

O.S.S.C.



Owen Sound Stamp Club

Newsletter

Next Club Meeting: December 18th

December 2002

Season's Greetings!



Stamp(s) of the Month...

Bob Watson

Every year at about this time I wonder whether Australia ever realized what it was letting the world in for when it began issuing special Christmas stamps on a regular basis. Forty odd years later, sometime in November just about every nominally Christian country releases at least one stamp appropriate to the Christmas season.

This has, of course, meant that stamp designers have had their work cut out for them to come up with something new each year that has, preferably, got something to do with Christmas or, at least, winter in that country.

In my collection, the three stamps shown here each have that elusive spark of energy that make them stand out from the rest.



For me, the 1992 Australian stamp by Craig Smith completely captures that moment when the young child wakes up and is ready for **CHRISTMAS!** Hopefully the light in the next room is 5 a.m. sunlight (it is Australia) rather than a 1 a.m. let-Santa-see-where-the furniture-is false alarm light, because that little girl

is ready to go and any ideas a parent might have of a lie-in are best put aside.

The U.K. stamp is from 1968 and was designed by Rosalind Dease. These young teenagers might appear a little more restrained but, inside, are just as excited as the Australian girl.



It seems to me that the clothes are very typical of that period as, indeed, is the style of drawing. That rocking horse, though, would have been a quite exceptional Christmas present.



The stamp from Iceland was issued in 1987 and is something rather different. It is described as "A branch of fir with the beams of the rising sun symbolising life's awakening" by Þórunn Hall. I'm not quite sure what to make of it myself or, indeed, whether it really has anything to do with Christmas, but there's something about it that really holds my attention.

From the Internet ...

Bob Watson

Over the past month, one correspondent to the newsgroup *rec.collecting.stamps.discuss* ("Rodney" <rodney@touch88.com.au>) has been going through some old magazines and posting all kinds of snippets from times gone by.

Like...

from 1974:

The well known Melbourne stamp dealer, Mr Max Stern, has shown "**Stamp News**" an interesting Stamp Game which he purchased on a recent visit to London.

Called "PHILATELY - the Stamp Collecting Game", it is a game for adults or children and is not unlike MONOPOLY, except that the basic ingredients are stamps instead money.

It is a game for four players but two, three or even five can play. It takes about two hours to complete a game in which players buy, sell and swap stamps with the inevitable penalties for landing on the wrong squares and rewards for landing on the right ones. Philatelic terms are liberally used and during the course of game the players visit an Exchange Club, a Stamp Shop, Exhibition Hall, an Auction Room, an Insurance Company with four strongrooms. The players play with a total of 170 replica stamps printed on cards and have a wad of philatelic money with which to make purchases. The game retails for £3/9/6 in England.

from 1973:

The smallest envelope ever sent through the British system, and probably the smallest ever successfully sent in the world, was sold by auction in London recently. This fascinating item, measuring only $1\frac{1}{8}$ " \times $\frac{3}{4}$ " was sent from Bisham, Buckinghamshire, on October 13, 1840, and sold complete with the original letter it contained.

It is addressed to a Miss Huish at Castle Donington, Derby. So small that the postmark only partially covers it, it cost only 1d to send. An extract from the letter reads as follows:- "This epistle will have to travel 150 miles before it reaches you and has to pass through Her Majesty's General Post Office where I doubt not it will excite the admiration of the officials by it's extreme magnitude."

On May 6th, 1840, the first postage stamp, the 1d. black, was introduced and if one had been used on this envelope it would have covered it almost completely. The nearest size of envelope known to this is about the dimensions of a calling card.

from 1978:

Where to keep a pair of tweezers (or stamp tongs) has been a problem many a collector (and dealer) has faced. An English trade magazine recently reported that there had appeared on the market a novel gadget in the form of a fountain pen which concealed under the cap a pair of tweezers. The columnist who reported this commented: "This solves the ever with us problem of where to carry one's tweezers without the risk of (a) a hole in the lining of the pocket, or (b) the danger of the tweezers falling out of your pocket whenever you bend down".

Reminds us of the famous occasion (we think it was about 1957) when the American strip-tease artist, the late Gypsy Rose

Lee, visited Australia. She was a keen stamp collector and the members of the Australasian Stamp Dealers Association, who were holding a trade convention at the old Wentworth Hotel at the time, invited her along to receive a presentation of an album of Australian stamps. On being presented with the album, Gypsy Rose Lee, with superb timing, dived her hand down her amply proportioned chest front, and from between her breasts dredged up a pair of tweezers. Loud roars of approval from all the dealers present!

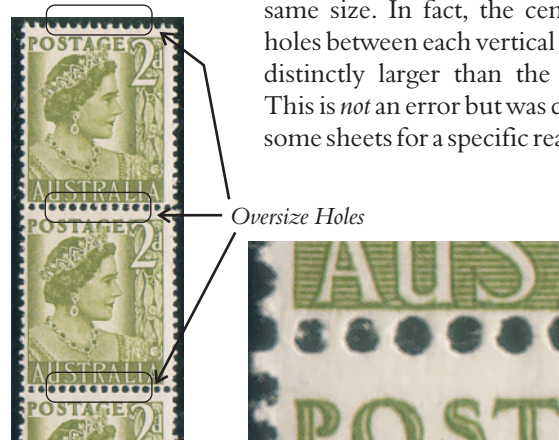
A question that keeps arising concerns how to detect watermarks on stamps. The consensus is that the easiest and most reliable method is to use watermark fluid (or, at a pinch, lighter fluid) on a black plastic tray. One correspondent suggested using a black floor tile. I tried that and it works! It has the added advantage that you can compare several stamps at a time.

Stamp Challenge!

I feel a bit of a fraud after last month's challenge – there were several valiant attempts at identifying the Australian ½d Kangaroo but the nearest anyone got was "an altered photograph taken from some publicity material" which, indeed, it was. It is actually a label off a bottle of Australian "Stamp" Wine and is a rather nicely tinted version of the orange (monochrome) Australian definitive of 1938 (Scott #191,197, & 203).

This month's challenge also involves Australia and was suggested by Jim Measures from the Sauguen Stamp Club.

At first glance, this vertical strip of 2d definitives depicting Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, (Scott #231) appears to be nothing out of the ordinary. However, look carefully at the perforations and you will see that the holes are not all the same size. In fact, the centre ten holes between each vertical pair are distinctly larger than the others. This is *not* an error but was done on some sheets for a specific reason.



What was the intended use of these sheets?

Why were those holes made oversize?

If anyone (except Jim Measures – oh, alright, and me) can give the correct answer at our next meeting, I reckon they deserve a prize – I'll see if something appropriate can be found!

Bob Watson

What's New ...

Charles van Rompu

Since this is the last article for the year 2002, I will try to stay in the atmosphere of Winter, December and Christmas.

In November I promised some information about **Lapland** which was not mentioned when we were focussing on our "Friends of the North". Lapland lies in the extreme northern part of Europe, above the Arctic circle and is called Lapland because it is home to a small sturdy group of people known as the Lapps — but it is not a separate country [notice Lapland with only one "p" and Lapps with "pp"]].

The region that makes up Lapland belongs to Norway, Sweden, Finland and a fair chunk of Russia. Lapland covers about 150,000 sq. miles and is extremely rich in mineral resources with beds of iron deep under the soil of southern Swedish Lapland and huge nickel deposits in the Russian part.

The Lapps, now called Sāmi, can be divided into three groups: the **Mountain Sāmi** are nomadic and live mostly from herding reindeer, which provide them with meat, hides, milk and cheese. The **Sea Sāmi** live along the coasts in pyramid-like huts made from wood and sods and work primarily as fishermen. A third group, the **River Sāmi**, are the most progressive and live in communities making their living from farming, fishing, hunting and keeping herds of reindeer, cattle and sheep.

Although not an independent country, the Nordic Lapp Council adopted an official Lapp Flag in 1993. This flag was drawn by Astrid Båhl from Skibotn in Norway and is featured on a souvenir sheet of The Faroes (Scott#249a) issued February 8, 1993. This flag ranks after the National Flag of the independent countries but is a joint flag for the Sāmi, living in Norway, Sweden and Finland.

On October 9, 2002, Finland issued booklets of 10 × 1 Klass (Euro 0.60) stamps showing a reindeer on a snow covered hill overlooking a lake and hills further away lit by the typical northern lights in an almost dark sky.



The Finish part of Lapland has a population of appr. 200,000 people, of which only about 7,000 are Sāmi. Reindeer-herding is an important source of livelihood in Northern

Finland and the reindeer population is regulated by the government.

Reindeer can dig through 70-90 centimetres of soft snow for lichen but in early spring, when the sun gives the snow a hard crust, lichen becomes difficult to find. They then begin their spring migration feeding on tree buds and making their way upland into the hills.

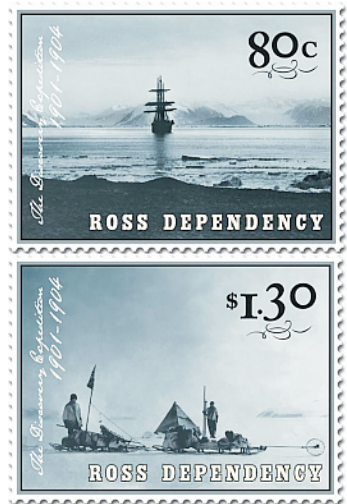
A tip for the gourmet-philatelist: reindeer meat is highly nutritious and has the authentic flavour of game which should not be hidden with excessive seasoning. The meat is low in fat and it is unparalleled for its mineral content. Who would have ever thought to find this kind of information in a stamp-club

newsletter. But since I regard these pretty pictures as very educational, I felt I could not withhold this from you. Back to the stamp for a second: Issued Oct.9th ,1st Cl (Euro 0.60), printrun 5 million, Size 24.5 x 34.5 mm, self adhesive, printed by House of Questa, designed by Mika Launis.

From the Far North to the Far South ...

When New Zealand announced the launch of a series of 6 stamps from the "Ross Dependency", which they did on November 6, 2002. I had to admit that I had never heard of that section of Antarctica as a stamp issuing entity. This latest issue comprises: "The three-man team" (40¢); "HMS Discovery at anchor" (80¢); "HMS Discovery frozen into the icy terrain" (90¢); "Sledges and tents" (\$1.30); "The crew of the HMS Discovery" (\$1.50); and "Discovery Hut at Hut Point" (\$2.00).

These stamps are issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Discovery expedition which was headed by one of the world's great explorers Capt. Robert Falcon Scott. The planning for this expedition began in 1896 and it took sail on August 6, 1901 arriving in Antarctica by the Ross sea in 1902 where it got stuck in the ice until February 14, 1904. They left 5 days later, leaving one body in an icy grave – George Vince, a young sailor, had died in a severe snowstorm. Capt. Scott built a base-hut, which still stands today, and also made the first hot-air balloon flight in Antarctica, rising 244m. above the surface but, despite his elevated position, he was unable to see the South pole which was still 720 km away.



Ross Dependency, which includes the Ross sea, the Ross Ice Shelf and McMurdo sound, was named for another British explorer, James Clark Ross, who arrived there in 1841. The area is situated north of the South pole (like everything else in Antarctica) facing the South Pacific Ocean, and is roughly 160,000 Sq. Miles, about the same as Lapland, but on the opposite site of the earth. It is uninhabited except for scientific personnel. New Zealand has governed the area since 1923.

In closing, and since nobody knows what 2003 has in store for us, let me assure you that stamp-wise there will be enough excitement. The Faeroes announced that on September 22, 2003, one month before Czeslaw Slania's 82nd birthday, they will issue a miniature sheet with one stamp marking the 100th Slania engraved stamp issued by The Faroes. This will be their 464th stamp of which, as you can figure out, more that 21 % were his handiwork. It will be a rendering of Emil Krause's painting of a traditional dance. The value 25 DKK.

Looking forward to see you all on the last meeting of this year, December 18th, weather permitting!

Next Meeting: December 18th.

There will be an auction (so long as there are sufficient people to make it worthwhile)!

At our last Meeting...

The turnout for the meeting was rather disappointing but those who could make it all pitched in to make up over 50 packets of about 120 (mostly) different stamps. A load of our mini-albums were also put together. These will be made into a stamp collecting starter pack for distribution to children at a couple of schools to which Kim Scarrow has been invited to talk about our hobby.

Upcoming Events:

The **Owen Sound Stamp Club Annual Show** will be held on Sunday, **May 4, 2003**, at the Bayshore Arena (as usual).

Royal*2003*Royale will be held in Hanover on **May 30 – June 1, 2003**, at the Hanover Regional Aquatic Centre and Coliseum.

The Stamp on the Envelope...

The stamp on this month's cover is one of this year's three Christmas stamps depicting aboriginal art on the theme of "Mother & Child". The series makes an interesting complement to the Christmas series of 1990, also featuring aboriginal art but of a more traditional kind.

The 48¢ domestic rate stamp shows "Genesis" – a highly stylised "Mary & Child" – by Daphne Odjig (1919–) of Manatoulin Island. Odjig opened the first art gallery (in Winnipeg)

The 65¢ US rate stamp depicts "Winter Travel" by Cecil Youngfox (1942–1987) of Blind River, Ontario. Youngfox is renowned for his vivid images of native cultural traditions. "Winter Travel" was actually created as a stamp design in 1982

The \$1.25 International rate stamp shows the carving "Mary and Child" by Irene Katak Anguititaq (1914–1971) of Back River, NT.

Des.: Signals Design Group, Inc.
Print.: Canadian Bank Note Co.
(lithography)
Paper: Tullis Russell Coatings
Size: 32mm × 38mm
Perf.: 13+
Date: 4th November 2002



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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