



Owen Sound Stamp Club Newsletter

Next Club Meeting: April 17th April 2002

Electronic Philatelic Accessories

At the January meeting one of the subjects that came up for discussion was the question of whether the OSSC should buy some of the more expensive equipment available to stamp collectors – like electronic perforation gauges or watermark detectors. It was suggested that members might not use such tools very often, but having them available (for a reasonable fee) when working on a project would be most helpful.

With all this in mind I have tried to find out whether such tools really are worthwhile – without a great deal of success!

Starting off by looking at electronic perforation gauges, I have only been able to find one: the Perfotronic, made by Safe of Germany. From the picture, this device works by sliding the stamp into a slot on the machine and the perforation count (to the nearest ¼) is displayed immediately. The price of the unit varies considerably but is typically about U\$350 + 15% (postage) + taxes – in other words, it would probably require a cheque in excess of \$600.

This machine cannot work with stamps on covers or when mounted and, it seems to me, that it is really designed for the person with a stack of common stamps looking for the one in a hundred that has a different perforation from the norm.

I have talked to some dealers about this machine and most said they had heard of it but none had ever actually used one or heard of anyone who had.

My feeling on this is that for such an investment we would need to be confident that:

- a) The unit was everything the makers claimed for it;
- b) It was robust and completely trouble free;
- c) That club members would want to use it regularly and be prepared to pay something like \$10/month to do so.

Maybe this subject can be discussed further at the next Club meeting.

Bob Watson (President)

Show Report: Oxford Stamp Club

On March 16th, we travelled to Woodstock for the Oxford Stamp Club Exhibition and were pleasantly surprised to see the large number of frames set up. We were given a ballot to choose our favourite exhibit and we both felt that *Soliloquy of a Postage Stamp*¹ was totally AWESOME! It told the history of Canada in travel, science, sports, flora and fauna and the history of our country. It travelled through the frames telling its story and on the last of the eight frames it said, “but I’m only a Postage Stamp”.

They sold tickets for door prizes and Bill was lucky enough to win a commemorative sheet of US stamps called “Roaring Twenties”.

There were sixteen vendors and the event was held in the gym of the John Knox Christian School. The stage was set aside for the children and there were many avid collectors.

This was the 53rd annual OTEX Exhibition & Bourse and by the time we have our 53rd, we will be just as big!

Bill & Barb Shelson



View of the Oxford Stamp Club Exhibition – There was a total of 68 six page frames at the show.

¹ See last month’s Newsletter (p.1) for the “Soliloquy of a Postage Stamp” -- Ed.

Pigerne I Lufthavnen

Pigerne I Lufthavnen, is Danish for “The Girls in the Airport”. On March 23, 2002 Denmark will be issuing its contribution to the Norden series. Every three years the Nordic countries issue stamps with a common theme. The theme for 2002 is “Contemporary Art - Decorating Public Spaces”.

Although this series of Nordic stamps was due in 2001, the Nordic Postal services decide to make the issue coincide with this year’s 50th Anniversary of the Nordic Council.

For the Danish contribution I have to take you to Copenhagen’s Kastrup International Airport. To Terminal 3, to be exact, next to a busy escalator. Two life-size bronze sculptures created by Hanne Varming are placed on the second floor of this terminal, taking a view of the floor below over a balustrade, as of two transitory passengers stopped for a moment. Denmark’s contribution to the Nordic stamp issue show photos of the two sculptures and will have a value of 4.00 and 5.00 Dkr (c. \$0.80 & \$1.00).

On the same day they will issue a single semi-postal (of Dkr 4.00 + 0.50), from which a National Association for development impaired Danes will benefit. They will also issue three Postage Labels on that day.



“Pigerne I Lufthavnen” – booklet cover. The stamps are sold as singles, and the 4.00 Dkr-stamp also in a booklet pane of 10 stamps. The 4.00 Dkr stamp is for a 20g-letter domestic rate, and the 5.00 Dkr-stamp is for a 20g-letter to Europe, including the (Danish) Faeroe Islands and Greenland.

A Note on Stamp Colours...

There was some discussion on the Internet recently regarding “official” stamp colours which I thought might be worth passing on.

In 1898 the Universal Postal Union issued rules to standardize the colour of stamps for certain basic rates so postal clerks in any country could tell if the postage on a letter was properly paid.

While we are on the subject of these Nordic joint issues, some of them are really small pieces of Art. Greenland issued two stamps on March 5, 2002. A 31.00 Dkr showing a Snow Sculpture, from the Nuuk Snow Festival, the head of a whale coming through the ice, as well as a Dkr 1.00 stamp, depicting “Stone and Man”. A view of a rock formation in Qaqortoq, South Greenland, in which artists from seven Nordic countries transformed a rock wall into a gigantic sculpture gallery during the summers of 1993 and 1994. Today 31 works of art are chiselled out and many more are expected to be created as time goes by.



Åland and Finland, will be the last two, to issue their contribution. Åland will show a 12m long steel structure, which resembles an upside down keel of a boat. This structure was made by Stefan Lindfors, an internationally renowned designer who works out of both Helsinki and New York. It is called “Radar II” and is at the Eastern Harbour of Mariehamn. In “Letters to the Editor” in the local papers, it was also called “An unlawful waste of resources on a piece of junk”. Finland’s stamp will show an €0.60 depiction of “The Sibelius Monument”. This monument in the Sibelius Park is one of the city’s biggest sightseeing destinations. Since the stamps of these last two only come out on May 3rd, the availability of the Nordic Set, which will have all Nordic issues, cancelled in the various countries, and accompanied by interesting information, will also be delayed till that date,.

If any one is interested in obtaining any of the stamps, discussed or not, please ask me, I have information available. The Nordic set is priced at €10.70 which is about \$15.00.

Charles van Rompu.

The colours were green for a domestic post card, red for the first weight unit of a domestic letter, and blue for the first weight unit of an international letter.

Now, such rules are just made to have exceptions and there were many.

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Show Report: North Toronto Stamp Club

I attended the North Toronto Stamp Club's 59th annual exhibition and bourse, a two-day affair held on March 23rd – 24th at the Civic Garden Centre-Edwards Gardens, Don Mills.

The host club had an excellent table with their members' circuit books. Lots of value in these books. Quality stamps at quality prices.

The bourse had 22 dealers, and I was unable to visit with all of them during the time I was in attendance. I was still able to obtain a few items for my collection.

Admission was free along with a program showing a floor plan of the hall and a free door prize ticket. The tables were numbered and dealers assigned. The program listed all the dealers and their specialities. The table layout used available space better than in our hall and dealers were limited to 2 tables.

The 32 frames of exhibits (7 exhibitors) were front and centre on the stage of the hall. I found that the lighting caused a glare on the plastic frames making the exhibits hard to see. The exhibits were still an excellent display with a variance from cancels on small Queens, covers. Postal outlets, unemployment insurance stamps and postage dues.

The show was most likely a success although the comments from the dealers indicated that attendance was down on the second day.

Another show is scheduled for Saturday, June 22nd, 2002 (1 day) at the same hall. I plan to attend.

Bob Ford

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The U.S. followed the rules until 1933, when the domestic letter rate went from 2¢ to 3¢. For some reason the U.S. Post Office stopped using red as its current letter rate value and entered its "Purple Period".

One correspondent pointed out that these colour guidelines didn't take special treaties into account. For example:

...on October 1, 1908, a postal treaty between the UK and the USA went into effect that allowed LETTERS but NOT postcards that travelled DIRECTLY from one country to the other to be paid at DOMESTIC rates, i.e., 1d. and 2¢ respectively. Soon, a treaty between the US and Germany provided the same rate concession on mail between Germany and the US, IF the letter travelled on a German or US ship going DIRECTLY to Germany or the US...

It seems to me that the use of such colour coding was more a means for postal clerks to check postage rates against destination on outgoing mail than to help them decide if mail from abroad had been correctly stamped.

[How is "Postage Due" collected on international mail, anyway?]

Bob Watson

Auction Report

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

- Canada** 1983 "Stick 'n 'Tick" label; Scott #1-ST; cat. value: \$6.00 *min bid: \$2.00*
- Canada** 1984 Pair of "Stick 'n 'Tick" labels; Scott #2-ST; cv: \$8.00 each *min bid: \$4.00*
- Scott's catalogues** - v.1 1993, v2-4 1992 *min bid: \$1.00*

The following were among the lots presented for auction at the last meeting:

- Monaco: (10 stamps) *Sold for \$1.00*
- Lithuania: 1 card / 2 stamps; used; Issued Oct.9,1999; depicting Sword and Army commander *Sold for \$2.00*
- Lithuania 1 card / 3 stamps; used; Issued May 25 1996; depicting Folk dresses. *Sold for \$2.00*
- Lithuania 1 card / 2 stamps; used; Issued April 12, 1997; Europe.. *Sold for \$2.00*
- "Canadian E.F.O.'s Errors, Freaks and Oddities" (New): Publ. by Darnell Retail \$14.95 *Sold for \$13.00*
- Iceland: 1992 Year Collection *Sold for \$5.00*
- Isle of Man: Lighthouse booklet *Sold for \$9.00*
- Isle of Man: Mountain Railway Booklet *Sold for \$10.00*
- Canada: Year of Rabbit Souvenir sheet *Sold for \$1.00*
- Hong Kong: Year of Rabbit Souvenir sheet *Sold for \$4.50*
- Canada: Dragon 2000 Souvenir sheet *Sold for \$2.00*
- Canada: Used 20¢ Special Delivery 1930 *Sold for \$4.00*
- New Zealand: 1974 NZ Day FDC *Sold for \$2.00*
- U.S.A. Miscellaneous older BOB items *Sold for \$4.50*
- U.S.A. Miscellaneous postal stationary stamps *Not sold*
- Canada #598 \$1 *Not Sold*
- Canada #? \$1 Admiral *Sold for \$2.50*
- Australia Millenium collection *Sold for \$5.00*
- UK 149 booklet. *Sold for \$15.00*
- UK Flowers series. *Sold for \$12.00*

Enjoy hunting in
The Queen's Bush.



Build a collection
for the Future
in the Present
on the foundation
of the Past!

**Queen's
Bush
Stamps**

Stamps for Collectors
* postcards *

Old Kinlough Post Office
1236 Bruce Co. Rd. 1
RR 2, Holyrood, Ont.
N0G 2B0
(519) 395-3545

At the last meeting...

We were pleased to welcome two new members: Margaret Papke and Rose Anne Evans.

Next Meeting: April 17th.

There will be an Auction at 8:00pm.

Upcoming Events

Several shows are scheduled in the upcoming months, including:

Kitchener

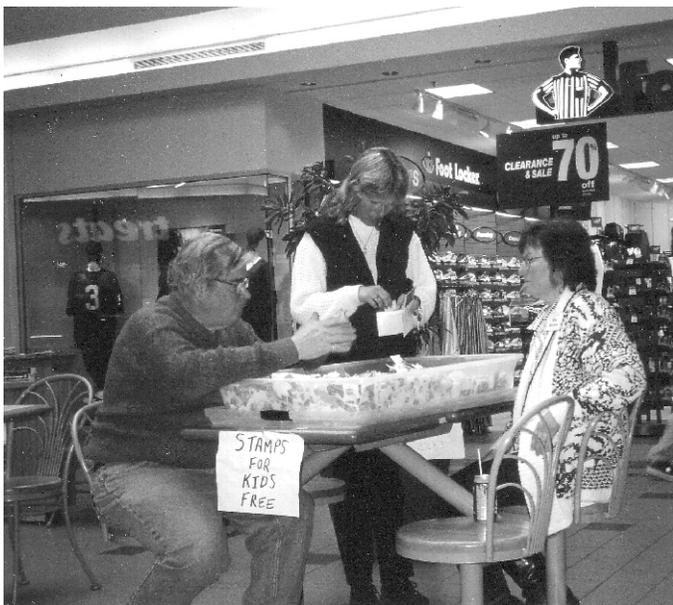
April 12–14: The Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association are hosting their "National Postage Stamp Show" at the Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place, Toronto.

April 26–27: Hamilton Stamp Club Show [no further details].

May 4: The **Saugeen Stamp Club** is hosting its Annual Show on Saturday, 4th May. This promises to be quite the event as it also marks the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Walkerton Post Office. There will be a bit of a party for this (including a cake). Dealers who are expected to attend include: Jim Carde, I.E.K. Philatelics, Guelph Stamp House (Russ Lott), Denis Le Blanc, Polaris (Dan McInnes), K. & L. Stamps, Don Atanasoff, Hugh Anderson, PDG Stamps, and Royal Oak Stamps (John Cortan).

May 5: Stratford Stamp Club Show [no further details].

June 2: 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".



It was good to see the youngsters going for their free stamps at the OSSC Public Awareness Day at the Heritage Mall in January!

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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