

Owen Sound Stamp Club
Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 16th 2015 @ 7 PM

From the President...



The time sure passes by quickly and here I am writing a hearty welcome to all of the club members. The next meeting will be held on September 16th at our usual location, Hillyer Hall in the St Mary's High School at 555 15th Street East in Owen Sound. This meeting will have some time dedicated to the organization of our upcoming show on October 3rd as well as some club business but then there will be club auction. Members may bring up to five items for the auction.

The main item for our meeting is organizing for the show on October 3rd. At the moment we have only seven dealers committed to coming, but I am still searching to have hopefully one more dealer. The shows success depends on having dealers as well as visitors. I will be away at our meeting on the 16th but everyone's assistance is needed to help out at the show. I hope that my health will be good enough to be at the show for part of the day, depending on how the recuperation is going along. We are having an executive meeting tomorrow night (Thursday) and put the final steps in place

I hope to see more members take part in the one page judged exhibit on our topic of anniversaries. Ken Magee as again volunteered to judge the exhibit. If there are members with many inspirations and would like to enter more than one exhibit, they are welcome to do so. One frame will hold up to sixteen pages, but just in case, please indicate whether you will enter a page for exhibit at the meeting. There will be other frames open for displays which will not be judged but are being shared with members and visitors to see the exhibition side of our show.

A group of us drove together to the Kincardine show in August. It was again a lovely day and nice to meet the members of the Kincardine club as well as some from Saugeen and other people from the GRVPA. I won a door prize again; however, it was only one prize, not several as the year before. Please go through your group of material so that door prizes will be available for our show in October.

The last newsletter had a blank page, and so this newsletter includes an additional article as well as Tip #2 from Universal Philatelic Auction, my own composition on catalogues. Andrew has been very prolific with the tips and I now have received a total of twenty three. It would be nice to have other members attempt to write a story about a particular aspect of their personal collection. It really isn't difficult!

I hope the meeting goes well on the 16th.

Phil Visser
President
OSSC

We meet again at our regular meeting place, St Mary's High School, 555 15th Street East

Summary Tip #2: Match your budget to your collecting interest and return upon outlay.

Dear Philip,

When I last wrote to you I talked about the importance of '*specialist stamp insurance*'. Today I offer some suggestions that may help to shape a decision as to what to collect. Collectors often ask us about starting to collect new areas or subjects - saying " I am thinking of collecting xxxxx - what do you think?"

When I started collecting in my pre-teens I collected GB commemoratives. I loved them - but soon I had run out of stamps to collect that I could afford - apart from buying new issues from the Post Office! My collection stagnated but by then I had been 'hooked' by the idea of buying and trading stamps. Most collectors don't become stamp dealers - but collecting can easily 'dead-end' if insufficient thought is given in the first place as to what to collect and how much it all costs. It is possible to collect without spending any significant money - but your first thought should be - "how much do I want to spend and how much can I afford to spend?"

Now you've worked out a budget - do you want to collect inexpensive 'fun stamps'? If so, you're unlikely to see much of a financial return - but you'll have a great time along the way. I can remember visiting a collector in the East Midlands - he had filled a complete wall of his spare bedroom from floor to ceiling with 250 albums. His was an interesting goal - to see how many different stamps he could collect and mount into his albums without spending much more than 10p (15 US cents) per stamp. In this way he had collected 100,000 different stamps, many had cost nothing, but he and his wife were 'downsizing' and the collection had to go.

After accepting £2,200 he told us that the best offer he had received was £1,800. He'd bought cheap albums but they had cost almost as much as the stamps. What do you do with 100,000 different relatively inexpensive stamps? Just posting each album would have cost between £5 and £8 each. In the end we paid an 'outworker' to strip the stamps back out into individual country bags for our clients to pick from, and so the process started all over again! He had a wonderful time collecting - but there was no way that he could have recouped his outlay.

The moral is you'll only recover a good percentage of your outlay, or perchance more than your outlay over a long period - by mainly collecting more expensive stamps that dealers and auctioneers can afford to describe, price and handle **individually**.

Start with the cost of collecting. How much is your budget?

1. How much is your budget? - if it is relatively small - 'fun' stamps may be all that you can afford.
2. What do you expect from your collection? - are you looking for a 'return' from your outlay? Do you view your collection as an investment - or are you simply not concerned about how much it will be worth when you come to sell it?
3. Match your budget to the country or theme you are thinking of collecting.
4. Consider that demand for higher quality earlier stamps pre-1950 can exceed supply, whereas - if you buy a modern set from a Post Office - next time they will print one more. Supply of modern stamps often exceeds demand, apart from well publicised exceptions.
5. Consider that demand for higher quality earlier stamps pre-1950 can exceed supply, whereas - if you buy a modern set from a Post Office - next time they will print one more. Supply of modern stamps often exceeds demand, apart from well publicised exceptions.
6. Finally do a little research of price lists on-line and check availability of the country/theme - before making a final decision as to what to collect. Remember the more 'focused' your collection is - the more likely you are to increase your return against original outlay.

Happy collecting from us all,

Andrew

PS. If you find this 'tip' interesting please forward it to a philatelic friend.

Andrew McGavin

Universal Philatelic Auctions (UK)

Pot of Gold? Part II

By Phil Visser

Stamp catalogues started off as a price list for collectors to purchase stamps from a seller, which later changed from a price into the catalogues we are familiar with. The previous discussion about stamp catalogues showed that a catalogue was more than a price guide on the value of stamps. The stamps are catalogued with a numbering system which helps

identify the stamps needed to complete the collection. This numbering system is mostly based on when the stamps were printed, with exceptions being for a series of stamps issued over a number of years. But numbering systems in catalogues are different world wide.

In North America the default catalogue used is Scott's but now it is time to mention some of the other well known catalogues that will help you find your needs on the internet. The next catalogue to mention is also world wide in coverage, but does have a special focus on the British Commonwealth. This catalogue is produced by Stanley Gibbons of London UK. On a world wide basis, the Stanley Gibbons "*Stamps of the World Simplified Catalogue*" is printed in six volumes. Now is the opportunity to show why the numbering systems vary between catalogues.



Our common hobby started with the introduction of the penny postage in the United Kingdom. In the accompanying picture you can see two copies of the "Penny Black," the first stamp issued in the world. In the Scott's catalogue both of these stamp are numbered simply as "#1" however, Stanley Gibbons numbers the Penny Black as 1, 2, and 3. The differences are based on colour, #1 is coloured as *intense black*, while #2 is coloured as *black* and #3 is given the colour of *grey-black*. At what level are you collecting at? What numbers would you assign these two stamps? It will be difficult to give them a number based on the quality of the scan, even at 600 DPI, the picture doesn't give the stamps justice.

Having said that, what is obvious is the different colour of the cancel, black on the left stamp and red on the right stamp. Depending on the quality of printing of this newsletter, you may not even see that the engraving lines on the Queens' face for the right stamp is less than that of the left stamp.

In the history of stamp catalogues, Stanley Gibbons was the first one to be printed, followed a few years later by J. W. Scott. Both of these businesses were sellers of stamps and the prices stated is what you would expect to pay if you were buying the stamps from these two companies. This however, has changed since the catalogues were first printed. Stanley Gibbons still lists the selling price, while Scott's prices reflect a market analysis of the previous year's sales at major auctions. There are still more catalogues to discuss and so we will look at the European continent next.

Each catalogue will try to differentiate itself from a competitor and so the next catalogue to bring to your attention is Michel founded and printed in Germany. Like the previous two catalogues, Michel publishes catalogues for the entire world. The world catalogues are published in ten volumes but of course they are written in German. A further five specialist catalogues are also printed.

Not to be outdone by other parts of Europe, there is another series of catalogues published to meet the philatelic needs. This catalogue is published by Yvert et Tellier of France. The world wide catalogues are published in seven volumes and again in its native language. One difference is that the catalogues are published in a cycle of a number of years. One affect of this is that the latest issues are not to be found in the volumes.

Looking at the general catalogues from the various publishers; your native language will determine the usefulness of which catalogue to use. Another factor to consider is your budget, which means that purchasing a complete set of catalogues is going to be a significant investment. As mentioned in the previous article, a visit to the library will quickly satisfy your search for information, or possibly create an even greater mystery! The key point to remember is that even the general catalogues will list different varieties of the same stamp and each variety could possibly have different catalogue values.

Depending on your level of interest in the hobby, the general catalogue may be sufficient for your stamp collecting needs. If that isn't the case for you, please consider the advanced catalogues that provide more precise and detailed information for a collector. To begin with, in the Canadian market there is the *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*. The catalogue is almost as thick as a Scott's volume, which clearly indicates more information and thus the opportunity to see if you have found the pot of gold. Beside just the common information about the stamp itself such as date of issue, there is also included the printing method, printer, and designer of the stamp. Beyond this information you will find then get into varieties such as "re-entries" and "plate faults."

Since stamp collecting is an international hobby, and there may be even heritage consideration for each person, a collection can also specialize into other countries than just Canada. The four publishers mentioned above print specialized

catalogues for their own country and they may extend that to former colonies as well. Specialized catalogues are not just limited to the areas covered by these four publishers. For instance, there are also national philatelic organizations in most countries which will likely publish specialized catalogues for their own country. In my own area of specialty, the Nerderlandsche Vereeniging Van Postzegelhandelaren (NVPH or Dutch Stamp Dealers Association) publish each year a general catalogue and a specialized catalogue for the Netherlands and its former colonies.

To balance out the plethora of catalogues that a person could find, the catalogues mentioned above are the *major* publishers. There are also other publishers of other aspects of philately that are not covered by the major publishers. For instance, there is another catalogue available on Canadian stamps. This is named *Darnell's Stamps of Canada* with the last edition printed in 2003. Darnell also published an edition in 2005 called *Darnell's Canadian EFO's, Errors, Freaks and Oddities*. Besides Darnell's there are also catalogues available about perfins, precancels, revenue stamps and many more. I attended a Royal show in London a number of years ago and there was an author selling his catalogue on post cards, so I am sure that every area of philately will have some sort of catalogue available.

Now that you have been introduced into the bottomless pit that philately seems to be, only you can decide what interests you in this hobby. As you can see, there are many things to consider, but there are some things that are essential to the hobby and that is the tools which will help accurately identify which particular stamp you have before you. That will be the topic of the next article on beginning stamp collecting.

David Thompson: Explorer Extraordinaire

By Phil Visser



On June 5th, 1957, Canada Post released the stamp honouring David Thompson the occasion of his death 100 years earlier. The Unitrade Specialized Catalogue provides some information about the stamp. The stamp was designed by G. A. Gundersen, engraved by Yves Baril and printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company. The catalogue then mentions that it is Perf 12 or 12 holes for every 2 cm of length. But who was David Thompson?

The stamp provides some hints about what he did. In the design of the stamp you can see a map that has been unrolled to show lakes and rivers. Just under the "D" of Canada, you see a lake in the shape of a flying bird. If you know geography, then you can see that he mapped western Canada and into the North West Territory. On the right side of the stamp there is a person dressed in native clothing holding some kind of an instrument. I remember seeing this stamp as a young lad and was fascinated with the design and the sense of adventure that this stamp evoked.

This stamp was always interesting, but I knew nothing about David Thompson and so the summer holidays provided an occasion to do some research. The internet is an incredibly quick way at finding information, but I also resorted to the tried and true method of looking in "The Canadian Encyclopedia" for background information to write this article. The Encyclopedia provided some basic facts; David was born on April 30th, 1770 in London, England. His parents were of Welsh descent and David's father died when he was young. David's mother enrolled him in a charity school where he demonstrated an aptitude for mathematics and the sciences, especially astronomy. At age 14, David was apprenticed to the Hudson's Bay Company and was sent to Canada to work for the company. David died February 10th, 1857 and is buried in the Mount Royal Cemetery in Montreal.

A second source of information for this article was found on the internet from the digitized copies of the "North West Journal." Following his apprenticeship to the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC), he arrived in Churchill in 1784. Early in his career with the HBC, David had a mishap and broke his leg/ankle. This was a very serious injury and David took more than a year to convalesce before he was able to return to trading for HBC. During his time of convalescence he met the chief surveyor for the HBC and learned more about surveying. What he learned during the enforced rest period set the direction for him to follow for the rest of his career travelling through western Canada.

While convalescing, David purchased, at his own expense, the navigation equipment necessary to find the latitude and

longitude of the various trading posts in the present day provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and parts of British Columbia. These trading posts also extended into the present day area of the United States. He just barely missed establishing a fort/trading post at the mouth of the Columbia River which would have made the present state of Washington a Canadian province. As mentioned above, he purchased his own navigation equipment and was really serious about surveying. His interest in surveying did not coincide with the interests of his employer, the HBC, so David joined the North West Company and was charged with mapping the positions of the forts/trading posts for the new employer.



Once I discovered he was finding the positions of the trading posts, my navigation sense kicked in. From my own training I wondered at how Thompson had been able to find the latitude and longitude of the trading houses? Well, a closer look at the stamp gave me a hint. With the wonders of a scanner and the ability to zoom in/crop the scan it was evident to see the designer had put a navigational instrument in his hand. The instrument looks like a quadrant, an instrument that will measure an angle of about 90 degrees. Perhaps the designer didn't have all the information, but Thompson used another instrument for charting, the sextant. The "North West Journal" mentions that Thompson left England with a quadrant but during his convalescence, it was requisitioned by the HBC and so he purchased, on his own account, the instruments needed to accurately chart the western provinces. This included a sextant, which measures 120 degrees of arc, an artificial horizon and also some watches. These tools are indispensable for finding a position, whether on land or sea.

Thompson retired from exploring at the age of forty six and moved to the Montreal area. He was handsomely paid for his work with the company and was charged with producing maps for the North West Company in his retirement. One of those maps measured six and a half feet by ten feet and was hung in the Great Hall at Fort William (present day Thunder Bay). Not long thereafter, the North West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company merged and so his work was taken over by the HBC and they produced maps of their own without giving credit to Thompson. The authors of the North West Journal suggest this may be because Thompson had left the HBC years earlier. Thompson protested this is lack of credit to the HBC but to no avail.

Thompson lived another forty years and through various misfortunes helping his children, he became ultimately bankrupt, and he died in penury. The "North West Journal" mentions that in 1927, a J.B. Tyrell "erected a fluted column topped with a sextant over Thompson's grave. This was the first act of public recognition of the years of hard work completed a hundred and fifteen years earlier by a man now grudgingly recognized as the worlds greatest land geographer." The "Journal" also mentioned that Thompson had travelled 55,000 miles (about 88,500 km) and 1.9 million square miles (about 4.9 million square km). What an extraordinary explorer!

Coming Events...

- SEP 19: Burloak Stamp Fair
Burlington Senior Centre, 2285 New St., Burlington, ON, L7R 1J4. Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Eighteen years 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.
- SEP 19: Cambridge Stamp Show
Newfoundland Club, 1500 Dunbar Rd., Cambridge, ON, N1R 6V3 10 dealers, free parking and admission. Lunch counter and club books. Sponsored by the Cambridge Stamp Club. Phone: 519-623-4911 Email: klagesss@gmail.com
- OCT 3: Owen Sound Stamp Show & Bourse
Royal Canadian Legion, 1450 2nd Ave West, Owen Sound, ON, N4K 5P3. 20th Annual Show and Bourse will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 6 from 9:30 to 3:30. Dealers and displays will be present. A club competition for one page challenge on the topic of "Anniversaries" will be one section as well as other displays made by club members. Door prizes will be available during the day as well as refreshments, snacks and lunch. Come enjoy a visit at the show with the fall colours making for a pleasant drive.
- OCT 17: Burloak Stamp Fair
Burlington Senior Centre, 2285 New St., Burlington, ON, L7R 1J4. Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Eighteen years 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.

- OCT 17: 54th Annual Barrie Stamp Exhibit and Bourse
ANAF Barrie, 7 George Street, Barrie, ON, L4N 2G5. The Barrie District Stamp Club (Chapter 73 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada) 54th annual stamp exhibit and bourse. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Approximately 18 dealers, kids table, and the sales circuit books . Admission and parking are free. Refreshments will also be available through the ANAF. An array of philatelic exhibits by members of the club will be on display and will be judged. Phone: 705-735-6009, Email: b.walter@rogers.com, Web: <http://www.barriedistrictstampclub.ca>
- OCT 17: Best Western Stamp Show
Niagara Room, Best Western Hotel, QEW at Lake Street, St. Catharines, ON, L2N 4G9. Hours are 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Free parking, free admission and free appraisals. Sponsored by Roy' Stamps, specializing in the stamps and covers of Canada and the British Commonwealth. For further information, contact Roy Houtby. Phone: 905-934-8377
- OCT 24: Middpex 2015
Westview Baptist Church, 1000 Wonderland Road South, London, ON, N6J 3S4. London, Ontario Stamp Exhibition – 96 frames of judged exhibits. 18 dealers. Westview Baptist Church, 1000 Wonderland Road S., London, ON, N6K 3S4 (north of Southdale Road, on the east side). Free admission, free parking, no stairs, easy wheelchair access. 9: a.m. to 4 p.m. Phone: 519-434-4629. Email: hazelemslie@hotmail.com
- OCT 24: GRVPA 21st Club Fair
United Kingdom Hall, International Dr. (Dunbar and Hespler Rd.), Cambridge, ON, L2V 4S1. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. There will be 10-12 clubs in attendance with 450 circuit books. 2 silent auctions, free admission and parking, snack bar. Phone: 905-227-9251. Email: stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca

From the Editor...

One of the challenges of being an editor is to catch mistakes, particularly when some of the articles are written by themselves. Hopefully there are not too many spelling and grammatical errors present. I again am asking for a person to consider this vital role in the club (being the editor) or alternatively, writing articles about our favourite hobby! As long as the article serves as a means of sharing knowledge and information it will be published. Letters to the editor are always welcome and provides the writer with some feedback about their story. Finally , a big thank to the five club members who are receiving this newsletter by email.



During the school year, 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 Street East. Meeting agendas will vary between having visiting club circuit books, speakers and an auction. Guests and new members are always welcome. Annual membership fees: \$15.00

Club Officers:

President: Phil Visser (519) -376-6760
554 9th St. A East, Owen Sound, ON N4K 0C4
visserps@bell.net

Vice Pres.: Larry Crane (519) 371-7054
2633 8th Ave. East, Owen Sound, ON N4K 6T4
larrymarycrane@gmail.com

Sec./Treas: Bob Ford (519) 376-4788
721 8th Ave East, Owen Sound, ON N4K 3A5
rob.darford@rogers.com