



Owen Sound Stamp Club

Newsletter

Next Club Meeting: February 20th

February 2002

The OSSC hosted their second Public Awareness Day in the Heritage Mall, Owen Sound, on Saturday 2nd February. Not as many visitors as last year, but there was usually someone looking at the displays or talking with one of the club members at the booth. We look forward to seeing some new faces at our meetings in the forthcoming months. Thanks to all those members who were there to help out!

One of the items discussed at the AGM last month was the way the monthly auction was run. In the end, the majority of members present decided that anyone with material to be put in the auction should present it to the auctioneer (John Cortan) before the start of the meeting and he would allocate lot numbers at that time. This means that the Newsletter will not be listing the lots before the auction but will, instead, include a report of the previous month's auction (as below). Of course, there is nothing to stop any member from advertising any lots he/she intends to submit – and I hope you will! – it's just that they won't be allotted numbers until the meeting.

Another matter discussed last month was whether the Club should buy some of the more expensive philatelic equipment

which would then be made available to members for a modest rental. Obvious items to be included for consideration would be a watermark detector, perforation measurer, and UV lights for detecting tagging.

Whilst there was no specific proposal put forward, the sentiments of the members present seemed to be pretty equally divided over whether the club should get involved in this kind of activity. It seems to me that the next step here is for someone to make a specific proposal which would include cost, source and rental charge for a particular item. This could then be discussed at a future meeting and a decision made.

Bob Watson (President)

Auction Report

The following lots were presented for auction at the January club meeting:

Four Maximum cards (Åland # 20/23). Scott's value for used stamps is U\$1.00 ea. The set is no longer available from Posten. Dealer in Germany asks €8.00 (c. \$11.20) for set. *Sold for \$2.00*

Four official First Day Covers featuring #2087– “The Hand”; #2093– “100th ann. death of João de Deus”; #2109-2114 – “The Cinema”; and #? (six stamps) – “Town Arms” *Sold for \$2.00*

Three official First Day Covers: Sunds church (7/10/94) – stamp #89 (val.: \$1.10); Fossils (9/10/96) – stamp #87, 104; FDC offered by dealer in Germany for €2.10; Mariehamn church (9/10/97); stamp #? – FDC offered by dealer in Germany for €0.50. *Sold for \$2.00*

Ten different official First Day Covers from the Channel Islands (9 Jersey & 1 Alderney). Nicely presented including series of : sea birds; parks (Europa); lifeboats; orchids, royal wedding; and 125th ann. of UPU. *Sold for \$6.00*

Set of 3 1976 Canadian stamps (#684-686) marking the Montréal Olympics. *Not sold for \$3.00*

Series of 5 1970 Netherlands semi-postals (#B457-B461) depicting isometric projections. *Sold for \$3.00*

1978 New Zealand Year Collection – 24 stamps with face value

of NZ\$3.88 in presentation folder. (#635-638; 656-673; B101-102). *Sold for \$7.00*

New Zealand Day official first day cover incorporating the 1974 New Zealand Day commemorative mini-sheet of five 4¢ commemorative stamps (#552). *Sold for \$2.00*

Hong Kong First Day Cover issued on 1st October 1979 using the three stamps (#358-360) issued to mark the opening of the Hong Kong Mass Transit Railway. (Nicely positioned stamps but cover a bit worn). *Sold for \$1.50*

Collection of MNH German inflation issues from the 1920s valued at c.\$18 *Sold for \$8.50*

1993 US booklet pane depicting various locomotives. *Sold for \$2.50*

Canadian (#610:1972) Cornelius Kreighoff Pair – one being “broken door variety”. *Sold for \$5.75*

Advertisements...

A reminder that advertisements of a philatelic nature are welcome in this Newsletter whether it be for items wanted or for sale by members. Just contact the editor (it's free)!

R.P.O.s

What is an R.P.O.? An R.P.O. is a Railroad Post Office. Some collectors may not be familiar with these postmarks or their origins so let's begin with a little history of the railroad in Canada.

The first railway to be built in Lower Canada was the Champlain & St. Lawrence Railroad which ran from St John's, Que., to La Prairie – a total distance of 14½ miles of wooden rails. The company received its charter on February 25, 1832, and the first train of a locomotive and four cars ran on July 21st 1836.

From these humble beginnings, railways spread rapidly across the country.

By 1851 the Champlain & St. Lawrence Railroad had reached Rouse's Point, New York, which allowed access to the U.S. rail system. Six years later stiff competition from the Montreal & New York Railroad resulted in the merger of the two railroads to form the Montreal & Champlain Railroad Company which was, in turn, absorbed by the Grand Trunk Railway in 1863.

By the late 1850's railways were carrying the mail on a regular basis and soon special post office cars were being used for sorting mail while the train was en route. These cars were the Railroad Post Offices.

Over the years about 1900 different railroad postmarks have been documented. Some were in use until the 1960's but most disappeared as the smaller companies were taken over by the larger railroads like the Grand Trunk, Canadian National Railroad, and Canadian Pacific Railroad.

Collecting R.P.O.'s can be challenging as many are extremely difficult to find. You can still find these cancels on individual stamps in dealer stocks or even in purchases of bulk older collections and finds are still possible. Collecting them on cover is another matter – they may be much more expensive with many things affecting the cost. For example I collect



Wellington, Grey & Bruce Railway – heading south

postmarks of Huron Township. As a result of the railway passing through I collect the R.P.O.'s beginning with the Wellington, Grey, Bruce Railroad which came through in 1874. This became part of the Great Western Railway which was, in turn, taken over by the Grand Trunk Railroad in 1893. The Grand Trunk was purchased by the Dominion government in 1921 which turned it over to the CNR in 1923.



Great Western Railway – heading east

I have acquired the Wellington, Grey & Bruce on a card for a few dollars but to get one with a related postmark from Huron



Wellington, Grey & Bruce Railway (31st March, 1876)

Township has driven the price up extremely high as I sadly found out at a recent auction. So, whether collecting Postmarks, Stamps, or Covers the value of the item is not what the other person asks for it, it's what you are willing to pay for it.



Chesley station (Grand Trunk Railroad) at the turn of the 20th century

With the development of air transport and improved highways, the network of Canadian railroads has slowly faded into history. One of the things left behind are the marvellous old railway stations in small town Canada. The architecture of these was very different making them stand out in the community. The sad thing is that many have fallen victim to vandals and demolition. But a few communities have saved these buildings and developed varied uses for them from information centres to museums and I have even seen some converted into homes.

John Cortan

The Faroe Islands

Since 1814, the Faroe Islands have been an integral part of Denmark but for a short time in 1919 (January 3rd – 23rd) the Faroe Islands issued their own stamps. These were actually Danish stamps: the first depicting King Christian X (Denmark #97), valued at 5øre, green, but overprinted by handstamp with a value of 2øre; the second was a bisected 4øre blue stamp (Denmark #88a). These issues were chosen for a Stamp on Stamps issue in 1979 (Faroe #43 & 44)

The second time the Faroe Islands had their own stamps was during WWII when they were under British administration while Denmark was occupied by Germany. These were also Danish stamps issued 1933-1940 and surcharged to reflect Faroe values.

On 30th January 1975, the islands began issuing their own stamps on a regular basis. The first issues of 1975 show a map of the islands made in 1673 and another of the North Atlantic dating back to 1573.

The stamp program for 2002 looks as follows:

February 11th: A minisheet with three stamps showing the Viking Voyages on the Atlantic (value Kr19.50). On the same date they are releasing a series of 4 stamps showing molluscs – a small squid (Kr5.00), a horse mussel (Kr7.00), a sea slug (Kr7.50) and a whelk (Kr18.00).

April 8th: Two stamps with stained glass paintings by a local artist (Kr6.50 ea.). This issue is also part of the 50th anniversary of the Nordic Council and a booklet with 5x2 stamps and 2 postcards are also planned. Also, two Europa stamps (Kr6.50 and Kr8.00) depicting the Circus will be issued. Each country designs its own stamp(s) but the theme has to be Circus. In the Faroe Islands, children had a drawing competition.

June 17th is the 150th anniversary of the modern parliament. Two stamps are planned to commemorate this event. On the same day four stamps with birds-eggs and young birds illustrated by Edward Fugle. September 23th is the last day of importance for stamp enthusiasts when a joint issue with Greenland and Denmark will be unveiled. The Faroe Island will show a miniature sheet with 2 stamps, the ship Magnus Heinason and blue whiting which is part of a major research project in the Faroes. On the same day they will also issue two Christmas stamps – possibly of the church in Gota – which will also be issued in two booklets with local and international rates. Two postcards will also be issued.

The Faroe Islands, with a population of 45,000, is one of the smallest nations in the world. It consists of 18 rocky islands in the middle of the North Atlantic six hundred kilometres west of Norway and three hundred km northwest of Scotland.

The name Faroe means sheep-islands, and rightly so. The Faroese language belongs to the Nordic language group and is closely related to Icelandic, with some Norwegian dialect and much of its own characteristics. Having been isolated from the outside world until the 20th century has contributed to the preservation of old traditions, cultural traits and the language.

The weather is enormously changeable, it was said that during the course of one day, one can experience snow, sunshine, rain, wind, fog and enormous clarity. As a result of the position in the warm currents of the Gulf Stream, the winters are mild and rarely does the temperature drop below -5°C. Summers are cool and during midsummer, the light reigns for 24 hrs. a day. The clouds often hang very, very low and passengers may have to wait for days to leave the only airport, Vagar.

The Faroese are specialists in all aspects of North Atlantic fishing and 98% of their export is either fish or fish products

The Parliament, which sits in the capital, Torshavn, is probably the oldest in Europe, being established over 1,000 years ago. Similar to the other Northern Friends, their stamp programme very much reflects their own country and culture depicting landscape, traditions, folklore, seabirds and ships. As you can see, a wealth of material for the topical collector.

The year-pack, the yearbook and Christmas seals will be available in November.

Quite a lot for a small country!

In the March issue I will focus on a bigger country, Sweden. It's rumoured that they have the most finely engraved stamps in the world – as well as the biggest.

Charles van Rompu

At the last meeting (the AGM)...

First off, we were pleased to welcome two visitors: Rose Anne Evans and Margaret Parke. We hope they liked what they saw and will return on a regular basis.

With regard to business:

- The President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer were re-(s)elected for another year.
 - Bob Ebel agreed to be Circuit Manager.
 - Sheila Gunby agreed to be Librarian
 - John Cortan agreed to be Auctioneer.
 - Kim Scarrow agreed to be Youth Affairs Co-ordinator
 - Alan Charlesworth agreed to be Webmaster
- John Cortan presented some Publicity cards prepared by the Saugeen Stamp Club listing stamp clubs in the area.
- Auction procedures were discussed (see p.1)
- There was some discussion as to whether the OSSC should purchase equipment that members could then rent (see p.1)

Next Meeting: February 20th.

There will be an Auction at 8:00pm.

Upcoming Events

The OSSC's **Annual Show and Bourse** will be at the Bayshore Community Centre on **2nd June**. The theme of the exhibition will be "Canada and our Northern Friends".

The **Oxford Philatelic Society** is hosting its 53rd Annual Exhibition (OXPEX 2001) and the 22nd Annual Ontario Topical Exhibition (OTEX 2001). The event takes place on Saturday, **16th March** at the John Knox Christian School, 800 Juliana Drive, Woodstock, Ontario, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. The show will include a 160 frame competitive exhibition as well as 16 dealers.

Harry Carbert is interested in Canadian postal stationary and would be pleased to hear from anyone with such material for sale. 986-2936.

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 present it to the Auctioneer before the start of the meeting. Including a written description would be most helpful. The auctioneer reserves the right to limit the number of lots accepted for any particular auction.

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.

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 trade, buy, and sell stamps and philatelic material. An auction is held at 8:00pm.

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.

Annual Membership fees: Full: \$10; Family: \$15; Junior: Free. In addition, all members and visitors are asked to contribute 75¢ each meeting which is passed directly to St. Georges's Church in appreciation for allowing us to use their room.

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.

For further information, contact any Club officer:

President:	Bob Watson	(519) 376-1270
	327 11th St. W., Owen Sound, N4K3S9 email: rhwatson@sympatico.ca	
Vice-Pres.:	Charles van Rompu	(519) 538-4673
	305 Trowbridge St. W., Meaford, N4L 1K8 email: Cvanrompu@aol.com	
Sec./Treas.:	Bob Ford	(519) 376-4788
	721 8th Ave E., Owen Sound, N4K3A5 email: robford@log.on.ca	
Auctioneer:	John Cortan	(519) 395-5817
	P.O. Box 295, Ripley, N0G 2R0 email: royaloak@hurontel.on.ca	
Circuits:	Bob Ebel	(519) 534-5024
	P.O. Box 1294, Warton, N0H 2T0	
Librarian:	Sheila Gunby	(519) 371-6146
	756 15th St. E., Owen Sound, N4K 1X6 email: gunby@bmts.com	
Youth Affairs:	Kim Scarrow	(519) 372-1597
	RR2, Kemble, N0H 1S0	
Webmaster:	Alan Charlesworth	
	email: Alan_charlesworth@canada.com	
Newsletter Editor:	Bob Watson	(519) 376-1270
	327 11th St. W., Owen Sound, N4K 3S9 email: rhwatson@sympatico.ca	

