

NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 20 #1 Whole Number 176

Meetings: Second Tuesday of the month, at the Nova Scotia Museum, Summer Street, Halifax. 8:00 PM. No meetings July and August.

Next Meeting: 13 January 1987.

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

NEWSLETTER NEWS

You may have noticed the masthead change in last month's Newsletter. There is a change this month, as well. Starting with this, the first issue of Volume 20, each issue will receive a serial number for the volume, as well as a whole number to maintain the old numbering system. Sound confusing? It's not: it's just a more appropriate way of keeping track of published material.

Doug Allen's article last month on Canada Post's issuing policy stirred up the controversy Doug hoped for. After all, didn't I actually write an editorial about it? Alexander Clark, in Pubnico, agrees with Doug, writing that he has just cancelled his standing order with CP-"too many issues, too many of no real interest and many not of sufficient design appeal".

PROGRAMME NOTES

The 9 December meeting of the NSSC featured a one-page exhibition, in which about a dozen items were presented for display. Participating in the programme were John Hall, Ron Lewis, Dave Cooper, and others. The programme was followed by the usual auction, which saw lively bidding on some items, and some real bargains change hands.

The 13 January meeting will focus on the upcoming Annual Exhibition scheduled for April. Philatelic judges will be on hand to talk about exhibiting: what judges look for in exhibits, how to present material for display, etc. They will answer questions about exhibiting, and members are encouraged to bring a few pages of their collections for an informal critique. Remember the day: 13 January, for the first Nova Scotia Stamp Club meeting of the New Year. If you are thinking about exhibiting, or just interested in how to present your collection in a more pleasing fashion, be there!

MEMBERS' NOTES

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Club member Marcel Baril, who passed away on 30 November. A long-standing member of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club, Marcel served nearly a quarter century with the Canadian Forces, and promoted stamp collecting in Spryfield. The Executive and Members of the NSSC offer their sincerest condolences to his widow Lucie, son Mark and other relations on their loss.

EXHIBITION UPDATE

EXHIBITION WATCH- George MacKenzie, Chairman

After a diligent search by the Exhibition Chairman, sufficient volunteers were found to fill the Committee Chairs for our 1987 Exhibition. For members' information, the chairpeople are listed below: any club members that would like to help out on any committee please give me a call at 422-5514 or contact any of the Executive members at the next club meeting.

Exhibition Chairman	George MacKenzie
Senior Exhibits	Doug Casey
Junior Exhibits	Marilyn Murphy
Bourse	Marty Zelenietz
Layout/Design	Mat Somers
Judging	Ken MacDonald
Club Table	Dave Cole
Publicity	Hugh Rathbun
Banquet	Bob Vaison
Program/Advertising	John Hall
Facilities	George MacKenzie

Basically, the rules and regulations will be the same as past years. All members are requested to do their best to make up an entry of 8 or more pages. Don't forget, your entry can be a non-competitive one. Also remember that you don't compete against any other entry: an entry worthy of a medal will receive one, and there is no limit to the number of medals awarded. The rule and regulations will be enclosed with the February Newsletter, which will reach you late January or early February. The Exhibition Committee has already met, so the gears are in motion for the show, set for 11 and 12 April 1987. Regular updates on the status of things will appear in the Newsletter.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION- Doug Casey, Senior Exhibits

This is traditionally a time for making resolutions. One which I ask our members to consider is related to the coming Exhibition. It has to do with resolving to participate in OUR Annual Exhibition. Participation always involves effort and the effort asked in this case is to prepare and display a few frames (perhaps only 16 pages) on a stamp area that interests you.

Some of our Club members (qualified judges) propose to give of their time at the January meeting to instruct us on presenting material in a show. They will also answer your questions, publicly or in private. Why not resolve to be at the meeting, and to follow up by preparing something for exhibit?

(Ed.'s note- thanks for the nice cover, Doug. Much appreciated.)

COLLECTING POSSIBILITIES WITH FRENCH STAMPS, by Bob Vaison

Many collectors, once they move beyond the beginner stage of our hobby, quickly tire of the myriad of pretty news issues constantly put out by many nations of the world- including Canada. We watch the costs of accumulating even a matched set of plate blocks soar. Furthermore, there is little in the way of challenge in this type of collecting.

In recent years, as a result, collectors have been turning to new fields of collecting and research such as postal history and in-depth study of recent sets such as the caricature definitives of Canada. Another way to broaden our interests and develop our collections is to tackle another country, especially one with a respectable and diversified philatelic history. One excellent candidate is Germany; the growth of the local German stamp club testifies to this.

Another country that is a worthy candidate is France. This country first issued postage stamps in 1849, and examples of this first series of (what we would now call) definitives are still to be had at reasonable cost- though some of the set is, not surprisingly, quite expensive. By the end of 1984 France had only issued about 2,000 different stamps, if we use Scott catalogue numbers as a guide. In contrast, Russia had put out over 5,000 as of the same date.

Mention of the Scott catalogue reminds me to note that while it is useful as a starting point, better French sources can be easily had. Stanley Gibbons puts out a handy volume which is worthwhile and contains French colonial issues as well. The first edition came out in 1979- the one I have- and it might be worth checking on later editions. It has the advantage, like Scott, of being in English. If getting by in French is possible, one can move to several fine catalogues, notable among which are those published by Ceres and Yvert & Tellier. Yet another very helpful source is a catalogue and sales list published by a Paris dealer, H. Thiaude. I picked up my copy (1983 edition) when I was in Europe a couple of years ago.

Several of the definitive series of France have been the subject of some study, and offer fascinating collecting possibilities. A few that may be noted: the early Napoleons; the Ceres issue of the early 1870's; the Peace and Commerce series covering 1876 to about 1900; and the subsequent Liberty and Peace issue. Other fields that offer good opportunity are the well-known and attractive art stamps (issued from 1961 to date) and the many semi-postals, many of which are a challenge to find in fine used condition.

All in all, the stamps of France provide a philatelist with much of interest. The vast majority are quite reasonably priced, and many are finely engraved issues. Try them and see!

FEBRUARY GIANT AUCTION

As noted in several recent Newsletters, we have decided to replace the catalogue auction of the past with a GIANT auction, which will be run along the lines of our normal monthly auctions and will be the only programme at the February meeting. Larry Hitz and Bob Vaison have agreed to coordinate matters.

It is not too soon to begin culling your own vast holdings to select items that could be turned into cash that night. (Save your money to buy, as well!!) It would help Larry and Bob if items for the auction in February could be brought to the January meeting. Be sure and put your stamps, covers, etc. in glassines or other suitable protectors, and identify them properly with Scott number, whether used or unused, and so forth. You can place a reserve if you wish, but make it a realistic one. Place all of your lots in a larger envelope with your name on it.

This is YOUR auction- use it!!! The catalogue auction was abandoned because of lack of lots from members. You can put up to 15 items in this giant auction. It's a good way to dispose of unwanted material and give other members a chance at it.

MEMBERSHIP

The following are now members of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club:
 #844. Jacques Laverdure #855. Carl Munden

The following have applied for membership in the NSSC:

Robert DeBay, 5 Elwin Crescent, Dartmouth, N.S., B2W 3J5. Robert is interested in Canada and the US.

Thomas Goodyer, 7 Foston St., Dartmouth, N.S., B2Y 3T9. Thomas collects Canada.

James Merriam, Box 413, Parrsboro, N.S., B0M 1S0. James collects Canada generalized.

BNAPS UPDATE

Ron Lewis has kindly supplied us with copies of his correspondence with the people at BNAPS (British North America Philatelic Society). For those of you who are not in the picture, BNAPS plans to hold its 1987 convention in Charlottetown. The dates are 17-19 September, and the location is the Rodd Royalty Inn. BNAPS had approached us about using the NSSC frames for its convention, but it turns out that, due to the limited space available to them, they need frames that rest in a vertical position, so our frames are out. Their space limitations also effect the number of exhibitors they can handle: with a projected number of only 50 frames, speculation is that the exhibits will be by "invitation only". This might effect some of our own club members, who were planning on exhibiting at BNAPS. We hope that this will not change those members' plans to exhibit at our own Annual Exhibition in April.

PHIL-A-TELIC

(What is a Satcheleer?, continued) 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. Not without the Satcheleers, that is. Because Satcheleer C is roaming the room, knowing that B needs a Huguenot set. He gets to Dealer A, with whom he has done business before (usually selling to, rather than buying from). A might give him a healthy discount (to encourage the same treatment when the usual buy-sell relationship returns or to pay off an existing debt in stamps rather than cash). C zips back to Dealer B, and everybody's happy.

This sort of wheeling and dealing was one of the important side-benefits to show dealers. And when it disappeared, many show dealers no longer found the shows worth doing. After all, when you can't do enough retail business to move current inventory, your penchant for buying additional inventory wanes. And when enough dealers cut back on their buying from satcheleers, the whole cycle comes to an abrupt halt.

That's what happened in the late 70's, and continues today. Retail dealers don't have the extra cash or the upbeat attitude needed to take a flyer on a good buy offered across the table. They are going to the shows for one reason: to sell for cash.

Of course, there are some exceptions. There is some wheeling and dealing still going on. There are even some retail dealers flush enough to buy a good lot without thinking twice. Hopefully, this segment of the market will pick up. In fact, it may have to be the first segment to pick up if the shows are going to be once again the hubs of philatelic activity they once were.

Unfortunately, when one of the biggest briefcase dealers is shopping around pocket calculators and scissors instead of coils and plate blocks, you don't get a strong feeling that the wholesale show business is about to pick up.

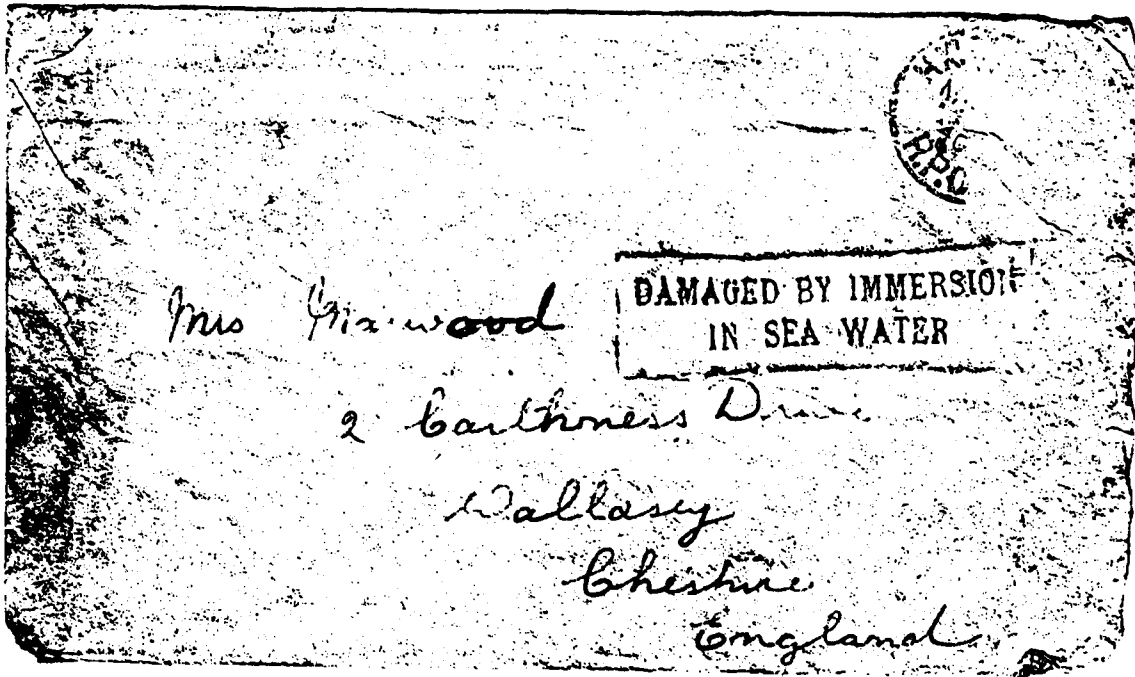
The "Satcheleer" notes were found in a copy of Scotts Stamp Monthly some years ago. Don't make Phil ask the Questions, it's his job to provide the Answers--and your job to ask them!! Let's have a few: mail them to 1333 South Park Street, Apt. 515, Hfx., B3J 2K9.

CAPEX '87

It is not too early to begin setting your plans to attend CAPEX '87, the international philatelic exhibition scheduled for the Toronto Convention Centre, 13-21 June 1987. Capex is a once-in-a-decade event, and given the example set by AMERIPEX '86, should be quite a show. Be there!

COVER OF THE MONTH, by Alexander Clark

This month we feature a "guest cover", contributed by Dr. Alexander Clark of Pubnico. It is an unusual R.P.O. envelope from Wilmot, Nova Scotia, posted on the Halifax-Digby-Yarmouth R.P.O. in May 1940. The 3 cent stamp is missing from the front, and the absence is explained by the boxed purple "DAMAGED BY IMMERSION/ IN SEA WATER" handstamp. The reverse features an official brown paper reseal. As this is a wartime cover, there is the likelihood that the cover comes from a torpedoed ship. Can anyone supply additional information?



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