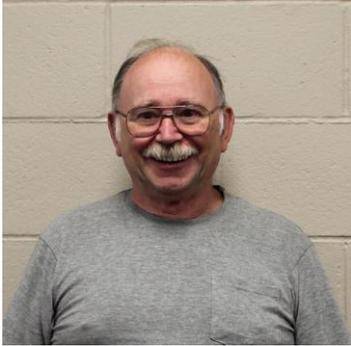


Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 19th, 2019 @ 7 PM
St Mary's High School, Hillyer Hall, 555 15th Street East, Owen Sound
Volume 6 Edition 5

From the President



Hello everyone, I would like to say many thanks for helping with our latest show. Special thanks to those who help set up before and after the show.

Many thanks to John Appleton and his wife for looking after the

lunch counter. To the Master of Silent Auctions himself Mr. Bill Finley.

I would like to thank the Clubs that all showed up, St. Catharine's, Hamilton, Burlington, Cambridge, Stafford, Waterloo, Saugeen, Barrie West Toronto and our own Club Circuit Books.

With a special thanks to Ms. Kathy Hartley the friendly Reference Librarian with her great knowledge in representing the Vincent Graves Green Philatelic Research Foundation.

And to all those who had told others of our show.

A thank you goes out to all those businesses who donated items for the door prizes.

I personally think we should do this again next year.

Thanks again for all your support, and your kindness shown to our guests on helping to make this day a great start to many more shows.

Our meeting will be rather short so I hope you will enjoy visiting Marion and Randy with the club's Circuit Books.

Hoping to see each and all at the meeting on June 19th

John C. Lemon
President OSSC.

From the Editor

Phil Visser

I started this month's newsletter a few weeks ago only to have life interfere with its completion. Inside this month's edition are three short stories which I hope will keep you interested in our hobby and challenged to keep on going with it.

A usual report is included about last months meeting. I have to echo our Presidents remarks that the Club Fair North was a success due to the number of people who assisted in many ways. It was a good turn out and everyone seemed to be in good spirits during he day.

There are three key philatelic events coming up in the next few months. In order of their appearance on the calendar, plan on visiting the upcoming Royal just a couple of days after our meeting, the Postal History Symposium in July and the Kincardine show in August. Stamp collecting is truly a year round hobby. More details can be found in the "**Upcoming Shows**" section.

Here are a couple of teaser scans that relate to stories further in the newsletter:



RPO Cancels

By Jim Molineaux

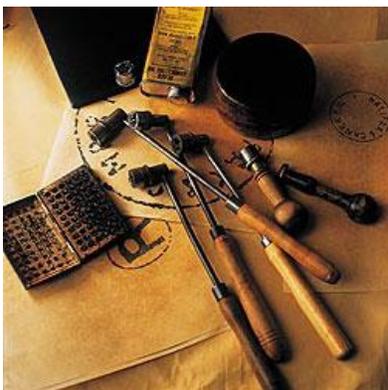
Railway Post Office (RPO) cancellations date from 1854 when the postal authorities and railway companies provided for the installation of mail cars aboard passenger trains in order to speed mail deliver. Prior to this time, postal communication was traditionally slow, involving waterways and horse drawn vehicles. The illustration below shows the interior of a typical railway mail car.



The mail car was off limits to the passengers on the train. The railway mail clerks received, sorted, cancelled and routed mail between transfer points and population centres along the various sections of track. The next illustration shows tools used by railway postal workers including

cancelling hammers, ink, inkpad, registered mail marker, a rubber stamp cushion and steel date typeset.

RPO cancels such as the one below typically include the date and the transfer or endpoint cities on the RPO route. The cancel may also include a train number and an RPO or rail company identifier. The railway company may not be in familiar usage. For example, several of the RPO cancels which follow contain the letters GTR. The latter is an abbreviation for the Grand Trunk Railway, a rail company which operated between 1852 and 1923.



The GTR was initially incorporated to build a rail line between Montreal and Toronto. It expanded rapidly by purchasing other rail

companies in Canada and the U.S. By 1867, it had become the largest railway system in the world. Facing bankruptcy in later years, the GTR was nationalized in 1923 to become the Canadian National Railroad (CNR).

RPO's went into decline due to major increases in mail volume, a nation wide strike of railway workers in 1950 and the increased use of motorized vehicles for delivery. By 1961, the number of RPO's had dropped by two thirds and the number of clerks had been cut in half. On 24 April, 1971, the railway mail service was officially ended in Canada.

A Month of Anniversaries

By Phil Visser

June is a very popular month for weddings, or so the popular culture seems to suggest. Within my family circle, I can only think of one wedding held in June, all the others between the months of May and October. Outside of weddings, other anniversaries are often mentioned in the media, but my topic is of a much older anniversary and hasn't made itself in present day media stream, at least not yet.

This anniversary occurred in 1919, and on June 28th, 1919 the Treaty of Versailles ended World War 1. Wikipedia adds one further caveat, and that is the Treaty did not come into effect until January 10th, 1920. This story is not about the Treaty per se, but the philatelic results that show the effects of the Treaty. One story cannot completely cover the Treaty; instead it will show only a brief glimpse of the Treaty within and on Belgian postage.

From a controversial point of view, the Treaty of Versailles was a massive realignment of power in the world. At the start of WW1, Belgium was a neutral country which had been established shortly after the Napoleonic wars in the early 1800's. It was cobbled together with a mix of Dutch and French speaking peoples as well as bordering on present day Germany. This border was also a mix of peoples, and two regions were given to Belgium to administrate. These two regions are known as Eupen and Malmedy.



During the war years, German stamps were overprinted with Belgian currency and used within the occupied sectors. According to the Belgian Specialist Catalogue, there were three types of overprints. Two of these overprints are shown here

and on the first page. Look at the currency

overprinted on the stamp, it can be seen with different spelling for each type of overprint.

Geographically speaking, the territories of Eupen and Malmedy were not very large, about 730 square kilometres. The population was also a mix of different languages, German, French and some Walloon (Dutch). Once these areas came under Belgian administration, Belgian stamps were overprinted with the names of both regions. The first set of stamps was issued On January 15th, 1920. A close look at the scan shows that these stamps were issued for Eupen and Malmedy and marked in German currency, the Pfenning.



Shortly after the first overprinting, on March 20th 1920, new overprints were made, one for each region, Eupen and then another overprint for Malmedy. With these issues, no German currency was marked on the stamp and so used the Belgian currency. Besides the regular postage, these overprints can



also be found on postage due stamps. While these stamps were in use, the political side of things was far from settled.

Original control by Belgium on this region was granted by the League of Nations, but the residents would need to decide whether to remain aligned with Belgium or Germany. In a controversial manner, those who wished to become part of Germany would have to register their wishes with the Belgian administration. Only a few hundred people did so, and consequently, the League of Nations granted full control of the region to Belgium. This occurred in June of 1925.

From a philatelic perspective, it is nice to have the cancels clearing showing that they had been used in this region, thus confirming the overprint and postal usage. This area of philately seems to have escaped the Scott catalogue, but the overprints are printed on Scott numbers 108-122. The Belgian Specialist Catalogue gives reasonable prices for the stamps, but the higher denominated stamps attract a higher catalogue value.



May Meeting Highlights

A quick head count suggested that 16 members were present at the May meeting. Randy reported on the sales in the Club Circuit books and that over thirty pages of new stamps were entered into the circuit book inventory. These pages were mostly with Canadian and French stamps. Randy also added that the club website has now registered over 35,000 visitors.

For the show and tell portion of the meeting, a cover was circulated that was mailed from the Royal Train on King George and Queen Mary's visit to Canada in 1939. The cover was addressed to a person in Paris ON and cancelled on the train while it stopped in that city.

Mention was made about the new RPSC electronic newsletter that has started to be circulated to members who have provided their email addresses with the Society. Members were encouraged to become part of the Royal and share their email address to receive these monthly messages. A show of hand indicated that several members present were also members of the RPSC.

One further point about the RPSC is that there is an imitative underway for the American Philatelic Society and the RSPC to link together in some format, yet remaining individual organizations. We will probably hear more about that over the next number of months.

A general session was held about preparing for the Club Circuit book Fair North. Volunteers were asked to assist with the setting up of tables on Friday night as well as arriving early to assist with bringing in the circuit books from the other clubs as they arrived. Finally, a sign up sheet was circulated to bring in donations for the luncheon table.

The evening ended with an opportunity to search through our own circuit books. While doing so, I found some "pluggers," you know, the stamps that fill holes in a collection!

And What is Social Philately?

By Phil Visser

As a long distance member of the Netherlands Philatelists of California, I recently received the March April newsletter. On the front page, the newsletter asked "What is Social Philately?" Briefly speaking, it seems to be a new form of exhibiting a collection at shows.

Hans Kremer raised this topic in the above mentioned newsletter and suggested members to simply do a Google search with these key words. Accepting the challenge, the first website that

Google brought up is www.stampdomain.com . The explanation provided is as follows "Social Philately is a relatively new concept in collecting. The origins of "Social Philately" are credited to Australia back in the 1980s. Social Philately attempts to link philately with the social or economic history of the selected subject or topic. It can cover such events as the history of a town, the history of a business, the history of an industry, the history of an individual or in fact the history of anything you can imagine. It can contain philatelic items and non-philatelic items which relate directly to your topic. It can contain letters, newspaper clippings, tickets, leaflets, souvenirs, photos or anything else that you think is suitable."

The function of the non-philatelic items is to amplify your collection not to add decoration to it. You will need to collect information and learn as much as you can on the subject, so that you can write an interesting history on the topic.

As any good thematic collection tells a story, so a social philately collection should also do the same, taking full advantage of the freedom to include a broader range of items."

This definition lays a clear difference between a thematic collection and a social collection. Visiting one website doesn't capture the entire idea, so the second site gives another perspective on this topic. This website suggests "If we want to define Social Philately in a single sentence we can say that Social Philately is the social history told by way of mail and ephemera (pamphlets, notices, handbills, tickets etc.)."

(http://philatelicjournalistsforum.blogspot.com/p/blog-page_16.html).

So, there you have it, a new way of making an exhibit. How new is it? While the idea is credited to Australia, the first show that actually had a class for these types of exhibits occurred in Melbourne in 1999. This type of exhibit has continued onwards to other shows with a website from the UK and apparently a class of exhibit during the 2000 World Stamp show in London.

Unsure if this definition is clear; the Philatelic Journalists website then adds "in social philately, one can include examples of the following points:

- Telegram Services



- Greeting Cards
- Pictorial or illustrated Commercial covers (including patriotic covers)
- Stationary used by Post Offices (without imprinted stamps)
- Philatelic history other than literature (including album hinges, perforation gauges etc.)
- Officially issued documents bearing illustration of postage stamps
- Pictorial view cards and objects associated with postage stamps and their use
- Aspects of the affect of the postal system on commerce or industry
- Locality studies based postal and social history using the materials of Social Philately
- Objects associated with postage stamps and their use (weighing balances for letters, stamp boxes, maps, prints, model post office, model letter boxes etc.
- Post Office equipment (mailbags, uniforms, postal tools, medals etc

These materials should be arranged so as to illustrate a balanced plan as a whole or to develop any aspect of Social Philately."

I wonder if this will enter the North American philatelic exhibition field?

Upcoming Shows

JUN
21

Royal*2019*Royale

June 21, 2019 to June 23, 2019

Hilton Mississauga, 6750 Mississauga Rd., Mississauga, ON, L5N 2L3

Canadian Stamp News, the Bramalea Stamp Club and the West Toronto Stamp Club are hosting the 91st convention of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) on June 21-23. With a nominal admission fee on Friday and Saturday and free admission on Sunday, the show will boast more than 30 dealer tables, a national-level competitive exhibition, society meetings and several insightful seminars.

Email: jtrauzzi@yahoo.ca

Web:<http://www.rpsc.org/royal2019>

JUL
18

PHSC Symposium

July 18, 2019 to July 21, 2019

Hamilton Sheraton Hotel, 116 King St. W., Hamilton, ON, L8P 4V3

Building on the success of the 2018 Symposium, the Postal History Society of Canada is proud to announce

the third annual PHSC Symposium. We will visit several different sites of historical interest in Hamilton and the Greater Toronto Area, where invited members will speak about a variety of postal history topics. We will also host a national-level postal history exhibition as well as a bourse with 15 dealers, breakout sessions and additional speakers and activities. The activities and meals are available at a nominal cost. Admission to the bourse and exhibition is free.
Phone: 905-690-3598
Email: symposium@postalhistorycanada.net
Web: <http://www.postalhistorycanada.net>

AUG

1

APS Stamp Show

August 1, 2019 to August 4, 2019

CHI Health Center Omaha, 455 N. 10th St., Omaha, NE, 68102

Stamp Show 2019, co-hosted with the American Topical Association, in Omaha, Nebraska, marks the 133rd annual convention of the American Philatelic Society. Each year, stamp collectors, exhibitors, historians and members of the general public gather to socialize, increase philatelic knowledge, and exchange stamps. The 2019 show will feature more than 100 dealers, societies, live auctions, literature and philatelic exhibits, more than 100 meetings and seminars, and first-day-of-issue ceremonies for new stamps. The show is free and open to the public.

Phone: 814-933-3803

Email: stampshow@stamps.org

Web: <https://stamps.org/STAMPSHOW-SS>

AUG

10

KINEX 2019

Davidson Centre, 601 Durham St., Kincardine, AB, N2Z 1L6

This annual stamp show and sale features upwards of 11 dealers on the bourse, exhibits, door prizes, lunch booth, a youth table and sales circuit books.

Phone: 519-395-5817

Email: jcortan@hurontel.on.ca

AUG

30

BNAPEX 2019

August 30, 2019 to September 1, 2019

Delta Hotels by Marriott Ottawa City Centre, 101 Lyon St. N., Ottawa, ON, K1R 5T9

The 71st annual convention of the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS)—BNAPEX—features a 160-frame British North America competitive exhibition as well as a 20-dealer bourse and about 25 BNAPS Study Group meetings and seminars.

Phone: 905-934-8377

Email: roystamp@cogeco.ca

Web: <http://bnaps.org/>

SEP

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National Postage Stamp and Coin Show

September 7, 2019 to September 8, 2019

Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale hotel, 6750

Mississauga Rd., Mississauga, ON, L5N 2L3

National Postage Stamp and Coin Show featuring about 50 professional coin and stamp dealers from across Canada. Highlights include a two-day live auction by Colonial Acres; various seminars; the Young Collectors Table, plus the popular Free Kids' Auction on Sunday. Admission \$3 on Saturday and FREE on Sunday. Show hours 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sunday. Parking is Free. For show updates, visit website. Presented by Canadian Coin News and Canadian Stamp News.

Phone: 1-800-408-0352

Email: info@trajan.ca

Web: <http://www.stampandcoinshow.com>

SEP

14

Cambridge Stamp Show

Armenian Centre, 35 International Village Dr., Cambridge, Ontario, N1R 7M5

Cambridge Stamp Club Annual Show, Armenian Centre, 35 International Village Dr. between 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Visit with 10 dealers, circuit books, and a silent auction. A lunch counter is available for your convenience. Free admission and parking. Everyone welcome! For more details contact Oscar Cormier, email jocstamp@rogers.com, telephone 519-742-5892. Website: www.cambridgestampclub.weebly.com

Phone: 519- 742 - 5892

Email: jocstamp@rogers.com

Web: <http://www.cambridgestampclub.weebly.com>

SEP

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Owen Sound Stamp Club Show

St Mary's High School, 1555 15 St. E., Owen Sound, ON, N4K 0E2

The Owen Sound Club hosts its annual stamp show on Sept. 28 with dealers, exhibits and ongoing draws.

Phone: 519-376-7161

Email: lembudd@yahoo.com

Web: <http://www.owensoundstampclub.org>

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Another newsletter has been completed, but the first one using a different work processing software package. There was much to learn and experiment with and hopefully it meets the reader's approval with respect to readability. Following along with tradition, I encourage you to visit the club website whenever you are searching for something. Randy has a fabulous section on links that will make your philatelic knowledge grow.

Soapbox

With the recent announcement of the cooperation between the American Philatelic Society and the Royal Philatelic Society, it caused me to wonder on how this would benefit me as the average collector. I really enjoy going to the shows and seeing the exhibits, but the idea of exhibiting is a little challenging for me and perhaps for others as well. One thing that would benefit me directly is if some of the Philatelic organizations combined or considered ways of joining forces. How many organizations do you belong to? Some of the choices include (but not limited too) is the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, the British North America Philatelic Society, the Postal History Society. While the membership dues are reasonable for each individual organization, when you become a member of several organizations as well as local clubs, there is a couple of hundred dollars in dues each year. Is it possible to put the larger National Organizations under one umbrella?

Final scans relating to the above stories. First a Malmedy overprint on the left, in the middle is a Toronto & Owen Sound RPO, Train #706, and at right is a stamp of the Melbourne Olympics of 1956

