

Stamps on the Bay



**The Voice of the
Owen Sound Stamp Club
Branch 191 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada
Next Meeting: Saturday, January 20, 2024 1 P.M.
New Life Centre, 199 4th Ave West, Owen Sound
Volume 4, Edition 12, January 2024**



Hello my philatelic friends!

I hope you all enjoyed the holidays. Our plans were disrupted due to illnesses and from what I hear so were the plans of most people. Even so we managed to see much of the family and had an exhausting time! Between travels we went for a walk nearby and saw a snail crossing the road. Now a snail crossing the road is not usually

an event that I get all excited about but....hello, this was December 28th!!! In Bruce County!!!

Our December meeting was a great success. There were lots of treats, lots of donated auction items and lots of bidding. We raised over \$300 and the club pitched in to round it up to \$400. Bob and I delivered the check to the OSHARE people on January 5th with our intrepid editor Phil snapping some pics. I'm sure Phil has a photo later on these pages.

There were a few faces missing from the meeting that I expected to see. I hope that everyone is well and that the missing people were socially engaged elsewhere.

We had another lively online auction on January 3rd. While our Zoom meetings have dwindled a bit in attendance; our online auctions are going steadily and growing. It is great to have so much interaction with other clubs. Bill Findlay and I are in possession of stamp collections from two other people. Bill has been putting some items in the auction but still has quite a bit to go through. We plan on having a special online auction day just for these two collections. We haven't settled on a date yet but we'll let you know!

It's January so we have to take care of some business. Bob will have a financial report for us, so make sure your dues are paid up! It is also elections time which usually takes a few seconds but if you want to take over as President come on up! Seriously though, Phil is our Vice-President and is stepping down as Editor. Phil has his fingers in very many philatelic pies and needs to move on. Every editor does the newsletter in their own way. One can start out very simply. The most important thing is to remind members of the meetings and let people know what's happening. So please swallow your trepidation and give it a whirl. Many thanks to Phil Visser for all of his hard work and dedication to providing us all with 'Stamps on the Bay'.

We'll have an auction and the circuit books at this meeting. Don't forget January to March meetings are on Saturdays!

See you on Saturday afternoon of January 20th at 1:00!

Marion Ace, President, Owen Sound Stamp Club

Editors Greeting

Last months teaser scan may have posed a challenge to some readers. Some may have recognized the name of the country, less the letter "j," as Latvia. Latvia is one of the Baltic republics that regained their independence in the 1990's. The stamp itself is Scott #365c and represents the Coat of Arms for Zemgale. This small town is located south east of the Capital city of Riga. But the secondary factor of this stamp is the animal on the coat of arms for Zemgale. The animal is the tall and majestic moose. Now you can see that the stamp referred to the story about Dryden, Ontario.

In the following pages are three stories, two reports and the faithful "Blast from the Past." This is also the final issue of "Stamps on the Bay." My keyboard needs a rest, as does my brain. A huge thank you to all those who contributed to this newsletter. The written articles helped immensely. My first step into the Editors Role was July 2014. It was not something I thought would last these number of years. I hope this newsletter will restart again in the near future.

There is no teaser scan this month. However, our hobby started with this stamp issued in May of 1840, the penny black.



Historical Enigma

By Phil Visser

An enigma is a puzzle that sticks in the mind. Since high school a person has stuck in my mind, Alexander the Great. He lived a short life but, in those years, he held massive power over the Middle East.

A review of Wikipedia¹ provided a memory refresher course. He is known as Alexander III of Macedon and lived a short life and died at age 33. For about ten years he led one of the most successful military campaigns. His empire reached from the Adriatic Sea to the Indus River in India and southward to Egypt.

With this success, he is commemorated on several stamps from several nations. Naturally, he is featured on Greek stamps like Figure 1. It is listed as Scott #578 issued in 1955. This same image was used on Scott #561 and #638.

Following independence, North Macedonia also issued stamps with the image of Alexander. Figure 2 comes from Colnect.com and is listed as Scott # 234. This stamp was issued in 2002.



Figure 1



Figure 2

This image is sourced from Goggle Images and posted by L. Papaulakas.

One of the greatest museums in the world is found in London, Great Britain. In 2003 Great Britain issued a series of stamps honouring the Museum. The 1st class mail stamp features a bust of Alexander the Great. Scott's catalogue this stamp as #2160. Figure 4 is also source from Google Images.



Figure 3

Following his death in 323 BC, the kingdom was divided into four parts. Each part was administrated by one of his generals². The Ptolemaic Empire was modern day Egypt, Libya down to the Sudan. The Seleucid Empire was the eastern most areas from Palestine through to Iraq, Iran and northern India. The Pergamon Empire is from Bulgaria into parts of Asia Minor (Turkey).

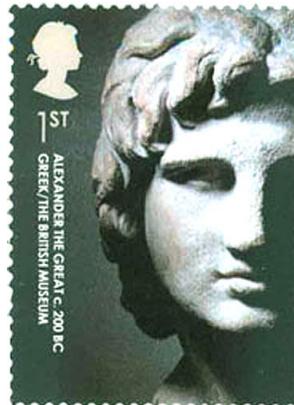


Figure 4

Each kingdom tussled to and fro for control and war was constant between the four kingdoms. Palestine was under the Seleucid Kingdom who had a mixed relationship with the Jews in Palestine. One ruler violated the Jewish Temple by erecting an alter to Zeus and sacrificing pigs in the Temple³.

Using guerrilla warfare, the Jewish people were able to rid themselves of the Seleucid people. The Temple was

purified at which time the Miracle of Lights led to the establishment of Hanukkah celebrated in December. It was Judas Maccabeus who successfully led the revolt. This addition is included to correct the error from the December Edition of Stamps on the Bay. The December edition referred to the return of Jewish Temple articles which is corrected by the above paragraph.

1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great

2 https://www.google.com/search?q=kingdoms+after+alexander+the+great&oq=Kingdoms+following+Alexander+the+Great&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJv bWUqCAGBEAAYFhgeMgYIABBFgDkyCAGBEAAYFhgeMg glAhAAGBYHjIICAMQABgWGB4yCAGEEAAYFhgeMgOIB RAAGIYDGIAGloFMgOIBhAAGIYDGIAGloFoGEMJTAzNj dqMGo3qAlAsAIA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#vhid=-EYy2-ys4crG-M&vssid=1

3 <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/hanukkah>

December 14th Zoom Meeting

Even though the season is busy, nine members and guests came to the Zoom meeting. Sitting in the comforts of our own homes allowed the participants to sip away on beverages of choice. Greetings were exchanged and weather conditions compared.

New Brunswick was also mild and rainy, like that in Owen Sound. That did not interfere with the cyber communications. Nor did it dampen the moods of those present.

We started off our sharing with Marion mentioning a CBC radio broadcast from Tom Power. He was interviewing Donald Sutherland. During the interview he mentioned how honoured he was to be featured on a stamp. To top things off, Donald asked listeners to head down to the Post Office and mail him a letter with his stamp on it.

Should anyone wish to send him a belated letter, his address is "**Donald Sutherland; General Delivery; Georgeville, P.Q.; JOB 1TO.**" A few days later I did send him letter. Imagine it if he put those letters into a collection. It would be very curious to see how many letters he received. It would also be interesting to see the various Canadian city post marks on those letters.

Bill F. then shared the image of the Sutherland stamp. See Figure 1 for the image. Its black and white nature does not do it justice, but this is only one medium of

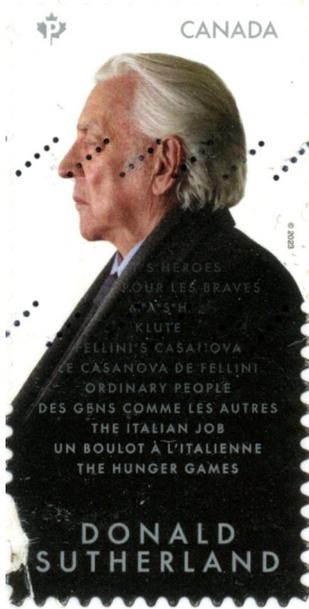


Figure 1

communications.

When it came to presentations, Bill F started off showing how Christmas is represented on French stamps. As a spoiler, it does not say Christmas anywhere on the stamp, but the images are all Christmas themed. Salutations like “Best Wishes” or images of the nativity, and one with an image of Santa and in words “Bonne Annee.”

I chimed in with a sort of Christmas story from the Netherlands. The first set of semi-postal stamps were issued around the Christmas. The full story is written in the December 2013 newsletter. Just go to the website to reread the story.

A last presentation was made by Randy R, or R² if you receive any emails from Randy. He too was in the Christmas spirit and showed some of the early presents he received. These books sate his appetite for knowledge on revenue stamps. The first book shown was the “Great Britain Revenue Catalogue, 1st edition.” His second arrival was the “Impressed Duty Stamps of G.B.” and then the third offering was of the “Catalogue of Chinese Tax Stamps.” It was advertised as being in English, but only a very small part was in our language. However, the illustrations allowed him to recognize the various revenue issues of Imperial China.

Our meeting concluded at 8:55

Post Office Savings Bank

By Jim Molineux

Figure 1 shows an anomalous cover in which mail posted by the Canadian Bank of Commerce has a slogan cancel advertising the Post Office Savings Bank.



Figure 1

Post Office Savings Banks were created in 1868, shortly after Confederation. Canadian Post Offices

were allowed to accept, keep, and remit savings, plus pay a modest interest rate. Post Office Banks were terminated in 1968 at the request of the private banking sector.



Figure 2

The initial philosophy supporting Post Office banks was based on a dual policy of the Canadian government to both sponsor savings banks and to encourage thrift habits among the working classes. An account could be opened either directly by depositing a nominal sum (usually \$1), or by accumulating the equivalent amount in savings Stamps. The latter are easy to recognize. They have an “S” overprint and are always mint (see Figure 2).

December 20th Meeting

There was a cheerful sound at the New Life Center on that Wednesday evening. Spirits were high after sampling the goodies and apple cider, some even went back for seconds and thirds. Seventeen members present on that festive evening. Thank you to everyone who contributed to these festivities.

Many took the opportunity to pay their dues for the 2024 calendar year. There was lots of discussion and looking through the Circuit Books. Marion G returned pages from the books to their owners and made a payout as well. In my case it helped with the auction that followed.

There were two tables full of donated items from members and families of deceased collectors from the community. This auction was to benefit the OShare program feeding those who needed food because the rent took most of their money. To everyone who donated, it is greatly appreciated.

The sale raised about \$310. Club executive authorized adding funds to this amount. In total \$400 was donated to OShare. See the picture on the back page to confirm that the donation was made to the organization.

When the presentation was made, Hillary mentioned that on that day they had served 210 meals at noon and preparing for likely 150 meals at supper time. She shared that usually January is a very heavy month for meals. Besides this club’s donation, many businesses support the charity. They also receive goods from the grocery stores that they can no longer sell. This does not mean the produce is inedible, it just is not in the perfection stage we look for when we travel to the grocery store.

The executive extends the best wishes for 2024 to all readers and member of the club. May you have good health, a prosperous New Year and happy stamping!

A final thing to mention is that the one page challenge attracted seven entries. Surely this is a record! Not to be outdone with the record number of entries, the voting presented a dilemma. After counting the ballots twice, Marion A announced that there was a three

tie. These winners all followed the theme of Christmas with varying ideas. Marion did one called "Christmas from A to Z" selecting stamps from countries starting with A and going on to Zimbabwe. Steve K did a series showing the Canadian children's art series from the 1970's. Phil V showed "Christmas around the world. Check out the OSSC web page to see the exhibits. They are listed under "one Page Challenge" showing the next topic but also the winners of previous challenges.

Things You Learn from Philately

By Phil Visser

A few months ago, I was organizing the Norwegian stamps that had accumulated. It was a surprise when they were all put neatly on pages. The binder is two-thirds full of pages. Where they all came from is a mystery, but being members of more than one stamp club, it is easy to accumulate these bits of colourful paper.

While going through the collection, I came across a series of stamps that are titled "Norwegian Inventions." Figure 1 shows something that we all have seen, and probably all have in our homes. Yes, it is the ubiquitous paper clip. This stamp is Scott #1214 and was issued on January 1, 1999.

Because it is everywhere, the thought of who invented



Figure 1

this simple item never arose. This claim needed to be verified. Google helpfully provided several sites dealing with the inventor. The first site listed was from the University of Houston, Cullen College of Engineering.

John Lienhard credited Johan Vaaler, a Norwegian as the inventor. Since

Norway had no patent office, Vaaler's patent for the paperclip was dated 1901 in the USA. The article goes on further to say that this claim could be in dispute since William Middlebrook held a patent to make the paper clip two years earlier, in 1899. This product was called "Gem," the name that paperclip is commonly referred to in Europe.

Next up was Wikipedia. It went in even greater depth than the one mentioned above. A much more in-depth look at the paper clip was given. Other names mentioned were Samuel Fay in 1867 and Erlman Wright in 1877. It then went on to say that the most likely inventor was the Gem Manufacturing Company of Great Britain. An early advertisement in 1893 showed the clip as we are familiar with today.

It did go on further to say that Norway has credited Vaaler as the inventor and how Norway has trumpeted the claim since, including the stamp issued in 1999. If

anyone else is interested in this bit of history, just type in "paper clip inventor" in Google search engine and see where the story takes you. So, this goes to prove that if you claim something long enough people will believe you.



Figure 2

Also issued at the same time

is Figure 2. This item is a cheese slicer. It has been present for all my life. It too is common, so the Norwegian claim also needed to be researched. Wikipedia gave a very short story crediting Thor Bjorklund as the inventor. It seems that Bjorklund was a master carpenter when in the summer heat his lunch cheese had melted together. In order to separate the cheese slices he tried a few tools and settled on the carpenter's plane. Its size was too large to be useful, so he made a miniature plane into the cheese slicer.

This time the research agreed with philately and the catalogues.



Figure 3

This stamp is listed as Scott #1213 and was also issued on January 1, 1999. Thor Bjorklund is credited with its invention and patenting it in 1925. Wikipedia did say that this tool is widely found in the Scandinavian countries as well as the Netherlands.

Who hasn't heard of Dutch Gouda cheese!

The following year Norway issued the stamp shown in Figure 3. This too is a common product, the aerosol can. Repeating the same process as above, Google search engines provided the following information.

First, this stamp is Scott #1260 and was issued in June of 2000. Google again was very generous in listing several sites discussing the inventor of aerosol cans. On the top of the list of stories is one written by thoughtco.com. Here it credits the idea to history, but the practical use of an aerosol can is given to Erik Rotheim. Rotheim patented the can in 1927.

Following his death in 1938, the aerosol can was further adapted by Lyle Goodhue and William Sullivan in 1943. A further adaptation was made with the aerosol valve by Robert Abplanalp patented in 1953.

Readers can now summon their inner teacher and offer a grade on the Norwegian claims. Of the three inventions listed, what grade could be assigned to the claims? Good practice would be to research the Norwegian claims by referencing as many sources as possible before assigning a grade.

Blast from the Past

Stories in Stamps by I.S. Klein

He Prescribed for a Nation (1937)

Much of the future of all China rested in the slim young hands of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen even as he began the practice of medicine in Macao after graduation from Canton and Hong Kong.

Then scarcely 25, Dr. Sun had become interested in the "Young China" movement. And very quickly he prescribed for the nation - a revolution. Shortly afterward he was compelled to leave China to escape arrest. He took up residence in the United States and later (1895) in London, where for a time he was held prisoner at the Chinese legation.

Subsequent release was obtained, however, and the young doctor now turned his full attention to the overthrow of the Manchu dynasty. In the next few years he traveled, preached, recruited, raised funds, and secretly drilled Chinese revolutionaries. And he was rewarded. China at last established a provisional republic.

In December, 1911, a national convention elected Sun Yat-Sen first president of the new republic. He held office until 1912, when he resigned to elevate Yuan Shih-Kai to the office. There followed years of interminable strife until 1921 when Sun again became president.

But the northern part of the country did not recognize him. From that date to his death in 1925, the statesman was embroiled in bitter conflict with the northern government at Peking. Yat-Sen is shown here on a 1931 Chinese stamp.



Upcoming Shows

JAN 27, '24

74th Cathex Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara St., St. Catharines, ON, L2R 5L3

74th CATHEX, sponsored by the St. Catharines Stamp Club, will be held from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. 10 dealers, youth table, club circuit. Free parking and admission. Lunch counter on site.

Web: <http://www.stcatharinesstampclub.ca>

FEB 25, '24

Toronto Postcard Club Annual Show

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Court, Toronto, ON, M3C 1Z5

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Canada's largest vintage postcard

show featuring 30 tables with thousands of postcards for sale from many countries, covering many topics. Cash admission \$7. Free parking. TTC accessible.

Web: <https://torontopostcardclub.com/tpc-annual-show/>

MAR 3, '24

Mississauga Coin & Stamp Show

John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd., Mississauga, ON, L4Z 1V8

Sponsored by the Troyak Club, the Mississauga Coin and Stamp Show will be open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., with 60 tables and more than 30 dealers. Free evaluations plus buying, selling and trading. Admission is \$7 (children under the age of 16 are free), and parking is free.

Web: <https://troyakclub.com/shows/>

MAR 16, '24

Oxford Philatelic Society 72nd OXPEX & 42nd OTEX

St. Mary's Catholic High School, 431 Juliana Drive, Woodstock, ON, N4V 1E8

Framed & judged exhibits, sales circuit books, buy it now table, 15 dealers, youth gift bags, draw prizes. Free admission & parking. Everyone Welcome!

Phone: 519 442 0350

Email: dhfe@silomail.com

Web: <http://www.oxfordphilsoc.com>

MAR 30 BURLPEX 2024

Burlington Seniors Centre, 2285 New St., Burlington, ON, L7R 1J4

A one-day stamp show with 10 dealers, Club circuit books, 1 silent auction, & snack bar. Hours of sale are: 9.30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Phone: 905-336-8685

Email: macneall@cogeco.ca

APR 5-7 National Postage Stamp and Coin Show

Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale, 6750 Mississauga Road, Mississauga, ON, L5N 2L3

Canada's best Stamp and Coin Show returns to the popular Hilton Mississauga, featuring over 50 dealers and 100-plus tables of coins, medals, tokens, banknotes, bullion, gold, stamps, postcards, postal history and much more. Dealers selling, buying and available to appraise your collectibles. The popular youth table and ever-popular Free Kids Coin Auction returns bigger and better than ever. The spring show also features the famous North Toronto Stamp Club Exhibition, featuring top-notch philatelic exhibits. Seminars also included. Colonial Acres' Premier Auction starts at 5:30. The second session resumes on Saturday at 5:30. The dealer bourse opens Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m. and closes at 5 p.m. on Saturday and 4 p.m. on Sunday. Free parking. Admission only \$6 on Saturday and \$3 on Sunday.

Phone: 905-646-7744

Email: mwalsh@trajan.ca

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Wrap Up

This really is a Wrap Up. This is the last edition of **Stamps on the Bay** that I will be producing/editing. At this end, I am deeply grateful for all the support and encouragement many members have offered through the years. I wish the next Editor success and the promise that an article or two will be forthcoming as the idea forms in my mind. It would have been nice to turn this job over to someone. Perhaps a break would be appreciated by the membership. One key thing of this newsletter is to keep the membership informed about the clubs activities. Anything above that is a bonus.

At the start of this New Year, I am looking forward to seeing as many of you who are able to attend the in person and Zoom meetings. Keep on stamping and discovering new things about our hobby. Have a Happy and healthy New Year.



From left to right; Bob Ford, Hillary Umbach, Marion Ace. Donation presented on January 5th 2024