

Owen Sound Stamp Club
Chapter 191
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 21st 2016 @ 7 PM

From the President...



I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and an enjoyable and healthy New Year. For those members who made it to the December meeting, the demands of work messed up the mailing of this newsletter, but as promised at the meeting, here it is. There will be a January edition of the Newsletter coming in a few weeks time, and I will be working on that during the next weekend. However, the meeting was enjoyable, the treats were delicious and many thanks goes out to those who contributed articles to the President's Funny Munny auction. Even though this newsletter is after the fact of the meeting, it helps continue keeping members in touch with what is going on.

The usual hijinks occurred during the auction, where someone was wondering who was bidding against them and where did they get all that Funny Munny from! Indeed, the usual joke about printing my own stash came out, but after not buying for a few years I felt I should redistribute the pile this year. Besides, there were a few lots of interest to my collecting area. Unfortunately, one that I had an interest in went outside the scope of my stash (didn't print enough ha ha).

It is also time to remind our members who are not able to make the meetings as often as they may like to, it is time to renew your membership. The membership dues have been at \$15 for several years and so it was time to look at what they should be for 2017. At the November meeting we discussed the state of the clubs finances and as a result, the membership dues have been raised to \$20 per year. There will be more about the decision further in the newsletter. Please forward the dues to Bob Ford (address on the back page), or make a visit if you are able.

It seems that the members who are regularly able to attend vary between fifteen and twenty people per evening. It is very pleasing to see that effort and hopefully all members feel it worthwhile coming. A gentle reminder is that each of us needs to talk about our hobby and perhaps more of the closet collectors in the community may wish to join the club. A huge benefit I find in being part of this club is the amount of knowledge and experience that everyone brings to the meetings. This is a constant source of encouragement and an excellent reason for being a member of a club.

An update of the planned club activities for the winter months is provided further in the Newsletter.

Phil Visser
President
OSSC

In Memory of Ron Vanderburgh
By Phil Visser



Figure 2 Ron Vanderburgh 1942-2016

I received news during the Christmas holiday season that Ron had passed away on December 23rd. Ron was a member of the club for the last several years and enjoyed the hobby. He had been bothered with illnesses while he was a member and so his attendance at meetings was sporadic. However, I was able to have several conversations with him when he was able to attend and found out some interesting things.

Ron loved trains and I suspect that he had a collection on that topic somewhere. Sadly, we collectors don't always share what we collect with others and so I can't confirm if trains was part of his collection but I suspect it was somewhere in some form of development in his collection.

Ron's last name has a common heritage with my own, and so one of the topics we discussed was where he came from in Holland. And here comes a much overlooked piece of history. Ron's ancestors had immigrated to New Amsterdam in the United States. Haven't heard about that place? Well New Amsterdam is called New York City today! The colony was founded in the early 1600's and following one of the frequent European wars, was captured and ceded to England some 50 years later. The settlers there then become subjects to the English crown yet continued living in New York as it was renamed and thrived under English rule.

Some one hundred years later, the American Revolution came about and many of the settlers in the American Colonies just couldn't accept the idea of a separate country and so immigrated to Canada to remain under British rule. We know them now as the United Empire Loyalists who settled in Ontario. Ron traced his heritage to that group of early Canadian settlers.

On behalf of the club I offer our condolences to Linda and the family on Ron's passing. Thanks also goes to the Downs and Son Funeral Home for the photo of Ron on their website (and presumably from the family itself) so that it is possible to put a face to the name.

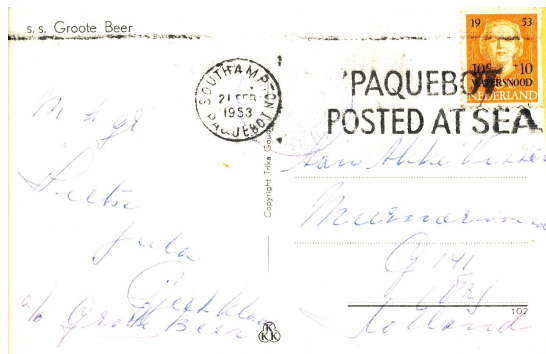
Christmas Carols and Stamps
By Phil Visser

Another Christmas season is upon us and the air is filled with music of the season. One particular carol seems to have many people dumbfounded on what the song is all about. The carol I am referring to is "I saw three ships." From my participation in choirs and looking at the internet, the song almost always is attributed to English origins. From there the tale goes into several directions, some scoffing at the fact that Bethlehem is landlocked so how could ships get there, but almost all refer to the three magi (wise men) who arrived in Bethlehem according to the Biblical story bearing gifts. Further absurdities are offered, as explained in Google, which needn't be written about here.

Here is another proposal on what the song could be about. First of all it is pretty clear that England grew into a world power by the control of the sea. Most English families would be familiar with the seafaring nature of the country in the 18th and 19th centuries. Thus, with poetic license, the arrival of the three wise men travelling

through the Middle East would arrive to England on three ships. Of course modern sensibilities would seek exactness, so the arrival of the magi was most likely on camels. When the English explored and dominated trade in the Middle East, the camel came into the picture and looking at what the camel did for the Middle East, they were the means of moving goods through the deserts. Using poetic license again, the camel could be called the ships of the desert.

Having some connection with the sea, it is fascinating to look in to the role of ships and mail. One of the first obvious questions will arise is which country of postage stamps would be put on a letter or post card to mail when the ship is at sea. A very easy answer would be the country of registry that the ship is regulated by.



However, the Universal Postal Union allows for mail to be sent ashore where postal service is available. The item, however, must be marked or cancelled as “paquebot.” The following scan shows a card mailed by my parents on their voyage from the Netherlands to Canada. The ship departed Rotterdam on February 20th, 1953 and picked up more passengers at Southampton before continuing its voyage to Halifax and further on to New York. The English cancel is quite clear but underneath the cancel is a very light blue cancel, likely from the pursers’ office. The card itself shows the ship which is named the S.S. Groote Beer. This needs translation! Groote Beer is called the Big Bear in English, or Ursa Major for the

astronomers. There were three ships in this fleet which were all named after the star constellation, Waterman or Aquarius and Zuiderkruis which translates as Southern Cross were the other two ships involved with this service to transporting immigrants to parts of the world open for immigration.

When you look at the postage stamp used to mail the card, it is a regular definitive of Queen Juliana but it is overprinted with a 10 cent surcharge. The funds collected were aimed to assist those who had lost their homes and businesses to the great flood of 1953. The flood occurred on the night of January 31st/February 1st. This flood delayed the voyage of the Groote Beer from Rotterdam by a week. Ultimately the flood was the start of the great Delta Works project in southern Holland coming to its conclusion in 1997 but work continued on other parts of Holland and so it can also be said that the project was finished in 2010 (Wikipedia). However, the flood also affected parts of Belgium as well as parts of Scotland and the Thames River estuary.

Many strange forms of mail can be associated with the sea. One of the strangest that I heard about was called “Tin Can Mail.” “Tin Can Mail” is associated with the island of Niufo’ou, part of the Tonga Island group in the South Pacific. The island is actually the top of a volcano with a lake in the middle of the island. Because of the steep sides of the volcano under water, the island has no natural harbour or wharf for a ship to land. However, mail service was established by swimmers from the island swimming to a nearby ship bringing and receiving mail in “tin cans.” This is the origin of the term Tin Can Mail and Tin Can Island.



The cover that is shown was posted from a modern cruise ship and mailed in 1999 from the “TSS Sky Princess.” Note the continuation of the “Paquebot” cancel and below it a stamp stating “Tin Can Island Canoe Mail. The postage stamps are actually from the island but the design shows the natives swimming out with poles that the tin cans were attached to. Some ingenious marketing expert must have got involved with this

particular cover and stamp design. In searching through eBay in preparation for this article, I noted many letters being mailed from the island, but only one to the island. Many of these letters mailed from the island showed the words "Tin Can Mail" in English as well as several other languages. Clearly this cancellation was sought after by collectors' world wide.



This next piece of ship mail is much closer to home. It is part of an envelope mailed to my colleague at work as part of an assignment done by a student working on the Great Lakes ships. The term "Mail by the Pail" has been used ever since I became involved in the shipping industry. I remember being assigned the task of getting the mail from the mail boat in Detroit. Even with the "Mail by the Pail" cancel, below it is the term "Paquebot." Yes, I did use a galvanised metal pail to lower the outgoing mail, and yes the knot holding the pail to the line was tied properly because the pail came back up! Besides receiving or mailing letters, the service offered recent newspapers from Detroit and Windsor. The service is located just beside the Ambassador Bridge which joins Windsor and Detroit.

The mail service has been run by the J.W. Westcott Co and has been in operation for more than 100 years. The service is an official part of the US mail system. Note the special cancel on the stamps. The cancel says "Detroit River Sta. MI 48222 (?)" with a special "USPS" at the bottom of the circle cancel. The locally made stamp with the "Mail by the Pail" marking is something new for me to see and adds to the unique character of this service.

The mail service actually started in June 1895 and runs as long as there are ships moving in the Great Lakes during the regular shipping season.

Other forms of sea mail can come from "First Voyage" covers of a newly built ship or the same term can be used when the route has been changed to between different ports. Ship mail should include something about the ship itself, usually the name of the ship. As can be seen, this area of collecting can expand rather quickly. A key element of this part of postal history is that it can be done in the comfort of ones own hobby room, thus avoiding the torture of sea sickness.

2016 Stamp Club Update

At the November meeting, one of the agenda items was looking at the finances of the club. Bob Ford shared that in 2015 the clubs bank balance went up about \$200, mainly a result of the annual show. In 2016 the club has spent about \$150 more than it had received in dues and made at the show from the food table and ticket sales. Money is being spent on mailing the newsletter to members (stamps are free since they have been donated) and also paying gas money to the various sales circuit books that visit during the year. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the dues for 2017 should be raised to \$20.

A further piece of business occurred in that the running of the annual show is being done by a committee of three, Larry Crane, Bob Ford and John Lemon. One of the key things that have happened is that the annual show will again be held on the first Saturday in October, but because The Legion is booked for that weekend, the show will be held at the St Mary's High School instead. This will allow some of the dealers who could not attend in 2016 due to show commitments in Cobourg will now be able to come again.

The planned meetings for 2017 include a visit by John Cortan in January, an auction night in February and March will be an evening of sharing some of each club members collecting areas. More information will come out about that as the New Year comes.

Coming Events...

- JAN 13 2017 UNIPEX STAMP & COIN SHOW
January 13, 2017 to January 15, 2017
Montecassino Hotel, 3710 Chesswood Dr., Downsview, ON, M6L C4
Come by and visit a large range of stamp and coin dealers under one event. Great for those who are buying, trading or selling in stamps, postcards, precancels, coins, foreign currency and more!
Phone: 416-242-5900 Email: susancartini@rogers.com
- JAN 14 2017 Brantford Stamp Club Annual Show & Bourse
Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey St. , Brantford, ON, N3S 7L7
Free admission & parking, 15+ dealer bourse, silent auctions, Club circuit books, door prizes, stamp exhibits (special categories for Junior and Novice exhibitors), lunch counter with refreshments, wheelchair accessible. Phone: 519-751-3513 Email: pjames@execulink.com Web: <http://www.brantfordstamp.org>
- JAN 21 2017 68th Cathex
Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara Street, St. Catharines, ON, L2M 7W7
68th Cathex sponsored by the St. Catharines Stamp Club will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Exhibits, 12 dealers, youth area, club circuit books. Free admission and parking. Wheelchair accessible. A lunch counter is available. For more information contact David Hillier Phone: (905) 641-2318
Email: fancycancelhillier@gmail.com Web: <http://stcatharinesstampclub.ca>
- JAN 21 Burloak Stamp Fair
Burlington Seniors Centre, 2285 New St., Burlington, ON, L7R 1J4
Hours: 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Twenty years of regular monthly shows on the third of Saturday of every month. Six to nine dealers, active buyers, and always something new. Phone: 905-575-2950 Email: bas6@bell.net
- FEB 4 Bramalea Stamp Show
Judith Naiman Secondary School, 1305 Williams Pkwy., Brampton, ON, L6S 3J8
Club show. 10 dealers, exhibits, kids table. Phone: 905-792-3526 Email: bobthorne79@gmail.com

From the Editor...

A newsletter is a means of connecting members of the group together. Not everyone is able to attend every meeting and so the newsletter forms a tie to those who have been unable to come to a recent meeting. Health, work and other commitments can make for conflicts on meeting dates. I hope this months article isn't too stretched but it does have a stamp collecting tie in it. The editor is always looking for budding authors. Please consider giving it a try. Ideas on what to write about can be as varied as ones imagination. Hopefully there is some philatelic topic involved in the article, and I promise to work with you so that your ideas are communicated to the group. The weather seems promising at this time but as always, keep a weather eye open and make the decision if you are able to make the meeting safely. Some shows that are in the New Year are advertised and perhaps car pooling can work out to visit the shows.

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During the school year, the Owen Sound Stamp Club meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the cafeteria of St Mary's High School, 555 15th Street East. Meeting agendas will vary between having visiting club circuit books, speakers and an auction. Guests and new members are always welcome. Annual membership fees: \$20.00

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