



# Owen Sound Stamp Club

# Newsletter

Next Club Meeting: September 17<sup>th</sup>
September 2003

A couple of meetings ago, we discussed the possibility of trying something a little different at our meetings and maybe trying one of the slide shows from the RPSC. So this month we have a series of forty slides in a show entitled “*What’s New In Old Canada*” by Dr. Fred Stulberg. I have gone through the show a couple of times – Dr. Stulberg has prepared a script – and there are lots of interesting bits and pieces there.

Like: did you know that there was a (brief) period when it was cheaper to send mail from Canada to England than from Toronto to Watertown, Ontario? Dr. Stulberg has a couple of slides showing covers demonstrating this anomaly along with an explanation for the legitimate use of a US stamp on Canadian mail. Hope you can make it to the meeting and learn stuff that will let you impress your friends whenever there is a lull in conversation!

On to something completely different: *Canadian Stamp News* is running a survey to determine what its readers would like to see as subject(s) on a future commemorative stamp or series. To quote the article:

If you were in charge at Canada Post, what would you put on the next Canadian stamp issue, and why? Just to make it fun, there is no prize but there’s also only one rule: one submission per reader. After that your are on your own. It can be a person, achievement, theme or concept, or actually anything you want. You

can propose a single stamp or a series along one theme, just don’t try to revamp our entire stamp system. You don’t have to actually design the stamp, just describe it. We’ll accept submissions until the end of September and then tabulate and publish the results.

With this in mind, perhaps we can have a survey of our own at the next meeting and submit our favourite to CSN?

And some news from abroad: it seems that club politics are getting a bit out of hand at the Philatelic Congress of India. The most recent elections for officers of the Congress had to be held under the authority of a court appointed observer who would not release the results because of alleged violations of proper procedures. While the matter has yet to be settled by the courts, a group claiming to be legitimate office holders are running things on a day-to-day basis. Kind of hard imagining these kind of goings-on at the Owen Sound Stamp Club, eh?

*Bob Watson (President)*

## Stamp of the Month...

I am sure just about every collector who has ever found themselves sorting through an older worldwide assortment will recognise these stamps as being part of the “Junk” definitive series used in the recently established Republic of China from 1913 to 1930.

Because these stamps are small and readily identified, it is all too easy to move on without fully appreciating the real charm of the vignette. To add to the interest, there were three printings of this series and each can readily be distinguished without the need of a glass.



1st printing – London (1913)  
 Note how there is a bit of a chop to the sea but the shading of the water fades in the distance so that the bridge on the horizon looks almost suspended in air. The real giveaway of the London printings are the diagonal lines on the sails (hope that comes through on the printing).



2nd printing – Peking (1915)  
 The whitecaps in the foreground have changed shape and the sea shading definitely now extends to the bridge. The smoke from the locomotive seems rather more distinct.



3rd printing – Peking (1923)  
 The sea has calmed right down to no more than a swell and the junk is casting a clear shadow. The trestles supporting the bridge are less distinct and almost merge with the shading of the sea. At the same time, the train seems more distinct and the smoke is less windswept.



## From the Internet ...

The following exchange recently took place in the newsgroup *rec.collecting.stamps.discuss*. I would find it hard to believe that any of our members could not relate to the issue raised!

Many years ago when I decided to collect stamps I started with India Feudatory States then expanded to India and then again to "anything that looks like a stamp and accidentally passes my way". My collection today is 38 packed 3-ring binders of varying sizes. I was thinking of this and that this morning and got the idea of getting rid (sell, give, whatever) of everything and start all over but collecting and specializing in only one country: Mesopotamia. Why Mesopotamia I have no idea! Am I the only one who gets ideas like this or is it common among collectors?

Tony Vella

I am DEEPLY into the same thinking. What to do. After one has amassed sooooo many stamps, there's only enough time in 1 lifetime to work on a good portion of them.

Many of them look way cool and we say - hmmm - someday I'll finish that set. 5 years down the road we're still saying it.

I'm in a position where I've been fortunate enough to buy some decent collections and have many to spare. This, though, brings along with it many issues.

It's great to have reference copies and we can then keep the best of what was in there, but going through them sometimes can be tedious!

I'm sorting Spain right now and I never realized just how many I had stored away for those "rainy days".

I may cut down on my collecting areas because of the very large amounts to work on. Sheesh... I've got about 5 countries sorted and none mounted.

Tracy Barber

Yes, we are few key stamps shy of a full set. I think of doing what you said all the time.

Trouble is I can't put a collection together to sell without it growing on me. Probably my favorite to date is my France and Colonies, second is German States, then Italian States, and so on. I wish that I could be like that guy in the Orchid Thief and just specialize in one thing. I've managed to go cold-turkey on collecting art books (600+), picture frames (about 10,000 lbs), 19th century cameras, hand-made paper (about 20,000 sheets), watches, hat blocks, and other miscellaneous junk. I still collect bad art because I produce it.

Tom Loepp

I know what you mean by ever expanding collection - I think wanting to do things differently every now and then is part of the collecting psyche. I seem to think that if I ever completed a country or area I would quickly become dissatisfied and likely just shelf it indefinitely while taking on a new focus area.

I rarely take down and peruse my collection for the sake of looking at it, but I do like showing it to friends and I really like pouring time into sorting and mounting material into my albums.

Frank Emanuel

The trick is to make a decision early in your collecting career to collect one country (preferably not your own). Then go for it in detail (i.e. at a specialised level).

That way you NEVER approach completion (as I am finding with Italy)!

Tony Clayton

The big problem is that because I have a propensity for collecting, it is hard to pass up any collectable stamps that come along. Case in point is I have a complete set somewhere on my desk of one small Vatican series. I don't really collect Vatican, I have a smattering in my old WW albums, but I can't seem to part with that set, I keep romanticising about making a Vatican album even.

Frank Emanuel

I ran across this quote by author Susan Sontag recently:

"No doubt you have collected more than one copy of more than one stamp issue. You might well have a few identical postcards or first day covers, perhaps a small hoard of this stamp or that one, in your collection. The Collector is a dissembler, someone whose joys are never unalloyed with anxiety. Because there is always more. Or something better. You must have it because it is one step toward an ideal: completing of your collection. But this ideal completion for which every collector hungers is a delusive goal.

"The great collections are vast, not complete. They are motivated by the desire for completeness. There is always one more. And if you have everything - whatever that might be - then you will, perhaps, want a better copy of what you have; or an extra copy in case the one you have is lost or stolen or damaged. A backup copy. A shadow collection.... The collector's need is precisely for excess, for surfeit, for profusion

"Someone who hesitates, who asks, 'Do I need this? Is this really necessary?' is not a collector. A collection is always more than is necessary."

Bob Ingraham

How right you are Bob! I have just received in the mail two huge glassines packed with early Brasil and the first thing that went through my mind was, "How the heck could I ever bring myself to get rid of this? Not to save my life, I couldn't!"

As a matter of fact I have decided to take all my pre-70 Brasil off their hinges and set them up in plastic sheets of which I have an abundance.

So to one and all who followed this thread I can announce that my decision is made: I shall hang on to all my stamps and keep adding more and more ...

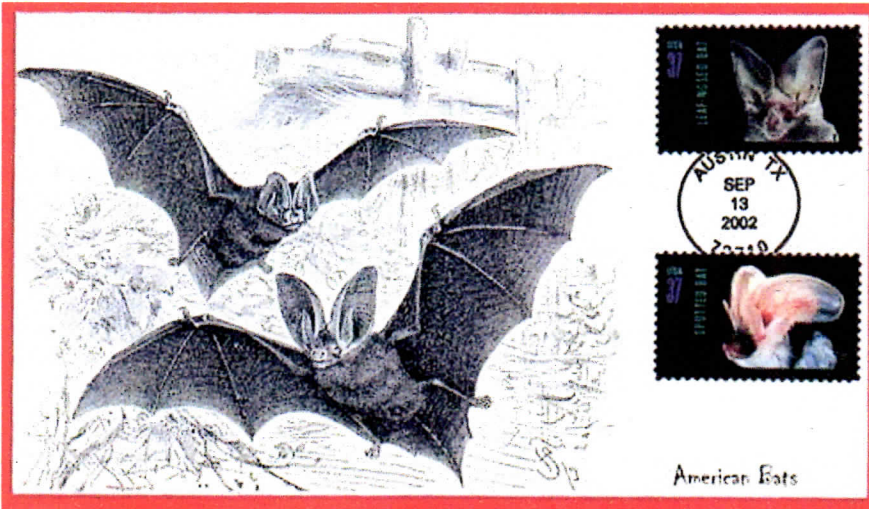
Tony Vella in Ottawa, Canada

... until you go utterly insane. He's got a good start, working on Portugal & Colonies Ceres issues.

Tracy Barber



## First Day Covers ...



The American First Day Cover Society recently held a contest for FDC cachet designs and some of the entries were quite spectacular. A couple are reproduced here:

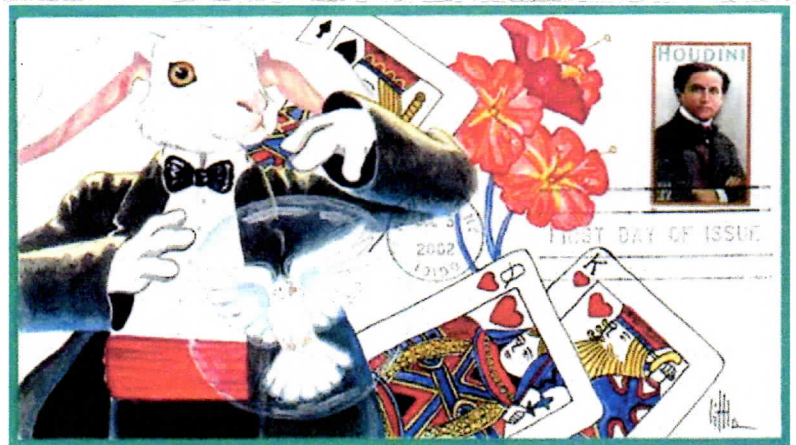
*American Bats*, by Thomas O'Hagan, S&T Cachets  
Winner Category 6 – Printed Art, Single Color

*Harry Houdini* by Brenda Little  
Winner Category 1 –  
Hand Drawn, Hand Painted)

## Well, that's Different ...

Vanuatu Post has created the world's only Underwater Post Office. Situated within the Hideaway Island marine sanctuary, the Post Office sits in around three metres of water and both divers and snorkellers are able to post special "waterproof postcards". If snorkellers cannot duck-dive down that far, Hideaway Island staff will be on the spot to help out.

During opening hours the cards will be cancelled by the postal staff in the Underwater Post Office.



Instead of being stamped with ink to show that the card has been sent, the Post office has developed a new embossed cancellation device.

Placed on site by Vanuatu Post, this official and currently unique postal location was approved by local Ni Vanuatu and opened for business in May 2003. Opening hours are posted on the beach at Hideaway Island, and a special flag is raised on a float above the site when there are postal workers in the water. Some Vanuatu Post Office staff have completed their Open Water dive training at Hideaway Island.

Out of hours the post cards can be posted in the underwater post box attached to the post office or taken to the main post office in town. All are guaranteed to receive the special cancellation from this unique underwater paradise before being delivered both locally and internationally.

This new Post Office recognises that the Republic of Vanuatu's is made up of 83 islands and is a marine paradise. The sea is such an important part of life in Vanuatu so in addition to opening the worlds only Underwater Post Office, Vanuatu Post has issued a new stamp issue and minisheet featuring snorkelling. Vanuatu was designed for snorkelling, and has countless good snorkelling spots and a wide range of spectacular sea life. This stamp issue follows the extremely popular eco-tourism stamp issue that featured many of the adventure, culture, nature, sport and community activities available in Vanuatu.

*from a Vanuatu Post Office press release*



**Next Meeting: 7:00 pm, September 17th.**

Slide Show: "What's New in Old Canada" prepared by Dr. Fred Stulberg.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Sept. 20 (Sat.): The North Toronto Stamp Club** will be holding its Fall Postage Stamp Bourse at the Civic Garden Centre, Edwards Gardens, 777 Lawrence Avenue East at Leslie St. Hours: 9-4.

**Sept. 25-27: The British North American Society** will be holding its Annual Convention & Exhibition at the London Hilton, 300 King St. W.

**Sept. 27 (Sat.): Milton Stamp Club** is holding their Stamp Fair at the Milton Seniors Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr., **Milton**. Hours: 10-5.

**Oct. 5 (Sun): The Grand River Valley Phil. Assoc.** will be having their 9th Annual Club Fair at the United Kingdom Club, Dunbar Rd., **Cambridge**. Hours: 10-4:30

**Oct. 17-19 : The Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association** will be holding their Fall Stampex '03 Show and Bourse at the Queen Elizabeth Building on the CNE grounds in **Toronto**. Hours: Fri. 11-6; Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4.

**Stamp on the Envelope ...**

From October the 6th to 12th, Hamilton will be hosting the World Road Cycling Championships. This is a major event and 800 cyclists from 50 countries are expected to be taking part with some 250,000 spectators looking on. The world-wide television audience is estimated to be around 500 million!

There are currently 18 million active cyclists in Canada, ranking it as the third most popular recreational activity, and the 10th most popular competitive sport among Canadians. Canada has a strong history of fielding top cyclists and has produced many of the sport's legends. Pioneers such as Torchy Peden, who dominated races in the 1930's and Jocelyn Lovell who, in 1974, became the National Champion in every category, set the pace for Canadian racers. Steve Bauer is most famous for his Tour de France stage victories after wearing the prestigious yellow jersey for ten consecutive days in 1990 and his silver medal at the 1984 Olympics. More recently, Genevieve Jeanson and Lyne Bessette have become cycling heroes for Canada.

Canada Post is marking the event with this stamp designed by Doreen Colonello. Ms. Colonello noted that the design challenge of this stamp was to capture the essence and spirit of a cycling race - a combination of concentration, focus, speed, competition and internationalism.

Title: "2003 World Road Cycling Championships, Hamilton"  
 Issue date: 10 September, 2003  
 No.: 4,000,000  
 Des.: Doreen Colonello of Gottschalk & Ash (Toronto)  
 Print.: Canadian Bank Note (six colour lithography).  
 Paper: Tullis Russell Coatings  
 Gum: PVA  
 Size: 46 mm x 28 mm  
 Perf.: 12¾ x 13

**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. 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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