

NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB



No. 199

Newsletter

Vol. 24 No. 12

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

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 13, 1989.

NEWSLETTER MAILING ADDRESS: 831 Tower Road, Halifax, N.S. B3H 2Y1

COMMENT: What a busy time of year! Have just won a major battle with the lawnmower, and everything looks so much better. The flowers are so fresh looking, the birds and the children are atwitter; our high-school student is preparing for exams, so there is a downside as well. I have tried my best to create a left-hand margin for the Newsletter, those who keep them in binders have been losing some of the words of wisdom. If only I could remember how to do it by the time the next Newsletter is due. It is a memory typewriter operated by someone with little memory and the inability to sit down and read a book of instructions. Happy summer!

FLEA MARKET: The annual flea market is Tuesday, June 13. Tables can be set up at 6:30 p.m. Those who have a large quantity of material should supply their own tables, the museum tables are at a premium. Buying and selling will be interrupted at 8 p.m. for a short business meeting. The flea market is the programme and there is no auction.

MAY 9, 1989 MEETING:

In the president's absence Marilyn Murphy conducted the meeting. A home has been found for the frames, the donor wishes to remain anonymous. If you are able to help with transportation, or with repair, contact Dave Harvey. Best wishes were extended to Stan Dunfield in hospital. John Hall presented a series of slides on Novapex '89, and extended his thanks to all his committee members. Claude Michaud, Chief Judge, presented the awards and prizes. He spoke of the improved quality of Exhibits, pointing out that you do not need expensive stamps, but that philatelic knowledge is important. Larry Hitz reported that the auction receipts totalled \$329 with \$33 for the Club.

EXECUTIVE MEETING: June 19 at the Museum

MEMBERSHIP: Granted to #873 - Joan Harris
 #874 - Stephen St. Martin
 #875 - Richard E. Bedford

PHIL-A-TELIC: As stated in last month's Newsletter, "It never rains but it pours". I received a very pleasant letter from Lucille Robinson which included four questions and I must say, very good questions for this type of column. I hope some of the members can help Phil out with the answers. I will only use two of them this month and save the others for the start of our new Club year in September. I'm still looking for the answer to the question on France Scott #44 posed in last month's Newsletter.

Question 1: What is the story behind the use of the "WAR TAX" Admirals? Was it OK to use two of these for a regular 2¢ postage? (I have a post card mailed in 1915 that has done so -- it looks odd).

Question 2: This U.S. stamp commemorates the 5th International Philatelic Exhibition held in New York in 1956 (according to the stamp). Where and when were the first, second, third and fourth? And subsequent ones?



I thank Lucille for her letter, questions and comments. Another question Lucille penned was, "Who is Phil anyway?? Is that a secret he/she wishes to maintain?" Phil won't give a complete answer but you can sort it out yourself if you look over a Newsletter of about two years ago and on the front page near the top is a very big clue. I really am the second "PHIL", it was started by one of our past presidents and when he went on to better things, he turned the name over to me. The only reason I've kept it a secret is that I don't want members to know who the fellow is who asks himself questions. PHIL-A-TELIC, 1333 South Park St., Apt. 515, Halifax, N.S.
 B3J 2K9

VALLEY STAMP CLUB SHOW: This annual non-competitive show was held in the Kentville Fire Hall, Saturday, April 29. It is always a friendly affair, with a bourse, exhibits and an auction, and lots to eat. To give you an idea from the exhibits point-of-view, read on. Norman Dubois showed an extensive study of "Religion on Stamps", Iris Hubley - "Stamps on Stamps", Gary Jordan - "Bermuda - Virgin Islands", Daniel Moore - "Winston Churchill", Hugh Bignell - "Admirals", Anne-Marie Belliveau - "Morden Post Office" and "United Nations", Ary Kalkman - "Small Queens", Roger Greer - "N. S. Squared Circles", Earle Giles - "Australia" and "Canadian Revenues", Al Burditt - "Canada to 1950", Margaret Bignell - "Canada's Wild Life".

INFOMATION WANTED

King George VI 1937-1938

precancel covers, precancel plate blocks,

Single usage rate covers to foreign countries

Dead Letter Office Postmarks 1937-1952

Mail Service Suspended Covers 1937 - 1945

Scott #'s 231-245 Coils, Booklets, Perfins etc.

Will buy or trade if available.

Contact Gary 864 - 3976

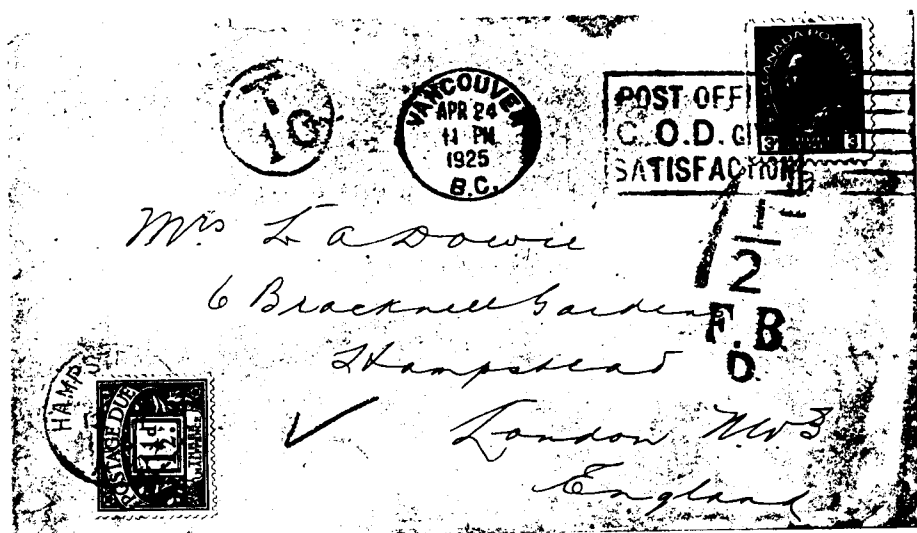
PHILATELY SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, Bob Vaison

It is of interest to read about the steps toward specialization of catalogue listings that Gibbons was introducing in 1914, as reported in The Postage Stamp of 20 June 1914:

The special feature of the new Gibbons Part 1 will be that Great Britain will receive more specialized attention at the hands of the cataloguers. This is as it should be for if our Gibbons is to retain its hold as the premier catalogue it must move with the times, and the times are moving with a distinct trend in the direction of greater specialization in our home issues. There is no doubt the popularity of the collecting of our recent varieties of printing, and the general interest in the productions of Messrs. Harrison, Waterlow Brothers, and the Stamping Department have stirred up the cataloguers to give us a more adequate section representing Great Britain. Among the new features, British used abroad will be included for the first time, and Great Britain controls will be priced. Coloured obliterations also have been included and specialists will await the appearance of the 1914 Part 1 with almost unprecedented interest.

WAR TAX

When the War Tax Act was introduced on 15 April 1915, the forward first class letter rate to the United Kingdom was 2¢ per ounce for a total cost of 3¢. On 1 October 1921 the rate was increased to 3¢ per ounce for a total of 4¢. The War Tax was not removed until 1 July 1926. This cover is underpaid by 1¢, therefore taxed at 10 centimes, 2¢ and re-assessed at 1½ d. paid with a 1½ d. postage due, cancelled at Hampstead.



(reduced size)

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

The Klondike Heritage Mail Run—1985. , Lucille Robinson

On July 19, 1985, a bag of specially prepared envelopes started its journey from the post office in Seattle, Washington, to follow the route of the Stampeders to the Klondike as taken in 1897-99. This special "Mail Run" was part of the celebrations commemorating the centennial of the National Parks of Canada, 1985, sponsored by Heritage North, Whitehorse Rotary Club, National Parks Citizen Centennial Committee and the Yukon National Historic Sites, Whitehorse, YT.

I was fortunate in having seen an advertisement for this event, and sent my subscription fee to have one of these specially marked envelopes bear my name as it made its trip across the Klondike. When my historic item finally arrived sometime in September, there certainly was no doubt in my mind that it had indeed been transported over a rough terrain in primitive fashion. It had a distinctive "beat up" look. At first, I was a bit disappointed at the envelope's appearance, but when I read the accompanying letter explaining the reason, I was gladdened. It read:

...

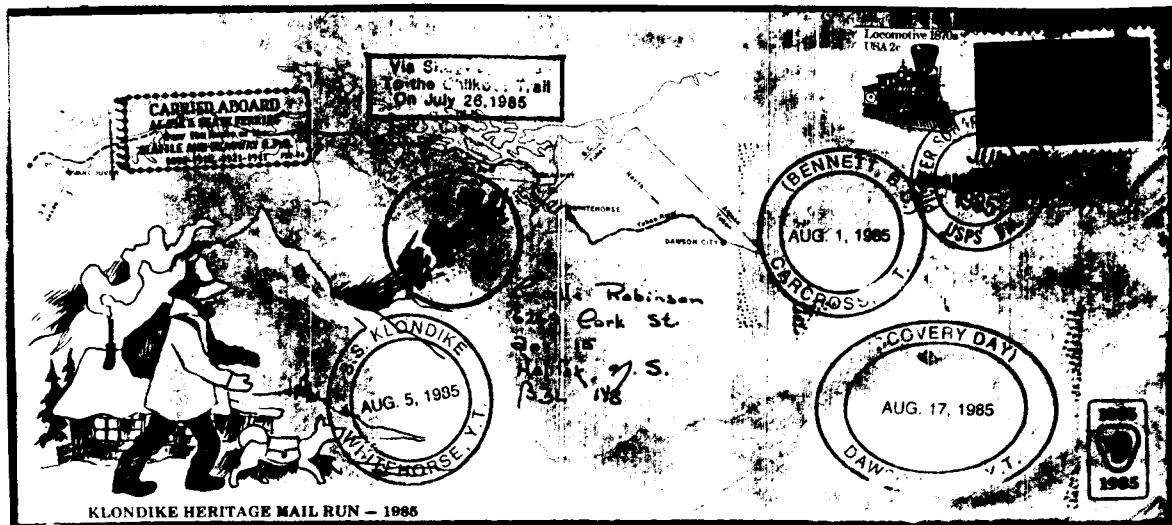
At the end of July, while transporting the Klondike Mail Run across Lake Bennett, the Canadian Army Cadets faced this type of weather [harsh, wet conditions]. Between Bennett, B.C. and Carcross, Yukon, the weather was rough and stormy, resulting in large amounts of water in the boats. Some of this water seeped through into the mail and not only made the paper damp, but also caused some of the cancels to run. Therefore, this is the reason that your envelope may be wrinkled around the edges or your cancel may have run.

...

Not only has your envelope followed the route of the Stampeders, it has also experienced some of the conditions of that time. You, as a collector, are part of a true Northern experience, for in the fibers of many envelopes is a bit of historic Lake Bennett, a major waterway on the route to the Klondike gold fields.

...

This Klondike Heritage Mail Run followed the route from Seattle, Wa. where it was cancelled on July 19 at the Pioneer Square Station, to be carried aboard the Alaska State Ferries (2nd cancel mark) via the Skagway-Dyea R.P.O. to the Chilkoot Trail where it was stamped on July 26 (3rd cancel). It was from here that the mail-run encountered the bad weather, arriving in Carcross, YT. for the 4th cancelling mark of Aug. 1st. From there, it took four days to reach Whitehorse for its 5th cancel where it was put on the SS. Klondike for its trip up the Yukon River System to arrive at Dawson City, Y.T. on Aug. 17th.....29 days after starting.



(original
cover size
24 x 10 cm.)

CORRESPONDENCE:

Thank you N.S.S.C. members. On Apr. 15 I had the pleasure of viewing one of the best exhibitions of material in many years - even exhibits that added a touch of humour! The one frame exhibits were great and shows what a little imagination and a few favoured philatelic items can do.

I thoroughly enjoyed the much widened spectrum with Revenues, Commonwealth and "world wide" material all being well displayed. Certainly Dave Harvey's forgeries could serve as a textbook. The vitality of the exhibits reflects on the vitality of the club. IF ONLY.. I could get a one frame exhibit ready for the next exhibition. Thanks again - N.S.S.C.

Pete Ineson

LET'S COLLECT STAMPS, ...and A Fortune in Errors. Sunday Times courtesy Rod Glover.(cont'd and to be cont'd).

Collectors agree that a stamp is "unique" only if it is one of a kind. No fewer than seventy such stamps exist. Such stamps are the rarest. A stamp is termed "rare" if only a few examples are known to exist. Rarity and expensiveness do not necessarily go hand in hand, a vast price is fetched for a stamp which excites the most competition. There is the story of a poor British farmer who in 1930 and the Depression decided to sell his schoolboy collection. He noted an error on the New Zealand page and sent it to the Royal Philatelic Society to be authenticated, it was, and he sold it at auction for L61. For nearly 50 years the error remained unknown to all but a few, and on Oct.15, 1980 a Parisian firm offered the stamp known as the "Lake Taupo Fourpence Invert". The price attained was 110,000 francs (L10,500). No other example has been found, although it is probable that 79 others were printed, for the oblong sheets contained 80 stamps.

A stamp with a similar error is the 4 annas "Inverted Head" of India, issued in 1854. The head of Queen Victoria is inverted. One of these stamps came to light as recently as 1984 at an Austrian auction. The buyer paid the equivalent of L200 for an old album of Indian stamps. That same stamp sold at Robson Lowe, London, Sept. 24, 1985 for L12,960. It again sold at auction Dec. 6, 1988 for L15,000 (approx.). Records show 27 stamps now exist, but experts maintain there are 28. It is the classic rarity of India.

KERMESSE: June 3. The annual fundraising event of the IWK Children's Hospital. Remember the stamp table!

TRURO PHILATELIC SOCIETY EXHIBITION AND BOURSE: Sat. Oct. 14, 1989 at the Glengarry Motel.

WANTED: U.S. non-denominated stamps (X-mas 1975, 1981, A,B,C,D,E) used on cover to non-U.S. addresses.

Will buy or trade. Call Marty 463-0687.

Well our 1989 Exhibition is history and the general consensus seems to be that it was one of the best yet, if not the best. This writer has attended all but one of the last nineteen NSSC exhibitions and can recall none at which a wider range of philatelic material was displayed or arranged in a more pleasing manner. Nor can I remember any of them where persons in attendance spent more time viewing, studying or discussing the various presentations. All Club members are indebted to John Hall, the General Chairman, all members of his committee and our judges for their tireless efforts that produced such fine results. But no show such as this could be staged without the 26 senior members and 9 juniors who prepared and wrote up their exhibits. The 114 frames in the main hall and 9 in the Court of Honour constituted a club record and virtually exhausted our supply of frames.

Another record was set that of medals awarded, 4 Gold, 5 Silver and 9 Bronze. Did any previous exhibitor receive both a Gold medal and the Novice exhibitor award as did Cliff Abram for his magnificent display of Postal Markings of Barbados? Cliff's wife Mary told me he had been working on this collection for five years. Dave Harvey made Gold for the second consecutive year with his Nova Scotia forgeries. Ross Walker got his Gold for his New Brunswick Way Office Covers and he told me he showed only a portion of his collection of this little known aspect of the 19th Century postal system in my natal province. President George MacKenzie's passion for Aviation, it's history and stamps shone forth in his five frame Gold medal winner.

Apart from the top four award winning exhibits we were treated with a vast range of other very high quality displays that drew much favourable comment. If space permitted I would like to mention many of them. There was something to tickle everybody's fancy in the show and I think the inclusion of 13 one frame exhibits is a step forward as it will certainly encourage more members to try exhibiting. Who knows we may even have to ration space next year so let's get our exhibits planned and registered for inclusion early.

It would be a grave oversight to omit mention of the many dealers whose presence not only made the exhibition possible, but added so much to our enjoyment and satisfaction of our acquisitive tastes. We owe them a great deal of thanks and I do hope their presence with us paid off for them in hefty sales and new collector contacts. Without the dealers our wonderful hobby could not exist. And, of course, one of them, Stu Blumenthal, was speaker at the Saturday night banquet, but alas I was not one of the 60 present to hear his talk which I understand centred on many of the personalities he has encountered during his long period in the trade.

In closing I should like to comment on the great friendly spirit which was very much in evidence during the show's two day run. From among the almost 500 people who attended I heard so many favourable comments and saw so many little groups engaged in spirited conversation I left there on Sunday night with a very warm feeling that indeed it had been all worthwhile. the exhibit preparation, the misplaced sheets when framing, the frustration of the sound of breaking glass, the muttered epithets when things didn't fit into frames, the lifting and lugging and all the other annoyances alleviated by the many hands volunteering to help.

YES. IT WAS INDEED A GREAT SHOW !