

NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB



No. 191

Newsletter

Vol. 23 #4

Meetings: Second Tuesday of the month at the Nova Scotia Museum,
Summer Street, Halifax, N.S. at 8 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 11, 1988

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

COMMENT: The Provincial Election has passed, the Buskers have come and gone, the Olympics are in full swing, and the cool, clear days of autumn have replaced the heat and humidity of August. It is now time to plant bulbs in the garden in anticipation of a glorious spring, while others' thoughts have turned to hunting season, and we look forward to a few meals of roasted Cape Breton partridge.

SEPTEMBER MEETING:

The first meeting of the new fiscal year took place at the Museum, Tuesday, September 13, with over 65 members and guests present.

John Hall, Chairman Novapex '89, requires chairmen and workers for the Annual Exhibition, and will give an exhibition presentation as the November meeting programme.

No further news concerning the London trip for STAMPWORLD - LONDON '90, May 3 - 13, 1990. Anyone who is interested can speak with Doug Allen, a financial commitment is not necessary at this stage.

Treasurer Archie Thomas gave his report to June 30, 1988; the change in year end meant a 15 month period covering two exhibitions. Total receipts for the period were \$9571.01, expenses totalled \$12437.58 and included the long awaited new frames. As of June 30 funds on hand were \$3898.55, and June 30, 1989 will put the report back on a 12 month basis.

Marilyn Murphy spoke about the APS Seminar in State College, Pa. She reports that another seminar will be held July 4 - 10, 1989. She felt that this year's participants benefitted greatly and that it is a most worthwhile experience. Of particular interest to juniors are the scholarships available to them covering tuition and accomodation.

Following the business portion of the meeting, Hugh Rathbun assisted by Carl Munden, introduced MOODS, MOTOS, MOONS, and POCONS.

MOODS are Money Order Office Datestamps in use from 1928 - 1940. A round rubber datestamp, usually in colour and rarely found on first class mail. These were replaced by MOTOS, Money Order Transfer Office, square or rectangular, usually in colour, not common until the 1940's, last made in 1950. MOONS, 1950 - 72, Money Order Office number, in which an office number has been incorporated on the stamp, with varying combinations of upper and lower case letters, and frequently used by smaller offices on first class mail. POCONS, Post Office Computer Office Numbers, have been in use since 1972. Early examples show use of excessive abbreviations. Over the years these rubber stamps stretch giving distorted imprints, and have to be replaced. These replacements are not always identical to the original. The collecting challenge can be an onerous one, with the advent of the RPO (Retail Postal Outlet, not the Railway Post Office of yore) frequently changing and short-lived offices, and yet it can be a relatively inexpensive pursuit. Auction houses are offering collections in their catalogues, but scouting about the smaller post offices will bring results. It was a fascinating session which caught the imaginations of those of us fortunate enough to be present.

The evening concluded with an auction of 51 lots.

* * * * *

OCTOBER PROGRAMME

The programme for the October 11 meeting will be a slide presentation by our President, George MacKenzie, on a portion of his collecting interest featuring "Aviation on Stamps". The topic will be Military Aircraft of CANADA on Stamps, and because of its length (148 slides), it will be shown in two parts, the first at the October meeting and completed at the March 1989 meeting. This should be an interesting programme as George spent 35 years in the RCAF/Canadian Forces and for the past 4 years has been with IMP Group Ltd. (Aerospace Division) at the Halifax International Airport and can really relate to his topic.

* * * * *

TRURO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

If you plan to enter an exhibit in the TPS Annual Show, please notify Penny Ferguson, 23 Riverside Ave., Truro, N.S. B2N 4G2, phone 895-1345. Deadline for programme inclusion is October 24.

The exhibition is Saturday, October 29 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. The banquet is slated for 6:30 p.m., including speaker and awards. Dr. Henry Hicks is listed as the speaker. Banquet tickets are \$17.50 before Oct. 15 and \$20 after that date, available from TPS Secretary, Box 1452, Truro B2N 5V2. Event at Glengarry Motel, 150 Willow St. Truro, N.S.

COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS



"... and here's a set honoring the continual increase in postal rates ..."

NATIONAL ENQUIRER

Thanks to Harry Steele for sending this along.

* * * * *

PHILATELY SEVENTY FIVE YEARS AGO by Bob Vaison

This item of interest from the Postage Stamp of May 2, 1914:

A Postage Stamp as an Inn Sign.

Truly our hobby crops up in most unexpected places, writes Mr. E. Bentley Wood. During an Easter stroll I came across at Harston, near Cambridge, a public house, "The Queen's Head" whose sign board was a very fair reproduction of the old penny lilac, perfs and all complete, the brewer's name replacing the usual inscription. One wonders if mine host is a philatelist, and how this colourable imitation of one of our British stamps has escaped the censorship of the authorities who make such stringent regulations anent our illustrations.

This little publication was truly, as its masthead proclaimed, "An illustrated weekly journal for all classes of stamp collectors". It cost 1d. per issue.

* * * * *

Wonder if the pub is still there!

In the newsletter you received in June, mention was made of a member who was corresponding with Canada Post concerning types of paper used. The following is the body of the letter he received dated May 31, 1988.

Due to the decision by some Canadian producers of stamp paper to cease production of this product line, Canada Post Corporation has had a variety of suppliers of stamp paper over the past several years. Listed below are the suppliers of stamp paper used by Canada Post together with the product lines they supply. Those marked with an asterisk have ceased to produce stamp paper for Canada Post Corporation.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Country of Origin</u>	<u>Type of Paper</u>
* Abitibi Price Ltd.	Canada	Litho uncoated P.V.A. gummed stamp paper Litho coated P.V.A. gummed stamp paper
* Rolland Inc.	Canada	Litho coated P.V.A. gummed stamp paper
Harrison & Son Ltd.	United Kingdom	Uncoated P.V.A. gummed stamp paper Litho coated P.V.A. gummed stamp paper Gravure coated P.V.A. gummed stamp paper
Henry and Leigh Slater	United Kingdom	Litho coated P.V.A. gummed stamp paper
Peterborough Paper Converters	Canada	Uncoated P.V.A. gummed stamp paper

Please note that Clark Paper International, a company based in the U.K. is not a paper manufacturer but rather a brokerage firm which sells stamp papers from a variety of offshore manufacturers.

The decision as to which of the above papers will be used for any given production run of postage supplies is not determined by Canada Post Corporation. Canada Post Corporation's stamp printers make the selection of paper based on their judgment as to which paper will satisfy Canada Post Corporation's performance requirements for finished stamps and on the marketplace.

* * * * *

SHOWS: The Canadian Stamp Dealer's Association "Ottawa National", Nov. 11, 12, 13, 1988 at the Ottawa Congress Centre, 55 Colonel By Drive. A Postage Stamp Show and Philatelic Exhibition.

Also, the "Montreal National", CSDA, Nov. 25, 26, 27, 1988 at Place Bonaventure Postage Stamp Show and Philatelic Exhibition.

PHIL-A-TELIC:

Still no questions from you members so once again I'll ask one of my own and answer it. Don't forget Phil's address: 1333 South Park Street, #515, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2K9

How can the curl be taken out of mint postage stamps? Very carefully place the stamp or a small block of stamps face up in a glassine paper envelope larger than the curled item. Hold the envelope securely at each end with the curled side of the stamps down, then very slowly slide the envelope over the edge of a table with a back and forth motion. The stamps become flat in one or two motions.

Collectors are warned against any attempt by this process of uncurling larger blocks than four stamps, because the stamps may separate along the perforations. Anyone trying this procedure for the first time should experiment with common low-value mint stamps. Avoid wax paper and cellophane envelopes for this procedure. Wax may be transferred to the stamps; a chemical in cellophane may attack the printing ink of stamps.

EFO'S Not UFO'S:

Here is what to look for in EFO'S: ERRORS: An error is the most valuable EFO. To be considered an error, something should be completely missing, such as colour, perforations, tagging, overprint, etc. Other errors occur when one or more colours or overprints are printed upside down, sideways or on the back of the stamp.

Remember, the key word in an error is "completely missing". For example, an imperforate is a common error. There must be no trace of perforations between stamps in one or both directions. At least one full pair is required to qualify as an error. If the imperforate pair also contains a plate number, then the value increases dramatically.

The best method to check if the stamps are missing the perforations completely is from the gummed side with a magnifying glass. If there is a trace of perforations, then the stamp is considered as having a "blind perf" and is not considered an error.

Errors range in selling price from \$10 to more than \$100,000. for the widely publicized upside down airmail stamp (Scott C3a). About half the errors on the market today sell for less than \$100, which is still a very good increase over face value.

Next month: FREAKS.

* * * * *

COMING EVENTS:

Atlantic Provinces Numismatic Association Fall Rally, Oct. 8, 1988 at the Lord Nelson Hotel, Halifax, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free admission. Door prizes. Hosted by Halifax Coin Club, and the Halifax Post Card Club.

NOVA SCOTIA JUNIOR STAMP CLUB

The Juniors meet at the Nova Scotia Museum every second Saturday from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Contact person is Marilyn Murphy (455-3432). Marilyn reports that she has acquired some new materials for the Juniors during the APS Seminar she attended this summer. The starting date is Sept. 24, with the remaining schedule as follows:

October 15, 29; November 12, 26; December 17; January 7, 21;
February 4, 18; March 4, 18; April 1, 15, 29; May 13, 27.

* * * * *

EXECUTIVE NOTES:

August 22, 1988: Members of the Executive were given copies of the Novapex '88 report. John Hall needs volunteers for Novapex '89. The treasurer is awaiting the audit of his report. Members are reminded to pay their dues, deletion of unpaid members will be made in December. In order to receive your old club number, you must pay back dues (if you have been deleted).

September 19, 1988: Stan Dunfield announced the following programmes: November - Novapex '89; December - Panel on Topical Collecting; January - a slide presentation; February - Giant Auction; March - George MacKenzie - continued. There seem to be varying opinions on the success of the club's participation in the Seniors' Leisure Festival. The Executive will evaluate this at a later date. There are 214 club members to date. There were 51 lots in the September auction, with \$31.10 going to the club. You are reminded that personal cheques are accepted from club members only.

* * * * *

MEMBERSHIP:

Resignation received: #588 - James Gray

* * * * *

NEWSLETTER:

This is your newsletter, your contributions are gratefully received, and can be sent to me at the mailing address at the beginning of the newsletter, or given directly to me, Elizabeth Soderro, at the regular monthly meeting. I try to get the newsletter to the printer one week to the day after a regular meeting. Also, there is room for advertising, at \$2 a blurb.

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

* * * * *