

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

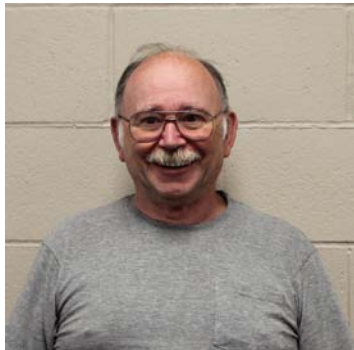
Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 21st, 2019 @ 7 PM

Summer Meeting Place

New Life Centre, 199 4th Ave West, Owen Sound

Volume 6 Edition 8

From the President



Hello everyone, hope you can feel the difference in the weather. Hopefully the humidity is now more bearable for you to enjoy the summer.

Bill Findlay emailed me about a neighbour's

collection that had accumulated and is now being donated to the club. So no better time than the present for you to look it over,

Randy and Marion will also have the Club Circuit Books for you to look through, to find that gem you need for your collection.

Now for a reminder that we will be at our summer meeting location at the **New Life Centre, 199 4th Ave. W., Owen Sound.** Meeting starts at 7:00 P.M. See you there.

John C. Lemon
President OSSC.

From the Editor Phil Visser

Challenges, challenges, but one of the greatest is the ability to see what is being produced! I hope my editorial skills have fixed the glaring errors and that you can enjoy reading this monthly newsletter.

Further in this newsletter is a story about postal history. It is hopefully interesting and it encourages us to open your eyes and see those little things that can make a philatelist out of any collector.

I became acquainted with the author through a group called "The Netherlands Philatelists of California." When I first read this story in that club's newsletter I just had to see if I could share it here with you. Hans graciously agreed to share this article with you.

Other articles are included, including another tip from UPA Auctions and the report of the last meeting. Ending the newsletter is the usual listing of upcoming shows; the last listing is the reminder for us to get ourselves into gear for our own show in September.

Hopefully I will be able to attend this month's meeting, although I am not sure if I will be able to drive a vehicle yet. The recent work break did tempt me into doing some soaking and looking at the recent Canadian stamp collection. Wow, like many Post Offices in the world, Canada Post has really gone hog wild with their issues and formats for each issue. Whatever just enjoy what stamps you are able to accumulate!

And now for a teaser scan!



Zaamslag "Open 4," Cancel 1945
by Hans Kremer

The postcard shown here (Figure. 1) was written on February 9, 1945 (see back) and sent from Zaamslag (Zeeland Province) to Bergen op Zoom (NB.) It did not receive a Zaamslag (ZL.) postmark until March 13, 1945, more than a month later.



Figure 1. Zaamslag (ZL.) to Bergen op Zoom (NB.) March 1945.

If you look at the year-date of the Zaamslag cancel you'll notice "1945" with a straight "1" and an 'Open 4' (Figure 2.)



Figure 2. Straight "1" and "Open 4."

The story about the "Open 4" can be found in [Netherlands Philately Vol. 34/2](#),

November 2009. In short,

due to the absence of the 1945 year characters, usually sent from the PTT Main Offices in The Hague, "1945" year character had to be ordered in Belgium. The "1" and "4" were different from the usual PTT cancels (Figure 3.).

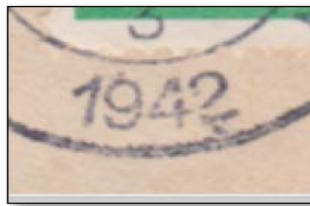


Figure 3. 'Usual' '1' and '4' issued by PTT.

Why was there such a delay between the February 9, 1945 date (when the card was written) and March 13, 1945 (when the card was cancelled)?

One has to realize that once parts of the Southern Netherlands were liberated (this included Zaamslag (liberated on September 19, 1944) and Bergen op Zoom (liberated October 27, 1944) it took a while to get the mail system going again. It was not until March 1, 1945 that mail could be sent to and from Bergen op Zoom again. The card probably was held back at the Zaamslag post office until it was permitted to be forwarded. Why it was not forwarded until March 13, and not March 1, I don't know.



Figure 4. Dutch censorship marker

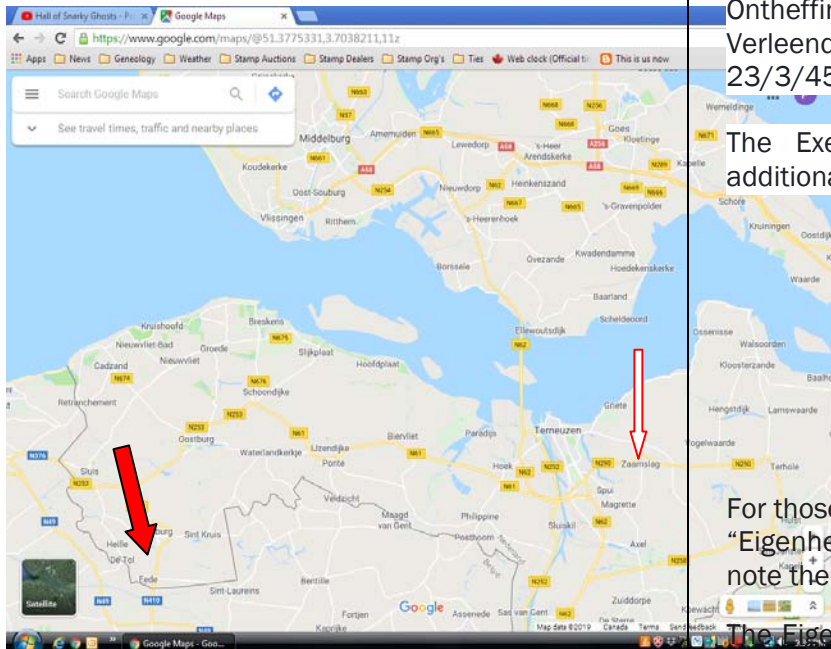
enemy.

The card might have been held up in Eindhoven for some time due to the high volume of mail that had to be examined in the censor office. 1,200,000 pieces of mail were censored in Eindhoven during the seven months that this censor office was in operation.

As previously mentioned, the card was cancelled in Zaamslag on March 13, 1945. This day happens to be of significance in Dutch history. On that day Queen Wilhelmina, who had been exiled in London during the war, re-entered Dutch territory for the first time since May 13, 1940. She crossed the Belgian-Dutch border at the town of Eede (Figure 5.). **Note the indicated chalk line on the ground behind the Queen.** The next day she visited Zaamslag, 25 miles NE of Eede.



Figure 5. Queen Wilhelmina crosses the Belgian-Dutch border on March 13, 1945.



Of course, we should also look at the text of the postcard (Figure 1) to see if there is anything 'special' about it.

The sender of the card, P. de Jonge, asks Mrs. De Ridder-v.d Berghe if he could be exempted ("ontheffing") from having to deliver certain amounts of potatoes. The word "Eigenheimers" refers to a potato variety, while the numbers, such as "28-35", refer to the size of the potatoes in millimeters. The note "45-60 DW medegenomen in Sept." probably tells Mrs. de Ridder that the Deutsche Wehrmacht (German Army) had taken the 2,000 kg (4,400 pounds) of large (45-60 mm) potatoes earlier in September 1944, just before Zaamslag's liberation on September 19, 1944. Mr. de Jonge had planned on keeping these for himself ("=voor eigen gebruik").

Also mentioned in the note is "B.C.A. II." During the war the B.C.A. was responsible for potato

distribution. An employee of the Dutch national potato organization emailed me that she thought that it stood for "*Bond van Commissionairs in Aardappelen*," which translates as *Organization of Potato Commission-Agents*.

Usually farmers at the start of the season sold their crop beforehand to one of these commission-agents. They accepted a certain guaranteed price for which they would deliver their product, in this case potatoes. The commission-agent in turn reckoned that he would be able to sell the potatoes at a higher price once he received them.

It appears that Mr. De Jonge's contract was # 7384, since the card reads:

"contr 7384" =Contract # 7384
 Ontheffing =Exemption Approved
 Verleend =Approved
 23/3/45 =Contract date March 23, 1945

The Exemption was granted but there is an additional note:

" X Geen (=No) ontheffing", which refers to the "45-60 DW potatoes." Finally, no exemption was granted, which is strange since the potatoes were stolen by the German Army in Sept. 1944.

For those of you who would like to know more about "Eigenheimers" (a staple of Dutch food even today), note the following:

The Eigenheimer potato (Figure 6) is a very flowery potato which is particularly appreciated by older generations as a table potato in the east of the



Figure 6. Eigenheimer potatoes.

Netherlands. Nice and crumbly and flowery, enabling it to soak up plenty of gravy. At the same time, this crumbliness makes it difficult to cook a decent chip (French Fry) from it.

The Eigenheimer is characterized by its deep-set eyes and oval, irregular shape. In addition, this potato has a light yellow skin and can sometimes have a purple tinted top. The origin of this special

potato can be traced to the Groningen Borger Compagnie. For this reason the Eigenheimers are also called Borgers.

If the weather conditions allow, the potatoes are planted in early April. The Eigenheimers belong to the late harvest race variety. This means that the potatoes will not be harvested until the end of August.

Catalogue Value: Part 3

CATALOGUE VALUE v. REAL VALUE cont. Summary Tip #25: It's all about 'Effective Catalogue Value'...

Dear Philip,

Following on from 'No Money Spent: little value'.... we are finally discussing when does a stamp actually have value? The answer is when a stamp actually has 'effective value'.

Now when does effective actually become 'effective'.... if we compare Stanley Gibbons with the 'kitchen table eBay seller' then the answer is simply that 'effective value' is relative to the overhead / structure of the seller. So that you can find kitchen table internet sellers offering stamps for sale at 1p on eBay which Stanley Gibbons catalogue at 50p ... that's one fiftieth of catalogue value ... but with a postage delivery minimum supply cost of £1. In theory that is Stanley Gibbons minimum 'Strand' retail shop price when you select / collect the stamp yourself so you pay the cost of delivery by visiting their shop at your expense ... effectively paying for the pleasure of the experience.

Let's make a simple comparison - our UPA target is to sell £2 million pounds of stamps in the next financial year ... that's one seventeenth of Stanley Gibbons annual turnover and in stamp company sizes UPA must be within the top ten philatelic companies in the UK. So when does an 'SG catalogue value' become realistic for us? In selling terms we are unusual because we will actually sell you SG 50p catalogue price stamps for 1p without prohibitive delivery cost ... provided that you are happy to participate in a mixture selling system requiring a current minimum purchase of £6.45 (UK): http://upastampauctions.co.uk/contents/en-uk/d3_Mixtures.html

Or if you are prepared to make a minimum average 'spend' of £12 then we'll supply 10p catalogue stamps for less than 10p in our traditional 'stamps on approval' service:
http://upastampauctions.co.uk/contents/en-uk/d2_Approvals.html

.... so in 'selling terms' we handle low catalogue prices by bundling stamps supplied through selling systems that's the only way we have been able to devise to supply collectors at lowest possible unit price and to stay in profitable business ... and we've been doing this for over 50 years.

BUT what happens when you wish to sell.... here's our thinking ... 'effective' for us is when we purchase a stamp collection for several hundred pounds or more and we constantly strive to purchase collections from £1,000 upwards ...

Now, I can just hear you saying ... "how does that break down in practice?"

The answer lies in a combination of three factors:

- 1) ... catalogue value *and*
- 2) ... actual demand *and*
- 3) ... cost of handling / supply which taken together feed into 'effective catalogue value'.

So if we are offered a collection of say classic British Empire ... we would consider how much we believe we would have to pay to obtain similar material from public stamp auction. This is the starting point. Then we would examine how well the material actually sells and over what length of time it takes to sell it. If we know that we can sell your stamps to clients literally the next day then we would gladly work upon a very small profit margin.... but if we suspect that we are still going to be trying to sell the rump of stamps purchased in two years time ... then a price that might be offered would take this factor into consideration ... or even if it should be purchased at all!

... "Keep going ... give us a tangible example"...

OK - we were offered a collection of valuable British Empire high values and complete sets in high quality with hardly an item with an SG catalogue value of less than £100 ... we paid more than 3 other dealers offered for this collection - £73,000 which was approximately 33% of SG catalogue price. Another B.E. collection catalogued £45,000 we paid 45% of SG catalogue value. (It does depend upon the 'mix' of constituent countries and their desirability.

... "OK - relate it to everyday material"...

Oh - all right ... mint British Commonwealth sets catalogued a few pounds each on average ... a few pounds each CV is much more difficult to handle and many dealers may not purchase - so this is NOT REALLY EFFECTIVE CATALOGUE VALUE ... but depending upon whether previously lightly hinged, time span, desirable or 'Mickey Mouse' Country ...

from as little as 8% to 10% to up to 20%+ but at this level they would need to be unmounted mint from desirable countries and have higher catalogue values ... does that help?

... "So give us a conclusion"...

Effective Catalogue Value depends upon how the purchaser is going to try to re-sell your stamps ... in practice (unless face value is a factor) sets / stamps catalogued less than £10 per item may be factored in as profit and the price proffered / paid may be for the more valuable material only. Therefore it goes without saying that if you are purchasing low price stamps for enjoyment - then enjoyment is your profit, mixed with some financial return ... but low priced stamps will never provide an investment as their handling cost is too high.

Happy collecting from us all,

Andrew

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

Andrew McGavin

July Meeting Highlights

Circumstances prevented this editor from attending the meeting in July; however, the following information was gleaned from Bob Ford and Randy Rogers.

Approximately sixteen members came to the summer venue. Apparently the temporary location wasn't too difficult to find.

This evening was one for members to bring silent auction items. Reports suggest that not many items were sold. The donation received was all sold out raising some funds for the clubs benefit, about \$20-30.

Between the June and July meeting, Randy and Marion reviewed the discussion of the June meeting and have come up with a plan on distributing the Circuit Book Sales proceeds. Because of the computerized accounting, it is easy to track the sales from an individual club member, and when those sales reach a fairly significant value, the funds are disbursed to that member. Keeping with the original mandate, the members with smaller sale amounts will be paid on an annual basis.

There was a lively discussion about the retirement of pages from the Circuit Books. A concern raised that while club members may have limited collecting areas, if the books do not get to too many other venues, other collectors may not have a chance to check out the pages submitted in the proposed two year period. Randy and Marion will

look at the pages and the sales made from those pages and then also the number of outside visits the circuit books have made to other clubs, circuit book fairs etc., before retiring them from the Sales Circuit.

Upcoming Shows

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

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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 OE2

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

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

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I have been using this new processing program for a few months now, and with no remarks, I presume the product is still readable.

Soapbox

By Phil Visser

Nothing perks my interest this month about our hobby, so I begin with a mention of the latest edition of "The Canadian Philatelist." A well done magazine that remains informative for the advanced as well as the "general" collector. The recent edition does note some challenges for the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. These challenges are present for every club and the only way we can change that is to spread the news and fun that can come from stamp collecting.

One of the articles waxed eloquently about the "sand dune" countries and their issues from the 1970's. I must admit that I did look sideways and with disdain in my voice about those stamps, but the author reminds us that they were valid postage and should be respected as valid for collecting. One product of this article is to remind ourselves that we will **NEVER** be able to complete a collection of stamps for a single country, because there are varieties that simply too few stamps were printed for the average collector to obtain, for instance the 12 penny black from Canada. I recently saw it advertised for a suggested bid of \$45,000 Canadian.

So let's help out the dealers and start, or resume, a worldwide collection and enjoy what these far flung, unsung philatelic outposts have produced. Maybe they can even tie into topical collections!

Page 1 shows the "teaser scan." But how is that related to either story in the newsletter? Well the first stamps printed in Tristan da Cunha were made from potatoes! Although the mini-sheet is about Sir Rowland Hill, the stamp on stamp reproduction is of the first stamps printed on this remote South Atlantic Island. Now for two more obvious scans about our first story!

