



# Owen Sound Stamp Club Newsletter

Next Club Meeting: November 19<sup>th</sup>

November 2003

This being the time when Postal Administrations around the World release their Christmas offerings, there is lots of What's New in this issue. So let's move right along...

## What's New ...

Charles van Rompu

A couple of countries do not issue Christmas stamps. Instead they issue Christmas seals, which are sold to seal your mail or present, but do not act as postage. These seals are sold and the profit goes to charity. Through the years many deserving projects have received the necessary economical aid. In the true sense, these are Cinderella's.

**Åland**, being one of these countries, issues a sheet of 20 self-adhesive seals, designed by Jan-Peter Granlund. He was able to come up with a collage of sites in Mariehamn. It was issued October 9th and priced at €3.00. The sea rescue society and the sports federations are this year's beneficiaries

**Faroer.** The 2002 issue, which was a sheet of 30 different snowflakes designed by Astrid Andreassen, was difficult to beat. However Edward Fuglø, born in 1965, who grew up in Klaksvik, accepted the challenge and came up with a truly unique Faroese and politically correct design. He used the fact that almost all clothing was made from Faroese wool, often knitted, using characteristic patterns. Patterns for man and woman's jumpers, for undergarments, for boatmen's jersey's and many different border patterns. He collected 30 famous patterns, used for boatmen's jerseys and put them in five rows of six each with an interspersed Christmas troll's. The profit of the sales goes to the Christmas Seal Foundation which supports children and youth work in the Faeroe Islands.



A third country in this category is **Denmark**, but unfortunately I did not get information in time.

Let's now look at the Christmas, Holiday and the December stamps.

**Liechtenstein**, well known for its beautiful Christmas stamps, announced three items. They have chosen to use an ancient

branch of folk art, reverse painting on glass. This art form reached its peak in the first half of the 19th century, in areas where glass making was widespread. The glass works supplied the inexpensive glass panels, to which the paint was applied. In this method, paint was applied to a glass panel in reverse order as to that in oil painting. Outlines and highlights first, then the colours on the intermediate surfaces and finally the background. Moreover the sides of the glass are reversed and should be seen from the unpainted side of the glass.

After 1850 reverse painting led the way to oleography (to make a print look like an oil painting). These Liechtenstein's stamps were created by Ursulla Spoerry, who sees herself as a craftswoman, rather than an artist. The stamps are all vertical, Perf 14¾ x 13½ colourfull, and they depict: 70 Rp Archangel Gabriel, 90 Rp Cribscene and Fr1.30 Three Magi.

**Iceland**, surprised us with two nice stamps. Girl decorating a tree 45 DKK and Boy lighting candles 60 DKK. They depict the importance for each child to experience the Christmas spirit of love, hope and charity. These stamps were very unusual for Iceland since they are printed (offset lithography) in 5 colours, while most other Icelandic issues are in a 4 colour format.



**Isle of Man.** On November 5th they released a series of 5 "Christmas - The Snowman" stamps. The delightful illustrations of *The Snowman* by Raymond Briggs, were almost created to be on Christmas stamps. The values are: 23, 27, 38, 47 and 68 p.

Raymond Briggs once wrote "I once kept a record of the time it took to do two pages of the Snowman, pencilling 20 hours, inking 18 hours, colouring 25 hours and all that after months of getting ideas"

**The Netherlands**, plans to release its infamous "December stamp(s)" on November 25th. A sheet of 20 self adhesive, die

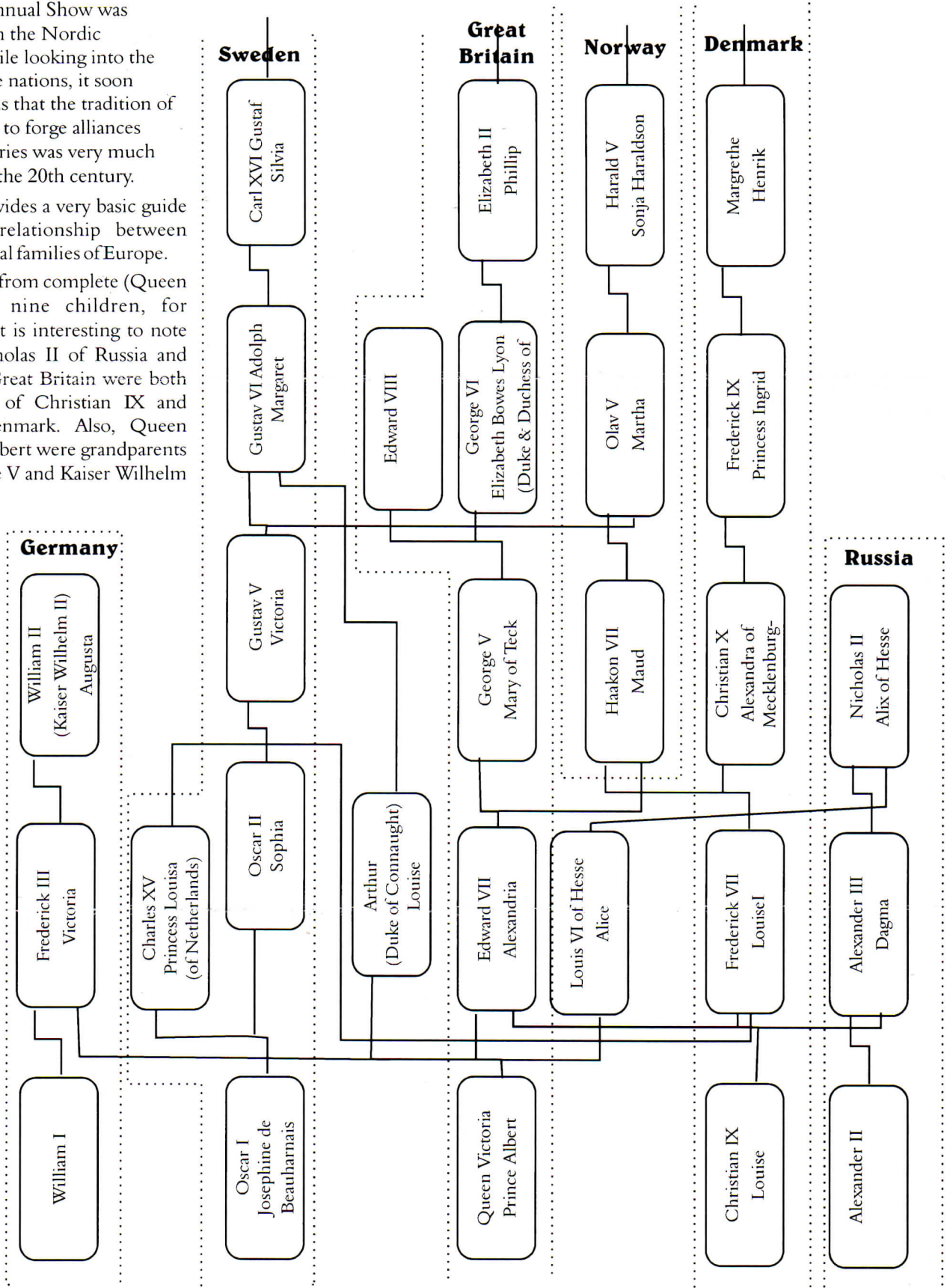
Cont. p3...

# The Royal Families of Europe

A couple of years back, the theme for our Annual Show was concerned with the Nordic Countries. While looking into the history of these nations, it soon became obvious that the tradition of using marriage to forge alliances between countries was very much alive well into the 20th century.

This chart provides a very basic guide to the inter-relationship between some of the royal families of Europe.

This tree is far from complete (Queen Victoria had nine children, for example) but it is interesting to note that Tsar Nicholas II of Russia and George V of Great Britain were both grandchildren of Christian IX and Louise of Denmark. Also, Queen Victoria and Albert were grandparents to both George V and Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany.



## What's New (cont.)...

cut stamps @ € 29 ¢ ea is expected. It should be noted that the regular postal rate is €39¢. This way the Christmas (oops, December) mail is discounted to promote writing and greeting. As in the past, on the 2nd of January of the year following a €10¢ will be issued to enable buyers of the lower priced ones to continue to use them. I have not seen pictures of them but they will certainly be “politically correct”.

**United States.** They issued their Holiday Music Makers on October 23rd. Four illustrations by Dianne Fiske Harris and designed by Ethel Kessler. These colourful new stamps feature whimsical Santas and Reindeer with their musical instruments

**Sweden,** uses the 150th anniversary of the birth of Swedish artist Carl Larsson, (1853-1919). The watercolours from his home at Sundborn, which made him recognized and appreciated both in Sweden and abroad, were used for the 2003 Christmas stamps. Two se-tenants were issued on November 10th in booklets of 10 at SK9.00 each. Another bloc of four self adhesives were issued the same day as well as a horizontal coil. The latter have no value on them and only state JulPost, which is equal to the local Swedish postal rate of SK5.00.

**New Zealand,** issued a series of five stamps quartered Christmas tree decorations Perf 13, in addition to two other ones in booklets. All of them show a quarter portion of the item, but blocs of four have been made to rotate each stamp by 90° to create a compelling perspective. The stamp values are NZ\$40 & 90¢ and NZ\$1.30, 1.50 and 2.00, the booklets are self adhesive and 10×40¢ and 8×NZ\$1.00.



**Finland.** For the €45¢ face-value stamp the designer, Virpi Pekkala, drew a smiling Christmas elf at a mailbox. On top of the mailbox a homing pigeon with an elf's hat is watching and waiting to carry the seasons greeting to any where in the world. The €65¢ stamp shows a rosy-faced elf girl, showing off the heart-shaped ginger biscuits she has baked. 7 million of the latter were printed while the 45¢ came from a print-run of 50 million. Joh. Enschedé Security Printers got the job done before the release deadline which was October 31st

**Ireland.** An post celebrates Christmas this year with the issue of 4 commemorative stamps on November 10th . Three of these stamps are gummed while one is self-adhesive and in booklets of 23×€48¢. The stamps feature paintings by Olwyen Whelan. The designs for the three standard stamps are: 48 ¢ Flight into Egypt, 50 ¢ The Angel and 57 ¢ Three Kings, while the 48 ¢ booklet stamp features The Nativity.

**San Marino,** issued a souvenir sheet containing 16 stamps of €0.41 , further details un known

If any one is interested in ordering any or all of the above, I have the addresses of the postal authorities available at the next meeting or better give me a call.

Hope to see you all on November 19th.

## To Be Auctioned ... — Alan Charlesworth

### Big November Auction

Lots of oldies but goodies from my faulty tower collection.

That's right many have faults most of which do not effect appearances. This is an excellent opportunity to fill in some higher value spots at bargain prices

Lot #	Description	Cat val.	Est.
1	Bunch of covers		2.00
2	9 different postcards		3.00
3	Acrogramme covers unused		2.00
4	Royal wedding souvenir album with stamps	7.60	10.00
5	World stamp catalogue in colour		2.00
6	Uni-safe sheet file		2.00
7	Cover lot c. 1960		6.00
8	Netherlands #30 & #51 used (small faults)	16.65	7.00
9	Netherlands #4 & #5 used (major faults)	33.35	4.25
10	Netherlands #33 (small faults)	133.00	30.00
11	Netherlands #97 (small faults)	26.50	5.00
12	Netherlands #1 & #2 (major faults)	385.00	35.00
13	Japan #409 MNH	14.00	7.00
14	Canada #115 vg/f mint (thin)	17.50	4.00
15	Canada #116 vf mint (small thin)	300.00	50.00
16	Canada #119 f mint (small thin)	50.00	15.00
17	Canada #122 f mint (trivial thin)	100.00	40.00
18	Canada #123 vf mint (small thin)	125.00	32.50
19	Canada #124 f mint (thin)	60.00	15.00
20	Canada #125 f mint pair (thin)	24.00	6.00
21	Canada #145 f mint (thin)	15.00	3.00
22	Canada #147 f mint no gum	7.50	3.00
23	Canada #148 f mint (thin)	15.00	3.00
24	Canada #242 vf mint (thin)	15.00	3.00
25	Canada #245 vf mint (small thin)	120.00	30.00
26	Canada #159 vg mint (thin)	250.00	50.00
27	Canada #79 f mint (thin)	100.00	20.00
28	Canada #91 f mint with foxing	100.00	20.00
29	Canada #50 vf mint (thin)	125.00	25.00
30	Canada #93 vg mint (small tear)	45.00	7.00
31	Netherlands #5 used	10.00	5.00
32	Netherlands #7,8,25,26,34a,44,44a,47a,48,48a	26.00	13.00
33	Netherlands #43 used (nine)	9.60	3.0
34	Netherlands #43a used (three)	11.00	3.00
35	Old cheques: 4 diff. with advertising and excise stamps		4.00
36	Old cheques: 4 diff. with advertising and excise stamps		4.00
37	500 British Commonwealth (all diff.)		15.00
38	Bermuda: 18 diff. values	10.25	6.00
39	Great Britain: 30 diff. values MNH		3.00
40	Jersey 20 diff. values	11.00	6.00
41	Cape of Good Hope #1 used - 2 full margins	265.00	75.00
42	Cape of Good Hope #2 used - 2 full margins	148.00	65.00
43	Cape of Good Hope #5 counterfeit	265.00*	25.00
44	NSW #42 used rose	10.50	6.00
45	NSW #39a used 12×12 nice	60.00	40.00

\* if good

**Next Meeting: 7:00 pm, November 19th**

The main event will be an auction – see p.2

**Upcoming Events:**

**Dec. 14 (Sun.): Postcard Canada Fair 2003** will be held at the Civic Garden Centre, Edwards Gardens, 777 Lawrence Avenue East. **Toronto.** Hours: 10-4 p.m. Admission \$2.

**Jan. 9 - 11: Unipex Toronto Stamp Show** will be held at Rameses Temple Shrine Club, 3100 Keele St., Toronto. Hours: Fri. 11-6 p.m.; Sat. 10-6 p.m.; Sun. 10-4 p.m. Free parking and admission, door prizes, licenced snack bar. For more information, contact (416) 242-5900.

**Jan. 10 (Sat.): Brantford Stamp Club** will be holding their Annual Show at the Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey Street. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking and admission. Exhibits, Canada Post, special show cancellation, 15 dealers, door prizes, refreshments.

**In Case you were Wondering ...**

Just how many stamps might you expect to get when buying “kiloware”?

It seems that anywhere between one and two thousand stamps per pound is typical. The higher number would apply to stamps on closely trimmed paper and the lower number to stamps on card. It is quite possible that up to 20% of such stamps may be damaged in some way (torn corners, creases, etc.).

**Stamp on the Envelope ...**

To quote from the official release describing the 2003 Christmas stamps...

“The three Christmas stamps were designed by Pierre David of Montreal in his first work for Canada Post. The stamps are irregular in format, and stylishly combine photos of typical Christmas gifts with background images of outdoor winter activities. They vividly portray how Canadians make the dark days of winter joyful during the gift-giving season.”

I'm not sure there is much more to say about these except that I really have my doubts that they will be used to illustrate articles concerning Canada's well-founded reputation for excellence in stamp design.

Title: “Christmas Presents”  
 Issue date: 4 November, 2003  
 No.: 48¢: 48,000,000  
 65¢: 7,500,000  
 \$1.25: 7,500,000  
 Des.: Pierre David (Montreal)  
 Photog.: François Brunelle  
 Print.: Lowe-Martin (7 colour lithography).  
 Paper: Tullis Russell Coatings  
 Gum: Self-adhesive  
 Size: irregular (approx. 35mm square)  
 Perf.: Kiss cut

**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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