

# NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB



## No. 155      Newsletter      Vol. 17

Meetings : Nova Scotia Museum, Summer Street, Halifax, N.S.

Next Meeting : Tuesday, December 11th, 1984

NL Mailing Address : 1333 South Park Street, Apt 515, Halifax,  
N.S. B3J 2K9

### 557. Program for the Next Meeting -- Ron Lewis :

The program for the December 11th meeting of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club will be a talk by Harley Grimmer on "Condition of Stamps" which should be of interest to all members. Philatelically, Harley has been a collector since he was ten years old with prime collecting interests in the British Commonwealth with emphasis on the British West Indies, Great Britain and Australia. Since 1980, Harley has operated his own part-time dealership under the trade-name "Nova Philatelic Sales" concentrating mainly on British Commonwealth issues of all regions.

Harley will speak on the subject of "Condition of Stamps" primarily to acquaint the novice and medium collector with the importance of being aware of condition and how it impacts the value of stamps both from the buyer's and seller's point of view. The various elements which contribute to the overall condition of the stamp or philatelic item will be discussed.

This should be a very informative evening and all members are urged to attend and find out the details in grading stamps even though it goes without saying that when we sell a stamp from our collection it is always very fine, superb condition, perfectly centered, original gum, never hinged and worth twice the ridiculous catalogue price - Right .

### 558. Annual Catalogue Auction -- Gary Coolen :

Material for the Annual Catalogue Auction, to be held at the February 12th Meeting, should be sent to Gary Coolen, C/O Portage Mutual Insurance Co., Suite 704, 6009 Quinpool Road, Halifax, N.S. B3K 507. If you have any questions, Gary can be reached at 423-6101 (work) or 865-6251 (res). It would be appreciated if all material was sent as soon as possible and the absolute deadline

for the receipt of material is January 2nd, 1985. Don't forget, the club gets 10% commission on all sales. All items submitted for this auction must have a reserve bid of not less than \$2.00. The reserve, as well as the catalogue number ( preferably Scott's ) should be stated. It is recommended that the reserve price be realistic in order to have competitive bidding. Material should be top quality, free from defects and of a philatelic nature only. Descriptions should be as accurate as possible to encourage bidding with confidence. As this is the only big auction of the year, members are encouraged to provide material so that between 250-300 lots will be available.

559. Executive Meeting -- Notes :

The November meeting of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club Executive was held on Monday, November 19th, with the following items of business being brought forward ;

- Option of obtaining aluminum frames ; As Peter Ineson could not attend the meeting, this topic was set aside for the next Executive meeting.
- Cost of RPSC Court of Honor medals ; As Marilyn Murphy could not be at the meeting, this topic was set aside until the next Executive meeting.
- Feedback re " Flea Market " programme ; After a short discussion, it was agreed that the " Flea Market " was a success both last June and the one in October but that twice a year was all that should be programmed. The next one will probably be held at the last meeting in June 85'.
- Membership deletions ; The treasurer listed off the names of those members who have not paid their dues since at least October 83'. As a result the Executive struck them off the membership list in accordance with the Constitution. A total of 13 members were deleted and it was noted that this was the fewest number in many years which bodes well for the club.
- Charity Auction Receipts ; The total proceeds for this year's charity auction was \$223.00 which will be distributed evenly between Bonny Lee Farm and the Salvation Army. Once again, a tip of the hat to those members who donated and/or bought material.
- 1985 Stamp Exhibition ; As stated in the last Newsletter, Bob Fear will be the Exhibition Chairman for the 1985 Exhibition and he was in attendance at the Executive meeting and gave a short report. He is busy filling the empty chairpeople positions and will hold a committee meeting at a later date. Some discussions were held with Bob by the Executive and the only real news at the present time is that in order to try and bolster attendance, the Exhibition will be held on Saturday and Sunday next year instead of Friday

and Saturday. Don't forget then, the dates for the 1985 Stamp Exhibition are Saturday, April 13th and Sunday, April 14th. The times and all other information will be in the December ( end month ) Newsletter. The rules and regulations will be in the January Newsletter and they won't be any different than last year so lets get started and ensure we can equal our 120 frame display of last year. As in past years, there will be no auction at the Exhibition.

560. Our Canadian Heritage -- Walter H.D. Horne :

Ed's Note : I welcome back copy from our old (not age) member/friend and glad to once again receive material which is needed by this editor. We should note that Walter is presently the President of the Etobicoke Philatelic Society, Chapter 78 of the Royal.

It has been sometime since I last wrote about our Canadian Heritage, but I came across something about E.J.Pratt, one of our Canadian poets. Newfoundland can claim him more than we can as he was born long before Newfoundland became one of our Provinces. I came across a book written by David G. Pitt about Pratt and I am taking out the important things pertaining to Pratt.

Edwin John (Ned) Pratt's parents certainly never intended him to meddle with literature. Born in 1882 into the family of a fire and brimstone Methodist preacher who roamed the out-ports of Newfoundland, young Edwin John had to leave school and home at the age of 15, indentured as an apprentice in a dry-goods store in St John's. There he spent three miserable years, locked in hapless drudgery. I hated every minute of it ", he would recall. And when he had fulfilled his contract, he announced to his employer ; " I'm sick of it, it's a dead-end ", and left St John's. Back home, realizing that further education was the only way he could obtain a better future, he again yielded to parental blackmail and reluctantly agreed to study for the Methodist ministry.

Of course Pratt eventually surmounted these and other obstacles to become the leading Canadian poet of his generation, revered by many, the toast of Toronto's literary public. Its an intriguing subject, and it is treated in David Pitt's excellent biography with the respect and attention it deserves. Often an elusive personality, who delighted in spreading apocryphal stories about himself, Pratt is brought to abundant life, even Pitt's book only covers his first 45 years. Pratt, who died in 1964, had a quiet thing about himself as his upbringing in Newfoundland from which stemmed the lifelong admiration he felt for the stoical and primitive outport world. Yet he was an outsider, so frail in health that he was " unmanned " by his parents who denied him the ordinary childhood delights of physical rough and tumble.

( to be continued )

561. Membership :

The following have been accepted for membership

in the Nova Scotia Stamp Club ;

801 Reginald Cote

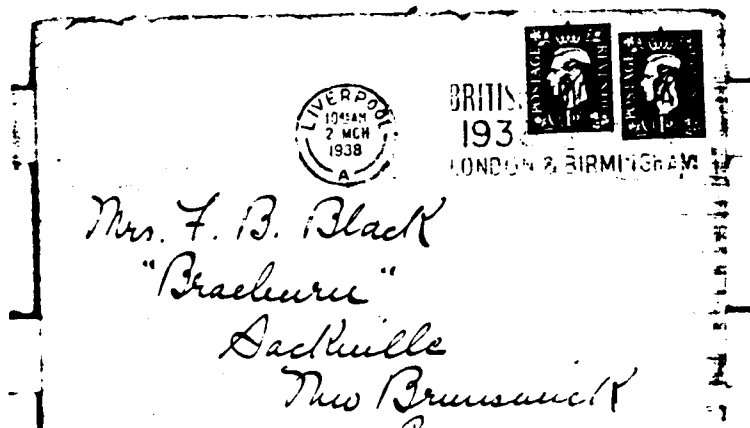
802 J. Rod Glover

803 Anna E. Morris

The following applications for memberships  
have been received ;

Linda Stick

562. Cover of the Month -- Dave Cooper :



This cover is addressed to Mrs F.B. Black, " Braeburn ", Sackville, New Brunswick. The Black business was the forerunner of Atlantic Distributors : Food brokers. The stamps are a pair of the 1d scarlet of 1937-47 and were cancelled at Liverpool by a combined circular/slogan machine cancel. The slogan reads in three parts

BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR  
1938 FEB 21 TO MAR 4

LONDON & BIRMINGHAM

This slogan first appeared in 1922 and was still being used as late as 1948.

563. Questions & Answers -- Phil-A-Telic :

LETTERS TO PHIL " WHERE ARE THEY "

Since this is the second month that Phil has been letterless, I would like to follow up last month's question : What do you think about the new numbering system Lyman's is introducing in its recent catalogue. At the November Club meeting we had an interesting discussion on the topic. It would be fair to say that both pro and con were well represented. I would like to quote from

The Guidebook Catalogue of Canadian Stamps by Glenn Hansen, second edition, 1973-74.

" The Number Game, Again "

Scott's major numbers have been used, as in the past, in this volume. This has been with the kind permission of the former owners of Scott Publications and with the recognition that these numbers have become the accepted standard for the numbering of stamps in Canada. At the moment there is a need for some revision of these numbers for the stamp issues around 1967 and later but the Scott system has been used, as is, pending change. Some check list numbers are my own and for obvious reasons which will be discussed within the text of my book.

That was 1973 - So this is not a new problem or concern. Can anyone recall if the issue was raised before 1973 ? Let Phil know - Write Phil-A-Telic, 5890 Pine Hill Cres., Halifax, N.S. B3H 1E5.

ADVERTISING

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564. Dates are Always Important -- Herman Herst Jr. :

From Canadian Stamp News & The Buffalo-Winnipeg  
Philatelic Society Newsletter.

Parents and their teen-age children may argue about when dates are permissable, but philatelists agree on one thing ; they are always important. The British child learns what happened in 1065, just as the American child learns what happened in 1492. In Massachusetts, they revere April 19th, while Oregon children know that February 14th, besides being Valentine's Day, is the anniversary of Oregon's admission to the Union in 1859.

The collector of United States postal history is familiar with certain dates, too. July 1st, 1847, is the date on which our 1847 series was supposed to have been put on sale ( a fortune awaits the collector who finds a cover from that date ; none are known ). An ordinary cover from Charleston, South Carolina, with a single of Scott #26 does indeed catalogue at 80¢ - just as the catalogue says - and if one finds one dated, say, December 15th, 1860, he would have difficulty getting even half-catalogue for it, unless there were something about it so unusual that the " plus interest " would merit a higher price. But if that same cover were postmarked December 20th, 1860, its value would be so far above the 80¢ - and

the number of people seeking to buy it would be so much larger - that it would become a real " gem " in any collection. The reason : on December 20th, 1860, South Carolina seceded from the Union. What one would have therefore would be the use of a United States stamp in a non USA territory.

Briefly, a knowledge of dates is the key to collecting postal history wisely, efficiently, reasonably and pleasantly. Even though collectors are sometimes inclined to think that professional philatelists know everything, this is far from true. Today especially, many professionals are woefully ignorant of anything philatelic before 1930. It is much too easy to order new issues, to supply First Day Covers, or to import a quantity of sets. A generation ago, dealers were students, and did spend as much time as possible learning about the commodity which they sold. Today, few take the trouble.

Stories told by collectors - and dealers too - of finds made from philatelic sources are not unusual. At the ASDA Show in New York, a Chicago collector paid \$10.00 for a cover bearing a US #24 ( the 1¢ 1857 ) addressed to Canada and postmarked Ogdensburg, New York. The stamp is a common one, and the price was fair. But the seller did not know that the cover was an example of a " cross St Lawrence River rate " which is known to have existed, but of which no example had ever been found. Before the day was out, a Canadian specialist who had been looking for such a cover for 20 years had heard of it - and swapped a magnificent 10¢ 1847 cover ( worth at least \$1500.00 ) for it. This is the type of knowledge which pays dividends.

Most new issue dealers today can quote the face value of the latest Fish set from East Lasagna. They know the official and unofficial rate for the Laotian " kip ", and they know why the 15/- airmail from Verminland is the key value to the set. But when they get a choice bit of postal history - and it happens not infrequently - they are lost to its value. The informed collector has all the advantages. ( To be continued )

TO ONE AND ALL - THE FOLLOWING IS THE EXECUTIVE'S WISHES FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON ; ADD PETER INESON, COLLINS BAUGILD, MARILYN MURPHY AND CLAUDE MICHAUD TO THE LIST.

BEST WISHES FOR A

*Happy Holiday Season*

AND THE NEW YEAR

*Don Cooper*  
*George Medley*  
*Ron Lewis*

*Bob Davison*  
*Rich Stone*  
*Hugh Rathbun*  
*George Somers*  
*Haypole*