



Owen Sound Stamp Club Newsletter

Next Club Meeting: October 15th October 2003

So, last month we saw a slide show assembled by Fred Stulberg entitled “What’s New In Old Canada”. This seemed well received and an exercise worth repeating. For those of you who couldn’t make it to the meeting, Stulberg had constructed a series of interesting little stories from (presumably) his collection of philatelic material including stamps, covers and postcards.

While we were tidying up after the meeting, someone suggested that it could be interesting to put together a slide show based on the concept of “There’s a story behind every stamp”.

Well, now, that got me thinking!

One of the reasons that working on this newsletter is so much fun is that it really makes me look at individual stamps and think about their origin, their design, and their production.

For example, I was browsing through my Canadian album and noticed the stamp marking the voyage of the *Nonsuch*. I had never heard of the *Nonsuch* myself and, to tell the truth, no-one I asked had ever heard of it either. Was it a yacht belonging to a some influential politician? Maybe a missionary ship? Perhaps it carried news of some battle that had been won or lost.

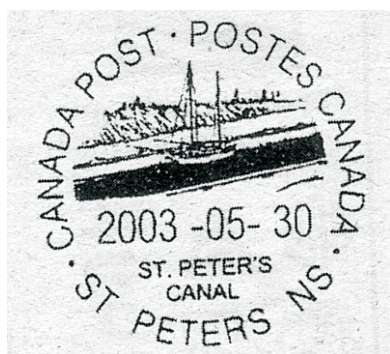
Well, I soon found out that it was of rather more significance to Canadian history than any of the above. Indeed, it seems to me that the successful voyage of the *Nonsuch* was one of those pivotal events in the history of North America that compares with that of the *Mayflower*. Not only that, but finding out about the *Nonsuch* led on to learning of Radisson and des Groseilliers who appear to have been two remarkable adventurers (and who have a stamp of their own).

So, I wonder, could one make a Canadian stamp album in which every stamp was logically linked to the one before and the one following? That would make one heck of a slide show! Let me see, now: Stulberg’s 40 slides took about 1hr or so to go through with his script, so 2000 slides would take - let me see - 50 hrs. Might have to break it up a bit for general viewing.

Bob Watson

Canada Post’s Bernie Reilander Retires

For those of you who read the small print (as I am learning to do), Bernard Reilander will be recognised as the name behind several Canadian Stamps of the seventies including the Christmas series of 1975 and 1976 (children’s drawings and stained glass windows), and the Calgary Stampede commemorative of 1975. Although his last stamp design was the 1982 Henley Regatta centenary commemorative, Reilander’s work for Canada Post has been very much on display since then with his official first day and commemorative covers and philatelic cancellations. Indeed, he is responsible for designing all such postmarks in recent years - including, no doubt, the O.S.S.C. Show cancel.



Bernard N.J. Reilander was born in Manitoba in 1948. His father was in the RCAF and he grew up in a family was constantly on the move. In 1971, Reilander went to the Ontario College of Art and Design from which he graduated with a degree in Communications and Design. He worked for a while in the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa before joining the Post Office Department in 1974 for whom he worked ever since.



What's New ...

Charles van Rompu

Since we have not looked at **Canada** for a little while, let's have a preview of what is in the pipeline for the remainder of this year.

October 1st is traditionally the beginning of "Stamp Month" and this year it saw the release of a pane of 8 Canadian Astronauts on stamps. @ 48 ¢ These brave people successfully travelled to and from space in a variety of vehicles. Their photographs are on the stamps together with a twinkling star and a highlight of her or his mission.

On Saturday, October 4th, Canada and Thailand issued a joint issue of 2 x 48 ¢ stamps printed se-tenant in a pane of 16, as well as a souvenir sheet with the two stamps. The reddish stamp shows maple leaves in fall colours [acer saccharum], the symbol of Canada and its national emblem since 1996. The yellow and green stamp shows the [cassia fistula], Thailand's national emblem since 2002. The Canadian official FDC has the joint stamps on it and is available from the National Philatelic Centre for \$3.60. (See also "Stamp on the Cover, p.4 — Ed)

Finally, the 2003 "Masterpiece" has been issued. Departing from the oversized, gilded and single issue from the past, this time a pane of 6 stamps @ 48 ¢ and a souvenir sheet of @1.25, were released with reproductions of the works of one of the great modernist painters of the 20th century: Jean-Paul Riopelle (1923-2002).

November 4th will be the day the Canadian Christmas stamps will see the light of day. Scheduled are: a booklet of 12 @ 48¢, a booklet of 6 @ 65¢ (USA) and a booklet of 6 @ \$1.25 (International). The overall motif is "Christmas Presents". New skates on the 48¢, Teddy bear on the 65¢ and Wooden toys on the \$1.25. They will all be self-adhesive but will have an irregular shape with a triangular part sticking out at various corners, they may be difficult to remove after use, without damaging.

December 19th is set for the launch of the new definitives, to accommodate the rate increases.

Switzerland, as you may recall from the November newsletter of 2002, issued since 2000 a single stamp each year with reproductions of ornaments to decorate a tree or a home. This year they are rounding off the series with 2 stamps. The CHF 0.70 features a little wooden horseman from the Erzgebirge (Ore Mountain) while the CHF 0.90 shows a typical Father Christmas made of glass from Thuringia (Germany). They will be issued on

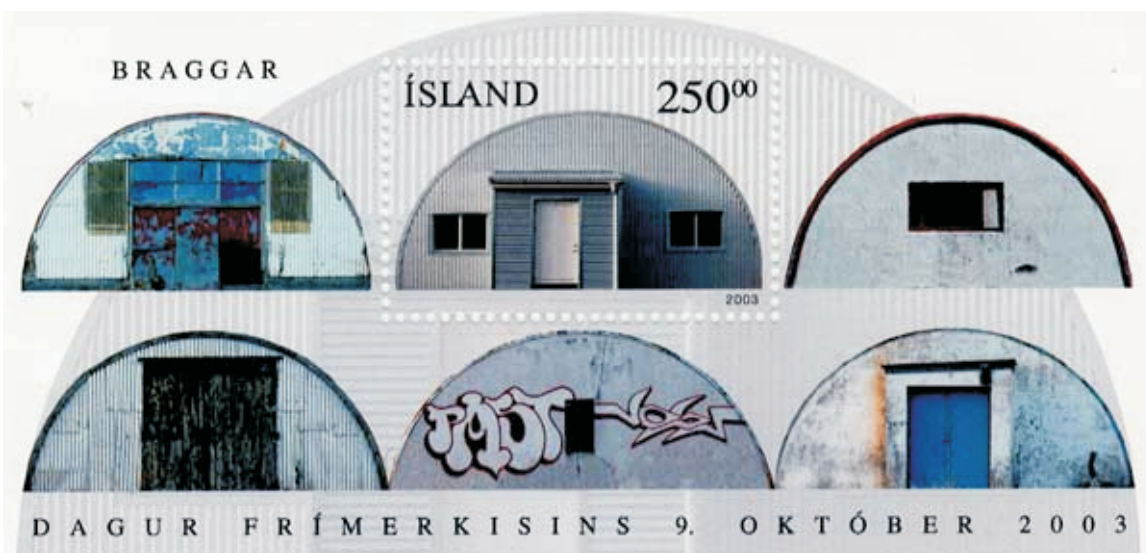
November 19th the little treasures were printed by House of Questa, London. Perf. is 11½+ and gummed.

Did any of you ever eat in a place called "Range Road Diner"?? This diner is an establishment near Meaford. From Owen Sound follow Hwy 26 towards Meaford and go Left (North) on Range Road N. towards the Military Base. A few kilometers on this road on the left you will notice a restaurant situated in one of those old WW II army barracks. If ever the saying "Don't judge a book by its cover" is true, then stop, go in and eat (reservations are a must). Until a couple of weeks ago, half way between Thornbury and Meaford on the North side of HWY 26, there were two of the same old army barracks, they were not used and are now dismantled. I am sure you are asking yourself, "What has this to do with Stamps?"

I am sure there are only a limited number of collectors who collect "Army Barracks on stamps" but for those few, there is now a reason to start this very exclusive group of "Barrackers". On Stamp Day, October 9th 2003, **Iceland** Post issued a beautiful Souvenir sheet measuring 120 x 58 mm, printed by Cartor S.A. and designed by Hlynur Ólafsson, showing a barrack on a stamp valued at 250.00 ISK surrounded by five more.

In WW II the allied forces occupying Iceland (Let's not forget that Denmark was occupied by German forces and had lost all contact and control of its Icelandic territory) - build extensive barrack quarters in Reykjavik and elsewhere. Hundreds of these barracks sheltered thousands of soldiers who worked and exercised in these buildings. In some places army hospitals were erected with checkpoints. The British army left and the Americans replaced them in the summer of 1941. When the soldiers moved out of the buildings, when the war was over, Icelandic families started moving in using the barracks both as housing facilities and as warehouses until well into the sixties. (In Meaford into the twenty-first century.)

Hope to see you all on October 15th



Stamp of the Month...



In 1968, Canada issued a 5¢ stamp [Scott # 482] commemorating the tercentenary of the voyage of the *Nonsuch* to Hudson Bay. If the Hudson Bay Company can be

said to have been one of the foundation stones of present day Canada, then the voyage of the diminutive *Nonsuch* in 1668/9 was surely the event on which the Hudson Bay Company was founded.

Nonsuch was built at Wivenhoe in Essex, England, in 1650 and was a typical general-purpose vessel designed to carry some cargo along with modest protective armament. She was about 50 ft. long with a beam of some 15 ft. Rigged as a ketch with square sails set on two masts, she would generally work with a crew of about twelve men.

In 1654, *Nonsuch* was bought by the Royal Navy. After being captured by the Dutch in 1658 and recaptured in 1659, she was acquired by a consortium of merchants for the sum of £290 on 30 March 1668. This consortium was led by Prince Rupert, a cousin of King Charles II of England, who had become inspired by the proposition of two French adventurers, Pierre-Esprit Radisson and Médard Chouart, Sieur des Groseilliers, to trade for furs in North America through Hudson's Bay. Charles II was sufficiently interested in the venture to order the Royal Navy to lend the slightly larger *Eaglet* to accompany the consortium's ship.



On June 3, 1668, des Groseilliers boarded *Nonsuch* while Radisson went with the *Eaglet* and the two ships sailed down the Thames on the first stage of their transatlantic voyage. Not surprisingly on a voyage such as this, the ships encountered all sorts of weather and in one storm *Eaglet* suffered such damage that she had to turn back, leaving *Nonsuch* to continue alone. After a voyage of almost four months the *Nonsuch* finally dropped anchor at the southern end of James Bay on September 29.

With winter coming on, the crew of the *Nonsuch* set about building a camp – Charles Fort – onshore and supplementing their provisions with local fish and game. By the time the snows came, they were well prepared and spent the next months huddled around their fires waiting for spring. In due course, as temperatures rose and the ice left the Rupert River, over 300 Indians came down to trade furs.

With a full hold, the *Nonsuch* left James Bay and reached England in October of 1669. The success of the voyage consolidated the group of investors who, as the Hudson's Bay Company, applied to the King for a Royal Charter, which was granted on May 2, 1670.

Three hundred years later the Hudson's Bay Company marked its tercentenary by arranging for the construction of a full size replica of the *Nonsuch*. Great efforts were made to be faithful to the original design using tools and materials that would have been used in the mid 17th century. She was launched in 1968 and shipped to Montreal. From there she visited several North American ports before being installed as a floating museum in Winnipeg. This replica is considered to be the most accurate reconstruction of a 17th century ship in existence today.

While touring the Great Lakes, a society of voyageur enthusiasts in Chicago made arrangements to visit her in "traditional fashion". The master of the *Nonsuch* was well prepared and as 75 voyageurs in ten canoes converged on the vessel, they were met with a barrage of cannon fire followed by volleys of flour bombs. Notwithstanding this defensive action, the assailants prevailed and were soon in possession.



The Nonsuch under attack by voyageurs in Chicago (1969)

The stamp was drawn/designed by George Sarras Fanais, 1922-1988, who was responsible for a number of stamps released in the late 1960s including the Leacock and Osler commemoratives. Even if the stamp itself was not one of Canada Post's most dramatic offerings, the event was certainly one worthy of commemoration.

The Nonsuch replica in Plymouth harbour (1969)

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm, October 15th.

Upcoming Events:

Oct. 17-19 : The Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association will be holding their Fall Stampex '03 Show and Bourse at the Queen Elizabeth Building on the CNE grounds in **Toronto**. Hours: Fri. 11-6; Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4.

Oct. 18 (Sat.): Guelphex 2003 sponsored by the Guelph S.C. will be held at Evergreen Senior Ctr., 683 Woodwich St., **Guelph**. Hours 10-4

Oct 25 (Sat.): Barrie District Stamp Club will be holding their Annual Exhibition & Bourse at the trillium Room in the Event Centre, Essa Rd./Hwy 400, **Barrie**. Hours 10-4

From the Internet ...

Eric Allen of Stanley Gibbons Ltd. swears this story is true. One day a woman walked into Gibbons' and offered a collection which she said had belonged to her late husband. A price was agreed upon, and the sale concluded. As the money was being handed over Mr Allen asked whether her husband had been dead long. "Oh, no", she replied. "He died this morning".

Stamp on the Envelope ...

National Floral Emblems: In association with an International Philatelic Exhibition being held in Bangkok this month, Canada and Thailand have produced a joint issue comprising a pair of stamps featuring the floral emblems of each country – maple leaves for Canada and Cassia flowers for Thailand.

Cassia fistula is a deciduous tree native to tropical Asia. It flowers shortly before the onset of the monsoons, producing a beautiful display of large yellow blossoms. Its leaves and seed pods have long been used for cooking and medicines. In traditional Thai culture, *Cassia fistula* is one of nine auspicious trees, bringing happiness, success and good fortune to those who grow them while its flowers are prized for their beauty.

The maple stamp was designed by Raymond Bellemare in different tones of red, as a typical image of autumn leaves. "A few leaves overlap the frame to avoid a rigid-looking design," Bellemare says. His previous stamp designs include rural mail boxes, premiers and several queen and maple leaf stamps. The *Cassia fistula* stamp was designed by Veena Chantanat of Thailand Post Co. Ltd.

Title: "National Floral Emblems: a. Maple leaves
b. Cassia fistula flowers"

Issue date: 4 October, 2003

No.: 3,000,000

Des.: Maple: Raymond Bellemare (Canada)
Cassia fistula: Veena Chantanat (Thailand)

Print.: Ashton Potter (seven colour lithography).

Paper: Tullis Russell Coatings

Gum: PVA

Size: 30 mm × 48 mm

Perf.: 12¾ × 12½

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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