

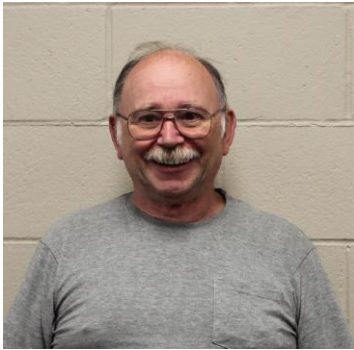
# Stamps on the Bay

The Voice of The  
Owen Sound Stamp Club  
**Meeting Cancelled due to  
Health Safety**  
Volume 1 Edition 5, June 2020



## From the President

Hello again I hope everyone is keeping safe and well.



I can only imagine how many times you have gone over the stamps in your collections. How many have started a new topic or expanded to make room for some stamps that you had misplaced in your binders, or in that special hiding spot.

Hmm.

Well since New Years, I made a promise to myself to try and get my collection all straightened up; that I would spend at least 2 hours a day going over the 12 collections that I had picked up since 2013. Well I have almost completed the task at hand, down to doing my Canadian and United States collections. Now I have space to walk in, turn around and walk out of my little stamp room.

When I go out and enjoy the fresh air, I have noticed that there seems to be an increase in the wild birds that are around our little community. Also the amount of wild life that is out in the fields again, especially the young rabbits. Even the sky seems a lot richer, bluer in colour, the garden seems to be doing very well, especially the herb section.

I guess with this COVID-19 still has a major hold on us and on our way of life. All the meetings are cut out because the large numbers of those in attendance. It makes me wonder, what is going to happen to the groups around us. It starts with something dear to all of us and that is our Stamp Club meetings. Other groups are also suffering from the reduced social activity. This includes groups like the Masons, Shriners, Church Groups, Choirs, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, The men's groups like the Rotary, Kinsmen, etc.

I wonder how long till things get back to the way they were; if and when things get back to when we can

safely host our meetings, as well as having our shows, or fund raisers.

I guess the best and only thing we can do is just wait, enjoy cutting our grass 2 or more times a week, weed our flower beds, hoe the gardens, watch the wild life and wild birds all around us. But mostly enjoy the nice weather that we have this time of year.

Our Meeting on June 17th is cancelled, as well.

Everyone, Stay Safe and Stay Well

John C. Lemon  
President OSSC.

## From the Editor

### Phil Visser

The 5<sup>th</sup> Edition is almost ready for the printing press. With the continuing effects of self isolation, how have you spent your time on this hobby? There are lots of ways of course, but John mentions that organizing what you have should be a priority.

This month we have a number of articles which may have an interest. My series on Owen Sound has come to an end (at least temporarily). Randy has provided a regular contribution as well as something in Show and Tell. Three other articles follow and with the last two considering the effects of Covid-19 on our hobby.

As usual, a teaser scan follows to fill the front page. The stamp does have a tie in with one of the articles inside, sometimes directly and sometimes indirectly. It is hoped that readers may find this interesting and will want to read further into the newsletter. Here is the teaser scan:





**Useful Links:**  
**Witt Cinderella Reference Collection**  
 By Randy Rogers

If you have ever purchased a large stamp lot you have likely encountered a stamp not found in a standard postage stamp catalogue.

According to *Linn's World Stamp Almanac*, "A Cinderella is a stamp-like label that is not a postage stamp. Cinderella's include seals and bogus issues, as well as revenue stamps, local post issues and other similar items."

The term Cinderella Stamp was chosen by the first [Cinderella Stamp Club](http://www.cinderellastampclub.org)<sup>1</sup> in 1959 as a reference to the mistreated and underappreciated fairy tale character. Local stamps are Cinderella stamps that historically predated universal postage and could be used for postage within a small area. Local stamps can still be found in use today such as these local Dutch stamps issued in 1996 by SelectPost delivery services for use in the Municipality of Zaanstad.



Christmas and TB Seals, and charity labels are special stickers used to raise funds for organizations like the Red Cross.



And, fiscal, telegraph, tax, or revenue stamps are receipts of duties paid.



Cinderella stamps offer an incredible variety of choices for collectors. Some might collect by country or by particular types, Christmas seals, for example. This brings us to the focus of this article which is the [Witt Cinderella Reference Collection](http://www.cinderellastampclub.org).

"Richard C. Witt was a lifelong stamp collector. He had extensive knowledge of philately and a broad variety of collecting interests. However, his favourites were his Cinderella's, the stamps that are not listed in the regular stamp catalogues. His dream was to compile a Cinderella Encyclopedia, a project which he pursued until the time of his death in 2002."<sup>2</sup>

Fortunately, [Rigastamps](http://www.rigastamps.com)<sup>3</sup> handled the sale of much of Mr. Witt's Cinderella collection and during that process they were able to scan many items prior to their sale.



The Witt Cinderella Reference Collection contains hundreds of images that serve as a useful reference tool to Cinderella collectors and is a fitting tribute to the man whose collection they depict.

Footnotes:

- <sup>1</sup> [http://www.cinderellastampclub.org/](http://www.cinderellastampclub.org)
- <sup>2</sup> <https://cinderellas.rigastamps.com/wittcoll/collection.htm>
- <sup>3</sup> <https://rigastamps.com/>

**Show and Tell**  
 By Randy Rogers



The above scan is of Unitrade #601. Issued on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1972 it was replaced from regular circulation by #727 on Apr 27<sup>th</sup>, 1979. The blue cancellation

language is Dutch and translates as “tax customs clearance s’Gravenhage.”

*Editors Note:*

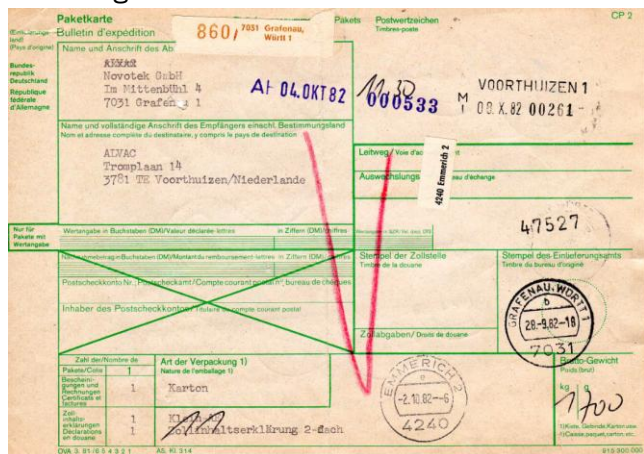
*Randy asked me about this cancel and so I forwarded this to a group of Dutch Philatelists in California. The following article sheds some light on the cancellation.*

**1982 Custom duties for a foreign package**

*by Dennis Buss & Hans Kremer*

The postal item shown here is the documentation required to export a commercial package from Grafenau (Germany) to Voorthuizen (The Netherlands) in 1982.

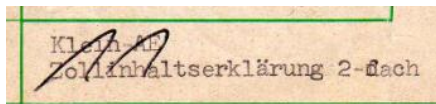
Goods imported into the Netherlands are only handed over to the recipient after the item has been presented to a customs agent, proper documentation has been filled out and applicable duties have been paid. In Dutch the word for the Clearance process is “Inklaring”.



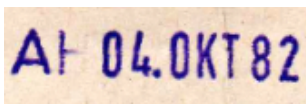
The package left Grafenau on September 28, 1982, with 1130 pfennigs in German stamps on it. The 1130 pfennigs was the correct postal rate for shipping a package weighing 1 Kg and 700 grams to the Netherlands.

It arrived at the Dutch customs station in Emmerich (Germany) near the Dutch border, on October 2, 1982,

where it was noticed that all necessary forms were correctly filled out, so



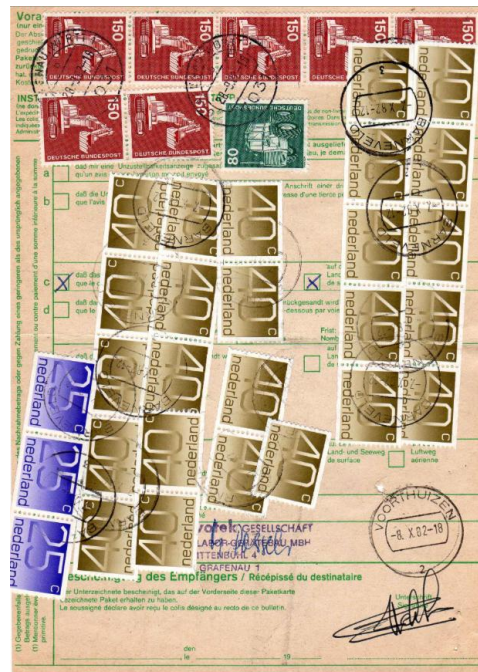
“Zollinhaltserklärung” at the lower left of the form was scratched out. The packet was then sent on to a Dutch Clearance office, most likely in Arnhem (AH 04.OKT 82).



At the clearance office the custom duties were calculated. The duties charged in 1982 for this package consisted of three parts:

Custom Duty	400 cent
Commission	475 cent
Priority handling	200 cent.
Total	1075 cents.

Custom duty was the charge for handling the forms by the customs agent; the commission charge was for calculating, prepaying and collecting the fee. Since priority charges were indicated (and paid for), the package was treated with priority in Arnhem and could have been picked up there. Why that was not done is not clear. They might have given it a day before sending it on to Barneveld, the major post office



closest to Voorthuizen, its final destination.

The 1075 cents charges were applied to the back of the form in Barneveld with stamps adding up to 1075 cents. When the package was delivered in Voorthuizen the 1075

cents were paid to the mailman, who then released the package. The red “V” on the front of the form indicates that the package was delivered and paid for. It probably stands for “Voldaan”, which is Dutch for “Paid For”.

Note. It surprises me how long it took to deliver the package; ten days(!):

- Grafenau 9-28-82
- Emmerich 10-2-82
- Arnhem (AH) 10-4-82
- Barneveld 10-7-82
- Voorthuizen 10-8-82

Refs:

- Beereboom, Diny, *Het inklaren van postzendingen*, P.H.S # 29, PO&PO, 2013
- Beereboom, Diny, *Email correspondence*, 2020

*Editors Note:*

*The cancellation on Randy’s stamp means that the sender prepaid the customs fees and thus the package was sent directly to the addressee.*

**The Question upon every collector’s lips: With no real end in sight, how has COVID-19 impacted the philatelic market?**

**By Andrew McGavin (UPA Auctions)**

Dear Mr. Visser

I have received more phone calls and e-mails upon the effect of corona virus on Philately in the past few weeks than at any other time previously, and that is even including during the financial crisis – so, I thought I would take this early opportunity to respond.

Most of us, sadly not all, may be fortunate not to experience personal loss to Covid-19 – but just how has ‘lockdown’ affected our philatelic community? Happily, I am in a position to answer, because Universal Philatelic Auctions is a fortunate ‘non-essential’ business. To survive through a lockdown, and thrive, therein lies the clue because ‘public-facing’ companies have been forced to close or quickly adapt. Non-public facing organisations such as mail-auctions / online auctions / dealers, are permitted to continue serving their clients providing they follow the rules of social-distancing, sanitisation, non-essential travel / home-working where possible.

Some apprehension existed and maybe we are kindred spirits? - I rarely hear anything that I want to hear on the TV or Radio, so I deliberately spend most of my life not listening to the news. I have even given up listening out for budget announcements because change can only be influenced; rather it is all about how we respond to change, isn't it?

As we prepared our UPA 14th April Auction I must admit I was nervous. Lacking clarity, sometimes it appeared that we would have to close UPA. That wasn't something that I would allow to happen easily: parts of our business have supplied stamps to collectors, week in, week out for 63 years. We were not about to stop now, unless – of course our actions adversely impacted others.

Considering the livelihood of our ten full-time staff and more than ten part-timers, I breathed a small sigh of relief as our 5,000 catalogues were printed, then mailed/ airmailed to collectors (and dealers) in more than 49 different countries another step taken towards the April auction. Next we e-mailed our online auction subscribers / collectors, following up by posting the auction online accessible to collectors who monitor UPA auctions at online platforms: StampAuctionNetwork (SAN) USA, The-Saleroom.com UK, CollectorCircuit Israel, & Philasearch Germany ... all in all I estimate that more than 10,000 different collectors ‘Universally’ may see our auctions in different ways ...

Slowly, but surely the auction gained momentum. It took agonisingly longer than usual for our catalogues to arrive in the customers hands, but arrive they did, and soon a trickle of bid forms developed into a stream, and then a river - so that in the final 48 hours a flurry of 300 valuable bid forms flooded in, mainly on-line. And was the auction a success? – You betcha, so far 1,793 different bidders from 49 different

countries worldwide have delivered a more successful auction than our previous pre-covid-19 auction in January! So, was it a success? You betcha.

So – the answer is simple – Collectors, You Are STILL Collecting. Thank you. You are spending as much as, if not more than before, and you are still winning valuable stamps up to £1,000's/\$1,000's each. To all extent and purposes today's collecting profile is unchanged.

As to the future, a current trends article in the Guardian suggests that there is more going on in matters ‘philatelic’ than meets the eye, with the so called ‘Millennials’ generation (born between 1981-1996) finally taking up stamp collecting as they get older (note – stamp collecting, not philately), perhaps proving the old adage – ‘what goes round comes round’.

Obviously, the world has changed – and whilst some of us may be doing better, sadly others are faring worse. Exhibitions, Stamp fairs, stamp fair dealers, what few stamp shops remain, may never be the same again, but what your support of our auction tells us, is that provided we're all prepared to adapt to what the future portends – we're not isolated – fortunately the ‘Philatelic’ show goes on .

*Editors Note:*

*The above mentioned auction catalogue arrived the day after the auction closed. Fortunately the internet was not slowed down and I had an opportunity to be one of the late bidders.*

### **Some Reflections on Covid-19 and our hobby By Phil Visser**

As the title suggests, this is just a reflection on what this pandemic has done for the hobby we enjoy. A number of aspects appear at the time of writing. First is looking at how the work on sorting my accumulation of stamps has come along as well as what active things have occurred on the collecting front. Another thought that could be of interest is the question “what or how has this pandemic affected the mail delivery system?” While it may be difficult to completely say, how has the hobby adjusted in the world.

These thoughts all came about as the early shutdown of meetings and other social gatherings in the middle of March. Not only were the stamp club meetings affected, but also all the other gatherings. Social isolation left me inside my home; now what productive things can I do? As a first step, I gathered the stamps that were on paper and sorted through them to see which had interesting cancels worthy of separating into an album. The remainder were divided into accumulations of countries that were destined for the day(s) of soaking and drying.

Somehow I have the luxury of a few drying books, so when I soak stamps, it is usually a day or two job until

the drying books are full. During these last few months, this process has occurred three or four times, and I am about ready for another massive soak job. Once the drying books are full, they are kept to dry for a week or two and on one instance, even longer. In between the soaks, time was spent on updating want lists; how many of us have bought the same stamp twice because the want list is not accurate?

Besides those mundane tasks, the search continues to find those “holey” stamps, you know, the ones we don’t have in the collection. My prime means of searching has been eBay, and so I do a daily search for new listings. New listings show those stamps that a seller has just listed for sale in a particular genre that is being searched, mostly country listings. With a new listing, the seller has the opportunity of saying “I will list this item for sale for (3, 7, or 10) days or some other chosen time interval. Using this method has brought stamps to my attention that would have been missed otherwise. With respect to the pandemic, the number of listings have remained level and possibly increased slightly.

Another outcome of being confined to my home has also lead to probably more purchases than before Covid-19 kept us in our homes. Keeping a rein on my desires is a by product of increased time at the computer. The old adage that “the eyes are bigger than the wallet” is definitely true. For any curious readers, this adage is one of Adam Smiths theorems on marketplace economics. Making purchases on eBay also revealed another aspect of what the pandemic has done for other parts of the world.

Making a purchase on eBay is fairly simple, as well as paying for the item. These processes haven’t changed due to the virus. However, what has changed significantly is the delivery time of the purchase. Delivery time has been inconsistent, and that is because of the changing conditions and information available to the public. In the early days of the pandemic, scientific reports suggested that the virus could live on objects for several days after being expelled by the infected person.

As a consequence to changing information, the mail delivery time was slowed drastically, even letters within the Canadian borders. Some purchases have taken weeks to arrive, for instance a purchase from the USA was usually a week for delivery prior to Covid, now it is three or four weeks. In one case, a seller had letters to Canada take two months or more (mail to British Columbia) to arrive at its destination. I have made purchases from Iceland, Norway and now Australia that have also taken two months or more. While some of this may be the result of safety within the mailing system (ill staff, etc) others can be tied to the reduced number of flights between those countries and Canada. A personal guess is that when

mail arrives from country “X” it is left unsorted for a period of time to allow any virus cells to die before being handled by Canada Post.

In the above story, Mr McGavin mentions that stamp collecting seems to have attracted the attention of the “millennial” generation. Recently a few news articles seem to confirm that suspicion. Andrew Nelson wrote an article for the Wall Street Journal (published June 5, 2020) and described being drawn back into the hobby after being bored with the various media offerings. Another story written by Monique LaBossiere was published on February 21, 2019 (Calgary Journal) on how her grandfather introduced her to stamp collecting. Afterwards she marvelled at the little



pieces of art each stamp is. One of her favourite stamps is the scan of the \$8 Grizzly Bear. The collection she had received was “organized

and meticulously laid out.” She even went so far as to contact Bow City Philatelic and John Sheffield as the head of the CSDA to find out more on the hobby.

While it is uncertain when we will be able to meet again, there is time to sort and organize what we have in our homes. We can still pursue active collecting by using the internet or auction firms either my mail or now more commonly searching the internet. Will our club see an uptick in membership? Who knows what seeds planted in the past will lead to a newcomer joining the club.



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If you are connected to the internet, now would be a time to visit the web page of the club. Randy has now written us five articles about websites connected to our web page and using some of these links may help you in sorting and organizing a collection. One of the thankless things of being in the executive or actively involved with its operation is the silence of feedback. What is useful for members? Please share experiences.

## Soapbox

No news is good news, or so goes the saying. This month's edition of the Soapbox does have something to share. A few months ago an article about Owen Sound Fancy Cancels was published. I forwarded the article unto to the Fancy Cancel Study Group of BNAPS. The secretary put me in touch with Dave Lacelle and Mike Halhed. Mike than requested the scans of these cancels for Owen Sound and they are now stored on a Cloud Drive. The aim is to try to date each cancel so that the state of the fancy cancel can be seen as time passed. He himself and a number of other contributors have done a folder of Ottawa fancy cancels. There are a few hundred scans to see and it does show the wear and tear on the cork cancels as well as more than one design being used at the same time. If there are any other members of this club with Owen Sound postal history, perhaps a phone call would help create collaboration. Please note that my telephone number has changed so check the new number listed above.

## BEWARE:

It is "fake email" season again! This means an email message is received, supposedly from someone you know, who is asking for assistance. For example, a message I received recently said "Hello Dear, how are you doing? Please I need your little favour let me know if you are available?" Another one said "Hi Philip. Do you have free time at the moment?" If anyone receives a message through email from a club member like this, **DO NOT REPLY!** It is highly advised that you contact that member personally **by telephone** to confirm if they did ask for help or even sent you an email. The fake sender could ask for a "gift card" from Amazon, or a money transfer through Western Union. If the either is done, the money is gone!

