

OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. December 19th 2007

From the President...

Merry Christmas!!!

Well fellow philatelists it is that time of year so let me wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This year we are going to celebrate Christmas in a new way at our final meeting of the year. Members are asked to bring some treats to the meeting as well as their one page display which will be donated to the junior club and added to our special binder of wonders. There will also be a silent auction where your money will be no good! Yes indeed you read that right your money will be no good, the club will be providing all attendees with crazy money to bid on lots that have been specially selected for this event. So far I have put together 20 lots for this gala event all of which have a value of \$10.00 or more including: post office year sets, FDC cover lots, mint stamp lots and some recent used Canada mission mixed lots which have been donated to the club as well as 4 Xmas baskets of home preserves and jellies. Any member who wishes to donate any thing further is more than welcome to do so.

Let us get together this year in fellowship and celebration and take some time to get to know each other better.

Well again let me wish you all the very best of the season and many happy returns in the New Year, I hope to see all of you at this month's very special meeting.

President OSSC

Alan M Charlesworth

Upcoming Events...

DEC. 8, Toronto, ON. Winter Postage Stamp Bourse, Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking and admission. Club sales circuit, refreshments, wheelchair access. Sponsor/Affiliate: North Toronto Stamp Club. For more information, contact Herb, 416-445-7720, ntstampclub@yahoo.ca, fax 416-444-1273.

DEC. 22, St. Catharines, ON. Holiday Inn Stamp Show, Holiday Inn, Niagara Room, Lake St. & QEW. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission and parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: Roy's Stamps. For more information, contact Roy Houtby at 905-934-8377.

JAN. 11 - 13, 2008, Toronto, ON. Unipex Toronto Stamp Show, Ramses Temple Shrine Club, 3100 Keele St. Free Admission, TTC Service to Door, Easy Access from Hwy 401, Licensed Snack Bar. Free Parking, Door Prizes. Hours: Friday 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. to

5:00 p.m., Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sponsor/Affiliate: Unitrade Associates. For more information, contact Doug Robinson or Susan Cartini (416) 242-5900 unitrade@rogers.com. Web site: <http://www.unitradeassoc.com>.

JAN. 12, 2008, Brantford, ON. Brantford Stamp Club Annual Show and Bourse, Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey St. at James Ave. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking and admission. 15 dealers, stamp exhibition, refreshments available, silent auctions, draws, club sales circuit books, Canada Post with show cancellation. Sponsor/Affiliate: Brantford Stamp Club. For more information, contact D. Coates, 519-442-3242 or e-mail shasland@kwick.com. Web site: <http://www.brantfordstamp.org>.

JAN. 19, 2008, St. Catharines, ON. 59th Cathex, Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. No admission charge. 14 dealers, club circuit, table sale, lunch counter. Note new location. Sponsor/Affiliate: St. Catharines Stamp Club. For more information, contact roystamp@niagara.com. Web site: <http://home.cogeco.ca/~stampclub/home.htm>.

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,



Perhaps you remember me. I have been famous ever since Rudyard Kipling's time. I have included a recent portrait for you. It is not my most flattering, I know, but it illustrates my deep distress. I am completely in knots! Most people don't realize that I am an avid stamp collector. I simply adore some of the newer self-adhesive stamps with serpentine cut edges. But my real passion is coils. There is nothing like the pleasure of getting a whole 100 stamp coil, stretching it out and then letting it go! You get the picture I'm sure. But I digress. The problem is with collecting used coils. I find quite a few coils amongst my Canadian and American stamps, but for some reason I don't find any British or German ones. I know that they are listed in the catalogues. Surely they are plentiful. Is there something that I am overlooking? If you can help I would be most grateful and perhaps even give you a big hug!

Yours most Ssssincerely, Kaa

Hi Kaa

I will answer your question about coils but must request that you keep the hugs to a minimum.

Most of you are familiar with the style and format of coils in Canada & the U.S. Swedish stamps are mostly of the same format as ours but with Swedish stamps finding a regular issue not a coil is less common.

British coils are a little more difficult to identify. I am not a specialist on these so perhaps one of our readers would like to write and correct me or add to my answer. Your best help would be to find a used Stanley Gibbons Concise catalog which list the coils and their format making this somewhat easier. British coils appear to be issued in strips but will have several different denominations in the strip with the Machins the strips almost look like part of a booklet pane but again the catalog shows the various combinations.

Germany has coils which are issued from a machine in strips. These stamps are identical to the same issue from a sheet. The only way to identify the coils is that every 5th stamp in the roll has a number printed on the back, unfortunately for those who collect used stamps these numbers was off as they are printed on the ink. Some collectors have discovered that holding the stamp on paper backwards up to a strong lite then when you see the number simply trim the paper close and add to your collection. To add to the confusion these coils starting in the fifties came in different lengths of rolls these were identified by the number printed e.g. a roll of 1000 had a 4 digit # Now to identify the stamp from a sheet as obviously all the stamps have the same perfs. The sheet stamps can only be identified by being in a side by side pair or having part of the sheet margin attached. If you really are dedicated prewar Germany also had coils but the only way to know (as they had no #s) it's a coil is to find strips of eleven because like most countries regular issues were printed in sheets 10x10 so only a coil can have eleven stamps.

Well I hope this helps and doesn't cause you to coil up in despair.

Dr. Phil

Dr. Phil A. Telly is our little syndicated column. If you've got questions for Dr. Phil please forward your questions to your editor. Questioners will be kept anonymous unless he or she requests to use their name.

Albrecht Dürer by Ralph Wyndham



The works of German Renaissance artist, Albrecht Dürer, as depicted on stamps, would make an interesting little topical collection. Many countries around the world, from Europe, of course, to South America and even North Korea have presented his works. Canada's modest contribution to this collection is a pair of stamps issued for Christmas, 1966 depicting the simple yet elegant drawing known as the Praying Hands.

Albrecht Dürer was a very successful and innovative artist and mathematician. He was the first artist to create a self-portrait, he was first to paint landscapes of actual places. His advancements in printmaking technique using both woodblocks and engraving metal plates influenced many artists of his day. The commercial success of his prints only added to the desire of others to follow

Albrecht Dürer's drawing, the Praying Hands, was the subject for Canada's 1966 Christmas stamps. The three cent

his lead. Although he lacked the classical higher education of the day, Dürer was always interested in intellectual matters. He was friends with and corresponded with leading philosophers and theologians such as prominent Nuremberg citizen Willibald Pirckheimer and Erasmus of Rotterdam. He exchanged ideas and works with the great artist, Raphael. In 1518, he met Martin Luther, the Protestant reformer. Dürer's father, Albrecht Dürer, moved from Hungary to Nuremberg and adopted the German name Dürer. The elder Albrecht married Barbara Holper, the daughter of a successful goldsmith in Nuremberg, in 1468. Albrecht junior was born May 21, 1471, the third of at least 14 children.

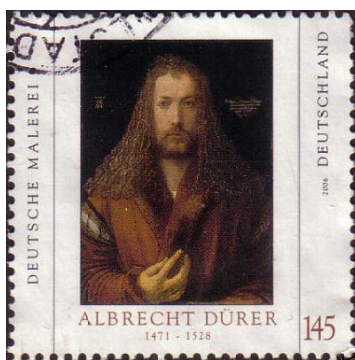
(Albrecht Dürer cont'd.)



Germany marked the 500th anniversary of Albrecht Dürer's birth with this stamp

"My father took special delight in me," the artist later wrote. "Seeing that I was industrious in working and learning, he put me to school; and when I had learned to read and write, he took me home from school and taught me the goldsmith's trade." Goldsmith was not meant to be his trade, however. Dürer showed such talent at drawing that at age 15 he apprenticed to Michael Wolgemut, the most prominent artist in Nuremberg at the time. Wolgemut ran a shop producing many types of artwork including woodcut prints, many of which were intended for book illustrations. After he completed his

apprenticeship in 1489, Dürer followed the custom of the painter's guild and took a *Wanderjahre*, a time to travel, see the sights of the world and meet other artists. As he traveled around Germany, Switzerland and likely the Netherlands, his year stretched into four, not returning to Nuremberg until 1494. Upon his return he was married, by arrangement, to Agnes Frey, the daughter of a prominent brass worker. Affection never seemed to grow in their marriage and, completely opposite of his parents, Albrecht and Agnes had no children.



Shortly after the wedding, Dürer went to Italy to work and learn with Italian artists. He returned home in 1495 and set up his own workshop. (Being married was a requirement for this.) Many prints were made here. It is believed that while he drew the images, either directly onto the wood or onto paper that was then glued to the wood, the actual carving of the image was left to a craftsman, just as Wolgemut may have done. During the time he had his shop, he taught himself the difficult craft of engraving and was soon producing high quality works by this method.

In 1500, Jacopo de'Barbari, an artist whom Dürer met while in Italy, visited Nuremberg. They discussed their craft and some of the latest thought and developments in perspective, anatomy and proportion. The Italian would not share everything he knew, protecting his competitive advantage, I suppose, so Dürer began his own research into these topics.

"Thus I, Albrecht Dürer from Nuremberg, painted myself with indelible colours

Dürer left in 1506 for another year in Italy. Upon his return to Nuremberg, he concentrated more on painting for the next few years. He prepared meticulously for his paintings, producing a large number of preliminary drawings and studies for each. Dürer carefully

saved these works on paper, often making notes about them. One of his most famous pieces, the previously mentioned Praying Hands, was actually created as a study for the hands of an apostle depicted on the Heller altarpiece in Munich that was destroyed by fire in 1647. Given all the preparation, it is no wonder that the artist was given to complain that painting was time consuming and badly paid when compared to printmaking. The image was copied many times over the next three centuries. For much of that time, it was accepted as a picture of how the animal actually looked. It has been said that no other animal picture has had such a profound influence on the arts.

In 1520, Dürer embarked on his last trip. He went to the Netherlands to attend the coronation of the new Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V. He did some sightseeing and also took a supply of prints with him for gifts and sale. While in the country, he became sick with a fever and returned home in 1521.



The artist then returned primarily to printmaking after 1511 and produced another of his most famous prints, the Rhinoceros, in 1515. Dürer never saw the animal but relied on a written description and a rough sketch to make his print.

The illness remained a chronic problem for Dürer for the rest of his life. His artistic production declined as a result but he continued to work on the theoretical side of his craft. Before his death, he published a book on geometry and proportion that was

the first mathematics book for adults to be written in German. He also produced a book on fortifications. Some of his suggestions were actually implemented by the city of Nuremberg. After his death, his work on human proportion was published in four volumes.

He succumbed suddenly to his illness in 1528. After Albrecht Dürer's death, Martin Luther said, "It is natural and right to weep for so excellent a man."

Dürer's famous and influential woodblock print, the Rhinoceros, was made in 1515 from a written description and

Thanks again to Ralph Wyndham for the use of his articles. MA

From the Editor...

Merry Christmas everybody! But to heck with that, come on out to our Christmas meeting so I can say it to your face! We're going to make a bit of a party of it. So come on out and socialize a bit. I believe Rick said he'll bring some coffee and John will bring some treats, (or the other way around!) I'll bring some cups and juice and maybe some treats. Feel free to bring some treats too. Don't forget our 'one page challenge' this month. This time do a page on anything your heart desires! All the pages this month will be donated to the youth education program. So make a couple of pages up!

I made it down to the Saugeen Stamp Club Christmas party in Hanover. They had a good crowd of about 25 people. There was a large silent auction on which people bid with their 'President Bucks'. Lots of treats were available and everyone had a good time. Jim Brett promised to bring his club's circuit books over to Owen Sound as soon as he gets an invitation from us.

John Cortan mentioned the 'President's Christmas Silent Auction' at one of our meetings this year. After seeing one for myself I think this is something that we could run with. So let's give it try. I don't know the details of how it's run in Hanover, but we can fine tune it for our own needs anyway. First of all; the object of having this auction is to reward all the members who participate with or contribute to the club. Alan is going to dig up some interesting items to put up for auction. Members are welcome to donate auction items as well. All members and guests will receive President funny money just for showing up at the Christmas meeting. There will be other ways to accumulate funny money over the year. Funny money is not carried over to the following year; it is there specifically for the Christmas meeting. You do not have to believe in Christmas to participate. People who submit 'one page challenge' pages will earn some bonus bucks. Everybody who helps out at the annual show, the October info booth or contribute to the newsletter will all earn extra bucks. Those who donate items to club will receive extra bucks. Until someone else takes on the job, I will start keep a tally sheet. I'm gonna know who's been naughty and who's been nice! The actual bucks will only be distributed at the Christmas meeting. I am open to suggestions as to how to run this thing. I'll wing it for this year and then we can work out the bugs.

So, come on out one and all. Let's make this the best meeting of the year!

OSSC Editor

Marion Ace



Snowman stamp of 2005 and this year's
reindeer stamp designed by Helene L'Heureux

On the Cover...

One thing you can be sure of every year is that Canada Post will issue a bunch of Christmas stamps for you to spend your money on. Over the past number of years Canada Post has made an effort to issue secular stamps at Christmas time as well as stamps with religious themes. They certainly haven't gone as far as the American Postal Authorities who have gone so far as offering Hanukkah and Kwanzaa stamps as well. With such a huge and varied population base it makes sense to attempt to honour a variety of traditions. It would be interesting to see various beliefs represented in a single set of holiday stamps. What a challenge for the designers that would be!

This year in Canada our secular stamp depicts a leaping reindeer that is obviously compatible with the little snowman stamp of 2005, complete with holographic snowflakes. This simple stylized stamp designed by Helene L'Heureux is available as of November 1st in a booklet of twelve self-adhesive stamps. But can we really call this a secular stamp? This reindeer sporting antlers tipped with Christmas lights is obviously still a Christmas theme. Who can imagine Christmas without reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh? A variety of orthodox Christians will tell you that they consider Santa Claus as Pagan. On the other

hand, Santa is welcomed into many Christian homes with open arms. Santa's roots go back a long way and he has been celebrated in many incarnations by various so-called Pagan religions across the world. He came at Yule or Solstice which is the celebration of the birth of the sun. Sound familiar? Some ancient Christians believe that he left gifts for every child in his search for the Christ child. Whether you consider Santa Claus as Christian or Pagan, he is an excellent ambassador for the spirit of giving to children and an inspiration of hope. It is my hope that all of us will find the Santa within ourselves and provide a little joy for people less fortunate than ourselves. Whatever you are celebrating this holiday season I wish you joy and peace.

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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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