

Stamps on the Bay



The Voice of the
Owen Sound Stamp Club

Meeting Cancelled due to Health Safety

Volume 2, Edition 6, July 2021



From the President

Hello my philatelic friends!
First things first! The regular monthly meeting is on Wed. July 21st. I hope to see you all there. Did you make it to our early Zoom stamp auction? I'm writing this earlier than usual. So the auction hasn't happened yet. Summer is here and a lot of us have plans. I have high hopes for visiting family and squishing babies.

(There's nothing like squishing babies!)

I really enjoyed Gregg Redner's presentation about Belgian Railway/ Parcel Post Stamps. It was informative, interesting and fun. Gregg talked about how the influx of Parisians to Belgium who were used to having their purchases delivered to their homes influenced the whole parcel post and railway systems in Belgium.

That certainly reminds me of what is going on in the world right now. As stamp collectors we worry about the decline in personal communication through the posts. While this is very true the opposite is happening with parcel delivery. With the amount of trade happening over the internet and the advent of companies like Amazon there is more parcel traffic than ever imagined not long ago. Then to top it all off... in comes Covid 19...closing down stores and confining human interaction. So begins ordering online from your local retail stores and curbside pick-up.

Now many stores are open. I went into Reitman's last week and bought a blouse. I would have liked another one in a different colour. They were out of that in my size, so they are shipping one to my home. This has never happened to me before. So even with the stores open, Covid has changed everything! Delivery services are blossoming like they did over 100 years ago.

There has been a bit of talk about participating at Capex '22. That could be a very expensive venture. Let's chat and see what everyone is thinking.

Do you have favourite stamps? I have many stamps that I am fond of. I try to be fair and to appreciate a wide variety of stamps, but it's not always easy. There are so many beautiful stamps printed in a number of different ways and there are a whole lot out there that are cheaply made, poorly designed and just plain ugly! Many stamp collectors pine for the old days with most

stamp issues being engraved. While engraved stamps are lovely I think it would be boring if they were all engraved, each rate assigned one colour. I have some fantastic stamps with exciting designs promoting stamp shows, birds, hockey players...you name it! But here I am and I want to present to you the Stamp Day issues of Saar from the 1950s and 6 out of 7 of them are engraved. I guess life just isn't fair!

If you have some favourite stamps, show them to us in July. We'd like to see what turns your crank! (Not what makes you cranky, that's different!)

Marion Ace

Owen Sound Stamp Club Acting President

Editors Greeting

As promised last month, this edition is late, and will arrive after the Zoom meeting on the 21st. Travel was completed safely. Now that I am home, I can say that more vehicles were travelling out West than those travelling East. Of particular note was the numbers of trucks. Vehicles tended to clump together because of the many places road construction was taking place. Much of the road work was being done in the section of the Trans Canada highway between Sault Ste Marie and Thunder Bay.

This edition features two and half stories! Readers may ponder how a half story is included, but actually it is a report on the presentation provided by Mr. Gregg Redner on Belgian Parcel Post stamps. This report is included in the June Meeting Highlights. My call for articles to include in this newsletter was quickly answered by Ralph Wyndham. Thank you Ralph. June meeting highlights takes up a few pages with a final page dedicated to a last minute inspiration upon my return home

I am not sure if anyone attended the Stamp Talks and Stamp Panels discussion on Zoom recently. It has been a wonderful learning experience and an opportunity to meet many collectors across the country and from outside of Canada. I wish the internet levels of service were consistent across the geographic regions. I do feel the frustration from those who do not have adequate service to be able to participate. Let us all hope that we can meet in person again soon.

Wishing everyone a safe summer and hoping the Covid pandemic leaves you free of symptoms, and let those unvaccinated people also remain free of the virus.

GUERNICA

Ralph Wyndham

While thumbing through pages in a Stratford Stamp Club circuit book at a Kincardine Club show almost 20 years ago now, I came across a gigantic (49mmX82mm or nearly 2"X3.25") stamp issued by Spain in a souvenir sheet, Scott #2252, on October 25, 1981. The instant I saw it, I involuntarily let out a derisive laugh. I had little respect for it thanks to its sheer size and neither did my fellow collectors sitting at the Stratford tables. I bought it anyway, however, even though I do not collect Spanish stamps, joking that the kid in me just had to have a stamp this big!



Almost the exact size of the stamp

The next morning, however, I woke up with the memory on my mind of a presentation at a Saugeen Stamp Club meeting given by stamp designer Bernie Reilander. I recalled him telling us that it can be very difficult to create an image for a stamp subject that works on the very small scale of a postage stamp. Could it be that this stamp was as small as was possible?

Guernica is a small town in the Basque country of northern Spain near Bilbao. Its place in history was cemented in by the events of the Spanish Civil War. Spain in the early 20th century was a country of sharp economic division between the owners of wealthy agricultural estates and the poor who eked out a meager living following the harvests on these estates. There were decades of political unrest involving many factions leading up to the civil war. A coalition of four left wing political parties known as the Popular Front, with a realistic plan for agrarian reform as part of its platform, was elected to power in the 1936 General Elections. The Capitalist and Military leaders of Spain, together with the Roman Catholic churchmen who identified with them (the capitalists and army), feared the possibility of much broader reforms.

Jose Antonio Primo de Rivera founded the Falangists in 1933. They condemned socialism, Marxism, republicanism and capitalism and proposed that Spain become a Fascist state similar to Italy. In 1936, the military rebellion, which was supported by Primo de Rivera, began. The governing coalition, known as the Republicans, captured Primo de Rivera in July 1936 and executed him in November of the same year. In April of 1937, General Francisco Franco

united the Falangists with a number of other small right-wing parties and emerged as the leader of the Nationalists.

Germany and Italy both committed troops to the Nationalist cause. Of interest to us here is the Condor Legion, a bomber and fighter unit, put together by Herman Goering and provided to General Franco on the condition that it remain under German command. On April 27, 1937, this air force unit attacked the town of Guernica. The bombers dropped bombs on the village for over three hours while the fighters strafed the fleeing villagers. Estimates of casualties vary widely from a few hundred to as many as 1600 civilians killed or wounded; 70% of the village was destroyed. The claim was made that the real target of the raid was a bridge near the village, but no bombs fell near it.

Outrage over the attack was worldwide. Pablo Picasso, who had accepted a commission to create a work for the Spanish Pavilion at the 1937 Paris Exposition, was struggling to come up with a topic for his work. News of the attack instantly changed all this. Now he had a topic for his work and focused his anger on his painting. The result was a huge mural, measuring 3.49m x 7.77m or 11.5 ft. by 25.5 feet that we see reproduced on this stamp. While the work met with a lukewarm reception in Paris, the tortured characters in the painting resonated with people everywhere and the painting is recognized by many as the most powerful antiwar artwork ever.

After the Exposition, the civil war raged on and Guernica was sent on tour by the Republicans to raise awareness of Fascist atrocities and to raise funds for their struggle. Picasso intended to have the painting reside in Spain but after Franco was victorious there, he would not allow its return.

At the outbreak of WWII, Picasso made a long-term loan of the work to the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. Guernica continued to travel over the next 20 years and became the most talked about painting in the world. The constant travel was hard on the large canvas and its touring days were ended in 1958.

In 1966 Czechoslovakia issued a stamp depicting the painting but mail to Spain franked with this stamp was refused delivery and returned to sender. Yet, just two years later, Franco tried to get the work returned to Spain. Picasso was adamant that Guernica would only return when democracy and civil liberties returned to his native land.

When the artist refused to sell Guernica to Nelson Rockefeller in 1955, the wealthy industrialist commissioned a copy for himself. Rather than produce an exact copy, the work was recreated as a tapestry in richer, softer, shades of brown. The Rockefeller estate loaned the tapestry to the United Nations in 1986 where it was on display just outside the UN Security Council room until 2009. The work was returned to the UN in 2015 before being removed again in February 2021.

Early in February 2003, a press conference was to be staged right in front of the tapestry where Norman Powell would answer questions regarding the USA's

intention to invade Iraq. Just before the press conference, a large blue curtain was installed and drawn across Guernica. The official explanation was that the tapestry made a poor background for TV cameras. Unofficially, some UN diplomats said that Washington insisted on hiding the anti-war image – it was too stark a reminder of the horrors of war.

Picasso died in 1973 and General Franco in 1975. The first elections since the civil war were held in 1977. After years of negotiations between Spain, the USA, the Museum of Modern Art and several of Picasso's heirs, Guernica finally arrived home on September 10, 1981 and now resides in the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid.

June 2021 Meeting Highlights

By Phil Visser

President Marion lead off the meeting by welcoming the eleven people who connected this evening. She asked for feedback on whether having a breakout room was something to try again. A few members responded in the positive, with no negative voices about having breakout rooms. Bob Ford reported the club as still being solvent. Bill Findlay reported that the Auction website was open for the June 30th Auction. Note the change in date! A further add in was mentioned by Randy that nearly 67,000 visitors had come to the Owen Sound Stamp Club website. This number is a cumulative number but does indicate the relevance and usefulness of the website.

Spring is full of hope, and so a discussion followed about having a live meeting again or possibly even a show. A mixed opinion about these ideas were expressed, but one thing is for certain, these thoughts are completely dependant on the place we rent to hold the meetings and show. Still with hope in the air, Marion asked if there was any interest in having an outdoor social gathering. Ideas were ventured of holding the gathering at the picnic pavilion in Harrison Park or also at the pavilion in Tara. The idea is simply to meet and greet each other, keeping in mind that a potluck is not acceptable in these times, but it is at least an opportunity to see each other face to face again. Perhaps meeting in the afternoon would work since many of us are in the retirement years. Feedback from all members is needed. Please contact Marion and express your interest in gathering.

A presentation was given to the attendees by Mr. Gregg Redner, a member of the Oxford Philatelic Society. When Marion introduced him to the others present, she jokingly mentioned that he had more letters behind his name than found in alphabet spaghetti soup! That knowledge and training was pretty evident in the presentation he gave on the Belgian Railway Stamps. Gregg mentioned that his heritage brought an interest in either music or railways, which would somehow be combined in everyone. For him it is music and railroad stamps and RPO's.

As a specialist collector, Gregg is a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC), the American Philatelic Society (APS), British North

America Philatelic Society and part of the RPO Study Group, and finally The Belgian Philatelic Study Circle based in London, UK.

Gregg began his presentation with a reminder of some Belgian history. Belgium is a rather youthful nation. In that sense it was formed as a country in 1830 and has been called the "crossroads of Europe." As a country it is divided along linguistic lines, with a combination of Dutch, French and German speaking peoples. It is also a country over which many battles have been fought and Gregg listed three common battles fought in Belgium, the Battle of Waterloo, World War 1 and the Ypres salient and finally the Battle of the Bulge.

King Leopold 1 was the first king of the country. He is credited with great vision and started a railroad system which by 1843 connected the major cities within the country. Using public and private means Belgium had the densest rail system in Europe with approximately 4,300 miles of track crisscrossing the country. Eventually the private railroads were amalgamated with the state-run railroads in the 1860's.



Belgian Rail System of 1866 (G. Redner)

While the railroad stamps have received that name, they are more accurately described as parcel post stamps, being applied to parcel documents to be shipped by the rail system between the seller and to the purchaser. Belgium is not the only country to have this system of delivery. Other countries mentioned are Denmark and The Netherlands, but there are probably more.

With the introduction of the railroad system in Belgium, Gregg followed with the documentation accompanying the parcel. Collecting these documents became a focus. Several versions were shown in the presentation, but the accompanying picture shows one example with a parcel post stamp attached. Finding these documents is a challenge and are officially known as "bulletin de Reception" which is more commonly translated as "Waybill."

Parcel post officially began in April of 1879. The new parcel post stamps were issued on May 1st, 1879, a very short time interval between the official service



An example of a "Waybill" with Parcel post stamp affixed (G. Redner)

being launched and the first stamps being available. Gregg suggested that this very close time-line suggests these plans had been in the works for some time before the events officially occurred.

From that point on, Gregg focused on the first two issues of parcel post stamps. The first series of stamps is a simple design, showing the Belgian Coat of Arms in the centre and two winged wheels on either side of the coat of arms. The design is further completed with the denominations of the stamps for the various fees for the level of service. Four denominations were printed in 1879 with two more added shortly thereafter. Attached is an example of the 10 Centimes stamp.

Once the parcel post system was established, it needed to be melded with the postal system, so a parcel could be sent from the railway station, a telegraph office, or a post office. Each location had a different cancellation hammer. Circular cancels indicate that the parcel was mailed from a post office, an octagonal cancel showed that the parcel was mailed from a telegraph office while the hexagonal shape indicated the origin of the parcel was a railway station.



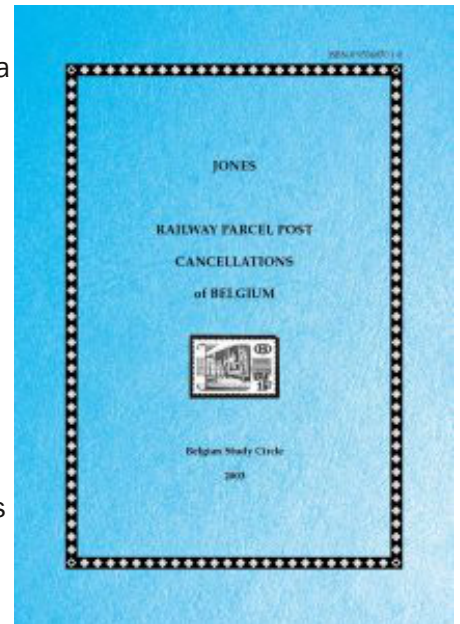
Parcel Post Stamp Scott # Q1 (G. Redner) Note the hexagonal cancel.

Cancellations is the beginning of a rabbit hole! Gregg shared that many collectors are looking for the cancels from smaller train stations and routes. While it may

sound a simple task, he mentioned that the cancel hammers did not conform to a standard hammer and so different stations would have different hammers with mixed type face of the letters for different stations, a mix of dating and timing the hammer from day month hour year to day month year and hour being an example of the way a cancel can be collected.

As a background check, I checked the internet for further information and found a rather lengthy discussion about the very matter. I went to stampboards.com and quickly saw the amount of detail this rabbit hole gets a collector into. First, a collector needs to know the various routes followed and then the various hammers used to cancel the stamps. Some of the discussions showed the level of detail and frustration a collector can have by following this thread.

Gregg shared the name of a publication that is a reference guide when studying this topic. The publication is "Railway Parcel Post Cancellations of Belgium." This publication is produced by the Belgium Philatelic Study Circle and is available for £30, including mailing costs worldwide. While the book was first compiled in 2003, it has been reprinted and expanded in 2011.



The Catalogue "Railway Parcel Post Cancellations of Belgium" published by the Belgium Philatelic Study Circle.

As is usual in a study group, more discoveries are made and so this is an ever-expanding topic and possibly another edition is in the works.

At the end of the presentation, Gregg graciously stayed on Zoom and answered questions, he even mentioned he had visited the clubs web site, perhaps to check us out! At the end of the question period a Show and Tell session was held. Our resident researcher, Randy Rogers, shared some new discoveries. He showed three stamps that were issued by the Confederate States during the US Civil War of 1861-5. He mentioned one of the challenges that the confederate states had was getting paper, especially good quality paper, thus the stamps that the Confederate states used are usually in poor condition. He then showed a 15 cent Columbus stamp issued in the United States which were issued in 1893 for the World Colombian Exposition in Chicago. A final item Randy mentioned was the purchase and arrival of the Scott's 2005 Catalogue of Errors on US Postage Stamps. No further items were

shared and so a final discussion was had, one which I shared the difficulties in finding a certain Dutch stamp from 1951. With many millions printed and used, the catalogue value is minimal, but some were printed and used in booklets that have the usual one edge or sometimes two that are imperforate. But that is another story.

Filling a Hole

Phil Visser

Gardening has not been an interest for me, but I have assisted my spouse on many of her projects. With the move into town, the gardening projects have really diminished, but I am still faced with many holes, not in the ground but in my esoteric collection. At a recent meeting I opined about how one very common stamp from the Netherlands had eluded my collection.

One of the attendees suggested they would have a look to see if they could find that stamp in their duplicate's accumulation. When Diane Jarvis emailed me a few days later, I was excited, because she said she had two copies of it! Wow, another hole can now be filled with an apparently common stamp at that.

This common stamp is Scott # 344, a ten cent Queen Juliana stamp from 1953. According to the Dutch Specialized Catalogue, 1.1 billion stamps were sold through the Post Office, and catalogue in any catalogue at minimum value, let's say twenty cents. Like other countries, the PTT was experimenting with automation and thus the introduction of phosphorescence coating during the later years of printing in the 1960's. By this time the postage rates had increased and so this stamp missed that experimentation.



A different kind of experimentation did occur in the 1950's, and that is the introduction of using booklets. While the earliest form of booklets did start in 1902 and was used until 1950's, a new type of booklet was issued in 1964, the booklet of particular interest is #3 issued on May 31st, 1965. When looking at the scan beside this paragraph, you will note that there is only one ten cent stamp and five eighteen cent stamps. What makes this stamp different from the 1953 issue is that the right side of #344 is imperforate.

When the stamp arrived from Diane, the elation was burst, her excellent intentions were subverted by a careless person who had altered the stamp by clipping off the top perforations. In fact, one of the other members at the meeting suggested doing just that! When a comparison is done with the stamp received and the booklet shown above, what was sent in good faith was the result of careless handling. On closer inspection two tiny perforation holes can be made out on the upper right



side, difficult to see in this scan.

A study of the Specialized Catalogue does show a variety of the ten-cent stamp other than the booklet stamp. It is indeed a imperforate top side, but the size of the imperforate section must be 2.5 centimetres, and no used copy has been seen. Focusing back on the booklet version of #344, approximately 715,000 booklets were printed. Since there is only one ten-cent stamps in the booklet, it stands to reason that only that number of stamps can be found.

Looking carefully at the booklet, notice that the distance between the stamp design and the imperforate edge. It is much wider than a standard perforated version of the stamp, so it will be easy to spot the fake imperforate stamp from the real booklet stamp.

At one of the many Zoom philatelic meetings I attended over the past year and a half, a person shared that about 2% of the stamps printed wind up in the hands of stamp collectors. Based on that suggestion, it would say that about 14,000 stamps are "out there." Not everyone is interested in collecting booklet stamps and so would probably leave a booklet stamp out of circuit books or even stamp stocks of the dealers.

Scott's Philatelic Catalogue does mention the booklet that holds the one ten cent stamp and the five eighteen cent stamps, it doesn't provide a catalogue price for an individual stamp. That is understandable since Scott's is a general catalogue, just like Stanley Gibbons "Stamps of the World." To get a catalogue value, a Specialized Catalogue is needed to find the information provided so far. And that is what is done in "Speciale Catalogus van Nederland." Here the catalogue gives a value of 20-euro cents for the common stamp, but the booklet version has a catalogue value of €1.50.

It is clear that the authorities of the Dutch Stamp Dealers Association (NVPH) recognize the limited numbers of stamps available, but since it is such a recent issue, only sixty years old, it is considered to be still easily obtainable. Maybe it isn't on this side of the Atlantic Ocean. If anyone wonders how catalogue pricing is established, just read the front of the Unitrade "Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps" which provides a brief guidance on how prices are established.

Fortunately, the internet and a stamp site provided the "plug." Just before leaving for a trip, the stamp was found, an order was placed, and upon return home, the stamp had arrived and now that glaring blank spot is much more colourful. The moral of this story is don't be afraid to include booklet stamps (those with straight edges) because there will be a few collectors who will specialize in this part of philately.



As a final word, Robin Harris of Adminware.com has made PDF pages of the booklet stamps from the Centennial issues onwards. Included in these pages are the many varieties not shown in the Unitrade catalogue Ref: Speciale Catalogus van Nederland en overzeese rijksgdelen 2018, NVPH (visit www.nvph.nl)

Club Executive

President

Marion Ace (519)934-1998
P.O. Box 286
Tara, ON; N0H 2N0
marionace@bmts.com

Vice President

Secretary/Treasurer

Bob Ford (519)376-4788
721 8th Ave East, Owen Sound, ON; N4K 3A5
rob.darford@rogers.com

Other Contacts

Circuit Book Manager

Marion Gibson (519)371-9234
591 Balmy Beach Rd, Owen Sound, ON; N4K 5N4
mamabear54@rogers.com

Website Coordinator

Randy Rogers (519)373-9732
P.O. Box 103
Hepworth, ON; N0H 2P0
rrogers@devuna.com

Newsletter Editor

Phil Visser (519)387-0271
554 9th Street A East
Owen Sound, ON; N4K 0C4
pmvisser54@gmail.com

Its a wrap. Another edition has come to it final page. Unfortunately we can't meet again due to the continuing effects of this pandemic. However hope is eternal and so we look forward to the upcoming months where we hope to meet again. One of the biggest benefits of joining a stamp club is meeting other collectors who all have a vast accumulation of philatelic experiencee, no matter how long a person has collected. By and large most collectors are gregarious and quite willing to share knowledge or answers questions for those seeking to learn more. A simple reminder is that no one knows everything and we can always learn more. At a recent Stamp Panels discussion hosted by the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and sponsored by Sparks Auctions, a life long collector shared some information about identifying fakes and forgeries. I know that there are other experts that focus on different parts of the philatelic world and so would be more aware of fakes and forgeries in that area of the world which can easily fool the beginner collector. But don't dispare, sometimes these altered stamps can have value, just identify the fakes and forgeries when they have become part of a personal collection.

HOPE: Stampfest 2021

The first live show since the start of the pandemic will be held on August 14th at the Trillium Lutheran Church in Waterloo Ont. Visit the Canadian Stamp News (CSN) website and click on the "Events" hot button near the top of the web page. The key piece of information is that all public health guidelines will be followed. At present, that limits in person attendance to twenty five (25) people inside the auditorium. If you plan on going, there will be a food truck there to purchase food and probably beverages should you be waiting to enter the auditorium I will attempt to share a list of dealers present via email, and if you are without internet, give me a call.

A precis of an article appears on the CSN website which speaks of the pent up demand for this hobby which the pandemic has created because of the amount of time people have had to sort and organize their collection. This same time has also allowed dealers to fill their stock and hopefully that elusive stamp may come home with you.

Belgian stamps featuring the image
of King Leopold 1

