

Owen Sound Stamp Club
Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 16th 2015 @ 7 PM

From the President...



Greetings everyone! As I write this newsletter introduction the grass is greenish and it has been rather mild for this time of the year. However, the weather can change quickly so it reminds me that I need to encourage everyone who is able to attend out stamp club meeting do so only if the weather permits. This month features the annual Christmas get together with the usual shenanigans of the President's Auction and gift exchange.

The gift exchange is the easiest to explain. If you wish to participate, then bring a gift of modest value and we'll have a table set aside for the gifts. Pick a number when you put the gift there, there will be two for the same number, keep one number and put the other in the basket/container. Later in the evening we will draw the numbers from the container to see who will pick first from the gifts present. Maybe you will even want to pick your own gift!

The Presidents Auction is a sharing of our philatelic excess. Please bring a few articles that may be of interest to other club members. I will be bringing some baggies of extra stamps (on paper) and some other material. The only valid currency for the evening is the Presidents Funny Munny, which I has distributed during the calendar year and there will be some more when the evening begins. A new batch of Funny Munny was printed in November and more will be distributed at the start of this meeting. The mischievous things begin when members share their stash with each other towards the end of the auction. We'll see how adventuresome John Lemon is feeling!

To make the evening also a little more cheery, please bring along some snacks, other liquids or both as you are able to. I will be bringing along a crock pot of apple cider (non alcoholic) as well as some cups. Perhaps others may like coffee, tea or juice and if so bring along the needed equipment for the particular beverage. As far as I know at the time of this writing, we will be meeting in Hillyer Hall as there is no other activity planned for the evening for the hall.

An update of the planned club activities for the winter months is provided further in the Newsletter.

Phil Visser
President
OSSC

We meet at our regular meeting place, St Mary's High School, 555 15th Street East.

The Holiday Season and Philately
by Phil Visser

The title speaks about what is fast approaching on our calendars, the holiday season and its accompanying festivities. For the purpose of this article, the holiday season refers to Christmas for Christians, Hanukkah for those of the Jewish faith, Kwanzaa for the descendants of West Africa, the New Years celebrations and finally the Chinese New Year. The remainder of the article will try to show how the various holidays have been represented on stamps of various countries.

Beginning with Christmas, Canada's first stamp titled as a Christmas stamp is the Unitrade Catalogue #85. At the top of the page is the heading "Imperial Penny Postage." The stamp design itself does not indicate the holiday season, showing a map of the world with British Commonwealth countries marked in red ink. The stamp itself was issued on December 7, 1898 which may cause some confusion as to why with these three facts the stamp is called a Christmas stamp. However, referring to the Specialized Catalogue again, a footnote on the page with the stamp is provided to say that the official First Day Cover was dated on December 25th, and therefore is called by collectors a "Christmas Stamp."

Traditional Christmas practices vary throughout the many cultures and regions of the world. These practices include religious themes, family getting together, the giving of gifts, singing carols and more but these themes would take up too much space without recognizing the other celebrations mentioned earlier. It was a tradition, that is still carried out today to a much lesser extent, to send well wishes and greetings for the Christmas season. This put huge volumes of mail through the postal system and some cynical people suggested that much greater profits

into the hands of the Post Office. In response to the cynics, the Post Office issued stamps for Christmas use only with a reduced postage rate. The first two stamps are listed in Unitrade as #434 and 435 and depict a religious theme. These stamps were issued on October 14th, 1964. The regular postage rate was 5 cents but Christmas mail received a 40% discount, each card needed only 3 cents postage within Canada. The second stamp was for mail destined for the United States.



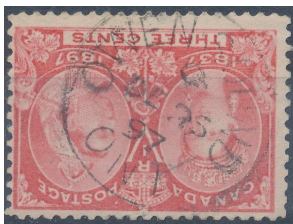
Family Christmas gathering can take many forms, but this next series of stamps was issued by Australia on November 2nd, 1987. The strip of five show families together singing carols and holding candles. These stamps are listed in the Scott's catalogue as # 1044 a-e. In the philatelic world collectors are able to get the single stamps, but a strip of five will generally be special and most likely cancelled to order (CTO), which this strip of five is. This just goes to show the challenges a collector is faced with when trying to put a collection together, do you include a strip of stamps or not, and if so, can you actually get a used strip of five or do you settle for a CTO strip? Note that the catalogues will now list a series of stamps as one number with letters indicating the various individual stamps in the series.



Who can forget the anticipation and joy of presents under the Christmas tree? Although a faded memory for me now, getting presents at Christmas was very special, but more recently giving the gifts to children and grand children and watching their response when they open those gifts is very special. The tradition of gifts likely stemmed from the "three wise men" and these two stamps from Great Britain bring across the ties. Scott # 1416 is called the "Adoration of the Magi." This stamp was issued

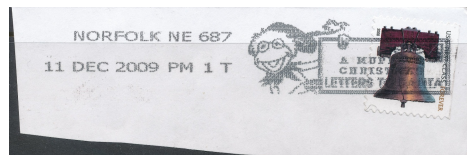


on November 12th, 1991. The second stamp shows a child reading a story to toys on Christmas morning. Scott's Catalogue describes the series for Christmas 1987 as "Christmas Memories." #1199 was issued on November 17th 1987.



But this doesn't stop the tie between Christmas and philately. Philately is much more than just stamps. Although a national holiday, it doesn't mean that everything stops for that day. I remember working many Christmas days when at sea but even the Post Office (Canada Post) works on Christmas as this stamp is evidence because it was canceled on Christmas Day here in Owen Sound. Other Christmas Day cancellation exist from other countries, but this particular cancel is special because of its geographic tie to this club.

Advertising crept into the hobby and so included is a scan of a slogan cancel saying "A Muppet Christmas Letters to Santa." Also in the slogan is a simulated stamp in the upper right corner. A unique and interesting find for my collecting interests.



Hanukkah, for people of the Jewish faith, also occurs at the end of our calendar year. In case you may be unfamiliar with other cultures, the Jewish calendar is based on the Moon or Lunar cycles, and thus the celebration can occur between November and December on the Gregorian calendar that we follow. Wikipedia says it is also called the "Festival of Lights" because when the second temple was rededicated, there was only enough oil for the candle to burn for one night, but miraculously it burned for the eight days needed to purify more oil for worship. The "menorah" is a eight branched candelabra with a ninth light for the final day of celebration. Google Images (<http://philamirror.info/2015/04/22/new-stamps-from-israel-4/israel-hanukkah-stamp/>) provides the accompanying picture of the Israeli stamp issued for Hanukkah in 2015 (no Scott number available yet).



History provides us with some unpleasant events. One of those events was the slave trade between West Africa and the Americas. In recent years the descendants of the slave trade have celebrated Kwanzaa from December 26th to January 1st. According to Wikipedia, the celebration is about family and the heritage with its roots in Africa. In the philatelic world, the United States has issued several stamps for this occasion. Google Images (www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org) provides the picture included with this article, Scott # 3368 issued on October 22nd, 1997.

As the calendar changes from one year to the next we get the beginning of a New Year. For some reason, this holiday is not celebrated to often in the stamp collecting world. I searched my collection and Google Images only to discover that the Lunar calendar New Year is much more popular in the philatelic world than the calendar New Year which will celebrate. The closest I could find referencing the Gregorian calendar New Year is a stamp honoring Robbie Burns, great Scottish poet, and the poem which has been put into music is *Auld Lang Syne*. This song is a traditional one sung or played by an orchestra to send the old year into a New Year. The stamp illustrating the New Year was released by Great Britain and is Scott #1642, issued on January 25th 1996, 200 years after his death.



The final holiday relating to our hobby is the Chinese New Year. This date is based on the Chinese Lunar calendar and many countries have taken a fancy to issuing stamps for the years of the calendar which are named after



animals. The image used is probably very familiar to the collector and was issued by Canada on January 8th, 2013. It is listed as # 2599 in the Unitrade catalogue and was the first stamp issued for that year. As can be seen, 2013 was known as the Year of the Snake (Serpent).

This concludes the article and I would like to wish every reader a safe and happy holiday season in whichever fashion celebrated in your household.

Club Plans for the New Year of 2016

We begin each year with an election of club officers. The three positions open for nominations are President, Vice President and Secretary Treasurer. An unelected position that is open and needs a full time person is the Newsletter Editor. While serving as the temporary editor during my recovery period, works resumes in January. I'm not sure what the work schedule will be like, but this may be the last newsletter until the spring comes unless someone would like to step forward and continue. It is a big job, but I also feel it is vital for all members, especially those who are unable to attend due to health and transportation issues. Please consider volunteering! In the event that no volunteer step forward, the activities for the first few months of the year are provided below.

Following the business component of the New Year, the plan is to have John Cortan bring his stock along for your perusal. I understand that John has been adding to the stock so there might just be the gem to fill a hole in the collection. The February meeting will be an opportunity to go through the Owen Sound Club Circuit books as well as ending the evening with an auction of whatever material you wish to sell to other club members. The March and April meetings are arranged to have two speakers' present different topics of philately. In March Dave Hannay will be discussing Revenue stamps. I saw his display at the Kincardine show and this topic was very large and interesting. The April meeting will feature Mike Behm who will be speaking about perfin, you know, those letters punched into the face of some of the stamps you've seen. Mike is a member of BNAPS and is very knowledgeable about the topic. Hopefully these speakers will help in answering some questions about some of the oddities discovered through the years of collecting.

I would also like to remind club members that the 21st Annual show will be held on Saturday, September 24th, 2016. The topic for the one page challenge competition is flora or fauna from one region. This lead in time will allow members to search for three or four different elements to include in the display. The elements include single stamps, block of four or plate block, a strip of stamps, a cover either a First Day cover or used in the mail system. There were five members who participated at the last show and it would be nice to see more competition.

It is also time to renew your membership in the Owen Sound Stamp Club. With the use of donated stamps reducing the cost of the newsletter, we are able to keep the membership fee at the same, \$15 per year. If you haven't already done so, please renew you membership as soon as possible so that the club can continue. At some point in the spring, unpaid memberships will stop receiving the Newsletter as they are still getting now. At the November meeting we had a new member join, Dieter Albrecht. Dieter has been a long time member with the Saugeen club and has come several times to visit our meetings. Welcome Dieter and we hope you enjoy being with this group of collectors. And now for a final plea, never stop talking about our common hobby, you never know who may join the club or say they didn't know about our common interest and decide to become reacquainted with this hobby.



Vander Heyden Memorial Award

Pat Vander Heyden was a club member until she passed away in 2014. Her family donated her collection to the club and asked that she be remembered in an appropriate manner. The Executive agreed to create an award in her honour with the recipient winning the One Page Challenge at the Annual Show. The first winner was Bob Ford at the 2014 show, but the plaque was not made until this year. As events turned out, this years winner was your truly, and so the picture shows the presentation of the plaque to the 2015 winner by fellow executive Bob Ford, and past winner, at the November meeting.

Coming Events...

- DEC 19, 2015 Best Western Stamp Show
Niagara Room, Best Western Hotel, QEW at Lake Street, St. Catharines, ON, L2N 4G9. Hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free parking, free admission and free appraisals. Sponsored by Roy' Stamps, specializing in the stamps and covers of Canada and the British Commonwealth. For further information, contact Roy Houtby Phone: 905-934-8377
- DEC 19, 2015 Burloak Stamp Fair
Burlington Senior Centre, 2285 New St., Burlington, ON, L7R 1J4. Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Eighteen years of regular monthly shows on the third Saturday of every month. Six to nine dealers, active buyers, and always something new. For more information contact Steve Simon, telephone 905-575-2950, email bas6@bell.net.
- JAN 9, 2016 Brantford Stamp Club Annual Show & Bourse
Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey St. (at James Ave.), Brantford, ON, N3S 7L7. Free admission & parking, Canada Post franchise, 15+ dealer bourse, silent auctions, Club circuit books, door prizes, stamp exhibits (special categories for Junior and Novice exhibitors), lunch counter & refreshments. Phone: (519) 751-3513 Email: pjames@execulink.com Web: www.brantfordstamp.org
- JAN 16, 2016 67th Cathex
Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara Street, St. Catharines, ON, L2M 7W7. Sponsored by the St. Catharines Stamp Club. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5: p.m. at the Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara Street, St. Catharines, ON. Exhibits, 12 dealers, youth area, club circuit books. Free admission and parking. A lunch counter is available. For more information contact David Hillier at (905) 641-2318 or fancycancelhillier@gmail.com or visit <http://stcatharinesstampclub.ca>. Phone: (905) 641-2318 Email: fancycancelhillier@gmail.com Web: <http://stcatharinesstampclub.ca>
- JAN 16, 2016 Burloak Stamp Fair
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- JAN 22, 2016 UNIPEX 2016 Stamp & Coin Show January 22, 2016 to January 24, 2016
Monetcassino Hotel, 3710 Chesswood Drive, Downsview, ON, M3J 2W4. NEW LOCATION, ONE GRAND HALL!!! Combining both stamp and coin dealers together, so collectors can come buy and sell their collection or search for more. Everything from stamps, coins, medals, first day covers, catalogues, accessories, and much more. Phone: Susan Cartini Email: susancartini@rogers.com

From the Editor...

Another newsletter produced and I hope you find it useful and interesting. Note the NEW show on January 22nd, 2016. This show is the replacement for the former CSDA show which was held at the same time previous years. Another show will be held in October but it is hosted by John Sheffield and I think the Middlessex club will be involved with it as well, but the show will take place in London, ON. Articles and news are always welcome so why don't you try to put your creative and thoughtful ideas onto paper and share that with fellow club members.



During the school year, the Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the cafeteria of St Mary's High School, 555 15th Street East. Meeting agendas will vary between having visiting club circuit books, speakers and an auction. Guests and new members are always welcome. Annual membership fees: \$15.00

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