

O.S.S.C.



Owen Sound Stamp Club

Philatelic Owen Sound Times

Next Club Meeting: August 18th

August 2004

Over the last month I decided that I would put my Southern Africa collection into some kind of order. First, I thought, lets just check the atlas and see where all those countries are. An huge old “Times” atlas was able to help with locating not just Swaziland but Griqualand West (and East).

Griqualand? If you’ve heard of it, good for you, I say. Because I certainly hadn’t. And they had their own postal system too (albeit just for just nine years).

The Griqua of Griqualand, it transpires, were a people of mixed European/African ancestry that were shunned by both sides of their families in the locale of the birth (around Cape Town). In the early 1800’s they migrated north across the Orange River and set up their own republic. No-one worried too much about them for a while. Then, in 1867 diamonds were found (at Kimberly) and Griqualand was no longer worthless desert but valuable real estate. Shortly afterwards the territory was annexed by Britain and incorporated into the Cape of Good Hope.

Anyway, the point of all this is that in trying to find out about

Qriqualand, most information came from stamp, flag, and coin enthusiasts with just snippets from “official” sources and encyclopaedias. So, philatelists everywhere, be aware of your contribution to recorded history!

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A couple of months ago, Peter Broadfield raised the question of reusing ‘skips’ – ie. stamps that have been used before but have escaped being postmarked. Specifically, the question raised was of their *legality* (as opposed to morality). Last month Peter showed us the result of correspondence on the matter with various authorities and demonstrated the difficulty of getting a straight (or even intelligent) answer from “people who should know”. I will try and put together a summary of all this in next month’s POST.

Bob Watson



At last month’s meeting, Perry Cockburn declared that he would like to try and put together a topical collection on “Bees (and maybe wasps)”. While no-one present could recall any stamps showing bees, a quick internet search indicated that there were many such stamps about.

However, as anyone who has used a topical checklist will confirm, some people’s idea of, let us say, a bee on a stamp could be considered pushing it by others. For example GB#380 allegedly contains a bee – but darned if I can see it!

Meanwhile, Bill van Trigt is going for “ochre coloured stamps” cheerfully recognising that this will present interesting challenges when it comes to displaying these notoriously hard-to-see stamps

As a followup to the tale of woe at the Royal Mail in Britain reported on a couple of months ago, the postal services watchdog, *Postwatch*, has lodged an official complaint with the Royal Mail after *all* the letters it sent to a group of MPs failed to be delivered. The letters were part of a campaign to encourage people to report misdelivered or lost mail.

A Royal Mail spokesman said, “We have conducted a full investigation and have found no evidence of any problems in the relevant postal areas. As far as we are concerned, the letters are not in our system”.

Despite making a £220 million (c. \$500m) profit for the year 2003-4, Royal Mail’s customer service record remains dismal. Last month, it admitted that it had failed on all 15 of its service targets, including the first-class, next-day delivery target of 92.5%. A recent survey by Postwatch suggested that more than 14 million letters were lost by Royal Mail every year.

Royal Mail faced further criticism recently over hefty bonuses paid to five of its executive directors. Adam Crozier, the chief executive, earned a £300,000 bonus, taking his total pay to £664,224 (c. \$1,500,000).

Friday the “Thirteenth” marked the opening of the 28th Olympic Games of the modern age in Athens. On July 23rd, **Greece** released two numbered souvenir sheets with two stamps each of which they printed 170,000 ea. On the opening day they introduced a joint issue with **China** to commemorate the games of this year and the 2008 Games in Beijing.

Almost every country in the world will use stamps to promote this event. Let's start at home [see also Stamp on Cover, p4.]

Canada, issued on July 28th two se-tenant stamps @ 49¢ featuring women's soccer and the marathon. The last one shows a portrait of Spiridon Louis, (1873-1940) the Greek winner of the 1896, forty-kilometer race from Marathon to the Olympic stadium. If you received the Bell 2004 Summer Olympic viewer's guide, on page 32 is an excellent picture of this Panathinaiko stadium, which hosted the 1896 games.

The women's soccer one, shows a photograph of actual soccer players, young girls from 10 to 13 on a soccer field in the National Capital Region. The designer, Pierre Yves Pelletier, used as a background the name Athens in Greek: !1;! and CANADA.

Liechtenstein, on the first of June already issued a square stamp, a lit torch being carried by three hands, each of a different skin colour. This 85 R stamp was designed by Peter Sinawell and printed by the Austrian State Printing House. In their announcement they stated that: “The Principality of Liechtenstein will be a contender for a medal in Public Esteem”.

Also on the first of June, **Isle of Man** issued a series of five stamps titled: “Olympic Legends - The Games go home to Athens”. Five times Olympic Gold medalist oarsman Sir Steve Redgrave (*Sydney 2000*), is on the 9p. Swimmer Johny Weismuller, who went on to make his name as Tarzan in Hollywood (*Paris 1924*) is on the 25p. Runner Jesse Owens, the first black athlete to win Gold in the 100m (*1936 Berlin*), to the chagrin of Adolf Hitler, is on the 28p. The last two pay tribute to the Dutch sprinter and hurdle athlete Fanny Blankers-Koen, who had trained to participate in the 1940 Olympics but who had to wait 8 long years till 1948 is on the 55p, and John Mark who carried the torch in the 1948 London is on the 43p.

Åland's native son Janne Holmén won the Gold medal for the marathon in Munich in the 2002 European Championships and this event was reason enough for Åland post to issue a special unscheduled stamp on November 1st 2002. Janne will be the third Ålander ever to participate in the Olympics. The other two were Froj Liewendahl who ended seventh in the 1500 metre race in Paris in 1924 and Karl Johan Hellström, a boxer who was in the Amsterdam games in 1928. Åland's first Olympic stamp was issued August 13, 2004. The €0.80 stamp was designed by Jonas Wile. The stamp depicts the Panathinaiko Stadium, which was the scene of the first modern Olympics in 1896. This stadium has 48 rows of seats and room for some 45,000 spectators, Janne Holmén and his fellow contestants in the marathon will be crossing the finish line in this stadium on the last day August 29th.

Ireland issued two stamps, a 48¢ depicting a modern javelin thrower of which 480,000 were printed by Walsall Security Stamp Printers and a 60¢, which shows a classic discus throw. Of the latter one 330,000 were issued. The design was by Finbarr

O'Connor and the issue date was July 22.

New Zealand issued the world's first “Action Replay” stamps. The stamps display an effect of movement which is created through a special printing process called lenticular. This effect is achieved by two or more images being printed together or interlaced into each other. These are printed in reverse on the back of a special lens material. Due to the optics of the lens, your eye is forced to see only a very small area of the lens at a certain angle, so when you tilt the stamp the image appears to move. Four stamps were issued on August 2nd: 45¢ John Walker for his 300 metre in Montreal 1976; 90¢ for Yvette Williams' long jump in Helsinki 1952; \$1.50 for Ian Ferguson & Paul Mac Donald kayaking in Seoul 1988; and \$2.00 for Peter Smell's 300m sprint, Rome 1960. They were designed by Saatchi & Saatchi from Wellington, New Zealand and printed by Xtreme Graphics USA. They are self-adhesive, die cut, horizontal 45 x 30 mm.



The **United States** issued their 37¢ self-adhesive stamp on June 9th in Philadelphia. They are printed 20 to a sheet. This issue honours the spirit of athleticism and international unity that the games inspire. Artist Lonnie Busch, depicts a runner in a style reminiscent to the artwork on ancient Greek black-figure vases.

Last but not least: **Switzerland**. Karin Fanger-Schiesser of Küssnacht was the designer of two stamps, issued on the 5th of June. One of these, SwFr1.00, shows a female runner, blueish, silhouette, against a background of this, earlier mentioned, stadium. This one will be available until June 30th 2006. Women's marathon was introduced in Los Angeles in 1984. This year it will be held on August 22nd. The second stamp, also SwFr1.00, shows a male runner backed by a photograph of the finish line and an approaching Spiridon Louis in 1896 with jubilant and cheering spectators. This last stamp is the Official IOC stamp and is not valid for private use. It is available on a special FDC which carries both stamps and both cancellations. If you picked up the “Focus on stamps” magazine from Swiss post during our last show in May, you may recall a lot of interesting details and anecdotes of marathons in the past.

I will only give you one:

In Paris in 1924, a Japanese runner participated in the marathon. When he stopped for a drink, he was invited by a farmer to come in and take a rest. The runner fell asleep and woke up the next morning. He returned to Stockholm in 1967 for another marathon and finished the run. This was the slowest time for a marathon. It took him 54 years, 8 months, 6 days, 32 minutes and 20.3 second

Hope you all enjoy the summer; let's not forget the next meeting Wednesday August 18th.

Some Curiosities ...

Some time back, Charles van Rompu talked about very small topical collections. Perhaps here are a couple more to add to his list:

The first could be titled “Stamp on a stamp on a stamp” and the only example I could find of this was a US Special Delivery stamp that shows a letter with the same Special Delivery stamp on it. By blowing up that stamp as far as my scanner will take it, I think I can just make out the stamp on a stamp on a stamp. Fine challenge for the engraver!

An interesting sideline to this is the image of the postman handing a Special Delivery letter to someone who was plainly not the addressee. Leastways, the letter is clearly addressed to “MR AR?????” but the receiving hand looks decidedly as though it belongs to a Ms.



From Australian Stamp News (a long time ago)!

And in Case you were Wondering ...

Are you really the legal owner of the stamps in your collection? The following report was included in the Australian Stamp News sometime in 1991:

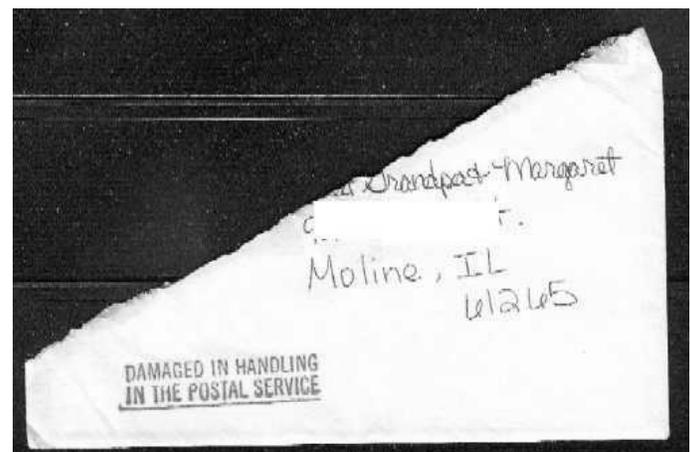
A US collector used valuable high-value stamps as postage on a registered package that was going to a friend. The friend was going to carefully tear off the stamps and return them to the collector. The package arrived safely, but the stamps had been neatly cut off from the package and removed by persons unknown.

The collector filed a claim with the USPS for the value of the stamps on the package. The claim was rejected by the Postal Service with the statement that the government agencies responsibility is to deliver the mail and this was done.

When you mail a package in Germany, the stamps go on a parcel tag, not on the package itself, and the post office keeps the tag on arrival. You can't claim the stamps from the tag - the postal clerk will tell you that they belong to the state (the Finance Ministry issues the stamps that the privatized post office uses and "sells" as agent of the treasurer). In years past, one of the best ways to get quantities of used high value stamps was through state auctions of the mailing tags.

In fact, it does seem that postage stamps (in the United States and Germany, at least) do remain the property of the government both before and after use/cancellation and are classified as "obligations of the state" — ie. they are receipts for government service owed or rendered.

The second idea for a small topical collection is "Celebrating Lawyers". Now, this would not include stamps that depict famous people/politicians who are (or were) lawyers, but simply stamps that are issued to "mark the contribution of lawyers to society" or even to recognise a famous lawyer as a lawyer. A similar collection for teachers, nurses, doctors, engineers, or even police would soon number thousands. But lawyers? Does anyone know of any?



and they're not kidding!

Next Meeting ... Wed. Aug. 18th at 7:00 pm

Nothing special arranged so if you should have any philatelic curiosities, bring them along for a 'Show & Tell'. [Remember Perry Cockburn's 1945 cover?]

Bring along your trading books too.

Upcoming Events:

Aug. 21 (Sat.): Collingwood-Georgian Bay Coin & Stamp Club will be holding their 30th Annual Show & Bourse at Leisure Time Club, 100 Minnesota St., **Collingwood**. Free parking and admission. Hours: 9.00-4.00.

Aug. 28 (Sat.): Muskoka Stamp Club is hosting MUSPEX 2004 at the Muskoka Riverside Inn, 300 Ecclesone Dr., **Bracebridge**. Free admission and parking, door prizes, dealers. Hours: 10.00-4.00.

Stamp on the Envelope ...

As Charles van Rompu mentioned earlier, just about every stamp issuing country has issued something to mark the 2004 Olympic Games and Canada is no exception.

While the designers' challenge is to come up with fresh approaches to the subject, many countries have chosen to mark past Olympians, the first modern games also held in Athens (1896), and/or the games of ancient Greece.

One of the Canadian stamps has managed to incorporate all three of these elements by depicting a photograph of the winner of the 1896 marathon – Spyros Louis of Greece – along with a drawing of a runner from the ancient games.

The other stamp depicts women's soccer which some might say is something of a curious choice. While there is no doubt that Canada has been one of the leading lights in the women's soccer world, for many people the Olympics is primarily about individual performance with the various team sports being more of an exhibition than serious competition. Not only that, but the athletes shown clearly aren't Olympic qualifiers and would be very unlikely to be so until 2012 or so. Anyway, I am sure that somewhere in the Ottawa region there are four very proud girls who have now joined the ranks of "Living Canadians depicted on Stamps".

Pierre-Yves Pelletier's previous work for Canada Post include the six year series of "50th anniversary of World War II" and, interestingly, the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics "spotty" issues.

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|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Title:</i> | "Spyros Louis" & "Girls' Soccer" | <i>Print.:</i> | Canadian Bank Note |
| <i>Issue date:</i> | 28 July, 2004 | <i>Process:</i> | 5 colour lithography |
| <i>Denom:</i> | 49¢ (both) | <i>Paper:</i> | Tullis Russell Coatings |
| <i>Layout:</i> | Pane of 16 stamps (4x4) | <i>Gum:</i> | PVA |
| <i>Des.:</i> | Pierre-Yves Pelletier | <i>Size:</i> | 56mm x 26mm |
| <i>Artwork:</i> | Pierre-Yves Pelletier | <i>Perf.:</i> | 12½ x 13 |
| <i>Phot.:</i> | Photolux Studio | <i>No.:</i> | 4,000,000 |

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. 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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