

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. January 15th 2014 @ 7:00

From the President...



Happy New Year! I am sure you have heard it said many times over the last few weeks, but I would like to share the best wishes for this New Year. May your philatelic dreams come true during the year of 2014. I can think readily of several "holes" in my collection that are crying to be filled, alas, this silly thing called money seems to put up a road block. Isn't that the perpetual talk of the never ending force and the immovable object? I am looking forward to meeting you who are able to come out on January 15th in Hillyer Hall at the St Mary's High School on 15th Street East.

Like last year, we will start the year off with a visit from our resident stamp dealer, John Cortan. John will be bringing his stamp stock as well as the covers and post cards in his stock. I hope we will all be able to support John by filling in the holes in our respective collections. Don't forget that John is able to get specific items from Unitrade, so if you need some philatelic material, albums, refill pages etc, just give John a call and those materials will arrive. John's phone number is 519-395-5817.

Following tradition, the first meeting of the year is an opportunity to elect the executive for the club. The present executive has served in their respective capacities for several years, and so the club might consider that changes may be appropriate, so carefully consider the change over procedure so that a new executive member may not have to jump into a fire when an unexpected situation arises. All it takes is for nominations to come from the floor (you!) and an election will follow.

At the December meeting, I mentioned that the Edmonton club was inviting clubs to submit a 16 frame display at their show. When I came home I looked at the email and see that the Edmonton show is a local show and not only that, but the show is in March. To participate in the Edmonton show, we need 16 one page displays and our entry needs to be sent out after the February meeting. Marion offered to bring some of her previous one page displays as an example for members to look at. The simple premise behind a display is "stick to the topic!" So to create a

one page display on ANY topic and we will look at the page and give people a choice on which page they like the best. I will also bring along a booklet called "Making Short Stamp Exhibits" by G.E. Speers should anyone like to borrow it for return at the next meeting. All you need to do is think of a topic and make a page of stamps and with an envelope about that topic. Seeing how many members have topical collections, why not make a page about that topical collection and bring that along for this months meeting.

The Edmonton club asks that we have one single page about our club. To put that page together, I have a Jubilee stamp with a lovely socked on the nose (SON) cancel of Owen Sound. To add to the topic of Owen Sound, does any member have say a used block of four from a famous Owen Sounder? For example that could include Billy Bishop, Tom Thompson, and Agnes MacPhail. How about a postcard from Owen Sound? If anyone has an old "show cover" on local topics, that would be great. Was there one about Billy Bishop? It really only takes three or four items to make a one page display.

The itinerary for the first few months of this year includes John's "visit" in January, a evening dedicated to helping members create a one page display for the Edmonton show, a visit by several members that are "semi-dealers" with their stock coming in March and I am still trying to have a speaker come in April. Following that, I should be able to arrange visits from club circuit books within the Grand River Valley Philatelic Association for a good part of the remainder of the year.

I hope the weather will make travelling to our meeting reasonable but whatever, please do not take unnecessary chances. Cheers.

Phil Visser
President OSSC

Dieter Albrecht of the Saugeen Stamp Club recently wrote an article about German coil stamps. We will be printing the article soon but first let's have a look at the articles that lead to him writing the new article.
the Ed.

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 5th 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.

On the Cover... Year of the Horse.



Well, this is likely going to be a short article, the reason being that the new Year of the Horse stamps are so minimalist there just isn't a whole lot to say about them. The horses on the domestic rate stamps seem connected by the flowing lines of their manes and tails. The lines appear to be on a background

shape of light gray which is actually an almost clear varnish. The red horse with legs flailing is embossed. The international rate stamp has the horse in gold foil and is embossed as well. It is even simpler in appearance than the red horse. The familiar long rectangular format for the souvenir sheet with the gold stamp at the bottom and layers of red horse shapes holds some charm for me. It is simple but nice, however the cover for the sheet is lacking in charm.

The transitional souvenir sheet with last year's \$1.85 snake stamp set below this year's golden horse seems like a presentation of two completely different issues rather than a transition.

Over the history of Canada's Lunar New Year stamps techniques of foiling, varnishes and embossing has been experimented with liberally. In this issue it has been proven that these fancy printing techniques can be used and the stamps can still appear simplistic.

The first day covers are being cancelled at Horseshoe Bay in British Columbia.



Don't forget... Dues are Due!

Coming Events...

- 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>.
- FEB. 1, Brampton, ON
 Bramalea Stamp Club Annual Show & Bourse, Judith Nyman Secondary School Cafeteria, 1305 Williams Parkway. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free admission, 10 dealers, table auctions, club circuit books, exhibits, free stamps for youth, refreshments, and ample free parking. For more information contact Robert Thorne, telephone 905-792-3526, email r.thorne@sympatico.ca. Website: <http://www.bramaleastampclub.org>.

From the Editor...

I hope that you managed to attend the Christmas meeting. We all had a good time at the President's Funny Munny auction and fattened up on some goodies. Thank you to all the participants and all who donated goodies and auction items.

John Cortan will be bringing his wares this meeting. Feel free to give him a call or email so he can bring something



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for you to peruse and pursue! John always appreciates it if there are some members there early to help him unload. (and later to pack up)

I know this reminder to call John will be cutting it close for many but you should know that this newsletter will be cancelled on the Day of Issue of the new Lunar New Year stamp!

Marion Ace, Editor OSSC

PS: If you want this job – go for it!

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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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GERMAN COIL STAMPS

by Dieter Albrecht

Ever since reading Dr. Phil A. Telly's article about coil stamps in Saugeen Stamp Club Bulletin #135, July, 2009, I have often wondered 'Should or should I not add something to it?' It is such an interesting theme that I can't ignore it any longer.

Years ago, I got bored just collecting regular stamps so I decided to look into other areas of stamp collecting and discovered coils, especially German ones. Germany's first coil stamps were part of the 'Germania' issues from 1905 – 1911.

They were followed by the war time Germanias printings. These stamps varied greatly in printing quality from very sharp to not so clear due to wartime shortages of quality paper and printing inks. The Germanias of this era were further complicated by watermarks and perforation varieties.

Then followed coils for the 'Number', 'Posthorn', and 'Labour' issues, 1921 - 1912, with two different watermarks plus different backgrounds and colours. These were followed by the inflation era 'Number' issues then a few 'Famous People' in 1926, 'Hindenburg' in 1932 and then some 'Hitler' issues.

Proving that you have coil stamps for these early issues requires collecting vertical strips of 11 stamps. Coil stamps were produced in exactly the same way as sheet stamps with the same perforations on four sides except that the coils' 'sheets' were much longer. The long sheets were then separated by the perforations into long coil strips of up to 10,000 stamps. A strip of 10 stamps or less could have come from a regular stamp sheet.

There are a couple of interesting and rare coil varieties from this era. Sometimes, post masters would run out of coil stamps for the vending machines requiring them to improvise by tearing sheets into strips and gluing them together with selvedge paper to make emergency rolls. If you come across a pair of stamps connected in this way you have a rare find! The other variety, also very rare, results from printing sheets up to 10,000 stamps in length. If the perforator was off even by 1000th of a millimeter at the start of a sheet, perforations would be running through the middle of the design by the end of the it. When the perforations started getting too far off proper registration, the machine would be stopped and adjusted leaving a noticeable 'jump' in the perforations along the strip of stamps. Nobody ever gave these any thought and most have long since disappeared.

Post WWII, starting with the 'Heuss' issues, experimental measures were introduced. One was stamps printed on fluorescent papers to try to automate sorting and canceling mail. The other was the control number. These numbers, printed on the back of every fifth stamp, on top of the gum, made inventory control much easier. No longer was it necessary to count every stamp left in a vending machine. As a result of this, it is also no longer necessary to collect long strips to prove you have a coil stamp - all you need is the number appearing on the back. Of course, with the number being printed on top of the stamp's gum, collecting used examples is trickier as the number can be washed off when a used stamp is soaked off its envelope thus
Continued next page ... 'Coils' from page 5 ... losing your proof that the stamp was from a coil.

Just as there were many experiments with fluorescent papers and tagging inks, there were quite a few different experiments with control numbers. Numbers were printed in black, green, blue and red to determine which was the best with

black becoming the colour of choice. Today, those early experimental numbers in the discontinued colours are quite rare and in some cases very expensive.

The coil scene was fairly stable with the 'Famous People', 'Brandenburg Gate', 'Accident Prevention' and 'Castles and Palaces' issues. Experimentation picked up again with the 'Historic Sites and Objects' issue started in 1987. A number of different papers and gums were investigated. Changes to the control number were also made with this issue. The original small numbers were made larger and then even larger still, resulting in three different number sets for this series. Assembling a complete collection of this series is indeed a challenging and costly undertaking.

With the advent of self-adhesive stamps, control numbers still appear on the back of coil stamps, but the number now appears on the backing paper. This makes collecting used examples impossible as the number is removed with the backing. And now, privatization has come to the German postal system. Companies taking up the challenge of delivering mail are issuing stamps of their own. Will they add to the complexity of collecting German coil stamps by offering their own versions?