

O.S.S.C.



# Owen Sound Stamp Club

## Philatelic Owen Sound Times

Next Club Meeting: October 20<sup>th</sup>

October 2004

Although I have never bought stamps through an auction (except at our club), there can be no doubt that eBay has become something of an institution in the stamp world. Thousands of trades are handled every week and, by all accounts, the vast majority of these result in two highly satisfied parties.

This month Peter Broadfield begins a series of articles explaining how online Auction Houses such as eBay work and how to make best use of them (see p.3).

Even if you have no interest in trading through cyberspace at present, perhaps one day you will want to dispose of some material that no-one locally is interested in and these articles will provide a useful reference to get you started with some confidence..

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While writing up the notes for this month's "Stamp on the Cover", I couldn't help but notice the substantial difference in the numbers printed of Canadian Nobel Prize Winners (2½m) and the Canadian Open Golf Championship centenary (6m). Obviously, Canada Post reckoned there were many more people interested in golf than chemistry.

This got me looking at some of the other recent figures and it

would appear that the standard quantity for a run-of-the-mill issue is 2½m and 4–6m for a subject with broader appeal (Olympics: 4m; Pets: 5m; and Golf: 6m). The widely denigrated Home Hardware stamp (8m) is something of a special case and doubtless involved some secret handshakes and trips to Fiji.

Looking back to see if these figures had changed much over the years, it really hit home that investing in stamp printing machinery could be a mistake:

The Lunar New Year print runs began in 1997 (Year of the Ox) with 16m falling to just 8m for this year's Year of the Monkey. 5m stamps for Queen's University were printed in 1991, 3m for each of the "University" issues of 1992-3, down to 1½m for Sherbrooke U. this year.

Remember the not-very-exciting 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NATO issue of 1959? over 32 million of those were printed!

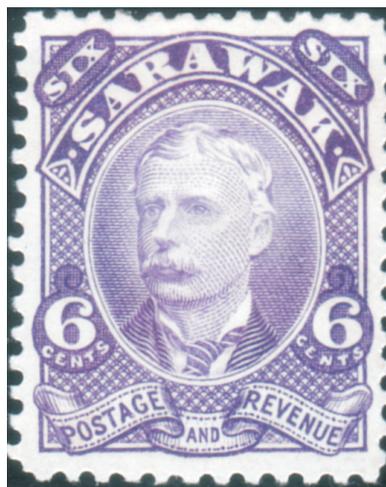
### Stamp of the Month...

Now here's a stamp with a tale to tell of adventure and ambition in the China Seas.

For anyone not familiar with the place, Sarawak, now a state of Malaysia, is on the island of Borneo and bounded by Brunei and Sabah (Malaysia) to the north and by Indonesian Borneo (Kalimantan) to the east and south. Sarawak has a low-lying and heavily indented coastline along the South China Sea.

So, how should such a place come to have a stamp bearing a portrait of a thoroughly European looking character but certainly not recognizable as the monarch of any traditional colonial power?

Well, it all began in 1838 when an Englishman named James Brooke (born in Benares, India, actually) bought a trading schooner and set out to make his fortune in the Indies. Stopping off in



Charles Johnson Brooke (1829– 1917)  
the second "white raja" of Sarawak  
(1868–1917).

the newly established port of Singapore, he learned that the sultan of Brunei was having trouble with rebellious tribes in his southern province.

Brook offered the sultan his services and assisted in the pacification of the insurrection. He was rewarded for his trouble by being appointed rajah of the region.

After three generations of generally benevolent autocratic Brooke rule, the third rajah, Sir Charles Vyner Brooke, ceded Sarawak to Great Britain in 1946 and it became a state of Malaysia in 1963.

Sarawak's first stamp depicted Sir James Brooke and was issued in 1899 a year after the first rajah's death. The second rajah, Charles J. Brooke, appeared on stamps from 1871, and the third, Charles Vyner Brooke, from 1918.

From the Internet ...

As I am sure everyone reading this is aware, several countries have introduced the idea of “personalized” postage where the stamp is combined with a picture supplied by the customer.

In Canada, this idea has been around for some years and takes the form of a frame within which the customer can put anything he/she likes including self adhesive stickers ordered through Canada Post. The Belgian Post Office will custom print sheets of standard stamps se-tenant with personalized labels. The US Post plan is similar to the Canadian idea of having a frame containing a personalized image except that the US Post Office would print the image directly onto the frame.

Of course, it goes without saying that the postal authorities have a number of rules/guidelines concerning what images they will accept on their stamps – especially if they are printing them.

It also goes without saying that someone will try and slip something through the system if for no other reason than to get themselves some publicity or media attention.

Which is just what happened at the end of August when someone in the US (see: [www.thesmokinggun.com](http://www.thesmokinggun.com)) managed to get several sheets of stamps printed that would be considered by many Americans to be in distinctly poor taste. While pictures of Lee Harvey Oswald and Unabomber Ted Kaczynski were not accepted, those of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg (convicted of spying for USSR); Slobodan Milosevic; Jimmy Hoffa; and Nicolae Ceaucescu all were.



Inspired by this report which won lots of media attention, someone from the Toronto Sun tried to get Canada Post to supply stamps featuring Clifford Olsen, Ernst Zundel, Paul Bernado, and Karla Holmolka. Not only did Canada Post reject all these but the reporter was told that any future orders from him would be rejected however apparently benign.

And, in case you are wondering, all Canadian requests for personalized postage are checked by one Ms. Rose Szot of Ashton Potter – who seems to be doing a pretty good job.

In 1991, Australia Post appointed a new head of Corporate Communications (Public Relations). His name? A fellow by the name of... Rowland Hill.

A recent issue of Linn’s Stamp News includes a report that Canada and the US will be collaborating on a joint issue in 2006 – though neither postal administration is making any comment this far ahead of time. Linn’s suggested that the stamps will commemorate a significant anniversary in 2006 of “a historical tie between the two countries” but goes no further.

What would this anniversary be?

One guess is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inauguration of the first transatlantic telephone cable (in 1956) which was laid between Scotland and Clarenville, Newfoundland. However, while this was a joint US/Canada effort, it also involved the UK and the Canadian share in the venture was only 10%.

The Canada/US Free Trade talks were initiated in 1996 (10<sup>th</sup> anniv.) – but nothing was signed until 1998.

The Canadarm first went into space in 1981 (25<sup>th</sup> anniv.) – but it has already been on a Canadian stamp.

Any other ideas out there?

As with many other countries, the Dutch postal services began life being administered as a government department.

Then, during the 1980's, the Post Office became a government owned corporation with the intention that, in due course, it would be privatized. As plans for the initial public offering of shares on the stock exchange were developed, a publicity campaign was launched in 1997. As part of this campaign, every household in the Netherlands was presented with this postage stamp (marked with the value “0 c”) along with the message that the stamp would be valid for standard letter postage on the day (as yet, unspecified) that the shares were first officially traded. Six months later, on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 1998, the Post Office went public and the stamp was valid for the day.

How many were used? Hard to guess but it is easy to imagine that there weren’t very many. Doubtless most of the stamps would have been put in the recycle bin within a few days of being received. Many others would have been kept for a few weeks/months before being mislaid and forgotten. Others would have been kept carefully for the day and then simply not been needed. In fact, maybe this is a picture of the only one actually used as intended!



Hi all, I have been asked to give you a bit of a talk on the pros and cons, and the use of eBay. This month I will talk about Registration, and in the following months Buying and Selling

But first a quick introduction.

eBay is a lot like a postal auction and like any other auction it is legally binding. There is a seller and there are bidders, and like all auctions there are good sellers and good bidders and of course there are the bad and the really bad.

So, rule number one to eBay is Buyer beware. There are bargains to be found and there is a lot of over priced junk as well.

### Feedback

When buying on eBay always look at the feedback of the person you are buying from. If they have 2 or more Bad feedbacks – beware.

You ask what's feedback?

Well here you can see a name and after the name a number in brackets:

Ausstampmanincanada(16)

The number represents the number of feedback comments left by buyers and sellers after successful transactions. By clicking on the number you can read the persons feedback which can be Positive, Neutral, or Negative. Feedback is one of the most important parts to Ebay, as this tells you something about the person you are dealing with.

### Registration

Before you can bid using eBay you must first register (you only have to register once).

From any eBay page, click on the “Register” link in the menu at the top of the page.

On the registration page, you will be asked to submit some basic contact information. This will be not be made public. You will also be asked to choose a User ID (eg. “Ausstampmanincanada”) by which you will be known to other eBay users, and a password.

Shortly after submitting this form, you will be sent an email from eBay with instructions for confirming your registration.

### Notes

- If you register with an “anonymous” email address, such as Yahoo or Hotmail, you will need to provide a valid credit card number which will be used to verify your identity. Your card will not be charged and details of exactly how the procedure works is made clear during the registration process.
- Use the usual rules when creating a password for a secure site. ie. *at least* six characters (including both letters and numbers) and *not* a word that can be found in a dictionary.
- eBay employees will **never** ask you for your password! If you should ever get any requests for “account verification” or some such which include a request for your password, contact eBay – they will want to know.

*The number of items currently listed on eBay is staggering, but the catalogues have been broken down into (more or less) manageable numbers. Several options to assist in searching for specific items also help. The following is a partial listing of the main groups to be found in the “Stamps” section:*

Canada	FDCs (pre-1951)	Edward VIII	Collections, Lots
Back of Book (94 lots)	FDCs (1951-Now)	Elizabeth II	Other
Blocks/Multiples (621)	Postal History	FDCs	Middle East
Booklets (245)	Other	George V	Publications & Supplies
Covers (642)	Errors, Freaks, Oddities	George VI	Memorabilia
FDCs (142)	Plate Blocks/Multiples	Plate Blocks/Multiples	Publications
Mint (1441)	Plate Number Coils	Sheets	Supplies
NFLD - Pre 1949 (19)	Possessions	Victoria	Other
Provinces (517)	Postage	Collections, Lots	Topical & Specialty
Used (1020)	Sheets	Other	Animation, Cartoons
Collections, Lots (519)	Collections, Lots	Africa	Cinderellas & Fakes
Other (691)	Other	Asia	Nature
United States	Australia	China	People, Sports
19th Century: Unused	Australian States	Japan	Structures, Machines
19th Century: Used	Booklets	Korea	Transport, Space
1901-40: Unused	Covers	Thailand	World Errors, Freaks,
1941-Now: Unused	FDCs	Collections, Lots	Oddities
1901-Now: Used	Flight Covers	Other	Other
Back of Book	Kangaroos	Europe	Worldwide
Air Mail	Plate Blocks/Multiples	Albania	First Day Covers
Booklets	Sheets	Austria	Philatelic Covers
Duck Stamps	Collections, Lots	.....	Postal History
Postal Cards &	Other	Switzerland	Postal Stationery
Stationery	Br. Comm. Other	Other	United Nations
Revenues	UK (Great Britain)	Latin America	Collections, Lots
Other	Booklets	Caribbean	Other
Confederate States	Commemorative	Central America	
Covers	Covers	Mexico	
Event Covers	Edward VII	South America	

**Next Meeting ... Wed. Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**

We will be having Circuit Books from the RPSC; Alan Charlesworth expects to have some older Canadian material for sale; and Bill van Trigt has said he would bring in some wheels from an old perforating machine.

And, as always, if you have any stamps to sell or trade, bring them along.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Oct. 23 (Sat.):** The Middlesex Stamp Club is holding MIDDPEX 2004 at White Oaks Mall, 1105 Wellington Rd., **London**. 20 dealers; Free admission. Hours: 9:30-5:00

**Oct. 30 (Sat.):** The Barrie District Stamp Club will be holding their Annual Show & Bourse at the Alladin Banquet Hall, 41 Essa Rd., **Barrie**. Free parking and admission; 16 dealers; silent auctions. Hours: 10.00-4.00.

**Nov. 6 (Sat.):** The North Toronto Stamp Club will be holding a Show and Bourse at the Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Avenue East (at Leslie Street), **Toronto**. 22 dealers; Circuit books; free parking and admission. Hours: 10.00-4.00.

**Nov. 13 (Sat.):** The Cambridge Stamp Club will be holding their Annual Show & Bourse at the United Kingdom Hall, International Village Dr., (off Dunbar Rd.), **Cambridge**. Free parking and admission. Hours: 9.30-4.30.

**Stamp on the Envelope ...**

This month's stamps commemorate two Canadian Nobel Prize winners: Gerhard Herzberg (Chemistry, 1971) and Michael Smith (Chemistry, 1993).

Gerhard Herzberg was awarded the prize for his achievements in the field of molecular spectroscopy. Every molecule absorbs/emits light in a unique pattern and Herzberg demonstrated how to predict this pattern. He went on to show that this knowledge could be used to measure the existence of very short-lived molecular fragments during chemical reactions.

Michael Smith (along with Kary Mullis of USA) won his prize for research into genetic mutation. More specifically, their work laid the foundation for the science of genetic engineering where a specific part of a DNA molecule can be modified.

The "hidden dates" on these two stamps are under the chin of the silhouette – but only visible under UV light. They really are hidden!

<i>Series:</i>	Nobel Prize Winners	<i>Print.:</i>	Lowe-Martin
<i>Title:</i>	"Gerhard Herzberg" & "Michael Smith"	<i>Process:</i>	10 colour lithography
<i>Issue date:</i>	4 October, 2004	<i>Paper:</i>	Tullis Russell Coatings
<i>Denom:</i>	49¢ (both)	<i>Gum:</i>	PVA
<i>Layout:</i>	Pane of 16 stamps (4x4)	<i>Tagging:</i>	General, 4 sides
<i>Des.:</i>	Paul Haslip (HM & E Design Communications)	<i>Size:</i>	56 mm x 36.5 mm
		<i>Perf.:</i>	12¾ x 13¼
		<i>No.</i>	2,500,000

**OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB**

**Chapter 191**

**Royal Philatelic Society of Canada**

[www3.sympatico.ca/rhwatson/stampclub](http://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 10<sup>th</sup> St. E. and 4<sup>th</sup> 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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