

Stamps on the Bay



The Voice of The
Owen Sound Stamp Club

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 15th, 2021
New Life Center, Christian Reformed Church
199 4th Ave West, Owen Sound
Volume 2, Edition 11, December 2021



From the President

Hello my philatelic friends! It is a week or so before our meeting as I write this and I am disappointed to see that the Saugeen Stamp Club December meeting has been cancelled. I don't know whether it is because of the snowy roads or the rise in Covid cases in Ontario, probably the roads. I didn't realize just how much I wanted

to go until I heard it was cancelled. It has been a long time since I've seen some of our associates from the Saugeen Club. I hope we can get together soon.

As things stand right now our live in-person Christmas/December meeting at the New Life Centre is still a go! I hope you will be there! Don't forget your proof of vaccination and your mask.

We will not be having food so that we can keep our masks on in the smaller quarters of the New Life Centre. We will be having a fundraising auction for The Owen Sound Hunger and Relief Effort (OSHARE). I hope you have some philatelic items you can donate for the auction. I recommend that you put each lot into a page protector a few days before the meeting so that they can be easily wiped down with a sanitizer.

While using page protectors you could bring in some items for show and tell including one page exhibits. I will bring in a few small prizes for one page exhibits... one for the most Christmassy, one for the most interesting and one for the most random. No rules for this occasion so any topic, large pages welcome but please use a page protector. If you have a large page to enter and no large page protector let me know and I can give you one for Christmas!

We will be having a gift exchange. If you wish to participate please bring a wrapped gift with a maximum cost of about \$15.00. Due to covid germs we will not be having the circuit books at the meeting. Don't forget that you can still use the circuit books online! Please bring the OS exchange stock books to circulate some more.

November's meeting got off to rocky start! There was a power failure in Phil Visser's neighbourhood which made it impossible for him to start our Zoom meeting. As it turned out our guest Gregg Redner managed to get a meeting going. Thank you for your quick acting

Gregg! His presentation about the 1920 Olympics in Antwerp, Belgium was quite interesting. With the Olympics being held in Belgium so soon after WWI the condition of everything from the venues to the accommodations to even the supply of athletes was poor. Thanks Gregg for an interesting evening!

Thank you to all our members who are making things happen! A reminder that Club dues can be given to Bob Ford either at the meeting or make arrangements on how to continue in the Stamp Club.

Marion Ace

President, Owen Sound Stamp Club

Editors Greeting

Here is the next edition of Stamps on the Bay. It is a reduced in size edition which shouldn't interfere with the business of this year end. Inside are a couple of short stories, a report on last months Zoom meeting and then a chance to travel in these winter conditions. The show listings are only those that have been advertised in the Canadian Stamp News. More shows may be planned by other clubs but have not been listed on the CSN website.

With the year end activities, I hope to see many people attend the Christmas gathering. Please be advised that you will need to show your vaccination status. These are the requirements of the Health Unit which needs to be followed by the New Life Centre. It is also hoped that the weather conditions will be kind enough to allow safe travel.

Last months teaser scan showed one of the new editorial cartoon stamps of two hockey players representing the USSR and Canada. This could have been applied to two stories, the first story would be the Russian Bear which referenced the Romanian Europa stamps. The other tie in was about the story on the Editorial artists further in the edition. You can celebrate your wisdom if you chose both stories!

As is usual, here is a scan that applies to one of the stories inside:



Year End Events

By Phil Visser

A few days ago, I flipped the calendar to the last month of this year. Looking at the page of December I realized several interesting things occur this month. For instance, we have the holiday season at the end of this month, we also have the shortest day of the year in this month, and we will be approaching an astronomical event that not many people think of. This astronomical event has a tie in with philately.

Most people believe that the Earth follows an elliptical orbit around the Sun. In some circles this orbit is called a heliocentric orbit. Surprisingly, this fact has only been accepted for some five hundred years. The person to postulate this theory was Nicolas Copernicus. Copernicus was born in 1473 at Torun (Thorn) Poland and died in 1543. He was the youngest child of a wealthy merchant and was highly educated, graduating from the Krakow University. It is at this University that Copernicus became intrigued with astronomy.

From a philatelic point of view, Copernicus appears primarily on Polish stamps, although his theory of heliocentric orbits affects the whole world. Doing a search for his image resulted with a total of about 30 stamps issued about his life. A search through the Polish accumulation provides the first stamp showing the home he was born in at Torun. Without knowing of its significance, the stamp may not appear to have any connection to him except for the missing label which shows his image. The stamp is Scott's # 1818 and was issued in 1971.



January 4th, 2022, is the day on which the Earth is at its closest point to the Sun.



There is nothing supernatural about this day, it is just the fact that the Earth is 91.4 million miles away from the Sun. On this stamp shows Copernicus and his theory that the planetary orbits around the Sun were circular. Copernicus first

published the initial outline of his theory in 1514 and worked on this theory until his death. At this time Copernicus lived in Frombork along the Baltic coastline. This stamp shows the cathedral at Frombork from which many of Copernicus' observations were taken. It is Scott's #1821 and is part of the set mentioned above as being issued in 1971.

One of the most important legacies of Copernicus was the body of observations taken during his study of astronomy. This body of information passed along to other astronomers,



one who benefited from this knowledge and added to it was Tycho Brahe, a Danish astronomy. This stamp is Scott's #1035 which was issued in 1995. It shows his observatory at Uraniborg in Denmark. Disagreements with the royalty led to Brahe moving to Prague where he had a student named Johannes Kepler. Kepler studied the body of observations, and he developed the theory that the planetary orbits were not circular, but elliptical.



Kepler lived from 1571 to 1630. It was in the year 1604 that Kepler hit upon the idea that the orbits were not circular, but elliptical and this solved all the problems of matching planetary observations with actual view. While this theory did not gain immediate acceptance, it has over the intervening four hundred years.

One of the challenges is finding images of stamps that can be shared with the readers. Both Copernicus and Kepler are featured on many stamps from countries producing them for revenue generation like the "sand dune" countries of the Arabian Peninsula, Guinea Bissau and many more. This stamp of Kepler was issued by East Germany and has been downloaded from the internet and appears in the Scott's Catalogue as #1275, issued in 1971.

References

wikipedia: Copernicus; Brahe; Kepler

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

November Zoom Meeting

Last month's meeting started out rather dark. Several blocks around where I live were without electricity, making into impossible to turn on the computer. Fortunately, I remembered that I could access my email through my cellphone and so I was able to start the meeting through my cellphone. Our lives really run-on electricity, and the power level on the cellphone was dying quickly, so our guest for the evening, Mr. Gregg Redner could set up a Zoom meeting for those who could participate.

Power was restored sometime around 8 o'clock and so I was able to join the meeting, after the new Zoom host, Bill Findlay, let me enter the meeting. Thank you, Bill. I only caught part of Gregg's presentation, but I was able to read about it the December edition of "The Canadian Philatelist." If you do not receive the magazine, this is a reminder that members of the Royal Philatelic Society receive the magazine as part of being a member in the society. For anyone interested in the topic, contact a club member who is also a member of the RPSC or Bob Ford who receives the club copy of the magazine.

By the time I joined the meeting, there were fourteen attendees. Following Gregg's presentation there was a short Show and Tell session. Bill Findlay showed a Zeppelin card. Randy showed ATM labels printed at the kiosk in Vancouver, which ties in with the information that Ralph Wyndham spoke and wrote about a few months ago. Dave Pugh showed some twenty different stamps with advertising labels attached to them. I have seen some of these issued by Belgium, but many countries also follow the practice.

Finally, Bill Findlay chimed in about a book titled "The Chalon Heads" which is a mystery about the stolen Chalon heads plates used to print some of the early Canadian stamps. The book was going to be listed for sale on the Oxford Philatelic Society auction.

The meeting wrapped up about 9 o'clock after starting late due to the blackout. We were scrambling to find candles and matches for some light which makes me ask "Are you ready for a blackout?" Hope to see you on December 15th.

Saturnalia and Christmas

By Phil Visser

Tradition holds that we celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 25th. The foundation of this tradition stems back many centuries. To begin, Britannica.com states that the exact date of the birth of Jesus is unknown, although scholars suggest it was more likely to have been in the spring of a year. The celebration of Christmas also did not start with the founding of the Christian religion.

What we do know is that the date of Christmas (Dec 25th) is very close to the date of the Winter Solstice (Dec 21st). Greco-Roman culture celebrated the time of winter solstice with the festival called Saturnalia. Saturn is known as the god of agriculture and time. In its earliest form this festival was for three days but then later it extended to a week.

The entire social order was turned upside down with the slaves being served by their masters, the exchange of gifts and merriment. Likely there would also be copious consumption of alcoholic beverages.



There is lots of suggestions about why December 25th was chosen as the date of the birth. One suggestion is that it is nine months after March 25th, the supposed date of the conception of Jesus. This was celebrated in ancient traditions and predates the establishment of December 25th as Christmas. Christmas has been established on the 25th because of Emperor Augustine declared that date following the acceptance of Christianity as the official religion of in 336 CE.

While flipping the calendar is natural to use, it is the Gregorian calendar commonly used in Western society today. Eastern society follows the Julian calendar which celebrates Christmas as January 7th. The reason for the switch was because the Julian calendar had too many days in a year and so when Pope Gregory switched the calendar in 1582, the day after October 4th became October 15th. In the United Kingdom this switch did not occur until 1752.

Many Christmas traditions do transfer from Saturnalia and other cultural traditions. Celebrating a feast



occurred because some of the livestock would be slaughtered due to lack of feed in the wintertime and so it became a feast to consume the meat before it spoiled. Another tradition includes the lighting

of candles, probably allowing some social activities to occur at night after the sun set. Light is transferred into the Christian religion with the illustration that Jesus is the light of the world.

Whether a person celebrates Christmas or uses this time in the calendar to enjoy family and friends, it is simply a wish that these holidays be healthy and safe. See you next year.

References:

<https://www.britannica.com/story/why-is-christmas-in-december>

<https://www.history.com/topics/ancient-rome/saturnalia>

<https://www.history.com/topics/ancient-rome/saturnalia>

UPCOMING SHOWS

Please note that these shows are subject to the health safety conditions at the time of the show.

JAN 29, '22

73rd Cathex Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara St., St. Catharines, ON, L2R 5L3

The St. Catharines Stamp Club's annual Cathex show returns in 2022 with 10 dealers, club circuit books, a children's area, free admission and parking plus the always popular lunch counter. The show runs from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Phone: 905-227-9251 Email: stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca

Web: <http://stcatharinesstampclub.ca/cathex/>

MAR 6, '22 Mississauga Coin & Stamp Show

John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd., Mississauga, AL, L4Z 1V8

Sponsored by the Troyak Club, the Mississauga Coin and Stamp Show will be open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., with 60 tables and more than 30 dealers. There's something for everyone, with Canadian and world coins, stamps, paper money, tokens, medals, trade dollars, official mint products, hobby supplies, reference books and more. Free evaluations plus buying, selling and trading. Admission is \$5 (children under the age of 16 are free), and parking is free.

Phone: 416-505-7999 Email: leszekp@rogers.com

Web: <http://www.troyakclub.com>

MAR 19, '22 70th Oxpex-40th Otex

St. Mary's Catholic School, 431 Juliana Dr., Woodstock, ON, N4V 1E8

The Oxford Philatelic Society will host the 70th Oxpex-40th Otex shows at a new venue this March. Open from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., the one-day show boasts dealers, competitive framed exhibits, a silent auction, club circuit books, a youth table, light refreshments plus free admission and parking. Dealer and exhibitor Brenda Hoyles is also set to lead a presentation.

Email: countyowl@rogers.com

Web: <http://www.oxfordphilsoc.com>

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It is the time of year for membership renewals. Without having regular in person meetings it may be a challenge to look after the membership dues for the next year, but please contact Bob and arrangements can be made. Depending on your interests in the hobby, it is also the time of year to renew membership in The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, the British North America Philatelic Society, or the Postal History Society of Canada. Besides the national ones, membership can extend to outside of Canada, like the American Philatelic Society, or the American Topical Association. Collecting interests can extend beyond this continent, into Europe, Asia, Oceania and more. Whatever it is, local, national or international there are many ways to learn and connect with collectors world wide. Happy collecting and may you never become bored!

