

O.S.S.C.



Owen Sound

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Philatelic Owen Sound Times

Next Club Meeting: November 16th

November 2005

Canada Post has recently issued a pair of \$1 definitives to replace the Loon stamp of 1998 (Scott #1697) and beautiful stamps they are too. Like the other stamps in the current "Wildlife" high value definitive series, the stamp was engraved on steel by Jorge Peral of the Canadian Bank Note Company of Ottawa. Next month, a pair of \$2 stamps depicting a Peregrine falcon with chicks and Sable Island horses will replace the Polar Bear definitive.

In both cases, the stamps are/will be available in panes of 16 or souvenir sheets of 4. One rather peculiar aspect of the layout of these panes/sheets is that in the panes, the stamps are truly set-tenant in that there are the same number of deer-walrus pairs as there are walrus-deer pairs whether working horizontally or vertically. On the souvenir sheets however, the deer is to the left of the walrus (as in the illustration) on both rows. This means that if you would prefer to mount a pair with the walrus on the left, or a vertical pair, you must get those from a pane. On the other hand, if you fancy a vertical pair of either deer or walrus, you can only get those from the souvenir sheets.

Another aspect of these stamps that intrigues me is that *Details* gives the production figures for these stamps. Now, that's fine for commemoratives but for definitives?? Perhaps this means that when these run out a new design will be ready and waiting? Or, maybe, they don't expect too many to be sold because these stamps are primarily used for parcels which you more or less have to take into a post office to send. There they have one of those 'orrid little labels on it before you have a chance to say something like "Stamps, please".

As with the other stamps in this series, a number of security



feature s have been worked into the design. For example, the deer stamp has some shading as deer footprints while the walrus has the shading as a pair of tusks.

Bob Watson

Stampin' As I See It ←...

Bill van Trig

The importance of your collection should continue – hopefully after you are gone. The careful arrangement of these little works of art represent a part of who you are and the skills you have in collecting, displaying and yes, even investing. The collection represents many hours of your time and should be held in high regard by your loved one and treated with respect when “the time comes”.

Unfortunately, this is often not the case as I have witnessed on numerous occasions family trying to dispose of the collection – almost as a burden rather than a possession that should be prized and a privilege to own.

How many times have you seen disillusioned spouses or children trying to get fair value for a collection that they don't have the slightest idea of its monetary or sentimental value. Certainly all stamp collections have some cash value to a lesser

or greater degree but the sentimental value should outweigh “how much is it worth?”.

As a collector, I feel we should all be responsible to see that our collection lives on the be enjoyed and reminised over by our loved one and not sold to the highest bidder who could not care less for all the hours and love that went into the collection.

Take time to acknowledge the interested son or daughter or curious grandchild or even a good friend who shares your passion. They may serve as the next overseer. This way the collection (which we really don't own but are caretakers thereof) lives on as an important family inheritance, treasured as much as a piece of fine furniture or old painting.

It's up to you: don't let “Your Collection” be dismantled, sold off, and forgotten. Its a small part of who you are and what you were. Let it live on!!

From the President ...

Alan Charlesworth

Let us not forget. Remembrance day has come around again, let us all be grateful for the sacrifices of others that we may live free. If any member has material that relates to the above topic please bring it to the meeting and share it with us.

There was a time when we all could find these at the Woolworth's store or a Rexall Pharmacy or your local Five and Dime. What are they? Errors, errors, errors. We all hear about them but where can we find them? Well, recently I came across some in a lot of mint Canada I purchased as scrap postage. I will bring them along to the meeting and share them with you.

Does anyone have an interest in Steamship post or info on the same? If you do please bring it along as another member has inquired about this recently.

Canada Unitrade catalogues should be in for this meeting according to John Cortan.

We will be having an auction at this month's meeting if you wish to bring along material for sale I will be happy to add it to the end of the auction.

Well, bye bye for now!

In Other News ...

eBay addicts have helped turn around the fortunes of the Royal Mail in Britain with a huge increase in the volume of parcels now sent through the post each week.

The surge in eBay traffic in the past two years has led to a two-thirds increase in business at many post offices across the country.

Of 100 post offices contacted by *The Sunday Telegraph* newspaper, 76 attributed the rise in their custom to regular eBay sellers paying for packages to be sent across the country.

Two thirds of the managers surveyed said that more than half of the parcels were being sent as a result of eBay transactions. Eight attributed three-quarters of their trade to the online auction website.

Over the same period, the Royal Mail has turned a loss of £1.5 million a day into an annual profit of £537 million.

While the turn-around has been attributed to cost-cutting, including 30,000 job losses and the axing of second deliveries, Post Office managers say the money spent by eBay users, who send up to £4 billion worth of goods through the post each year, has played a vital part.

On postal orders alone, which many people use to pay for eBay purchases, a rise in sales of almost 10 per cent in the past year has brought £350 million into the coffers.

Peter Carr, the chairman of the watchdog Postwatch, said the 'eBay effect' should prevent any further Post Office closures. According to Postwatch, 6,000 post offices across England and Wales were facing closure, but many have now been offered a life-line. For example, Blanford Mount Post Office, in Dorset, was under threat but the officer-in-charge there said that several factors, including "more than a 50% increase in parcels due to eBay", had made it viable.

Almost 70% of the post offices surveyed said that they earned between £1,000 and £3,000 a week extra from eBay sellers. At Prettygate Post Office, 10 regular eBay users send between 10 and 20 packages every week.

Research by the Post Office in January found that 74% of people who sell goods on eBay send items via Royal Mail. Richard Roche, the head of multi-channel retail at the Royal Mail, said: "We deliver six out of 10 of the goods ordered online and have first-hand experience of the growth and impact of online shopping; eBay has undoubtedly had a positive effect."

[I understand that the same phenomena has been noted in Australia and don't imagine things are very different here. It's as though eBay was taking on the role of World's Biggest Always-open Flea-Market and Garage Sale - Ed.]



So, which is worth more – an 1868 1¢ “Z Grill” (only two known to exist) or a block of 4 inverted “Jennies” with printing block number (unique)?

In a trade at a level not often seen in our club, it would appear that they are pretty equal!

Bill Gross, a US financier known as the “Bond King” needed the “Z Grill” to complete his 19th century collection of US stamps

making it the only one known to exist. He had tried to buy this stamp before but had been outbid (at \$935,000) by Donald Sundman, president of the Mystic Stamp Company, the last time the stamp was on the market in 1998.

Rather than wait until the stamp came up for auction again, Bill Gross laid down \$3m for the block of four inverted Jennies with the express intention of offering them to Donald Sundman in exchange for the Z Grill.



After the exchange had taken place, Donald Sundman did confess to “a serious case of seller’s remorse” but consoled himself with the knowledge that “I get a wonderful item in exchange”.

What's New ... (Christmas Stamps, Pt 1.)

Charles van Rompu

Each year, the November Newsletter, reflects the holidays and the year end, which is rapidly approaching and we should therefore spend a little time to see what several countries are doing for their Christmas and New-years celebrations.

Canada

November 2nd was the issue date for the annual Christmas stamps. This year is the first time that Canada post chose to use both, secular and religious themed stamps. Both types are only available in booklets, the secular one shows a snowman, portrayed against a background of shimmering snowflakes and northern light. The designer H el ene L'Heureux [whose accomplishments include: The Year of the Rooster (2005); two Art Canada series, Homer Watson and Jean Paul Lemieux, (2005 & 2004), YMCA (in 2001) and the 1999 Hockey Night in Canada]. She approaches the design of a stamp as a "mini-poster". The effect of the glistening snowflakes is reached by using clear holographic hot stamping. They are available in booklets of 12, a total of 40 million were printed; size 24 x 24 mm square. Perforation: kiss-cut 8, only horizontal. Included in the booklet are 12 envelope seals as a bonus. [*More on this next month - Ed*].

The religious theme is reflected in three stamps lithographed in 7 colours, which show us: The 50 ¢ (domestic) modelled after a Canadian cr che master Michel Forest. The 85 ¢ (USA) is a result of the efforts of an aboriginal artist, Keena, while the \$1.45 (International) is featured after life-size sculptures of Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus, created by Sylvia Daoust, who was the first woman in Quebec who earned a living as a sculptor. She regretfully passed away during the stamp's creation process, at the age of 102. All the designs were chosen from among 600 cr ches at the Museum of St. Joseph's Oratory in Montr al. The 50¢ are issued in books of 12, the other two in books of 6 each. Overall design was by Isra el Charney from I.Charney Design Inc. Montr al. A remarkable fact is the three different sizes of the issues: the 50¢ is 24 x 37 mm; the 85¢ is 31 x 39 mm; and \$1.45 is 27 x 40 mm. All are vertical. The figures from the cr ches, used for the stamps, were photographed by Paul McCarthy.

Switzerland

In the past they had serialized art forms in their Christmas stamps – 2004 was the last year of the "Christmas Ornaments". 2005 will see the start of a new four years series: "Christmas Customs". On November 22 they will issue two stamps. A



CHF 0.85 showing a mitre and crosier, symbolizing the importance of the Holy Bishop Nicholas of Myra. (At present Demre Turkey) where he lived around 300 AD. His fame reached Western and Northern Europe by the year 1000 and in 1087 a widespread veneration began, when Southern Italian merchants from Bari, stole his bones and brought them to Bari. A bone from St Nicholas finger was stolen by a Lorraine crusader and brought to St. Nicholas-de-Port (near Nancy, France), where he was later chosen as the patron saint of Lorraine. Besides being the patron saint of Russia and Greece he also became one from the City and Canton of Fribourg, Switzerland. His feast day, December 6th, was reason for a profane tradition rather than a religious one, which involved masks and noise, while a schoolboy dressed as St. Nicholas rode into the city of Fribourg. This advent was banned in 1784 and it was quickly forgotten. In 1906 the Fribourg Coll ge St. Michel, revived the school children procession, which in 2006 will be performed for the hundredth time.

The second stamp, a CHF 1.00 shows Gr ttimannen, a baked figure in the shape of a man with the legs apart, also called "Petit Bonhomme" depending on the region. This custom started as early as the 16th century. These figures are made both at home and in bakeries. A widely held view is that the figure represents Santa Claus in a very simplified form. On December 6th, the post office in Fribourg will have a special cancellation.

 land.

Their second Christmas stamp ever, was issued October 10th and carries  land's catalogue number 210. Design was by the artist Pirkko Vahtero, the same artist who designed the  land church series. This is also  land's second stamp with a hologram. The  0.45 stamp measures 26 x 35 mm, is gummed and has perforation 13+. Cartor Security printers printed all 450,000 of them.

It shows a girl and a boy walking hand in hand along a winter road watched by two great tits (*Parus Major*). The upper part of the stamp is decorated with hologram stars. Besides Christmas stamps, (as is usual in Scandinavian countries), they also issue Christmas seals. This year " land's Handicraft and History", is the theme of them. Five rows of four seals each form this sheet. Issued on the same day as the stamps. These were designed by Talvikki Canin, who was inspired by objects in  land's museum. The proceeds of the seals will go to the Lemland Volunteer Fire Brigade, for life saving Interspiro breathing apparatus and to the United Nations Refugee Agency to improve the social conditions of asylum seekers in the Lithuanian city of Pabrade. 20 seals sell for  3.00 (\$4.35)



Enough for today – Christmas Stamps Pt. 2: next month!

Next Meeting ... Wed. Nov16th at 7:00 pm

Alan Charlesworth will be holding an auction of various philatelic material. As always, if any member has any material to sell or trade, bring it along!

Upcoming Events:

Nov. 12 (Sat.): Cambridge Stamp Club will be holding a Show & Bourse at the United Kingdom Club on International Drive, **Cambridge**. Ten dealers, club circuit books, and children's treasure box. Hours: 9:30-4:30.

Nov. 12 (Sat.): Postage Stamp Show at St. Bonaventure Church Parish Centre, 1300 Leslie St., **Toronto**. 18 dealer tables, free admission. Hours: 9-5.

Nov. 19 (Sat.): North Toronto Stamp Club is hosting a Fall Postage Stamp Bourse and Club Sales Circuit at Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Blvd., Scarborough. Hours 10-4.

Nov.19 (Sat.): Burloak Stamp Fair will be held at the Burlington Seniors Centre, 2285 New Street (at Seneca), **Burlington**. 6-9 dealers; free admission and parking. Hours: 9-3

Nov. 26 (Sat.): Postage Stamp Show at St. Bonaventure Church Parish Centre, 1300 Leslie St., **Toronto**. 18 dealer tables, free admission. Hours: 9-5.

Stamp on the Envelope ...

From July 17th to 31 this year, the Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA) held their 11th World Championships in Montreal. To mark the occasion, Canada Post issued a pair of stamps depicting two of the many events held in those two weeks.

Of course, those championships were very nearly not held in Montreal because FINA was concerned that the organisers were not likely to get sufficient sponsors to fully back the event. However, at the last minute Montreal was able to muster some extra cash and everything went ahead as originally planned.

So what would Canada Post have done if the Championships had been cancelled? Bearing in mind that the stamps had probably been designed, if not printed, before the final decision it would have been very expensive to just abandon the project. Maybe the "Montreal" would have been replaced by the new host city or maybe they would just have been issued anyway.

By the way, in *Details* I notice that "Canada" is shown in olive and "Montreal 2005" in red whereas in the actual stamp it is the other way round.

Also, the stamps are designed to look ok whichever way they are positioned on an envelope (or in an album).

<i>Series:</i>	11th FINA World Championships	<i>Print.:</i>	Lowe Martin
<i>Title:</i>	a) "Diving" b) "Swimming" (Butterfly)	<i>Process:</i>	Lithography (7 colours)
<i>Issue date:</i>	4 th July, 2005	<i>Paper:</i>	Tullis Russell Coatings
<i>Denom:</i>	50¢	<i>Gum:</i>	PVA
<i>Layout:</i>	Pane of 8 stamps	<i>Tagging:</i>	General, 4 sides
<i>Des.:</i>	Fugazi (Montreal)	<i>Size:</i>	48 mm × 24 mm
		<i>Perf.:</i>	13½
		<i>No.</i>	3,000,000

OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB
Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

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 20 active members whose interests cover just about everything at all levels from beginner to expert. New members are always most welcome.

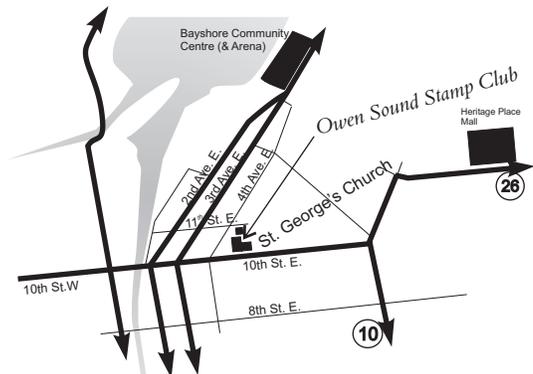
Annual Membership fees: Full: \$10; Family: \$15; Junior: Free. In addition, all members and visitors are asked to contribute \$1 each meeting which is passed directly to St. Georges's Church in appreciation for allowing us to use their room.

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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OSSC Library:

Books in the OSSC Library are available for loan to any member (but please return at the next meeting).

Present holdings include:

- Postage Stamp Catalogue* - Scott (2000)
- Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* - Unitrade (2000)
- Concise Catalogue of Great Britain Stamps* - Stanley Gibbons (2004)
- Catalogue of Canadian Stamps & Supplies* - CWS (2005)
- Canadian Errors, Freaks, and Oddities* - Darnel
- The Edward VII Issue of Canada* by G.C. Marler (Nat. Postal Mus., 1975)
- The Admiral Issue of Canada* by C.C. Marler
- Canadian Fancy Cancellations of the Nineteenth Century*
- Numerous journals (still only partly sorted) including:
The Canadian Philatelist (RPSC); *Scott's Monthly*; *Topical Times* (J. of the American Topical Association); and *Details* (Canada Post).