

Stamps on the Bay



The Voice of the
Owen Sound Stamp Club

Meeting Cancelled due to
Health Safety
Volume 2, Edition 12, January 2022



From the President

Hello my philatelic friends!

Well here we are again, still battling a rampaging Covid in 2022. At least this variant appears to be milder though even more virulent. I am sure you are all as fed up with it as I am. We did end up cancelling our Christmas meeting. I was really looking forward to seeing some of our members who don't join in to the Zoom

meetings. Many people's Christmas plans were altered or delayed. My daughter in Barrie has Covid now, but did not get it until after our visit. I haven't heard of any cases hitting the staff at Michaels yet which seems almost weird.

I would like to point out that these difficult times of isolation are really hard on a lot of people. Depression and loneliness is hard on seniors even during good times. Right now the opioid crisis is causing three times the amount of deaths as Covid is. Yet opioid deaths are spiraling because of Covid. Please take the time to reach out to a friend, family member or a philatelic friend. Socializing is important even for those who may consider themselves as lone wolves!

One way to socialize is of course to join our monthly Zoom meetings and our auction nights. The auction nights are on the first Wednesday of the month and our regular meetings are on the third Wednesday. I really encourage all of us that can participate to please do so. These events can be a lot of fun and informative as well.

I had to wing it during our December meeting since we were expecting to have it live. Phil Visser was unable to attend and so Bill Findlay managed to be our Zoom host. Even though he wasn't there, Phil has more to tell you about the meeting. I am satisfied that we made a fairly generous donation to the OSHaRE program despite not having a live meeting.

This month Randy Rogers will demonstrate how to use the Colnect website. I used it recently to help me to decide whether or not to make a purchase. Please consider putting together a presentation. As long as it relates somehow to philately your subject can be on just about anything. In a recent Topical Times magazine there was an article about groundhogs on stamps and cancels. I sure hope somebody wrote to

the author regarding the absence of Wiarthon Willie in the article!

Don't forget to find an item for 'show and tell' and send your \$20.00 annual dues to Bob Ford. Stay safe but reach out to somebody!

Thank you to all our members who are making things happen!

Marion Ace,

President, Owen Sound Stamp Club

Editors Greeting

Welcome to the New Year. Hoping all is well with readers as there is more to read in this edition. A busy holiday season contributed to a shortened version of **Stamps on the Bay** last month, but now all pages have been used up. Inside you will find four philatelic stories, a short report on last months hastily rescheduled Zoom meeting and the hope of attending stamp shows again.

This months meeting will again be through medium of Zoom. While it may lack the intimacy of an in person meeting, it is the only way we can stay in contact with each other in these present circumstances. It is hoped that this current wave of illness will be the final one, it is looking forward with positivity of attending shows. One exciting event for me is the Capex 22 show in Toronto early in June. You may get sick of hearing about this event, but why not plan on attending?

Last months teaser scan may have required some searching. It featured Scott #1870 and was part of the Millennium series issued by Great Britain in 1999. It was in the category of Scientists but illustrates the planet Saturn. Once a person was able to see that it was Saturn, it tied into the story on Saturnalia and Christmas. Some reasoning should help tie each scan into two different stories. Below follow two teaser scans:



The Cruel Rosalia, Lady von Forchtenstein

by Ralph Wyndham



On March 21, 1997, Austria began a 12-stamp series depicting Austrian stories and legends with this 7 schilling stamp, the Cruel Lady von Forchtenstein.

Rosalia, known as Sallah, was the wife of the kindly Prince Giletus von Forchtenstein. They say that opposites attract and when, as a nobleman, the prince had to go away to fight a war, the princess would prove this saying. During the prince's absence, she treated the kingdom's peasants with brutal oppression and any unfortunate soul who displeased her was locked in the castle tower and left to starve to death.

Prince Giletus, learning of his wife's brutality upon his return, was very, very displeased. So great was his displeasure that he decided to let her punishment fit her crime and ordered her to be suspended by a rope in the tower over the bodies of her victims.

Over the next week, every quarter hour, a castle guard would stop at the tower hatch from where the doomed princess was hanging to call out "Sallah, hey!" and her terrible screams could be heard in reply. On the eighth day, her cries of anguish could be heard no longer. For decades thereafter, her ghost would appear at midnight to circle the black tower. On seeing her ghost, the castle guards would call out "Sallah, hey!" and the apparition would disappear. Only after the Rosalia Chapel was built for her atonement during the 15th century was her soul able to find peace and her ghost was never seen again.

Editor's Note

Several members of this club are also members of the Saugeen Stamp Club. This article appeared in their newsletter a couple of months ago, so it may be familiar to the dual members, but for the others in this club, it will be new. Enjoy.

December Meeting Highlights

Well, the last months meeting was a mash up, first planning on an in person meeting at the New Life Centre, but due to the arrival of the omicron variant, the meeting was cancelled. In its place was a hastily organized Zoom meeting. Nine people made the meeting.

One thing that was planned for the in-person meeting was an auction of surplus material with the proceeds going towards the OSHaRE charity in Owen Sound. It is located on 3rd Ave east, just opposite the Professional Building. They serve prepackaged meals at lunch and supper time. Their May 2021 report states that they have served over 100,000 meals since the start of the pandemic. The auction proceeds were going to support this charity. Since the auction didn't happen a motion was made and duly seconded to donate some proceeds of the Hill Collection sales.

Bob reported paying a couple of bills for the club. The most important ones were for the club insurance so

that we can hold meetings in public buildings as well as the RPSC annual dues. The Stamps on the Bay editor was reimbursed printing costs for three months of this newsletter as well as the cost of using the Picnic Shelter in Harrison Park. We are also happy to welcome Rick Lokos back as a member of the club. Rick has returned after taking a hiatus from the hobby.

Following these matters, the floor was opened to a Show and Tell session. President Marion shared her screen and presented a PowerPoint on Heinrich von Stephan, the founder of the German Postal System. Marion's presentation was about the first Postal Museum that von Stephan opened in Berlin.

Ralph W. shared the trials and tribulations of buying a mixed Mint and Used Belgian collection. Ralph's primary point was advice to all collectors who use hinges to fix their stamps into an album. This collection posed a problem for Ralph because of the liberal use of licks to the hinge which then went around the hinge and affixed the mint stamps to the page as well as the hinge. A recommendation when using hinges to mount stamps, after they have been put in the album, just lift the stamp up to make sure it isn't stuck. Anyone looking for Mint No Gum Belgian stamps?



Bill F. shared a recent new philatelic tool. It is a water brush which a collector can use to remove a hinge from the back of a stamp instead of the complete soak, dry and press routine many collectors use to clean stamps from excess hinges. Actually this suggestion is a repeat of the December 2020 newsletter where it was shared how this tool can save time for a collector. This idea originates from Randy R. and having used it as well, it was shared in that newsletter mentioned above. Our treasurer then went to Michaels and purchased the water brush. While looking for it, he requested help from a sales assistant and explained how this brush could be used for stamp collecting. As it would be, President Marion was just around the corner, and she too made a purchase of the article. That makes five of us now in this club using this tool! The scan shows the brush should anyone else

want to give this tool a try. Marion has also shared that Michaels has a 30% off coupon for the purchase of one item.

Meeting concluded at about 8:30 with wishes of a safe Christmas and New Years.

Heinrich von Stephan and the Berlin Postal Museum

by Marion Ace

Since I hadn't planned on a Zoom meeting in December I needed to quickly come up with a presentation for us to ponder. So it made sense for me to go with what I know which is...you guessed it... Heinrich von Stephan. My Stephan collection is getting quite massive and so is my exhibit. So it has occurred to me that I should do some smaller exhibits that are basically sub-categories of the subject. These are some of the items I will include in my future exhibit about Heinrich von Stephan and the Berlin Postal Museum. My presentation was fairly small, though we do not have room here to explore all of the items that were shown, however, some of these items did not appear in the presentation last December.

The man did so much. One of the things he did was to create the world's first Postal Museum in Berlin. Stephan wrote a decree in 1872 to establish a postal museum. (fig. 1) He was not new to the idea of postal history. In 1859 he published a huge volume about the history of the Prussian postal system which was really a history of mail world-wide. He started collecting artifacts and documents which were stored in the basement of the current Berlin General Post Office until the opening of the new post office.

It was Stephan's job to unite all of the various postal systems in a newly formed Germany. At that point in 1870 postal areas used

different rates, different currency and different systems of weights and measurements. The person receiving the mail paid for the item which may have come through a number of postal systems even within Germany. The system was costly and unwieldy at best. The result of his efforts to standardize communication was great growth. He then developed a team for postal architecture.

One of the first buildings Stephan had built was the new General Post Office on Leipziger Street in Berlin. (fig. 2) Although not the largest post office that he had built it was the one to which his image became most inextricably attached. It was this building that was celebrated as the most efficient post office in the world at the end of the 1800s. It was here that became the world's first postal museum. He died on April 8, 1897 and it was from the old General Post Office to 'Stephan's Palace' that 7,500 postal workers went in procession to hold funeral proceedings with more than 10,000 onlookers. It was this building that was shown alongside his portrait on many mourning post cards. It was also here that a statue of Stephan was unveiled on May 1, 1899. (fig. 3) This statue can be seen on the set of seven 1949 Berlin stamps



Fig. 1 This 1972 German stamp (Sc #1094) marks 100 yrs. of the world's 1st postal museum in Berlin. The background shows part of H v Stephan's handwritten decree.



Fig. 3 A postal card mourning Stephan is overprinted with an announcement of the unveiling of his statue in the atrium of the Reichspost office/Postal Museum. Cancelled on May 1 1899 on location.

marking 75 years of the Universal Postal Union (UPU).

In my pursuit of collecting all things 'Stephan' I came across some items that are not at all philatelic in nature. I found that some of these items were fascinating too. I have some etchings of the Berlin Post Office and some of Stephan too. One etching that I acquired is quite unconventional. It was created by Hanns Bastanier in 1929. On top of the Reichspost building is a sculpture of men holding aloft a large globe. (fig. 4) It represents the importance of worldwide communications. The etching shows a silhouette of the figures from atop of the building overlooking the city of Berlin. I find it very powerful. It



Fig. 2 The Berlin Reichspostamt/Post Museum has been on a few German stamps. The 1 Mark used stamp on the left was a high value issued in 1900 as part of the Germania issue. Notice that is labelled Reichspost. In later printings it is labelled Deutsches Reich. These engraved stamps were also overprinted in a variety of ways like the stamp on the right. They were also printed using offset printing and issued in green and yellow brown at higher rates in 1920.



Fig. 4 An etching of the view from above the post museum of Berlin. approx. 6.25" x 8"

seems to express the vastness of Stephan's vision of communication for every human being!

Another item that I acquired to my great delight is the Funeral Rede for Stephan's funeral. (fig. 5) It is a few pages hand bound together containing the speech from Generalsuperintendent D. Drylander. It is about 11" x 7.75" and handsomely decorated.

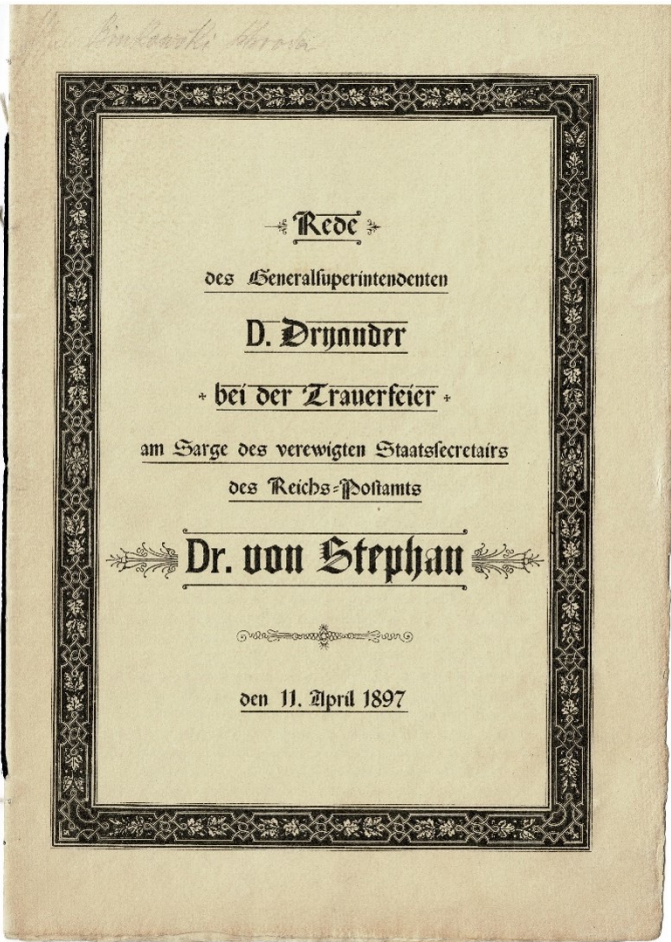


Fig. 5 The funeral Rede of H v Stephan. It is the three leaf hand bound speech from D. Drylander.

I know that most of our members collect stamps, stamps and more stamps, which is great, but here are a few examples of some items that I have come to appreciate because of philately. I won't go into great detail about Stephan or what is now known as the 'Museum für Kommunikation Berlin' at this time but you might hear more in the future!

A Holey Matter

By Phil Visser

A few months ago, one of the members shared a recent addition to his reference library. It wasn't a book, but instead a USB stick sold by the "Perfin Society" of Great Britain. This USB stick is inside a little tin filled with a foam material to hold the USB stick in place. The tin is the size of a throat lozenge one could buy at any drug store. A heavier sleeve of box-board covers the tin.

Perfins have been used in hundreds of countries by businesses to reduce the cost of postage by stopping

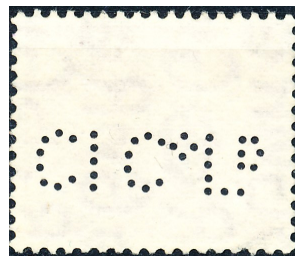
pilferage of stamps from the "mail room." Perfins originated in the United Kingdom when the General Post Office allowed companies to perforated initials in the stamps so long as the Queens image wasn't defaced with holes.

With Great Britain being the originator of perfins, it isn't surprising that it is also the country with the greater number of different perfins, over twenty-four thousand. That is considerably more than any other country which number the different perfins in the hundreds. This also indicates the authors lack of knowledge in what our Southern neighbour has done in this area of philately.

Connections in the UK have quickly dispensed the idea of collecting every perfin from that country. Perfin collectors try to accumulate not only the perfin, but on every stamp that perfin appears on. Then the Perfin collector looks for the position of the perfin on the stamp, punched form the front, back top up, bottom up, right side up or left side up. So, you can see that collecting perfins can be all encompassing.

In the United Kingdom, the perfin collectors focus on regions, or business sectors etc. With this thought a quick reference to the accumulation in my hobby room, there was a search for a shipping company. These companies can have many names, so a start was made looking at some port cities in the UK. Using the PDF search function (Ctrl F) a search was made for the ports of Bristol, then Cardiff and finally Glasgow. These searches revealed several candidates and the hunt started.

Success arrived with this perfin, **CI Co Ld.** (see Fig. 1).



The Gault library filled in the information, this perfin was used by Cayzer, Irvine Company Ltd. The managing owners for **Clan Lines**. According to the Gault file, this perfin was used from 1895 to 1970. This perfin has been applied to Scott #283.

While sorting through the GB perfins, a design was found. Curiosity aroused to see if this perfin could be identified (see Fig. 2). Sure enough, the Gault library divides the perfin listings into Letters, Designs and Numbers. It appears that designs are not used too often, therefore finding the user was very quick. This design is the "Coat of Arms" for the **City of London**. It has been reported in use from 1925 to 1976.



It is likely that the cost control of stamps has been replaced by the use of metered post at the mail rooms. Using metered post saves the post office the need to cancel the item itself, without the need for having a clerk at the wicket to sell stamps so metered post is considerably cheaper in all forms with some savings being passed along to the business using metered post.

A Wary Fish

By Phil Visser

Somewhere it has been said “try to paint a picture of what you read.” That may be easy depending on the writer, but not always successful. Another saying is “a picture is worth a thousand words.” Some people may appreciate the second saying over the first, perhaps explaining why the recent Canada Post issues of October 2021 is so appealing. It sold out very quickly at the Owen Sound Post Office last fall.

The series of editorial cartoons consists of five stamps. This look at another stamp in the series was announced on October 7th, 2021 and was the fourth one publicly highlighted in the week of Oct 4th-8th. The booklets of peel and stick stamps was issued on October 8th. This artist also was a ground breaker for the editorial artists in Canada.

Duncan Macpherson (1924-1993) was a veteran of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). Having volunteered to be a flight crew member, hearing issues confined him to the ground crew working on the bombers of the RCAF. During his time in the RCAF he would take art lessons and found he was a natural artist. His sketches of various people at the aerodrome were sought after.

Following the war, he attended Museum of Fine Art in Boston and Toronto's Ontario College of Art. In the book Terry Mosher wrote about Macpherson “Professional Heckler,” Mosher shares that Duncan started drawing for the Montreal Standard and Weekend Magazine. He moved on to MacLean's magazine and finally settled in at the Toronto Star in 1958 and remained there until he retired in 1993, just three weeks before he died of cancer.

Macpherson was the first editorial artist to hire an agent who negotiated on his behalf and established that the cartoons would be the creation of the artist, even if the content differed from the editorial policy of the magazine/newspaper. He was invested in the Order of Canada in 1988. During the investiture, the Office of the Governor General said this, “With a flick of his pen he can draw a general truth from a seemingly trivial incident, bringing laughter or groans, but never indifference.”



Canada Post used this design to represent his art. We see a fat cat eyeing a fish in a fish tank, the fat cat representing the United States and the fish representing Canada. In small print at the left of the fish tank at the waterline is written “power reservoir.” Above the cartoon are two words, Thirsty or Hungry.”

When this cartoon was published is uncertain, other than the generalization of in the 1970's. When the stamps were released, The Globe and Mail said this:

“This cartoon from 1970's asks whether U.S. interests, depicted as a sinister cat, are hungrier for a Canadian goldfish or the water (representing energy) that's

keeping it alive. U.S. energy policy, and Canada's role in it, was a hot topic in a decade when Americans struggled with growing demand and unstable supplies of fuel and electricity.”

The relationship between our two countries is at times a point of stress. Even today it doesn't take readers long to bring up points of contention, for instance the current dispute over softwood lumber (Round 2+), oil pipelines (Line 5) and the Keystone XL long running environmental debacle. Never mind those political issues, when will a Canadian team win the Stanley Cup again?

While this cartoon was from the 1970's it is still applicable today, showing that Macpherson had a way being the “Professional Heckler” that resonates through time.

References

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UPCOMING SHOWS

Please note that these shows are subject to the health and safety conditions at the time of the show.

MAR 6, '22 Mississauga Coin & Stamp Show

John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd., Mississauga, AL, L4Z 1V8

Sponsored by the Troyak Club, the Mississauga Coin and Stamp Show will be open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., with 60 tables and more than 30 dealers. There's something for everyone, with Canadian and world coins, stamps, paper money, tokens, medals, trade dollars, official mint products, hobby supplies, reference books and more. Free evaluations plus buying, selling and trading. Admission is \$5 (children under the age of 16 are free), and parking is free.

Phone: 416-505-7999 Email: leszekp@rogers.com

Web: <http://www.troyakclub.com>

MAR 19, '22 70th Oxpex-40th Otex

St. Mary's Catholic School, 431 Juliana Dr., Woodstock, ON, N4V 1E8

The Oxford Philatelic Society will host the 70th Oxpex-40th Otex shows at a new venue this March. Open from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., the one-day show boasts dealers, competitive framed exhibits, a silent auction, club circuit books, a youth table, light refreshments plus free admission and parking. Dealer and exhibitor Brenda Hoyles is also set to lead a presentation.

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Charles Dickens writes the following in the opening of his book, **“A Tale of Two Cities:”** *“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness...”* Depending on where one is, it is easy to fit these words into perspective today. A short month ago we were filled with optimism about meeting in person again and now we continue with the Zoom portal. Hope abounds if one looks for it, patience is the virtue necessary to see that things will get better. On the topic of hope, I look forward to attending **Capex 22** in Toronto this coming June. While attending several *“Royals”* over the years when they were held in Ontario, this event is a once in a lifetime event. I will share more about Capex at our meeting on the 19th. The *“Upcoming Shows”* section is included in this edition because I believe that the worst of the Omicron variant will have passed by March. It will be so good to see cheery faces when we can meet again in person. Believe!

In the past number of days, I received a letter from the United Kingdom showing the lovely slogan cancel and cancelling the stamp shown below. The stamp itself is also interesting as it refers to the *“Epiphany,”* the date in January when we remember the arrival of the wise men bearing gifts from afar. It is nice to see the representation of the travelers on camel with a star in the background. What makes it even more remarkable is that after receiving several similar cancellations that were so severely blurred it wasn't readable, this one is just incredibly clear. Surely a treasure for someone's collection in the future. Postal history starts from ages in the past up to yesterday. It just takes people to use the postal system to keep adding to our hobby. Happy collecting

