

# OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

Chapter 191  
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. January 16<sup>th</sup> 2008

## From the President...

Happy New Year!!!

That's right it is a brand new year and time for all the post offices to issue all those lovely new stamps for all us collectors. Wow I could buy them all if I win the Lotto this week. Maybe. Well if not there is all sorts of older material to keep me broke and that always seems like fun.

Well for all those of you who made it to the Christmas Party I hope you had fun, for those of you who missed it come to this meeting and find out all about it. I would like feed back from all of you as to whether we should do the same next year or if something else would be more appropriate.

I was just thinking that we should have our annual general meeting and election this month so please all members should attend and participate. Also we have not as yet set a date for this year's annual show and bourse. Please submit what you all think would be the best time and place.

I have not had a chance to speak to Bob Ford yet but I think that we have circuit books coming from the RPSC this month so bring your want list and wallets. If the books are in we will have a rather full evening so we may not have time for an auction; but if they don't come lets all bring a few lots just in case.

Don't forget our one page challenge as there will be prizes for this which are mentioned by others in this letter.

Well that is all for now, Happy Stamping in the New Year.

President OSSC  
**Alan M Charlesworth**

## Upcoming Events...

**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>.

**FEB. 9, BURLINGTON , ON. BURLPEX 2008 , Burlington Seniors Centre New St. and Teen Tour Way.** Hours 10 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Free admission, free parking, handicap accessible. Twelve dealers, two silent auctions, snack bar, and more. Sponsor/Affiliate: Burlington Stamp Club.. Norm Macneall 905 336 8685, e-mail macneall@cogeco.ca.

**FEB. 10, Ottawa, ON. Stamp and Coin Show,** Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Ave. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking and admission. Seventeen dealers. For more information, contact Brian Wolfenden, (613) 226-2045.

**FEB. 16, Burlington, ON. BURLOAK STAMP FAIR,** Burlington Senior's Centre, 2285 New St. (at Seneca). Third Saturday of each month (except May) all year. Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Between five and nine dealers; and there is always new stock to explore. Collections bought. For more information, contact M.P. Anderson at (905) 632-6057 or e-mail to michael@parcelsplusinc.com.

**FEB. 16, Niagara Falls, ON. NIPEX 2008,** Stamford Lions Club Hall, 3846 Portage Rd. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission. Sponsor/Affiliate: Niagara Philatelic Society. For more information, contact Ed Yonelinas, (905) 262-5127, mastamps@computan.on.ca.

### 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. They come in a strip with straight sides and are perforated between each stamp. Swedish stamps are mostly of the same format as ours but with Swedish stamps finding a regular issue not a coil is less common. The difficulty with identifying coils from a number of other countries is that they don't have straight sides like ours but have perforated edges on all four sides.*

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 lists 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 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 5<sup>th</sup> stamp in the roll has a number printed on the back, unfortunately for those who collect used stamps these numbers wash off as they are printed on with ink. Some collectors have discovered that holding the stamp on paper backwards up to a strong light 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 number. 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 by 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 nos.) 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 or more 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.

### To the Editor...

As most of you know I travel to many Stamp club meetings and other philatelic events. In my opinion this is a necessary activity to find new activities for our clubs at meetings and keep one's interest keen for new things to do with collecting. In this vein our local clubs have started a one page exhibit at our meetings. I have noticed that the number of members participating is not as large as when this first began. So, I have taken it upon myself to try to encourage more members to participate. Starting at the next meeting I will be supplying prizes to the winners of the one page exhibits, nothing in the hundred dollar range but still some stamps which most collectors would be happy to have. (cont'd. pg. 4)

To the Editor...cont'd.

Participation in your club at any level is always appreciated by your executive and doesn't mean you have to run for President, even something as simple as helping look after the sales circuit or help with the one page exhibits is great. I hope this will encourage you to take half an hour and do an exhibit, if in doubt as to what to do please ask (a wise man once said the only foolish question is the one you didn't ask). There are many knowledgeable people in our

clubs, not that they are smarter than us, they have just had more experiences and they are all willing to share this information.

I hope you will all consider participating in more club activities or even come with me to another club meeting I usually have room for a few more.

John Cortan

### From the Editor...

Happy New Year everybody. I hope that you're all well recovered from the holidays so you can participate in our general elections. I guess that means it's time to pay annual dues as well.

More than a dozen people showed up for the Christmas meeting. I enjoyed it and I think others did too. Alan seemed to have fun going round and round handing out president funny money. There were some nice lots in the president's auction including some beautiful offerings from Israel. Alan put together some of his preserves, one batch of which I was a proud winner. You've really got to try some of his chunky mustard summer squash. Thanks Alan!

Also at the meeting, John Cortan presented participants of the 'one page challenge' with some prizes that he supplied. I received a very nice lot of stamps on paper. Thanks John! As you can see from his letter above, this is something that John intends to do on a regular basis. John's prizes will be in addition to any provided by the club.

The rules for 'one page challenges' are pretty simple: a subject is decided upon, each participant creates a page about the subject containing at least three different philatelic items, the pages are voted on by the members present anonymously. Philatelic items include used stamps, mint stamps, mint or used corner blocks, post cards, covers, postal stationery, coil stamps, souvenir sheets, booklets, post marks and whatever else you can think of. Even the three kinds of items rule is not written in stone. So hey, go wild! So far we have been holding the challenges bimonthly. The person who won the challenge picks a topic. The following month I announce the new topic in the newsletter and then give you a reminder in the newsletter just before the meeting in which the challenge is held. At Christmas we did it a little differently. You did not have to follow the three item rule, the topic was wide open, we did not vote and all entries were donated to the youth binder. You can contribute your pages any time if you desire, but that is definitely not required. In response to John's letter, I have to agree that it is interesting to do different things with stamps, but until I have collected at least three quarters of the world's stamps where does the boring part enter in to it?

Our last regular 'one page challenge' was won by Al Roos who chose the topic of art on stamps for February's challenge. Be prepared! ...the editor

### On the Cover...

Somehow, here in Canada it just makes sense that at the end of things, here we are at the beginning. On January 8<sup>th</sup> 2008 Canada Post issued the final Chinese Lunar New Year stamp, celebrating the Year of the Rat, which of course is actually first on the calendar. That's okay though, surely that just reminds us of the cyclical nature of all things and that

the end of anything is beginning of another thing. Perhaps it was similar musings that lead the designers Naomi Broudo and Violet Finvars to depict the Mouse Bride and her Groom on the New Year stamps. Certainly weddings symbolize the end of one state and the beginning of another. The characters are from an ancient Chinese folk tale. A father mouse looks for a worthy suitor for his darling daughter. He approaches the sun, wind, clouds and the wall to find a strong husband for her and in the end finds a very suitable groom among his own community. The bride is a deep purple while the groom is a deep blue. Both creatures are embossed and decorated with pearlescent swirls of red, green and gold foil. The bride is on the 52 cent domestic rate and also stands (with no denomination or perforations) next to the \$1.60 international rate groom on a souvenir sheet. As attendees of the wedding the other eleven lunar creatures encircle the couple on the souvenir sheet and are at the top and bottom of the sheet of 25 domestic rate stamps. The other suitors are subtly represented in the background of the two stamps. Canada Post's Detail magazine describes Harvey Chan's illustration of the rats as "...in a style reminiscent of traditional woodblock printing," and as taking, "a painterly approach". This seems a contradiction of terms to me. Although the background on the Souvenir sheet is awash with swirling reds, all of the colourful figures have the cut out look of woodblock or linoprinting. Chan's original images were actually created entirely on a computer.  
(cont'd next page)

On the Cover...cont'd.



Canada Post is especially proud of their Chinese Lunar New Year series. In 1997 the response to the Year of the Ox was unexpected and overwhelming. Many postal outlets sold out of the ox stamp on the first day of sale. Naturally a good thing seems never to be enough so all kinds of products were developed to complement the stamps, these include: coin sets, framed prints, uncut press sheets and Lunar packs created in cooperation with China and Hong Kong. Director Jim Phillips says that the series is the most popular product they've ever had. They are popular

not only in Asian countries but also in Australia and Europe. To me, one of the most positive aspects of this New Year fever has been how it gave the opportunity to Canada Post to get truly creative designing and producing these stamps. They have used extensive embossing and a variety of finishes such as: pearlescent, holographic and metallic foils and have designed each year as a separate entity. Over the years of the production of the series their efforts have been well rewarded, not only through sales but also by winning several awards. The Year of the Horse won the North American Continental Cup and came in third in the World Cup for the most beautiful stamp. (My personal favourite too!) The Year of the Monkey lunar pack won a major graphic design award and the souvenir sheet was voted in as the best foreign stamp by the Chinese. The Year of the Dog and the Year of the Ram both won gold awards in international graphic arts competitions. The Year of the Dog and the Year of the Rooster have both won other awards as well. Who knows what awards are in store for the Pig and the hot off the press Rat? Personally, I think the Year of the Dragon

was a worthy offering as well. Well, congratulations Canada Post, it has been a very interesting twelve year project!

### Who's Who...

A couple of years ago I was browsing through some stamps at our show and bourse and happened to start talking to a lady next to me doing the same. At the time Rose Anne Evans spent the winter months RVing down in the States but she spent some of the summer months in Owen Sound. Apparently she used to be a member of the club. I thought that it would be great to see more women at the meetings. She gave me her card but we never spoke again... that is until about 2 ½ years later, I was browsing through some stamps at our show and bourse and started talking to the lady next to me doing the same. Guess who?

Rose Anne and her husband Ron have settled back down in Owen Sound again. They spent a few winters in Arizona and one in Texas traveling with their RV. They had a lot of good times and met a lot of good people. She says that a lot of American businesses have really geared up for the RV trade. There are restaurants, gas stations and even 24 hour Wal-Mart's where you can easily park your RV. They managed to take in a stamp show in Tucson Arizona one time. "The place was huge," Rose Anne told me, "but everything there was all high end market. Everything there was hundreds to thousands of dollars. The only affordable stamps were at the U.S Postal kiosk." She went on to tell me that they even had two or three security guards posted at every door. It sounds very interesting but I'm sure Rose Anne would agree, not exactly fun, unless you've got a whole pile of money!

Rose Anne Evans collects the stamps of Canada, USA, Britain, Australia and New Zealand extensively. Her secondary interests include Greece, Malta, the Channel Islands, Ireland and the United Nations. She only collects used stamps and has been getting frustrated lately with American stamps. The gum often seems to be much stronger than the paper the stamps are printed on and the paper creases or disintegrates.

Her grandfather got her and her Dad interested in stamps when she was about 8. Later on her mother Margaret Papke became involved too. Margaret was a member of the Owen Sound stamp club for some time. Now Rose Anne's daughter has taken up the interest. Rose Anne and her Aunt Elizabeth Jones both buy, sell and trade on Stamporama.com. You can find them called Stamprose and Roz\_mk respectively. It must be great to have such a mutual family interest.

Rose Anne has attended a couple of meetings since she showed up at the annual show in October and I hope that we'll be seeing a lot more of her in the future.

*Year of the Rat-* The jade Emperor needed to decide the order in which the celestial beasts should proceed through the sky, forming the base of the Chinese Lunar Calendar, so he organized a race which ended on the far side of the river. Unable to swim, the charming and quick-witted rat talked the ox into carrying him across the river. When approaching the bank he leaped ashore winning the first position in the calendar.

### GUERNICA

By Ralph Wyndham

At a stamp show some time ago, I came across a gigantic (49mm x 82mm or nearly 2" x 3.25") stamp issued by Spain in a souvenir sheet, Scott #2252, on October 25, 1981. I bought it, though I do not collect Spanish stamps, joking that the kid in me just had to have a stamp this big!

The next morning I woke up with the memory of Bernie Reilander's talk to the club in my mind. He told us that it is very difficult to create an image for a stamp subject that works on the very small scale of a postage stamp. Could it be that this stamp was as small as it could possibly be?



Guernica is a small town in the Basque country of northern Spain near Bilbao. Its place in history was cemented by the events of the Spanish Civil War. Simply stated, Spain of the early 20th century was a country of sharp economic division between the owners of wealthy agricultural estates and the poor who eked out a meager living following the harvests on these estates. There were decades of political unrest involving many factions

leading up to the civil war. A coalition of four left wing political parties known as the Popular Front, with a realistic plan for agrarian reform as part of its platform, was elected to power in the 1936 General Elections. The Capitalist and Military leaders of Spain, together with the Roman Catholic churchmen who identified with them, feared the possibility of much broader reforms.

Jose Antonio Primo de Rivera founded the Falangists in 1933. They condemned socialism, Marxism, republicanism and capitalism and proposed that Spain become a Fascist state similar to Italy. In 1936, the military rebellion, which was supported by Primo de Rivera, began. The governing coalition, known as the Republicans, captured Primo de Rivera in July 1936 and executed him in November of the same year. In April of 1937, General Francisco Franco united the Falangists with a number of other small right wing parties and emerged as the leader of the Nationalists.

Germany and Italy both committed troops to the Nationalist cause. Of interest to us here is the Condor Legion, a bomber and fighter unit, put together by Herman Goering and provided to General Franco on the condition that it remain under German Command. On April 27, 1937, this air force unit attacked the town of Guernica, near Bilbao in the Basque region of northern Spain. The bombers dropped bombs on the village for over three hours while the fighters strafed the fleeing villagers. 70% of the village was destroyed and 1600 civilians were killed or wounded. The claim was made that the real target of the raid was a bridge near the village but no bombs fell near it.

Outrage over the attack was worldwide. Pablo Picasso, who had accepted a commission to create a work for the Spanish Pavilion at the Paris Exposition months before, now had a topic for his work and focused his anger on this painting. The result was the huge mural, measuring 3.49m x 7.77m or 11.5 ft. by 25.5 feet that we see on this stamp. The tortured characters in the painting resonated with people everywhere and the painting has proved to be the most powerful antiwar artwork ever.

After the Exposition, the civil war raged on and *Guernica* was sent on tour by the Republicans to raise awareness of Fascist atrocities and to raise funds for their struggle. Picasso had intended the painting reside in Spain but after Franco was victorious there, he would not allow its return. At the outbreak of WWII, Picasso made a long-term loan of the work to the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. *Guernica* continued to travel over the next 20 years and became the most talked about painting in the world. The constant travel was hard on the large canvas and its travels were ended in 1958.

In 1966 Czechoslovakia issued a stamp depicting the painting but mail to Spain franked with this stamp was refused delivery and returned to sender. Yet, just two years later, Franco tried to get the work returned to Spain. Picasso was adamant that *Guernica* would only return when democracy and civil liberties were returned to Spain.

Picasso died in 1973 and General Franco in 1975. The first elections since the civil war were held in 1977. After years of negotiations between Spain, the USA, the Museum of Modern Art and several of Picasso's heirs, *Guernica* finally arrived home on September 10, 1981 and now resides in the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid.

My compliments and thanks go to Ralph Wyndham for use of this, his first article.

MA



BEIJING, Jan. 6 -- China released a special set of stamps to commemorate the "Year of the Rat," according to the Chinese lunar calendar, Xinhua News Agency reported. A release ceremony was held in Changshun County in southwest China's Guizhou Province, as the Shuchang post office there is the only one that contains the Chinese character for "mouse" in its name. Many people rushed to the county to obtain the rat indicia, which only can be

postmarked in Changshun. Each set contains one stamp, which has a face value of 1.2 yuan, or approximately 16 U.S. cents. A colorfully clothed rat is depicted on the stamp, which celebrates the beginning of the new year. It is the first stamp China Post has issued in 2008. Collectors lined up in post offices

A release ceremony for a special set of stamps to commemorate the "Year of the Rat" was held in Changshun County in southwest China's Guizhou Province on Saturday, Jan. 5, 2008. (Xinhua Photo)

across the country to purchase the stamps, which are the fifth set in China's third collection of zodiac stamps.



# 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 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 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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