

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 19th, 2017 @ 7 PM

Regular meeting Place: Cafeteria in St Mary's High School, 555 15th Street East, Owen Sound

From the President



At our last meeting many people brought in parts of their collection to show other members. I think this was very successful and enjoyable. Before I schedule another such session, please tell me if you enjoyed it. For our next meeting in April, Oscar Cormier of the

Waterloo Stamp Club will be bringing up his clubs circuit books. I am trying to schedule the Guelph club's circuit books for our May meeting. In June, the esteemed exhibitor, Ken McGee will talk to us about exhibiting. Hope you're enjoying spring.

Larry Crane
President
OSSC

From the Editor

Phil Visser

In preparing this newsletter, I discovered that I had not issued a newsletter in the month of April before. That reflects the work I am involved in, but some interesting things have eased the busyness of preparing the newsletter.

I would like to thank the contributing author for this month, Marion Ace. During her editorship period she produced many interesting articles and I think you will find this next one interesting also. It combines her collecting interest of stamp exhibitions with a little history as well.

Following Marion's article is some club news with the presentation of the exhibit award from the 2016 show and also some tidbits from Herb Colling, the editor of "The Canadian Philatelist" the official publication of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC). The Owen Sound club is part of the greater

society and the connections between the society and local clubs is essential in keeping our hobby going. The magazine is probably the best way of keeping in touch with other collectors, discoveries and learning more about the hobby of kings.

Besides the RPSC, there are other organization in the hobby so don't forget about the British North America Philatelic Society, The Postal History Society of Canada or more local organizations like the Grand River Valley Philatelic Association. And then there is also the stamp collectors newspaper, Canadian Stamp News. There are so many ways of staying in touch, even when we are all spread out throughout this large country.

The previous files where becoming quite clunky to work with and so I am starting this months edition with a clean "page" (file) and as can be seen, a different layout. Opinions on this format would be appreciated. There may even be a chance to work with a different program this summer, but that remains to be seen.

Just a reminder to everyone to have a visit on the new website that Randy Rogers is maintaining on behalf of the club. Many past newsletters are there as well as web links to major philatelic resources. Every visit will help keep the web site on the top of the list when someone searches for a stamp club in the area. It is surprising how many collectors are in this area that who don't know this club exists!

As a final tidbit from the editor, don't forget the upcoming show hosted by the Saugeen Stamp Club on May 6th. The show is at the usual location, the Knight's of Columbus hall just outside of Hanover. Very easy access from Owen Sound. Besides being close by, several members of the Owen Sound club are also members with the Saugeen Club, and vice versa! A one hour drive to Hanover sure beats the longer drives to more southern destinations!

The Berlin Air Bridge – Luftbrücke Berlin

By Marion Ace



Figure 3 Scott # 9N346 Airlift Memorial issued April 17, 1974

As stamp collectors we can come across all sorts of interesting subjects on stamps, some familiar and some not. I acquired some stamps from Berlin that featured an odd looking object with the word luftbrücke on them. After a while I figured out that *luft* means air and *brücke* is bridge, okay but what is this thing on the stamps...a

vertical runway, a giant sling shot for airplanes? The object is a depiction of a concrete monument dedicated to the nearly year long train of cargo planes flown from West Germany into a blockaded West Berlin in 1948 – 1949.

After WWII, Germany was divided into four sections to be temporarily run by the Allied Forces. Berlin, Germany's capital city was fully in the Soviet section and so Berlin was also divided into four sections with the Soviets taking the eastern quadrant. With the different political ideals between the Soviets and the Western Allies, it is not difficult to imagine that problems could arise.

In the initial bargaining between the Allies, agreements were made and a guarantee of air access to West Berlin through three twenty mile swaths of air space from West Germany was agreed upon, but only the three allies British, French and Americans could use these flight paths. Believing the Soviets to be amenable to the survival of all of Berlin there was no deal struck (on paper) regarding access to West Berlin along the roads and waterways, (an oversight that someone was probably kicking themselves about.)

The bulk of the Western Allied troops went home leaving a nominal number behind in west Germany and West Berlin. The Soviets maintained a million and a half troops in eastern Germany. The Soviets

wanted control of all Berlin and believed that with a little pressure the Americans would leave Berlin and that Berliners would turn to the Soviets.

On April 1st 1948 the Soviets began to restrict access out of Berlin by road and rail, calling for inspections of all vehicles. The Americans began to bring in supplies to their garrisons by air. The *Little Air Lift* went on for 75 days and the cargo planes continued to bring supplies in order to create a stockpile. After the introduction of the Deutsche Mark on June 21 in the west the Soviets introduced their own currency in the east and began the *Berlin Blockade* in earnest on June 24, 1948 along with a multi-media propaganda campaign that bombarded West Berliners.

The events unfolding in Berlin were considered the first serious crises of the Cold War. Some participants on both sides wanted to attack but war would not have been good for anyone. No longer a *Little Air Lift*; the *Berlin Air Lift* (or *Air Bridge*) began on a much larger scale. The *Berlin Blockade* cut off all access by land and water. It was calculated that West Berliners required 1,534 tons of food and 3,475 tons of gas and coal daily, definitely a monumental task to be carried out by air only!



Figure 4 Scott # 9N57 showing the Tempelhof airport from the air issued June 17, 1949.

Many more aircraft were needed. The western allies started to work together more fully, except for France whose aircraft were already engaged in war efforts in south-east Asia with their colonies. Air traffic control had to be

coordinated in great detail. Planes arrived every three minutes with air traffic coming in in layers 500 feet apart forming a ladder of air traffic. Air traffic was controlled through the Tempelhof Airport which was too small to handle the



Figure 5 Scott # 9N349
Showing the reconstructed
Tegel Airport which officially
opened Nov 1, 1974. The
stamp was issued Oct 15,
1974

onslaught of cargo
and air traffic. Here
the French stepped up
to the plate and built
the Tegel airport in
just 90 days. It was
built mostly by women
by hand and even the
building supplies for
the airport had to be
flown in. The Tegel
airport remains as

Berlin's principal airport today.

Winter that year was difficult and coal rations, which were calculated for the summer months, had to be greatly increased. The early months of 1949 found most of Europe blanketed in fog, greatly impeding the progress of the *Air Bridge*. An extra push was put on by all for Easter Sunday, 1949. 12,941 tons of coal were delivered to Berlin that day. The very next day there was talk of the ending of the *Berlin Blockade*. Official talks began and the blockade was lifted May 12, 1949. The *Air Bridge* continued for another three months to ensure a decent stockpile of goods for Berliners.

The monument depicted on the stamps was erected in 1951 on the grounds of the Tempelhof Airport. The base of the monument is inscribed, "They lost their lives for the freedom of Berlin in service for the Berlin Airlift 1948/49," along with the names of 39 British and 31 American pilots who died in the effort. It should be noted that once the *Berlin Blockade* began pilots from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, France and South Africa also assisted. The monument at Tempelhof is considered 'the' monument however two replicas were erected later, one at Wietzenbruch near the RAF Celle military airport and the other Rhein-Main Air Base.

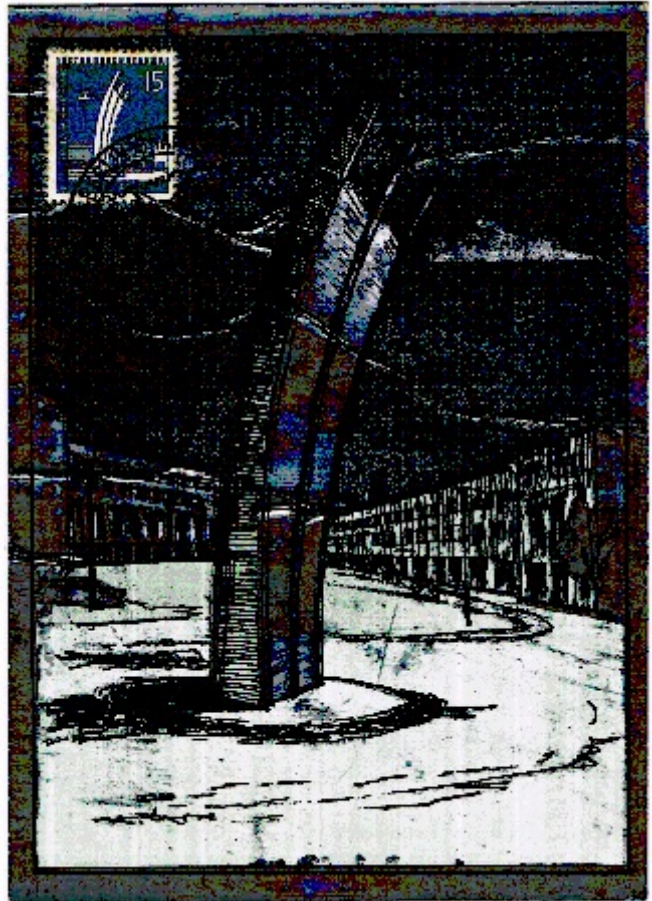


Figure 6 This silver foil maximum card was issued at the Bephila, the Berlin Philatelic Exhibition. The stamp is canceled Oct 27, 1957. The stamp itself is Scott # 9N127 issued July 10, 1956. Apparently this card is a difficult get.

In the Latest Issue:
The Canadian Philatelist

By Herb Colling

The May June issue of *The Canadian Philatelist* will feature the Penticton Stamp Club, which is raising funds for a local hospital. The group has 51 members, and has raised over 30 thousand dollars to sponsor a room and bed in the new hospital tower. The club has been fund raising for eight years now in an effort to give back to the community. In the latest campaign, the club held an auction sale of stamps, and sold first day covers of the first mail box in Penticton.

The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada has announced the latest winner of the Geldert Medal. The award was established by Phyllis Geldert in

memory of her husband, George M. 'Mac' Geldert, FRPSC, a long-serving president. (1958 - 1967) He continued in the post until the year of his death.

And, *The Canadian Philatelist* will introduce a new writer to the national stamp magazine. He's 16 year old, Joseph Perrone, and his first column will appear in the May June edition. Perrone hopes to speak to young collectors about his chosen hobby, and instill in them his love of stamps.

If you have an interesting philatelic story, stamp news about your club, or a philatelic passion of your own, contact Herb Colling, the new editor of *The Canadian Philatelist*. hacolling@cogeco.ca



Joe Perrone is the newest member of the Owen Sound Stamp Club. As the above article shows, Joe will be writing articles for the *Canadian Philatelist*. We wish you well Joe, in the writing endeavors and hope that we can be of help to you in your collecting passion as you will be for us in participating with the club. Joe's parents moved to the Massie area recently with Joe coming to his first

meeting in January.



The first day cover that Herb Colling mentioned is illustrated just to the left of this. For the readers of the *Canadian Stamp News*, the March 31-April 3rd edition, the editor mentions the efforts of the Penticton Stamp Club (BC) and how that contribution brings the club into the communities mind. Further in the same paper is an article by Frank Tonge about how the club raised \$8,803.19 for the

hospital extension fund.

Award Presentation



The March 2017 meeting saw the presentation of the Vander Heyden Memorial Award for the winner of the one page challenge exhibition at last years show. Past President Phil Visser presents the award to first time exhibitor Randy Rogers. Congratulations Randy on your efforts to produce a one page exhibit. Randy has recently joined the club and has made an impact by redesigning the club web page, and helping the club circuit book manager by computerizing the circuit book records.

The topic for this years one page challenge is Celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary. So long as the exhibit is something to do with Canada, it meets the criteria and should be broad enough for everyone to enter a page.

In Memory



On March 9th, 2017, William (Bill) Shelson passed away in his 90th year. On behalf of the Owen Sound Stamp Club, we offer our condolences to his four children. Bill and Barb are

fondly remembered for their active participation in

the club shows and meetings. They organized the Silent Auction table at the club shows and attended the meetings faithfully, unless weather or health conditions interfered. It was always funny to see the two of them nattering back and forth on whether they could make a stamp purchase or not.

They lived in Lions Head until Barb passed away in 2012, and then Bill moved into a nursing home. A few years ago, Bill moved to another facility in Belle River ON, to be closer to his family.

We received notice of Bill's passing just after the March newsletter had been mailed and so it is included in this month's edition.

Upcoming Shows

APR 15 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

APR 22 STAMPFEST 2017

ST John's Lutheran Church - Fellowship Hall, 22 Willow St., Waterloo, ON, N2J1V5

NEW LOCATION 2017! Kitchener Waterloo Philatelic Society's annual STAMPFEST Show & Bourse. 19 dealers, sales circuit, competitive judged exhibition. Youth booth featuring the 'Sea of Stamps' and more.

Phone: 800-361-6631 Email: kwpskw@gmail.com

Web: <http://www.kwstampclub.org>

APR 28 Hamilton 2017 Springpex

April 28, 2017 to April 29, 2017

Bishop Ryan Secondary School, 1824 Rymal Road East, Hamilton, ON, LOR 1P0. Large silent and voice auctions Friday evening with viewing starting at 5 p.m. Saturday is a 20-dealer bourse with stamps, postcards, covers and supplies, plus youth booth and silent auction from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. GRVPA clubs circuit sales books Friday and Saturday. Light food and refreshments available with ample free parking. Sponsored by the Hamilton Stamp Club. Email:

southont@cogeco.ca Web:

<http://www.hamiltonstampclub.com>

MAY 6 Saugeen Stamp Club Show and Exhibition
Hanover Knights of Columbus Hall, 963 Bruce Rd.,
Hanover, ON, N4N 3B8

Hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free parking and admission, 12 dealers, judged exhibits, lunch counter. Free stamps for kids. If you would like to try to exhibit for the first time this is the spot. We use 16 page frames and encourage new exhibitors.

Contact us if you wish to exhibit.

Phone: 519-574-6536

Email: pkritz@mortgagealliance.com

MAY 20 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

MAY 25 ROYALE 2017

May 25, 2017 to May 28, 2017

Hotel Mortagne, 1228 rue Nobel, Boucherville, QC, J4B 5H1

National Stamp Show. Hours 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission. Free parking. 27 dealers in attendance. Stamp auction. Club information. Food service available. Sponsor/affiliate: ANPB.net, FQP, RPSC. For more information contact Richard Gratton, or Pierre Leclerc Phone: 514-592-7288 Email:

president@anpb.net Web:

<http://www.royale2017.com>



Figure 11 The iconic Canadian stamp, the 3 penny Beaver. Designed by Sir Sandford Fleming. A really interesting Scottish Canadian who was involved in many things, including the Canadian Pacific Railway

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When you have a chance, why not visit the club web site at www.owensoundstampclub.org. Feedback is always important to keeping this means of connecting up to date.

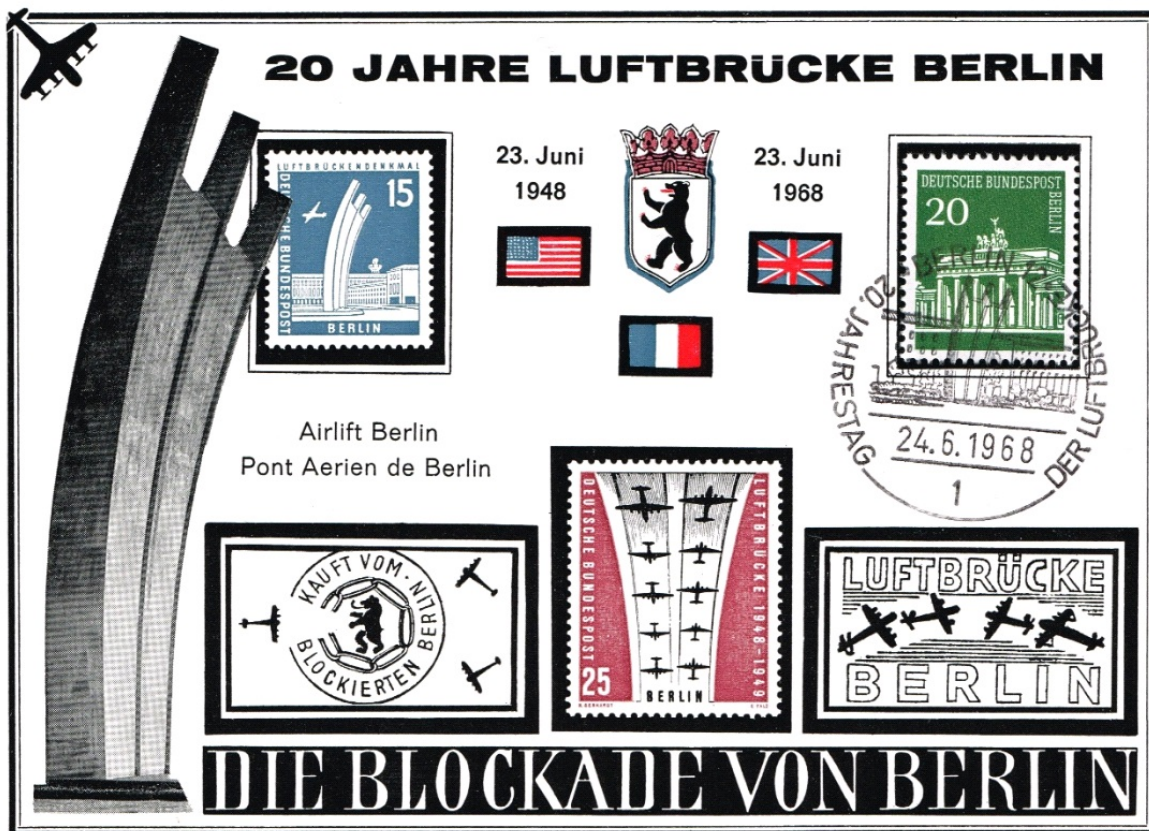


Figure 12 This post card remembers the 20th anniversary of the beginning of the blockade and air bridge. Note the cancel on the card, it shows the monument mentioned in the article above.