

Stamps on the Bay



**The Voice of the
Owen Sound Stamp Club**
Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 7 P.M.
New Life Centre, 199 4th Ave West, Owen Sound
Volume 4, Edition 3, April 2023



From the President

Hello my philatelic friends!

Spring is starting to spring. I've been seeing lots of birds and lots of critters. The crocus are blooming on the south side of the house. Spring fever or not some of us did not make it to the Oxford show...but some did despite the snowy weather.

For April we'll be heading back to our regular Wednesday evening meetings. I hope to

see all of you on Wed. April 19th at 7:00.

I enjoyed going through some of the Saugeen Club Circuit books in March. I am usually too busy to get a chance to look so it was nice just to relax and find some stamps. It was also a good opportunity to find some bird stamps for the spring stamp scavenger hunt in May.

Judy Galbraith won first place with her page that showed maps stamps from each of the countries of South America. This month we are back to Queen Elizabeth II. With so many stamps to choose from the trick is to narrow the subject down to a fine point. I have a cover with the Long to Reign Over Us souvenir sheet that I will give to the winner as a prize. (As long as I can find it again, aagh!)

Stamp shows are starting to spring up all over so I hope you make it out to some. April 22nd is a busy day with shows in Peterborough, Kitchener/Waterloo and Wasaga Beach. Marion Gibson and I will be taking our circuit books to Wasaga and I hope that some of you will join us there. It won't be a big show but they are just getting on their feet again so I'd like to be supportive. The Saugeen Club will be having their show in Walkerton on May 6th. I expect that many of us will be attending that one!

See you on **Wednesday** evening of **April 19th at 7:00**. Feel free to bring some auction items. I hope you have a lovely Easter!

Marion Ace

President, Owen Sound Stamp Club

Editors Greeting

Did you guess what story the teaser scan was pointing to? The stamps showed the 1 cent centennial definitive, with and without tagging. Besides directing a

reader to finding the story, it can also remind each person that there are many ways of collecting. Philately is simply a search to know all about the object. That can be by colour, perforations, plate faults, re-entries and paper varieties. It may appear like an individual doesn't fit in with their interests, but we need to encourage each other in the pursuit of this hobby.

Readers will find two reports about club activities, a report on the Zoom and in-person meeting held last month. Upcoming shows are also included on Page 5. Marion has already mentioned the gathering in Wasaga Beach. Hopefully a good presence will come from this club. On the philatelic side there are a few articles that touch on stamps from Canada, Austria, Hungary and Great Britain. Should anyone have an inspiration on writing, please feel free to add to the club members enjoyment. Would anyone like to throw in a few words about their favourite stamp?

Be prepared to share something in the Show and Tell portion of the meeting on the 19th. There is also an opportunity to share a one page exhibit on Queen Elizabeth. Perhaps someone will bring an exhibit to discuss with club members. A heads up is also given to members to prepare for the scavenger hunt scheduled for next month. Some of those topics are hard to find stamps for! That is why a visit to an upcoming stamp show will be helpful.

Has everyone paid their membership dues for 2023? Keeping the club going is important. Each person can expand their philatelic interests by joining the Royal Philatelic Society, the British North America Philatelic Society or the Postal History Society of Canada. Membership in these organizations all help in the growing of philatelic knowledge. I hope you feel that these pages have helped you. It is also a reminder that a new editor is needed in a few short months.

Happy reading and searching for the tie in to this teaser scan:



March 9, 2023, Zoom Meeting

Thanks to Bill Findlay, there was a gathering of thirteen members and guests. It was good to have some social time with our long-distance members. We started off the evening with a presentation from Ralph Wyndham. One of his recent purchases arrived from Andorra. This unusual destination perked his interest which led to a presentation.

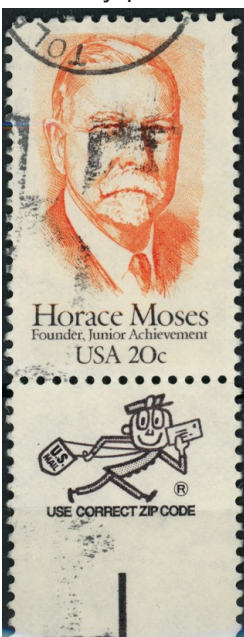
Some places in the world are just different than many countries we may be more familiar with. Andorra is just that. It is a city state located between France and Spain. It is the sixth smallest area within the European continent. Other city states that may be known are San Marino, Monaco, and Liechtenstein. Citizens of Andorra have dual citizenship with their neighbours.

The Postal System was simply letters delivered about the territory. After 1928 Spain began issuing stamps for Andorra. France joined the party by issuing stamps for Andorra in 1931. Only mail destined for other countries require postage. Internal mail is simply delivered within the region. Which stamp to use depended on the country through which the mail was to travel. One final bit about this purchase was that the envelope was hand made.

Marion Ace showed off a presentation on early German Philatelic Day Postcards and cancellations. We would probably equate those postcards with "Show covers" in our present-day events. Marion is quite thorough in this collection. She does admit to having holes in the collection (who doesn't).

Free time allowed Phil Visser to make two presentations. The first one was simply called "Odds and Sods." In a few days there is a plan to attend the OXPEX show in Woodstock. Besides being my philatelic start, it also brought back memories. OXPEX was always around my father's birthday, so we would visit and celebrate the birthday on the weekend of the show. Strangely my father's birthday and death date are the same day.

Visiting the show was always on my calendar, even after my parents had departed from this world. I was



always greeted by long time mentor, Gib Stephens. Gib encouraged me and had me provide a few exhibits as a junior. Every show was a discussion with Gib about his exhibit. The last exhibit was about the disappearing of "Mr. Zippy." Mr. Zippy is the cartoon figure the USA Post Office used to encourage people to use Zip Codes when mailing letters. This memory was prompted by the upcoming show and finding this stamp among my sorting and organizing. Therefore the presentation was titled as "Odds and Sods."

A second presentation was mentioned above, but it will appear further in this newsletter. This gathering ended around 9 PM.

The Holy Notburga

by Ralph Wyndham

August 27, 1999, saw the issue of the 20-schilling denomination in the Stories and Legends series from Austria depicting the story of St. Notburga of Rattenberg who is also known as Notburga of Eben.

Notburga, a peasant girl, was born in 1265 at Rattenberg on the Inn River in what is now the Austrian state of Tyrol. At the age of 18, she was taken on as a servant in the household of Count Henry of Rattenberg and his wife, Ottilia.

Young Notburga proved to be a hard-working kitchen maid and a very good cook. The servant girl was also a very pious one and, coming from peasant stock herself, felt a strong calling to help the poor. At day's end she would gather up the left-over food in her apron and take it to those in need.



Apparently, though tolerated, this sort of behaviour was not necessarily approved of by her employers. On one of the future saint's trips into town carrying bread and wine in her apron, the Count himself, noticing her on the street, stopped her. Expecting to catch her in the act of stealing food, he demanded he be shown what she carried. Obeying, the first miracle attributed to Notburga took place – the count saw only wood shavings and vinegar in her apron.

Count Henry and his wife eventually became lord and lady of Rattenberg Castle. At this point, her mistress, Lady Ottilia, forbade Notburga from taking kitchen leftovers to the less fortunate telling she must take leftovers to the estate's pigs instead. Notburga's compassion was too great, and she could not obey the order for long. When Ottilia found out, she fired the girl and sent her away.

Looking for employment, Notburga made her way across the River Inn to Eben am Achensee where she agreed to work for a farmer provided, she had Sundays and holy festivals off. During her time at the farm, life became quite a struggle at Rattenberg Castle. The Count suffered financially, the pigs picked up a virus and many died, Ottilia's half-brother set fire to the castle. Many castle residents left because of it all.

Worst of all, Ottilia fell gravely ill. When Notburga heard this news, she took leave from her farm duties and returned to Rattenberg. The two women reconciled in forgiveness and Ottilia gratefully accepted Notburga's care until she passed away. Notburga then returned to her farm work where her second miracle occurred.

During one difficult harvest time, the farmer wanted all his workers, including Notburga, to keep working past

the normal workday's end to get the job done. This time at least, as it would prevent her from going to church, the favour asked went against Notburga's agreement. Notburga objected but the farmer would not back down. After a prayer asking for God's guidance, she replied to the farmer's insistence with, "Let my sickle decide this matter between us." As she said this, she tossed the tool into the air where, in defiance of gravity, it remained suspended in mid-air. No doubt Notburga arrived in plenty of time for the start of the service!

Sometime after Ottilia's death, Count Henry married Margarethe von Hoheneck. Now living a much happier life with his new wife and her five children, the Count, still feeling regret over letting his servant go years before, asked Notburga to return. Notburga agreed to do so but only on the condition that she be able to continue her generous ways. For the next 18 years, she happily tended to the Rattenberg household while continuing with her charitable deeds and was even able to mend the rift between Count Henry and his brother.

Notburga died September 13, 1313. Before her death, she asked Count Henry to place her body in a wagon drawn by two oxen, let the oxen go without a driver and let her final resting place be wherever the beasts stopped. On the day of her funeral, the animals set out with the entire funeral procession following behind. As they approached the Inn, the river's waters parted allowing the full procession to cross on the dry riverbed. The oxen then turned toward Eben finally coming to a stop in front of Saint Rupert's Chapel. It is said that angels lifted her coffin from the cart while flowers fell from heaven.

Pope Pius IX canonized Notburga as a saint on March 27, 1862. She is the patron saint of servants and peasants. The Feast of St. Notburga has been held on the first Sunday after September 13 every year since 1862.

March 25th In Person Meeting

It was a cold, dark, rainy day when eleven members gathered at the New Life Centre. Socializing was the first order of the day. Marion called the meeting to order with a few business matters to discuss. Finances are in good order with a few bills to be paid.

A correction is needed from last month's report. When members sign out a Circuit Book, they can still be viewed online. No purchase from that book can be made until it has been returned.

Following the business matters, members were able to peruse the Circuit Books from the Saugeen Stamp club. Most members were able to fill holes in their collections. No club auction was held at this meeting.

Show and Tell

John Cortan brought along an oddity. It is a stamp issued by New South Wales (NSW). NSW is a territory of what we now know as Australia. This stamp was something new for John. When he did some research, he connected with someone who immediately identified the overprint. Apparently, it is quite common in Australia.



Other countries have the same thing on their stamps. It is very common to find definitive stamps from Great Britain with overprints from companies and government agencies. This practice was intended to stop the theft of stamps from the mailroom. This has also happened in the Netherlands Indies, present day Indonesia.

A question was raised about what an Australian "Concession Stamp" was? A quick Google search revealed that this was a special postage rate for seniors and veterans to use for mailing. Thanks goes to the finder of this information (Randy?).

The meeting closed at about 2:45. A reminder was given to everyone that the next meeting in April returns to Wednesday evening at 7 PM.



A Restoration Project

By Phil Visser

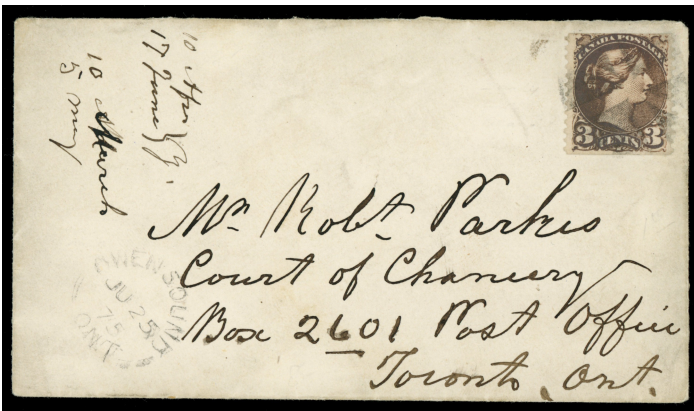
Long time collectors of Canadian stamps will probably be aware that certain stamps discolour. The three-cent small queen and the 1898 map stamps are the most likely to experience this. This is not limited to Canadian stamps but will occur to stamps of other countries.

No one seems to be able to explain why this happens. A few theories include poor air quality at the printing plant. Others have suggested poor care and handling by collectors. This could be storing the stamps in a damp environment. Even a couple of chemical engineers cannot explain why it happens.

Within the last few years, Randy Rogers has shared a similar problem with a Cuban stamp. Being a natural tinkerer and adventuresome, Randy researched a solution to this decolorization. A suggestion was made to soak the stamp in hydrogen peroxide until the natural colour returns (a few minutes) and then immediately soak the stamp in fresh water.

There is a risk that leaving the stamp in the hydrogen peroxide will completely remove the design. Non-one has reported this problem to the author, but readers are warned to take care when attempting to do this experiment. A problem does occur when the stamp is

affixed to a cover.



The cover shown above was purchased at Capex 22. Decolourization greatly hides the fancy cancel. A friend suggested using hydrogen peroxide on Q-Tips to gently rub over the stamp, followed by repeating the process with a Q-Tips dipped in fresh water immediately afterwards. Reluctance to do this trial on a cover just delayed trying to do this.

A blessing from Covid has allowed me to have a Thursday morning coffee break meeting with members of the West Toronto Stamp Club. One person present is Garfield Portch. One time there was a discussion about the sulfurization of the small queen stamp. A few weeks later Garfield shared a way to improve small queen stamps on cover.

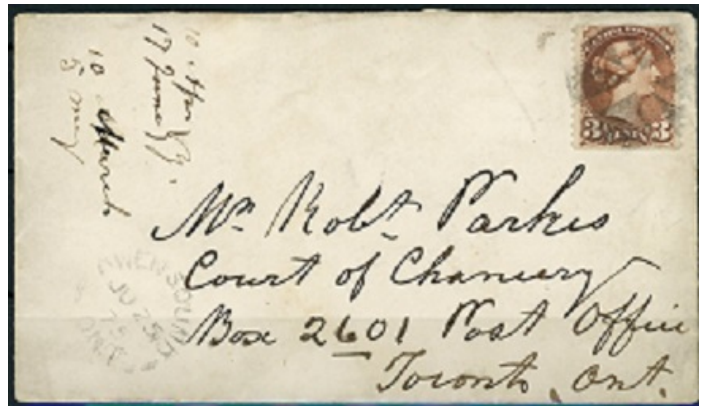
He went to a dollar store and picked up a small, covered container, a few sponges and bottle of new hydrogen peroxide. Spending about \$5, he then experimented with a cover bearing a three-cent small queen. Placing the sponge in the container, he added a tablespoon of peroxide, put the cover on the sponge and then closed the container. Approximately an hour later he removed the cover and the difference was very clear.



It was now my turn to try my cover. The only purchase necessary was a small container. After an hour opening the container, there was a feeling of disappointment. No improvement in the condition of the cover and stamp. A Google search revealed that hydrogen peroxide has a shelf life. A test showed that my peroxide was nothing but water.

A fresh bottle of peroxide was the next step. A repeat of the experiment was done. Alas, disappointment

was repeated. Considering the conditions, I realized that it was too cool resting on the floor. In the present of a space heater, the experiment was now a success. See the picture below.



This improved the cover to the point that it was now worthy of inclusion of an exhibit. What would happen if the process was repeated? Disappointment returned because there was no change. Changing the peroxide and adding more also did not change the condition.

This process was discussed with another fancy cancel collector. Reservations were expressed that the peroxide could also diminish town cancellation and the ink on the letter. It does not appear to have happened. However, he did suggest using watermark tray and covering the envelope not exposed to the peroxide fumes so that no damage could occur to the cover.

Readers can make their own conclusions from this experiment. If an experiment is tried, please do so on an unimportant stamp. Damaged stamps may make a great testing tool before disposing them.

It may be difficult to see the improvement in the cover due to the newsletter being printed in black and white. If you are really interested in seeing the changes, please visit the website owensoundstampclub.org to see for yourself.

My Favourite Stamp: Part 3

By Phil Visser

Let's start where it all began, the Penny black. Postage rates were complicated and difficult to make sense of. Prior to the introduction of postage stamps, rates were on the distance travelled by the mailed item. It was also illogical because towns a few miles apart because there was no direct mail route between those places.

Enter in Mr. Rowland Hill and his campaign to have universal penny postage. Success was achieved and in May 1840 penny postage became popular with the public. The first postage stamp was the penny black bearing the silhouette of Queen Victoria. This stamp was in use for approximately two years. It was replaced by the penny red.

A sheet of stamps was composed of two hundred and forty examples of the stamp. Each stamp had the same image but had control letters to differentiate one stamp from the other on a sheet. The sheet was



divided into twenty rows of twelve stamps. Why this number?

A look at British currency at the time will provide the answer.

Twelve pence were equal to one shilling. Twenty shillings made one pound. Thus, twelve times twenty provided two hundred and forty. Naturally

one sheet of penny blacks was purchased for one pound.

Control letters were placed in the bottom corners of the stamps. Thus, twenty rows were lettered from A to T. This is the left letter of the stamp. The right-hand letter started also at A and went to K. The first row had a letter A in the left hand box and the letter in the right hand box went from A to K. So each stamp was lettered different thus making it difficult to counterfeit.

Printing of the stamps provided wear and tear on the steel engraved plates. As a result, there were a total of twelve plates used during the printing of the Penny Black. Specialists look to collect all twelve plates. To distinguish which plate a particular stamp was from begins by looking at the letters in the bottom corners as well as the sun symbol at the top corners.

Each letter was hand struck into the plate for printing. Since this was not machined like the Queens image, the position of the letters will help a philatelist determine which plate a particular penny black was printed from. The position of the letter could be higher or lower than another plate. The letters could also be slightly angled. These markings can be investigated at this website: <https://www.maltesex.com/plating/>

Every stamp has not been imaged for every plate. Like this stamp above, I am not sure which plate it comes from. Good luck tracing down which plate the penny black in your collection comes from.

Upcoming Shows

APR 15

National Postage Stamp & Coin Show

April 15, 2023 to April 16, 2023

Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale, 6750 Mississauga Road, Mississauga, ON, L5N 2L3

Canada's best coin and stamp show features 50 dealers and more than 100 tables of coins, medals, tokens, banknotes, stamps, FDCs, postal history, postcards, militaria, coin and stamp supplies, and much more. The show opens on Friday with Colonial Acres Premier Auction on Friday and Saturday

evenings. The bourse opens Saturday and Sunday. Check out the website for details on Seminars and other special events. Something for all ages, including the young collectors table and the popular Youth Auction.

Phone: 905-646-7744

Email: mwalsh@trajan.ca

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

APR 22

Kitchener Waterloo Stampfest 2023

Trilium Lutheran Church, 22 Willow Street, Waterloo, ON, N2J 1V5

Free Admission, 16 Dealers - Stamps & Covers & Postcards & Supplies. Judged Exhibits - see website www.kwstamps.org. New and returning collectors area including "The Sea of Stamps." Celebration of 85 years - 1935 - 2020.

Phone: 519-744-3020

Email: kwpskw@gmail.com

Web: <http://www.kwstampclub.org>

Apr 22

Georgian Bay Coin & Stamp Club

RecPlex - Prime Time Club 1724 Mosley St. Wasaga Beach, Ontario

12:00 Noon to 4:00 p.m.

What to look forward to: Prizes, Draws, Silent Auctions all afternoon, approximately 20 tables of stamps on display and for sale, Several Clubs' circuit books! Free & ample parking, No admission. Please join us at this Premiere Event!

Contact: Ian McRuer

E-mail: imcruer@gmail.com

Website: <http://geobaycoinstampclub.com>

MAY 12

Hamilton Springpex 2023

May 12, 2023 to May 13, 2023

Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School, 1824 Rymal Road East, Hamilton, ON, L0R 1P0

The Hamilton Stamp Club Springpex 2023 Show. Show hours are Friday, May 12, 5 pm - 10 pm and Saturday, May 13, 10 am - 4 pm. Friday evening will have a large voice auction at 7 pm with viewing 5 - 7 pm. Four guest clubs will present their Sales Circuit on Friday evening 5 - 10 pm. Saturday includes a 15 dealer bourse with stamps, postcards, covers and supplies plus Silent Auctions, Club Sales Circuit and Youth Booth. Free admission, free parking, building is accessible friendly and light food / refreshments will be available.

Phone: 289-925-5343

Email: hscshows@gmail.com

Web: <http://hamiltonstampclub.ca>

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Wrap Up

Now that the Spring Equinox has passed and the Easter weekend is finished, this newsletter is coming to its final stages. Life is getting busier with the online meetings, auctions combined with in person events. I look forward to attending the Trajan Stamp Show this upcoming Saturday. A phone call to Trajan provided that at least thirty five stamp dealers would be present. For those that collect coins as well, there is also a bourse for that hobby. I am looking forward to meeting members from several stamp clubs at the show. Capex connected me with a fellow Dutch philatelist. I look forward to meeting him again in Mississauga on the 15th. Not only did he collect stamps from the Netherlands, he had also branched off into cancellations. We met in Shelburne last fall and exchanged our duplicates. He has had success finding stamps for his collection as I have also been able to do the same for mine.

Keep on collecting and organizing because time flies while doing so.

Blast from the Past**Stories in Stamps by I.S. Klein****Hitler Shattered Her Dream (1938)**

Last emperor of a lost empire was Karl at the close of the World War (WW 1). Helpless, he was forced to abdicate the ancient Austro-Hungarian throne, flee with Empress Zita while the peace makers remade the map of Europe.

But not for long was the indomitable Zita vanquished. Quickly she laid plans for their return to Hungary as king and queen. Later she and Karl would add Austria. So twice she and Karl attempted their coup, twice they were foiled by Regent Horthy and the last time Karl was exiled to Madeira. There he died in poverty.

Then Zita fled to Spain, later to Belgium, where she planned anew, this time to place her Son Archduke Otto on the Austrian throne. The Little Entente warned such a stroke would provoke war. Zita was undaunted. The monarchists were growing in power; Chancellor Schuschnigg was said to be favourable. The hour would come.

But Herr Hitler struck, meantime, shattering Zita's long dream in one historic moment. Even worse, Nazis indicted Archduke Otto for high treason, issued a warrant for his extradition. Under German law high treason is punishable by death. Otto dare never enter German territory. Nazis charge he incited foreign powers against the union of Austria and Germany. Defeated, Zita is shown here on a 1918 Hungarian stamp.

