

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Newsletter

Next Club Meeting: December 19th

December 2001



Season's Greetings!

To All Our Members
(and anyone else reading this).

Official Stamp Numbers?

There has been some correspondence on the internet lately about the Universal Postal Union's requirement (or, maybe, proposal?) that from 2002 all stamps produced by member countries should be numbered. Now, I don't have full details of this but the reaction of the correspondents has been quite negative – primarily on the grounds that if professional cataloguers such as Scott, Stanley Gibbons, etc. can't agree on a numbering system, what hope has the UPU of putting together a useful one. Apparently the driving force behind the proposal is to "register" stamp designs and make it a little harder for bogus stamp issuers to claim legitimacy.

For my part, I think this is an excellent move for the typical collector – especially if the number is included on the stamp – as an aid in identifying stamps. Over the last 50 years a number of countries (Germany, Belgium, and, more recently, Canada, U.S.A.) have introduced the practice of including the date-of-issue on commemoratives at least. This makes it so much easier

to locate them in a catalogue!

Of course it won't replace the Scott numbering system and one can hardly expect an issuing country to give different number to minor colour, watermark, or perforation changes let alone for errors (now that *would* be suspicious!). However, having a reference number printed on the stamp would make things so easy so long as the major catalogues co-operated by recognizing the system and having an appropriate index. Sad to say, I gather that Belgium has numbered all its stamps for the last 40 years but no catalogue, not even the Belgian ones, will refer to these numbers.

I don't know how the numbers will be allocated but understand that it will likely be done by the authorised issuing entities themselves using an identifying prefix allotted by the UPU.

Interesting to see how things work out.

Bob Watson

The Universal Postal Union

(a heavily edited version of an article in Linn's by Michael Baadke).

The Universal Postal Union is an international organization that regulates the handling of mail between different countries. Its mission is represented by the UPU official emblem which pictures five messengers passing letters around the globe.

Consider this question: If you place a \$1.05 stamp on a postcard and mail it to a friend in France, why should the French postal service bother to deliver it for you? After all, the money you

paid for your postage stamp went to Canada Post, not La Poste, the French postal service. Your postcard will be delivered because Canada and France are both member nations of the UPU. Both adhere to the agency's agreements that provide for the delivery of mail in other countries.

Before the first UPU treaty was ratified, countries had to resolve individual agreements with one another and abide by a tremendous number of complicated postal rates to get a letter or parcel from one country to another. During the middle of the 19th century, attempts were made to establish

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International News...

In the Bruce, Lion's Head (we have members there!) lies on the 45th parallel and shares that latitude with exotic places like Turin (Italy), Bordeaux (France), the Caspian sea and Mongolia.

Above the 60° line, where the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut begin, which goes through Northern Quebec and crosses the northernmost tip of Labrador, there is a world of philatelic excitement.

It is this northern area of the globe we have chosen as a theme or "leitmotif" for our 7th annual Stamp Show which will take place on June 2nd, 2002: "Canada and it's Northern Friends".

North of 60 in Canada means a beautiful but mainly barren landscape, inhabited by few people, and only one stamp to show for it [Scott #1784 [1 April 1999] "Nunavut"].

Going east however, we discover countries, provinces, and states such as: Greenland, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Åland, Russia and the US State of Alaska.

Many of these countries have shown their generosity by sponsoring our club's past shows. In the upcoming show we will focus most of our attention toward these Northern Friends. In the coming month we will do our utmost to get these stamp issuing entities on our side. We know there is a growing interest in stamps from these nations and although only two of them will change to the Euro in 2002, the programmes they have annually are certainly worthwhile, not only to discover, but to indulge in.

In the coming five month, we will feature stamps of these countries and we are asking you to start thinking about preparing displays for our exhibition.

Anything featuring the North will be greatly appreciated. Think for instance: Inuit art of Canada, Bush pilots, The Northern Passage, Winter landscapes of Greenland, Volcanoes of Iceland, Stamps on Stamps of Faroe Islands, Fjords of

Norway, Royalty of Sweden, Cheeses and Beer of Denmark (don't forget Scott # 945 Sept.19,1991, Man cleaning up after dog), Nokia phones of Finland, Windmills of Åland, Russian political scenes, and Scenes of Alaska. **The Sky Is the Limit!**

Now some HOT OFF THE PRESS NEWS:

Greenland will be releasing a total of 15 stamps in 2002, plus 2 booklets and 2 souvenir sheets.

Five stamps will be released on March 5th: two "Norden" stamps about Decorating Public Places, two "Cultural Heritage of Greenland" stamps featuring Anne-Birth, and a semi-postal for the benefit of Crisis Centres.

On June 24th, a block of 4 navigation stamps featuring vessels of importance to Greenland will be issued along with the Europa Stamp 2002 (subject: "The Circus").

On October 21st, Greenland will be issuing a definitive showing Queen Margrethe, (who, by the way, visited Hafnia in Denmark in October), as well as two joint issues with Faroe Islands and Denmark, and 2 Christmas stamps designed by Kunuk Pllatou.

I feel a country which restricts itself to 15 new stamps a year with a total franking value of DKr 121.00 (about C\$ 25.00) deserves a good second look.

Please contact me if you need more information.

I now have to continue buying presents and writing Christmas cards, so my time is up, next month in January the meeting is on the 16th. In the Newsletter before that date you will learn more about Åland plans for 2002, although their first issues are being released on January 2nd (thanks to the Euro).

"JUULLIP NIPITITTAGAA"

From Greenland, A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from me.

Charles van Rompu

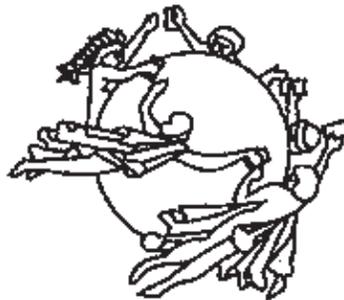
UPU – cont. from p.1

a more efficient system for international mail delivery.

The first congress of what would become the UPU took place in Bern, Switzerland, in 1874, at the request of Heinrich von Stephan, postal director of the Confederation of Northern Germany. Representatives of 22 countries drafted a treaty which included many agreements to reduce and simplify postage rates and arrange for efficient international mail delivery. The basic letter rate was set at 25 French gold centimes per 15 grams, with variations ranging from 20c to 32c permitted.

Many different international mailing issues have been resolved over the years by the UPU, including the colours of stamps intended for international mail, free-franking privileges for prisoners-of-war, and additional improvements in the delivery of international mail.

Since 1948, the UPU has been a specialized agency of the United Nations. The UPU's work today includes helping



developing countries improve postal service and providing advice to member nations on matters of technology, business and customer service.

The UPU central office, known as the International Bureau, is located in Bern. Representatives of the 189 UPU member nations meet once every five years at the UPU congress to decide upon guidelines for international mail handling that make it possible for mail from one country to be delivered in another country. Each year a gathering of 40

elected members known as the Executive Council meets at the International Bureau to coordinate UPU activities between congresses. The director general of the UPU is Thomas E. Leavey of the United States, a former assistant postmaster general of the United States.

The UPU publishes *Union Postale*, a quarterly journal of news and feature articles of interest to worldwide postal agency representatives. A regular philatelic column in the journal focuses on stamp-issuing policies and trends.

Circuits

For as long as I have been a member of the O.S.S.C., “going through the circuit books” has been the staple ingredient of most meetings. As members will appreciate, there are a number of different circuits around and each has its own characteristics with regard to quality of material, variety, and price levels.

At a recent committee meeting the question of circuits was discussed. It was soon decided that before trying to select circuits best suited to the members interests (and pockets), we should know much more about our members’ collecting interests.

Whilst no-one has any obligation to participate in trading through a circuit, getting and returning the books does cost money so it is obviously in everyone’s interests that we try and match members’ interests with the material we request.

With this in mind, perhaps you would care to complete the following survey and return it to Bob Watson (see over for address) or bring it to the next meeting.

Please circle or write in a response as appropriate.

1. How often do you attend OSSC meetings?

8-12 / year 4-8 / year 0-4 / year

2. Do you like looking through the circuit books?

Yes So-so Not really

3. Do you have any stamps that you would consider submitting to a circuit for sale?

Yes Maybe No

4. What is the most amount of money you would be prepared to pay for a fairly priced single stamp from a circuit book?

not more than \$1 \$1-5 \$5-10 more than \$10

5. What is the most you would be prepared to pay in an evening on fairly priced stamps?

not more than \$5 \$5-10 \$10-20 more than \$20

6. In what countries/topics are you particularly interested?

If you have any additional comments and/or suggestions, please feel free to add them. Your input is much appreciated.

Names/ID are not required on returns

Auction

The following lots will be presented for auction at the December 19th club meeting at 8:00pm.

Lot 1 Iceland (1991)

#:721-748 MNH

start bid: \$10.00

val.: \$60

1991 Year Collection – 22 stamps including a “Map of Iceland” souvenir sheet.



[All proceeds to the OSSC – bid generously!]

Lot 2 Lithuania #:?

MNH start bid: \$1.00 val.: \$?

Souvenir sheet of three stamps marking “Ten years of Freedom” depicting colourful flags and youth.

[All proceeds to the OSSC – bid generously!]

Lot 3 Isle of Man (1996?) #: ?

MNH start bid: \$4.00 val.: \$15.00

Golf booklet containing 10 stamps (face value £4.54). Includes a description of all major golf courses on the island, a history of the development of the golf ball and much more. A must for the golfing philatelist!

[All proceeds to the OSSC – bid generously!]

Lot 4 Canada/USSR #: ?

Cover start bid: \$1.00 val.: \$?

Souvenir cover #20 of limited edition made during the Transpolar Joint Soviet-Canadian expedition (March 3 to June 1, 1988). Has Soviet and Canadian stamps and cancellations on both dates along with signatures of participants.

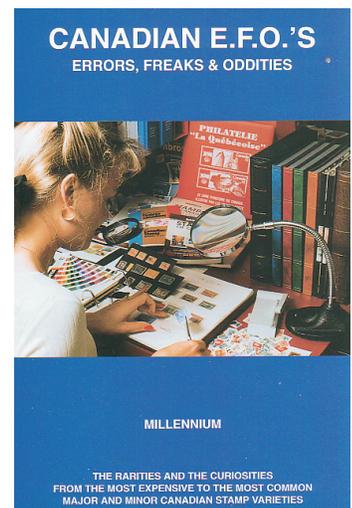
[All proceeds to the OSSC – bid generously!]

Lot 5 Canada

Book start bid: \$5.00

val.: \$14.95

“Canadian E.F.O.’s (Errors, Freaks, and Oddities)” published by Darnell. Includes comprehensive listing of all known errors of Canadian stamps with many illustrations in colour. 60+ pages.



[All proceeds to the OSSC – bid generously!]

At the last meeting...

There was some discussion about whether the club should purchase specialised catalogues for the use of its members. Whilst there was no definite decision made, there did seem to be a consensus that this would not be an inappropriate use of our funds.

Don Nicol generously offered to donate a copy of the new Unitrade 2002 Canadian stamp catalogue to the OSSC Library.

John Cortan announced that he would make the Unitrade catalogue available to members for \$30 (including all taxes).

It was agreed that the theme for the OSSC 2002 Annual Show would be: "Canada and our Northern Friends".

Next Meeting: December 19th.

Hope the weather's kind and everyone is able to take time out just before Christmas and come to the meeting. Look forward to seeing you!

Auction – continued from p. 3

Lot 6 Great Britain (1973) #: 697 – 700
 MNH start bid: \$1.00 val.: \$?
 "British Paintings" set in souvenir package

Lot 7 Great Britain (1973) #: 701 – 704
 MNH start bid: \$1.00 val.: \$?
 "Inigo Jones" set in souvenir package

Lot 8 New Zealand (1974) #: 547 – 551
 FDC start bid: \$1.00 val.: \$?
 "Commonwealth Games" official first day cover.

Auction rules (provisional):

Lots will be on display at the club meeting at 7:00 pm.

The auction will take place at (or around) 8:00 pm

Vendors may not bid on their own lots, though they may set a starting (minimum) bid.

Submitting items for auction:

Any member who would like to submit items for auction should provide a description to the Newsletter editor at least two weeks prior to the next meeting. The lots themselves should be available for display at the meeting at 7:00 pm.

A commission of 10% of selling price is payable to the OSSC by the vendor. The commission is waived if the vendor is a member of the OSSC.

The auctioneer reserves the right to limit the number of lots accepted for any particular auction.

OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

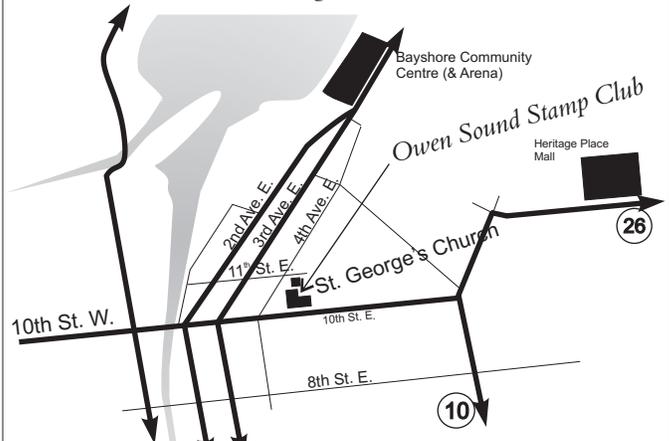
www3.sympatico.ca/rhwatson/stampclub

The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the basement of St. George's Anglican Church (on the corner of 10th St. E. and 4th Ave. E.). The main business of the evening is typically to check out the stamps in circuit books from the North Bay Philatelic Society, the Royal Philatelic Society and/or the Peninsula Philatelic Circuit. Members also trade stamps and covers between themselves.

There are presently about 30 active members whose interests cover just about everything at all levels from beginner to expert. New members are always most welcome.

For further information, see us on the Web or contact any of the following Club officers:

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The OSSC Newsletter

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The OSSC Newsletter is distributed monthly to members of the Owen Sound Stamp Club.

Opinions expressed by contributors to this newsletter are those of the named author and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Owen Sound Stamp Club (nor of the editor).

Contributions are always most welcome. If any reader has news, information, opinions, or announcements that might be of interest to the OSSC membership, please contact the editor.