



Next Club Meeting: August 20th

August 2003

Major Misperforation Error in Canadian 10¢ Definitives Found...

David Stein, a consultant and stamp enthusiast, recently bought some 10¢ stamps at a Montreal pharmacy. On noting that 51 of these stamps were misperforated, Mr. Stein promptly called a number of dealers and is currently in receipt of offers of around \$5000 for the five blocks of ten and one single.

The nature of the error appears to be that some stamps are perforated through their centres while others are not perforated at all.

A Canada Post spokesman said that the error was most likely the result of a worker at Ashton Potter, New York, taking a sheet of stamps off the press for inspection and then putting it back improperly.

On this basis, Ian Kimmerly, an Ottawa dealer and vice-president of the Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association said he would expect there to be at least another hundred such stamps of which ten would be imperforate.

So where are these other stamps? Logic suggests that the pharmacy would have received the complete sheet which means that:

1. A clerk noted the error and returned them to Canada Post to be destroyed as required by official policy. I do not believe that

Canada Post would ever say how many stamps are so returned.

2. A customer (or clerk) noticed the error and has tucked the stamps away in a safe place for the time being.

3. An unknowing customer bought the stamps and has (or will) put them on his/her mail.

Could other sheets have been misperforated? While anything is possible, it seems to me that this is unlikely. Presumably employees at a security printing works would be pretty careful and the chances are that a mistake like this is a most unusual event.

So how much are these stamps really worth? Well, that really does depend very much on how many more turn up in the coming weeks. According to Ian Kimmerly, \$1,000 for a block of ten (including two imperfs) is pretty fair at this time. He reckoned that if no more turned up the value might climb to \$2,000, but could fall to a few hundred if, say, another sheet should turn up.

In the meantime, it seems that David Stein is not too anxious to sell and prepared to sit on his find for a while.

Apparently, stories like this are very good for sales of 10¢ stamps.

Stamp Values

In light of the above story, I had a browse through my catalogues to see if I could detect any consistent pattern to the pricing of rare stamps/stamp errors.

It is quickly apparent, and not too surprising, that rare stamp issues are valued more highly than equally rare errors in more common stamps. This reflects the more specialised nature of collecting errors/varieties and probably the more local interest in such things. In other words, there will be many collectors around the World who would be proud to have the (not *that* uncommon) Canada #1 in their album, whereas I would be most surprised if there were more than a few dozen collectors who would be particularly interested in seeking out a misperfed 10¢ current definitive.

As far as stamp errors/varieties go, Darnell lists 9 categories ranging from colour varieties to missing inscriptions.

According to Darnell, the misperforated stamps are valued according to whether the shift is major or minor. (Also, of course, the number of such varieties known). In general, it does seem that even extremely misperfed stamps are not as sought after as missing colours or printing shifts.

For comparison:

There are 100-150 imperf pairs of each value of the King George V Silver Jubilee series (#211-216). Each pair is valued at \$2-300.

There are 75 imperf pairs of each value of the 1939 Royal Visit series (#246-248). Each pair is valued at \$400.

Sheets of the 1988 38¢ QEII definitive (#1164) included 40 blocks of 10 with missing perforations. Each block is valued at \$1,500.

What's New ...

Charles van Rompu

On January 8th, New Zealand issued three *Team New Zealand* stamps with values of 40¢, 80¢ and 90¢. The stamps were printed using offset lithography by Southern Colour Print in Dunedin NZ. They were 40×30 mm horizontal and perf:14+. Enough details so far.

These stamps were issued to bring the world's attention to the sailing of the 31st America's Cup in which New Zealand would be the defender. In early 2000, New Zealand's skipper Russell Coutts was able to keep the "Auld Mug" in New Zealand's hands, which gave them the right – and obligation – to organize the next competition in a place of their choosing.

February 2003 was set to give New Zealand the opportunity to pit their wits and skills against a new challenger. The above mentioned three stamps are captivating images of the New Zealand team racing out of the beautiful Hauraki Gulf.

Some time has gone by since January and it may be justified to have a look at the America's Cup and its history. On August 22nd, 1851, the schooner *America* beat 18 British rivals, while Queen Victoria looked on, much to the consternation of the Royal Yacht Squadron in Cowes which had organized the event. The America's Cup was born. In July of 1857 the Americans decided to seek a challenger for their title. James Ashburn, a British sailor took up the challenge but failed. Many other yachtsmen were to meet the same fate. The Cup remained in the USA – in the hands of the New York Yacht Club, to be precise – for 132 years.

Finally in 1983 the Australian yacht *Australia II* put an end to the supremacy, and the Cup moved to the South Pacific. In 1987 the USA skipper Dennis Connor, on board of *The Stars & Stripes*, fetched the Cup back to San Diego, CA. They successfully defended in 1988, and the *America 3* won the trophy again in



1992. However three years later in 1995, Team New Zealand's Peter Blake and Russell Coutts returned home to Auckland with the silver Cup and they retained it in 2000.

Now to the conclusion of this story and its connection with stamps. The above mentioned 30th America's Cup would, of course, be followed by a challenge and that is why the New Zealand stamps were issued. February 2003 was the date set for this to happen

One country was able to put a team together of 15 different nationalities containing experts from countries such as New Zealand, USA, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, France and South Africa. They established premises and a training base in Sète, in the south of France. Seventy or so, shore based professionals worked relentlessly to make *Alinghi* the best team in the world

All this effort paid off and on Sunday March 2nd 2003 at 3.17 pm Auckland time the *Alinghi* crossed the finish line 45 seconds ahead of *Team New Zealand*.

Not only was the *Alinghi* team the first to win the trophy at its first attempt, but they were bringing the Cup back to Europe for the first time since it left the old continent 152 years ago. This event was reason enough for the winning country to issue an unscheduled stamp and on July 3rd, 2003, SWITZERLAND issued this stamp. An offset 5 colour printed by Cartor Security Printing in La Loupe, France.

It depicts a photograph of the neck and neck race between *Alinghi* and *Team New Zealand* it proudly shows 'Helvetia' and its value, 90 rappen. It measures 40×32½ mm and has perf:13¼×3½.



The *Alinghi* team boss, Ernesto Bertarelli, can certainly be proud, not only to have managed to win over the best people to join his team, starting with New Zealand's skipper Russell Coutts, but also to bring the America's Cup to tiny, landlocked Switzerland.

Stamp Colours ...

As anyone who has tried to separate red, vermilion, brick red, and orange red stamps will agree, it is much easier to do this when the stamps are side by side rather than when mounted on different pages or, worse, on different dealers' tables.

When the U.K. adopted decimal currency in February, 1971, the British Post Office needed to appropriately modify the popular Machin definitives with denominations in "p" for "new pence" rather than the traditional "d". Furthermore, because the old £sd values would be rendered invalid in 18 months, a new and distinctive colour scheme was required to minimise confusion both in the sorting office and at home.

To help choose the new colours, extensive "confusibility" tests

were conducted by the Applied Psychology Research Unit in Cambridge University.

Volunteer housewives were shown one stamp mounted on a white card for two seconds, then another stamp. They had to say what degree of similarity there was between the two colours. Later, postal workers from the sorting office also joined in the tests.

The final results suggest they did a pretty good job. After a quick look through my Machins of that era, the only areas where there might be slip-ups is in the 6d./1p. (bright reddish purple/crimson) and 5d./3p (royal blue/ultramarine).

And I still reckon that the Machins would be an excellent basis for a standardised colour chart...

Deltiology ...

From time to time we have included some information in this Newsletter on Deltiology and, as I know at least some of our members collect postcards, I am sure they will be fascinated to hear of a book called “Boring Postcards USA” by Martin Parr.

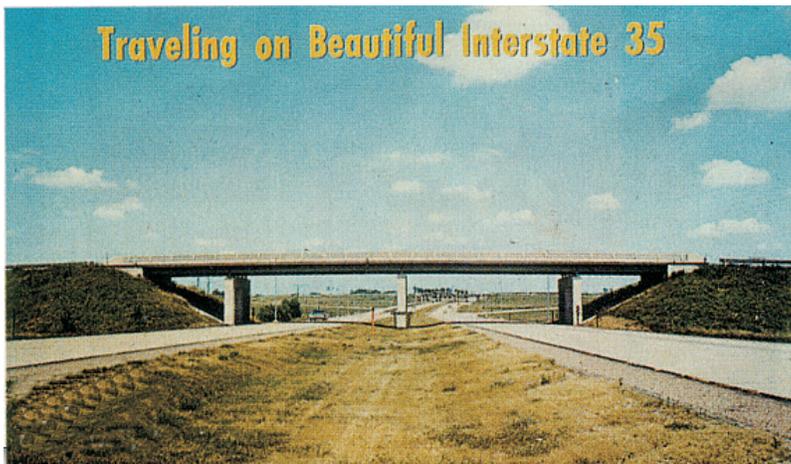
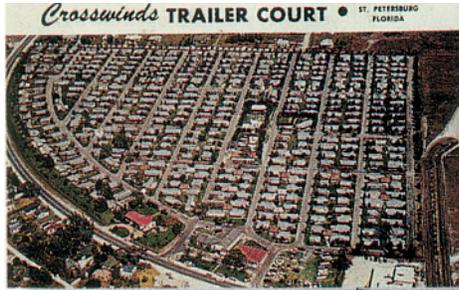
Parr has a collection of some 5,000 mind-numbing postcards assembled over a period of 7 years. It appears that they are mostly freebies used for publicity by the tourist industry in some fairly hopeless situations.

I have to say that just looking at these illustrations makes me wonder whether I would ever send a card like these even to say “The weather’s lovely, wish you were here”. I do hope not!

Anyway, Parr is intending to put together two further volumes featuring boring German and British postcards. The British edition is promised to be particularly deadly.

Actually, it would appear that Parr takes his postcards seriously and has published a number of books in the UK. One reviewer of this book said that “although the postcards are indeed boring, the book certainly is not.”

“Boring Postcards USA” by Martin Parr is published by Phaidon Press 176 Pages, ISBN: 0714840009 and available from Chapters-Indigo (\$20).



Thanks to Alf Steinke for pointing out that:

In 1976, Canada Post issued a stamp to draw attention to the works of Robert W. Service. The stamp illustrated his “The Cremation of Sam McGee”, but he also wrote:



Stamp Collector

My worldly wealth I hoard in albums three,
My life collection of rare postage stamps;
My room is cold and bare as you can see,
My coat is old and shabby as a tramp's;
Yet more to me than balances in banks,
My albums three are worth a million francs.

I keep them in that box beside my bed,
For who would dream such treasures it could hold;
But every day I take them out and spread
Each page, to gloat like miser o'er his gold:
Dearer to me than could be child or wife,
I would defend them with my very life.

They are my very life, for every night
over my catalogues I pore and pore;
I recognize rare items with delight,
Nothing I read but philatelic lore;
And when some specimen of choice I buy,
In all the world there's none more glad than I.

Behold my gem, my British penny black;
To pay its price I starved myself a year;
And many a night my dinner I would lack,
But when I bought it, oh, what radiant cheer!
Hitler made war that day - I did not care,
So long as my collection he would spare.

Look - my triangular Cape of Good Hope.
To purchase it I had to sell my car.
Now in my pocket for some sous I grope
To pay my omnibus when home is far,
And I am cold and hungry and footsore,
In haste to add some beauty to my store.

This very day, ah, what a joy was mine,
When in a dingy dealer's shop I found
This franc vermillion, eighteen forty-nine . . .
How painfully my heart began to pound!
(It's weak they say), I paid the modest price
And tremblingly I vanished in a trice.

But oh, my dream is that some day of days,
I might discover a Mauritius blue,
poking among the stamp-bins of the quais;
Who knows! They say there are but two;
Yet if a third one I should spy,
I think - God help me! I should faint and die . . .

*Poor Monsieur Pons, he's cold and dead,
One of those stamp-collecting cranks.
His garret held no crust of bread,
But albums worth a million francs.
on them his income he would spend,
By philatelic frenzy driven:
What did it profit in the end . . .
You can't take stamps to Heaven.*

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm, August 20th.**Upcoming Events:**

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

Sept. 25-27: The British North American Society will be holding its Annual Convention & Exhibition at the London Hilton, 300 King St. W.

Sept. 27: Milton Stamp Club is holding their Stamp Fair at the Milton Seniors Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr., Milton. Hours: 10-5.

Oct. 5: The Grand River Valley Phil. Assoc. will be having their 9th Annual Club Fair at the United Kingdom Club, Dunbar Rd., Cambridge. Hours: 10-4:30

Stamp on the Envelope ...

First off, apologies. The stamp on the cover should be the one marking the Lutheran World federation 10th Assembly but, because of an oversight at the local Post Office, there was insufficient supply for all Newsletters. A few Newsletters will therefore be mailed using alternative postage.

The first Lutheran service is recorded as having taken place near Churchill, Manitoba, in 1619. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada has a national membership estimated at a little under 200,000 (c. 1% of the population), and the head office is in Winnipeg.

The Lutheran World Federation is an umbrella organisation that works on behalf of the national/regional Lutheran Churches around the world. It was founded in 1947 and organises an Assembly every six years to allow delegates from the different Churches to meet and discuss matters of common concern. The tenth such Assembly was held in Winnipeg in late July and the event marked by Canada Post with the issue of this stamp.

The stamp was designed by Pierre Fontaine and features the logo designed for this Assembly to represent its theme: “For the Healing of the World”.

The logo comprises a broken landscape with a cross on one side and an olive branch on the other. The design is meant to imply a sense of movement, healing, and hope.

Pierre Fontaine has designed a number of stamps for Canada Post including the 1994 “Billy Bishop” commemorative, the 1986 “Birds of Canada” series, and the “Jules Léger” stamp of 1982.

Title: “Lutheran World Federation 10th Assembly”
Issue date: 21 July, 2003
No.: 3,000,000
Des.: Pierre Fontaine (of Montreal)
Print.: Lowe-Martin (seven colour lithography).
Paper: Tullis Russell Coatings
Gum: PVA
Size: 32 mm × 36.5mm
Perf.: 12½ × 13¼

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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