

Stamps on the Bay



**The Voice of the
Owen Sound Stamp Club
Branch 191 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada
Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 7 P.M.
New Life Centre, 199 4th Ave West, Owen Sound
Volume 4, Edition 8, August 2023**



Hello my philatelic friends!

Well, summer is on its way out, though not necessarily the heat. Who knows these days? Either way our Stamp Fair is coming and it happens to fall on Equinox this year on Saturday September 23. The show starts at 10:00 but we are hoping to have the doors open at 8:00 am. We do have a meeting

three days beforehand. We'll be needing volunteers for all kinds of things. I'll have some sign-up sheets at the meeting. Even if you are not signed up for something specific be sure to give somebody a break who is helping out all day. We also need volunteers to help bring tables over from the church and to do

general setup. This will be on the Friday before the show at 3:00.

This is a circuit book fair so be sure to get some new pages in to Marion Gibson. Our thanks go out to Marion and Randy for all they do with the circuit books! We are always looking for some nice items for door prizes. For the show we have two uncut press sheets for grand door prizes: 1999 millennium silver hologram and 2001 Year of the Snake. Both are signed! We'll give one away after each of the silent auctions...speaking of which, I'll bring some silent auction listing sheets so you can be ready for the show. Our wooden OSSC postcards will be available to purchase.

Congratulations to Neil Baxter for winning 'The Red Cross' One Page Challenge in August. September's One Page Challenge is 'Cars'. I hope that you will put in extra effort and bring your entries to our Stamp Fair on September 23. (Not to the regular meeting). We will have a people's choice vote on these

pages. We are also welcoming some of your favourite pages from over the years. How many we can show will depend on space.

We will have had our Thursday night Zoom meeting by the time you get this. This month Arnie Janson has some presentations for us and I have a surprise to show you. Join us for presentations, show and tell and general stamp chitchat on the second Thursday evening of the month.

Bring some auction items for the meeting. Hope to see you on Wednesday evening of September 20th at 7:00 and at the Stamp Fair Saturday Sept. 23 bright and early!

**Marion Ace
President, Owen Sound Stamp Club**

Editors Greeting

Welcome to the September edition of our newsletter. Now that the fall has arrived with its cooler weather, we can return to organizing our collections. Some members may also be preparing exhibits for upcoming shows throughout the next two seasons. These exhibits are aimed for shows in the fall/winter period. All members are able to participate in the club meetings by submitting a one page exhibit on the topic of the month. This month the topic is "Cars."

While a dedicated core of members make entries each month, congratulations are extended to Neil Baxter on his submission last month. That entry might just have been his first entry EVER!

Several short articles and stories follow on the next few pages. Included is a story where Randy R did some searching on GB perfin's. Some collectors are totally focused on this aspect of collecting. It used to be that stamps with perfins were shunned by collectors. Hopefully they were saved in the duplicates file so that perfin lovers could build their collection. It is amazing how they accumulate.

I had the pleasure to represent the RPSC at the National Stamp Show in Mississauga this past Saturday. It was very busy in the morning but traffic slowed down in the afternoon. It was good to help answer a few questions and plant the collecting seed in a young mans mind. Every seed planted offers hope that a seed will bud into a future collector.

Below is a challenging teaser scan:



Stamp Placement

By Jim Molineux

Stamps are placed in the top-right corner because a standard placement was needed with the introduction of cancelling machines. The upper right corner was chosen because it correlated with the mail handlers' dominant right hand.

For most people, a crooked stamp placement suggests little more than the sender was in a hurry. For others, stamp positions are a coded language that has been used for more than a century. Before 1840, when postage stamps were first used in England, the recipient of a letter paid for its postage. Since the cost was often expensive, people began placing small marks and symbols on the folder cover of the letter. These codes allowed senders to convey a message without obliging the recipient to pay for the formal acceptance of the letter. The loss of revenue from the use of these codes was one of the reasons why England adopted the system of prepaid stamps that is now used almost universally.

The hidden language of stamps blossomed in the Victorian era as a discreet method of courtship when parents often censored their daughters' mail. According to keys published early in the 20th century, a stamp place right side up but tilted slightly left had interpretations as follows:

In England, "I love you."

In Germany, "Why don't you answer?"

In Denmark, "A kiss."

In Estonia, "Your antipathy grieves me."

In the U.S., a stamp place upside down conveys the message "I miss you so much my world is upside down." The message is often used in letters to and from military personnel deployed in war zones. However, during the 1960's a U.S. flag stamp upside down signifies distress.

Stamp language has narrowed with the use of email but still exists in prisons where mail is censored. A

postage to indicate one's political affiliation.

Canada has also seen the placement of postage stamps used for political purposes. Figure 1 is a postcard cancelled in Quebec in which the stamp profile of King Edward VII has deliberately folded as a form of protest against the rule of the English monarch.

August 16 Meeting Minutes

The attendance at the meeting in August remained the same despite the fact that the days are clearly getting shorter. At the New Life Center, 19 members gathered for conversation, sharing, and shopping. At 7:25, President Marion greeted everyone in attendance and began the business meeting.

A reminder that September is Stamp Month. That makes the September 23rd show right on schedule. We are also reminded that next year will be the 40th anniversary of our club. Bring your ideas on how to celebrate this milestone to share with the Executive as soon as possible.

Visiting the Vincent Graves Green Philatelic Foundation was discussed. Busing to Toronto proved a significant cost. About \$100 per person if the bus was full. Alternatives were discussed and more investigations are needed.

Club Circuit books have been invited to attend meetings of other clubs. This is an opportunity for club members to submit more pages into the Circuit Books. There may also be an opportunity for a couple of club members to appear on a Rogers TV telecast hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

One highlight of the meeting was Randy R. discussing perfins. Randy had a GB perfin which was partially perforated, making it difficult to identify and organize in his collection. A story follows further in this newsletter about his search. Besides his discussion there was a "show" on how to use the water brush to remove residue stamp hinges and paper left on the back of a stamp from improper soaking.

The meeting closed off with an auction. Some "juicy" items appeared at the auction, with members and the seller promising to get together for a discussion about a purchase. Once all deals had been completed, the meeting closed a 8:55.

Editor's Introduction

The following information is printed with the permission of Mr Roy Gault, a noted expert on GB Perfins. Through his diligent efforts, the perfin database has been compiled onto a USB stick and has been called the "Sloper 150." Mr Gault is a member of the Perfin Society in Great Britain. With membership in the Society, there is the possibility of purchasing the USB stick from the Society. It is an excellent tool in helping to sort and organize GB perfins.

Finding Partially impressed Perfins

By Roy Gault

Hello Randy, You say ... 'looks like 'A&' something. The

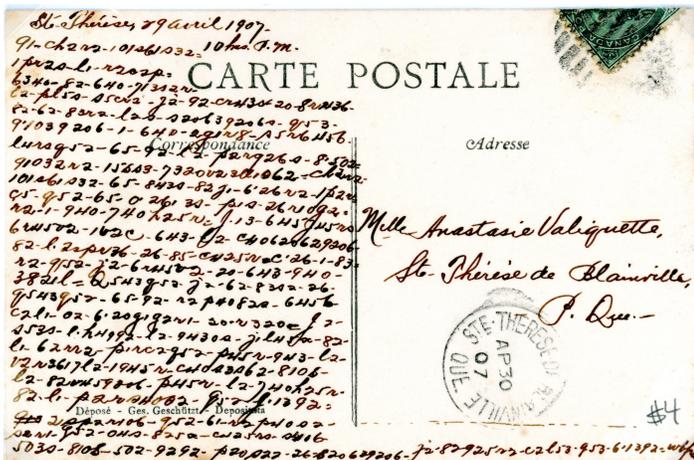


Figure 1

stamp placed sideways indicates that the sender is breaking a relationship with an inmate. A current U.S. fad is to affix unofficial lick and stick slogans on

double dots below the first line are also confusing', but the double dots below the line tell you it's a two-line Perfin you're potentially looking for, perhaps even a 3-line Perfin, and give a vital clue as to what to look for.

I assume the colour of the stamp is light green, so from the 1941 pale colour issue of KG-VI (Figure 1), which we call issue code 'R'. We can also see that the Perfin is "A&?/?", where the "&" is a 14-pin type III (the most common type there is). There isn't much of a clue what the unknown letter is on the top line, but we can see from symmetry that the letter under the "&" has two straight sides, so possibly an "H", "N", or an "M". It could also be part of "Ld", but we'll leave that option till last.



Figure 1

We could trawl through the A's visually on your Sloper150 'Twister', or possibly narrow the field a little using a search on the 'All Dies' spreadsheet (also on your S150). If we search for what we know, A&*/* we get 67 hits (see Figure 2)...

| Book | Sheet | Name | Cell | Value | Formula |
|------------------|-------|------|----------|----------|---------|
| 0-GB Perfins.xls | A | | \$E\$79 | A&/AC | |
| 0-GB Perfins.xls | A | | \$E\$95 | AA&Co./E | |
| 0-GB Perfins.xls | A | | \$E\$224 | A&B/Ld | |
| 0-GB Perfins.xls | A | | \$E\$231 | A&B/M | |
| 0-GB Perfins.xls | A | | \$E\$232 | A&B/M | |
| 0-GB Perfins.xls | A | | \$E\$257 | A&B/Y | |
| 0-GB Perfins.xls | A | | \$E\$321 | A&/CH | |
| 0-GB Perfins.xls | A | | \$E\$322 | A&/CH | |
| 0-GB Perfins.xls | A | | \$E\$323 | A&/CH | |
| 0-GB Perfins.xls | A | | \$E\$348 | A&C/N | |
| 0-GB Perfins.xls | A | | \$E\$362 | A&/Co | |
| 0-GB Perfins.xls | A | | \$E\$383 | A&Co./B | |
| 0-GB Perfins.xls | A | | \$E\$385 | A&Co/L | |
| 0-GB Perfins.xls | A | | \$E\$386 | A&Co./L | |
| 0-GB Perfins.xls | A | | \$E\$389 | A&Co/Ld | |
| 0-GB Perfins.xls | A | | \$E\$390 | A&Co/Ld | |

67 cell(s) found

Figure 2

We know from symmetry that there is only one letter on the second line, so it's a simple case of wheeling down the list and picking those with a single letter - an 'H', 'N', and 'M', giving us ...

A&B/M (two dies which fail as A0800.01 has a type IIIa "&", A0800.02 has a 13-pin type III "&").

A&C/N (A1250.01M, is only known used prior to the light colour issue, having been destroyed in 1941 in the "Blitz" on Sloper's premises), A&L/M (since deleted as it's really "A&B/M" A0800.01, which failed earlier), and A&S/H of which there are three (A5100.01/02/03) all of which fail as none survived past 1930. **That leaves us with the possibility that the two sets of 2 holes under the top line are what's left of a "Ld", or even a three-line Perfin.** (The search is limited to the LD and produces Figure 3 - Ed.)

| Book | Sheet | Name | Cell | Value | Formula |
|------------------------|---------|------|-----------|----------|---------|
| New A-SUMRY-Master.xls | Summary | | \$G\$238 | A&B/Ld | |
| New A-SUMRY-Master.xls | Summary | | \$G\$403 | A&Co/Ld | |
| New A-SUMRY-Master.xls | Summary | | \$G\$404 | A&Co/Ld | |
| New A-SUMRY-Master.xls | Summary | | \$G\$405 | A&Co/Ld | |
| New A-SUMRY-Master.xls | Summary | | \$G\$406 | A&Co/Ld | |
| New A-SUMRY-Master.xls | Summary | | \$G\$407 | A&Co/Ld | |
| New A-SUMRY-Master.xls | Summary | | \$G\$408 | A&Co/Ld | |
| New A-SUMRY-Master.xls | Summary | | \$G\$525 | A&E/W/Ld | |
| New A-SUMRY-Master.xls | Summary | | \$G\$526 | A&E/W/Ld | |
| New A-SUMRY-Master.xls | Summary | | \$G\$671 | A&H/Ld | |
| New A-SUMRY-Master.xls | Summary | | \$G\$794 | A&?/Ld | |
| New A-SUMRY-Master.xls | Summary | | \$G\$859 | A&M/Ld. | |
| New A-SUMRY-Master.xls | Summary | | \$G\$1145 | A&S/Ld | |

13 cell(s) found

Figure 3

Although there are 13 hits we can discount two immediately as they are 3-line Perfins with a "W" on the second line which wouldn't match the double holes. That just leaves "A&B/Ld" (A0750.01, fails as Type I "&"), "A&Co/Ld" (six examples but 4 fail on dating, leaving A1350.04 and A1350.04a), "A&H/Ld", which fails on dating, the "A&?/Ld" is A1350.01M missing the "Co" and has already failed, "A&M/Ld." (A3980.01) which is at least in the date range, and "A&S/Ld" A5140.01 which fails on dating.



Figure 4

I reckon that A1350.04aM is a good fit (Figure 4), with any tiny discrepancies accounted for by the fact that the die was multiheaded. The shape of the back of the "d" and the shape of the "C" are diagnostic in differentiating between A1350.04/04a, but of course we can't see those particular letters.

I've gone to town on showing you how to logically work out what it might be using the tools available to you, so you can apply them in future for yourself. My experience in these searches is that they always turn out to be a common die and not worth the effort, but at least we have an answer which you can test yourself as you have the stamp.

Best wishes, Roy

Philatelic Specialist Society of Canada

By Phil Visser

"The Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada (hereinafter referred to as PSSC) is an association of advanced philatelists with diverse specialized interests. It is a forum for knowledgeable discussion of philatelic subjects by its members who are involved in



philatelic exhibiting, study, research, and publishing."

This above is the preamble to the constitution of the PSSC. I was invited to be a member earlier this year. It is an honour to be part of this group of collectors, nay specialists. It seems that the criteria for membership have been observed to the point an invitation to join was received. Praises of this club and its spirit are easily passed along. These praises prompted Michel Houde to visit the OSSC website.

Afterwards Michel emailed Randy and said "I just checked out your website and I have to say, I was blown away by the Links section. It's seriously impressive!" Michel serves as the PSSC website coordinator amongst several other roles. Besides the accolade for Randy, Michel mentioned that the PSSC website had many things to offer club members. These include presentations, either as a video or as a PDF. There are also some free books to download for those interested.

Randy has put the link to the PSSC website in the "Links" section of the Owen Sound Stamp Club website. My involvement has opened my philatelic knowledge greatly. At a Zoom gathering this morning, Michel shared an AI paragraph editing website. I wish I had known of this tool earlier.

Along with the PSSC, Michel is also a volunteer at the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Foundation. In the collecting world, Michel focuses on the British Post Office in Bangkok (Thailand). This post office used Straits Settlement (now Malaysia) stamps with an overprinted "B". Please visit the PSSC website to learn more on this topic.

Holyrood, Ontario

by Phil Visser

I received a shock several weeks ago when Dave P. shared that the Holyrood General Store was closed when he went past. Readers may wonder why the shock and where is Holyrood? It has a very important part in the Bruce County Philatelic world.

To begin, Holyrood General Store has a Post Office outlet in it. Even more important is that this post office still uses a cancellation hammer. That is the critical think to know.

We all like to receive mail that has been cancelled. The spray cancel is okay, but since a significant portion of the mail bound for Owen Sound does **NOT** get cancelled, a trip to Holyrood solves the problem.

Through Dave, I became aware that Lucy and her husband was looking to sell the store so that they could retire. Dave found an article written in 2017 in the Kincardine Independent saying that the General Store was for sale. It seems that Lucy and her husband have been operating the store for thirty-one years (in 2017).

After years of searching for a buyer, the deal has been done. It appears that the new owners will continue in the Post Office and the store side of things. When the actual transfer will happen is unknown.

From the Post Office perspective, there were some limitations. Initially, only cash could be used to buy stamps. Computerization has caught up with the Miller General Store and so it is now fitted with electronic ways for payment and signing for documents.

According to the Postal History Society of Canada website, Holyrood's first Post Office opened in August 1856. It closed in November 1864 but reopened again April of 1868. This continued until March of 1919 when it closed again. This time the closure was for one year. Since March 1920 it has remained open throughout, even during the Covid time.

A recent visit found the true reason for the success of the General Store, the ice cream cones and flavour choices. It was a warm day and the line up for cones was at least ten people long the entire time I was there. While I was waiting to have my mail cancelled, I spoke with some other local people in the store. They made it a priority to visit the store even with the limited selection of goods. Local service was important, even when larger centres were not that far away (Kincardine and Walkerton for example)

One lady explained that the Post Office was the main reason for using the store. With the influx of Mennonite farmers, the store became busier although it seems to have dropped off somewhat. Now Lucy can retire and the local community will see the store continue. Stamp collectors can also rejoice in the Post Office remaining there as well. Lets hope that Lucy shares the information that collectors from Grey and Bruce counties visit regularly.

Most important is that Lucy will train the new postal clerk on how to cancel covers for us collectors who like to have cancelled stamps.

Where do I Begin?

By Phil Visser

Beginning a new endeavor can be incredibly challenging. It requires a spark of inspiration or a novel concept to initiate action. Therefore, what does it entail for someone new to the world of stamp collecting to dive into this hobby? Essentially, all it takes is an idea, preference, or encouragement from a fellow collector.

About a year ago we (the club) were approached by a mother assisting her son to collect stamps. Several members helped this young lad start on the project of getting a stamp from every country. While this helped with the presently named countries, "dead countries" can extend the search through the nearly two centuries of postage stamps.

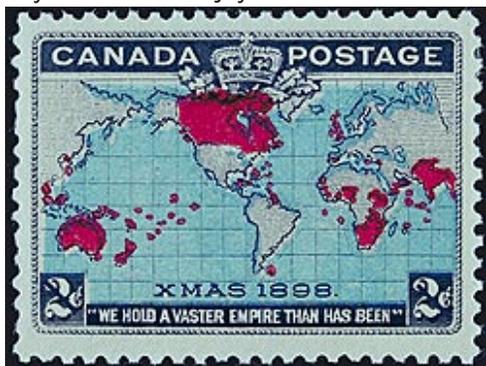
It is a shock to look at the index of Scott's Catalogue at all the names of postal administration that had issued stamps and are listed in the catalogue. An experienced collector mentioned that there were over 1,100 countries listed. For instance, the country of Canada was presided by seven administrations collectively called the provinces.

An idea will likely get the interested person into looking at topics. Subject matter could be anything of interest. This could include sports and then the individual sport under the overall category of athletics. A visit to the website of the American Topical Association can show the wide area of subjects under the banner of "Topicals."

History may provide an inspiration for a new collector. Letting the imagination go wild can open limitless topics of interest. Inspiration may be more focused on individuals such as monarch, explorers. Or other well-known personages.

Once the idea has been formed sharing the passion with others can help the collection grow. In that sense, sharing is not with just fellow collectors, but also neighbours, friends, and casual mentions about stamps or stamp collecting. Several of the members have gathered collections from people cleaning up homes, downsizing or moving.

Beginnings also need some knowledge of how to care for the new acquisitions. Depending on the size of the topic/collection, storage of the collection is very important. Used stamps can be sorted in any binder or even albums. Should the collection focus on mint never hinged stamps, then stock books or pre-mounted albums would keep the collection organized and easily viewed for enjoyment.



Upcoming Shows

SEP 16 Cambridge Stamp Show

Temple Baptist Church, 400 Holiday Inn Dr., Cambridge, ON, N3C 3T1

Temple Baptist Church is located in the old Hespeler part of Cambridge at the intersection with Franklin Boulevard. It is a modern building with no steps. Free admission with lots of parking.

Phone: 519-623-4911

Email: godfreyfearn@gmail.com

SEP 23 Owen Sound Stamp Club Circuit Book Fair & Silent Auction

The New Life Centre, 199 4th Ave. W., Owen Sound, ON, N4K 4V1

Circuit books from various Ontario stamp clubs. Silent auction includes 2 sets of newer Scott's Catalogues. Great door prizes. Lunch counter. One-page Challenge. Wheelchair accessible. Free admission and parking. Hope to see you there!

Phone: 519-934-1998

Email: marionace@bmts.com

OCT 13 Royal*2023*Royale / Canpex

The Hellenic Community Centre, 133 Southdale Rd. West, London, ON, N6J 2J2

Annual Convention and Exhibition for The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Hosted by CANPEX - The London-Middlesex Stamp Club. Hours: Friday 10 am to 5 pm; Saturday 10 am to 5 pm; and Sunday 10 am to 4 pm. Seminars, draw prizes, free parking, free admission. Celebrating the 150th anniversary of Canada's National Police Force and recognizing the dedication, service, and sacrifice of the men and women who wear the "Red Serge." Friday "Sounds of Silence," an evening of food and entertainment. Saturday evening "President's Reception and Palmares Banquet." Information on Exhibiting, Registration, Accommodations, and other details are available on the website.

OCT 21 60th Annual Barrie Stamp Show and Bourse

Innisfil-Stroud Community Centre (2nd floor), 7883 Yonge Street, Innisfil, ON, L9S 1K8

60th Annual Barrie Stamp Show & Bourse, sponsored by the Barrie District Stamp Club, Chapt 73 of the RPSC. 10 Dealers from across the province. Door Prizes. Philatelic exhibits by Club members. Free Admission. LOADS of parking. Wheelchair accessible by elevator. Doors open from 10 am - 4 pm.

Phone: 705-735-6009

Email: b.walter@rogers.com

OCT 21 Oxford Philatelic Society Circuit Book Fair

Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas St., Woodstock, ON, N4S 1C7

Oxford will host a Circuit Book Fair with seven to 10 participating clubs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Phone: 519-268-3593

Email: bobbidner@gmail.com

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jgal472001@yahoo.com

Wrap Up

Space limitations has put the teaser scan explanation to the newsletters last page. To refresh your memory, the stamp was from Czechoslovakia. That tied in with the story of "Dead Countries." Eagle eyes may have noticed that there were black holes in the stamp. These holes are actually the inverted letters of "KL" perforated into the stamp. This then was a reminder to bring in Perfins to the August meeting. A duo meaning to the teaser scan. Hopefully these scans are an interesting addition to the newsletter.

Now that the fall season has started, and school children have returned to school, we need to get excited about our own upcoming Circuit Book Fair. Plan on assisting as you are able to do so. For many stamp clubs, September is the month for membership dues. Our own club somehow uses the calendar year for membership renewal. While there is nothing wrong about using the calendar year for membership, for those who visit Zoom auctions, it may be confusing to hear the other clubs reminding members to renew their membership in their club. It is good to be associated with other collectors to trade, buy or sell duplicates as well as learn more about the hobby. If anyone may have a question about stamps, consider asking other members to learn more about philatelic knowledge. No one knows it all, but usually someone in the crowd can answer a question you may have.

Blast from the Past**Stories in Stamps by I.S. Klein****Won a Country for the Czechs (1935)**

Czechoslovakia was only a diffusion of subject states under Austrian rule, up to the World War, when Prof. Thomas Garrigue Masaryk, great Slovak scholar and patriot, began his untiring campaign to make a single nation of his people. He led to the organization of Czech prisoners in Russia into a legion that started on an arduous 5000 mile trek across Siberia with the idea of sailing on around the globe and fighting on the western front.

In danger of his life, he toured the allied countries and finally came to the United States where he directed his campaign for the liberation of his people and the formation of a Czech nation. His efforts were recognized by the Allies, and Czechoslovakia was sliced out of the Austria-Hungary by the Treaty of Versailles. Masaryk then became the new country's first president.

Many stamps of Czechoslovakia honour him. The one shown here was issued in the 1928 on the 10th anniversary of Czech independence.

