

Stamps on the Bay



The Voice of the
Owen Sound Stamp Club

Meeting Cancelled due to
Health Safety
Volume 2, Edition 9, October 2021



From the President

Hello my philatelic friends!

Once again it was a busy month for many of us. We had our Zoom meeting on Sept. 15th, a live meeting at Harrison Park on the 28th and our Zoom stamp auction on October 6th! It is great to see so many members joining in the fun. We had a sizable group show up at Harrison Park including a few faces we

didn't see the month before. Unfortunately Marion Gibson showed up just after we disbursed. But it was a lovely day so the two Marion's had a nice walk through the woods at Inglis Falls.

At our upcoming meeting on October 20th we are having Peter McCarthy as a guest. He will be showing us his presentation 'Basic Stamp Collecting, Tools and their Uses'. Peter is a member of the Oxford and Middlesex stamp clubs and is the study group newsletter reporter/editor for BNA Topics, the British North America Philatelic Society magazine. I'm sure there will be something enlightening for everyone! I hope we will get a good turnout to the meeting to show our support to people who are making the effort to keep stamp collecting as an exciting sociable hobby during these difficult times.

John Cortan has been unable to come to our Zoom meetings or our live meetings. I have talked to John a few times over the last year. He is still taking some orders for collecting supplies and welcomes visitors to look at his stock of stamps. John lives in Ripley, Ontario. So if there is a nice day and you want to go for a bit of a drive give John a call at (519) 395-5817.

Our regular Zoom meeting is Wednesday, October 20th and the OS Stamp auction on Wednesday November 3th at 7:00 (6:45).

We will have our usual 'show and tell' this month with no particular theme. If you want to keep it seasonal perhaps something to do with giving thanks or Halloween would fit the bill.

Be safe folks!

Marion Ace

Owen Sound Stamp Club President

Editors Greeting

It is the Thanksgiving weekend as I write this welcome to all readers. I am thankful for many things on the personal side, but with respect to our common hobby, I am thankful for each reader who enjoys these musings. I am thankful that we are still active as a club and that through various means we have been able to connect with each other and support the growth of this hobby. My collection has become more organized, with room for much more organization! Holes have been filled in the collection, postal history keeps bringing up interesting pieces of local information and so I am excited to continue.

I am also thankful for the good health I have been blessed with, and can say that no close family member has been touched by the virus. May that continue in the future. Through my various connection through the Zoom portal, I have not heard of any other collector succumbing to the disease. Let that continue into the future.

Another edition has been completed and what started out as a small article grew exponentially! I hope you find it useful and provides you with knowledge so that "Caveat Emptor" remains on your side. I am sure that our next Zoom gathering will be informative and useful, particularly for those who have just rejoined the hobby over the last number of years. One of the wonderful things with this hobby is fellow collectors sharing their knowledge freely with others, no one knows everything and learning about the tools of the trade will be beneficial for all who wish to attend.

Below is a scan that refers to an article further in this newsletter. What part of the newsletter is it referring to? Happy reading.



September Zoom Meeting

by Phil Visser

The evening of September 15th provided another opportunity to gather through cyberspace. Fifteen faces were present, but I am corrected since one member was present, but the facial recognition software failed to present a face! More on that later. Spirits were high with much bantering and free discussion on what had happened since we last met online.

Usual protocols were followed as President Marion received reports on the club finances, some activity with **Circuit Book Explorer** and an ever-growing number of visitors to the website. Randy mentioned that a new version of the **Explorer** would probably be coming soon with more pages being added to the Circuit Books.

At the August **Harrison Park** gathering, an auction sale of a donated collection assisted the treasury. Besides the auction, Bill mentioned that some revenues had been provided from the Hill stock books that are circulating among club members. Stamps are selling at 5 cents per item and after everyone has had a chance to go through the books, a decision would be made about the remainders.

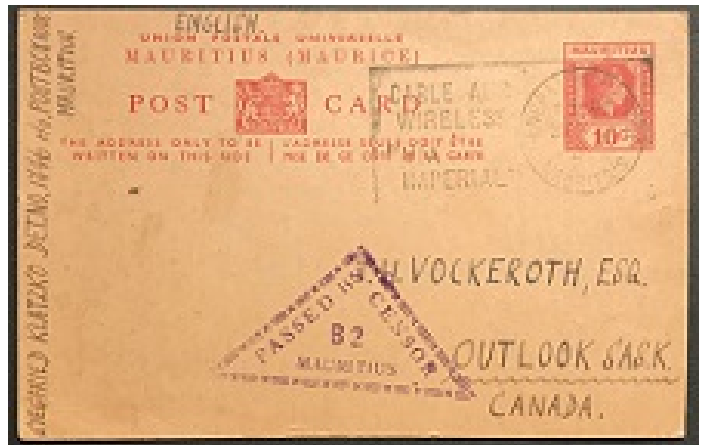
From that point on we transitioned on to the **Show and Tell** part of the evening. Ralph W mentioned that the topic of ATM stamps is much larger than what he had presented in the last newsletter. It sounds to me that this might just become another rabbit hole, it just keeps on burrowing deeper and deeper. There are several **OSSC** members who are also members of the **Saugeen Stamp Club (SSC)**. In their last newsletter, President Walt mentioned that the first planned face to face meeting would be held on the first Tuesday of December. This is exciting news, but it seems we are all sitting on pins and needles awaiting what will happen between now and then.

A tentative date for another gathering at **Harrison Park** is planned for September 28th, if we can use the picnic pavilion again. Following this brief discussion, we started in earnest with the Show part of the evening. Dave P started off by showing a collection on pen and ink sketched Post Cards which he has organized into an album. Judy G gave a success story of purchasing a set of stamps from Singapore. Our dedicated canoeist shared the completion of a canoe trip to the nation's capital with a planned philatelic ending. Bill F went to see the Official Canada Stamp collection with the intent of seeing the complete set of Jubilee stamps. He was greatly disappointed when the stamps were not present and learned that due to security reasons, those stamps were not on display.

Following Bill's sharing, Neil E brought up some interesting things. His first share was about a collection of early Russian Post Cards, pre revolution. The intrigue of that collection was followed by



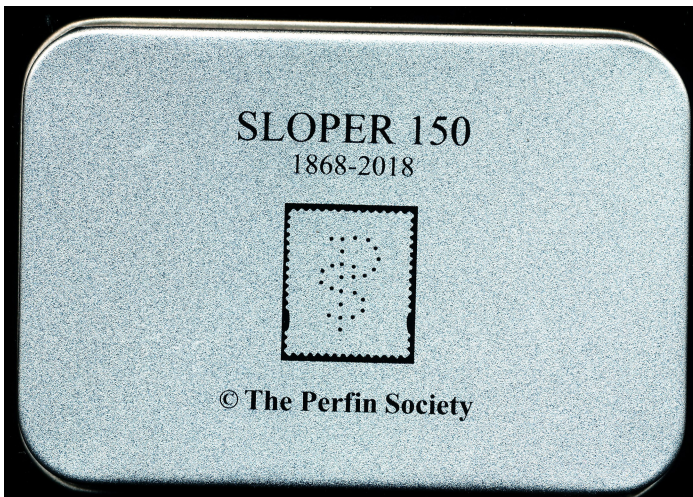
something that arose out of the Cold War, something that concerned security of postal services in Denmark during the 1960's. These stamps were so secret, they were hidden away in various Post Offices inside Denmark to facilitate mail in the event of Communist occupation of the country. His last share was a post card mailed from Mauritius during World War 2. The sender was Jewish and had managed to escape from Europe with the hope of living in Palestine (present day Israel), but the British authorities refused entry to the Middle Eastern mandate and so he was sent to an internment camp on the island until the end of the war.



President Marion shared her passion of stamp shows by sharing a recent purchase. This purchase was of a souvenir sheet and card issued by Croatia in 1943 for the Zagreb Stamp Show. She then pondered why some countries such as Dubai and Equatorial Guinea would issue stamps for people such as Charles Dickens and American Presidents who have nothing to do with those issuing states. Marion's particular rabbit hole is Henrich Von Stephen. She purchased a set of UPU stamps advertised as showing the gentleman, but when she received the stamps, the pictured gentleman was Guglielmo Marconi. However, if anyone does run across this Republic of Central African stamp with Von Stephen's image on it, please contact her. Lastly, Marion shared a recent find. It is a Canadian National Telegram of a letter as well as the letter and envelope itself. A rare find to have all parts of this form of communication.

Keeping on the eclectic nature of his interests, Randy shared how he was sorting through a group of British Perfins. For the newer stamp collector, the term perfins is short for Perforated Initials and companies would purchase stamps from the Post Office, perforate the companies initials on it, and therefore the Post Office would not refund money to someone who tried to return them to the Post Office as an unnecessary purchase.

Randy then mentioned/asked if anyone knew the name Joseph Sloper? He then went on to explain that Mr. Sloper was a British inventor who was granted the permission to perforate initials into stamps as a form of security from theft. This permission was granted in 1858 and the use of perfins soon expanded worldwide. As part of his search for information,



Randy connected with **The Perfin Society** in Great Britain. They have produced a USB with records of as many British perfins as has been discovered (discoveries are still occurring today). Although this can be an interesting side topic and collection, be aware that there are many thousands of different British perfins and completion of this collection is just not possible.

After buying a collection online, Marion G has started to sort through this collection after it arrived. Not only did it contain Israeli stamps (her purpose for the purchase) but contained Israeli coins (she isn't interested in them), a key chain, some baseball cards, and other ephemera. That is what you call a **"mystery box."**

A final show and tell was presented about an interesting purchase made at the **Kitchener Stamp Show** at the end of August. The dealer recognized that the stamp was damaged and so had priced it very low, but when I saw it, I knew that something was off, but since I hadn't brought my **NVPH Specialized Catalogue** of the Netherlands along, I couldn't identify what was off. Purchase was made and the discovery was made at home. So, a short presentation was made about this purchase and how the stamp was not genuine. Keep reading, there might just be some more information about this purchase.

Fakes and Forgeries

By Phil Visser

This topic has been bouncing around in my mind for quite some time. Occasionally, discussion about this topic can be overheard, with the last one I overheard was at a **Digital Philately Study Group**, loosely affiliated with **BNAPS**. A noted expert on this topic in Canada is Ken Pugh. He did a presentation about his efforts and tools he uses to discover fakes and forgeries.

A common problem is the definition of a word **"fake"** and **"forgery?"** Quite by chance I ran across this guide in the front of **Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue** and so here follows the definition of each term and a discussion on this topic.

According to Scott's Catalogue, the term forgeries and counterfeits are synonymous and can be used interchangeably. Scott's then provides this definition **"forgeries** are reproductions of genuine stamps that

have been created to defraud collectors." A few paragraphs later Scott suggests that "forgeries may be complete reproductions, or a genuine stamp altered in some way to look like a higher valued stamp." This second part is what can create confusion in the mind of a stamp collector.

Under the heading **"Fakes,"** Scott's provides this definition "...fakes are genuine stamps altered in some way to make them more desirable." It is at this point that Scott's assertion about counterfeits becomes confusing. This last explanation may muddy the waters considerably, but I prefer to equate **forgery with reproduction** and **fake with alteration**. It is this last statement that I will continue this article on.

It was August 28th, 2021, that I attended the **Kitchener Waterloo Stamp Club** show. It was exciting to be able to go to a live show again, also a bit nerve racking considering the risks associated with the pandemic we are currently experiencing. Now that the show is over, I am glad I went and am thankful to the members of the KW Club who put the effort into holding a show.

In this part of Canada, a collector soon gets to know the dealers and I was pleased to see a dealer that I have great respect for and has been very helpful in my collecting interests. While seated at his table, he mentioned he had some "better" Dutch material available after looking at his other general Dutch stamps for cancellations. It was a fruitful visit, both in my collecting interests and in coming across this stamp.

As soon as I saw the stamp, alarm bells were ringing! The image of King Willem was off and didn't correspond with another stamp of the same set, so I said to him that "this stamp is a forgery." Promptly the stamp was removed from his inventory, but then the idea crept into my mind about discussing this topic, and so I offered to buy the forgery, knowing full well it was not genuine, and assuring the dealer I was not going to implicate him in peddling bogus material.

Under the heading of **"Fakes"** Scott's says that "collectors should buy from reputable dealers who guarantee their stamps..." Bearing that in mind, I share the name of the reputable dealer that brought me this item, **Mr. Frank Hoyles**. I have bought with confidence from him for many years and hope that any association the reader may have with him in the future will also be trustworthy.

For readers that receive this as printed paper, the colour differences will not be apparent, but there are several other matters that help distinguish the forgery from the real thing. For that reason, the above stamp image is larger than normal as well as the real stamp below. For the e-readers, the colour difference is very clear, with the central colour being blue in the forgery



and green for the authentic stamp. Other differences are also evident.

One of the most obvious differences is the “pearls” surrounding the central circle with the King Willem effigy. On the forgery, the “pearls” are white lines, while with those printed by the Post Office being true circles. Other differences are present, but these are the most apparent to a reader. The feature that struck my attention was the engraving of the Kings silhouette.



This stamp forgery would be an interesting study as to why it was done. If the intent was to fool the Post Office, the forger would get a service of twenty-five times the value of an ordinary piece of mail (10 cents for regular first-class mail). This high rate of postage would likely be used for parcel post or packages. If the forger’s intent is to fool a collector, the stamp catalogues for €32.50 which offsets the production cost by an unknown amount.

An open question is “did this stamp pass through the Post Office to be cancelled by a clerk” or is the cancellation also a fake? A more detailed study would be necessary to answer that question, but listening to members with a German collection, the cancellation of the “inflation” issue stamps is also a very important topic and at times makes it difficult to determine the authenticity of those stamp. These thoughts segue nicely into the topic of **Fakes**.

To refresh the readers memory, **Fakes** are stamps that have been altered to make them more desirable. At the September meeting, Randy Rogers brought out a reference book dealing with Fakes and Forgeries. This book is **Linn’s “Focus on forgeries: A Guide to Forgeries of Common Stamps”¹**. Randy shared the four stamps with a connection to the Netherlands with me, however, none dealt with the stamp as shown above.

This book did point out a fake I knew about but have been uncertain on how to determine the true stamp from the fake stamp. With the help of this book, I now know there are a few more holes to fill in my collection to fill. Looking at the two scans, both are overprinted, but the basic genuine stamp is Scott’s #56 while the overprinted version is listed as #O1. To the casual observer, there is no difference, but catalogue value of the overprinted stamp is ten times the price of the regular stamp (#56).



One tip to help differentiate a fake overprint from the real overprint can be done with used stamps. The trick is when using a magnifying glass (10 x power is good enough), look carefully where the cancellation is with respect to the overprint. If the overprint is clear and not obscured by the cancellation, that stamp is a fake. It is painful to admit it, but I had never checked the Netherlands Official stamps to see if the overprint was above or below the cancellation, even though Scott’s does provide in small print a warning about fakes. The stamp on the left is a fake, while the one on the right is a genuine stamp.

For used copies of overprinted stamps, the method described above is reliable. Difficulty arises when looking for mint stamps! Hopefully, the enlarged scan is visible for every reader. Look at the letter “R” on both scans. Fake overprints will have a straight leg down from the curved part of the letter, while the real overprint will be angled more to the right and it will have a slight curvature.



Fake Overprint on #56

Correct Overprint on #56

Fake stamps are not limited to the Netherlands or Germany but will be probably found on many stamps of many countries. Looking at the overprinted Official stamps from Great Britain will also reveal the same problem, and I have heard one dealer say that even looking at the cancellation and the overprint was not reliable either. Buyer beware is a true statement for the stamp collector!

Other means exist on finding out if an overprint is real or fake. Looking at the font used can also reveal a dubious stamp. Cruder attempts to fake an overprint is the overall size of the overprint varies from the original. One of our fellow club members has been researching into Newfoundland stamps only to discover that most of the early stamps he had were forgeries. His source of information was an internet document titled “**Newfoundland Fakes and forgeries**” written by Ed Wener. This document is a thirty-six-page PDF file. Sadly Mr. Wener passed away in 2013.

Another area rife with forgeries is Italian stamps, particularly stamps from the early states, before the Kingdom of Italy was formed in the 1870’s. One member of **Stamp Boards** suggested the stamp in question was most likely a forgery. Another website of early Italian states has a page dedicated to Romagna forgeries² and then makes the bold statement that “The only way I would ever recommend collecting this state, or any other of the Italian states, that would be safe for most specialists, would be to collect authenticated stamps, or authenticated covers.” The writer than asks “Do you have a copy of the Serrane Guide?” This reference book is titled “**The Serrane Guide: Stamp forgeries of the World to 1926**” by Fernand Serrane.

Now that this philatelic box has been opened, it can be easy to see why Ken Pugh has been working so

long on identifying forged Canadian Stamps prior to publishing a book. However, there is one final matter to share on this topic and that is “counterfeits.” Scott’s provides this definition for the term, “counterfeit is the term generally applied to reproductions of stamps that have been created to defraud the government of revenue.”

A useful philatelic research database is the **Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC)**. While membership is suggested, researching older editions of the noted magazine, “**The Canadian Philatelist**” (TCP) is available for research. Membership to the **RPSC** provides access to all editions of **TCP**, while the past five years are blocked from research by non-members.

Using the search function, various topics keywords are available for researcher. Scrolling down the list of ideas, I saw the words “**fakes**” “**fakes & forgeries**” and finally “**forgery**,” but no “**counterfeit**.” Using each term, several articles appeared, however, I will highlight two articles that could be described as discussing “**counterfeit**” stamps.



In the **July-August 2016** issue of “**The Canadian Philatelist**” S. Phoarder questioned if a stamp he had found was a forgery. The article described a comparison of the genuine flag over the Pachena Point Lighthouse stamp with the fake one (Unitrade #2253B). From the description provided in the article, an anecdotal decision suggests that

the stamp was a “counterfeit.” No further reply was received to the question posed by the author, which does leave a sense of disappointment on an unanswered question.

A second article reaches back to the year **2009**. Also printed in the **July-August** edition of the magazine is the article “**The \$1.40 Maple Leaf Forgery**” written by Tony Edwards. Mr. Edwards also refers to an internet website in which Leopold Beaudet describes the forged booklet. Alas, a search for the original article by Beaudet³ didn’t cross my keyboard and computer screen, so reference will continue to be made to Mr. Edwards article.



Basically, Mr. Edwards found the counterfeit \$1.40 stamp which was in an accumulation of postally used stamps cut off envelopes which he was planning on soaking off. The counterfeit stamps simply would not come off the envelope paper, even when moderate manipulation was applied. The article then proceeds to describe his study of the stamp to differentiate the real stamp from the counterfeit one, and then being able to soak off the genuine stamp from the backing paper.

Hopefully this article doesn’t turn the reader off from collecting stamps, because the forger/faker must do a lot of work with which to hoodwink a knowledgeable collector. Study the catalogues carefully for hints

about potential fakes. As a final word, the late John Beddows was quoted in an article by “**The Canadian Stamps News**” with an opinion that fakes, forgeries and counterfeits was not such a difficult problem for stamp collectors⁴.

1 Focus on Forgeries: A Guide to Forgeries of Common Stamps; By Varro E. Tyler; ISBN 0-940403-88-9 Published by Linn’s Stamp News

2 https://www.stamp-collecting-world.com/stampforgeries_romagna.html

3 Canadian Philately, Information for the Discerning Collector, Counterfeit Modern Booklets by L. Beaudet

4 <https://canadianstampnews.com/disingenuous-stamps-counterfeits-forgeries-and-fakes-oh-my/>; Jesse Robitaille; April 21, 2015.

Harrison Park Gathering

On Tuesday, September 28th, eighteen brave souls (18) gathered under the roof of the Picnic Shelter in Harrison Park. Free spirits were in plentiful supply, as in good natured greetings, under the pall of some regulations. The City of Owen Sound requested certain information and requirements to use the facilities. A contract was signed, with its corresponding rental fee. With new provincial and Health Unit guidelines we were required to keep a contact list of individuals attending, wear masks (even when outside) and assurances that social distancing would be maintained. Once all of those formalities were agreed to, the facilities were booked for our club.

It was very good to see those that attended, but a Large Gold Medal is awarded to Ken M and Dave P who travelled from Huron County to attend. In keeping with a lack of facial recognition software (mentioned above) Ken covered his face with a hat to simulate the Zoom image. The humour was greatly appreciated Ken, thanks. With such a good turn out, we did miss one of the more faithful attendees, our Treasurer missed the event due to prior commitments.

As mentioned previously in the email prior to the gathering, auction lots were placed out on the tables. These lots were from a collection donated to the club. A few more dollars have now been added into the clubs coffers. Other individuals placed lots on other tables which also were sold. President Marion wondered if we could gather again at the end of October, but that will be weather permitting. A brief discussion was aired about meeting in person again, but with no information about the St. Mary’s High School rental requirements, those plans will have to wait for another day. Stay tuned, we just might be able to get together again in the future.

More information has come out on public gatherings, especially indoors. With my wife being the go to person at the New Life Centre, she is in the know about requirements for renting a facility. It appears that every group that wishes to rent space must ensure that all attendees have been proof of being fully vaccinated. I hope that vaccination is universal in our group and will not be a point of division. Alas, vaccination and masks is a contentious point within my family with hardliners on both ends of the spectrum, there is some stress in gathering. These things are mentioned only as a heads up to all readers, for that seems to be what the future requirements for in person meetings.

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Another edition of **Stamps on the Bay** is about ready to hit the press and arrive into your hands to continue being part of a dedicated group of fellow hobbyists. It is amazing how people have adapted to the current health situation. It makes me wonder what happened in the philatelic world one hundred years ago with the Spanish Flu running amok through the world. From a personal perspective, my hobby has grown as I have started on the path of more time for the hobby. I am very happy to be a part of several organizations, the Owen Sound Stamp Club, the Saugeen Stamp Club, the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, the British North America Philatelic Society and the Postal History Society of Canada. Each one of these organizations feeds my collecting interests and I hope that more readers will take advantage of these organizations.

Soap Box

With no hot and burning topics to bring to a readers attention, I am left with the unpleasant task of sharing some bad news. Dave P and Ken M have been mentioned a few times in this edition. Not only are they members of the Owen Sound Stamp Club, but several other stamp clubs as well. They have reported that the Stratford Stamp club is folding, and will likely be completely finished by the Spring of 2022. This Club has been a long running one but because a leadership vacuum has appeared, it cannot continue. While membership is important to any organization, leadership is needed to keep it functioning, which has come to an end for this version of the Stratford Stamp Club. Much soul searching is necessary for every club, but having a dedicated core is needed to guide the organization into the future. When I took over as President in November of 2009, we were not a very large group of people, about eight people at a meeting. It has been gratifying to see the membership increase, but just as I was hesitant to assume the leadership mantle, it was not too onerous a task. We are experiencing the signs of a leadership vacuum here, with a vacant position of Vice President for several months and almost a year. All it takes is for the Vice President to fill in for the President when the President is unable to lead a meeting, but also be willing to make suggestions about keeping the club relevant to all members, or as many members as possible. Please step forward and help out the other members who are contributing regularly for the benefit of all members.

Which of these two stamps is genuine?

