

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. July 15th 2009 @ 7:00

From the President...

Now that the summer period is well underway, I hope you have been enjoying it, but hopefully there is a wee spark to remain involved with our common hobby. This month can have some very hot and humid days, but I know there is a place where it is relatively cool and lots of parking available. Our meeting will be on the 15th, an early meeting since the 1st of July was on a Wednesday.

This month we have invited John Cortan to bring along his wares for our perusal and I'm sure we'll find some items of interest to add into our collections. Next month the meeting will feature a discussion about numeral cancels from the Netherlands (given by yours truly) followed by a mini auction. Other plans have come into place for the first three meetings in the fall, but more on that in future newsletters.

Some of us were able to attend the Royal held in St. Catharines in mid-June. For those of you unable to go, I have to tell you that it was very interesting to see the displays at the Royal. What really intrigued me was that the May meeting featured a discussion on Law Society stamps of Ontario given by Joe Riechenbach and there was a display of Law Society stamps on Supreme Court documents, which Joe said was rare to find. Amazing how the topic came together with the display. Another display that I found of great interest was the one about the numeral cancels of Canada. Both were very well done and it was well worth my time to travel to attend the Royal.

I hope you will be able to attend on the 15th and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Phil Visser
President OSSC

Coming Events...

AUG. 8, Fenelon Falls, ON

FENPEX 25, 123 Colborne St. United Church. Hours: 9:30a.m. to 3:30 p.m., eight dealers, silent auction, prizes. Sponsor/Affiliate: Fenelon Stamp Club. For more information, contact Margaret Allen, telephone: (705) 887-5386.

AUG. 15, Kincardine, ON.

KINEX 2009, Royal Canadian Legion Hall 219 Lambton St. Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eight to 10 tables of dealers, displays, door prizes, youth table, food available. Sponsor/Affiliate: Kincardine Stamp Club. For more information, contact John Cortan (519) 395-5817 or email jcortan@huronet.on.ca.

AUG. 22, Bracebridge, ON

MUSPEX 2009, Muskoka Riverside Inn, 300 Ecclestone Dr. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Exhibits, 10 dealers, Canada Post, member's table, and door prizes. Free admission and parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: Muskoka Stamp Club. For more information, contact Larry Matthews, email: muskokapost@sympatico.ca.

AUG. 23, Markham, ON

2009 Postcard and Paper Show, Thornhill Community Centre, South & Centre Hall, 7755 Bayview Ave. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$2, free parking, snack bar on site, 25 dealer tables specializing in old postcards. Some postal history, ephemera, historical photographs, books, posters, newspapers and stock certificates will also be present. Sponsor/Affiliate: www.Postcard-Directory.com. For more information, contact Janet Dalton, telephone: (705) 792-0672, email: shows@postcard-directory.com. Website: <http://www.Postcard-Directory.com/SHOWS>.

SEPT. 19, London, ON

London and Middlesex Stamp Show, Argyle Mall, 1925 Dundas St. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission and parking, draw prizes, wheelchair accessible, 20 dealers and 100 frame judged exhibit open to all. Go to website for application form. Sponsor/Affiliate: London and Middlesex Stamp Club. For more information, contact Pat Delmore, telephone (519) 471-7139, email: patrickjdelmore@hotmail.com. Website: <http://www.middlesexstampclub.com>.

SEPT. 19, Toronto, ON

Fall Postage Stamp Bourse, Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission, club sale circuit, wheelchair access, refreshments available. Sponsor/Affiliate: North Toronto Stamp Club. For more information, contact Herb, telephone (416) 445-7720, email ntstampclub@yahoo.ca.

SEPT. 19, St. Catharines, ON

Holiday Inn Stamp Show, Niagara Room, Holiday Inn, QEW at Lake St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking and admission. Specializing in stamps and covers of Canada and the British Commonwealth. Sponsor/Affiliate: Roy's Stamps. For more information, contact Roy Houthby, telephone (905) 934-8377.

SEPT. 19, Owen Sound, ON

Owen Sound Stamp Show, West Hill Secondary School, 750 9th St. W. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., free admission, dealers, exhibits, kids corner, silent auction. For more information, contact Phil Visser, telephone (519) 376-6760, email psvisser@huronet.on.ca.

Coats of Arms
By Ralph Wyndham



Canada's National Arms are blazoned

An area of topical stamp collecting that could create a very large collection quite quickly is the coat of arms. A hasty survey of my Canada stamp catalog yielded more than 40 stamps that have national, provincial, or university coats of arms as design elements. For tiny Estonia located in Eastern Europe, I counted 30 stamps depicting modern independent Estonia's national arms plus a series of 20 pre-WWII semi-postals each with a different local coat of arms.

Coats of Arms and other armorial bearings, as they are called, are designed, described, and regulated through a system called heraldry. Even today heraldry is taken very seriously in countries around the world.

As is the case with so many early human inventions and customs, the exact origins of heraldry are lost in the days before it became popular and formalized. Sir Bernard Duke, Ulster King of Arms, thinks heraldry may have been started during the Holy Wars by soldiers of the Crusades, then perfected during Feudal times.

A knight may have started painting symbols on his shield as means of recognition so that during battle his followers could find and keep track of him.

However, under the feudal system, a military tenant held his land by the service of 2 knights, one knight or half a knight. Half a knight would have no followers and therefore would have no need identify himself to anyone. A coat of arms painted on a shield could also have been simply a personal expression or introduction akin to today's vanity license plate or business card.

Beryl Platts, author of *Origins of Heraldry*, points out that "family identification was practiced in northern Europe before the Norman Conquest of England and therefore was introduced there by the followers of William the Conqueror." The oldest documented example of a coat of arms on a shield was given by King Henry I of England to his son-in-law, Geoffrey Plantagenet, in 1127.

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By 1400, a coat of arms had become a prerequisite of tournament participation. Social status was important at the tournament, too, so the coat of arms also emerged as a mark of noble status.

Regardless of their origins, coats of arms became military status symbols aided by the popularity of the jousting tournament which evolved in 11th century France.

Tournaments became the training ground for knights and the pageantry grew more elaborate over time. Some knights became "tour professionals" earning a living and building a reputation going from tournament to tournament. Victorious knights could boost their income by holding defeated knights for ransom.

The Norman conquest of Britain at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 brought with it the northern European

herald's duty to sound his trumpet and describe the knight's coat of arms. Likely because of the trumpet announcement, describing the arms became known as 'blazoning' in English, French, German and Italian from the German word 'blasen', meaning to blow (the horn).



There are hundreds of different symbols, colours, patterns, and figures used to blazon (design) armorial bearings. There are generally accepted meanings for these various elements though there are disagreements about meaning and even whether or not there is any meaning at all. The lion rampant, as appears on the regional Machins for Scotland, stands for dauntless courage. The colour purple represents royalty.

The lion rampant tells us this regional A coat of arms has a number of main elements. The escutcheon, (shield), tinctures (the colours or patterns of background), divisions (that separate the shield into contrasting sections), ordinaries (bold, broad geometric shapes), charges (objects and figures), marshalling (arranging more than one coat of arms on a shield), helm and crest (at top of the shield) and a motto describing the intention or motivation of the arms' bearer. It will depend on the story to be told about the arms' owner just what elements will appear on a new design.

There are stylistic variations between countries. Some will tend to maintain simpler designs; others become quite complex. Some countries will not use crests; mottos are not always used, etc. Some places will use non-traditional charges.



The National Arms of the Seychelles, in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Africa, make use of non-European charges such as the griffon, hind, and

Heraldry has its own vocabulary that will seem quite foreign to those of us unfamiliar with it. Here's an example that I took from flerudelis.com, the website for Fleur-de-lis Designs, a heraldry services company: "A lion's head erased azure langued gules." (A lion's head cut off at the neck with a flourish, in blue with a red tongue.) This is the kind of language that would be found in an official registry of armorial bearings.

Either a person or an organization can own a coat of arms. Personal coats of arms are inheritable but belong to the individual,

not to a family or name. If I saw a great Wyndham coat of arms and thought it would be nice to adopt it myself, I would have to prove direct ancestry before I could do so.

As mentioned earlier, heraldry is still taken very seriously in many countries today where the government still has a role in assigning and registering armorial bearings. Our own Canada is one such country. In 1988, Canada was the first commonwealth country to assume control of its national heraldry from Great Britain. Today, if you want an officially blazoned and registered coat of arms, you would apply to Canadian Heraldic Services, an office of the Governor General in Ottawa. Once granted, your new arms would then be recorded in The Public Register of Arms, Flags and Badges of Canada.

Thank you Ralph Wyndham for another interesting and informative article! The Ed.

From Dr. Phil A. Telly...

Stamps got you licked? Feeling stamped out?
Don't worry. Don't let it get you down,
Dr. Phil A. Telly has come to town!

Dear Readers,

Last month we discussed coil stamps in the form of jump strips and line pairs. Last year some time we discussed coil stamps from various countries including Germany. Since that time I have encountered some good examples of German coils that I thought you might like to see.

The strip of eleven 500 mark stamps you can see up the side is typical of early German coil stamps. Up until 1954 most German definitive stamps were printed in ten by ten sheets of one hundred stamps. Coils were printed in long vertical strips for vending machines. The only way to prove that a stamp was a coil stamp was to have a strip longer than ten stamps. Also, since the coil strips were usually vertical, having a horizontal pair or a block could prove that the items were from a sheet.

Because you would have no way of telling a single coil stamp from a single sheet stamp, Scott Catalogue makes very little mention of coil stamps pre-1954. One exception is a listing of the greenish blue 50 mark 'Miner's' stamp from the same 1922-3 issue as the 500 mark stamp. The stamp is mentioned because it was only issued as a coil stamp. They must have been fairly rare as well. A fine postally used example of the 50 mark 'Miner's' stamp is worth a few bucks!

Once we get to 1954, coil stamps now had control numbers printed on the back of every fifth stamp. Avid mint stamp collectors could now collect coils in strips of five. Since control numbers were stamped over



the gum of the stamps, used stamp collectors could have difficulties. Sometimes the numbers fade or disappear when the stamps are soaked off of paper. The numbers can be found on stamps on paper by holding them up to the light and some collectors elect to keep the stamps on the bits of envelope rather than risk washing off the control number.

There are other variations that can make collecting German coil stamps interesting. Sometimes control numbers were printed with different coloured inks. Coils came in different lengths so while most control numbers are three digit, some are four digit. The complexities are such that Michel publishes a book called Handbuch-Katalog Rollenmarken Deutschland. Too bad it doesn't come in English!

While you are searching your German definitives for control numbers keep your eyes open for stamps with straight edges from booklets!

Keep on stamping! Dr. Phil



This stamp is listed in Scott's Catalogue as one of the 1979-82 issues of the Castle Type of 1977-79 and is the last set

Dr. Phil A. Telly is our little syndicated column. If you've got questions for Dr. Phil please forward your questions to your editor. Questioners and Dr. Phil will be kept anonymous unless he or she requests

otherwise.



On the Cover... Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909

The sepia-toned photo seen at the top is first time the American

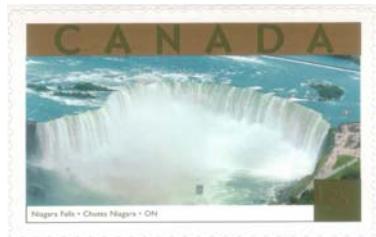
2009 has also been declared the 'Year of Our Shared Waters' by the municipalities of Western New York and the Niagara Region of Southern Ontario. This year is the one hundredth anniversary of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 2009 and the area of the

Niagara is one of two areas specifically mentioned in the original treaty. The Treaty is considered to be the first environmental treaty
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and from it sprang the International Joint Commission (IJC), one of the best examples of international cooperation in the world. Now that's something to celebrate! The IJC develops policy and oversees any issues to do with border water between Canada and the United States such as quality and quantity issues. Quality refers to pollutants, toxins and the environment. Quantity issues include rerouting of water such as for hydroelectricity and drinking water. The treaty

also ensures equal rights to navigation for both parties including access to Lake Michigan and equal tolls and levees wherever charged.



It is stated in the tourist attractions booklet that this stamp is a part of, that over

performed throughout the afternoon and evening with a backdrop of numerous environmental displays. The climax of the evening was a performance by Sarah Harmer who has become known for her fervent pleas for the preservation of the Niagara Escarpment. The main environmental conferences may be over now but Imax films, gallery showings, concerts, informative hikes and children's events continue. If you're heading to Niagara, be sure to look online for events at <http://oursharedwaters.com/>



The upper left corner of the stamp bears

The front page of the July 7 to 20 Canadian Stamp News has a picture showing the unveiling of the Boundary Waters Treaty stamp as the opening event at the 'Royal' held in St. Catharines this year. Canada Post officials, IJC member Pierre Trepanier and the stamp designer Paul Haslip stand beside an enlarged picture of the stamp. The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) held its annual convention and show June 12th to 14th. According to the 'Our Shared Waters' website the official

unveiling of the stamp was at 4:00 on June 11 at Table Rock Great Falls Hall, Niagara Falls Ontario which is of course the day before the opening of the 'Royal'. If anybody knows anything about this unveiling please contact me.

Niagara Falls is one of the most well known tourist attractions in the world. In an attempt to evoke Niagara Falls of a hundred years ago, an old sepia-toned photograph of the American Falls is at the top of the stamp while the larger lower area is filled with a rainbow coloured array of the Canadian Falls at night. A similar technique was used much more subtlety to portray the old and the new on the handsome Ottawa sesquicentennial stamp in May 2007. The new stamp is

a little disorienting. If the stamp was left laying about one would have to pick it up and examine it more closely to determine which way is up.

The stamp is available in a pane of sixteen stamps laid out in two



The Falls were first on a Canadian stamp in 1935 as

groups of eight with a wide gutter running down between them. The people of the Niagara Region may have made a point of celebrating the one hundred years of the International Joint Commission, but it has to be mentioned that the Commission is holding events in boundary water sharing areas across this land. The other water sharing area mentioned in the Treaty of 1909 was the Milk and St. Mary Rivers. Farmers in Montana started to dig canals, diverting the Rivers so Canadian farmers started digging canals redirecting the water back again. Thanks to the Treaty and the work of the IJC solutions have been found for problems such as these. As the closest post office to this old trouble spot, Cardston Alberta has the consolation prize of being the Day of Issue cancellation site for the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 stamp.

Marion Ace

From the Editor...

Hey, did you check out all the competition we're going to have on September 19th? Wow, the Coming Events column lists four stamp shows that day including ours. But that list does not include the usual Burlington show or the post card show in Merrickville. Who'd of thunk it! We'll be hoping for fine weather and we'll have to do all we can to get the word out about our show. It also helps to show an interest in other relatively local shows and clubs. Quite a few of us showed up for the Saugeen club show. Don't forget the Kincardine show on August 15th.

We had another lively and friendly meeting in June. Judy Galbraith came to visit again and it was good to see Barb and Bill Shelson too. Barb and Bill are usually quite regular attendees so it was surprising not to see them for a few months.

Everybody at the June meeting dished out \$5.00 to cover the hike in annual dues. There were jokes of course but I don't think that I heard any real griping. It is not required to pay the extra bit until next years dues are due, however we are all grateful to all the members who are chipping in.

John Cortan will be hauling his goods to the July meeting. It would be helpful if a few members showed up early to help John to lug everything in and organize the tables. I hope members will show their support for John's efforts.

I have sent out another round of Post Office cards advertising our meetings to 25 local Post Offices. If you are in a Post Office please check to see if they put up our card. If they have, please thank them and show interest. If the office hasn't put it up perhaps you can find out why and let me know.

We haven't discussed having a club picnic this summer. We didn't have it until September last year and so we were lucky to get such warm weather... but you can't always count on that! Let's chat. See you on Wednesday.

Marion Ace
Editor OSSC

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the basement of St. George's Anglican Church (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 often held at 8:00 pm. There are presently about 20 active members whose interests cover just about everything at all levels, from beginner to expert.

Guests or new members are always most welcome.

Annual membership fees: Full-\$10; Family-\$15; Junior- Free

Members and guests contribute \$1 at each meeting which is passed directly to St. George's Church in appreciation for use of their room.

The OSSC Newsletter is distributed to all members. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are expressly those of the individual author.

Contributions to the newsletter are most welcome. Please submit any news, information, opinions or announcements to the editor.

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