

Owen Sound Stamp Club
Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 20th 2016 @ 7 PM

From the President...



Welcome to the New Year of 2016. I wish you all a safe and healthy year with lots of collecting discoveries. As I tap away at the keyboard, the snow is falling and some wind is blowing outside which is a reminder to all club members not to take chances for the upcoming meeting on January 20th, 2016. We will again meet at the St Mary's High School and I am looking forward to seeing you all come again.

The last number of years we have had John Cortan come with his stamp stock for us to look through. John has added new material to his stock recently so I hope you are able to find some gems for your collection. Since John is our resident stamp dealer, he is also able to get stamp supplies. If you are in need of something specific, albums, refill pages etc, just give John a call and those materials may arrive in time for the meeting. John's phone number is 519-395-5817.

Following tradition, the first meeting of the year is an opportunity to elect the executive for the club. The present executive has served in their respective capacities for several years, and so the club might consider that changes may be appropriate, so carefully consider the change over procedure so that a new executive member may not have to jump into a fire when an unexpected situation arises. All it takes is for nominations to come from the floor (you!) and an election will follow.

In the event the winter weather makes it dangerous for John to travel, the backup plan is to have the Owen Sound Circuit Books for us to look through. Chris has mentioned that several pages have been added at each of the last few meetings. I encourage everyone to organize the excess stamps that we all have and try to put them on pages for the circuit books. The number of binders has increased and hopefully we can build up the stock and broaden the variety of stamps that club members can look through. The binders have been labeled now and it will make it easier to find the stamps someone may be interested in adding into their collection.

The itinerary for the first few months of this year includes John's "visit" in January, an auction and the club circuit books in February, Dave Hannay from Kincardine will be speaking about revenue stamps in March and in April there will be another speaker, Mike Behm who will be speaking about perfins. I have heard that Mike is a very interesting speaker and has quite the sense of humour. Also, I am not sure if another newsletter will be coming out before the spring due to work commitments, but I have started the article for the next newsletter so there might be a newsletter in February.

It is also a reminder to everyone that hasn't paid their dues for 2016 to do so as soon as possible. If you are unable to attend the meeting on the 20th, Bob Ford's address is on the last page of this newsletter if you need to mail the dues this year. I hope the weather will make traveling to our meeting reasonable but whatever, please do not take unnecessary risks.

Cheers.

Phil Visser
President
OSSC

Visiting the Greene Foundation

By Phil Visser

The complete name for the foundation in the title is the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation. It is located at 10 Summerhill Ave, Toronto ON. Just to the east of Yonge Street, this foundation is a gem for philatelists; at least once the anxiety of driving to Toronto can be overcome. The Foundation is open to all collectors on the first Saturday of the month; or it can be opened at a special request from a group of collectors.

Kathy is the Reference Librarian who gave a friendly greeting and provided me with some research material I had asked for before hand. Strictly speaking, the Greene Foundation consists of two parts, the Harry Sutherland Library and the Stamp Expertizing Committee with their associated equipment. This article will continue speaking about the Harry Sutherland Library while the second component of the Foundation will be in another article.

So we begin with a library. For some people, a library may be dull and a place that takes a lot of time to find information, but a library that is dedicated to our hobby, well that deserves some investigation. Space wise it can't compare to the local library here in Owen Sound, but the material there can fill in the knowledge gap for a thoroughly engrossed collector. Libraries do have many similar qualities so let's begin the tour.

One of the first things I saw when I walked in to the room was a rack of magazines. There were copies of the Canadian Stamp News, Linn's Stamp News, Stanley Gibbons Stamp Monthly and other publications such as the GTAPA PhilaJournal just to mention a few. I presume that past issues are available but that is a question to ask Kathy if you visit in the future. There is a seating area where a person could sit and read/peruse the magazines if that was your only interest in visiting. While there, several other collectors appeared and there were lots of well wishes and New Year greetings. It was definitely not the silent atmosphere associated with a library while on this visit but it was pleasant to make new acquaintances.

What else could make a person want to visit a library? A book of course is the answer and there were lots of them available. In the short time spent on the visit, yes, three hours is a short time for me, I could not see everything, but a continual thing that a collector is looking for is information about philatelic subjects. Naturally there were several sets of catalogues for research, and these include Scott's, Stanley Gibbons and some specialist catalogues. Out of sheer curiosity, I asked about the Perfin Clubs catalogue of British perfins. Yes, it was present! I am not sure if this was the latest edition, but it is a beginning if a person wanted to catalogue the perfins accumulated so far. Since there were three volumes of the catalogue covering the letters of the alphabet, I can believe that there are some thirty two thousand different British perfins!

Prior to the trip to Toronto, I had emailed Kathy some questions for research that I was interested in. Upon my arrival there were two books on the table to look at with some information. Perhaps it may seem silly to have such a book in a philatelic library, but Lovell's "Canadian Directory of 1871" did provide some interesting information. This directory was published to provide a person with the name of persons in business in a community. Looking at Owen Sound, a few pages provided the names of many men and on which street they lived. I looked for a name I knew has been in this community for generations, and sure enough there was the family name. Although the person was listed as a "labourer" the family did venture into business and was still in business when I moved to this community in the early 1970's.

There are many organizations in the philatelic world that provide information to feed our hobby. Of course the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada is closely associated with the Greene Foundation, but another organization

which also publishes magazines is available in the library. Past copies of the "BNA Topics" provided some more information on the research topic that is tickling me. The past issues were bound into volumes, and if you know what to search for, you might just find that information in the library. I have a feeling that there is a database to research which might cut down the need to look into every book on the shelves. If not, it would be a good idea for the library to see if it is possible to create just such a database. It would be a very labour intensive project.

A recent speaker mentioned that the library had received many past records from the Post Office/Canada Post. These records would be a gold mine of information, but the key item to consider is the time period decisions were being made about a topic. Let's consider the first stamps from Canada, before Confederation. British currency was used for the first few series of stamps, the pence stamps, but in 1859 the stamps were issued using cents. Surely there must have been discussion about this within the Post Office about the change in currency and the equivalency between the two currencies. There may already have been a book written about the early stamps which may include some information about the currency switch.

This is the extent of what I found in the Harry Sutherland Library on the January 2nd trip. Certainly one visit for a few hours is just not enough time to discover what the library can offer to the stamp collector. Kathy has offered to open the library to a group for a visit provided she has sufficient notice. I hope there is an interest from club members in doing just that. Consider if you have an interest in visiting for just reading or doing some research in catalogues etc and let's plan a trip.

Summary Tip #5: "Condition" determines the saleability and return upon your original outlay.

Dear Philip,

At least 3 factors affect the saleability of your collection:

- 1). Country / subject popularity
- 2). Scarcity
- 3). Condition

In this message I am focussing upon condition for the simple reason that, if a stamp is not in good condition in the first place - then it will not be worth a high percentage of catalogue value (unless like the famous British Guiana 1c black/magenta it is unique).

Over the last 30 years of philatelic trading it has become increasingly obvious that the price 'spread' between poor quality and finest quality has increased almost beyond recognition.

In our auctions, each item is offered with an unique reducing estimates system - till the stamp, cover or philatelic item is sold - or is given away. This system creates a transparency of prices which is virtually unknown outside of eBay. Time and again you may see a second quality stamp unsold, reduced, unsold, further reduced ... until, sooner or later, the stamp reaches a lower price that collectors deem it such a bargain as to bid upon it and the stamp is sold.

However, given that same stamp in top / high quality - if you don't bid upon it the first time, it is unlikely to be there for a second. Invariably, astute collectors recognise that stamp as rare in that condition, so that, for example, in America 'exhibition class' stamps (often accompanied by certificates stating a 95-100% example)

command huge multiples of catalogue value. Such a market can become so 'rarefied' as to lose all sense of perspective - but the principle holds true - usually the dealer's profit margin on a second quality stamp is far greater than that upon the same stamp in high quality - so the return upon your original outlay is higher for high quality stamps.

Moral:

- 1). Only buy the best quality stamps that you can afford.
- 2). Consider availability and the cost of the rarest stamps that you will need when determining which area/period/subject you are going to collect.

Happy collecting from us all,

Andrew

PS. If you find this 'tip' interesting please forward it to a philatelic friend.

Andrew McGavin

Coming Events...

- JAN 22 UNIPEX 2016 Stamp & Coin Show January 22, 2016 to January 24, 2016
Monetcassino Hotel, 3710 Chesswood Drive, Downsview, ON, M3J 2W4. NEW LOCATION, ONE GRAND HALL!!! Combining both stamp and coin dealers together, so collectors can come buy and sell their collection or search for more. Everything from stamps, coins, medals, first day covers, catalogues, accessories, and much more. Phone: Susan Cartini Email: susancartini@rogers.com
- FEB 6 Bramalea Stamp Club Annual Show and Bourse
Judith Nyman Secondary School, 1295 Williams Parkway, Brampton, ON, L6S 3J8. The show is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., featuring 10 dealers, silent auctions, exhibits, free stamps for beginners, free parking, door prizes, snack bar and is wheelchair accessible. Phone: 905-792-3526 Email: bobthorne70@gmail.com Web: www.bramaleastampclub.org
- FEB 13 BURLPEX 2016 stamp show.
Burlington Seniors Centre, 2285 New Street, Burlington, ON, L7N 2Y1
Annual stamp show run by the Burlington Stamp Club. Note: The Senior's Centre is located off Teen Tour Way. Show times are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 13 dealers present, club sales circuit, open snack bar, two silent auctions. Email: jjglasbergen@sympatico.ca
- FEB 20 Burloak Stamp Fair
Burlington Senior Centre, 2285 New St., Burlington, ON, L7R 1J4
Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nineteen years of regular monthly shows on the third Saturday of every month. Six to nine dealers, active buyers, and always something new. For more information contact Steve Simon, telephone 905-575-2950, email bas6@bell.net.
- FEB 21 Toronto Postcard Club Annual Show
Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Court, Toronto, ON, M3C 1Z5
Canada's largest vintage postcard show. 1,000s of postcards for sale. 40 tables of antique postcards from many countries covering many topics. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission \$5. Free parking. TTC accessible. Details at www.torontopostcardclub.com Email: info@torontopostcardclub.com Web: <http://torontopostcardclub.com/toronto-postcard-show/>

- FEB 27 St. Thomas Stamp Club 30th Annual Stamp Show
Community of Christ Church, 105 Fairview Ave, St. Thomas, ON, N5R 3X4
10 dealers, exhibits, door prizes. Free admission, free parking. No stairs to climb. Phone: 519-631-8180
Email: jcowlard@bell.net
- MAR 19 Burloak Stamp Fair
Burlington Senior Centre, 2285 New St., Burlington, ON, L7R 1J4
Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nineteen years of regular monthly shows on the third Saturday of every month. Six to nine dealers, active buyers, and always something new. For more information contact Steve Simon, telephone 905-575-2950, email bas6@bell.net.
- MAR 19 OXPEX/OTEX 2016
John Knox Christian School, 800 Juliana Dr., Woodstock, ON, N4S 8X3
Over 120 framed exhibits, 4 judges, critique session, 15 dealers, youth gift bags, prize draws, club circuit books, lunch and snack counter, free parking, free admission, everyone welcome. Phone: 519-290-1399
Email: john.mcwilliam@gmail.com Web: WWW.OXFORDPHILSOC.COM
- APR 2 Lonpex 124
Ramada Inn, 817 Exeter Road, London, ON, N6E 1W1
Sponsored by the London Philatelic Society. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Churchill Room. Exhibits, 12 dealers, draws, free parking and admission. Email: donslau@execulink.com Web: <http://londonphilatelicsociety.com/>
- APR 16 Burloak Stamp Fair
Burlington Senior Centre, 2285 New St., Burlington, ON, L7R 1J4
Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nineteen years of regular monthly shows on the third Saturday of every month. Six to nine dealers, active buyers, and always something new. For more information contact Steve Simon, telephone 905-575-2950, email bas6@bell.net.
- APR 22 Hamilton 2016 Springpex April 22, 2016 to April 23, 2016
Bishop Ryan Secondary School, 1824 Rymal Road East, Hamilton, ON, LOR 1P0
Large silent and voice auction Friday evening with viewing starting at 5 p.m. Saturday is a 20-dealer bourse plus youth booth and silent auction from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. GRVPA club circuit sales books Friday and Saturday. Light food and refreshments with ample free parking. For more information contact Steve Forten
Email: southont@cogeco.ca Web: www.hamiltonstampclub.com
- APR 23 Best Western Stamp Show
Niagara Room, Best Western Hotel, QEW at Lake Street, St. Catharines, ON, L2N 4G9
Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking, free admission and free appraisals. Sponsored by Roy's Stamps, specializing in the stamps and covers of Canada and the British Commonwealth. For further information, contact Roy Houtby Phone: 905-934-8377

From the Editor...

Another newsletter has now again been produced and I hope you find it useful and interesting. I'm not sure how many take the opportunity to scan the coming events section just above this note. When you look at the London show on April 2nd you will see it is numbered "124." Surely this must be the oldest continuous show in Ontario. The club could use an editor for the newsletter and I would really appreciate an interested individual stepping forward to take over this job. Computer skills are important as well as a willingness to write some articles. This newsletter is also being shared with the Greene Foundation as it adds to the history of our hobby. I would also remind you that the Owen Sound Stamp Club maintains a web page at www.owensoundstampclub.org and hope you take a few minutes to visit it.

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During the school year, 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 Street East. Meeting agendas will vary between having visiting club circuit books, speakers and an auction. Guests and new members are always welcome. Annual membership fees: \$15.00

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