

Stamps on the Bay



The Voice of the
Owen Sound Stamp Club

Meeting Cancelled due to
Health Safety
Volume 2, Edition 10, November 2021



From the President

Hello my philatelic friends!

Well this must be the first fall that I can recall when the first real frost came in November! My big pot of coleus has finally succumbed to the cold. Amazing!

I must mention right away that our December Zoom Stamp Auction will be held on December 8th, (which is the second Wednesday of the month). We had our auction last night (Nov. 3rd). It was well attended with quite a few lots being sold. We get a number of participants from the Oxford and the Kitchener/Waterloo clubs. It has been nice to get to know some more stamp collectors.

Before the start of the auction I asked our members whether or not they would attend a live meeting in December at the New Life Centre (where we often meet in the summer months). Most assented to the idea and a couple people will be away. To hold this meeting we will have to make a contact list, show proof of vaccination, wear masks and socially distance ourselves as much as possible. Our live meetings at Harrison Park went very well and I'm sure we could handle this with no problems. The one thing different here is showing proof of vaccination. I have printed off the email receipt I received after my vaccinations. People with medical exemptions must show a certificate from a Doctor. There will be no ideological exemptions. Once we have this information on the record with the club and with the New Life Centre you will not have to produce proof for future engagements.

You will receive an email or phone call regarding a live December meeting to be held Wed. Dec. 15th. If I have overlooked anyone please call me. (My number is on the back of the newsletter.) I will want to know whether you wish to attend and if you have proof of vaccination, your name, address and phone number. Also I'd like to know whether you think we should have food present. I don't think we should all bring something as per normal. Either we have nothing or I will purchase some packaged treats on behalf of the club.

Also for the December meeting some of us have discussed having an auction to raise funds for the Food Bank of Owen Sound. We have not been able to hand out the President's funny money to members this

year, so we thought that people could donate items for auction as usual at Christmas, but purchases will be made with real money to go to the Food Bank.

At our meeting on October 20th Peter McCarthy showed us his presentation 'Basic Stamp Collecting, Tools and their Uses'. It was interesting and I learned about a few tools I hadn't even heard of. One of the most basic tools are tongs and I have to admit that I am guilty of not using them often enough. Having a good set of tongs can make a difference. Some of the cheap ones are difficult to use and can damage the stamps! Peter will likely join us next year to give us one of his other presentations. Thanks a lot Peter!

This month Gregg Redner is joining us again with his presentation about the 1920 Olympics in Antwerp, Belgium. It will be interesting to see what philatelic items were produced for the Olympic Games over one hundred years ago!

Please join in and show your support to the people who are making the effort to keep stamp collecting as an exciting sociable hobby during these difficult times. Thank you to all our members who are making things happen!

Our regular Zoom meeting is Wednesday, November 17th and the OS Stamp Auction is on Wednesday December 8th at 7:00 (6:45).

Marion Ace,
President



This postcard is one of the items that Gregg Redner will be discussing in his presentation titled "The Philately of the 1920 Antwerp Olympics."

Editors Greeting

Another month has appeared on the calendar and another issue of Stamps on the Bay is now complete. Our President has organized a presentation that should be highly informative from a very knowledgeable speaker. I hope many people take the opportunity to learn from our guest speaker. We certainly learned from the speaker last month about the tools of the trade, something that all collectors at different experience levels benefited from. A summary is provided in the pages following this greeting.

Besides a review of the last meeting are two articles that suddenly popped out of the woodwork. Without the help of a Zoom colleague, the first article would have been much less informative. Besides looking back to stamp collecting in our early years of life, we are reminded that new stamps appear every year. Speaking with the Post Office clerks, they share that the Winter wildlife issue was extremely popular in the community as is now the editorial cartoon stamp booklets. It is also exciting to share that Stamp Shows are starting to be organized, giving collectors an opportunity to explore and socialize. Let us hope that this trend continues in the future.

Last month a teaser scan was provided. To which article in the newsletter was it referring to? It referenced the contribution that Randy R. shared about the **Perfin Society** and the **Sloper 150** USB stick/catalogue of British Perfins. At the end of the newsletter was two scans of the same stamp, or were they the same? No input was received on who thought which stamp was real and which one was a forgery. It does take sharp eyes to discern the differences, but the stamp on the left was the forgery. The stamp design features which indicate they are different is the size of the Princesses head, with the left stamp being larger than the right one. A closer look at the numbering will show that the top line of the five of "50 Cents" are different. The dead give away requires knowledge of the Netherlands. There is no Post Office in 'T Loo. Princess Wilhelmina lived in the Palace named "Het Loo" and the district around it called 'T Loo, but it is no town or city. While the cancel may look authentic, the size of the cancel is too large, thirty mm versus a real cancel of 29 mm. The final giveaway is that the month of cancellation "Sept" does not match the Dutch method of using only three letters per month, and so it should be Sep.

Below lies another teaser scan, which story does it pertain too?

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Serendipity

By Phil Visser

Webster's Dictionary defines serendipity as "an aptitude for making desirable discoveries by accident." it can also be termed as "good fortune, or luck." With this title the remaining story is a combination of several things that can be summed up as serendipity.

Several years ago, maybe even longer, I visited RJM Stamps in Waterloo. While there enhancing my primary collection, the clerk (John was away that day) mentioned he had some stamps mocking the European Union. Two sets of these stamps were adaptations of the Europa Common design stamps of 1956 and 1958 (See the scans provided). This was just too good to leave in the store, and so a price was settled on and they now reside in my stamp room.

Art can be interpreted in many ways, based on the eye and mindset of the viewer. This first set shows the letters of "Europa" in the form of a building being constructed referring to the reconstruction of Europe following the end of the second world war. The Romanian stamp shows barbed wire around the reconstructed "Europa" which the clerk and I thought it was propaganda criticizing the capitalist "west."



On the second set of stamps, a bear is seen munching on western Europe. My interpretation was that Communism was going to eat the rest of Europe because the communist society was a better method of governing. This third set of stamps shows a snake slithering up the letter "E" so as to bite the dove at the top of the letter.



These thoughts remained in my mind and the possession of these stamps was mentioned at a recent "Zoom" meeting with my interpretation of the artwork. One person suggested this would be a topic to share in "Stamps on the Bay." Not being too fond of leaving things unresearched I began to look for the background of these stamps. A search through the **Scott Standard**

Postage Stamp Catalogue revealed that none of the three sets of stamps were listed as being issued by Romania, even though each set of stamps was provided with a currency valuation.

At this point, there was not much of an article coming out about this purchase. However, serendipity brought me into contact with Mario Rapa. Over time Mario revealed that he had immigrated to Canada from Romania. Here was a second source of information about these anti-capitalist stamps.

Contact was established and three scans were sent so

that Mario could see what I was interested in finding out about. During a telephone discussion Mario revealed that these three sets of stamps were “**Cinderella’s**” and not postage. His fruitful mind went to **Colnect** and discovered that these stamps were listed under the category of “**Cinderella’s.**” Besides revealing the basics of the “stamps,” Mario shared some other knowledge about his native country.

During World War Two, Romania was an ally of Germany, with many Romanians serving in the German army on the Soviet Front. As the Soviet armed forces fought the German army, they naturally entered the sovereign state of Romania. At the conclusion of World War Two the new lands that the Soviet Army had “captured” from Germany were then placed under Communist rule.

Even though the Romanian people did not want the Russians, the Communists jailed and killed the Romanian nationalists and established a government in December of 1947. Governing does not mean acceptance by the citizens of Romania and so a group of people went forward and printed these stamps which we now know as “**Cinderella’s.**”

Two sets of these stamps had writing on them. Naturally they are written in the Romanian language but translating the words from Romanian to English just hadn’t happened. Here again, Mario came into importance. The first set of stamps stamp at the bottom “*Europe can’t live without its eastern countries.*”

With this translation, it is clear that the stamps are not anti-Europe but seeking to reunite with the western European countries. The political divide between the communists and western Europe stifled the flow of trade and movement between the Eastern and Western European countries. Now there is another perspective to the barbed wire surrounding the word “Europa” and what was assumed to be negative to capitalism, was really a plea to reunite with the remainder of the continent.



Our second design was a bit of a mystery. While the first stamp was a copy or like the first Common Design Europa stamp, the bear was a mystery. This stamp also had a slogan written in the design. These words are translated as “*Liberate the countries occupied in the east by the USSR. Coexistence is the death of Europe.*” Initial thoughts included the eating of western Europe by the communist bear was a threat to the western countries is partially correct but not referring to the superiority of communism over democracy. Were did the design come from?



Serendipity raised it head again and the attached scan of this Belgian stamp shows design similarities to the “*Russian bear*” Cinderella. Even though the Belgian stamp is issued to mark the gathering of the Rotary

International meeting in Oostende in 1954, the translation of the Romanian words helps reveal the wish of be free from Communist rule.

The final set of Cinderella’s are slightly different. The design is that of the Europa Common Design of 1958. The stylized “E” with a dove above the letter. A snake is seen to be wrapped around the letter and climbing up the letter with what is an assumed attack on the dove.



Doves symbolize peace and freedom, and a snake represents danger. A closer look at the snake shows that the circles on the snake contain the hammer and sickle symbol of Communism. One view is to see the danger to the dove, but another perspective would be to see the ascendancy of peace over the iron clad might of communism. There are probably other interpretations available, but these suffice for this newsletter.

Now that something has been shown about the stamps, one wonders who issued these Cinderella’s? Here is an unknown, but **Colnect** has provided some information about each set of stamps. The first series of stamps was issued on January 13, 1957. A close look at the bottom of the stamp shows the printer as “**Fournier Vitoria.**” Our second set was printed in April of 1957 which Colnect providing that there was 20,000 of both values printed that were perforated and another 3,000 of each value printed as imperforated stamps. The last series was printed on November 8, 1958. Another source suggests it was printed in January of 1958. No print numbers were provided for either the first or third set of stamps.

Knowing the printer does provide some further information about these Cinderella’s. **Heraclio Fournier** is a printing firm located in **Vitoria-Gastiez, Spain**. This city is located some 50-60 kilometers south of Bilbao in Northern Spain. Wikipedia provides that the printing firm has been in business since the mid 1800’s, being known for the printing of its colourful decks of playing cards.

Serendipity again appeared. Mario continued to research these stamps and came across the website <http://www.romaniastamps.com/cind/spain/cinderellas.html>. This website filled in the missing pieces of information. On the main page is the bold title “**Romanian Exile Cinderella’s.**” These Cinderella’s were printed from 1954 until 1969, so the stamps above fall into that period and represent the seventh, eleventh and twelfth series of Cinderella’s printed. The *Romaniastamps.com* website provides that 50,000 stamps were printed for each value with 2,000 imperforated stamps of each also printed for the first set of stamps shown. On the third set the website reports that 20,000 perforated and 2,000 imperforated stamps were printed for each value.

Also on the main page of romaniastamps.com/cind/spain/cinderellas.html is a link **Timbre anti-comuniste**. Following this link provided the gold for this story. The wonders of computers today allowed the translation of Romanian to English, and the following information is

parsed from that translation.

To start the page off, is the title **“Romanian Exile and the Anti-Communist Struggle.”** The genius behind these sets of Cinderella’s is Traian Popescu. Mr. Popescu is the former Vice President of the Romanian Philatelic Society. He lived from 1910 to 2003. At the conclusion of World War 2, Mr. Popescu was a prisoner held by the American Army and following his release in 1947 he settled in Madrid, Spain. From here he launched the magazine and printing company **“Carpathian.”**

These Cinderella’s did arouse the anger of the Romanian postal authorities and the government of the day, but since they were printed outside of Romania, no control could stop the propaganda value among the Romanian ex-patriots as they mailed letters amongst each other using normal postage for the letter and then affixing the Cinderella in addition, much like the Christmas Seals or Easter Seals.

Serendipity has run its course and this story ends with the amazing discoveries and connecting made during its journey on the page. My thanks go out to Mario Rapa who assisted greatly with the background of this story.

October Zoom Meeting

October 20th the Owen Sound Stamp Club held its monthly Zoom Meeting via cyberspace. Fourteen people attended the meeting, twelve from the club and two guests, the guest speaker, and Rose VS from the Saugeen Stamp Club. A general discussion began the evening with the awareness that one of our regular members will be now able to cross the US border to the sunny south for the winter months.

Due to this travel arrangement, the monthly Auction will be delayed from the first Wednesday to the second Wednesday of the month (December 8th). Some mention was made about a possible in person gathering for the December meeting, depending on the health rules in effect at that time. A suggested venue was the New Life Centre. Communication with the St. Mary’s High School confirms that we cannot meet there was the foreseeable future. The School Board needs to see what the Community Use of the Facilities would require on the schools’ resources.

In the event of a December meeting, and since no “Funy Munny” was distributed this year, President Marion suggested that we hold a cash auction with the proceeds from the auction going towards the local Food Bank. A general acceptance was given to this idea, especially if the Club wishes to become known in the Community.

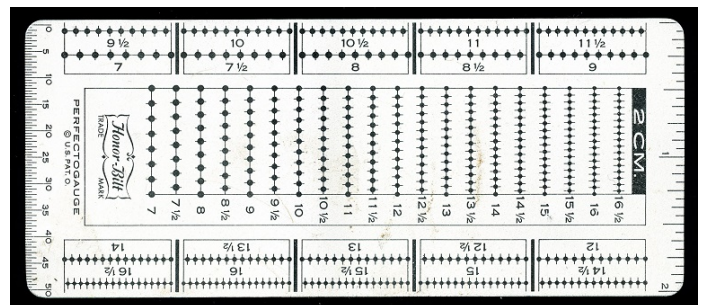
Our guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Peter McCarthy on the topic of “Basic Stamp Collecting: Tools and their Uses.” One of the most ubiquitous tools of our hobby is stamp tongs. While many collectors use their fingers to handle stamps, stamp tongs are useful while soaking stamps off paper, and especially when sorting through Mint Never Hinged (MNH) stamps. Reasoning for this lies in the fact that a person’s skin secretes body oils which can damage stamps, especially MNH stamps. How many would

purchase a MNH stamp with a fingerprint in the gum?

It may seem odd, but the common stamp hinge is a tool. Proper use of this tool can greatly assist in the collection value, so moisten the smaller part of the hinge and apply it near the top of the stamp and then moisten the lower half of the remaining paper to attach the stamp to the album page. This refers to the organizing of a collection so that a dealer will be able to quickly see the collection and determine the value of the collection. One thing the dealer will do is to inspect the underside of the stamp, so being able to lift the stamp up from the page which will help to establish the soundness of the stamp.

Besides using hinges to mount a stamp in an album, there are other methods. Stamp mounts offer choices. The first choice is to use “black” background mounts or clear mounts. Black mounts show all the edges/perforations of the stamp. Clear mounts may not show the perforations unless the paper is off white or coloured. Once that decision is made, the next is to decide if you wish to have the stamp mount through the top of the mount or have the mount split in the middle. These are the choice of the collector

Another essential tool is the perforation gauge. This is



important, particularly with the early stamp issues, to establish varieties, and their value. Many of the perf gauges are divided into half units, for example, a perforation of 11 or 11.5 or 12. While this is good, the collector is recommended to use the lined perf gauges that help divide the stamp perforation into tenth of a perf.

Two other important tools are the magnifying glass and watermark tray. Using the tray will help reveal the presence of a watermark varieties. This could be two different watermarks or one stamp with a watermark and the other without. A magnifying glass will help identify things like re-entries, printing plate scratches, obscured design features (with a cancellation) etc.

These essential tools listed above are the beginning. Collectors over time may become more interested in detailed aspects of their collection. Other tools then come into the possession of a collector. The following tools are listed, and a fellow club member will be quite willing to assist in learning how to use them. Thirkell’s Position Finder helps locate the position of a variety on the face of a stamp. The Bridger & Kaye Cancellation Gauge will help measure the size of a circular cancellation. Some may remember the discussion about the tagging of stamps which leads to the need for an ultraviolet lamp, and then will also learn that there are different wave lengths which require

different lights!

Other tools were used in the philatelic field, but only explain different types of stamps. These are precancel machines which overprint a normally produced postage stamp so that they could not be returned to the post office. These also include the Cummins Perforating Machine which punched letters or initials in stamps to stop workplace pilferage.

Show and Tell

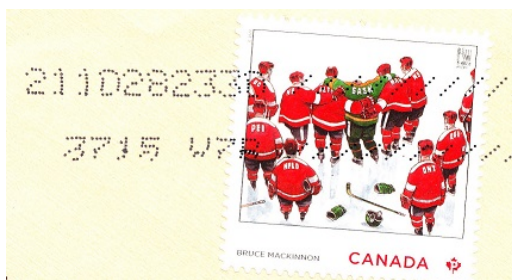
Marion began this section of the meeting by showing a recently received letter from Austria. It is difficult to see it since the stamp is white and placed on a white envelope, but it is the shape of a face mask, something we are all familiar with! (See the scan below) Ralph W. shared a nice letter with modern commemoratives from Great Britain. Alas, the happy pen canceller left the dreaded pen cancel. Switching to a different topic, mention was made of using pure citrus orange to soak off those modern stamps that cannot be removed by soaking in water. A final item set Ralph's normally calm demeanor on edge when he ordered special stamps from Austria and they arrived destroyed, because the envelope was soaked through and through. Fortunately, a replacement set arrived safely some time later.



Editorial Cartoon Issue

By Phil Visser

One feature of newspapers that I really like is the editorial cartoon. It captures news events that can raise humour, pity and outrage and many other emotions within the viewer. These emotions can vary as the cartoon topic varies. Canada Post issued a series of five different cartoons from different artists published across Canada.



A recent envelope was graced with this cartoon. Bruce MacKinnon drew this cartoon in 2018 and

was published in the Halifax Chronicle Herald. What can be more Canadian than hockey? While several things may pop into the mind, there is a very strong connection between Canada and the sport of hockey. It may seem a long time ago, but this cartoon was

drawn following the bus crash involving the Humboldt, Saskatchewan hockey team. There was certainly shock within the hockey world following the collision and death of several players. Depicted in the cartoon is the entire nation (each province represented by one player) watching on as two other players help an injured teammate off the ice. This scene is one every hockey fan has seen countless times.

Artist Bruce MacKinnon first started doing editorial cartoons at the age of fourteen for his home newspaper in Antigonish Nova Scotia. Canada Post website then continues with a description of Bruce's career. He has drawn a weekly cartoon for the Chronicle Herald since 1986. It is estimated that he has drawn over 8,000 cartoons since being hired full time by the newspaper.

Each cartoon is a work of art. There is a stunned feeling when a teammate is helped off the ice. That feeling is evoked in MacKinnon's drawing with players slumped shoulders, arms hanging at the side of every player's body and every player's attention is on the injured teammate. Hockey is a team sport with the recognition that everyone plays a role in the success of the team.

This series of stamps was released on October 8th and is offered for sale in booklets of ten. A quick visit to the Owen Sound Post Office revealed that all the booklets they had were sold out. Fortunately, the Keeling Place Retail Outlet in Shoppers Drug Mart had several booklets available. Happy collecting.

References

- <https://globalnews.ca/news/8254369/halifax-cartoonist-canada-post-stamp/> By Jesse Thomas Global News Posted October 8, 2021 5:24 pm Updated October 8, 2021 6:04 pm
- <https://www.canadapost-postescanada.ca/cpc/en/our-company/news-and-media/corporate-news/news-release/2021-10-08-canada-post-stamp-honours-editorial-cartoonist-bruce-mackinnon>

UPCOMING SHOWS

JAN 29, '22

73rd Cathex

Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara St., St. Catharines, ON, L2R 5L3

The St. Catharines Stamp Club's annual Cathex show returns in 2022 with 10 dealers, club circuit books, a children's area, free admission and parking plus the always popular lunch counter. The show runs from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Email: stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca

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OXPEX

MAR 19, '22

Woodstock

More information coming in the near future. Plan and date announced at the last OPS Zoom Auction

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We are facing the last few weeks of this calendar year, where did the time go? Last weekend we set the clocks back an hour, we've flipped the calendar to a new month and now look forward to the last month of the year. The month of December is very busy in many other senses, and stamp collecting events have stepped into the background, except a reminder that membership dues are owing for the upcoming year. Club membership dues are \$20 per person and should be forwarded to our treasurer, Bob Ford. It is also the time of year to remain in good standing with the Philatelic Organizations in this country. Please consider membership in the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, and or the British North America Philatelic Society, and or the Postal History Society of Canada. Each organization offers rewarding benefits. Club membership and organization membership offers benefits of being together with like minded individuals, a place to learn about the things we don't know, and a place to acquire items for our own collections.

Soapbox

A few days ago, Trevor H. forwarded a link to an article called "NSCM: A Time to Collect Stamps and Culture," and then Trevor added a personal note of "Happy Stamp collecting Month." This was too intriguing to leave alone, so upon opening the link, I was wondering when Canada had recognized a stamp collecting month? Alas, the article informed me about the National Stamp Collecting Month was in the Philippines. Truly an international hobby but it also reminded that several other countries have Stamp Days and issue stamps regularly to remember that day. Canada does not. Do you think that there should be such a day in Canada? For those who do not participate in the Zoom meetings, please let me know your thoughts and perhaps we as a club can push this idea on to other levels of the hobby and Canada Post. I personally think there should be a National Stamp Day in Canada and I know of other collectors in other clubs who feel the same way. Below are some scans of Stamp Day stamps.

