



# Owen Sound Stamp Club

## Philatelic Owen Sound Times

Next Club Meeting: April 19<sup>th</sup> April 2006

Every now and again, someone raises the question as to who actually owns a postage stamp at various points in its career. To my mind, there's no question as to who owns the *design* – that would be for the issuing authority and the designer to fight out between themselves – and I do recognise that every time I make copies of stamps for this newsletter, I am infringing someone's copyright. My defence is that it is "fair use" and I'm sticking to it!

But what I am talking about here is the actual ownership of the piece of paper with the picture or design imprinted thereon. In Germany, as I recall, when sending a parcel you pay your money and the stamps are stuck on a card which is duly cancelled and then kept by the postal authority. If you should ask for the stamps, you are told that that is not the way things work! Every now and again, the cancelled stamps are sold to dealers from whom you may buy them if you so wish. Obviously, in this case the post office believes the stamps belong to them and, as far as I know, no-one has ever challenged them on this.

On this side of the Atlantic, there is the well-known case of

someone who found some printing error on a stamp. After publicizing his find he was outraged to learn that the USPS was preparing to release many more of the "error" so as to reduce speculation. He sought, and obtained, an injunction to stop the USPS doing this and "devaluing" his find. In this case, the customer felt that the stamp was most definitely his – and, apparently, the courts agreed.

Then you have those situations where postal workers failed to completely destroy withdrawn stamps by accident/on purpose. Are they stolen property or simply a windfall?

I dunno. I just wish I had to face these moral dilemmas for real sometimes.

*Bob Watson*

### Stamp of the Month...

The Spanish first sighted the island we know as Barbados in the 1490's and the Portuguese called by in 1536 but neither made more than a very half-hearted claim on the place.

Almost a century later, Sir William Courteen was proving to be a very successful businessman and owned a number of ships conducting trade between Europe, Africa, and the West Indies.

In 1625, one of his ships, the *Olive Blossom*, came across the island, found it uninhabited, and the captain took possession in the name of King James of England. Sir William was so taken by the captain's enthusiastic account that he sought to become "Lord Proprietor" of the island and sent out a settlement ship two years later.

This rather delightful stamp was issued by Barbados to mark the 300th anniversary of the arrival of the "Olive Blossom" in what is now known as Holetown.

Now, the sharper eyed among you may notice that the stamp implies that *Olive Blossom* arrived in 1605 rather than 1625. The discrepancy is ascribed to a misprint

that somehow got into the history books and just stayed. When it was decided to make the tri-centenary a major event – not only was a stamp to be issued, but there would also be a regatta, a monument unveiled, to say nothing of a state procession – I doubt that anyone was too concerned that the celebrations were 20 years premature.

Today, Holetown sponsors an eight-day carnival every year but this is to mark the arrival of the first shipload of settlers in 1927 rather than the arrival of the *Olive Blossom*.



*Scott# 109:1906*

The stamp was designed by Lady Carter, wife of the then governor of Barbados, and looks more like a hand-tinted book illustration than a typical stamp – don't those trees have a touch of Arthur Rackham about them? On close inspection, the "tinting" resolves into engraved lines and, presumably, the stamp was printed in a three stage process using a different plate for each colour. Tricky stuff!

## In Case You Were Wondering ...

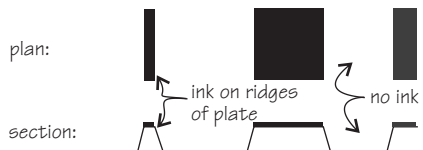
The following are some notes on how stamps are, and have been, printed.

As far as I can establish, there are four principal ways in which a typical stamp design is transferred umpteen million times onto sheets of paper that are gummed and perforated so the masses can stick them on their envelopes and we can put them in our albums.

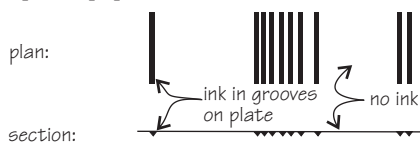
Each of these basic techniques has its own characteristics and, so I understand, it is not too hard to tell which was used just by looking at the stamp. We will see.

First, some definitions:

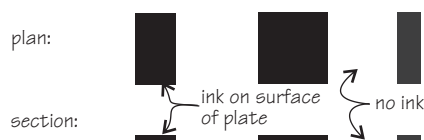
**Relief printing** is the term used when areas *not* part of the design are cut from a plate leaving the design proud. Ink is applied to the plate with a roller so that just the proud areas are inked. When the plate is put to paper, the ink is transferred.



In **recess printing**, the design is scored or scratched onto the plate either chemically or by hand. The plate is generously inked and then excess is scraped off leaving ink in the grooves. The plate is put to paper and the ink transfers.



**Planographic printing** is a generic term used to describe any method of placing ink where it's wanted on a plate that doesn't rely on bumps or hollows.

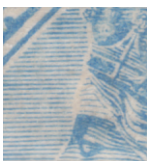


All three of the above methods have been widely used for printing stamps at one time or another.

**Typography (or letterpress)** is a relief printing technique that used to be widely used when incorporating graphics in text assembled from moveable type. While the quality of the finished print is not always up to the standard of recess of planographic methods, it is well suited to reproducing artwork where there are large areas of flat colour. This method also had the advantage that the skills for both producing the plate and printing the result were available in virtually every colonial outpost that supported a newspaper.



The De La Rue "Keyplate" design is a fine example of a typographed stamp. Note that shading is achieved using horizontal lines but these are generally coarser than those seen with engraved stamps.



Two **recess** techniques are commonly used for stamps: **intaglio** (or **engraving**) and **photogravure**.

**Intaglio** plates are prepared by scratching the design onto a steel plate using a stylus called a *buren*. One of the characteristics of intaglio printing is the extraordinarily fine lines that can be drawn by a skilled artist – much finer than is possible using any chemical means of marking metal. Shading is achieved by drawing lines or cross-hatching at varying distances apart.



The skill of an engraver can have no greater test than when creating an image for a postage stamp and, I suspect, post offices around the world would vie for recognition that they produced the finest stamps.



**Photogravure** plates are prepared by coating metal with a light sensitive emulsion and exposing this to an image through a fine mesh which divides the plate into "cells". In "developing" the print, the cells are chemically etched to an extent proportional to their exposure to light.



This 1914 stamp from Bavaria was part of the first series to be printed using photogravure – and the coarseness of the image is obvious.



Over the years, technology has improved so that the Machin series from U.K. are often referred to as one of the finest stamps ever produced



The only planographic printing process widely used for stamp production is **lithography**. The design is drawn onto a porous plate using a greasy "ink". The plate is moistened but the water soaks into the roller wherever there isn't grease. Oil-based printing ink is now applied to the plate but is repelled by the water and only sticks to where the original design was drawn. Because the water on the plate would make the paper wet, a rubber roller is run over the plate and the ink transfers to this roller. The roller is run over the paper leaving the ink there. (Because of the intermediate roller step, this is referred to as **offset printing**).



Lithography appears to be the method of choice these days and does seem to work well with multi-coloured issues.



*Note: In the above examples, the stamp image is (close to) life size and the detail is magnified about five times.*

## From the President ...

Happy Easter! Spring has sprung, the grass has riz, I wonder where the stampers is?

New members are desperately needed to support our club and I am looking for ideas in this matter. If any one has any suggestions please attend our April meeting as this will be the main point of discussion. I have some ideas of my own and will be presenting them at this meeting. I am looking for someone to help out in promoting membership in our stamp club so, if anyone would like to help out, please see me at the meeting or call me and we can get together for coffee and see what we can do.

Some time ago members authorized purchase of certain materials for the club, I will be updating the members on this matter at this month's meeting.

## Odds & Sods ...

The British Royal Mail recently hired a dyslexic postman who sees door numbers the opposite way round.

Jason Johnson, 25, managed to hide his condition when he applied for the job — but delivery office staff quickly spotted he was struggling. The postie admits: "I can read okay but I have trouble with numbers. Sometimes I get them the wrong way round. I find it hard, but it's the only job I have got to fall back on."

Royal Mail chiefs have vowed to stand by Jason and give him help to make sure he succeeds.

More than 14 million letters and parcels were lost in the UK last year.

An Austrian stamp is to include particles of ground meteorite within its design. The material comes from a meteorite that has been identified as being H-chondrite which most probably originated from the Asteroid Belt, an accumulation of hundreds of thousands of chunks of stone that orbit the sun between Mars and Jupiter.

The chemical and physical properties of the meteorite examined, like all other meteorites, are such that they constitute no risk to human health. The part of the roughly 19 kg meteorite that was not required for the production of the stamp has been deposited as a reference sample at the Vienna Natural History Museum, where it is on display.

## Mail!!!!

At the March club meeting, someone was asking about finding values of British Commonwealth fiscal stamps. Rick Lokos wrote to say that the standard catalogue for this is *Barefoot's British Commonwealth Revenue Catalogue*.

This is published by J Barefoot Ltd, P.O. Box 8, York, YO24 4AR, England. The last 7th edition is apparently sold out, but a new one is in preparation. No prices are given on the web site [<http://www.jbarefoot.co.uk>].

Plans and arrangements for our annual show are coming along very well indeed and I will update every one as to the details at the meeting. Any one who is preparing an exhibit for the show and is in need of advice or direction please attend this meeting and talk to us about it.

I have recently updated all my 102 cards and will be bringing them to this meeting and offering material to club members at a special discount ( see my ad below for areas of interest).

There will also be a mini auction with several lots of mint Canada that is excess to my needs. Opening bids will start at 50% of face value.

Let's have a really big turn-out for this meeting and start the spring off right.

Alan M Charlesworth

## Stamp of the Month #2...



When I first saw this stamp, I can't say I had any idea what it was about. Turns out that it was the work of Oskar Anderson, a Swedish cartoonist working at the beginning of the 20th century. Its title is "Politeness". All is now clear.

## Notice Board ...

Alan M Charlesworth

*The Pack-Rat Maniac!*

Australian States, Australia, Barbados, British Carribean, British Commonwealth, Cayman Islands, Cape of Good Hope, Falklands, Jamaica, Ireland, New Zealand, mint and used Canada, Newfoundland.

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albums, supplements,  
stockbooks, literature,  
catalogues, tongs, mounts,  
etc.

Next Meeting ... Wed. April.19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

We will be having a selection of books from the Royal Philatelic Society's Circuit covering Canada, British Colonies, Scandinavia, Germany, and British Asia.

There will also be a mini-auction with some potential bargains from Alan Charlesworth!

As always, if you should have any philatelic items to trade or sell, bring them along.

**Upcoming Events:**

**April 28-29:** Hamilton Stamp Club is organising Springpex to be held at Bishop Ryan Secondary School, **Hamilton**. Fri.: Auction Night With Viewing From 5 p.m. Large Silent Auction And Mega Voice Auction. Sat. Hours: 10-5. GRVPA Clubs Sales Circuits; 20 dealers; youth booth.

**May 6:** **Saugeen Stamp Club** will be celebrating the 150th Birthday Party For Hanover Post Office at their annual show at the Knights Of Columbus Hall (one Mile West of **Hanover** Town Limits). Dealers, Canada Post and youth tables. Exhibitors welcome. Free admission & parking. Hours: 10-4.

**May 21:** **Owen Sound Stamp Club** will be holding their annual Show and Bourse at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre, Sound Room, 1900 3rd. Ave. East. Free admission. Snacks, exhibits, buy, sell and trade philatelic material, silent auction. Hours: 9-4 .

Stamp on the Envelope ... \_\_\_\_\_

Continuing their long-running "Art Canada" series, this year's featured artist is Dorothy Knowles, a prominent figure in modern Canadian landscape painting who has produced a body of work that is extraordinary in its scope and scale.

Dorothy Knowles (1929- ) was born and raised in Unity, a small Saskatchewan prairie town and she began to develop her artistic talents while at University in Saskatoon.

A quick glance at illustrations of her works confirms that Hélène Heureux's choice is a fair a representation of Knowles' work. But remember that the original measures about 30"×24" so something is bound to be lost when reducing to the just 1¼"×1" for Canada Post's moderately oversized stamp. The US rate stamp on the souvenir sheet is reduced even more: the original measured 3'×4'!

Indeed, Knowles' pictures tend to be very large - up to 8'×6' - which seems appropriate for representing the wide open spaces of the prairies which are her very obvious inspiration.

Series: Art Canada: Dorothy Knowles	Gum: PVA
Title: Field of Rapeseed	Tagging: General, 4 sides
Issued: 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2006	Size: 45.5 mm × 32 mm
Denom: 51¢	Perf.: 13×12½
Layout: Pane of 16 stamps	Prod.: 3,000,000
Design: Hélène LHeureux	Also: Souvenir sheet of two stamps: "Field of Rapeseed" (51¢) and "North Saskatchewan River" (89¢)
Printer: Lowe-Martin	
Paper: Tullis Russell Coatings	
Process: Lithography (9colours)	

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

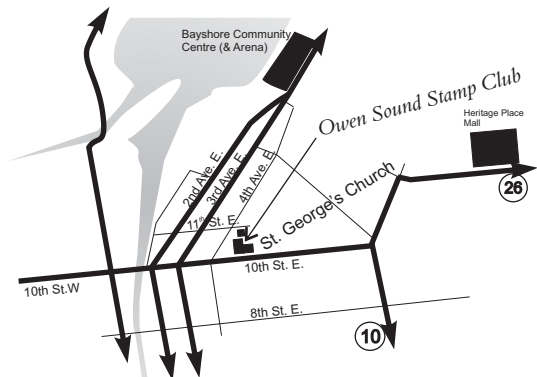
Annual Membership fees: Full: \$10; Family: \$15; Junior: Free. In addition, all members and visitors are asked to contribute \$1 each meeting which is passed directly to St. Georges's Church in appreciation for allowing us to use their room.

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.

**Club officers:**

- President: **Alan Charlesworth** (519) 371-0581  
1521 7th Ave. W., Owen Sound, N4K 5L1  
email: a.charlesworth@sympatico.ca
- Vice-Pres.: **Charles van Rompu** (519) 538-4673  
305 Trowbridge St. W., Meaford, N4L 1K8  
email: Cvanrompu@aol.com
- Sec./Treas.: **Bob Ford** (519) 376-4788  
721 8th Ave E., Owen Sound, N4K 3A5  
email: robford@log.on.ca
- Editor: **Bob Watson** (519) 376-1270  
327 11th St. W., Owen Sound, N4K 3S9  
email: bobwatson10@sympatico.ca



**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).