

O.S.S.C.



# Owen Sound Stamp Club

## Philatelic Owen Sound Times

Next Club Meeting: May 19<sup>th</sup>

May 2004

Over the last few years the Club has been given substantial numbers of back issues of various philatelic journals. While these contain a great deal of non-dating information (stories behind specific stamps, for example), it is kind of hard to find even if you know exactly what you are looking for. Sheila Gunby began the tremendous task of indexing club material but has now moved on to other (non-philatelic) activities.

At the last show/committee meeting, we had some discussion as to whether these journals should be bound into annual volumes and presented to the Public Library (if they would accept them). This would mean that they would be available to all in a convenient form and members (and non-members) would be able to access these publications through inter-library loan. For those who do not visit the library on a regular basis, perhaps we could include a list of philatelic material in the annual calendar?

If you have any views on this matter, let's hear them at the upcoming meeting.

### Curiosity Corner (1) ...

*I regret that I can give no source for the following news cutting but the event must have occurred sometime between 1953 and 1967.*

Stanley Gibbons Ltd. have recently purchased what is claimed to be a unique musical instrument, a violin made almost entirely from postage stamps.

The body of the violin has been build up from some 30 layers of stamps and glue using approximately 12,000 stamps in total. Newspaper cuttings purchased with the instrument indicate that the original 1950's owner and builder was a Mr. George Inch. He used the current 2d Wilding to give an authentic brown colouring with Dutch and US stamps as a trim.

Ian Brushwood, Stanley Gibbons Retail Director, spotted the violin in a provincial auction whilst waiting for his wife to give birth to their son. "With nothing else to do but wait, I read everything in sight" he said. "I saw the violin featured in the Daily Telegraph and used the hospital pay phone to place a bid."

Stanley Gibbons will add the violin to their growing memorabilia collection which is part to the regular window display at 399 Strand, London, UK.



Think I was not going to mention the show? Must be joking!

Just a week away as I write this so even sooner when you read it. Next Sunday, at the Bayshore!

We have one new dealer coming – John Geddes of Unionville Stamps – to take the place of M.P. Anderson who couldn't make it this year. As always, Charles van Rompu has persuaded lots of postal authorities to support our efforts and there will be some really interesting year sets and other valuable material at the silent auction.

So, bring a friend (or several), and lets make this event another great success!

### Curiosity Corner (2) ...

A 1961 court case in South Africa provided a startling victory for the "flyspeck brigade" of philatelic specialist.

In a Johannesburg court case, expert evidence proved beyond doubt that stamps used on receipts could not have existed at the time that the receipts were purported to have been given.

Mr John Booyesen, a foreman printer of the Government Stamp Printing Works at Pretoria, was giving evidence in a case involving fraud of over half a million pounds, to which the accused had pleaded not guilty.

Inspecting four receipts bearing stamps which had been cancelled in September and November, 1956, and in January and February, 1957, Mr Booyesen said that the existence of minute markings on the stamps allowed him to definitely say that they were not available during that period.

Mr. Booyesen went on to say that he had eventually found a 1957 cylinder which bore markings identical to those on the stamps and that no stamps had been printed from that cylinder until April, 1957.

The court then took on the aspect of a philatelic society meeting at which a specialised display, including enlarged photographs of stamps showing minor varieties were put on display.

# The Show

## Sponsors

Details of sponsorship are still coming in. To date we are most pleased to be able to say that Canada Post has (as with previous shows) provided generous support as have Canada Wholesale Supply and Lighthouse. Of the foreign postal administrations approached, Luxembourg, USA and Jersey Post along with Greenland Post and Faeroes, have all indicated that they will be supporting our show by providing material either for silent auction or to be given out at the Club table.

## Participating Dealers

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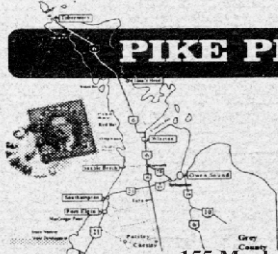
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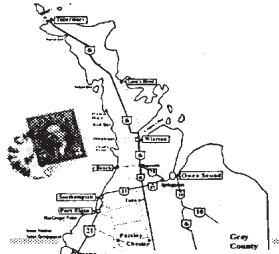
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Famous Philatelic Personalities ...

Herman (Pat) Herst (1910–1999) was a world-class stamp collector, dealer and auctioneer who gained renown for forming his own private mail service in Shrub Oak, New York.

After earning a Master's Degree from the University of Oregon, Hearst began working on Wall Street as a delivery boy but soon gravitated toward Nassau Street which was then the epicentre of American philately. He began dealing in stamps and in due course was able to open his own Nassau Street shop in 1935 when he was just 25. Soon he was staging auctions and cranking out "Herst's Outbursts", his acclaimed newsletter.

He forged strong ties with philatelic circles in Britain and championed the popular trend of collecting stamps by theme (topicals), all the while building a significant mail order business.

When he decided to relocate his business to the community of Shrub Oak (p.674), the 100,000 pieces of mail that followed him there caused the local post office to be elevated from third to second class status. However, deliveries were irregular and so Hearst invoked a little used 1862 law that allowed private post offices under such circumstances. With the help of his children, and his trusty German Shepherd, Alfie, the mail went out from Herst's post office off East Main Street at a rate of two cents a letter.



In 1973, Herst moved to Florida and went on to become Florida's leading philatelist, eventually donating his collection to Florida Atlantic university, which established the Herst Philatelic Library.

During his lifetime, he was a member of 81 different stamp clubs as well as the American Civil Liberties Union, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Citizens for Religious Liberty, and the Baker Street Irregulars. He wrote several books on philately and was the recipient of many "Service to Philately" awards from prestigious societies such as the American Philatelic Society and Britain's Philatelic Traders Society.

Stamp on the Envelope ...

The stamp on the envelope this month is a joint project with the postal authorities of Canada, Greenland, and Norway to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Otto Sverdrup, Arctic explorer.

Sverdrup was born in Åbygd, Norway, in 1854. His uncle owned a fleet of coastal vessels and, in due course, Sverdrup was taken on first as mate, then as skipper.

In 1888 he met Fridtjof Nansen and took part in an expedition crossing the Greenland icecap. It was on this

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May Auction ... — Alan Charlesworth

The following will be made available by auction at the May meeting. Consignor: Dennis Dedels

Lot	Description	Cat val.	Est.
1	Bag of stamps on paper		2.00
2	Bag of stamps on paper		2.00
3	Old approval book with mostly pre-1950 issues. 500-600 stamps, mostly different		8.00
4	Envelope of few 100 mint and used Canada		3.00
5	UNICEF card box with few hundred used Canada with better values		3.00
6	Used Canada, US, WW; many hundred		3.00
7	Package of mint/used mostly US; hundreds		4.00
8	Commonwealth; mostly pre-1960; 100-200		4.00
9	Envelope of World wide; 100's		3.00
10	Env. of mostly pre-1950 Europe		3.00
11	Envelope of World wide; 100's		3.00
12	Envelope of World wide; 100's		3.00
13	13 diff. postcards and covers		6.00
14	UNESCO gift stamps (1951-54)		2.00
15	2 stock cards of used Canada		1.00
16	1 stock card of used Canada (few hundred)		3.00
17	1 stock card of used Canada (few hundred)		3.00
18	1 stock card of used Canada (few hundred)		3.00
19	2 stock cards of used Canada		1.00
20	Stock card GB, Germany used modern, better values		5.00
21	Stock card US, Europe		2.00
22	Stock card of BC, Australia		3.00
23	Few glassines of mint GB, Commonwealth		5.00
24	Old springback album with few stamps		2.00
25	Bunch of books		2.00
26	GB 1d red, 2d blue, imperf's	65.00	15.00
27	GB 1887/92 def. to 1s.	117.00	30.00
28	GB 1902 def. to 1s	132.00	33.00
29	GB 1902/37 def. 2/6 perfin or fiscal cancel (55.00) not counted	31.00	12.00
30	GB 1930/51 defs	20.00	5.00
31	GB defs. 1952	21.00	5.00
32	GB defs. 1955; to £1	40.00	12.00
33	GB defs. 1953-57; plus regionals	21.00	5.00
34	GB defs. 1958-60	21.00	5.00
35	Australia 1913: 'Roos etc.	25.00	5.00
36	Australia: 'Roos to 2/-	44.00	10.00
37	Australia: few hundred		5.00
38	NZ: Victorias	30.00	6.00
39	NZ: remainder 100		5.00
<i>The following lots are pages from an old Minkus Album and stamps are all different and mostly pre-1960.</i>			
40	US: 700 stamps		21.00
41	A-F countries: 300+ stamps		9.00
42	Commonwealth: few hundred		10.00
43	France & colonies: 100+		5.00
44	Germany: 100-200		7.00
45	G-U countries: few hundred		12.00
46	Blank pages		1.00



**Next Club Meeting:** Wed. May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm  
Main business will be an auction of Dennis Dedels' collection.

**Upcoming Events:**  
**May 23 (Sun): Owen Sound Stamp Club Annual Show** at the Bayshore Arena.

**June 11-13 (Fri-Sun.):** Unipex Toronto Stamp Show at the Rameses Temple Shrine Club, 3100 Keele St. (between Wilson and Sheppard), Toronto. Free parking and admission. Hours: Fri: 11.00-6.00; Sat: 10.00-6.00; Sun: 10.00-4.00.

**June 19 (Sat.):** North Toronto Stamp Club will be holding a Postage Stamp Show at Civic Garden Centre, Edwards Gardens, 777 Lawrence Ave. East at Leslie St., **Toronto**. 18 dealers, free admission. Hours: 10.00-4.00.

**Stamp on the Envelope ...** *cont. from p.3*

trip that he impressed everyone not just with his practical skills but also his great physical and psychological toughness without which it is likely all would have perished.

Their next expedition was to try and reach the North Pole and Sverdrup was captain of the "Fram" in its celebrated 1893-6 drift across the top of the world.

However, his relationship with Canada was formed when he spent four years (1898-1902) in ice in the Ellesmere Island region during which time he discovered the Sverdrup Islands as well as mapping large areas of the high Arctic.

The sovereignty of these areas was a matter of dispute between Norway and Canada that was not finally settled until the Canadian government purchased Sverdrup's maps just before he died in 1930 (aged 77). [See Scott #847:1980 - "Acquisition of Arctic Islands" where Sverdrup is *not* mentioned].

In 1907 Sverdrup moved to Cuba where he ran a sugar plantation but returned to the Arctic in several occasions to organise rescue missions for missing expeditions.

Although Sverdrup was internationally recognized for his achievements, until recently he was not particularly well known in his native Norway being overshadowed by Nansen and Amundsen.

In 1957, a monument was erected in Steinkjer, his family's hometown, and Canada was represented at the ceremony by Henry Larsen, captain of "St. Roch" [Scott #777:1978] - the first vessel to traverse the North West Passage both ways.

The three stamp designs used for these commemoratives were prepared by Martin Mörk, who also designed and engraved Canada's \$2 Polar Bear definitive along with some 400 other stamps for Norway, Sweden and Greenland.

A souvenir sheet including the same design but with \$1.40 denomination has also been issued.

<i>Title:</i> "Otto Sverdrup"	<i>Process:</i> 4 colour lithography engraving
<i>Issue date:</i> 26 March, 2004	<i>Paper:</i> Tullis Russell Coatings
<i>Denom:</i> 49¢	<i>Gum:</i> PVA
<i>Layout:</i> Pane of 16 stamps (4x4)	<i>Size:</i> 29mm x 33.5mm
<i>Des.:</i> Martin Mörk	<i>Perf.:</i> 12½ x 13
Morten Stürup	<i>No.</i> 4,000,000
Raymond Bellemare	
<i>Print.:</i> Post Danmark Stamps	

# OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

**Chapter 191**  
**Royal Philatelic Society of Canada**

[www3.sympatico.ca/rhwatson/stampclub](http://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 10<sup>th</sup> St. E. and 4<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.

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