

O.S.S.C.



Owen Sound Stamp Club

Newsletter

Next Club Meeting: February 18th

February 2004

Several members gathered last Tuesday and we held our first Show Meeting of the season. Some work has already been done and a provisional plan has been established. As always we would welcome any additional help both in the organising stage before the event and on the day. Doubtless we will come back to that in the next few issues!

Reading through Charles' *What's New* column (p. 2) it hit me that "Owen Sound Stamp Club Newsletter" is not really a particularly exciting moniker for this publication. As it is also about time for another competition, let's see if our members cannot come with something a little more imaginative. Does "The Owen Sound Imperforate" have the sought after ring to it? What about "Sound Stamp News"? No? Well, let's have some suggestions then!

If you have just the thing, bring it to the February meeting, or else get it to me before March 10th (deadline for next issue),

and I will publish all suggestions in the March issue. We will vote on the list at the March meeting and the winner will see his entry on display ever after.

The winner will also take home a year collection from an as yet unspecified country (Åland, perhaps?).

So: don't be shy, give it a try, nothing to lose, give us something to choose.

(See why I'm not even going to try and come up with something myself?)

Bob Watson

Stamp of the Month...

In 1984, the UK Post Office released a series of engraved stamps to mark the 200th anniversary of the First Mail Coach Run (from Bristol/Bath to London).

One of the series depicts the Edinburgh Mail Snowbound in 1834" and seemed a suitably topical subject for this "Stamp of the Month".

A little digging turned up a bit more of the story:

Coaches were owned by the Post Office and rented out to contractors who provided coachmen & fresh teams of horses along the route. The Mail Guard, unlike the coachman, was employed by the Post Office and was responsible for the safe keeping of the mail. He was issued with a blunderbuss, a brace of pistols and a military style red coat and cockaded hat. The mail was the Guard's first responsibility and, should the coach be incapacitated for any reason, he was obliged to carry the mail on foot.

On the 1st February 1831 not far from Moffat the Edinburgh to Dumfries Mail Coach was brought to a complete halt by a blizzard.



All efforts at freeing the snowbound vehicle failed and the guard resolved to continue on foot. The coachman and two postboys elected to assist him and they unharnessed the horses and headed onwards with the mails over their shoulders while the passengers were left behind to fend for themselves. The band pressed on but they soon realized the snow was too deep even for their horses and so they were sent back to the coach with the postboys.

Meanwhile, the two men continued on foot with the mail bags, hoping to reach the next stage safely.

They never reached their destination.

The bags were found lashed to a post beside the road next day and the men's bodies were dug out of a snowdrift two days later.



NEAR THE HEAD OF THIS BURN
ON 1ST FEBRUARY 1831
JAMES McGEORGE, GUARD
and JOHN GOODFELLOW, DRIVER
of the DUMFRIES to EDINBURGH MAIL
LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE SNOW
AFTER CARRYING THE BAGS THUS FAR

I believe it was during the Stamp show in May of 2002 that I displayed one of the smallest thematic collections (as it was thought at the time). Hopefully you recall the “Man cleaning up after his dog”, a Danish stamp, (Sc# 945), issued 19/IX/1991, issued to promote “Hold Danmark Rent” meaning: “Keep Denmark Clean”.



At that time, it was thought that only two of these small collections existed: the dog one and an East German issue (Sc #1394 of 29/IX/1972), which is the only stamp in the world (so far) which shows an “Overhead projector”, the reason for its existence being the Leipzig Fair of 1972.

These two were brought to my attention in Linn's World Stamp Almanac. Shortly after the show, I started to find other ones, which may or may not qualify for the honour of being part of the exclusive club. The “Embroidered” stamp from Switzerland (Newsletter July 2003). The “Braille” stamp also a Swiss stamp (Newsletter March 2003). Again a little later the Iceland issue of October 9, 2003 which shows an old “WW II Army Barrack”, should still be on anyone's mind (Newsletter October 2003). On April 16, 1998 Canada Post issued a series of six stamps proudly showing the product needed to land these beautiful salmon and trout: “The Fishing Flies”. Has anyone ever seen a fishing fly on any other stamp in the world? Fortunately for us collectors, the images keep on coming and it feels as if the minds of the designers are bringing up more brilliant ideas continuously

Swiss post (again) is the issuing agent and the date was December 30, 2003. It is part of a series of three definitives, which are focussing on Swiss Design History. The most expensive of the three is an Sw.Fr 1.00 which shows a rather square “Armchair” by Le Corbusier. The Sw.Fr.0.85 shows Hilfikers “Station clock”. Joh. Enschedé printed them all. The lowest value, an Sw.Fr.0.15 stamp, designed by Susanne Perron and Wolfgang Möhrle, both of Lucern, is in 4 colours offset on white paper with optical, it is self adhesive on backing paper, it measures 33 x 28 mm, has serpentine cut at 4 sides and is also available in booklets of ten.

And there is another growing phenomenon in the history of stamps...

Countries have for a long time commemorated their own governments departments such as the military, universities and even service clubs on stamps. Canada broke the rule when they issued on Sept. 17th 1990 the “Majestic Forests of Canada” series. Special panes of four identical stamps were printed on special paper and were only available from PetroCanada stations (Sc# 1283/86)

It was only two years later when another commercial giant was featured – the NHL – on Oct. 9th 1992. CPR Hotels followed on Jan. 14th 1993. On March 17th 1994, the founder of the T Eaton Company, Timothy Eaton was featured on many a letter.

September 26th 1996 was Walt Disney World Florida's turn, and the commercialization went on when on March 3rd 1997 Canadian Tire got the floodlights. The Millennium series is a complete “Who's Who” in commerce. PetroCanada was again issued on Sep. 13, 2000, while the Blue Jays even got a special die cut in 2001.

Canada is not alone in this movement, Sweden may well issue an IKEA stamp, and for sure Finland will follow with a Nokia one. While Canada and the USA could come up with a joint issue “Wal-mart”, The Netherlands showed the “RaBo” bank in 1998 while 2003 features Joh. Enschedé Security Printers, (could be stamp related and so justified). A souvenir sheet depicting se-tenant 10 coffee mugs for the quarter century jubilee of a coffee roasting company “Douwe Egberts” (Newsletter Feb. 2003) brings commercialism to the fore.

Another feature now being used is personalized stamps for businesses. The Netherlands again and I believe Finland as well, have stamps, specially printed with the company's name prominently showing. A large department store chain, V & D, was the first to benefit from this – unfortunately, they announced recently they are reorganizing and closing thirty stores. (They should have learned from Eaton's).

If any of the readers is aware of this happening in other countries, please share your knowledge with us.

Next time I'll try to get some more information about another growing threat to collector's pocket books. Since almost all postal administrations are privatized, a growing number of vultures are looking at the pickings and although “City Post” is not a new idea, it is growing fast, at least in the Netherlands. Regio(nal) and /or Stads(city) post is rampant. These companies offer the same service as the “Post” but do it for a lower price. They issue their own stamps, some even with windmills on them. It is a fascinating development, we should watch!

I hope to see you all at our next meeting February 18th, watch the Three Day Planner in the Sun Times, I will keep my show and tell stuff ready for then,

Oops, I almost forgot. The Swiss Sw.Fr.0.15 definitive shows an invention by Alfred Neweczeral (1899-1958). He was the son of a Prussian immigrant who created in 1947 the “Rex Potato Peeler” of which millions have been produced. Three firms, which he founded, are still producing and selling them.

February Auction ...

Alan Charlesworth

Lot	Description	Cat val.	Est.	Start
Postcards:				
1	2 sepia postcards from Canada Post, 2¢ Arch issue	4.00	-	
Covers: The following are all dated 1960 and sent to the German consulate in Toronto				
2	Windsor, On., reg. with 4 Xmas seals and backstamps	6.00	2.00	
3	Weston, Ont., reg. #6 subpost with 4 backstamps	5.00	1.00	
4	Vineland registered cover	5.00	1.00	
5	Toronto registered cover	3.00	1.00	
6	Sarnia cover with t/6 cents hammer	3.00	1.00	
7	Port Dalhousie, Ont., reg. with much back interest	5.00	1.00	
8	Marathon, Ont., reg. with 6 back stamps	5.00	1.00	
9	Lasalle, Ont., reg. with 5 back stamps	5.00	1.00	
10	Kitchener, reg. with ddr konsulate receiver stamp	6.00	2.00	
11	Redlake, Ont., via Winnipeg reg. cover	6.00	1.50	
12	Toronto, reg. cover with 14 × 2¢ stamps to pay rate	6.00	2.00	
Supplies:				
13	Mint sheet file	2.00		
14	Mint sheet file	2.00		
Canada (Mint):				
15	#51 1¢ Jubilee [vg h]	3.50	2.00	1.00
16	#52 2¢ Jubilee [vg h]	4.50	2.25	1.00
17	#97 1¢ Tercentenary [h]	8.00	4.00	2.00
18	#99 5¢ Tercentenary [h]	30.00	15.00	7.00
19	#201 13¢ "Quebec Citadel" [vf h]	60.00	30.00	12.00
20	#202 5¢ "Parliament Buildings" [f h]	6.00	3.00	1.50
21	#208 3¢ "Jacques Cartier" [vf h]	6.00	3.00	1.00
22	#231-6 "KGVI mufti" set [vf h]	15.25	8.00	4.00
23	#250 2¢ from KGVI - war series [vf h]	8.00	5.00	2.50
24	#259 14¢ "Ram Tank" [vf h]	10.00	6.00	3.00
25	#C2 5¢ airmail [f nh v. small gum dist.]	60.00	35.00	15.00
26	#C5 6¢ airmail [vf h]	5.00	3.00	1.25
Canada (Mint Blocks):				
27	#74 ½¢ QV "numerals"; scarce block of 6 [3 h, 3 nh; 2 vf, 4 f] (cat. as singles)	36.00	36.00	18.00
28	#142 2¢ "Fathers of Confederation" block of 4 [vf; paper adhesion]	10.00	6.00	2.00
29	#212 2¢ "Duke of York" plate 2, ul, 4 of 6 stamps (with inscr.) [vf nh] (cat. val. for plblk 27.00, 4sgls 6.00)	18.00	9.00	6.00
Miscellaneous:				
30	4 old cheques all different footwear companies	4.00	1.00	
31	5 old cheques all different footwear companies	4.00	1.00	
32	Cuba: 1958 airmail cover with 6 different stamps	4.00	1.00	
33	Cuba: 1943 cover to Canada with censor strip	8.00	2.00	
34	USA: Booklet #104	20.00	10.00	5.00
35	Hong Kong: 19 diff. plus 3	8.60	4.00	2.50
36	Hong Kong: 13 diff.	3.00	1.50	0.75
37	-			
38	Bermuda: 18 diff.	10.25	5.00	3.00
39	GB: 30 diff [mint]		2.50	1.00
40	Bermuda: #398/400 [mnh]	4.00	2.00	1.00
41	Japan: #409 ss [mnh]	14.00	8.00	2.00
42	Canada: packet of mint hinged face \$5.11	5.00	3.50	

Canada Used:

43	#43 6¢ small queen [vg-f]	?		
44	#?	?		
45	#38 5¢ small queen [vg fresh]	12.50	7.50	3.50
46	#54 5¢ Jubilee [vg-f]	19.00	12.00	6.00
47	#100 7¢ "Montcalm & Wolfe" [vf, looks mint]	125.00	75.00	50.00
48	#101 10¢ "Quebec" [vg]	60.00	35.00	18.00
49	#159 50¢ "Bluenose"	40.00	25.00	15.00
50	#159 \$1 "Parliament Buildings" [f, fresh]	50.00	30.00	15.00
51	#177 \$1 "Mount Edith Cavell"	22.50	16.00	6.50

Provinces

52	PEI #11 1¢ QV [mnh]	5.50	3.00	1.50
53	NB #8 5¢ QV [u]	7.50	4.00	2.00
54	Nfld #54 5¢ "Harp seal" [u]	7.00	4.00	2.00
55	Nfld #122 10¢ "Trail of the Caribou" [u vf]	7.00	4.00	2.00
56	Nfld #125 24¢ "Trail of the Caribou" [u]	30.00	18.00	9.00
57	Nfld #126 36¢ "Trail of the Caribou" [mh f]	25.00	15.00	8.00

The following question and reply were originally published in Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News Feb 11, 1911.

Q "I would like to know why the government of Honduras and other South American countries issue new series of stamps every year. Are they just for stamp collectors.?"

A There is no doubt that many stamps have been issued which would never have seen the light of day had there been no collectors of postage stamps. Some of the Central and South American states have been great offenders in this respect though Honduras is certainly not so bad as some of the others. The revenue obtained from the sale of stamps to collectors must be fairly lucrative and while stamp collectors continue to buy this sort of rubbish there is little likelihood of such countries as Nicaragua and Salvador ceasing to issue hosts of unnecessary provisionals.

During the period 1890 to 1899, a Mr. N. F. Seebeck, Secretary to the Hamilton Bank Note Company of New York*, made agreements with Ecuador, Nicaragua, Salvador and Honduras under which the company agreed to supply those governments, free of charge, for a period of ten years with all the postage stamps they wanted on condition that new designs should be adopted each year. In return the company received the surplus stock remaining in the possession of these countries at the end of each year and also retained the dies and plates so that they could make as many reprints as they might think fit.

I am afraid the majority of cheap sets of these stamps offered here, there, and everywhere, are only reprints. Though they certainly are attractive enough in appearance I strongly advise my younger readers to invest their money in something having a little more philatelic interest.

* now known as the American Bank Note Co., NY

Next Club Meeting: Wed. February 18th at 7:00pm

Main event will be an auction – see p3. for list of lots.

Next Show Meeting: Tues. 2nd March at 7:30pm at 327 11th St. W., O. S. (anyone interested is most welcome)

Upcoming Events:

Feb 28 (Sat): Bourse at Civic Garden Centre Edwards Gardens, 777 Lawrence Ave. E., Toronto. Hours: 9-5. 18 dealers. Free parking and admission.

Feb 28 (Sat): St. Thomas S.C are presenting their 18th Annual Stamp Exhibition & Bourse at the Community of Christ Church, 105 Fairview Ave., St. Thomas. Hours: 9:30-5

Mar 6 (Sat): Milton S.C. is hosting the Milton Stamp Fair in the Milton Seniors Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr., Milton. Hours: 10-5

Mar 13 (Sat): Oakville Stamp Club will be sponsoring “Oakpex 2004” at St. Paul’s United Church (east of the 4th Line on Rebecca St.), Oakville. Hours: 10-5.

May 23 (Sun): Owen Sound Stamp Club Annual Show at the Bayshore Arena.

In Case you were Wondering ...

Just who uses UN stamps?

UN stamps are issued by its three post offices located in New York, Geneva, and Vienna. In each case the stamps are only valid for postage when used on mail deposited in the UN building in that city. UN stamps can be and have been taken on UN peacekeeping missions and used on mail from various places to worldwide addresses, generally through pouchmail via the HQ, where they are postmarked.

The situation is a little more complicated for some of the UN agencies. For example, France has produced stamps for UNESCO which are only valid on mail posted in the UNESCO HQ in Paris. However, the UNESCO stamps can’t be bought in that building – you have to get them at the philatelic counter of the French post office across the street (Paris Segur). Mail posted at the UNESCO office is not cancelled by Paris Segur but by the Paris Ecole Militaire P.O.

Stamp on the Envelope ...

According to the Owen Sound Post Office, the “Quebec Carnival” stamps released this month are only being distributed to Quebec Post Offices and so this newsletter is mailed with the Bryan Adams portrait of Queen Elizabeth definitive issue.

Apart from being well known as a singer, Bryan Adams is apparently well respected as a portrait photographer. The picture is pleasant enough, but whether appropriate for a stamp is open for discussion – at a stamp club meeting, perhaps?

<i>Title:</i> “Queen Elizabeth” definitive	<i>Issue date:</i> 19 December, 2003
<i>Denom:</i> 49¢	<i>Layout:</i> Booklet of 10 stamps
<i>Des.:</i> Saskia van Kampen	<i>Photogr.</i> Bryan Adams
<i>Print.:</i> Canadian Bank Note	<i>Process:</i> 7 colour lithography
<i>Paper:</i> Tullis Russell Coatings	<i>Gum:</i> Self-adhesive
<i>Size:</i> 20mm × 24mm	<i>Perf.:</i> Straight edge

OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

www3.sympatico.ca/rhwatson/stampclub

The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the basement of St. George’s Anglican Church (on the corner of 10th St. E. and 4th Ave. E.). The main business of the evening is typically to trade, buy, and sell stamps and philatelic material. An auction is held at 8:00pm.

There are presently about 30 active members whose interests cover just about everything at all levels from beginner to expert. New members are always most welcome.

Annual Membership fees: Full: \$10; Family: \$15; Junior: Free. In addition, all members and visitors are asked to contribute \$1 each meeting which is passed directly to St. Georges’s Church in appreciation for allowing us to use their room.

The OSSC Newsletter is distributed monthly to members of the Owen Sound Stamp Club. Opinions expressed by contributors to this newsletter are those of the named author and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Owen Sound Stamp Club (nor of the editor).

Contributions are always most welcome. If any reader has news, information, opinions, or announcements that might be of interest to the OSSC membership, please contact the editor.

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