

OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting Wed. June 20, 2007

From the President...

June Tune

What has June Tune have to do with stamp collecting, you ask? Well that is the challenge I face every month when I sit down to write this article for the news letter. Yes how can I make a catchy title and still somehow have it relate to our beloved hobby. Well let me give it a try, for those of you out there in stamp land who would like to pursue a slightly different line of thematic collecting, try one of these .

Music – musicians – musical instruments – composers –marching bands – musical theaters.

And just for fun why don't you come up with some suggestions of your own and bring them along to the meeting this month.

This month's activities will be Royal Philatelic circuits and an auction, please feel free to do some house cleaning and bring some interesting lots, as well as our 1 page display contest "Wind Power". Thank you to Jim Brett for bringing the Saugeen Stamp Club circuit books to our May meeting.

For a change I have been able to prepare this article in good time for the newsletter.

Sincerely,
President OSSC
Alan M Charlesworth

Upcoming Events...

JULY 8, Ottawa, ON

Regular Stamp & Coin Show, Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Ave. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking and admission. 17 dealers. For more information, contact Brian Wolfenden, 613-226-2045.

JULY 21, Burlington, ON

Burloak Stamp Fair, Burlington Seniors Centre, 2285 New Street (at Seneca). Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Regular monthly show all year. 6-9 dealers. Ample free parking. For more information, contact M.P. (Michael) Anderson 905-632-6057 or michael@parcelsplusinc.com.

AUG. 11, Fenelon Falls, ON

Fenpex 23, United Church, 123 Colborne St. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free admission and parking. Dealers, displays, draws, and refreshments. For more information, contact Margaret Allen, 705-887-5386, arscott@sympatico.ca

AUG. 11, Kincardine, ON

Stamp Show and Bourse, at the Royal Canadian Legion, 219 LambtonSt. Hours: 10:00 to 4:00. Free admission and parking. Displays, silent auction, door prizes and lunch available.

From the Editor...

We had a good meeting in May. There was lots of lively discussion about used modern Canadian stamps. Jim Brett brought the Saugeen Club's circuit books which did include some newer Canadian stamps. Thanks Jim. Personally, I took Dr. Phil's advice and have gained permission to put a pail at my local Post Office. We'll see what happens! Thanks Dr. Phil!

Our "One Page Challenge" topic is wind power. Get on it folks, time is running out.

I hope everybody enjoyed the pie and muffins. That will not be a regular feature of our meetings. Take note that the Kincardine show is coming up in August and we want to show support for our local brethren. Have a nice day!
Marion Ace

Eight or Nine Wise Words About Letter Writing

BY LEWIS CARROLL

IN 1890, LEWIS CARROLL, BEST KNOWN AS THE AUTHOR OF ALICE IN WONDERLAND, DESIGNED AND MARKETED THE "WONDERLAND POSTAGE STAMP CASE" TO HOLD POSTAGE STAMPS IN AN ORDERLY MANNER (THE FIRST STOCK BOOK?). INCLUDED WITH THE STAMP CASE WAS A PAMPHLET ENTITLED "EIGHT OR NINE WISE WORDS ABOUT LETTER WRITING" PROVIDING ADVICE ON HOW TO WRITE AND ORGANISE ONE'S CORRESPONDENCE. BEAR IN MIND, THIS WAS A TIME BEFORE THE TELEPHONE AND THE MAIL WAS USED FOR EVERYTHING FROM INVITING FRIENDS OVER FOR A DRINK TO TRACKING DOWN A RELATIVE IN THE DISTANT COLONIES!

PART 1: ON STAMP CASES

SOME AMERICAN WRITER HAS SAID "THE SNAKES IN THIS DISTRICT MAY BE DIVIDED INTO ONE SPECIES--THE VENOMOUS". THE SAME PRINCIPLE APPLIES HERE. POSTAGE-STAMP-CASES MAY BE DIVIDED INTO ONE SPECIES, THE "WONDERLAND". IMITATIONS OF IT WILL SOON APPEAR, NO DOUBT: BUT THEY CANNOT INCLUDE THE TWO PICTORIAL SURPRISES, WHICH ARE COPYRIGHT. YOU DON'T SEE WHY I CALL THEM "SURPRISES"? WELL, TAKE THE CASE IN YOUR LEFT-HAND, AND REGARD IT ATTENTIVELY. YOU SEE ALICE NURSING THE DUCHESS'S BABY? (AN ENTIRELY NEW COMBINATION, BY THE WAY: IT DOESN'T OCCUR IN THE BOOK.) NOW, WITH YOUR RIGHT THUMB AND FOREFINGER, LAY HOLD OF THE LITTLE BOOK, AND SUDDENLY PULL IT OUT. THE BABY HAS TURNED INTO A PIG! IF THAT DOESN'T SURPRISE YOU, WHY, I SUPPOSE YOU WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF YOUR OWN MOTHER-IN-LAW SUDDENLY TURNED INTO A GYROSCOPE! THIS CASE IS NOT INTENDED TO CARRY ABOUT IN YOUR POCKET. FAR FROM IT. PEOPLE SELDOM WANT ANY OTHER STAMPS, ON AN EMERGENCY, THAN PENNY-STAMPS FOR LETTERS, SIXPENNY-STAMPS FOR TELEGRAMS, AND A BIT OF STAMP-EDGING FOR CUT FINGERS

(IT MAKES CAPITAL STICKING-PLASTER, AND WILL STAND THREE OR FOUR WASHINGS, CAUTIOUSLY CONDUCTED): AND ALL THESE ARE EASILY CARRIED IN A PURSE OR POCKET-BOOK. NO, THIS IS MEANT TO HAUNT YOUR ENVELOPE-CASE, OR WHEREVER YOU KEEP YOUR WRITING-MATERIALS. WHAT MADE ME INVENT IT, WAS THE CONSTANTLY WANTING STAMPS OF OTHER VALUES, FOR FOREIGN LETTERS, PARCEL POST, ETC., AND FINDING IT VERY BOTHERSOME TO GET AT THE KIND I WANTED IN A HURRY. SINCE I HAVE POSSESSED A "WONDERLAND STAMP-CASE", LIFE HAS BEEN BRIGHT AND PEACEFUL, AND I HAVE USED NO OTHER. I BELIEVE THE QUEEN'S LAUNDRESS USES NO OTHER. EACH OF THE POCKETS WILL HOLD 6 STAMPS, COMFORTABLY. I WOULD RECOMMEND YOU TO ARRANGE THE 6, BEFORE PUTTING THEM IN, SOMETHING LIKE A BOUQUET, MAKING THEM LEAN TO THE RIGHT AND TO THE LEFT ALTERNATELY: THUS THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A FREE CORNER TO GET HOLD OF, SO AS TO TAKE THEM OUT, QUICKLY AND EASILY, ONE BY ONE: OTHERWISE YOU WILL FIND THEM APT TO COME OUT TWO OR THREE AT A TIME. ACCORDING TO MY EXPERIENCE, THE 5D., 9D., AND 1S. STAMPS ARE HARDLY EVER WANTED, THOUGH I HAVE CONSTANTLY TO REPLENISH ALL THE OTHER POCKETS. IF YOUR EXPERIENCE AGREES WITH MINE, YOU MAY FIND IT CONVENIENT TO KEEP ONLY A COUPLE (SAY) OF EACH OF THESE 3 KINDS, IN THE 1S. POCKET, AND TO FILL THE OTHER 2 POCKETS WITH EXTRA 1D. STAMPS.

2. HOW TO BEGIN A LETTER

IF THE LETTER IS TO BE IN ANSWER TO ANOTHER, BEGIN BY GETTING OUT THAT OTHER LETTER AND READING IT THROUGH, IN ORDER TO REFRESH YOUR MEMORY, AS TO WHAT IT IS YOU HAVE TO ANSWER, AND AS TO YOUR CORRESPONDENT'S PRESENT ADDRESS (OTHERWISE YOU WILL BE SENDING YOUR LETTER TO HIS REGULAR ADDRESS IN LONDON, THOUGH HE HAS BEEN CAREFUL IN WRITING TO GIVE YOU HIS TORQUAY ADDRESS IN FULL). NEXT, ADDRESS AND STAMP THE ENVELOPE. "WHAT! BEFORE WRITING THE LETTER?" MOST CERTAINLY. AND I'LL TELL YOU WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF YOU DON'T. YOU WILL GO ON WRITING TILL THE LAST MOMENT, AND, JUST IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LAST SENTENCE, YOU WILL BECOME AWARE THAT "TIME'S UP!" THEN COMES THE HURRIED WIND-UP--THE WILDLY-SCRAWLED SIGNATURE--THE HASTILY-FASTENED ENVELOPE, WHICH COMES OPEN IN THE POST--THE ADDRESS, A MERE HIEROGLYPHIC--THE HORRIBLE DISCOVERY THAT



YOU'VE FORGOTTEN TO REPLENISH YOUR STAMP-CASE--THE FRANTIC APPEAL, TO EVERY ONE IN THE HOUSE, TO LEND YOU A STAMP--THE HEADLONG RUSH TO THE POST OFFICE, ARRIVING, HOT AND GASPING, JUST AFTER THE BOX HAS CLOSED--AND FINALLY, A WEEK AFTERWARDS, THE RETURN OF THE LETTER, FROM THE DEAD-LETTER OFFICE, MARKED "ADDRESS ILLEGIBLE!"

NEXT, PUT YOUR OWN ADDRESS, IN FULL, AT THE TOP OF THE NOTE-SHEET. IT IS AN AGGRAVATING THING--I SPEAK FROM BITTER EXPERIENCE--WHEN A FRIEND, STAYING AT SOME NEW ADDRESS, HEADS HIS LETTER "DOVER", SIMPLY, ASSUMING THAT YOU CAN GET THE REST OF THE ADDRESS FROM HIS PREVIOUS LETTER, WHICH PERHAPS YOU HAVE DESTROYED.

NEXT, PUT THE DATE IN FULL. IT IS ANOTHER AGGRAVATING THING, WHEN YOU WISH, YEARS AFTERWARDS, TO ARRANGE A SERIES OF LETTERS, TO FIND THEM DATED "FEB. 17", "AUG. 2", WITHOUT ANY YEAR TO GUIDE YOU AS TO WHICH COMES FIRST. AND NEVER, NEVER, DEAR MADAM (N.B. THIS REMARK IS ADDRESSED TO LADIES ONLY: NO MAN WOULD EVER DO SUCH A THING), PUT "WEDNESDAY", SIMPLY, AS THE DATE! "THAT WAY MADNESS LIES."

3. HOW TO GO ON WITH A LETTER

HERE IS A GOLDEN RULE TO BEGIN WITH. WRITE LEGIBLY. THE AVERAGE TEMPER OF THE HUMAN RACE WOULD BE PERCEPTIBLY SWEETENED, IF EVERYBODY OBEYED THIS RULE! A GREAT DEAL OF THE BAD WRITING IN THE WORLD COMES SIMPLY FROM WRITING TOO QUICKLY. OF COURSE YOU REPLY, "I DO IT TO SAVE TIME." A VERY GOOD OBJECT, NO DOUBT: BUT WHAT RIGHT HAVE YOU TO DO IT AT YOUR FRIEND'S EXPENSE? ISN'T HIS TIME AS VALUABLE AS YOURS? YEARS AGO, I USED TO RECEIVE LETTERS FROM A FRIEND--AND VERY INTERESTING LETTERS TOO--WRITTEN IN ONE OF THE MOST ATROCIOUS HANDS EVER INVENTED. IT GENERALLY TOOK ME ABOUT A WEEK TO READ ONE OF HIS LETTERS. I USED TO CARRY IT ABOUT IN MY POCKET, AND TAKE IT OUT AT LEISURE TIMES, TO PUZZLE OVER THE RIDDLES WHICH COMPOSED IT--HOLDING IT IN DIFFERENT POSITIONS, AND AT DIFFERENT DISTANCES, TILL AT LAST THE MEANING OF SOME HOPELESS SCRAWL WOULD FLASH UPON ME, WHEN I AT ONCE WROTE DOWN THE ENGLISH UNDER IT; AND, WHEN SEVERAL HAD BEEN THUS GUESSED, THE CONTEXT WOULD HELP WITH THE OTHERS, TILL AT LAST THE WHOLE SERIES OF HIEROGLYPHICS WAS DECIPHERED. IF ALL ONE'S FRIENDS WROTE LIKE THAT, LIFE WOULD BE ENTIRELY SPENT IN READING THEIR LETTERS!

THIS RULE APPLIES, SPECIALLY, TO NAMES OF PEOPLE OR PLACES--AND MOST SPECIALLY TO FOREIGN NAMES. I GOT A LETTER ONCE, CONTAINING SOME RUSSIAN NAMES, WRITTEN IN THE SAME HASTY SCRAMBLE IN WHICH PEOPLE OFTEN WRITE "YOURS SINCERELY". THE CONTEXT, OF COURSE, DIDN'T HELP IN THE LEAST: AND ONE SPELLING WAS JUST AS LIKELY AS ANOTHER, SO FAR AS I KNEW: IT WAS NECESSARY TO WRITE AND TELL MY FRIEND THAT I COULDN'T READ ANY OF THEM!

MY SECOND RULE IS, DON'T FILL MORE THAN A PAGE AND A HALF WITH APOLOGIES FOR NOT HAVING WRITTEN SOONER!

THE BEST SUBJECT, TO BEGIN WITH, IS YOUR FRIEND'S LAST LETTER. WRITE WITH THE LETTER OPEN BEFORE YOU. ANSWER HIS QUESTIONS, AND MAKE ANY REMARKS HIS LETTER SUGGESTS. THEN GO ON TO WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY YOURSELF. THIS ARRANGEMENT IS MORE COURTEOUS, AND PLEASANTER FOR THE READER, THAN TO FILL THE LETTER WITH YOUR OWN INVALUABLE REMARKS, AND THEN HASTILY ANSWER YOUR FRIEND'S QUESTIONS IN A POSTSCRIPT. YOUR FRIEND IS MUCH MORE LIKELY TO ENJOY YOUR WIT, AFTER HIS OWN ANXIETY FOR INFORMATION HAS BEEN SATISFIED. IN REFERRING TO ANYTHING YOUR FRIEND HAS SAID IN HIS LETTER, IT IS BEST TO QUOTE THE EXACT WORDS, AND NOT TO GIVE A SUMMARY OF THEM IN YOUR WORDS. A'S IMPRESSION, OF WHAT B HAS SAID, EXPRESSED IN A'S WORDS, WILL NEVER CONVEY TO B THE MEANING OF HIS OWN WORDS. THIS IS SPECIALLY NECESSARY WHEN SOME POINT HAS ARISEN AS TO WHICH THE TWO CORRESPONDENTS DO NOT QUITE AGREE. THERE OUGHT TO BE NO OPENING FOR SUCH WRITING AS "YOU ARE QUITE MISTAKEN IN THINKING I SAID SO-AND-SO. IT WAS NOT IN THE LEAST MY MEANING, &C., &C.", WHICH TENDS TO MAKE A CORRESPONDENCE LAST FOR A LIFE-TIME.

A FEW MORE RULES MAY FITLY BE GIVEN HERE, FOR CORRESPONDENCE THAT HAS UNFORTUNATELY BECOME CONTROVERSIAL.

ONE IS, DON'T REPEAT YOURSELF. WHEN ONCE YOU HAVE SAID YOUR SAY, FULLY AND CLEARLY, ON A CERTAIN POINT, AND HAVE FAILED TO CONVINCE YOUR FRIEND, DROP THAT SUBJECT: TO REPEAT YOUR ARGUMENTS, ALL OVER AGAIN, WILL SIMPLY LEAD TO HIS DOING THE SAME; AND SO YOU WILL GO ON, LIKE A CIRCULATING DECIMAL. DID YOU EVER KNOW A CIRCULATING DECIMAL COME TO AN END?

ANOTHER RULE IS, WHEN YOU HAVE WRITTEN A LETTER THAT YOU FEEL MAY POSSIBLY IRRITATE YOUR FRIEND, HOWEVER NECESSARY YOU MAY HAVE FELT IT TO SO EXPRESS YOURSELF, PUT IT ASIDE TILL THE NEXT DAY. THEN READ IT OVER AGAIN, AND FANCY IT ADDRESSED TO YOURSELF. THIS WILL OFTEN LEAD TO YOUR WRITING IT ALL OVER AGAIN, TAKING OUT A LOT OF THE VINEGAR AND PEPPER, AND PUTTING IN

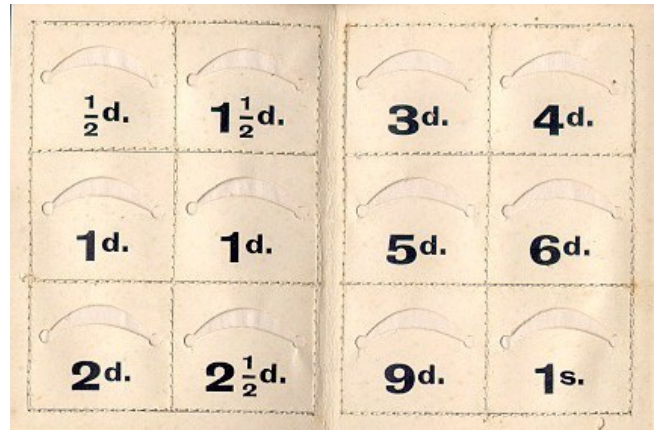
HONEY INSTEAD, AND THUS MAKING A MUCH MORE PALATABLE DISH OF IT! IF, WHEN YOU HAVE DONE YOUR BEST TO WRITE INOFFENSIVELY, YOU STILL FEEL THAT IT WILL PROBABLY LEAD TO FURTHER CONTROVERSY, KEEP A COPY OF IT. THERE IS VERY LITTLE USE, MONTHS AFTERWARDS, IN PLEADING "I AM ALMOST SURE I NEVER EXPRESSED MYSELF AS YOU SAY: TO THE BEST OF MY RECOLLECTION I SAID SO-AND-SO". FAR BETTER TO BE ABLE TO WRITE "I DID NOT EXPRESS MYSELF SO: THESE ARE THE WORDS I USED".

MY FIFTH RULE IS, IF YOUR FRIEND MAKES A SEVERE REMARK, EITHER LEAVE IT UNNOTICED, OR MAKE YOUR REPLY DISTINCTLY LESS SEVERE: AND IF HE MAKES A FRIENDLY REMARK, TENDING TOWARDS "MAKING UP" THE LITTLE DIFFERENCE THAT HAS ARISEN BETWEEN YOU, LET YOUR REPLY BE DISTINCTLY MORE FRIENDLY. IF, IN PICKING A QUARREL, EACH PARTY DECLINED TO GO MORE THAN THREE-EIGHTHS OF THE WAY, AND IF, IN MAKING FRIENDS, EACH WAS READY TO GO FIVE-EIGHTHS OF THE WAY--WHY, THERE WOULD BE MORE RECONCILIATIONS THAN QUARRELS! WHICH IS LIKE THE IRISHMAN'S REMONSTRANCE TO HIS GAD-ABOUT DAUGHTER--"SHURE, YOU'RE ALWAYS GOIN' OUT! YOU GO OUT THREE TIMES, FOR WANST THAT YOU COME IN!"

MY SIXTH RULE (AND MY LAST REMARK ABOUT CONTROVERSIAL CORRESPONDENCE) IS, DON'T TRY TO HAVE THE LAST WORD! HOW MANY A CONTROVERSY WOULD BE NIPPED IN THE BUD, IF EACH WAS ANXIOUS TO LET THE OTHER HAVE THE LAST WORD! NEVER MIND HOW TELLING A REJOINER YOU LEAVE UNUTTERED: NEVER MIND YOUR FRIEND'S SUPPOSING THAT YOU ARE SILENT FROM LACK OF ANYTHING TO SAY: LET THE THING DROP, AS SOON AS IT IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT DISCOURTESY: REMEMBER "SPEECH IS SILVERN, BUT SILENCE IS GOLDEN"! (N.B.--IF YOU ARE A GENTLEMAN, AND YOUR FRIEND IS A LADY, THIS RULE IS SUPERFLUOUS: YOU WON'T GET THE LAST WORD!)

MY LAST RULE. WHEN YOU SAY, IN YOUR LETTER, "I ENCLOSE CHEQUE FOR £5," OR "I ENCLOSE JOHN'S LETTER FOR YOU TO SEE", LEAVE OFF

WRITING FOR A MOMENT--GO AND GET THE DOCUMENT REFERRED TO--AND PUT IT INTO THE ENVELOPE. OTHERWISE, YOU ARE PRETTY CERTAIN TO FIND IT LYING ABOUT, AFTER THE POST HAS GONE!



4. HOW TO END A LETTER

IF DOUBTFUL WHETHER TO END WITH "YOURS FAITHFULLY", OR "YOURS TRULY", OR "YOUR MOST TRULY", & C. (THERE ARE AT LEAST A DOZEN VARIETIES, BEFORE YOU REACH "YOURS AFFECTIONATELY"), REFER TO YOUR CORRESPONDENT'S LAST LETTER, AND MAKE YOUR WINDING-UP AT LEAST AS FRIENDLY AS HIS: IN FACT, EVEN IF A SHADE MORE FRIENDLY, IT WILL DO NO HARM! A POSTSCRIPT IS A VERY USEFUL INVENTION: BUT IT IS NOT MEANT (AS SO MANY LADIES SUPPOSE) TO CONTAIN THE REAL GIST OF THE LETTER: IT SERVES RATHER TO THROW INTO THE SHADE ANY LITTLE MATTER WE DO NOT WISH TO MAKE A FUSS ABOUT. FOR EXAMPLE, YOUR FRIEND HAD PROMISED TO EXECUTE A COMMISSION FOR YOU IN TOWN, BUT FORGOT IT, THEREBY PUTTING YOU TO GREAT INCONVENIENCE: AND HE NOW WRITES TO APOLOGIZE FOR HIS NEGLIGENCE. IT WOULD BE CRUEL, AND NEEDLESSLY CRUSHING, TO MAKE IT THE MAIN SUBJECT OF YOUR REPLY. HOW MUCH MORE GRACEFULLY IT COMES IN THUS! "P.S. DON'T DISTRESS YOURSELF ANY MORE ABOUT HAVING OMITTED THAT LITTLE MATTER IN TOWN. I WON'T DENY THAT IT DID PUT MY PLANS OUT A LITTLE, AT THE TIME: BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW. I OFTEN FORGET THINGS, MYSELF: AND 'THOSE, WHO LIVE IN GLASS-HOUSES, MUSTN'T THROW STONES', YOU KNOW!"

WHEN YOU TAKE YOUR LETTERS TO THE POST, CARRY THEM IN YOUR HAND. IF YOU PUT THEM IN YOUR POCKET YOU WILL TAKE A LONG COUNTRY-WALK (I SPEAK FROM EXPERIENCE), PASSING THE POST-OFFICE TWICE, GOING AND RETURNING, AND, WHEN YOU GET HOME, WILL FIND THEM STILL IN YOUR POCKET.

THE FINAL SECTION "ON REGISTERING CORRESPONDENCE" COMPRISES DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS ON RECORDING ALL INCOMING AND OUTGOING MAIL. AN INTERESTING IDEA WITH UNDOUBTED MERIT BUT REQUIRING A STRONGER SENSE OF ORGANISATION THAN MOST OF US POSSESS. APPARENTLY, CARROLL RECORDED ALL LETTERS RECEIVED AND SENT FROM WHEN HE WAS 28 UNTIL HE DIED: A TOTAL OF 98,721 ENTRIES!

THANK YOU TO BOB WATSON FOR SUBMITTING THIS INTERESTING ARTICLE. 98,721 PIECES OF MAIL – THAT WOULD BE A LOT OF STAMPS!

From Dr. Phil A. Telly...

Stamps got you licked? Feeling stamped out?
Don't worry. Don't let it get you down,
Dr. Phil A.Telly has come to town!

Dear Dr. Phil,
My Dear Dr. Phil A.Telly,

I too am a renowned doctor. In my own beloved country I have the reputation of the professor extraordinaire! So naturally when I set my little gray cells on to a problem, I must have proof. Lots and lots of proof! Did Noah part the Red Sea? I have no proof.

The roots of the whispering grapevines tell me that you know about "proofs." It is even said that there are "specimens" and even more outrageous, there are such things as "fantasy proofs." Can you please explain to me what these proofs, specimens and fantasy proofs are? Please be careful, I am surrounded by spies and my telephone is bugged. Perhaps you could reply to my missive in some little known newsletter in the Bruce Peninsula.

Most Sincerely and Gratefully Yours,
Professor Para Noidal

Hi Professor,

I will try to proof to you I know what I write about. A proof is a sample printed from the actual plate that the final stamp will be printed from. So the proof regardless of the colour used, in all matters of design is identical to the final stamp. The ones printed in various colors are referred to as colour proofs or colour trial proofs. In reference to this (I know you didn't ask) are Essays which are done as test prints to test variations in the design so Essays are always a different design from the finished stamp even though the difference may be minute.

NEWS FLASH! Dr. Phil is stumped. Fantasy proofs I have no knowledge of nor does my library. Could it possibly be you mean Fantasy Stamps? These are the same as Cinderellas or dunes which are printed by unrecognized "postal administrations" or you are medicating too heavily.

(DR. Phil continued)

Finally specimens are stamps that are overprinted, perforated or manuscript (hand written pen) marked with the word "specimen". They were produced by the post offices and sent to the U.P.U. (Universal postal union) who administers the world wide postal service the specimens were then distributed to all the members of the union so they would know if stamps arriving in the mail were genuine.

I hope this is enlightening and eases your stress level

Thanks, Dr. Phil



Stamp on Envelope...

Ottawa:1857-2007

150th Anniversary

As you can see this lovely stamp is available at two rates in the souvenir sheet format. The writing on the \$1.55 stamp is in gold to highlight the higher rate stamp. The 52 cent version is also available in a booklet of eight.

The foreground displays a sunny summer photograph of the present day Parliament Buildings. The background is a reproduction of from an engraving by G. H. Andrews of the Lumberers' Regatta in 1860. The Regatta was held in celebration of the setting of the cornerstone for the new Parliament Buildings by Albert Prince of Wales, son of Queen Victoria. The engraving is depicted in delicate sepia tones.

It was Queen Victoria who chose the location of our capital city, perhaps because it sits between French Lower Canada and English Upper Canada. (and is nowhere near Lethbridge!)

OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the basement of St. George's Anglican Church (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 often held at 8:00 pm.

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

Members and guests also contribute \$1 at 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 to all members. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are expressly those of the individual author. Contributions to the newsletter are most welcome. Please submit any news, information, opinions or announcements to the editor.

OSSC Library:

Books in the 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 & Oddities – Darnel

The Edward VII Issue of Canada by G. C. Marler (Nat. Postal Museum, 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 (RSPC); Scott's Monthly; Topical Times (Journal of the American Topical Assoc.); and Details (Canada Post)

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