

NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB



No. 204

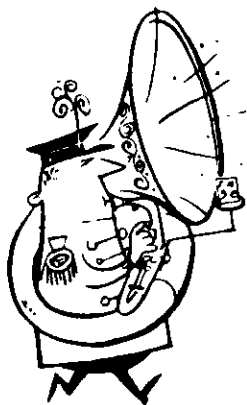
Newsletter

Vol. 25 #5

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, January 9, 1990

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



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL. Now with all the rush of the holiday season past, perhaps there will be some time to sit down in a quiet corner and contemplate stamps. Perhaps you got something special for your collection during the holidays that will inspire you to enter some frames in the annual show, Novapex '90. The Club is counting on you for participation in some aspect of the exhibition, remember it is your show and only you can make it a success.

EXECUTIVE NOTES:

The executive last met on Monday, November 27. There was no meeting in December, it would have fallen on Christmas Day anyway! It was decided that the frames would be upgraded, essential repairs, up to a cost of \$300 which should put the frames to rest for awhile. Heather MacKenzie has agreed to act as assistant librarian for the time being. A letter will be sent to Dr. J.J. MacDonald concerning the proposed BNAPS convention, reiterating the points raised at the November club meeting. The proceeds of the Charity Auction, \$216.50 were donated equally between the Salvation Army and Bonny Lee Farm. The January programme is a presentation on Novapex '90.

GIANT AUCTION: Lots will be received at the January meeting for the February Giant Auction. Your Chairman, Phil Melanson, can answer any questions, and if you can give him some help on that night speak to him. Remember that this is the special auction of the year, try to keep the quality high

PAPER CHASE: The Amenities of Stamp Collecting, Alvin F. Harlow. New York: Holt, 1940

Hugh Rathbun passed on photocopies of several articles of interest from the above book. He pointed out the relevance of the information that is just about fifty years old.

The Biology of a Stamp: The firm of Perkins, Bacon & Petch of London printed England's and the world's first adhesive stamps. The firm was founded by a Bostonian, Jacob Perkins, and during their first fifteen years supplied three billion stamps to the government. However, worthy competition arose in the United States and American firms even found jobs in the British colonies. When the American Bank Note Company engraved the Nova Scotia stamp of 1860, bearing the profile of Queen Victoria, some English editors admitted it to be the world's most beautiful stamp, and one even called it "the Queen of stamps." The condition is reversed now, and the old engravers across the water are doing on the whole rather better work than our Bureau of Engraving and Printing.'pp. 68,69

--You can't fool the collectors with your stamp designs. Some group or other of enthusiasts will study every one, seeking its origin, questioning its integrity, until at last, if there has been any fakery or error, somebody will be sure to point it out. Collectors discovered from our Columbian one-cent stamp of 1893 that Columbus, when he sighted land, had a nice, clean shave, but that when he stepped on shore a few hours later he had miraculously grown a full beard. When Newfoundland issued a new series in 1897, the ten-cent bore an alleged picture of the Matthew, the ship in which John Cabot discovered that island. A wag in Filatellic Facts and Fallacies immediately uncovered a very interesting historical incident. As he told it, when Columbus got back home, he found that his flagship, the Santa Maria, had developed squeaks and rattles and looked quaint by comparison with the new season's models, so he sold her to a second-hand dealer. The latter took her to England to have her overhauled, and there sold her to Cabot, who was looking around for a good second-hand vessel, not too expensive, in which to discover Newfoundland. On reaching Newfoundland, he found the climate so cold and damp that he cruised down to New York for a change, "where a representative of the American Bank Note Company took a snapshot of the Matthew with the latest Kodak." In other words, the pictures of Columbus's flagship on our three-cent Columbian green and that of the 'Matthew on the one-cent Newfoundland 1897 are taken from one and the same original.

Here one may learn how some of the mock pearls of history are created in the mussel shell of legend or even of jest. That yarn has, through forty years of occasional repetition, taken on, to some minds, the aspect of established truth. A New York collector solemnly repeated it to us one day - minus the Kodak - as historical fact. pp. 86,87



Courtesy Rod Glover.

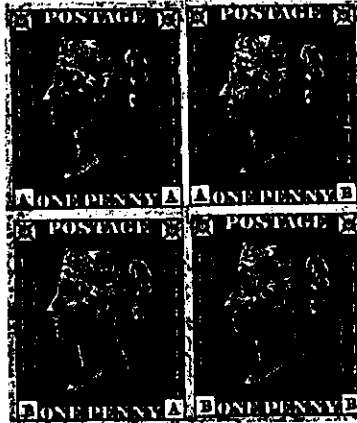
The First Post. In 1837, Rowland Hill pointed out the enormous advantage of payment in advance rather than on delivery. He even envisaged the provision of house letter boxes into which the letter carrier would drop the letters and, having knocked, would pass on quickly without having to wait. His idea received widespread public support and on May 6, 1840, the famous Penny Black, which could be stuck on a letter to pre-pay the postage was issued.

3.

The success of these reforms was demonstrated by the increase in the numbers of letters carried. Over 68 million stamps were issued and those that survive can command a good price, perhaps L25 to L50 or more.

Specialists can form whole collections based solely on the Penny Black and its usage on letters. Examples of the eleven different plates used to print the stamps can be identified by the appearance and placing of the letters inserted in the lower corner squares. These letters indicate the position of the stamp on the sheet so that the last one - row 20, stamp 12 - is lettered TL, T being the 20th letter of the alphabet and L the 12th.

These Penny Blacks were a gift to George V from Queen Mary.



NOVAPEX '90:

Exhibition Update, George Lafontaine, Chairman

After a long search for volunteers to fill the Committee Chairs for our 1990 Exhibition we find that there is still a dire need to fill two of the positions namely, Programme/Advertising and Banquet. Anyone who wishes to help out, but does not want to chair a position by themselves may consider getting a group of two or more persons together and sharing the position and duties. Also, for those with hectic schedules but some free time, keep in mind that we will need volunteers for phone committees, the club table, and the mall display, and any help at all will be greatly appreciated. Any club members who would like to help out can contact me at, 864-1824.

I would like to thank the following people who have graciously accepted to be committee chairpersons.

George MacKenzie - Facilities

Marilyn Murphy - Junior Exhibits

Heinz Kircher - Senior Exhibits

Raymond During - Club Table

Dave Harvey - Layout/Design

Ken MacDonald - Bourse

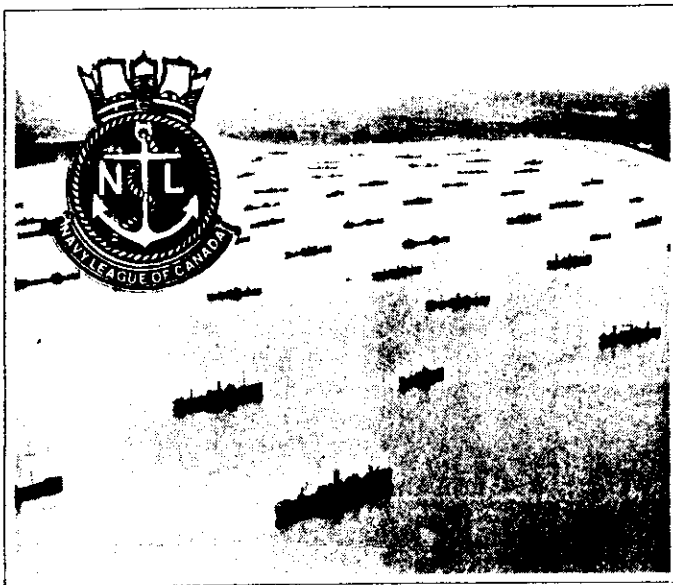
I will be taking the position of Publicity myself.

Essentially the rules and regulations will be the same as previous exhibitions. Any club member may enter an exhibit in the competitive, non-competitive or newly popular one-frame exhibit division. All that is required is a minimum of 8 pages (8½" x 11") to form one frame, and perhaps a note to Santa for that elusive final item. The Exhibition committee first met on 5 December to get the wheels in motion for the April 7th, 8th event.

Ed's. note: As this Newsletter will go out just after the bearded gentleman makes his Christmas calls, perhaps an appeal could be directed to Father Time or that 1990 baby for the elusive item.

THE CONVOY COVER

THE NAVY LEAGUE OF CANADA NOVA SCOTIA MAINLAND DIVISION



CONVOY ASSEMBLY IN BEDFORD BASIN HALIFAX HARBOUR
1939 — 1945



The editor (I) erred in the last newsletter. My wording indicated that only a portion of the profit from the sale of the Convoy Cover would go to the Club. In fact, all the money from the sale of the Club's allotment of covers goes to the Club. So you can help the Club directly and munificently by buying one, two, three, and more covers. The price is \$5, and the covers can be purchased from the treasurer, John Harvey. As you can see it is an attractive item in itself, a great memento even for the non-collector who is interested in Halifax, the Second World War, the North Atlantic Convoys.

PHIL-A-TELIC:

Once again no questions and no answers (Ed. note, Phil has an answer to one of his recent questions which will appear in the next issue, going to print a little earlier than usual has prevented inclusion here) from the membership so I'll revert to asking myself one and answer it:

Who was Henry Hechler and what did he do?

You may have noticed in last month's Newsletter, page 4, under "One Hundred Years Ago" reference to the Nova Scotia Philatelic Society (NSPS) with President Henry Hechler addressing the Convention. For more than eighty years the name Hechler has been associated with a Halifax stamp dealer who indulged in illegal philatelic activities. While he apparently never forged postage stamps or became involved with the law for his activities, he has been referred to as the bad boy of Canadian philately.

William J. Harris of Fort William, Ontario, has this to say about Hechler: "Henry Hechler was a fine-looking man of German descent, he had black hair, a mustache, and a soldierly figure. At the time I knew him he owned a fancy goods store on Granville Street in Halifax, Nova Scotia. While store rents were not high in those days, Hechler's was among the best of them, and to all appearances he was prosperous. At that time I was a member of the 63rd Battalion Halifax Rifles, of which Hechler was adjutant. You had to be informed to know that Hechler was interested in stamps as he never showed any in his windows or on the walls of his well-kept store.

The way I came to deal with him was through selling stamps. I was a student at Dalhousie University. As a schoolboy I had collected stamps, among them 3-pence and 6-pence in issues of Nova Scotia prior to Confederation. When I needed pocket money, I took off for Hechler's where the usual procedure went something like this; first an offer of \$4 for a used 6-pence, then a refusal by me as I started for the door. He called me back to offer \$5, which I accepted".

To be continued. Don't forget my address: 1333 South Park Street, Apt. 515,
Halifax, N.S. B3J 2K9

MEMBERSHIP:

Application: John Clark, 6151 Oakland Road, Halifax, N.S. B3H 1P3
Interest; New Brunswick

NEW COLLECTION:

The British Library, in London, England, has received a major postal history collection. The collection, formed by the late H.G. Fletcher, consists of about 300 volumes and details all the services carried out by the British Post Office as well as private and local operations from the middle of the 17th century to the 1960s.

The collection includes material from Henry Dockwra's London Penny Post of the 1680s, 17th century "Bishop" marks introduced by Col. Henry Bishop,

examples of the "Fifth Clause Post" of the early 19th century, ship letters and forwarding agents marks, and the introduction of uniform penny post and the first postage stamps. (From the Canadian Philatelist, Sept./Oct. 1989).

ARTHUR SALM FOUNDATION:

The Collectors Club of Chicago has formed the Arthur Salm Foundation to conduct research on philatelic products and other philatelic matters. The late Arthur Salm bequeathed \$25,000, and the Collectors Club has added another \$25,000, and additional donations are being sought. The institution will be asked to research such questions as:

- Is the paper durable and permanent now, and will it be in future?
- How long into the future - five, fifteen, 100, or 400 years?
- What is the pH of the paper?
- What is its folding endurance before and after accelerated aging?
- Does the paper exhibit minimal yellowing tendency?
- What are the colour and reflectance before and after accelerated aging?
- How does the paper grain run, vertically or horizontally?
- How does this affect hole punching?
- How is the page affected by ink? By a typewriter?
- What is the stress strength of the pages at the holes?
- Are the holes perfectly lined up to fit the matching binder?
- If quadrilled, are all pages printed to the same exact specifications?

Completed reports will list the manufacturer's product by name, the retail price per package and per page, and the laboratories' findings. Collectors can then decide whether to buy a particular product.

Tests also will be conducted on the entire gamut of philatelic supplies, including binders, blotters, cover corners, cover holders, drying books, envelopes, glassines, glassine interleaving, guillotines, hinges, magnifiers, mounts, perforation guages, printed pages, silica gel, stamp presses, tongs, ultraviolet lamps, watermark detectors, and anything else a philatelist uses.

The foundation will issue reports on March 4 of each year, the birthdate of Arthur Salm. These reports are to be issued world wide.

(Article from the American Philatelist, November 1989).

CIRCULAR DATE STAMP: A mark enclosed in a circular frame indicating the date upon which it was impressed on an item of mail. Generally such marks additionally include an indication of the post office concerned.

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