

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. February 15th 2012 @ 7:00

From the President...



Greetings to all those hearty Ontarians enjoying the wonderful winter! It seems that the strange winter has left the door open for other types of discomfort such as sickness. I have been laid up for almost two weeks, but it seems to be improving to the point that I can now concentrate and write this welcome message for this month's meeting.


I really didn't have energy to work on stamps but I did pass the time looking at my collection and came up with some interesting items that my father had managed to accumulate. I am sure everyone has heard about forgeries in money and perhaps even realize that it has occurred with stamps, but my father had found a couple of forgeries and one other has come into my hands. So now I was wondering if other club members may have something along the same lines. If so, please let me know and perhaps it will become the topic of our meeting in March.

The previous paragraph may seem a step ahead, so I would like to invite those able to come to our next meeting. The meeting will be held on February 15th at our usual place, the St George's Anglican Church. For this meeting, John Cortan will be bringing his stock along for our ever acquisitive hands so that we can fill the holes in our collections. John mentioned that he had added to his stock recently, so helping him out with our purchases would be a great way to support a fellow club member.

It is also the right time to encourage members to prepare a display, or revise/enlarge a previous display for the upcoming show in September. I know all clubs have a challenge keeping their meetings fresh, so if anyone has a suggestion for our meetings, please let me know. Perhaps, with suitable encouragement, someone will lead a topic for one meeting. See you on the 15th.

Cheers.

Phil Visser
 President OSSC



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From the Editor...

Hello everybody! First of all I must apologize for my error in the January newsletter. I referred to John Lemon's friend as Sheena who is in fact Glenna. We were pleased that Glenna attended our January meeting too.

Don't forget that John Cortan will be bringing his wares to this meeting. Please contact John if you have a particular interest so that he can dig something up for you. We hope that a few members can

The Bayeux Tapestry ... By Marion Ace



The real tapestry was not made with the modern colours of this set of stamps

As a child one set of stamps that really caught my attention were the Battle of Hastings 1066 stamps. The British set consists of six brightly coloured 4p stamps that depict battle scenes of mail clad knights on foot and horseback with a variety of weapons. A 6p stamp shows ships carrying the soldiers to battle. The eighth stamp (1s 3p) is a longer stamp showing Norman

cavalry attacking a shield wall of King Harold's bodyguards. The stamps were designed by David Gentleman who has designed more than one hundred stamps for the Royal Mail. While Mr. Gentleman is certainly a worthy topic for a philatelic discussion, I would instead like to look at the Bayeux Tapestry which is the source of these gruesome images. While the images do not show blood splattered all about they do show dead bodies, including headless ones and one figure appears to be stealing the chain mail from a dead knight. So they certainly are gruesome, but with their bright colours laid out on a white background and the curious figures that evoke such a strong sense of history, they appealed strongly to a young girl.

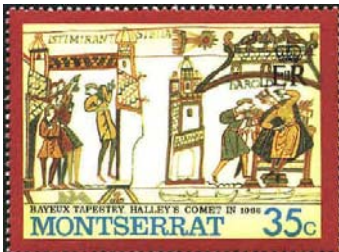


The Bayeux Tapestry is a truly amazing artifact. It should actually be called the Bayeux embroidery which is the true method of its making. It is a 20" wide swath of embroidered

After the conquest of England Bishop Odo had the

linen 234' long (about 70 m). Originally it was likely close to 240' or more but it sustained damage possibly during the French revolution. It depicts the events leading up to the Battle of Hastings from 1064 culminating in the Battle itself. It tells the story of the death King Harold II of England, defeated by William the Bastard Duke of Normandy who earned the name William the Conqueror at this battle. It is expected that the missing last few yards show his coronation when he became William I of England and Normandy.

The origins of the tapestry are not certain but it is believed by many to have been commissioned by Bishop Odo who was the half brother of William. Bayeux is a town in Lower Normandy where Bishop Odo had the cathedral 'Our Lady of Bayeux' built. The tapestry was probably commissioned to adorn the new cathedral which was consecrated in July of 1077. The actual making of the tapestry is still highly debated. At one time it was thought that Queen Matilda (William's queen) and her ladies produced the embroidery. It is thought by many to have been designed by a man due to its



gruesome nature. Some think it was stitched by monks or nuns at Winchester or Canterbury. Others suggest the Abbey of St Florent in Saumur France or even right in Bayeux. But it is known that the embroidery resided at the Bayeux Cathedral for about seven hundred years. It lay protected in a chest most of the time and was put on display for the week of the Feast of John the Baptist. After that it was moved several times and was almost lost to the Germans in WWII before being returned to Bayeux where it now resides in a museum open to the public most of the time.

To a historian the Bayeux Tapestry is a treasure trove of information.

The story of the kings is told in accurate chronological order along the long reel of fabric and it has margins along the top and bottom the entire length. The story begins with Edward the Confessor, the aging and childless King of England who needs to choose an heir and thus the troubles begin. As it unfolds the story is also told tersely in Latin

Halley's Comet (top center) strikes fear in the heart of King

(The Bayeux Tapestry continued from page two)

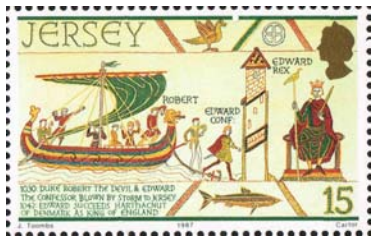
and important characters are often labeled. There is a lot of detail which may not be apparent on first viewing. It shows Englishmen with their tunics hiked up as they wade to their ships carrying their dogs and falcons and it contains the only known image of Halley's Comet from that era. The

appearance of the comet so early in King Harold's reign was considered an ill omen. There are depictions of several important buildings of the time; churches and castles many of which were destroyed a long time ago and a few that remain. It shows the use of many kinds of weapons and the banners and shields of the participants. The images in the margins for the most part seem completely unrelated to the conquest. The margins contain a vast number of birds and animals including many dogs, exotic beasts such as camels and mythical beasts like dragons. There are scenes from daily life and also scenes from the fables of Aesop and Phaedrus. In all, the tapestry consists of "over six hundred characters, two hundred horses, around fifty dogs, five hundred other animals, several dozen trees, about thirty buildings and forty ships". Wow!



William I is one of a large set of stamps honoring

There are a number of replicas of the tapestry. The oldest replica was made in England by 37 ladies of the Leek School of Art Embroidery. The ladies were organized by Elizabeth Wardle who was encouraged by her husband Thomas Wardle the textile manufacturer and William Morris a well known textile designer who was recently honoured by a set of British stamps. This version of the tapestry can be found at the museum in Reading,



Berkshire England. A Viking Group in Denmark started a copy using the original techniques. New Zealand has a half scale mosaic version. Canada has one hand stitched by a professor from the University of Waterloo. Ray Dugan worked on his tapestry for eleven years but concentrated on the work heavily after the accidental death of his two sons. The piece has shown at museums and galleries around Canada and the USA. Some of the replicas include personal interpretations of endings for the tapestry.

Jersey designed a set of stamps to tell three hundred years of their history in the style of the Bayeux Tapestry which overlaps the story told on the Bayeux tapestry. The set ends with King John granting rights and privileges to Jerseymen in the early 1200s. Jersey has remained under British

Here Jersey's history meets up with Edward the Confessor at the beginning of the



protection since that time.

I am still very fond of the Battle of Hastings 1066 stamps and I'm fascinated to find stamps from various countries that have used imagery from the Bayeux Tapestry including: Denmark, St. Helena, Oman, Surinam and France of course!

I would love to see the Bayeux but I don't expect to. Perhaps I'll to see Ray Dugan's copy. You can

scroll through the entire length of the Tapestry although it is somewhat miniature and you can find out a lot more about the Tapestry itself and the story it depicts at the website for the Bayeux Tapestry Museum in France; <http://www.tapestry-bayeux.com/index.php?id=3>

Forty ships were stitched onto this

Tapestry in person get the opportunity go to Wikipedia to

On the Cover...John Ware

February is Black History month and Canada Post is back with stamps honouring a male and a female black person who has influenced Canadian history. This year's honourees are cowboy John Ware and civil rights activist Viola Desmond. Stamps for each of them are available in self-adhesive booklets of ten.

Viola Desmond was the young lady who Carrie Best (see OSSC newsletter February 2011) worked very hard to help in a discrimination case. Miss Desmond was arrested at the Roseland Theatre in New Glasgow Nova Scotia for sitting in the

whites-only section of the theatre. While her jailers claimed that the charge was for not paying the one cent tax for seating in that area the fact that the seating was segregated made it decidedly a case of discrimination. All efforts to overturn Viola's conviction failed but were not unfruitful. The battle focused the limelight onto the inequalities of Canadian attitudes and laws and changes were eventually made. In 2010 Viola Desmond was the first Canadian to be granted a posthumous pardon by the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia. Miss Desmond's story is important in



John Ware and Viola Desmond are celebrated for

the fight for equal rights in Canada but today our main focus is on the story of John Ware.



John Ware
invented some of
the main events

John Ware was a cowboy folk hero in the west in a time and place where black faces were rare indeed! He was not born a Canadian but as a slave in South Carolina around 1845. The story is told that he was told to break in a wild horse by his master. The horse kicked and bucked and tossed his rider and that was the one and only time he was ever thrown by a horse. He took well to the work and when he gained his freedom after the American Civil War he went to work in Texas as a cowhand. On his first big cattle drive up to Montana he was given the worst jobs and the worst horse to ride. John was a good-natured man and did not complain and after seeing his skill with the cattle he was soon given a better horse to ride. It was on one of those big cattle drives in 1882 to what is now called Alberta when John Ware decided to stay. By now he was a highly skilled cowboy and he found work with the Bar U and Quorn ranches. These ranches were large operations that were the seeds of the gigantic ranching industry in Alberta. The Bar U, part of the North West Cattle Company, is now a National Historic site that claims John Ware and the Sundance Kid among their most colourful cowboys.

By 1892 Ware managed to earn enough money to buy a piece of land and start his own small ranch by Sheep Creek west of Calgary. He married Mildred Lewis of Toronto. They had six children five who lived to adulthood. Although John Ware was known as Nigger John he was well respected by his ranching neighbours and even seen as a legend. He was a large man and very strong. He was expert with a lariat and he started steer wrestling as a competitive activity which he won at the Calgary Summer Fair. Steer wrestling went on to become a major attraction at the Calgary Stampede. It was said that he could pick up an 18 month old steer and that he could drop a horse with one hand and hold it down to be shod. On occasion he helped to break in wild horses for the RCMP.

(On the Cover... John Ware continued from page four)

In 1902 Ware and his family moved to a new homestead on the Red Deer River near Duchess Alberta. In the spring his cabin was washed away by the river. He rebuilt on higher ground overlooking a creek that became known as Ware Creek however, misfortune was here to stay. In 1905 Mildred died from pneumonia and typhoid just two years after birthing her last child. The children were sent off to live with relatives in Vulcan Alberta. A few months later, just 12 days after the establishment of Alberta as a province of Canada, John Ware's horse caught his foot in a badger hole and crushed the big man to death. Later, his two daughters went into farming together. All three of his sons went to work for the railway and one of them lost his life in service in WWI. While one of his sons did marry, none of his children had any offspring themselves. Sadly John Ware has no descendants.



His last homestead was saved for posterity and relocated to Dinosaur Provincial Park some miles to the east. The badlands and most of southern Alberta are

The Dinosaur Trail weaves around southern Alberta through the badlands.



famous for ranching, natural gas and dinosaur bones. Alberta's Dinosaur Provincial Park boasts the discovery of 150 dinosaur skeletons and some bone beds that contain bones from many dinosaurs. The Park lists 17 varieties of dinosaurs, most of which are bipedal carnivores. The Dinosaur Park is located on the Red Deer River. The homestead has been moved around the park and restored a few times. It underwent a major overhaul in the late 90s and was unveiled in July 2002. Some descendants from Mildred's family were in attendance.

The photograph of John Ware and the land deed shown on his stamp was provided by the Glenbow Foundation Archives. The Foundation has amassed much of the Canadian west's history and artifacts including Ware's spurs, saddle, shot gun and some family photographs.

Eric Lafferty
Harvie, the
founder of the
Glenbow Fdn.
whose Archives

Although he encountered a lot of prejudice in Calgary upon his arrival in Canada, he made so many friends that John Ware's funeral was the largest that city had ever seen at that time. Ranchers travelled far to pay their respects to the great man. He

was big, strong, friendly, adventurous, helpful and a legend in his own time. Ware Creek, Mt. Ware and a junior high school in Calgary have been named for him as well as Nigger John Ridge, which has thankfully been changed to John Ware Ridge.

This year the Calgary Stampede celebrates its 100th anniversary. Although his time was before the advent of the Stampede John Ware was instrumental in the development of a number of the main rodeo events held there so this is a very opportune year to celebrate his accomplishments. John Ware was Canada's first black cowboy, yeehaw!

Coming Events...

- FEB. 18, Niagara Falls, ON
NIPEX 2012, Stamford Lions Club Hall, 3846 Portage Rd. Sponsor/Affiliate: Niagara Philatelic Society. For more information contact Ed Yonelinas, telephone 905-262-5127 email mastamps@computan.com.
- FEB. 25, Ajax, ON
Apex 2012, Ajax Community Centre, 75 Centennial Rd. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., free admission and parking, 17 dealers, youth booth, door prizes. Sponsor/Affiliate: The Ajax Philatelic Society. For more information contact donaldbeaumont@yahoo.com.
- FEB. 25, St. Thomas, ON
St. Thomas Stamp Club Philatelic Exhibition, Community of Christ Church, 105 Fairview Ave. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 13 bourse tables, buy - sell - trade, free parking and admission. For more information contact Martin Dekeyzer, telephone 519-681-7145, email martin.dekeyzer@sympatico.ca.
- MARCH 3 - 4, Mississauga,, ON.
IX Polish - Canadian Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show 2012, John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd.(just south of Hwy.403). . Sat. \$2 adult admission, Sun. free admission. Free parking. Refreshments available. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Stamps, coins, medals, paper money and militaria, exhibits, "Troyak Junior" table with FREE stamps for kids, Troyak special token and show souvenirs. Sponsor/Affiliate: Polish-Canadian Coin & Stamp Club "Troyak". For more information contact Tom Malicki, telephone 905-281-0000, website: www:troyakclub.com, email info@troyakclub.com.
- MARCH 10, Peterborough, ON
Kapex, The Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Rd. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 15 dealers, Canada Post, club sales circuit, juried exhibits, show cover, silent auction, raffle and door prize, gifts for every child, free parking and admission, wheelchair access,

snack bar. Sponsor/Affiliate: Kawartha Stamp Club. For more information, contact Rick Stankiewicz stankiewiczr@nexicom.net. Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/kawartha>.

- MARCH 10, Windsor, ON

WINPEX 2012, Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Avenue at Tecumseh. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission, free parking, door prizes. This is a new larger location for the show.

Sponsor/Affiliate: Essex County Stamp Club. For more information contact Brian Cutler, email brian@clwindsor.org, telephone 519-966-2276 Website:

<http://www.essexcountystampclub.com>.

- MARCH 10, Oakville, ON

Oakpex 2012, St. Paul's United Church. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., free admission, free parking, lunch counter, table auctions, sales circuits, youth booth. Sponsor/Affiliate:

Oakville Stamp Club. Bernd Duddeck, telephone 905-845-2326, email colbournetriller@cogeco.ca.

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 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

Club Officers:

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