

THE NOVA SCOTIA POST

The Monthly Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

December 2024
Volume 54, Issue 535

UP AND COMING

NS Stamp Club - December 10

Anything Goes Charity Auction - All items are donated to the auction and does not have to be philately-related - All Proceeds go to local charities.

Moncton Stamp Fair - December 14
10 - 3pm, 100 War Veterans Ave,
Moncton, NB

The Fundy Stamp Club will hold a Silent Auction which will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and a Live Auction at 1:30 p.m.

South Shore Stamp Club - December 14
Christmas social

Edmonton Spring National Show
March 29-30, 2025

National level show and is part of the World Series of Philately (WSP), and the last chance to qualify for the annual APS (WSP) Show in 2025.

Check out the status of other events at
www.rpsc.org/shows.php or
www.csdaonline.com/shows

Member dues are now payable. It is incumbent on each member to ensure that your dues are up to date.

If you are unsure if you have paid please contact membership at:

webnews@nsstampclub.ca

New Members

Three new members have joined the club in November...

1134 Cathy Rasley
1135 Thierry Darde
1136 Jacques Laverdure

WELCOME!

A COVER FROM A VERY REMOTE PLACE

by Ann Miller

While perusing eBay for material to add to my 1947 southern Africa Royal Tour collection, I came across this cover with the South Africa 1947 Royal Visit stamps and an unusual cancellation dated March 24, 1958 (Figure 1). I could decipher the name "Marioneiland" across the bottom, and went down the rabbit hole from there.

Marioneiland, or Marion Island, is the larger of two uninhabited volcanic islands, collectively The Prince Edward Islands, located in the southern Indian Ocean (Figure 2).



Figure 1

The islands were first sighted by the Dutch (1663), the French were the first to land (1799). Later, the British sent a scientific expedition (1840), and subsequently claimed the islands (1908). Their strategic location and meteorological importance were recognized during WWII. In early 1948, jurisdiction was transferred to South Africa and a research station established; the station has been manned continuously since that time. Today the islands are an internationally recognized Special Nature Reserve and a Marine Protected Area, as they are crucial nesting and breeding grounds for sea birds, penguins and seals.

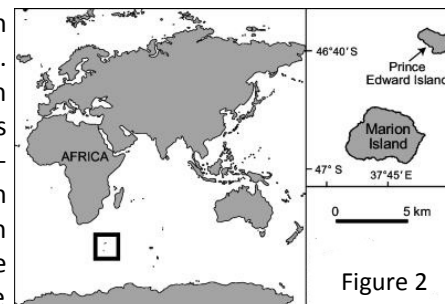


Figure 2

modified from <https://africaports.co.za/comoro-islands/map-of-marion-island-400/>

The first "post office" opened in January 1948, to service weather station employees. It was merely a collection service with no stamps sold nor any posting/cancellation services. A separate handstamp was applied which included "Marion Island" and the date the mail left the island. Early mail received a naval base cancel on arrival in South Africa. Not long after paquebot cancels were applied by supply ships, and continued over the next 10 years.

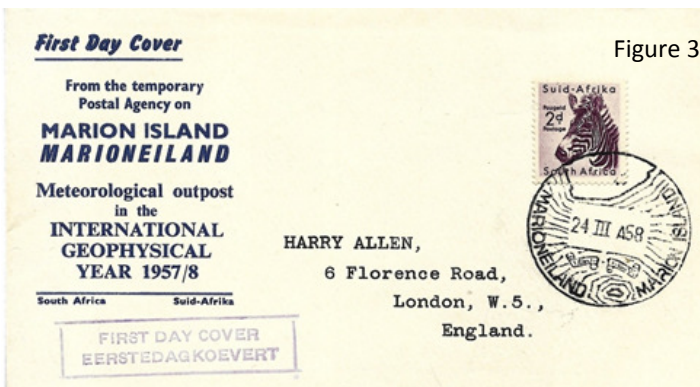


Figure 3

The eighteen months from July 1, 1957 until December 31, 1958 were designated as the International Geophysical Year (IGY), a globally recognized scientific project that included Antarctic science. As Marion Island was a

Marion Island continued on Page 4

CANADA POST DEPARTMENTAL HANDSTAMPS #23

by Gary Steele

I am hoping that a few of you out there get interested not only in this type of material but other types of Postal History. It all starts with one cover and builds from there.

This particular cover may take a little longer or several articles of explanation as there are **seven Departmental Handstamps** on the front and back. It would be fantastic to see if anything was placed on the actual enclosure to further add to the story or if this letter required a response at all.

This letter is mailed from Calgary on the July 12, 1970 to Eric Kierans, the Postmaster General of Canada, Canada Royal Mail Service, Main Post Office, Ottawa.



Five of seven of the handstamps have full dates, one has the month and year with the day punched out per the hole showing and one (7) is not legible. A handstamp shown as (1) **Assistant Director of Postal Services JUN 26 1970 OPERATIONS** is clearly the wrong month and should be JUL. This is the latest DAY date and assumed processed and handled with whatever was required in the enclosure.

The earliest of the handstamps on the back is dated JUL 15 1970 from the (2) **Post Office Department Public Affairs Branch** (bilingual). I know of only one other Public Affairs handstamp, from Alberta with no date and no proof known. This is a fairly large handstamp measuring 50mm x 38mm as a large oval in red ink. Four different colour inks were used in total. Some of these types of handstamps may have been proofed and listed in different Hughes/Lee books I am not aware of.

Next is dated JUL 16 1970 what appears to be (3) **SERVICE REQUIREMENTS / POSTAL / SERVICE / P. O. D.** small oval in black ink, much smaller at 42mm x 29mm. It is hard to make out the word **SERVICE** over the blue Air Mail label as only 'ICE' and no words seem to fit the shape and size other than OFFICE, however the print seems too long for OFFICE.

The next day the cover arrives at the (4) **POSTAGE STAMP DIVISION DES TIMBRES – POSTE / PHILATELIC SERVICE / JUL 17 1970 / SERVICE DE LA / PHILATELIE / POSTES CANADA POST**. This is a large 40mm circle handstamp.

Some adjustments monetarily wise may have to have been made as it was transferred the same day with the handstamp (5) **DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING / JUL 17 1970 / POST OFFICE DEPT.** A nice clear blue double oval. Note the manuscript **31-7-70** indicates it may have been sent back with approvals on this date.

In the middle of these two dates the magenta handstamp (1) **Assistant Director Postal Services / JUN 26 1970 / OPERATIONS** (JUL 26?) indicates it was probably given approval and then sent it back to the Director of Accounting. Note **OPERATIONS** is quite unclear but enough of the lettering shows making a perfect fit as this term is used on several other Departmental handstamps.

Of particular note on the front is the long rectangle handstamp in blue ink (6) **POSTMASTER GENERAL'S / OFFICE (1) / JUL 1970 / CABINET / MINISTRE DES POSTES...**



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Jane Sodero - Editor
Jeff Parks - Graphic Design

<http://www.nsstampclub.ca/>
webnews@nsstampclub.ca

Nova Scotia Stamp Club meets at 7:30 p.m. on every second Tuesday of the month (except July and August) at the Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, N.S. The club publishes a monthly newsletter (except summer) released in the first week of the month.

E-Membership is C\$10 per person or C\$15.00 per couple.

Print Membership is C\$15 and C\$22.50
Foreign mailings available at a premium.

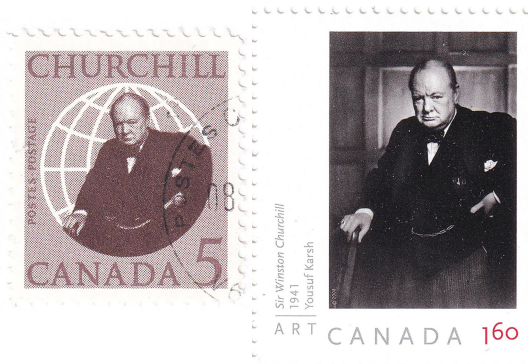
Send **membership applications** to...
NS Stamp Club c/o Jeff Parks
102 Birch Bear Run,
Lewis Lake, NS B3Z 4B8

THE ROARING LION RETURNS

by Michael Peach

The Roaring Lion photographic portrait of Winston Churchill, war-time Prime Minister of Great Britain, was taken by Yousuf Karsh in the Speaker's Chamber of the House of Commons, Ottawa, on December 30, 1941 after he had addressed a joint session of the Senate and House of Commons. A signed print was gifted to the Château Laurier Hotel in Ottawa by Yousuf and Estrellita Karsh in 1998 when they left the hotel where they had resided for many years. It was hung in the hotel's Reading Lounge, now Zoe's Lounge. It was stolen during the 2021 Christmas period and replaced by a fake. The original was found in Italy having been sold at a London auction in 2022. It was returned to the Château where on November 15, 2024 it was officially welcomed back. It now hangs in its original space in Zoe's Lounge. More information about the heist can be found at <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/winston-churchill-portrait-roaring-lion-theft-return-chateau-laurier-1.7383173>

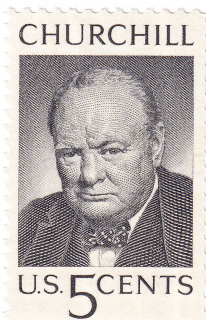
The portrait can be seen on many stamps. There are two Canadian stamps. The first marked his death in 1965 (5c)



and the second (\$1.60) was part of a series in 2008 celebrating the centenary of the birth of Yousuf Karsh.

Great Britain has used the portrait on several stamps, including the 2014 Prime Minister series.

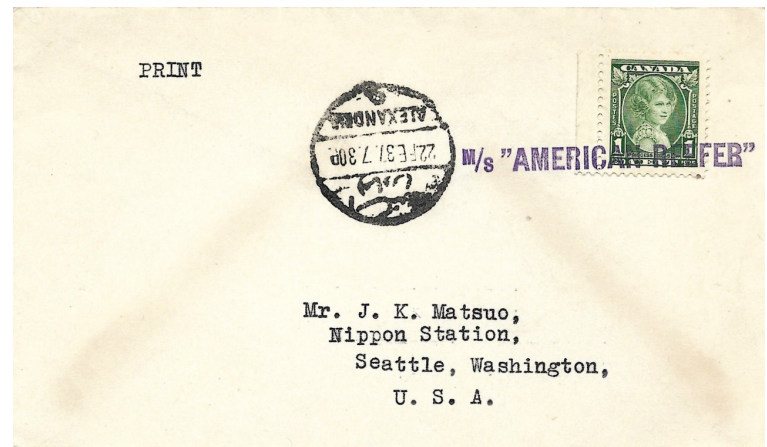
The United States also issued a stamp in 1965 on his death. The single 1965 Australian and New Zealand memorial stamps had an identical design and colour.



AN INTERNATIONAL COVER - CANADIAN STAMP, DANISH SHIP, EGYPTIAN PO, JAPANESE ADDRESSEE, AND US DESTINATION!

by Ann Miller

I acquired this cover at BNAPEX 2023, as an addition to my "Princess Elizabeth" collection. It carries a Canadian 1 cent King George V (KGV) Silver Jubilee stamp, paying the printed-matter rate. The stamp is tied to the cover with a "M/S American Reefer" handstamp. The Danish motor ship (M/S) *American Reefer* was a J. Lauritzen Line fruit-carrying reefer (refrigerated cargo) ship. The December 1936 "Marine Digest" reports that it was to enter service in January 1937 on the Pacific-European



route, carrying fruit (apples?) from Vancouver to Marseille, Tunis, Alexandria, Jaffa and Haifa. The cover was postmarked in Alexandria Feb. 23, 1937, so this was probably mailed on the ship's first trip.

The cover is addressed to Mr. J.K. Matsuo at "Nippon Station", Seattle, Washington. Nippon Station was a branch post office opened in 1905, at the request of the Japanese community, exclusively for mail from Japan; in Japanese and/or for Japanese immigrants. This mail had previously been sent to the Japanese YMCA or one of two local import businesses, but it was often difficult for English-only speakers to decipher or translate and there were delays and losses as a result. In 1915, Nippon Station became a contract (independent) Post Office and operated until January 1944.

I have seen other printed-matter rate covers addressed to Mr. Matsuo (including one with a Canadian 1 cent 1939 Royal Visit stamp) posted on the *Manchukuo Stamps* website (<http://manchukuostamps.com/index.htm>) under the 1932 and 1933 Covers and Postal History and on the *TPO & Seapost Society* website under the Japanese Seapost Offices heading (<http://www.tpo-seapost.org.uk/tpo2/spjapan.html>). The *Manchukuo Stamps* website states that he entered the United States in 1901 and the 1930 census lists him as age 50, unmarried, and a cook for the railroad. He was interred during WWII and the author reports there is no trace of him in Seattle after that.

BITS AND PIECES

What Our Members Collect

A reminder to submit your list of collecting interests to the newsletter. Please let the editor know what you collect, if you wish your e-mail address to be published or if you prefer members connect with you at meetings.

From the South Shore Club

Just a bit of news to publicize the South Shore Stamp Club. The display "Celebrating Bridgewater's 125 Years of Township" prepared by Dawn Tancook and Cheryl Grantham using Dawn's photos of present-day Bridgewater and postcards from the Grantham collection will be on display at the DesBrisay Museum in Bridgewater from November 12 - December 20, 2024.

Our off-season hours are 1 pm – 5 pm, Tuesday to Saturday.
130 Jubilee Road, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia B4V 1H8



Club members continued to "Show and Tell" at the November meeting even though the power went out in a wide swath of central Halifax including the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History.

MARION ISLAND Continued

staging ground and supply port for many Antarctic expeditions, the post office was to handle increased volumes of mail. A special temporary "Postal Agency" with full postal services, was established and an IGY handstamp made, the first day of usage was March 24, 1958. Figure 3 is a philatelic cover with a clear cancel. Though marked First Day Cover it is more accurately a First Day cancel. I have never seen any other date used with this cancel. I suspect the date was used through until the end of the year. Though originally deemed "temporary" the post office with full postal services has been open continuously since 1958.

One further note on my "Royal Visit" stamps cover, the stamps were issued on February 17, 1947, withdrawn from sale April 30, 1947, and invalidated February 3, 1950. If this cover went through the mail, it did so illegally. I suspect it was hand carried to England or to South Africa and then posted onwards in another envelope.

UPCOMING VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS - DECEMBER 2024

Compiled by Ann Miller

You can register for the event via the host's website. Most of the groups listed have past presentations available to view through their websites, or YouTube. Times listed for the ATLANTIC (ADT) zone.

British Empire Study Group (BESG):

Dec. 12, 7 p.m., Duncan Barber

"20th Century GB Postal History: Mail to the Empire, Inland and Elsewhere"

Jan. 9, 7 p.m., Adrians Pearson "Crimean War Through Postal History, Part 2"

Collectors Club of New York:

Dec. 4, 6:30 p.m., Cliff Alexander & Larry Lyons "P.O. Carrier Services, Fees and Stamps, 1750 to 1863"

Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m., Ken Stach "Western Express Postal History"

Learning About Stamps Online:

Dec. 17, 9 p.m., Moderated "Holiday Social Hour"

Jan. 21, 9 p.m., Charles DiComo "Development of Perforations on U.S. Postage Stamps by Toppan, Carpenter & Casilear & Co. (1855-57)"

North Toronto Stamp Club:

No program in December

Postal History Society of Canada (RPSC):

New programming in 2025

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC):

Dec. 9, 8 p.m., Stamp Talk, Lisa Tam,

"Letters from Santa (und der Weihnachtsmann, me Hana Kōkō, a Siōn Corn...)"

Dec. 16, 8 p.m., Stamp Panel, "Show and Tell" (You!)

Royal Philatelic Society of London (RPSL):

Dec. 3, 11 a.m., Terje Heskestad,

"Postal History of Norway's Southern Coast, 1855 to GPU"

West Toronto Stamp Club:

Dec. 3, 8 p.m., Learning Workshop, "End of year festivities".

NSSC 2024 - 25 PROGRAM

There are program openings for the 2024-25 season. Topics may include anything of philatelic interest and of about 25 +/- minutes in presentation length. If you have a newsletter item that you want to share please let us know. Serials are welcome. Topics to consider: "Cover Story": a short write-up on a unique or interesting cover; feature article: about a page in length that addresses a philatelic topic, theme, or you collecting interest. Original work only please.