

# Stamps on the Bay



The Voice of the  
Owen Sound Stamp Club

Meeting Cancelled due to  
Health Safety  
Volume 1, Edition 12, January 2021



## From the President

Hello Everybody! We're going to start this New Year off right. Take a minute right now...create an image of yourself in your head. You can look like anything you want. You could look just as you normally think you look or you could be Super Woman, Batman, Mighty Mouse whatever. Now you have a giant garbage bag that has 2020 printed on the side

with big bold numerals. Grab that bag and start stuffing it with all of the crap you had to deal with last year. Covid 19 goes in there right away. Now stuff in there the masks, the disinfectants, all the aches and pains you had, the doctor's appointments by phone, the American election and any other crap that filled your year. Now put Covid 19 in there a few more times. Now take that bag and swing it over your head and smash it to the ground. Do it again harder. Harder. Now jump on that bag. Stomp, kick and stomp some more. Okay kick it to the curb. Now smile and wave to the sanitation engineers hauling that bag away with their truck.

Now I hope you feel better. Don't worry, you didn't put the good stuff in there, the new babies, the kind deeds, the spring blossoms, talking to the chipmunks and all of the things that made you smile. We'll have to put Covid in a bag again next year... one step at a time.

One good thing that happened last year was our first Zoom meeting in December. Thank you to Phil Visser. It was quite a success. 15 members participated. It was great to see all who managed to join in. Thanks to Randy Rogers for showing us how to use our online circuit books.

The club intends to continue with Zoom meetings to be held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 just like our normal meetings. We are working on an agenda to make the meetings more organized. Phil will show us a short video on how to use Zoom better. Zoom meetings could be the opportunity to make 'show and tell' a much larger aspect of our meetings. You could scan or photograph an item or a number of pages, enlarge items when you want to. The jpegs could be emailed to the moderator or your screen shared in the meeting... or you can do a Power Point presentation. Just have your folder ready to open beforehand. Bill Findlay will share some items that...

**See President on Page 2**

## Editors Greeting

Here we are in the New Year and still dealing with that silly virus. While disrupting what we have done for years, staying home should keep each of us safe. One noticeable thing is the number of "colds" has also gone down. Due to the newly implemented restrictions, comes the need to remember how to print this newsletter remotely. I hope that the hobby fills the day for all readers, and reading the following pages provides inspiration.

It is a little ironic that some seven or eight years ago, I was on the left side of the page and Marion was on this side of the page. While serving as President, Marion had to remind me, "Phil, its time for the newsletter. I need your blurb." Now I have the honour of reminding Marion that the newsletter awaits her words of wisdom. I am happy to see you step up to the plate to leading the club. I am sure your job will be supported by all club members and you will be able to complete the duties competently.

This edition is the end of Volume 1. The time sure has flown by fast and now the pages await these last few words. Inside the pages of this months edition are a report of the December meeting, some Show and Tell items and three articles, Randy Rogers has a last guide about the Useful Links on website, Jim Molineux throws in another story of his collecting interests and finally an article about postage due.

This month was a down month for me, I simply had no inspiration to write a story. While writing is not difficult, the idea on what to write about can be a challenge. Should anyone wish to put pen to paper (or type it out on the computer) the article will be reviewed and if needed some focus suggested. Any article should be about the hobby and what "discoveries" may have crossed your desk.

And now two teaser scans, which story/section do they refer to?



## President...

grab his interest This could be the chance to share some of those precious or fragile items that you don't want to drag around to meetings. Show us your passion! Show us your curiosity! Share your questions!

Now, I would really like to thank John Lemon for being our President the last few years. We hope you are well John and enjoying your time with the grandkids. Thank you so much to the people that have worked so hard to keep our group united...Phil Visser, Randy Rogers, Marion Gibson, Bob Ford and all of those people that connected with each other. We normally have our elections in January. We will be delaying them for now. If I stand as president we will need a vice-president. If anybody would like the fulfilling role as President please let me know!

The club is not paying rent on a meeting room right now however we have decided to pay for a Zoom account. This will allow us to hold Zoom meetings for whatever length of time we want and allow for extra meetings when needed. Phil Visser will be the host for the club meetings. Those members who haven't joined in a Zoom meeting before please talk to Phil. I'm sure we can get you hooked up. One more thing... dues are due! If you haven't paid yet please send \$20 to Bob Ford (address on the back page). See you online on Wednesday the 20th by 7:00. Stay safe!

Marion Ace,

Acting President, Owen Sound Stamp Club

## Useful Links

### Blogs and Chat Boards

#### by Randy Rogers

This month's edition of Useful Links concludes our tour of many of the links that can be found on our club website with a look at the Blog and Chat Board links.

Use the following menu choices to find the links mentioned in this article:

Links » Reference » Blogs

### Robin Harris Stamp Information Site<sup>1</sup>

Robin Harris, the author of this Blog, is the founder of Adminware<sup>2</sup>, a Canadian software development company. He is the author of several specialized books covering the Canadian definitive stamps issued since 1952 and in November 2004, was appointed as Editor of The Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps. Updated regularly, the site contains lots of interesting information for discerning collectors. Currently you can find such topics as Canada Specialized Books & Album Pages, Machins, Canada definitive specialized checklists, Lowe-Martin Serpentine Die Cutting, and more.

### Postage Stamp Chat Board & Stamp Bulletin Board Forum<sup>3</sup>

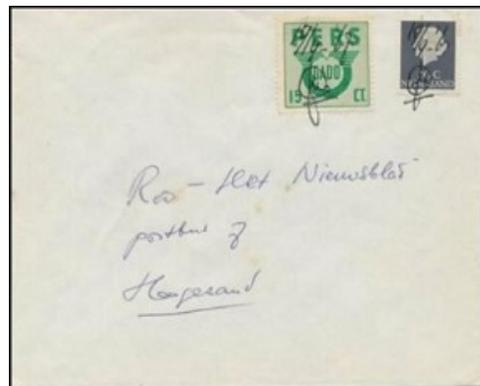


This site is easily the World's Largest Stamp Bulletin Board, with well over 6.5 million posts, from 22,000 members, in 150 different countries, on more than 80,000 different stamp topics or "threads", spanning near 14 years. The board is popular and successful because they have sensible Rules - and enforce them. Take a moment to introduce yourself to the site, read the rules, and then join the conversations. If you can't find a topic of interest here, create one and engage with collectors from all over the world. This is a Giant Stamp Club in cyberspace!

### Stamp Community Forum<sup>4</sup>

Last but definitely not least in my view is the Stamp Community Forum. This is my favorite spot for getting information that I can't seem to find anywhere else. I often come across stamps that are hard to identify, revenues of all sorts, cinderellas, unusual cancellations, you name it. This brings us to the mystery stamp pictured at the beginning of the newsletter; if you have reached this point in the newsletter, congratulations. This is a little embarrassing now that I know more about the stamp, but here is my original post to the World Back of Book forum:

*I found this stamp and have not been able to find it anywhere. There is a pen cancel so my assumption is*



*that it is a revenue stamp. 'GADO' is Portuguese for 'COW' Perhaps it is Brazilian?*

In less than an hour one long-time member posted some covers for sale with the mystery stamp on them.

### A few minutes later came this reply from another member:

GADO was a bus company operating in the northern provinces of Groningen and Drente: N.V. Groninger Autobus Dienst Onderneming (Groningen Bus Service Company Ltd.). It was based in Hoogezand, a town in Groningen Province, and from 1958 in the provincial capital Groningen. The company, for a long time, was owned by the Dutch national railways (NS).

From what I can find, the stamp paid for press items transported by bus. "Pers" is the Dutch word for press. I think the addressee is Red - "Het Nieuwsblad." This was a newspaper. Red, most likely is either the editor (redacteur) or the editing office (redactie) of that newspaper.

So, it wasn't a Brazilian Cattle Revenue stamp after all! Now I can create a special page for it and place it with my other Netherlands stamps. I have had other similar experiences on this site. You really do owe it to yourself to check it out.

Conclusion

There are many more useful links on our club web site

and I encourage you to explore on your own. Additionally if you have discovered some links that you find useful, please email them to me and I will add them to our club web site.

#### References

- 1 <https://adminware.ca/stamps.php>
- 2 <https://adminware.ca>
- 3 <https://www.stampboards.com/>
- 4 <https://www.stampcommunity.org/>

#### December Zoom Meeting

Wow, what a night of excitement and joy! The repressed spirits of not seeing each other for so many months spilled out into cyberspace. What was really pleasing was that fifteen participants attended, almost like a regular meeting at St Mary's. For those who were unable to attend, we really missed you and hope that perhaps in the future it may be possible for more to join as technology allows. What was also a treat was for that more distant members could join the meeting. Thank you Dave Pugh for introducing yourself to the others, even if you are familiar with probably half of us. It was also a pleasant surprise to have Chris Tschirhart join us from London.

We started with a meet and greet, how are you doing, and what have you done with your collection? This gathering was a learning experience for all those that joined in the evening. Yours truly was challenged to pull this meeting together, and so I thank the people who let me do trial runs on organizing a meeting and letting people into a virtual meeting. One positive that came out of the evening is the agreement to continue meeting like this until we are able to be social again in a safe and healthy manner.

Another positive is that Marion Ace has agreed to be Acting President as long as health doesn't interfere. What that means is that a Vice President should be ready to step in in the event that Marion is suddenly and unexpectedly sidelined. So please consider if you are able to be an Acting Vice President until we have a meeting to formalize the clubs executive. Marion has asked for a volunteer to assume the mantle on a temporary basis.

Dave Pugh shared with us the news that Dieter Albrecht has a serious health condition and that fact is compounded with the news that Margo is also suffering serious health challenges. We hope that both of you can receive the care you need from the medical system and that the move to your children's city will be a simple one for you. I will miss your quiet encouragement and support Dieter, and know that the both of you are in my prayers.

A technical challenge was allowing Randy to show how to use "Circuit Book Explorer" from his computer. I hope that everyone benefited from that. I have a feeling that many of the members were overwhelmed with what can be done with the software. Overcoming the fear of using the program is probably the biggest obstacle, but as I encouraged many former students, try it, take a deep breath and retry it. A mistake will not destroy your computer. It is not a life and death situation! Now I have to find the time to do it myself!

Succession planning is important, to wit, the sudden changes in the Clubs Executive. As an encouragement for Randy, please find the fountain of youth so that your computer expertise will continue long into the future.

#### Show and Tell

Until a week ago, it looked like this part of the newsletter was going to disappear for this edition. Thanks to my lovely bride, she brought home the following scan. For those who may have forgotten or

simply didn't know this particular collecting interest, ships, boats etc simply intrigue me and the idea pulls on my heart strings. I had heard the place name Hazelton in British Columbia but didn't know some of the interesting facts about this village. To begin with, I

didn't know that this was where two rivers joined. My memory did place the village in the BC interior, but I immediately thought of the Fraser River, but those false impression ended quickly when I did a Google search.

Hazelton is where the Bulkley River joins into the much bigger Skeena River. Seeing a ship in the cancel was not surprising because shipping is the most energy efficient way to move people and goods, just don't confuse efficiency with speed! Wikipedia<sup>1</sup> shares that Hazelton was the staging place for the gold miners who participated in the Omenica Gold Rush from 1869-73. The design of a stern paddle wheel ship (similar to the Mississippi River steamboats) also meant that Hazelton was the end of the shipping line. Hazelton was also a place on the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway when it passed through on its journey to Prince Rupert.

A second item of interest is this scan. It may look like nothing, but take a moment and look at this stamp torn off from an envelope. The stamp itself is the S/V Marco Polo, a ship that was built in Canada and sailed the fastest voyage between England and Australia. Issued on March 19, 1999 this stamp was also a joint issue with Australia Post for which a miniature

sheet was issued with one stamp from each country in the mini-sheet. Besides the image of the clipper ship, a quick glance at the selvege to the right of the stamp shows coloured flags. These flags do represent the shapes of the signal flags used on ships, but, the colours used are the printing colours used to produce the stamp.

Beyond looking at the stamp, a careful inspection shows a cancel "Detroit River Station, Dec 09, 2002." Some time ago another article was written about the



mail service from this official post office that services ships sailing past the location of the small boat J.W. Westcott II. The Westcott's dock is located on the US side of the river at the foot of the Ambassador Bridge. The one pity is that the envelope was cancelled a second time, but still, it has been added into the ship collection.

#### References:

1 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hazelton,\\_British\\_Columbia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hazelton,_British_Columbia)

## MOON CANCELS

by Jim Molineux

This lunar reference can stir 3 lines of philatelic thought. For our U.S. neighbours, it can evoke memories of a 1972 NASA scandal in which the Apollo 15 astronauts smuggled about 400 First Day Covers into space. The astronauts received an illegal payment to cancel some of the covers on the moon. The FDCs were in recognition of a commemorative stamp being issued on the same day and honouring the space exploration program. Known as "Sieger Covers", they were subsequently sold by a West German stamp dealer at exorbitant prices. The astronauts were reprimanded by NASA and the U.S. Senate, and were banned from further space flights.

In Canadian philately, MOON is an acronym for Money Order Office Number. It refers to a 4 digit number previously used to identify individual post offices across Canada. First introduced in 1923, the numbers were embossed on a rubber stamp and supplied to larger post offices for the sole purpose of stamping money orders. Numbers were assigned by the province and then alphabetically within each province. In 1935, smaller post offices offering money orders up to \$15.99 were assigned 5 digit MOONS.

The MOON system was never intended as a method of postal cancellation. However, it expanded to include post office accounting, internal records, postmarks and postal receipts. It also expanded to include a second aspect of lunar philately, that of numbered precancels.

Those who collect Canadian precancels are familiar with MOON numbers as they replaced the earlier type of city identification. The expansion of the system created problems due to the limited number of digits in a MOON. For this reason, the 3 maritime provinces were assigned MOONS with the first character being an X. When Newfoundland joined Confederation in 1949, their post offices were assigned MOONS starting with a Y.



The third aspect of lunar philately concerns postmarks. Although it sounds like a contradiction in terms, a MOON cancel is usually rectangular rather than circular. It will include the date, city and post office number. The illustration above shows typical MOON cancels circa 1965.

The example is rather unique as the cancels are from two different post offices in Quebec. On the left is a cancel from Zenon Park (7990) and on the right is a cancel from St. Aubert (1225). MOON cancels can also take the form of a single-line handstamp with the post office number only. These are seen very infrequently.

The MOON system was terminated in 1973 and replaced with a 6 digit Post Office Computer Organization Number. The POCON system continues to this day. POCONS can also be found on money orders. Thus postal history, like traditional history, seems to repeat itself.

## UPCOMING SHOWS

JAN 30, '21

72nd Cathex

Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara St., St. Catharines ON, L2M 3P3

The 72nd Cathex show, sponsored by the St. Catharines Stamp Club, is set to return to the Garden City with 12 dealers. The show also boasts free admission, a youth area, club circulars, a lunch counter and is fully accessible. It will be open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Due to COVID-19, limited numbers of people (a maximum of 30 collectors) will be allowed in the building. All attendees must wear masks, register for contact-tracing purposes and use hand sanitizer, etc. Between eight and 10 tables will be set up in three rooms. If you can, come in the morning after the morning rush as there is no room place to wait. If you contact organizers for an afternoon meeting time for a particular dealer, they will try to book an appointment. There will be no snack bar, drinks or places to eat at this year's show. Both admission and parking are free. Phone: 905-641-2318

Email: [fancycancelhillier@gmail.com](mailto:fancycancelhillier@gmail.com)

## THANK YOU JOHN

For the last two and half years John Lemon has served the Owen Sound Stamp club as President. On behalf of all the members, we thank you for leading the club following Larry's passing.

During the time as President, John organized two stamp shows (2018 and 2019, 2020 was cancelled), assisted with the Circuit Book Stamp Fair in May 2019 and organized the sale of Al Roos's collection at the Stamp Fair with co-organizer Bill Findley. You represented the club on radio shows and brought the hobby into the eyes of the local community. Thanks for leading with the heart of a servant. We look forward to seeing your smiling face again when this pandemic is over.

**An unusual way to deliver a postage due post card, and a surprise connection with the Moesman reprints.**

by Hans Kremer

Below is a typical example of the way the Dutch P.T.T collected postage dues on postcards that were short-paid. A post card with more than a few words on it did not qualify for the printed matter rate. Such was the case here. The postcard, sent in October 1957, was franked with a 4 cent stamp (correct rate for printed



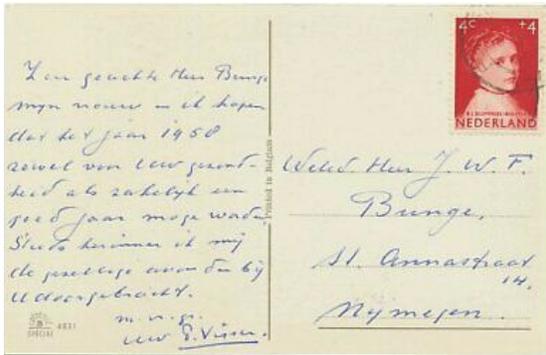
matter). However it had too much text on it so the proper postage should have been 7 cent. Short 3 cent.

Postage due was twice the missing amount (totaling 6 cent) with a minimum of 10

cent. The postcard was put in a 'window envelop', a 10 cent postage due stamp was stuck on it and then handed over to the addressee after paying the mailman

the required ten cents.

Since the addressee was J.W.F. Bunge (a well known philatelist) he gladly paid the 10 cent,



and after reading the card, he put it back in the envelop and kept it in his collection.

But what to do if such a window envelop was, for whatever reason, not available (handy?). Such was the case with the postal item on the next page.



In 1897 an underpaid postcard was sent from a foreign country to the Netherlands, where it was

noticed that 7 1/2 cent postage was due. The postal employee noticing the shortage grabbed a "Dienst" (Public Service) envelop which could be sent postage free. He wrote on the envelop: "Inhoudende



een postkarte / Van Buitenland / Ontoereikend gefrankeerd." (Containing a postcard from a foreign country with insufficient postage).

He added the name and address (Herrn Joh a Moesman Utrecht) and "7 1 / 2" on the front of the 'Dienst' envelop and put it back in the mail. Mr. Moesman paid the mailman the 7 1/2 cent (sight unseen) and he got the foreign postcard which was inside the envelop. Hopefully he was happy with the postcard.

Who was Joh. A. Moesman? Johannes Anthonius Moesman (Utrecht, 25 december 1859 - 9 januari 1937 in Utrecht) was a lithographer and calligrapher in Utrecht, The Netherlands, 1859-1937. He had his own store and published an untitled lettering model book in 1877. Joh A Moesman Lettering 1877 Moesman store at Neude 7, Utrecht.



He was also a stamp collector and Moesman is known among philatelists because in 1895 he made reprints of the original (worn) printing plate IV of the 1852 10 cent issue in various colors on paper without watermark.



Figure 1 <https://www.catawiki.eu/l/15836195-the-netherlands-1852-king-willem-iii-moesmanreprints-of-the-10-cents-stamp-plate-iv>

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A wrap up for this newsletter begins by asking How are you doing? With the newly announced restrictions beginning again, I hope you are able to see the positive things around you. Dwelling on what can't happen is not productive, and many of us face the challenge of finding and organizing what we have collected over the years. Organizing those items into labelled albums, binders folders, stock books only helps find what you may be looking for in the future. On a personal note, technology keeps me busy as well as the many dealers I have come in contact with over the years. Last week I received a letter from a stamp unfamiliar but at some point I must have purchased something from this dealer, probably through eBay. Now my "Inbox" receives several dealers telling me their newest listings and a current sale offering a percentage of stamps in stock. Receiving them once a week is not bad, but daily? For those lucky pests I have a "Garbage" setting on my email box and I don't see these messages everyday. Once a month I clean out my "Junk" box and I can deal with with the messages I really want to deal with.

Not everyone has made the step to computerized collecting, but it sure makes the world a smaller place, and opens the eyes on what particular collecting interest is tickling my spirit. Sometimes I really appreciate just being a "stamp collector." You know, just looking and organizing the accumulation of stamps from around the world. Sometimes the spirit stirs me into the philatelic realm of searching for perforation or plate faults. Currently I'm organizing my local postal history collection. Amazing what information can be found by asking questions from different people. A recent pearl of wisdom came from Bill Longley. From 1856 to about 1867 the Owen Sound Post office used a hammer cancel some 34 mm in diameter. Bill shared that the hammer has been nicknamed "changeling" because the metal used tended to wear out over time. Not the case with the local cancel, but the inventor of this hammer was an American living in Boston Ma, and the name was Stephen P. Ruggles. Further conversations with Bill also revealed that the image in Boggs book of the Owen Sound cancel was not done accurately so that a fake hammer could be identified! However, more seeds have been planted and another road to travel in gathering local postal history lies before me. The cancel below is the "changeling" which Owen Sound used for some ten years in the 1800's.

Happy collecting, whether you are a stamp collector, philatelist or spicalist. Each term requires the first step of being a stamp collector and then enjoy what this hobby offers to readers of this Newsletter.

