

O.S.S.C.



Owen Sound Stamp Club

Philatelic Owen Sound Times

Next Club Meeting: December 21st

December 2005

Season's Greetings to all our Readers!

There was a time when this time of year was associated with "Peace and Goodwill to all men persons" (Whoops, sorry about that!) but what with one thing and another, such sentiments could be considered a bit misplaced this year. On p.3 Charles mentions the British stamp that's caused a right broo-ha when the authorities tried to be politically correct and "inclusive" with their Christmas Holiday designs. In the USA (and doubtless elsewhere) there have been calls for commemorative stamps to mark several non-Christian festivals.

Now, if you were a postal authority policy advisor, which way would your feelers be pointing? Keep clear of religion

altogether? One stamp/year for any duly registered religion – so long as they can guarantee sales of at least 4 million? Something else entirely?

For the past few years I have produced a calendar distributed to members attending the first few meetings of the year. Having no idea whether anyone finds these of the slightest use, I thought I would ask whether I should continue this practice. So, if five members let me know they want an OSSC calendar for 2006 (before mid-January), I'll run off a batch. Otherwise, I'll leave it for a year.

Bob Watson

Stamp(s) of the Month...

The stamp that started it all! I'm sure that everyone reading this will recognise these stamps as Scott #1 (Stanley Gibbons #1-3) of Great Britain.

The Penny Black, celebrated as the world's first adhesive postage stamp, was issued along with the Tuppenny Blue in May 1840 as the culmination of a long campaign for postal reform led by Sir Rowland Hill.



Red Maltese Cross Cancel

Black Maltese Cross Cancel

The stamps were printed in sheets of 240 (selling for £1) and the letters in the bottom corners were punched directly onto the plate marking the row and column positions respectively.

While the inclusion of these "position" letters was intended to be a primitive deterrent to counterfeiters, they have proved most helpful to (wealthy) collectors who wish to "plate" the issue.

The story behind the founding of the modern public mail system is a tale in itself, but the actual design of the stamp includes a number of interesting features.

The portrait of Queen Victoria was begun as a series of watercolour sketches by Rowland Hill based on a commemorative medal designed by William Wyon to mark the Queen's visit to the Guildhall in London on Lord Mayor's Day in 1837. From these sketches, a drawing of the stamp was made by Henry Corbould which was passed to Charles and Frederick Heath (father and son) who engraved the original die.



The Guildhall Medal

Initially, the stamps were cancelled using a red Maltese Cross device, but it was not long before someone found that the red ink was easily removed allowing the stamps to be re-used. Black cancels were found to be much more permanent – but not the best colour to use on a black stamp. To overcome this problem, it was replaced by the "Penny Red" (using the same plates) after just nine months.

In its short life, many millions of the penny black were issued (and used) and it had initiated a social revolution by putting the concept of written communication in the reach of all.

From the President ... Alan Charlesworth

T'is the season ! Merry Christmas! Best of the season to all our members!

Another holiday season is upon us , Jack Frost is nipping at our noses, Frosty the Snowman has been dumping white stuff all over my driveway, and the Christmas Spirit is still on the shelf down at the LCBO Store. I have the overwhelming desire to sing Christmas carols and make up stamp packets. What a combo.

Deck the halls with bags of clippings,
 Fa la la la la, la la la la,
 T'is the season to mount stamps up,
 Fa la la la la, la la la la,
 Don we now our stamp tongs and glasses,
 Fa la la la la, la la la la,
 T'is the silliest song I've written,
 Fa la la la la, la la la la!

You can write your own words now , Stamping has driven me mad.

Let us all remember this hobby is for fun, so lets have some fun with stamp this season.

This meeting has no special purpose to it, so if any one has a topic they would like to talk about the floor is yours. I will be bringing approval books and Christmas cookies.

Any one who ordererd a new unitrade catalogue and has not yet picked it up they will be at this meeting , the cost is \$35.00 tax in.

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.

I have recently purchased some early mint Newfoundland and will bring this material to the meeting for sale. The following items will be available:

1	vf	mh	81	vf	mh
11a	vh	mh	87a	vf	mh
15a	vf	mng	88c	f	mh
18	vf	mng	89	vf	mh
19	vf	mlh	90	f	mh
20	vf	nh	91a	f	mh
22	vf	mh	92	f	mh
23	vf	mh	92a	vf	mh
48	f	mh	93	f	mh
51	f	mh	94	vf	mh
54	f	nh	95	f	mh
59	f	mh	97	f	mh(thin)
61	vf	mf	102	f	mh
62	f	nh	212	vf	mh
63	vf	mh	213	vf	mh
64	vf	mh	214	f	mh
65	vf	mh	215	vf	mh
66	vf	mh	216	vf	mh
67	vf	mh	217b	vf	mh
68	vf	mh	218	f	mh
69	vf	mh	219	f	mh
70	vf	mh	220	f	mh
71	vf	mh	221	vf	mh
72	vf	mh	222	vf	mh
73	f-vf	mh	223	vf	mh
74	vf	mh(smthin)	224	vf	mh
78	vf	mng	225	vf	mh.

Alan Charlesworth

A Little Bit of History ...

In 1940, France was occupied by the German army and the country was divided into two areas:

- the occupied zone of the north and west; and
- the “non-occupied” zone in the south.

From the German point of view, the southern zone was a non-combatant region generally aligned with the Axis powers and not an



undue security risk. Sympathies in the north were less certain – hence the no-nonsense designation as “occupied”.

Within each zone, the domestic mail service continued as normal (more or less) using the same stamps as before. The one exception was that the most commonly used definitive, the green 1fr “Iris”, was reprinted in red so that different colours could be used in the different zones.

For security reasons, only pre-stamped cards were allowed to be sent from one zone to the other – the use of adhesive stamps were not permitted because it would be possible to include a hidden message under the stamp!



Prepaid Postcard with (non-denominational) “Iris” stamp

What's New ... (Christmas Stamps, Pt 2.)

Charles van Rompu

United States.

On October 20th, the USPS issued four 37 ¢ stamps depicting "Holiday Cookies". These self-adhesive, delicious looking stamps (cookies) were baked by Rebecca Vermilyea, Emily Diffrient-Crumpton and Tommy Simpson. They were afterwards photographed by Sally Anderson-Bruce, who captured the holiday treats on film as they came out of the oven.

The designs are: Santa Claus, two snowmen, an Angel and two elves.

Besides these new ones, they are still selling their 2004 Holiday Ornaments 4 designs, a 2004 Madonna with Child by Lorenzo Monaco, in booklets as well as their 2004 Kwanza, the Eid a re-issue from 2002 and 2004 Hanukkah. All these are 37¢ and self adhesive. In the latest issue of: Collections by Canada post, they announced the availability in Canada of the Cookies and the Ornaments (page 28).

The latest USA Philatelic catalogue will be available at the upcoming meeting. The cover of this latest magazine shows one of the four "Constellations" stamp, which gives a unique light-show when put under a bright light for a couple of moments, and than turn the light off.

New Zealand.

Issue date: November 2nd, five stamps: 45¢ gummed and self-adhesive: baby Jesus; 90¢ gummed: Mary and Joseph, \$1.35 gummed: Shepherd, \$1.50 gummed: Wise men and \$2.00 gummed: Stars (only bluish one). The gummed versions of all stamps are square 35 x 35 mm. The 45¢ self-adhesives are on coils of 100 or booklets of 10. They measure 30 x 25 mm vertical. They were designed by Anton Petrov

**Britain.**

On November 1st 2005, Great Britain issued six so-called Christmas stamps. All of them depicted a Madonna with Child, while the 68p showed a family. The stamps were designed by Rev. Irene von Treskov, an Anglican minister, living in Berlin Germany. Irene was born in Germany and grew up under the Third Reich, where one of her close relatives Henning von Treskov was involved in the assassination attempt on Hitler on June 20, for which he paid with his life. After the end of WWII, Irene went to England, where she worked mainly in the arts. Later in life she became an Anglican priest. Her designs for these stamps reflect sometimes surrealism and mysticism. The 1st class stamp shows a traditional mother and child. The 2nd



class, an image created in Haiti. The 42p stamp follows the same pattern as the 1st class. The 60p depicts traditional Native American. The 68p value goes back to the Indian sub-continent, a picture of the Holy Family in the tradition of Mughal art of the early 17th century, painted between 1620 and 1630. While the £1.12 is a highly stylized interpretation of an Australian Aboriginal bark painting, in which only the facial surrounding are shown.

The 68 pence value, showing the Hindu family, is the one over which Hindu leaders in England raised objections, since the Hindu community do not celebrate Christmas. Royal Mail did not halt the sales of the controversial stamp, since millions were already sold, but they instructed their offices around the country (14,500) to sell this one only to customers who specifically asked for it. The stamp will not be reprinted, but will be replaced by a 68 p definitive.



Collections, an issue from Canada Post (winter 2005), on page 30 shows the six stamps which, by the looks of it, are still available from them for \$11.25 order-number 346295. (with help from CSN and Canada post).

Faroes.

The Christmas Ballad and the Rudis Ballad, stories from the rich folklore of the Faroes, were the themes for the Christmas stamps.

The DKK 5.50 (blue) shows the Christmas ballad, a figure of the Faroese Madonna which stood in the church at Kirkjubøur, far back in the Catholic period of the islands. It is considered to be one of the most beautiful Madonna figures in the world. Now in the Faroese National Museum in Tórshavn.



The DKK 7.50 (Multi) tells the story of Rudis (Herod) when he ordered St. Stephen to bring a cock back to life after he had hacked it into 30 pieces. Of course, St. Stephen was able to do this and made him crow, and fly up to Herod's throne. The stamp shows the devil who comes up to collect Rudis for hell.



Both were issued November 7th, measure 31.5 x 48 mm. Perf. 14 and designed by Anker Eli Petersen. Cartor France did the printing. Anybody interested in starting a topical collection of Christmas stamps? The American Topical Association has a study unit for Christmas stamps.

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

Nothing special on the agenda but, as always, if any member has any material to sell or trade, bring it along!

Upcoming Events:

Jan. 14 (Sat.): Brantford Stamp Club will be holding their 2006 Show & Bourse at the Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey St., **Brantford**. Fifteen dealers, draws, silent auctions, Canada Post with show cancellation, refreshments available. Hours: 10-4.

In Case you were Wondering ...

Queen Victoria was deeply affected by the death of her husband (Prince Albert) in 1861 and she remained in a state of strict mourning for almost ten years. All formal portraits of the widowed Queen show her in mourning clothes or "widow's weeds".



Weeds?

Many dictionaries simply list the origin of the phrase "widow's weeds" as "archaic" and leave it at that. A little digging found that the word is of German origin and first appeared in England around 900 AD simply meaning "an article of clothing".

By 1300, "weed" or "weeds" meant a style of clothing typical of an occupation or station in life. One might have spoken of a priest's "weed" or a beggar's "weeds", for instance.

The phrase "widow's weeds", denoting the black veils and other accoutrements of mourning, first appeared around 1600 and is the only use of "weeds" (in this sense) still heard in English.

Stamp on the Envelope ...

As Charles mentioned in last month's article "What's New", Canada Post's secular Christmas stamp may be small but includes a number of interesting features by the same designer who was responsible for the *Year of the Rooster* stamp among others.

Apart from the most obvious use of cunning printing technique to give sparkle to the snowflakes, the basic design attempts to give the snowman a northern flavour by alluding to the Aurora Borealis in the background. The snowflake seals are a bonus!

<i>Series:</i> Christmas		1 clear holographic stamping)
<i>Title:</i> Snowman		
<i>Issue date:</i> 2 nd Nov. 2005	<i>Paper:</i> Tullis Russell Coatings	
<i>Denom:</i> 50¢	<i>Gum:</i> Self-adhesive	
<i>Layout:</i> Booklet of 12 stamps	<i>Tagging:</i> General, 4 sides	
<i>Des.:</i> Hélène L'Heureux	<i>Size:</i> 24 mm × 24 mm	
<i>Print.:</i> Lowc-Martin	<i>Perf.:</i> Kiss cut	
<i>Process:</i> Lithography (6 colours +	<i>No.:</i> 40,000,000	

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.

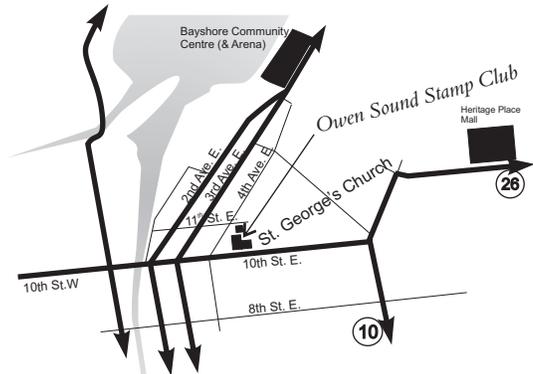
Annual Membership fees: Full: \$10; Family: \$15; Junior: Free. In addition, all members and visitors are asked to contribute \$1 each meeting which is passed directly to St. George's Church in appreciation for allowing us to use their room.

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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OSSC Library:

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

Present holdings include:

- Postage Stamp Catalogue* - Scott (2000)
- Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* - Unitrade (2000)
- Concise Catalogue of Great Britain Stamps* - Stanley Gibbons (2004)
- Catalogue of Canadian Stamps & Supplies* - CWS (2005)
- Canadian Errors, Freaks, and Oddities* - Darnel
- The Edward VII Issue of Canada* by G.C. Marler (Nat. Postal Mus., 1975)
- The Admiral Issue of Canada* by C.C. Marler
- Canadian Fancy Cancellations of the Nineteenth Century*
- Numerous journals (still only partly sorted) including:
The Canadian Philatelist (RPS); *Scott's Monthly*; *Topical Times* (J. of the American Topical Association); and *Details* (Canada Post).