



# Owen Sound Stamp Club

## Philatelic Owen Sound Times

Next Club Meeting: January 18<sup>th</sup> January 2006

Some may wonder just where things are going when Canada Post releases stamps like the TD and Home Hardware issues of 2005. Well, maybe a glance down under to New Zealand might give us some idea. Postal services there were de-regulated seven years ago and there are now 25 companies vying to deliver the mail.

Now, I am not quite sure how the NZ system works but it appears that companies that wish to compete with the government owned NZ Post must meet certain conditions before they are granted a licence to be an accredited "mail carrier". So far, it would appear that a total of 55 operating licences have been issued – of which 30 have been withdrawn for one reason or another. Bearing in mind the population and size of New Zealand, few of these operators can be working anything but a local service.

Anyway, one of these companies, New Zealand Mail, has begun issuing its own stamps and has established an office to help businesses put together designs appropriate to their business. The example below was produced for the Resene

paint company and is essentially a series of colour swatches for their product. Presumably, these would be primarily used for Resene business mail, but other designs have been prepared for charities with the suggestion that these could be sold at a premium as a fund-raiser.

As a stamp collector, I find this whole concept totally 'orrid and wouldn't part with a penny for a set, be it new or used. However, I can see that postal historians could find this development most interesting whether it proves to be a long-term success or complete failure.

First Canadian trials to be announced in Alberta shortly (perhaps).



Last month, I asked whether anyone had any use for the Stamp Club calendars I have put out the last few years. Well, the response was not exactly overwhelming, but with a bit of prodding three people at the December meeting said to go ahead one more time, anyway.

Especially, if I include the Kincardine Stamp Club show-date.

*Bob Watson*

### Stamp of the Month...

The Belgian Congo (and the Congo Free State before) were responsible for several most attractive issues depicting local scenery, people, and wildlife in the late 1890's through to the 1940's.

These were produced by a number of different printers including Waterlow & Sons, Bradbury Wilkinson, Institut de Gravure (in Paris) and the American Bank Note Co. The Belgian Govt. Printers also contributed some rather less attractive designs (to my eyes, anyway).

This particular scene [Scott #139 (1932)] depicts the Sankuru River a tributary of the Kasai which is, in turn, a major tributary of the Congo River. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to find out any more about this particular vignette.



From the President ...

Alan Charlesworth

Happy New Year ! Another year is come and its time to get together with our fellow collectors and make new memories. Some of our members have not attended the last few meetings it would be nice if everyone showed up to start the New Year right...You have been missed!

We will have circuit books in from the Royal Philatelic this month so remember to bring your want lists and tongs..

Any one who ordered a new Unitrade catalogue and has not yet picked it up they will be at this meeting , the cost is 35.00 tax in.

I have not as yet had time to prepare a program for this meeting but I will put something together in the next few days.

Our annual show will be coming up in May and if any one would like to volunteer to help out in the organizing it would really be appreciated.

I have recently purchased some early mint Newfoundland and will bring this material to the meeting for sale. The following items will be available:

1	vf	mh	81	vf	mh
11a	vh	mh	87a	vf	mh
15a	vf	mng	88c	f	mh
18	vf	mng	89	vf	mh
19	vf	mlh	90	f	mh
20	vf	nh	91a	f	mh
22	vf	mh	92	f	mh
23	vf	mh	92a	vf	mh
48	f	mh	93	f	mh
51	f	mh	94	vf	mh
54	f	nh	95	f	mh
59	f	mh	97	f	mh(thin)
61	vf	mf	102	f	mh
62	f	nh	212	vf	mh
63	vf	mh	213	vf	mh
64	vf	mh	214	f	mh
65	vf	mh	215	vf	mh
66	vf	mh	216	vf	mh
67	vf	mh	217b	vf	mh
68	vf	mh	218	f	mh
69	vf	mh	219	f	mh
70	vf	mh	220	f	mh
71	vf	mh	221	vf	mh
72	vf	mh	222	vf	mh
73	f-vf	mh	223	vf	mh
74	vf	mh(smthin)	224	vf	mh
78	vf	mng	225	vf	mh.

Alan Charlesworth

Corrections ...

A couple of errors appeared in last months issue:

- The Guildhall Medal used as the basis of the Penny Black design was struck in 1857, not 1957.
- Irene von Treskov's father, Henning, was involved in the assassination attempt on Hitler on July 20, 1944, not June 20. (Irene von Treskov designed the 2005 British Christmas stamps).

What's New ... (Christmas Stamps, Pt 3.)

Charles van Rompu

Poland.

Late in the season, on November 28th, Poland released two stamps in denominations of 1.30 and 2.20 Zt. They are rotogravure and measure 31.25 × 25.5 mm. They were designed by M. Dziekańska and show little girls dressed as angels while they are planting Christmas trees below, through the clouds.



Finland.

On October 28, they issued 2 stamps. The one with a value of €0.50 shows Santa Claus reading the wish-letters which he received. 47 million of this were printed, by John Enschedé, Security Printers in The Netherlands. Size is 24.5 x 34.5 mm, vertical and self-adhesive. The second one, mainly for Finnish use has a printed value of 1st Klass ( €0.65). This one has a yellow underground colour. This one shows Santa dancing with Mrs. Claus, who is in Finnish national dress. Both stamps were designed by Mauri Kunnas.

Iceland

On November 3rd, Iceland Post issued its two Christmas stamps. The values are 50 and 70 ISK, they measure 28 x 45 mm, are horizontal, designed by Hany Hadaya, and are printed by Joh. Enchedé, Security printers BV in The Netherlands.

A pine tree and an apple serve as motifs for the Christmas stamps this year. The apple refers to the not so distant past when fruits were considered a rarity in the country. Shipments of red and fragrant Macintosh apples arrived from the United States in time to cheer up both children and grown-ups before Christmas. The present stamps will no doubt rekindle memories since it is not only intended for the eyes but also for



the nostrils. The stamps give for the traditional fragrance of pine trees and apple with subtle hints of cinnamon. They are also available in a booklet of 10 × ISK 50.00

## A Little Bit of History ...

For reasons that no doubt make perfect sense to the inhabitants of west-central Africa, there are two quite distinct countries in that region that are referred to as “Congo”. Both of these countries gained independence from their respective colonizing powers (France and Belgium) in 1960 and, for four years, the official title of both was “Republique du Congo” – a matter that could cause some confusion amongst stamp collectors. These days, the situation has been clarified since one of the “Republique du Congo”s became “Republique Democratique du Congo”.

In trying to sort out the background to this situation, it soon becomes apparent that in spite of their different colonial masters, the experiences of the people of both countries have many (unfortunate) parallels.

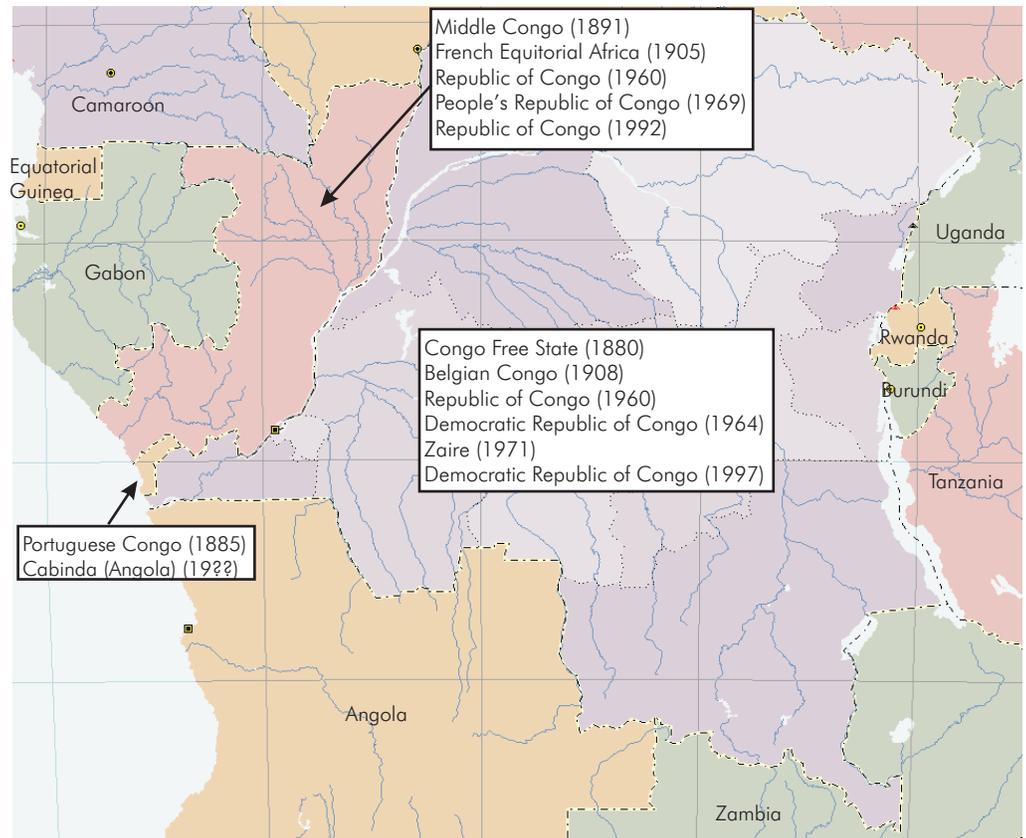
By the early 19th century, Europeans were using the Congo River as a major route to the interior of central Africa but none of the traditional colonizing powers expressed any interest in expanding their authority in this region – presumably because no economic benefits could be seen. Eventually, in 1880, France signed a treaty with the chief of the Tio people who occupied the north bank of the Congo. In due course, this territory became “Moyen Congo” (Middle Congo).

King Leopold II of Belgium was concerned that he was the head of the only monarchy in N. Europe that did not have a single colony. As the “carve-up” of Africa neared its conclusion and the Belgian government still demonstrated absolutely no colonial ambition, Leopold decided to claim the remaining territory to the south and east of the Congo as his own personal property which he named “État Independent du Congo” (Congo Free State). This move received the tacit support of the other colonial powers.

Meanwhile, Portugal had entered into a protectorate agreement with the leader of nation based near the mouth of the Congo and by 1885 this had become Portuguese Congo.

From that point on, as far as the native peoples went, things went downhill quickly. Rubber from the region became a valuable commodity and the authorities hastened to provide road and rail links to the interior. In the Congo Free State, Leopold sanctioned the killing of over half the native population for failing to meet rubber production targets. In Middle Congo, many thousands indentured labourers died during the construction of a railway.

When news of the atrocities in the Congo Free State eventually leaked out, the Belgian government was pressured into taking over the administration in 1908 and the territory became the



colony of Belgian Congo. At about the same time, Middle Congo became a district (along with Chad, Ubangi-Shari, and Gabon) of the new colony of French Equatorial Africa.

As far as I have been able to determine, not much happened on the political front over the next 45 years. As the centre of the rubber trade moved to Asia, the pressures on the local populations were reduced and the region drifted into a state of total poverty. Following WWII, a signs of nationalist sentiment began to be shown. As the “Wind of Change” swept through Africa, Belgium, France, and Portugal all seemed only too happy to abandon their Congo colonies – which they did in short order: in 1960 the old (French) Middle Congo became “Republic of Congo” as did Belgian Congo. Portuguese Congo became the exclave Cabinda district of Angola.

With virtually no native administrative experience in either of the “Republic of Congo”s, it is not surprising that both territories were soon caught up in a series of coups with lots of advice (and arms) from both sides of the Cold War. Forty-five years later, neither country shows much sign of pulling itself out of its misery with continuing civil strife and rampant corruption.

From the identity point of view, the ex-Belgian Congo became the “Republique Democratique du Congo” in 1964 and then “Zaire” in 1971. In 1997, the name was changed back to “Republique Democratique du Congo” which is how things stand now.

The ex-Middle Congo changed its name to “Republique Populaire du Congo” in 1969 and then back to simply “Republique du Congo” in 1992.

Next Meeting ... Wed. Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

Circuit books from the RPSC will be available. Lots of variety: Hong Kong, Netherlands, Surinam, Europe, Australian States, Estonia, Ceylon, Denmark, Sweden and Canada.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Jan. 21 (Sat.):** Burloak Stamp Fair at Burlington Senior's Centre, 2285 New Street (at Seneca), **Burlington**. 6-9 dealers, free parking. Hours: 9-3.

**Jan. 21-22 (Sat., Sun.):** St. Catharines Stamp Club is sponsoring 57th Cathex at Fairview Mall, Geneva St., **St. Catharines**. 14 dealers, club circuit silent auction, stamps for children, exhibits. Hours: Sat: 9-5; Sun: 10-4.

**Feb. 4 (Sat.):** Bramalea Stamp Club Show will be held at James Archdeacon Rec. Centre, 292 Conestoga Road, **Brampton**. Exhibits, club books, 10 dealers, youth booth, table auction, refreshment area. Free admission, lots of free parking. Hours: 9-4.

**Feb. 11 (Sat.):** Burlington Stamp Club is hosting its Special 25th Anniversary Show at Burlington Senior's Centre, 2285 New Street (at Seneca), **Burlington**.

Stamp on the Envelope ...

According to the Chinese calendar, this is the "Year of the Dog" and Canada Post is marking the New Year with a pair of stamps featuring Foo dogs.

For those not familiar with dog breeds, Foo dogs are of Chinese origin and are thought to originate from crossing Chow dogs of Mongolia with N. European wolves a bit over 2000 years ago. They were something of a multi-purpose animal being used for hunting, herding, and as watchdogs. They were particularly favoured as guard dogs for temples and royal palaces because, with a bit of imagination, they bear a certain resemblance to lions and would thus not only deter human intruders, but (perhaps) evil spirits also.

The official breed description describes their characteristics as:

*"Active, agile, alert, courageous, hardy and strong, denoting its hunting and working heritage. Bold and energetic in temperament; makes an effective yet friendly, guardian. A devoted family pet possessing great dignity and independence of character."*

The stamp follows Canada Post tradition for this series and is a complex production. Apart from the eight colours and heavy embossing, there is a "gold" foil stamping (for "CANADA") and a clear foil stamping (on the red squares to simulate lacquer). There is also a "pearlescent" layer which adds to the 3-D effect and a pointed perforation to signify a guarded fence.

Series:	Chinese New Year	Process:	Lithography (8 colours + 1 pearlescent and 2 foil stampings)
Title:	Year of the Dog		
Issue date:	6th Jan. 2006		
Denom:	51¢; (& \$1.51)	Gum:	PVA
Layout:	Sheet of 25 stamps	Tagging:	General, 4 sides
Des.:	Joseph Gault	Size:	27 mm x 42 mm
Artist:	Suzanne Duranceau	Perf.:	13¼
Printer:	Lowe-Martin	No.	8,000,000
Paper:	Tullis Russell Coatings		

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

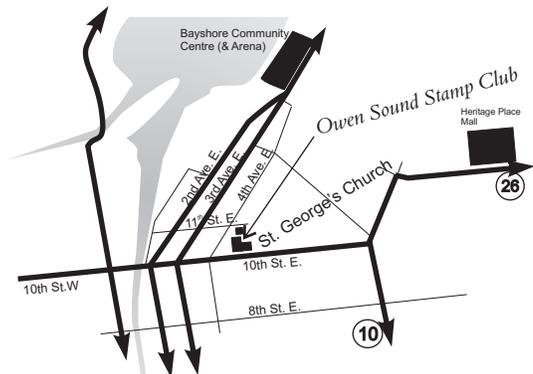
Annual Membership fees: Full: \$10; Family: \$15; Junior: Free. In addition, all members and visitors are asked to contribute \$1 each meeting which is passed directly to St. George's Church in appreciation for allowing us to use their room.

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.

**Club officers:**

- President: **Alan Charlesworth** (519) 371-0581  
1521 7th Ave. W., Owen Sound, N4K 5L1  
email: Alan\_charlesworth@canada.com
- Vice-Pres.: **Charles van Rompu** (519) 538-4673  
305 Trowbridge St. W., Meaford, N4L 1K8  
email: Cvanrompu@aol.com
- Sec./Treas.: **Bob Ford** (519) 376-4788  
721 8th Ave E., Owen Sound, N4K 3A5  
email: robford@log.on.ca
- Editor: **Bob Watson** (519) 376-1270  
327 11th St. W., Owen Sound, N4K 3S9  
email: bobwatson10@sympatico.ca



**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).