

# The Bulletin

VOLUME 23, No. 11

NOVEMBER 2020

## The French Connection - Part 1 by Bill Findlay

Some random thoughts about the stamps of France

I was one of the lucky ones who was able to work right through the past year, in spite of the Covid-19 shutdowns. My hours were greatly reduced for a while and so, like many, I had more time for my stamps. I do collect a lot of different countries and topics, but one of my main interests is the stamps of France. And so I thought I might share some of that interest with you.

All shapes and sizes:

Like most countries, France's first stamps (1849 #3) were the standard small, square type – commonly referred to as the definitive. And of course they eventually added the larger



“commemorative” format, horizontal (1900 #121) and vertical (1924 #200). And for nearly forty years this did not change. Then, in 1961, the first of the large format and very beautiful art issues came out (#1016) – a series that continued



for many years. Apart from a few larger-than-normal horizontal commemoratives and one diamond shape issue in 1978, that was the sum total of variation in size and shape for the next 37 years.



It was, of course, the 1998 World Cup Soccer Championships that brought about some change here – the first significant variation in shape, this stamp being round (#2628). The stamps were issued in a square format, perf 13, but with the circular shape also perforated



within that square format, and of course the usual die cut version (#2629). Thus one finds both square stamps and round stamps being used for postage. The next change, in 1999, was to the heart shape “Je t'aime” stamps (#2696).



### Upcoming Meetings

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Saugeen Stamp Club  
Cancelled

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Kincardine Stamp Club  
Cancelled

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Owen Sound Stamp Club  
Cancelled

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Guelph Stamp Club  
Cancelled

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KW Philatelic Society  
Nov 12

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Check with the club  
before going to its meet-  
ing. It may be cancelled.

### ONE PAGE EXHIBITS

#### UPCOMING TOPICS

#### NEXT MEETING -

Design a stamp  
(see details pg 2)

#### NEXT MEETING + 1 -

Airmail

#### NEXT MEETING + 2 -

Flowers

#### NEXT MEETING + 3 -

My Favourite Stamp

## Message From the President

In traditional times, when the leaves begin to change colours and the days become cooler, stampers get back into their collections and/or seek new topics to follow for their winter activity. This is not the case for the year 2020. Needless to say, this has been a year of enormous turmoil in almost every activity whether it be in the business world or in one's personal life. We are now in the seventh month of changing the way we live – almost on an hourly or daily basis.

I am sure we are all sick and tired of the new ritual of wearing a mask, washing our hands and staying home.

**BUT ONE MUST DO WHAT ONE MUST DO!**

Follow the advice of a trusted medical professional to stay healthy and safe – we do want to see everyone when the pandemic goes into the history of the world. At the current time, the world is engulfed in the second wave of COVID-19 and it appears to be worse than the initial onslaught.

Over these past months, we have had plenty of time to review / revise our collections and interests – take a bit of time to review the “thoughts of our resident old curmudgeon”. David has written up some very good (and interesting points) which should be of interest to all members.

**Membership Dues** – for the upcoming year (2021) a decision has been made to reduce the annual dues to \$10.00 per member to cover the cost of issuing the monthly bulletin (Thank you Diane on behalf of all members). The bulletin will keep us all connected during the time we are unable to meet as a group. Take a bit of time to make contact with other members in your circle to ensure they are managing during these changing times – they will appreciate the opportunity. **Keep safe & healthy**

### Thoughts from the desk of an old curmudgeon – Dave Pugh

I write this on Thanksgiving Weekend, I trust that everyone got stuffed with food of their choice!

Well, this is the pits, who? put the Covid 19 process in reverse.

Have you called any of our fellow members just to say Hi, that is Phone call, not Email.

We are so very fortunate to live where most of us are here in Huron, Bruce, Grey and North Wellington away from the larger centers. Now that's enough of that.

So you have now sorted and high graded all of your duplicates and stamps you wish to dispose of. Last month I talked about using the clubs sales circuit to assist in the dispersal of your duplicates. On that note, If you wish to see a selection of circuit books, give our circuit manager a call, send a note to him and maybe a drop off or exchange can be arranged.

Now, let's talk about the club's no reserve floor auction! The auction will return hopefully in face to face circumstances; however that seems to be quite a time away in the future. You have this quantity of material, stamps and accessories set aside that you wish to dispose of. Now is the time to make up your own little slips of paper to attach to the lots that you wish to sell through the clubs auction. Describe the lot and what its contents hold, a little work now may generate a larger return for your efforts. Don't forget you name so that the auction registrar or auctioneer can make up the tally sheet.

For myself, I have a folder / box of items that I wish to dispose of ready to go. Remember that the Auction accepts only 3 items per member in total per club get together, unless the Auctioneer deems it suitable to accept more due to a low number of total lots presented. So have a few additional lots ready if this circumstance arises.

Short note on reserve lots, we do accept lots with reserves clearly shown. Please remember to be careful with your description of the lot and the pricing. Reserve lots are counted in your total lots accepted for the auction.

I am not going to tell you how to bid, everyone has their own method, As the auctioneer, once I know you are bidding, it is usually easy to pick up your bid, but sometimes it is missed, for which I apologize.

Cont. on pg 4

### What's Coming Up

KWPS is having socially distant meetings in November and December.

## ***Another Measured Moment.....***

George Guzzio

While looking through an auction catalogue I saw the photo of a 5sh Penguin stamp from The Falkland Islands. It immediately made me think of my friends, both now gone to that heavenly show, Mary Anne Owens and George Guzzio. They were a couple, and pioneers in Topical collecting, Mary Anne was the first person to ever win Gold in International competition for her topical exhibit of Elephants. George's topic was Penguins.

George was particularly interested to learn that I had relative who lived in the town of Penguin, Tasmania, as he was planning a visit to see the town after attending the International show in Melbourne in 1989. I arranged for him to visit some of my relatives in Tasmania.

Prior to that, he had made a trip to The Falkland Islands, to see their penguins. As luck would have it he arrived just a week before the Argentine invasion of 1982. At the time of the arrival of the Argentine fleet, George was on a side trip to some remote islands to see the birds. When he returned to Stanley, he found the Argentine flag flying. The people were still free to walk about and when he went by the Post Office he saw the garbage bin stuffed with all manner of British material, including the entire stock of Falkland Island stamps, most crumpled up. He managed to "rescue" several sheets of the high values including a couple of sheets of this 5sh Penguin, that I was looking at in the auction catalogue.

With the price being asked for this stamp I can only show a photo-copy cut out of the catalogue, however, George could have shown you sheets of them.



A priest goes to the post office to buy stamps for his Christmas cards. He says to the clerk, "May I have 50 Christmas stamps, please?" The clerk replies, "What denomination?" God help us. Has it come to this?" the priest answers. Give me six Catholic, 12 Presbyterian, 10 Lutheran and 22 Baptist!"

## Saugeen Stamp Club

Chapter 220, Royal Philatelic  
Society of Canada  
Chapter 1538, American  
Philatelic Society  
Chapter 21, Grand River Valley  
Philatelic Association  
Website: <https://www.rpsc.org/chapters/saugeenstampclub/>

**Meeting:** St. Matthew's  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
356 9<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Hanover, Ontario  
Use 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue Entrance

### Club Officers:

**President:** Walt Berry  
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wsberry@sympatico.ca

**Vice-President:** Peter Kritz  
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pkritz@coldwellbankerpbr.com

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**Bulletin Editor:** Diane Jarvis,  
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laurielady@gmail.com

### Classified Ads:

1. Germany - 24 page stock book - full with some duplication - \$20.00
2. Germany - 64 page stock book - full with some duplication - \$30.00
3. Germany - 3 ring binder, 11 stock pages and many loose leaf pages - \$10.00
4. DDR - on album pages and stock pages, 100's - \$20.00  
Bill Findlay [billfindlay74@gmail.com](mailto:billfindlay74@gmail.com) 519-369-5689

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For each meeting, please ensure that you have small bills and sufficient pocket change for payment of any of your purchases. The auction clerk would be most appreciative. I know of a number of members have a stash of cash in small containers just for club meetings. Of course remember to top it up for each meeting.

We as the club have been very fortunate with our auctions in that it is seldom that we have "No Sale" articles left on the table at the end, however should that happen, you as the seller need to see that you get your lot/s back.

Don't forget to send off want lists to your favorite dealers including store front businesses and maybe even try some of our club members or others. We will still need them after we eventually meet again face to face. It has been good for me, as I have acquired a number of items that I needed. Use the mail system, after all, we are stamp collectors. You may even apply a stamp or stamps that you wish to have sent back to you, on a stamped self-addressed envelope.

So until next time stay safe, be extra careful with your travels, keep you bubble secure and best wishes.

-Continued from Page 1-

It is this idea of heart shaped stamps that I like so much, as it was carried forward over the years in a "series" of issues on a variety of topics – including, oddly enough, snakes in the shape of a heart (#2750)! Again, the stamps were issued in a square format, perf 13, but with the heart shape also perforated within that square format. And again one finds both square stamps and heart shaped stamps being used for postage. Topics for these hearts include #2867 The Heart of Voh; #2926 hearts and roses; #2997 Chanel; #3089 Cacharel; and many others.

(Continued next month)



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