

# NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB



No. 20 #7

Newsletter

Vol. 182

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

Next Meeting: 8 September, 1987

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Somebody Once Said; "GUESS WHAT GUYS, I'M BACK"

Relax members, in my case it's only for this one issue as we do have a volunteer to take over from Marty but we didn't think it was fair to hand it over completely at the start of a new season. Our new editor's name is STEVE VERNON and I'll let him introduce himself.

To start with, as George has already stated, my name is Steve Vernon. I am a freelance fiction writer and I don't pretend to bring a great deal of philatelic knowledge to this Newsletter. I just love stamps. In my youth I accumulated colorful packets of stamps from Cole's and Woolco's. I specialized in such countries as Monaco, Togo, Yemen, so I think you get the picture.

It was only recently that I learned the difference between an accumulator and a collector. In time I hope to discover the difference between a collector and a philatelist. I owe this all to one man and his peculiar method of paying for a typing assignment.

He paid me in stamps. Newfoundland stamps. For this I shall never forgive him. He invited me to the club's exhibition. I attended, and was amazed at the various permutations collecting could follow. For this he is doubly cursed. He led me to the stamp bourse. He showed me more Newfoundland stamps. May a triple whammy descend upon his topicals.

It was all over except the shouting. I bought more stamps. I attended the meetings, bid in the auctions, and volunteered for the editor's position. The next year should be an interesting one.

For all these blessings, Bill Grandy, I salute you. Thanks for paying in stamps old friend.

## CONGRATULATIONS

The Nova Scotia Stamp Club is proud to announce that three of our

members were admitted as FELLOWS of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada this summer -- Collins Baugild, George Robertson and J.J. MacDonald. A sincere vote of thanks must go to Senator Henry Hicks who worked behind the scenes on their behalf.

#### PROGRAM FOR THE NEXT MEETING

If the Senator can get away from Ottawa for the September 8th meeting, he has kindly consented to give a talk on "CAPEX 87" with special attention paid to our three members who have recently become Fellows in the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.

#### WE NEED A PROGRAM DIRECTOR-VOLUNTEER

We still need a Program Director and once again I must get on my boring soapbox and say that we have to have more participation by Club Members so that the same old faces don't keep popping up again and again. We finally have a new Exhibition Chairman, now a Newsletter Editor ( if Steve hadn't come forward guess who you were going to be stuck with ), so lets have a volunteer for the Program Director position. In the interim I've set up the programs until the end of 1987 ;

- 8 Sept ----Senator Henry Hicks reviews " CAPEX 87 "
- 13 Oct ----Charlie Rutt, Canada Post Scotia Square, relates his experiences as a lettercarrier and inside postal worker and manager.
- 10 Nov ----John Hall, Exhibition Chairman 88, will be going over all the important facets of our annual show.
- 8 Dec ----Slide program supplied by either the American Philatelic Society of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.

#### DR MATTHIAS FRANCISCO HOFFMAN - WALTER H.D.HORNE

Hoffman, Matthias Francisco, ( c 1781-1851 ), MRCS, physican, surgeon, and health officer. He was born in Trieste ( then part of Austria ) circa 1781, he was apprenticed there to study physic circa 1797 for five years, later attending the University of Vienna for two years. He joined the British Navy circa 1803 and served on the HMS Revolution as a surgeon's mate. On February 7th, 1806, he passed the examination for surgery at the Royal College of Surgeons of London. Dr Hoffman served in the Royal Navy until 1813 when he left the service and settled in Halifax, N.S. in the practice of physic. His office was at 120 Granville Street in 1851. He had first come to Halifax with HMS Inflexible and in 1811 had been assigned as surgeon to the depot for prisoners of war at Melville Island. In the same year, 1811, he was married on September 21st, to Charlotte, the daughter of Isaac Mansfield of Halifax. In 1812, Dr Hoffman was appointed an assistant surgeon of the 15th battalion of the Regiment of Militia. His practice in 1813 was located near the southeast corner of the Presbyterian Meeting House. In April of 1818, Edmund Ward, the editor of the Free Press newspaper made some very nasty remarks about Dr Hoffman's qualifications ( or lack of ) in an editorial and for the next year, the doctor and Ward squared off concerning the issue which was finally resolved in Hoffman's favor when he produced the necessary documents to attest to his qualifications. Dr Hoffman practiced in Halifax all

during the 1820's and in 1832 was appointed one of the Health Wardens for Halifax, with responsibility for St Paul's district. On August 5th 1840, he received the very important appointment of Health Officer for the port of Halifax replacing Dr William B. Almon who had died earlier in the year. He remained in that post until his death in 1851.

During his tenure as Health Officer, Dr Hoffman attended to the sick at the Waterloo Hospital as well as at the fever hospital located on Melville Island. He seems to have paid according to his workload and received 50 Pounds in 1842 for his attendance of the sick at the Waterloo Hospital, whereas he received 200 pounds in 1848 for his treatment of the typhus fever victims at Melville Island during 1847. Dr Hoffman was at the top of the list of those who signed the Petition to the Legislature for a hospital in 1840. During the 1840's he received press on at least two occasions for removing tumors; the first from the breast of a female patient, and the second while 10 or 11 medical gentlemen looked on. He died on April 2nd, 1851, aged 71 years, of typhus, on board the merchant ship "Infant", and the eulogy which appeared in the Christian Messenger of April 11th, 1851, read as follows :

" He came to his death, as did his late predecessor in that office, from fever contracted in his attendance on an emigrant ship lying at quarantine in the harbour. The vessel was crowded with passengers in a filthy and miserable condition and the ship's fever prevailing on board to a great extent."

Dr Hoffman's wife, Charlotte, died on July 15th, 1875, aged 82 years. A portrait of Dr Hoffman was painted by an artist by the name of Hoppner and was presented by his daughter, Mrs Samuel Creed, to the Nova Scotia Historical Society in 1913. It presently hangs in the Legislative Library in Province House. Dr Hoffman and his wife Charlotte are buried in Camp Hill Cemetery in Halifax. They had several children, one was William Minns Hoffman, the eldest son who became a judge in California. In total they had 12 children, 6 sons and six daughters.

Ed's Note : See page 4 for stampless cover to Dr Hoffman from his Mother in Trieste.

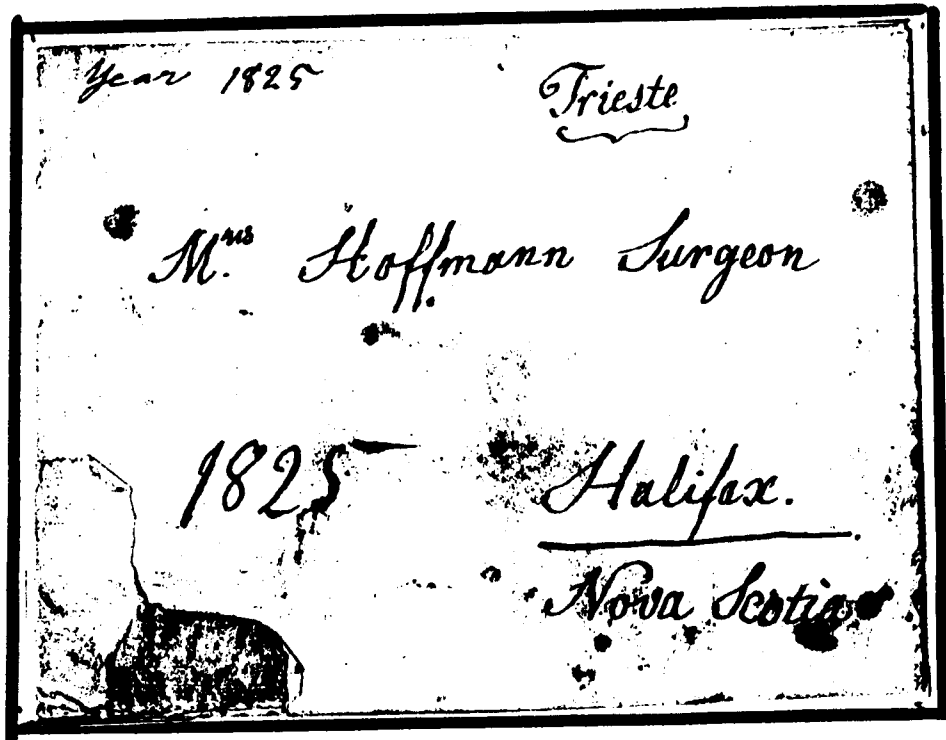
#### PHIL - A - TELIC

Still no new questions or answers to the two questions placed in this column last spring so onward with " Soaking ".

For most stamps before the 1970's, therefore, immersion in tepid water should provide no practical problems. The secret is to process relatively few stamps at a time, so that they can be removed from the water fairly quickly. Do not over-estimate your capacity and put too many stamps in to soak at the same time. While a polythene washing-up bowl will do, I would recommend that you purchase a shallow tray from a photographic supply store, the type used for printing photographs. These trays are just deep enough, and have a relatively large area, so that you can easily see when stamps are free of their backing paper. The same store also sells large plastic tongs which are ideal for agitating the water, though personally I prefer my fingers for removing the bits of paper. The stamps should be handled as gently and carefully as possible. While tweezers are recommended for handling dry stamps I would counsel caution where wet stamps are concerned ; in

TRIESTE TO HALIFAX, N.S.

A MOST UNUSUAL EARLY STAMPLESS COVER OF GREAT INTEREST AS IT IS A RARE COMBINATION OF CORRESPONDENCE FROM AN OBSCURE PART OF THE WORLD WITH SOMEONE IN NOVA SCOTIA. DR. HOFFMANN HAD SETTLED IN HALIFAX. THE LETTER WAS FROM DR. HOFFMANN'S MOTHER, MAILED FROM TRIESTE IN 1825



that state they are liable to damage from metal tweezers or tongs. Fundamentally it calls for patience - and some common sense.

Many of the stamps produced in the past twenty years, however, present special problems, chief of which is the fact that they are printed on papers which have had various substances added to them to whiten them and improve their quality for modern multi-color photogravure. Other papers have various coatings, either to improve their appearance or in connection with electronic scanning of mail during the sorting procedure. I hope to initiate you into the mystery of FCP and ACP and some of the other abbreviations that trip so lightly off the tongue of the Machin specialist in due course; but for the time being a few words of warning must suffice. As a general rule I

would suggest that modern photogravure or offset litho stamps are best parted from their backing paper either by the damp blotting paper technique previously mentioned, or by gently placing them in a shallow tray of almost cold water and letting them float on the surface. After a few minutes, remove one of the pieces from the water and carefully test it to see whether the stamp will lift off cleanly. If not, return it to the water and try again.

( To be continued ) Don't forget Phil's main job is to receive questions and try to find the answers, please give him something to do. Mail all queries to Phil at 1333 South Park Street, Apt 515, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2K9.

### MEMBERSHIP

The following have been accepted as members of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club ;

# 850 James A. King  
# 851 Thomas S. Oland

The following have applied for membership in the Nova Scotia Stamp Club ;

Steve Vernon, 3611 Deal St., Apt.#7, Halifax  
Frances Crocker, 84 Bayview Rd, Halifax  
D. Roy Pierce, 73 Glenforest Dr. Halifax  
Joyce E. Pierce, 73 Glenforest Dr., Halifax,  
Kenneth W. Daley, Box 220, Barrington Passage,  
Shelbourne Co., N.S.

### EXECUTIVE MEETING

The Executive of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club held it's first meeting of the new season on Monday night, August 17th, at the Holiday Inn, Dartmouth. The reason for the new location was that the Exhibition Chairman for 1988, John Hall, spent most of his summer looking for other places to hold the Exhibition outside of the Lord Nelson Hotel and the Holiday Inn in Dartmouth was his only option to offer. After a tour of the facilities to be had for the Exhibition, the following items of business were tabled ;

New Exhibition Frames — The great plans from the May Executive meeting went for naught as Marilyn Murphy stated that her brother would not be able to build the frames as previously planned. Once again a call for " Help " was heard and Steve Vernon ( remember him from page 1 ) and Ken MacDonald said they would check out ideas and report back at the next Executive meeting. We do need the frames and this is about the fourth or fifth year our plans have failed.  
APS Insurance — How good is this insurance, All members that have it are happy, it is reasonable from a cost point of view and evidently claims are quickly paid. John Hurst will be given copies of policies and he will check them over and advise the executive.

Postal History Award -- Nothing new to report by John Hall on the plans to better co-ordinate the Halifax Herald/Mail Star Postal History Award, maybe next Executive meeting.

1988 Exhibition -- After a lengthy session of comments pro and con it was decided to once again hold the Annual Exhibition at the Lord Nelson Hotel, Halifax. The main points of contention were that the Holiday Inn would be much more expensive, rooms for the Bourse and Exhibits not in the same area or very close, no chance for walk-in traffic as anybody visiting would really have to plan it and security would be a problem with the separation of rooms. It was also decided that the 1988 Show would be named "NOVAPEX 88". Remember John will give his talk on plans at the November general meeting.

Notice of Motion re Judging -- The Notice of motion regarding the judging related to in the last Newsletter was voted upon and defeated in it's total concept but all points were reviewed and will be checked on by specific Executive members reporting back at the next Executive meeting. The points to be covered are too detailed and lengthy to be listed in this Newsletter but once the findings are in and decided upon, explanations will be given in the Newsletter. Basically, investigations will focus on "maintaining an affiliation with the RCPS"; long-term policy on judges being allowed to judge an exhibit at the same time"; review criteria employed by the judges and the idea of judges critiques".

Photocopies of Exhibits -- The idea of having award winners copy their displays and placed in the Club locker for future reference was decided against after numerous of last year's winners stated they wouldn't do it period.

Program Chairman & Coffee co-ordinator -- The President asked for volunteers from the Executive but we will take any members offer. Please HELP.

Executive Liability -- The question came up as to the liability of the Executive and it's members in relation to normal Club operations, Exhibition's etc. John Hurst stated he would look into this matter and report back at the next Executive meeting.

#### CANADA POST STAMP LAUNCH - AIR CANADA 36¢

Canada Post has announced that an official Stamp Launch will take place for the September 1st issue of the Air Canada Stamp. The launch will be held in the World Trade and Convention Centre, 2PM, September 1st, Highland Suite # 6. All stamp club members are really invited.

#### ADVERTISEMENT

House of Stamps, Box 398, Station M, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2P8, Phone 423-1780. Stamps bought and sold. Paying top dollar. Selling at affordable prices. Special consideration for Stamp Club Members.

DON'T FORGET THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW SEASON WILL BE ON SEPTEMBER 8TH, 1987 -- BUSINESS FIRST FOLLOWED BY A REVIEW OF "CAPEX87" BY SENATOR HENRY HICKS, THEN A BREAK WITH COFFEE (?) AND TIM-BITS, THEN AOUR REGULAR AUCTION. SEE YOU THERE.