

Stamps on the Bay



The Voice of the
Owen Sound Stamp Club

Meeting Cancelled due to
Health Safety
Volume 2, Edition 1, February 2021



From the President

Hello Everybody! Well it looks like Zoom may be one of the biggest catch words of recent times, right after 'Covid 19'. And Zoom we did...the meeting went well with about ten attendees. I will have to try making an appropriate backdrop for our Zoom meetings like we saw on the video about using Zoom.

Bill Findlay had an entertaining presentation about Ecuador and the equator. I wonder what is up his sleeve for this month. Randy Rogers held a stamp quiz with a question or two that stumped us all. I think he's digging up some more questions for us. We had some show and tell items and I hope we will get a lot more. Don't be shy, scan or photograph your items and tell us about it. Show us your passion! Show us your curiosity! Share your questions!

Some of us are looking into having an auction at some of the meetings. There are some sites that are set up to allow groups to run their own auctions. Perhaps we could have it set up to be open for a few days before the meeting and have it close towards the end of the meeting. This might allow some time for people to peruse the offerings and to ask questions about the items if necessary. How to pay and be paid has to be figured out. E-transfers are probably the easiest for most of us. If you have some thoughts on this subject I'd like to hear them.

The next Zoom meeting will be on Wednesday February 17th at 7:00. I hope to see you there!

If you need help to figure out all this new confounded technology please ask, most of us are more than willing to help!

Marion Ace

Acting President

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Editors Greeting

Here we are at the beginning of a new Volume. My the time has slipped by very quickly and the early teething problems with producing this newsletter is all a bad memory, fading into the mists of a fog bank. While producing a newsletter can be at times challenging, I

hope readers may also be challenged by the content of these few pages. It never ceases to amaze where the stories come from, club members, other contacts and personal musings. While this is one form of keeping membership informed, another form comes electronically. I hope to see many people at the upcoming Zoom meeting on February 17th at 7 PM. Fortunately we won't have to be concerned about the road conditions for this meeting.

Further in these pages are a couple of stories that may be thought provoking. The usual section about the last months Zoom meeting is included as well as a Show and Tell. At the tail end of the newsletter are a couple of new features which is hoped to be useful. Participating in other clubs' meeting has been interesting, even meeting old acquaintances. I also remind folks with computers to visit the Grand River Valley Philatelic Association website to read the "Grand News." Printed versions have gone by the wayside but there is a call for a GRVPA Annual General Meeting on March 9th with a plea for people to step forward to fill executive positions. It is also a good moment to remind club members to see how each one can contribute to the operation of this club. We are currently in the search for a Vice President.

It has been very helpful to have stories from Randy Rogers, but are there other budding authors in the membership? Like everything else, give it a try, just keep the article about our hobby or specific stamps/covers. Perhaps sharing how this item arrived in your collection, is there some historical importance to this item. Try to keep the story to between 500 and 1000 words. Scans would be appreciated if possible to do so.

This months newsletter doesn't provide itself with a teaser scan, hopefully next month. Since space does provide room for a scan, here it is, but it has no reference to the remainder of the publication. Enjoy, and remember, **don't hinge mint stamps!**



Provenance

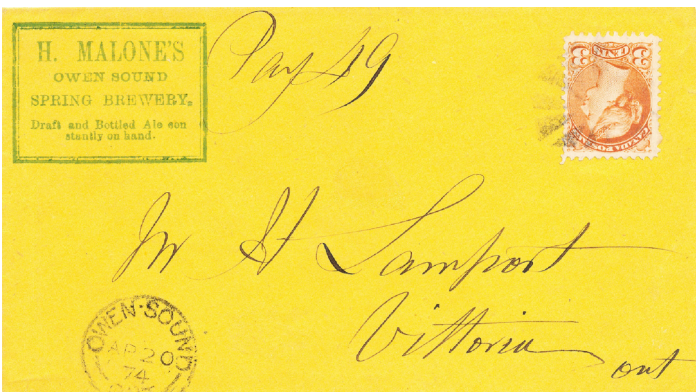
By Phil Visser

A somewhat unlikely title, but it does have relevance to stamps. Webster's Dictionary defines provenance as "place or source of origin." Pretty simple but let's consider its meaning and relationship to philately. Just ask yourself, where did this stamp come from? It was printed in the 1800's, how many collectors have had this stamp in their collection before arriving in this collection.

Really, this topic is like searching out family history. Did a particular stamp come through a famous collector? For instance, was this item in Alfred Lichtenstein's collection, or how about Fred Jarrett's collection? Both gentlemen are well known philatelists and garnered much respect in the sphere of our hobby.

A simple stamp is probably not easily traced. For instance, which dealer did you purchase the stamp or cover from? Now, is that dealer still alive, and if so it may be possible to trace the person who the dealer purchased the collection/stamp from. Likely the last person is no longer living and so the tracing comes to an end, if even the dealer can remember who the collection was purchased from. This may be different for a much rarer stamp, like Unitrade #3, the twelve-penny black, for which only a limited number of stamps are available.

Through my collecting activities I have run across stamps with neat little initials on the back of the stamp. Recognizing that these initials belonged to a previous collector was easy, but it does leave a sense that the stamp is marred. If this was discovered at a dealer's table, would the purchase have been completed? That is a personal decision.



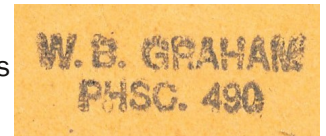
Recently this cover came into my collection. The main interest was the postmark and advertising of the local business on the front of the cover. The seller did not provide a scan of the back of the cover, so upon inspection, a certain sense of excitement came when the back revealed "Vincent G. Greene, Toronto." The colour of the printing was the same as the front, green. Wow, I found an envelope printed by Vincent



Greene. This thought was dashed when the mailing date of 1874 did not fall within the period that Mr. Greene (1893-1988) was alive.

Curiosity made an email to another noted philatelist, Garfield Portch, necessary to find out if Mr. Greene was a printer of this envelope in Toronto or perhaps his father or grandfather. A reply brought the word provenance into my vocabulary. Garfield shared that this item was at one time in Mr. Greene's collection. And now the debate about whether this is proper care/respect of a philatelic item.

A second letter also had a provenance stamp on it. Who was W.B. Graham? Clearly this person was a member of the Postal History Society of Canada. Research found that Bruce Graham has contributed much to the study of cancellations in Ontario and co authored several publications. This marking was only discovered because organizing the cork cancel component of the collection was the current focus of my activities.



Let us consider why collectors would personalize their collections. One key objective is that the item can be said who it belongs to. Critical pieces of information in the case of a theft and recovery. It also would assist in the valuation of a collection, either for insurance purposes or simply to establish a value of the collection for estate purposes.

A contrarian point of view is simply that the item is marred, because as the new owner, the identification is not who owns the cover now. It is like being called by a name other than a personal identity. But another matter is the time needed to mark each item in a collection. A simpler method would be to only mark those items of significant value. That would reduce the amount of time needed to mark the higher catalogue priced items. Deciding what is significant value is again a personal decision.

One thing learned is that when an item is listed and the description includes "Ex Greene," that item has been marked to provide provenance of one of its previous owners. Now to decide on whether a purchase should be made or not.

January Zoom Meeting

We started the meeting with eleven people present. Marion opened up about the evenings plan and Bob reported that the club was solvent and that there were 15 member renewals received to date (January 20th). Bob also mentioned that the club purchased a Zoom account, yours truly being the host, for a one year subscription. Hopefully we can have in person meeting later this year or before the subscription expires. Randy gave an update on the number of visitors to our website, and since this version has been in use there have been just over 61,000 visitors.

Our first presentation was a preplanned video by Charles Livermore of BNAPS on how to use Zoom for meetings. As an addition, I mentioned that the communications is simplex, which means that only one person can speak at a time. If more than one person speaks at the same time, both conversations become garbled and whatever was said was mostly lost. Please remember that when participating in a Zoom meeting.

Bill Findlay had a very interesting presentation about the Equator and how it ties in with stamps from Ecuador. The Equator does run through this South American country and researchers made great efforts to find where the Equator was in this country. Then the government built a huge monument saying that this was the equator. This monument has been featured on stamps from Ecuador as well as the French explorers that did the survey work.

Many people are drawn to this monument to say they have one foot in the Northern Hemisphere and one foot in the Southern Hemisphere. Alas, modern means has demonstrated that this monument is not on the Equator, but 240 metres south of the true position of the Equator. Irrespective of the error, the monument is still a tourist attraction. Thanks to Bill for enlightening us on this part of philately, geography and history.

A final planned activity was a Philatelic quiz that Randy had put together. There were ten questions on various countries in the world. Hopefully this type of thing will continue and we will dust off our memories of geography and how it relates to stamp collecting.

A short social times was spent after the presentations and then the meeting ended by about 8:30. Looking forward to seeing those able to join at the next months

Show and Tell

When this part of the meeting arrived, Randy shared some things that he finds helpful while sorting through his accumulation of world wide stamps. One mention was a Catalogue on Tuberculosis Seals. Tuberculosis was a dreaded disease and appeared frequently as "Consumption" stamps, thinking of the Australian States issues prior to the forming of Australia itself. With the introduction of antibiotics, tuberculosis is not heard of as often today, but tuberculosis seals are still being produced because the disease is still in the world.

Another item Randy mentioned is the State Revenue Catalogue. Prior to the advent of Income Tax, revenue stamps were the means for the government to raise funds. These revenues would be on certain defined services. A final object of interest was the "jewellers" loupe, which allows a person to magnify the image of a stamp. I believe he mentioned that the magnification is 10x. Other similar objects are magnifying glasses and for a really larger magnification is the computer telescope which can give up to 200x the magnification.

Bill Findlay shared that Canada Post had just issued new Chinese New Year series of stamps, a peel and stick booklet containing twelve stamps that had been previously issued at the international rate but now using the "P" postage rate. Now that will be a point of having to look closely to ensure the correct stamp is being put in the correct part of the collection.

A final item arrived by email. Trevor Ham shared this stamp and it left him with a feeling of horror. It is not expected to see the swastika on a British stamp, but there lies an easy explanation. The Channel Islands



lie very close to the French coast, and were occupied by the German forces during World War 2. This particular stamp was used on the island of Herm and thus was overprinted for use on that island taking the original British Postage captured when the Island was garrisoned by the German Armed Forces. This also occurred in other

countries. I have seen several offering of Dutch stamps festooned with the swastika, but they are not a part of my collection. The Dutch stamps that were overprinted are not listed in the Speciale Catalogus, not in Scott's or in the Michel Specialized Catalogue of Germany. While not paying close attention to these Dutch overprints, I don't believe there is much of a market for them. Conversely, the Japanese overprints and issues from the Nederlandse Indies (present day Indonesia) do have a collector following and there is a catalogue available for them. The various overprints were done by the different branches of the Japanese forces occupying the Indonesian islands. After these overprinted stamps were consumed, the Japanese printed stamps for use in the islands, just like David Greene mentioned in an article about the Channel Islands a couple of years ago.

The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada Website

By Phil Visser



Being part of an organization has many benefits. A prime motivation is to meet others of like mindedness. What this story is offering is an insight into what benefits can come from being a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC).

By being a member there are a lot of personal advantages, especially knowing about and attending stamp shows where the desire to fill in the blanks can be somewhat satisfied.

Stamp collecting offers so many different avenues to follow, and as one person said recently, fall into a rabbit hole as the topic takes over the individuals collecting focus. While there is nothing wrong by doing that, it can become frustrating when the last item cannot be found or added to a personal collection. But one thing that is forever intriguing is to learn about what rabbit hole someone has fallen into. With this approach, being a member of the RPSC can certainly bring fascinating information forward into personal consciousness.

Focusing on what can be offered by the RPSC for an individual collector, let's look at the RPSC website, <https://www.rpsc.org/>. First off, the front page offers several ways of investigating the organization without requiring membership. Starting off, this organization has been around since 1887, some thirty plus years after the first postage stamp was issued by the colony of Canada. It is unknown who the first collector was, but anyone keeping a letter mailed to them is the seed that starts a hobby.

In the present situation we find ourselves in, we are

limited to meeting by the computer program called Zoom. This platform allows individuals to meet for whatever purpose is important for them. This is the case with the RPSC. Currently many individuals across Canada are participating in Zoom meetings and webinars. The RPSC is offering two forums to learn more about stamp collecting. These are called **Stamp Talks** and **Stamp Panels**. Having attended a couple of these has proven to be very informative.

Philately is not restricted to Canada alone. Long time collectors will have heard about other national philatelic organizations, but there is one international organization that is the umbrella for all national organizations and that is the *Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (F.I.P.)*. Being part of this larger umbrella provide opportunities to connect with collectors worldwide. This international connection will soon be evident when advertising arrives for CAPEX 2022. The venue is too small for a full International Exhibition, but it is sponsored and supported by FIP.

Viewing the website leads to several links to Benefits of Membership, Application Form, Code of Ethics and more. A premier reason for joining the RPSC is receiving a copy of The Canadian Philatelist. This award-winning publication is currently published six times a year, however, 2021 will provide four printed magazines and two online versions. There will be more about the magazine below.

A primary reason for joining any organization is finding out about shows or also known as stamp bourses. The bourse component of a show is where a collector can visit stamp dealers looking for that elusive item to put in a collection. While scanning through the available material, something completely unexpected may pop up that may start another area of interest in the hobby. One thing that is important from the RPSC's perspective is the ability to show a display.

Even at our own show, there is a part where members can show a topic of interest and what has been found in the philatelic world to show that topic, be it stamps, covers, booklets, etc. Every year we try to encourage members to enter a one-page challenge, and then a few members will show a frame or multi frame display on a topic. In the past we have seen exhibitions about Kingfishers, lighthouses, and New Zealand stamps.

This same idea exists with the RPSC. Exhibiting is a big thing in the Royal. Attending the annual Royal will always have a large section set aside for exhibitions. For an exhibit to be shown at the Royal, that exhibit would have to have been shown at an approved show such as that done by the Oxford Philatelic Society (OXPEX). Exhibits at OXPEX that are judged to be of high standard and quality would then go to the Royal.

One step does seem to be missing and that is how is an exhibit is judged. Within the Royal is a cadre of judges who have been recognized for their philatelic knowledge and professionalism to assess an exhibit on its merits. A ranking system is established, and medals awarded for exhibits. My father won a whole stack of awards at the OXPEX show, but never had an exhibit move on to **"The Royal."**

Back to the website, **The Royal**, the premier national

stamp show, is advertised, alas, last years and this year's shows have been cancelled due to the pandemic, but everyone is hoping for an improvement in the situation later this year. Beside advertising **The Royal**, clubs can have their shows listed and if you visit the website, you will notice that the shows have been crossed out, in other words the pandemic has also stopped those events from happening. It is up to the individual club to keep the Royal in the loop.



Continuing with Exhibits, a regular feature that has appeared in the Canadian Philatelist is a column written by David Piercey. He has written twenty-five articles on exhibiting, but he starts off in his first column saying, "I also worry that exhibiting is seen as something that only our most advanced collectors attempt."

That concept is very evident in our club. When a call is made for "one page" challenge exhibits for our annual show, only a limited number of members submit pages. Is it the topic, or is it the concern that there is not enough material in a collection? A recent speaker mentioned that the collector needs to move away from perfectionism to just making an exhibit.

Preparing an exhibit is a useful thing to do. Select a topic of interest, then check through the accumulation in your possession and put it together telling a story about what is being shown. It is daunting when you see the exhibits at the Royal! There have been some fantastic exhibits but remember that the ones seen are the "cream of the crop." Cream only comes after the cow has been milked. A first step is making an exhibit, receive suggestions and advice and as it is possible, improve on the exhibit. It won't take long to build a one frame exhibit of sixteen pages. As research and acquisitions occur, that one frame exhibit can soon expand. It was amazing to see how our president changed from a novice collector to a top-class exhibitor. Her exhibit on Heinrich von Stephan was at the Royal held in London several years ago.

While David Piercey's articles are free to read, there is another free bit of information. That information is PowerPoint presentation that was prepared in 2016 about "The new 7th edition of Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting and its implications to Judges and Exhibitors" This presentation was prepared by Ed Kroft (current President of the RPSC), Rodney Paige, and Sam Chiu (FRPSC). This PowerPoint presentation consists of 77 slides and provides the highlights of the 7th Edition the APS Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting. A quick search on Google provides a free PDF copy of the book to download and read. Really, a first step is to prepare a one-page challenge for our own show. As a person becomes familiar with making a one-page exhibit, the itch to expand may come. Asking other members who exhibit for help won't be ignored, at least not from myself. One notion that needs to be put aside is that perfection doesn't exist in this world. And as one television commercial said

many years ago “why wait for spring, do it now.”

A flagship project of the RPSC is “**The Canadian Philatelist**.”

This magazine is not available at a bookstore magazine rack and can only be received by being a member of the RPSC. Now a slight clarification is necessary, because older editions, those printed prior to 2016 can be read online.

In fact, when visiting the RPSC website and clicking on “*Right Here*” in the “**Canadian Philatelist**” column of the web page and it directs a person to searching for topics of interest. They are listed alphabetically, or a person is able to type in a word of interest and there may have been an article written about that topic.

Membership in the RPSC provides a high-quality magazine printed on glossy pages. This magazine provides not just articles about stamps, but also news about Chapters and what they are doing in their communities. Advertisers are also present as well as editorials, letters to the editor etc. To get a up to date copy, you need to become a member and fortunately the website provides an avenue for someone to join.

BEWARE OF SCAMS

Several months ago a scam was floating about in the form of an email. The message supposedly came from the President asking other members to purchase Amazon Gift Cards on their behalf. This scam continues but in different organizations. After talking with some computer people, it appears the scammers are visiting websites who helpfully provide email addresses of the executive. A fake email is sent to others on behalf of the “Boss” asking for gift certificates. My wife received one from her “Boss” and my son, being the Boss of that organization received gift certificates from another board member. That wasn't too bad since the gift cards could be returned, but if you follow the instructions on the email, you are going to be disappointed! If you receive a request on behalf of any executive member, please call them first on the telephone before complying with the request.

DON'T COMPLY WITH ANY REQUEST UNTIL IT IS CONFIRMED WITH WHOEVER SUPPOSEDLY SENT THE EMAIL.

ZOOM MEETINGS

GRVPA

The Grand River Valley Philatelic Association (GRVPA) is calling an **Annual General Meeting** for **March 9** via Zoom. The meeting will start at **7 PM** and is open to all GRVPA clubs and their members.

During the meeting we will be conducting elections for the following positions: President, VP(East), VP (West), VP (Liaison), Treasurer and Secretary. Th election will be by anonymous (The meeting host will be able to see votes) poll via Zoom and open to all members in



attendance. Anyone that wishes to run for an executive position needs to submit a nomination request to Leigh Hogg at leighh@belmontvillagefinancial.com with the email title as *GRVPA Elections 2020*. A simple email with your name and the position you wish to run for, will suffice. Please volunteer!

In addition to the elections, we are asking all clubs to submit the names of two Directors for the GRVPA. It is hoped that the directors can attend the Board of Directors meeting, held quarterly. Under the present circumstances the meeting will be held by Zoom. After the pandemic is over, future meetings will be held in person, via Zoom or a combination thereof.

Thank you and Stay Safe

The Executive of the GRVPA: Joe Trauzzi (VP Liaison); Leigh Hogg (VP East); Bill Findlay (VP West); David Oberholtzer (Treasurer)

RPSC

RPSC Virtual Zoom 2021 Stamp Talks

To be held at **7:00pm EST** monthly through 2021 (all are on Mondays). Please email stampstalks@capex22.org to sign up for a registration email. This is open to anyone interested in attending and an excellent way to learn more about our common hobby. The March gathering will be on **March 9 - Liz Hisey - “Telling Stories with Postcards”**

RPSC

RPSC Virtual Zoom 2021 Stamp Panel

To be held at **7:00pm EST** monthly through 2021. Have questions? Need answers? Join a RPSC Panel discussion group. Registration is open to anyone interested and can be done by going to the RPSC website, click on Stamp Panel and then click register. Next Stamp Panel is on **Monday March 15 - Moving beyond album collecting**. Why would I want to? What are some areas to collect? Ken Lemke(m), Ed Kroft(p), Sid Mensinga(p),

LOOKING FOR ...

Wanted:

I am looking for some stamps that mark the 100th ann. of the 1863 Paris Postal Conference. They are Ecuador: C404 and C405, Italy 875. (Scott #s, preferably mint) Also 2 souv. Sheets from Turks & Caicos for Pacific '97 (with H v Stephan on them). marionace@bmts.com

Wanted to trade:

Canada Post has finally come to the end of its run of Chinese New Year stamps after 24 years! I have collected many of the FDCs but am missing some and have a few doubles. The extras I have are: 2003 Yr of Ram single & souv sheet, 2004 Yr of Monkey souv sheet, 2014 Yr of Horse single & souv sheet and 2017 Yr of Rooster single. I need 1997 Yr of the Ox both, 1998 Yr of Tiger souv sheet, 2005-2008 both, 2013 Yr of Snake both, 2016, 2018-20. I also have some extra mint souv sheets. If you want to do some trading let me know.

marionace@bmts.com

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WRAP UP

We are now almost two months into the new year of 2021. Hopefully everyone has been able to keep themselves busy with personal collections. Some of us have been able to have Zoom meetings with family and acquaintances, but that just doesn't make up for another cancelled meeting or meeting your family. There are benefits to using the Zoom platform, but it is not the same as looking through our Club Circuit Books. With the slow roll out of the vaccines, it appears it will take quite a while before everyone who wishes to be vaccinated will be vaccinated. Randy mentioned at the last meeting that there have been over 61,000 visitors to the club website. Have you done so recently? Give it a look, download the Circuit Book Explorer program and give the circuit books a look. Maybe the stamp you are looking for is there.

SOAPBOX

It is amazing what the last number of months have done to challenge the individual. Isolation has its good points, focus on what I would like to do, but then missing people who are also dear to me just sucks. One amazing thing is how the senior part of society has adapted to the electronic world. One of Shirley's aunts, who is over 80 years of age, just signed up for Facebook, and is trying to get acquainted with Zoom. Well that is a little bit more of a challenge. Fortunately she has grandchildren who can talk her through a few things and a younger sister who gave her an iPad. A few phone calls came our way to see if we could help her out, but we are PC people, so we couldn't talk her through the issues.

It is also amazing the benefits Zoom has brought to the philatelic community. Having attended several Zoom meetings, I have experienced the joy of connecting to someone from each coast and from Europe. So far no connections to the South Pacific. Alas the pitfalls of Zoom also appear. These include multiple people trying to speak at the same time, the unmuted member who shares telephone calls while someone else is trying to make a presentation, and then the technical challenges of getting people into the meeting. Alas, one member missed our meeting last month precisely because of these technical issues. Don't give up! As the host of our OSSC meetings, I will do trial runs for someone who isn't sure of how to participate or wishes to learn the features of Zoom. Please call or email me, and if I am not too busy at the moment, we can work out something before an actual meeting begins.

