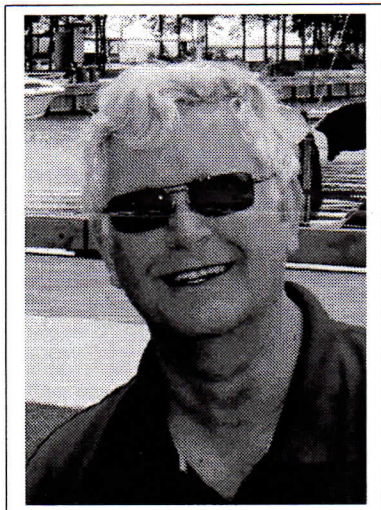


Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191 Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 17th 2014 @ 7 PM

From the President:



The time sure passes by quickly and here I am writing a hearty welcome to all of the club members. The next meeting will be held on September 17th at our usual location, Hillyer Hall in the St Mary's High School at 555 15th Street East in Owen Sound. This meeting will have some time dedicated to the organization of our upcoming show on October 4th as well as some club business but then there will be an opportunity to go through the Oxford Philatelic Society circuit books. To those in the membership who receive this newsletter, it may seem that these circuit books were available last month. At the last minute, they called to say that something had come up and so they were unable to come. Fortunately, the circuit books from the Saugeen Club were able to come at short notice and those who came to the meeting were able to find some more stamps for their collection. The October meeting has not been completely planned out on who is coming, but there are two options and so I will be able to say more either at the meeting on the 17th or through the newsletter. In November we will have a club auction which is open to those members who are able to come out that evening.

Bob Ford and I travelled to the directors meeting of the GRVPA in the last week of August which is held in Cambridge. There was some usual business but also time to talk with other leaders about some of the items that affect each club and then get ideas on how things can be implemented here in Owen Sound. By now you should have also received the latest edition of the Grand News. Through that newsletter, you should be aware of the joint GRVPA and GTAPA club fair being held in Bramalea this year. It is an excellent time and place for members to search and hopefully find items for your collections. Since this is a joint circuit book fair, it will be a chance to look at the GTAPA circuit books since they do not come to our meetings (due to the distance).

George Pepall was also at the GRVPA. He is the President of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) and mentioned that having more members in the RPSC would always be appreciated. Are you a member of the RPSC? Although the club is, Chapter 191, individual members strengthens the hobby throughout Canada. The RPSC hosts an annual Royal Show which was held in Halifax this year, but will be in London, ON in 2015 and in Kitchener in 2016. I will be handing out cards with the benefits of being a member of the RPSC. Even though I am encouraging membership in the RPSC, there are other organizations that will help you with your

hobby. To mention a few, there are the British North America Philatelic Society, the American Philatelic Society and the American Topical Association as well as many chapters for specific areas for collecting topics found on stamps. Membership in any of these organizations will help you learn more about your particular interest in this hobby.
I hope to see a large turn out to this meeting on the 17th.

Phil Visser

President visserps@bell.net 519-376-6760

OSSC

Announcements: Larry Crane is looking for postcards &/or postal history for the town of Chatsworth for an outreach event.

All OSSC members are encouraged to prepare a one page exhibit for our show October 4th. The theme is Owen Sound and Grey County..... history, art, famous people, events Anything that relates to this beautiful place we call home.

Getting Started in Stamp Collecting – Part 3

Organizing the Mixture

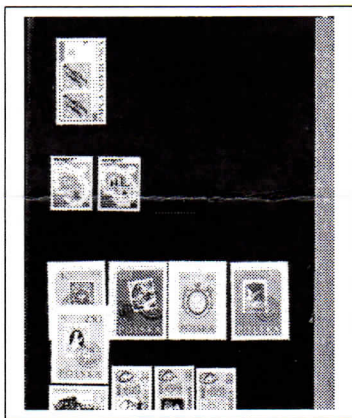
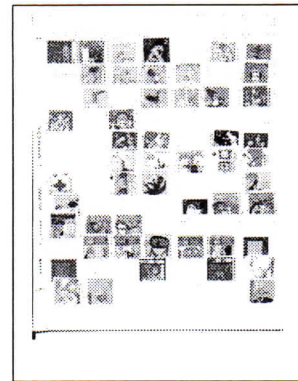
By Philip Visser

This month's article is a continuation from last month where it was discussed how to remove the stamp from the envelope. Now that the stamps have been soaked off the paper, then dried and flattened in a book, the fun begins. At this stage, you again must look with eagle eyes to see if there is any damage to the stamp. Damage may take the form of a thin spot, a crease somewhere on the stamp, a tear in the stamp, or trimmed perfs that wasn't seen before the soaking process. To discover whether any of the dried stamps are damaged, the easiest method is to hold the stamp up to a light, or place the stamp on a light table. Sometimes the creases are difficult to pick up by holding it up directly to a light, so just turn the stamp sideways and if a crease is present, it will become obvious very quickly. The sneaky ones are the creases that are very near a corner of the stamp. If damage is discovered, a decision needs to be made on what to do with that particular stamp. Often, if the stamp is not already in the collection, the damaged one is placed in the collection "temporarily" until an undamaged one can be found to replace it at a later date. Speaking about placing the stamp into a collection might be a little premature. It is probable that the soaking process was for an accumulation of stamps from different countries. If this is the case, the stamps should be sorted into the general areas from which the stamps originated from, namely the country that printed the stamp. Place the stamps from one country into an empty envelope and write the name of that country on the outside of the envelope so that they can be sorted whenever the time is right. It is here that a decision is necessary on where to begin a collection. With the rough sorting of stamps into country accumulations a collection begins. At the early stages of collecting, gathering stamps from as many different countries in the world can be very exciting. At some point an interest will develop into where is this country and that starts the search of geography. Then looking at the stamp design, what does the stamp show, is it a person, place, animal, insect, bird etc. Searching the background about the design can lead into a search about history, culture, nature and so forth and in the process learning more about the world that we live in.

Earlier it was mentioned that putting the sorted stamps into envelopes was one way of keeping track of the stamps one has accumulated. The envelopes do not show the different types of stamps accumulated nor is it easy to see which particular stamps are in a collection. Several choices are available at this point for the new collector to show what stamps they have been able to accumulate. The easiest method of organizing a country is by getting a 3 ring binder and putting blank pages in the binder. Each page can be labelled with the name of the country (English names are different than that in the original language!) and then the stamps can be put on the particular page.

Keeping a stamp on the page can be a bit of a challenge, but the easiest method is by affixing stamp hinges on to the back of the stamp and then hinging the unit onto the page. Hinges are available in most hobby shops and are reasonably priced, but whatever else done, DO NOT REGLUE THE STAMP TO THE PAGE, or use scotch tape or any other means of holding the stamp to the page other than by stamp hinges. Having purchased collection and accumulations at auctions that contained pages like that, the unknowing collector that used the above mentioned methods of keeping the stamp to a page literally destroyed the collection. Unfortunately, not all of the descriptions of auction lots are completely accurate and reliable!

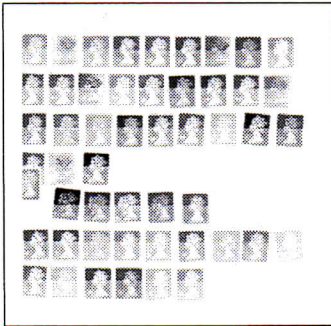
By visiting hobby shops and even the Post Office, the new collector can find other means of organizing the collection. Usually there will be either *stock pages* or *stock books* available for purchase. Stock pages come in a few different types as well as do the stock books. A craft stock page allows the collector to put the stamps into the slots on the page and in the desired order. The accompanying scan shows a craft stock page of some duplicates. For illustration purposes, it can be seen that part of the stamp design is obscured by the craft material. Another consideration is that when the stamp is larger than the space allotted for a slot on the page, the stamp obscures that of the row above it. The craft page will fit into a 3 ring binder but it is not double sided.



Another form of a stock page is made from plastic. This type of stock page is available in black and clear/see through. The illustration shows a black stock page. This type of stock page also has several choices for the collector to choose from. The choices include the number of rows on a page, or even only a couple of divisions on a page so that envelopes can be kept on that page. One of the biggest features, however, is that pages can be purchased that are double sided. This allows more stamps to go on a page. The 2 and 3 lined pages can be used to display/organize envelopes with distinctive cancels or may be souvenirs from stamp shows. The pages with 4 or 5 lines per side can be used to organize the block of four stamps that can be found sometimes in the mail. The 6-8 line pages are used for single issue stamps. Which page to use depends on the size of the stamps that the page will display. Because of the large

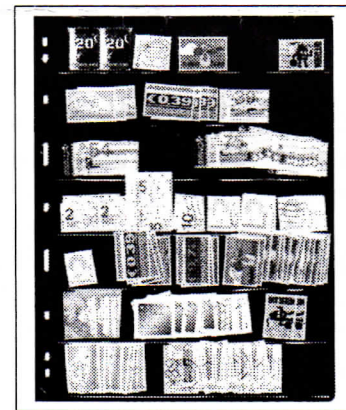
number of choices, read the package carefully to make sure that you are purchasing the type you want. Clear stock pages are usually only one sided. They can be used to show something that has a design on both sides. Finally, there is also the possibility of getting pages that have vertical pouches. Again, these stock pages can be stored in a common 3 ring binder, thus keeping the cost of stamp collecting reasonable. One of the big pluses using stock pages, either craft or plastic, is that stamp hinges are not needed,

because, sometime in the future you will inevitably change how to organize the collection, and the stamp hinges remain very firmly attached to the stamp.



Stock books are similar to stock pages, except that the pages are in a bound book. Here too are choices for a stamp collector to consider before purchasing them. The first choice is the number of pages in the book. Generally speaking, the higher the number of pages, the greater the cost, but a bigger cost factor will be on the colour of the page. There is a choice of having black pages or white pages. Looking at the illustration to the left and it can be seen that the stamp just cannot be distinguished from the page.

However, this is not the case when having stamps in a stock book of black pages. The illustration to the right shows the black page and it clearly shows the stamp as well as the perforations. Another thing that can be clearly seen in the illustration to the right is that the stamp size covers up the row above the slot into which it is placed, thus hiding a part of the stamp above it.



There is much more to discuss about organizing a stamp collection, but that will continue next month when the topic will be stamp albums. If there are any thoughts or experiences to share, please drop a line to the editor.

From the Editor:

Well, it is a big job, getting the newsletter set up on the computer, I mean. But I am enjoying doing this; it's never too late to teach an old dog new tricks next month I'll be a pro.

I haven't included any coming events, but I will have them in for next month. Thanks go to Phil for the third article in his series. Is there a book in there somewhere?

I would like to include some information regarding the types of stamps we are all looking for in future issues. **Please email me your wants so I can include them in the next newsletters.** For example, I am looking for stamps of Bavaria, topicals including dogs, stamps on stamps, maps on stamps and stamps of Antarctica (like the British Antarctic Territory, Australian Antarctic Territory, Ross Dependency). I also collect some American sets (state birds and flowers, wildflowers, famous Americans, and the transportation issue) and some German sets (flowers, Famous women, and art on stamps). Finally, I collect private perfs from all over the world. My preference is for used stamps in all categories.

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