

NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB



No. 184

Newsletter

Vol. 21 #10

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: December 8, 1987

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

EDITORIAL

Gold. Oil. Water. Forests. A wise nation uses all resources.
So too, a wise philatelist should use all resources available to
their hobby.

Dealers, auctions, and bourses are three obvious resources,
yet there is one vital resource that is sadly neglected by the
members of this club. The NSSC Library. For too long now the
members have been forgoing or forgetting the opportunity to polish
one of the most important facets of our hobby - KNOWLEDGE.

The NSSC has a fine library of over one hundred different works
dealing with philately. Books on exhibiting, postal history, perfins,
Individual issues, cancellations, catalogues, encyclopedias, general
collecting, etc. There is something for everyone.

Our library is managed diligently by Hilda van Rooyen, and she
would be happy to help you find the book you're looking for. There
is a book list available, and an updated list will be made available
to all members in the new year. The library is open for use during
every club meeting, and books can be borrowed for home use. The
well of knowledge awaits. Drink deeply, and read!

MEMORIAL

Sadly I must note the passing of Club Member Laurina Steeves,
a long time member of the NSSC who will be missed by many. A
sympathy card has been sent by the club to those who survive her.

FEBRUARY GIANT AUCTION

Anyone wishing to place up to 15 lots in the upcoming NSSC
GIANT AUCTION can place their lots in a manila envelope, or box.
These lots should be individually described with Scott #'s, con-
dition (eg. Sc. #411, F-VF, MNH), reserve price, or no reserve.
Bring your sale lots to either the December or January general
meeting and give them to Larry Hitz. Otherwise 1 hr. before Feb.
meeting starts.

NOVAPEX 88

At the November club meeting John Hall gave a fascinating talk on the upcoming NSSC exhibition. April 9th to 10th are the tentative dates and there will be a banquet on Saturday night. There will be trophies, ribbons, medals, and certificates for all. This year all those attending will cast a ballot for the most popular exhibit, the winner receiving a beautiful book about stamps.

I was particularly impressed with the thoroughness John has demonstrated in his publicity campaign. MT & T will send out advance info with every phone bill that month. During the weekend previous the NSSC will hand out flyers at the Mic Mac Mall. NOVAPEX 88 will be advertised in the BNAPS and RPS newsletters. There is a 90% chance that a photo and advance info will be on the cover of the Metro Telecaster. Well done John!

SEMINAR ON EXHIBITING

On December 12, at the St. Mary's University Library boardroom, there will be a seminar on exhibiting, with tips and talk from veteran exhibitors, and possibly a slide show. It will take place from 9 AM to 12 noon. All those interested should contact John Hall at the next club meeting, or give him a call at 434-6529.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

At the December meeting we will be privileged to view the APS slide program "THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND" by V.C. Carr. Would any PEI collectors please contact George Mackenzie or your humble editor. We are seeking one or two knowledgeable collectors to add their own comments and perhaps field a few questions.

The January meeting we will be pleased to welcome back postmaster Charlie Rutt back for further discussion. Please come armed with suitable questions. Those who cannot attend may forward their questions to myself and I will pass them on to Charlie.

ROLL CALL

New Members

#857 Russell A. Saulnier
#858 Fred R. Mackinnon

Change Of Address

#840 Micheal Kruger
Black Point RR 3 Hfx. Co.
NS BOJ 1B0

CHRISTMAS CHEER AUCTION

This year's Christmas Cheer Auction netted a total of \$236.45, down from last year, but we give what we get. The money shall be divided between the Salvation Army and Bonny Lea Farms. In a recent Financial Post it noted that Canadian charity is getting less per person than it used to. I guess this is just another sign of the times. (Editorial shot)

CANADIAN CHRISTMAS STAMPS (cont.)

by
A. E. Morris

1971 stamps, featuring snowflakes as the central design, were issued in October, in four denominations - 6¢, 7¢, 10¢, and 15¢.

1972 stamps, issued on November 1, again in the same four denominations featuring candles. They were released plain, Ottawa tagged and Winnipeg tagged. They were the last stamps ever issued with Winnipeg tagging.

Christmas stamps for the years 1973 to and including 1978 had the following designs - a combination of the traditional with the commercial aspects of the holiday season (1973); famous Canadian paintings (1974); children's drawings (1975); stained glass windows of the Nativity scene (1976); Canadian Indian's celebration of Christmas (1977); and a Renaissance rendition of a Madonna and Child as taken from a painting in the National Gallery of Canada (1978).

The 1979 theme was antique toys. Of the three stamps issued the 35¢ stamp was given a vertical format and was tagged on all four sides. This created problems for the Post Office when many people placed the stamps on their envelopes in a horizontal position and caused their envelopes to be rejected by the automatic cancellation and sorting equipment as the tagging bars were in the wrong position.

The 1980 stamps contained the traditional greeting of "Merry Christmas/Joyeux Noel" for the first time. They were reproductions of 1931 Christmas cards. The names of two of the artists have been transposed on the philatelic marginal inscription on the 15¢ and 17¢ stamps and is constant on all philatelic panes. Previous Christmas stamps had been inscribed "Christmas Noel" with the year of issue appearing only in 1964 and 1970.

1981 brought a national postal strike, called in June and lasting until the middle of August. Due to this strike and the uncertainty over an increase in postal rates because of the change of the Post Office from a Government department to a Crown Corporation, the annual Christmas stamps were postponed from Oct. 16 to Nov. 16. This was the latest issue date for any Canadian Christmas stamp. Three 15¢ stamps were issued marking the bicentennial of the first illuminated Christmas tree in Canada and depicted trees as they might have appeared in 1781, 1881, and 1891. In addition to the regular philatelic inscription, each pane carried the commemorative legend, on the top and bottom margins - "Bicentennial of the first illuminated Christmas tree in Canada, Sorel, Quebec, 1781."

1982 stamps portrayed Creche figures of the Holy Family, Shepherds, and the Three Wisemen. 1983 showed designs of an Urban Church, a family going to church and a Rural Church. 1984 stamps were reproductions of paintings by three Canadian painters, all with religious themes.

On November 21, 1983 Canada produced its first experimental Stick 'n' Tick label, hoping to improve postal efficiency. The labels were to be affixed to the top right hand corner of an envelope and had a preprinted box to be ticked to pick out the addressee's postal code. There was no denomination on the label. It was a two color design of a lighted candle surrounded by holly and berries with the inscription "CANADA POSTAGE POSTES". These labels were tested in Winnipeg.

1984 produced more Stick 'n' Tick labels, this time in two parts; the "stamp" design, again a candle with the inscription "CANADA CHRISTMAS NOEL 1984" and a separate label whereon the postal code could be ticked off. These labels were used in a number of cities in Canada.

1985 stamps recall the Canadian tradition of the Santa Claus Parade and were issued in denominations of 34¢, 39¢, and 68¢ and a Christmas Stamp Value Pack booklet was issued containing ten 32¢ stamps. Each of these four stamps was of a different design but all portrayed one aspect of a Christmas parade.

1986 Christmas stamps symbolized the participation of angels in the Christmas story and were issued in denominations of 34¢, 39¢, and 68¢, with a fourth stamp designed for the special Christmas card postage rate, 29¢. This 29¢ stamp was contained in a special "Christmas Greet More Stamp Booklet", ten Christmas stamps for use on greeting card envelopes with printed postal code matrix, to be mailed within Canada during the 1986 holiday season. Canada Post stated that some 15 companies would be offering these special envelopes and cards for sale through retail outlets.



TRURO GIANT AUCTION



On Dec. 14th, 7:30 pm the Truro Philatelic Society will hold a Giant Auction. This will take place at the Cox Institute in the Agricultural College. All are invited.

STAMP OUT BLANK SPACES!!! SEND ALL ARTICLES, LETTERS, AND LAUNDRY LISTS TO YOUR EDITOR! SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT! DO IT NOW!

BLAST FROM THE PAST

During the October meeting Charlie Rutt was asked by Harry Steele if Canada Post intended on doing anything about the messy cancellations that have ruined many a postally used stamp. Charlie spoke of how this a problem that would probably not be dealt with until Canada Post has dealt with its deficit. (Which probably will not be dealt with until Canada Post has dealt with it's union- Ed.)

To demonstrate how long this problem has been going on Dave Cooper dug up some interesting quotations from the May-June 1966 issue of The Canadian Philatelist.

Such comments as "the frequent dirtiness and blotchiness of Canadian cancellations" (pg. 98), or "the miserable treatment accorded to Canadian stamps...especially blocks. If not outright mutilated, they usually present a sorry blotchy sight, with place of origin and dates quite undecipherable." (pg. 136). Have a little care, Canada Post.

TRURO EXHIBITION

A good time was had by all at the Glengarry Inn on Sat. Oct. 24. The Truro Philatelic Society had its 30th anniversary exhibition and banquet.

The Court of Honour was top drawer material. Senator Henry Hicks had his Quebec Tercentenaries and Dr. J.J. Macdonald had his Connell display. The main exhibits were equally fascinating. The bourse was hip deep in dealers and customers, and I was pleased to come away with a fistful of Newfoundland stamps.

Results of Judging:

Best In Show and Gold Medal : Bill Burden - Canadian Constant Plate Var.
Silver Medal: Bill Burden - Small Queen Constant Plate Varieties
Silver Medal Les Sarkany - Police

I wasn't able to attend the banquet as my transportation plans prohibited this, but I hear Rob Matthews gave an interesting talk on philately.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

A very short meeting this month. The main noteworthy item was the acceptance of a bid made by a retired framemaker to build new frames for the NSSC. The executive have been trying to get these frames for several years now and hopefully by the time you read this twenty five new frames will be ready for the upcoming April exhibition.

POST CARD SHOW

A cosy little show, with several dealers, an interesting exhibition, and a film that I couldn't stay to see, as my four year old was getting restless. I was very impressed by the Halifax Explosion frame, but my favourite, of course, was the Newfoundland exhibit.

PHIL - A - TELIC

Cont'd from Newsletter 21 #8 - Soaking

Prior to 1964 there were no stamps which could be parted from their backing paper by the water treatment; but since the advent of the Sierra Leone map stamps that year there have been many issues from all over the world using some form of self-adhesive backing. This convenient feature has now been extended to most of the time of application as it means you no longer have to lick the back of the stamp or label first. Just peel off the backing paper and affix to the surface of the card or letter and hey-presto it's there for all time.

For this reason it's necessary to check the stamps on piece before you try to soak or float them off. Any stamps or labels which you suspect of having a self adhesive gum should be segregated. Their mucilage is not soluble in water. One person once tried to remove such stamps using hot water, and he ended up with a nasty, sticky mess that was neither one thing nor the other. I have been told that it is possible to dissolve this gum (which is rubber based) by using petrol or lighter fuel - but I can't recommend this. (If you do try it, please don't smoke. Boom!- Ed.)

Even stamps which you manage to peel off their adherent paper invariably show traces of the gum and this will then tend to stick to the album page. All things considered, therefore, my advice is to leave such stamps on piece, merely trimming the backing as neatly as possible. Sierra Leone, Tonga, Norfolk Island are the main devotees of self-adhesive stamps, but they have also been issued at one time or another by the United States, Gibraltar and Montserrat among others, and even Great Britain's undenominated Posta-book stamps fall into this category. THE END

Don't forget Phil's main job is to answer questions put to him by Club members but he can't do this unless he gets the questions - Phil-A-Telic, 1333 South Park Street, Apt. 515, Halifax, NS B3J 2K9

ADVERTISEMENT

HOUSE OF STAMPS, BOX 398, STATION M, HALIFAX, NS B3J 2P8

STAMPS BOUGHT AND SOLD. PAYING TOP DOLLAR. SELLING
AT AFFORDABLE PRICES. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR
STAMP CLUB MEMBERS. PHONE 423-1780

POSTSCRIPT

Typing last page late at night, as usual. Going to bed now. Wish you all a merry Christmas. I hope you get a nice fat gift certificate from your local dealer in your stocking. See you next year.

Steve
