

# NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB



## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 20 #6 Whole Number 181

**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 June 1987.

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

### PROGRAMME NOTES

The 12 May meeting of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club featured an entertaining talk on the stamp business, presented by Stu Blumenthal. Members' questions kept Stu busy as he recounted anecdotes of high and low moments in the stamp trade. The meeting started on a different note, as Rob Matthews, author of the weekly stamp page Perforations, presented the Halifax Herald Ltd. Nova Scotia Heritage Philatelic Award to several club members (including our redoubtable junior, Jane Soderro) whose exhibits during our 1987 Annual Exhibition merited such distinction. The engraved Club awards from this year's show, and some of the "missing" awards from previous shows, were also presented. Archie Thomas received an honorary life membership in the Club for his invaluable services as our Treasurer. Well done, Archie! A spirited auction capped the evening.

The 9 June meeting is our annual Philatelic Flea Market, so bring your treasures to sell and swap, and bring some cash to buy. If you have lots of material, please bring your own table.

### CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Looking for glamour and excitement? Have a repressed urge to write and publish? Want to help the Club? Then call 463-0687 immediately to become editor of the NSSC Newsletter. I must reluctantly relinquish control of the Newsletter, at least for the next year. I have a small stock of articles available for the next editor, and will spend time explaining the production process to any volunteers. The Newsletter means alot to many Club members- we need a caring editor!!! Typewriter a must, word processor a definite plus. Call now!!!!!!

### THE DIVERSIFIED HOBBY, by Doug Allen

When one thinks about it, there are few hobbies or pastimes that offer the degree of diversification that ours does.

This is one thought I carried away with me from our recent exhibition. What diverse interests were on display there! They covered a broad spectrum indeed... a virtually complete collection of the stamps of Gibraltar... the Connell story of New Brunswick... ever expanding display of things Scottish and law enforcement officers... our own provinces stamps and postal history... an intriguing family correspondence of the 19th Century... the Red Cross... the promising and entertaining offerings of our juniors, etc. There seemed to be something for everyone, and I apologize for not going down through the list.

My point is that the hobby can and does cater to a multitude of interests. I know there are many of our members who have collections which we have never seen, collections every bit as interesting and worthy of cultivation as those of the relatively small handful of collectors who have chosen to exhibit. In my own case, I am having a wonderful time chasing after cancellations of Irish cities and towns on stamps of Great Britain. I am aware of one member whose greatest passion at this time is La Republique Francaise. Perhaps there may be others who have closet collections of stamps showing the many types of the world's currencies. The topical themes are endless, perhaps that is why collectors spend so much time at our bourses winnowing through the dealers' boxes of loose stamps. Some just may find that stamps from Uganda or Bolivia or wherever that will augment their collection of minerals, or railways, or rockets... Or perhaps they just enjoy handling large quantities of stamps, like those members who bid up the bags that appear with increasing frequency at our monthly auctions.

Just consider the following: coil stamps; booklets; registered stamps; parcel stamps; pre-stamp covers; airmail stamps and covers; used abroad material; imperforates; postage dues; life insurance stamps; charity issues; officials; revenues; cinderellas; postal history; rate covers; royal events; railway post offices; printing processes on stamps; miniature sheets; plate and cylinder blocks; gutter pairs; traffic light blocks and gutter pairs; surcharged stamps; gum and paper variations; fluorescent markings; all available to us, together with a host of other categories, and all eminently collectible.

Who says there isn't something for everyone in this great hobby of ours? And some of us may even enjoy writing about the pastime. Editors sure appreciate it!

### DUES NOTICE

Your \$10 1987/88 dues are now due. Please pay Archie at the June meeting, or send to C.A. Thomas, 12 Fleming Dr., Halifax, NS, B3P 1A9.

### POSTAL MAP RESEARCH

If you'll be in Saint John this summer, and want to do a little research on Nova Scotia Postal History, the Archives and Library (open Thursdays and Fridays, 10 to 5) of the New Brunswick Museum have some old postal route maps you might want to see: M200-1875, railway and postal map of the Maritimes by T.G. Loggie; M200-1875-1, similar to M220-1875; M200-1891q, postal map of NS and PEI by L.F.A. Maingay; W202-1785, posthouse map of NS by J. Preachy; W200-1919q, update of M200-1891q; and G203-1914, postal map of NB.

### PHIL-A-TELIC

If you remember, Phil was talking about soaking stamps, particularly those with aniline or fugitive inks, when he was so rudely interrupted by last month's lengthy issue. Phil's comments come from a write-up by James A. MacKay...

Old time schoolboy collections (and many that are not so antique) abounded in sad examples of such stamps whose green pigment had faded or turned bluish, or whose original rich purple shade had become a diffused wine colour. One was advised, therefore, to lay such stamps aside for special treatment. Purists would insist that chalk-surfaced paper and fugitive inks required stamps to be parted from their backing paper by laying them face upwards on layers of blotting paper which had previously been soaked in cold water. That way the dampness gradually soaked up from the blotting paper into the backing paper and dissolved the gum. Eventually the stamps would come clean, without getting their faces wet. It used to seem over-cautious, but I have learned the hard way that with such stamps you cannot be too careful.

Apart from such temperamental specimens, however, lukewarm water was regarded as the norm. I can remember one elderly collector telling me that his Penny Blacks, which he had soaked off their original covers, had been treated in hot water: I even recollect one venerable character- A Fellow of the Royal no less- telling me that Victorian line-engraveds were none the worse of a good bath in boiling water, with some hydrogen peroxide added to brighten their colours. I never had the nerve to try such drastic measures and would strongly advise against you attempting them. I once tried to clean a George V penny red which was in exceedingly grimy condition, by giving it a good bath in hot water to which had been added a well-known brand of household detergent- the kind that banishes "wash-day redness" and keeps hands white. Sad to say, it also banished the redness of the stamp and I ended up with a piece of perforated blank paper...

To Be Continued

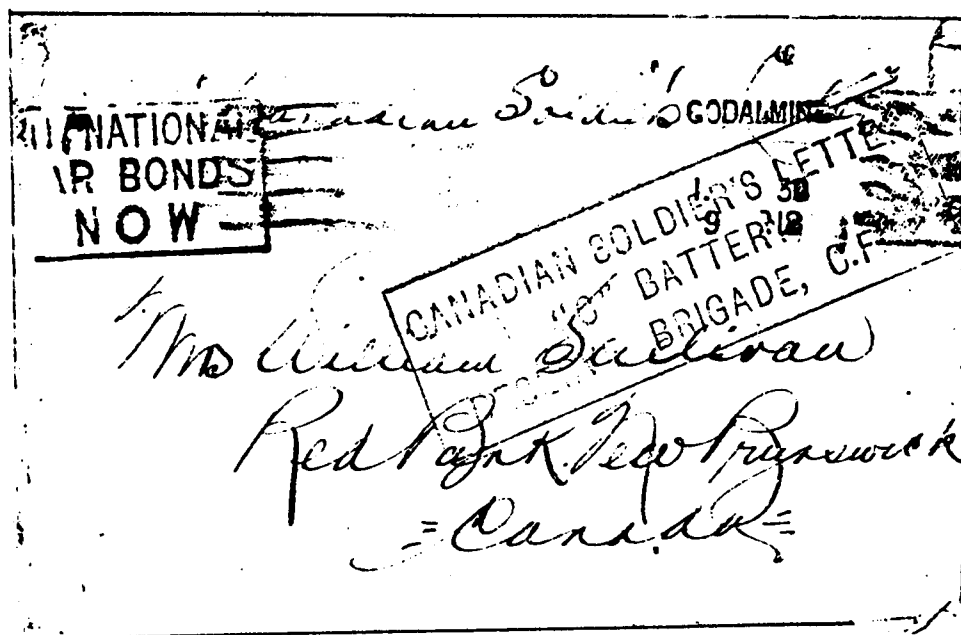
Don't forget, Phil is always open to new questions, and still seeks answers to the Russian red phosphorous stamp and "Stamps fallen off/ at Glace Bay" marking, both featured in previous Newsletters. Write to...Phil-A-Telic, 1333 South Park St., Apt. 515, Halifax, N.S., B3J 2K9.

COVER OF THE MONTH, by Dave Cooper

This month's cover was salvaged, along with many other items, from a general store/post office/creamery/lumber yard/fur fox farm/-etc. that originally belonged to Mr. William Sullivan of Red Bank, New Brunswick. Red Bank is up the Mirimichi River from Newcastle.

Jane's cousin does some part-time hauling, and moved enough old papers and furniture to fill a baby barn. I had free reign to pick through the accumulated material. I made sure that three cartons of Sullivan family records were donated to the Provincial Archives in New Brunswick. This is indicative of what "treasures" a family can accumulate and then just throw away.

The stampless cover (shown full size) below shows a "GODALMINE/ 1. 30/ 9 R12" cancel. The machine cancel is split, and Collect British Postmarks indicates the slogan reads "BUY NATIONAL/ WAR BONDS/ NOW".



Of particular interest is the light violet rectangle reading "CANADIAN SOLDIER'S LETTER/ "C" BATTERY/ RESERVE BRIGADE, C.F.", and the top manuscript "CANADIAN SOLDIER'S LETTER". Another item in this haul was a "Soldier's Diary", telling all the details of the gas attack at Ypres. Too bad so much of our early history is destroyed...

MEMBERSHIP

Kevin D. McDonald (#849) has been accepted as a member of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club.

James A. King, 63 Kingston Cres., Dartmouth, N.S., B3A 2L9, has applied for membership. James collects BNA, British Colonies, Ships, Captain Cook, Columbus.

### TRURO PHILATELIC SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW

The Truro Club proudly announces that its 1987 Annual Show and Dealers' Bourse will be held on 24 October, 1987, at the Glengarry Motor Hotel. The Truro club also plans to have a banquet that Saturday evening at the Glengarry, complete with a guest speaker. They invite exhibitors from other clubs to participate. Mark the date on your calendars, and plan to attend. Support Nova Scotia Stamp Collecting!!!

### EXECUTIVE MEETING

The May meeting of the Executive of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club was held on the 19th, at the Patrick Power Library of Saint Mary University. The Executive welcomed its new third director, Ken MacDonald.

In response to a question, John Hall presented a brief report on his inquiries regarding the adequacy of the American Philatelic Society (APS) insurance plan. John said that all his sources report no complaints about making claims under the plan.

It appears that a lingering problem, the issue of new exhibition frames, will reach resolution late in the summer. By then, we hope to have production of at least 25 new frames under way.

The Executive discussed the relationship between the Club and the Halifax Herald Ltd. Nova Scotia Heritage Philatelic Award. The criteria for awarding the trophy were briefly summarized, and it was suggested that a Club member serve on the selection panel, at least for awarding the trophy at our own Annual Exhibition. Such member's input into other shows is problematic. While it is acknowledged that the award is solely the responsibility and prerogative of the Halifax Herald, improved co-ordination and communication between the Club and the Herald regarding the award are desirable.

The Executive discussed whether or not we should ask entrants in the Annual Exhibition to submit photocopies of their exhibits. If we did, we'd have copies available for insurance purposes (if so needed), and we'd also have a permanent record of award-winning displays for reference purposes. Such records would be anonymous. It was decided that, for the present, we'd ask award winners from the 1987 show to photocopy their exhibits and send them to the Club. OK winners, you've been asked!

John Hall talked briefly about the 1988 Annual Exhibition. One possible site for the show is the Dartmouth Holiday Inn. The next Executive meeting will be held there, so the Executive may examine the facilities. The Lord Nelson is already booked for the 1988 show, but the continuing uncertainty regarding that venerable institution's fate makes finding alternatives imperative.

A notice of motion was presented regarding a review of judging policy at our Annual Exhibitions. The motion will be discussed at the August Executive meeting.

Three positions on the Club need to be filled immediately: Programme Chairman, Newsletter Editor, and Coffee Maker. Some names were suggested, and the President will approach those people. Volunteers, of course, are welcome to apply.

### A FINAL WORD, by Marty Zelenietz

This is my last Newsletter, at least for the time being. My wife will soon begin her sabbatical leave from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, and in September starts studying for her doctoral degree in Planning at the University of Waterloo. So, no matter how we slice it, we'll be in Ontario for 9 months, making it impossible for me to do the Newsletter. All things being equal, I hope to resume my editorship when we return. But we need an editor for the Newsletter now, so I hope a volunteer is waiting in the wings.

Doing the last 11 issues of the Newsletter has been an interesting, and intriguing, task: sometimes challenging, sometimes frustrating, but never dull. I've tried to maintain the previous high standard of quality and make the Newsletter both readable and informative.

Many people have pitched in and donated time and energy in helping get the main means of communication in the Nova Scotia Stamp Club out to the members on time. Without their help, the job would have overwhelmed me. Ron Lewis unfailingly supplied me with stamped envelopes, thereby saving me time and a dry tongue. Elizabeth Soderro contributed much time in helping stuff, seal and address the envelopes, as well as writing occasional pieces for us. Bob Vaison, Doug Allan, Doug Casey, Ken MacDonald and Walter Horne generously donated feature articles written specially for the Newsletter, thereby helping me fill otherwise blank pages with material that proved interesting to, and was well-received by, the readership. Without them, the Newsletter would have been dull indeed. Dave Cooper regularly contributed his fascinating Cover of the Month, and received the occasional relief from guest contributors. Phil-a-Telic did his best answering questions sent in by Club members, and did a great job inventing questions when none were submitted. I think that covers the range of people to whom I'm deeply indebted for their help and support, but if I've missed any, my apologies. I owe all these people a debt of gratitude, and a very large **THANK YOU**.

I'll miss doing the Newsletter during the next year, but I'm sure my replacement will set higher standards for me and other editors to follow in the future.

On behalf of the entire Executive, I want to wish all the Nova Scotia Stamp Club members a happy, healthy, safe, and above all, warm, summer.

### Advertising

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