

NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB

Season's



Greetings

NEWSLETTER

No. 175

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: 9 December 1986.

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

IT'S TIME, by Doug Casey, Senior Exhibits Chairman

With Christmas upon us, it is time to think of the coming Spring Exhibition and what you might want to enter in either the competitive or non-competitive divisions.

All of you have an area of stamp collecting that interests you. Why not examine it to see if there is some way you could present a portion of it so as to inform and/or enthuse other? It only requires 8 pages (8 1/2" x 11") to complete one frame. Surely there must be sufficient material in your collection to enable you to prepare 16 pages (2 frames) for the show. Written material can be done by hand or typewritten.

Thinking about the show now will give you time to properly plan and prepare your exhibit, as well as "pick up" those little items that will add to your present material.

I always thought that entering an exhibit was only for the "advanced" collectors in the Club. Several years ago I gave it a try. One of my exhibits won nothing! The other took a bronze- but it was lots of fun! Since then, I've become hooked and have entered exhibitions not only here but in other parts of Canada and the U.S.A. Won't you consider it too?

If I can be of any help in answering your questions or offering suggestions, please give me a call. My number is 422-2918. Let's make this year's exhibits the best ever.

Doug Casey
Senior Exhibits Chairman

PROGRAMME NOTES

John Hall's November 11th programme emphasized the Remembrance Day theme: he presented a slide illustrated lecture covering the war-related fiscal issues of Canada (war tax stamps, war savings stamp, and the like). Some of the slides showed related ephemera, such as matchbook covers and posters exhorting people to invest for the war effort. The annual Christmas Cheer Auction followed John's presentation. Strong bidding and good cheer made the auction a lively affair. In fact, the auction raised an impressive \$370, which must surely be a record sum for recent years, and is \$100 more than last year. The money will go to the Salvation Army and Bonnie Lee Farm. Many thanks to the Truro Philatelic Society for the contribution of 2 box loads of literature, which sold, in several lots, for over \$60. A final thank you is due all those who contributed lots to the auction, and all those who bid so actively.

The programme for the 9 December meeting is a one page exhibition. Members are requested to bring a page from one of their albums showing an interesting stamp, cover, or usage, and be prepared to talk about it for a few minutes. Previous 1 page exhibitions have been successful, with much fascinating material being shared, but it needs YOUR participation to work. So go through your stuff, and bring a page that you'd like to share.

EDITORIAL

This month's feature article by Doug Allan contains some stinging criticism of Canada Post and modern parents. Doug faults CP for producing "lithographed garbage" that nobody wants to collect. While I agree that CP does pump out too many issues, I have found that kids starting to collect stamps like colourful issues: they just can't get them. I started my adult collecting by sorting out colorful Israeli issues, but at least I had relatives who used them as postage. Today, how much mail coming into our households actually is stamped? In my house, less than 10%! The rest is permit or metered. How can kids collect stamps, how can parents encourage stamps collecting (particularly collecting of used, inexpensive stamps) if the stamps aren't there to collect? While overproduction by CP may hurt the hobby, as does parental disinterest, if children can't get their first stamps to collect off of household mail, the hobby will surely die. Use stamps.

OOHH CANADA, by J. Doug Allan

This writer started collecting stamps a long time ago... How long ago?... Well, a trip to the Post Office with 50 cents could get you a stamp with a picture of Grand Pre on it... but what child had 50 cents in those early days of the Depression? In my neighbourhood, most kids had one common characteristic, though, and that was lots of enthusiasm. Several of us put this to good use when we took up stamp collecting. We learned which of the business houses put their waste paper in bins behind their establishments and which threw out the most interesting envelopes. We enlisted the help of family friends who had access to their employers' mail or those who had relatives in distant

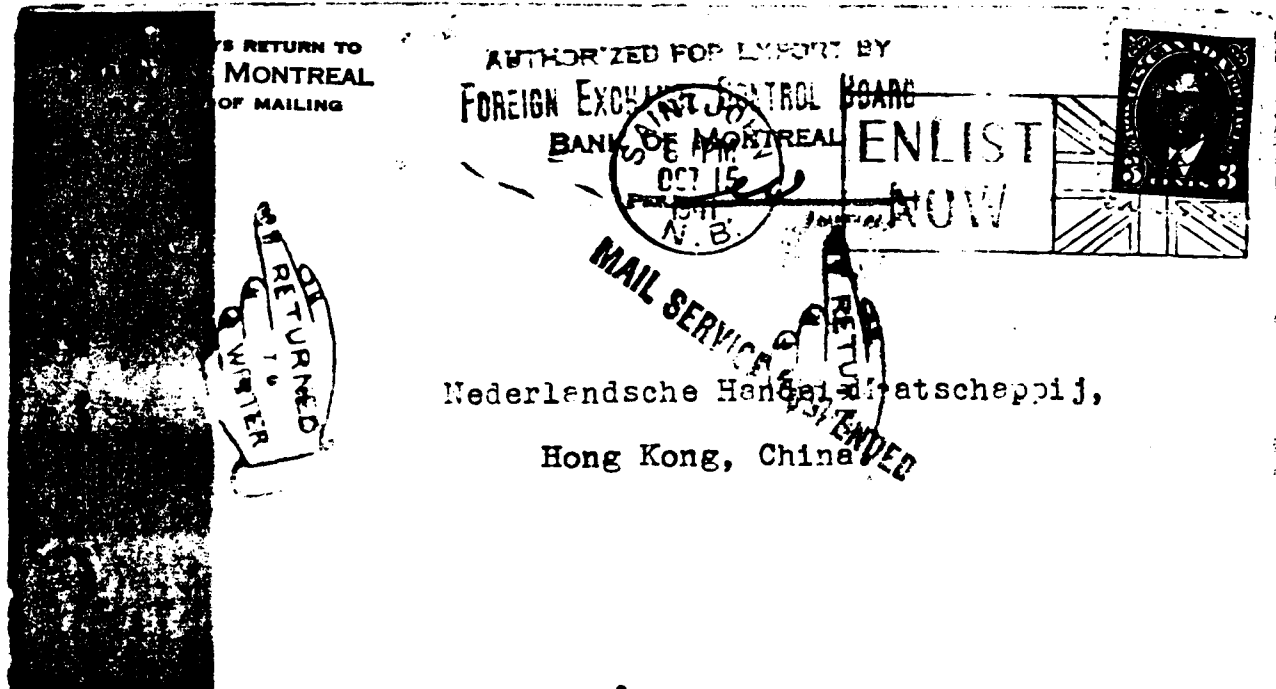
countries such as a missionary in India. If we had a nickel or a dime left over when we emerged from the Saturday movie, in which Tom Mix always got the girl and rode off into the sunset, we could pick up very interesting packets of stamps at Woolworths. The point I am making is that while we had very little money, we still could indulge in our new hobby and have a great deal of fun doing it. Moreover, stamp collecting was something most children did as a matter of course, and our parents encouraged it. I was lucky enough to be taught some of the finer points of the hobby at an early age as a member of the stamp club formed by Cathleen Jones and I will be forever grateful to this wonderful lady. I have often wondered how many of the other beneficiaries of Miss Jones' kindness have stayed with our hobby. Those who didn't have missed a lot of enjoyment, knowledge, friendships and happiness, for this writer has obtained all of these and more from stamp collecting.

In those early days we collected all the world's stamps, but primarily those of Canada. Now pity today's child who in some manner or other is exposed to and succumbs to the lure of stamp collecting. Unless he or his family is independently wealthy, he will be hard pressed to obtain even one copy of each new stamped issued at nauseating frequency by Canada Post Corporation. Even used copies of this lithographed garbage are hard to come by: the waste bins of yesteryear are gone and even if they existed sorting through them would yield few if any stamps. Moreover, to whom could he show the treasures if he did find them? His friends at school? They would only ridicule him as stamp collecting is not an "in" thing. His parents? Perhaps, but more than likely they would only accord them a fleeting glance during a commercial break on Wheel of Fortune. If he is fortunate enough to find another collector among his young friends or has one or more supportive parents who recall the fun they had as collectors, his collecting interest may have a chance to survive. But the odds are against this surviving his teen and young adult years. Hopefully, he may recall some of the fascination and resume collecting later, and even join the Nova Scotia Stamp Club that has managed to survive through thick and thin for 64 years. I doubt, though, he will be collecting the modern issues of Canada. Their potential as collectable material now and in the future appears to this writer to be bleak indeed. The present output suffers by comparison with the stamps of many other countries in designs, quality of printing processes, frequency of emissions and overall desirability in the eyes of collectors. Until Canada Post recognizes this and make major modifications, more and more mature collectors throughout the world will shun their stamps and fewer and fewer young people in Canada will participate in what is still the world's greatest hobby. Oh yes, Canada Post officials will say "Why knock it, we are making money from collectors in large amounts, aren't we?". True... but at what cost, and for how long? OH CANADA, Oh Canada Post, put your corporate heads together and come out with better philatelic policies or your lovely philatelic cash flow will soon trickle out. I recognize that some of what I have said may prove to be controversial and am sure that the Newsletter editor will welcome any comments from members.

COVER OF THE MONTH, by Dave Cooper with Ken MacDonald

This month's cover fits into many areas of postal history. Look at the markings/cancels and decide for yourself.

The letter is from the Bank of Montreal, Saint John, N.B., and addressed to "Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij/ Hong Kong, China". It is franked by a three cent first George VI issue and was cancelled at 6PM 15 October, 1941, at Saint John with a patriotic slogan cancel "ENLIST/ NOW" with Union Jack.



At this time, Japan was fighting in China but had not yet declared war on the U.K. or the U.S.A. However, Canada was at war in Europe, so you will note the light purple marking in four lines "AUTHORIZED FOR EXPORT BY/ FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROL BOARD/ BANK OF MONTREAL/_____". Due to war restrictions, the envelope was examined and passed by censor C. 282.

As the letter was sent surface half way around the world, it obviously did not get to Hong Kong prior to the hostilities caused by Japan's attack at Pearl Harbour and subsequent invasion of Hong Kong. So, the turquoise "MAIL SERVICE SUSPENDED" and the pointed finger "RETURNED/ TO/ WRITER" instructional markings were applied to the much-travelled letter. The last stamp is on the reverse and shows a boxed "INSPECTION DIVISION/ DEAD LETTER OFFICE/ MAY 27 1942/ No. 11/ Ottawa, Canada." handstamp.

It is believed that the 3 cents paid a printed matter rate to Hong Kong, as the address is typed. If the address was written, it would have been considered a letter, and the 5 cent rate would have applied. All in all, a most interesting cover.

GERMAN STAMP CLUB

Enjoy collecting stamps? Are you interested in Germany or any other area of stamp collecting and postal history? The German Stamp Club of Nova Scotia is looking for new members who like to study, talk about and trade material on various areas around the world, including Germany and related countries. Our meetings are as follows:

DATE: Third Thursday of each month

TIME: 7:30 PM

PLACE: Nova Scotia Museum Boardroom

Visitors are always welcome.

MEMBER'S NOTES

The Club wishes a speedy recovery to Anne-Marie Belliveau, of the Valley Stamp Club, from her recent surgery.

MEMBERSHIP

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

#837. Christopher Allworth #838. Raymond During #839. Terry Eyland

#840. Mike Kruger

#841. Jim MacKenzie

#842. Roger Pocklington

#843. Stephen Warnock

The following have applied for membership in the NSSC:

Jacques Laverdure. Jacques collects Canada and USA.

Carl Munden. Carl collects N.S. postmarks and corner cards of Cape Breton counties.

PHIL-A-TELIC

Phil reports that, in answer to last month's question on the current market value of a Seaway Invert, one such stamp realized \$12,000 recently in a Gary Lyon auction. Phil also reports a lack of questions, and so poses one himself: what is a satcheleer?

One of the side effects of the slump in demand for relatively common stamps has been the disappearance at shows of satcheleers, aka vestpocket or briefcase dealers. Some show dealers and collectors might call this a benefit. When you're busy trying to serve an important customer at your booth and a satcheleer won't go away, or worse still, starts to solicit your customer, you don't miss the absence of satcheleers. Likewise, if you have other sources of supply for the material generally offered by the vestpocket dealers, again, you won't miss them on the bourses.

There is, however, another side to the story: the lack of wholesale business at the shows, and the effect that decline has had on the market as a whole. There was a time, until the late 1970s, that a dealer could churn cash and/or inventory at a good weekend show, be it a major 3 day event or a Sunday bourse. The ability to wholesale unneeded material was healthy for the hobby. Need a set of Huguenots? Want to get rid of 50 Boston Tea Party plate blocks? Chances were someone in the show room would have worked out a deal. If not one of the boothholders, then a briefcase dealer.

At times, the satcheleers might even work a deal between two dealers that the dealers themselves couldn't work out. Retailer A might have what Retailer B wants, but if B doesn't have time to get to A's table, or if A, not knowing B too well, doesn't want to give B more than a 10% discount, there won't be any deal. (to be continued-send your questions or comments to Phil at 1333 South Park St., Apt. 515, Halifax, N.S., B3J 2K9- he needs you!!!!).

EXECUTIVE MEETING

The November meeting of the NSSC Executive was held on the 17th, in the St. Mary's Library. Marilyn Murphy reported progress on the keepsake trophies: she had identified nearly all the trophy winners from the past, and would soon place the order for those missing their keepsake awards.

George MacKenzie has graciously volunteered to be chairman of the 1987 Annual Exhibition, and has lined up nearly all of the necessary committee chairman. George said that the 1988 Exhibition has been booked for the Lord Nelson Hotel for April 8th, 9th and 10th. John Hall is still trying to get in touch with the proper people at Canada Post to see if they will use a special cancel for the 1987 Exhibition. Hugh Rathbun distributed to the Executive copies of an article discussing the effectiveness of various ways of advertising stamp shows. The Executive decided to prepare a short survey form for our show, to be filled out at the door, to determine how people found out about the show, and why they came. All who fill out the survey will be eligible for a special door prize. The Exec will also explore using Canada Post's philatelic mailings to advertise the Show. Also in relation to the Show, the Executive discussed how judges who also display handle the situation. It was felt that the Club needs additional judges, and a knowledge of the Royal's policy on judges who display, particularly when the number of judges is severely limited.

The Christmas Cheer auction raised \$352 in sales, and another \$18 in donations, for an outstanding total of \$370. Thanks go to the Truro club, for their donation of literature for the auction.

Archie Thomas presented a list of delinquent members. They will have a special insert dues reminder in this Newsletter, which will be their last if they fail to pay.

The next Executive meeting will be held on 19 January, 1986.

Advertisements

Want lists welcome for **Canadian First Day Covers**. Write Boone's Stamps, P.O. Box 284, Slemon Park, P.E.I., C0B 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., C0B 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., C0B 2A0.

Canada Used- excellent prices- send your want list for quotes. Boone's Stamps, P.O. Box 284, Slemon Park, P.E.I., C0B 2A0.