

*Owen Sound Stamp Club*  
Chapter 191  
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> 2016 @ 7 PM

From the President...



Is it hot enough for you! Well it can only get hotter because the August meeting of the Owen Sound Stamp Club will be holding a club auction evening. Even though the weather forecast has dire predications about the temperature outside, the meeting will be held inside an air conditioned room. We meet again at the New Life Centre of the Christian Reformed Church at 201 4<sup>th</sup> Ave West.

The auction evening is the opportunity for club members to bring duplicates, or stock sheets of topical stamps or whatever extra stamps no longer needed for personal collections. Please limit the number of auction lots to five so that everyone has an opportunity to participate in the auction. Another needed item is the cash to purchase lots that someone else brought along. It would be appreciated by the auctioneer and recorder that sufficient time be given to record and organize the lots. While that is being done, members will have the opportunity to go through the club Circuit Books

The remainder of the newsletter will have an article by yours truly as well as a tip from Andrew McGavin. A usual update on the upcoming stamp shows will point to more chances to fill the holes in your collection. By the time you receive this letter by mail the Kincardine show will have taken place, unless you are in the few members who receive it electronically by email. Following quickly on the heels of the Kincardine show is the Royal in Waterloo. King Street in Waterloo is under reconstruction so finding the back way to the Regional Center through St Jacobs is highly advised.

Don't forget to talk about this hobby, you never know who you will meet with the same hobby but doesn't know about this club. I am also looking for others to share their creative writing skills to fill the pages of this newsletter. This would be greatly appreciated!

I hope to see you at the New Life Centre on the evening of the 17<sup>th</sup>. Good health and happy collecting till then.

Phil Visser  
President  
OSSC

**Temporary Meeting Place is the New Life Centre of the Christian Reformed Church at 201 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. West!**

Tip #12: Buying at Auction Part II - Learn about the pitfalls and benefits of buying at stamp auctions.

Dear Philip,

I apologise that it has been longer than I intended between writing Stamp Tips of the Trade Part I and Part II of 'Buying at Auction' - fortunately we have never ever been busier - so that our last Postal Auction (Mail-Bid Sale) once again broke the United Kingdom record we hold with no less than 1,341 different collectors (and some dealers) bidding in the auction. If you would like to see a copy of our next catalogue please don't hesitate to let us know ... all of which, rather conveniently, leads us on to the subject of Tip #12:

A Postal Auction: A 'postal' auction is as it sounds - bidders are not present for the auction. In our auctions most bidders still bid by post, however a substantial number submit bids by fax, by telephone or over the internet.

Unlike eBay, postal auctions are not 'live'. In fact there is a strong argument that making a postal auction 'live' /transparent by use of 'live' internet accessibility creates a 'public' presence that disadvantages all others who submit bids by traditional means and wait for their results after the closing date.

Postal auctions are popular for a variety of reasons. One of the main differences between 'Public' and 'Postal' (often called 'Mail-bid sales') auctions is that the postal auction is not as transparent as public auctions theoretically are. To mitigate this, the best postal auctions offer guarantees that public auctions are unable to offer or even match. These guarantees can make bidding at postal auctions safer than bidding at public auction.

Good postal auctions will offer you the next best thing to being 'in the room'. They will offer a photocopies of lots or scans service, and a free phone call-back 'expanded description / condition report' by a qualified stamp describer/expert ... so that you will feel that you have actually seen the lot, even though you have not. Obviously there are limitations to the number of lots that they can describe on this basis - which is why the best of them will offer you an unqualified satisfaction or full refund guarantee - even on 'mixed lots' which is unheard of at public auction.

Few postal auctions have vendors. Most postal auctions offer their own stamps for sale which is why the best can afford to eliminate the huge 'buyer's premiums' that most public auctions charge and include VAT (Value Added Tax similar to the HST in Canada) so that there are no extra charges whatsoever - other than the cost of delivery perhaps. This compares favourably to public auction where VAT taxable lots + buyer's premiums and other costs can increase the hammer price by as much as 35% to 40%!

One of the major advantages of bidding at good postal auctions is that they often 'bridge the divide between the larger collections that dealers and room bidders purchase at public auction and 'retailers' - presenting opportunities for collectors to purchase individual stamps / sets / items at less than prevailing retail prices. This makes sense when you consider that in order for retailers to sell stamps from their lists they have to maintain stock levels: this costs money. Postal auctions will sell whatever they can purchase without such constraints - and as their overhead is spread over a wider range of hopefully faster-moving stock - they can afford to offer collectors the opportunity to bid - and hopefully purchase at below retail prices.

Bear in mind that many postal auctions can have 'lots' starting from as low as £1 - and some present lots to many thousands of pounds so that ....

.... Postal auctions are one of the best places to find unusual material that can lift an ordinary collection to the 'extraordinary'.

Often overlooked is the unusual flexibility that postal auctions offer collectors. Standard services offered by the best allow the collector with a budget - say £100 - to bid on as many lots as he/she wishes in any order of priority so that you can bid on lot 10,000 first and lot 1 second. Computers can handle such flexibility - as well as requests such as either lot x or lot y - but one lot only. Given your £100 budget the computer will stop your

purchases as close to below that limit as possible. Finally they can offer the flexibility of spreading payments over instalments and many can absorb credit card charges.

So what are the down-sides of the postal auction system? There are relatively few provided as always that you are dealing with a reputable company. Such companies know that their reputation lies in the hands of collectors and will strive to deliver well described material at market prices which You, the Collector determines and can be below retail.

Happy collecting from us all,

Andrew

PS. If you find this 'tip' interesting please forward it to a philatelic friend.

Andrew McGavin

### The Travelling Queen

By Phil Visser

Many times philatelists look at the topic behind the design of a stamp. Definitives and commemoratives are the sum of stamp design, but how about looking at how a stamp is actually produced. Recently I was reminded of the high school art courses included in the curriculum. One topic included in the Grade 11 course was making prints.

A print began by making a design by carving, etching lines into a block. A key point to remember was that the etching was the opposite (also known as a negative) of the final design. The etching is the basis of production of the first postage stamps. Engraving (etching) was very labour intensive and looking at the final size of the postage size, miniaturized in size. Once the block had been designed, ink was applied to the surface of the block. Paper was applied on top of the etching and pressed down onto the surface and a final product was produced. Thus the white spaces represented the etched surface and the coloured paper the final design.

This process was used to produce the “penny black” of Great Britain as well as the 3 pence beaver of Canada. This printing process produced stamps world wide well into the 1900's. It is the production of an etching that provides an appreciation of the design of those first postage stamps. One limitation that comes with this process of printing is that the end product is limited to one colour. At least only one colour for one trip through the press. To achieve a bi-coloured stamp, the paper needed to be printed twice.



While sorting through my collection to find the “perfect” stamp with respect to centring and clean cancellation, I came across the first bi-coloured stamp that was produced in the Netherlands. The image shows King Willem III and it later came to be that it was the last design of this King since he died in 1890. The stamp is the highest valued one in the series. The series was in postal usage from 1872 until his death. The 2½ Guilder stamp was the highest valued stamp as well as the largest in size from the series. It was produced in 1872 and with 18 years of postal usage, it is fairly simple to add into a collection.

Which part of the stamp that was printed first is uncertain, but the Specialized Catalogue of the Netherlands doesn't mention any used varieties for this stamp, only an imperf gummed mint stamp. A quick search through other parts of the collection shows that this is the first bi-coloured stamp produced. For instance, Great Britain produced bi-coloured stamps for the “Jubilee” issue of 1887 while Canada produced its tri-coloured stamp in 1898, the “Imperial Penny Postage” stamp, commonly called the “Christmas stamp.” Now it is easy to



see why there are “travelling islands” in this series because it needed three trips through a press to produce the final design.



Returning to the topic of this article, King Willem III passed away in 1890 leaving only his daughter to assume the throne. Princess Wilhelmina was only 10 years old at the time and therefore not eligible to assume the throne until her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Her mother acted as regent until the princess was of age, however, the first stamps produced in her image was in 1891, but she too had the honour of having bi-coloured stamps of her image used for postage. They were produced in 1893, a series of four stamps, again larger in size and all bi-coloured. Interestingly, the 1 Guilder stamp was also issued in the smaller size in 1891. The scan shows the single coloured of



the two stamps, yet the design of the medallion of her image is identical in both sized stamps, about 8 mm in diameter.



Like its predecessor, the bicoloured stamps of Princess Wilhelmina are not noted for any varieties in the Specialized Catalogue from the Netherlands. When the Princess assumed the throne in 1898, another series of stamps was issued showing the image of the new Queen. For whatever reason, the concept of bicoloured stamps continued, but was now used for lowered valued stamps, but not the entire series of stamps. Of the 21 stamps in the series, only nine are bi-coloured. Looking at the stamp design, a major difference can be seen because the central medallion is not circular, but oval. Perhaps this is the reason for the title “The Travelling Queen.”



It is here that the Specialized Catalogue notes a variety. There is one provision on this notation because the medallion needs to be shifted by a minimum of 1 mm. The catalogue mentions only six of the nine stamps as having this variety and only three of these have been found in used condition. These three stamps have a face value of 25, 40, and 50 cents respectively. Even the stamp shown in the scan has a shift of about a ½ millimetre.

Noticing the shifted medallion, the stamps with a shifted medallion have been separated from the rest of the duplicates and make an interesting page of curiosities.

Perhaps my favourite of the group is the pair illustrated. The left stamp has the medallion shifted to the South West leaving a white space in the North East quadrant. The partner stamp is perfectly imprinted! Perhaps someone who has knowledge of printing processes can explain this oddity, but it is beyond the scope of this story.



Whether Johannes Enschede and Sons was the first printer to utilize bi-coloured printing or not, the doubling of the printing labour cost certainly curtailed the attractiveness of two colours printing to the higher valued stamps. The noted English printers of Perkins Bacon & Co produced the 1887 Jubilee series from Great Britain in two colours. The Stanley Gibbons Concise catalogue mentions that the value tablets are listed as the second colour. This convention is also employed by the Dutch Specialized Catalogue.



Although engraved stamps is not the way of modern stamp production, the beauty of the early stamps cannot be ignored. Take a few minutes to appreciate the complexity of the design and production of these early stamps.

## Coming Events...

- AUG 13, KINEX 2016  
Davidson Center, 601 Durham St., Kincardine, ON, N2Z 1L6  
Annual stamp Show & Bourse. 8+ dealers, youth table, sales circuit, displays, lunch booth, door prizes.  
Free admission. For more information call John Phone: 519-395-5817 Email: [jcortan@hurontel.on.ca](mailto:jcortan@hurontel.on.ca)
- AUG 19, ROYAL\*2016\*ROYALE August 19, 2016 to August 21, 2016  
Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex, 101 Father David Bauer Drive, Waterloo, ON, N2J 4A8  
88th Convention of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. National postage stamp, postal history, & postcard marketplace. Competitive exhibits, Canadian & international dealers. Canada Post, RPSC Sales Circuits, seminars, Junior collectors program. Phone: 519-746-4270 Email: [royal2016royale@gmail.com](mailto:royal2016royale@gmail.com)  
Web: <http://www.rpsc.org>
- AUG 20, Burloak Stamp Fair  
Burlington Senior Centre, 2285 New St., Burlington, ON, L7R 1J4  
Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nineteen years of regular monthly shows on the third Saturday of every month. Six to nine dealers, active buyers, and always something new. For more information contact Steve Simon, telephone 905-575-2950, email [bas6@bell.net](mailto:bas6@bell.net).
- SEP 10, North Toronto Stamp Club – Fall Postage Stamp Bourse  
Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge Stret, Toronto, ON, M4T 1Z9  
Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Easy subway access at St. Clair subway station. Free admission. 22 dealers, over 100 sales circuit books including recent issues, over 100 ten cents books, members table, door prizes, snack bar, wheelchair access, parking at the Church and on nearby streets, families and children welcome. Phone: 647-990-4073 Email: [NTSC.ProgramChair@gmail.com](mailto:NTSC.ProgramChair@gmail.com) Web: <http://www.NorthTorontoStampClub.ca>
- SEP 17, Burloak Stamp Fair  
Burlington Senior Centre, 2285 New St., Burlington, ON, L7R 1J4  
Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nineteen years of regular monthly shows on the third Saturday of every month. Six to nine dealers, active buyers, and always something new. For more information contact Steve Simon, telephone 905-575-2950, email [bas6@bell.net](mailto:bas6@bell.net).
- SEP 17, Best Western Stamp Show  
Niagara Room, Best Western Hotel, QEW at Lake Street, St. Catharines, ON, L2N 4G9  
Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking, free admission and free appraisals. Sponsored by Roy's Stamps, specializing in the stamps and covers of Canada and the British Commonwealth. For further information, contact Roy Houtby Phone: 905-934-8377
- SEP 24, Owen Sound Stamp Show  
Royal Canadian Legion, 1450 2nd Avenue West, Owen Sound, ON, N4K 0C4  
Owen Sound Stamp Club invites all stamp collectors to attend their annual show. The show hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Show will features dealers and stamp exhibits as well as a club competition for the best one page display on the topic of Flora or fauna from one region. The club circuit books will be present as well as a lunch table with refreshments. Phone: 519-376-6760 Email: [vissersps@bell.net](mailto:vissersps@bell.net) Web: <http://www.owensoundstampclub.org/>
- OCT 15, 55th Annual Barrie Stamp Exhibit and Bourse  
Army, Navy and Air Force Club, 7 George Street, Barrie, ON, L4N 5G8  
The Barrie District Stamp Club, Chapter, 73 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada will hold its 55th annual stamp exhibit and bourse from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Branch 365. There will be approximately 15 dealers of philatelic materiel, including varied dealers specializing in postal history, deltiology, British Commonwealth and British North America. Admission and parking is free. Refreshments are available at nearby venues. The members of the Barrie District Stamp Club will proudly display their annual exhibits for judging by a renowned judge of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Also at this venue will be the Club's Sales Circuit binders and a children's table for beginner collectors. Phone: 705-735-6009 Email: [b.walter@rogers.com](mailto:b.walter@rogers.com) Web: <http://www.barriedistrictstampclub.ca>

From the Editor...

As always, input is greatly appreciated and hopefully provides a quality means of keeping club members up to date and informed. I hope you all take a moment to visit the Owen Sound Stamp Club website at [www.owensoundstampclub.org](http://www.owensoundstampclub.org) which will help Google find it in its search engine. If any members currently receiving this newsletter through the mail wishes to receive it by email, please contact me. Any comments or thoughts on our common hobby will be shared in subsequent newsletters.



During the school year, the Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the cafeteria of St Mary's High School, 555 15<sup>th</sup> Street East. Meeting agendas will vary between having visiting club circuit books, speakers and an auction. Guests and new members are always welcome. Annual membership fees: \$15.00

Club Officers:

President: Phil Visser (519) -376-6760  
554 9<sup>th</sup> St. A East, Owen Sound, ON N4K 0C4  
visserps@bell.net

Vice Pres.: Larry Crane (519) 371-7054  
2633 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. East, Owen Sound, ON N4K 6T4  
larrymarycrane@gmail.com

Sec./Treas: Bob Ford (519) 376-4788  
721 8<sup>th</sup> Ave East, Owen Sound, ON N4K 3A5  
rob.darford@rogers.com