

# Stamps on the Bay



**The Voice of the  
Owen Sound Stamp Club  
Branch 191 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada  
Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 7 P.M.  
New Life Centre, 199 4th Ave West, Owen Sound  
Volume 4, Edition 10, November 2023**



## **Hello my philatelic friends!**

Another month has whipped by and I hope you've had some stamping fun. October was a weird month. I saw everything from frogs and turtles sunning themselves to piles of wet heavy snow breaking the branches of giant trees. Weird appears to be the new normal.

On November 3 and 4 the Hamilton Club had their stamp show. I was unable to attend but

am wondering if any of our members showed up. At our last meeting we had a show of hands to see how many of our members actually go to stamp shows and I was very surprised at how few of us do go. Also many of our members do not purchase stamps online either.

Our collections are all very different as well as our ways of collecting. I have to say that purchasing stamps online from places such as Hip Stamp, eBay and Delcampe has expanded my collecting interests. Delcampe is based in Belgium and is an excellent source for European stamps. Probably 80 to 90% of my German stuff was bought through Delcampe. The items came from dealers across Europe and even a few from South America, Africa, USA and China.

Hip Stamp is American based and also has a number of Canadian dealers on it. Some of our members past and present have had sites on Hip Stamp. Rick Lokos was one of them. Rick is gearing back up to dealing stamps again. Good luck Rick!

I'm sure you've all heard of eBay. You can get just about anything from eBay including the kitchen sink! EBay is based in the States but you may not know that it has other branches too. There is also ebay.ca (Canada), ebay.de (Germany) and ebay.co.uk (Britain). There may be others too.

Translation services have improved greatly online, so I have made many purchases with dealers who do not speak English. Of course you will hear about deals that have gone wrong. The truth is those are the deals most likely to be brought up in conversation. I have had a few deals that have gone a little askew and they have usually been corrected to my satisfaction. On the other hand I have made hundreds of purchase that I have been very satisfied with.

I use Paypal to pay for 95% of my online purchases. My Hubby (Matthew) uses my Paypal account to pay for his

online purchases too. You can buy just about anything in any currency using Paypal. I highly recommend it.

I would certainly encourage all of us to buy stamps from local Canadian dealers as well...but if you are thinking of branching out to purchase online don't be shy, talk to our members who are experienced. You can also join in for our online stamp auction. (Usually on the first Wednesday evening of the month). Most of those purchases are done with etransfers with your usual bank or in person.

Bring some auction items for the meeting. Hope to see you on Wednesday evening of November 15th at 7:00!

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

## **Editors Greeting**

A special time of the year occurs this month. It is the month of "**November**." The moustache I sport was grown several years ago when my youngest brother-in-law was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Unfortunately he succumbed to the disease while still in his early forties. Please consider a donation to the **Cancer Foundation** to research a cure for this deadly illness. Besides that, have a regular check up on your PSA levels and arrange to have a colonoscopy. Both cancers are treatable if caught early enough.

Once again the newsletter extends into six pages. A couple of stories follow with the longest one a repeat of the story written for **The Canadian Philatelist**. I am still amazed at how this was discovered, making collectors wonder what hidden treasures lie in an accumulation of stamps purchased at an auction. This reminds me of an exhibit at **The Royal** where the exhibitor discussed the odds of finding these varieties.

There is also a report on the last in person meeting and the temptation to drive to visit another show. Marion's remarks about shows and online purchases is interesting. Food for thought, because it is another point of contact with the hobby. Even so, I am glad to see all those who are able to attend our club meetings.

It is amazing where and how a connection is made with people looking to dispose of a collection. Yesterday, while at Shoppers Drug Mart to purchase Christmas stamps, another customer overheard my conversations with the clerk and a lengthy discussion followed with contact information exchanged. Moral of the story is keep talking about your hobby anywhere and everywhere, you may be surprised what comes out of that.

## Philately: Beyond the stamp

By Phil Visser

The Oxford English Dictionary define the term “Philately” as “the collection and study of postage stamps.” Philately originates from the Greek word *philo* which means *loving* and *ateleia* which means “exempt from payment.” This second term means that the presence of the postage stamp exempts the receiver from payment for the delivery of the letter.

A key word in the above definition is “study.” Studying the stamp provides a guide in looking at things like colour differences, perforation varieties, watermarks, printing methods as well as background development of a stamp. These are usually called essays and die proofs.

In the years since the coining and definition of the term philately, another branch has appeared in the “Study” of stamps. Postal history is creeping into the realms of philately, with some suggesting it is as important as the stamp itself. While postal history often refers to routes and rates for mailing letters there is another smaller limb to the branch.

This limb is called “*Marcophilately*.” Marcophilately looks at the markings on the envelope. There is quite a following of cancellation markings from the various post offices in a region. Not only post offices but other markings applied to the envelope. It is this part of the study of philately which follows below.

**Figure 1** shows a cut out from an envelope that found its way into my stamp collecting room. When this cut out was shared on the Zoom meeting in October, a question was asked if the cut out was my handy work or the state it was when it arrived “home.” Yes, this was the way it arrived here.



**Figure 1**

Of interest to my eyes was the place of origin, Monaco. Monaco is famous for being a “city state” located on the Mediterranean Sea coast of France. Other calling cards include the Grand Prix car race, and the Monte Carlo Casino. Yet, there was also something fascinating for my eyes, and that was the slogan cancel.

While the image above shows a cancellation over the three stamps, a visit to the “[Postmark-Reveal.com](http://Postmark-Reveal.com)” website rendered a much better image of the slogan cancel. **Figure 2** shows what the slogan looks like with the background removed. This view of the slogan opened more thoughts about this hobby.



**Figure 2**

Reading the top line of the slogan it shows “sauvegarde de Notre Dame” with a steeple between “de” and “Notre Dame.” Those last two words conjured up images of the Notre Dame Cathedral and the terrible fire in Paris a few years ago. The “postmark-reveal” reimagining showed the last two words “de Laghet.”

There are several holes to pursue from this point onwards. One obvious point was the steeple on the slogan cancel looked exactly the same as the steeple on the stamp at the right of the scan. Indeed, the stamp is **Scott #1632** issued May 26, 1988.

Curiosity led to a Google map search of Monaco to see where it is in the city-state. That search was fruitless, it is not within the legal boundaries of Monaco. Another Google search for “Notre Dame de Laghet” reveals that this cathedral is in the country of France.

Google filled in much history of the cathedral, but not relevant to this story. What was the next point of interest was the term “sauvegarde.” Again, Google came to the assistance by translating the term to English. It translates as “safeguard, or protection.”

Initially the term *sauvegarde* switched to “sanctuary” in my mind. This holds true and enters readers minds to the concept that a church offers sanctuary to those fleeing from authorities. There have been occasional news stories about people seeking sanctuary in a church to avoid deportation until their cries for mercy could be given due process.

From a technical perspective, for a church to be a sanctuary, the building must remain open twenty-four seven. It would be a legal argument on whether a locked church could be claimed to be a sanctuary. Where did this concept arise?

It seems that a Google search can’t really define where sanctuary originates from. Some articles refer to the Christian Church and medieval times. Another article mentions that this practice was present in Greek and Roman times. Biblical times provides another suggestion.

After the Israelites departed Egypt and arrived at the promised land, Moses was instructed to establish Levitical sanctuary cities, six in total. People who had accidentally committed manslaughter could run to these cities and receive sanctuary from retribution.

A history of Notre-Dame de Laghet does not provide information about the cathedral being used as a sanctuary for protection. It does mention that several

miracles have been researched and accepted as being real. Today the church serves as a place for spiritual retreat. It is located between Monaco and the city of Nice.

### October 18th Meeting Minutes

The New Life Center (NLC) room was busy with fifteen people chatting away. Socializing continued until about twenty to eight when Marion called the meeting to order. The first item on the agenda to remind everyone to keep a weather eye out for the anticipated snow. Don't risk travel on snowy roads.

We are all reminded that the January, February and possibly March meeting will be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month. These meetings would start at 1 PM until about 3. The reason for the March meeting being switched around is because the Oxford Philatelic Society has their show on the 3rd Saturday of March. Now it is not listed on the Canadian Stamp News website.

A review of the Circuit Book Fair in September was discussed. It seems that the Circuit Books present were pleased with their sales. The Wasaga Beach club donated some articles to the club. These were put in the auction. Funds were for the Clubs benefit.

The one-page exhibits at the September show had a competition. When the votes were tallied, Judy Galbraith was the winner. Congratulations Judy! Speaking of one-page exhibits, this month's topic is **medals**, any type from any country.

Members try to put as many different elements as possible on a page with explanations. Elements refers to a single stamp, pair, block of four or plate block, a cover or first day cover. They don't have to be all the same stamp, they could come from any number of countries.

Three club members visited The Royal in London the previous weekend. Lots of temptations to add to collections. Besides the temptations, there were also many high-grade exhibits. These varied from single frame up to eight frame exhibits. All told there were over 186 frames of sixteen pages to stretch the imagination.

A brief discussion was had about name tags for club members. The idea was favourably received. Phil will investigate the idea further and report back.

#### Show and Tell

Marion brought a bunch of old German and French printed money. They had been included in one of her recent purchases. She also showed some revenue documents. These are simply a document with some service performed and a stamp applied as revenue for the government (in place of income tax).

Phil brought along the stamp that was featured in last month's newsletter. Yes, sometimes damaged stamps do have a place in a collection. Besides that, an envelope mailed from the Royal Train in the King's visit in the 1930's was shown. A final item was a sheet of mint stamps about the Boston 2026 show. These Cinderella stamps also happened to have a stamp-on-stamp theme. It fits nicely into my collection.

Joe R. showed a cover mailed from London UK to Vienna Austria. It showed a Scott #37 as postage. The stamp may be also #37a, a colour variety, which has a higher value.

Not to be outdone, but our loyal door prize coordinator sold tickets and drew out four winning tickets. John C., Phil V., Marion G. and Marion A. held the lucky numbers. These tickets provide some revenue for the club to pay for the NLC rental.

The evening ended with an auction of items from club members. Most items sold, but there also a few that didn't. These auctions have mixed results, depending on the price and collecting interests those present. By 9 PM all was said and done and the doors were locked. See you on 15th.

### A Surprising Find

By Phil Visser

Members of stamp clubs and the RPSC will probably know a collector or two who doesn't join a club but may attend local bourses. A term to describe this type of collector is "closet collector." Some of these people may be serious in their collection but prefer to stay to themselves.

More serious collectors would be surprised to hear of a variety that has been discovered by two closet collectors. The first collector has been known for many years and despite encouragement to join a club, has preferred to stay alone, somewhat. Our second closet collector is a nephew of the first, and by marriage, a cousin of the author.

It was a shot out of the blue when the elder showed a souvenir sheet, Unitrade 3162a. "Have a look at this" was the tease from the man. It looked like an ordinary sheet and the smudged cancellation took away from the overall appearance, but still unusual to find postally used. With the plethora of stamps being issued every year, memorizing each stamp to identify an error is very difficult. Have a look at Figure 1 and see if you can pick out something unusual with the souvenir sheet.



Figure 1

A comparison with Unitrade Specialized Catalogue would also be difficult to spot a difference. For those collecting modern Canada stamps, a comparison with the single stamp should bring out the error. The gold filigree used to print the denomination and Chinese character are missing.

Discussing what could be done with this sheetlet, the expertizing service of the V.G. Greene Philatelic Foundation was explained. Possible opinions which may be given about this item were mentioned. Options include it is a “one of,” and no expertizing is done as the sheetlet is considered an EFO (error, freak or oddity). Another perspective would be a report that the item is genuine. A final scenario would be that the item was “contrived,” the sheet had been altered by someone prior to the collector finding it.

Expertizing by the Greene Foundation was chosen. The expertizing committee consists of some experienced philatelists living around the foundation. Every new item received is given to at least three members of the committee and they research the item to see what opinion should be rendered on the item. Because this item was the first ever seen by the experts, a very thorough review was made before an opinion was issued.

Using the VSC 6000, the committee could clearly see that no one had altered the stamps because there was no residue of gold filigree on the stamp anywhere. Another fine feature is the ability to shine a UV light on it and clearly the sheet had escaped the application of phosphor to it (see Figure 2). Interesting though, the scotch tape which was used to hold the sheetlet onto



**Figure 2**

the package did leave some reflections. Also note the “suns rays” coming from the upper left corner.

One concern is that the security at the printing plant may be lax. Opportunities to remove imperfect printings is possible. This caused a concern for the committee since a question was asked “did this sheet slip out the back door?” At this point the smudged cancellations was a disadvantage as it could not identify the mailing post office. However, that concern was put to rest.

It turns out the original source is involved in the agriculture industry, and he confirmed that the package came from the “eastern townships” of Quebec. There were two sheets used to mail the package to the younger of the two gentlemen, sharing one with his uncle and keeping one for himself. Curiosity made the cousin call and see if I could confirm whether his was also a variety. It was.



**Figure 3**

Thus, the second sheet was sent off to the Greene Foundation for expertizing, and it too was returned as genuine. Comparing Figure 3 with Figure 1 shows the same application of tape to the edges but different cancellations. However, both sheets have been damaged with the white scrape marks crossing the second (lower) stamp on the sheets. These scratches are in different location across each of the dog stamp. See Figure 4 for a more detailed look at the scratches from Figure 1.

A more detailed look at Figure 3 provided some hint as to the mailing location. See the enlargement (Figure 5) and part of the Post Office name can be made out “St.” as well as a partial postal code of “GON.” Using the reverse postal code



**Figure 4**



**Figure 5**

finder (<https://www.postalcodesincanada.com/>) showed that GON is the forward sortation code for the Chaudière-Sud geographical region in Quebec. This region is rural, which fits the original thought. My cousin did mention that there is a dealership in St Anne-de-Beauce for his products. St Anne-

de-Beauce is in the Chaudière-Sud forward sortation area.

Finding a new variety is like winning a lottery. For these two closet collectors, the genuine certificates are like winning the philatelic Lotto Max.

## Holyrood Update

by Phil Visser

In September a story was written about the Holyrood Post Office and its Post Mistress, Lucy Miller. Thanks are extended to **Starla Mitchener-Dassy** from the *Oxford Philatelic Society* for providing the pictures below. Starla passed along several photos, but due to space limitation and file size (for email recipients) only a few are included.



Lucy and her "office."



## Upcoming Shows

**JAN 13, '24**

### Brantford Stamp Club Annual Show

Branlyn Community Centre, 238 Brantwood Park Road, Brantford, ON, N3P 1N9

Free admission, free parking, 12+ dealers, silent auction, Club circuit books, youth booth, door prizes, stamp exhibits, snack counter, wheelchair accessible.

Phone: (519) 751-3513 Email: info@brantfordstampclub.com

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

**JAN 27, '24**

### 74th Cathex Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara St., St. Catharines, ON, L2R 5L3

74th CATHEX, sponsored by the St. Catharines Stamp Club, will be held from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 10 dealers, youth table, club circuit. Free parking and admission. Lunch counter on site.

Phone: 905-227-9251 Email: stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca

Web: <http://www.stcatharinesstampclub.ca>

**FEB 25, '24**

### Toronto Postcard Club Annual Show

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Court, Toronto, ON, M3C 1Z5

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Canada's largest vintage postcard show featuring 30 tables with thousands of postcards for sale from many countries, covering many topics. Cash admission \$7. Free parking. TTC accessible.

Email: [tpcannualshow@torontopostcardclub.com](mailto:tpcannualshow@torontopostcardclub.com)

Web: <https://torontopostcardclub.com/tpc-annual-show/>

**MAR 3, '24**

### Mississauga Coin & Stamp Show

John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd., Mississauga, ON, 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 \$7 (children under the age of 16 are free), and parking is free.

Phone: 416-5057999

Email: [leszekp@rogers.com](mailto:leszekp@rogers.com)

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**Wrap Up**

At The Royal held in London a few weeks ago, it was mentioned that there were some ways of keeping membership in an organization. It was suggested there five points of contact were necessary to keep people involved. Attending meetings was one way. That in and of itself also involves three "touches," socializing, learning, and acquiring things for our collection. I believe at its heart we are all collectors of worldwide stamps. Other "touches" include things like this newsletter and contact between each other in between meetings.

As the calendar flips to another month, this is a reminder that the Editors position for this newsletter opens in February of 2024. Once this edition has been mailed, I will only do two more editions. Besides the newsletters, Executive positions, and too many philatelic interests, time and spirit is divided into thin slices. Should a person seek information on doing a newsletter feel free to call. Contact information is provided above this article.

**Blast from the Past****Stories in Stamps by I.S. Klein****Foreign Composer of American Classic (1936)**

For three years, from 1892 to 1895, Antonin Dvorak (pronounced D'Vor-zhahk) travelled through the United States, listening to the songs of the Negroes in the south, and drinking in the spirit of the country.

Then he composed his "*New World Symphony*," considered one of the world's greatest musical works. Out of this came the famous "*Going Home*," a selection based upon the "*Largo*" in his symphony.

Dvorak then was a little more than 50. Born near Prague in 1841, he was encouraged to play the violin at an early age. While he earned a living by playing for dances, he composed short musical selections, and later attempted operas and other difficult pieces.

He became organist in a church at Prague and married. And then began his more intensive work on new operas, and production of his "*Slavonic Dances*," which brought him considerable praise. He died in 1904 at the age of 63.

Thirty years later, in 1934, Czechoslovakia issued a stamp in Dvorak's honour. It is shown here.

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