



Owen Sound Stamp Club Newsletter

Next Club Meeting: July 16th July 2003

First off, congratulations to the Saugeen Stamp Club for successfully hosting the 2003 Royal. Everything I have seen in both mainstream and philatelic press has had nothing but praise for the quality of the exhibition and the organisation as a whole. Judging from the discussion at our last meeting, most of our members were able to make it and found plenty of displays to spark their interest.

One point that several members noticed was that many of the dealers present at the Royal were much more interested in covers than stamps. I commented on this to one of the few single-stamp dealers at the show and he not only agreed but said that he was getting ready to move that way himself.

According to Canadian Stamp News, another interest that is definitely growing is postcard collecting (or “deltiology” as readers of this Newsletter should know by now!).

It seems to me that both these trends will inevitably have all sorts of impacts on our hobby.

Perhaps most obviously, the single-stamp collector is going to be facing some serious dilemmas in the coming years. Just what do you do when you find this lovely well centred, sharp looking

Admiral coil stamp on a really horrible advertising card that had been salvaged from a mail ship lost in a Great Lake Storm. Well, one thing is for sure: soaking off the stamp to fill a space in an album would probably result in a lynching.

Is the time coming when a collector who soaks stamps off an envelope will be thought of in the same way as someone who sticks mint stamps in their album by licking them?

I know some members of the OSSC collect covers and/or postcards as well as single stamps. Should the club be making more of an effort to include these closely related hobbies? If so, in what kind of way?

Let your views be known!

Bob Watson (President)

Stamp of the Month...

by Bob Watson

Since Greenland began producing its own postage stamps in 1938, the designs have demonstrated a certain stylistic consistency. However, one series stands out as looking totally different to all the rest: the “American” series.

In 1942, Denmark was occupied by Germany and the colonial administration in Greenland decided to report to a Danish government-in-exile based in New York.

As WWII continued, the postage stamp requirements in Greenland could not be satisfied from Denmark and it was decided to approach the American Bank Note company for a new series of stamps. In due course, a set of nine stamps was prepared and officially released on 1st February, 1945.

One of the designs depicted King Christian X in uniform on horseback and was supplied by the Danish mission in New York. When released, it was claimed that the other designs were “scenes of Greenland” but they were actually taken from an American school textbook published in the early ‘30s – maybe from Greenland but quite possibly not..



Of course, there was a war on at the time so probably the minutiae of stamp design and illustration was not considered a matter of national significance.

Having said that, the illustration of the only stamp I own in the series (Scott #15) really is a beautiful work and a credit to the unknown designer-engraver at the American Bank Note Company

Just a few months after this series was issued, Denmark was liberated prompting a stamp dealer in New York to suggest that this series should be overprinted with a “Victory” slogan. Indeed, the dealer would take care of all the arrangements himself (which he did) including a supply of colour variants, inverts, and other subtle printing errors. None of those overprinted stamps are known to have been used for normal mail in Greenland and if it wasn’t for the distractions that peace offered, the “overprint scandal/scam” would likely have made more news than it did.

Interestingly, the overprinted series is not only listed in all the major catalogues but, judging from the quoted prices, the “errors” are much sought after.

What's New ...

Charles van Rompu

On July 1, 1903 the Tour de France was officially held for the first time. At the starting line in Paris there were as many as 60 racers including the only Italian, Rodolfo Muller. The race was divided into six legs for a total of 2,428 kilometers, and was won on July 19 by Maurice Garin of France. This year the "Tour" celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Also this year, Canada will be the site of the World Championships of Bicycle Road Racing, to be held in Hamilton Ontario from October 9 to 12.

To celebrate both events, the Republic of San Marino, will issue a souvenir-sheet containing two round stamps with a diameter of 38 mm. On the left side of this sheet is a picture of the Eiffel Tower of Paris. In the middle the racing bicycle of Eddy Merckx is shown. The link to Hamilton is shown on the right side of this Souvenir sheet which shows Niagara falls, the CN Tower and a stylized Maple Leaf in red, containing the text: "Hamilton 6 – 2 ottobre 2003 -Campionati del Mondo di Ciclismo in Strada."

The stamps, which will be available from June 7th are valued at € 0.77 each, and show, left a yellowish rear wheel of a bicycle, complete with gear and chain, while the Canadian connection shows a front wheel, reddish and Hamilton Canada 2003.

For thematic collectors, this will fit in many categories: sports, towers, waterfalls, round stamps, bicycles, and on top Canadian scenes on foreign stamps. 130,000 sheets were printed in offset in four colours by Cartor Security Printing.

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Some time ago, to be precise on June 21st 2000, Swiss Post was the first postal administration, to issue an embroidery stamp. Embroidery has a long and rich tradition in Switzerland. By the turn of the 20th century it was the most important industry in the eastern part of the country. Over a fifth of the population earned their living by it. Exports reached record levels in 1919, but by then, the revolution in Russia, poverty in Germany and

in the former Austro-Hungarian Empire contributed to a decline in demand.

The stamp, in contrast to its printed paper counterpart is a 3-D stamp. It was embroidered with thread of a superior quality of polyester with a satin sheen. The thread colours were custom dyed for this stamp and were exclusively used for it.

State of the art embroidery machines were used, which had the capacity to produce 340 stamps in one pass. Bischoff Textil AG of St. Gallen, was the manufacturer of these stamps.



They were available as

single stamps as well as in a bloc of four with border. It should be realized that the bloc is not perforated in order to prevent it from running.

Thematic or Topical people who are looking for firsts should certainly try to lay their hands on them, and put them with their Largest stamp ever (Sweden), Minted silver stamp (Netherlands) Chocolate smelling Stamp (Swiss), Flower smell (Netherlands) First Round stamp (1852 Indian district of Scinde) First on Aluminum foil (Hungary 1955)

First triangle stamp (Cape of Good Hope 1853) First Five sided stamp (Great Britain 1847) First Hologram (Austria 18-X-1988) and Funny perforated (partially) Ram stamp (Canada 2003).

From the Internet ...

Bob Watson

By world standards, Ontario would not usually be considered a region with a climate particularly hostile to stamps but the recent spell of hot humid weather is a reminder that stamps traded from far away places could have had a much tougher time. Some recent internet discussion centred on "foxing" on stamps and how to remove/prevent it.

Foxing" (or "toning") is a term used to describe the appearance of brown spots or blotches on paper (including stamps, newspapers, and books) that have been stored for extended periods under humid conditions. It is caused by a fungus and will spread unless the infected items are treated.

If the stamps are not particularly valuable, the general advice was to consider them damaged and destroy them.

If you want to keep the stamps, the fungus can probably be killed simply by exposure to bright daylight for a day or so. This should render the stamps non-infectious but will not remove the stain.

From all the correspondence, it would appear that the only way to remove the stain is by the chemical process of oxidation - otherwise known as bleaching.

While the use of simple chlorine solution was not recommended, several people reported good success with a product called "Fox-It" otherwise known as "Chloromine T" available from Kingfisher Book Service (www.kingfisher-books.co.uk/) which is specifically designed for this job.

Hydrogen Peroxide appears to kill the fungus but was not found to be particularly effective in removing the stain.

A process involving potassium permanganate was claimed to be highly effective: immerse the stamp in a 3% solution for 2 minutes followed by 10 minutes in 2% citric acid and a 5 minute wash in running water to remove the acid.

Note that all these techniques will remove the gum from unused stamps. Treated stamps will also have a significantly brighter appearance that expertisers will note as "bleached".

“Dictionary of Stamps” by James MacKay

James MacKay will be known to many Canadian stamp enthusiasts through his “New Issues” column in *Canadian Stamp News*. His 1973 book “Dictionary of Stamps” published by Rainbird Reference Books Ltd. is a remarkable work demonstrating an extraordinary knowledge of stamps from around the world. The following is a (preliminary) review of the page on the Confederation of Canada (1867-1982).

British Columbia and Vancouver Island

1860: Note the curious spelling of ‘Vancouver’s Island’. Adhesive stamps were introduced in Canada’s far western provinces in 1860, a solitary 2½d. denomination being sufficient. The stamps were typographed by De La Rue and were issued either imperforate or perforated 14. From 20 June 1864 to 1 November 1865, this stamp was sold for 3d. after an increase in the letter rate. Separate stamps for Vancouver Island and British Columbia were issued in 1865.



1865: Decimal currency was adopted by the island in 1865 but not by the mainland territory of British Columbia, so separate issues of stamps became necessary. De La Rue typographed 5 and 10¢ stamps for the island, using a profile of Queen Victoria as the motif. They were issued either imperforate or perforated 14. On 19 November 1866, the two territories were united to form British Columbia and stamps thus inscribed were used in both areas from then onward.



1865: De La Rue typographed a 3d. stamp issued in British Columbia in November 1865, with the crowned monogram and heraldic flowers of the United Kingdom. After the adoption of decimal currency the stamp was reprinted in various colours and surcharged with values from 2¢. to \$1. The stamps of this province were withdrawn on 20 July 1871, when it joined the Confederation of Canada.



Prince Edward Island

1862: Adhesive stamps were introduced in Prince Edward Island in January 1861. The series consisted of 2d., 3d. and 6d. stamps but 1d. and 9d. values were added the following year. Bearing a profile of Queen Victoria, the stamps were typographed by Charles Whiting of Beaufort House, London, from electrotyped stereotypes. A curious feature was their inscription in two currencies, reflecting the fluctuating value of money in different parts of British North America at that time. The legend at the foot is self explanatory - ‘Nine Pence Currency equal to Six Pence Stg’ (sterling). The stamps were printed on yellowish toned paper (1861-68) or coarse-wove bluish white paper (1867-68) in several different gauges of perforation.



1870: The Chalon portrait of Queen Victoria was used for a 3d. stamp recess-printed by the BritishAmerican Bank Note Co. of Montreal and Ottawa and issued in June 1870. The dual system of currency indicates the value of the stamp as 3d. sterling or 4½d. in local currency.

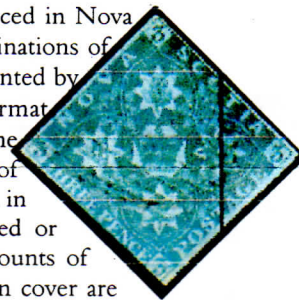


1872: Decimal currency was adopted by the island in January 1872 and a new series, from 1 to 12c., was typographed by Charles Whiting in designs somewhat similar to the 1861 series. The stamps were withdrawn in July 1873 when Prince Edward Island joined the Canadian Confederation.



Nova Scotia

1851: Adhesive stamps were introduced in Nova Scotia in September 1851 in denominations of 3d., 6d. and 1s. They were recess-printed by Perkins Bacon in a diamond-format featuring the heraldic flowers of the United Kingdom and the mayflower in the centre. They were often bisected or quartered to make up fractional amounts of postage. Examples of these bisects on cover are highly prized. A 1d. stamp, in a square format portraying Queen Victoria, was added to the series in 1853.



1860: Decimal currency was adopted in 1860 and the contract to print the decimal stamps went to the American Bank Note Co., New York, whose stamps were recess-printed in various denominations from 1 to 12½¢. A profile of the queen was used for the 1, 2 and 5c. denominations and full-face portraits of Queen Victoria were used for the 8½, 10, and 12½¢.



The rather odd values resulted from the conversion of existing rates in local pence currency to the new Canadian decimal system. The stamps were printed on yellowish or white paper and remained in use till 1867, when Nova Scotia became a founder member of the Canadian Confederation.

New Brunswick

1860: The first stamps of New Brunswick were recess-printed by Perkins Bacon in designs similar to those of Nova Scotia. Following the introduction of decimal currency in 1860 a series of stamps was produced by the American Bank Note Co. in denominations from 1 to 17¢. The original 5¢ value bore the portrait of the Postmaster General, Charles Connell, whose vanity led to his enforced resignation. A stamp bearing the Chalon portrait of Queen Victoria was substituted shortly afterward.



The series of 1860 was one of the earliest attempts at pictorials, with vignettes of a wood-burning locomotive (1¢) and a trans-Atlantic steamer (12½¢). The Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) was portrayed in Highland costume on the 17¢ stamp, thereby setting a precedent for the royal portraiture favoured later by Newfoundland.



At the last Meeting:

Apart from a discussion revolving around the Royal Show in Hanover, the main business of the evening was looking through a large selection of packaged material brought in by Alan Charlesworth. There was also a demonstration of detecting watermarks and we got a few more packages made up for kids in hospital.

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm, July 16th.

If all goes according to plan, we will be having a selection of books from the RPSC for the July meeting. As these books usually contain a significant selection of “better” material, it would be nice if we could let members take a selection of the books home to study. We can discuss the matter at the meeting.

Upcoming Events:

August 16: Collingwood-Georgian Bay Coin & Stamp Club will be holding its 29th Annual Show at the Leisure Time Club, 100 Minnesota St.

August 23: Muskoka Stamp Club will be holding a show at the Muskoka Riverside Inn in Bracebridge. Hours: 10–5.

Stamp on the Envelope ... — Bob Watson

As part of its on-going series celebrating the diverse ethnic groups that comprise the present Canadian nation, Canada Post has issued a stamp marking the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the first officially sponsored Portuguese immigrants.

Although Portuguese navigators had been prominent in the exploration of the world in the 14th and 15th centuries, very few settlers from that country had made their homes in present day Canada, apparently preferring Brazil and the Far East.

One exception was Pedro da Silva who arrived in New France around 1670 where he made a living as a “common carrier”. In due course he married (and had 14 children) and earned a reputation for honesty and reliability.

Apart from delivering cargo from the Quebec dockyard to the surrounding regions, he also was carrying mail and in 1705 he received a letter of commission from Jacques Raudot, Intendant of New France, bestowing on him the duty of ‘first courier’ in Canada.

The stamp shows the Quebec citadel along with a snippet of da Silva’s commission and the official seal of authorization.

The stamp was designed by Clermont Malenfant who has been responsible for a number of Canadian stamps including the 1986 John Molson stamp (Scott #1117); the Canada Day “Flag & Fireworks” stamp of 1990 (Scott #1278); and the 1991 “Fruit Tree” definitive series.

Title: “Pedro da Silva”
 Issue date: 6 June 2003 No.: 3,000,000
 Des.: Clermont Malenfant (of Montreal)
 Print.: Canadian Bank Note Co. (six colour lithography).
 Paper: Tullis Russell Coatings Gum: PVA
 Size: 52 mm × 27.5 mm Perf.: 13

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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