

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 16th, 2019 @ 7 PM
St Mary's High School, Hillyer Hall, 555 15th Street East, Owen Sound
Volume 6 Edition 10

From the President



Hello everyone, hope this newsletter finds you in good spirits and you got some gems at the Show on the 25th of September.

This meeting we will have the pleasure of having guest speaker Mr. George Pepall of

the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada giving us a presentation about the Royal and other matters.

As usual, the Circuit Books will be at the meeting for everyone to look through, after the business of the evening has been completed.

Hope to see everyone out.

John C. Lemon
President OSSC.

From the Editor

Phil Visser

Last month, I left a challenge to the readers by putting a teaser scan on the front page. I asked who could identify the three stamps in the scan and offered a prize for the first person with the correct answer. The winner was Randy Rogers who replied within a day to say that the stamps were catalogue number B1-3 from the Netherlands. Randy emailed me his answer. Congratulations Randy.

I did have a second prize if another person provided an answer at the meeting, but that prize was not given since no one provided the answer, or even attempted an answer!

The annual show has passed by and I noted many people came from farther away. We had people from London, Kitchener-Waterloo, Guelph the GTA and a large contingent from Barrie and the Georgian Bay Stamp and Coin Club. The show was a wonderful day for those who were able to be present.

Last months edition came in one page short of the normal, talk about not finding the forest because

there were too many trees around! But it does bring a request for budding authors to try their hand at writing a story for this newsletter. Take a moment to share something you found interesting in this hobby.

Inside this months edition is a story about philately and how that has snuck into the collecting habits of the hobby. A report about last months meeting is also included which is followed by a listing of upcoming shows.

One of the upcoming shows is the GRVPA club Circuit Fair in Brantford this year. Please note the new location! Why not take a moment and sort through the duplicates that could make a new home in someone else's collection. It is amazing what can be found in the circuit books and how economical it can be to fill the gaps in a personal collection.

Taking advantage of my work respite, I have been sorting through the accumulated duplicates. What is interesting is the number of stamps on my "want list" that were actually in the duplicate containers. These were varieties I was unaware of until I started to look at the Canadian collection more closely, especially stamps printed in this 21st century. All it needed was the impetus to search and organize the stamps that has been living in my house for a long time.

And now for a teaser scan!



A holey matter By Phil Visser

With a title like this, is it a typo or is the story about stamps from the Vatican, or religious painting? While pesky “typos” do creep into newsletters, this title is not a typo! Perhaps this story is about the holes that are found in stamp collections (not). Keep reading and the subject of this story will become clear.

It is fairly common knowledge that the first postage stamp issued was the “Penny Black.” 1840 was a monumental shift in communications. The sender had to prepay for the delivery of a letter to another destination. The first postage stamps were printed in sheets of 240 stamps and glue was put on the back so that the stamp could be affixed to the letter. One problem that was quickly realised was the time spent separating the individual stamp from the sheet.

The middle 1800’s was also the time of the Industrial Revolution, where mechanization was replacing human effort. Reviewing the Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Concise Stamp Catalogue, a brief mention is made that Henry Archer began experimenting with separating stamps on a sheet of stamps in 1848 and a satisfactory method was put into production so that all stamps issued by Great Britain after 1854 were issued in perforated sheets of stamps.

Other countries also followed the concept of prepaid post and issued postage stamps for that purpose. These first stamps were also

imperforated and the same problem was observed in other postal administrations. A brief look at the data shows that the United States issued stamps in 1846, France and Belgium stamps in 1849, Canada and Denmark in 1851, and the Netherlands in 1852.

It is interesting to note the different dates at which each of these countries used perforations to separate individual stamps in a printed sheet.

It was 1857 when the United States used perforated sheets of stamps. Canada followed in 1859 while the European countries followed in the 1860’s. France did so in 1862, Belgium in 1863 and both Denmark and the Netherlands did so in 1864. Note that these countries are only an example and not a complete study done on every



postage stamp issued world wide. The various catalogues consulted do not indicate how the process started in each country, but that idea goes beyond the bounds of this article.

Common terminology and usage says that the stamps are perforated. A review of “Fundamentals of Philately” by L.N. Williams (published by APS) makes a distinction that while a sheet of postage stamps is perforated, the individual stamp is really *denticulated*, or indents in the side/edge of the individual stamp. This little technical point is just of interest for those who seek accuracy and it is not provided in an attempt to change common philatelic conversations. Williams cites two early philatelic magazines about the differentiation of perforation/denticulation. “*The Stamp Collectors Magazine*” in Vol 2 written in 1864 mentioned this distinction as well as “*The Philatelist*” in Vol 1 written in December of 1866 also entered the discussion. Either way, Williams admits that the common usage of perforation is what we all use even if it is not proper.

If Williams book is not available, it would be a useful addition to any philatelic library. Chapter 15 is titled “*Separation*” and is full of information which will continue to explain what is done in the hobby up to this time. An inspection of the catalogues will show that every issue will give the perforation of that stamp. The classification of perforation actually began in 1864. Williams explains that E.L. Pemberton wrote about a new issue of stamps from Russia and listed the first number as the perforation of the horizontal edge followed by the vertical edge perforation. This classification continues to this day.

There is also another matter to classifying stamps. Williams explains that the “British” school of thought would classify stamps by different design, while the “French” school studied the perforation. Both of these schools of thought are used in the numbering of stamps in the present day catalogues.

It was the French school that developed the idea of the number of perforations in a length of 2 centimetres. Williams researched and found that Dr. J.A. Legrand wrote under the pseudonym “Dr. Magnus” in a paper titled “*Denteles et non Denteles*” for the Belgian magazine “*Le Timbre Poste*” and in October 1866 observed that the height of ordinary stamps varied somewhat around two centimetres and so adopted that figure as the standard length along which to count or gauge the number of teeth or indentations.



If anyone would look in the forward of the *“Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps”*, they would find a picture which indicates that the gauge is measured along the peaks or teeth of the perforation. While there is no right way or wrong way, other philatelists will measure the “valleys” along the stamps edge. Legrand preferred measuring the indentations; however, each method will provide the same gauging. Legrand also recognized that the number of perforations could end up in a fraction but brought the fraction to one half of a perforation.

One of the more popular measuring gauges used is the Stanley Gibbons “Instanta” gauge. The gauge is



made of clear plastic, and is see through, that allows the collector to place the stamp on top or under the gauge to determine the precise number of perforations. It is a series of lines that is graduated to measure the perforation to the tenth of a perforation. Whether it is a modern



phenomenon for ever greater precision or is simply a by product of the design, some catalogues (at least Unitrade) do go to the nearest tenth of a perf. This gauge is also very handy as it will measure the perforations for a range of 10 to 16 perfs per two centimetres. There are other manufacturers of philatelic products that produce similar tools with the same characteristics.

Earlier it was mentioned that Henry Archer started the process of applying perforations to sheets of stamps. His method was to place the stamp sheet on a table and then apply perforations from a press above the sheet. William Bemrose and Henry Howe Bemrose applied for a patent of a rotary roller in December of 1854. The two different types of machines produced what is called comb perforations (Archer) and line perforations (Bemrose). Look at the two scans showing each type of perforation. Unitrade states that Canadian stamps produced up to 1967 were printed with comb perforations and it since has been changed

to line perforations. The difference can be seen at the corners of the stamp.

Consideration should also look at the size of the hole resulting from the perforating pins. There is no standard size for the perforation pins, and so it may be possible to find the same stamp with different sized “holes.” For example, the Netherlands in its third series of stamps issued, used different sized holes. This may be explained by the use of two different printers, but it is more complicated than that. To begin there are two types (probably from different plates) but there was also two



different perforation types, comb and line perforations. Besides the different perforation methods/machines, the size of the perforating holes are also different. The scans show the same stamp design, Scott #7, but the first scan is of larger holes while the second scan shows the smaller sized holes. To make collecting this series interesting there are altogether ten different variations in plate types, perforation gauges and then hole size. While there are six stamps in the series, not



every stamp is printed in all different type of combination. My collection still has gaps in this series, but there is always hope that the gaps left in collecting this series will get filled sometime in the future.

Why printers used different perforation gauges is unexplained. Initially it would seem that experimentation would provide the ideal gauge for use, but perforation varieties are still present to this day. For instance, consider some of the recent definitives issued by Canada Post. Unitrade lists #2711 and #2710a yet both have the same design, the beaver kits. One of the first problems with these two stamps is that the perforation gauge (really serpentine die cut) is either 8.2 or 9.2 (nominally since there are some variations in the gauge). Earlier it was mentioned that the Stanley Gibbons “Instanta” perforation gauge is often being used. Unfortunately, the Instanta gauge only measures from perf 10 to 16, thus using the Instanta gauge cannot determine which stamp is which gauge. Indeed, some circuit book sellers cannot say which stamp they are selling. All is not lost since a visit to the websites of stamp suppliers

does show perforation gauges that measure from perf 8 are available.

For some reason, The Netherlands issued stamps in the mid 1920's that have "interrupted perfs." These have also been called "syncopated perfs." The syncopated perfs came in three different formats. An example can be seen in the **Teaser Scan** on page 1 of this edition.

Another perforation feature can be seen in stamps that have oval (elliptical) holes punched in the perforations. Besides that, you can also see a maple leaf punched in the perforations (Canada #2122 and 2123). All of these variations make the hobby interesting and challenging. Keep looking; don't be discouraged because every "find" brings a sense of satisfaction and achievement.



References:

Fundamentals of Philately; L.N. Williams; American Philatelic Society, 1990
Stanley Gibbons
Great Britain Concise Stamp Catalogue; 2014 Edition; Stanley Gibbons Ltd
Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps; 2018 Edition; Editor D. Robin Harris; The Unitrade Press
Speciale Catalogus; 2018 Edition; Nederlands Vereniging van Postzegel Handelaren (Netherlands Association of Stamp Dealers)
Officiële Belgische Postzegelcatalogus; 2006 Edition; Belgische Beroepskamer van Postzegel Handelaars
AFA Specialkatalog of Denmark; 2002 Edition.

September Meeting Highlights

About fifteen members made it to the September meeting. During the business session, a report was received that Ken Knight had fallen and injured himself. A card was passed around for all to sign. (See another story following this one)

A few months ago Randy Rogers had made a plea for old newsletters so that they could be scanned and put on the website. Randy received some of those newsletters and the website has been updated. Randy still needs some past newsletter issues dating during the period of 2005 to 2010.

A discussion was held on the delivery mode of the GRVPA News. Randy has added a link to the web page. No other action was taken.

In preparation for the show, a plea was made for door prize material. There was also a sheet

circulated for food and beverages donations so that there would be a luncheon table available for the show.

The silent auction for the show was cancelled.

In Memoriam: Ken Knight

Just two days after the September meeting, Ken's life came to an end on September 20th. Ken was born December 20th 1928. Ken had recently moved into Owen Sound, leaving his long time residence in Chatsworth. He rejoined the club a number of years ago and during that time I had the opportunity to learn about some of his collecting interests.



His collection was topical in nature, and he was looking for stamps bearing the image of a pigeon or a dove. Knowing that, I was able to point out some stamps in circuit books that came to the meetings. Some of these were new to him.

In his working life he must have had something to do with a library, either in lower education or college. Ken was quiet by nature and was sometimes joined at the meetings with Rena, his partner.

Our condolences are extended to Ken's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren as well as Rena. Strength and peace to you.

Upcoming Shows

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CANPEX 2019

October 19, 2019 to October 20, 2019

Hellenic Community Centre

133 Southdale Rd. W., London, ON, N6J 2J2

A two-day national philatelic exhibition and bourse hosted by The Middlesex Stamp Club. This is an APS World Series Show. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission and free parking.

Phone: 519-871-7637

Email: info@canpex.ca

Web: <http://www.canpex.ca>

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Scarborough Stamp Club Show
Cedarbrook Community Centre,
91 Eastpark Blvd., Scarborough (Toronto), ON, M1H 1C6

The Scarborough Stamp Club Show features club circuit books (five and 10 cents) plus individually priced items from as many as four dealers. Admission and parking are free. New dealer inquiries are welcome. Bus routes include Lawrence Avenue East #54 and Markham Road #102.
Phone: 416-460-3970
Email: jmerelaid@gmail.com

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Guelphpex 2019
Dublin Street United Church,
68 Suffolk St. W, Guelph, ON, N1H 2J2
The annual show and dealer's bourse features multiple dealers plus the Guelph Stamp Club circuit books silent auction. Free admission and ample parking. Open from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Phone: 519-823-2578
Email: jservos@bserv.com

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58th Annual Barrie Stamp Show
Allandale Recreation Centre,
190 Bayview Dr., Barrie, ON, L4N 4Y8
The Barrie District Stamp Club will host the 58th Annual Barrie Stamp Show. Thirteen Philatelic dealers from across the province will converge and provide an excellent opportunity for beginner and experienced collectors to fill that missing spot in the collection or find that elusive cover. Free parking and free admission. Refreshments available in the Rec Centre. The Club's Sales Circuit binders will be present. Tickets available for a door prize as well.
Phone: 705-735-6009
Email: b.walter@rogers.com
Web:<http://www.barriedistrictstampclub.ca>

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2019 Hamilton Fall Show
November 1, 2019 to November 2, 2019
St. John de Brebeuf Secondary School,
200 Acadia Dr., Hamilton, ON, L8W 1B8
Large silent and voice auctions Friday evening with viewing starting at 5 p.m. Saturday is a 20-dealer bourse with stamps, postcards, covers and supplies, plus youth booth and silent auction from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. GRVPA clubs circuit sales books Friday and Saturday. Light food and refreshments available with ample free parking. Sponsored by the Hamilton Stamp Club.

Email: southont@cogeco.ca
Web:<http://www.hamiltonstampclub.com>

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GRVPA Club Fair
Branlyn Community Centre,
238 Brantwood Park Rd., Brantford, ON, N3P 1N9
The 25th annual Club Fair hosted by the Grand River Valley Philatelic Association will be held Nov. 9 from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. With upwards of 14 clubs, 450-plus circuit books, two silent auctions with 300-plus lots, exhibits and a youth table with free stamps, the show also boasts free parking and a snack bar.
Phone: 905-227-9251
Email: stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca
Web:<http://www.grvpa.com/index.htm>

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North Toronto Stamp Club Winter Bourse
Yorkminster Park Baptist Church,
1585 Yonge St., Toronto, ON, M4T 1Z9
The North Toronto Stamp Club's Winter Bourse will be held at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge Street. Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Easy subway access at St. Clair subway station, free admission, 22 dealers, more than 100 sales circuit books including recent issues, over 100 ten cents books, members table, door prizes (first prize one kilo of stamps) snack bar, wheelchair access, parking at the Church and on nearby streets, families and children welcome.
Phone: 6479904073
Email: ntsc.programchair@gmail.com
Web:<http://www.northtorontostampclub.ca>

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STAMPFUN 2019 Waterloo Region Stamp Club
Royal Canadian Legion,
316 Marsland Dr., Waterloo, Ontario, N2J 3Z1
STAMPFUN 2019 is held at the Royal Canadian Legion, 316 Marsland Dr., Waterloo, ON between 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Enjoy 10 dealers, a silent auction, circuit books, and door prizes. Free admission and free parking. Coffee in the morning and lunch can be purchased from the Legion kitchen. For more details please contact Oscar Cormier 519-742-5892, or email: jocstamp@rogers.com website: www.waterlooregionstampclub.weebly.com
Phone: 519 - 742 - 5892
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It would be a welcome addition to these monthly pages if the writing skills of club members could be shared with readers. Give it a try! As long as what you are writing is about our philatelic interests, it should be published. Hopefully the story will be about 500 to 1000 words. The only thing I ask as the editor is to get it to me before the first of the month, this gives me a chance to edit and get approval of changes if any are needed.

Soapbox

By Phil Visser

So what is a “soapbox?” The title comes from the democratic freedom found in Great Britain, where a person gets on a box to elevate themselves above the crowd in order to share an opinion, or even challenge the way things are being run. This month didn't provide anything of that sort, so it is time to share what my hobby activities have been.

Through the years many Canadian stamps have wound up in containers, all mixed together. After some coercion from my wife about the state of organization of my hobby, I have begun to sort through and organize into envelopes these stamps. There are still six containers to sort through with varying numbers of stamps in each but the benefit is finding stamp varieties and plate faults that I didn't know I had. Sorting through these containers is a huge task to say the least, but satisfying. I know what I will be doing when retirement arrives!

Quiz

Here is another opportunity to learn something about Canadian stamps. In what year did the Unitrade stamp number equal the year in which it was printed? Show me the **stamp** at the next meeting and you will receive a prize. In order to spread the participation out, if you have won a prize already, then please let another club member win this one.

These two stamps show plate faults. The first Christmas stamp, Unitrade #522 has a black dot between the M and A of Christmas. The second stamp is Unitrade #1004 and the enlargement shows the green dot above the door frame.

