

# Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191  
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting: Wed. February 19th 2014 @ 7:00

## From the President...



When you are busy, everything seems to move very fast. It only seems like last week was the last meeting, but here I am again writing a welcome and hoping to see you on Wednesday, February 19th for the meeting this month. Our last meeting was well attended with a few new people as well. This was nice to see and hopefully this newsletter will reach them and they as well as you will be able to make the meeting at St Mary's High School.

This month is an opportunity for a workshop and to see how to make one page displays. The objective is to have a number of displays ready to send out to the Edmonton club as part of their show. They will be returned, of course, but the idea is to encourage all collectors to step out of the stamp closet and let other people know about our hobby. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the topic for the page is the hardest part. Some suggestions to consider is something like the Olympics, Scouting on stamps, organizations such as the Lion's Club, aircraft, ships, flowers etc.

Since we are only talking about a single page, not a lot of material is needed to show on the page. Of course there are several mixes possible, such as a first day cover, combined with individual stamps on the topic, either from one country or a number of different countries. If displaying only stamps, a variety would be possible from a few countries and could include single stamps, pairs, a block of four and these could be a se-tenant pair or a se-tenant block of four. The stamps can be used or mint, basically, whatever you have in your collection. Around, beside, above the stamp would be a little part of the story being told with the page. I hope a good number of people will participate. Even if you don't, please do come out to the meeting and see just how simple creating a display really can be. The only rule of the display is "stick to the topic."

The meeting in March will feature a few local "part time" stamp dealers bringing their stock along. I am not completely sure who will be coming but some of the names include Rob Armstrong, Rick Lokos, and possibly Gerd Fehler and Bob Watson. I will be able to confirm more on that topic in the next newsletter. I am also happy to say that Mr. Garfield Portch is coming to the April meeting. Garfield is the Vice President as well as a director of the Vincent Graves Greene Foundation,

and he will be making a presentation on the process involved in stamp expertization.

I hope that the weather will not interfere with the upcoming meeting and I hope that many of you are able to come out on the 19th. Good health and happy "stamping" until then...

Cheers!

Phil Visser  
President OSSC



We had a short visit from Ted Mehlfuhrer at our January meeting. We have not seen a lot of Ted over the last while since his wife Olive has not been well. Olive died November 21, 2013 and unfortunately none of us were aware of her passing. We feel your pain Ted and offer our sympathy.

Olive attended a few of our meetings at St. George's Anglican Church including some Christmas parties. She also joined us for a meeting we held at King's Restaurant. Olive was renowned amongst the club for rumballs that she made for our Christmas parties. Thank you and rest in peace *Olive Mehlfuhrer*.

Dieter Albrecht of the Saugeen Stamp Club recently wrote an article about German coil stamps. This is the Dr. Phil A. Telly article that inspired him to share his knowledge about German coil stamps followed by Dieter's article. the Ed.

### From Dr. Phil A. Telly...German Coils

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!

Dear Readers,

Last month we discussed coil stamps in the form of jump strips and line pairs. Last year some time we discussed coil stamps from various countries including Germany. Since that time I have encountered some good examples of German coils that I thought you might like to see.

The strip of eleven 500 mark stamps you can see up the side is typical of early German coil stamps. Up until 1954 most German definitive stamps were printed in ten by ten sheets of one hundred stamps. Coils were printed in long vertical strips for vending machines. The only way to prove that a stamp was a coil stamp was to

have a strip longer than ten stamps. Also, since the coil strips were usually vertical, having a horizontal pair or a block could prove that the items were from a sheet.

Because you would have no way of telling a single coil stamp from a single sheet stamp, Scott Catalogue makes very little mention of coil stamps pre-1954. One exception is a listing of the greenish blue 50 mark 'Miner's' stamp from the same 1922-3 issue as the 500 mark stamp. The stamp is mentioned because it was only issued as a coil stamp. They must have been fairly rare as well. A fine postally used example of the 50 mark 'Miner's' stamp is worth a few bucks!



This stamp is listed in Scott's Catalogue as one of the 1979-82 issues of the Castle Type of 1977-79 and is the

Once we get to 1954, coil stamps now had control numbers printed on the back of every fifth stamp. Avid mint stamp collectors could now collect coils in strips of five. Since control numbers were stamped over the gum of

the stamps, used stamp collectors could have difficulties. Sometimes the numbers fade or disappear when the stamps are soaked off of paper. The numbers can be found on stamps on paper by holding them up to the light and some collectors elect to keep the stamps on the bits of envelope rather than risk washing off the control number.

There are other variations that can make collecting German coil stamps interesting. Sometimes control numbers were printed with different coloured inks. Coils came in different lengths so while most control numbers are three digit, some are four digit. The complexities are such that Michel publishes a book called Handbuch-Katalog Rollenmarken Deutschland. Too bad it doesn't come in English!

While you are searching your German definitives for control numbers keep your eyes open for stamps with straight edges from booklets!

Keep on stamping! Dr. Phil

Dr. Phil A. Telly is our little syndicated column. If you've got questions for Dr. Phil please forward your questions to your editor. Questioners will be kept anonymous unless he or she requests to use their name.

### Coming Events...

- FEB. 21 - 23, Mesa, AZ  
Aripex 2014, Mesa Convention Center, 263 N. Center St. Hours: Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Forty-plus stamp and cover dealers, buying and selling, meetings, free admission and parking, Palmares Awards Banquet. \*WSP\* Champion of Champion competitive exhibits, and "Stamps In The Attic" free appraisals.  
Sponsor/Affiliate: Arizona Federation of Stamp Clubs. For more information contact Kevin A. Lesk, show chairman, telephone 480-240-0388 (home), 503-841-1827 (cell), email

*kwkual@aol.com. Website: <http://www.aripex.org>. I'll bet member Judy Galbraith will be attending this one!*

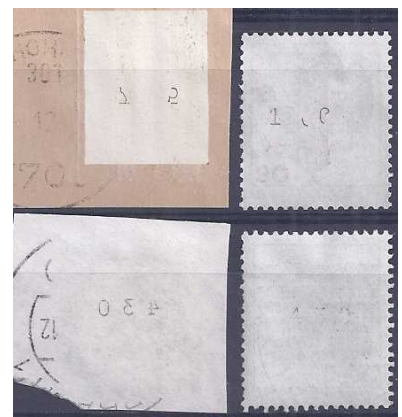
- FEB. 23, Toronto, ON  
Toronto Postcard Club 33rd Annual Show, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Ct. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Forty tables of vintage postcards for sale from Canada, the U.S.A. and the rest of the world from the early 1900s through the 'chromes' of modern times. Admission \$7, TPC members \$5. Near Don Mills Rd. & Eglinton, TTC accessible, free parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: Toronto Postcard Club. For more information contact Win Boyd, email [info@torontopostcardclub.com](mailto:info@torontopostcardclub.com). Website: <http://torontopostcardclub.com>.
- MARCH 8 - 9, Mississauga, ON  
Mississauga's 11th Annual Stamps, Coins and Collectibles Show, John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. (just south of Hwy. 403). Hours: Sat. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with \$3 adult admission; Sun. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., free admission. Kids 16 and under free both days, free parking, world-class philatelic and John Paul II exhibits, displays of coins, stamps, and collectibles. Twenty-five plus dealers of Canadian and International Stamps, gold and silver coins, paper money, military and other collectibles. Sponsor/Affiliate: Polish-Canadian Coin & Stamp Club (Troyak Club). More information contact Tom, telephone 905-281-0000; Wesley, telephone 416-258-1651, email [info@troyakclub.com](mailto:info@troyakclub.com). Dealers contact Peter (Janusz), telephone 416-724-4410. Website: <http://www.troyakclub.com>.
- MARCH 8, Windsor, ON  
WINPEX 2014, Caboto Club, 2175 Parent (at Tecumseh). Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission, free door prizes, and free youth program. Sponsor/Affiliate: Essex County Stamp Club. For more information contact Brian Cutler, telephone 519-966-2276, email [cutler@mnsi.net](mailto:cutler@mnsi.net). Website: <http://www.essexcountystampclub.com>. Alan Charlesworth might be found at this one!

## GERMAN COIL STAMPS

by Dieter Albrecht

Ever since reading Dr. Phil A. Telly's article about coil stamps in Saugeen Stamp Club Bulletin #135, July, 2009, I have often wondered 'Should or should I not add something to it?' It is such an interesting theme that I can't ignore it any longer.

Years ago, I got bored just collecting regular stamps so I decided to look into other areas of stamp collecting and discovered coils, especially German ones. Germany's first coil stamps were part of the 'Germania' issues from 1905 -



1911. They were followed by the war time *Germania* printings. These stamps varied greatly in printing quality from very sharp to not so clear due to wartime shortages of quality paper and printing inks. The *Germanias* of this era were further complicated by watermarks and perforation varieties.

Then followed coils for the 'Number', 'Posthorn', and 'Labour' issues, 1921 – 1912, with two different watermarks plus different backgrounds and colours. These were followed by the inflation era 'Number' issues then a few 'Famous People' in 1926, 'Hindenburg' in 1932 and then some 'Hitler' issues.

Proving that you have coil stamps for these early issues requires collecting vertical strips of 11 stamps. Coil stamps were produced in exactly the same way as sheet stamps with the same perforations on four sides except that the coils' 'sheets' were much longer. The long sheets were then separated by the perforations into long coil strips of up to 10,000 stamps. A strip of 10 stamps or less could have come from a regular stamp sheet.

Some or almost all of the control numbers has stayed on the cover rather

There are a couple of interesting and rare coil varieties from this era. Sometimes, post masters would run out of coil stamps for the vending machines requiring them to improvise by tearing sheets into strips and gluing them together with selvedge paper to make emergency rolls. If you come across a pair of stamps connected in this way you have a rare find! Another variety, also very rare, results from printing sheets up to 10,000 stamps in length. If the perforator was off even by 1000th of a millimeter at the start of a sheet, perforations would be running through the middle of the design by the end of it. When the perforations started getting too far off proper registration, the machine would be stopped and adjusted leaving a noticeable 'jump' in the perforations along the strip of stamps. Nobody ever gave these any thought and most have long since disappeared.

Post WWII, starting with the 'Heuss' issues, experimental measures were introduced. One was stamps printed on fluorescent papers to try to automate sorting and canceling mail. The other was the control number. These numbers, printed on the back of every fifth stamp, on top of the gum, made inventory control much easier. No longer was it necessary to count every stamp left in a vending machine. As



a result of this, it is also no longer necessary to collect long strips to prove you have a coil stamp – all you need is the number appearing on the back. Of course, with the number being printed on top of the stamp's gum, collecting used examples is trickier as the number can be washed off when a used stamp is soaked off its envelope thus losing your proof that the stamp was from a coil.

Just as there were many experiments with fluorescent papers and tagging inks, there were quite a few different experiments with control numbers. Numbers were

printed in black, green, blue and red to determine which was best, with black becoming the colour of choice. Today, those early experimental numbers in the discontinued colours are quite rare and in some cases very expensive.

Here you can see the same control number on both

The coil scene was fairly stable with the 'Famous People', 'Brandenburg Gate', 'Accident Prevention' and 'Castles and Palaces' issues. Experimentation picked up again with the 'Historic Sites and Objects' issue started in 1987. A number of different papers and gums were investigated. Changes to the control number were also made with this issue. The original small numbers were made larger and then even larger still, resulting in three different number sets for this series. Assembling a complete collection of this series is indeed a challenging and costly undertaking.

With the advent of self-adhesive stamps, control numbers still appear on the back of coil stamps, but the number now appears on the backing paper. This makes collecting used examples impossible as the number is removed with the backing. And now, privatization has come to the German postal system. Companies taking up the challenge of delivering mail are issuing stamps of their own. Will they add to the complexity of collecting German coil stamps by offering their own versions?

### On the Cover... Pioneers of Winter Sports



The stamp on your cover this month will be one of the three shown on this souvenir sheet. Each of these stamps also comes in its own booklet of ten stamps but I thought that you might enjoy one from the souvenir sheet. Each image shows the athlete in action and is a painting based on a photograph.

The stamp images are bright and lively and represent each athlete well but there are a number of things that I find odd or interesting about this issue.

Firstly, if you look closely you will see the year of birth and of death below the athlete's name. This is the only indication that Barbara Ann Scott, Sandra Schmirler and Sarah Burke are all dead. In the literature online and in Details Magazine no mention is made of this fact. How odd. A lot of stamp collectors will be happy (not that they're dead) because this reflects the old standards of the only living persons shown on stamps being monarchs and heads of state.

The stamps are brightly coloured with the three primary colours...oops – no they are not. You may have been taught at an early age that yellow, (cyan) blue and red

are the primary colours but actually magenta is the third colour. Check your printer, no red in there! Red is made with magenta and a bit of yellow.

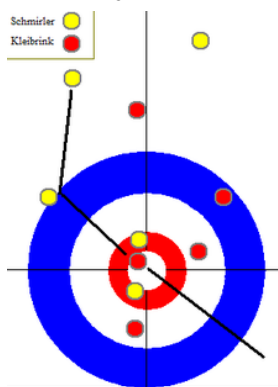
The third and fourth questions that come to mind are 'with all that space on the souvenir sheet why isn't the background a whole lot more interesting?', which leads directly to the question, 'why is there no mention of the winter Olympics in Sochi?'

Surely these are what should be our stamps to honour the Olympics this year. The stamps are issued in time for the games. Two of these ladies are known for their Olympic gold medal wins and Sarah Burke was expected to win gold in Sochi in the freestyle superpipe event that she had urged the IOC to include in the 2014 winter Olympics. Tragically the young skier died as a result of a skiing accident in Salt Lake City that happened on January 10<sup>th</sup> 2012. She was not quite twenty. There has been a bit of wrinkle at these Olympics for a number of athletes who wished to wear a sticker on their apparel or equipment in memory of Sarah Burke. The IOC has warned the athletes that this is unacceptable. The Olympic Charter does not allow any badges or symbols that are 'publicity or propaganda, commercial or otherwise'. This may seem a little hardnosed but on the other hand there are already too many Coca-cola signs everywhere, let's keep them off the contestants. Then again you could have people standing up for gay rights, which has been the most discussed topic leading up to these games. Could the subject of gay rights be enough to make 'the powers that be' who decide whether or not to put the Olympic Rings on a stamp be that squeamish? Hmm...I hope not. Probably the exclusion of the Olympic rings is simply because Sarah Burke did not actually get the chance to compete in the Olympics, even though she won gold four times in the Winter X Games. Sarah was born in Barrie and raised in Midland, Ontario (practically our backyard)! Later she moved to Squamish, BC where it is much hillier.



The Barbara Ann Scott doll

Okay, there aren't any Olympic rings on the stamps or in the background but surely there are lots of other images that could have filled some of that wide open space on the souvenir sheet. How about the Barbara Ann doll that Eaton's produced and sold for a number of years. Or how about a photo of her in the big yellow Buick convertible she was presented with upon her return home in 1947 after winning the World Figure Skating and European Skating Championship. She had



to give the car back to remain considered as an amateur for the 1948 Olympics and 1948 was her banner year. She retained the two titles won in 1947 and gained the Canadian Figure Skating Championship. After that the Europeans decided that only Europeans could go in their competition. Then at the 1948 Olympics at St. Moritz Switzerland 'Canada's Sweetheart' won the

first and only gold medal for women's singles in figure skating won by a Canadian. She did get that convertible back and then went on to a career of professional ice skating shows. She retired from skating when she was twenty-five. That may seem young or maybe not when you consider that she started training for seven and a half hours a day when she was nine!!

Barbara Ann lived an amazing life, becoming a horse trainer and distinguished equestrian in the Chicago area. One of her last acts was to be one of the flag bearers at the Vancouver 2010 opening ceremonies in February 2010. Her home town of Ottawa created the Barbara Ann Scott Gallery in 2011 to which Barbara Ann donated her Olympic Gold Medal. She died not even two years ago in September 2012 at the age of 84.

For Sandra Schmirler, maybe a pic of her favourite curling rock would have been suitable to put on the souvenir sheet. Did she have a favourite rock? I don't

This diagram shows the amazing shot that won

know but 'Schmirler the Curler' was another woman very dedicated to her sport. As a youth she was an all round athlete. She may not have practiced seven hours a day but she

did start curling in grade 7 and continued on in competitive curling throughout high school, winning the provincial championship in grade 12.

Schmirler was well known through the 1990s. When she married and played under the name Sandra Peterson, she was still called 'Schmirler the Curler'. During these years Schmirler and her team(s) won three World Curling Championships and got three golds in the Scott Tournament of Hearts as well as two bronze. Up until 1998 Curling had mostly been a sporadic demonstration sport and when it was finally an official Olympic sport in Nagano Japan, Schmirler and her team were there to take the gold.

She was a feisty lady from Biggar, Saskatchewan and although she lived much longer than Sarah Burke, sadly she died of cancer in 2000, only 36 years old.

All in all I'd have to say that these three women were very deserving of the honour of being on a Canadian stamp and worthy of the title 'Pioneers of Winter Sport'.

**Don't forget... Dues are OVERDUE!!!**

From the Editor...

John Cortan brought his wares to the January meeting. Most of us were busy rummaging in his wares. Thanks for bringing your goods John.



It looks like we will be working on some single page exhibits. I don't know if the Edmonton club is going to be judging the entries. 'Stick to the topic' is not the only rule when single pages are judged. Typically it should have a title and I am told it should contain (at least) three different philatelic items. There is a lot of leeway in what constitutes 'different' philatelic items. This can range from maxi-cards, post cards, first day covers, other covers, metres, singles, pairs and blocks of stamps used or mint and we certainly can't forget coils. I'm sure you can think of other things too. The beauty of doing single page exhibits is that it can lead to the desire to do larger exhibits. That has happened to me and I am now collecting in new areas that I find interesting, exciting and rewarding. (and you just learn so darn much!)

I'll see if I can find and do a run off of the rules to bring to the meeting.

Marion Ace, Editor OSSC

# Owen Sound Stamp Club

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The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the cafeteria of St. Mary's High School, 555 15th St. East. Please park behind the school. The 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 30 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: \$15; Junior- Free

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