

O.S.S.C.



Owen Sound Stamp Club

Philatelic Owen Sound Times

Next Club Meeting: March 16th

March 2005

From the President ...

Alan Charlesworth

Dear Friends & Members...

I thank you for this opportunity to serve you as President of the Owen Sound Stamp Club.

Let me, on all our behalf's, offer our thanks and gratitude to Bob Watson for his many years of service as president of the club and his many contributions he has made to our hobby

I would also like to thank him for his continued service as editor of the POST, our monthly news letter, which he has always done a marvellous job on.

Now looking forward to a new year, I would like to encourage all members to come forward with ideas for new and fun activities that we can do as a club. In the past we asked members to put forth suggestions as to what kinds of materials we could purchase with surplus club funds, that would assist the

members in the pursuit of their collecting. Many members came forth with ideas and suggestion at that time, unfortunately after some discussion no consensus was achieved and the matter was put off for future discussion. I would really appreciate if these members would resubmit their ideas along with specifics and cost for reconsideration. If you are a new member or have any new suggestion I would appreciate your input as well. (eg. Watermark detectors , perf. gauges, catalogues , periodicals etc.).

At recent meetings we have had some impromptu auctions on meeting nights with the material being provided by member in attendance. These Auctions were a lot of fun and enjoyable. I would like to encourage all members to bring a few items to a meeting and make this a regular event.

I really should stop rambling on and leave with one really important thought: let's have fun out there!

Stamp of the Month...

While sorting through his latest kiloware acquisition, Peter Broadfield came across these interesting examples of the 43¢ Christmas stamp of 1994 (Scott #1533) in which the image has gone way past "poorly centred"!

Looking further, it seems to me that there are some real oddities here.

Drawing a boundary around the design at the top, note how "Christmas-Noel" is pretty well aligned with "Canada". Going down to the bottom, it would appear that adjoining stamp images were vertically offset across the sheet. Yet the colours seem perfectly matched in each image.

The stamps are all the same size and, as best as I can judge, the images are also all the same size. So it is not as though the perforator was set incorrectly for the stamp, nor has the paper shrunk/stretched between the time it was printed and when it was perforated.

So, how could this have happened?

Maybe there are other stamps from this sheet around that can be matched to these and we can get more of an idea of what's going on – check your collections and tell us what you find at the next meeting!



Correct positioning of the design which is pretty well centred within the borders of the stamp.



Design considerably off-centre: both down and right. "Christmas-Noel" is on the perforations. Actually, the "Christmas-Noel" of the next stamp can just be made out on the left.



Design grossly off-centre: both down and right. The "Christmas-Noel" belonging to the main image has been lost and that of the neighbouring stamp appears clearly.

Using eBay ...

Peter Broadfield

Hi, this month I am going to try to explain how to pay for your items you purchase while using eBay.

So, you've found something on eBay that you would like. Before placing a bid, check the seller's "**Payment Options**" which will generally be found about half way down the page and make sure that these options will work for you.

There are a number of ways to pay on eBay and most sellers offer more than one option. Some payment options offer more protection than others, so be sure to select a method of payment with which you are comfortable bearing in mind that most payment options (but not cash nor BidPay) are covered to some extent by the eBay Purchase Protection Program.

Whatever method you choose, remember that it is considered courteous to send payment within 3-5 days of winning a bid.

Payment methods on eBay include the following:

1. **PayPal.** This is an eBay finance company that is designed to facilitate payment for items bought on eBay. PayPal transactions are traceable, immediate, and straightforward. They can be made directly from the item listing page, but you don't need to use your credit card online, and the seller never sees your credit card or banking details.
2. **Credit Card.** Credit card transactions are traceable, immediate and convenient. They are generally considered safe so long as the pertinent information can be transmitted over a secure (encrypted) connection* and the seller can handle such transactions. In most cases such sellers would be dealers rather than private individuals.
3. **Personal Cheques / Money Orders.** These do provide some proof of payment and, if mailed appropriately, can be traced to a particular address. But sellers must wait for funds to clear before payment is assured, and it is generally

very difficult to recover money in case of fraud.

4. **Bank-to-Bank Transfers.** These can be quick and convenient but it can be very difficult to recover money in case of fraud.
5. **Cash / Instant Cash Wire Transfers.** eBay does not recommend payment in this way. Sellers may offer this option but cannot insist on this.

As PayPal is something of an eBay institution (it is owned by eBay) a few words on what it is about are in order. PayPal was developed specifically to provide a reliable way for both businesses and private individuals to exchange small (and larger) amounts of money in a wide variety of currencies.

Essentially, a potential buyer opens an account with PayPal. On winning an auction, the buyer transfers money by Internet/phone to his/her PayPal account and that money is then automatically passed on to the seller's account.

There are no fees charged to open an account nor to deposit money into it ie. no fees to the buyer. There may be some fees for withdrawing money from an account and there is a small charge when converting currencies. (These fees are all listed on the PayPal site).

I have been using PayPal for 3 years now and never had any kind of problem with the service.

Having said that, need I say that all this is just my attempt to explain the procedures in simple terms? Before making any contracts or parting with any money, read the fine print – and make sure you understand it!

- * Incidentally, if you should decide to send your credit card number to someone who doesn't have a secure link, this can be done fairly safely by splitting the number over three emails.

Curiosities ...



Whakaangi P.O., New Zealand. One of the smaller post offices around, perhaps?

At last month's meeting, Peter Broadfield brought in this pair of pre-cancelled Centennial stamps – the point being that they had been "re-cancelled" by Canada Post.



Just to remind you: pre-cancels arose through deals made between the post office and bulk mailers in which the mailers would do some of the sorting and the letters would be slipped into the mailstream without the clerks having to manually stamp each one. Except in these special circumstances, a pre-cancelled stamp was considered used and not valid for normal postage.

So how could they be cancelled conventionally?

In response to an enquiry on the Internet, it seems that the most likely explanation is that these stamps were used well outside their period of issue and the post office just didn't pick up that these stamps were not valid postage – whether they had actually been used or not. Note that as mechanical cancelling machines came into use, the use of precancels became redundant.

What's New (and some Coincidences) ...

Charles van Rompu

Back in 1928, a Jewish family named Ginz, who lived in Prague, welcomed the birth of a son they called "Petr".

Already at the elementary school Petr proved to be a universally talented boy who contributed to the school magazine with writing articles and making drawings.

On the 24th of October 1942, at the young age of 14, he was deported to the Terezin Ghetto where he continued to write and draw pictures, which were saved thanks to a friend who survived the Nazi terrors. His pictures are deposited in the Yad Vashem Art Museum in Jerusalem.

One of his remarkable and famous pencil drawings shows a Moon Landscape rough and dark with, in the background, the Earth, lit and showing a couple of continents. (Let's not forget that this was done in 1942, when space was still an unknown to everybody, and the idea to show the earth from the moon, was quite new).

The tragic fate of Petr Ginz, who died in the autumn of 1944 in Auswitz, sadly continued in the crash of the rocket plane Columbia STS 107. The Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon took with him into space a facsimile of the pencil drawing in the desire to fulfill Petr Ginz's dreams after 58 years. However, after 16 days of space research the lives of all seven astronauts ended with a disaster on the landing manoeuvre on February 1st 2003 which was also a culmination of the emotional fate of the Ginz's drawing.

The Czech Republic issued a souvenir sheet on January 20th 2005, titled "*The fate of the drawing "Moon Landscape" by Petr Ginz*".

The souvenir sheet valued at 31 Koruna (Approx. \$1.75) shows a stamp featuring the drawing, a portrait of Petr at about 12 years old, while under the stamp, in the body of the sheet, space shuttle Columbia STS 107 is visible. The production was possible thanks to the Graphic designer Pavel Hrach, Engraver Václav Fajt and the Postal Printing House Prague.

We all think that fish farming is a new phenomenon, but let me tell you, this is a myth. The first mention of the construction of ponds for fish farming in the Czech lands is from 1115 but the greatest boom in pond construction was in the 16th century. The country's largest pond, Rozmberk, in the Trebon basin was constructed between 1584 and 1589 by a leader in the field of pond construction "Sedicany".

Back in 2001 the theme of the annual Europa issues was "WATER" and for this occasion the Czech Republic issued a 9 Koruna stamp showing the muddy surface of this pond. Fish farming in the Czech republic is largely based on the breeding of the common carp, which is the delicacy for the Christmas diner in many Eastern European countries.

Two hundred years ago, on the 2nd of December 1805, the allied armies of the Russian emperor Alexander I and the Austrian emperor Franz I, met the army of the French emperor Napoleon I in the Battle of the Three Emperors – this tends to be the name of one of the largest military conflicts which took

place in Czech territory. All this happened in the hills and valleys between Brno and Austerlitz. 90,000 allied and 70,000 French troops were facing each other. Thanks to a brilliant strategic move by Napoleon, he was able to divide the allies and put them to flight.

Brno is the host city for the European Exhibition of Postage Stamps "BRNO 2005" which will be held in the Brno Exhibition Centre on May 10 – 15, 2005. A special souvenir sheet will be issued on May 4th showing a painting by L.F. Lejeune from 1808, featuring the atmosphere on the eve of the battle when Napoleon with his generals interrogates Moravian farmers. The painting is at the chateau in Versailles.

Also on that date, France and the Czech republic will have a joint issue showing Napoleon and the Peace Monument. These joint issues are not identical in size and design.

May 4th is a busy day at the Czech post offices. The European theme for this year's stamps is 'Gastronomy'. The 9 Koruna Czech stamp shows a roasted goose or duck with potato or bread dumplings and red or white stewed cabbage together with the world famous Czech beer. This stamp will also be launched on that day. Bon Appetite.

For the thematic and/or topical collectors, the above has a lot to offer: war memories, space exploration, young talents, Europe, Food on stamps, Paintings on stamps, Joint issues, Battles, Fish ponds, Fish, Watery environments,

Hope to see you all on Wednesday March 16th (so close to spring)!

Could It Be True???

Sometime in the 1840's *The Lady* magazine suggested that a way to entertain the children was to make a "stamp snake".

You did this by cutting stamps off envelopes and old letters and threading them through with cotton – the common red stamps making the body of the snake while the black/blue ones could be saved for the head. Your little darlings could then frolic gaily in the drawing-room with their stamp snakes.

This idea obviously caught on because it is not unusual to find otherwise perfect Penny Blacks with pinholes through their centres.

When the first postcards appeared in January 1872, they all bore the message: "The postal authorities are not responsible for the contents of the letter".

Overheard at an Australian Stamp show...

Client: "How much for that 5/- Bridge?"

Dealer: "Five hundred dollars."

Client: "I'll give you four hundred and fifty for it."

Dealer: "Come on now... I have to eat you know!"

Client: "OK then, how about four hundred and fifty and a packet of sandwiches?"

Next Meeting ... Wed. March 16th at 7:00 pm

Charles van Rompu is expecting to have books from the Peninsula Circuit for the meeting.

As always, if any member has any material to sell or trade, bring it along!

Upcoming Events:

Mar 19 (Sat): Oxford Philatelic Society is hosting OTEX/OXPEX 2005 at John Knox Christian School, 800 Juliana Drive., **Woodstock**. Dealers, exhibits, youth area, prize draws, refreshment booth, Canada Post counter.
Hours: 9:30–4:30. Admission: free. Parking: free

Mar 26 (Sat.): North Toronto Stamp Club is hosting its 62nd Annual Postage Stamp Show and Bourse, at the Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Blvd., **Scarborough**. 24 dealers, club sales circuit, Canada Post, refreshments.
Hours: 9–4. Admission: free. Parking: free

April 8-10: Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association will be sponsoring a Postage Stamp Marketplace at the Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place, **Toronto**.
Hours: Fri: 11-6; Sat: 10-6; Sun: 10-4.
Admission: free. Parking: free. Dealers from Canada and US; exhibition/display by North Toronto Stamp Club.

April 9 (Sat.): Kitchener Waterloo Philatelic Society will be holding Stampfest 2005 at the Community Christian Reformed Church, 1275 Bleams Rd., **Kitchener**.
Hours: 10-4. Admission: free. Parking: free

Stamp on the Envelope ...

Expo 2005 opens on March 25th in Aichi, Japan, and has chosen the rather enigmatic theme: "Nature's Wisdom". Canada will have a pavilion designed to celebrate the equally enigmatic aspect of "Wisdom of Diversity" with a centrepiece devoted to communications technology.

While the original concept was intended to encourage designers of the various pavilions to include just about everything, the stamp designer, Paul Haslip, chose to interpret these somewhat vague concepts as "Balance".

Then, perhaps with an inukshuk in the back of his mind, he photographed five rocks balanced on one another as a centrepiece. The rocks (mineral) are partly counterbalanced by the silhouette of the trees (life), both of which are fundamental to Canadian scenery and economy. The pixilated background is intended as a reference to the communication part of the Canadian pavilion. All very symbolic!

<i>Series:</i>	Expo 2005: Aichi, Japan	<i>Print.:</i>	Canadian Bank Note
<i>Title:</i>	"Nature's Wisdom"	<i>Process:</i>	Lithography (9 colours)
<i>Issue date:</i>	4th March, 2005	<i>Paper:</i>	Tullis Russell Coatings
<i>Denom:</i>	50¢	<i>Gum:</i>	PVA
<i>Layout:</i>	Pane of 16 stamps	<i>Tagging:</i>	General, 4 sides
<i>Des.:</i>	Paul Haslip of HM&E	<i>Size:</i>	30 mm × 36 mm
	Design, Toronto	<i>Perf.:</i>	13¼
<i>Photo:</i>	Curtis Lantinga	<i>No.</i>	3,000,000

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. 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.

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