

NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB



No. 183

Newsletter

Vol. 21 #9

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

Next Meeting: November 10, 1987

Mailing Address: 3611 Deal St., Apt. 7, Halifax, NS B3N 2Y6

OPENING ADDRESS

Apologies to all those who recieved their newsletter late. I'm afraid there were printer problems, postal problems and procrastination problems. This issue whould reach your watermarked hands a little quicker.

This issue is a little meatier than last issue, thanks to articles submitted by several club members. Now it's your turn. Writing about your hobby is a pleasure not to be missed. Send all articles, letters, items of interes to the humble editor. All donations gratefully accepted and generally printed.

ANOTHER APOLOGY

Our esteemed Club Treasurer is philatelist Archie Thomas, not pugilist Archie Moore. Please forgive my error of last issue.

Remember that the cutoff date for dues is Oct 31st. Those who have missed it should drop two-fisted Archie Thomas a letter of explanation soon.

Mailing Address: 12 Fleming Drive, Halifax, NS B3F 1A9

MEMORIAL

It is with deep sorrow that I note the passing of Club Member Kenneth W. Daley of Barrington Passage. Kenneth will be remembered as a founding member of the now defunct South West Nova Stamp Club. His untimely demise cut short a promising philatelic career.

FOUND ON A POSTCARD

Consider the postage stamp: its usefulness consists in the ability to stick to one thing till it gets there.

JOSH BILLINGS

OCTOBER'S CLUB MEETING

Charlie Rutt, manager of the Scotia Square Philatelic Center entertained and informed us with his tales of the post office. During the strike Charlie has been forced to work very long hours so his appearance was no mean feat.

Charlie spent a lot of time fielding questions from the members present. He stressed how cost concious the CPC had become in its efforts to reduce its deficit and suggested this was the reason behind the lack of innovations in such things as new cancellations.

He also noted that philatelic sales this year are lower than ever. This is a direct reflection of the higher price of postage, as well as a comment on Canada Post's lack of significant issues. (Or their abundance of insignificant issues.)

I must note that it was a credit to the NSSC that nobody questioned Mr. Rutt about the postal strike.

SPEAKING ABOUT STRIKES

A strikebreaker acquaintance of mine had several horror stories to tell me about his mail sorting experience. The problem was that he didn't have any experience. "Nobody knows what they're doing," he told me. "My first night I lost three letters down a hot air register." (Hmm. I wonder if that's what is meant by registered mail. - Ed.)

A recent article in the Globe and Mail spoke of much the same thing. Supervisors told strikebreakers that they wanted work done correctly, but not neccessarily quickly. But after a few minutes of instruction no one appeared to notice whether the replacement workers were working at all.

ENOUGH BRICKBATS - HERE'S A BOUQUET.

In Canada, October is no longer Stamp Collecting Month. Recent marketing surveys have prompted Canada Post to reschedule Stamp Collecting Month to February. There will be stamp collecting kits sent out to teachers, stamp clubs, stamp dealers, and post masters. I applaud this decision. This event has been unnoticed in Canada long enough. Perhaps something could be done locally through the NSSC to encourage collecting at a grass roots level. Ideas, anyone?

STAMP OUT METERS

Got something to say to a collector friend? Send him a letter and put a stamp on it. USE STAMPS!

PLUG

Got a stamp your collection needs? Opening up a new area? Starting a new page? Let the NSSC know what you're looking for. For a very small rate you can let your fellow stampophiles know what you need. Open a classified. Call your editor today.

BNAPEX '87

The British North America Philatelic Society held its 39th Annual Exhibition and Bourse in Charlottetown, PEI from Sept. 17-19, at Rodd's Royalty Inn. The ceremony was officially opened by the Honorable Lloyd G. MacPhail, Lt. Governor, Prince Edward Island on Thursday. Afterwards a city tour was taken with coffee at the Lt. Governor's house. On Friday a guided North Shore Tour was enjoyed by many. That evening the "Past Presidents" reception was held with close to 150 attending. The BNAPS annual meeting took place on Saturday. The last official get together was the Annual Banquet, attended by over 150 people. The guest speaker was Dr. Geoff E. Robinson on rum-running in the Atlantic Provinces.

A total of eighteen study group sessions were held. Some of the most popular were the Perfin, Duplex, Military, Postage Due, and Squared Circle study groups. Thirty three exhibits were shown for a total of sixty-two sixteen page frames. Seven dealers were at the bourse and all said they had a good show and that business was brisk.

At the Annual Banquet the following awards were presented by Dr. Robert V. C. Carr (Chairman of the Jury);

President's award - Robert A. Lee, winner - Presented annually to the member enrolling the most new applicants to the Society.

Vincent Graves Greene Award - Harry Lussey, winner - Made to the member who has contributed the best article or series of articles originally appearing in TOPICS during the previous year.

Most Popular Exhibit - Bill Robinson (Frames 3,4 - PEI RPO's) Voted by the viewing public.

Best Exhibit - Dr. J. J. MacDonald (Frame 53 - New Brunswick Connell Stamp) Voted by Judges.

Next years convention will be held at Virginia Beach during the second week of September 1988.

By Gary Steele

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EDITORIAL

THE FEVER!

Have you chosen your speciality? Great. Now begin collecting, but slowly. Beware the fever.

Do your palms sweat at the sight of a new catalogue? Do you reach for your wallet if you pass your dealer on the street? Do the words "new issue" make your cheque book flutter? If so than you've got it. You've got the fever.

Buy slowly, choose carefully. Think about it. Budget your stamp collecting. Don't let it dominate your spending. Keep your collection in perspective. Keep it small.

Remember, there's plenty of stamps out there. Build your collection slowly, like a craftsman. Choose each new acquisition with care.

Give yourself a stamp allowance. So much a week, so much a month, so much a year. Pick a number, then stick to it.

Keep your expenditures to where they won't hurt and there's no chance of your hobby jarring with your lifestyle. Don't burn yourself out. Take your time.

ROLLCALL

Membership Applicants:

Fred R. Mackinnon, 1654 Walnut St., Halifax, NS B3H 3S4
Specialities: Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis on Stamps.

Russell A Saulnier, 108 Polara Drive, Lower Sackville NS B4C 2B9
Specialities: Canadian Singles and First Day Covers

Resignations:

#758 James A McKinnon (September 1987)
#636 Ross Elliot (October 1987)

Change of Address

#220 George C. Thompson	#807 Michael Reitelman
1803 Summer Gardens	440 Gloucester Street
1470 Summer Street	Apt. 1004
Halifax, NS B3H 3A3	Ottawa, ON K1R 7T8

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BETTER USED SINGLES AT GOOD PRICES FROM CANADA, UNITED KINGDOM, BRITISH COMMONWEALTH, FRANCE, GERMANY, SWITZERLAND, AND OTHERS - AVAILABLE ON APPROVAL TO CLUB MEMBERS. ALSO LOTS AND COLLECTIONS - PLEASE ASK FOR LIST. BOB VAISON, BOX 3295 SOUTH, HALIFAX B3J 3H5
phone - 422-4828

CANADIAN CHRISTMAS STAMPS

by
A. E. Morris

Canada has the distinction of being the first country in the world to make any reference to Christmas on a postage stamp. This came about as the result of the Imperial Postal Conference, held in London, England, in 1898. A number of countries in the British Empire agreed to a uniform rate of one penny for 1/2 ounce letters posted within the British Empire. Canada's Imperial Penny Postage Issue came into being with the stamp commonly known as the "Map Stamp". This stamp bore the inscription of "XMAS 1898". The issue date of this stamp was December 7, 1898, with the official first day being December 25 - Christmas Day.

For the next sixty-six years Canada failed to acknowledge Christmas on another stamp, but Christmas wasn't completely forgotten. For example, stamps were often cancelled with slogans such as - "MAIL YOUR CHRISTMAS PARCELS EARLY" - (found on an envelope postmarked Halifax, NS, Dec. 17, 1927. "MAIL EARLY BE SURE YOUR GIFT ARRIVES IN TIME." - (found on an envelope postmarked Brantford, Ontario, Dec. 18, 1933.) - and from 1908 onwards many letters carried Christmas TB seals.

On Oct. 14, 1964, the first "official" Christmas stamps were issued in denominations of 3¢ and 5¢. They depicted a Canadian family in silhouette against a typical winter scene, with a large star shining brightly (Scott's "Star Of Bethlehem"). The stamps bear the inscription "CHRISTMAS 1964 NOEL". They were issued plain and with Winnipeg tagging. The 3¢ stamps were also issued in miniature panes of 25, both plain and Winnipeg tagged.

1965, 1966 and 1967 Christmas stamps were issued, again in October, in the same denominations, tagging, etc. as 1964. The 1965 stamps featured the Wisemen's gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Albrecht Durer's "Praying Hands" was the dominant design on the 1966 stamps and the 1967 design featured three children carolling in front of the Parliament Buildings.



434



435

OCT. 14, 1964. CHRISTMAS
Star of Bethlehem



443



444

OCT. 13, 1965. CHRISTMAS
Gifts from the Wise Men



451



452

OCT. 12, 1966. CHRISTMAS
"Praying Hands"



476



477

OCT. 11, 1967. CHRISTMAS
Children Carolling



488



489



502

OCT. 8, 1969. CHRISTMAS
Perf. 12



503

Children Praying

Unlike previous years, 1968's two Christmas stamps weren't identical in design and weren't issued on the same day. Postal rates were increased on Nov. 1, with the third class rate rising to 5¢ and the first class rate to 6¢. The 5¢ stamp was issued on Nov. 1, while the 6¢ stamp was issued on Nov. 15.

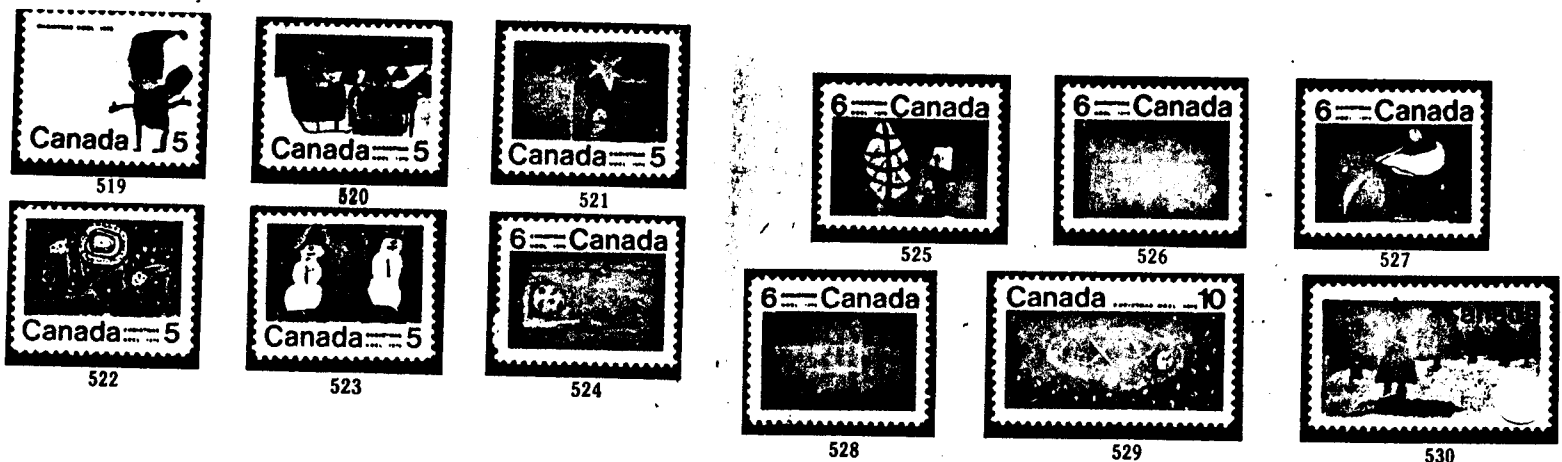
The design of both values depicted Inuit sculptures, an Inuit family by an unknown artist on the 5¢ stamp and a carving of a Mother and Child by Munamee on the 6¢ stamp. The stamps were issued both plain and with Winnipeg tagging. This was the year that the first Canadian Christmas Stamp Booklets were issued. They contained two panes of ten 5¢ stamps, were released containing either plain or Winnipeg tagged stamps and were issued on the same day as the regular pane stamps.

1969 Christmas stamps, in denominations of 5¢ and 6¢, were issued October 8, the two stamps having similar designs featuring children of various races at prayer. They were issued plain and Winnipeg-tagged with stamp booklets similar to the 1968 issue.

1969 produced a rare error - the 6¢ Christmas stamp with the black color omitted. Scott's 1987 Specialized Edition values this stamp at \$2,250.00 for either mint or used!

During the 1969 Christmas season a nationwide contest was held for designs for the 1970 Christmas stamps, using children's drawings. 12 designs were selected from the thousands submitted. (Canada was perhaps "copying" Great Britain's use of children's drawings on its 1966 Christmas stamps.)

In 1970 for the first time, a higher value 10¢ and 15¢ stamp were issued, together with the 5¢ and 6¢ stamps. The 5¢ and 6¢ stamps each had five setenant designs printed in panes of 100. The 10¢ and 15¢ stamps were printed in panes of 50 of a single stamp. Again issued in October, the stamps were released plain and with Winnipeg tagging. (TO BE CONTINUED...)



OCTOBER EXECUTIVE MEETING

APS club insurance has been voted against. The Exec decided that it was a fine personal policy but as a club policy there were too many loopholes to serve our needs.

All decisions on judging policy have been finalized. We shall continue along RPS standards. There has and will be flack regarding judging techniques and judging policy of the NSSC. It should be noted that there have been similar disputes in such large shows as CAPEX and BNAPEX. This editor notes that it was Aesop who said something about not pleasing everybody.

A nod to Jim Lehr who sent a thank you note to the NSSC for all those who attended and supported BNAPEX. I saw quite a few members there, and I was very impressed at the overall quality of the exhibits.

Expertizing is available at regular club auctions. If you have a stamp or cover and you are unsure of the proper reserve to set, perhaps you should consult Marilyn Murphy or Ken Macdonald. You could be giving away a treasure. The amount of treasure that has been "stolen" at club auctions would astound you.

Nov 10/87 meeting

~~POST CARD SHOW~~

The Club will have its annual CHRISTMAS CHEER AUCTION. All proceeds will be divided between several charitable organizations. Remember! Give generously. Bid generously. Bring a pocketful of cash and a fistful of stamps.

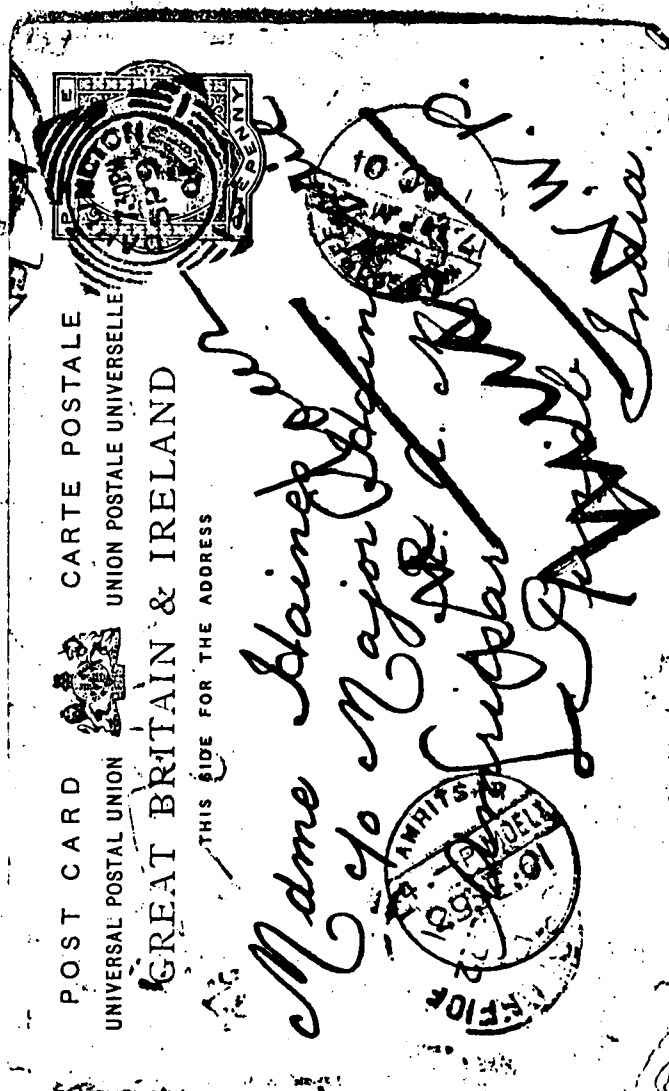
The presentation that night will be John Hall's talk on the upcoming NSSC exhibition. April is sooner than you think. Plan your exhibits now. Many good exhibits have lost medals due to lack of time put into the effort. Put some time into planning, as well as into collecting. It should be noted that there are several worthwhile texts on judging and exhibiting philatelic material. It might be worthwhile to bone up. it is your library. Use it.

NEXT ISSUE

TRURO EXHIBITON, CHRISTMAS STAMPS, PHIL - A - TELIC.

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French Dress
 Darlington. Sept 9
 Dear Madam.
 In reply to your letter, we beg to say that, as far as we can remember, the right serge, exact to your pattern, was sent you. However, if you will kindly send us a small piece of the Serge you received, we will at once go carefully into the matter & let you know the result.
 Your obedient S^{ts}
 J. J. J. J. J.

COVER OF THE MONTH

This card illustrates the use of the UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION card issued for use in Great Britain and Ireland. Of great interest is the DARLINGTON squared circle at 7:30 pm SP 9 1901, type A with code numbers at lower left and right corners.

The card was mailed to Mdme Haines, c/o Major Haines, R.A.M.C. Amritsar, Punjab, India. The receiving stamp is of ARMITTSAR 4. PM dely 29 Se.01. and for the redelivery to Mussoorie, N.W.P., even farther North than Armittsar, at 7:30 PM OC. 01.

The reverse carries a message advising Mdme. Haines she did get the exact serge she ordered but "send a small piece and we will recheck". Good luck Mdme. Haines, you just can't get good help anywhere.

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