

NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB



No.174

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: 11 November 1986.

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

PROGRAMME NOTES

Eric Tizard presented a slide-illustrated lecture on the "Die Proofs of the Nova Scotia and Newfoundland Pence Issues" at the NSSC meeting of 14 October. Eric's talk brought many of the old faces back to the Club, and we hope to see them more often in the future.

We have a double-barreled programme planned for the 11 November meeting. To tie the meeting into the Remembrance Day theme, John Hall will present a talk (complete with slides) on war savings stamps, war tax stamps, and other appropriate issues from his revenue collection. Following the coffee break, we will have our annual Christmas Cheer auction, with the proceeds going to two local charities. Bring in some goodies to donate to this no-reserve, no-holds-barred auction, and bring a pocketful of cash to spend.

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS' NIGHT, by Elizabeth Sodero

George MacKenzie organized an evening for prospected NSSC members at the NS Museum on Tuesday, Sept. 30th. It was a sample meeting with an explanation of the Club and its activities, followed by a slide presentation (originally prepared by George for the RPSC) of Canada's centennial in stamps, and then an auction. This was a great way for new members to be introduced to the Club- to meet a few of the Executive on a one-to-one basis before being thrust into the large group of (seemingly) expert and erudite strangers.

The diversity of interests encountered at the meetings rivals the programmes and library of the Club, and should benefit any collector, even those of us who must overcome an initial feeling of trepidation. It takes a couple of meetings before one is comfortable with the Club

auction procedure, then there is a sudden realization that the auctions are marvelous sources of material at extraordinarily reasonable prices. Not only are there stamps, but also philatelic books, magazines and supplies. By talking with the more experienced members, the newcomer can learn how to deal with an accumulation of stamps- what directions to take. Members, of course, have their individual prejudices- the prestige of postal history, the stature of topicals, the fad of collecting "gum"- and the newcomer can benefit from discussions emanating from a chance remark.

Some of us need an extra nudge to join a club, and George's programme gave prospective members a clearer understanding of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club.

MEMBERS' NOTES

Jean-Guy Leclerc forwards the following for Winston McIntosh: "Excuse me for my lateness in the trade with you. I'm waiting for the new catalogues before sending you other stamps by mail. The Scott's catalogues are incomplete". Message passed.

It is with some regret that we pass on the following from Clyde Stoddart: "The executive of the South West Nova Stamp Club were saddened when the members had to vote... to keep the Club going or to discontinue. On Tuesday, 2 Sept. 1986, members voted 6-0 in favour of discontinuing." Low attendance and lack of interest killed South West Nova. Let us not allow that to happen to us.

PHIL-A-TELIC

Dear Phil,

The famous Canadian "Inverted Seaway" has had an inflated (?) catalogue value for many years now, or at least to my mind it is inflated. The 1986 catalogue value sat at \$17,500 while the latest 1987 Scott's shows it at \$15,000. Does anybody know what price they are selling for? I've seen them in auction catalogues but have never heard of what the successful bidder got it for, if in fact it sold. Can anyone enlighten me as to what this stamp, Scott #387a, sells for?

Yours Truly,
Number 656

Phil replies: Can any of our dealer/members find out for us how much money it would take to put one of these items in an album?

Your humble editor suggests that Number 656 subscribe to the prices realized from his favorite auction houses. That way, you can pinpoint the price realized for any stamp in the auction, know the current market value of the "goodies" in your collection, and also know what kinds of bids are likely to be successful when you go after "gems" for your collection.

Don't forget to send your questions or answers to Phil-A-Telic, 1333 South Park Street, Apt. 515, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2K9. He tells me he needs all the help he can get!

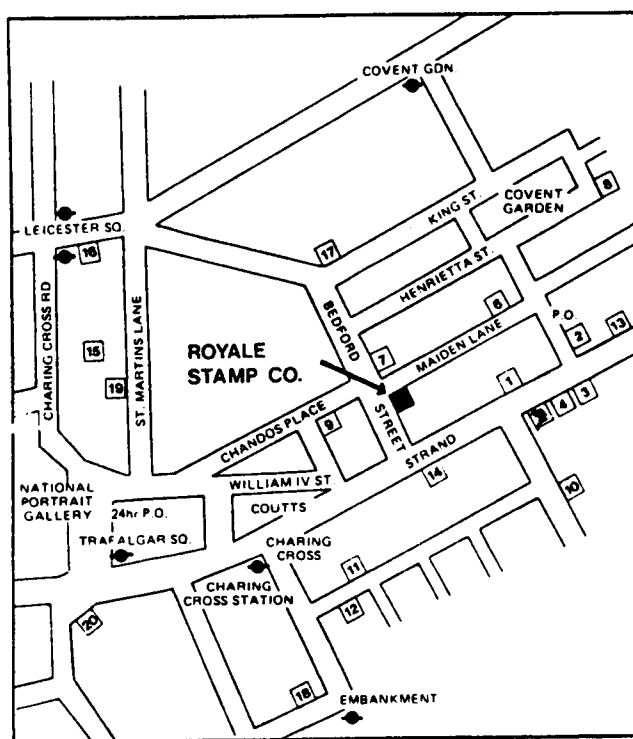
EXPERIENCES IN BRITISH PHILATELY, by J. Doug Allen

This writer's experience with British Philately extends back to 1935 when he was given a copy of Stanley Gibbons Whole World Simplified catalogue. Since then I have been hooked on the Gibbons catalogues and have virtually ignored those published by Scott despite the slavish adherence to the latter by the majority of North American collectors. I will not belabour the relative merits of the two publications beyond saying Gibbons listing are more comprehensive and the currency conversion, once a drawback confined to the use of Gibbons, has been extended to Scott by the wide disparity now existing between the Canadian and U.S. dollars.

London has long laid claim to being the world's major philatelic centre and this may still be a fact despite contentions made by New York, Paris and Zurich. In any event, it is a fascinating place for a stamp collector to visit, and the area around the Strand more than repays a casual stroll: 19 stamp stores and exchanges are located within a short walk of one another.

A very few years ago there were over 800 stamp shops in Britain, but this number has declined dramatically and I was told there are now only about 300. Not that there is a significant decline in collecting interest, rather many former shop operators have been forced by high operating costs, particularly rentals, to revert to mail order sales and/or regular participation in Stamp Fairs and major and minor exhibitions. Stamp Fairs are held all over Britain on a regular basis and are basically travelling bourses which operate without any exhibitions accompanying them. The locations of there are well advertised in the excellent magazines published for collectors.

The best known stamp magazine is Gibbons Stamp Monthly, once just a glorified price list for Stanley Gibbons, but now carrying advertising from the entire stamp trade. Copies of this may usually be obtained off the rack of the W.H. Smith book shop in Mac Mac Mall, in Dartmouth.



OTHER DEALERS IN THE AREA INCLUDE:

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Stanley Gibbons | 8. Shelley Stamps | 15. Cecil Court Stamps |
| 2. S. V. Leverton | 9. David Somerset | 16. Chalmers |
| Southern S.S. | 10. Plumridges Ltd | 17. International |
| 3. Strand Stamps | 11. London Stamp Ex. | Stamp Centre |
| 4. D. Brandon | 12. Philatelic Traders Soc. | 18. Collectors C. |
| 5. Chandos Place | 13. Strand Palace | 19. Capital Auctions |
| 6. Harris Pubs | Monthly Bourse | 20. L. Constantine |
| 7. Vera Trinder | 14. M. Chipperfield | |

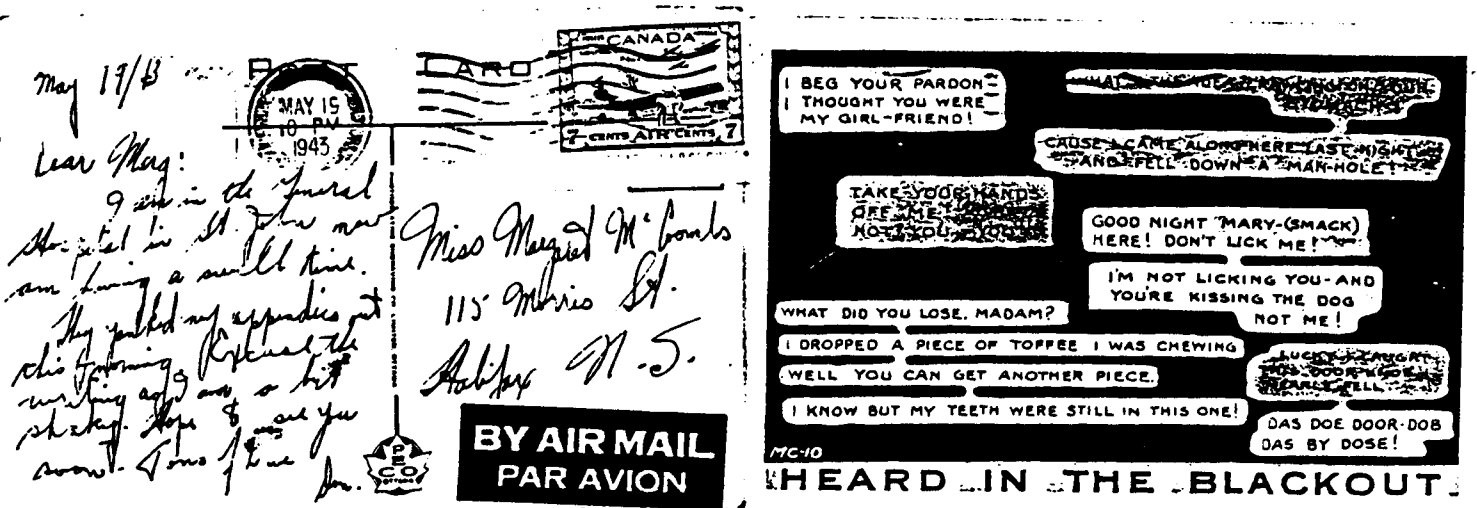
I have been fortunate enough to have made several visits to London, the first as a penniless young RCAF officer on leave in 1944, the last in April 1986. Each time I have included stamp shops in my itinerary and still have many items in my collection acquired on my visits over 40 years ago. My only regret is these early purchases were severely restricted by an income that did not exceed £1.50 per day and London did provide many other places to dispose of this. However, I do still have an unused copy of New Brunswick No.1 purchased for 30 shillings (then \$7.50) from a delightful lady named Poole in Bournemouth. I did meet a Scotland Yard detective outside Gibbons one day and after the war we corresponded for several years. His job was guarding the young King Faisal of Iraq who was attending Harrow school, and I was sent many stamps soaked off the King's correspondence. Oh, how I longed for the envelopes but these were denied me. Oh well, King Faisal ended his days at the hands of a mob in Baghdad and has been forgotten.

Over the years I have continued to use Gibbons albums and other supplies and continue on their mailing list receiving their ever-increasingly slick and colourful brochures. However this year, to my wife's astonishment, I spent only about 15 minutes in their large shop on the Strand and emerged without spending a pence. I did, however, divest myself of currency in the Collector's Centre tucked away in a covered, but with ends opened to the elements, mall located at No. 18 on the map. This operates year round each Saturday and warrants a lengthy visit by all stamp collectors. Several dealers there also cater to collectors of post cards. I also found a very nice shop in the celebrated Lanes area of the seaside resort of Brighton. This shop proved a real refuge for me while my wife toured the many other shops catering to her interests in the unique complex. The delightful town of Penzance in Cornwall houses a stamp shop, and in 1978 I spent quite a while there while Trudy was doing her thing elsewhere in town. Edinburgh has its castle, but it also has the Edinburgh Stamp Shop which has operated successfully for many years and, of course, the British Post Office Philatelic Centre is located there. How I wished I had purchased the British PHQ postcards which were on sale for 7 pence each when I was there in 1976. Some of these now retail for £80! This article is already longer than your esteemed editor would like and I won't prevail on his good nature much more with my ramblings. I have visited many more stamp dealers located such places as Stratford, Bath, Dublin, and Cork, and each visit brought new experiences.

I heartily recommend members consider making a trip to the British Isles. If you do make such a trip, don't miss the stamp shops and keep your eyes open for friends along the way. You may even have the wonderful experience of meeting one in a tube station one day and along Buckingham Palace Road three days later, as was the case with Dr. Lloyd McPherson and myself last April.

COVER OF THE MONTH, by Dave Cooper

This month's cover is another reminder of Remembrance Day, and a sequel to an item in the January 1984 Newsletter. It is an example of a "wasted" blackout cancel, where the point of origin, eliminated on the cancel for security reasons, is apparent from mention in the text. Even though the cancel is a dark blackout type, by reading the message it is evident that the card was written and mailed from St. John, N.B., on 19 May 1943. Other "wasted" blackout cancels occur where the envelope bears a corner inscription that indicates the name and address of the sending company.



This card is of interest for two other reasons. The comic back is entitled "HEARD IN THE BLACKOUT" and the card is cancelled with a blackout cancel. The comments are comical and at that time of the war quite appropriate. The card was sent airmail from St. John to Halifax via airmail and is franked with a 7 cent air mail stamp issued only on April 16, 1943, thus showing usage of the stamp within the first month of issue. As the cost of this card was only one slim dime, it clearly shows that there are still interesting bargains available.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

The October Executive meeting of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club was held on the 20th, in the Saint Mary's University Library. George MacKenzie reported on the success of the 30th September meeting for prospective members (see Elizabeth Soderer's report above). Seven new applications for members have been received since the meeting. Marilyn Murphy reported on the continuing lack of response to appeals to find those missing their keepsake trophies- she will take other action. The Executive again discussed the venue for our 1988 Annual Show. John Hall's figures showed that the World Trade Centre would be too expensive, so other options are being explored.

Bob Vaison and Larry Hitz will run the giant auction, to be held at the February meeting. There will be reserves on the material if the vendors so desire, the regular auctioneers will be asked to handle the task, and lots can be given to the organizers beforehand or the night of the auction.

Regarding the 1987 annual exhibition, it still lacks a chairman. John Hall will inquire about the possibility of getting a special show cancel from Canada Post, something we've had in the past. Hugh Rathbun will distribute an analysis of the most effective ways to advertise the.

Marilyn will check to see if the Club has small, business-type cards, for distribution in places like Scotia Stamp Studio.

The Club netted \$29.80 from the Sept. auction, and \$25.85 from the October auction. After some discussion, it was decided that the current bidding policy would continue, and that the auction cashiers would maintain a \$50.00 float to make change.

MEMBERSHIP

The following are now members of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club:

#832. Steve Korman	#833. George Lafontaine
#834. Jean MacDonald	#835. Walter Schlech III
#836. Dirk Wolters	

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

Christopher Allworth, 36 Milsom Av., Hfx, N.S. B3N 2B9. Christopher's philatelic interests include France, Yarmouth N.S., and Great Britain.

Raymond During, 22 1/2 Regent Dr., Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 3L1. Raymond collects Canada, Commonwealth, and Canada FDCs.

Terry Eyland, RR#1, Boutilier's Pt., N.S. BOG 1G0. Terry is interested in Canada and post cards.

Mike Kruger, 1 Limardo Drive, Dartmouth, N.S. B3A 3X2. Mike collects Canada, Nfld, P.E.I., N.B. and N.S.

Jim MacKenzie, 430 Poplar Dr., Dartmouth, N.S. B2W 4L3. Jim's interests include Canadian Small Queens, and Squared Circle and Fancy cancels.

Roger Pocklington, Box 572, Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 3Y9. Roger collects postally used postage stamps of the reign of King George VI.

Stephen Warnock, 79 Prince Albert Rd. #3, Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 1M1. Stephen collects the world, used.

Advertisements

Wanted: Pre 1950 Guysborough County, N.S. Postmarks (on cover preferred) by a junior collector. Please contact: Jane Sodero, 831 Tower Rd., Halifax, N.S., B3H 2Y1 422-7589.

Want lists welcome for Canadian First Day Covers. Write Boone's Stamps, P.O. Box 284, Slemon Park, P.E.I., COB 2A0.

200 different N.S. Split Ring Cancels on cover/card \$300.00. Larger collections available. Boone's Stamps, P.O. Box 284, Slemon Park, P.E.I., COB 2A0.

Selected British Colonies, mint and used, all at 50% Scott Catalogue value (in Cdn \$'s!). Boone's Stamps, P.O. Box 284, Slemon Park, P.E.I., COB 2A0.

Canada Used- excellent prices- send your want list for quotes. Boone's Stamps, P.O. Box 284, Slemon Park, P.E.I., COB 2A0.

Ad Rates: \$2.00 minimum, 5 cents/word, maximum length of 50 words (\$2.50).