

CANCELLATIONS OF THE CANADIAN PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA ON SAINT-PIERRE AND MIQUELON STAMPS

This great reference collection of the postmarks and marks of Nova Scotia applied to the stamps of St. Pierre and Miquelon is **the most complete study known on this topic**.

More than 25 years of research and work go into this 128 pages presentation. given the small population and the difficulties of sending mail and the lack of correspondence due to illiteracy, plus the high cost of mail, which poorly paid fishermen could not afford, covers from the end of the 19th century are rare.

The story : The inhabitants of Saint-Pierre, at that time, had two solutions to post the mail: the Post office obviously, but also the "**mobile box**". This second option allowed users to post covers with stamps on the harbor and these mails were picked up by ships bound for Nova Scotia (Canada). **These mails were let in Halifax or North Sydney's ports, and the canadian transit Post Office canceled the stamps** before forwarding them to their final destinations.

It's a strong story for fans of Canadian postal history. **Even some Canadian specialists did not know about these Canadian marks**, like « cork » cachets.

The goal : to show all the postmarks of Nova Scotia which were used to cancel mail emanating from St. Pierre and Miquelon, mail which was placed aboard ships. The two principal ports receiving mail were Halifax (in winter), North Sydney (seasonal) and a third rarely used Louisbourg. An important number of these cancels were in the collections of celebrated philatelists such as Stone and Pratt, in the 1970s and 80s. Many were used to illustrate articles (*Ship-letters from St. Pierre by Stone and Grabowski: see the France and Colonies Philatelist, May 1975*). Many items are rare or very rare. Several of these pieces **are unique to date** (framed in red).

The best pieces of this study :

An introduction pages **2** and **3** presenting some "Ship Letters" before mails with stamps. These "Ship Letters" are much sought after in the present day.

Some « cork » cachets are very rare and unique : page **13** (triple rate), page **14** (on surcharged issue), pages **15** and **18** (on stationeries), the unusual « star » page **17**, the segmented cork page **19**.

The different « grid » marks show very rare items pages **22, 25, 26** and that from Louisbourg page **41** is unique

Few « target » are highly sought after pieces pages **42** and **43**.

Some unique « Paquebot » mark covers striked on stamps pages **51, 52, 53** including one stationery.

A lovely « mushroom cork » + « paquebot » is unique too page **62**.

Mechanical « roll » shows great items presented pages **67-70**.

First dated cachets are very rare pages **71** and **72**

The Louisbourg cachet is one of the « **key** » items page **81**

The rarest duplex presented on « general issue stamp » used in SPM is marvellous page **108**

Other « **key** » items are the overprinted stamps « F M » on covers pages **106** and **126**

The Epilogue « voie du commerce » presents two great and unique items with N-Y and Liverpool cachets pages **127** and **128**.

The best Awards obtained :

This is **the first time that this exhibit is presented in 8 frames**. In 5 frames, this exhibit has been awarded

- Orapex 2013 (National) : Gold with 92 points and Candidate for Grand Award
- Canpex 2016 (National) : Gold and **Reserve Grand Award**
- Quito 2015 (Continental FIAF) : Gold with 90 points.

Special notes :

The islands are affiliated with the FIAF as separate territory. It is very important for this archipelago. Thanks to its geographical location (the only French independent territory in North America), and due to its history and the richness of its stamp issues, the philatelic products of the archipelago are collected world wide.

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