, Torshavn

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm, March 19th.

Main business at the March meeting will be to see what Alan Charlesworth has to offer (see p.3).

Next Show Meeting: 7:30 pm, April 2nd.

There will be a meeting for anyone interested at 327 11th St. W., Owen Sound (Bob Watson's house). At this meeting, progress with our preparations will be discussed and anyone who has any suggestions regarding any aspect of the show would be most welcome.

Upcoming Events:

The **London Philatelic Society Show** will be held on **5th April** at the South London Community Centre, 1119 Jalna Blvd., London [9:30-5]

The **Kitchener-Waterloo Philatelic Society** will be holding its Show on **12th April** at the Reformed Church, 1275 Bleams Rd. [10.00-4.00]

The **Canadian Stamp Dealers Association** are holding a three day show from **11th – 13th April** in the Queen Elizabeth Building, CNE [Fri.11-6 Sat.10-6 Sun.10-4]

The **Owen Sound Stamp Club Annual Show** will be held on Sunday, **May 4** at the Bayshore Arena (as usual) [9:00-4:00].

Royal*2003*Royale will be held in Hanover on **May 30 – June 1, 2003**, at the Hanover Regional Aquatic Centre and Coliseum.

The Stamp on the Envelope...

John James Audubon was born in Haiti, educated in France, and, having lived through the French Revolution, emigrated to the U.S.A. in 1803. For the next fifteen years he studied and drew the local wildlife while failing in two attempts to run a general store in small communities.



John James Audubon (1785-1851)

From 1827 to 1838, Audubon worked on his masterpiece: *Birds of America*, a collection of 435 life-sized, hand-colored folio plates. These prints were later published at reduced size with comprehensive descriptions and behavioural observations in a seven volume series also called *Birds of America*. Another major work on the mammals of North America was published posthumously.

It is Canada Post's intention that these stamps should be the first of three series to be issued over the next three years.

Title: Storm-petrel | Cormorant | Goose | Murre (4 designs)
 Series: Audubon's Birds
 Issue date: 21 Feb. 2003 No. 2,000,000 ea
 Des.: Rolf Harder
 Print.: Ashton Potter (ten colour lithography).
 Paper: Tullis Russell Coatings Gum: PVA
 Size: 50mm x 32mm Perf.: 13¼ x 12¾
 Available in panes of 16 x 48¢ stamps

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 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. Georges'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.

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