

The Bulletin

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JULY 2022

Thoughts of an old curmudgeon #12

By Dave Pugh

Well, our last meeting proved to be interesting after a few glitches. We had a great gathering of members and guests in attendance to hear the guest speaker on Tuesday July 5th. Mike Smith is a free-lance writer on Post Card collecting for Canadian Stamp News. Mike provided us an amazing informative and intuitive presentation on Huron County's rural photographer Reuben R. Sallows of the early 1900's.

Along with the presentation and question and answer time, members came away with a new perspective view of Post Card collecting. Mike is an author and self-publisher of quite a number of books on various commercial Post Card publishers, and themes of collecting. He brought a quantity of his titles for viewing and sale. It was nice to see quite a number of our members purchase some of his titles. It was obvious that we have quite a number of members that do collect post cards. If anyone would still wish to have a list of titles for interest and/or purchase, that can be arranged.

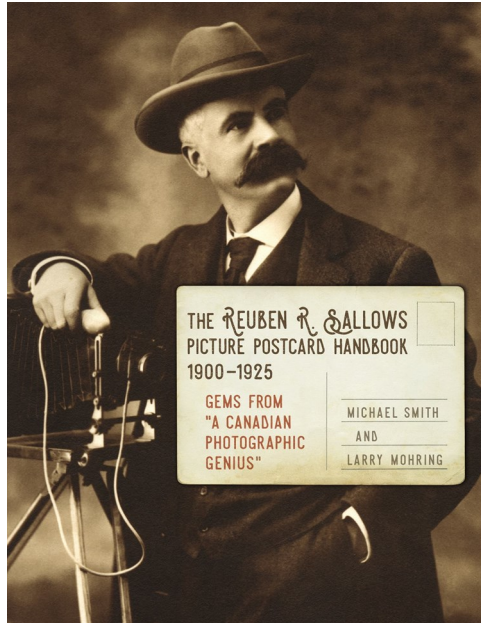
Our guest was impressed to see the array of post cards in the one page exhibit competition. I have received a thank you from Mike for the invitation to our meeting and being able to talk with many of you.

During the regular "something of interest" part of our meeting, a number of members provided their tested and proven method of removing some self-adhesive stamps off paper, even adhesive tape. I am hoping to see the information provided put to paper for everyone. I heard, Dove blue, bestine, something citrus and so on.

At our August 2nd meeting, we will be having our regular auction with a twist. You are allowed 3 regular lots with no reserve and you can add two more lots to your allotment providing that the two added lots have a reserve. When entering lots, keep in mind what you think our members collect. Please provide a description of the lots to help the listing, and please bring some cash in coin and low value currency.

Take care, stay safe, enjoy the summer, ice cream (it is a food group in the summer), picnics, and BBQ's, family, friends and travels. Who knows what the new "Covid" strain M?5 is going to deal us.

See you on the 2nd, and don't forget the Kincardine Show for August 20, and Owen Sound in late September.



Upcoming Meetings

Saugeen Stamp Club
Tues Aug 2

Kincardine Stamp Club
Wed Aug 3

Owen Sound Stamp Club
Wed Aug 17

Guelph Stamp Club
Tues Aug 2
Tues Aug 16

KW Philatelic Society
Thurs Aug 11

Check with the club
before going to its meet-
ing.

ONE PAGE EXHIBITS

UPCOMING TOPICS

AUGUST-

My Favourite Stamp

SEPT -

Fables

OCT -

Clothing

NOV -

TBA

Message from the President

It is my intension to attend the scheduled meeting in August.

On July 8th 2022, I had a pacemaker cut into my left shoulder and am currently at day 4 of a 7 day restriction on driving. Needless to say there is also a period where the incision must heal. The staples in the incision are scheduled to be removed on July 18th - hopefully everything should be okay except the healing.

There are several follow up appointments to Stratford / Kitchener & London for both the pacemaker and other health issues which have surfaced in the recent months.

Thanks to Peter for chairing the July meeting (sorry about the key issue) - also thanks to David for arranging the speaker for the evening.

Cheers

August 2nd - 7:00 pm doors open

- 7:30 pm business meeting
- one page exhibit of stamps of "My Favorite Stamp"
- regular auction, however members can have up five lots, but two of them must be of better quality with reserve Please place a label to describe your lots for easy listing for each lot

September 6th - 7:00 pm doors open

- 7:30 pm business meeting
- one page exhibit of stamps of "Fables"
- regular auction of three lots per member (Bring some small change / coin)

October 1st - Saturday, morning afternoon or October 15th

- 10:00 am to 3.00 pm club sales circuit, sell, trade and purchase your own material
- maybe even an Auction (details provided later) (Bring some small change / coin)
- proposed that he club will provide lunch, refreshments
- location will likely be at our regular venue, The Church

October 4th - 7:00 pm doors open

- 7:30 pm business meeting
- one page exhibit of stamps "Clothing"
- regular auction of three lots per member (some small change / coin)

Happy Collecting!!

Another Measured Moment

Perhaps there is another Insurance Company that has their own Postage Stamps, but I have never heard of them. In New Zealand there is a Government run Life Insurance company that has had their own distinctive Postage Stamps since 1891.

In 1869 the NZ Government established an annuity scheme, as part of the Post Office, that was later expanded to include insurance. The 1886 the “New Zealand Life Insurance Act” established the Government Life Insurance Department that still exists today.

From 1888 until 1890 Frederick William Frankland was both Commissioner of the Government Life Insurance and also President of the {later Royal} Philatelic Society of New Zealand. It is therefore not surprising that the Life Insurance Stamps were approved during his terms and introduced on 2 January 1891; a year before other “official” stamps were introduced for all government departments in 1892.

Since the Life Insurance Department had taken the “Lighthouse” as their logo, all of their stamps show a lighthouse. The first stamps showed a common design for all denominations with the letters “V” and “R” on either side of the lighthouse. After Queen Victoria’s death the “VR” was removed but the same common design maintained.



In 1947 an entirely new series, designed by James Berry was introduced showing different lighthouses from around the world on each stamp. Although “Life Insurance” Stamps were not normally available to, nor valid for use by, the general public, they were made available at Post Offices and valid for use by all, for just one day, 1 August 1947, their First Day of Issue. When decimalization was introduced these same stamps were overprinted with the decimal equivalent values as of 10 July 1967.

From 1969 to 1978 new designs were introduced, as old stock was used up. This time they chose to show only lighthouses in New Zealand, not from elsewhere in the world. James Berry was again asked to do the designs.

As James Berry had died in 1979, Allan Mitchell was asked to design the 1981 stamps for the Life Insurance department, needed for changes in postal rates. His designs I consider rather dull as compared to the previous issues. They have a common view of some nondescript lighthouse that is not identified. The various denominations are all of the same design shown in various colour combinations.

Personally, I much prefer James Berry’s designs over Allan Mitchell’s!

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/>

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Owen Sound Zoom Auctions

The links to see items and read the terms and conditions follow below:

https://stampsmarter.org/AuctionSQL/Auction_Owen_Entry.php?operation=insert – Please use this form to enter your individual lots for auction

https://stampsmarter.org/AuctionFiles/Cat_OwenSC.aspx – You may view listed items in the current auction on this page. These will be the same scans used during the auction

<https://stampsmarter.org/AuctionFiles/OwenTCs.html> – Terms and Conditions - please read if you are listing or bidding in the auction

Dawn and The Stamps

After mentioning at the July meeting that cellophane tape could be removed from stamps using Dawn blue dish soap I decided to try those pesky US stamps using the same method. I tried exactly the way I did with the cellophane tape but it did not work as well as on the tape. So.... I decided to test the method with a scientific approach, by trying different amounts of soap and changing the water temperature etc. using the same stamps.

For those foilish US Christmas stamps I found COLD water and Dawn (3 drops per cup) worked best but you have to be quick. As soon as the paper on back is wet (2 or 3 minutes max.), carefully start peeling it off. Then gently rub with your thumb to get as much of the paper off as you can. There will be some paper and glue left in the centre but this will have to stay. If you continue trying to get more off, the foil on the front will start to crack. I found the citrus air freshener I have, worked the same way.



This stamp was the hardest to work with of the foil ones and this was the easiest so don't be discouraged if you destroy a few in the trying. I also found that not all the stamps separate from the backing paper in the same way. Not just the different stamps but even the same stamp in the same water.



For other hard to soak US stamps I found HOT water, even boiled water with 1 drop of Dawn per cup of water made the paper come off well and rubbing with the thumb removed the remainder. In the end I found that hot water from boiling worked best. The glue really softens with the hotter water. Hot water from the tap just doesn't stay hot long enough.

But most curious of all was that stamps on card envelopes, rather than the usual business type envelope, consistently were harder to get off. I am assuming that this is because the paper used in these envelopes is thicker so needs to be soaked longer. But in soaking longer, the stamp is more likely to be damaged in the process.

I tried other Peel and Stick issues that I had had problems with in the past using just hot water. They came off the paper easily and fairly quickly with 1 cup of hot water and 1 drop of Dawn in a dish.

I guess what is happening is that Dawn is a surfactant which allows the water to penetrate the paper more quickly and also as a solvent for the glue. Thus the paper can be removed more quickly and the result is less damage to the stamp.

Now, of course, I have no way of testing if there is long term repercussions of using Dawn on stamps. That will be left for someone with more expertise than me. But I will be soaking those pesky stamps with Dawn in the future. Use your own discretion for yourself.

I have no experience with bestine so I can't offer any opinion on how it works.

The Editor

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