

NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 20 #3 Whole Number 178

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

Next Meeting: 10 March 1987.

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

PROGRAMME NOTES

Stamp collecting is a strong drive, so strong, in fact, that not even Mother Nature's frozen fury could keep collectors away from our February **GIANT** auction on the 10th. 60 members braved the cold and blowing snow in their search for elusive stamps and terrific bargains. Larry Hitz and Bob Vaison report that an even 200 lots were put on the block: of those, 81% sold. The auction grossed \$1,232.25, and the Club received 10% of that total. Thanks go to our auctioneers Peter Ineson and Stan Dunfield, and our runner Davey Cooper for their stamina at this marathon affair (people didn't leave until 11 PM), and to Larry and Bob for organizing this most successful event. For those of you who missed it, wait until next year!

Our programme for March will feature an expert on home security discussing ways we can protect ourselves against theft. With a reported 20 break-ins a day in the Halifax-Dartmouth area, theft is becoming a more noticeable problem: the March programme will alert us to ways to avoid becoming victims. A similar programme a few years back was well-received, so come and get up-to-date information on theft prevention and home security protection.

The March programme will also feature a new price for the coffee normally available during the break. Our basic charge of 25 cents remained unchanged for more years than anyone could remember. In that time, costs for the coffee and Tim-bits have risen markedly, to the point where we now lose money every time we serve. To offset the loss, the Executive agreed to raise the price of coffee and Tim-bits to 50 cents. This is still a bargain- where else in town can you get a cup of coffee, and a sweet treat, for only half a buck?

EXHIBITION WATCH, by George MacKenzie

I don't need to remind you that this year's Stamp Exhibition will be at the Lord Nelson Hotel on Saturday and Sunday, 11 and 12 April, but I'll update the different committee efforts working to make this year's show as good as past years'.

Senior Exhibits. Please get your entry forms (see last Newsletter) into Doug Casey as soon as possible. The deadline for entering is 27 March. Remember, your exhibit need not be finished yet, but the earlier we get the forms the quicker we can set up the frame sequence. Many members have already entered exhibits- lets all come forward and ensure we have at least a 100 frame Exhibition.

Junior Exhibits. Marilyn Murphy says the juniors will enter about a dozen frames. Remember, the Juniors have an auction Saturday morning, and Senior members are requested to donate lots. Bring your donations to the next meeting and give them to Marilyn.

Program/Advertising. John Hall reports good progress on the program, with about \$300 in ads already. He's always on the lookout for more, so if you know of a likely advertiser, let John know.

Publicity. Hugh Rathbun has publicity well in hand, but may need help later. Canada Post is doing a free electronic mailing to south end Halifax just prior to the Exhibition, so we should have good coverage there. We'll also advertise in the Metro Telecaster, and of course Rob Matthews will give us his usual excellent coverage in Perforations.

Club Table. Shortly after you get this Newsletter, Dave Cole and his helpers will contact members to ask them to volunteer 2 hours of their time to man the Club Table. No money to worry about- all you need is a smiling face and a few good words for each person walking in the door. You'll meet many people and provide a service to the Club.

Bourse. As this is the major revenue earner for the Exhibition, it is important that we get as many dealers as possible. So far, we have 7 dealers who will attend, plus Canada Post. If you know of a dealer that might want to attend, get in touch with Marty Zelenietz at 463-0687 and he'll handle it from there.

Banquet. The big news here is that our guest speaker will be none other than that genial Irish wit, Doug Allen. A raconteur of note, Doug will accent the good food with high calibre entertainment. Of course, the awards will also be presented. The ticket price will be announced as soon as possible, and appears to be in line with last year's cost.

Judging. If you want to be a novice judge, contact Ken MacDonald as soon as possible- we have slots for 2 or 3 novices this year.

Layout/Design. All in hand under the capable chairmanship of Mat Sommers. The frame transportation to and from the hotel is already covered, but we'll still need your help at the hotel to set up at 6 PM Friday, and to take down at 5 PM Sunday.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for any of the Exhibition tasks or committees should get in touch with George MacKenzie at 422-5514. We need your help- and the more, the merrier.

OXFAM- STAMPING OUT POVERTY

It all started back in 1972, when Oxfam volunteers in Great Britain began gathering stamps to help finance Third World development projects. The programme grew and grew, and in 1984 alone, Oxfam Britain raised over C\$130,000 through stamp sales. As all the stamps are donated, and all labour volunteered, the overhead costs are extremely low, and the amount of money that reaches the projects in the field is extremely high.

This idea was too good to remain in Ye Olde Country, so in 1980 Oxfam-Canada began its own stamp programme. School children in Alberta, a trade union in Yellowknife, and the Premier's Office in New Brunswick have all saved stamps from incoming mail for Oxfam. Some people carefully cut the stamps from envelopes, others let covers pile up in boxes. Eventually, they turn the material over to Oxfam. Regional offices ship the material to Ottawa, where volunteers sort it into lots, ranging in size from single covers to 150 gram on-paper packets, off-paper mixtures, and genuine kiloware bundles. Some of the material is sold at shows in the Toronto-Ottawa region, while most is distributed through the mails. From a slow beginning in Canada (the programme raised \$465 in 1980), Oxfam-Canada's efforts to stamp out poverty have grown: 1981-2, \$1,250; 1983, \$3,000; 1984, \$6,000.

Where does the money go? Because of the low overhead, nearly all is delivered to the targeted projects. As a matter of fact, given various matching grant programmes available, far more than the initial amount can reach the people who need it. Watch how a stamp dollar can grow. Oxfam-Canada needed \$20,000 to help support a farmer's co-op on the northeast coast of the island of Dominica (all you Empire and Commonwealth collectors know where Dominica is). 80% of the money was for capital costs, and the remaining 20% went for operating costs. The co-op was formed of ex-tenant farmers, now working for themselves raising vegetables and coconuts on land bought from a giant multinational and redistributed by the government. To meet the \$20,000 need, Oxfam-Canada needed just \$2,500 from its stamp programme. The western provincial governments matched Oxfam's donation dollar for dollar, making a total of \$5,000. Then CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) gave a 3 for 1 matching grant, and the \$5,000 became \$20,000. And it all started with corners cut from envelopes.

Want to get involved? Want to help stamp out poverty? You can do it in two ways. First, you can donate your duplicate stamps, on or off paper, to Oxfam. The people in the Halifax regional office will be more than glad to receive your donations. If your donation has a retail value of over \$100, Oxfam-Canada can give you a tax receipt. But don't worry about that- just give them your dupes, and the knowledge that you are helping alot of people should be reward enough. The second way you can help is by buying from the programme. Write away to the people in Ottawa, and they'll send you a price list. What you see is what you pay- all material sent postpaid in Canada. Here are the addresses you need:

To Donate
 Oxfam-Canada
 1649 Barrington
 Halifax, N.S.
 B3J 3G5

To Buy
 Oxfam-Canada
 251 Laurier Ave. West
 Ottawa, Ont.
 K1P 5J6

There- you've got the information, now do something useful with it. This is a time when you really can contribute through our hobby of stamp collecting. Don't put it off- do it today.

PHIL-A-TELIC

Phil reports that he hasn't received any answers to last month's query on red phosphorus on Russian stamps- he is still waiting for help. The editor would like to correct himself on his partial answer of Bill Grandy's phosphor question. The last US red phosphor airmail issue was on 2 January 1976 (not 1979, as reported here). Starting with the Wright Brothers airmail issue of 1978, all US airmails have been tagged with green phosphor- some issues with an overall pale green wash, and some with a brighter block tagging.

Phil writes: "This month's question was delivered in hand by our member from way way down on the South Shore, Clyde Stoddart. This fellow is, in my mind, an interested, serious, dedicated philatelist because he drove from the other side of Shelburne to the Auction Night (remember 10 February weather-wise- how many members in Halifax/- Dartmouth stayed home because of the conditions?). He phoned my wife from Bridgewater at 3 PM to make sure the meeting was still on. Now, he wants to know what this cover is all about. After attending the 10 February meeting, I feel he deserves all the help we can collectively muster. The lettering on the top is "Stamps fallen off/at Glace Bay". Does anybody have the history behind this unusual handstamp marking?"

OLD AGE ASSISTANCE BOARD

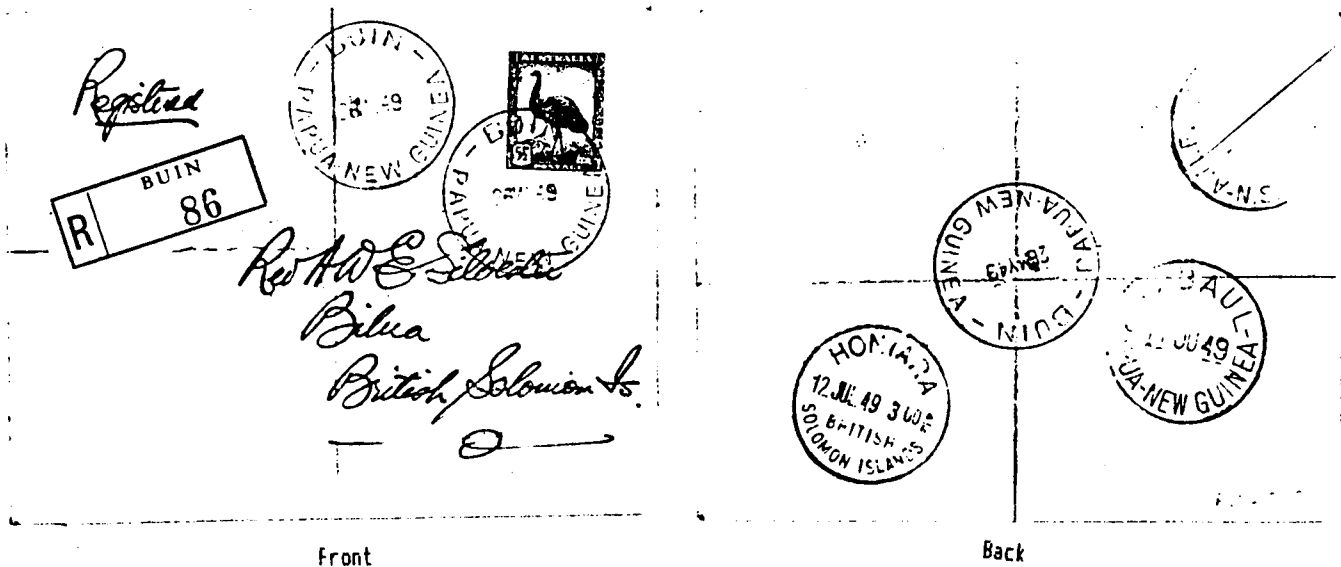
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

HALIFAX, N. S.

The editor regrets having to reduce the left side of the cover, to fit it in. Lets keep the questions, as well as the answers, coming to Phil-A-Telic, 1333 South Park St., Apt. 515, Halifax, NS, B3J 2K9.

COVER OF THE MONTH

This month's cover comes from the editor's collection of Australia used in Papua & New Guinea. Following World War II, Australia refused to issue stamps for its territories of Papua & New Guinea, so civilians there had to use Australian stamps until 1952. The cover below shows a 5 1/2d Emu used to pay the combined first class (2 1/2d) and registered (3d) rate to Bilua in the Solomon Islands. It originated with Rev. Harry Voyce, a missionary on Bougainville and a documenter of the re-establishment of postal services there following the war. Notice the postmark- 26 May 1949, with the date changed by pen to read "28". 28 May marked the opening of the Buin post office, but the dater was mis-set, and all covers cancelled then read 26 May. They were changed by hand to show the correct day.



Cover reduced to 71% of original size

From Buin to Bilua is about 150 kilometres as the frigate bird flies, but backstamps show this cover went over 6,000 km to complete its journey. From Buin, it went northwest to Rabaul (500 km.), then south to Sydney (3,000+ km.), north-northeast to Honiara (2,500+ km.) in the British Solomon Islands, and then finally west to Bilua. What a single man in a canoe could have done in 2 or 3 days took a highly efficient postal system nearly 2 months to accomplish!!

MEMBERSHIP

The wrong numbers were published for the following new members, who now appear with their correct numbers:
 #845-C. Munden; #846-R. DeBay; #847-T. Goodyer; #848- J. Merriam.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

The February Executive meeting of the NSSC was held on the 16th, in the Saint Mary's Library. As Ron Lewis was out of town, the 1st vice president, George MacKenzie, chaired the meeting.

Bob Vaison presented the nomination committee report on the slate for the upcoming elections. Agreeing to serve again were Ron Lewis (president), George MacKenzie (1st VP), Marilyn Murphy (2nd VP), Archie Thomas (treasurer), Larry Hitz (director) and Marty Zelenietz (Newsletter editor, with the understanding that he may have to leave in June- any volunteers out there?). Current Executive members Elizabeth Sodero and John Hall have agreed to become, respectively, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries. John Hurst agreed to become a new director. Collins Baugild is our Honorary Director, and Bob Vaison our Past President. The Executive thanked Bob for his efforts in putting together the slate.

The Executive agreed to act on our decision of last meeting, and join the American Philatelic Society forthwith. We have enough individual APS members in the NSSC to join the APS immediately.

Bob Vaison and Larry Hitz reported on the February auction (see PROGRAMME NOTES). To compare, this year's auction netted the Club \$123.30 on sales of \$1,232.25, while the 1985 Catalog auctioned netted \$112 on sales of \$1,521. This year's auction took much less work to put together, had 44 actual purchasers, and 23 vendors- real Club participation, as opposed to catalog auctions. The Executive thanked Larry and Bob for their hard work, and recommended that the same auction format be retained for next year. The Executive heard of complaints from some members, regarding the behaviour of other members at auction. It seems that one member, having more than the 15 allowable lots, recruited a friend or friends to put in additional lots. This in itself is OK. But it is reported that this partnership then conspired to bid up the price of those lots: for lots that Partner A put in, Partner B would bid up, and vice versa. This is an unethical practice, and the Executive will explore possible action.

Regarding the Exhibition, Marilyn reported that she has not heard back from the Royal on judging policy, so the Executive decided that, for this year and pending a final ruling from the RPSC, judges would be allowed to exhibit in the Show, provided they don't judge their own material. The issue of new frames is still unresolved. Juniors exhibiting material will be able to purchase banquet tickets for \$10. For further Show information, see EXHIBITION WATCH.

Dues will not be raised this year, but the price of coffee will go up. Hugh Rathbun distributed the updated membership list, and it was agreed to make "membership update" a permanent agenda item for Executive Meetings.

Advertising

Write or phone for FREE Price List of mint and used Canada and Provinces stamps. Large discount and special consideration for NSSC members. Quality material at reasonable prices. Will not knowingly be undersold. Satisfaction guaranteed. Want list welcome. HOUSE OF STAMPS, Box 398, Station M, Halifax, N.S., B3J 2P8, 423-1780.

Collect Souvenir Cards? Canada Post official souvenir cards from CAPEX 78, WIPA 81, Essen 82, and PHILEXFRANCE 82 for sale. Call Marty at 463-0687 or write c/o Newsletter.