

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. August 18th 2010 @ 7:00

From the President...



Well, it is time to welcome you to the next meeting of the Owen Sound Stamp Club. The meeting will be on Wednesday, August 18th at 7 PM at the usual meeting place, the basement of the St. George's Anglican Church in Owen Sound. I hope the hot weather doesn't provide too much temptation to stay away, but considering last month's attendance, the heat did not keep too many members from coming.

The plan will be to have a club auction for the evening and I am also asking for everyone to bring some item (stock book, album, special collection etc) to use as a show and tell for the evening. I hope this new approach will prove interesting for everyone this month.

I was at the Kincardine show a few days ago and I saw several members there. I hope you found it a successful day as I did. I arrived late in the afternoon, and spoke with several dealers there. They were all pleased with the day and their sales. **John Cortan** and the other members of the club should be congratulated for their efforts on hosting the event. Speaking of shows, our own club show and bourse is quickly approaching. I hope to have the dealers finalized by the time of the meeting on the 18th. As I write this message, there are six confirmed dealers and two others interested who need to confirm their attendance.

I remind our members to try and prepare a one page display for the meeting. Doing these single pages is a way for us to prepare for an exhibit for the show in September. I know the idea is daunting, but I received a strong nudge at Kincardine to make a display about my collection of the Netherlands. Personally, I'm not sure if the topic is of interest to anyone or if my stamp material is of good enough quality for a display. These questions prompted me to suggest bringing something of your collection to the meeting so that we can encourage each other to put together a display for the September show. This brings to an end my pitch and I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

Phil Visser
President OSSC

One Page Challenge...

I'm sad to say that we did not have any entries at the July meeting for the *One Page Challenge*. I believe that members were just too busy (I know that I was!) and since the topic of Royalty is pretty common and not likely difficult, let's just put it back on the list for November.

If you haven't already; then whip up a page about Postal Services for this meeting.

One Page Challenge Topics

August – Postal Services

September- Follow the rules – open topic

We will be putting together a display of the September pages. The topic is open to whatever you want but try to follow one page exhibit rules. I hope that members will make an extra effort for this and perhaps do more than one entry. Bring

your entries to the September meeting which will be held at King's Buffet. Come on gang!

The Banana

By Ralph Wyndham

Promoters of the long, yellow fruit called a banana will tell you what a miracle it is. If you think an apple a day is good for you, a banana has four times the protein, twice the carbohydrate, three times the phosphorus, five times as much vitamin A and iron and twice as much of the other vitamins and minerals found in an apple. Research published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* showed that eating bananas regularly could reduce the risk of death from a stroke by 40%.



Banana is the name for the plants and their fruit of the genus *Musa*. Plantains belong to this family, too. They are banana shaped but the fruit is firmer and starchier. Lilies and orchids are also *Musa* cousins.

There are hundreds of banana varieties from hard to soft and not all of them are yellow. They can vary in colour: red, pink, purple, black. Bananas and plantains are a staple source of carbohydrate in many tropical countries. They are very versatile in the kitchen. Depending on variety, they can be eaten raw, deep fried, baked, boiled or steamed. They can be dried to make chips like you see in the grocery store and the dried banana can even be ground to make flour. Even the

leaves have their culinary place as a natural food wrap and can be used like aluminum foil to cook over a fire.

Growing up to a height of 8 meters, the banana may look like a tree but it is actually a herbaceous plant that grows from a type of underground stem called a corm. As they grow upwards, the stems of the large leaves wrap around one another, kind of like a giant leek, creating the trunk-like appearance.

Large bunches of bananas can be seen on this Costa Rican stamp

Each banana stem produces a sterile male flower, called a banana heart, which itself is used as a vegetable. The female flowers appear at the top of the stem from among the leaves and do not pollination by the male. The fruit forms in a bunch hangs downward but the bananas themselves point upward. The fruit in a bunch grow in clusters of up to individuals to a tier or hand. There can be from 3 to 20 to a full bunch that may weigh up to 50 kgs.



require that 20 hands notice

Wild bananas contain large, hard seeds; cultivated varieties contain very few tiny seeds. If, by chance, you tiny black specks in that banana you are eating, those will be the seeds!

Though there are hundreds of edible banana varieties, we here in North America are really only familiar with the dessert type, called the Cavendish. The Cavendish makes up only 10 - 15% of total production and most of them are exported to North America and Europe. Almost all of the other varieties are eaten where they are produced.

An unharvested banana bunch is hanging from a plant on this Malaysian stamp.

The banana is from Southeast Asia. There are hundreds of



wild species across New Guinea, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. It is believed that the banana was first domesticated in Malaysia. From Malaysia, it was taken to India where Alexander the Great discovered the fruit's wonders in 327BC and he is credited with introducing it to the Western world.

Tonga is a pioneer of die cut postage stamps and produced a series of die cut

By the middle of the first millennium A.D., cultivation reached Madagascar off the east coast of Africa. From here, Arab slave traders carried the banana across Africa to Guinea. The word banana is derived from the Arabic word for finger, *banan*, because these original bananas were more the size of a man's finger rather than the large fruit we know today.

Portuguese sailors picked it up in West Africa and started cultivation on the Canary Islands. A Portuguese monk, Tomas de Berlanga, took the first plants to the Caribbean islands from where the banana finally made it to

(*'The Banana'* is continued on the next page)

(‘The Banana’ is continued from the last page)

Central and South America. The banana, as a food, was introduced to America at the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exposition where Alexander Graham Bell's telephone was first introduced.



While bananas are now grown in tropical regions all around the globe, only a handful of countries supply the large, sweet, yellow banana that we are used to enjoying here in North America and Europe. The largest banana producer, India, consumes most of its crop domestically. Ecuador, Costa Rica, the Philippines and Columbia supply almost 70% of the export market.

Being such a fragile fruit when ripe, bananas for export are picked while they are still green and hard. Quick to spoil, the fruit needs fast, refrigerated shipping. Arriving in their destination country, the bananas are placed in a special climate-controlled facility where a little ethylene gas in the air speeds the fruit's ripening. When they begin to show signs of ripening, the bananas are distributed for sale to banana lovers.

The banana is
Australia's
favourite fruit.
The country
produces over

The Cavendish is not the first dessert banana variety. Its predecessor was called Gros Michel. Unfortunately, a fungus known as Panama Disease and subsequently, an even more deadly fungus, Sigatoka, decimated Gros Michel forcing the industry to find a replacement, the Cavendish, back in the 1950s. Today, the Cavendish is suffering the same fate. The search is on, through conventional plant hybridization and biotech methods, to find a successor variety.

A huge stumbling block in the process is that there is no genetic diversity in the Cavendish plants. Since the fruit produces almost no viable seed, all new plants have been produced by cuttings. It's hard to believe, but all Cavendish plants are genetically identical. The title of a CBC Radio broadcast I heard some time ago posed the question "Will the banana split?" So far, the answer does not seem encouraging.

In The Spotlight... Local Post in the Netherlands

By Phil Visser

I have been buying items off of eBay for several years. Usually the items are in small lots of some fifty stamps. A few or several of the stamps have been of interest and the rest are just fillers which tend to make a large amount of extra stamps which seem to just accumulate. Over this summer, I was sorting through these

stamps in the search for perforation varieties or plate faults. This search has provided the reason for writing this article.

While sorting the extra stamps, I came across three that I had never seen before. On closer look, they were definitely from the Netherlands, but not produced by the post office. Each stamp showed a value and the city where it was used but where do I find information out about them? The internet provided some information, but it has opened up another topic; that of local post.

When I searched the internet, I asked for local private post in the Netherlands. I eventually found a site which listed the Amsterdam Stadspost and the Apeldoorn Post & Pakketdienst, but nothing about the third stamp. Further searching suggested that these three stamps would be considered "Cinderella stamps." Either way, none of these three stamps appeared in the websites visited.



This first stamp gives the location of usage as Amsterdam. When I used the google search item as "stadspost Amsterdam" I found a site which had several examples of stamps bearing this same labelling. Of the several examples shown, none had this design or price of postage. So it suggests that this particular design is new, since the other examples were of lower value (35 and 40 cents). The design shows the Gemini spacecraft with an astronaut walking in space. Perhaps this design comes about because Amsterdam is the cultural and financial centre of the Netherlands. One of the biggest companies with its headquarters in Amsterdam is Philip's Electronics who acquired the \$200 million New Jersey company Gemini Electronics Inc. in July 2004. The depiction of the Gemini spacecraft could be a round about way of celebrating this acquisition.

This next stamp has "Post en Pakketdienst" Apeldoorn. Translating this term into English, it would say "Mail and Parcel Service" in the city of Apeldoorn. This city has a population of about 150,000 and is located in the province of Gelderland. The city is only really famous for having the Royal Palace, "Het Loo" in it. This is where King William of Orange-Nassau bought the land to build a hunting lodge, but it eventually became the palace of the monarchy. This city is also where many celebrations are held for the veterans of the Canadian Army who liberated the Netherlands from the German army, although the city of Wageningen is the actual place where the German occupying army signed the surrender agreement with the Canadians on May 5th, 1945. Therefore, this date is celebrated as a national holiday and much appreciation is still given to the Canadian soldiers. In fact, if you were to visit the war graves throughout the country, you would find each grave kept in immaculate condition. In many cemeteries, you will find a flag flying near the graves of the fallen. I use these flags as a guide to my grandparent's grave.



The design on the stamp shows a pair of boots with mail in it "walking" around several buildings, presumably meaning local delivery around the city. The buildings show a church, perhaps the city hall and other significant structures indicating that this service is reserved for local businesses.



This last stamp is also very interesting. This city, Hogeland, is located in the eastern part of the country, near the border to Germany. The design shows a small vessel with mast and derricks for loading cargo. That design is interesting since the city is nowhere near the sea, however, it may be on a canal where small ships will pick up and deliver cargo for the local area. It is also the only one of the three that has a cancellation on it, in the lower right corner. Either the services are not concerned about reusage or the ability for reusage is controlled in another manner.

Perhaps these stamps are a forerunner of what is going to happen with the post in Canada. The recent Federal budget has removed Canada Post's monopoly of international mail. Couple that with the proliferation of courier service who knows what we will see in the future. It would seem that a private mail service will only work in large population centers. The speed of delivery will likely be increased for local mail but more likely has been replaced by electronic means of communication.

This article is simply written to show how some oddities can be found in our hobby.

I hope that everyone will participate in this column. The 'spotlight' can be focused on anything philatelic. Whether you love it, hate it or you just have a story to tell, drop us a line. It can be a paragraph or two or a page or two. I'll need a good scan or photo of the

Coming Events...

- AUG. 21, Bracebridge, ON
Muspex 2010, Muskoka Riverside Inn, 300 Ecclestone Dr. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Tenth anniversary show, exhibits, 10 dealers, Canada Post, free parking and admission.
Sponsor/Affiliate: Muskoka Stamp Club. For more information contact Bruce Hughes,
telephone 705-385-2020
- SEPT. 18, Toronto, ON
Fall Postage Stamp Bourse, Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St. Hours: 10
a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission, club sale circuit, wheelchair access, refreshments
available. Sponsor/Affiliate: North Toronto Stamp Club. For more information, contact
Herb, telephone 416-445-7720, email ntstampclub@yahoo.ca. Website:
<http://www.NorthTorontoStampClub.tk>.

- SEPT. 18, St. Catharines, ON
 Holiday Inn Stamp Show, in the Niagara Room, Holiday Inn, QEW at Lake Street. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking and free admission. Specializing in the stamps and covers of Canada and the British Commonwealth. Sponsor/Affiliate: Roy's Stamps. For more information, contact Roy Houtby at 905-934-8377 905-934-8377 .
- SEPT. 18, London, ON
 MIDDPEX 2010, Argyle Mall, 1925 Dundas St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 100 frame exhibit open to all, entry form on website, 20 dealers. Free parking and admission, wheelchair accessible, draws. Sponsor/Affiliate: London & Middlesex Stamp Club. For more information, contact Patrick Delmore, telephone 519-471-7139, email patrickjdelmore@hotmail.com. Website: <http://www.middlesexstampclub.com>.
- SEPT. 18, Merrickville, ON
 Eastern Ontario Postcard Show, Merrickville Community Centre, 306 Read Street. 15th annual show featuring postcards, postal history and related paper ephemera. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 20 dealers, free admission, free parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: Eastern Ontario Postcard Club. James Skelding telephone 613-269-2085, email jim.skelding2@sympatico.ca.
- SEPT. 25, Owen Sound, ON
 Owen Sound Stamp Show, Rockcliffe Gospel Temple, 10 4th Ave. SW. Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., free admission, dealers, exhibits, food booth, raffle - StampImage Collage. For more information, contact Phil Visser telephone 519-376-6760, email psvisser@hurontel.on.ca.
- SEPT. 25, Cobourg, ON
 COPEX 2010, Salvation Army Citadel. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. free admission, eight dealers, displays, refreshment counter, free parking, club sales tables, raffles, wheelchair accessible. Sponsor/Affiliate: Cobourg Stamp Club. For more information, contact Stephen Snell telephone 905-885-9929 905-885-9929 , email Stephen.Snell2@sympatico.ca.

On the Cover...Art Canada: Prudence Heward



Prudence Heward's representation of women boldly facing their audience gained her much attention in the 1920s and 1930s in Montreal and beyond. In the era of the bright and bold landscapes of the Group of Seven Ms. Heward chose to

paint these strong women but often placed them in a landscape setting. The artist liked variety and did paint landscapes and still life as well as the female figures that are so striking.

She began studying art as a teenager at the school of Art Association of Montreal (AAM) in 1912. Her studies were interrupted in 1916 when she went to England

These two Prudence Heward paintings show the bold, colourful studies of light and form of the female figure that she is known for. Looking you right in the face is *Rollande* which is typical of the artist's work. Perhaps

with her mother and sisters during WW1. Her brothers were in the fight and she worked for the Red Cross during her time there. She resumed her studies at the AAM in 1918.

Prudence travelled and studied with her great friend Isabel McLaughlin from the wilds of Ontario to the beaches of Bermuda. Isabel was one of Sam McLaughlin's (of Oshawa and General Motors fame) daughters. Prudence spent some time studying in Paris with A. Y. Jackson in the mid 1920s and participated in a Group of Seven exhibition in 1928. The summer edition of Canada Post's Details magazine quotes A. Y. Jackson saying "In my opinion, (Prudence Heward) was the very best painter we ever had in Canada and she never got the recognition she richly deserved in her lifetime. I wanted her to join the Group of Seven. But like the twelve apostles, no women were included."

Ms. Heward was involved in a number of artist's associations, some right from their beginnings such as the Canadian Group of Painters and the Contemporary Arts Society. She showed her work regularly with the Beaver Hall Group.

Her painting *Rollande* shown on the domestic rate stamp of the souvenir sheet above was purchased by the National Gallery of Canada for \$600 in 1930, which was a pretty good sum at the time. The painting gained much acclaim as it travelled in exhibitions of Canadian Art. Although Prudence Heward is not widely known today, examples of her work are owned by the University of Toronto, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the Art Association of Montreal, the National Gallery of Canada, the Winnipeg Art Gallery and the Robert McLaughlin Gallery of Oshawa.

This artist was never particularly healthy and suffered from asthma. In 1939 she was involved in a car accident that broke her arm and injured her nose. The nose injury further distressed her asthma. She worked for some time after the accident but her health continued to deteriorate. She spent some time at her mother's family place at Fernbank near Brockville Ontario and died on a trip to Los Angeles seeking new medical treatments in 1947. Her actual name was Efa Prudence Heward, her life and her work reflected the changing views of women during her lifetime.

From the Editor...

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The September meeting will be held at King's Buffet in the west end of Owen Sound. It's a little more expensive than the rest of the local Chinese buffets but by all accounts, it's very good. We will be discussing the final preparations for the show and will hold our *One Page Challenge*.

Summer is whizzing by and I've got to get this newsletter in the mail so I can head off to a Blue Jays game tomorrow. Let's Go Blue Jays!

Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets for the 'Stamp Collecting' StampImage by Will Van Veen. Please help to support the club. This year the tickets cost \$2.00 each or 4 for \$5.00. Phil Visser and myself will have tickets available.

Bring lots of stuff for an auction or for trading and wheeling and dealing. See you on Wednesday!

Marion Ace, Editor OSSC

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The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the basement of St. George's Anglican Church (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 often held at 8:00 pm. There are presently about 25 active members whose interests cover just about everything at all levels, from beginner to expert.

Guests or new members are always most welcome. Annual membership fees: \$15; Junior- Free

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