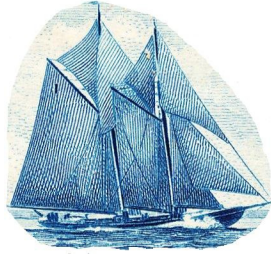


Stamps on the Bay



The Voice of the
Owen Sound Stamp Club

Meeting Cancelled due to
Health Safety
Volume 1, Edition 11, December 2020



From the President

Hello Everyone hope you and yours are in good Health and are still Safe. Sitting here looking out side with that white stuff covering the ground, gives us a different outlook on life again as the new season closes in on us.

As usual our December meeting and the following

months into the new Year, are all CANCELLED. Phil has information that he can tell us about on how we can have a meeting and not leave home. (interesting). I always enjoyed the December meeting with the fun of using Funny Money to purchase a bid that we want. With Randy's ideal of increasing the Dollar Value to ten times, makes the stamps a very interesting price. As well I will miss being able to taste all the delicious treats and try the Hot Apple Cider. To think of all the happy members with smiles on their faces.

I have some bad news for the Stamp Club, as of the end of the month (December) I will be stepping down as President of the Owen Sound Stamp Club, due to Family Problems and Health reasons. Timing is not in my favour to continue. But I will stay on as a member of the Club. I have a Show's Sandwich Board and a few other items to pass on as well. Each meeting was interesting and each one was a little different from the others. I enjoyed being with Bob Ford on the Murdock show, trying to promote the Stamp club. I had been on the Murdock Radio Show a total of 3 times, and On the Radio Show with Rick Devine in Hanover a couple of time. I have enjoyed in helping to getting the shows up and running, especially the Club's Circuit Fair and our Annual Club's Stamp Show.

I have meet a lot of really talented, knowledgeable people, I have made a lot of friends by going to different shows, people that knew how to do special events to the best of the space you have to work with. People that helped me by giving me ways to do things for very little, to no expense to the Club.

I would like to wish everyone and your families a Healthy and Safe Holiday Season.

John C. Lemon
President OSSC

Editors Greeting

I am now able to write this final section for this months newsletter. Hopefully this edition reaches before the meeting date of December 16th and readers have had a chance to look at the several smaller sections which has come about this month. There are two articles submitted by Randy and myself, another "Stamp Tips" from Andrew McGavin and this business Universal Philatelic Auctions. This reservoir of filler articles is soon coming to a close and it may mean a slimmer newsletter in the near future.

In between the articles are a few club related items such as **Show and Tell**, **Upcoming Shows**, and an invitation to attend a virtual "Zoom" meeting from the comforts of your own home. This method of being social may be limited by technology, but there is a sincere wish to remain in contact with everyone who have membership in this club. Please don't feel left out if technology is the barrier to participating. After reading John Lemon's greetings, the club will have to find a way to fill an executive position. It is a shame that John is stepping aside, but I feel that every member is wishing you, John, all the best and is thankful for how you have led the club over the past few years.

It really is the executive that keeps the club relevant and ongoing. As the editor, sharing new discoveries in the **Show and Tell** section helps everyone involved because we learn from each other. Be assured that **NO ONE** knows it all and **EVERY ONE** benefits from the tiniest discovery made while enjoying our hobby. Sharing is the key reason for being part of a club and if possible, give me a call about something that you have discovered in this beautiful hobby. Here is also a reminder to renew membership in the club, and I am sure Secretary Treasurer Bob Ford will appreciate receiving the dues. It is also a means for me to know how many newsletters to print each month.

Space limitations has removed the usual "Teaser Scan" from this issue. Hopefully it returns next month, especially when I have to search for some connection to something inside each "Stamps on the Bay." Last month the **Teaser Scan** showed two stamps with a Compass on it. The compass refers to the **Show and Tell** item that Trevor Ham submitted about using compass directions when mailing letters to Calgary. It would be easy to mis-deliver mail if the NE should be NW et cetera. Just think about mail received here in Owen Sound. Has anyone received mail for a place on the opposite side of town?

Local Artist Recognized by Canada Post

By Phil Visser



Mary Riter:
Wedding Photo?

On October 28th of this year, Canada Post issued a stamp honouring local artist Mary Riter Hamilton. Until the stamp was released, this artist was completely unknown and lived in obscurity to any local historian. Obscurity is not necessarily bad, but if you are trying to earn a living, obscurity makes life tough.

Canada Post does not say the purpose for issuing this stamp, other than to recognize Ms Riter Hamilton, the date and subject matter of the painting suggests a tie in with Remembrance Day. The painting is titled "Trenches on the Somme" which she painted in 1919. Referencing several sources Emily Gwiazda wrote in the Canadian Encyclopedia that Mary had requested a commission from the

Canadian War Memorials fund to paint at the front lines. This request was denied as "only men received commissions for the battlefield, whereas female artists were relegated to the Canadian home front.

But back to the local part of this article., Mary Riter was born on September 7th, 1867 (other sources suggest 1868) in Teeswater, Ontario.

Geographically, her place of birth is closer to the Kincardine stamp club, and it may be a debatable point whether the Saugeen Club is closer than Owen Sound, but we are lumped together as Grey-Bruce counties both in politics and health regions, so claiming local privilege is reasonable from this perspective. As an early teen Mary and her family moved to Clearwater, Manitoba. Apparently, Mary was fond of drawing from an early age. Later Mary trained as a hat-maker and moved to Port Arthur, Ontario (present day Thunder Bay) when her boss moved there.

It was in here that Mary met Charles Hamilton whom she married in July of 1889. Hamilton was a dry goods merchant and they together run the business until he died in 1893. Before Hamilton died, Mary had studied art in Toronto. Following his death, she moved to Winnipeg to pursue art and it is here that she opened a china painting studio where she mixed teaching and producing art works for clientele to support herself.

The Canadian online Encyclopedia shares that Mary furthered her art studies in Europe, first in Berlin and later in Paris. Paris was successful for Mary as she had an exhibition in "The Salon." Mary returned to Winnipeg in 1906 to see family and exhibit her art works. This short visit was followed by a return to



Trenches on the Somme
(1919)
Library & Archives
Canada

Paris, until she returned to Canada in 1911 to care for her sick mother. She had exhibitions in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa. Some famous people who purchased her art are Princess Patricia and Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden.

Leading a much-travelled life, Mary was living in Victoria B.C. when World War 1 started. Following the end of the war in 1918 she received a commission from the Amputation Club of British Columbia to paint battlefield landscapes for the Clubs magazine. Hamilton departed for France quickly before reconstruction began, leaving Canada in March of 1919. When she arrived in France, she stayed with the Canadian Military but later went about the frontlines on her own.

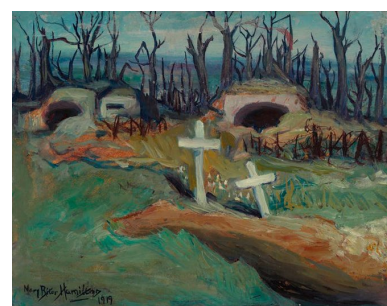
Mary travelled through France and Belgium visiting the sites of major Canadian battles. The former battlefields were littered with unexploded land mines and artillery shells and as a result placed herself in harms way. Even today the unexploded shells are found in the former battlefields and occasionally one explodes killing a person, another casualty of World War 1. Gwiazda shares a quote from a 1922 interview given by Mary for working in the threatening conditions: "I made up my mind that where our men went under so much more dreadful conditions I could go, and I am very proud to have been able even in a small way to commemorate the deeds of my country men."

An artist's life can be very challenging, and this period was no different for Mary. Her commission from the Amputation Club ran out in the first year of her two and a half year stay at the former battlefields. She often lived in abandoned war buildings, eating occasionally when she had funds. Some of her paintings were sold in Canada while she was still painting in Europe.



Canada Post in their write up and background information for the release of this stamp shared that her entrepreneurial spirit lead to her painting scarves which she sold in Paris to earn money for the return passage to Canada. The painted scarves also won her

Among the Ruins (1919)



Gun Emplacements, Farbus Wood, Vimy Ridge (1919)

a gold medal at the "Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes" in 1925.

Also mentioned by Canada Post is that she had painted over three hundred paintings depicting scenes from Amiens, the Somme, Ypres, Passchendaele and Vimy Ridge. Upon

her return to Canada her paintings were rejected by the National Gallery but despite this setback, she donated more than two hundred art works to the Dominion Archives as a visual record of the devastation of the Great War.

Irene Gammel wrote in the November edition of Zoomer Magazine "As a woman artist travelling through battlefields, she experienced mobility, articulated a vision of empathy and contributed to a public record of the war. Yet how she engaged with her craft and what she saw took a toll on her health and ultimately curtailed her career as a painter. She suffered from post-traumatic stress and a major mental breakdown and other health problems following her expedition. War painting would mark her for life."

In researching what Canada Post issued, a visit to the Philatelic Shop only showed the peel and stick booklet stamps. There are ten stamps in a booklet. Sometimes Canada Post issues sheet stamps, but the website does not indicate if that is the case for this stamp issue. Searching through the website did remind of some Canada Post business practices, because not every stamp is shown in all the formats that they are printed.

References:

Mary Riter Hamilton; Emily Gwiazda; <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/mary-riter-hamilton>; Oct 15, 2018

Stamp honours Mary Riter Hamilton; <https://www.canadapost.ca/blogs/personal/perspectives/stamp-honours-mary-riter-hamilton/>; Oct 28, 2020

How Canadian Painter Mary Riter Hamilton Broke Boundaries on the First World War Battlefields; Irene Gammel; Zoomer Magazine; Nov 15, 2020

December Zoom Meeting

by Phil Visser

All members interested in a "online meeting" using the program "Zoom" are invited to attend an unofficial club meeting on December 16th at 7 P.M. Participating is possible using a number of different avenues. About a month ago I sent an email to members asking for anyone interested in having a "virtual meeting" over our computers to let me know. I am pleased that about a dozen members have replied. If anyone did not reply, but would still like to participate, please contact me as soon as possible so that I can include all those interested in attending this "social" meeting."

The minimum requirement is a computer with speakers. As far as I know the age of the computer should not be a problem, but a test visit over the computer with me would help find out if this is correct. With the computer and speakers you will be able to SEE and HEAR the other people present. An investment of about \$20 can purchase ear phones and a speaker which would allow the person to speak at the meeting. Call me for assistance.

Without a computer, it is still possible to join the meeting using a modern cellphone which has a camera, and obviously it will also have a microphone

and it would be able to communicate with the others present. Another tool that would allow a member to join the gathering is by an iPad (there may be a problem with Apple products mixing with Microsoft) or tablet. Again, these will have a camera and microphone built in so that it may be able to join. Technically a member would need to have downloaded "Zoom" onto their device. A trial run would be possible by calling me and a short connection would help anyone become a little more familiar with the process of joining a meeting. As a newbie Zoom user in March the anxiety was quickly overcome and several opportunities have arisen to use Zoom for virtual family visits and other meetings since Covid-19 ended our regular gatherings.

There is a small agenda for this virtual meeting. Randy will be doing a presentation on how to use Circuit Book Explorer to find stamps that are currently in our Club Circuit books. The second item is simply giving each person a chance to share what stamp activities have happened since we last met face to face at the St Mary's High School.

Looking forward to seeing those able to join.

Show and Tell

This month has another discovery made by Trevor Ham. Trevor writes "With time on my hands, I am reviewing my stamps I collected as a teenager, and, voila, #208i appeared! This is what makes the hobby fun! The error is found on the middle stamp of the top row.



Looking in the Unitrade Catalogue, the error is termed "burr on shoulder" but I am wondering if "pain in the neck" is more appropriate! Joking aside, it is easy to agree with Trevor about the fun of stamp collecting. First of all it is fun to "discover" a variety among the accumulation found in our stamp corners. Secondly, this observation shows the importance of having a catalogue to take reference from. It is incredible the amount of information that can be found in the pages of the Specialized Catalogue.

The following item is really a joint input/share. Randy Rogers introduced me to this tool, and I find it incredibly useful. It is actually a water colour paint brush, but it is used to remove the hinges from the back of stamps picked from Club Circuit books. This has saved great amounts of time by not soaking the recently purchased stamps, drying them, flattening them in a book and then finally adding them into my collection. By just brushing some water around the



hinge remnant, giving it a few seconds or a minute and then the hinge lifts off. A quick dry from the fingers over the stamp and it is ready to put into an album or stock page.

This item can be purchased online, but also at a local hobby/craft store. This store is where Marion Ace works, but if you are not sure where Marion works, it is also the first names of Mr Raynsford and Mr Barta. There are three different tip/brush widths offered, but both Randy and I have the small or fine tip. Another example of a multipurpose tool. Does anyone else use a non-philatelic tool for our hobby? Drop a line and share.

Useful Links

by Randy Roger

Country Specific
References – Ireland,
Spain, and United States

This month's edition of Useful Links continues our focus on the Country Specific reference material that can be found on our club website. Use the following menu choices to find the links mentioned in this article:



IRELAND

[Links » Reference » Countries » Ireland](#)

First up is the Home of An Post Irish Stamps link. An Post, the Irish postal administration, came into being in 1984 when, under the terms of the Postal & Telecommunications Services Act of 1983, the Post Office services of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs (P&T) were divided between An Post and Telecom Éireann, the telecommunications operator now called Eir.¹

If you are a collector of Irish stamps, this is the go to place for new national stamps and special issues.



SPAIN

[Links » Reference » Countries » Spain](#)

Here you will find a link to Spanish Telegraph Stamps. As a worldwide stamp collector I often encounter Telegraph stamps. In most countries, the cost of sending a telegram was paid using normal postage stamps. These can often be identified by their distinctive telegraphic cancels or punched holes. In some countries and at some times, special telegraph stamps were produced or postage or revenue stamps overprinted to pay the fee (e.g. Nicaragua, Ecuador).



Private companies also issued telegraph stamps in countries where the telegraph network was in private ownership.²

This site has information on Telegraph stamps from all over the world, not just Spanish countries and is an invaluable resource when it comes to identifying and

classifying telegraph stamps you might find in your collection.

UNITED STATES

[Links » Reference » Countries » United States](#)

Like many countries, the United States has several definitive stamp series that stretch over several years. One of these, the "Great Americans" series, is the focus of the first link you will find in this section.

The Great Americans link takes you to section of The American Plate Number Single Society web site that deals specifically with this series.

The Great Americans series began in 1980 with the 19¢ Sequoyah stamp, and continued through 2002 with the 78¢ Alice Paul self-adhesive stamp



The web site has a comprehensive collection of examples of Plate Number Singles with a goal of illustrating one example of a plate number single for

every U.S. stamp that was issued with plate numbers.

They also illustrate plate number singles on proofs, trial colors, specimens, errors, freaks, precancels and other varieties.

Next is a link to the Smithsonian National Postal Museum. The Smithsonian's National Postal Museum is dedicated to the preservation, study and presentation of postal history and philately. The museum uses exhibitions, educational public programs and research to make this rich history available to scholars, philatelists, collectors and visitors from around the world.

The home page contains links to several highlighted sections of their web site such as 'Current Exhibitions', 'Search the Collection', 'Special Topics', and 'Stamp Collecting'.

If you collect United States stamps you will find lots of useful information here as you search the collection to discover philatelic and postal history objects tracing the evolution of the postal services.



The final link in the United States references section is for State of New York Stock Transfer Stamps. Perhaps you have encountered some stamps similar to these, pictured below, while sorting through some U.S.

postage stamps.

These tax stamps were used to pay tax imposed by New York due to the Stock Transfer Stamp Tax of 1905 which taxed the sales of corporate stocks and certificates. I had no idea how many different varieties exist for these State revenue stamps; there are a lot! The site is a good reference if you collect this type of material; the author even sells album pages for collectors.

This concludes the review of the 'Country Specific' links on our club website. I hope you have found the reviews informative and have taken the time to explore some of the highlighted links. There are lots more useful links on our web site and I encourage you to explore on your own. Next month I'll review the 'Blogs and Chat Boards' links to conclude this series. Until then, stay safe and have a Merry Christmas.

References:

1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An_Post

2 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telegraph_stamp

UPCOMING SHOWS

JAN 30, '21

72nd Cathex

Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara St., St. Catharines, ON, L2M 3P3

The 72nd Cathex show, sponsored by the St. Catharines Stamp Club, is set to return to the Garden City with 12 dealers. The show also boasts free admission, a youth area, club circuit books, a lunch counter and is fully accessible. It will be open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Due to COVID-19, limited numbers of people (a maximum of 30 collectors) are allowed in the building. All attendees must wear masks, register for contact-tracing purposes and use hand sanitizer, etc. Between eight and 10 dealers will be set up in three rooms. If you can, consider coming after the morning rush as there is no indoor place to wait. If you contact organizers for an afternoon meeting time for a particular dealer, they will try to book an appointment. There will be no snack bar, drinks or places to eat at this year's show. Both admission and parking are free.

Phone: 905-641-2318

Email: fancycancelhillier@gmail.com

Web: <http://stcatharinesstampclub.ca/>

UPA New Philatelic "Mini Tips"

"Stamp Stories", "Market Matters"

Mini Tip: 'Hinging Horrors' True Story

Dear Philip,

A year or two ago we received a telephone call from a collector who had spent high tens of thousands of pounds on stamp collections and assorted / miscellaneous lots. He wanted to know why it was that the auction company he had bought most from and whom he had invited to view his stamp collection had only offered him approximately 25% for outright purchase of the total amount he had spent? (Note that is 25% of what he had spent not of catalogue

value).

I must admit my interest was piqued. I knew that the company in question is long established and has a good reputation ... perhaps this was a valuable collection that a competitor had mishandled and an opportunity for my company ... so, naturally, I agreed to go and see, and bearing in mind the collector's perceived 'slight' by our industry ... to give a second opinion without charge (a round trip of some several hundreds of miles).

Additionally I learned that two representatives of the stamp auction had visited and had left an offer inside of one hour ... something I knew was hardly possible upon a collection of some 80+ volumes ... (two hours to view a valuable collection properly is pushing it most valuable collections housed in dozens of albums cannot be properly assessed in such a short period of time even when two experienced valuers attend). As an 'aside' personally I hate it when two representatives from a company attend as the owner whether it be stamps or 'double glazing' is almost invariably intimidated in his or her own home.

Upon arrival the collection was indeed as described ... 80+ volumes all neatly arranged in alphabetical order upon accommodating shelves. How was it possible to lose up to 75% of value buying at a well known stamp auction?

Sadly it is possible a combination of adverse factors emerged. First the collection had no real focus ... it was an 'entire World' collection. To collect the 'entire World' to a high standard requires significant sums of money. Money had been thrown at it but purchasing wholesale cheaper stamps. Stamps with no 'effective catalogue value'. Worse still where modern mint material had been purchased the stamps had been hinged! (remember our last tip?) ...but ... far far worse than this ... the collector had not been careful hinging the stamps and applied excess moisture (too much 'lick') ... so that MOST of the MINT stamps were stuck to the album pages not just by stamp hinges but also by their own gum! This is an utterly deadly factor literally guaranteed to destroy value ... and destroy value it did. The problem is that if you are a seller with scruples ... how can you sell stamps that have been stuck down by their own gum ... without mentioning it. Would you buy mint stamps that have been lifted from leaves and thinned in the process? Certainly I would if it were the world's rarest stamp ... but on relatively common stamps or even higher values so that sets, where they existed, were no longer real sets in consistent quality ... would you really ?

In fact I valued the collection a few thousand pounds lower and came to the conclusion that the original auction company had deliberately offered a few thousand pounds more in an effort to mollify the collector as most of the material had been collected / purchased from them. What a pity they left it to another company to explain what had gone wrong ...

Moral of the story apply 'lick' sparingly and always 'lift' the stamp after affixing in position to ensure that it is dry and 'free'.

Happy collecting from us all,

Andrew

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

Andrew McGavin

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Conclusion

One look at the calendar reminds everyone that the year 2020 is almost over. Looking back is full of reminders of the changes lived through during these last months. Looking ahead we are probably hoping for a better (or more normal) 2021. Fortunately hope springs eternal and so I hope everyone is sitting with baited breath for the next club meeting at St Mary's High School. In the mean time, we can hope to have the "virtual" meeting using the Zoom platform on December 16th. It is also time to wish all readers a Merry Christmas, or if another preference is desired, Seasons Greetings! As the editor of this newsletter, adaptations were necessary with additional stories and inputs. I thank Randy Rogers, Jim Molineux, Dave Green and Marion Gibson for their contributions to these pages in the past year as well as the various Show and Tell items. There still is a degree of life in this Club, with the participation in the newsletter, and the upcoming Zoom meeting despite the restrictions that Covid-19 has placed on our lives.

Hopefully 2020 provided a chance to organize and rediscover lost treasures. Perhaps there has been more focus on collecting, maybe even starting a new collecting topic, the only limit there is personal inspiration and the size of ones wallet! Happy collecting everyone, we will have an opportunity to meet again!

PV

Zoom Meetings: What it has done for me

Zoom has provided an opportunity to meet with stamp collectors across the country as well as a few who joined from Europe. While it may give a person the sense of being left out or behind, this is not the case, since this newsletter is the means of sharing what is learned at these Zoom gatherings. Connections have helped discover new things about the organizations I have membership in. Several meetings through Zoom were held by various Study Groups of BNAPS. December 9th (future as I write, past as you read) will be the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Getting to know people face to face is better than reading names in magazines and newsletters. Even if you can't connect to Zoom, it has provided a tidbit of information found in this newsletter. Being present in the Zoom meeting this past weekend informed me about the St Catharines show in January. It is going ahead, so read the information closely. Besides that plans are still proceeding for a "Royal" this summer and a "Capex" in 2022 and virtual shows for Canpex. More information to follow as it becomes available.

