

Stamps on the Bay



The Voice of the
Owen Sound Stamp Club

Meeting Cancelled due to
Health Safety
Volume 2, Edition 8, September 2021



From the President

Hello my philatelic friends!

Our meeting at Harrison Park was a great success. It was great to see many members that we haven't seen for some time! Along with most of the usual Zoomers the meeting was attended by John Lemon, Dave Green, Chris Tillcock, John Appleton, Mike Raynsford and Gerd Fehler. Don Simpson rejoined the club after a bit of

a hiatus and Dick Tenbergen, a newer member joined in too.

At the meeting we decided on how to proceed with the distribution of recent bestowments to the club. We auctioned off a number of items including two huge albums which saw some heavy bidding. Both were won by Mike Raynsford who dug up a lot of quarters to pay for those lots! They contained some very nice Victorian era GB stamps. Dick Tenbergen is fairly new to stamp collecting and he won a number of Canadian albums to get him going. There were also quite a few stock books that we decided members could take a few home and take as many stamps as they want for 5 cents each. One way to pay for your items is to send Bob Ford an etransfer. Members are to return or exchange the books with other members. When we start having live circuit book events we will use the left overs to fill 5 or 10 cent stock books available to the public.

Our regular Zoom meeting is Wednesday, September 15th and the OS Stamp auction on Wednesday October 6th at 7:00 (6:45).

For 'show and tell' this month I am wondering if members could dig up some items that they find odd, unusual or even weird. Normal is okay too, but think on it.

We still need someone to take on the role of Vice President, but more importantly we need a new editor. Please speak to Phil and/or myself if you can take on this role. Communication is the glue that holds us together which this pandemic has made abundantly clear. Be safe folks!

Marion Ace

President

Owen Sound Stamp Club

Editors Greeting

Welcome to the fresh air. Now that most of the humidity has left us (at least temporarily) it is more relaxing going for an evening walk besides the regular morning walk. This fresh air helps clear the mind and think of new projects for the day. At the moment, these thoughts go to philately and the never ending task of organizing my accumulation of stamps. I can see where it is easy to become overwhelmed with the task and the risk of throwing your hands up in the air and have blue smoke coming out of your mouth out of frustration at the size of the task. Somehow, even with a massive task, the search for "pluggers" continues

This edition of the newsletter is really a smorgasbord of articles. A fairly detailed report on the last Zoom meeting, with articles about a different form of philately written by Ralph Wyndham and several smaller reports on various recent events. It is really pleasing to share what our professional philatelic sleuth has found on the mystery label from France. Turn to page 5 if knowing that is important for you.

And a fairly regular thing to do is include a teaser scan to make you wonder where it fits into the following pages of the newsletter. Here is the teaser scan:

Owen Sound, November 13th, 1880.

Private Circular to Masters and Secretaries of Granges in Canada.

DEAR SIR & BROTHER,—

I enclose you a number of Circulars for the use of Members of the Grange, who are in the habit of depositing in Banks, which I trust you will distribute.

This Company prefer to pay you a small commission on the sale of Debentures than to paying it to Brokers, hence on any deposits you may secure for 5 years for which Debentures will be issued, you will be allowed one quarter of one per cent. commission, or \$2.50 on each \$1,000.

You will readily see that the security is undoubted and that this will be the best Institution in which members of

ings.
I be cheerfully given.

J. DOYLE,
Secretary & Manager.



August Zoom Meeting

The evening of August 18th was another Zoom meeting for those able to attend. It was nice to see fourteen (14) members and guests sign on. A few housekeeping items were dealt with concerning the club's financial status with a couple of bills to be paid. Marion G. provided a quick run down on the Circuit book sales with Randy adding that more pages were expected to come in. Randy also mentioned that the Club's website has now received over 70,000 visits since its redesign.

Some members have been participating with the Oxford Philatelic Society (OPS) Zoom auctions as they have been joining our own Club's Zoom auctions. OPS executive had decided that as of September only OPS club members would be able to sell on their twice monthly auctions. This decision was announced at one of their Zoom auctions, and those Owen Sound Club members participating were wondering if this idea should be reciprocated with our own Zoom Auctions.

A spirited discussion was held about the concept, bouncing around ideas that perhaps a \$5 fee for participating in our auctions to waiving all fees and continue as we are presently doing. Following some hemming and hawing, it was decided that the OSSC would not charge non-members a fee for selling in our monthly auctions.

With these matters dealt with the air waves were opened for a lively Show and Tell session. Our reliable contributor, Randy Rogers, continued sharing his latest philatelic discoveries. He began by showing a 5 pence Machin imperf pair of stamps. Rumour suggests that a half a sheet escaped the printers' premises and some of these stamps are appearing for purchase on various websites. Randy continued his revenue stamp binge and searched out a particular revenue stamp from the Netherlands. It was printed in 1903 and was found in an accumulation of British stamps. His latest purchase for revenue stamp information is a digital copy of a Forbin Catalogue of Revenue Stamps. This was the most complete catalogue of revenue stamps and was last printed in 1915 and is the definitive reference book on the matter.

Randy is a real pro at online philatelic research. He shared two links that he uses almost exclusively for research. Here are the two links:

<https://colnect.com/en/stamps/countries>

<https://www.stampcommunity.org/>

Ralph Wyndham shared a new idea about "stamps on his desk." A bug hit Ralph about what we would call labels or possibly meter stamps. Some early research by Ralph shows that there is not much information available on this topic. If you read further on in this



A Canadian Printed Label

newsletter, Ralph shares what he has discovered so far.



Some collectors have followed the path of looking at cancellations from various post offices. This image you see here adorned a recent cover that Dave Pugh received. Isn't this unique? There is even a person paddling a kayak as part of the design.

Philately can follow many paths and so Bill Findlay shared a new way of

collecting. Bill showed a worldwide stamp album printed in 1957. He then shared that he has several other types of worldwide albums and suggested he could perhaps accept any other albums members may have accumulated that they don't know what to do with.

Our long-distance contact from Ottawa shared a few things. Neil Elson showed a Cartier joint issue mini sheet issued by Canada and France. Some of you may know Neil from attending stamp shows in Owen Sound, Hanover and Kincardine. It seems a long time ago when we could attend stamp shows, but we are now starting to re-enter the resurrection of going to shows. Neil reported on the show at Gananoque which he attended as a dealer on August 14th. It was well attended and there was space for three visitors at each dealer's stock tables. He was pleased with the attendance and outcome. It was mentioned that the Kitchener-Waterloo show was upcoming on the 28th (report follows below).

As a final reminder for those present of the upcoming gathering on August 31st in the Harrison Park Picnic building (report follows). The enticing part of this gathering is the viewing of donated collections to the club. And as this report ends, so did the Zoom meeting.

Stamp Labels (ATM stamps)

by Ralph Wyndham

For Show and Tell at our latest Zoom meeting, I brought up the topic of stamps created by Automatic Teller Machines, ATMs, as we usually refer to both the machines and the stamps. ATM also happens to be the abbreviation in German for "Automatenmarken".

The concept of the variable value postage stamp is not new. The first patent on a machine to produce variable

value stamps was granted in 1884 and around 1900, 120 years ago, such machines were tried in Norway, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. Then, decades later, in 1969, a vending machine, or kiosk, was operated on a trial basis in Montgeron, France, that lasted five or six months but it was not until the early 1980s that France adopted the technology for good.

While the idea of variable value stamps has been around for a long time now, a precise definition is difficult to articulate. The Variable Value Stamps Study and Collecting Group, ATEEME, suggests “stamps issued according to the needs of the user. Thus, the user (customer or postal employee) requests or selects a certain face value and a special machine prints and issues, instantly, the postage stamp”.

What that instantly issued postage stamp looks like varies widely. Self-adhesive stamps are most common but a few, especially some older ATMs exist on gummed paper. The earliest designs, or models as they are called by the ATEEME, look very much like postage meter impressions. Early pictorial stamp models, such as the wide horizontal-format stamps from France and the much smaller models from Singapore, were simple, basic graphic designs while many current (2021) issues, such as from Israel, differ very little in quality from conventional postage stamps.

As ATMs are considered actual postage stamps, they, unlike meter impressions, are meant to be cancelled. Like any other stamp you purchase at the post office, they are valid for postage anywhere in their country of origin and do not have to be used as soon as they are purchased.

Many nations make use of ATMs today. There are thousands of different ones, including varieties. If you collect just Canada, where the technology hasn't really caught on, or rely on the Scott stamp catalogues to provide you with a framework for your collection, you may not have much of an idea as to just how big the area of ATM stamps is. I sure didn't!

Canada's 2013 foray into ATMs was considered unsuccessful. 2016 saw new machines installed in Vancouver, Edmonton and Richmond Hill using stamp designs featuring works by famous Canadian artists. Above is the stamp depicting a work by Emily Carr. The machines are still operating today.

France started using ATMs around 1980. This design,



or model, was issued around 1988.

This is Germany's first ATM model, introduced in 1981, it was used into the mid-1990s. The above example is postmarked 1989. Various imprints were used

depending on the make of the vending machine.



The Horizon label came into use in 2002 as part of the Royal Mail's implementation of the Horizon inventory and transaction management system. With English and Welsh label overprints in two print styles, around 30 label

indicators (the largest print) that identify the type of service, original white labels, two types of gold labels then back to white labels again over that last 19 years, this on its own would be a very challenging area to collect.



Kitchener Waterloo Stamp Show

by Phil Visser

On Saturday, August 28th, I attended my first stamp show in almost two years, with our own show in September of 2019 being the last I went too. With the current uncertain health situation, there was some hesitation about going and the risk involved. The day was bright and so a last-minute decision was made to travel to Waterloo.

It was a little shocking when I arrived, with red lights flashing and a black vehicle parked there, with markings of S.W.A.T. on the vehicle! That was not an exactly welcoming sight, but it took only a few minutes to realize that this was the food truck. Underneath S.W.A.T. was the words written as “Sandwiches with A Twist!” Check it out on the web by typing in the search bar “SWAT food truck Kitchener.”

Tables and chairs outside showed other people enjoying the food and since I recognized a few of the people, I knew I had found the Stamp Show. Entering the building I was greeted with a form saying that I was Covid free and had behaved myself with respect to the pandemic. Upon completion of the form, I went into the auditorium to discover three dealers with lots of tables and a few chairs keeping us socially distanced. Dealers I met were John Anderson from Sarnia and Frank Hoyles from Blenheim and one other anonymous dealer without a sign and no stamps that I

collected.

It was pleasant to meet Marion Ace who had also made the trip as well as Al (I think his last name Teakston) and so realized that collectors from all over had come for a visit. Following the show, I spoke with a member from the club who shared that about fifty collectors had come to the show. They had planned on having six dealers present, but only three showed up on the day of the event. Despite the unexpected changes in the number of dealers, the club felt positive with the responses from the dealers that were present.

One thing that did surprise me was that a contact tracing list was not included at the front door. Apparently, a contact list was required, but I escaped the sharing of that information. That oversight has been fixed because one of the organizers knew I was present but didn't see my name on the list of contacts. A slight slip up in procedures.

It sure was good to be able to socialize and meet people who I hadn't seen for quite some time. Looking forward to attending more shows in the future.



President Marion Ace and Phil doing the socially acceptable greeting to each other with an elbow tap.

George Pepall standing between your two club members at the KW Show on August 28th. George is a Board Member of the RPSC and part of the KW Stamp Club.



Harrison Park Meeting on August 31st

By Phil Visser

Being able to socialize again was absolutely amazing. Even with masks on, the smiles were obvious as well as the lighthearted ribbing. According to my crude list, sixteen members, with three bringing their spouses along, were present for the gathering. Besides those numbers we had two guests join us from Ottawa. You guessed it, Neil and Karen Elson also were there. They were traveling in the area and joined the fun.

The weather was pleasant, but no worry was needed as we sat under the roof of the picnic pavilion. Most people had no difficulties in finding the shelter, but one late comer missed the activities, Dieter was delayed due to road construction in southern Ontario. Most people had left before Dieter arrived. Because no food was present, we were not bothered by squawking seagulls, but I believe a bunch of vultures circled around the donated collections.

Randy brought a collection from somewhere on the Bruce Peninsula. It was viewed and showed what

someone has gathered in a lifetime. What is unknown is who the person was and whether he was a member of a stamp club at one time or another, but having viewed collections as part of an estate, this man was a serious collector. Experience shows that stamp club members many times have bigger and better collections than the average collector staying at home in isolation.

Bill Findlay brought along the Hill collection. Many stock books and binders in this collection! This collector was very organized and detailed and obviously had spent many hours sorting through his stamps. Apparently, what was donated is the leftovers/ duplicates from his collection. These binders/stock books were distributed among the member present who will count the number of stamps removed and pay the club a fee per stamp extracted and hopefully both parties will be happy (members and the club).

Books and binders can be returned or let Bill know that a person is finished with it so that another club member can search through the accumulation to improve their own collection. Again, this accumulation is a worldwide collection so there must be something for all the members of the club to make the time worthwhile to look through the material.

Following the splitting up of the Hill collection, an auction was held for the material that Randy had brought along. These events can be quite hilarious, especially when Mike Raynsford ups the bid by twenty-five cent increments. Mike has learned to use dollar increments in his bids at this auction, especially when the two worldwide albums came up for sale. At the end of the auction everyone hurried off home to inspect their new purchases in detail. The club coffers have become slightly larger due to the activity at this gathering.

We all had fun with the auction, but we did have a chance to discuss plans before the auction began. A key question was when we would be able to meet again in person. No answer to that question at the time of this writing, but we will have to follow the regulations and requirements of St Mary's High School. Bob Ford was going to call them to see what ideas had been put in place at the school and would they allow groups to use the facilities.

There is a light at the end of the tunnel especially when you are positive! See you soon.

Worldwide Collecting

By Phil Visser

At a recent Zoom auction, Randy had put together an envelope of watercraft stamps for sale. While sorting through this worldwide mix, I came across this stamp from an unknown country. While the airplane is the central figure on the stamp, in the background is a merchant ship. It did not bear the signature of either Japanese or Chinese stamps, so I was lost in placing it in my collection. Thus, it is important for a person to be able to identify worldwide stamps

Some time ago, Randy Rogers introduced to those present at one of the Zoom meetings how to find the

origin of an unknown stamp. A scan of the stamp is needed, and the image then needs to be saved on the computer hard drive. Opening the Google web browser, look for the link to "Images." This directs the user to a new page called "Google Images." There are three options on this page for the user to search with, a camera, a microphone and finally a magnifying glass.



Randy showed us how to use the "camera" option. By clicking on the camera, the user has two options, inserting a URL or to "upload an image." Using the last option, I uploaded the above image, pressed "enter" and then the search function turned up several webpages to use as a search. Pinterest provided a couple of options to search, searching stamps by colour (violet) or by country, and the headline on the search immediately gave the country of origin of this stamp as South Korea.

A second search method is another one of Randy's favourite websites, <https://colnect.com/en/stamps>. Selecting the stamps options, there are several buttons to link to several uses of the site, however, in black lettering, near the top of the page is "Image Search" button. Select the "File" option and upload the scan, and voila, immediate results. The results included about twenty options based on the scan provided. These options included the exact same stamp, stamps with the same image and finally, stamps bearing the same country name characters.

Clicking on the exact same stamp, Colnect directed the search to a second page and here the information on the stamp is provided in detail. To begin with, this stamp is Scott's #C8. One interesting thing about Colnect, while listing many catalogue numbers, because of copyright laws, it does not list Scott's number, instead it is listed as "Stamp Number." For this stamp, it also lists catalogue number from Michel, Yvert et Tellier and Stanley Gibbons.

Also provided is information about the stamp design. For instance, the aircraft is identified as a "C-47," an aircraft of World War 2 fame, and a merchant ship in the background. A date of issue is provided, October 15, 1952. Knowing the date also provides some context about the stamp. This date falls in the period

of the Korean War, from 1951-53 and so is showing how South Korea was being supplied, by the aircraft bringing in troops and the ship bringing in food and war materiel.

For the thematic collector, Colnect provides an easy way of searching a particular topic. The Colnect listing shows themes of "aircraft," "Aviation," and "ships." I did a quick look and when I clicked on "ships", it brought me to the world listing of countries with the number of stamps on that particular theme. Philatelic information is also provided. Things like the perforation, 13 x 12.5, printing method (offset lithography), watermark and the currency of the country, in this case "won" but spelled as "weun" in Scott's.

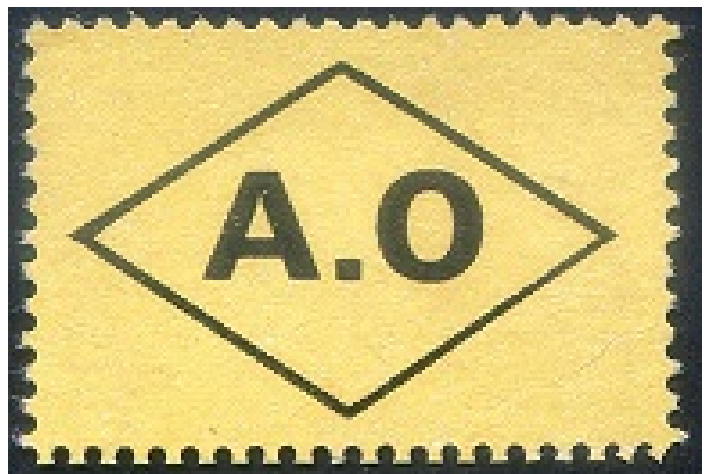
All in all, using the computer and some basic skills of scanning and saving files, it is possible for collectors to find what country has issued a particular stamp which isn't commonly recognizable. One caveat needs to be shared. Colnect is a selling site, so if a particular stamp is not listed by a seller, it won't appear in a search. Hopefully this article can be referred to as a collector becomes brave enough to use the computer search tool ability.

Mystery Solved

by Phil Visser & Randy Rogers

Last month's edition provided a mystery on what a label on a French letter meant. Our intrepid researcher quickly found an answer, the A.O. label is a UPU label indicating that this letter was an "Autre Objets" or "other object." This term is considered as 3rd Class mail. Randy had posed this question on the "Stamp Community" forum. He received several replies but then was provided a detailed answer, parts of which are provided below.

"Autre Objets" is a UPU rate which covered the mailing of printed matter, books, sheet music and publishers' periodicals. This postage rate is a very economical



means of doing a mass mailing or something larger like a small parcel. Blair, the person who provided the detailed information, gave several examples of price comparisons today by using 3rd class mail to using a courier or Xpresspost etc. The teaser scan shows a 3rd class mailing from Owen Sound and the charge is one third the full postage rate for first class letters.

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A line somewhere says "Its a wrap, folks, we can go home now." According to the Webster Merriam dictionary this is a line said at the end of a movie or television show. Readers are at home now, and this is not a television or a movie set, but, this edition has come to an end. Hopefully the philatelic fever continues and each reader can perhaps find inspiration for some new interests. For those with a computer and internet, don't forget to check out the various philatelic websites. Just a reminder to everyone of the Royal Philatelic Society and the value of membership, as well as the British North America Philatelic Society and their resources. Another source of information is the Canadian Stamp News. The online portal will allow anyone to search for upcoming shows. Stay healthy and perhaps we can have an outdoor gathering again.

Some more ATM Labels from Ralph Wyndham



An Irish ATM commemorating the Easter Uprising of 1916

A strip of three self-adhesive ATMs from Ireland commemorating the Easter Uprising of 1916.



Spain has issued many ATMs in horizontal format over the years. As you can see, this one was printed on September 9, 1998. The printing on these ATMs was generated using thermal technology like many cash register receipts. If you've ever left a receipt in the car on a hot summer day, you know would happen to your stamp if exposed to such heat. Also, they should not be stored face to face or in contact with plastic films to avoid chemical reactions.



This simple single colour ATM depicting the skyline of Singapore was issued in 1994.



This ATM was issued by the United States in 1994 in coil strips on water-activated gummed paper.