

O.S.S.C.

Owen Sound

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Philatelic Owen Sound Times

Next Club Meeting: September 21st

September 2005

There was an interesting "Guest Editorial" in *Canadian Stamp News* last week in which the new editor of the Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps, Robin Harris, wrote about the upcoming 2006 edition which, we are assured, is at the printers and will be on sale in October.

Robin Harris has a strong philatelic/publishing background as anyone familiar with his "Adminware" Web site (www.adminware.ca) will appreciate. He is also the webmaster of the RPSC website and editor of the BNAPS Elizabethan II Study Group newsletter.

Back to the Catalogue: it really does sound as though this will be a bit different from previous editions. Harris says that he has added a great deal of extra information including notes on the designers and printers for each issue. Perhaps the biggest change in content will be the addition of illustrations of constant plate varieties (cutting into Darnell's *Error, Freaks, & Oddities* territory) and the inclusion of postal rate information.

On the matter of colour, Harris says that the reference

collection has been largely re-scanned and considerable effort has been put into making the catalogue illustrations as close to the original as possible.

While the order of presentation is (presumably) more or less governed by Scott, tables have been compiled to present long running series of both definitive and commemorative issues in a coherent manner.

In concluding his editorial, Harris says that he really hopes that all the mistakes from past editions have been corrected – and no new ones added!

All in all, it would seem that the 2006 Unitrade will be a significant improvement over its predecessors.. Lets hope reality matches expectations.

Stamp(s) of the Month...

A sharp eyed observer might notice a certain similarity between these two stamps – indeed, it is obvious that the same original image was the inspiration for both designs by the American Bank Note Co..

So, is this the *Santa Maria* or the *Matthew*?

Most probably neither.

Looking through my history books I find that there is no known illustration of either vessel and, indeed, even the most basic details such as size and rig are unrecorded. Instead, historians have had to do their best to reconstruct the ships from a series of best guesses. And how varied these best guesses are!

One of the books I referred to has portraits of Columbus by artists through the ages and it is sobering to see how his appearance changes depending on when he was drawn. It is thus not surprising to see that the *Santa Maria* also changes through time.

Most of my pictures show three masted ships with a substantial crow's nest on all masts



Above: Scott# US232 "Flag Ship of Columbus": 3¢ value in the US "Columbian" issue of 1892.

Below: Scott# Nfld 68 "Cabot's Ship The Matthew": 10¢ value in the Newfoundland "400th ann. of Cabot's discovery of Newfoundland" issue of 1897.

along with exaggerated fore- and stern-castles. One even includes twenty guns poking through ports in her sides.

While fashion/tradition have never been far away from ship design, it must be borne in mind that both *Santa Maria* and *Matthew* were trading vessels rather than warships so one would expect at least a moderate level of practicality in design and rig. A trading ship has no need of crow's nests or other fighting accoutrements – they would just make things more difficult for the crew to work the ship efficiently (though a canon or two might be useful to ward off the odd pirate).

As such the American Bank Note Co.'s general purpose turn-of-the-16th century sailing vessel is probably a pretty reasonable representation of the kind of thing used by the intrepid explorers of that time.

I do think the wavy baseline given to the country of origin in both stamps is a nice touch.

What's New ...

Charles van Rompu

It is always pleasant, to hear again from old acquaintances, especially from those, who have helped making the shows of our club so successful, in the past. This happened, just this week.

Iceland, known for its excellent stamp program, not only for design, but especially for their measured approach to the collector's pocket books, announced the release of four new stamps on the 1st of September.

They were issued as two series of two stamps each. The first of the two sets shows Icelandic Salmon rivers and the Flies used to catch the salmon with. They both show pictures of the rivers (Laxa), with each a different fishing fly. The Red Francis and the Laxa Blue, the latter one is considered by many fishermen to be the most successful and beautiful fly used for salmon fishing in the country. The 50.00 ISK shows the Laxa in Kjos, in



which river a maximum of 10 to 12 rods at a time are permitted. In 2004, approximately 1,000 salmon were caught in this river.

The 60.00 ISK stamp is a vertical one.

The two other stamps, issued on that day, show: "Wild Berries in Iceland" Only a few species of berries grow in Iceland but on the moorland in acid ground the small Blueberry (*vaccinium uliginosum*), does reasonably well. It carries big, darkish blue, wax coated berries. This specie is illustrated on the 65.00 ISK stamp. The 90.00 ISK shows the Wild Strawberry (*fragaria vesca*). As is the case in Canada, the plant is very small and rarely grows more than a few centimetres tall. It produces a red small berry, usually very tasty. Both these stamps are vertical.

Stamp Day in Iceland is October 9th. Since this is a Sunday, Iceland Post saw reason enough to issue a Mini-sheet on the 7th, measuring 105 x 55 mm. It will contain one stamp 200.00 ISK, as illustration was chosen, a bird's eye view picture of the multi coloured rooftops of Reykjavik. Stamp day was first celebrated



Dagur frimerkisins 7. október 2005 – Marglit húspök í Reykjavík

in Iceland in 1960. They mention in their announcement that the first souvenir sheet was issued in 1988, however, Scott's catalogue mentions numbers 634 and 646 both issued on October 9th, in 1986 and 1987.

Also on that day they are celebrating the fact that, in June of 1905, an engineer by the name of Thorkell Clementz, imported Iceland's First Motorcycle, of the type Motosacoche. It was made in Switzerland and sold under the brand name

ELG. The bike was discovered in a Danish Technical Museum, but brought back to Iceland. The stamp shows the old one as well as a Harley Davidson, 2004 Sportster Roadster



XLR 1200 and has a 50.00 ISK value. The last one on this productive day in October is a stamp to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Commercial College of Iceland. It will depict a dancing couple of graduates in national costume. This because, National Costume day and Graduation day are always falling on the same day.

For the rest of the year two pretty large stamps with birds, on November 3rd, as well as two Christmas stamps in values of 50.00 and 70.00 ISK's, of which the 50.00 ISK issue, will also be available in booklets of 10 pcs.

We hope to see you all on Wednesday 21st for the next meeting.



The Peninsula circuit book sales is going to face some difficulties if not more people are going to make up new books. I will have blank books available at the next meeting. They are \$5.00 for 6 pieces, in which you can accommodate 600 stamps for sale. Last meeting, some books were almost emptied, which proves that it will work if we all cooperate and supply new material.

Letter to Editor ...

Responding to your 'Stamp(s) of the Month' article...acknowledgement of our great agricultural industry by Canada Post does seem to be a rather casual affair. There have been a number of references to it, if sometimes rather oblique, since the 20c and 4c denominations of the Peace Issue.

There was a stamp in 1955 for the 50th anniversary of Alberta and Saskatchewan as provinces showing very stylized wheat. The 3c centennial definitive depicts a combine and an oil rig, the 50c Centennial depicts grain elevators in the painting 'Summer's Stores' by John Ensor. The 50c definitive, Prairie Street Scene includes grain elevators, the Saskatchewan 75th anniversary shows wheat fields, grain elevators again show up on Canada Day '82 Alberta stamp. August 1988 there was a stamp for the 75th anniversary of the 4H clubs of Canada. One of the stamps for the arrival of the Ukrainians shows a farmer standing in his wheat field and one of the first series of Scenic Highways stamps depicts the wine industry in southern Ontario.

Still, these stamps kind of sneak in under the radar screen as stamps about Canadian agriculture. There really has not been a Canadian commemorative stamp directly honouring Canada's huge and vital agricultural industry. They have all been part of definitive series or part of a reference to some other subject. 40 years of Home Hardware pales in comparison!

Ralph Wyndham

Curiosities ...

In 1875, W. Grover, a railway engineer, patented a spring washer, this was followed eight years later with a patent for lead glazing bars which did not require putty. All kinds of machinery was designed and manufactured by Grovers' company over the years ranging from typewriter ribbon winders to steam engines. As general engineers, the firm has had many consultants over the years and one, a Mr Patient, designed the Continuous Stamp Printing machine in 1920 which the firm built for Harrisons and Enschede.

Perforators were supplied to all stamp printers in the earlier part of the last century. Harrisons had problems operating their Grover built rotary perforator and blamed the manufacturers for their problems. However Grovers maintained that the problems were caused by lack of humidity control resulting in shrinkage of the paper. Harrisons eventually disposed of most of their appliances, reverting to other Grover types, and cutting the roll of stamps into sheets before perforating them. Later, following the installation of humidity control, they were to regret this action as the one rotary perforator they kept operated very efficiently.

The workings of the Grovers old perforating machinery is interesting. The perforating head, consisting of the pins and stripping plate move downwards and clamps the positioned sheets. Next the pins move downwards through the stripping plate, which acts as an alignment guide for the pins, and pass through the sheets into the die below. The stripping plate hold the sheets down as the pins are raised after the holes are punched. The holes in the die are drilled larger on the underside, to allow the waste material to be expelled without effort.

When the machine is properly set up, it is impossible for sheets to pass through the machine without being perforated.

After about two weeks operation, the perforating pins become rounded, but are easily sharpened, after which they are readjusted for length. The leading edge of the hole in the die is also rounded, necessitating "dressing the die". For this operation a special punch is used to restore the edge of the hole. This leaves a small burr and the hole is recessed. The burr is removed by driving a piece of pin material through the hole and the recess is removed by re-dressing the surface. After reassembly the head is again ready for operation.

All shapes of perforation can be accommodated: triangular, diamond-shaped, round or free form. The important thing to Grovers was the pitch (the number of holes across the sheet width). This was estimated, then adjusted, for comb dies, so that the same number of holes appeared on each stamp, with one in each corner and any gutters allowed for. The sheet or pane widths were marked accurately, then a precision machine tool using gears and screws accurately divided up the space between the holes on a master die. Although similar accuracy between stamps was not required for straight line dies, they were still accurately drilled by the same machine. Working dies, stripping plate, and pin holder were all drilled through the master die. Master dies were kept so that replacement parts fitted accurately.

For many years (if not still) it has been the policy of the US Postal Service not to honour anyone on a stamp until at least ten years after their death.

One exception to this rule was Dag Hammarskjold the generally well regarded Secretary General of the United Nations who died while in office when his plane crashed in the Congo in 1961.

Just one year later, in 1962, the United States issued a stamp honouring Hammarskjold. However, one sheet of these stamps went in backwards for the second colour (yellow) resulting in a rare sheet of inverted stamps.

Dag Hammarskjold - UII Issue



New York, NY - Oct. 23, 1962
Giori Press - Perf 11 - 200 Subject
121,440,000 issued

Dag Hammarskjold "Error Stamp"

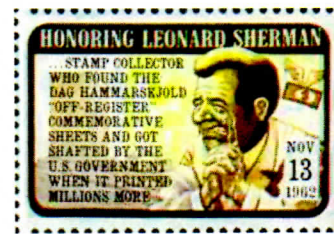


Washington, D.C. - Nov. 16, 1962
Giori Press - Perf 11 - 200 Subject
40,270,000 issued

Stamp collector Leonard Sherman purchased the sheet for \$2 at the post office. When he announced the find, the government decided to print millions of the stamp error.

The one at left is the way the stamp looked when printed correctly. The one at right is the "error" stamp with the yellow plate inverted.

But there is no doubt that the most memorable version is the one drawn by Al Jaffee for Mad Magazine...



The results of the Mike Young quiz competition held by the Three Counties Philatelic Federation (Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire, U.K.) are:

Winner - Cheltenham Philatelic Society who receive the Mortimer Trophy

Second - Hereford Philatelic Society

Third - Redditch Philatelic society (last years winners)

The competition was held in Tewkesbury Gloucestershire and a good time was had by all.

Here are two sample questions:

- 1) Which Country issued postage Dues depicting the gun boat *Zafir* on them?
- 2) What is the current name of Diego Suarez?

Remember the contestants could not look up the answers so try answering from your knowledge, not your library!

Next Meeting ... Wed. Sept. 21st at 7:00 pm

We expect to have books from the Peninsula Circuit and there will be an auction.

As always, if any member has any material to sell or trade, bring it along!

Upcoming Events:

Oct. 2 (Sun.): The GRVPA is holding its 11th Annual Club Fair at United Kingdom Hall, International Village Dr., **Cambridge**. Club circuit books, youth tables, two silent auctions (300-plus lots), snack bar. Hours: 10-4:30.

Oct. 8 (Sat.): Stamp Show at St. Bonaventure Church Parish Centre, 1300 Leslie St., **Toronto**. 18 Dealers. Free admission. Hours: 9-5

Oct. 14-16 (Fri-Sun): The Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association and the Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance are sponsoring STAMPEX 05 at Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place, **Toronto**. Exhibits, dealers from Canada and the United States, and RPSC Seventh Philatelic Literature Competition. Admission \$5. (Parking in the area can be expensive). Hours: Fri. 11-6; Sat 10-6; Sun. 10-4.

Oct. 15 (Sat.): The Guelph Stamp Club is sponsoring GUELPHPEX 2005 at Evergreen Senior Ctr., 683 Woolwich St., **Guelph**. Exhibits, sales circuit, 15 dealers. Free admission. Hours: 10-4.

Oct. 22 (Sat.): The Middlesex Stamp Club is holding MIDDPEX 2005 at White Oaks Mall, 1105 Wellington Rd., **London**. 100 frames of exhibits, 22 dealers, silent auction. Free admission. Hours: 9:30-5

Stamp on the Envelope ...

Now that Canada Post has given up any kind of policy of "not honouring living persons on stamps" (except for royalty, politicians, and sundry models/friends), a whole new array of commemorative subjects is opened for upcoming stamp issues.

Oscar Emmanuel Peterson is certainly well deserving of official Canadian recognition as an extraordinarily gifted jazz pianist applauded around the world for his interpretive and technical skills.

A critic once put things very well with:

"One is always conscious while in Mr. Peterson's presence of massive power being very discriminatingly unleashed in cascading improvisational runs whose feathery lightness seems almost inhumanly perfect."

A cute feature of the stamp sheet is the colour marks on the selvage — they are in the form of piano keys!



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| Event: Oscar Peterson's 80th birthday | Print.: Canadian Bank Note Co. |
| Title: "Oscar Peterson" | Process: Lithography (7 colours) |
| Issue date: 15th August, 2005 | Paper: Tullis Russell Coatings |
| Denom.: 50¢ | Gum: PVA |
| Layout: Pane of 16 stamps | Tagging: General, 4 sides |
| Photo: Gilbert Duclos | Size: 32 mm x 32 mm |
| Des.: Tiit Teltmet | Perf.: 12½ x 13 |
| | No.: 4,500,000 |

OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

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

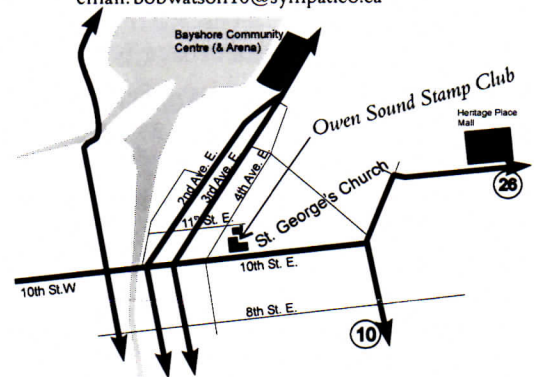
Annual Membership fees: Full: \$10; Family: \$15; Junior: Free. In addition, all members and visitors are asked to contribute \$1 each meeting which is passed directly to St. Georges's Church in appreciation for allowing us to use their room.

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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Books in the OSSC Library are available for loan to any member (but please return at the next meeting).

Present holdings include:

- 2002 *Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* — Unitrade
- 2004 *Concise Catalogue of Great Britain* — Stanley Gibbons
- 2005 *Catalogue of Canadian Stamps & Supplies* — CWS
- Canadian Errors, Freaks, and Oddities* — Darnel
- The Edward VII Issue of Canada* by G.C. Marler, published by the National Postal Museum (1975).
- The Admiral Issues Of Canada* by G. C. Marler
- Canadian Fancy Cancellations of the Nineteenth Century*
- Numerous journals at present only partly sorted including:
The Canadian Philatelist (J. of the RPSC); *Scott's Monthly*; *Topical Times* (J. American Topical Association); *Details* (Canada Post)