

# Stamps on the Bay



**The Voice of the  
Owen Sound Stamp Club  
Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 7 P.M.  
New Life Centre, 199 4th Ave West, Owen Sound  
Volume 4, Edition 9, October 2023**



## **Hello my philatelic friends!**

I hope that everybody enjoyed our stamp fair on Sept. 23. I was very busy with the silent auction and barely had time to shop! Even so, I somehow seemed to find a way to spend all of my money. Weird how that always seems to happen!

Thank you to everybody for helping out! Special thanks to those members who helped to lug all of those heavy tables to

and from the church next door. We didn't even have to call the paramedics. It would have been nice to have more visitors. It would be helpful to have a volunteer to do some more extensive advertising. Some of the clubs that attended were quite happy with their sales.

I have tallied up the ballots for the 'Cars' one page challenge held during the show. The winner will be announced at the upcoming meeting. "Aviation" is this month's topic so dig up some planes or rockets or helicopters on stamps and we'll have at it!

October is stamp month and it looks like there is plenty of stamping things to do. Also called 'World Post Day' stamp month celebrates the formation of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) with the signing of the Treaty of Bern on October 9, 1874. It was founded by none other than Heinrich von Stephan...anybody heard of him before? What's exciting to me is that next year will be the 150th anniversary. So there should be a bunch of new UPU and/or Stephan stamps next year.

In the meantime, you can mark stamp month by going to either the Barrie show or the Oxford Circuit Book Fair in Woodstock on Saturday the 21st. The tricky part is deciding which one to go to! There will also be a meeting in Woodstock regarding the resuscitation of the Grand River Valley Philatelic Association (GRVPA) of which our club was a member.

Of course you might not go to either show if you've already spent your entire fortune at the Royal/ Canpex Show in London the weekend before. The Royal is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the RCMP. There should be lots of excellent exhibits to see and I hope to see you there and at our Zoom meetings.

Bring some auction items for the meeting. Hope to see you on Wednesday evening of October 18th at 7:00!

**Marion Ace**

## **President, Owen Sound Stamp Club**

### **Editors Greeting**

Welcome to the October edition of our newsletter. How time flies. If you haven't flipped the calendar pages, all you have to do is look outside at the beautiful colours of the fall season. Across the street from my house is a maple tree with blazing red coloured leaves. Driving around one can see trees in different shades of red, orange and yellow. As the trees change colour to becoming bare of all leaves we are reminded of the rush to get those last few outside projects done before the season changes into a white wonderland.

Our own show is past and a great big thank you is shared with all those who volunteered for everything that made the show a success. Further in this journal is a section listing upcoming shows. There is lots of choice available. At the moment there are several balls juggling in the air. This time pressure is now complete, but the next big one is the exhibit destined for the Barrie Show. And of course there is the Oxford Circuit Book fair on the same date. Somehow we need to divide the calendar into more months for the fall and naturally more weekends with it.

From an organizational standpoint, the Grand River Valley Philatelic Association (GRVPA) was an important place to share information and being able to work together. This avoided conflicting show dates. Alas the Waterloo Club decided to host their show on the same date as our Circuit Book Fair. Hopefully some semblance of order can come back with an active GRVPA.

After flipping this page readers will find a couple of stories as well as a report on the last in person meeting. At the end of this newsletter is the usual "Blast from the Past." I hope you find this as informative as I have. There is certainly nothing boring in this hobby. Please share with your friends and acquaintances the wonder and joy this hobby brings to you. True excitement cannot be hidden and is a way of reintroducing this hobby to those around you.

Last month included a teaser scan. Did you find the story it was pointing to? Jim Molineux shared the idea behind stamp placement and the secret messages conveyed by them. So the teaser scan was showing a machin leaning to the left, and using the English translation, is the message "we love you." But who was this message aimed at? Of course our dear President who has a machin collection. Thank you Marion for leading us.

## Metered Mail

By Jim Molineux

Postage meters are electro-mechanical devices that print postage either directly onto mail, or onto a meter tape which is then affixed to the mail. Fig. 1 shows the latter type of meter tape postage and also its use as a shipping label. Fig. 2 illustrates some more recent examples wherein the postage is printed directly onto the mail and uses QR<sup>1</sup> codes.

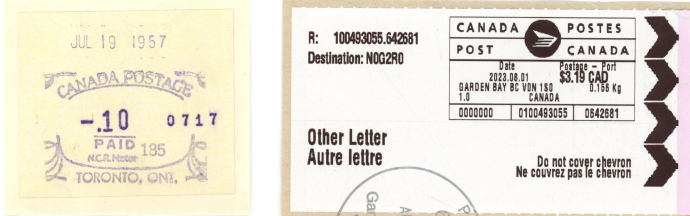


Figure 1



Figure 2

Postage meters are more convenient and cheaper than using traditional stamps. The correct postal code and mail charge are calculated automatically by the meter based on the item's weight and destination. A meter stamp must bear the current date and be placed in a mailbox by midnight on the same day.

Although regulated by the post office, postage meters can neither be purchased nor leased from Canada Post. The restriction is because Canadian law considers postage to be a form of currency that requires a separate regulation. Three manufacturers<sup>2</sup> are authorized to lease and service the meters. The rental price is customized based on the software chosen and the volume and type of outgoing mail. Payment is customized based on the software chosen and the volume and type of outgoing mail. Payment for a quota of postage is uploaded from Canada Post and debited electronically as the postage is used.

Fig. 3 is an early example of metered mail. The cover commemorates the 1937 coronation of King George VI and is one of the less than 500 issued with this die. The cover contains a typewritten letter from the

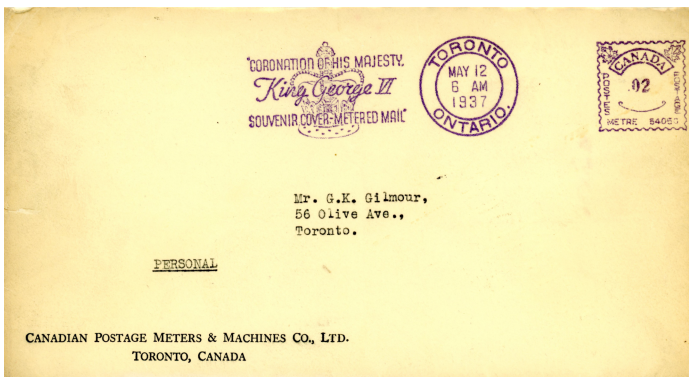


Figure 3

Director of the Canadian Postage Meters & Machines Co. that contains the statement "the old form of postage stamp has been pensioned off in favour of Meter Postage Stamps."

The above statement is dated but prophetic. In addition to meters, both postage and shipping labels can be purchased online and printed on a personal computer. Perhaps we philatelists are like the cavalry, slowly riding off into the sunset to be replaced by computer scanning the QR codes.

1. QR(Quick Response) Codes are similar to bar codes but have a much greater capacity as the information is encrypted both horizontally and vertically.
2. Pitney-Bowes Canada; FP Canada (Francotype Canada) and Quadiant Canada.

## September In Person Meeting

My thanks goes to Bob Ford who recorded the information that follows.

The monthly meeting was held at the New Life Centre on September 20th. There were sixteen members present with Bill Sanders joining the club. There was no plea for financial help as the club is still solvent.

A sheet was passed around for volunteers for the upcoming show. Help is/was needed for setup/cleanup of tables and kitchen. Setup is slated for Friday at 3:00 pm and tear down will happen right after the close of the day. Frames are needed for the One Page Challenge exhibits. As the exhibits arrive they will be put in the frames. There are two Silent Auctions set to close at 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. Items for auction are two full sets of Scott catalogues 2019 and 2020. There is also a partial set of 2021 catalogues available. These catalogues are auctioned off on behalf of the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Library.

President Marion reported that Phil Visser has an article printed in **The Canadian Philatelist** magazine. The title is "A Surprising Find" which will be reprinted in this newsletter soon. This newsletter was mentioned in the magazine in a section called "Chapter Journals." Besides *Stamps on the Bay* there is also a mention of *The Bulletin* from the **Saugeen Stamp Club**. It is nice to receive recognition countrywide.

Besides having a new member join, there were some other celebrations within the group. Randy R. has joined the ranks of being a grandparent. That announcement was followed when Marion announced the celebration of a significant day and age in her life. Once the discussion ended members had an opportunity to look through the Club Circuit Books. The evening ended with an auction which generated a few dollars commission for the club.

The one-page challenge will be held at the Club Circuit Book Fair.

## Irresistible

By Phil Visser

A close look at Fig. 1 may make a reader wonder if the author has lost some marbles. Yes, the stamp is damaged with trimmed perfs at top and perfs



**Figure 1**

completely trimmed off on the right side. Collecting damaged stamps is usually frowned upon in this hobby.

Some elements of this hobby do accept damaged stamps. For instance, those that collect perfins are happy to add any stamp that has a perfin punched in it. There is another group of collectors who will also accept lower quality stamps. This includes

people who look at cancellations. Although, if a similar stamp in undamaged condition is found, it would be purchased instead of that shown above.

As time has passed, the cancellation hammer has grown in size. Initial hammers were about 23 mm in diameter. This hammer is 28 mm in diameter. The result is that only partial cancellations can now be found on stamps. This limits the number of cancellations a person can collect on stamps only. Fortunately, this stamp is large enough to show the almost complete cancellation.

The village name appears in large type inside the edge of the circle. Inside the center of the cancel is the bar containing important data. This type of cancellation is called the "short bar cancel." There is also a "long bar cancel" but that is a diversion from this topic.

Inside the short bar is the information that the cancel was applied on June 29th, at 3 PM. The year is below the date and time bar. The name "sHeerArendskerke (ZL) is of interest. Spending a quarter was not a concern because the cancel trumped any other impulse of sanity inside my mind.

Where is this town? A google search showed that the town is in the province of Zeeland, in the southwestern part of The Netherlands. Google also was helpful in showing the map where the town was. It is located almost in the center of the island Zuid (South) Beveland. The island skirts the sea passage to the port of Antwerp, Belgium.

Another curiosity comes from how the village got its' name. Translating the name would change "sHeerArendskerke" to Lord Arnolds Church. Wikipedia offered up that a church was built here in the 13th and 14th centuries by Arnold of Schengen. The church itself is the centre of the village. Google provided that the population was 1,347 in 2009.

From a philatelic perspective, the stamp itself is listed as #267 in the Scott's catalogue. It is part of a set of definitives issued between 1944-46. Like many stamps do, it features the image of Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands. The magnetic clutch has now been released and the stamp is housed in a stock book that needs organization.

## Upcoming Shows

### **OCT 13-15 Royal\*2023\* Royale / Canpex**

The Hellenic Community Centre, 133 Southdale Rd. West, London, ON, N6J 2J2

Annual Convention and Exhibition for The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Hosted by CANPEX – The London-Middlesex Stamp Club. Hours: Friday 10 am to 5 pm; Saturday 10 am to 5 pm; and Sunday 10 am to 4 pm. Seminars, draw prizes, free parking, free admission. Celebrating the 150th anniversary of Canada's National Police Force and recognizing the dedication, service, and sacrifice of the men and women who wear the "Red Serge." Friday "Sounds of Silence," an evening of food and entertainment. Saturday evening "President's Reception and Palmares Banquet." Information on Exhibiting, Registration, Accommodations, and other details are available on the website.

Web: <https://www.canpex.ca>

### **OCT 21 60th Annual Barrie Stamp Show and Bourse**

Innisfil-Stroud Community Centre (2nd floor), 7883 Yonge Street, Innisfil, ON, L9S 1K8

60th Annual Barrie Stamp Show & Bourse, sponsored by the Barrie District Stamp Club, Chapt 73 of the RPSC. 10 Dealers from across the province. Door Prizes. Philatelic exhibits by Club members. Free Admission. LOADS of parking. Wheelchair accessible by elevator. Doors open from 10 am – 4 pm.

Email: [b.walter@rogers.com](mailto:b.walter@rogers.com)

Web: <http://www.barriedistrictstampclub.ca/stamp-show-bourse>

### **OCT 21 Oxford Philatelic Society Circuit Book Fair**

Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas St., Woodstock, ON, N4S 1C7

Oxford will host a Circuit Book Fair with seven to 10 participating clubs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact [oxfordphilsociety@gmail.com](mailto:oxfordphilsociety@gmail.com) or [bobbidner@gmail.com](mailto:bobbidner@gmail.com).

Email: [bobbidner@gmail.com](mailto:bobbidner@gmail.com)

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

### **OCT 28 Guelph Stamp Club Annual Show**

City of Guelph Evergreen Seniors Community Centre, 683 Woolwich Street, Guelph, ON, N1H 6H7

The show runs from 9 a.m. to 3:30 pm., featuring 10 dealers, free parking and admission, silent auction, door prizes, youth table, refreshments, and light lunch available

Email: [guelphstampclub@gmail.com](mailto:guelphstampclub@gmail.com)

Web: <https://guelphstampclub.com/>

### **NOV 3-4 Hamilton Fall Fair 2023**

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

The Hamilton Stamp Club Fall Fair 2023 will be held Nov. 3, 5- 10 pm and November 4, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Friday evening will have a large voice auction at 7 p.m. with viewing 5-7 p.m. Saturday includes a 12-dealer bourse with stamps, postcards, covers and supplies, up to six guest club sales circuit books, silent auctions and Youth Booth. Free

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## Wrap Up

Here we are at the end of a shortened version of *Stamps on the Bay*. Marion mentions that October is "**Stamp Month**." A slight correction is needed. That term is for the United States. A check with Canada Post and there is no official Stamp Month in this country. Maybe a campaign should be started to celebrate the hobby. Other countries have a National Stamp Day, or National Youth Philately Day, but these have also escaped Canada Post as a marketing tool.

Either way, the influence from our southern neighbour crosses the border. It is also evident by looking at the **Canadian Stamp News** where they list Upcoming Stamp Shows. The months of September, October and November are full of stamp shows. We also held a Circuit Book Fair in September. By the time readers receive and scan the pages **The Royal** will have passed by. Thanks have to be extended to the London Stamp Clubs who hosted this years national stamp show. I hope the visit was beneficial to your collection and knowledge.

Perhaps some readers may be aware that the Mission Thrift Store sometimes features silent auctions of stamp collections. Watching the prices go up, one realizes that there are more collectors in this community than there are members of the Owen Sound Stamp Club. Prices realized usually go for much more than I would consider paying for it. Either way, it is good to enjoy the fellowship of other collectors.

## Blast from the Past

### Stories in Stamps by I.S. Klein

#### God of Wisdom and Light (1935)

The electric light bulb is the modern symbol of a faith that worshiped the great god Mazda some six centuries before Christ. Mazda, or Ahura-Mazda still is the god of wisdom and light to the dwindling followers of Zoroastrianism, in Asia. To them, he is the only god, light is his dwelling place, and he is personified in the sun, the moon, the stars, fire and all bright things.

Besides the lamps that perpetuate his name, a stamp that Iraq issued in 1923 represents Mazda as a symbolical four-winged human figure.

