

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. May 18th 2011 @ 7:00

From the President...



It is time again to welcome all club members to the planned meeting on May 18th at the St. George's Anglican Church. I met a number of club members at the recent stamp show hosted by the Saugeen Stamp Club. I hope the time was profitable and you enjoyed the show. I saw several things that may be useful for our own show coming up in

September.

We will have Mr. Ed Lewis as our guest for this meeting. Ed is bringing the club circuit books from the Cambridge stamp club. I hope the same number of members, or more, will turn out for this meeting as we did for the last meeting. The turn out for the last meeting was encouraging and Tom Griffith left satisfied with the sales for the evening. Tom has also offered to return later this fall which I will gladly his offer accept unless members think differently.

Progress has been made in the preparation for our show in September since the last meeting. We have rented a hall at the Royal Canadian Legion on 2nd Ave west. When Bob and I visited the room, we discovered that it was very small, and so we have made an executive decision to rent the auditorium. However, the cost is significantly higher, which means that we will really need to push the door prize and raffle tickets and if anyone can make donations for raffle prizes we should be able to make this show a financial break even or possibly produce a profit. The Legion offers plenty of parking and is well situated in town at the intersection of a couple of main thoroughfares. We have already placed ads in the Grand News and distributed cards to other clubs through Tom. There will be more news on promoting the show at the meeting.

I hope to see you at the meeting on the 18th.

Phil Visser

President OSSC

A Look At Chess, Part 2

By Ralph Wyndham

In the first part of my look at chess, we saw how a military strategy board game



invented in India, made its way to Persia and then into

Europe, evolving along the way. In this part, we look at the history of elite international chess competition.

Modern competition-style chess and the concept of a world champion emerged in the 19th Century. The first international chess tournament was the 1851 London tournament. A huge problem was time. Players could take hours analyzing their

next move making a game and tournament drag on. The sand hourglass timer was introduced in

Wilhelm Steinitz 1889-1894, Emanuel Lasker 1894-1921 and Jose Capablanca 1921-1927.

1861 and since then various clocks and strategies have been used to control the time allowed for player moves.

Won by Steinitz, the 1886 match between Prague-born Wilhelm Steinitz and German Johannes Zuckertort is regarded as the first official World Chess Championship. Steinitz lost his title to Emanuel Lasker (continued on the next page)

(A Look at Chess continued from the last page)

in 1894 who successfully defended his title until defeated in 1921 by Cuban Jose Capablanca. From 1886

through WWII, a championship match came about simply by a challenge to play the champion. The concept is simple but a challenge did not always result in an immediate match.

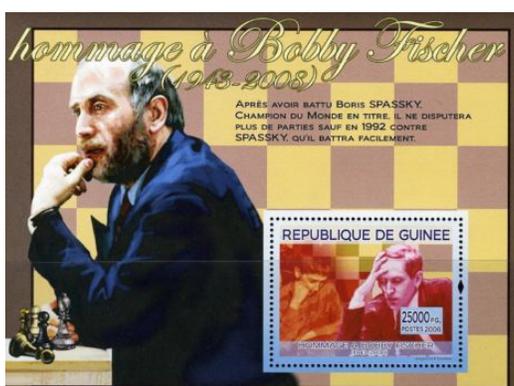
As the old cliché goes, the devil is in the detail. Where and when will the match take place? Just exactly how will games be played? How many? What about time allotment for moves, breaks, meals. How do you handle games that have to resume the next day? Also, Lasker insisted that the challenger raise all the prize money. At times getting everything in order in a timely fashion could prove difficult.

Regardless of all the little difficulties getting a match together, the system managed to work as it was until 1946 when the reigning world champion, Alexander Alekhine, died leaving the international chess world wondering what to do. At this point FIDE, founded in 1924, stepped in to organize a tournament to name the next world champion. The 5-player tournament was held in 1948 with Russian Mikhail Botvinnik taking the title.

Russia has long taken chess very seriously. After the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917, a series of chess



Stamps marking two FIDE sanctioned chess events. At the left, the World Championship for the super elite and the larger



schools were established to hone the skills of talented young players. The system finally bore fruit with Botvinnik's 1948 win. Since that time, all but two champions have been from the Soviet Union, or since the USSR's collapse, natives of former Soviet Bloc countries.

It seems that arranging a match at the world championship level has been like a chess game itself with politics and controversy used as game pieces. Someone always seems dissatisfied with something. The format of tournament play to determine a championship challenger often seems contentious. A match must move because a player won't go to a proposed host country. Someone doesn't like the prize purse or how it's divided. There seems to be a psychological battle going on between players even before matches can begin.

Between 1993 and 2006, there were two world chess championships after Russian Gary Kasparov and British

master Nigel Short, complaining corruption and unprofessional broke away and formed the (PCA). The two reunited with a Bulgarian Vesselin Topalov

chess of FIDE conduct,



world championship was the chess genius Bobby Fischer and

This souvenir sheet celebrates the 1992 rematch between Boris Spassky (left) and Bobby Fischer

Professional Chess Association tournament in 2006 that saw a taking the crown.

Perhaps the most famous 1972 event between American Russian master Boris Spassky. The tournament was set in Iceland and interest was especially keen because this was a match pitting America against the USSR at the height of the cold war. Not a chess enthusiast myself, even I can remember hearing about the contest. There was some doubt that the match would take place due to Fischer's continuing demands and unreasonableness. Fischer insisted on a share of box office receipts, and failed to arrive for the opening ceremonies and forced the tournament to start two days late. Many commentators, especially Soviet, felt it was all a show to 'psych out' Spassky.

Sofia Bulgaria was home for the 2010 world championship. *Victor Anand.*

With a note of irony, over 21 games, Fischer, sometimes critical of America and American society, yet with the political weight of the Cold War on his shoulders, battled Spassky, playing under similar pressures of Soviet expectations that he prove (continued on the next page)

(A Look at Chess continued from the last page)

the superiority of the communist system. After 51 days, Spassky resigned making Fischer the first American-born World Chess Champion. Several years later, Fischer

became the only world champion to forfeit his title after he failed to come to terms with FIDE for conditions for the 1975 world championship match.

Current world champion, Viswanathan (Vishy) Anand, is a star in his native India. He is working hard there to promote his passion for chess. In December 2010, he participated in an event to set a Guinness world record for simultaneous chess games. On December 25, 20480 players gathered in Ahmedabad, India, to play 10,240 games easily eclipsing the Mexico City's 2004 mark of 13446 players in 6723 games.

To rise as a chess master today is rather like it is to grow as an exhibitor in the world of philately. You start at the local club level. From there, you progress to the regional then national levels. Success at the national level leads to competition at the international level. For the competitive exhibitor, the ultimate is gold at a major international show. For the chess player, it is a win at a major international chess tournament.

From the Editor...

Thank you to Tom Griffith who brought the St. Catharines' stamp circuit books last month.

Ted Mehlhruer read a letter from Jim Phillips of Canada Post regarding a stamp honouring the rebellions of Upper Canada and Lower Canada in 1837. The letter explained that there was not enough time to consider the topic for the 2012 stamp program. Ted wondered how they managed to create stamps in time for the Royal Wedding.

John Cortan brought in an inscription block of four of #302, the Fishing Resources stamp for us to consider for our show raffle. It is mint, never hinged and in great condition but not perfectly centered. A very fine never hinged plate block is listed as \$300 in my 2009 Unitrade Catalogue. The club voted to purchase the stamps for the raffle. I hope to have tickets available at this meeting.

A number of the Owen Sound Club members made it out to the Saugeen Stamp Club Show on Saturday May the 7th. There were lots of interesting stamp exhibits there. I hope that members are working on some exhibits for our show in September.

See you on Wednesday! The Editor



On the Cover...Royal Wedding 2011

There has been much excitement about the wedding of Catherine Middleton to the Prince William of Wales on April 29th of this

year. The wedding went off without a hitch in the lavish surroundings of Westminster Abbey. The wedding dress will be raved about for years. The bride looked lovely as usual but perhaps they could have afforded a hairdresser to do something interesting with Kate's luxurious locks. The chatter everywhere was continuously making comparisons with the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer. Diana went on to become the darling of the British Commonwealth and beyond despite the marriage ending in divorce. Speculation is that this is more of a love match than that of Prince William's royal parents. In keeping with tradition the Queen bestowed the titles of the Duke of Cambridge, Earl of Strathearn and the Baron Carrickfergus on William (continued on the next page)

(On the Cover continued from the last page)

on the morning of his wedding. His full title is now His Royal Highness Prince William Arthur Philip Louis, Duke of Cambridge, Earl of Strathearn, Baron Carrickfergus, Royal Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Master of Arts. He holds a number of Military ranks, Honours and Honourary Military Appointments.

The Duke of Cambridge has trained to become a helicopter pilot with the RAF's Search and Rescue Force and is currently based on Anglesey. Anglesey is a large island just off of the coast of North Wales. Perhaps a helicopter rescue by the future king of England will distract emergency victims from their plight. The newlyweds will continue to live in their rented cottage there for another couple of years in relative peace and quiet.

Many countries have issued commemorative stamps to celebrate this wedding including Canada. We were probably one of the very few British Commonwealth



The Menai Bridge of 1826 joins Anglesey to

counties that did not issue any stamps for Charles and Diana's 'wedding of the century' so it is exciting to join in on the fun. Canada Post has issued two stamps in a few different formats released on the day of the wedding. The stamps were brought to light in a Royal Wedding Special Edition of Details magazine.



Prince William's

The permanent rate stamp is a photo of the couple taken at the announcement of their engagement last November. There is also an international rate stamp with an official engagement photograph taken by Mario



Testino. In it Kate is wearing Princess Di's sapphire and diamond engagement ring. The stamps come in their own

There a lot of royal wedding stamps from other countries to choose from.

Testino. In it Kate is wearing Princess Di's sapphire and diamond engagement ring. The stamps come in their own

booklet of ten self-adhesive stamps and as a pair on a souvenir sheet with a splendid view of the interior of Westminster Abbey. The souvenir sheet can also be ordered with a gold overprint of Prince William's coat of arms. In an unusual move, the stamps are also available setenant on a sheet of sixteen. There are three OFDCovers; one with the two booklet stamps, one with the souvenir sheet and the third one has a pair of stamps from the setenant sheet that has a 25 cent coin with the couple's portrait embedded in the cover. And that's not all! Since we did not issue stamps for either of Prince Charles weddings it seems odd that we have now gone so overboard producing souvenirs for this wedding. There are post cards, a wedding keepsake kit, coins of Princes William and Harry and another coin of the wedding pair with a fake embedded sapphire. It may not be easy to decide what to buy for some people!

The royal couple's first official visit will be to Canada on June 30th to July 8th. They will be visiting various parts of the country including the North West Territories. Our readers are more likely to get a glimpse of them at the Canada Day celebrations in Ottawa.

Coming Events...

- **MAY 13 - 15, DORVAL, QC**
ROYALE*2011*ROYAL, Sarto Desnoyers Community Centre, 1450 Dawson Ave. Hours: Fri.: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat.: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sun.: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission, free parking, youth activities, seminars. Sponsor/Affiliate: Lakeshore Stamp Club and Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. For more information contact Gary Misener, telephone 514-426-0432, email gmisener@sympatico.ca. Website: <http://www.ROYALE2011.com>.
- **JUNE 11, Toronto, ON**
Spring Postage Stamp Bourse, Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St. Free admission, club sale circuit, wheelchair access, refreshments available. Sponsor/Affiliate: North Toronto Stamp Club. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Herb, telephone 416-445-7720, email ntstampclub@yahoo.ca. Website: <http://www.NorthTorontoStampClub.tk>.
- **JUNE 18, Burlington, ON**
BurLOak Stamp Fair, Burlington Senior's Centre, 2285 New St. Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Between six and nine dealers who are active buyers and have new material every month. For more information contact Michael P. Anderson, telephone 905-632-6057, email mpanderson@cogeco.ca.
- **AUG. 6, Fenelon Falls, ON**
FENPEX 27, Fenelon Seniors' Club Hall, 58 Murray St. Hours: 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Door prizes, free stuff for kids, silent auctions, dealers, lunch available, bright new air-

conditioned building, free admission, lots of free parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: Fenelon Stamp Club. For information contact Lloyd McEwan, club president, telephone 705-324-7577, email lmcewan@sympatico.ca.

- AUG. 13, Kincardine, ON
KINEX 2011, Davidson Centre, 601 Durham St. Seniors Room. Note this is a new location. The Davidson Centre is just off Hwy. 21 on Durham St. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission and parking, eight to 10 dealers, youth table, door prizes, lunch booth. For more information contact John, telephone 519-395-5817, email jcortan@hurontel.on.ca.
- SEPT. 2 - 4, North Bay, ON
BNAPEX 2011, Clarion Resort Pinewood Park Hotel, 201 Pinewood Park Dr. Exhibits, bourse, study group meetings, seminars, area tours, awards banquet. Sponsor/Affiliate: British North America Philatelic Society. For more information contact John Beddows, email: jlw@onlink.net, PO Box 21077, North Bay, ON P1B 9N8. Website: <http://www.bnaps.org/bnapex2011>.
- SEPT. 17, Toronto, ON
Fall Postage Stamp Bourse, Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St. Free admission, club sale circuit, wheelchair access, refreshments available. Sponsor/Affiliate: North Toronto Stamp Club. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Herb, telephone 416-445-7720, email ntstampclub@yahoo.ca. Website: <http://www.NorthTorontoStampClub.tk>.
- SEPT. 17, Owen Sound, ON
Owen Sound 16th Annual Stamp Show and Sale, North Atlantic Room, Royal Canadian Legion, 1450 2nd Ave. W. NOTE: New location. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., eight dealers, door prizes, free parking and admission, exhibits and free stamps for kids. Sponsor/Affiliate: Owen Sound Stamp Club. For more information contact Marion Ace, telephone 519-934-1998, email marionace@bmts.com.

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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 25 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: \$15; Junior- Free

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