

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. December 18th 2013 @ 7:00

From the President...



Greetings everyone! As I write this newsletter introduction the snow flies merrily around outside. The snow reminds me that I need to encourage everyone who is able to attend our stamp club meeting if the weather permits. This month features the annual Christmas get together with the usual shenanigans of the President's Auction and gift exchange.

The gift exchange is the easiest to explain. If you wish to participate, then bring a gift of modest value and we'll have a table set aside for the gifts. Pick a number when you put the gift there, there will be two for the same number, keep one number and put the other in the basket/container. Later in the evening we will draw the numbers from the container to see who will pick first from the gifts present. Maybe you will even want to pick your own gift!

The Presidents Auction is a sharing of our philatelic excess. Please bring a few articles that may be of interest to other club members. I will be bringing some baggies of extra stamps (on and off paper) and some postcards. The only valid currency for the evening is the Presidents Funny money, which I have distributed during the calendar year and there will be some more when the evening begins. I have had to ask our printer to print some more since I ran out at the November meeting, so there is a lot in circulation and likely will lead to some spirited bidding. The shenanigans begin when members share their stash with each other towards the end of the auction.

There will be some business matters to tend to; an update concerning the 2014 stamp show, the club cancel and a reminder to pay the membership dues for the New Year. The plan for some of next year's early meetings will be: John Cortan bringing his stock to the January meeting, a few part time dealers in the club bringing their stock in February, a stamp trading night in March and a possible speaker for April. To facilitate the stamp trading night, I am asking all members to write down their stamp interests on a form. The form will ask for "Major Interests" such as the Netherlands and Canada for me, "Minor Interests" such as Great Britain

and Denmark and then "Topicals" such as stamps on stamps, birds etc. This will help me advertise our interests amongst ourselves, but also to share with the stamp dealers that come to our show in the fall.

As we come to the end of the year, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year. Thank you for your support during 2013 and I look forward to 2014. To the members who are unable to attend regularly, I hope the newsletter has kept you informed and if you have any suggestions for the New Year, they will be gladly received. Cheers

Phil Visser
President OSSC

Coming Events...

- DEC. 21, St. Catharines, ON
Best Western Stamp Show, Niagara Room, Best Western Hotel (formerly Holiday Inn), QEW at Lake Street. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking and admission. Specializing in stamps and covers of Canada and the British Commonwealth. Sponsor/Affiliate: Roy's Stamps. For more information contact Roy Houtby, telephone 905-934-8377.
- JAN. 11, 2014, Brantford, ON
Annual Show and Bourse, Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey St. (at James Avenue). Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission and parking, Canada Post franchise, 15-plus dealers, silent auction, club circuit books, exhibits, lunch counter and refreshments. This is a major event as the Brantford club celebrates its 75th anniversary. Sponsor/Affiliate: Brantford Stamp Club. For more information telephone 519-442-3242, email shasland14@gmail.com, or visit the website. Website: <http://www.brantfordstamp.org>.
- JAN. 17 - 19, 2014, Toronto, ON
UNIPEX Toronto Stamp & Coin Show, Toronto Plaza Hotel, 1677 Wilson Ave. 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. New location. Sponsor/Affiliate: Unitrade Associates. For more information call Unitrade Associates, telephone 416-242-5900, email unitrade@rogers.com. Website: <http://www.unitradeassoc.com/>.
- JAN. 18, 2014, Burlington, ON
Burloak Stamp Fair, Seniors' Centre, 2285 New St. (at Seneca). Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 18th year of regular monthly shows on the third Saturday of every month. Six to nine dealers, active buyers and always something new. For more information contact Steve Simon, telephone 905-575-2950, email bas6@bell.net.

- JAN. 25, 2014, St. Catharines, ON
65th Cathex, Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Twelve dealers, club circuit, youth/beginner area, lunch counter, free parking and admission, wheelchair accessible. Sponsor/Affiliate: St. Catharines Stamp Club. For more information contact Stuart Keeley, stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca. Website: <http://www.stcatharinesstampclub.ca>.

Philately and Christmas

By Philip Visser

My Granddaughter fondly reminded me that the Santa Claus parade was coming soon and also that all the "sparkles" would soon be on again. She was referring to the Festival of Northern Lights when the lights in downtown Owen Sound will come on. Of course this is all a prelude to the Christmas season and the giving and sharing of gifts. Media reports over the years tell us that Canadians are very generous givers to charities, but it has opened a question in my mind as to whether that generosity extends into our hobby of stamp collecting.

As many of you know, I collect Dutch stamps. In the Dutch philatelic world there is one curious element of that country's philatelic catalogue listing that differs from that of the Scott's Catalogue. In the Netherlands, stamps that we term as semi-postals are listed with the regular issues in the order of dates of availability. Naturally Scott's does not follow the Dutch example but has semi-postal stamps listed after the regular stamps, but before airmail, postage due etc. The method of Scott's listing has always left an impression in my mind that semi-postal stamps are considered second class or even perhaps so crass as to say that "it's a money grab." Let me share with you a little history about the first semi-postal stamps issued by the Netherlands on December 21st, 1906, which is very close to Christmas day and the ties in to the title.

As the first semi-postal stamps for the Netherlands, the stamp itself had a postal usage, however, these stamps were limited to usage within the country. The series were issued at a face value of 1, 3 and 5 cents with the same amount (a surtax of 1, 3 and 5 cents) given to the charity called the Amsterdam Society to combat tuberculosis. This disease had devastating effects on families and so to raise funds to assist those ill as well as their families, the society tried to raise funds to distribute to those in need. By looking at the design of the stamp, the treatment method was thought to be through the application of light, water, air and food. Fortunately, tuberculosis is a treatable disease today and so the ravages of the disease are now mostly in history.

The initial sales did not fare well at all and the Post Office was looking at a huge stock of unsold inventory. The Post Office approached the NVPH (same idea as the CSDA but for Holland) and a compromise was worked out. The NVPH paid the charity

fees and then cancelled the stamps to make



them unusable for postage, but they would market them to stamp collectors throughout the Netherlands. These stamps were cancelled on the date of January 31st, 1907, in the city of Amsterdam and at 10-12 in the evening.

If you follow what stamps are available by looking in Club Circuit books, these three stamps will probably be available somewhere on those pages. In case you haven't seen any, the above illustration shows the complete set with the cancelled to order date of January 31st, 1907. The cancellation is called the "large round" cancel and as an aside, many collectors are trying to assemble a collection for every city and town that used this type of cancel. The Dutch Post Office printed a quantity of one million for each of the three stamps. Of the one million stamps printed for each denomination, only 600,000 were cancelled to order for the one cent stamp like that shown in the illustration above. For the three cent stamp, a total of 820,000 were cancelled to order. The five cent stamp had 770,000 cancelled to order. This poses an interesting point about stamp catalogue values.

The Scott's catalogue mentions the business of the cancelled to order stamps and lists the complete set of three stamps at a value of \$3, or \$1 per stamp. This however, is written in small print under listing of the individual stamps and so someone may be fooled into paying the catalogue price for stamps that were not postally used. Another "normal" practice is that the higher priced stamps will be listed at a higher catalogue value. This is not the case for this set, because it follows the number of stamps that were postally used. Therefore, the 3 cent stamp is the most valuable

stamp and catalogues for \$26, while the 1 cent stamp is catalogued at \$11 and the 5 cent stamp is catalogued at \$15. Now if there is a mathematical fiend in the audience, you will see that the catalogue value considers both the face value of the stamp as well as the number of stamps used as postage.

The astute stamp collector has to remember the cancelled to order date. The first thing is that every stamp that was cancelled to order was in the city of Amsterdam. The big black circle is 27mm in diameter; unlike the previous cancel version which was 22mm in diameter and garnered the name of "small round" cancel. Although I have hundreds of these stamps cancelled in black, I have seen only this particular illustration where the cancelled to order date and city were done in a colour other than black. Was this stamp postally used? I don't think so, but some day I will have the time to pursue that avenue and come to a positive determination of is it a CTO or postally used.



However, care must be taken that you don't dismiss a stamp cancelled in Amsterdam as being cancelled to order. In the illustration you will notice the Amsterdam cancel, but the city name is followed by the number 11, which is a sub post office to the main post office of the city. The second confirming factor is that the date is the "4th" of January, not the 31st as in the CTO version. You will also note that the time of the cancel differs from the CTO time. The CTO time is 10-12 N, or 10-12 at night, whereas the illustrated stamp was cancelled between 12-1 N, or from noon to 1 PM. Therefore, this stamp was used in regular postal service and so can be sold for the higher catalogue value.

The most common type of cancel on this series of stamps is from the city of Amsterdam. However, the stamp illustrated is definitely not a CTO, but the cancel is difficult to make out. The city of usage was Tiel, with the letter "P" mostly missing. Since Tiel is not Amsterdam, it is easy to say that this stamp was at one time attached to a letter. A second factor to confirm postal usage is the date of 31 Dec. The exact year of use is not important, but the stamp was available for purchase to the general public between December 21st, 1906 and January 3rd, 1907, a very short time indeed.



I have come across a number of stamps that were cancelled after January 3rd, 1907. As you can see from the picture, this stamp was cancelled on April 17th, 1907; fully three

months after the stamps had been withdrawn from the post office wickets. However, there is no premium in price since the stamps were only valid for postage use until the 31st of December 1907.

Up to this point, I have only mentioned stamps cancelled with the "large round" cancel. The illustration below shows a complete set of the first semi- postals cancelled with a variation of the large round cancel, commonly referred to as the "radar" cancel. Since the dating process is given in numbers, the order to read the



numbers is day of the month, the month, the year and finally the time of cancellation. Looking at the

dates, the 1 cent and 5 cent stamps were used before the stamps were withdrawn from sale, but the 3 cent stamp is cancelled on January 8th, 1907. The number at the bottom of the cancel is the postal sub station. There were seventeen postal sub stations located in Amsterdam at this period in time.

This first foray into the use of semi postal stamps left an unpleasant taste in the mouths of the Post Office administrators as well as the dealers in the NVPH. The Netherlands did not issue semi-postal stamps again until 1923, but since then, have issued sets pretty well every year. Most of the causes supported are for child welfare, not only in the Netherlands, but also in the third world. Other causes supported over the years include the Red Cross, the Olympics, the Rembrandt society and aid for the Sailor Homes to mention just a few.

The semi-postal concept has produced nearly one hundred different series of stamps in the Netherlands. Supporting child welfare has been by far the biggest benefactor of charity through philately. Each year millions of Euros are raised to support charity. In Canada, the story is different. Looking at the Unitrade catalogue, semi postal stamps are listed in three broad categories, the Olympics, literacy and mental health. While I was aware of the first two categories and have purchased them to support those causes, I completely missed the two series to support mental health.

Now for all the philatelic sleuths out there, if anyone should see a cover/letter with the "Christmas" semi postal stamps on it, please let me know! I hope this article will help you in your philatelic endeavours as well as instill in you the desire to give the gift of charity by means of philately. Merry Christmas.

On the Cover... HRH Prince George Alexander Louis of Cambridge.



In the past few years we have had a plethora of royal stamps from Canada Post. Between the marriage and subsequent visit of William and Kate and then a year long celebration of Queen Elizabeth's diamond jubilee it is surprising to see another souvenir sheet featuring the Royals.

Of course this stamp is different since it features the newest Royal; Prince George. The stamp has a picture of the baby just one month old with his happy parents; William and Kate. The photo was taken by Kate's father; Michael Middleton.

Blue for baby boys is the theme of the stamp and the souvenir sheet. Owen Sound Stamp Club members have all received the blue souvenir sheet on the cover of their December newsletter. The sheet features two of the new stamps set on a background of the Peace Tower lit up in bright blue on July 22, 2013; the evening of Prince George's birth. Niagara Falls and the CN Tower were also lit up in blue to announce the birth of the royal baby.

The sheet is the same size of the souvenir sheets already issued about William and Kate and will make a nice addition to the set. While it does celebrate the birth of Prince George it also marks his christening which was on October 22nd when he became three months old and the release date of this issue. The

christening was a very private affair with twelve of the immediate family in attendance including the Queen and Prince Philip and the seven appointed godparents and their spouses. Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury christened the child with water from the River Jordan. The event took place at the Chapel Royal at St. James Palace.



Photographer Jason Bell was hired to take George's official christening pictures. Four generations of Royals



I wondered if St. James Palace was on a British Stamp. I didn't find one but it is where the Royal Philatelic Collection is kept. The Collection is a personal possession of the Queen.

The OFDC for this set of stamps cancelled in Prince George, BC sold out quickly. Canada Post is suggesting that collector's send their self-addressed envelopes to a post office in Prince George to get cancelled.

The badge of the House of Windsor is Prince George's

family badge.

I had intended to use this souvenir sheet on the cover in November. As many of you know, I had computer problems and was unable to issue a November newsletter. But it may be more appropriate to use the stamps honouring the christening of a royal baby for our Christmas issue.

From the Editor...

First off, I apologize that I was unable to issue a newsletter in November. Luckily many of you managed to remember where and when we meet which is the main objective of the newsletter.

Thank you to Phil Visser for his article about some of Netherlands semi-postal issues.

Memberships are due. Please see Bob Ford at the meeting. No, not that Bob Ford!!

Don't forget this meeting is our Christmas Party. Spouses are welcome (even more than usual)!

Goodies, gifts and President funny munny auction donations are welcome too!

Marion Ace, Editor OSSC

Thank you Ralph Wyndham

As I have mentioned many times over the years of doing this newsletter, Ralph Wyndham is the Editor of the Saugeen Stamp Club Bulletin. Ralph has provided us with many interesting articles on a wide range of subjects. They have been informative and entertaining. Unfortunately Ralph is throwing in the hat. His last issue of the Bulletin was sent out this December. I hope that all of you who know Ralph will take the time to thank him for his efforts on behalf of the Saugeen Club and our Club too.

I consider Ralph to be somewhat of a mentor to me and a good example of a devoted Editor. He always reported on all the happenings at the Saugeen meetings including show and tell items as well as writing his fascinating articles. Ralph will be missed as an Editor but he remains as the Saugeen Clubs' Treasurer as well as being a regular ol' member.

Thanks Ralph,
Marion Ace

Owen Sound Stamp Club

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The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the cafeteria of St. Mary's High School, 555 15th St. East. Please park behind the school. The 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 30 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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