

NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB



No.173

Newsletter

Vol.19

Meetings: Second Tuesday of the month, at the Nova Scotia Museum, Summer Street, Halifax. 8:00 PM. No meetings July and August.

Next Meeting: 14 October 1986.

Newsletter mailing address: 33 Beech St., Dartmouth, N.S. B3A 1Y6

OCTOBER-STAMP COLLECTING MONTH

Throughout North America, October is Stamp Collecting Month. To support the theme, and to publicize CAPEX 87, Canada Post will issue a souvenir sheet on 1 October. The sheet will feature the four 34 cent explorer stamps issued on 29 August (and will not, so the word goes, feature the error on the Hudson Bay stamp). If Canada Post does its bit to support stamp collecting, so too can we, the collectors, do our bit to further our hobby. Get somebody started in stamp collecting in October. Whether they are seven or 67, they'll appreciate the introduction to the hobby for a lifetime. Help a junior along by parting with those long-held duplicates, or sharing some knowledge or enthusiasm for a special topic. Be the gentle missionary, and show people that stamp collecting is rewarding, educational, but most of all, **FUN**.

PROGRAMME NOTES

The September 9th programme featured a slide presentation by John Stone, Manager for Retail Sales, Canada Post Atlantic Region. John talked about the new postal retail outlets currently being experimented with in various locations across the country, stressing their role in both job preservation and increased service to the public. Following his very informative presentation, he adroitly fielded a wide range of club members' questions on Canada Post activities and policies. An auction, with very spirited bidding, followed the coffee break.

Eric Tizard has prepared a programme for the October meeting. Using slides, he will discuss the "Die Proofs of the Nova Scotia and Newfoundland Pence Issues". It will be an interesting educational experience, so come on time. If you want to do programme on you specialty, see John Hall at the next meeting.

MEMORIES, by Walter Horne

Reading a recent Newsletter pertaining to covers from Halifax got me to thinking. I, too, have many covers from the city, and a number of them bring me back to my boyhood and days of the Great Depression, or the Hungry Thirties as they were once known. Members of my generation can recall many things that went on when they were young.

I have several covers that go back to 1825, but the best ones for me are the covers that have a history to them, especially the business envelopes and commercial covers of the merchants of Halifax. One cover is from David Roache, contracting painter located on the corner of Argyle and Jacob Streets. When I was a young man, I worked for a painter at one of the downtown offices. On one particular occasion, we ran out of linseed oil so the boss told me to go to David Roache's store and obtain some. Across the street from Roache on Jacob St. there was a bicycle shop in an old brick building which was once a vaudeville theatre. When I went for my linseed oil, I was taken to the back of the shop, and there I noticed a large stage. Wondering why a stage in a paint shop, I asked about it. I was told a lady actress had lived there and performed in the theatre across the street. Many of the actors and actresses came from New York and Boston to perform, and they would stay at her place for the duration of the play's run. Each day, before going to the theatre across the street, they would rehearse on the stage in their hostess's home. This was long before my time, but the lady in question was a Mrs. Seaman. She had a son who was a comedian in the Mack Sennett comedies during the silent movie era. We had many actors and actresses that came from Halifax: Wallace MacDonald who was born on Spring Garden Road; David Manners from Young Avenue; and don't forget Ruby Keeler. Ruby was not born in Dartmouth, as you may have thought. She was born on Almon Street. I knew her aunt, and she told me that the family moved to Dartmouth when Ruby was two years old. Warner Oland (who played that inscrutable detective, Charlie Chan, in the films) was born in Windsor, N.S., and was related to the Oland family of Young Ave. By the way, the old theatre on Jacob is gone, and in its place is Scotia Square.

My next cover is from Cornwallis Street Baptist Church. This was, and I think still is, a church for Black Nova Scotians. I remember it because many a Sunday I would lean against the fence across the street and listen with pleasure to the devotional hymns being sung.

Another cover I have is from H.L. Hart, a shoe merchant on Gottingen Street. Every year at the end of August, my father would take me to Hart's for new school shoes. H.L. Hart was a stamp collector and part-time dealer.

Now we come to Moir's. Moir's was not only a candy factory, it was also a bakery (is it still?). I came home in 1966 and the factory was still on Argyle St. I sat in the Parade Grounds and listened to the bells that rang out calling foremen. They all had numbers and if

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"23" was called it would ring two and then three and on the roof was a honker and would honk at the same time as the bells rang. Moir's is gone now from old Argyle St., moved to Woodside. It was bought by Lowney Ltd., and the chocolate is not the same. When I first married, I lived in the north end of Barrington Street. It was a tough neighbourhood, and we were on the government "relief" plan. I would ask my wife for a clean pillowslip and 25¢ to go to the Moir's outlet and buy a quarter's worth of day-old pastry or bread. They would fill up the pillowcase and it would last for 10 days or more. Once, coming home on a streetcar, I reached George St. and Barrington about noon hour. All the girls who worked at Moir's piled on- they were candy dippers or chocolate dippers, and they smelled of chocolate. One girl asked me if I liked the smell. I told her "I sure do" and she replied that I wouldn't if I worked in the factory. You could eat all you wanted but couldn't take any out. She said that she hated candy and told her boyfriend to give her gum only. One time one of the Moir's workers was despondent. He went to the roof (which was 10 stories high) and jumped off on the Argyle St. side. But he landed on telegraph wires which broke his fall, receiving only minor injuries. His name was McKinnon and the girls said that Moir's was making a new product... McKinnon Drops!

Next and last cover is from Clayton's, a clothing factory. I said I once lived on north Barrington and one day, a very warm day, I was going home for lunch and I walked past Clayton's. Next thing I knew, I was showered with buttons of all sizes. I looked up and there were six or seven girls that worked there, laughing their heads off and saying "Hi cutie, come on up and work with us". Others said things that I would not print.

MEMBERSHIP

The following have applied for membership in the Nova Scotia Stamp Club:

Steve Korman, 6541 Bayer's Rd., Hfx., N.S., B3L 2B2. Steve is interested in Canada, Britain, and the U.S.

George Lafontaine, 71 Ridgeview Dr., Lr. Sackville, N.S. B4C 1L8. George collects mint and used Canada.

Jean MacDonald, 6138 Oakland Rd., Hfx., N.S., B3H 1P2. Jean collects Canadian stamps and FDCs.

Walter Schlech III, M.D., 6035 Cherry St., Hfx., N.S., B3H 2K4. Walter collects U.S. mint and plate blocks, Canada mint, and worldwide 1850-1960.

Dirk Wolters, P.B.#9, Sheldrake Lane, Site 13, R.R.#3, P.O. Armdale, N.S., B3L 4J3. Dirk collects Canada, Netherlands and colonies, and northern Europe.

Bob Blois, NSSC #590, has resigned from the Club.

NEWSLETTER NEWS

Write something for the Newsletter! We want anything having to deal with stamps, covers, and collecting. Tell us of your experiences, your finds, your specialties. All manuscripts may be edited for content as well as style. We'll be in touch if any major revisions are needed.

MEMBERS' NOTES

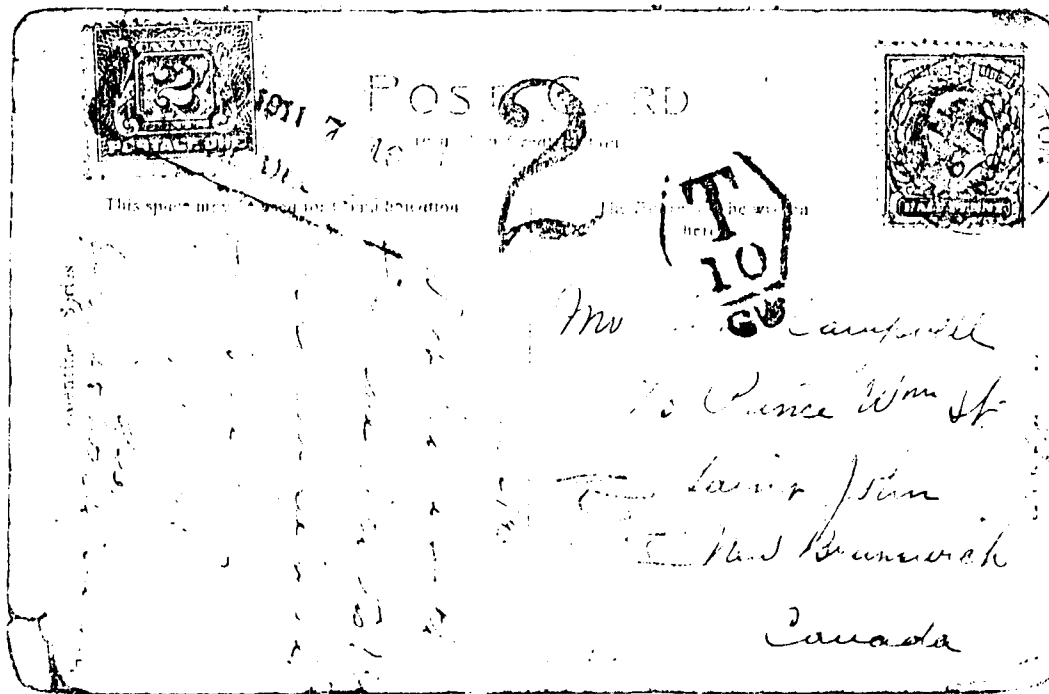
Hilda van Rooyen, our Librarian, wishes to remind people that they may borrow books from the Club Library. Hilda says that current catalogs have been added to the Library's holdings.

The editor wishes to apologize to Ken MacDonald for misspelling his name in the last issue of the NEWSLETTER. It seems I've got to mangle at least one name per issue.

Marty Zelenietz recently received a silver medal for exhibiting his collection of "Australia used in Papua & New Guinea" at INDYPEX 86, an APS sanctioned national level show. If your collection has recently won an award, let the editor know so he can include it here.

COVER OF THE MONTH, by David Cooper with Ken MacDonald

This month we look at some postage due markings, and the J-2 2¢ postage due stamp. The post card rate from Britain to Canada with no more than five words (i.e., Merry Christmas & Happy New Year) plus address was 1/2 penny. Any additional message resulted in the item being assessed as a letter, i.e., one penny postage. The illustrated item, with a long message, should have been prepaid at the letter rate.



The six-sided figure with T/10 GV was affixed in the U.K. It stands for 10 centimes postage due. It was agreed by the Universal Postage Union (U.P.U.) that postage due would be calculated in French centimes, and at the time this cover was sent, 5 centimes equaled 1 cent Canadian. As the amount short paid was 1/2 penny the penalty was also 1/2 penny for a total due of one penny sterling, or 10 centimes French, or 2 cents Canadian postage due. The large 2 was added in Canada, and the 2¢ postage due stamp was added when the two cents indicated by the large numeral were collected. The 2¢ postage due stamp was cancelled by a hand stamp, likely at the post office of the recipient.

TRURO PHILATELIC SOCIETY- ANNUAL SHOW

The Truro Philatelic Society will hold its annual show on Saturday, 25 October, 1986, at the Nova Scotia Teachers' College gym basement from 10 AM to 5 PM. The show will feature exhibits and a bourse, and will be followed by a banquet (cost \$12.50). Guest speaker will be David Oatman, editor of In Touch with BNA Philately. Support stamp collecting in Nova Scotia: plan to attend!

PHIL-A-TELIC

I hope this isn't a sign of things to come, but Phil hasn't received any questions recently, so he had to come up with something himself. This isn't a question, but rather a topic found in a philatelic magazine and I include it for members' comments or further information.

In 1888 the colonial postal authorities in New South Wales issued two commemorative postcards, one blue (postal value 2d) and the other green (postal value 3d). These marked the 50th anniversary of the introduction of postage stamps in New South Wales in 1838: two years before the penny black! These 1838 "stamps" were the colonial seal embossed in colourless relief on letter sheets and wrappers. The 1888 commemorative postcards depicted the designs of these first "stamps", plus the words "In commemoration of the fiftieth year of the issue of postage stamps in the Colony", and "Design of the first postage stamp".

Any comments from the membership? Were these really stamps or seals or postal stationery? Does anybody have additional information on the subject? Phil welcomes any help you can offer on this item. In addition, don't forget to send Phil your questions as soon as possible so he can put his willing researchers to work in obtaining the answers. The address is 1333 South Park Street, Apt. 515, Halifax, N.S., B3J 2K9.

Phil, the editor can help you on this one. Robson Lowe, in the Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, Vol. IV, The Empire in Australasia, notes that the covers (which he classifies as Postal Stationery) were approved by the Governor of NSW in November of 1838, produced by the Sydney Post Master General James Raymond, and sold at 1/3 per dozen, or 2d individually, and prepaid the local, within town postage rates of Sydney. The public could bring in their own stationery and have it embossed at 1/8 per 25 impressions. Charges were later reduced in 1841 due to poor public response, but their use continued even after the introduction of postage stamps (the famous Sydney Views) in 1850. They were specifically mentioned in the NSW Post Office Act of 1857. RL also notes that the cards you discussed were issued belatedly in 1889. The information here comes from pages 5 and 17 of the abovementioned book. Anybody else have information to add?

Dues are now due. If you haven't paid your \$10.00 to Archie Thomas (12 Fleming Dr., Hfx., N.S., B3P 1A9), you will be dropped!!!!!!!!!!!!

EXECUTIVE MEETING

The September meeting of the NSSC executive was held on the 15th in the St. Mary's Library. George MacKenzie reported on the progress of the meeting for potential members of the NSSC, scheduled for 30 Sept. Several members of the executive will attend to greet prospective members, answer their questions, and hold a mini-auction. The event will be well-publicized in Perforations and other media.

Marilyn Murphy reported on the lack of response to the recent appeal to find those who had yet to receive their keepsake trophies from past Shows. Marilyn said that she would get in touch with those whom she suspected of being short their keepers.

George MacKenzie talked about the continuing efforts to find a suitable location for our 1988 Annual Show. Members of the Executive are currently checking out various locations, and will report back at the next meeting. A decision will be made by the year is out.

The topic of the Annual Catalog Auction once again dominated the Executive meeting. In spirited discussion, the members considered everything from continuing the traditional auction, with detailed catalog, to not holding an auction at all. In the end, it was decided to hold an auction larger than the regular meeting auctions, but with no catalog prepared beforehand. Although the details will be finalized by an as-yet-to-be-named Chairman, the general idea is to have between 100 and 150 lots. If they are gathered before the night of the Auction, the Chairman will be able to group them into coherent categories (by country, topic, etc.). They will probably be displayed for viewing about an hour prior to the Auction, and the Auction will be the sole item on the agenda for the night.

The Executive approved the use of Club frames by the Post Card Society for their annual show on 23 October. This decision follows the practice established in previous years.

Hugh Rathbun reported on current correspondence, and the editorial policy on advertising rates was clarified. Much to the delight of those attending, the meeting was adjourned substantially earlier than usual.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Wide range of one country collections for sale. Same purchased. See me at meetings or call 422-4828, Bob Vaison.

Want to trade mint/used recent Japan for same. Call Marty at 463-0687, or write c/o News-letter.

Papua New Guinea FDCs (39), great starter collection. Scott value US\$200.++. C\$75 for the lot or 50% CV for single items of this great topical material (birds, planes, etc.). Call Marty at 463-0687, or write c/o Newsletter.

Ad rates: \$2.00 minimum, 5c/word, maximum 50 words.