

# NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB



No. 202

Newsletter

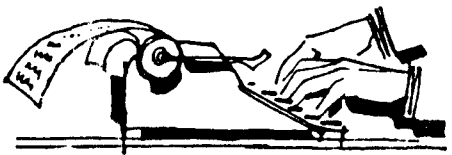
Vol. 25 #3

Meetings: Second Tuesday of the month at the Nova Scotia Museum, Summer Street, Halifax, N.S. at 8 p.m. No meetings July or August.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 14. CHARITY AUCTION.

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

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Drove through the Wentworth Valley, what magnificence! The fall colours were at their peak, and with the absence of heavy rains and high winds each and every tree was perfect. We had our annual trek to the Atlantic Winter Fair and duly inspected the cows, horses, goats and poultry, consumed our annual quota of cotton candy and were once again amazed by the Superdogs. Our own elderly Superdog is anxious to get to the woods with his master to rouse a few partridge. As for philatelic happenings, I hear that Gary Steele was a silver/bronze winner at the Royal in Hamilton, we send him our congratulations.

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CHARITY AUCTION: Tuesday, November 14. This is the Club's annual fund raiser for charity also known as the Christmas Cheer Auction. All proceeds are donated to charity in the Club's name. During the past few years the donation was divided between two charities chosen by the Executive. So please be generous with your items and with your bidding, and make this year's auction a major success.

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PROGRAMME: The programme originally scheduled for November will now be presented in January - Novapex '90.

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NOVAPEX '90: George LaFontaine has accepted the position of Chairman for the Club's annual Exhibition to be held at the Lord Nelson Hotel, Saturday April 7, and Sunday April 8, 1990. George is a very busy university student who is willing to devote his extra time to organizing the Club's major event. He will need help! Immediately he needs a Senior Exhibits Chairman and an Advertising/Programme Chairman. If you are interested in either of these jobs or any other phase of the Exhibition contact George, or the other George (MacKenzie) the sooner the better.

PHIL-A-TELIC:

Only one question left from Lucille's queries of some time ago: Is there a Volume 2 to the late L.B. MacPherson's Nova Scotian Postal History?

There are still a couple of questions from previous Newsletters that haven't been answered and I ask members to recheck their Newsletters and send Phil the answer if you can:

1. Newsletter #198 regarding France Scott #44
2. Newsletter #177 regarding the red phosphorus on Russian stamps.

No new questions at this time so I'll move into a bit of trivia. Some outstanding events in the growth of the Canadian Post Office:

- 1755 -- Post Office established at Halifax six years after the founding of the city in 1749.
- 1760 -- A British military council directed elementary communications for four years after the fall of the French in Canada.
- 1763 -- Benjamin Franklin established post offices in Quebec, Montreal and Three Rivers, and hired Hugh Finlay as Postmaster. Franklin also organized monthly mail service from the Canadian offices to New York.

Remember folks, Phil's address is 1333 South Park St. Apt. 515, Halifax, N.S.  
B3J 2K9

P.S. Phil's going to LONDON '90, are you?

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CLEANING UP WITH STAMPS: John Hall



I noticed the following article in the Map Study Group Newsletter of March/April, 1988 that was authored by W.L. Bradley, the secretary of the study group. I have not tried it, but curiosity has me interested in trying it with several old "beat-up" stamps. J.H.

Cleaning UP! Have you ever thought about the problem of cleaning a grubby old Map stamp from the grime of about a hundred years? Well, in processing thousands of stamps over many years, I have found that it is possible to improve the appearance of any specimen that is dirty and with curled up perforations, if you are careful.

First, I soak them in lukewarm water to rid the reverse of old glue, hinge marks and especially old part-hinges left from someone's album mounting. Then I change water, just enough to float the stamp and tilt the tray a bit, enough to expose the bottom, and add 3 or 4 drops of liquid dishwashing soap. I place the stamp face side up, on the exposed tray bottom and gently work up a lather with a good small art paint brush with pure bristles. The resulting lather is worked in a gentle circular motion in the centre of the stamp and then outward from the centre to the edges, for no more than 30 - 40 seconds. Be sure your liquid soap does not contain bleach or strong detergent. After washing about 15 to 20 stamps, I place them in another tray with gently running tap water for ten minutes and then dry on paper towelling. For better specimens I dry them on

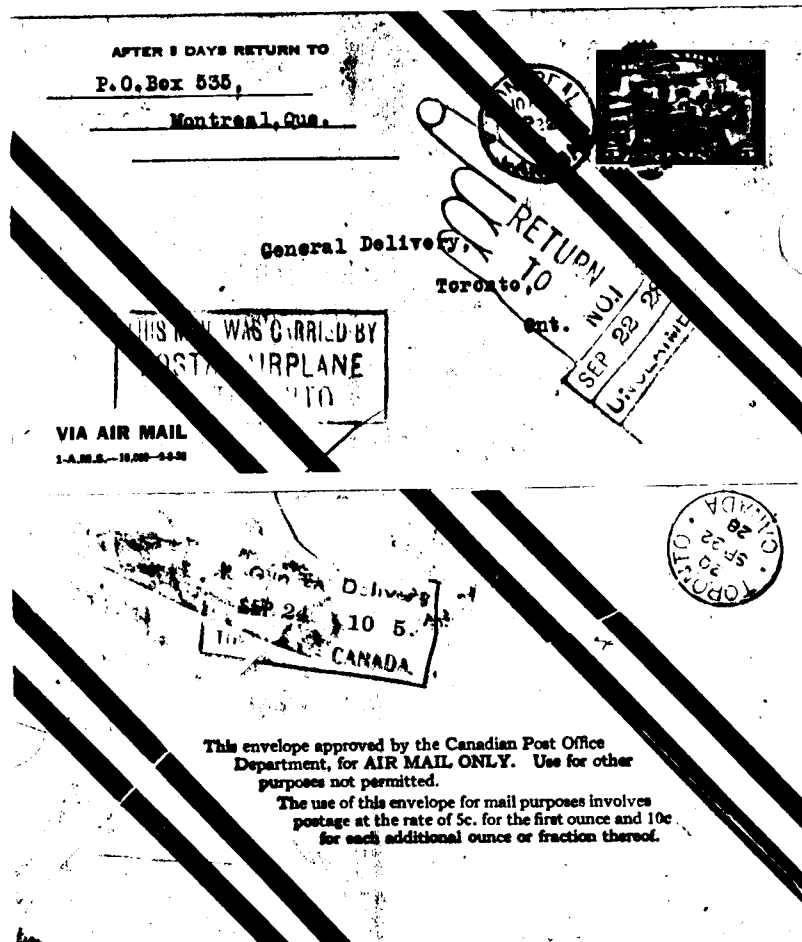
blotting paper in a stamp press. It is surprising how this improves their appearance, enhancing the red and brightening up the ocean colours. A look at the soapy water after 20 or 30 have gone through will show it to be gray with the accumulated dirt of the years. If in doubt, try this with a few torn or otherwise spoiled copies!

John Hall adds in a postscript: "I think the critical line here is, Be sure your liquid soap does not contain bleach or strong detergent. Otherwise, you may end up creating new colour varieties of your stamps. If anyone tries this process, please let me know the results."

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### AIR MAIL:

Canada's first official air mail stamp, a five cent brown, was issued on September 21, 1928. The first flights using the new stamp were made the next day, September 22, on the Toronto-Ottawa-Montreal-Rimouski service. Covers carrying this date have officially applied box cachets. This is not a first flight cover. First flights between Toronto-Ottawa-Montreal were flown in June and August of 1918.



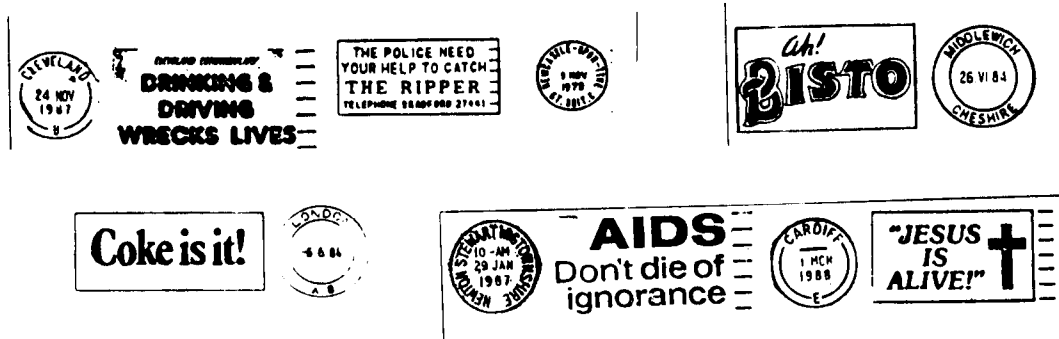
Cover reduced to 65% actual size.

LET'S COLLECT STAMPS: cont'd from London Sunday Times, courtesy Rod Glover.

Postmarks as Propaganda: For more than 70 years the British Post Office has been overprinting stamps on letters with propaganda messages. Postmark slogans perform the dual roles of advertising and preventing stamps being reused. The first British postmark slogans appeared towards the end of the first world war and promoted the sale of war bonds. For the next 40 years they advertised postal and telephone services, promoted major events and, particularly during the second world war, were vehicles for government propaganda.

Since the fifties the Post Office has allowed sponsors to use postmark slogans for publicising anniversaries and local amenities for tourists or industry. The police even used a slogan in the hunt for the Yorkshire Ripper (see below). Slogans cannot be political, or used to advertise an individual firm, except in the case of a company using its own franking machine where the message appears only on the organization's mail. Of the 3500 designs produced, a few have led to controversy. The most recent, in the spring of 1988, proclaimed "Jesus is alive!" Many people protested that the Post Office had no right to display a statement which may not be every individual's belief.

This article was written by Cyril Parsons, co-author of 'Collecting Slogan Postmarks'.



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#### BARBADOS POSTAGE STAMPS

The following article was sent by Cliff Abram. It was taken from a 1933 book written by Herbert Bayley, "The Post Office in Barbados." Herbert was one of the best known experts on Barbados, and his son, Edmund, has just published "The Stamps of Barbados", started by his father and completed by Edmund as a tribute to his father, who died December 1965. Cliff says it is a tremendous work, perhaps the most definitive work on any country's stamps.

\* Postage stamps were not received in Barbados until February 1852, although the first consignment was sent out on December 30, 1851 by the printers Perkins, Bacon & Co., they were, unfortunately, lost at sea.

They were shipped on the R.M.S. Amazon. She was on her first outward voyage to the West Indies. She was one of a fleet of new vessels placed in the West Indies service when contracts for carrying the mails had been completed.

The Amazon, which was launched at Blackwall on Saturday, June 28, 1851, was the largest timber-built steamship ever constructed up to that time in England, and on her arrival from the Thames at Southampton Trial Dock she was declared the finest ship that had ever appeared in those waters. She carried fourteen 22 pounders, and two 10-inch pivot guns of eighty-five cwt. each, which was considered to be the correct armament for a vessel of her size and importance in days when pirates still roved the seas. The ship left Southampton on Friday, January 2, under the command of Captain Symmons, with mails for the West Indies in charge of Lt. Brady, R.N., Admiralty Agent, and fifty passengers besides a crew of one hundred and eleven. Her general cargo was valued at L20,300, and she carried 8,500 bottles of quicksilver of the value L5,150 for mining operations in Mexico. The total value of ship and cargo exceeded L200,000. The Amazon soon developed trouble with hot bearings, and had to be frequently stopped for her machinery to cool down. Early on Sunday afternoon, smoke was seen to be issuing from the lower deck near the steam-chest, and soon the vessel burst into flames. The engines could not be stopped and she raced madly along while the boats were being launched, which caused great loss of life; and finally, the ammunition blew up. At that time she was off Ushant in the Bay of Biscay. Of the 161 souls on board, 115 were lost.\*

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Cliff mentions in his letter that for those who enjoy a good novel based on fact, there is the Ramage series by Dudley Pope, and in particular Ramage's Prize. This story is based on true events. Post Office packet brigs were surrendered to French privateers in the manner described because of 'ventures' carried by treacherous officers and crews, and a P.O. packet was ransomed at Lisbon in the same circumstances and difficulties as the "Lady Arabella" in the story. In Nelson's day mail from wartime England for the West Indies left Falmouth fortnightly and took only forty-five days to reach the most distant destination, Jamaica. Cliff adds that nearly two centuries later surface mail takes sixty to ninety days to reach various islands in the West Indies.

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Alice Moore sent along this item from Funk & Wagnell's Guide to the World of Stamp Collecting, written by Viola Ilma (Introduction by His Serene Highness Prince Rainier III) 1978, published in Canada by Fitzhenry & Whiteside Ltd., Toronto.

JOHN WALTER SCOTT: John Walter Scott became interested in stamps when he was fifteen years old. He was working for a mercantile house and became enamoured of stamps on envelopes from foreign places and latched on to as many as he could get. At age eighteen, in 1863, he arrived in New York City from London, England, and right away went to meet the first United States stamp dealer in existence, named William P. Brown, who had a sidewalk stamp business in the open air at City Hall, New York City. Young Scott sold his little grouping of stamps that were in his trunk to Mr. Brown for \$10. Old man Brown then gave Scott \$100 worth of stamps to sell. Within five years, Scott established his own business at 54 Liberty Street, New York. The following year, he published his own catalogue, which was to become famous the world over.

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