

NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB



No. 190

Newsletter

Vol. 23 #3

Meetings: Second Tuesday of the month at the Nova Scotia Museum,
Summer Street, Halifax, N.S. at 8 p.m.
No meetings July or August.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 13, 1988.

Mailing Address: 831 Tower Road, Halifax, N.S. B3H 2Y1

COMMENT: As I compile this newsletter, we Nova Scotians are experiencing an unusually hot period of weather, combined with provincial election hoopla, and in Halifax, the second annual appearance of the Buskers, turning downtown Halifax into the veritable playground of Eastern Canada. Great fun as our friends and neighbours are turned into acrobats, jugglers and comedians before our very eyes. On the other hand, school supplies are crowding the stores, gardens are entering upon that grim period indicating the inevitable ending of a season, and we all are feeling that frustration of not accomplishing all that we might have hoped for this summer. Thought is gradually being returned to our stamp collecting, with the first meeting of the NSSC being held Tuesday, September 13, at 8 p.m. at the Museum.

PROGRAMME NOTES:

The Tuesday, September 13 programme will be a presentation by Hugh Rathbun assisted by Carl Munden, on the Postal History of Nova Scotia. As you know, these two collectors have an amazing wealth of knowledge and it promises to be a fascinating evening for all.

JUNE MEETING:

The June Business meeting was a short one with 55 members present. Doug Allen made a more than modest proposal to the members --- a group trip to London, England for STAMPWORLD - LONDON '90. The dates: May 3 - 13, 1990. The exhibition will be at Alexandra Palace, and the trip would include airfare, bed and continental breakfast at the Park Court Hotel, Lancaster Gate (early morning walks in Hyde Park!), theatre vouchers, and

airbus transfers for \$1080 p.p. twin at today's prices. 1990 prices are a bit difficult to predict, but you can see that at today's dollars it is indeed a modest proposal. Sounds like a golden opportunity for seventy people, and anyone who wants to sign up or make further enquiries can contact Doug Allen.

The meeting concluded with the Annual Flea Market.

PHILATELY SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO by Bob Vaison

From the London based THE POSTAGE STAMP of April 18, 1914 come these recollections of a collector from the "good old Days", the 1880s-1890s (Scott numbers and 1989 used prices in brackets):

Among notable prices he paid during that period were 4½d. for Great Britain 2d. no lines (no. 2, \$325); 3s.3d. for the £ purple (no. 75, \$2000) and 3s.6d. for the £ green (no. 124, \$350), the latter being probably scarcer then not having been long in use.

It would be interesting to calculate just what sort of price increases, in real terms, these changes represent. The editor of this weekly philatelic newspaper offered a free packet of the new "tasteless stamp hinges" to anyone who wrote in.

LAUNCHES:

Canada Post sent a general invitation to the official introduction of the "Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever" stamp on Friday, August 26, at 2 p.m. at the Yarmouth County Museum, Yarmouth; and to the official introduction of the "Newfoundland Dog" stamp, same day and time, at the Harbour Grace Curling Club, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland. Unfortunately this information was not available for inclusion in the previous newsletter, and now serves only to inform.

TRURO PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

It is noted that the TPS Annual Show and Bourse will be held October 29, at the Best Western Glengarry in Truro. Rooms are available for overnight guests at the convention rate, there is a banquet but the name of the speaker is yet to be announced.

PHIL-A-TELIC:

Question: What are Gutter Blocks of Postage Stamps?

Answer: Gutter Blocks of postage stamps are units of three or more stamps with at least one stamp on either side of gutter paper and two on the other. Gutter Blocks of four have two stamps on each side of the gutter paper, the stamps must be from two rows from the sheet or pane. The combination of marginal or gutter paper adjacent to postage stamps does not form a block of stamps.

Phil is waiting for your questions at 1333 South Park Street, Apt. 515,
Halifax, N.S. B3J 2K9

EFO's, No Not UFO's

No, an EFO is not a variation of a UFO (unidentified flying object) but some of them may be just as strange. EFO stands for Errors, Freaks and Oddities and collectors are having a field day with this speciality. Stamp collecting may be the largest hobby in the world where a mistake is worth more than a perfect item, and everyone can join in the hunt. You can go to your local post office, buy the stamps you need at face value, and, here is the important part, examine them carefully before affixing them.

When you spend your money on a lottery ticket, you may or may not win something. If your ticket number doesn't win, then you have lost your money which is your entire investment. When you buy stamps at your post office, you always win. First of all, if you find an EFO, then you are certain to get much more than you spent. If you get perfect stamps, then you can still use them for postage. How can you lose?

Thanks, Phil!

APS SUMMER SEMINAR ON PHILATELY, State College, Pa. by Jane Sodero

This could be the dawn of a new age for the NSSC newsletter, greater involvement of the Juniors. Early this summer Marilyn Murphy, Cheryl Murphy, Ken MacDonald and I attended an intensive seminar on Philately sponsored jointly by Penn State College and APS. Cheryl and I were two of the three scholarship recipients (scholarships covered tuition and accomodation at an on-campus dorm). There are a total of six scholarships offered to Juniors each year and there seems to be no need to be a member of APS or even an American citizen.

The seminar began on July 4 with registration and a short reception which finished in plenty of time to see the fireworks. Each morning began with a one hour presentation for all participants ranging from Stamp Promotion to an Elder Statesmen Forum. After the hour the participants divided into three groups, Stamp Technology, Exhibiting and Judging, and the Financial Side of Stamps. Marilyn, Cheryl and Ken took Exhibiting nad Judging which covered a full range of topics

from why to do an Exhibit to how to judge the Exhibit. I took Stamp Technology which covered printing techniques, colour, gum, perfs, fakes and forgeries and a very in-depth study of the Washington-Franklin Issue (if anybody is interested I do have info on this issue including a specialized perf guage which can be photocopied). The main goal of the Financial section was to prepare and carry out a stamp auction which was held for the participants on Friday night.

The afternoon also was divided into two parts, one a workshop to complement the morning session and the other a series of electives ranging from working with Juniors, to Photography, to the Imperforate Issues of Chile. The evenings were usually free and the APS Library was open to the public. One evening was the Elder Statesmen's Reception. This year there were three Elder Statesmen; Norman Hubbard, an expert on Latin American countries; Robert Seigel, who is the President of the Robert A. Seigel Auction Galleries and has presided over the auction of some of the world's most valuable stamps, including the 1¢ magenta British Guiana and collections such as the Newbury Collection; and Irwin Weinberg, who owned the 1¢ British Guiana and has sold collections like the Foxbridge Collection valued at nearly \$5 million.

Instructors included Bill Welch, American Philatelist editor; George Brett, expertizer for APS; John Apfelbaum; Keith Wagner, APS Executive Director; and Mercer Bristow, head of the expertizers.

The most interesting area for me was a collection of fakes and forgeries which have been donated by patrons after expertizing. Included in this collection is a St. Lawrence Seaway, the centre of a second had been cut out, inverted, and pasted on the first, a very obvious fake!

The seminar was very informative especially to collectors of American material. The cost of tuition was \$215 and the dorm rooms ranged from \$11 to \$15 a night (a fan is greatly recommended, it hit 100 F.). The seminar coincides with the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, which includes nightly outdoor concerts of many types of music (we saw the Nylons), and many booths of craftspeople attracting a quarter of a million people to State College.

NOTE: In the July-August issue of the RPSC journal, The Canadian Philatelist, the Society President James Kraemer advises that the Board of Directors has extended the age of the youth category from 18 to 21 years, bringing it more in line with the F.I.P. regulations that apply to international exhibitions.

QUEST FOR BORNEISH, or CARL'S ADVENTURES IN CAPE BRETON

Carl Munden, the intrepid chronicler of Cape Breton postal history, addressed the Whycocomagh Historical Society, Friday, July 15, attracting a rather respectable audience even though he was running

stiff competition with the Miss Whycocomagh Pageant. He discussed the older rural post offices of the Whycocomagh area, finding that his audience had a great deal of knowledge of both the area and its post masters, and gave advice on the dispersal and preservation of old letters and documents.

The following day, the Sodero family accompanied Carl on an expedition to visit the oldest Roman Catholic Church in Cape Breton, St. Margaret of Scotland (1841) and to find the elusive, isolated and abandoned settlement of Borneish, now populated solely by blueberries. To make a long story short, it was quite a sight when we returned with a 4x4 and tow lines, to find Carl sipping sherry and listening to Vivaldi on top of River Denys Mountain.

C.S.D.A. SHOW AUCTION

In June, at the Canadian Stamp Dealer's Association Show, Toronto, Eaton & Son realized over \$744,000 at their Public and Mail-bid Auction, and attracted over one thousand participants.

Small queens brought large bids. A mint, never hinged, extremely fine "1 cent yellow", No. 35, catalogue value \$24, sold for \$220. A similar green 2 cent, No. 36 sold for \$209. The precancelled block of eighteen of the "10 cent dull red", No. 45a, pre-sale estimate \$500 to \$1000, sold for \$2,310.

A large margined, used 1859 "5 cent beaver", No. 15, described as a colossus, catalogued at only \$16.50, sold for \$286.

A Bermuda collection, estimated at \$3,000 to \$5,000 sold for \$7,150; while a Falkland Islands group, estimated at \$2,500 to \$3,500 sold for a whopping \$7,475.

These statistics are from the Canadian Antiquer and Collector August Issue, in an article by Brian Grant Duff. Things dreams are made of for the sellers.

NSSC auctions begin again at the September meeting, and who knows what you may find, and at much more reasonable prices! Clear out your duplicates and superfluous material, and present it for auction on the thirteenth.

DUES Remember dues are due, do send them to Archie Thomas, please do.

MEMBERSHIP: No resignations, and no new members' applications over the summer months.

EXECUTIVE NOTES:

The executive of the NSSC is scheduled to meet Monday, August 22. However, with the printers being so frantically busy with election material, and with holiday time in this family, I have had to go to print before the meeting. The executive news will appear in the next newsletter.

Perusing the previous meeting notes brings reiteration of the following points. The auctioneer requests you place catalogue values on your material if at all possible. It makes his job much easier. He reminds you that the September auction brings a change in bidding increments, after \$3 increases will be 50¢, and after \$10 increases will be \$1. Members are encouraged to put items for auction with proceeds to the club.

NEWSLETTER:

The newsletter needs contributors. Without outside contributions it tends to become a very narrow view of a not very narrow hobby. Each of us attacks the hobby from a different perspective, and the newsletter becomes a much more interesting vehicle if more of those views are expressed. Articles, covers, and news items will be gratefully received. Also remember that we do provide space for advertising. So if there is a particular stamp you are looking for, or a piece of reference material, or supplies that have gone off the market, you can place an ad, in your own words, for a mere \$2 an issue. You never know what amazing results may occur. Our readership extends throughout Canada, with a couple of readers in the United States, Europe and Africa.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that you can join the American Philatelic Research Library, annual dues \$10 U.S. payable to APRL, P.O. Box 8338, State College, PA 16803, and receive the Philatelic Literature Review, to keep up with philatelic literature being published. By virtue of individual or chapter membership in APS you can use the library facilities, but only by joining the library do you get the review.

For Commonwealth collectors--- The Royal Image: A Classification of British Royal Portraits on Stamps. Lois E. Young. Published by Philip Cockrill, Hampstead Norreys, Newbury, Berkshire RG16 0TT England. Soft bound, 84 pages. L6 plus postage.

ADVERTISEMENT: HOUSE OF STAMPS, Box 398, Station M, Halifax, B3J 2P8
STAMPS BOUGHT AND SOLD, PAYING TOP DOLLAR, SELLING AT AFFORDABLE PRICES.
SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR STAMP CLUB MEMBERS. PHONE 423-1780