

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next meeting; Wed. March 16th 2011 @ 7:00

From the President...



It is amazing where time flies. Again I am called on to write a welcome and a reminder that our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16th. I hope you are in good health and can make it the St. George's Anglican Church. Hopefully, the weather from this weekend will not bother us for the meeting. I trust we all can make wise decisions on whether to attend or not.

Our plan for this meeting is making preparations for the show coming in September as well as a Club Auction night. Regular features still remain such as show and tell and the one page challenge. I hope we all can participate. The challenge I faced in preparing the display for # 1 showed me just how much effort it takes to prepare a challenge. I am going to try again for this meeting.

It is also time to think about recruiting efforts for this club. If there are any ideas, please be so kind as to share them and let's see if they can be put into practice. However, I can also let you know that we will have the circuit books from St. Catharine's at the April meeting and the books from Cambridge at the May meeting. There might be a speaker for the June meeting, but that is still a work in progress. See you at the meeting.

Cheers!

Phil Visser

President OSSC



One Page Challenge...

March – Baseball

April – Plants and/or flowers

Spring is coming! The Grapefruit League has sprung into action and we've got baseball as a theme this month. That may pose more of a challenge for some members. Step up to the plate and give it a swing!

February's topic was inventions and/or inventors. Here is a page about Alexander Graham Bell's ubiquitous invention, the telephone. A souvenir sheet from Barbuda depicts the history of telephones and worldwide communication. There is a lively set of five styles of phones from Anguilla. The page is finished off with a millennium stamp honouring Bell himself and a first day cover celebrating 100 years of the telephone. This page sticks to the rule of having at least three different types of philatelic items but in our 'one page challenge' the only rule is 'stick to the topic'.

We have added 'Common designs' as a theme for May. If you need inspiration check the listings of common design types in the front of a Scott's Catalogue. You may be surprised by the number of countries that have banded together to commemorate a certain event or anniversary.

We held our #1 meeting in February. **John Cortan** brought in some examples of GB #1; the very famous penny black. **Phil Visser** brought in a Netherlands #1 and discussed some of the different plates of the issue. Nobody brought in a Canada #1 which is the three pence beaver on laid paper. **Rob Armstrong** brought in some other three pence beaver stamps and an example of an early Canadian stamp on laid paper. To further our discussions John Cortan brought in the following information about the penny black.

The Editor

In the Spotlight...The Penny Black

by John Cortan



The penny black was issued May 1 1840 for use starting on May the 6th. The adhesive postage stamp was developed by Sir Rowland Hill who together with Henry Cole held a contest to identify the best way to prepay postage. Out of 2,600 entries none were found to be acceptable so Hill launched the service in 1840 with a design by William Mulready. Supplies of the stamp were sent to London and a few other large cities but much of England didn't receive stamps until much later so stampless covers were still used for some time after 1840. Usage was to begin on May 6th but covers have been found dated May 1 and the city of Bath unofficially sold the stamp starting May 2nd.

Values for this stamp range from \$45 in poor used condition to \$200 and up for very fine used. A very fine never hinged mint penny black lists at \$6000 in Scott's Catalogue. According to Wikipedia, "The total print run was 286,700 sheets with 68,808,000 stamps", which means that values for the penny black are



Jacob Perkins' press that printed the Penny Black and the 2d Blue.

Thanks to Wikipedia for

I hope that everyone will participate in this column. The 'spotlight' can be focused on anything philatelic. Whether you love it, hate it or you just have a story to tell, drop us a

completely disproportionate to other stamps. Many modern commemorative stamps have a print run of about 750,000 to 4 million which is a fraction of the amount of penny blacks printed but of course, no other stamp holds that vaunted position of being the very first adhesive postage stamp!

A Look At Chess, Part 1... by Ralph Wyndham



A chess game from a 12th century manuscript illustration

Another interesting possible philatelic pursuit would be stamps about the game of chess. Chess is a board game for two players. The board consists of an 8 x 8 matrix of squares alternating between light and dark. Each player starts with a set of 16 game pieces, one white, one black, placed on the board on the two rows of squares nearest them. There are two rooks, two knights, two bishops, a queen and a king on the back row and in front of them, eight pawns. Pieces may only move in ways specific to that piece. For example, a bishop may only move diagonally, the rook either horizontally or vertically across the board, but not diagonally. The ultimate object of the game is to move your pieces across the board capturing the opponent's pieces. The first player to capture, or checkmate, his opponent's king, wins. Checkmate occurs when any possible move by the opponent's king would result in his capture.

Chess is recognized as a sport by the International Olympic Committee, or IOC, though I wonder how soon you might see it as an event in the Olympic Games. A member of the IOC, the Fédération Internationale Des Échecs (FIDE), or World Chess Federation, is the international governing body for chess.

(A Look at Chess is continued on page 3)

(A Look at Chess is continued from page 2)

You can't imagine why chess would be considered a sport? After all, how can something that at first glance seems to largely involve sitting on a chair for hours be a sport? Well... for friends who sit down across from one another for a friendly game it may not be sport, but at the elite level things are different. Studies have shown that in elite level tournament play, players are performing on a par with elite race car drivers and golfers. Elite chess is a game of endurance. A game may last seven hours under conditions of extreme concentration and stress. A player may lose up to five pounds. And matches can last for days and weeks. Former world champion, American Bobby Fischer said, "I've got to stay in shape or it's all over."



It is believed that chess originated in Northern India or Afghanistan. The first written references to the game date to around 600 AD so it is likely the game developed in the centuries before then. There are claims that chess existed around 100 AD but this has not been verified.

The game, however, did not emerge from its birthplace in the form we recognize today. Historians think that chess has its roots in the Hindustani game called chaturanga.

Chaturanga was a military strategy game with game pieces representing the four angas, or military divisions that were, according to the Amarakosha, an ancient Indian dictionary, elephantry, cavalry, chariots and infantry. Chaturanga was a 4 person game loosely divided into two teams and was more a game of chance with moves determined by the roll of dice.



As with so many things originating in the ancient east, chaturanga followed the trade routes out of India, arriving in Persia. In his writings, the Persian poet, Firdausi, records an event where, among the gifts from an Indian king to a Persian ruler, there was a game, now only for two players, depicting battle between two armies. The earliest recorded chess game took place in the 10th Century between a historian from Baghdad and a pupil.

Chatrang, as it was called in Persian, was picked up by the Muslims when they invaded Persia. Among the changes to the game over time was the look of the pieces. They became more stylized and less ornate as Islam forbids the portrayal of animals and people in art.

Intricately carved antique chess pieces on a 1983

Chess made its way to Europe by a number of routes. Via trade routes, with the Moors as they invaded Spain and the Vikings likely took it back to northern Europe as their travels took them as far as Constantinople and Baghdad.

The game was well established across Europe by 1200. Chess became popular as a gambling event. King Louis IX of France became so alarmed by the situation that he issued a decree against gambling in 1254. His decree fell on deaf ears, however. Not even in courtly society did anyone pay heed as now-banned chess tournaments continued.

By the 1400s, the basics of modern chess rules were in place. A game could last for days but around 1475 the bishop and queen were given their modern mobility on the board greatly speeding the game up. Rules still fluctuated. The option of stalemate, where any move puts a player's king in check resulting in a draw, has been added to and removed from the game many times.

The style of game pieces continued to be a problem for

Artwork with a chess theme was the subject of a 1974 issue by Nicaragua. Arabs Playing Chess, a



A pawn (back) and a bishop in the Staunton style that is

players. Many pieces were tall and cumbersome and easily tipped during play. Players would carry their own personal set of pieces so that there could be two entirely different looking sets in play. Unfamiliarity with opponents' pieces led to confusion and mistaken identity sometimes unfairly changing the outcome of a game. Named after British chess great Howard Staunton, the Staunton chess board and pieces were introduced in London in 1849. The Staunton set remains the standard today, being used in every international tournament.

Thanks again to Ralph Wyndham for an interesting article. Stay tuned next month for part II of 'A Look at Chess'.

On the Cover...Fergie Jenkins



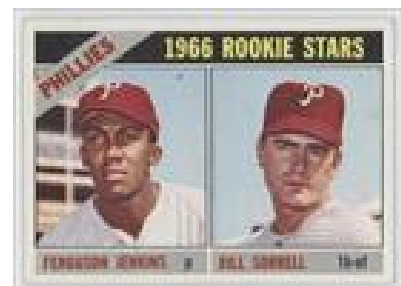
Last month you heard the tale of Carrie Best, an amazing human rights activist from New Glasgow Nova Scotia. Carrie shares the 'Black History Month' limelight with Fergie Jenkins, a major league baseball pitcher from Chatham Ontario with a very illustrious career.

Ferguson Jenkins was born in 1942; his Dad's family was from Barbados and his Mom's family came to Canada via the underground railway. Fergie grew to a height of six foot five and was an amazing athlete throughout his high school years. He excelled not only in baseball but also hockey and basketball. During some of his years as a major league pitcher he played basketball in the off season with the Harlem Globetrotters to keep in shape. His athletic ambitions were encouraged by his father who was an amateur boxer and a semi-pro baseball player.

Jenkins was scouted out by the Philadelphia Phillies at age 15 and was plucked right out of Chatham when he graduated high school. He was called up from the minor leagues part way into the 1965 season to play as a relief pitcher. The following year he was traded to the Chicago Cubs where he became a starting pitcher in 1967. That same year he represented Chicago in the All Star game where he struck out six heavy hitters. He had a remarkable eight years in Chicago. In 1971 he was the Cy Young Award winner.

Fergie Jenkins' pro ball pitching career lasted nineteen seasons. After the Chicago Cubs he pitched for the Texas Rangers and the Boston Red Sox. He spent his final two seasons back with the Cubs when he retired in 1983 at the ripe old age of thirty-nine. He is famous for pitching six consecutive seasons with twenty wins and for pitching over 3,000 strike outs.

After relaxing a few years in 1988 Fergie went back to baseball to do some minor league coaching and then went back to the cubs as a pitching coach for '95 and '96. He



had already been inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in 1987 and into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in New York State in 1991. He was voted the Canadian Athlete of the Year four times and received the Lou Marsh award as Canada's top athlete.

Fergie hasn't stopped yet. Since his coaching days Jenkins worked for the Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association and became Commissioner of the Canadian Baseball League in 2003. He made a lot of personal appearances doing speeches and fundraising for numerous causes. To that end he began the Fergie Jenkins Foundation in 2000 which has raised funds for various charities in and around St. Catharines and Hamilton, the Canadian Special Olympics and for summer camps for underprivileged kids. He has been awarded a star on the Canada Walk of Fame in the Toronto Theatre District. I have found information that he was supposed to be invested as a member of the Order of Canada in 1979 and in 1984. I don't know which date is the correct date but in fact he never actually received it until May 4, 2007 from Hon. Michael Jean.

Edith Butler and Fergie Jenkins are the only two Canadians who have actually watched as their visage rolled off of the printing presses in Ottawa. The stamp shows two images of Fergie; the portrait is a recent photograph and the image of him pitching was on the cover of Sports Illustrated in August 30 1971. The sepia and gray tones of the stamp are offset by the red in his Order of Canada Medal and the red of his treasured autograph. The booklet of ten self adhesive stamps is designed to look like a baseball ticket and a baseball card. Near the top of the ticket are the numbers: 284 3 31. 284 is the number of winning games he pitched. 3 is for pitching in 3 All-star games. 31 is the number that he wore with the Chicago Cubs which was retired on May 3, 2009 in a ceremony that raised Fergie Jenkins' number up the foul line pole in right field at Wrigley's Field in Chicago.

Mr. Jenkins spent all of February making personal appearances talking about his incredible career and raising funds for Black History Month. The stamps and many other souvenir items are available at the Fergie Jenkins Foundation website, <http://www.fergiejenkins.ca>. Autographed copies of the book 'The Game is Easy- Life is Hard, the Story of Ferguson Jenkins Jr.' by Dorothy Turcotte is available too. Although Canada Post has advertised the various souvenirs in *Collections* magazine, it is only selling the usual items such as: booklets, FDCs and post cards.

Marion Ace

From the Editor...

At our February meeting we had some lively discussion about #1 stamps. Some of the items brought in are mentioned at the top of page two. My contribution was to point out that there are all kinds of #1s. For example most countries have a B1 for semi-postal stamps, a C1 for air mail stamps, an O1 for official stamps, etc. Some countries have a long of list of subcategories. So I brought in C1 and 3N1 from

Germany. 3N1 was the first stamp produced by the Allied Military Government in Germany at the end of WWII. Fascinating!



The Imperial Oil Collection
Hundreds of rebels leave Montgomery's Tavern and march down Yonge Street.
National Archives of Canada/Jefferys Ref. C 13088, in Abbott, 1990, p 118

Earlier in the meeting we had a discussion of a different nature. Ted Mehlfuhrer suggested that we submit a proposal to Canada Post for a stamp honouring the rebellions of Upper Canada and Lower Canada in 1837. In 2012 the rebellions will be 175 years old. Ted brought along some information about the rebellions. I know, we took this stuff in school but that was a few years ago. I could see that this is history but what's the big deal about some scuffles in the street that the rebels lost? As it turns out, the British government was concerned about all of this disgruntlement. They sent Lord Durham to report on the issues the colonists had. His report led to greater autonomy for the colonists, loosening the stranglehold of the Family Compact and the Chateau Clique on local governments and the union of the two Canadas into the Province of Canada in 1840.

So we have an interesting subject for a Canadian stamp. Part of Canada Post's criteria for the subject of a new stamp is to be relevant and interesting to all Canadians. Since we are talking about the rebellions of both Upper and Lower Canada which covers both English and French speaking Canada we can hope for support from both peoples. Somehow I think Quebecers would support a stamp for the rebellion of Lower Canada a lot more than one for the formation of the Province of Canada. This topic doesn't focus on the West or Newfoundland but is about the development of Canada.



The next question was about time. Is there enough time to submit this idea to become part of the stamp program in 2012? John Cortan spoke about the firefighter stamp of 2003. He discussed how the Saugeen Stamp Club wanted to have a Canadian stamp made to honour the efforts of volunteer firefighters. Once they got going they enlisted the support of fire stations across Canada. Even with all of that support it took three years for the idea to come to fruition. Canada Post recommends "a minimum of two years before the beginning of the desired year of issue."

The Fergie Jenkins Foundation website has a page about the efforts made by the foundation to get Fergie honoured with a stamp. They first applied for a stamp in 2004 and were rejected in 2005. The following year the foundation made 500 personalized Canadian stamps of Fergie Jenkins that they said went over quite well. Since then Canada Post embarked on their Black History Month



This stamp was created for the stamp package handed out to government officials. The two images of Fergie are

series of stamps. In 2009 the Foundation refocused their efforts to have the stamp coincide with Black History Month.

With advice and support from St. Catharines M.P. Rick Dykstra and Niagara West-Glanbrook M.P. Dean Allison the Foundation produced a stamp package and distributed it to government MPs and officials at all levels including Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Government members were enthusiastic and support for a Fergie Jenkins stamp went piling in to Canada Post. (Even from Stephen Harper's office.) Even then they were told that a stamp would not be produced in 2010/2011. Who knows what changed but the stamp is now here.

I think that Ted Mehlfuhrer has a good idea but I don't think that we have the time to make it happen. We could still send a letter to Jim Phillips of Canada Post's Stamp Services on the chance that we will be supporting someone else's proposition for a stamp honouring the Rebellions of Upper and Lower Canada.

See you on Wednesday! The Editor

Coming Events...

- MARCH 19, Toronto, ON
NYPEX, Carnegie Centennial Arena, 580 Finch Ave W. The show will be in the Skaters Lounge Room from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dealers, door prizes, silent auction, snack bar, TTC access, free admission, free parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: North York Philatelic Society. For more information contact Mike Turk, telephone 905-731-8380, email turkm@accessvr.com.
- MARCH 19, Woodstock, ON
OXPEX/OTEX2011, John Knox Christian School, 800 Juliana Dr. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free admission, free parking, 16 dealers, exhibits, youth area, Canada Post booth, club circuit books, show cover, lunch and snack counter. Exhibitors invited, free entry form and rules and regulation available at www.oxfordphilsoc.com or by email. Sponsor/Affiliate: OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.
- MARCH 26, Peterborough, ON
KAPEX 2011, Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Rd. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Exhibits, free admission. Win a complete set of Canada's Large and Small Queens. Sponsor/Affiliate: Kawartha Stamp Club. For more information contact Mark Armstrong, telephone 705-357-3487 email msaphilatelicsstudio@msn.com.
- APRIL 2, London, ON
Lonpex 119, Churchill Ballroom at the Ramada Inn, 817 Exeter Road. 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Featuring 12 dealers plus club sales circuit, prize draws, free admission and parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: London Philatelic Society. For more info contact Don Slaughter, email donslau@execulink.com. Website: <http://londonphilatelicsociety.com>.
- APRIL 8 - 10, Toronto, ON
National Postage Stamp Show, Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place. Show hours:

Fri. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dealers from across Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States, Canada Post, society and club information, stamps for kids, hourly draw prizes and much more. Free limited edition set of 10 commemorative postcards plus poster celebrating the Year of the Rabbit. Free, number one of a limited edition post card. Offers good while supplies last.

Sponsor/Affiliate: Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association. For more information, contact director@csdaonline.com. Website: <http://csdaonline.com>.

- MAY 07, Hanover, ON

Saugeen Stamp club Annual Show, Knights of Columbus Hall just west of Hanover on Hwy 4. 10 Dealers Free admission, youth table, door prizes, exhibits and lunch booth, free parking. Sponsor/Affiliate: Saugeen Stamp Club. For more information, contact Ralph Wyndham, telephone 519-529-3487 email rw@hurontel.on.ca.

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

The Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the basement of St. George's Anglican Church (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 often held at 8:00 pm. There are presently about 25 active members whose interests cover just about everything at all levels, from beginner to expert. Guests or new members are always most welcome. Annual membership fees: \$15; Junior- Free

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