

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 21st, 2018 @ 7 PM

Hillyer Hall, St. Mary's High School, 1555 15th Street East, Owen Sound

From the President



It's that time of year when we are on our own, since we can't get any visitors from the south. For this month's meeting I am hoping to have an auction if enough people can make it. So bring some duplicates to sell. I would also like to have a discussion about showing

our collections to each other. The meeting, as usual will be at the school. Note that if the school is closed for a snow day, we cannot meet. So check the media to be sure the school is open.

I will miss this meeting due to a heart condition. I will learn more about it soon and hopefully have the situation corrected.

Larry Crane
President
OSSC

Editors Note

It is time to renew your dues for the present year. Please help keep the club going. Annual dues are \$20 per person.

From the Editor

Phil Visser

We are well into the New Year and here comes the second edition of Volume 5 of this newsletter. Editing this newsletter is a growing experience. Feedback is always appreciated whether negative or positive. I admit there is always room to grow and improve. Looking ahead, a request is being sent out for budding authors. Any philatelic/stamp related article would be appreciated for the April and May editions.

The world is changing continually around us. How does this come about? Perhaps the article on the next page is a simple explanation, but it does have a philatelic theme.

There is a request put out to club members in the

Looking For ... section from the Circuit book managers. It is good to see that the number of binders is growing and it does lend a professional appearance when the binders are uniform in colour and size. Randy reported having found some milk crates which makes it easier to load, carry and transport the binders between the meeting place and home.

As usual there is a listing of upcoming shows to tempt the brave of heart as well as those looking to fill holes in a collection. Is anyone excluded from this desire? I think not! Somehow the wallet rules in that area of the hobby. Please do make an attempt to visit a show you haven't been to before because you may find the gem that has eluded the collection.

With the winter season present, please look at the conditions outside to determine the safety of coming to the meeting on the 21st. If the meeting is on, then an auction will allow you the chance of bundling the excess stamps found in most collectors hobby rooms.

Finally, there is an opportunity to prepare for a one-page exhibit in the upcoming show. Some information is provided to the novice exhibitors about how to the exhibit. Several members have submitted pages in the past few years, but not every member has done a page for display. A real sense of achievement can come from this. Go for it!

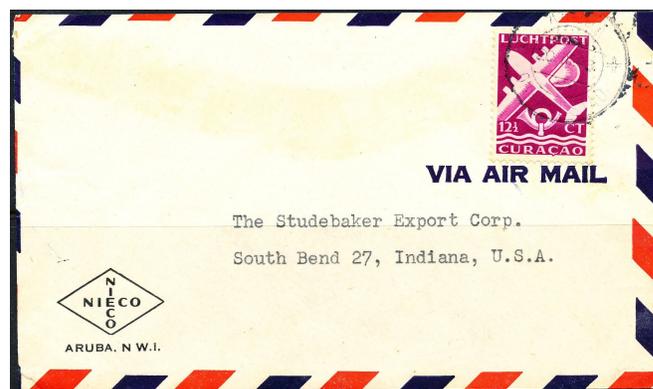


Figure 3 A simple cover that shows the evolution of an Airmail letter/envelope

Inspirations

By Phil Visser

Inspirations appear at certain times. During a holiday period I got into the mood to look at one of my collecting areas and I ran across this se-tenant pair. I looked at the stamps and wondered why had Australia issued these two first flight commemoratives? According to the catalogue, these stamps were issued to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first official flights between Australia and New Zealand and a second first flight to Papua New Guinea. They are listed in Scott's catalogue as #890-1. Both of these flights occurred in 1934.



Figure 4 Scott # 890-1 asa se-tenant pair.

Each stamp carries a simple design of a letter carried on each flight as well as the face of a pilot. This pair made its way into my collection because they are classified as “stamps on stamps.” Number 890 shows a letter mailed from New Zealand to the pilot himself. The stamp in the upper right hand corner of the letter was issued by New Zealand and catalogued as Scott's # C5. The seven pence value stamp was overprinted “Trans Tasman; Air Mail; Faith in Australia.”

There are a few surprises on this cover. Previous experience has shown that overprinted stamps were usually of those still in the hands of the postal authorities. For Scott's #C5, this is a slightly different story. The design is the same as the first Airmail stamps issued in 1931; however, the colour of the 1934 stamp is bright blue, not the orange colour of the 1931 printing. This stamp is a special printing for this flight and for later usage. Unfortunately, Scott's doesn't share how many stamps were printed in 1934.

Looking at the overprint for this stamps and flight are the words “Trans Tasman.” Separating the two countries is the Tasman Sea, named after Capt. Abel Tasman, the Dutch explorer who charted the Australian coastline and the island of Tasmania. Wikipedia suggests that the term is simply any link

between the two countries. History has linked these two countries from being former British colonies, fighting together in the world wars and, due to their close geographic proximity, they work closely together economically.

As a final part of the overprint come the words “Faith in Australia.” In the early days of commercial aviation many aircraft were given names, probably to emulate the names of ships servicing maritime ports. Giving the aircraft a name gave the passengers a tie to this very unique form of travel following centuries of sea travel. There are still some airlines that use the practice of naming their aircraft.

This practice was not unique to Australia or the southern hemisphere. For instance Charles Lindbergh flew the “Spirit of St. Louis” on the first



Figure 5 The “Spirit of St. Louis” crossing the ocean

solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean from the United States to France in 1927.

According to Wikipedia, this flight is what spurred on the use of Air Mail, even though many air mail flights had occurred

well before this date (see the December 2017 article “Airmail”). Another trans-oceanic flight that may be a little more obscure to the memory is the trans-Pacific flight on May 31st, 1928. This aircraft was named the “Southern Cross.”



Figure 6 The route that Charles Lindbergh followed on the direct flight from New York to Paris.

Mr. Charles Ulm is pictured on both of the first flight stamps. Ulm served in the Australian army in World War 1 but did not get involved with aircraft until after the war had ended. He was the co-commander with Charles Kingsford Smith on the first trans-Pacific

flight in 1928. Despite a number of failed aircraft businesses, he managed to make a flight to New Zealand in December of 1933. Drumming up business, he was able to make the first official air mail flight from New Zealand to Australia on February 17th, 1934.

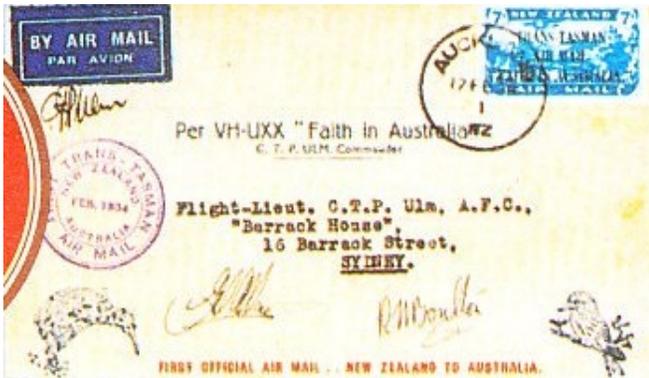


Figure 7 A close up scan of the letter depicted on Scott #890.

One last part of Scott's # 890 is that the letter illustrated on the stamp was mailed to himself, Charles Ulm. An interesting question arises into why Ulm mailed the letter to himself. Was he a philatelist or was it as a souvenir of his exploit? Either way, it was a record of his success in crossing the Tasman Sea.

There is a final thing that is of interest about this cover. The close scan shows the signature of Ulm in the upper left corner with two other signatures at the bottom of the letter. There signatures are of the crew that helped navigate and keep radio communications open during the flight. In discussions with first flight collectors, there is a difference of opinion on the importance of signatures on a first flight cover. That debate can continue on in another forum and perhaps on another date.

The second first flight in this se-tenant pair is from Papua New Guinea to Australia. The flight from Australia to Papua New Guinea was July 24th, and returned on July 30th, 1934. This cover is different than the one on Scott # 890. The letter originated in Melbourne Australia and flew to Papua New Guinea (PNG) and then returned to Australia. Therefore there is a double set of postage on the cover. The cancel from Australia shows that it was mailed from a "Ship Mail Room" which reached land in Melbourne.

Let's take a look at the mailing rate used on the cover. On the flight to PNG, the postage was paid by 2 penny regular postage rate as well as a 6 penny surcharge for Air Mail service using stamps issued by Australia. The return postage was also a total of 8 pence, but was made up of two regular postage stamps from New Guinea. There is an interesting tie in with the Australian Air Mail stamp used on this letter. The stamp commemorates the flight of Kingsford-Smith in 1928. This stamp was issued on March 19th, 1931, three years before this particular first flight spoken about. It appears that Kingsford Smith received more recognition than Ulm, since they each flew the aircraft on the Trans Pacific flight.



Figure 8 A close up scan of the letter depicted on Scott # 891.

A closer look at the return postage rate and stamps used is in order. Both Papua and New Guinea issued Air Mail stamps in 1931. Both administrations used an overprint on a regular postage stamp for Air Mail service. This particular flight made several stops on the flight from Melbourne and its return to the destination. It is addressed to Dr A.J. MacDonald in Dromana, Victoria (Australia). This place name is a district of the City of Melbourne, the capital of the state of Victoria. The last cancel on the New Guinea stamps is the city of Lae. Perhaps there were no Air Mail stamps at the local post office, or perhaps they had been all used up before this letter passed through the hands of the postal clerk. Whatever the reason, the stamps used were ordinary postage making up the rate for this before making the return flight to Melbourne.

The letter shown is somewhat different than the letter on the previous stamp because there are no signatures on this letter authenticating the flight. A search for this flight information showed several

covers to be had on various stamp/cover selling sites. Besides the lack of signatures is the case of dual postage rates needed to make the flight. A guess would suggest that Ulm drummed up the need for this flight by having collectors' mail letters to themselves. Did Ulm receive compensation for the flight from the Air Mail rate?

Inspirations drive the adventuresome people to try something never done before. Success can leave the conquerors with a sense of invincibility. Yet without inspiration, many things we take for granted for today would not have happened. Sometimes success can also lead the brave in the push to do better. Sadly, Ulm's flying exploits came to an end in December 1934 when the flight from mainland United States to Wheeler Field in Honolulu, Hawaii failed to arrive. The attempt to recreate the first Trans Pacific flight was the last inspiration for this flight crew.

Club News

The January meeting was joined by 16 members and one guest. Mike Barta dropped in to find out about the club and hopefully start a new hobby. What is a stamp club for? Club members gather together to follow the hobby, learn about the hobby and then to help each other out in the individual collecting interests if possible. One of the ways this is achieved is by the club circuit books. If you are a club member you can put pages of extra stamps into the circuit binders and others can buy those stamps when they come to the meetings. Sometimes the circuit books are invited to visit other clubs and those stamp collectors can add to their collections.

With the start of the new year came the elections of the club executive. The executive that had served in 2017 agreed to continue in their positions for this year. There were no other nominations from the floor, and so the executives were acclaimed to their positions. Thank you Larry, John L and Bob for the work you have done in the past year and will continue to do to lead the club for 2018.

A discussion was held on the topic for the one page challenge for the 2018 Owen Sound Stamp Club Annual Show. The topics suggested in the last newsletter were discussed. A broad topic was suggested and eventually chosen as the theme for the one page display. The hope is to have several

different displays yet focused on one aspect of stamps, therefore, the topic for this year is Canadian Arts. The word "arts" is plural and that can take several different paths to a display. Possible paths to follow are architecture, art (paintings), cartoons, literature (authors), music, sculptors (person) or sculptors (monuments), or theater. There could be other forms of arts that is not listed! Be creative and put a page in. It is a learning experience and you may find it very fulfilling!

January Show and Tell

This started off with an announcement from Larry that the date and place of the Annual stamp show is listed in the Owen Sound Community Calendar. A member passed around a slogan cancel as well as a sheet of peel and stick eclipse stamps issued by the USA last year.



Figure 9 A slogan cancel with one very important part missing, where was the letter mailed from? Still, it is interesting in itself.

Larry brought along a number of cards for various stamp shows in the GRVPA. There was also one advertising the 2018 Royal Show in St. Catharines during the month of June of this year.

Although not mentioned to the general membership, Larry shared with me a story from the "Stamp" magazine. In the "Soapbox" section, a collector shared the issue of a stamp that shows a "stamps on stamps." This person asked if anyone else knew of a similar stamp issue. Alas, my collection does not contain such a rare philatelic item.

Looking For...

Randy Rogers shares this: I am in the process of cleaning up and reorganizing our circuit books. To complete the project I need several white "view" type

binders. These are white binders that provide support for inserting covers and spines. 1½" – 2" D-ring binders are the preferred type as they can hold more pages than standard 3-ring binders, but, we'll take what we can get.

Exhibiting Guidelines

Ken Magee has graciously judged the past few shows, with Jim Measures doing one of the shows as well. The judges use a score sheet with a total of 20 marks per exhibit. The one-page challenge is judged by using the following guidelines:

Title	1 mark
Story or plan of the exhibit	4 mark
Elements	6 marks
Knowledge	3 marks
Quality of Material	3 marks
Presentation	3 marks

A Title is simply a title. It should be in bold (dark) font. The story or plan is: did you state what the exhibit will show, did you follow the plan and was the plan interesting? Under elements, the most marks per section is awarded here. There will be a look for three different elements. For instance this could be a pair of stamp, a single stamp and a letter/First Day Cover relating to the story. Each element is looked at with the thought of is it neat (cancellation, centering etc). With respect to knowledge, ask yourself is the display showing information that is outside of what would be found in a stamp catalogue? Quality of material is looking at the difficulty in collecting that item. For instance, the first stamp in the world was the Penny Black. If you were showing something about Queen Victoria, the Penny Black would score higher than a later issue. Perhaps catalogue value may suggest quality for you (as a general guideline!). Finally comes Presentation. This is divided into two parts, balance and attractiveness. Balance looks at the spread of stamps across the page and attractive is in the eye of the beholder looking at the exhibit.

Finally, go to the club website and look at the winning exhibits. They have been scanned to see how these pages meet the above given scoring guidelines.

Upcoming Shows

FEB 17 BURLPEX 2018
Burlington Seniors' Centre, Teen Tour Way,
Burlington, ON, L7M 4A3
Annual Burlington Stamp Show. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Free parking, refreshments available, silent auctions.

Teen Tour Way runs north from New Street just west of Guelph Line. The Seniors' Centre is on the left.
Phone: 905-336-8685
Email: macneall@cogeco.ca

FEB 24 St. Thomas Stamp Club
32nd Annual Stamp Show
Community of Christ Church, 105 Fairview Ave., St. Thomas, ON, N5R 4X7
10 dealers, exhibits, lunch counter and door prizes. Free admission, free parking. No stairs to climb.
Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Phone: 519-631-8180

FEB 24 Scarborough Stamp Show
Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Blvd, Toronto (Scarborough), ON, M1H 1C6
Buying and selling stamps; up to 4 dealers (new dealer inquiries welcome); five and ten cent club books; free parking; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Phone: 416-460-3970 Email: jmerelaid@gmail.com

FEB 25 Toronto Postcard Club 37th Annual Sale
Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Crt., Toronto, ON, M3C 1Z5
Canada's largest vintage postcard show. 40 tables with 1,000's of postcards for sale from many countries covering many topics. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission \$5. Free parking. TTC accessible.
Email: tpcannualshow@torontopostcardclub.com
Web: <http://www.torontopostcardclub.com>

MAR 4 Mississauga Coin & Stamp Show
John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd., Mississauga, ON, L4Z 1V8
Sponsored by the Troyak Club. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Over 30 dealers & 60 dealer tables. Canadian and world coins, banknotes, stamps and supplies. Buy, sell, trade, appraise.
Phone: 416-505-7999
Email: leszekp@rogers.com
Web: <http://www.troyakclub.com>

MAR 17 The Oxford Philatelic Society Stamp Exhibition 2018
Woodstock Christian School, 800 Juliana Dr., Woodstock, ON, N4S 8X8
9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. featuring dealers, exhibits, lunch/snack counter, youth gift bags, prize draws, club circuit books, free parking, free admittance.
Phone: 519-539-5055
Email: viking37@rogers.com
Web: <http://www.oxfordphilsoc.com>

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When you have a chance, why not visit the club web site at www.owensoundstampclub.org. Feedback is always important to keeping this means of connecting up to date. A final scan related to the article above.



Figure 10 A mini-sheet from Australia celebrating the flight of the Southern Cross on the first Trans Pacific flight.