

THE NOVA SCOTIA POST

The Monthly Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

February 2025
Volume 54, Issue 537

UP AND COMING

NS Stamp Club - February 11
Round Table Discussions / Auction

Moncton Stamp Fair - February 8
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 - Feb 22
New Life Christian Church, Elm St.
Bridgewater, NS
Presenter: Show & Tell

National level shows; part of the World
Series of Philately, and the last chances to
qualify for the annual APS (WSP) Show in
2025 (APS Exhibit entry due May 5).

2025 Edmonton Spring National Show
March 29-30
Central Lions Recreation Centre

Royal*2025*Royale / FILEX April 25-26
Fédération québécoise de Philatélie
See details on Page 4

ORAPEX 2025 - May 3-4
Nepean Sportsplex, Ottawa, ON

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

Member dues are now past due payable.
It is incumbent on each member to en-
sure that your dues are up to date.

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

webnews@nsstampclub.ca

POSTAGE DUE IN PANAMA: A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY - PART 2

by Keith MacKay

Editors Note: In Part 1 Keith McKay dives into the cover show in figure one, explaining the Truro cancellation, franking, tax mark, backstamps, information on the method of transit (via the Grace Line S.S. *Santa Luisa*), the company to which it was sent ("Panama Agencies Company") and supposition on the intended destination of The Canal Zone rather than the Republic of Panama. To pick up where we left off....

The story could have ended there, but the addressee's postnominal letters "D.S.C." were too intriguing to leave the cover's social history unexplored.

During World War I, the British government commandeered merchant ships (including some Grace Line vessels) which became part of the Royal Navy's Trans-

port arm. The ships were provided with defensive armament and a couple of Royal Marines were added to the crews to operate the guns.

David Mason Taggart was born in River Hebert, Nova Scotia in 1887 and ran away to sea at the age of 12. He had been sailing on Grace Line ships for a number of years before World War I and was serving aboard one of Grace's older ships, *SS Charcas*, when it was sunk by the German auxiliary cruiser, *Prinz Eitel Friedrich* off Valparaíso, Chile on December 5, 1914. He survived that attack and went on to sail other Grace vessels.

Taggart had earned a Master's Certificate from the Canadian Ministry of Marine and Fisheries in August 1914, and was in command of Grace's *SS Celia* en route from Sydney, Nova Scotia to France on June 24, 1917. At dawn that day a lookout spotted a German submarine on the surface within range of the 12-pounder that had been mounted on the *Celia's* quarterdeck. Taggart quickly maneuvered the ship to engage with the sub and two Royal Marines scored hits on its hull and conning tower before it could initiate any action. It promptly disappeared and the *Celia* continued her voyage to France without further incident.

Admiralty personnel initially noted that Taggart's report of the encounter was incomplete because it didn't include a printed form prescribed for such occasions. However, that was excused with the recognition that the form was headed "*Particulars of Attacks on Merchant Vessels by Enemy Submarines*", and this case was an attack on a submarine by a merchant vessel." It was noted that a new form would have to be prepared to deal with similar cases in future.

It was for their parts in that encounter that David Taggart was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by King George V and the Marines both received the Distinguished Service Medal.

Sailing in a convoy with six other merchant

Postage Due Panama continued on Page 4



Figure 1

A COVER WITH A LOUISE PENNY CONNECTION

by Ann Miller

Louise Penny is a Canadian mystery writer who lives in the Eastern Townships of Québec. One of her early books (*The Beautiful Mystery*) was set in a monastery. The Abbot from that monastery re-appears in Louise's latest book (*The Grey Wolf*) and we learn that he is originally from a small remote settlement on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Blanc-Sablon, Québec. This rang a bell because I had recently acquired a cover with a connection to Blanc-Sablon.

I purchased this cover (Figure 1) to add to my "Princess Elizabeth" collection. The postmark tying the stamp to the cover isn't clear. The cover was identified by the seller as from the "Quebec and Natashquan Seapost" with "Seapost" on the front postmark legible. On the reverse are two additional postmarks, "Lourdes du Blanc-Sablon", with a date of Aug. 19, 1937 and one with "-quan P.Q." (Figure 2) and a date of Sept. 9, 1937. I started with these postmarks.

First, I found "Lourdes de Blanc-Sablon". Blanc-Sablon, which includes Lourdes de Blanc-Sablon and Bradore Bay, is at the east end of the Lower North Shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence (Figure 3). It is connected to the rest of Quebec only by sea, and to Labrador and the Strait of Belle

Isle by road. Today it is serviced by coastal vessels and a ferry service across the Strait to Newfoundland. Blanc-Sablon is a National Historic Site with over 60 archaeological sites relating to 9000 years of human occupation.

In 1921, Desmond Clarke received a subsidy from the Canadian government

to operate a passenger and freight service, as the Clarke Steamship Company, from Quebec to both shores of the Lower St. Lawrence. A condition of the agreement was to carry mail to

and from the various ports of call. The North Shore route extended to Bradore Bay on the Quebec-Labrador border. The South Shore route went to Gaspé, and eventually to PEI. Mail was handled by the purser. Several handstamps (Figure 4) were utilized. The handstamp on my cover is third from the right. My cover was mailed and postmarked (reverse) in Lourdes du Blanc-Sablon on Aug. 19

1937 then postmarked again (reverse) when it arrived in Natashquan on Sept. 9. It was postmarked aboard the "S.S. North Shore" by the purser sometime in between, tying the stamp to the cover.

Reference:

Nautical Times: Newsletter of the Canadian Inland Waterways Study Group British North America Philatelic Society 2000, no. 6. p. 85.



Figure 1

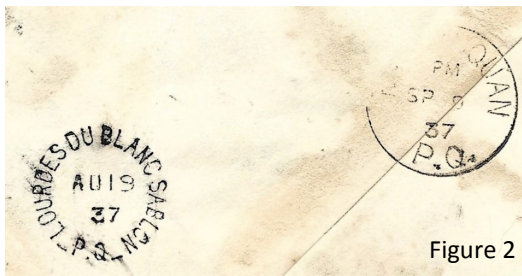


Figure 2

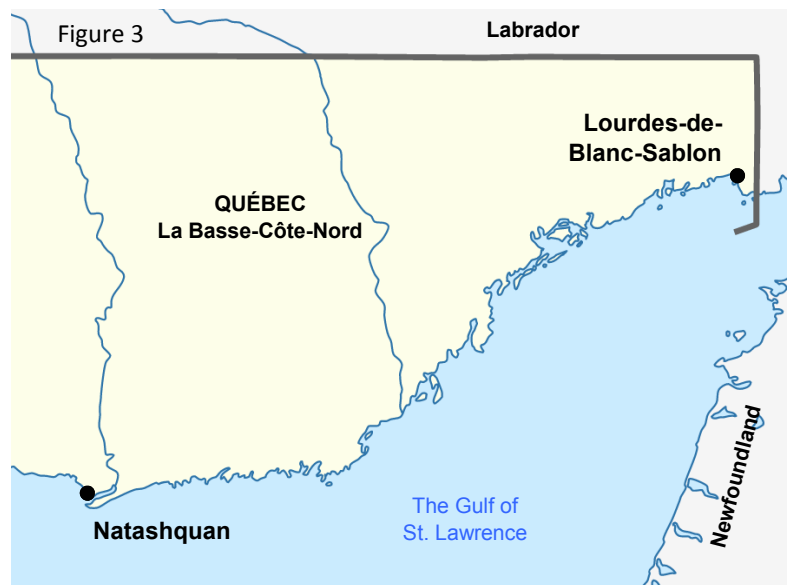
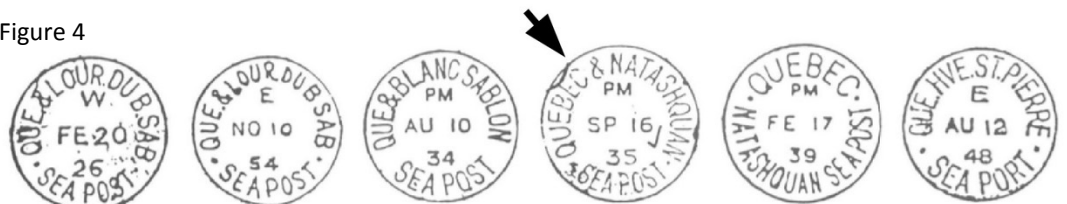


Figure 4

**The Nova Scotia Post**

is a publication of the
Nova Scotia Stamp Club
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

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

BUSTED?

by Marty Zelenietz

In mid-October 2024, I ordered some stamps from a dealer in Columbia: twenty large commemoratives (featuring birds, of course!) on paper. Knowing that a Canada Post strike/lockout was likely within several weeks, I figured that the stamps would arrive before the postal system shut down.

About the time I was expecting the stamps to arrive, I was dismayed when I received an email saying they'd been shipped on October 30th. Still enough time to get here before a postal strike. I was wrong. The strike came, but my stamps didn't.

When I checked my mail on January 6th I rejoiced - my stamps from Columbia were now in my hands. But what was this? The left-hand side of the envelope was sealed with a clear tape, and between two yellow bars there was Spanish text in blue lettering.

I opened the top of the envelope. Inside I found two glassines containing the stamps, a plastic enclosure and a cardboard stiffener. The stamps had been removed from the plastic enclosure and just stuffed back inside the envelope. The word "ANTINARCOTICOS" jumped out at me from the sealing tape - my little shipment of stamps, with its two small bulges of on-paper material, had been searched for drugs!

I entered the partial text of the sealing tape into Google translate and got the following:

Front - "de envoi ha sido inspeccionado" "this shipment has been inspected"

Back - "ANTINARCOTICOS durante el....da del territorio colombiano" "Anti-narcotics during the ... of Colombian territory"

The bar-code self-adhesive label on the front of the cover seems to indicate a normal, non-priority rate, and shows the amount of payment in Colombian pesos (which matches the total franking on the cover).

I now have an idea of why the stamps were delayed, and also very interesting cover to add to my hoard of covers. And the bird stamps? They soaked off easily and filled many gaps in my "birds that I've seen" collection.

**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.

Tom Reymann (tgraz356@msn.com)

- Cape Breton Covers to 1935
- Canada Semi-Official Airmail stamps and covers
- Canada First Flight Air Mail Covers
- Canada Postage Stamps to 1970
- U.S. FAM covers to FAM 22
- General Air Mail Covers to 1941 (Worldwide)
- British Africa Stamps to 1940
- Danzig stamps and covers
- New Zealand Stamps to 1967

Gordon Smith (gs@postalhistory.ca)

- Non-stamped postal history of Botswana (meter marks, official free marks, permit mail, On Botswana Government Service covers, registration labels)
- Postal history of Port Hood and Port Hood Island, Nova Scotia (including postcards and corner cards)
- Morse's Tea covers
- Rev. Nathaniel Cole covers
- St. Pierre and Miquelon mint stamps

NSSC 2025 Program

There are program openings for the 2025 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.



POSTAGE DUE IN PANAMA CONTINUED...

ships from Genoa to Gibraltar several months later, the *Celia* was torpedoed by *U48* and sank off Cape de Creus, Spain, on February 2, 1918. Back home in Canada two months after that event, Taggart married Grace Mingo of Truro - and it may have been her hand that addressed the cover to him. By that time, he had been promoted to the position of commodore of the Grace Line fleet and was sailing the brand-new *SS Santa Luisa*. Tragically, having survived the sinking of two ships, newly married, 31-year-old Capt. D. M. Taggart, D.S.C., fell victim to the Spanish flu and pneumonia and died in New York in October 1918.

References:

Sessions, David F., *The Early Rapid Cancelling Machines of Canada*, (Toronto: Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain and Uni-trade Associates, 1982) pp. 86-95 and 109-111.

Canada Official Postal Guide, Monthly Supplement May 1915, p. 6, and 1918, p. 90.

United States Post Office Department, *Daily Bulletins*, June 6, 1904, Vol. XXV No. 7397, and May 21, 1915, Vol. XXXVI, No. 1074.

"Grace Line (W.R. Grace & Co.), New York 1882 – 1969", *The Ships List*, www.theshipslist.com, June 21, 2024.

"Grace Ships in the War", *The Grace Log*, (New York: W.R. Grace & Co., 1918, p. 22).

South West Approach - German Submarines 1917 June 21-30, The National Archives of the United Kingdom: Admiralty 137/1318, pp.102-134.

The London Gazette, Feb 19, 1918, 3rd Supp. Feb 22, 1918, No. 30536, p. 230.

Colchester Historeum Archives, Truro, Nova Scotia, *Mingo Collection*, August 22, 2024.

Inness, Lorna, "Heroic Mariner", *The Sunday Herald* November 24, 2002, p. C8.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Prinz_Eitel_Friedrich\(1904\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Prinz_Eitel_Friedrich(1904)) June 21, 2024.

<https://www.postalhistorycanada.net> various dates.

<https://archives.novascotia.ca/images/vital-statistics/marriages> November 19, 2024.

NATIONAL EXHIBITION IN 2025
 April 25th and 26th 2025.
 Friday : 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Saturday : 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM.
 The 60th anniversary banquet will be held on Saturday.
Au Plaza Universel :
 5000, rue Sherbrooke Est, Montréal.
 Free admission. Parking available.
 A few minutes walk from the Vieux metro station.
Convention themes will be :
 • 60th anniversary of the founding of the FQP.
 • 50th anniversary of the beaver as the national animal.
 • 100th anniversary of the first philatelic exhibition held in Quebec.
 For more information : filex2025@outlook.com

EXPOSITION NATIONALE EN 2025
 Les 25 et 26 avril 2025.
 Vendredi : 9:00 à 17:00. Samedi : 9:00 à 16:00.
 Le banquet du 60th anniversaire sera tenu samedi.
Au Plaza Universel :
 5000, rue Sherbrooke Est, Montréal.
 Entrée gratuite. Stationnement disponible.
 À quelques minutes à pied du métro Vieux.
Les thèmes de l'exposition seront :
 • Le 60th anniversaire de fondation de la FQP.
 • Le 50th anniversaire du castor comme emblème animalier national.
 • Le 100th anniversaire de la première exposition philatélisque tenue en sol québécois.
 Pour plus d'information : filex2025@outlook.com

VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS - FEB. 2025

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.

American Topical Association

Feb. 4, 8 p.m., Alan Barasch, "The story of bread".

Feb. 18, 8 p.m., Dawn Hamman, "The Amazing Births and Tragic Lives of the Dionne Quintuplets".

Mar. 11, 8 p.m., Tom Broadhead, "The comet and the tapestry".

Auxiliary Markings Club

Feb. 11, 8 p.m., Gary Loew, "Jusq'qa marks".

British Empire Study Group

Feb. 13, 7 p.m., Society of Australasian Specialists – Oceania 2.0, "The story of Fiji's 21st century provisionals - The "temporary" solution that has lasted 20 years?"

Collectors Club of New York

Jan. 29, 6:30 p.m., Scott English, A decade of philately - warm memories and advice for the future".

Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m., Yamil Kouri, Boston 2026 - an update

Feb. 19, 6:30 p.m., Gordon Eubanks, "Pan American Airways in the Atlantic, Africa on to China".

North Toronto Stamp Club

Feb. 20, 8 p.m., Paul Sarjeant, "Plating the engraved stamps of Great Britain".

Postal History Society of Canada

Feb. 18, 7 p.m., Chris Hargraves, "Kingston, Ontario's postal and economic history".

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Feb. 10, 8 p.m., Stamp Panels: Phil Visser and Randy Rogers, Owen Sound Stamp Club, "Online Club Circuit Books".

Feb. 17th, 8 p.m., Al Hills, "The 2010 Vancouver Olympics".

Royal Philatelic Society of London

Feb. 4 11 a.m., Ed Kroft, "Mail from the Holy Land (Ottoman and Foreign Post Offices) to Uncommon Destinations 1874-1918".

Society of Australasian Specialists / Oceania

Feb. 27, 7 p.m., "Finding the impossible - the quest for rare Samoan revenue stamps" (Joint presentation with The Fellowship of Samoan Specialists).

West Toronto Stamp Club

Feb. 4, 8 p.m., Learning Workshop, "Questions I wished I had asked".

Feb. 18, 8 p.m., Discussion Group, "Unusual and Interesting Covers and/or Rates From Anywhere to Anywhere".