

Owen Sound Stamp Club
Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 18th 2015 @ 7 PM

From the President...



It is again time to welcome and encourage club members to attend the monthly meeting on November 18th. This month we will have Grant Reavely bringing the club circuit books from Brantford. This will be a long trip for him and so I hope we can make it a worth while trip for Grant.

As part of the regular meeting activities, I hope you can bring along some interesting “show and tell” items that is tied to our common hobby. This is also an early reminder for members to renew the annual membership dues for our club. The fee remains the same at \$15. This is possible by the large number of stamps we have received as donations to the club and which are being used on the monthly newsletter mailings.

I am not sure who was able to attend the GRVPA Club Circuit book fair last month in Cambridge. I heard from a member of the Saugeen club that our two clubs were very well represented at the fair. Unfortunately, Chris Tschirhart was unable to attend the fair and so John Cortan brought our circuit books there. The books did not generate a lot of visits and so we have some more work to do as a club. Probably one of the greatest efforts we need to do is to increase the number of pages available for other collectors to find the gems they are looking for.

Here is also a gentle reminder that there will only be a few more issues of this newsletter before work commitments “retires” me from this responsibility. If anyone would consider authoring an article or two for the winter months, the newsletter may continue until the spring. It isn’t great scholarship needed to write an article about our hobby, and as always, any suggestions for improvement will be greatly appreciated.

Over the last month I was able to produce a new version of the Owen Sound Presidents’ “Funny Munny”. So for those attending this meeting, some more will be distributed and you can count your stash and have it ready for the December meeting. If you are able to come in December, the meeting will be a Christmas Cheer, with refreshments brought by those coming. There has never been any shortage of treats in the past and I hope that it continues again. There will also be a Christmas Gift Exchange, where if you bring a gift you can take another one home. The contents can be anything you wish to bring like food, or other interesting items. Maybe this year John Lemon and I will not be exchanging gifts like we have done the last few years.

Hope to see you all on the 189th at the Hillyer Hall in the St. Mary’s High School, 555 15th Street East.

Phil Visser
President
OSSC

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

Summary Tip #4: Save £100's by buying the right catalogues.

Dear Philip,

I've wasted £100's of pounds buying the wrong catalogues over the years. Depending upon your needs some catalogues are a complete waste of time. They can be too general or too specialised. Catalogues sound such a simple thing - but getting it right may save you a lot of time and money.

Remember our 'matching what you collect to your budget' - back in 'tip' #2? - Then this will help you focus upon buying the right catalogues. If you are an 'overseas' stamp 'trade tips' subscriber - please forgive the emphasis upon Stanley Gibbons catalogues. Overseas readers may find the below useful but will probably wish to purchase the leading catalogues in their own countries. I apologise that Tip #4 is so long - but this is an area of considerable confusion.

SG 'Stamps of the World' £175 (STOW) - Not recommended.

The first mistake most of us make is by buying Stanley Gibbons 'Stamps of the World' (STOW). These catalogues used to be called the 'simplified' - and that is what they are. Purchase of these catalogues is responsible for innumerable cataloguing errors. Each year, probably each month, collectors contact us to offer valuable 'finds'. One of the first questions I ask is what catalogue have you checked them against? If it is the STOW it is more likely to be wrong than right - 'simplifying' stamps to representative types results in cheap stamps being mistaken for expensive.

You don't need SG STOW unless you want to collect cheap stamps of the world - or you want to collect world-wide modern issues upon a simplified 'design-only' type basis. Save £175. If you do decide to purchase - try asking your supplier for the previous year's publication - it is often available at half price. Prices may fluctuate yearly - but as this world catalogue acts as a 'guide' differences are seldom going to be major.

Decide if you 'need' this catalogue or save £175 to spend on something else. Bear in mind that you can access most of the information in this catalogue 'on-line' at ...

<http://mycollection.stanleygibbons.com/mc/search.asp>

... and to subscribe to their 'on-line' catalogue in order to see the images and use SG's 'My Collection' feature (useful but not earth shattering) costs £29.95 per annum, which may be a far better deal for the 'world' collector.

SG 'Collect British Stamps' & Link House 'British Stamp Market Values' - c.£10 - not recommended.

If you are in any way serious about collecting British Stamps forget these two catalogues. When I was in my teens - I would religiously purchase each new edition. Nowadays - I know we advertise in them - but in many ways I wish we didn't. Both publications are good if you want to collect British stamps in a more general way - but otherwise stay well clear. There is outstandingly better value to be had by spending more on the SG Great Britain 'Concise' Catalogue at £27.95. The 'Concise' is an outstanding catalogue - if you collect GB this is the catalogue you need to buy.

SG Great Britain 'Concise' Catalogue at £27.95 - Strongly recommended. See Above.

SG 'Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps 1840 - 1970' catalogue - commonly referred to as 'The Part One' - £69.95 - Strongly recommended.

If you are serious about collecting stamps from the British Empire and Commonwealth, this catalogue is essential. Many of our collector clients buy this catalogue every other year. Some buy it second-hand - and others wait to see if SG have it on 'offer' when the new one supercedes. This is the only catalogue to buy if you collect 'B.E.' pre 1970.

Note: The existence of this catalogue strengthens the case for collecting pre-1970 issues only.

SG 'Sectional / Single Country/Area' catalogues - Recommended, especially if you collect through to recent issues.

Although this may sound like an advertisement for Stanley Gibbons - in the UK they have just about got the catalogue market 'sewn up'. I used to dislike their 'softback' A4 format yellow/red British Commonwealth area catalogues - eg 'Cyprus, Gibraltar & Malta' in one volume - but now I like them - simply because they are detailed, comprehensive, cover sensible 'groups' of countries in single volumes - that you are likely to collect. Most important of all is that these catalogues run right through to the latest issues available and for what they are - they are relatively reasonably priced.

SG Sectional Catalogues for Europe and the rest of the World - GREEN or BLUE Covers. Recommended.

For specialist collectors of European and the Rest of the World - 'Michel' catalogues are far more detailed - e.g. numbers printed and other information not available from 'SG' is often included - but if you are in the UK, collectors and dealers basically refer to SG which has the advantage, for us, of being in English!

Real specialists will probably possess the appropriate SG catalogue + the appropriate Michel (German), Yvert (French), Scott (USA) catalogue.

SG Great Britain Specialised - Eg 'Queen Victoria' (Volume 1), 4 Kings (Volume 2) etc - Strongly recommended for specialist collectors and dealers only.

Absolutely essential reference works for specialist collectors, but most collectors using pre-printed albums - such as 'Lindner' 'Lighthouse' 'Davo' etc - should find the SG GB 'Concise' catalogue more than adequate for their needs.

Collecting British First Day Covers? Forget SG, forget all of the prices that you see in Collect British Stamps - there is only one catalogue to buy: Adrian Bradbury BFDC Collecting British First Day Covers catalogue £16 including postage from:

<http://www.bfdc.co.uk/>

British First Day Covers can be far more complicated than they first appear. I'll write to you about them in a future Trade Tip.

The Commonwealth King George VI Catalogue by Murray Payne Ltd. £39.95 +P&P - strongly recommended.

We are seeing increasing interest in British Empire King George VI issues - if you are serious about collecting stamps of this reign - in addition to SG 'Part 1' - you will find this catalogue an essential work. The detail in indentifying the difficult 'key type' heads printings, for example, is admirable. You can order/ask for further information from:

<http://www.murraypayne.com/rDetails1b.asp?cat=Catalogues&CAT2=TheCommonwealthCatalogues&rProductID=S TK-9846>

You can spend a lot of money on stamp catalogues, indeed you will be 'lost' without them - but the above should help you to determine the ones you need rather than those advertisers tell you that you want.

In my next Trade Tip #5 I'll be writing to you about 'condition' and how it affects value.

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)

Oh the Sea!

By Philip Visser

Benjamin Disraeli is credited with the quotation “*There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics*” in the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*. Although there are arguments against crediting Disraeli with the quotation, it suits the opening of this article. The International Maritime Organization states that “ships carry over 90% of the world’s trade.” There may be an element of truth to the statement, but the world’s trade usually goes on a number of forms of transport between the producer and the consumer. Whatever the readers’ perspective is, it opens the topic of shipping on the Great Lakes of North America and how the shipping is represented in the stamps issued by both countries that share the Great Lakes.



When looking at shipping thought must begin with the earliest form of transport before the present day means of land travel was available. Canoes were the first form of transport moving people and goods along rivers and lakes and the big waters of the Great Lakes. The first nations are represented on Scott # 553, a painting completed by Paul Kane issued on August 11th, 1971 and the canoes are in the foreground with Lake Huron in the background.

With the arrival of the European settlers came a different form of shipping, sailing vessels. De La Salle is credited with building the sailing vessel at an Indian encampment called Cayuga. According to the American Topical Association (ATA), the stamp issued in 1966 to commemorate de La Salle’s arrival in North America shows a sailing vessel said to represent “Le Griffon.” Only the stamp designer knows for sure if the intent was to represent “Le Griffon” but history has shown no depiction of what “Le Griffon” actually looked like when it was built because it disappeared a few months after being built.

The five Great Lakes are connected by waterways but also by barriers to moving from one lake to another. The first major obstacle was observed by de La Salle, the Niagara Falls. The solution to this obstacle was the building of the first Welland Canal by William Hamilton Merritt which is depicted on #655. The first ship through the canal was the schooner “*Anne and Jane*.” A schooner is a sailing vessel and these types of vessels continued to dominate shipping on the Great Lakes until the late 1800’s.



With the invention of steam engines came ships to ply the lakes moving people and freight to new territories. The stamp depicted is Scott # 294 from the United States and the ship is the *City of Alpena* from the *Detroit and Cleveland Navigation Company*. The Great Lakes provided a quicker means of travel between port cities along the shores of the five lakes. However, competition from railroads gave these types of ships a limited life span.

The first obstacle between the Lakes Ontario and Erie was the Niagara Falls but another one also exists between Lakes Huron and Superior. The rapids at Sault Ste Marie was conquered by two sets of locks built on either side of the border, and like Niagara Falls, the cities on each side of the border have the same name, Sault Ste Marie. Great Lakes navigation was depicted on stamps by Scott # 1069. The ATA list of “*Watercraft on Stamps*” mentions that two ships are on the stamp. The ship in the middle is the “*Altadoc*” as it is departing a lock and the larger one on the bottom is simply a large ore carrier which is a typical “laker” of the period.



Great Lakes shipping could connect with the sea through the Lachine Canal, but the size of ships was limited and with the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1959 ship sizes increased to those shown on Scott # 1069. Trade also changed in that instead of passengers and freight, bulk cargoes are now moved to feed the industries hugging

the shore of the Great Lakes. The large “lakers” now carry cargoes such as iron ore, coal, grain, limestone and salt to mention the most widely moved raw materials.



The opening of the St Lawrence Seaway provided an opportunity for both Canada and the United States to issue a joint stamp, with the design being the same, except the country name and monetary value appropriate for the respective countries. Stamp collectors also know about the error made with the printing of the inverted center on the Canadian stamp. I have never seen an inverted Seaway stamp and I guess that will be put on my “bucket list” of things to do in the future.

Shipping is international in nature and whenever I have a chance to meet sailors from other parts of the world; it is interesting to speak with those who have had an opportunity to travel through the Great Lakes and the St Lawrence Seaway. These “salty” sailors have given a nickname to the ships on the great lakes. The “lakers” are nicknamed “dachshund” because they are long, narrow and when fully loaded, low in the water, just like the dog breed. Foreign sailors hate trips through the Seaway because of the long hours of work and constantly going through lock and river systems and perhaps there is another term associated with it, working like a dog.



Until the thought of this article came into my mind, I didn't realize how much of the industry did appear on stamps. While being inside the industry, the impact of it is not generally considered beyond the people involved. This summer I had an opportunity to travel to Northern Ontario and saw the bridge reconstruction projects. These projects use steel produced in the mills dotting the shores of the Great Lakes. Although statistics can be manipulated, Disraeli's quote only applies the devious people and I hope this sheds some light on an unknown industry in the heartland of North America.

Coming Events...

- NOV 21 North Toronto Winter Stamp Bourse
Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON, M4T 1Z9
Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be 22 dealers, a stamp sales circuit, hundreds of 10 cents books, a members' table, door prizes etc . Easy subway access at St Clair subway station, parking at the Church and City parking, wheelchair access, snack bar on site. Contact Matt Phone: 647-990-4073 Email: NTSC.Programchair@gmail.com Web: www.northtorontostampclub.ca •
- NOV 28 Scarborough Stamp Club Show
Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 East park Blvd, Toronto, ON, M4K3Y1
Free admission and free parking, club circuit books, 4-6 dealers, near Markham Rd and Lawrence Ave E
Phone: 416-778-4175
- NOV 28 Waterloo Region Stamp Club 1st Annual Show
12 Dealer bourse and circuit book sales. Saturday, November 28, 2015 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 316 Marsland Drive, Waterloo. Free admission and parking. Light refreshments available.
Information: Oscar (519)742-5892 Information e-mail: stamps@bell.net

From the Editor...

Another newsletter produced and I hope you find it useful and interesting. The club is still looking for a full time editor so please consider carefully if you are able to fill the position. We had about twelve members present at the last meeting and I hope we can increase that number for this meeting. If there are any comments about the newsletter, you have an open mike in which to share your opinions.

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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

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