



Owen Sound Stamp Club

Newsletter

Next Club Meeting: March 20th

March 2002

The OSSC will be holding its annual Show & Bourse on June 2nd – still some time away but not too soon for us all to be thinking about the “Show” part at least! The theme for this year’s show is “Canada and its Northern Friends” which is designed to give some focus both for the exhibitors and our attempts to find sponsors for the event. As Charles van Rompu has made pretty plain in his monthly articles, “our Northern Friends” refers to those countries with parts lying on (or at least near) the Arctic Circle.

Now, the members of our club have not been noted for clamouring for display space when it comes to the show, but I hope you will all at least consider the idea of putting together a few pages to show anyone interested how you approach stamp collecting.

And that, it seems to me, is what it is all about.

In our club it is unlikely that any two members enjoy the hobby in the quite the same way and yet (I would very much hope) no one would think anyone else’s approach is “wrong” but rather “interesting”. A show like ours is a tremendous opportunity to demonstrate our personal approach to the many aspects of stamp collecting both to other club members and the many non-members who come to our show each year.

Probably no-one will say, “Hey, that is a fantastic display! I’m

going to make one just like that.” but quite possibly someone might say, “That’s an interesting approach but would be even better if . . .” and off they go all enthusiastic and inspired.

Sure, putting together a display does involve work but only for a limited time (2½ months, in this case!), and the end result is always worthwhile.

If anyone reading this would like to put something together but is not quite sure how to start, I will bring copies of some of last years displays to the March meeting to remind you of what was done then.

Oh – and as far as this show goes, if you really feel that you have nothing relating to the North, don’t let that stop you. The idea of our themes is to help potential exhibitors, not restrict them.

Bob Watson (President)

I am the greatest traveller in the world. I have travelled from North to South, through every latitude and longitude . . . on sledges, camel’s back, horseback, by all kinds of transport on sea, on land and by air; even in submarines, airships and space rockets.

I am also the largest art gallery in the world. Here you will find heroes and heroines from mythology, and I can show you famous or obscure people in history: kings and queens, pharaohs and presidents, princes and princesses, poets and patriots, emperors and explorers, athletes, architects, aviators, artists and adventurers, tribal chiefs, inventors, musicians and martyrs, dramatists and novelists, shahs, sultans, saints and sinners. You can also see the fabulous images of the phoenix, the unicorn, dragons and centaurs.

I am the largest art museum in the world, and at the same time the best miniature encyclopaedia. I can show you hamlets, towns, countries and continents, or take you to the remotest places on earth. I depict mountains and valleys, oceans, rivers, lakes, waterfalls, geysers, harbours, bridges and dams; primitive canoes, ships and modern transatlantic liners,

monuments and statues; castles, cathedrals, churches, mosques, temples and ruins, as well as all kinds of transport from the motorcar to the dirigible, from the steamboat to the space rocket. I cover all types of sport, occupations, customs, sacred rites and ceremonies, and nearly every kind of bird, animal, fish, fruit and flower.

I show the horrors of war, the blessings of peace, the rigours of emigration, the affliction of poverty, and the scourge of hunger. I can illustrate the adventures of Don Quixote, fairy tales and legends from every civilisation. I bring to you symbols of our art and culture, industry’s natural resources, commerce, agriculture and architecture, and all mankind’s struggles. I commemorate expeditions and voyages, discoveries and inventions which have made life worth living.

Millions of men, women and children stand enthralled before me. They find pleasure, relaxation and enchantment in my infinite variety.

What am I? The humble postage stamp!

submitted by John Cortan

“Our Northern Friends”: Sweden

As promised this issue will feature a large Northern Country: Sweden.

Sweden has a postal history which goes back to 1855 when they issued their first 3 Skilling banco, blue green stamp.

In those days, 48 Skilling banco equalled 1 Rixdaler. The Skilling banco was replaced by the Öre in 1858, when 1 Rixdaler was divided into 100 Öre. This again was changed in 1874 when the Rixdaler was renamed the Krona, as it still is today.

Sweden is particularly renowned for its engraved stamps. Engraving is an art process where lines, dots and dashes are cut into a soft metal plate with a tool called a burin. The engraving is done life-size and in mirror reverse. Up to 10 lines per millimetre are cut at a depth varying from 0.01 to 0.08 mm, to give the effect of shadows, highlights and contours. Because engraving requires long years of study and extended periods of apprenticeship, it is used for high security documents, such as postage stamps and banknotes. The whole process, including the multiplication and the preparation of the printing plates takes between 4 and 6 weeks per engraving. Most of the world's stamp production these days is now done by a photographic process, which does not require the painstaking skills, accuracy and experience of a master engraver. On March 17, 2000 Sweden issued the world's largest stamp showing the central part of David Klöcker Ehrenstrahl's painting from 1695: “Great Deeds by Swedish Kings”. The 50.00 Kr. issue itself would not have made history, if this stamp would not have been engraved by a master who has been artistically compared to Rubens and Rembrandt. This master is quoted as saying, “If this one, my thousandth, in my eightieth year, is so great, wait until you see what I will do when I reach one hundred.” And he could be right. Today, he has already engraved more than 1,050 stamps,

dozens of banknotes, and a large collection of art and decorative pieces. He is honoured by the Guinness Book of Records, in which he is listed, no less than three times.

- Engraved his 1,000 th stamp;
- Engraved the largest engraved stamp ever issued; and
- Engraved stamps for more countries in the world than anyone else (he did 28 countries).

“Who is this guy?” you might ask.

It was on October 22, 1921, that Czeslaw Slania was born in Katowice, in Southern Poland. Slania entered the Academy of Fine arts in Krakow in 1945 and, having completed his studies, joined the Polish Stamp Printing House. His first stamp was issued in 1951 (not sure: Scott #498 or 527). He escaped to Sweden in 1959 and engraved his first Swedish stamp the same year. He joined the Swedish Postal Service and has been appointed Royal Court Engraver by Sweden, Denmark and Monaco.

If engraving was an Olympic event, he would have gotten gold medals. He set a record when he finished the portrait of the assassinated Prime Minister, Olaf Palme in 5½ days. Our club's 2002 show-announcement card includes a large Swedish stamp



Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the Paris Commune. The portrait should have shown General Jaroslaw Dabrowski, but shows by mistake the composer and pianist Henryk Dabrowski. This is the first stamp ever engraved by Czeslaw Slania.



“Great Deeds by Swedish Kings” — Czeslaw Slania's 1000th stamp at original size.

[This low resolution reproduction doesn't do the original justice but is the best I could find. Ed.]

(Scott #1286) which is part of a series of 6 issued May 7, 1979. This one shows the tourist steamer *Juno* in the Göta Canal. This waterway bisects Sweden, running 385 km between Gothenburg on the West coast to Norrköping on the East and is 26–29 metres wide with 58 locks. Like our Trent-Severn Waterway, the Göta Canal now carries little commercial traffic but is popular for recreation and tourism. The stamp is a good portrait of the beauty of the canal.

Hot late news:

On March 21, Sweden will release a booklet of 4 stamps showing the Hanseatic town of Visby and three stamps showing relics from Viking days, found in and around Birka, near Stockholm.

Our own stamp-show was reason enough for the Swedes to use that same week to celebrate the 750 th Anniversary of Stockholm, Two stamps to commemorate the event will also be issued.

March 23 is the day for their Norden

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cont. from p2.

Issue, an issue they do together with 7 other Northern countries, More about this in April issue when we will also look at Denmark.

Question:

What does PIGERNE ILUFTHAVNEN mean in English?

For the first person who can drop me a line or E-mail the answer, a set of 4 prints "Birds of Canada" is their prize.

Trust me it is not "Pigeons on the Airport".

Charles van Rompu

Czeslaw Slania

Ann Mette Heindorff has assembled a remarkable Web site devoted to Czeslaw Slania's Engravings titled "Exploring the World of Czeslaw Slania" which includes images of virtually all his stamps as well as some of his other engraved work. The URL is: <http://w1.1323.telia.com/~u132301426/>



Czeslaw Slania at work.

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.

Auction Report

The following lots will be among those presented for auction at the March meeting (if accepted by the Auctioneer):

Monaco: Scott # 555, 605, 881, 1050, 1074, 1077, J58, J59, J60, and J62 (10 stamps). ‡

Lithuania: 1 card / 2 stamps; used; Issued Oct.9,1999; depicting Sword and Army commander. ‡

Lithuania 1 card / 3 stamps; used; Issued May 25 1996; depicting Folk dresses. ‡

Lithuania 1 card / 2 stamps; used; Issued April 12, 1997; Europe. ‡

"Canadian E.F.O.'s Errors, Freaks and Oddities" (New): Publ. by Darnell Retail \$14.95 ‡

Iceland: 1992 Year Collection; 14 stamps, 1 block of 4 and 1 Mini-sheet (Total of 20 stamps). Scott #s 749 – 765, plus two sport stamps issued Feb. 20 1992, not found in Scott. ‡

Isle of Man: 1 booklet of 10 stamps; Lighthouses, Issued Feb. 27, 1997; MNH; cat val: U\$15.00 ‡

Isle of Man: 1 Booklet with 13 stamps; Mountain Railway 1895-1995; Scott # 623/627; cat val: U\$15.85 ‡

Canada: Lunar New Year Rabbit Souvenir sheet Unitrade #1768 NH.

Canada: Souvenir sheets OVERPRINTED '99 LOGO Unitrade #1768 I

Canada: Dragon 2000 Souvenir sheet MNH

Canada: Used 20¢ Special Delivery 1930 ; Scott# E4; cat.val. \$15.00.

New Zealand: 1974 NZ Day FDC with 5x4¢ stamps on souvenir sheet.. Scott #552 cat val: \$3.00

U.S.A. Miscellaneous older BOB items including Postage Due, Special Delivery, Documentary, Proprietary, and Dept. of Interior.

U.S.A. Miscellaneous clipped postal stationary stamps. ‡ indicates all proceeds go to the OSSC – bid generously!

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

- Monaco souvenir sheet of 6 MNH depicting St. Peter and Paul by Rubens issued 1997. Sold for \$1.50
- Lithuania (1995) FDC with three castle stamps Sold for \$2.25
- Lithuania (2000) FDC minisheet Sold for \$1.00
- Lithuania (1998) Card with two sports stamps - one MNH, the other FDC Sold for \$1.00
- Lithuania (1998) Card with two poet stamps - one MNH, the other FDC Sold for \$1.00
- Germany (1996) Card with one FDC stamp (#1995); cat. val. \$0.65 Sold for \$1.00
- Germany (1997) mini-sheet of 4 stamps (used) Sold for \$2.50
- Germany (1999) card with one FDC stamp Sold for \$1.50
- Winnie the Pooh sheet/booklet Sold for \$14.00
- Eaton's booklet. Sold for \$4.00
- Hong Kong/China last day/first day covers Sold for \$5.00
- Canada 25 covers Sold for \$2.00
- Canadian assorted BOB stamps. Sold for \$7.00
- Canada framed 1987 collection Sold for \$22.00
- Stamp drying book (nearly new) Sold for \$12.00

At the last meeting...

Kim Scarrow announced that she had been in contact with a couple of schools about promoting the hobby of stamp collecting among young people. She had set up a display in one school and looked forward to learning of the reaction in due course.

John Cortan suggested that 10% of the proceeds of the monthly auctions should be added to the \$1/attendee donated to the church each month. There was discussion but no consensus and no motion proposed.

Bob Pike presented books from the Peninsular Philatelic Circuit.

Next Meeting: March 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".

Old Postcard Sells for \$44,300

A postcard, believed to be the world's oldest, with a humorous drawing of postal clerks seated around a large inkwell fetched \$44,300 at an auction Friday, a stamp dealership said.

The postcard, which dates from 1840 and carries a rare Penny Black stamp, was bought by collector Eugene Gomberg bidding by phone from Riga, Latvia, a spokesman for the London Stamp Exchange said.

The hand-colored card was addressed to "Theodore Hook Esq., Fulham," a playwright and novelist.

It pokes fun at the postal service by showing a group of post office "scribes" with pens in their hands seated around an enormous inkwell. It was probably sent by Hook to himself for his own amusement.

The significance of Hook's card was not realized until last year, when an expert discovered it in a stamp collection.

Until then it had been thought the postcard was invented in Austria, Germany or the United States in the 1860s, said the London Stamp Exchange spokesman.

He said the card and stamp have been authenticated by the British Philatelic Association.

News Report from UK Daily Telegraph

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 \$1 each meeting which is passed directly to St. George'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.

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