

OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. December 17th 2008 @ 7:00

From the President...

Greetings fellow Owen Sound philatelists. Looking outside my window I see a white wonderland with a promise of more to come. This type of weather gives us time to spend on our favourite hobby; stamp collecting. It is also time to have our monthly meeting on Wednesday, the December 17th. This meeting is close to the Christmas holidays and so our get together will feature the "President's auction". If you have anything that could be added to the auction, please feel free to bring it along. Several items have been donated already and I have put together a small stockbook of Dutch stamps that contains stamps from the period between the 1850's to the 1950's.

This meeting will also be an opportunity to share the gift giving tradition. At our last meeting we agreed that those who would like to participate could bring a wrapped gift which would be exchanged with another one brought by another club member. Those present at the November meeting suggested that the value of the gift be approximately \$10. This is a voluntary thing to do so that we have a little fun together.

Also discussed at our last meeting was whether the club should continue to request circuit books from the Royal Canadian Philatelic Society. Those present in November decided that the Royal books seldom contained a choice for club members, so we have not renewed the service for this stamp year. Instead, we will be asking selected stamp dealers to come to our meetings. This has been arranged for the January meeting and the February meeting is coming into place. More on that topic will be mentioned in subsequent newsletters.

It is my sincere wish that all club members feel welcome to attend and have an equal opportunity to participate. At the last meeting we ran across an interesting philatelic item that raised some questions. We took an opportunity to discuss the items. John Cortan shared his knowledge about this set of stamps. The set appeared to be a provisional Hamburg issue but was not catalogued. If you have some interesting item that puzzles you and or wish to share some

tidbit of stamp collecting news we will now have a "Show and tell" period at each meeting.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting and I wish you all good health and blessings of the Christmas season.

Phil Visser
President OSSC

Coming Events...

DEC. 20, Burlington, ON

Burloak Stamp Fair, Burlington Senior's Centre, 2285 New St. (at Seneca). Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Between five and nine dealers, always new stock to explore. Collections bought. For more information, contact M.P. Anderson, (905) 632-6057, e-mail: michael@parcelsplusinc.com.

DEC. 20, St. Catharines, ON

Holiday Inn Stamp Show, in the Niagara Room, Holiday Inn, QEW at Lake Street, St. Catharines. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking and admission. Sponsored by Roy's Stamps, specializing in the stamps and covers of Canada and the British Commonwealth. For more information, contact Roy Houtby, 905-934-8377.

JAN. 3, 2009, Moncton, NB

Stamp Fair, Park House Inn, 434 Main St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission and parking, five dealers. For more information, contact Paul Borque, (506) 875-2684.

JAN. 10, 2009, Brantford, ON

Brantford Stamp Club Annual Show, Woodman Centre, 491 Grey St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission and parking, exhibits, 15 dealers, lunch room, silent auctions. For more information, contact Bob Anderson, (519) 754-1305 or brantpf@rogers.com.

JAN. 16 - 18, 2009, Toronto, ON

Unipex Stamp and Coin Show, Rameses Temple Shrine Club, 3100 Keele St. Hours: Fri. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission and parking, door prizes and licensed snack bar. For more information, contact (416) 242-5900.

JAN. 24, 2009, St. Catharines, ON

60th Cathex, Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara St. Free admission and parking, lunch counter, 14 dealers, club circuit. Driving directions: Niagara St. has an exit from the QEW in St. Catharines. The hall is located 4km north of the QEW on Niagara St.

Website: <http://home.cogeco.ca/~stampclub/home.htm>. Sponsor/Affiliate: St. Catharines Stamp Club. Email: stuart.keeley@sympatico.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,

I was wondering if you could tell me about 're-entry' varieties of old stamps. I have read that they are sometimes caused by rocking a worn printing plate to insure inking of the whole sheet. If that is the case I'd think that each re-entry would be different and not be listed as a specific variety. Not only that, I'd think that a lot of sheets would be a total smeared mess instead of what seems to be small hard to spot flaws! How were these stamps printed anyway?

From: Re-entering stamp collecting.



Dear Re-collecting,

Re-entries can be fascinating as well as perplexing. Re-entries are created when the printing plate wears or cracks and repairs are made causing doubling of lines, blurring etc. A major re-entry is when such work requires large amounts of repair whereas most re-entries are simply a case

of a doubled line, a spot etc.

Re-entries are quite often used to locate a stamps position on a sheet.

Excellent examples of re-entries can be found on 1898 Canada Xmas stamps #85 & 86. There are so many varieties of re-entries to be found on those particular stamps that one author has written four books just on the re-entries of these stamps.

(Dr. Phil cont'd. from page 2)



Many collector's also have a lot of interest in all of the faults and errors that can be found on the red plate of this issue. The red plate shows the land masses world-wide that part of the British Commonwealth.

This close up shows the re-entry in the lettering 'Canada Postage' is so extreme that it appears to be an intentional form of

I hope this assists you to re-enter the Stamp World.
Dr. Phil

Thanks to re-entry.com for photos

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 otherwise.

A Look at the Candle By Ralph Wyndham

The candle has been a popular stamp theme for postal authorities, especially at Christmas time. Canada issued a set of four stamps depicting them in 1972 and candles are a minor design element in a couple of other Canadian Christmas issues as well.



Hope, celebration, and religious ceremony, the candle is a versatile symbol for many things around the world.

Perhaps emerging independently with various cultures around the world, the candle seems to be one of those inventions without a clear origin. The earliest candles were more like torches. The ancient Egyptians soaked the pithy core of reeds, or woven tapers of other plant fibers, in melted animal fat (tallow) to light as early candles. Candles made from whale fat dating to 220BC have been



Wax from the bee's honeycomb has long been a high quality but expensive wax for candles. Another wax sometimes used for candles was found in China. Both the Chinese and Japanese extracted wax from insects and seeds to make paper-wrapped tapers.

Tallow, rendered from the fat of animals, was the first common fuel for early candles. It created

(A Look at the Candle cont'd. from page 3)

Roman candle makers were the first to figure out how to place a string of woven plant fibers in the center of their tallow candles thus creating the basic candle form we still use today. Rome is also the origin of the word 'candle' as it is derived from the Latin, *candere*, meaning 'to shine'.

Tallow, the primary fuel for early candles had some serious disadvantages. Though cheap and readily obtainable, tallow would soften and even melt in hot weather. When burning, tallow candles produced a great deal of bad-smelling smoke thanks to its glycerin content. Cleaner-burning fuels were rare and difficult to obtain. Beeswax, perhaps the ideal fuel for candles, was known 5000 years ago in Egypt but was rare and expensive. Even today beeswax candles can be quite costly.

Around 1850, a couple of events happened to finally provide a candle wax



that was plentiful, odorless and smokeless. A process was invented to distill paraffin wax from oil and it became possible to remove the glycerin from tallow thus creating stearic acid. Paraffin, like tallow, had a low melting point but adding stearic acid to the paraffin finally provided candle makers with a hard wax with both a more practical melting point and a clean flame.

While many different seeds, plants and animals have been used to harvest waxes and oils for making candles and fuelling lamps, a fish harvested by the

aboriginal people of the Pacific Northwest of North America as a vital food source, had a second use. The eulachon, or oolichan, a fish 6 to 10 inches long and very rich in fat, when dried and impaled on a stick, could be ignited and used as a light source. Is it any surprise that this creature earned the nickname 'candlefish'?

Candles have long been a part of celebration, ceremony and custom. The Romans used candles in ceremonies for their sun god. Some

ancient peoples believed that staring into a candle flame would reveal gods and spirits or reveal the future. In witchcraft, candles may be used in casting spells. According to old Jewish and Christian custom, placing a burning candle at the bedside of a dying person would keep evil spirits away. In another Jewish custom, a candle is kept burning in a room where someone has died. Just the opposite of this in American folklore, a candle left burning in an empty room could cause the death of a relative.

As pagan peoples embraced Christianity, they brought their candle customs with them. The early church resisted the use of candles for spiritual purposes

Paraffin wax refined from coal or petroleum oils provided candle making with plentiful cheap wax. The combination of

but without success. St. Jerome's (340-420 AD) influence led to the acceptance of candles in the Roman Catholic Church. He felt that if candles were used to represent the presence of God, everlasting life and hope, they could be accepted.



An early candle making process: repeatedly dipping a wick into liquid wax

During the fourth century, the Church created guidelines for the use of candles during services and the symbolism of the candle and flame were redefined to match church beliefs. Beeswax in the body of the candle would represent the Virgin Mary, the wick the soul of Jesus Christ and the flame the Divinity that absorbs and dominates both.

By the 12th century, consecrated candles were used regularly on altars and the Church established the use of holy candles in ritual blessings, absolution of sin and exorcising demons. During the Inquisition of the Middle

Ages, consecrated candles were one of the tools recommended to inquisitors to protect them from witch's spells.

A little candle ceremony that takes place in many churches at Christmas time marks the passage of Advent. On each of the four Sundays prior to Christmas Day, one of four smaller candles surrounding a larger white one is lit at the beginning of the service. The four smaller ones represent Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. The large white one, representing Jesus' birth, is lit Christmas Day.

(A Look at the Candle cont'd. from page 4)

One of the oldest symbols of the Jewish faith is the menorah, a seven-branched candelabrum, or candleholder, representing the seven days of creation. Another familiar Jewish candelabrum, the nine-branched Chanukia, is used for a candle lighting ceremony during Chanukah, a celebration familiar to Christians as it takes place around Christmas time.

Today, candle wax can be dipped, extruded, pressed, rolled or poured into a mold to create any desired shape. It can be dyed any colour and fragrances can be added. For ambiance and decoration, as a symbol in religious and other ceremonies or to simply light one's way in the dark, the candle has been part of human life around the world for centuries and will most certainly remain with us far into the future.



Candles from around the world: Sweden, Mexico, Singapore, Canada and Great Britain.

On the Cover...



This year Canada Post released a group of three secular stamps with the theme; 'Winter Fun' and one stamp with a Christmas theme. This year I have decided to take a closer look at the single religious stamp. It is a lovely stamp that features a haloed, open-armed baby Jesus. The view is from a point far enough above the scene to catch a glimpse of his Mother praying over him. Unfortunately it is a 'Permanent' rate stamp. I say 'unfortunately' because the symbol for 'Permanent' rate stamps adopted by Canada Post has no place in the design of this stamp. Over the years numerals have often been used very well on stamps to reflect or accent the feel or style of a stamp. The stiff little red maple leaf containing a white 'P' is simply too inflexible to suit most Canadian stamps. In the case of this Christmas stamp the symbol could have been printed with a gold ink to match the halo on the Christ figure or perhaps the blue background could have been red to match the symbol. I imagine that it irritates the creators of the stamp as well.

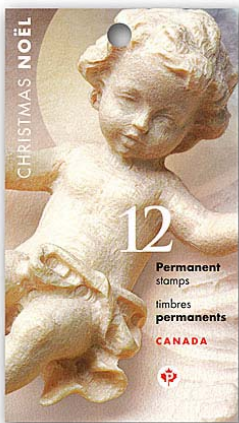
A number of people are involved in the creation of a stamp. The wooden sculptures were carved by Antonio Caruso. The Italian born Caruso is a renowned sculptor and painter. His paintings are done in two ways that he has developed himself. He calls his painting styles frescographia and afresco. Examples of his work can be found on his website: antoniocaruso.com but the site does not describe either technique. He does lovely sculptures that are mostly religious or historical in nature and are life size or larger. The fascinating thing about the figures on the stamp is that these sculptures are part of a whole nativity scene with the figures purported to be a mere couple of inches in height. The small Jesus figure has so much detail and so much character; it is hard to believe that it is only two inches long!

Toronto graphic designer Joe Gault was responsible for the design of this stamp. He discovered the tiny sculptures while studying Nativity art belonging to St. James Cathedral in Toronto. Inspired by the tiny figures carved from lime wood Joe then went to work with photographer Michael Rafelson. They tried a number of poses and lighting configurations in order to come up with the selected shot. Now Joe would put to work his computer graphic arts skills setting the boundaries of the image, working

the background to appear fresco-like, doing the lettering and creating a golden halo. The result is a lovely Canadian Christmas postage stamp.

'The Nativity' is a self-adhesive domestic-rate 'Permanent' stamp available in booklet of twelve and is of course also on an official first day cover.

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St. James Cathedral Archives and Museum Gallery is next to the cathedral located at Church and Adelaide Streets in downtown Toronto. This year the cathedral's gallery is hosting the Ninth Annual "Crèches from Across the World" Exhibit which is open to the public daily until Monday, December 22 and again on December 28 - 29 from 1:00pm - 4:00pm. The magnificently appointed cathedral has been a well known Toronto landmark for more than 200 years. St. James has gorgeous stained glass windows old and new. Arrangements can be made with the Archives and Museum people to take a tour of the cathedral and I'm sure it would be well worth the time.

Take a good look at the cover of this booklet and you will see the tool

Marion Ace

From the Editor...

Well I think Phil covered just about everything except that John Cortan has been looking for OFDC sized envelopes for us, so let's talk about that at the meeting.

Christmas meeting Checklist:

- ❖ some treats if you wish, John will have coffee.
- ❖ \$10 wrapped gift for exchange, also voluntary.
- ❖ Item(s) for auction, voluntary too! Remember, auction will be for President's funny munny only!
- ❖ Friends and family are welcome.
- ❖ Be there or be square!

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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.

Guests or new members are always most welcome.

Annual membership fees: Full-\$10; Family-\$15; Junior- Free

Members and guests contribute \$1 at each meeting which is passed directly to St. George's Church in appreciation for use of 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.

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