

NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB



No. 192

Newsletter

Vol. 23 #5

Meetings: Second Tuesday of the month at the Nova Scotia Museum,
Summer Street, Halifax, N.S. at 8 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 8, 1988.

Newsletter Mailing Address: 831 Tower Rd., Halifax, N.S. B3H 2Y1

COMMENT: More elections have been held, one more yet to come. The bulbs have been planted and partridge have been laid away in the freezer. We have seen Clydesdales, Percherons and Superdogs at the Atlantic Winter Fair, fascinating postcards of old Halifax and environs at the APNA show and exquisite cats at the Bluenose Cat Show, and stamp collectors at all events. The fall air certainly makes people percolate again.

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OCTOBER MEETING:

The regular monthly meeting took place at the Museum with 50 members and guests present.

John Hall, Chairman Novapex '89, still needs some volunteers. He will address the November meeting, outlining his plans for the Exhibition.

Doug Allen spoke about his arrangements for the STAMP WORLD LONDON '90 trip. Bulletin #1 appears in this issue with a form to be returned to Doug as soon as possible as an expression of interest only at this stage. No money is required until the summer of '89, and participation is firstly for members of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club, then members of other Philatelic Associations in Nova Scotia and lastly for non-members.

The President directed members' attention to the September issue of the American Philatelist which features an article entitled, "So That's Why They Dance", by Club Member Marty Zelenietz. This is the story behind the Sia stamps of Papua New Guinea, and Marty's ten month old (at the time) daughter is shown on the cover in one of the wonderful colour photographs that illustrate the article.

The President introduced Collins Baugild and Bob Fear, two long time and highly esteemed members of the NSSC.

The evening concluded with an auction of 60 lots.

PROGRAMME: George MacKenzie presented the first half of his slide show, AIRCRAFT OF CANADA'S MILITARY ON STAMPS. It is an extensive collection of marvellous coloured slides of the stamps and aircraft featured on the stamps, not only in Canada but in Botswana, Jersey, Norfolk Island, India, St. Vincent, Tuvalu, Great Britain, Falkland Islands and so on. George provided us with background information and anecdotes concerning the particular aircraft and the persons who flew them. He will complete his presentation at the March meeting.

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PHIL-A-TELIC:

EFO'S, (cont'd from last month):

FREAKS: These include perforation and colour shifts, streaks, ink smears, miscuts, over or under inking, partly missing elements, foldovers, preprinting paperfolds, partially imperforate, etc. Other freaks to look for are words or numerals partially omitted because of incomplete ink impressions, tagging ghosts, which appear as doublings of portions of the stamp, and voids caused by obstructions on the press or paper.

If the perforations are completely missing, it is an error. If the stamps are misperforated, then it is a freak. Basically, misperfs are just badly centered stamps. However, if the wrongly placed misperfs change the design or place the value in a completely new area of the stamp, then the freak becomes extremely desirable.

Freaks can range in price from 25¢ to many hundreds of dollars. The value depends on whether or not the freak is unusual, how many exist, and whether the stamp itself is popular.

Next month: ODDITIES

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Another question from myself with help from George Wegg of Toronto and Doug Patrick of the same city. In reference to postage stamp qualities, what are the meanings of superb, very fine, fine, very good, good, fair and poor.

SUPERB is top grade. To the discerning collector or auctioneer superb means above reproach in every respect -- complete margins in imperforate stamps or perfectly centred if the stamps are perforated. Cancellations if any must be light and clear with a general freshness of appearance. Superb stamps must be free from even the most minute defect. The best auctioneers use this term very sparingly.

A Very FINE stamp has all the attributes of a superb stamp to a slightly lesser degree. To make the difference, a stamp may be less bright, more heavily cancelled or have one margin smaller than the other three.

A FINE quality stamp is still a technically sound stamp without thin spots. It may be somewhat off centre or the cancellation may be a little heavy. It should still be a clean attractive stamp with complete perforations or margins if it is imperforate.

A postage stamp classified as VERY GOOD may have the appearance of a fine

stamp but has some small imperfection not visible without close examination. An example would be a fine-appearing stamp with a slight crease that shows on the back only.

A GOOD quality stamp is free of major defects but is no longer attractive to the discriminating collector. Stamps with heavy cancellations or with minor defects in the perforations are examples.

When a stamp is described FAIR a collector should look for major defects.

A POOR stamp is the bottom grade.

Don't forget, address questions to PHIL-A-TELIC, 1333 South Park Street, Apt. 515, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2K9. Don't let him be the only one to ask questions.

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PHILATELY SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, by Bob Vaison

These observations on "minor varieties" from the Postage Stamp of Apr. 11, '14.

Our interesting New York contemporary, the Philatelic Gazette has not suffered by the recent change of control; it is as good as ever, and its articles seem to combine authority with readability in an unusually successful manner. Reviewing Gibbons' Catalogue (Part 11) the Gazette makes some shrewd comments on the "minor" variety, which are well worth passing on to other students.

The primary distinction between major and minor varieties is obvious enough; that major varieties are those readily distinguishable as distinct from others of similar type or family, while minor varieties on the other hand, are those presenting only slight and elusive points of difference from the main or normal issue - points of difference that it takes some pains and discrimination to discover. But the term "minor variety" seems to carry with it to most minds a suggestion of triviality and insignificance that but ill accords with the real importance of this class of varieties in modern philately. The minor variety is the groundwork and basis of modern scientific philately - its very food and life. It would be well, therefore, if the utility of the minor variety in the general scheme of philately were more widely recognized, and the term itself rescued from the shade of reproach which it seems at present rather generally to convey.

Is this still wisdom for our hobby?

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NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB LIBRARY:

The NSSC possesses a substantial library of philatelic literature. The library is situated just off the meeting room, behind the double doors. Books can be borrowed on a monthly basis from the librarian, Hilda Van Rooyen. It is just a matter of signing the library card found in the

pocket in the back of the book, giving the card to the librarian, and returning said book at the following meeting to the librarian who will take care of it from there.

There is a list, compiled June 1988, of the more than 115 books in the library. There are numerous catalogues, including an up-to-date Scott Vol. 1, as well as postmark catalogues, and ones for precancels, and on and on. There is lots of reference material for anyone doing Canadian postal history research, books on how to prepare stamp exhibits, a postal history of the Yukon, Nova Scotia Fakes and Forgeries.

There is a wealth of information behind those doors. Have a browse through before the meeting or during the break, it is amazing what you will find.

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CHRISTMAS ISLAND

John Bray passed on an Information Booklet published by the Philatelic Bureau, Christmas Island, Indian Ocean 6798. He pointed out a rather interesting anecdote in the history section of the booklet. To quote:

Then, as now, the island's whereabouts caused the occasional legendary confusion. With the existence of two other Christmas Islands (in the Line Islands of the Pacific and off Halifax, Nova Scotia, in the Atlantic) it is not surprising that the earliest known cancellation of Christmas Island (Indian Ocean) on cover has a history. Addressed to "The Phosphate Commission, Halifax Christmas Island" and posted on January 14, 1904 in the Netherland East Indies, it traced the route, Thursday Island, Townsville, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Auckland, Brisbane, Vancouver, Halifax, Christmas Island Nova Scotia, San Francisco, Auckland, Sydney and Singapore before finally reaching Christmas Island, Indian Ocean, on January 14, 1905, exactly one year later.

It seems to me that Christmas Island, Nova Scotia, is on the Bras d'Or Lakes rather than the Atlantic Ocean, but this sequence would make a wonderful study for the geography buffs among you. Thanks, John.

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MEMBERSHIP:

Resignation received: #752 - Michael Weber

Application received: Robert J. McGregor, 42 Paxton Drive, Dartmouth, N.S.
B2W 4T2.
Collecting interest, Topical, Dogs on any philatelic material. CFPS, DOSSU.

Boyd L. Eavis, 24 Forestside Cres. Halifax, N.S.
B3M 1M4
Collecting interest, Old Canada, Libya, Old Europe,
U.S. and Canada. German Stamp Club.

ADVERTISEMENT: HOUSE OF STAMPS, Box 398, Station M, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2P8
STAMPS BOUGHT AND SOLD, PAYING TOP DOLLAR, SELLING AT AFFORDABLE PRICES.
 SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR STAMP CLUB MEMBERS. PHONE 423-1780

NOVA SCOTIA JUNIOR STAMP CLUB:

The Juniors met on Saturday, October 15 at the Museum, there were 11 at the meeting. Collecting interests include: Animals - birds, fish, dogs, dinosaurs; Walt Disney, Bermuda, Canada, South Africa, USA, Belgium, trains, world, Israel and Newfoundland.

The Juniors spotted an error or is it a freak or oddity? They found that the cat-tails on the 37¢ Conserve Wildlife and Habitat are grey rather than white on the second row of the sheet.

From Linn's an article promotes the giving of packets of stamps as trick or treat items at Hallow'en. Lots of colourful stamps of great variety done up in glassines, with some hinges, and a few candies to sweeten the deal. Happy Hallowe'en, and the Juniors next meet Oct. 29 at 9:30 a.m.

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EXECUTIVE NOTES:

October 17, 1988: It was brought to attention that there is an article remembering Dr. Lloyd MacPherson in the BNA Topics, Vol. 45 #5, Sept/Oct. '88. John Hall has most chairmen in place for Novapex '89, further details will emerge at the November meeting. Members will be asked for ideas, what they would like to see at the show, perhaps what could be deleted. The frames, borrowed by the Post Card Society for the show at the Lord Nelson have now gone to Truro for their show on October 29. After stating earlier in this newsletter that Part 11 of George MacKenzie's slide presentation would be in March, a coorection has to be made. It is now slated for January and April. It was decided to buy a new book for the library, Canadian Revenue Stamps Vol. I.

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MISTAKEN IDENTITY:

After the September meeting Albert Johnston went home with the wrong overcoat. So did somebody else. The one Albert has is too small for him, so someone else has a too large. Albert's own coat is a Croyden, the one he has presently has the zipped in lining zipped out. If you have this coat would you please call Albert, collect, 752-5901. His address is 348 Bennett St., New Glasgow, N.S. B2H 1X2.

APS NEWS

There are five new affiliates following the STaMpsHow in Detroit: Cats on Stamps, Chess on Stamps Society, Jack Knight Air Mail Society, American Topical Society, and American Plate Number Single Society.

N.S. Stamp Club London Tour: BULLETIN ONE

Being held to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first adhesive postage stamps, STAMP WORLD LONDON '90 promises to be the largest and most exciting philatelic exhibition ever staged. Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, it will include an exhibit from her collection, 3000 frames of stamps and other philatelic material and about 200 trade stands. It is being held at one of the most historic of London's exhibition centres, the newly rebuilt Alexandra Palace, set in beautiful parkland on a hill overlooking central London from the north and easy to reach by public transport with frequent, fast trains from the centre of London by the underground or British Rail whose stations will be linked by courtesy buses with the exhibition halls.

Our ten day tour which will be limited to 60 persons will depart Halifax International Airport on a date to be determined by Air Canada's 1990 schedule which will most closely coincide with the May 3 opening of the exhibition, land at Heathrow Airport and transfer by bus to the Park Court Hotel. Sherry Legere of Harvey's Travel, Halifax has already visited the Park Court and arranged 30 tentative twin bookings. The Park Court, located on Bayswater Road opposite beautiful Hyde Park in the West End is only minutes away from the Oxford Street shops such as Selfridges, Marks & Spencer, etc. It is a newly renovated comfortable tourist hotel, the writer has stayed there twice continental breakfast delivered to the rooms is included in the tour package price as are theatre vouchers to the value of L24.

Anyone who has visited London will attest to its allure and attractions and always wants to return. The first time visitor will quickly become a convert to its charms. Our tour represents an excellent opportunity to enjoy London for 10 days as well as attend the exhibition. Once in London participants will be on their own, but we envisage holding group meetings prior to departure to discuss the possibilities available.

While initially a lower cost was mentioned, this has proven unrealistic and the, still tentative, figure is now about \$1,460 per person. As mentioned participation will be limited to 60 persons with priority accorded to members of the N.S. Stamp Club and other philatelic societies in Nova Scotia. No money will be required until the summer of 1989 with a schedule of payments established then. In the meantime to ensure your interest is registered please complete the following form and return it to: J, Doug Allen, 5 Dustan St., Dartmouth N.S. B2Y 3T5. Numbers will be assigned to interest registrants according to date of receipt.

YES, I AM INTERESTED IN BEING REGISTERED AS A POSSIBLE PARTICIPANT IN THE STAMP WORLD LONDON '90 TOUR. I UNDERSTAND THIS IS, AS YET, NOT A COMMITMENT ON MY PART, BUT ENSURES I WILL BE KEPT INFORMED AS PLANS DEVELOP.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

PROBABLE NUMBER IN MY PARTY: _____

COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS, IF ANY:

To: NSSC LONDON TOUR
c/o J. Doug Allen
5 Dustan St.
Dartmouth N.S.
B2Y 3T5