

OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting: Wed. June 17th 2008 @ 7:00

From the Editor...Boats!

Yes I'm butting in, right in front of our illustrious president! Consider yourself reminded! Boats, ships, canoes, luxury cruise ships, Olympic rowing, Huckleberry Finn's raft, the Kontiki raft, Navy search and rescue, yachting, the baby Moses' basket...whatever!! If it floats and it supports one or more persons and it's on a stamp or post card, slap it on a piece of paper and bring it to the meeting. **You can do it!**

From the President...

June in bloom!

If any one has some time maybe they can look through their collections and see if they have any interesting material on flowers etc. that can be shared with the rest of us.

John Cortan offered to supply the club with a GB penny black Scott# 1 at a favourable price for the purpose of raffling off to raise money for the stamp club. I would appreciate some input on this from the membership at large, please see me at this month's meeting. This will definitely be a topic of discussion at this month's meeting. I think it is a good idea.

Remember that this month is a one page challenge month so try to bring something and win a prize.

Now let us have some real fun at this meeting and put on a really big auction, every one bring lots of lots and lots of cash, and go a little crazy!!!

Well that is all for now , Happy Stamping !

Alan M Charlesworth
President OSSC

Upcoming Events...

JUNE 21, Burlington, ON.

Burloak Stamp Fair, Burlington Senior's Centre, 2285 New St. (at Seneca). Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Between five and nine dealers, always new stock to explore. Collections bought. For more information, contact M.P. Anderson, (905) 632-6057, e-mail michael@parcelsplusinc.com.

JULY 13, Ottawa, ON

Stamp and Coin Show, Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Ave. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking and admission. Seventeen dealers. For more information, contact Brian Wolfenden, (613) 226-2045.

JULY 19, Burlington, ON

Burloak Stamp Fair, Burlington Senior's Centre, 2285 New St. (at Seneca). Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Between five and nine dealers, always new stock to explore. Collections bought. For more information, contact M.P. Anderson, (905) 632-6057, e-mail michael@parcelsplusinc.com.

AUG. 9, Kincardine, ON.

Kincardine Stamp Show, Royal Canadian Legion, 219 Lambton St. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Silent auction, door prize draws. Legion lunch booth and exhibits, free admission, nine dealers and sales circuit. Sponsor/Affiliate: Kincardine Stamp Club. For more information, contact John Cortan 519-395-5817 or E-mail jcortan@hurontel.on.ca.

From Dr. Phil A. Telly...

Stamps got you licked? Feeling stamped out?
Don't worry. Don't let it get you down,
Dr. Phil A. Telly has come to town!



The front and back of 80 AM Post magnified
blue 80 AM Post stamp! They look like German words, does one of those words mean
false? What is this all about? Still Dizzy

Dear Dr. Phil,

Thanks so much for your help identifying my 'Allied Military Government' stamps from Germany. Postal history is so interesting; here we have German stamps not issued by the Germans. Now I know where to put these stamps but another question has arisen. Take a look at the mark I have found on the back of the

Dear Dizzy,

The allied Military stamp shown above was printed in the Brunswick printing. These were used for 3-4 years after which the military went home and regular postage replaced it. By one method or another, many of the left over stamps found their way into the philatelic market. For this reason you will find that most of these stamps have a relatively low catalog value for mint stamps but for genuine postally used

stamps the value is much higher. For example; the 80 pfennig shown in my catalog (not a new catalogue) is \$15 mint and \$300 used, but this is for an expertised copy. Your stamp was expertised and you are correct, it is a false cancel. 'Stempel' loosely translated means cancel.

Many stamps mint and used may also have a small stamp on the back to show they were expertised in favor of the owner.

I hope this prevents any falsch ideas,

Dr. Phil

Cocoa By Ralph Wyndham



The beauty of philately is that it does not have to be an expensive hobby. Many additional free hours of education and enjoyment can be gained simply by studying a stamp's subject. I knew, the instant I found this stamp from Ecuador in a dealer's nickel box, that I wanted to know more about cocoa.

A rainforest dweller, the cocoa tree, reaching a height of 15 meters, is part of the rainforest understorey well shaded by the towering 70 metre giants growing over it. Cocoa only grows within 20 degrees north or south of the equator. It likes temperatures in the 21-32°C range with high humidity and up to 2000mm of rain every year. No wonder it likes to grow near rivers!

The tree flowers prolifically and continuously, bearing as many as 100,000 blossoms per year directly from the tree's trunk and main branches. Despite the many flowers, only 20 to 40 seedpods will form on a tree each year, taking about 6 months to ripen. The continuous flowering means that a tree may carry seedpods in all stages of development at the same time. Nevertheless, there are two main harvests: a primary one at the end of the rainy season and a smaller one at the beginning of the next rainy season.

Ripe cocoa pods, cut from the trees, must be opened within four days as they begin to spoil after this time. The seeds, or beans, which are white at this stage,

(Cocoa continues on page 3)

(Cocoa cont'd. from page 2)

must be scraped from the pods together with the surrounding pulp. (I imagine them to be similar to tomato seeds that are surrounded by that jelly-like mass.) In order to separate the beans from the pulp, they must be piled together, covered, and allowed to ferment. The heat of fermentation also prevents seed germination, reduces cocoa's bitterness, turns the seed brown and helps to develop the important cocoa aroma. When fermentation is complete, the beans are spread out in the sun, dried, and bagged for shipment to a processor.

Ecuador Scott #306 issued August 1, 1930 as part of a set commemorating the centenary of the founding of the republic. Ecuador is in the area where it is believed that cultivation of cocoa began perhaps as much as 4000 years ago.

Cocoa beans, like coffee beans, vary greatly in flavour and other properties. When they arrive for processing, beans are carefully blended to provide a consistently high quality product. After blending, they are husked, heat treated to kill bacteria, then roasted. Alkalization is a process that improves taste and colour that can be applied before, during or after roasting. The beans are then ground into cocoa liquor.



A large group of pods on the trunk of a cocoa tree. While cocoa is now grown in many tropical countries, 90% of global production comes from just 8 countries. The Ivory Coast accounts for nearly 40% of cocoa supplies.

About a third of the cocoa liquor goes directly to chocolate (candy) making, the rest is pressed to remove the cocoa butter (fat) and make cocoa press cake. A small amount of the cocoa butter is used for cosmetics and toiletries. The bulk of cocoa butter goes to the chocolate industry. Ultimately, about 2/3 of cocoa beans are used in the candy industry. The cocoa cake is used to make cocoa powder. The cultivation of cocoa began 3000-4000 years ago in the northern part of South America. The Aztec people believed that the cocoa tree was given to man by Quetzalcoatl, the god of wisdom and the wind, and was a bridge between earth and heaven. The scientific name, *Theobroma cocoa*, reflects this. *Theobroma* means 'food of the gods'. The Aztecs believed that drinking cocoa gave

mortals some of Quetzalcoatl's wisdom.

The Aztec emperor, Montezuma, drank large quantities of a cocoa drink called 'xocolatl'. When Spanish Conquistador Hernan Cortez arrived in South America in 1519, he was introduced to the drink. He sent some beans and the xocolatl recipe back to Spain where the Spanish sweetened it with sugar. Spain tried to monopolize the cocoa bean but her competitors eventually found their own sources.

Today, cocoa is grown in most of the tropical regions of the world. Up to 90% of the cocoa supply is grown by subsistence farmers with landholdings of less than 10 hectares. A group of 8 countries provide 90% of the world's 3 million tones of annual production. West Africa is by far the largest producer with the Ivory Coast alone providing almost 40% of the world supply.



This commemorative envelope issued on Feb. 8 2007 to celebrate 100 years of Purdy's Chocolates was sold out by spring.

Cocoa production has its political concerns as well. With the bulk of cocoa being produced by poor subsistence farmers lacking the means to pay for the labour required to manage their cocoa farms, human rights activists say that a great deal of child slave labour is used. Estimates are that up to 90% of Ivory Coast farms employ forced child labour. In the United States in 2001, the major chocolate companies agreed to voluntary protocols to eliminate child labour on West African cocoa farms in order to avoid legislation requiring chocolate products to be labeled 'slave-free'. None of the

major chocolate companies would have qualified for this label. To date, these companies have failed to meet even their own self-imposed targets. With 90 billion dollars in sales between them, it is hard to believe they lack the power to change this.

The other serious political concern involves the Ivory Coast as well. Rebellion there has split the country in two. The rebels control the diamond producing regions while government forces control the cocoa producing areas. We have all heard of the controversy over 'blood diamonds' paying for illegal arms for the rebellion in the Ivory Coast. The same holds true for cocoa sales being used to pay for purchases, by government forces, of arms that were banned by the United Nations, yet we have not heard anything about avoiding 'blood cocoa'.

We all enjoy our chocolate treats. By purchasing 'fair trade' chocolate products we, as consumers, can be sure that we are not supporting child slave labour practices or purchases of illegal arms.

It's a fact...the Royal Canadian Mint was the first to strike a coin of almost pure gold. (99.999%)

On the Cover... Royal Canadian Mint

This month the Royal Canadian Mint (RCM) is celebrating 100 years of currency production. The new stamp features the tail side of a fifty cent piece minted in 1908. The stamp comes in a pane of four blocks of four with the heads side of the coin and other coins featured between the blocks. The original Canadian Mint building in Ottawa is lightly depicted on the first day cover with the Governor General of the time, Earl Grey in the foreground. Canadian coins are now minted in the newer facility in Winnipeg. As all of us who receive Canada Post's 'Collections' magazine know, the RCM produces a great variety of new and innovative coins. The mint also produces circulating currency for many countries beyond our borders. I will not carry on in too much detail but instead invite you to read Ralph Wyndham's article 'On the Money' about the development of money.

Marion Ace

On the Money By Ralph Wyndham



This month, on June 4th, Canada Post issued a stamp to honour the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Canadian Mint. The first coins were made in the facility in January 1908. Prior to that, they were made in Britain. In the past 25 years alone the mint has made 52 billion coins not only for Canada but also for many countries around the world.

Before the invention of money, barter (the exchange of your goods or labour for someone else's goods or labour) was the only



Issued June 4, 2008 to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Canadian Mint, this stamp features one of the first coins to be struck there.



form of financial interaction. As humans began to settle into agricultural communities 11,000 years ago, domestic animals – cattle, sheep, camels, etc. – were used as a medium of exchange making them the first forms of money. Of course, using living creatures as money has some disadvantages. Seashells, on the other hand, do not have these disadvantages. Around 1200 BC the shell of the cowry, a mollusk fairly common in the Pacific and Indian Oceans came into use as a store of value. The cowry shell has been one of the most widely and longest used forms of money in the world. It was still used for this purpose in some places in disadvantages. They have to be fed, kept clean and healthy, and you need a place to house them safe from the weather and predators. Africa into the middle of the 20th century.

The first metal money was made in China around 1000 BC. Fashioned from bronze or copper, these first 'coins' were formed to resemble the cowry shell. The Chinese also made tools such as knives and shovels that could double as money. From these early efforts, crude, round metal coins evolved with a hole in the middle so that they could be tied together on a string.

Gold and silver, the precious metals, were first employed as coinage in Lydia, now part of Turkey, around 500 BC. This new idea caught on quickly and was soon in used in Greece, Persia, Macedonia and the Roman

Empire.

China is also home to the earliest form of banknote. In 118 BC, a 30-cm square of white deerskin leather with colourful borders began use as a lightweight replacement for large amounts of coin. Paper money came along 900 years later and was used in China until the mid-1400s when massive overproduction of notes resulted in hyperinflation that made them valueless.

Inflation just seems to be intrinsic to the nature of money. The Roman Empire struggled with it for centuries. Around 200 BC the Roman treasury, in an effort to meet the needs of its military payroll, constantly cheapened its coins using less valuable metals and making smaller coins. 500 years later, Emperor Diocletian tried price controls to curb inflation without success. He set the price for a pound of gold at 50,000 dinarii yet less than 25 years later it had risen to 2.1 billion dinarii. How big a pile of coins would that be?

(On the Money cont'd. pg. 5)

(On the Money cont'd. from pg. 4)



Today, with the computer to keep track of accounts, money has become an even more abstract commodity. We still have money to hold in our hands and exchange for goods but increasingly money is simply numbers stored electronically in accounts the world round. Low denomination coins are disappearing. Australia and New Zealand have taken their one and two-cent coins out of circulation and here in Canada there is talk about discontinuing our penny. Some schools

In the Pacific and Indian Ocean regions the cowry shell was used as money.



The hole in a coin's center was a Chinese innovation making it possible to carry one's money on a string like a necklace.

of thought would like to do away with physical money altogether in favour of a 'cashless' society where the electronic money transfer would be the only medium of exchange.

Regardless of what form it takes and how much or how little it may fluctuate in value to people, we can be sure that it will always be with us.

From the Editor...

Hi, it's me again. Thank you to Ralph Wyndham for his articles again. For those of you who don't know Ralph, he is the editor of the Saugeen Stamp Club's Bulletin. He has threatened to show up at one of our meetings, so hopefully you'll get a chance to meet him some time in the near future.

At the last meeting John Cortan brought raffle tickets for a Penny Black that the Kincardine Stamp Club is having a draw for at their sale in August. We did not get around to discussing whether or not to do the same at our show. In fact there was very little business discussed as our members eagerly poured over the circuit books that the Stratford fellows brought to the meeting. I brought some rhubarb tarts and muffins for everybody. If you don't come to the meeting, you never know what you'll miss! See you on Wednesday.

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The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the basement of St. George's Anglican Church (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 often held at 8:00 pm. There are presently about 20 active members whose interests cover just about everything at all levels, from beginner to expert.

Guests or new members are always most welcome.

Annual membership fees: Full-\$10; Family-\$15; Junior- Free

Members and guests contribute \$1 at each meeting which is passed directly to St. George's Church in appreciation for use of their room.

The OSSC Newsletter is distributed to all members. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are expressly those of the individual author.

Contributions to the newsletter are most welcome. Please submit any news, information, opinions or announcements to the editor.

Club Officers:

President: Alan Charlesworth (519) 371-0581

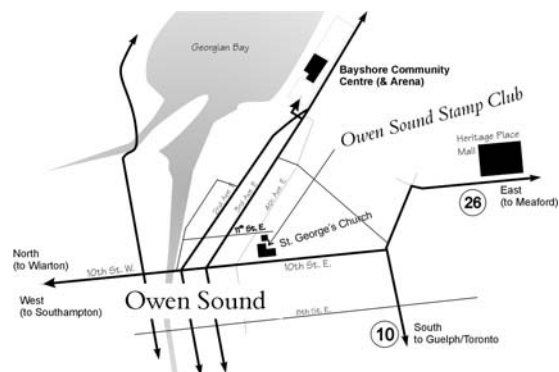
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It's a fact...the Royal Canadian Mint is a Crown corporation that had a net income of \$11.2 million in 2006.

It's a fact...I prefer dark chocolate! The editor