



Owen Sound Stamp Club

Newsletter

Next Club Meeting: April 21st

April 2004

One issue that keeps cropping up in discussions on stamp collecting concerns where to find stamp collecting supplies.

Now, I am sure that most members will be aware that Canada Post stocks some basic materials at its philatelic counter in Owen Sound. These include the Vario Stockpages (2-7 pockets @ \$5.50 for 5), tongs and perforation gauges.

For anything more specialized, one needs to either shop at a stamp store or deal with a mail-order supplier.

The Unitrade supplies catalogue is probably as complete a list of supplies as will be found anywhere in North America. I have a 1999 edition but the current online version is significantly expanded – as well as having up to date pricing. I'll see if we can't get a printed version for the OSSC library.

For myself, I have been a customer of two or three mail order suppliers, each of which has provided excellent service. My most recent orders have been with FvH Stamps of Vancouver who I have found to be quick, have a wide range of stock and to offer some pretty good deals on "specials". For example, the

prices in the latest flyer I have lists Vario Stockpages at \$5.20 a package with 25% off 10 packages or more. Postage is at cost and they will refund half the cost if you return their stamps in good order!

If any member has a favourite supplier of stamp collecting supplies, please let me know.

So, the vote at last month's meeting for a new name for this Newsletter was close – so close, in fact, that two names tied for first place with a third just one point behind! To finalize the result, I guess we will just have another vote at the next meeting with just the top three names on the card:

- "Stamp Soundings"
- "Sound Philately"
- "Philatelic Owen Sound Times (P.O.S.T.)"

This time the votes will be counted immediately so that a winner can be announced at the meeting.

Famous Collections ...

The Royal Philatelic Collection is the world's most comprehensive collection of postage stamps devoted to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

Some of the younger members of the Royal Family had already started stamp collecting by 1864, but the first serious collector in the Royal Family was Prince Alfred (Queen Victoria's second son) who eventually sold his collection to the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII).

It then passed to the Duke of York (later George V) who was an astute and enthusiastic collector and made every effort to obtain the rarest stamps at the first available opportunity.

He bought both the 1d and 2d Post Office Mauritius of 1847 – the first stamps issued by a colonial Post Office and among the most prized stamps in the world. The Penny Orange-Red was bought from a collector, and the equally matchless unused example of the 2d Blue was bought at auction in 1904 for £1,450 (then the highest price for a single stamp). A courtier was reported to have asked The Duke of York if he had seen that some fool had paid £1,450 for a postage stamp: "Yes" was the reply, "You're talking to him!"

As King, George V had to approve designs of new issues which bore his image, and a certain number of official presentations helped to build up the collection. However, by far the largest proportion came from purchases and at least 20 important single-country collections were bought intact. By his death, the King's collection was housed in 328 albums (the 'Red Albums'), each of some 60 sheets. George V also took a great interest in stamp design and proved to be ahead of his time in collecting artists' drawings, die proofs, plate proofs and colour trials.

Edward VIII wished to sell the Royal Philatelic Collection but was advised that he could not do so as by this time it had acquired the status of an official "heirloom". George VI took some interest in the collection but did not share his father's specialised knowledge. Nevertheless, the Collection continued to expand in the 'Blue Albums'.

During the Queen's reign much more material has been acquired and in time these will be mounted in the 'Green Albums'. It is estimated that there is enough material to fill another 2,000 albums!

In 1896, the First International Olympic Games of the Modern Era were held in Athens, Greece.

Famous are their stamp issues (Sc.# 117–128), which were the first Olympic Stamps ever issued. Boxers were depicted on the 1 and 2 Lepta stamps, the Discobolus by Myron, proudly



"Discobolus" by Myron
Scott #119:1896

showed on the 5 and 10 L. A Vase depicting Pallas Athene (Minerva) is on the 20 and 40 L. The 25 and the 60 L give us an insight how it was in the time of Chariot Driving. But when we go into the higher values, the Drachma's (1 Drachma = 100 Lepta) we see reproductions of the ancient Greek times. The Stadium and Acropolis on the 1 D; the Statue of Hermes by Praxiteles; the Statue of Victory by Paeonius on the 2 and 5D. with a climax on the brown 10 D stamp which shows the "Acropolis and the Parthenon."

The years following these first Olympic games produced an enormous amount of counterfeits, surcharges, overprints etc.

It took a long time, and as far as I could trace it, until August 12th 1960, when they again issued stamps to commemorate Olympic Games. This time the 17th IOC games held in Rome Italy from August 25 till September 11, 1960

In 2004 the people of Greece will, for the second time, be the host to the world for the 28th Olympic Games.

It is obvious, that in a year like this, the issue program is a bit lop-sided towards the promotion of these games. Normally Greece has a lot of nice issues of definitive and commemorative stamps. The series they issued in October 2003 depicting "Fading Trades" shows pictures of a carpenter building a spiral staircase by hand, a blacksmith and a shoemaker (or more often repairer), a typesetter who did his difficult and unhygienic work by hand, a specific occupation of the Mediterranean, the sponge-divers and, last but not least, the weaver, whose occupation is as old as the first myth of the spider, who produced simple everyday textiles next to the thicker ones used in the home, as well as the very delicate made from wool and/or silk. This series ran in value from €0.03 to €4.00, nicely sized at 30 x 38 mm and designed by Myrsini Vardopoulou.

And as the Drachma and its "cent" the Lepta were replaced by the Euro, so are

these "trades" on the way out or are history already. Many countries, among them Canada, have issued these little reminders.

We may call ourselves privileged that the art of stamp design and stamp printing has not vanished. On the contrary: I made up a list of stamps, booklets, souvenir/sheets which will be issued for the Olympic games in Greece during the period 2003/2004, close to 60 million so far, and the summer of 2004 will surely see this quantity rise. All are modern and indicators of artistic interpretation in the 21st century.

If one sometimes see, what an old design, repackaged in a stylish modern media can do, I go so far as to say, many missed opportunities. The Mascots, are cute however

+7I! ("Hellenic Post"): Lots of success with your Olympic releases. I sincerely hope you do not have to overprint too many remainders as was the case in 1896.

Personally I can't wait for +7I's release on December 8, 2004 when we return to normal and to issues with pictures of the beautiful Greek Islands (one of which will depict a Sail windmill). This will be a series of ten, measuring 22 x 55 mm each and designed by Myrsini Vardopoulou. Value still unknown but not to exceed €10.00 (+VAT)

See you at the next meeting April 21st, (1 week after Easter already)

Olympic Stamps Issued by Greece in 2003/2004

Date	Designs in Ser.	Description	Denom. €	Number (millions)
2003				
11 Feb.	6	Sports-equipment: <i>Discus, Ball, Javelin, Polevault, Hurdles, Dumbbells.</i>	6.21	26.3
11 Feb.	2 inS/S	Olympic Mascottes	5.35	0.15
9 May.	1 x 28	Booklet with 28 stamps (Mascottes) 2 x 30¢; 25 x 47¢ and 1 x 35 ¢	2.70	0.08
9 Sept.	5	"Body and Mind": <i>Highjump, Wrestling, Running, Cycling, Windsurfing</i>	5.97	10.8
9 Sept.	2 inS/S	Olympic Mascottes	5.35	0.15
28 Nov.	6	"Athletes in Action"	7.00 ¹	?
2004				
15 Jan.	5	"Great Greek Olympians": <i>S. Louis, A. Konstandini, I. Fokianos, I. Mitroloulo, K. Tsklitiras.</i>	7.90	4.3
15 Jan.	6	Olympic Cities <i>Volos, Patra, Iraklio (Crete), Athens (2) Thessaloniki.</i>	5.95	14.3
26 Mar.	6	"Olympic Sports"	8.00 ¹	?
4 May	2 in S/S	"Olympic Flames"	3.00 ¹	?
4 May	2 in S/S	"Olympic Truce"	3.00 ¹	?
15 Jun.	4	"Ancient Olympic Coins" (on stamps)	6.00 ¹	?
23 Jul.	2 in S/S	"Modern Art and Olympic Games"	6.00 ¹	?
	2 in S/S	(Same)		
13 Aug.	2	"Joint Issue Athens-Beying"	4.00 ¹	?
22 Sep.	4	"The Power of Will" (Handicapped)	4.50 ¹	?

¹ The actual values are not available. Prices quoted are stated by Hellenic post as "not to exceed"

Curiosity Corner (1) ...

Why did Afghanistan, Persia, and the Ottoman Empire, countries with no obvious connection with France, mark their stamps with “Postes Afghanes”, Postes Persanes, and Postes Ottomanes?

Well, it seems that it all goes back to the latter part of the 19th century and the early days of the Universal Postal Union. While the main point of the UPU was to create a general treaty for handling international mail, guidelines were also established concerning the design of postage stamps so that clerks handling foreign mail would better estimate whether correct charges had been paid.

The matter of colour has been mentioned here before: red stamps for domestic mail, green for postcards, and blue for international letters.

It was also recommended that arabic numerals be used to denote the denomination – hence the replacing of Canada’s Queen Victoria “Maple Leaf” series with the “Numeral” issue.

Finally, there was the matter of identifying the country of origin. It was soon resolved that all stamps used for foreign mail should include the country of origin in their design (except Great Britain) and this should be written using the international form of the Roman alphabet.

At that time, most countries not using the Roman alphabet were either colonies or protectorates of a European power and so used that language on their stamps. Countries such as Persia and Afghanistan had no such links and so simply used the UPU official language which was, and still is, French.



A 1970 stamp from Afghanistan (Scott #838) with Postal Authority in Afghan and French, the stamp subject in Afghan and English, and the UN mission statement in English only.

Please Note that Bob Pike will be attending our Show on May 23rd and he will be pleased to settle accounts with anyone having books in the Peninsula Philatelic Circuit at that time.

Curiosity Corner (2) ...

The following note first appeared in *Australian Stamp News* February 1974 ...

Stamp dealers for more than a century have been buying and selling postage stamps by the million.

Now one of them has been featured on a stamp another philatelic “first”.

He is the great 19th Century Belgian dealer Jean-Baptiste Moens (1833-1908) who was depicted on the 10f stamp issued by Belgium last October to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Belgian Stamp Dealers’ Association.

“*The Philatelic Exporter*” (UK) tells this interesting background story, about Moens:

Besides being one of the leading dealers in Europe, J-B Moens produced albums, catalogues, etc., and published his own magazine “*Le Timbres-Poste*”.

This was published monthly on the 15th, and an anecdote about it, although now well established in philatelic lore, will perhaps stand further repetition.

Moens, not unlike some editors today, was plagued by a contemporary who lifted news items from his magazine without permission or acknowledgement. To teach the plagiarist a lesson, the April 15, 1867, number of “*Le Timbres-Poste*” contained a letter from I S. Neom reporting a new issue of stamps from the ‘Commune of Moresnet’ and stating that these had been printed by DeVisch and Livra.

Some short while afterwards the plagiarist’s paper appeared with a similar report, together with the further intelligence that he would soon have the stamps available and the price at which he would sell them.

Too late did he discover that J. S. Neom was an anagram of J. Moens; that DeVisch is the Flemish word for fish which, in French, is synonymous with fool; and Livra was an anagram of Avril, the French word for April.

April fool he undoubtedly was, and Moens’s customers and friends revelled in his discomforture.

According to reports, the UK Post Office plan to withdraw supplies of all high denomination stamps (over £1) from their normal service counters.

The reasoning is that when it comes to the higher postal charges required for parcels, special delivery, etc. there are so many rates that customers will have to go to the post office anyway so they might as well use the meter machine which is much less trouble than stamps.

High denomination stamps will be still available for commercial users who can order them from Royal Mail Direct and, I am quite, quite sure that high value stamps will still be readily available for collectors.

Next Club Meeting: Wed. April 21st at 7:00pm
Circuit Books from the RPSC.

Next Show Meeting: Tues. May 4th at 7:30pm
at 327 11th St. W., O. S. (anyone interested is most welcome)

Upcoming Events:

May 1 (Sat.): Saugeen Stamp Club will be holding their 6th Annual Show at the Grace United Church, 310 12th St., **Hanover**. Competitive exhibits, visiting exhibitors invited, dealer bourse, and youth table. Free admission. Hours: 10.00–4.00. *Note new location.*

May 1 (Sat.): Postage Stamp Show at Civic Garden Centre, Edwards Gardens, 777 Lawrence Ave. East at Leslie St., **Toronto**. 18 dealers, free admission. Hours: 9.00–5.00.

May 8 (Sat.): SCARPEX 2004 will be held at Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Drive, **Scarborough**. Club member’s exhibition, free parking and admission, 20 dealers, sales circuit books and club sales table, refreshments, door prizes, and raffle prizes. Hours: 9.00–3.30.

May 15 (Sat.): The New York Philatelic Society will be hosting NYPEX 2004 at Ramada Hotel, 1677 Wilson Avenue, **Toronto**. Free admission, competitive exhibits. Hours: 10.00–4.00.

May 15 (Sat.): Postage Stamp Show at Civic Garden Centre, Edwards Gardens, 777 Lawrence Ave. East at Leslie St., **Toronto**. 18 dealers, free admission. Hours: 9.00–5.00.

May 23 (Sun): Owen Sound Stamp Club Annual Show at the Bayshore Arena.

Stamp on the Envelope ...

On March 30th 1954, the first passengers rode on Toronto’s “Yonge Subway” from Union Station to Eglinton. The 50th anniversary of this event has been marked by a series of four stamps depicting each of the mass transit systems operating in Canadian cities today: the Toronto Subway, the Montreal Metro, the Calgary CTrain, and the Vancouver Skytrain.

While the stamps are technically sophisticated in their design and production, I’m not sure that it all really works too well. Each stamp depicts the trains coming, going, and picking up passengers, along with a route map, and the system logo. The designs are horizontally continuous but, it seems to me, are easier to appreciate as singles rather than a row, and certainly rather than in a sheet.

Debbie Adams has designed several other stamps for Canada Post including “Canadian Achievements in Space”; “Kites”; and the Armenian church commemorative.

<i>Title:</i> “Urban Transit”	<i>Issue date:</i> 30 March, 2004
<i>Denom:</i> 49¢	<i>Layout:</i> Pane of 16 stamps (4×4)
<i>Des.:</i> Debbie Adams	<i>Photogr.</i> Andrew Leyerle
<i>Print.:</i> Canadian Bank Note	<i>Process:</i> 10 colour lithography
<i>Paper:</i> Tullis Russell Coatings	<i>Gum:</i> PVA
<i>Size:</i> 57mm × 26mm	<i>Perf.:</i> 12½ × 13
<i>No.</i> 5,000,000	

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 trade, buy, and sell stamps and philatelic material. An auction is held at 8:00pm.

There are presently about 30 active members whose interests cover just about everything at all levels from beginner to expert. New members are always most welcome.

Annual Membership fees: Full: \$10; Family: \$15; Junior: Free. In addition, all members and visitors are asked to contribute \$1 each meeting which is passed directly to St. George’s Church in appreciation for allowing us to use their room.

The OSSC Newsletter is distributed monthly to members of the Owen Sound Stamp Club. 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.

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