

O.S.S.C.



Owen Sound Stamp Club

Newsletter

Next Club Meeting: June 17th

June 2002

2002 Stamp Show & Bourse

Another pretty good show! After a little bit of a slow start (competition from Billy Bishop, perhaps?) there was steady activity until closing time. All the dealers I spoke with said they had a worthwhile day and all said they would like to come back next year.

The silent auction of material donated by our sponsors was well supported and bidding was spirited. The balance sheet has yet to be established but I would certainly expect we will have all the funds necessary to establish and support an active youth program.

The exhibition was our largest yet with many members putting several frames of material on display. To my eye, every display was interesting and each exhibitor had obviously taken considerable trouble to make it so.

So, all in all, yes – another pretty good show!



The "Young Persons" area at the Show

One visitor to our show was Jim Measures who is not only the Secretary of the Saugeen Stamp Club, but an official judge of philatelic exhibitions. Whilst our exhibition was "non-competitive", I couldn't resist asking his opinion of what we had on display and will try to pass on some of his comments.

The most important page in the exhibit is the Title Page (which *must* be top left of the frame!) and this should clearly set out the scope of the exhibit. It is the one page of an exhibit that judges are *required* to read in full. Any statements made here should be accurate and unambiguous. I have the feeling that what happens is that a judge will read the title page and then form a mental image of what he would expect/like to see in the exhibit to come. Surprises are not particularly appreciated and anything missing would be a "disappointment".

Moving on from the title page, the body of the exhibit should be pleasing to the eye both as a whole and page by page. It seems to me that getting the right balance between stamps, write-up and white space is an equal mix of the exhibitors' aesthetic sense and feedback from judges. In broad principle, there should be more stamp than write-up; and the pages should be fairly evenly covered throughout the exhibit – but "hard-to-find" (ie. expensive) items should be given a touch of emphasis by being surrounded by a bit more space than their easier to

find counterparts.

Mounts and borders are a matter of personal taste for both exhibitor and judge. If borders are used, the stamps within should be perfectly centred. Black mounts can be good for showing off clean perforations but should be cut absolutely square and fit the stamp(s) properly.

If an exhibit includes run-of-the-mill stamps – and absolutely nothing wrong with that at club shows – these really should be of "best available quality". Judges would typically be more grade tolerant as the value increased. Good grade expensive stamps in the same exhibit as not-so-good grade common stamps would be noticed!

Finally, I was given the strong impression that an exhibit is not something "knocked up in a couple of weeks" but rather an ongoing project that may take decades (and many, many shows) to perfect.

Hopefully, the above summarises Jim's main points. If any members are interested in exhibiting competitively, maybe they would consider entering some of our neighbouring clubs' shows (I believe the Kincardine Show in October is to be officially judged) – or, even better, help to organize a competitive exhibition for our Show next year!

Bob Watson

Deltiology (or Postcard Collecting)

There were two boll weevils who grew up in South Carolina. One went to Hollywood and became a famous actor. The other stayed behind in the cotton fields and never amounted to much. Thus the second one naturally became known as the lesser of two weevils.

Procrastination is one of my “evils”. Since Bob asked me to give him some follow up on the topic “Deltiology” – the collecting and study of post cards – quite a bit of time has passed. Of course, promises, like crying babies in church, should be carried out immediately!

In the mid 1970s, I met Bob McEvilla at a Central Scarborough Stamp Club meeting where he displayed and demonstrated twenty different varieties of his tremendous collection: early advertising; Arctic Canada, Exhibitions, architecture, patriotics (the most colourful), post offices, and more.

My introduction to post card collecting thus was to augment my stamp collecting hobby and to continue my interest in the history of Markham, particularly picture post cards of the post offices, postmarks, and stamps on postcards.

In 1977, Bob McEvilla, who belonged to several postcard clubs in the United States, founded the Toronto Postcard Club – I was the second member. This club, which has several hundred members, has been at the fore-front of the postcard collecting scene in Canada. Members typically collect postcards either of geographical areas of significance to them or of topics close to their interest.

But now, going back to the beginning of POSTCARDS...

Dr. Emmanuel Hesmarn of Austria was responsible for the official introduction of the “correspondence postcard” into the mail system of the world. Soon, the term “postcard” rather than “correspondence card” became common usage. Dr. Hesmarn’s postcard was officially introduced on October 1, 1869, followed by Great Britain on October 1, 1870. Canada introduced the first Canadian postal stationary cards on June 1, 1871. For many years, postcards were refused as legal mail in those countries which had not signed an international agreement to accept them.

These first postcards were not picture postcards, but rather bore the



The Deltiologist

Postcard collecting is my hobby,

I shall not be bored.

It maketh me to do research on far-away places

It causeth me to correspond with strange people

It keepeth me alert

It leadeth me into new areas of knowledge

for curiosities sake

Yea, though I am house-bound by miserable weather,

I will fear no boredom, for my cards are with me

Their beauty and history enchant me

They show me a pleasant escape

from the tensions of everyday life

They fill my shelves with shoeboxes,

My checking account runneth lower

Surely, their beauty and information

shall surround me all the days of my life,

And I will be listed in the ranks of Deltiologists forever.

[Author unknown]

imprint of a monarch, or an important symbol of that country.

Until the late 1890's, most of the postcards produced for the Canadian market were plain cards simply bearing an image of Queen Victoria. These postcards were seldom collected and remain limited in interest to collectors today.

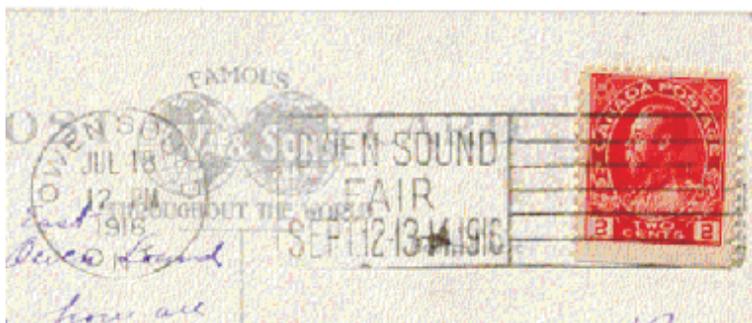
They became more colourful when the railways, such as the Grand Trunk Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway obtained official permission to have a colourful scene on one side of the postcard. Picture postcards were officially allowed for distribution at the Columbian Exhibition in Chicago in 1893. Canada, because of its sparse population was slow to act on official recognition of the picture postcard until allowed in 1895. However, they became popular in Canada during the Boer War years 1899–1902. Two Canadian companies J.C. Wilson of Montréal and the Toronto Lithographic Company produced outstanding views which are collectible today.

The Golden Age of deltiology, was between 1905 and 1911–1912 though there were seven different periods of time as to their issues. People collected them because they were easily obtained and cost only 1¢ to mail whether they were of Railroads and RR stations, shipping, aviation, disasters (the



Above: An early postcard showing 2nd Ave. E. in Owen Sound

Below: The card's reverse with a special cancel



most sought after were photocards of such disasters). Others collected comic cards, or perhaps, holiday cards: Christmas, Valentines, etc. The craze waned when these topical and scenic views became commonplace.

Two large international companies, Raphael Tuck & Sons and Valentine & Sons produced many thousands of scenes for the Canadian market. One large company, Warwick and Sutter of Toronto, produced over 500 different scenes of Canada - all the Provinces and even the North West Territories and the Yukon received their attention. Most scenic views, probably close to 90%, had the appearance of miniature paintings.

Over the years, many small publishers produced fine postcards of local interest, including Harrington Postcard Co. of Toronto (fine photographic cards); International Stationary Co. of Picton (wonderful sepia types); and J.W. Bold of Midland (great photographs of the Georgian Bay area).

During the postcard collecting craze most homes had a postcard album. At the time, foreign scenes were difficult to visualize, thus postcards played an important part as people were introduced to foreign towns and cities. People were thrilled and enchanted to see a variety of topical postcards - planes, trains, etc.

Postcards were a speedy means of communications - a one cent stamp and a one cent postcard could reach someone hundreds of miles away in a single day.

Reg Powell

Trying to please all the People all of the Time...

Choosing the subject matter for a new commemorative stamp is always a tricky business for any postal administration – both the event and the picture must be acceptable to the people it is intended to honour while, at the same time, it should not cause offence to anyone else.

The Israel Postal Authority was recently embarrassed to learn that, contrary to Jewish law, one of its stamps included several instances of the Hebrew name for God. The discoverer of this faux pas told his rabbi who decreed that it was forbidden to buy, possess, use, or sell this stamp and that they should all be ceremoniously buried in the manner of redundant holy texts.

About 15 years ago, South Africa issued a stamp (Scott# 1987:702) which included the word for God in many languages - including Hebrew. The South African Jewish religious court successfully persuaded the authorities to stop selling the stamp.

Israel Post *didn't* release a stamp they had designed commemorating the 10th anniversary of the death of Rabbi Menahem Mendel Schneerson. One religious group maintained that the man in question had not, in fact, died, and another felt it improper for the back of the image to be licked or the front to be cancelled.

In Britain, all stamp designs must be approved by the reigning monarch but sometimes such approval is rather taken for

granted. One stamp was designed in 1998 and sent to the printers before actually being shown to the Queen who was not particularly impressed by her image being engulfed in smoke from a chimney. She was persuaded to pass the stamp on the grounds that it was “too late to make any changes” but I expect officials will pay more attention to “proper procedures” – for a while, at least.



Another stamp in the same series was widely condemned for depicting an inappropriate image that anti-abortion campaigners said resembled a dead foetus.

Then, on a more parochial level, the US has released a series of pictorial stamps publicising the various states. Trying to represent a state on a postage stamp is a challenge and several North Nevadans expressed the feeling that their part of the state was neglected in favour of the south.

Maybe it would be best to stick to a portrait of the head of state with a bit of native wildlife and scenery thrown in for variety!

Bob Watson

From the last meeting...

John Cortan announced that his place of employment was changing in June and that he would unlikely be able to attend many future meetings of the OSSC. Our club will miss his regular attendance but we wish him well in his new work.

Alan Charlesworth agreed to take over John's auctioneering activities. Anyone with any questions about participating in the auction (buying or selling) should contact Alan.

Kim Scarrow announced plans to take packages of stamps and mini-albums to young people in the Grey-Bruce Health Centre. The members expressed universal support for this idea.

Next Meeting: June 17th.

Books from the Peninsular Philatelic Circuit will be available (for sure!).

Auction Report

There was no auction at the last meeting.

I have no details at this time of lots to be offered at the June meeting. The club certainly has plenty of material to offer following the Show but whether some of this will be submitted this month remains to be seen!

Auction rules:

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.

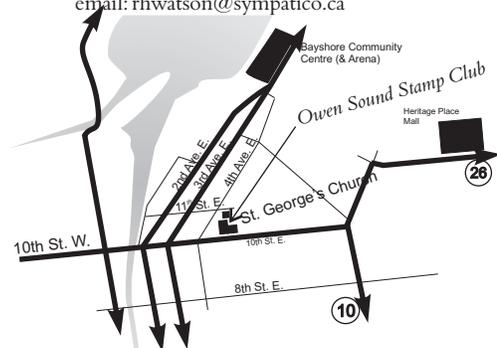
Annual Membership fees: Full: \$10; Family: \$15; Junior: Free. In addition, all members and visitors are asked to contribute \$1 each meeting which is passed directly to St. George's Church in appreciation for allowing us to use their room.

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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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 *

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