

Stamps on the Bay

The Voice of The
Owen Sound Stamp Club

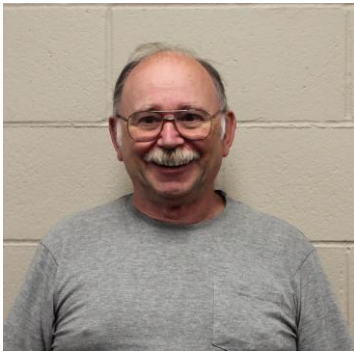
Next Meeting:

Wednesday, February 19th 2020
Hillyer Hall, St Mary's High School
555 15th Street East, Owen Sound
Volume 1 Edition 1



From the President

Hello everyone, sure nice to see the longer days with that beautiful sun out for most of the day now (Guess maybe Wiarton Willie might be right again this year.) 6 weeks till spring. Yippee!!!



This weather sure makes a body want to get involved with their stamps again, and sure

will not be long before the shows start again.

Our next meeting to be held on February 19th, at the St. Mary's High School.

John C. Lemon
President OSSC.

From the Editor Phil Visser

Here we go the first newsletter with the new name! The process on how this name was chosen will be mentioned further in the newsletter, in the January Meeting highlights.

We start this edition with a new feature from Randy Rogers. Randy has done a lot of work on the internet and has searched many things. This series of articles will be about the "Links" page on the club website.

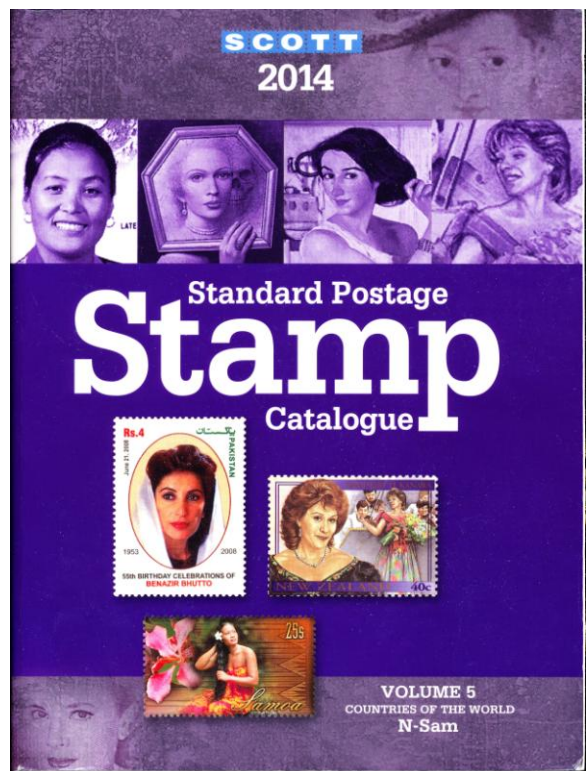
My creative hand has provided another story about local postal history. This is fitting as it does relate to the new name of this newsletter. The name and images all tie in with the region. On the left, the image is that of the schooner "Bluenose." In Owen Sound's early days, the harbour played a vital part for the economy of Georgian Bay and growth of this city. Shipping was very important for the overall growth of Canada. The image on the right is that of a cancel used by the Owen Sound Post Office in the 1950's. The cancel was adjusted to read the date of the first meeting of the Owen Sound Stamp Club. Thanks to Bob Ford who provided the early history of this club.

Last months edition contained only five pages. To flesh out this month's edition is another stamp tip from Universal Philatelic Auctions. It may prove useful for collections that are approaching the category of being specialized.

There are also the regular pieces of information about the last meeting which also explains the process by which the newsletter name was chosen, and a listing of upcoming shows in Southern Ontario. They are several interesting show coming up for which you may plan trips to participate and fill holes in a collection.

As has been my custom, the front page has a teaser scan. This scan has something to do with a story further in the newsletter. Can you tie in the scan in with what story? It also serves as a hook to keep reading the remaining pages.

Here is the teaser scan:





**Useful Links:
Colnect
By Randy Rogers**

Welcome to the first instalment of "Useful Links", a new feature of our club newsletter. Each month I will highlight one of the many useful web sites that can be found listed on the "Links" page of our club web site.

First up is COLNECT, one of two 'bookmarked' links you will find on the "Links - Reference" page.

COLNECT (collect + connect ==> Colnect) is a comprehensive online solution for collectors of mass-produced collectibles (stamps, coins, phone cards and so many more) revolutionizing the collecting experience by providing online personal collection management within a designated community.

Of special interest to stamp collectors is a comprehensive stamp catalogue that is a wiki created by contributing collectors on COLNECT. Entries include images, perforation, watermarks, catalogue numbers and other useful information but no catalogue values. There is also an option to view variants of the stamp.

I use this catalogue extensively whenever I am working on my collection to help identify stamps. There are many ways to filter what you are searching for, e.g. by face value, year of issue, topic, and much more. Filters can also be combined to further assist in the search.

Collectors can create their swap and wish lists using the catalogue and easily coordinate a swap with other collectors whom they are unable to meet. It takes a bit of time to create the want lists but I have successfully traded stamps with others using COLNECT.

Sign Up, it's FREE

<https://colnect.com/en/collectors/countries/collectibles/stamps>

**Early Postal History of Owen Sound
By Phil Visser**

This topic is a vast treasury of information, much more than what can be written in one article. To properly cover philately in this area would probably be printed in a small book, but let us have a look at the beginning. Much of the following has been gleaned from "The Georgian Courier," the publication of the Grey, Bruce, Dufferin & Simcoe County Study group of the *Postal History Society of Canada*.

In the February 2013 edition of the Courier, Mr John Rossiter indicated that the post office was established in Owen Sound on July 6, 1846. Since there was no direct link with south western Ontario (or Canada West as the province was first called) mail arrived overland from Meaford (actually known as St. Vincent

until 1865). According to a book on split ring cancel proofs, the first cancel is shown in the accompanying figure. The scan has been augmented with Microsoft Paint to touch up the weak letters. Note that originally the town was known as "Owens Sound." Also note that what we now know as "Ontario" was called "Canada West" or C.W. for short form.

This community was originally known as "Sydenham," but because there were several other places known as Sydenham, the Post Office urged the community to change its name. And the town changed its name to "Owens Sound." As can be seen, the date was hand written in each letter, which probably wasn't a large job because the volume of mail was pretty limited.



A second split ring cancel is shown in the cancel proof book as this next image shows. This new replacement hammer includes the date in the form of a two letter month (MY) and day (22) and finally the year of 1849. This then helps those with a collection of local postal history.



The letter shown below was mailed from Owens Sound to Guelph. The Owens Sound cancel is very faint which is further weakened by the quality of the scan. Visually, it shows that the letter was mailed on August 27th, 1849.

This letter does show it is the same as the proof cancel. The cancel is about 25.5 mm in diameter. Also note that the letter has a manuscript delivery charge of 7 pence in the upper right corner of the letter. It is a single piece of paper and so this letter would have normally had a charge of 3 pence. Further inquiries are needed to find out why this letter was charged a rate of 7 pence. The back of the letter shows an arrival date of September 3, 1849, a week between mailing and arrival at its destination.

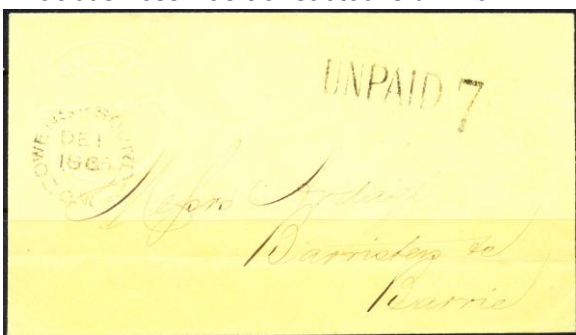


Early transportation networks in this province were just starting to form. This letter was mailed from Toronto and addressed to Mr McNabb in Saugeen, now known as Southampton. Each post office that processed a letter would back stamp the passage of the letter. The rear of the letter shows that it went to

Guelph but the date is indecipherable. Its next stop was Owens Sound, and is dated February 14, although the month is not too clear. From the Toronto cancel, the letter was mailed on February 11, 1854. It arrived in Saugeen on February 17th, '54. Note that the cancel is dated in hand script. According to the "Atlas of Post Offices in the Counties of Grey, Bruce, Dufferin & Simcoe" the Saugeen Post Office was opened in 1851. This Atlas is published by the Postal History Society of Canada in 2001.



A further letter shows the use of the Owens Sound cancel as late as in 1865, and perhaps later. This letter was mailed from the Sheriff's Office of Grey County to a Mr Ardagh, Barrister in Barrie. Note that the letter was not paid on sending and so the charge of 7 pence was to be paid by the receiver. The envelope is embossed by the information provided above. The cancel of Owens Sound is fairly clear and it was mailed on December 1st, 1865 and it arrived in Barrie on December 2nd. The most likely route of travel was by road to Meaford and then by rail from Meaford to Barrie which explains the rapid delivery of the letter. There are no contents to the envelope, so what business was transacted is unknown.



Another interesting piece of information from these letters is that cancels from Toronto, Guelph and Barrie all indicate the city name plus the U.C. or Upper Canada in the bottom. Following the political dissensions of the Fenian Raids and other riots in Lower Canada, the Act of Union came into effect on February 10th 1841. After that time all of the settled parts of present day Quebec and Ontario became the Province of Canada, and the former Upper Canada became Canada West. It is beyond the scope of this

article to see if the above named cities ever had a "C.W." cancellation hammer.

In 1856, the town of Owens Sound sought incorporation as a city with the new name of Owen Sound. At that time the cancellation device would have had to have been changed. The incorporation was made official on January 1, 1857, but an unknown date for when the Post Office cancelling hammer was changed to Owen Sound.

In the book "The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada" Winthrop Bogg



shows a cancel of "Owen Sound" dated 10 Aug 1856. The cancel is called a double ring cancel but the rings are very closely spaced. Examples in my collection show a thick solid ring on the envelopes bearing that cancel. The cancel is 34 mm in diameter on the envelopes, although Bogg's states the diameter is 35 mm. The interesting thing that is added from the previous two cancels is a letter has been placed above the date. As far as is known, these letters are between A and D. Bogg's suggests the letters are not significant because the postal clerks would use the nearest hammer to show the post office of issue. Because the image in Bogg's book is so clear, it looks like it may be a proof cancel and thus the date after which letters would have been cancelled with this hammer.

Newsletter Naming Contest By Phil Visser

On the front page is the new name of the monthly newsletter. Thanks to everyone who submitted names or made suggestions at the November 2019 meeting. There were twelve names suggested. In order to achieve some degree of interest, the first vote gave each member present the opportunity to chose which three of the twelve they liked. The top three choices were "Stamps on the Bay," "The Admirals Messenger" and "The Sound Philatelist".

A second vote was held where each person would indicate which one of the three was their choice. The wining name was "Stamps on the Bay." The vote was very close, and if there had not been an odd number of voters, there would have been a three way tie.

January Meeting Highlights

Winter has arrived and with it missing members, some vacationing in southern climes and others away for health reasons. Even so, fourteen members were present and the meeting was chaired by Vice President Marion Ace. Since the December meeting did not occur due to the school being closed, the President's Funny Munny auction was held at this meeting. Our able auctioneer was Bill Findlay, who did a masterful job and the usual hijinks and laughs

occurred. A big thank you to all those who brought excess philatelic items to be auctioned off. The meeting ended at 9 PM on a happy note with a promise to return next month.

A short time was spent on the Show and Tell portion of the meeting. John (either Appleton or Cortan) sent along a letter with what was called a "murdered" cancellation. Alas, no photo record to share on that. Some other tells were also shared; including the sad loss of the librarian Kathy Hartley from the Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library at the VGG Foundation. We hope all is well with her and her collecting interests. She was an inspiration to me as the Editor of this newsletter as well as helping other members who had requested information from her. It may be remembered the visit she made to one of our meetings as well as her last visit at the Circuit Book Club Fair last May.

Members are urged to check the weather conditions on the 19th before deciding to come to the meeting. Please listen to the radio to see if school buses to the St Mary's High School have been cancelled. That is the sure sign that the meeting is off. Alternatively, if the meeting is cancelled, Randy will post a warning on the Club web page.

Summary Tip #23: Catalogue Value: Part 1 - What is it?

Dear Philip,

In a previous Stamp Tips of the Trade (#7) we touched upon "Catalogue Prices: Common Misconceptions" - today I am revisiting this area as it is such an important part of our weekly work.

A new client telephoned our office a few days ago saying that he found catalogue values "confusing" and asked if we could explain the relationship between catalogue value and "real" value? What followed was a long telephone conversation so as soon as we can we'll put together a 'tutorial' video upon our website; meanwhile, please bear with me while I establish some 'basics' upon which we can expand and discuss. The more I think about it the less I can ever recall reading an expose of this nebulous subject.

What follows is based upon 45 years personal philatelic experience of which almost 40 years are full time in the trade.

Some collectors will be aware that different catalogue publishers dominate in different countries ... so that for example everybody in the UK and globally most stamp collectors will have heard of Stanley Gibbons (SG). Stanley Gibbons are large enough to publish catalogues of all stamp issuing countries and of all 'dead' countries that historically issued stamps but no longer do so.

Theoretically 'Michel' of Germany would be Stanley Gibbons biggest stamp catalogue publisher competitor ... were it not for the 'English' speaking world - the fact that everything is published in German. To be fair Michel does produce a good translation document but Michel is not that user friendly for English speaking collectors unless those collectors are sufficiently committed to work through the language / euro price barrier where they are often rewarded by useful additional information such as quantities of stamps issued / printed which can be very interesting indeed.

In the USA 'Scott' catalogue publishers dominate. Naturally they are in 'American' English with values in US\$ and cents. Like Michel they produce good catalogues...

There are other publishers too. Yvert is big in France, Sassone in Italy and there are others for Scandinavia, Benelux, Spain and many more specialist catalogues besides.

The important thing to realise is that 'home' markets generally use 'home' catalogues ... so that few specialist collectors of German stamps in Germany are going to use Stanley Gibbons (SG) specialist Germany Catalogue - they all use their Michel Germany Specialised Catalogue which is far more detailed than the Stanley Gibbons Germany specialised (which to be fair is more than adequate for us). When collectors quote 'Michel' prices and numbers to us - we know what they are and mean ... but most of our collector buyers of the stamps of Germany use SG. This is further complicated by sometimes wildly differing catalogue values caused by specialism and even the current rate of exchange. So if you live in the UK you are likely to use SG catalogues for virtually all countries of the world (please remember our previous conversation that Stanley Gibbons Stamps Of The world (STOW) catalogue is too simplified for 'classic' issues collecting and we do not recommend be purchased for such - generally you need their specialist catalogues for pre 1952 material).

Some catalogues transcend markets ... so that for example if you are a dedicated collector of British Empire and you live in the USA - sure you can use Scott... but the SG (nickname 'Part 1') 1840 > 1970 Commonwealth and Empire is a far superior catalogue ... whereas few self-respecting collectors of US material living in the USA are going to be buying the SG USA catalogue.

In short specialised home market catalogues are almost invariably superior when home produced. For example if you collect specialised GB then there is no contest - SG 'Red' specialised catalogues are the best as no other is so comprehensive.

A whole article just to establish a few home truths, but one important point emerges - if you wish, for example, to sell your Germany stamp collection in Germany then by all means catalogue in 'Michel euros' - but if your collection is not that specialised and you may be selling your Germany in the UK then identify and price in SG £'s ... (or of course you can do both).

In my next article we'll discuss the relationship between catalogue prices / catalogue values and real values based upon an understanding of the catalogue publishers which is what we wanted to discuss in the first place....

Happy collecting from us all,

Andrew

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

Andrew McGavin

FEB
15
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Burlpex 2020

Burlington Seniors' Centre,

2285 New St., Burlington, ON, L7R 1J4

The Burlington Stamp Club's annual show, Burlpex, returns in 2020 with 12 dealers, silent auctions, club circuit books, free parking and a food vendor. The venue is also wheelchair accessible. The Burlington Stamp Club was formed in 1979 and began hosting shows on the second Saturday in February in 1982. This year's Burlpex runs from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Email: tomw1901@gmail.com

FEB
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Toronto Postcard Club 39th Annual Sale

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre,

6 Garamond Court, 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. Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre Toronto (Don Mills & Eglinton) 10 a.m. 5 p.m. Admission \$5. Free parking. TTC accessible.

Email: info@torontopostcardclub.com

Web: <https://torontopostcardclub.com/toronto-postcard-show/>

MAR
21
'20

69th Annual Oxpex/40th Annual Otex

Woodstock Christian School,

800 Juliana Dr., Woodstock, ON, N4S OA8

The 69th Annual Oxford Philatelic Society Exhibition (Oxpex 2019) and the 40th Annual All-Ontario Topical Exhibition (Otex 2019) will be open from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Show-goers can expect 15 dealers plus club circuit books, competitive exhibits, lunch/snack counter, youth gift bags and free parking and admission.

Phone: 519-485-2886

Email: countryowl@rogers.com

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

APR
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Spring 2020 National Postage Stamp & Coin Show April 4, 2020 to April 5, 2020

Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale hotel, 6750

Mississauga Rd., Mississauga, ON, L5N 2L3

Presented by *Canadian Stamp News* and *Canadian Coin News*, the National Postage Stamp and Coin Show features 50-plus professional coin and stamp dealers from across Canada. Highlights include a two-day live auction by Colonial Acres; various seminars; the Young Collectors discounted sales table and popular free youth auction on Sunday. Admission is \$4 on Saturday and free on Sunday. The show is open on Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Parking is free. For show updates, visit stampandcoinshow.com.

Phone: 1-800-408-0352

Email: info@trajan.ca

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

APR
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K-W Stampfest 2020

Trillium Lutheran Church Gym, 22 Willow St., Waterloo, ON, N2J 1V5

The Kitchener-Waterloo Philatelic Society's annual stamp exhibition and bourse, Stampfest, will be open from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. The show boasts free admission and parking, judged exhibits and for new, returning and junior collectors, a special "Sea of Stamps" booth. Refreshments are available, and door prizes will be drawn each hour.

Phone: 519-744-3020

Email: info@kwstampclub.org

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

APR
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Hamilton Springpex

April 24, 2020 to April 25, 2020

St. John de Brebeuf Secondary School, 200 Acadia Dr., Hamilton, ON, L8W 1B8

Sponsored by the Hamilton Stamp Club, Springpex features large silent and voice auctions on Friday evening, with viewing starting at 5 p.m. Saturday is a 20-dealer bourse with stamps, postcards, covers and supplies plus a youth booth and silent auction from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. GRVPA club circuit sales books will be available both days. Light food and refreshments available with ample free parking.

Email: southont@cogeco.ca

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

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Have you visited the web page of the club? Check it out, you might find a lot of help for a project you might be working on. Are you planning on entering an exhibit for the show in September? It is amazing how fast the calendar flies by.

Soapbox

A reader may have caught the reference made by Andrew about “classic” stamps. There does not seem to be a single definition of what is a classic stamp. For instance, the “Stamp Collector’s Handbook” by Samuel Grossman defines classic stamps as “particularly to 19th Century Stamps which due to background, rarity, excellence of design or popularity have earned outstanding respect from philatelists.” Andrew seems to suggest a later date, such as up to the end of the colonial period. This then says stamps issued prior to the 1960’s would be considered as classic stamps. Just wondering what other members/collectors would define as classic stamps? The scans below are probably considered to be classics, depending on a persons definition of that term.

