

# NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB



## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 20 #5 Whole Number 180

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

**Next Meeting:** 12 May 1987.

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

### SPECIAL EIGHT PAGE ISSUE

Because we have so much news, so many views, and a couple of good features this month, we've temporarily expanded the Newsletter to eight pages. I want to thank all of this month's contributors, and all those whose contributions have filled the pages of the Newsletter with fascinating items these past months. Special thanks to the 1987 Exhibition Committee for helping get the last Newsletter out early.

### PROGRAMME NOTES

The May meeting of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club will feature a long-awaited guest speaker, the one and only Stu Blumenthal of Scotia Stamp Studio. Most Club members know Stu from his much-travelled store, and for years we've been trying to get him to speak to us. At our next meeting, Stu will talk about dealing with dealers. He hopes it will be a mainly question and answer session, with lots of audience participation. So bring yourselves, bring your friends, and bring your questions. Remember, that's Tuesday, 12 May, at 8 PM.

The April meeting was our annual general business meeting. The elections dominated the business segment of the meeting. Reelected to serve additional terms were: Ron Lewis, President; George MacKenzie, 1st Vice-president; Marilyn Murphy, 2nd Vice-president; Archie Thomas, Treasurer; Larry Hitz, Director; and Marty Zelenietz, Newsletter editor. Executive members taking on new duties are Elizabeth Sodero, Recording Secretary, and John Hall, Corresponding Secretary. John will also serve as Chairman of the 1988 Annual Exhibition. John Hurst was elected to be a new director. Collins Baugild is our Honorary Director, and Bob Vaison our Past President. Positions filled by volunteers include: Stan Dunfield and Gary Steele, Auctioneers; Hilda VanRooyen, Librarian; Doug Allen, Auditor; Marilyn Murphy, Archivist and Expertising Chairperson.

EXHIBITION CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, by George MacKenzie

Total Attendance:	Saturday, April 11th	346
	Sunday, April 12th	<u>198</u>
	Total	544

Entries:	Court of Honour	8 Frames from 2 Members
	Senior	83 Frames from 15 Members
	Junior	16 Frames from 8 Juniors
	Outside	<u>5</u> Frames from <u>2</u> Exhibitors
Totals		112 Frames from 27 Exhibitors

Dealers: 11 Dealers and Canada Post graced the bourse. Again this year, the dealers were well pleased with the space and position allocation and there was a lot of room for visitors to walk and browse. The local dealers report a good return from their sales, but as usual those from out of town had the additional expenses of travel and lodging to offset their profits. Steve St. Martin, from the State of Maine, had a good time and hopes to return next year.

**AWARDS****Seniors:**

Gold: Dave Harvey-- Nova Scotia (5 Frames)  
Ken MacDonald--Halifax Cancels Originating Prior to Confederation (3 Frames)

Silver: Elizabeth Sodero--Family Ties 1840-1845 (2 Frames)  
George MacKenzie-- Modern Airliners on Stamps (6 Frames)  
Ken MacDonald-- Street Cancels of Halifax (2 Frames)  
Bob Vaison-- Red Cross on Stamps and Covers (6 Frames)  
Les Sarkany-- Aspects of a Police Topical (7 Frames)  
Winston MacIntosh-- The Philatelic Contribution of Scotland and Scots (11 Frames)

Bronze: John Hall-- The 1898 Map Stamp (5 Frames)  
Carl Munden-- Postmasters of Cape Breton (5 Frames)

**Juniors:**

1st Philatelic: Jane Sodero--Laurier Grant's Post Office (3 Frames)

1st Topical: Sarah Glover-- Christmas 1986 (3 Frames)

Silver: Janna Purchase-- Sports on Stamps (1 Frame)

Bronze: Terry Stewart-- 1982-5 Definitives (1 Frame)  
Cheryl Murphy-- Elizabeth II: Princess and Queen (2 Frames)

#### Novice Award

The Novice Award was won by Elizabeth Soderer for her display featuring Family Ties 1840-1845.

There were no winners of the Bill Stephenson Award, The Nova Scotia Stamp Club Award, and the Madge Morrison Trophy. Recipients of the Halifax Herald Limited Nova Scotia Philatelic Heritage Award will be announced in the near future.

The positive aspects of this year's show once again are many, with the main ones being the increased attendance over both days and the high calibre of the exhibits. The judges took until 1:30 AM to finalize their decisions, but the frames were set up by 8:30 PM Friday, so the judges didn't have to wait. Once again, many thanks to the judges: Ken MacDonald (chairman), Marilyn Murphy and Claude Michaud who, while judging, were at the same time training three novice judges.

At this time I would once again like to thank the chairpeople of the 1987 Exhibition for their time and cooperation over the past months as well as for their concentrated efforts during the few days prior to the Exhibition: Senior Exhibits, Doug Casey; Junior Exhibits, Marilyn Murphy; Program/Advertising, John Hall; Publicity, Hugh Rathbun; Judging and Awards, Ken MacDonald; Bourse, Marty Zelenietz; Club Table, Dave Cole; Layout/Design, Matt Somers; Facilities, George MacKenzie; and Banquet, Bob Vaison. Special thanks to Doug Allen, our guest speaker, who provided a thoroughly entertaining after-dinner address.

Thanks again to the members for their support and interest shown throughout the time period from September 1986 to the Exhibition itself on 11 and 12 April, 1987.

#### Exhibition Publicity Survey, by Hugh Rathbun

282 non-members completed the survey designed to discover which methods of publicity attracted people to the show. 236 respondents checked one box, while 46 people indicated two or more forms of publicity that attracted their attention. The results (too lengthy to tabulate here) indicate that the Canada Post electronic mailing was by far the best publicity source for drawing people to the show (124 responses). Additionally, word of mouth was effective (69 responses), as was Perforations (61 responses). CBC Radio was the only broadcast medium to produce any results at all.

The survey leads to the conclusion that we should place more emphasis on word of mouth communication. It is free and effective. The Metro Telecaster ad (18 responses), is not effective enough to justify the expense (\$68.20). The Mail Star/Chronicle Herald ad (29 responses/\$18.36), however, is effective. Flyers also attract people. The Canada Post electronic mailing was very successful, but we must remember the service was a free experiment by Canada Post. If we have to pay for the mailing, it is not cost effective for us.

### EXHIBITION '87, by Doug Allan

Each year the snow banks disappear, skateboards become a menace on our streets, crocuses venture their heads above the ground, and our club holds its annual exhibition. Only the skateboards are relatively new to the scene: the exhibition is not. This year the Nova Scotia Stamp Club turned 65, and has staged exhibitions in most of those years. While the format of these has remained virtually unchanged for some time, each of our exhibitions is something members look forward to as one of the established rites of spring.

By any standard you wish to use, Exhibition '87 was a success. The exhibits were of a very high calibre and the task of the judges was a difficult one indeed. The exhibitors are to be congratulated on the hard work and expertise that their exhibits reflected so very well. Given the high quality of all the exhibits I am sure the judges will agree there was a fine line between winners and non-medalists and all who made the effort are worthy of our plaudits and thanks. It has been said many times that the time to start preparing your exhibit for next year is right away... so what are we waiting for?

Comments on the quality of the displays prepared by members of the Junior Stamp Club are deserving of a paragraph all by themselves. Over the last few years Junior exhibits have improved steadily and have now reached a very high plateau. One thing that shone forth, in this writer's opinion, was the meticulous attention to detail paid by these young people. Obviously, they are receiving good training and Marilyn Murphy deserves high praise for providing this and instilling a love of stamps in her charges that certainly shines forth, as does the encouragement given by their parents.

The number of people who attended was higher than any of our shows in recent memory, and while the good weather was a factor so was the electronic mail drop carried out by Canada Post: we are in debt to those in the Corporation responsible for this excellent publicity and to Hugh Rathbun, the Publicity Chairman.

Attendance at the Saturday evening Banquet was very high, the food was excellent, and Ken MacDonald's comments on judging and exhibit quality were most interesting and informative. It would be very easy to gloss over and consign to limbo the address of the banquet's speaker [Ed.'s note- I disagree] and I will do just that, but he would be very remiss were he not to thank the club for the privilege of addressing it's 65th anniversary banquet.

All in all, it was a great exhibition and Chairman George MacKenzie and the many other members who assisted him can take justifiable pride in a job very well done, very well done indeed.

[Editor's note: Doug's song of praise to the Exhibition represents an unsolicited, but nevertheless quite welcome, article for the News-letter and Exhibition evaluation. I'm sure he speaks for many of us.]

On Consistency, by Marty Zelenietz

I'm confused. No, I'm more than confused- I'm confounded. Two years ago, I entered an exhibit in our annual show, and received a silver medal for my efforts. The judges' only suggestion to me: get the "high values" to make it into a gold medal contender. Endless auction catalogs later, I added the elusive high values to my collection. Last September, my expanded collection competed at a national level show in the States, and brought home a silver medal. I felt good, but the glow disappeared at this year's NSSC annual show. My collection did not even garner a bronze medal. What happened? I had followed the judges' advice, to no avail. The inconsistency in the results from year to year, and from national level to local level, puzzled me.

I talked with a judge this year, during the show. Some of the comments and criticisms were trenchant and useful, others were frivolous. I was still puzzled by the inconsistency.

My case is not unique. Three years ago, another club member exhibited his material, and earned a bronze medal. He paid close attention to the judges' comments. In improving his collection, he used them as the basis for reorganizing and expanding his exhibit. Can you imagine how he felt at the next show when his collection didn't even receive a bronze? Unfortunately, we have seen still other cases of apparent inconsistency in evaluating exhibits. Do judges not apply a standard, objective set of criteria to their evaluation of each and every exhibit?

I realize that judging, especially in a small and convivial club, presents no easy task. The judges must examine a large amount of material in a limited time. They base their decisions on specific guidelines and criteria, but apparently their application or interpretation of those guidelines and criteria varies from year to year. How else can we explain the demise, from medal standings to non-medal status, of exhibits revised in adherence with the judges' critiques?

What do inconsistent results do to exhibitor confidence, and future participation? Perhaps if the judges kept records from year to year, and consulted those records prior to judging, they could keep track of reentered exhibits, and see what the exhibitor did in light of previous critiques. Perhaps then we could attain a higher standard of consistency in evaluations and results. And perhaps, with exhibitor confidence in the evaluation procedure, we could attain an even higher level of quality in our exhibits, and even more participation in the annual show as more members try their hand at exhibiting.

MEMBERSHIP

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

Kevin D. McDonald, 20 Bow Street, Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 4E3.

Ask for a Receipt!, by Hugh Rathbun

If you would like a rebate on postage, then buy your stamps at a sub post office and obtain a receipt. Someday, postmark collectors will buy those receipts from you.

Postmarks from sub post offices are not common, especially in the metro Halifax area where most mail receives its first postmark at Station A, the postal sorting station. Subs usually datestamp only registered letters and parcels; however, a receipt also provides an official postal use of a postmark.

The standard postmarking device used at current sub post offices is a rubber datestamp called a POCN (Post Office Computer Organization Number, see Figure 1). Many of these hammers are replaced after a few years of service. In addition, subs open and close with frequency. As a result, some postmarks are scarce.

Mic Mac Mall has been open for about 13 years and has had five differently-named subs. When the mall opened, an existing sub, Dartmouth Sub 3, moved into a mall drug store. When the postal sorting station opened in 1979, Dartmouth Sub 3 was renamed Halifax Metro Sub 33. After this sub closed on 26 June 1981, Halifax Metro Sub 37 operated in Simpson's from 29 June 1981 to 1 June 1982. A stationery store held Halifax Metro Sub 38 from 13 Sept. 1982 to 2 Feb. 1984. Halifax Metro Sub 39, which has operated from three mall locations, opened on 8 June 1984. Postmarks from some of these subs are elusive.

Two interesting postmarks appeared recently. When Harbour City Stationery changed locations in Burnside Industrial Park, their sub post office (Halifax Metro Sub 30) closed and a new post office called "Dartmouth-Burnside" opened in their new premises on 28 Oct. 1985. The first hammer issued to this office contained an incorrect office number (Fig. 1). Nevertheless, this hammer saw service for 3 months before a replacement hammer with the correct office number (Fig. 2) arrived. The six digit number in a POCN identifies the post office, and when the first two digits are "04", a Nova Scotian office is indicated. The erroneous Dartmouth-Burnside hammer, displaying the number "039489", is probably the only Nova Scotia POCN without "04" as its initial digits.

Canada Post failed to issue a hammer to Halifax Metro Sub 40, opened in MacDonald's Stationery in Cole Harbour in April 1986. The operator used a privately made rubber stamp "047392/SUB 40" (Fig. 3).

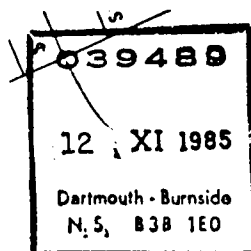


Fig. 1

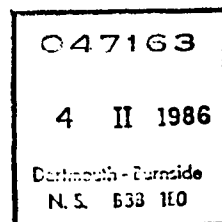


Fig. 2


 Canada Post Corporation		Société canadienne des postes	
Office Date Stamp		Timbre à date du bureau SEP 8 1986	
		Received in payment for Postage Supplies	
		Reçu en paiement d'articles d'affranchissement	
047392 SUB 40		S 4 54 Signature <i>/LH</i>	
41-016-020(5-85)			

Fig. 3

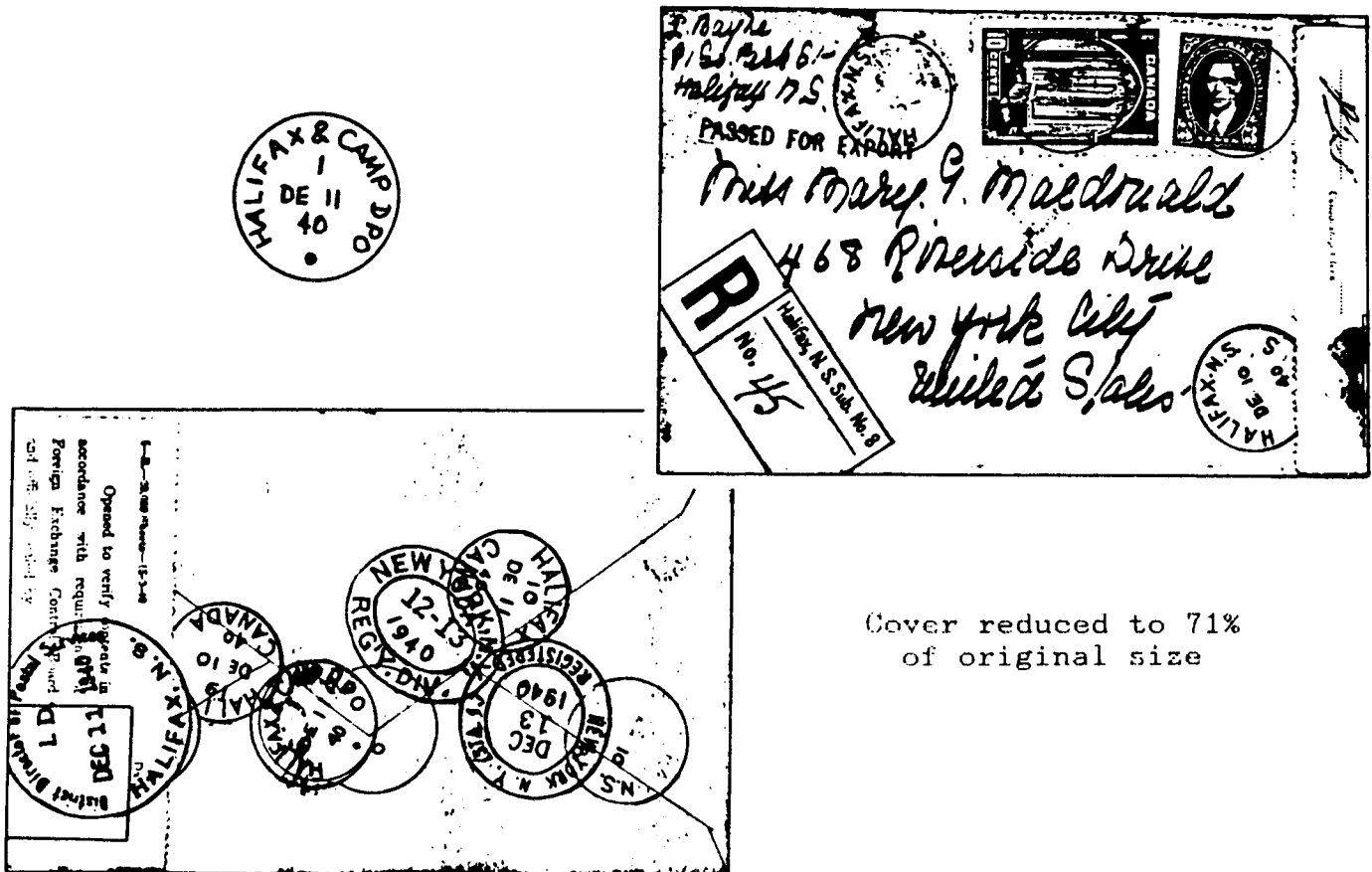
The short life of some subs makes their postmarks difficult to find. For example, Halifax Metro Sub 8, located in a hardware store in the Halifax Shopping Centre, lasted only nine months, from 25 April 1983 to 27 Jan. 1984.

Changes in hammers add interest to postmark collecting. A few subs have had hammer reading "HALIFAX METRO" replaced by bilingual hammers starting "HALIFAX METRO/GRAND HALIFAX".

If you would like an indication of the interest shown in these postmarks, then enter a postmark from Halifax Metro Sub 37 in the next club auction. Be prepared for spirited bidding.

### COVER OF THE MONTH, by Elizabeth Sodero

In line with Hugh's article on sub post offices, we have this month a registered letter of Nova Scotia sub p.o. number 8. Posted at Halifax on 10 December, 1940, nearly a year before Pearl Harbour, with a U.S. destination, it was held for inspection, opened by the censorship clerk, and officially sealed by the district director of postal service on 11 December. Every section of the envelope was stamped at Halifax, and there is a blue "PASSED FOR EXPORT" single line hand-stamp. It arrived at New York on 13 Dec., with a total of 15 cancellations. The 13 cent postage was paid by the 1938 10c Peace Tower and the 1937 3c George VI "mufti" issue, still in common usage in 1940. Can anybody explain the "HALIFAX AND CAMP DPO" cancel?



Cover reduced to 71%  
of original size

### VALLEY STAMP CLUB ANNUAL EXHIBITION

The Valley Stamp Club will be holding its annual stamp exhibition on Saturday, May 16, 1987 in the Kentville Fire Hall from 12 noon to 4:30 PM. The auction will start at 3 PM. We extend an invitation to the Nova Scotia Stamp Club members to attend. Again this year, admission is free. Coffee and sandwiches will be served.

### EXECUTIVE MEETING

The Executive Meeting of the NSSC was held on 21 April at the Saint Mary's University Library. New director John Hurst was welcomed to the Executive, and ballots were cast for the third director's position. John Hall will inquire about APS group insurance for the annual exhibition, and John Hurst will examine the policy. Marilyn Murphy will check with the Royal at Capex about judging policy for our show.

George MacKenzie presented his preliminary report on the 1987 annual exhibition. Some of the points covered include:

1. Exhibition cost. Although all figures are not yet in, it looks like the show lost about \$375 this year, an acceptable figure.
2. We need 25 new frames now. Arrangements will be made.
3. We need to clarify the bestowing of the Halifax Herald Nova Scotia Postal History Award. A letter is being written.
4. We need to clarify judging criteria, both in the realm of allocation of points for topicals, and for upgrading exhibits.
5. We might consider relieving the judges of long nights by splitting the judging between Friday evening and Saturday morning.
6. We might consider having a judges' critique on Sunday, so exhibitors can get in-depth views of their exhibits from the judges. This year's exhibitors can contact the judges to learn the written evaluations of their displays.
7. The Juniors were unfairly treated by some Club members in the allocation of frames, and got stuck using old frames. More new frames would alleviate the situation.

Regarding the Exhibition, the Executive also discussed improved security, Hugh Rathbun's report on advertising effectiveness, and the Canada Post electronic mailing. John Hall, chairman of the 1988 Annual Exhibition, discussed some of his preliminary plans for next year. The Executive voted to support plans for a 1989 commemorative issue for the centennial of the first YMCA building in Canada.

Phil-a-Telic will return next month, along with a cover by our regular contributor Dave Cooper.

### 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.