

O.S.S.C.

Owen Sound

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Philatelic Owen Sound Times

Next Club Meeting: August 17th

August 2005

As readers of this newsletter may well be aware, we exchange copies of our monthly efforts with the Saugeen Stamp Club in Hanover. After editing the Saugeen Stamp Club Bulletin from #1 to #88, Jim Measures has announced that he will be handing over the reins to Ralph Wyndham.

I'm sure the Saugeen Club members will be expressing their appreciation of Jim's efforts over the past years and, I would just like to add that it was his newsletter that got Bob Pike to persuade me to get this thing started for the OSSC – so we owe him a bit too – I suppose!

Anyway, I wish him well in his "retirement" and, at the same time, look forward to many more exchanges of issues with the SSC Bulletin under its new editorship.

Note: copies of the SSC Bulletin (from #42) are part of the OSSC Library collection.

Stamp(s) of the Month...

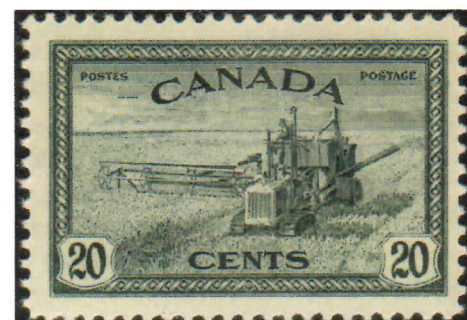
These three stamps make an interesting trio from the Canada album depicting as they do three harvesting scenes released over a period of 17 years.

The first (Scott #157) is titled *Harvesting Wheat* and is part of the George V "Scroll" series designed by Herman Schwartz, engraved by Silas Allen, and printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company. It was intended to represent the Prairies (the hilly part). The stamp was based on a sketch originally prepared for the CPR in 1914 at which time the horse drawn reaper was still widely used across Canada.

However, when the stamp was issued in 1929, Canadian farming was in the forefront of mechanisation and many farms had replaced their horses with tractors. Moreover, the simple mower had by now largely been replaced by either the binder - which at least tied the cut grain into bundles - or the more sophisticated "header" which removed the grain heads for later threshing.

All in all, this first stamp was felt to be more than a little out of date and not to show off Canadian agriculture at its best.

The second stamp (Scott #175) was issued just a year later as part of the 1930 "Arch" series and was much better received. This was definitely portraying the Prairies proper



(even if there are some hills in the background) and the horses had been replaced by a very massive DH Trackson McCormick-Deering crawler tractor. There are a row of grain elevators in the middle distance right and farm workers shack (?) to the left. This stamp was produced by the British American Banknote company (with no specific credits for design and engraving) and is a composite design based on a number of photographs.

The third stamp (Scott #271) was issued in 1946 as part of the "Peace" series and is again being used to represent the Prairies - this time with no hills whatsoever. While the details of the equipment have certainly changed, the basic principles of harvesting appear to be much the same as shown on the 1930 stamp. Like the first, this stamp was designed by Herman Schwartz, engraved by Silas Allen, and printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company.

As far as I can determine, Canada has not issued any stamps since to show developments in farming. Even in the extensive "millennium" series agriculture seems to have been overlooked in favour of more relevant topics such as "Hockey Night in Canada"!

From the President ...

Alan Charlesworth

Last days of summer. Yes fellow stampers the last days of summer are upon us and we all will be getting back to our loving relationship we have with our stamps. As fall approaches I find my thoughts turning towards this wondrous hobby we share and think of ways we can share this with others.

Yes, let us think of different projects that would enable us to involve new collectors.

Many years ago a fellow collector in Edmonton put together small kits for stamp collecting for seniors, and supplied them with inexpensive stamps two times a month. This apparently was well received by all. I have had some thoughts regarding this lately for both seniors and juniors in school stamp clubs. At our August meeting I would appreciate any input from all of you on this matter and if any of you have any ideas that you would like to share, please do.

Last weekend I was set up at the Kincardine show and purchased some books for the club library, these being;

- *Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Concise 2004*
- *The Admiral Issues Of Canada* by George C Marler
- *Canadian Fancy Cancellations of the Nineteenth Century*

These books are available to members on a loan basis .

I just received a call from the fellow who was going to give us a talk on Canadian centennial issues at this meeting regrettably cancelling his trip up here . He has promised to call and re-book later in the fall.

Instead of this talk I will prepare an auction for this meeting and if any of you have material you would like to bring please do so.

Well bye bye for now .

In Case you were Wondering ...

It seems to be an inevitable fact of life that from time to time relations between two nations will deteriorate. Sometimes this stops at the stage of name-calling, but sometimes it goes all the way to full-scale war.

So how do postal systems cope with these situations?

The answer appears to be that there are no hard and fast rules and each case is handled on an ad-hoc basis.

Bearing in mind that the rules for handling international mail are established by the Universal Postal Union, their Website is remarkably free of specifics and much more concerned with general statements of guidelines and principles. However, it does appear that the UPU operates on the principle that individuals have a right to communicate with others, wherever they might be, at a reasonable cost.

When countries are on good terms, this means the establishing of mutually agreeable rates, listing prohibited materials, and settling on conventions for stamp designs, etc.

When international relations deteriorate, things for the UPU must get more difficult.

In 1898, the US and Spain were at war over a number of issues including the "liberation" of Cuba from Spanish rule. Although this war had widespread support within the US, there were many who had business dealings with Cuba who found the hostilities most inconvenient and wished they could just ignore the whole thing.

They couldn't.

A letter from a Wall Street banking house to a firm in Havana was postmarked at New York, April 20, 1898, directed, "Via Tampa." The letter was promptly returned after the post office at New York affixed a printed label to the piece inscribed "Despatch to Spain or Spanish Colonies Prohibited on Account of War." The envelopes was then handstamped, "Do not post again in this envelope or wrapper."

During WWI, Britain authorised the travel agent Thos. Cook

to operate a civilian "between the warring nations" mail service, making use of its office in Geneva, Switzerland. Covers from Britain to Cooks' office in Geneva may well have contained letters which Cook was to forward to Germany but it would be hard to demonstrate that this was the case.

In 1940, this concept was revived and Cook's rented a number of mailboxes in Amsterdam. To send a letter from Canada to Germany (say), one would write the letter and enclose in an un-stamped envelope with the proper address in Germany. This envelope, along with a 40¢ (80¢ for airmail) postal order fee was put into another stamped envelope addressed to: PO Box 615, Amsterdam.

Of course, such letters were subjected to rigorous censorship and presumably most were of the nature "hope all is well with you and look forward to seeing you in due course."

This scheme was in operation only a few months before the Netherlands was occupied by Germany but in that time records show that 14,501 letters were sent to Amsterdam and 2,308 replies from Axis countries to Allied countries were received and forwarded.

With Cooks' offices in Holland no longer available, Britain turned to Lisbon, Portugal. Post Office Box 506 was rented from the post office and in July 1940, advertisements began to appear in British newspapers headed "Notes for persons wishing to communicate with friends in Enemy Countries or Territory in the Occupation of the Enemy".

In the first few years of the service, through December 1943, 278,084 letters were sent to Lisbon, and 151,980 replies went from enemy countries to Lisbon.

Where are these covers today? They must be around, for even if 90 per cent of them were destroyed, there ought to be plenty of them available, awaiting only the recognition. However, they have not yet been found, which accounts for prices exceeding \$100 for a cover addressed to PO Box 506, Lisbon.

What's New ...

Charles van Rompu

Some news; hot from the press. Ireland on July 27th, commemorated the fact that 75 years ago they got the "Monuments of Ireland Act". To do this, they issued 4 stamps, showing four "Round Towers of Ireland". These are among the world's ancient monuments in that whilst they make a bold historical and cultural statement, they were built with a very practical use in mind. While the pyramids of Egypt were dedicated to the enjoyment of a future life, and the Roman amphitheatres reflected the pastimes of their builders, the Irish Round Towers were used as bell towers and as hiding places in the time of Viking invasions (10th and 12th centuries).

Irish Round Towers are hand-crafted in native stone and cemented with sand, lime, horsehair and oxblood mortar – a technique imported from Roman Britain. Of, more than 100 Towers build in Ireland, 65 survived in various states of repair. They were typically between 50 and 150 feet high. The only access was through a narrow doorway, situated high on the tower wall, which was reached by a ladder.

As the towers, the stamps are tall and slender, measuring 30 × 51 mm, 4 @ 48¢ se-tenant, in black on white, gummed and designed by Michael Graig. For topical collectors, who look for architecture and/or towers, these 4 beauties, are a must



It seems that Owen Sound collectors and Beekeepers have become close friends. In Ireland, Dublin to be precise, the international APIMONDIA CONGRESS will be held from 26 to 26 August 2005. Apimondia promotes co-operation of beekeepers' associations, scientific bodies and individuals involved in apiculture worldwide.

On August 19th, 2005 (coming Friday) Ireland will issue a 65¢ yellowish stamp, showing five Dark European Bees (*Apis mellifera*) designed by Steve Simpson. For more information on this and other Irish stamp-happenings, see

www.apimondia2005.com and/or www.irishstamps.ie



Another world FIRST. Swiss post, again, first out of the gates with: MMS stamps.

They held a competition called "Swiss mobil – a country on the move". 3,300 MMS photos were submitted by the general public, taken with their mobile phone cameras. This as a continuation of the world's first embroidered stamp, the stamp that smells of chocolate, or the wooden stamp, and now the mobil-phone stamp. Chosen were: CHF0.85 "On Horseback" CHF1.00 "Mountain hike" CHF1.30 "On top of the world" and CHF1.80 "Tracks in the snow".



The series of Swiss innovations, which gave us: the Zipper, Potato-peeler, Chair, Station clock and the Fix-pencil, is continued with Swiss Watches.



Regular readers of *Canadian Stamp News* have all read about the increase in rates as of January 16th 2006. For topical collectors, there will be a flood of Canadian material: Deer, Falcon, Walrus and Horse, for animal collectors. Flower gatherers will be happy with Poppies, Lady slippers and Monarda's. Flags will fly over five places in Canada, of which one, I bet you, will have a windmill

The one flying over Pincher Creek, Alberta, the windiest place in Canada, will undoubtedly have those in the design.

Besides all the above, the rest of the year looks promising, with Olympics, Canadian Gardens, Art by Dorothy Knowles, Aquariums, La-Crosse, Duck decoys, Opera divas, Endangered species, and last but not least FOUR Christmas stamps

See you all August 17th I hope.

Famous Collectors: F. D. Roosevelt ...

In an article that appeared in the Poughkeepsie [New York] Journal, Cynthia M. Koch, director of the FDR Presidential Library and Museum, is quoted as saying President Roosevelt had 1.2 million stamps in his collection.

"He started as a child and worked on it during his long convalescence from polio," Koch said in advance of first day of issue ceremonies being held at the FDR Presidential Library for the new stamp marking the 50th anniversary of the Presidential Libraries Act of 1955.



Franklin D. Roosevelt founded the first presidential library in Hyde Park, NY. He was an avid stamp collector and was a life member of the American Philatelic Society (APS). Roosevelt was inducted into the APS Hall of Fame in 1945.

According to the APS, "Roosevelt had a hand in every stamp issued during his period in office, suggesting some, designing many and giving his final approval on all issues. He arranged for the issuance of souvenir sheets at national stamp conventions and saw that many stamps had their first days at philatelic events."

Next Meeting ... Wed. August 17th at 7:00 pm

We expect to have books from the Peninsula Circuit and there will be an auction.

As always, if any member has any material to sell or trade, bring it along!

Upcoming Events:

Aug 27 (Sat.): Stamp Show at St. Bonaventure Church Parish Centre, 1300 Leslie St., **Toronto**. 18 Dealers. Free admission.
Hours: 9-5

Aug 27 (Sat.): Muskoka Stamp Club is hosting MUSPEX 2005 at Muskoka Riverside Inn, 300 Ecclestone Drive, Bracebridge. Exhibits, dealers, door prizes. Free admission.
Hours: 10-4

Sept. 8 (Sat.): The North Toronto Stamp Club is hosting a "Postage Stamp Bourse and Club Sales Circuit" at the Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Blvd.
Hours: 10-4.

Sept. 10 (Sat.): Stamp Show at St. Bonaventure Church Parish Centre, 1300 Leslie St., **Toronto**. 18 Dealers. Free admission.
Hours: 9-5

Sept. 17 (Sat.): Stamp Show at St. Bonaventure Church Parish Centre, 1300 Leslie St., **Toronto**. 18 Dealers. Free admission.
Hours: 9-5

Sept. 17 (Sat.): Burloak Stamp Fair will be held at the Burlington Seniors Centre, 2285 New Street (at Seneca), **Burlington**. 6-9 dealers; free admission and parking.
Hours: 9-3

Stamp on the Envelope ...

This month I am using up various odds and ends for postage so the stamp on this month's cover could be just about anything.

OSSC Library ...

Just to remind you, books in the **OSSC Library** are available for loan to any member (but please return at the next meeting).

Books presently held include:

- 2002 Catalogue of Canadian Stamps – Unitrade
- 2004 Concise Catalogue of Great Britain – Stanley Gibbons
- 2005 Catalogue of Canadian Stamps & Supplies – CWS
- Canadian Errors, Freaks, and Oddities – Darnel

OWEN SOUND STAMP CLUB
Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

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 20 active members whose interests cover just about everything at all levels from beginner to expert. New members are always most welcome.

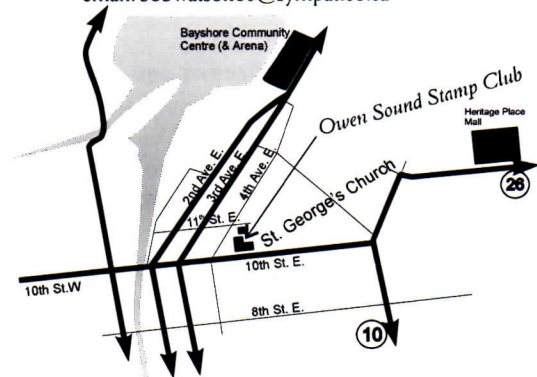
Annual Membership fees: Full: \$10; Family: \$15; Junior: Free. In addition, all members and visitors are asked to contribute \$1 each meeting which is passed directly to St. George's Church in appreciation for allowing us to use their room.

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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The Edward VII Issue of Canada by G.C. Marler, published by the National Postal Museum(1975).

The Admiral Issues Of Canada by G. C. Marler

Canadian Fancy Cancellations of the Nineteenth Century

Numerous journals at present only partly sorted including:

The Canadian Philatelist (J. of the RPSC); *Scott's Monthly*; *Topical Times* (J. American Topical Association); *Details* (Canada Post)