

Stamps on the Bay



The Voice of the
Owen Sound Stamp Club

Meeting Cancelled due to Health Safety

Volume 2, Edition 3, April 2021



From the President

Hello my philatelic friends!
Wow! Spring is here! Or is it summer? It's hot right now but who knows what will come next week. The Easter Bunny has come and gone and left a trail of Covid infections in it's wake. I hope that everyone is well and I am glad to hear that some of our members have begun the vaccination process.

Our April meeting will be on Wednesday night the 21st at 7:00. Phil Visser will be hosting the Zoom meeting and running the meeting as well. Thanks again Phil. I am hoping to attend but may not be able to speak much. This is disappointing for me because I am really excited about Robin Harris joining our meeting. Robin Harris is pretty much the go to guy about anything Machin related. I started using his adminware website years ago. It lists all the varieties of Machins known to humankind! Machins are those colourful little British stamps with the Queen's head on them and that's about it. Who would have thought that there would be hundreds of varieties of them? The artist who created the plaster cast relief of the Queen's head was Arnold Machin, which is why the stamps are referred to as Machins. Do not miss this opportunity!

Our first online Owen Sound Stamp Club auction was held on April the 7th. By all accounts it was very successful! I bought stuff and I sold stuff and so did a lot of others! We had 18 people attending including a number of members of the Oxford Philatelic Society. We have a debt of gratitude to that club for showing us what to do and how to do it and then being gracious enough to show up for our auction! Don Denman from Stamporama (USA) designed the entire system and is helping us and many other clubs run these auctions. The Owen Sound Club will be making a \$25.00 donation to him to assist him in his continuing philanthropic efforts.

Many thanks to Phil Visser for running the Zoom aspects of the auction. Judy Galbraith took on the role of tracking and tabulating the auction sales. Thanks Judy! We all have to give a virtual pat on the back to Bill Findlay who worked with Don Denman and the Oxford Club and pulled this whole thing together. Good going Bill! I am sure we will hear more details about the auction from Bill and Judy at this meeting. Our next

stamp auction will be held on May 5th.

Thanks to Randy Rogers, Bill Findlay and Jim Molineux for their presentations and quiz for March's meeting. I hope to see you all on Wednesday evening!

Marion Ace

Acting President

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Editors Greeting

A look at the calendar shows that one third of the year has almost been completed. For the most part, this pandemic has left us alone to rummage through our accumulations. Is there a light at the end of the tunnel? Fortunately, hope is eternal and perseverance builds strength, and perhaps discoveries which then feeds hope for more finds.

A new edition awaits the eager eyes of our readers, with the hope that the contents will satisfy the longing of meeting again until it is safe to do so. Readers will find two articles to pick through as well as a section on Club News. This section shows that the club is still vibrant and actively adapting to the new reality. One reality that still needs attention is to fill the position of Vice President. Please step forward, we all have gifts to share for the benefit of each other.

I hope everyone will take advantage of meeting and listening to our distinguished guest speaker. It is an honour that would not have been possible except for the connections technology provides and the willingness to speak. Robin Harris is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. His work in our hobby include being editor for the Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps, editor for The Canadian Philatelist magazine and author of many research booklets on the definitive stamps issued during the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

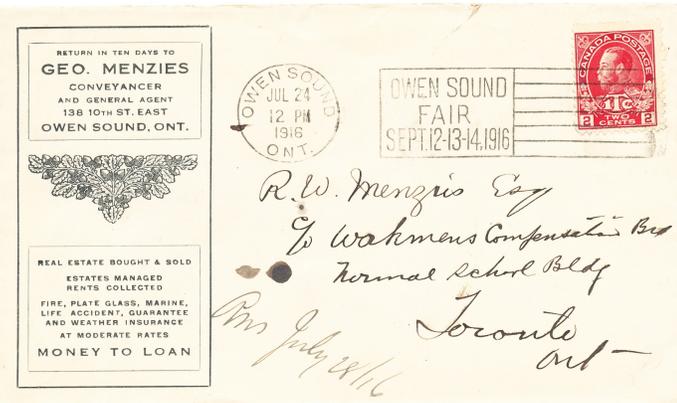
And here is the teaser scan. The image has something to do with one of the stories found in this months edition but test yourself to see which Type of Die Cut it is.



A Mysterious Connection

By Phil Visser

Local postal history can dig deep holes whenever curiosity strikes. EBay has been a big help in finding local postal history, so when this letter appeared, pictured below, in the listings, a collecting interest was activated. Obviously, the bidding was successful, and now here is a look at what the letter reveals.



In the century since the letter was mailed, postal regulations have stopped the advertising component on the left side of the envelope. Also, within the intervening years, business has also changed. Mr. George Menzies offered his varied services to those who found some of the investing activities just too difficult to make private investing successful. The business office was located at 138 10th Street East.



A stroll along the 100 block of 10th Street East did not produce an entrance to any business at number 138. For instance, 136 10th Street East is the store front for “KP9 Interactive,” while the store next-door is “Fabulous Hair” at 140 10th Street East (at the door front). Looking online also shows that this last business has a mailing address of 154 10th Street East.

Curiosity led to a search for the origin of the Menzies name. Although there are a few different

origins suggested by Google, the website <https://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/Menzies>, suggests that the name originates from the times of the Norman conquest of the UK in 1066. This website suggests that a knight named de Meyners, who originated from Mesnieres sur Bray in Normandy, settled in the midlands of England. Part of the family relocated to the highlands of Scotland later.

It is in the midlands that the Norman name becomes anglicized from de Meyners into the more well-known name of Manners. The part of the family that moved to Scotland had the name converted into Gaelic. In our environs, the name Menzies is pronounced as Men-Zez while in Scotland it is pronounced as Ming-iss.

Keeping peace can sometimes be challenging, and

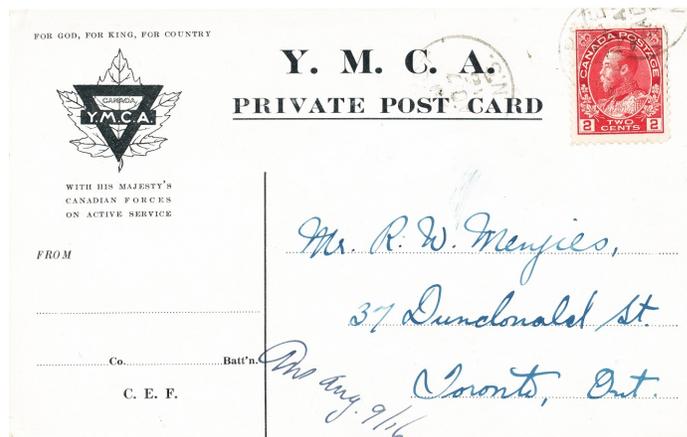
the website <https://www.houseofnames.com/menzies-family-crest> suggests that around 1090 a portion of the family moved north to Scotland and eventually settled in the highlands in the Land of Culdaires (now spelled Culdair). In the following centuries, tough economic times usually is an underlying cause for emigration. Many of the settlers that arrived in Grey County have their origins from Scotland, Ireland, and the midlands of the UK.

Coming back to the letter, it is addressed to R.W. Menzies, who was working at the Workmen’s Compensation Board in Toronto. A search on this name brought a brief genealogy report¹ that Robert William Menzies was born October 25th, 1891 in Owen Sound and died in 1981 while living in London ON. Robert married Ethel Litster in June of 1917. They lived in Detroit, Wayne County Michigan for a period.

Also gracefully adorning this cover is the slogan cancel “Owen Sound Fair, Sept 12, 13, 14, 1916.” A search on the Postal History Society of Canada website² reveals that this is the second slogan cancel recorded as being used on mail from Owen Sound. The earliest recorded date of this slogan cancel is April 25, 1916 and the latest recorded date is Sept 14, 1916.

Postage on this letter is paid by Unitrade #MR 3. Wikipedia reports that Canada was the first country to apply War Tax on mail though the “Special War Revenue Act” in February 1915³. The original War Tax stamps were simply Admiral issues overprinted with the words “War Tax.” In 1916 these stamps were again overprinted by the “1Tc” indicating that there was a 1 cent tax on mailing this letter. With an empty envelope, it seems that this is the end of the story.

One feature that eBay offers is finding similar items, both when you are watching an item and after purchasing an article. Sure enough, this feature provided a second item that was truly related to the letter mentioned above. This postcard is also mailed to R.W. Menzies, but at what is guessed to be his home address of 37 Dundonald St, Toronto. A careful inspection will note that both letters are graced with a script writing (presumably) RM and the date (pictured on the following page). The handwriting is the same of both items, so that confirms that both pieces of mail went to the same person.



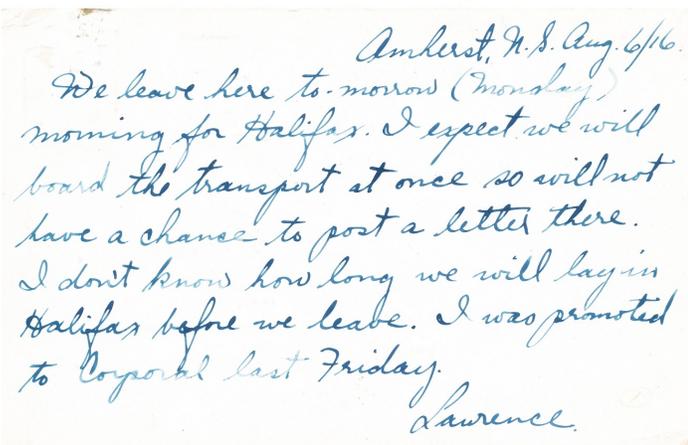
Did you catch a difference between these two pieces of mail to Robert Menzies? The eyes will see the 2

cent Admiral clearly, but there is still a difference between these letters. George Menzies' letter to Robert does have Unitrade #106, but with the War Tax overprint it is correctly listed as Unitrade #MH3. What this shows is that the public were taxed extra to pay for the war costs, however, the people in the armed forces were exempt from paying this tax.



A few things of interest appear on the front of this postcard. Of first mention is that this postcard is printed by the YMCA with the YMCA symbol and a Maple Leaf in the background as well as the writing above and below the symbols. With the words "For God, For King, For Country" and "With His Majesty's Canadian Forces on Active Service." Below that is space for the writer to provide his name and military unit information. While this is blank on this card, the back side provides more interesting information.

Alas, the postcards cancellation is unclear, but with three hammer cancels applied, this postcard was mailed from Amherst Nova Scotia, on August 7, 1916.



This date indicates it is a card from a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) who fought in France during World War 1. The sender of the postcard provided the following information:

Amherst NS, Aug 6/16

We leave here tomorrow (Monday) morning for Halifax. I expect we will board the transport at once so will not have a chance to post a letter there. I don't know how long we will lay in Halifax before we leave. I was promoted to Corporal last Friday

Laurence"

Lots of threads to search out here! My first thought was "did Laurence survive the war?" A Google search on world war one military records brought me to the Library and Archives Canada⁴ (LAC). A first search for Laurence Menzies produced no records, but the website helpfully explains that a simpler search may

be more successful. Re-entering the database for "L Menzies" hit the jackpot. This website suggests that enlistment records would change name spelling (inadvertently) because of the enlisting clerk misunderstanding or mis recording given information.

Indeed, our card sender was entered as "Lawrence Russell Menzies" in the military records, different than the spelling on the card. Clicking on the LAC link to our card sender brought the information that he was a Sergeant and was a member of the 123rd Battalion of the C.E, the Royal Grenadiers. His date of birth is given as May 19th, 1895, and the next of kin is listed as Laura Menzies of 347 10th Street West, Owen Sound and his father was given as George Menzies of the same address. At the time of enlistment, he was living at 31 Manton Court, Toronto and was working as a railway mail clerk.

Lawrence was enlisted on November 25th, 1915 and the medical records show he stood 5 feet 7 ¼ inches tall with a fresh complexion, brown eyes, and brown hair. Under religious affiliation he is stated to be Presbyterian. There is fifty-two pages of information about our writer. On one page it shows that he sailed from Halifax on August 7th, 1916 on board the S.S. Cameronia. Burrowing deeper into this sideline, the S.S. Cameronia was owned by Anchor Line, a subsidiary of the more famous Cunard Line. And now full circle because the Cunard line was founded by Samuel Cunard, a Halifax businessman who received the commission to carry Royal Mail between England and Canada in 1840.

According to Wikipedia⁵, the 123rd Battalion was trained as an infantry battalion, but in January of 1917, it was redesignated as a Pioneer Battalion. This means that Laurence was trained as a soldier, but as a Pioneer, the Battalions job was now to construct barbed wire defences, install bridges, and build plank roads to allow the troops and artillery to move forward with the front lines.

According to the military records, Laurence arrived in France on March 10th, 1917. Looking into the history of the war, Laurence would have been involved with the build up to the **Battle of Vimy Ridge**. One significant feature of this battle was the building of underground tunnels from the rear of the front lines to the front lines of underground tunnels by which the infantry could arrive at the front lines without being observed and suffering casualties as they move forward.

We all know about hierarchy and how long it takes to get things done. The postcard says that Laurence was promoted to Corporal on August 4th, 1916. The military records show that he was "appointed" as Corporal on August 22nd, 1916 after arriving in England. However, a Royal decree must be given to confirm the appointment. This Royal decree was given on April 2nd, 1917. In a surprising twist, Laurence requested to revert to the rank of Private on May 4th, 1918. Laurence was then promoted to 2nd Corporal on February 21st, 1919 with a note that he was also Acting Sergeant.

Faced with the horrors of war, a search of the Medical Records shows that Laurence twice suffered P.U.O. He

was hospitalized from December 21st, 1917 to January 4th, 1918, and again from June 27th to July 1st, 1918. The Library and Archives Canada website provides a list of abbreviations used in military records and the abbreviation P.U.O. is short form for "pyrexia of unknown origin." To those readers without medical training, pyrexia is simply a medical word for fever. Military service ended in Toronto on March 20th, 1919.

A final few word about Laurence. After discharge from the Army, Laurence married Gladys Standfield⁶, date unknown, and died in 1972. With respect to the Menzies family, Laurence had an older brother who also served in France as a Lieutenant. Genealogy records show his name as Henry George Menzies, but his military papers record him as Harry George Menzies.

1. <https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/LK5V-PCM/robert-william-menzies-1891-1981>
2. <https://www.postalhistorycanada.net/php/index.php>
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_tax_stamp
4. <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/search.aspx>
5. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/123rd_Battalion_\(Royal_Grenadiers\),_CEF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/123rd_Battalion_(Royal_Grenadiers),_CEF)
6. https://www.ancestry.ca/search/?name=Lawrence_Menzies&name_x=s&spouse=Gladys

Club News

Zoom again provided an opportunity for the Owen Sound Stamp Club to meet. Invitations had been forwarded to several interested people from the Saugeen Stamp Club and we received one request from a stamp collector in the area to visit. All told about seventeen people were able to attend. For those who have been unable to connect with these Zoom gatherings, we hope that the current health pandemic will finally abate, and we can resume meeting in person, and yes, we miss all those who are unable to attend electronically.

Some usual reports were provided. Bob Ford confirmed that the club remains solvent. He also shared that the Insurance papers had arrived so that we will be able to meet the liability insurance requirements for hosting in person meetings at the High School and the New Life Centre as well as host a show and circuit book fair.

Randy shared that the website is visited regularly. He has been able to update the number of pages available for viewing in the Circuit Book Explorer. He has added sixty-five pages and that there are more than 50,000 images available for testing out the eyesight. After his presentation from a few months ago, there have been a few online sales since the February meeting. See, we can overcome these challenging times together.

A long discussion followed on another electronic way of selling our excess stamp items. Bill had been in

contact with the Oxford Philatelic Society and learned about a free website called stamporama which would host club auctions. It was decided that the Owen Sound club would pursue this way of auctioning off unneeded stamps. Bill is spearheading this endeavour and Judy Galbraith will assist with the logistics on the evening of the auction. A date was set for the first auction, April 7th. The club executive met to discuss the Terms and Conditions of the auction.

As Marion mentioned in the introduction, the auction was a roaring success, with about 70% of the one hundred and twenty lots sold. A big thanks are extended to those who entered items for sale, because without items for sale, an auction will fizzle. Buyers came from several areas of Ontario, include Toronto, London, Paris Hanover, Kincardine as well as our own club members.

Following these discussions (perhaps tedious for some) attendees were able to watch Bill Findlay provide a presentation called "Talking Topicals" where he shared several his personal collecting topical topics. A joke was offered that the topic of wine collecting may prove to be too distracting! However, Bill kept on going and shared his love of canoes and stamps on stamps. Bill did express some reservations about Ken Magee's introduction of collecting cancel dates on stamps. Ken thinks that the seed of this topical idea may have another source.

At our February meeting, a couple of stamps were shown to determine where they had been issued. It was certain that two of stamps were issued by Iraq and the third one may have been issued by Egypt. Well, Randy Rogers showed how to research mystery stamps. It begins with scanning the stamps and saving them to your computer. Opening Google, it is possible to ask Google to find similar images.

A new presenter, Jim Molineux did a Quiz on Canadian stamps. There was a total of six questions asked. A variety of answers were given, but the funniest option for an answer was "Hogwarts" instead of the correct answer of Owen Sound precancel (see image included here). The interesting conclusion was the offering of becoming a member to the "**Canadian College of Patriotic Philately.**" To enter such a hallowed group, members were asked grade themselves, and if a person was able to correctly guess three answers out of the six questions, a diploma was available to mount at home.



It was nice to see new people join the meeting, especially Ken Magee who made the decision to see and hear us, while he remained anonymous to us. Kens investment to join the meeting was risking the process of downloading the Zoom software and connecting with me for a trial run. A number of members with older computers have joined meetings without any cost. It is assumed that those with computers will already have speakers to listen in to the conversations. Feel free to contact me, Phil, as your

Zoom host to walk into this new technology and the limited ways of being a participant in this form of club meetings. Our guest, Bruno sent a message of thanks and really appreciated the Canadiana Quiz. We agreed to meet again via Zoom on April 21st at 7 PM.

Flyspeck Philately

By Phil Visser

I was introduced to this component of philately as I tried to identify Netherlands #1 into the six different plates. This study is still ongoing as the nice copies of the 1852 classic arrives in the mail. Until last fall, I didn't expect to hear about flyspeck philately in regards to Canadian stamps.

In the November/December editions of The Canadian Philatelist (TCP), Robin Harris produced an article on the 1970 Christmas stamp issue of Canada. The year before (1969) Canada Post commissioned a Christmas drawing contest with the best being for children under the age of 13. A jury decided the best and used these drawings as stamp designs on the 1970 Christmas stamps.

A couple of years ago I was sorting through my Canadian stamp duplicates. This prompted a look in the Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps and noticed several varieties and decided to check if any of them were on the duplicates I had. Sure enough, five different varieties were separated from the duplicates.

Returning to Robin Harris's article in TCP about this Christmas issue, it was stated that a group of philatelists (based in Quebec I believe) have identified one hundred and sixty-seven varieties from the ten stamps with a face value of 5 and 6 cents. Robin's article showed several varieties on these ten stamps, their location on the stamp and which stamp in the column and row on the sheet. If a reader does not receive TCP, membership in the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) will give access to the past issues of this magazine. Alternatively, find a member of the RPSC and borrow the copy of that month.

The following scans show the varieties found listed in Unitrades Catalogue.



The above scans show Unitrade #522 on the left and a close up image of variety #522iii, a black dot



between the M and A of Christmas.

This next variety is

#522iv, there is a diagonal dash in the bottom of the number 5.



Looking at the above scan of Unitrade #523, the variety appears as a flattened top of the letter "S" of Christmas.



Once you have seen this variety, it becomes very obvious. #523ii has a red spot on the cheek of the right snowman.



Here is another famous error, the red hair or scratch in the window above the snowman looking into the room.

There is one interesting aspect to this release of stamps. When the stamps were printed, the plate contained four panes of one hundred stamps each. Plate 1 contained four panes of the 5 cent stamp and Plate 2 contained two panes of 6 cent stamps and two panes of 5 cent stamps. The designs were printed beside each other with a block of four in the middle with each stamp having the same design. For the 5 cent stamp, it is Unitrade #522 and for the 6 cent stamp it is Unitrade #525. Unitrade makes a note that a pair of either #522 or #525 garners a price of fifteen (15) times the value of a single copy. Blocks of four also have a huge increase in value, from twenty (20) cents to \$40. The layout of stamps in the pane allowed for strips of five, both in the horizontal and vertical direction. Depending of the stamp album printer, it may call for a strip of five or for individual stamps

Happy hunting for flyspecks in your duplicates.

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Another month has passed without meeting each other. How sad! Hoping this new lock down protects you and in addition, perhaps some of the members may have received their vaccinations. Last week saw the first vaccination shot put in my shoulder with the second one scheduled for the end of July. The numbers are becoming alarming locally, compared to the previous two "waves." With the recent upsurge in cases, it is understandable why a meeting is not likely to happen soon. This should provide a further opportunity to organize an accumulation, depending on how much of the hunter/gatherer impulse has ruled in an individual as well as the number of years accumulating. Good luck with the sorting and perhaps a new impulse will take over and help you consolidate your collection by auctioning off excess items through the stamporama auction. Give it a try, surprises may just come home. Should anyone need assistance with scanning articles, please contact me or Bill Findlay to assist in that matter.

SOAPBOX

Several weeks ago, I was introduced to the website www.stamporama.com. The first part of the introduction was that this website helped stamp clubs host online auctions. Since the introduction, I have visited the Oxford Philatelic Society auction twice as well as our own auction. It was very surprising that several items I had listed sold, and the end result was pleasing.

Visiting the main page of stamporama, there is a lot of links to follow. It offers several features, for instance there is an online auction (very popular), philatelic articles, discussion boards, exhibits and frequently asked questions. Membership is required if a person desires to purchase stamps through the online auction. At the moment membership is \$12 US. This is new and these fees cover liability insurance (US concern) and paying fees for the website and storing/using a server, but everyone working with the website is a volunteer.

It is wonderful how in this pandemic we find ourselves to be more creative and inquisitive. All of this has helped fill some gaps in my collection. This might be worth a visit if the above has raised an interest in the readers mind.

SS Cameronia

According to Wikipedia¹, this ship was built at the D&W Henderson shipyard in Glasgow, Scotland in 1911. With the start of World War 1, the ship was converted into a troop ship and remained in that service until sunk on April 15, 1917 by U-33 in the Mediterranean. At the time of sinking it was carrying troops from Marseille, France to Alexandria, Egypt.

The ship was 515 feet long (157 m), 62 feet wide (19 m) and had a service speed of 16 knots (~32 kph) with a maximum speed of 19 knots (~38 kph). When it was built it was rated to carry 1,700 passengers, but was converted to carry about 2600 troops in 1915. It was sunk about 150 miles east of Malta. Approximately 200 people lost their lives when it was sunk.

1 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Cameronia_\(1911\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Cameronia_(1911))

