

Owen Sound Stamp Club
Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 15th 2016 @ 7 PM

From the President...



Time certainly flies past very fast! It is time for another newsletter and having an early meeting since the 3rd Wednesday is June 15th. Unfortunately, by my doing multiple duties, most of you won't receive this newsletter in time, but at least you can refer to it when you receive it through the mail. For those who receive this electronically you will see the effort made to keep the club informed. The meeting this month will be at the St Mary's High School again and I look forward to seeing you there at 7 PM.

The meeting will feature a visit from the Cambridge club circuit books. John Demetriou is always pleased to come here because we seem to make worth while purchases. The previous Cambridge circuit book manager was of the opinion that the Cambridge books were the best in the GRVPA, but if we did a poll of the other clubs, there may be a difference of opinion on that matter. Either way, I hope you will be able to find some

“treasures” to fill those pesky empty holes in the album/collection.

The July and August meetings will NOT be at the St Mary's High School because it will be closed for the summer vacation. We are looking for alternative meeting places and as soon as we are able to make those arrangements, we will get the information out to the members. In the past we have met at the local curling club and that is what we are checking into if a meeting there is possible again this year.

The last meeting also brought a person who was interested in the club. He had learned about the club through the community club fair at the Owen Sound Library in April. Hopefully he will be able to return. Advertising our presence in the community is important so that the “closet collectors” may have an itch that can be eased by being part of a club as well as meeting their particular collecting interests. The three local Grey-Bruce clubs (Kincardine, Owen Sound and Saugeen) made a brochure that extols the virtues of being in a club and how to find us and where we meet. If any club member knows of a location that could host the brochure, and then let me know and I can get brochures to you to bring in that location.

See you on June 15th at St Mary's High School.

Phil Visser
President
OSSC

Summary Tip #10: "Is it a re-gum?" Learn about re-gummed stamps.

Dear Philip,

In our last 'trade tip' we talked about understanding quality and how to train your 'Philatelic Eye'. Now we can apply this to something that you occasionally hear about but there does not seem to be that much information written about it. The subject is 're-gumming'.

I can remember being present before a stamp auction - when I received the most amazing 'demonstration' of redistribution of gum. The 'gentleman' concerned was showing his 'skill' of making a mint previously hinged stamp look like it had never been hinged. You could see that the stamp had been hinged, but there was no remnant - the gum was moistened - and the stamp literally 'whizzed' around a flat smooth resistant surface under finger pressure.

Before the gum had dried it was turned face up - the gum looked 'flatter' and duller - but the area where it had been hinged was now 'consistent' with the overall appearance of the rest of the stamp. In short, to the uninitiated the stamp appeared to be unmounted mint.

Needless to say - we never ever purchased a stamp from this individual, who is probably no longer with us ... but it was an excellent demonstration of what to look for, and of understanding how stamps can be altered.

Our first 'tip' when it comes to re-gumming is something so simple that it is often overlooked. Buy a few examples of the cheapest mint stamps of the period that you are collecting. In essence this really applies to the period pre-1950 ... as by far the majority of all that you collect from the last 60+ years is going to have untampered gum, be it hinged or unhinged. But, even the cheapest stamps can be tampered with; true, it is unlikely, but we have seen examples within the last two years of relatively inexpensive mint stamps which have been re-gummed.

Why bother you might think? Well, if something can be easily improved, it must, for some - be money for old rope.

You can buy 100+ year old stamps with original gum of Great Britain for as little as £1 or less. Take a look at the 1887 Jubilee 1/2d vermilion - SG#197 - send us a stamp addressed envelope (or a mint with gum current airmail rate stamp from your country and an addressed envelope) and we'll send you one free of charge. It may not be perfect but it will be original gum. Collectors of other countries will soon identify suitable candidates.

Take a look at the backs of your mint stamps from one period from one country. Chances are there may be some considerable variation. You have to make allowances for stamps which may have been purchased at different times and from different sources. Philately is a truly international business. Imagine stamps that have come to you from all over the world. Some British Empire stamps may have been printed in the UK - and been distributed here - without ever seeing foreign climes - others may have literally travelled around the globe.

Compare the backs of these stamps to establish in your mind what is obviously 'right'. It can help, for example, if a stamp is lightly hinged - my preference is often for a lightly hinged stamp - such as the British 1929 PUC £1 - this is a stamp that 'pays' to be tampered with. Look for duller patches - in typical areas where you would expect hinging - not overlooking other areas - blocks of 4 were often hinged in a central position ... and later on 'broken' into singles - so previous hinging positions can vary.

Duller areas often indicate where the gum may have been redistributed. Now compare the gum on your stamps. Most should be consistent within the type/period - a re-gummed or tampered example will stand out against its companions.

Take a closer look at this stamp. Crude regummers leave gum in the perforation holes - stamp perforation is one of the last actions - so gum in the perf holes is a telltale giveaway.

Now here there may really be benefit in employing a Ultra Violet lamp - they can show traces of previous hinging, or where the postmark may have been 'cleaned' off a stamp and the stamp subsequently regummed. But, don't buy one unless you are a 'serious' collector or buying from sources that can not be trusted - in which case why take the risk of dealing with people who may not guarantee or refund you when there are plenty of good dealers and auctions that will.

Some dealers swear by the old adage that a re-gummed stamp lying face down on the palm of your dry but warm hand will 'curl' in the opposite direction to an original untampered with example. I have never been a full advocate of this - but it is well worth experimenting.

Let's examine the actual gum. Is it 'gluepy', is it too thick, is it too shiny or flat? You will soon have a very good idea indeed - whether your stamp is as it should be - but remember stamps react to their environment in a myriad of different ways ... so that what may first be thought of as re-gummed - may be toned gum - or original gum that has 'sweated' over the years - leaching into the paper - to give that stamp a more greasy transparent look and certainly less desirable.

Don't forget to turn your stamp over - and look at the face carefully, sometimes there are traces of gum on the face of the stamp, consider why they may be there.

Finally, turn to your Stanley Gibbons / Scott / Michel / Yvert catalogue - look the stamp up - does it catalogue significantly more as unmounted mint than hinged? Some German 3rd Reich period stamps catalogue an incredible 15X more unmounted mint than hinged. Don't forget to check the differential between the used catalogue value and the mint. Some stamps are so common used that they can catalogue 10p or 10cents - but £100's or \$100's mint. When you realise the difference can be so high - you realise why it pays to study your stamps.

Happy collecting from us all,

Andrew

PS. If you find this 'tip' interesting please forward it to a philatelic friend.

Andrew McGavin

Socked on the Nose!

By Phil Visser

In sharing the Stamp Tips from Universal Philatelic Auctions in the UK, one of the recent tips mentioned stamps that were "Socked on the Nose." This term is attributed as originating from North America but refers to stamps that have been cancelled with a "bull's-eye" cancel showing the place and date of mailing. The accompanying picture is what this article will be referring to.

One of the problems with heavy cancels is that the stamp design itself is obliterated. Collectors are then challenged into finding where the stamp originates from. The design of this stamp is definitely hidden and almost impossible to identify where it comes from in the world. By general policy, most countries will show their origin, but this stamp doesn't follow the normal identification process. With no country name, a collector will have to consult catalogues, with the most recent Scott's catalogues coming in six volumes.



The design appeared to be Germanic in design. That search proved to be fruitless. Another search idea suggested looking at Austria. Again, no luck finding the country that had issued this stamp using that idea. However, the cancel did lead to some information. The cancel is K. und K. Milit. Post VIII (KuK cancel) with the name of the city partially missing. A quick search on Google filled in some information. The K. und K. Is short for “Kaiserlich und Koniglich” which is translated as “Imperial and Royal.” The “Milit. Post” is fairly easy to identify as being of Military origin. The website <http://www.austrianphilately.com/field2civil/kukorkk.htm> suggested that this stamp was of Austrian origin.

Looking at other sites listed by Google showed people selling the KuK cancel and it is fairly evident that this stamp may be of interest to other collectors. A problem still exists in that this stamp was not issued by Austria. Going back to Google again with the full cancel typed into the search engine revealed the answer to the mystery. This stamp was issued by Bosnia and Herzegovina while under the Austro-Hungarian Empire administration. The stamp design

shows the Habsburg Coat of Arms (royal family of Austria) and so the idea that this stamp was of Germanic origin turns out to be at least partially correct.

A look at the KuK cancel by itself was not the answer to the search. Only the full cancellation gave the history behind the stamp (https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Stamps_of_Bosnia_and_Herzegovina). The “Milit. Post VIII” proved that the missing part of the cancel was really the city of Travnik. Travnik is located in central Bosnia and is about 30 kilometres west of Sarajevo. Travnik is still a small city whose population is less than that of Owen Sound! But why was Travnik being administrated by the Austro-Hungarian Empire? Maybe the name of Sarajevo is starting to ring a bell in your memories. Alas this topic has unearthed a ton of information and revealed history again.

It turns out that the administration of the Balkan region came about because of the military conflict between Russia and the Ottoman Empire from 1877-8. Following the war between the two sides, a treaty was signed in Berlin in 1878. Much of the Ottoman Empire in the Balkan region was ceded to independent countries and administration by the Austro Hungarian Empire. This region was ruled by the Ottoman Empire from the 15th century until the 19th century until the treaty changed the administration.

People living in the region certainly didn't appreciate being administrated by other powers! The itch for independence remains in most peoples but is calmed by the presence of troops of the occupying power. But the name of Sarajevo is clanging. Why is that bell ringing? It seems that a young man wanted to rid the region of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and so assassinated Crown Prince Franz Ferdinand on June 28th 1914. Yes, this event is blamed as being the spark that started World War I more than one hundred years ago. It seems that conflict breeds conflict from the Russian Ottoman Empire war to World War I etc.

What started out as a simple philatelic mystery has opened up the history book. It is time to return to our hobby. The "Socked on the Nose" cancel was very useful in itself to identify the stamp, even a stamp that shows no nationality. Philately is more than just collecting stamps, but is also interested in how a particular stamp was used. Collecting cancels can take various forms. Examples would be finding all the possible cancels on a certain stamp, collecting the cancel for the days in a calendar year or collecting all the cancels from a region (country) of all of the postal outlets. Possibilities are only limited to the imagination of the collector. What may seem like a useless stamp to one collector may be a prize to another collector. What remains is to find a way of sharing those unwanted stamps. Becoming a member of a stamp club or a larger philatelic organization such as the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada or the British North America Philatelic Society can help make fellow collectors smile.

Coming Events...

- JUN 18 Burloak Stamp Fair
Burlington Senior Centre, 2285 New St., Burlington, ON, L7R 1J4
Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nineteen 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.
- JUL 16 Burloak Stamp Fair
Burlington Seniors' Centre, 2285 New St., Burlington, ON, L7R 1J4
Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nineteen 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.
- AUG 13 KINEX 2016
Davidson Center, 601 Durham St., Kincardine, ON, N2Z 1L6
Annual stamp Show & Bourse. 8+ dealers, youth table, sales circuit, displays, lunch booth, door prizes. Free admission. For more information call John. Phone: 519-395-5817 Email: jcortan@hurontel.on.ca
- AUG 19 ROYAL *2016*ROYALE August 19, 2016 to August 21, 2016
Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex, 101 Father David Bauer Drive, Waterloo, ON, N2J 4A8
88th Convention of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. National postage stamp, postal history, & postcard marketplace. Competitive exhibits, Canadian & international dealers. Canada Post, RPSC Sales Circuits, seminars, Junior collectors program. Phone: 519-746-4270 Email: royal2016royale@gmail.com Web: <http://www.rpsc.org>

From the Editor...

I recently received a change of address card from Bill Shelson. The card shared that Bill has moved to a home in Belle River Ontario. This move brings him closer to his family and we wish you all the best Bill. Thank s for letting us know about the change and you will continue receiving these newsletters.

With the summer months coming, also is a chance for me to do some much needed organization of the hoards that somehow have accumulated over time. As noted above our meeting place for the months of July and August will switch from the High School to another location, however, the plan for activities includes a visit by Tom Griffith in July with some circuit books and then in August we will have another club auction and the chance to search through the "treasure box." If you have some excess stamps that need a chance to be circulated, why not add them to the treasure box.

The current editor would love to relinquish the duties and is asking for a volunteer to step forward and try their hand producing a newsletter that informs and challenges our philatelic interests. No experience required, just a willingness to try.

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. Visit the Owen Sound Stamp Club website at <http://www.owensoundstampclub.org/>

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