

Stamps on the Bay



**The Voice of the
Owen Sound Stamp Club**
Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 7 P.M.
New Life Centre, 199 4th Ave West, Owen Sound
Volume 3, Edition 11, December 2022



From the President

Hello my philatelic friends!
Christmas is coming up fast but our live meeting is on the 21st right before the big day. So hopefully we will all be feeling joyous and not all stressed out with last minute shopping. I have noticed that many of you are male though and if your household is anything like our household, it is the woman who does 99% of

the Christmas shopping. So I guess that means most of us will be relaxed and ready to enjoy our Christmas gathering!

Please feel free to bring some edible treats to the meeting. We will be having our Christmas Stamp Scavenger Hunt. I hope we will get several participants. Just fill your pages with as many of the relevant stamps you can find. There will be prizes! You are welcome to bring a gift for the gift exchange if you wish.

We will be having a funny money auction. Newer members may not be aware of our usual 'funny money' practices. Normally some 'Presidents funny money' is handed out at each meeting. At our Christmas meeting members bring in items (generally stamp related) to donate to the funny money auction. All items are auctioned off being purchased using funny money only. Covid 19 messed up all that. This year we will resume the funny money' auction and I will hand out \$100 in funny money to everyone who comes to the meeting. So please bring some items to donate to the auction.

Starting in January I'd like to revamp the 'Presidents funny money' program. Members will get \$25 per meeting in 'funny money' for coming to meetings, attending the Zoom meetings and the online auctions. Members who help the club in various ways will get an annual \$100 'funny money' bonus. So if you do things such as help out with the annual show, run the online auction, act as treasurer, sell door prize tickets, run our web-site, take care of the circuit books or any other jobs required to make our stamp club work you will receive the bonus as a thank you from all of us. We will come up with an online Christmas funny money auction too....but that is next year. For now please dig up some nice little treasures for this Christmas meeting.

Both the online auction and the Zoom meeting went well. We had a dozen people at the Zoom meeting with lots of show and tell. Stay tuned for our intrepid editor to give you the low down!

See you on Wednesday evening! May you get to hug all of your loved ones this holiday season!

Marion Ace

President, Owen Sound Stamp Club

Editors Greeting

Welcome to another Edition of Stamps on the Bay. Eleven flips of the calendar pages have brought us to this stage of the year. Fortunately hobbies and life continue, even if the calendar needs to be replaced. May the New Year fill the dreams we may have about our collections.

The following pages share different aspects of our hobby. We will look at a cover, a topical discussion and something that may be special in a collection. In fact, it would be interesting to read what club members think their favourite stamp may be. Why not give it a try and share what makes you proud about your collection. With so many different aspects in philately, there can be many different reasons for why a stamp is a favourite in your mind.

So far the weather has been fair, and so a listing of various upcoming stamp shows are provided for which a plan may be made. There is also the reminder that starting for this winter the club meetings will be held on Saturday afternoon. Hopefully that doesn't conflict with a show you may wish to attend. On another matter of club business is the reminder to renew your membership in this club, contact Bob F to see if you have already done so in case memory has failed.

November had a teaser scan showing the Battle of Vimy Ridge stamp depicting a statue of a weeping woman. That stamp referred to the Show and Tell spray on cancellation, Figure 6 on Page 4. Here is a new teaser scan is provided below to see where it might fit into this Edition.



Under the Sea

By Phil Visser

For centuries communications were limited to that done directly between people. A major change came with electronic communications, first the telegraph, then the telephone and now wireless communications. This all seems second nature to us, but the change over the last few hundred years has been commemorated in the philatelic world many times.

This cover (Figure 1) inhabited a part of my shipping collection. The obvious attraction was Scott #720 issued by Great Britain on June 12th, 1974. This is the first stamp in a series of four commemorating the founding of the Universal Postal Union. As is usual, the stamp itself gives several pieces of information.



Figure 1

To begin, at the bottom of the stamp the designers provided that this ship was a "P&O packet steamer." This information may not be significant, but it begs some explanation. "P&O" refers to the **Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company**. It is a venerable and long-lasting company that still operates today.

Initially formed in 1822 the addition of another partner in 1835 gave rise to the name Peninsular because of a new shipping service to the Iberian Peninsula. This peninsula is probably more familiar now as the countries of Portugal and Spain. Expansion and additional services brought the company into carrying passengers and the Royal Mail.

Not long thereafter, service was further expanded to include service to the Orient, namely India and China. Passenger service continues to this time, with one division in cruise ship business and another in channel crossing ferries.

One of the important advantages that led to the success of this company was the inclusion of Steam Navigation Company. Prior to steam powered ships, sailing the seas was strictly at the whims of the winds. Thus, the steam navigation provided a more reliable and regular service.

Every ship is provided with a name for identification purposes. The one on this stamp was the **SS Peninsular**. Built in Greenock UK, she and her sister ship, the *Oriental*, was engaged in the London to Asia

trade. It remained in operation until 1909 after which it was sold for scrap.

A sharp eye may notice the cancellation on the right side of the stamp. The cancellation reads "Southampton, July 31, 1896, Packet Letter." Southampton was one of the ports from which P&O serviced the Iberian Peninsula. Most mail that is carried by ship will have some markings on it to indicate the means of delivery. "Packet Letter" is one form but a more familiar one is "Paquebot." Usually, the ship's name is included with the Paquebot term, but not always.

Special events sometimes are granted a special cancellation by the Post Office. This cover sports an example of that as well. This circular cancellation includes "CANTAT 2; 21 June 1974; London SE1." What was so special about this event that led to a special cancellation?

A hint lies in the term "CANTAT 2." Wikipedia was quick to inform that this was a transatlantic telecommunications cable from Beaver Harbour N.S. to London, U.K. The project was jointly made by Canada Overseas Telecommunications Corporation and the British General Post Office. The cable consisted of 1,840 smaller cables to assist with the volume of transatlantic communications.

It is interesting to note that undersea communications cables are considerably cheaper to use than those messages travelling via satellites. Another key reason is the limitations of satellite communications. I had an opportunity to communicate with an operator via a satellite link and found it very strange with the two second delay between the end of my sentence and receiving one back from the operator.

References:

Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue; 2018 Edition

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P%26O_\(company\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P%26O_(company))

<https://www.poheritage.com/Upload/Mimsy/Media/factsheet/94228PENINSULAR-1888pdf.pdf>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CANTAT-2>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transatlantic_communications_cable

November Meeting Highlights

Ten hearty souls appeared on November 16th for the monthly in person meeting. Weather conditions limited some members from driving long distances. It was good to hear that our club is still solvent with a few bills outstanding to be paid by the end of the year.

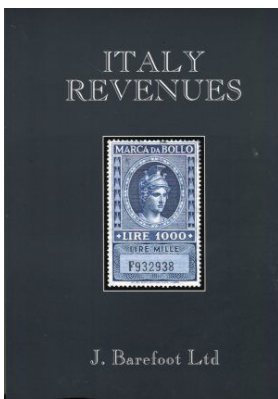
Marion G. appeared with the club circuit books. Those present had an opportunity to pick out stamps that will boost their collection. It was also nice to see Kale and Mom arrive. Our initial introduction to Kale was that he collected animals on stamps. He has received donation duplicates from club members. It also turns out that he is collecting one stamp from every country in the world. A look at his list shows he has found most of them! Way to go Kale, now to find the stamps from the "Dead Countries." Dead Countries refers to

stamps from a country that changed its name or split into two or more countries.

The meeting came to an end at about 8:30. Looking forward to seeing everyone again soon.

Show and Tell

One correction is necessary from last months Show and Tell. Randy showed the manipulation of filling in an incomplete slogan cancel. Your Editor used the term as "canurbation" but it must be corrected as **conurbation**. Wikipedia defines this term as "A conurbation is a region comprising a number of metropolises, cities, large towns, and other urban areas which through population growth and physical expansion, have merged to form one continuous urban or industrially developed area. In most cases, a conurbation is a polycentric urbanised area in which transportation has developed to link areas. They create a single urban labour market or travel to work area."



It seems that most of the regular contributors were asleep at the wheel (so to speak) because very little was shared here. Randy did bring the Italian Revenue Catalogue (Figure 1). After that share, voting was conducted on the One Page Challenge. With two entries, it was a difficult decision. So difficult that the voting was tied and so Bob F and Phil V got to share the honour of having the best page. Upcoming topics are as follows:

Figure 1

December	Christmas Page
January	Queen Elizabeth
February	Carnivals, Fairs or Exhibitions

A Covid Christmas

By Joseph David

T'was the night before Christmas, but Covid was here,
So we all had to stay extra cautious this year.
Our masks were all hung by the chimney with care
In case Santa forgot his and needed a spare.
With Covid, we couldn't leave cookies or cake
So we left Santa hand sanitizer to take.

The children were sleeping, the brave little tots
The ones over 5 had just had their first shots,
And mom in her kerchief and me in my cap
Had just settled in for a long winter's nap.
But we tossed and we turned all night in our beds
As visions of variants danced in our heads.

Gamma and Delta and now Omicron
These Covid mutations that go on and on

I thought to myself, "If this doesn't get better,
I'll soon be familiar with every Greek letter".

Then just as I started to drift off and doze
A clatter of noise from the front lawn arose.
I leapt from my bed and ran straight down the stair
I opened the door, and an old gent stood there.

His N 95 made him look pretty weird
But I knew who he was by his red suit and beard.
I kept six feet away but blurted out quick
"What are you doing here, jolly Saint Nick?"

Then I said, "Where's your presents, your reindeer and sleigh?"

Don't you know that tomorrow will be Christmas Day? "
And Santa stood there looking sad in the snow
As he started to tell me a long tale of woe.

He said he'd been stuck at the North Pole alone
All his white collar elves had been working from home,
And most of the others said "Santa, don't hire us!
We can live off the CERB now, thanks to the virus".

Those left in the toyshop had little to do.
With supply chain disruptions, they could make
nothing new.
And as for the reindeer, they'd all gone away.
None of them left to pull on his sleigh.

He said Dasher and Dancer were in quarantine,
Prancer and Vixen refused the vaccine,
Comet and Cupid were in ICU,
So were Donner and Blitzen, they may not pull through.

And Rudolph's career can't be resurrected.
With his shiny red nose, they all think he's infected.
Even with his old sleigh, Santa couldn't go far.
Every border to cross needs a new PCR.

Santa sighed as he told me how nice it would be
If children could once again sit on his knee.
He couldn't care less if they're naughty or nice
But they'd have to show proof that they'd had their
shot twice.

But then the old twinkle returned to his eyes.
And he said that he'd brought me a Christmas

surprise.

When I unwrapped the box and opened it wide,
Starlight and rainbows streamed out from inside.

Some letters whirled round and flew up to the sky
And they spelled out a word that was 40 feet high.
There first was an H, then an O, then a P,
Then I saw it spelled HOPE when it added the E.

"Christmas magic" said Santa as he smiled through his beard.

Then suddenly all of the reindeer appeared.
He jumped into his sleigh and he waved me good-bye,
Then he soared o'er the rooftops and into the sky.

I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight
"Get your vaccines my friends, Merry Christmas, good-night".

Then I went back to bed and a sweet Christmas dream
Of a world when we'd finished with Covid 19.

Editor Note:

This rendering of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" came to my attention recently. I thought it might bring some humour out for all readers!

The Greatest Game

By Phil Visser

December is a busy month. Lots of public events occur like concerts, plays and Christmas gatherings. Somethings do manage to slide under the radar, something like hockey. A big question is "where were you on September 28, 1972?"

On October 6, 2021, Canada Post released a new stamp by renowned artist Terry Mosher. Terry is also known as "Aislin" as he signs all his editorial cartoons. The image depicted the postage stamp representing his craft is shown in Figure 1. This striking image brings back memories of the hockey rivalry between Canada and Russia or the Soviet Union as it was called then.



Figure 1

This cartoon was published in 2012 remembering the 40th anniversary of the Summit Hockey series held in 1972. The series itself was eight games in length with four being played in Canada and four being played in the Soviet Union. The hockey world soon learned a different style of play and nastiness.

This cartoon depicts two animals characterizing the two countries. The big red Soviet bear and the slightly smaller beaver decked out in the Canadian red and white uniform. A recap of the series shows that Canada won four games, lost three and one game was tied.

Of course, the afternoon of September 28th was a day where almost the whole nation had an eye on a television set. Tension filled the air as the score went back and forth until "the goal" was scored. With thirty-four seconds left, Paul Henderson scored the winning goal. This goal and series were also commemorated by Canada Post with Unitrade #1659 and 1660. See Figure 2.



Figure 2

Let's turn our focus back to Terry Mosher. A biography of Terry published by Wikipedia shares that he was born on November 11, 1942, in Ottawa. He graduated from Ecole des Beaux Arts in 1967. During the summers as a student, Terry would draw caricatures of tourists visiting Quebec City.

He began his cartoon editorials by working at the Montreal Star and then moving to the Montreal Gazette in 1972. Believing that "no person or no thing is ever perfect," Mosher upholds cartoonists' satirical role, despite the controversies and criticism cartoons can provoke. "We all have faults and weaknesses," he once said. "Can we admit as much by laughing at our frailties?"

Newswire continues that Terry has published more than 14,000 cartoons. Besides appearing twice weekly in the Gazette, his work has also been published in Time, The Atlantic Monthly, The New York Times International Edition, Punch and National Lampoon. This body of work has led to being inducted into the Canadian News Hall of Fame at age 43. He has also been appointed as an Officer in the Order of Canada in 2002.

Wikipedia also shares that he has been censored by the House of Commons for drawing a cartoon depicting Prime Minister Mulroney lying face down in the snow after being tripped up by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. A few other cartoons have also evoked public backlash, including one of President Donald Trump wearing a swastika as a coat of arms.

This stamp is the third in a series of five honouring political cartoonists. The series were released as peel and stick booklets of ten, with two of each cartoonists cartoons inside. The perforations are die cut 12.5.

References:

<https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/>

canada-post-honours-aislin-with-a-stamp-issue

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Summit_Series

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terry_Mosher

<https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-post-stamp-honours-editorial-cartoonist-terry-mosher-856885053.html>

My Favourite Stamp

By Phil Visser

Favourites, what are they? After some thought I come to the realization that not one stamp can be my favourite. Indeed, I have several, all for different reasons, but I would like to share one that captured my imagination when I was a teen. This stamp has held me awestruck every time I open that part of my collection.

At the Oxford Philatelic Society, members encouraged my collecting and exhibiting interests. It didn't take me long to realize I could not match the collections of several of the members and therefore compete/exhibit on the same scale. This led to my branching off and starting a collection of Australia.

Being cash strapped, I made my own album of Australian stamps using a Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth Catalogue as my reference. This introduced the finery of watermarks and perforation differences. I blame Stanley Gibbons with my obsession on perforation differences between stamps to this day.



Figure 1

A feature that really attracted me to this stamp was the map of Australia and the kangaroo in the centre of the map (Figure 1). This stamp is part of a definitive series that were used from 1913 to 1936. I suppose it was the two tone of this stamp that brings it forward for me.

As I learned more about Australia, I discovered that this stamp was also a political message. Over that twenty-five-year period, the postage stamp

design alternated between the Map and Kangaroo and that of King George 5. Apparently, the republicans thought an independent Australia was preferable to that than one tied to the British Monarchy. This political debate continues to this time.

From the perspective of a long period of usage, the printers used five different watermarks. There were six different printings with various face values. Face values vary from a half a pence to £2. Naturally the 5/, 10/, £1 and £2 pounds have significant catalogue value. It also seems that to find postally used copies of these denominations are also difficult.

What many people may miss is that postage stamps could also be used for revenue purposes, to pay a tax for a government service etc. Since many of these stamps would have been soaked off the paper, it may be difficult to determine of the stamp was used for postage or revenue purposes.

Upcoming Shows

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>

JAN 28, '23

73rd CATHEX

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

St. Catharines Bourse featuring 10 (or 11) dealers. 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lunch Counter, Free Parking, Free Admission, Club Circuit, Free Stamps etc. for youth.

Phone: 905-227-9251

Email: stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca

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

MAR 5, '23

Mississauga Coin & Stamp Show

John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd., Mississauga, ON, 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 18, '23

Oxford Philatelic Society OXPEX & OTEX 2023

St. Mary's Catholic High School, 431 Juliana Drive, Woostock, ON, N4V 1E8

Oxford Philatelic Society presents 71st OXPEX & 41st OTEX from 9:30 am – 4:00 pm. Free admission and parking. Framed and Judged Exhibits. 15 dealers. Youth Gift bags. Sales circuits. Draw Prizes.

Phone: 519-485-2886

Email: countryowl@rogers.com

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

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Wrap Up

Our President mentioned that some information about the Zoom Meeting held a few weeks ago would be mentioned. Approximately a dozen members appeared. Bill F shared information about the British Post use of the new barcoded stamps. As of Jan 31st, 2023 no machin can be used unless it has a barcode. However, the commemorative stamps will not feature a barcode and so the stamps from the past can be used until further notice. Yours truly made a presentation on some Cinderella stamps that John Appleton had gathered in his collection. Next months newsletter will feature an article on this presentation.

One of my philatelic gathering sources is eBay. In the past I have made purchases from two New York City stamps sites. I now receive regularly some wonderful marketing tools. Their emails feature a header "Your collection will thank you for adding to it," "No stamp collection is ever complete, but you can try," etc. Not only have they great marketing hooks, they also have a record of your purchases and send out listings from that philatelic area to tempt you to make a bid. While they are helpful to my collection, they can be a nuisance sometimes.

It is that time of the year again, and I am not referring to the Christmas Season. No, I am referring to the annual membership renewal to remain a member of the various philatelic organizations. Membership dues go to the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, BNAPS, Postal History Society and the two clubs I am a member in.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year. May your collection thank you for plugging the holes!

Blast from the Past**Stories in Stamps by I.S. Klein****Seven Centuries for Berlin (1937)**

Venerable but modern capital, Germany's Berlin passes the seventh century mark this year; a city grown out of two fishing villages on the banks of the river Spree.

Coelln and Berlin became rustic villages in the early 1300's. Coelln actually had started in 1237 and Berlin a little later. In the 14th century the two consolidated, emerged eventually into towns and in the 16th century took on the first aura of governmental importance.

In that era the Elector of Brandenburg made Berlin his official residence. But Berlin was not yet to be a city of great importance. Not until the close of the Franco-Prussian War in 1870 did it leap into prominence. Even at the time of Frederick the Great, it numbered scarcely 150,000 inhabitants. But a few decades later it had reached the staggering total of 4,000,000.

Today industry and trade flourish in this great capital. And here, too, is the fountainhead of the government, center of many imposing buildings. The great Berlin post-office is shown here on a 1900 stamp.

