

# Stamps on the Bay



The Voice of the  
Owen Sound Stamp Club

Meeting Cancelled due to  
Health Safety  
Volume 2, Edition 5, June 2021



## From the President

Hello my philatelic friends!  
First things first! The regular monthly meeting is on Wed. June 16th. I hope to see you all there. Gregg Redner will be joining our meeting to talk about Belgian Railway/parcel post stamps. I know some of our members are very keen to see this presentation and I am sure we will all enjoy it!

**IMPORTANT:** Our July online Zoom stamp auction will be held on June 30th! Yes, that is JUNE 30th! Summer has come calling and some of our folks running the auction will be otherwise occupied on the first Wednesday of July so... I hope you will participate on JUNE 30th.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend our meeting in May, so I can't tell you much about it. I am sure Phil will have a full report on it though so stay tuned in. I did hear that it went well but I would like to hear from more members about their thoughts on having guest dealers on occasion and how to do it. I don't know how much business Neil and Karen Elson did on that evening but I do know that some business was conducted leading up to the meeting night. If we hope to carry on with in-person stamp shows in the future we will need to support our Ontario stamp dealers as we can.

Like many of us I started out as a child collecting any and all stamps that I could get my hands on. As a younger adult I didn't do much stamp collecting but kept my fingers dabbling in the Canadian pie. Then I moved to the Owen Sound area (Tara actually). A friend told me about an ad she saw for the stamp club. Obviously I joined the club. To tell you the truth it has changed my life! I know that sounds a bit much but it is true. I joined the Saugeen club too. I started exhibiting. Now I am a part of the RPSC, the ATA and the AAPE. I have learned so much over the years and found so many new interests it is amazing. The best thing is there is a never ending path of things we can learn about and appreciate through stamp collecting. Then to top it all off, I have had the pleasure of meeting my fellow stamp collectors. Just when it looked like Covid would put an end to all of that I find that I am meeting more people through participating in Zoom meetings, auctions and online presentations. Those of you who for whatever reason (like lousy

internet) have not joined in with the Zoom meetings, I want you to know that we miss you and look forward to seeing you in the near future. I hope that you are still enjoying some of the pleasures of collecting those little tiny pieces of art that we call stamps.

Marion Ace, Acting President  
Owen Sound Stamp Club

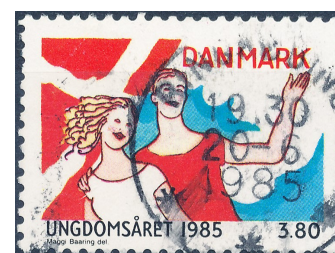
## Editors Greeting

Welcome to Volume 2, Edition 5 of Stamps on the Bay. It is very sunny outside and the summer heat has arrived. Normal outdoor activities have started for the most part, except for amateur sporting events. Has the good weather taken you outdoors? Perhaps this newsletter will rekindle readers with an interest in their stamp collection. The following pages provides a cornucopia of philatelic topics which may plant different seeds.

Readers will find a lengthy review of the May Zoom meeting. There was lots of collaboration during the evening and this has been reported as best as possible for all of the members benefit. There are also three short articles on diverse topics. Next months edition will be late due to a planned visit to our son. If any members would be able to put on their thinking caps, pick up a pen and write an article for the July Newsletter, your editor will be very grateful!

It is hoped that as our province is nearing a significant portion of the population being vaccinated, that restrictions will be lifted and "normal" activities will resume. Even so, Covid has shown the ability to mutate and now there are questions about the efficacy of the vaccinations with the latest "delta" variant. It does seem that a significant portion of the population is becoming weary of this pandemic, as is your Editor.

Continuing on with the tradition of including a teaser scan, the following stamp is connected with one of the upcoming stories. Can you see the tie in?



## May Meeting

### Phil Visser

Our meeting began with fourteen people attending. Even though the numbers are lower than before, part of that can be attributed to the internet service levels to rural customers and those without computers and others simply disliking Zoom gatherings. This is not discouraging since the times only allow us to meet via the internet and we are looking forward to the ability to meet again in person. To put things into perspective, with approximately thirty members this year, attendance at the in-person meetings vary from twelve to twenty people prior to the start of the pandemic.

Bob reported the club as still being financially solvent with one bill paid for the printing of the newsletters mailed out monthly. Randy reported the cumulative number of visitors to the website is now over 65,000. This month's meeting format varied somewhat from that of previous ones, with a guest dealer, Neil Elson, attending and having an opportunity to meet with interested members in a "break out room." While Neil was busy with club members the remainder shared an enlarged Show and Tell session.

Neil reported some seeds being planted for future sales. Like everyone else, Neil is trying to adapt his business to the times. It must be very discouraging to the dealers who rely on club shows. We are all waiting for the public gatherings to open. To that end, the Kitchener Waterloo Stamp Club is advertising an in person show in September. Hang on to your hats and we will wait and see what comes together. One thing is certain, it won't be like the shows we have previously attended with the ability to flow in and out at will.

In the Show and Tell component we had several participants! It was nice to see the large number of participants and the efforts put forward to sharing about our hobby. Neil Elson started off by showing three covers from Canada, alas, because I was busy as the Zoom host, I missed the significance of these covers. Our next contributor was Diane Jarvis who spoke about the sorting and selling of stamps by colours. These stamps are then used to produce artworks. I attended an Ottawa Philatelic Society meeting where one member showed cards made up from stamps cut into shapes of birds and animals, sometimes using one stamp colour and other times using different colours to match the appearance of the animal in life like colours.



A highlight of this evening was a discovery that Jim Molineux made. Like all of us, he was sorting through his duplicates and came across a 1959 Seaway invert! There were some gasps, but then Jim put our surprise to rest by saying he had "doctored" up the original stamp to produce an inverted Seaway! Tut, Tut, there is serious consequences for stamp forgers, but fortunately the VSC 6000 at the Greene Foundation would detect and identify the forgery.

One note needs to be added, the image above of the Seaway Invert is a find using Google images. The picture itself was shown in Linn's Stamp News in the July 23, 2019 edition. Linn's in turn mentioned that this stamp was being auctioned off by Cheerystone Philatelic Auctioneers. The auction took place on August 6th and 7th, 2019.

Our next contributor shared several pieces of information. Bill Findlay began by explaining the "new" postal cancellation markings by which our mail sometimes gets cancelled with. Looking at the illustration below, the top line shows a series of numbers (2103240651) and the second line shows the numbers and letters "3806 M4L." The first series of numbers can be deciphered as "21" being the year of mailing (2021), "03" as the month of mailing (March) and the next two digits as "24" or the 24th day of the month. To close off this group of digits is printed "0651," or 6:51 AM. On the next line of information, the digits "3806" is the machine number that cancelled the letter and finally "M4L" the mail sorting plant which in this case is in Mississauga, Ontario. I have seen machine numbers from the number one to ten since the mail system switched to the ink jet cancellation device. A final word on the cancel is that the scan is an example of a letter mailed to me, not what Bill shared but the information is the same and credit goes to Bill to helping us decode the incoming mail.



Bill's next topic was near and dear to his heart. Although he may have shared this earlier, it was his visit to the Seattle World Fair in the 1960's. His father obtained some tickets through work and so Bill and his father went to the fair. A memorable experience for a young lad! A scan of the stamp issued to honour this event is shown to refresh memories. Bill mentioned that visiting the Space Needle was also a treasured moment, arriving by a monorail train at the Space Needle.

Fortune can sometimes smile on collectors. In this case, Bill shared two covers that he had obtained



because of an Uncle who had passed away. Bill inherited the collection of various flight covers this Uncle gathered in his career. The uncle served in the Royal Air Force. One particularly interesting event is shown below. There are two covers but from the same event, a human powered aircraft flight. Bill shares that in 1972, an RAF team at RAF Halton designed, built, and flew a human powered aircraft which was called "Jupiter." On the first flight the aircraft flew a distance of 1335 yards at an altitude of 25 feet. On a second attempt, a gust of wind made the aircraft crash and thus ending the experiment. Below are the two covers flown on the flight, both signed by the pilot, Flight Lieutenant John Potter. Unique and interesting, but now I am wondering about the philatelic purist who may claim this as a contrived event and thus a "philatelic cover," with a lesser importance for exhibiting and also a lower monetary value!



Closing off Bill's contribution to the evening was the above shown cartoon. It was printed in the Vancouver

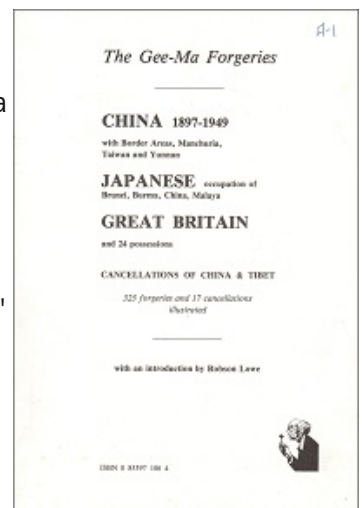
Sun on June 11th, 1975. Look at the incredible detail the cartoonist has provided! Apparently, the lady didn't understand that the Post Office issued several stamps each year. Just look at the two imps in the lower right corner. Everything is in context, but I can't remember what event occurred in 1975 to warrant this negative cartoon of the Post Office.

A recent purchase added the following cover to my local history collection. At first glance it may look ordinary but look closer. The sender of the letter affixed the one cent King George VI War Time issue Unitrade #249 and two one cent "postal Note" stamps. Postal Note stamps were used for sending money orders and were not valid for postage. A sharp-eyed post-office clerk noted the error and so the sender purchased a two cent King George stamp and placed it over the two Postal Note stamps, and thus the envelope entered the mail system. There are two



different cancellation methods on this cover, a duplex hammer with a circular "Owen Sound" cancels and the wavy lines to cancel the stamps, and then a machine cancellation with a barely discernable slogan. Why the second cancel (machine) was applied is open to conjecture, but altogether it is an interesting cover.

A concern in our present times is catching a certain bug. Well, it seems that Randy Rogers has caught a bug, but not the one dangerous to our health, but yet dangerous to the pocketbook. He shared finding more revenue catalogues, "The National Revenue Stamps of China," the Indo-China Revenue Stamp Catalog, 2nd edition. It covers the countries of Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Laos, presumably during the French administration period. Besides these revenue catalogues, Randy also acquired the "Gee Ma forgeries of China, Japan and Great Britain"



A very distant member shared with us some excellent research he did about a stamp. He did such a good

job of explaining it to me via email, it will appear after this section is completed. Distance is easily overcome by Zoom and Dave Pugh joined us from Goderich. He shared a tidbit about Balloon covers, the hot air kind. Someone also shared and reminded others about the Stamp Talks and Stamp Panel discussion hosted by the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Attendance is free for any collector; all one must do is go to the RPSC website and register (<https://www.rpsc.org/>) and click on the Stamp Talks and Stamp Panels hot button. Although it speaks of videos on the main page, clicking the hot button (on the main page) will bring you to the link where a request can be made to attend a session. Below the listed dates of the past presentation, is the link to request an invitation and Zoom link for the event. Past videos of previous meetings are restricted to RPSC members.

With all the sharing, questions and other conversations, the meeting ended at about 9 PM. Hope this report keeps the spirits up until we can meet again.

### Show and Tell via Zoom, May 19, 2021.

by Ralph Wyndham

Recently, an online stamp order arrived for me from Estonia in an envelope bearing a large and colourful block of four stamps used as postage. The stamp, issued in 2019, honours the royal visit to Estonia of Queen Margrethe of Denmark on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of the Danish flag.



In 1219, Denmark and her German allies were engaged in the Livonian Crusade against the pagan tribes of Estonia. The crusaders established a camp and built a castle at Lindanise called Taani-linn by the Estonians, meaning Danish town. In the ever-dynamic world of language, Taani-linn eventually became Tallinn, which is the present-day capital of Estonia.

The Battle of Lindanise – and the legend of the Danish flag – took place June 15, 1219. As evening approached on that day, the Estonians set upon the invaders from five directions. Taken completely by surprise, the Danes were quickly scattered. A counterattack was mounted, however, allowing the

defenders to regroup.

According to the legend, Anders Sunesen, the Archbishop of Lund, with arms held up to the heavens, prayed for his army. As long as the Archbishop held his arms aloft, the Danes held their own. If he faltered, the army did also. At the moment his exhausted arms finally fell to his sides, a red flag with a white cross, the Danish flag, fell from the sky. The flag's miraculous appearance so lifted the spirits of the Danes that they were finally able to repel and route the Estonians.

As for the stamps, the sheets are arranged in the tête-bêche format so that in a vertical pair one stamp is upright and the other upside down. For the stamp itself, veteran Estonian stamp designer, Indrek Ilves, chose a 1946 painting, The Battle of Lindanise, by Märt Bromeister, who specialized in painting historical themes. Ilves neatly ties together the battle, Denmark, and Estonia on the right side of the stamp with “Tallinn” (Danish town), “800” (years) and the small arms of Tallinn – a shield with a white cross on a red background which happens to be the basic design of the Danish flag.

### A Rock Formation

By Phil Visser

While sorting through Danish duplicates, the following stamp appeared. Curiosity was perked up to make me wonder what was so special about this pile of rocks that warranted the issue of a postage stamp. To begin with, it is Scott's #428 issued on November 24th, 1966. In fine print, Scott's mentions that this series (of 3 stamps) was issued to publicize the preservation of national treasures and ancient monuments.



Scott's further describes the stamp as “dolmen grave in Jutland.” When a new term is introduced, a search of Google and Wikipedia defined the term dolmen as a megalithic tomb with two or more vertical stones supporting a cap stone. These apparently date from 4-3000 BC. Some further conjecture is suggested that the term originates from the Welsh term “cromlech” and Cornish term “tolmen.” What is certain is that these piles of stone can be found in many parts of the world.

Archeologists are uncertain what these piles really are since no human remains have been found inside the pile, however, human remains are found around the monuments. The cancellation on this stamp found



below is also interesting as it shows a dolmen within the circle. Helsingør is part of the capital region of Copenhagen. This region is a subdivision of the island of Sjælland (translated as Sea Land). At the bottom of the cancel is likely a windmill which confirms the interconnectedness between Denmark and the Netherlands.



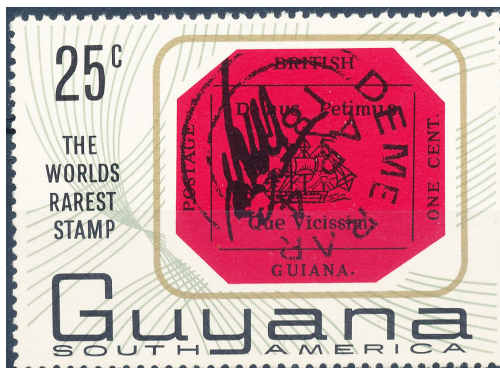
## Yesterday

By Phil Visser

Yesterday, June 8th, 2021, the philatelic world was holding their collective breathes. There may be people who didn't realize that the British Guiana one penny magenta was on the auction block. It is the only known copy of this stamp and has had the distinction of being the highest priced stamp in the world. Prior to June 8th, the owner was shoe designer Stuart Weitzman.

Weitzman is a collector who wanted to collect the rarest of rare items, and so he purchased the penny magenta for \$9.5 million in 2014. This information was printed in a Yahoo Finance<sup>1</sup> article. It was expected that the rarest stamp would be sold for \$10-15 million. Now that it is June the 9th, it is safe to say that it didn't sell for more than the original purchase price. It is also safe to say that no member of the Owen Sound Stamp club is the owner of this stamp. Yahoo Finance reports that Stanley Gibbons of the UK purchased the stamp for \$8.3 million.

Yahoo further reports that Stanley Gibbons is looking at ways to split the ownership. Stanley Gibbons is quoted as saying "For the first time ever, you will be able to own your very own piece of the British Guiana 1c Magenta." Details about that statement has not been provided so it makes one wonder if ownership will be divided among how many individuals or



companies? The only way to show readers what the stamp looks like is to provide a scan of a stamps on stamps copy of the said item. The scan shows Scott's # 27

from Guyana, the former British Guiana.

Besides selling the one cent magenta, Weitzman also sold a block of four of the inverted Jenny. Good Word News reported<sup>2</sup> that the block of four sold for \$4.9 million, \$2 million more than it was sold for previously. The purchaser of this item is D.M. Rubenstein. Mr. Rubenstein has also purchased the Magna Carta which is on permanent loan to the US National Archives. Rubenstein also purchased copies of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights.

While the United States did issue a stamp on stamps inverted Jenny, it is so small that it is insignificant. To fully appreciate the printing error, a scan is provided from the island of Anguilla. This stamp is catalogued by Scott's as #349 and is part of a set of stamps issued in 1979 to honour the death



of Rowland Hill, the father of postage stamps. This set shows many famous stamps, but NOT the 1 cent magenta.

1 <https://au.finance.yahoo.com/news/worlds-most-valuable-stamp-bought-for-8-m-by-u-ks-stanley-gibbons-102403853.html>

2 <https://goodwordnews.com/a-collectors-rare-treasures-set-records-at-sothebys/>

## Soapbox: Trust

This may sound like a strange topic to bring forward at this time, but events over the past years has raised a question on "Who can we trust?" Human nature is such that whatever we hear first and sounds similar to our own thoughts and opinions, is accepted as the "truth." That famous quote of a southern neighbour about "Fake News" is an very powerful reminder to be cautious of what information is being received. It is also a reminder that every news feed has a particular slant for a perspective that can alter a persons thoughts and opinions. Great care is needed to make valid decisions and to be respectful of others in the vicinity. It seems slanted perspectives are becoming more powerful in our society.

While all the best efforts are made to share accurate information in this newsletter, errors can creep in. It is also human nature to trust each other, at least until it is proven to be unsafe. Alas, last week a club member was hacked and fake emails messages were sent out supposedly from that person. Having seen these types of messages regularly, it was very easy to delete the email from my inbox and continue on. Fortunately, the member learned of the hack and within an hour or two sent out a warning to ignore the previous message. While the message to me was "standard," to others it was more personal and at least one person purchased the requested gift cards. At this point it is now even difficult to accept emails as being a valid form of communications.

On a further note, this morning a news feed mentioned that over 8 billion passwords and logins to email and other accounts had been hacked by some group. The article suggested visiting "Have I been Pwned?" to discover if your personal information had been hacked. While I am not sure if even this website is trustworthy, it seems everything we are relying on is now being challenged. That makes it important for all of us to make sure we keep personal relations strong by calling and meeting in a socially safe manner. Perhaps our computer techie can make suggestions to be safe on the internet.

**Club Executive****President**

Marion Ace (519)934-1998  
 P.O. Box 286  
 Tara, ON; N0H 2N0  
 marionace@bmts.com

**Vice President****Secretary/Treasurer**

Bob Ford (519)376-4788  
 721 8th Ave East, Owen Sound, ON; N4K 3A5  
 rob.darford@rogers.com

**Other Contacts****Circuit Book Manager**

Marion Gibson (519)371-9234  
 591 Balmy Beach Rd, Owen Sound, ON; N4K 5N4  
 mamabear54@rogers.com

**Website Coordinator**

Randy Rogers (519)373-9732  
 P.O. Box 103  
 Hepworth, ON; N0H 2P0  
 rrogers@devuna.com

**Newsletter Editor**

Phil Visser (519)387-0271  
 554 9th Street A East  
 Owen Sound, ON; N4K 0C4  
 pmvisser54@gmail.com

Life was moving along quite pleasantly until Tuesday afternoon when a telephone call suggested that a review of the calendar was necessary. Argh, the newsletter needed to be out this week! Pressure, pressure, pressure. Here is the conclusion of this months edition, rushed and hopefully the grammar specialists can forgive the hasty scribbling over the previous pages. However, on the up side is the amount of work achieved in organizing duplicates and the collection. Hopefully others are achieving the same result and assisting their families when it is time to part with the collection. Please do the best possible to label all binders or storage spaces properly so that the significant items can be found quickly by a potential buyer.

So how did members do with the challenge from last month? Did you call another member(or the three members suggested) in the past month just to say "Hi?" It is important to build community within the club and with each other. I remain very hopeful to being able to meet in person this fall. Earlier this week I was able to book the second vaccination shot to be completed before the end of June! Yippee, with both Shirley and I fully vaccinated, we plan on visiting our son in the northern district of Ontario. What that means is the next edition of Stamps on the Bay will definitely be late, probably arriving well after the Zoom meeting



A recent find for the Postal History collection. This cork cancel does not appear in the latest edition of the BNAPS Publication "Fancy Cancels on Canadian Stamps, 1855 to 1950. Perhaps this find will hopefully be certified as "new."