

Stamps on the Bay



**The Voice of the
Owen Sound Stamp Club
Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 7 P.M.
New Life Centre, 199 4th Ave West, Owen Sound
Volume 4, Edition 6, July 2023**



Hello my philatelic friends!

July is upon us already. We have had some sweltering days with lots of nasty smoke and certainly some lovely days as well. Our June meeting was a little topsy-turvy since the RPSC booklets became available a month earlier than expected. We will have the books back again this month and for those who are not interested in them we will also

have our circuit books. Take note that there were also bulk bags that had piles of stamps to go through available for 10 to 15 cents each. We will not have an auction this month though to give us lots of time to deep dive into the books.

Arnie Janson did a couple of presentations at our June zoom meeting. The one called 80 Years Around the World showed covers transported around the globe by everything from hot air balloons to the space shuttle. Arnie also showed us some usages of bisected stamps especially posted out of Halifax. He even managed to find two covers that bore the matching halves. Amazing! Arnie will be joining us from Antigua for some of our future Zoom meetings with more presentations and show and tell items.

We continue to hold online stamp auctions on the first Wednesday of the month. Not everything sells of course, but many items do. We have sellers and buyers from several clubs joining in every month. Thanks again to Bill and Judy for running the auction and to Randy who filled in for Bill in June again.

It comes as no shock that Judy won the One Page Challenge on the topic of Dogs. She has added the topic of cars to the list. Wanna place any bets that there are a few Fords on Judy's entry? Don't forget your entry about Canadian History this month. At this meeting I would like to discuss having a special One Page Challenge for our Stamp Fair on September 23.

Well try to stay cool during the hot, hot days and I'll see some of you at the Lutheran Church in Hanover to check out the RPSC circuit books and celebrate the Saugeen Stamp Club's 25th Anniversary on Saturday July 14 from 1:00 to 3:00.

See you on Wednesday evening of July 19th at 7:00.

**Marion Ace
President, Owen Sound Stamp Club**

Editors Greeting

Time! Where has it gone. This newsletter has been prepared in record time, but it is also shorter in length. With several competing interests happening right now, I beg the readers forgiveness at the tardy production.

Inside the front page is an article that may make one wonder about their collection. Besides that story is a report on the last in person meeting held in June. Coincidentally, the meeting date was the longest day of the year but also the latest meeting. I closed the doors at 9:20. Summer time is also a "slack" period of time for stamp shows. As a result, the listing of upcoming shows include two places rather far afield, more than the usual two to two and a half hour drive from here.

The last teaser scan provided in May showed a stamp from Great Britain. This stamp shows the Greenwich meridian from which all time zones are measured. We here in Ontario are part of the Eastern Time Zone, five hours delayed from London during the fall winter seasons, but four hours off when daylight saving times is in effect.

The first three weeks of June was a road trip. Head knowledge agrees with the idea that Canada is a very large nation. The reality hits when you drive that distance. I have been several times to Alberta and British Columbia, but the road trip showed just the tremendous distances that Canada offers. The only country larger than Canada is the Russian Federation. We were very fortunate to avoid the majority of smoke from the forest fires. A few times Shirley mentioned she could smell some smoke but I was not able to smell it. We did encounter many days of hazy visibility, which did come from the forest fires. The closest we passed to a forest fire was near White River, Ontario. That fire was called Wawa 3. The billows of smoke were clearly visible from the Trans Canada highway, but miles to the north of the road.

Hopefully this newsletter arrives in time and you have a chance to read it before we meet on the 19th



Know Your Stamps

By Phil Visser

With over 1.3 million stamps in circulation, knowing your stamps can be a challenge. Obviously details of every stamp cannot reside in a person's memory and so a collector is directed to a source of information, a stamp catalogue. They are very useful in showing a part of the worldwide stamps in used since 1840.

A purchase during the pandemic turned up some interesting things. The auction catalogue made a listing of mint and used stamps from Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. There was a gap in that part of the collection, so a bid was submitted with a couple of the illustrated stamps above being in that collection.

Buying from auctions can be a real risk. Good auction houses will provide accurate descriptions. If there is some question about the item, these qualifications will be mentioned as well. The purchase of the left and centre stamps did not include any qualifiers, so when it arrived, it didn't take long to see something was off.

The scan is much larger so that readers can see some of the details that will be discussed further in this story. Starting off, the only stamp that was issued by the government of Nova Scotia is the stamp on the left. A bold statement since my knowledge of these stamps was limited at best.

A comparison of the stamp with the Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps showed it clearly which one was genuine. However, Spidey senses immediately started to tingle when the middle stamp was looked at. The differences are obvious when the stamps are side by side.

Collectors have been challenged to fill all the spaces in their album. As a result, some people designed and printed stamps as "fillers," stamps that can be put in the album to fill the holes in a collection. Typically, the missing stamps are rare and so no harm was intended when the "fillers" are included in a collection.

Nefarious people have produced stamps that were

intended to dupe the collector into spending significant amounts on the stamp. Time has developed three terms for these stamps, fakes, forgeries, and counterfeits. A fake is the "filler" mentioned above sold with no intent to defraud the customer. There was a thriving business in Europe for these types of stamps. Some sellers even marked on the back of the stamp that the stamp was a fake.

Forgeries however is the term used to describe stamps sold as genuine. Naturally the stamps would be sold at a discount from catalogue value. Unless the collector knew the stamp intimately, it would be difficult to avoid making the purchase. This provides the first hint on detecting a forgery.

The first two stamps were sitting side by side and so it was obvious something was off. Comparing the sizes of the two stamps was the first way of recognizing the forgery. Note that the forgery (middle stamp) is slightly taller and also slightly narrower. A final confirmation was by a close inspection of the perforations. The size of the hole was very small. This is something never seen before in Canadian stamps.

It was very similar to perforations made on stamps from the Netherlands. Since the Netherlands is a source of expertise, it was the factor that raised the Spidey senses for me. Factors already mentioned then made it possible to declare the middle stamp was a forgery. The back side of the stamp carried no warning that it was a "filler" or fake.

A look at the third stamp in the scan shows that there is a colour variation and an overprint, specimen, is visible. Specimen stamps are genuine but were printed for trial purposes by the printer for the postal authority issuing the stamp. That is a whole new collecting area. This stamp was purchased by my father and was part of his collection.

My father left no written warning about the authenticity of the stamp, if he was even told about it. This brings up an important point for every collector. When a fake/forgery is found, put it in a separate binder labelled as "fakes/forgeries." This will help any

future collector know that the contents are not genuine. However, there is a market for forged stamps.

Again, having the stamps side by side provided instant confirmation that the "Specimen" stamp was a forgery. The quality of the engraving between the first and third stamp is similar. This knowledge is also a means to identify a forgery from the real thing. Only by close inspection is it visible that the lips of Queen Victoria are slightly different. It would take an experienced collector with detailed knowledge to remember that Nova Scotia did not issue a two-cent stamp!

A final death knell for this stamp is that the word "specimen" is overprinted in a circular shape under Queen Victoria's bust. The Unitrade catalogue provides that the "Specimen" overprint is in a straight line, but in **black ink**. This brings out a clearer definition of the term "fake."

Fakes are genuine stamps that have been altered to make it more valuable. Overprinting stamps was quite

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June In Person Meeting

With sunlight brightly shining outside on the longest day of the year, seventeen members and one visitor enjoyed gathering at the New Life Centre. There was lots of chatting and greetings, especially from members who were returning from health issues. The good spirits speak favourably about the club.

It was especially appreciated to see Walt Berry, President of the Saugeen Stamp Club, drive from Brussels Ontario to attend the meeting. It wasn't long before he was talking with club members, including those of the Owen Sound Club who are also members of the Saugeen Club. It is good to have connections with other clubs nearby. Besides the Saugeen club, local clubs include Kincardine and now in Wasaga Beach as well.

President Marion opened the meeting with good will greetings and surprised us with the announcement that the Royal Philatelic Society Circuit books would be available at this meeting. Some discussions were brought forward about the upcoming show in September. Bill Findlay mentioned that he had received two complete year sets of Scott's catalogues from the Owen Sound Library. The club would receive a percentage of the sale of these books. This will be part of the silent auction at the September show. I believe the sets are from 2019 and 2020.

Going through the Royal books proved to be successful for several club members. Some members took circuit books home to be returned at Saugeen on the 15th. Bill reports that when members take circuit books home, the sales/purchases really climb. We'll see if that holds true with the Royal books.

The one-page challenge had five entries, with Judy Galbraith winning the favourite page. In fact, Judy entered two pages and the second choice was also entered by her. Congratulations Judy on your superb entries. She suggested that the next topic for the list was "cars."

One Page Challenge topics:

July Canadian History

August The Red Cross

September Cars

Upcoming Shows

AUG 12 Fenpex 37

Fenelon Falls Community Centre, 27 Veterans Way, Fenelon Falls, ON, K0M 1N0

Fenelon Stamp Club's Annual Show and Sale, FENPEX 37. Hours are from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. 8 dealers, silent auction, club sales, draws,

5 and 10 cent table, snack bar. Free admission & free parking.

Phone: 705-454-9196

AUG 12 Gananoque Stamp Show

Gananoque Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92, 55 King Street East, Gananoque, ON, K7G1V8

The third annual one-day Gananoque Stamp Show will be held between 10 am and 4 pm on August 12th, 2023. Entrance: Free parking and ground level entrance to the show is off Pine Street at the rear of the Legion Hall. Gananoque is a great destination for a weekend family trip with a show in the middle. There are lots of interesting sights and activities within walking distance of the show including a crafts fair, beach & splash pad, cruises on the St Lawrence River, kayaking, theatre, and many excellent local restaurants.

Phone: 613-572-1464

Email: beddowsjohn@hotmail.com

AUG 19 Kinex 23

Kincardine Davidson center, 601 Durham st., Kincardine, ON, N2Z 1L6

8-10 dealers, sales circuit, lunch booth, kids table, displays

Phone: 519-395-5817

Email: JCORTAN1@GMAIL.COM

SEP 9 National Postage Stamp & Coin Show

September 9, 2023 to September 10, 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

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common. Sometimes the common stamp with an overprint is more valuable. For instance, in the Netherlands, common stamps have been overprinted with the word "Armenwet," translated as "Official." Many used stamps have been overprinted with a fake "Armenwet" overprint. Here it brings readers into having a close inspection of the stamp.

Generally, for used stamps, the overprint will be above the stamp cancellation. This will be visible by looking at the stamp with a magnifying glass, and if the overprint is not obscured by the cancellation, then it is a "fake." However, there are still questions open about the fake, particularly if the cancel does not cover the overprint. With that situation, an expert opinion is needed. For Canadian stamps the expertization committee at the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Foundation is the authority.

The final term "counterfeit" is used to describe stamps that have been produced to defraud the postal authority. This has happened to the Canadian market in recent years. Typically ads would circulate on social media websites about mint Canadian stamps being sold at half the face value of the stamp. These stamps have been purchased and postally used within Canada. It is believed that these counterfeits originated from China. Canada wasn't the only postal administration defrauded either. These types of ads have also circulated on the websites in the United States. There may be another story about this topic in upcoming issues.

Blast from the Past**Stories in Stamps by I.S. Klein****Cloth Hall of Ypres May be Restored (1937)**

The fortunes of history smiled on Belgium's Ypres when it attained its zenith at the beginning of the 14th century. A city of 200,000, it surpassed London and Paris at the time. Ypres was the rendezvous of Old World merchants and its magnificent Cloth Hall was the symbol of its power.

One of the most notable of all Gothic structures was the Cloth Hall, begun in 1201 and completed in 1304. An enormous edifice, following the general contour of the letter "J", this hall was the center of the city's great trade in cloth. Its main floor housed the drapers and its second the offices and room of the great merchants.

The hall boasted a 150 foot facade broken by a central tower rising 230 feet. Forty-eight square-topped doors gave entrance to the mart and light was afforded by a row of quatrefoil windows with pointed arches. The upper floor had glazed windows. Built of soft stone, it was the wonder of the ages.

And then - 1914. The Germans destroyed Ypres and the Cloth Hall became crumbling ruins. But now Ypres plans a restoration. The hall appears on a Belgium stamp of 1915.

