

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting: Wed. May 16th 2012 @ 7:00

From the President...



As I sit here writing this introduction, I am thinking of the stamp show last Saturday (May 5th) in Hanover. It seemed to be a good turn out when I was there and this included several members of our club. Thank you to all who supported our neighbor club by coming to the show. It is also a more reasonable work schedule for me now that the academic year has ended.

One of the things that has started to fill my evenings is sorting and soaking stamps that I have purchased over the last number of months. While I have been soaking the used stamps, I have come across several which have been "recycled" (stamps that have been used more than once). These stamps are more difficult to salvage and sometimes just wind up being damaged. This leads me to the topic for our upcoming meeting.

Over the last number of months (maybe even years) I have heard about modern stamps that are impossible to soak off. It seems that there may be something on the market which helps remove those unsoakable stamps. Mr. Bill Findlay has spoken of a fluid called Bestine(?) and will come to the meeting to demonstrate how to use it. There is also some unfinished business to deal with from the last meeting.

We discussed whether to move our meeting location. The cons of our present meeting place are parking and being in a basement which is very difficult for our dealers/ sales circuit guests to bring the binders etc into the basement. One of the pros of staying is the cost of the present location. At \$20 per night, the price is better than the \$35 per night that comes from a few alternative locations. I do have to confirm that we did agree at the last meeting to seek a new location, but ideas are needed on how to cover the added cost.

To conclude our meeting if there is time available; there will be a small club auction. Any member can bring a few surplus items that will be auctioned off. So I hope to see you at the St George's Anglican Church on May 16th.

Phil Visser
President OSSC

Owen Sound Club Days

Thanks to Bob Ford, Marion Ace, Larry Crane, John Lemon and Phil Visser who all helped out at the Owen Sound Club Days at the Library on Saturday April 14th. It was nice to see Carolyn Brooks who was one of the organizers at the library and our past-president and editor Bob Watson dropped in for a chat. We also met Pat vander Heyden there who made it out to the April meeting. Welcome Pat.

On the Cover...the Titanic Part II



In the first part of this article about the Titanic we discussed some aspects of the ship and Canadian connections to the ship; Canadians on board, the wireless station at Cape Race Nfld. and the involvement of Halifax in the recovery and burial of some of the victims of the sinking of the mighty RMS Titanic. We now move on to discuss mail on the ship and the new stamp issues.

The proper name for the Titanic is the RMS Titanic, RMS being the initials for 'Royal Mail Ship'....and carry mail it did! The ship was under contract with the Royal Mail (the postal administration of Britain) and also with the United States Postal Dept. With large ships running under the power of coal overseas mail delivery had improved drastically and mail was an important payload for ships. With mail considered precious cargo, the mail had priority to be unloaded before other ships and was long gone while passengers were held in quarantine for health reasons. The Titanic started out in Southampton carrying 1,758 sacks of mail. It picked up another

1,412 at Cherbourg, France and 194 in Queenstown (now Cobh or Cork) Ireland for a total of 3,364 sacks of mail. It is estimated that each sack holds around 2,000 pieces of mail making a total of somewhere near 7,000,000 pieces of mail aboard the Titanic.



Titanic would

Royal Mail Flag

It took experienced and efficient postal workers to sort that much mail. Sea Post workers were highly skilled and strongly committed to protect the

mail. They were well paid; the Americans received \$1,000

annually plus expenses while abroad. They worked 13 hours a day and sorted about 60,000

pieces of mail each every day. The

mailroom aboard the Titanic was better designed for its purpose, had better air circulation and was located just above the mail storage area (760 m³) not in some random area at the other end of the ship as was often the case. The clerks were posted to a large dorm with the 3rd class passengers. It could be noisy all hours of the night. The men complained by telegraph to the owners of the White Star Lines. Consequently they were segregated and got their own dining area as well. James Bertram Williamson and John Richard Jago Smith were British and the three American postal clerks were John Starr March, Oscar Scott Woody and William Logan Gwinn.

After a long day of work the five men were celebrating the 44th birthday of Oscar Scott Woody when the iceberg was struck. They immediately sprang into action; they had to try to save the mail! Remember that it was nearly three hours before the ship sunk and it was not believed that it actually would sink. The priority for these dedicated clerks was to get the registered mail to a level higher in the ship. The mail was stored in the seventh level, essentially the bottom of the ship. They recruited some of the crew to assist. One surviving crew member, a steward named Albert Theissinger, told the story of helping to haul some of the 200 precious registered mail bags to the upper decks. When he left to save himself the five Sea Post men were still striving desperately through waist deep water with sacks of mail.

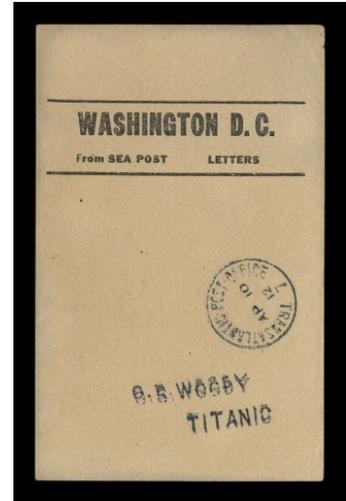
(On the Cover... Titanic – Part II continues on page three)

(On the Cover... Titanic – Part II continued from page two)

The body of Oscar Scott Woody was recovered; on it was found several items including four facing slips, the keys to the registered mail cages and personal items such as his pocket watch, pocket knife and membership cards for the Masonic Order.

A plaque honouring the five valiant Sea Post clerks was cast from a spare propeller for the Titanic. It resides now with the Southampton Heritage Services.

The Canadian stamps issued for the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the magnificent RMS Titanic are based on two sets of images. On the permanent rate stamps a group of four stamps create what seems to be one whole end on view of the ship out of water from ground level. Actually, the top two stamps are a view of the bow and the bottom two stamps are a view of the propellers on the stern. An odd concept really, the designers must have felt that these two views presented the more interesting aspects of the ship. It was not simple to develop the images as the photographs of the day did not show details clearly. The stamps appear to be in black and white with a little splash of red in the form of the flag of the White Star Lines, the owners of the Titanic. On closer inspection you can see the special blend of metallic grays and browns used on the ship creating quite a moody effect. Permanent rate stamps are also available in a booklet of ten. Only the two stamps showing the bow are in the booklet.



Of the four facing slips found on Oscar Woody's body, this one meant for Washington was in ""



A full on side view is shown on the \$1.80 international rate stamp. This image was no easier to come up with than the bow and stern images. There were not any photographs from that point of view. The designers Dennis Page and Oliver Hill worked extensively with the ships plans and with Dan Conlin, the curator of the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. An image of a Titanic deck lounge chair from the museum is above the stamps inside the booklet and can be used as a sticker.

The \$1.80 stamp shown at the beginning of the article is from a booklet of six self adhesive stamps. Notice that it also bears the flag of White Star Lines. On the souvenir sheet the four flags the Titanic would have flown when entering or leaving ports of call are found in the margins. Across the top margin are the coordinates of the wreck of the Titanic.

The pane of sixteen stamps is laid out to appear like four images

The souvenir sheet and the block of four bow and stern stamps are also on OFDCs each with their own cachet.

Another image of the deck chair has been used in the cancellation from Halifax.

The Titanic has long been a favourite topic for collectible items and Canada Post has not let anyone down in this department. There is also a set of three post cards and a very handsome limited edition uncut press sheet. There was a framed enlarged image of the ship from the international stamp hanging in a post office in Owen Sound. There are two coins, one available on a philatelic/ numismatic cover and a big fancy leather bound album that contains just about everything mentioned and an authentic White Star stock certificate for 140.95 plus tax. Wow!

They really are popular so if you want something special you'd better get on it!

The Pineapple... by Ralph Wyndham



Rare is the day when there isn't a container full of fresh pineapple chunks in my refrigerator. I was at the kitchen counter cutting up my most recent pineapple purchase when it occurred to me that I ought to check this delicious fruit out as a topic for an article.

I'm sure you are all familiar with the fruit. Its large cylindrical body is covered with a rough, scaly-looking yellow, green, or brown skin and is topped with a crown of tough, spiny blue-green leaves. Being a perennial, the pineapple plant grows all year round and may reach a mature height of up to 1.5m (5 feet).

A whimsical portrayal of a large pineapple constructed at a pineapple

Though Europeans gave the fruit the name 'pineapple' thanks to its resemblance to the 'fruit' of the conifer, the term, 'pineapple', actually appeared around 1398, about 100 years before Christopher Columbus first encountered the fruit. It was the original term for the pine cone. The cone and the fruit shared the name until 'pine cone' appeared around 1664.

The pineapple is the second most popular fruit after the banana. While I prefer mine fresh, it can be enjoyed canned, as juice, in desserts, yogurt, ice cream, candy and more. A nice pineapple glaze will flair to a baked ham.

Not only is the it is good for you! It is a vitamin C and manganese. complex compound found aids digestion and may inflammation, blood

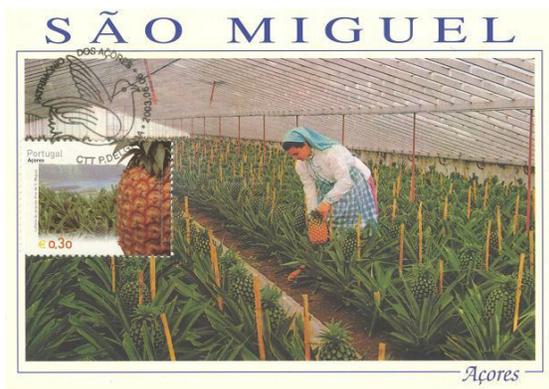
growth of some tumours. Some industrial uses of the compound are chill proofing beer, and as an ingredient in latex paints and leather tanning.

In cultivation, plants are started from crowns cut from the fruit, from suckers sprouting from the roots or from shoots cut from the stem below the fruit. After about 16 months a flower stalk, or inflorescence, appears. Starting from the bottom of the inflorescence, the 100 to 300 flowers will open over the span of about a month; each flower only lasting a day.

As the flowers die off, each one forms a tiny fruit of its own and as the individual fruits grow, they fuse together around the stem of the plant forming our pineapple. Each scale, or eye, on the fruit's skin represents a single flower. The core was once the stem of the plant. Four months after flowering is complete, the pineapple is ready for harvest. A plant normally produces just one fruit for the first harvest then possibly two after that. In a plantation, plants are replaced after two or three harvests.

It is believed that the pineapple originated in the interior of South America in an area that is now Paraguay and western Brazil where it was called 'nanas', or 'excellent fruit'. Cultivation of the excellent fruit gradually spread throughout tropical South America eventually reaching Mexico and the Caribbean Islands where Christopher Columbus was introduced to it on his second voyage in 1493.

Columbus took the pineapple back to Europe with him where, of course, it was quite a hit. Except for fresh fruit in season, sweet treats were



Even wine. A add succulent pineapple good, huge source of Bromelain, a in pineapple, reduce clotting and

Pineapples on this Portuguese Azores maxi card are shown being cultivated in a large hothouse. The pineapple arrived in Europe in the early 1500s.

uncommon in Europe at the time. The rare and exotic pineapple became a coveted item and a symbol of royal privilege. Sir Walter Raleigh described it as 'the princesse of fruits'.

(The Pineapple... continues on page five)

(The Pineapple continued from page four)

Early attempts to grow 'the princesse' in Europe failed due to its tropical nature. It would be the mid-1600s before the pineapple was grown successfully in hothouses in Holland and England. Meanwhile, Portuguese traders and explorers carried the fruit to Africa and India. Spanish travellers introduced it to the Philippines and Hawaii; Lutheran missionaries introduced it to Australia in the 1830s.



Pineapple was a favourite food of the Carib Indians after whom the Caribbean area was named and was used by them as a symbol of hospitality and friendship. This symbolism went with the fruit on its travels.

American colonists began importing pineapple from the Caribbean in the 1600s. Sailing from the Gulf of Mexico was slow and difficult. The fragility of the fruit meant that many a cargo of fresh pineapple rotted before reaching port; a fast ship and a lot of good luck were needed. It was considered a great achievement for a host to obtain a fresh, ripe pineapple for guests in places like Boston or Philadelphia.

Community activities and personal entertaining in Colonial America took place mostly in private homes. The meal for the event would be laid out on the dining room table in a sculpture in food. The presentation would be decorated with figurines, flowers and other items for maximum visual appeal. It was a great compliment to the guests and great social coup for the hostess to be able to top the whole thing off with a fresh pineapple. Merchants could actually rent a pineapple for display at one dinner and then sell it later for another where it would actually be eaten.

Over the years, the image of the pineapple representing friendship and hospitality has appeared in many places; carved into wooden gateposts, on mats, chairs and walls as a sign of welcome. In the kitchen, it has appeared on dish towels, table cloths, and in patterns on dishes and has lent its shape

to gelatin moulds, pitchers, cookie jars and the like reflecting the fruit's status as a food of honour on the dinner table.

Refrigeration, modern shipping and global agriculture have made the pineapple readily available and inexpensive. Until I researched this article, I was unaware of the fruit's historical place of honour. Has easy availability robbed the pineapple of its cultural status? Perhaps, but it is still a tasty treat!

On the Cover...the Queen's Diamond Jubilee



This month a stamp from the third mini pane in a set of six is on your cover. They are available in souvenir folders at Post Offices across Canada. To get these mini panes without the folder they have to be ordered from the Philatelic Centre in Antigonish. I ordered these a couple of months ago, so newer members are lucky that I ordered a sheet for myself too, or we would have been short.

There is also a souvenir sheet with a \$2 stamp that resembles Queen Victoria's Jubilee stamps of 1897 that comes with the fifth souvenir folder. The stamp released as a booklet of ten in January will be on a souvenir sheet in the sixth souvenir folder.

Congratulations to Queen Elizabeth III!

Coming Events...

- MAY 19, Burlington, ON
Burloak Stamp Fair, Seniors' Centre, 2285 New St (at Seneca). Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information contact Michael Anderson, telephone 905-632-6057, email mpanderson@cogeco.ca.
- MAY 26, St. Catharines, ON
Best Western Stamp Show, Best Western Hotel, QEW at Lake St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking and admission. Sponsor/Affiliate: Roy's Stamps. For more information, contact Roy Houtby, telephone 905-934-8377
- JUNE 9, Toronto, ON
Summer Postage Stamp Bourse, Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsor/Affiliate: North Toronto Stamp Club. For more information, contact Herb, telephone 416-445-, email ntstampclub@yahoo.ca.

From the Editor...

It's trivia time! We had a lot of fun with our trivia quiz about the Titanic in April. In fact we had so much fun – let's do it again. Be sure to read the *On The Cover ... Titanic – Part II* article and you may win a prize! Members were really on the ball this time and it was difficult to tell who answered first. We ended up with a tie between **Phil Visser** and **Chris Tillcock**. We had to have a tiebreaker question and although Phil knew his stuff, Chris was a little faster! The Titanic covers were selling so quickly that I couldn't pick one up for our winner, so we'll award that to **Chris** this meeting.

Since this month's cover has a Diamond Jubilee stamp on it, we will have a Jubilee stamp on cover for the prize, even though the quiz will be about the second part of the Titanic article. We'll try doing this one on paper to see if that works better. So sharpen your pencils folks.

I had a good time at the Saugeen club's stamp show last Saturday. It was good to see a lot of you there! There are some leftover show covers available from the Saugeen show at a discounted rate. They have stamps from the first and second mini panes of the Diamond Jubilee stamps so they would go nicely with this month's cover bearing the third stamp in the set. 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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