



Owen Sound Stamp Club

Newsletter

Next Club Meeting: December 20th

December 2000

Season's Greetings!

To All Our Members
(and anyone else reading this).

Public Awareness Day

The Owen Sound Stamp Club will be co-hosting a "Public Awareness Day" on Saturday, January 13th, at the Heritage Mall in Owen Sound. We will have a small booth and a two or three frame display near the Food Court/Zellers. The object of this exercise is to talk about stamps with members of the general public, discuss their collections (and doubtless offer an opinion on how much it is worth), and maybe even recruit some new members. Our co-hosts will be the Kincardine and Saugeen Stamp Clubs.

Whilst a number of details are yet to be worked out and will be discussed at the upcoming club meeting on December 20th, there is no doubt that **assistance from any member who would like to help out on January 13th would be much appreciated.**

We expect to have some reasonably up-to-date catalogues but if you have your own (especially if it is a specialised one) that you

could bring - great!

Yes, I know that January 13th seems a long way ahead, but it really isn't and I may well not get another Newsletter out before then (though I will be trying). So, make a point of writing this date in your (new) diary and, even if you can't stop long, come by our stand and say Hello!

Some Canadian Stamps of Christmas Past

Although a number of books I have seen say that the world's first Christmas stamp was issued by Canada in 1898 (Scott #85/6), this stamp was really issued to mark the introduction of the Imperial Penny Postage rather than Christmas - it just happened to be officially released on 25th December. But what the heck... no harm done by claiming a "first" even it is disputable!

The stamp itself has a number of interesting features.

The "official" first day of issue was, indeed, Christmas Day, 1989, but it had been available since the 7th December. There are therefore two first day of issue dates. According to the Unitrade catalogue, there are only 10 recorded 7/12/1898 covers (valued at \$1,500) and, presumably, rather more of the 25/12/1898 covers which are valued at \$600. [What price for any cover

postmarked
25/12/2000, I wonder!]

Unless I'm mistaken, this was the first multi-coloured Canadian stamp. It was designed by the postmaster general Sir William Mulock and depicts a map of the world with the British Empire marked in red.

The frame was recess printed and the colours added using lithography. In its relatively short life, there were numerous varieties including: re-entries, four major shade differences for



"Christmas Stamps" cont. on P4

The Owen Sound Stamp Club will be holding its 5th Show in May next year. Every member is encouraged to consider putting together an exhibit in the show and further details will be announced in due course. For those of you who would like to give it a try but are uncertain about exactly what is involved in putting an display together, Ken Magee has written an excellent guide to exhibiting at the local level. We are pleased to reproduce this (with Ken Magee's permission) as a three part series. — Ed.

Getting Started in Exhibiting – Part 1

What and how you collect is your business, but what and how you exhibit becomes everyone's business. A good philatelic exhibit is not just a selection of pages from an album. — the days of 'selecting pages from a larger collection are dead! A good exhibit should be a philatelic story expressed through stamps and/or other philatelic material and write-up.

Stamp exhibiting can be considered the ultimate achievement in the pursuit of philately. When properly done and appropriately rewarded it is the crowning glory and marks the participant as having "come of age". Unfortunately, exhibitors are among the minority of stamp collectors.. With proper preparation, preparing an exhibit can be an interesting addition to your collecting hobby.

Stamp exhibitors can be classed into three general groups:

- ◆ the so-called "pros" who have managed to learn the techniques and who consistently win awards;
- ◆ the regular participants who seldom win a gold but nevertheless are interested in supporting the hobby and continue to exhibit their efforts in the eternal hope that they will be "lucky"; and
- ◆ the beginners who often as not try once, get grossly disappointed with their results, then fail to try again.

If you want to win awards, you have to work deliberately toward that objective, and keep trying and improving.

Not everyone can win, naturally, but everyone can put together an exhibit that will draw praise from the viewers, and that should be an important consideration in entering material in a stamp show.

Since no two exhibits are alike, and each one reflects the personality of the exhibitor, it is not possible to provide a step-by-step outline that will work in every case. However, the general steps and suggestions presented here should help you to create an interesting and personally satisfying exhibit — one that will even win awards from the judges.

Before you start...

"I wouldn't enter a contest where I didn't know the rules"

"To be successful you must 'play the game'"

Before you start to plan your exhibit, you should be aware of what the judges look for in exhibits. A set of judging criteria for local-level shows follows. Please read these criteria before proceeding further, and refer back to them often. In brief, an exhibit needs a visually distinct title page, with the exhibit title larger (and bolder) than the text; an introductory statement; and a plan, outline or statement of organisation to explain to the viewers how the exhibit is organized (like a table of contents in a book). The exhibit has to show planning and development, with a beginning (your title page), a middle (the bulk of your exhibit), and a conclusion (without saying "the end").

You need to share knowledge and some personal study about your subject or topic with the viewers. The philatelic material you include should be in the best condition that you can find. The exhibit has to have visual appeal, with neat, balanced pages with an uncluttered look. Your text has to be easy to read and follow.

As The Judges See It

At each exhibit the judges MUST read the title page (and thematic plan page, if any), to sense what the exhibitor is trying to accomplish. They then step back from the frames to get an overview of the exhibit. The judges might examine several pages closely, but at some larger

Why Exhibit?

One reason to exhibit is that it is fun to do so. Another reason is that many people are competitive, so they enjoy that aspect. Also some people might want to share their philatelic material and enjoyment with others, perhaps attracting others to our hobby. Some might just want to please the viewers, and possibly earn the Most Popular Exhibit award, while others just want to please themselves.

Why Not Exhibit?

Preparing an exhibit does take time. In philatelic competitions you are dealing with the judges' opinions, and, by definition, opinions vary according to personalities — anyone who can't accept this view should forgo competitions and limit oneself to entering non-competitive exhibits and/or observing the exhibits of others..

shows the average time per page is about 10 seconds. Their assessment is based on the answers to some general questions:

1. Did the exhibitor do what he/she said was going to be done?
2. How well was this done?
3. Is the material good?
4. Does the exhibit look attractive?

Judging Criteria (for local exhibitions)

Judges will be made aware of exhibits by novice and/or youth exhibitors.

Title Page (10 %)

The title page is a guide which should educate the viewers, including the judges, giving them a very clear idea of what they will see in the exhibit, especially those who may not be familiar with the material.

The title page should focus on the exhibit and the material it contains, NOT on the subject's historical background. However, in a Postal History exhibit, some historical information is usually needed on the title page.

The title should be brief, yet clear and inclusive. It should appear only on this page. The title should be sufficiently larger than the text as to be obvious, but not so large or bold as to be overpowering.

Also included here could be a second plan page for thematics. The use of a separate plan page is encouraged for a highly developed thematic exhibit.

An Introduction should expand on the title and define the scope, or limits, of the exhibit. A one or two sentence summary should suffice, here.

A Plan, Outline, or Statement of Organisation is needed to explain the sequence and arrangement of the exhibit. It should indicate how the exhibitor will accomplish the stated purpose. This part should briefly list and/or explain the contents of the exhibit like a table of contents does in a book. It should tell "where to find what" — preferably identifying exhibit sections by frames or by page numbers.

Development (15 %)

The exhibit should have a clear beginning (the Title page), a central theme (the bulk of the material) and a logical ending (without saying "The End"). The conclusion should refer back to your title page,

“tying” the exhibit together. The development should follow the plan/outline/statement of organization and show continuity.

The material selected should illustrate the chosen subject or theme. The exhibit should show balance between sections. The exhibit should show cohesion—coverage should seem complete, within the stated limits. Unrelated material should NOT be included. (All aspects identified in the introduction and/or plan, etc., should be present and shown in proportion to their significance.)

Knowledge & Research (25 %)

The degree of knowledge is expressed by the choice of a wide range of philatelic and/or thematic material. The write-up should be clear and concise, and correctly describe the material being shown.

The write-up should go beyond information which is available in standard catalogues (or reference works for thematics). Key/special items should be appropriately discussed. In a Postal History exhibit identification of markings by discreet reference to a standard text can be helpful.

Philatelic Material (30 %)

Material in the exhibit should be identified correctly and be appropriate to the topic. The presence of unusual or interesting items should be given consideration.

Thematic exhibits will be improved by a variety of philatelic items spread across the exhibit besides regular stamps, souvenir sheets and uses on commercial covers. These might include such items as coils, booklets, different types of stamps, varieties, meters, special cancellations, postal stationery, (A) maximum card, etc. — if they relate to the chosen theme

Judges dislike mixed mint and used items together in the same series. Show them separately.

Consideration is given to the degree of difficulty normally expected in assembling the material shown. The quality of the material shown is assessed relative to the condition in which such material is readily available.

Presentation (20 %)

The exhibit should be easy to understand and be attractive to viewers. Philatelic material should dominate the pages throughout. There should be some variety in page arrangements, especially between consecutive pages. Page stock should be uniform, preferably of a white or light colour.

The text should be easy to read and follow. It should be consistent in size and style. The text should not overwhelm the philatelic material.

Mounts and framing of material should be neat and inconspicuous. If a colour photocopy or computer scan of one complete side of a cover is used it should NOT be life size—70% is suggested. Any highlighting of “key” items should be done subtly.

Pages should be neat, with tasteful balance of material. Pages should neither be too empty nor too crowded.

In local level shows presentation is a major factor in determining awards. As the exhibit moves up in levels, through Regional and National, then to International, presentation becomes of decreasing importance (from 20% down to 5%), while rarity, scarcity and the overall philatelic importance of the exhibit become increasingly important. At the local level, rarity, scarcity and philatelic importance are not parts of the judging criteria.

What's New From Canada Post

...and a little bit of trivia.

Very little news anywhere about the increase in Postal Rates, effective January 1, 2001. One may assume that this would result in a few new definitives, but no sign of it yet. Keep looking.

January 5, 2001 is the launching date for the Chinese New Year stamps, they celebrate the year of the Snake. Expect the NHL All Star game stamps to arrive early February.

Trivia

On May 11, 1983 **Niuafu'ou** issues its very first own stamp, a 29 seniti multicolored one. Niuafu'ou is known as the Tin Can Island and part of the Kingdom of Tonga. An article in Canadian Stamp News Vol.25 Nr. 15 prompted this trivia item. The Seniti is not listed in the Foreign Exchange rates in Saturday's Toronto Star. Sorry.

Diamond shaped stamps were introduced to the world on September 1st. 1851 by **Nova Scotia**. It is shown in Unitrade page 559 Scott # 2. **New Brunswick** followed four days later.

The First Hologram stamp was issued by Austria on October 18, 1988. It features a “Made in Austria” logo design.

Entrepreneur Ship!!!. During a Postal Strike in August of 1953 The Chamber of Commerce of Orleans, a city in Northern France, issued its own stamps for use inside the city limits. Sorry I could not find a Scott nor an Yvert & Tellier number

Talking About Strikes, Canada Scott 484 George Brown, Globe and Legislature was to be issued on August 7, 1968. A postal strike delayed the release till August 21, 1968.

Joint Issues. On the 26th day of June 1959. The USA and Canada issued a joint issue. The Occasion, The St. Lawrence Seaway. The designs for both countries are similar. (USA Scott #1131 4¢ and Canada #387 5¢. This was the US's first joint issue. The 25th anniversary was celebrated on June 26, 1984 with USA #2091 20¢, Canada #1015 20¢) Note what inflation did in 25 years!. The designs for the 1984 were not similar.

It remains for me only to wish all of you and your families A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and in February — Kung Hay Fat Choy.

Charles van Rompu.



Getting Started in Exhibiting will continue in the next issue and cover the details of laying out your exhibit.

At the last meeting:

Our annual auction took up the whole of the November meeting and there was no business discussed as such.

Next Meeting: 20th December

The next meeting of the Owen Sound Stamp Club will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 20th December, in St. George's Church, Owen Sound (as usual).

Matters to be discussed will include:

- Public Awareness Day.
- Deciding on a theme for the 2001 Show.

Upcoming Events

The Public Awareness Day will be held at Heritage Place Mall in Owen Sound on Saturday, January 13th, 2001.

"Christmas Stamps" cont. from P.1

"the rest of the world", and many changes to the "red" plate defining the Empire. Even so, note that all of southern Africa is marked red although the Transvaal and Orange Free State were still independent republics when the stamp was issued.

The quote at the foot of the design ("We Hold A Vaster Empire Than Has Been") is taken from a work composed by Sir Lewis Morris in honour of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887.

Canada settled down to issue "real" Christmas stamps in 1964 with a modest set of two (Scott #434:3¢ and #435:5¢). These have been titled variously "Star of Bethlehem" and "Canadian Family".



Since then there has been a Christmas issue every year.

A quick scan through the catalogue suggests that the most popular themes have been inspired, not surprisingly, by the religious aspects of Christmas. Interestingly (and to its credit), Canada Post has yet to run a series based on Old Masters' depiction of the Nativity — can any other Western country claim the same?

The representation of "Family Togetherness" has been a theme running a close second to religion in popularity and often the two have been combined as in the example of 1964 (above).

Still, the idea of Christmas being a time for joy, peace, goodwill, and the exchange of gifts, without necessarily involving religion has been recognised in several series. The 1973 series has a bit of everything: two secular stamps, one religious, and one "semi-religious" (Santa Claus).



Bob Watson

OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

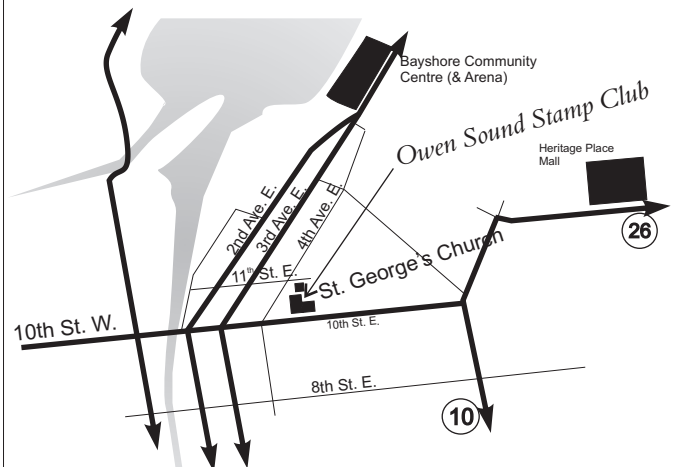
www3.sympatico.ca/rhwatson/stampclub

The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the basement of St. George's Anglican Church (on the corner of 10th St. E. and 4th Ave. E.). The main business of the evening is typically to check out the stamps in circuit books from the North Bay Philatelic Society, the Royal Philatelic Society and/or the Peninsula Philatelic Circuit. Members also trade stamps and covers between themselves.

There are presently about 40 members whose interests cover just about everything at all levels from beginner to expert. New members are always most welcome.

For further information, see us on the Web or contact any of the following Club officers:

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The OSSC Newsletter

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The OSSC Newsletter is distributed to members of the Owen Sound Stamp Club on an irregular basis (but hopefully several times a year).

Opinions expressed by contributors to this newsletter are those of the named author and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Owen Sound Stamp Club (nor of the editor).

Contributions are always most welcome. If any reader has news, information, opinions, or announcements that might be of interest to the OSSC membership, please contact the editor.