

Stamps on the Bay



**The Voice of the
Owen Sound Stamp Club**
Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 7 P.M.
New Life Centre, 199 4th Ave West, Owen Sound
Volume 3, Edition 10, November 2022



From the President

Hello my philatelic friends! I'm pretty sure our whole planet was sucked through a worm hole in space and we ended up in another universe. It's obvious. Look out your window, step outside. Does that look like November to you? It's either that or mankind has overpopulated the planet and has pumped so much fuel exhaust into the air that it is

changing the entire atmospheric conditions of the planet. I vote for the worm hole theory.

Either way it has made it difficult to keep my seasonal bearings. I have missed a couple of meetings mostly because my body keeps telling me it is still September out there. Don't get me wrong, I'm never thrilled about the onset of winter. I'm not fond of freezing and yes, the snow can sometimes be very pretty and I don't enjoy heat waves either. But it is what it is and I have just had some of the most pleasant days of fishing that I have ever experienced!

Our November meeting is almost here. It's on Wed. Nov. 16. Check your calendar, you may not be able to tell by looking out the window. But who knows; it could be a skating rink by then. I missed our stamp auction (see excuse above). Thank you to Judy and Randy who ran it since Bill F. was unavailable. We are having a Zoom meeting on the 10th. There are no major plans for it but we always have some very interesting show and tells and some great conversation. I am hoping that I will have some new (old) Heinrich von Stephan documents to share with you.

Bob Ford won the One Page Challenge on the topic of 'bicycles'. A tricky topic I'd say but I managed to get one done. November's topic is 'architecture'. This is a very wide topic. You can focus on a single building, or castles or I suppose dog houses would even fill the bill. Have fun, let your imagination run free! Don't forget that in December it will be the Christmas Stamp Scavenger Hunt!

We did have a discussion at the October meeting about the deep winter meetings. It was decided that we will hold the January, February and March meetings on the third Saturday of the month from 1:00 to 3:00. This should alleviate some of the difficulties of winter driving. I hope it will work out for us all.

See you on Wednesday evening! Keep on Stamping!

Marion Ace

President, Owen Sound Stamp Club

Editors Greeting

Welcome to a new month and a new edition of Stamps on the Bay. This month's edition is an eclectic mix of contributions. Stories that follow touch on stamps from Austria, Germany, Great Britain and Canada. These pages have to be the cheapest way to travel the world. There is no airport waits, or masses of people between you and your seat. What fun this hobby brings into your homes.

Our President has reminded us of the outstanding weather we are experiencing right now. Hopefully it will last until the 16th so that driving will be an easy trip into Owen Sound. It is also time to prepare a one page exhibit for the monthly challenge. While any attempt is appreciated, it is also a reminder to "mine" your collection for stamps on the topic, blocks of four and or a cover with a postage stamp of the topic on it. In the space between the items is a chance to share some information about what is being shown. If a page contains all three types (or more) there will be limited space for writing and so a person doesn't have to be a scholar to complete the page. Don't forget to put a title on the page, it could be humorous, direct or whatever inspiration might arise when putting the page together.

Now that indoor activities are becoming more appropriate, here is the chance to continue organizing the accumulation that some call a stamp collection. It may also be called a "hoard" or an mess or even worse, garbage. A difficult thing is to take my eyes away from the philatelic websites and into the accumulated treasures. It is easy to see that discouragement can set in when the stash looks like an impossible pile of paper. Keep at it, just switch focus or downsize the pile into smaller segments so that the task doesn't become overwhelming.

A teaser scan is provided below to see where it might fit into this Edition.



Der Liebe Augustin – The Charming Augustin

By Ralph Wyndham

The fourth stamp in the series, 'Tales and Legends of Austria', from Austria Post is the 9-schilling stamp, Der Liebe Augustin, issued January 23, 1998.



The story of the Charming Augustin dates to 1679 Vienna, a time when the city was suffering through an outbreak of the dreaded black death. In a such dark time of suffering, when people's spirits were in dire need of a lift, a balladeer and bagpiper, Marx Augustin, rose to the occasion. His good cheer and high-spirited entertainment endeared him to the hearts of the Viennese.

Dear Augustin not only lifted people's spirits; he enjoyed lifting a schnapps or two during his performances. One fateful night he did not quite make it home and ended up sleeping in the street – a Schnapsleiche – a 'schnapps corpse' so drunk that he was mistaken for a real plague victim by the gravediggers who were constantly patrolling the streets to remove the dead.

Augustin, along with his pipes and the truly deceased, were carted off and thrown into a mass grave. Once back in the land of the living, he found he was unable to climb out of the deep pit. As his cries for help went unheeded, he reached for his bagpipes and began playing. Rescuers soon arrived and lifted him out of his predicament. The experience grew his legend even larger as his story gave people greater hope and encouragement in such terrible times.

The catchy melody that you may be familiar with without knowing the story, Oh du Liebe Augustin, written in his honour around that time, is still a popular tune in Austria over 400 years later. Perhaps the dear Augustin played the song himself, gleefully and with great relief, many times after his brush with an early grave.

An Owen Sound Error

By Phil Visser

Readers will be familiar with a series of articles about Owen Sound Postal History. Over the years many kinds of cancellation devices have been in use. While collecting the various types of cancellers, the following post card entered the collection (Figure 1).



Figure 1

By itself, the card is rather common. **Webb's Catalogue of Postal Stationery** listed it as Type P 13. A squared circle cancellation identified it as having originated from Owen Sound. The cancellation is an early version of the squared circle, there is no indices above the date. Most post cards were used for business reasons, but this card was used for personal correspondence.

On the reverse of the post card is the following:

"Owen Sound Feb 26th, 1896

F.B. Thedman

Warsaw, N.Y.

Dear Sir,

I received your letter with stamps enclosed. I can get a 1¢ Canada post-card error Scott's no 407, cat. \$5.00. I would take a couple more Bills & some other good stamps. Drop a card at once and let me know if you want it.

Very Truly

Arthur E. Rankin

Owen Sound, Ont. Can."

Collectors may remember that post-cards were listed in the **Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian stamps**. This was discontinued with the publishing of the **Webb's Postal Stationery Catalogue (8th Edition)**. After reading the post-card in Figure 1, a search in Webb's Catalogue did not show any "error" at all. A thought arose that perhaps the "error" was really a constant variety. Even so, the variety was not listed.

This message caused a wonder what was this "error"? Clearly it left a memory because only recently an eBay listing was **"Canada, 1 cent stationery post card FLAWED PLATE VARIETY 1888 from Owen Sound."** Just like getting hit by a bolt of lightning, this listing was immediately saved in "My eBay." When it was successfully purchased and arrived, a story for this newsletter started.

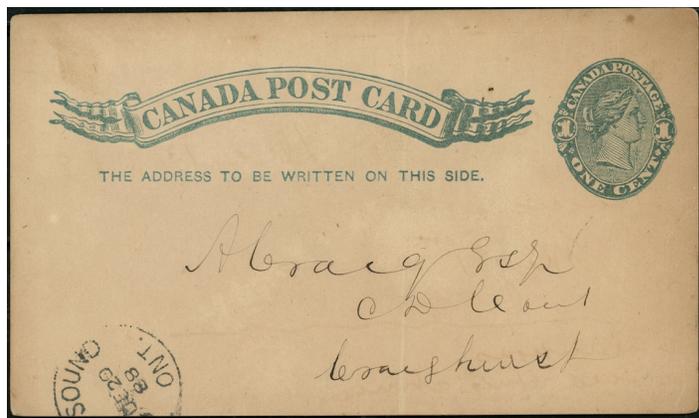


Figure 2

As mentioned earlier, post-cards were primarily used for business purposes. Figure 2 shows the complete card, while Figure 3 shows a close-up of the error. The



Figure 3

card is addressed to "A. Craig Esq, C.D. Court, Craighurst." On the reverse side of the card is a short message "Between McLauchlan & Son vs Parker & Co. Please advise how this is ??? on or is ??? made."

Looking at Figure 3, the error observed on eBay is the large dot to the right of the Queen's forehead.

Enlarging the error for readers to see also

reveals vertical lines below the Queen's bust. Besides the dark lines one can also see the white drops starting at the Queen's mouth/chin. Perhaps this may be called the "drooling Queen error."

A discussion with the West Toronto Coffee meeting raised more questions on the source of the errors described above. The post-cards were either engraved or typographed and how the marks appeared is open for discussion. Perhaps more information later.

This type of card is also preprinted with information from the sender (see Figure 4). One would assume that many of these types of enquiries would pass through the mail regularly to warrant the cost of preprinting the information from the Clerk of the Division Court in Grey County.

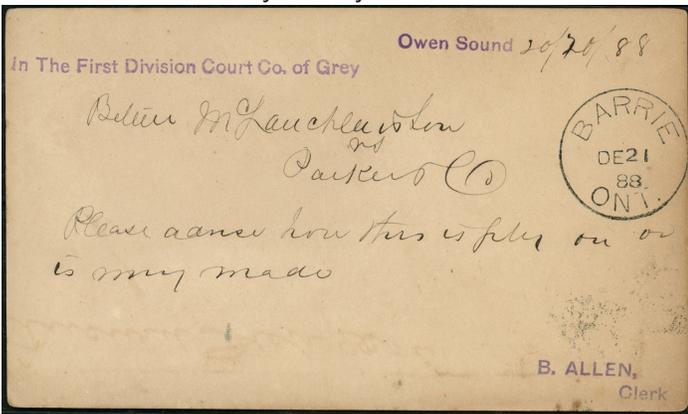


Figure 4

With the arrival of this "error" comes another interesting item in the local history collection. Reader's comments/suggestion about this brief story would be gratefully accepted.

To put things into perspective, the cost of mailing a post-card at 1 cent is more economical than a letter at three cents each, especially when the information communicated is so little.

References

Webb's Postal Stationary Catalogue of Canada & Newfoundland; W.C. Walton & E.L. Covert; The Unitrade Press; 2019.

Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps; D. Robin Harris; The Unitrade Press; 2022

October Meeting Highlights

There was a good turn out on the evening of October 19th. What was exciting was to see a new member join, a junior stamp collector. Kale D. collects animals on stamps. Some members have already sorted through their duplicates to assist this young man in his collection. Kale's mom was also along, and it was unfortunate that Kale could not go through the circuit books to find more animals.

A couple of items of business needed attention. The first item was a continuation of the discussion of holding meetings on Saturday afternoon during the winter months. The members present felt it was a good idea since it allowed those working to attend as well as those retirees who have difficulty driving at night. This is a trial, and we only need to confirm the availability of the New Life Centre.

The last bit of business was deciding on a date for the annual show next year. It looks like September 23rd is the chosen date. There is a question on whether it will be a Circuit book fair, and/or if dealers would also be invited to attend. The format of the date will be discussed in between now and the date.

Following the discussion, a small auction was held. Alas, no door prize was offered as that member was ill on the day of the meeting.

Show and Tell

A couple members shared some things of interest to them. Hopefully these shares can inspire other members in their organizing endeavours. Randy R.



Figure 1

showed two items, the first one was a vario stock page showing how he has organized the perfin (perforated initials) collection from Great Britain. Figure 1 shows what has been done. Secondly, he brought along part of a British slogan

cancel. This is shown in Figure 2. Being the computer wizard, Randy found the complete slogan cancel shown in Figure 3. Then with manipulation, he superimposed the stamp onto the slogan cancel producing the complete slogan as shown in Figure 4. The slogan cancel was showing the "conurbation" of some British counties. Conurbation is the British term that we would normally say

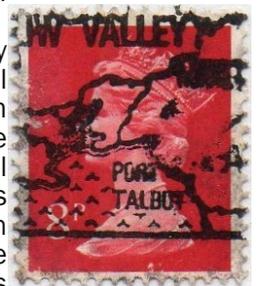


Figure 2



Figure 3

amalgamation between townships, counties or regional municipalities.

Although receiving mail is becoming

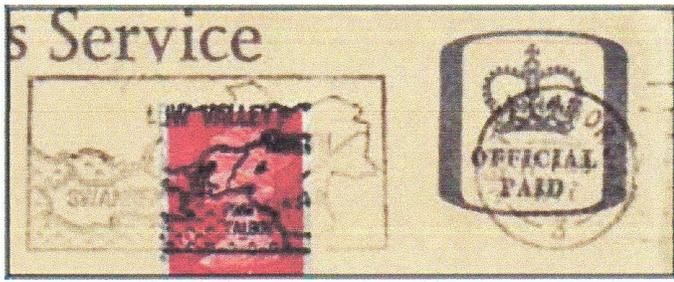


Figure 4

infrequent, we should remember seeing the spray on cancellation as being numerical in form, but Figures 5 and 6 shows an apparent attempt by Canada Post to do advertising with the spray on cancellation machine.

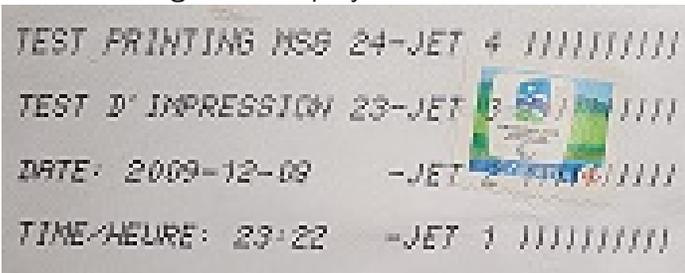


Figure 5

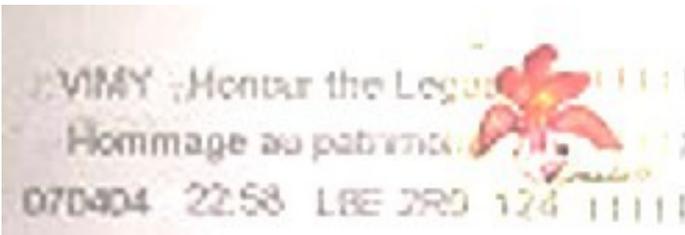


Figure 6

The **One Page Exhibit** on the topic of Bicycles was vigorously challenged with three entries. October's winner was Bob Ford. Topics for the upcoming challenges are as follows:

- November Architecture
- December Christmas Page
- January Queen Elizabeth II
- February Carnivals, Fairs or Exhibitions

Canadian Postal Codes

By Jim Molineux

Like British, Irish and Dutch postcodes, Canadian Postal Codes are a six-character alphanumeric string in the form A1A 1A1 with a space between the third and fourth characters. When writing this postal address for a Canadian location, the postal code is placed following the abbreviation for the province or territory.

Numbered postal zones were first used in Toronto in 1925. For example, mail to a Toronto address in zone 5 would be addressed as (eg.) 38 Bloor St West, Toronto 5, Ontario. The system grew to 14 Toronto

zones, and by the 1960's several other cities were using numbered postal zones including Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg, and Vancouver. As the annual volume of mail grew into tens of billions, three-digit codes were needed, and manual mail sorters began to have difficulty memorizing the letter carrier routes within large cities. The current six-character code was first used in Ottawa in 1971 with nationwide use by 1974. The new postal codes allowed sorting machines to process over 26,000 items per hour. However, the Canada Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) objected to the automated sorting system because the wages of those who ran the machines were lower than those who had hand-sorted the mail. This led to job actions and postal code boycotts by CUPW such that Canada was one of the last Western countries to fully implement a postal code system.

Components of a Postal Code

In the generic example A1A 1A1¹, the first three characters identify a **Forward Sortation Area (FSA)** and the second set refers to a **Local Delivery Unit (LDU)**.

The FSA identifies a geographical region wherein all postal codes start with the same three characters. The first letter in the **FSA** code denotes a specific postal district which is either a province or an area within a province, as follows:

Newfoundland	A
Nova Scotia	B
Prince Edward Island	C
New Brunswick	E
Quebec	GHJ
Ontario	KLMNP
Manitoba	R
Saskatchewan	S
Alberta	T
British Columbia	V
Nunavut	X
Northwest Territories	X
Yukon Territory	Y

The large populations of Ontario and Quebec cause these provinces to be subdivided into five and three postal districts, respectively. The urban areas of Toronto (M) and Montreal (H) are so populous that a dedicated letter is used. On the other hand, the lower populations in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories allows both to share the same postal district (X).

The digit within the **FSA** identifies the area as urban or rural. A zero indicates a rural region and all other digits indicate urban areas. The second letter of the **FSA** identifies a specific rural region, an entire medium sized city, or a section within a major metropolitan area.

The last three characters are the **LDU** component in the postal code. The **LDU** can denote a small town, a section within a town, a city block in larger cities, a single large building or an institution such as a hospital or a business that receives large volumes of mail.

LDU's ending in zero identify post offices ranging from small, franchised outlets to large sorting plants. In urban areas, the **LDU** can be a specific postal carrier route. In rural areas, it may refer to a set of post boxes or a rural route. The **LDU** code 9Z0 refers to large distribution centres.

There is a theoretical limit of 7.2 million codes in the current system of which over 830,000 are active. Special cases such as transition of civilian mail to the Canadian Forces Postal Service are handled by special codes as follows:

- V9A 7N2 Fleet Mail Office in Victoria, B.C.
- B3K 5X5 the Fleet Mail Office in Halifax N.S.
- K8N 5W6 the CFPO in Belleville, ON

Another special case involves letter to Santa Claus written by children each Christmas. The mailing address is:

Santa Claus
North Pole HOH OH0
Canada

The code for this seasonal use reads as "**Ho Ho Ho**" and the letters to Santa are answered by some 11,000 volunteers, most of whom are current or retired postal workers.

Other uses of postal codes include reporting of census data or survey results such as the incidence of cancer or poverty in a given locale. Canadian electoral districts often follow postal code areas, as do government websites promoting specific attractions or tourist destinations.

The postal code for an address in Canada can be found on the website www.canadapost-postecanada.ca Find a postal Code. Alternately, the post office corresponding to a given postal code can be checked online at <https://en.wikipedia.org> Postal codes in Canada.

1 The exemplar code A1A 1A1 is a genuine code identifying the Lower Battery, St. John's Harbour, Newfoundland.

Upcoming Shows

NOV 12

STAMPFUN 2022 Waterloo

Royal Canadian Legion, 316 Marsland Drive, Waterloo, ON, N2J 3Z1

The Waterloo Region Stamp Club welcomes you to STAMPFUN 2022 between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Visit seven dealers, circuit books, and a table of attractively priced "BUY NOW ITEMS". Free parking and free admission. Lunch can be purchased at noon from the Legion kitchen

Web: <http://www.waterlooregionstampclub.weebly.com>

NOV 12

North Toronto Stamp Club Winter Bourse

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St., Toronto, ON, M4T 1Z9

The North Toronto Stamp Club's Fall Bourse will be

held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Easy subway access at St. Clair subway station, free admission, 22 dealers, more than 100 sales circuit books including recent issues, over 100 ten cents books, members table, door prizes (first prize one kilo of stamps) snack bar, wheelchair access, parking at the Church and on nearby streets, families and children welcome.

Web: <http://www.northtorontostampclub.ca>

JAN 14, '23

Brantford Stamp Club Annual Show

Branlyn Community Centre, 238 Brantwood Park Road, Brantford, ON, N3P 1N9

12 dealer bourse, Club circuit books, free parking, free admission, youth booth, silent auction, snack counter, and door prizes.

Phone: 519-751-3513

Email: pamjames1027@gmail.com

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

Christmas Scavenger Hunt rules:

1. Neatness Counts - stamps should be centered on the square with hinges or mounts.
2. Choose a stamp that reflects the word in each box. One stamp per box only for a total of 12 stamps.
3. Each entry will be assigned a number so the judges will not know the names of the exhibitors.
4. This is an opportunity to be creative. You may decide to have all stamps the same colour, the same country, or different countries.
5. You may decide on a theme for your scavenger page. Be creative.
6. Place your page in a page protector. If you need one, it will be provided when you submit it at our meeting.
7. More than one entry is permissible.
8. Those members who are unable to attend the Christmas meeting may send a good clear scan of their completed pages to marionace@bmts.com and I will include a print of their entries.
9. A prize will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place.

Please bring your Christmas Scavenger hunt pages to the December meeting.

Point system	total pts. possible
1 point for each box filled (you can enter an incomplete page)	12
Bonus points:	
Up to 2 pts for presentation (neatness)	2
Up to 3 pts for creativity or uniqueness	3
Up to 3 pts for developing a theme	3
Total points	20

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Wrap Up

Some Stamp Clubs have members that can help supply other members with philatelic tools, stock-books and stamps etc. Owen Sound Stamp Club have two such individuals. Contact John Cortan for stamps supplies and Rick Lokos for stamps, particularly mint Canada. Rick also has a complete set of 2021 Scott's Stamp Catalogues for sale. Contact him at rlokos101@gmail.com.

Attendance has been mixed at the last few meetings with some people being at one but not another. Hopefully this finds everyone in good health and able to attend the November 16th meeting.

To put the final wrap together, here is a reminder about Philatelic organizations that can help fill the thirst for adventure. Here in Canada there is the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, the British North America Philatelic Society, the Postal History Society of Canada and our neighbour to the South has the American Philatelic Society with many sub groups of interest. Check it out to see if membership will help with your collecting interests. There is also the ability to keep up to date with a subscription to the Canadian Stamp News. These suggestions provide much more information and scholarly knowledge than Stamps on the Bay!

Blast from the Past**Stories in Stamps by I.S. Klein****Billions to Mail a Letter (1935)**

An example of what might happen in the United States, if the process of monetary inflation were allowed to spread unchecked, is the experience in Germany shortly after the war (WW 1). The stamp shown below represents a value of 20,000,000,000 (twenty billion) marks. Yet this wasn't the highest value Germany sold for postage in the days of 1922 and 1923 when the U.S. dollar rose in value there, from a normal of four marks to one of billions and even trillions of marks, so many in fact that Germany's inflated paper money had to be carried in bushels for the exchange of a single dollar.

So fast did inflation rise, in those days, that the stamps, like that shown here, were printed without value and then surcharged almost day by day according to the constantly diminishing value of the mark. Return to normal postage came late in 1923.

