

NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB



No. 210

Newsletter

Vol. 26 = 1

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, September 11, 1990. ANNUAL MEETING.

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

ANNUAL MEETING: Tuesday, September 11, 1990 at 8 p.m.
Dues are due. Dues are payable to Treasurer John Harvey.
Canadian - \$15 single, \$22.50 couple
Outside Canada - \$20 and \$30

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The following names are proposed for the 1990/91 Executive:

President:	Marilyn Murphy	Recording Secretary:	Dave Harvey
1st Vice President:	John Hall	Corresponding Secty:	Doug Allen
2nd Vice President:	Dave Cole	Newsletter Editor:	Elizabeth Soderro
Treasurer:	John Harvey	Directors:	Stan Dunfield George Lafontaine

A third Director will be appointed, and the Past President George MacKenzie and Honorary Director Collins Baugild are automatically members of the Executive.

MINUTES, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 12, 1989.

The Annual General Meeting of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club was held Tuesday, September 12, 1989, at the Nova Scotia Museum, with President George MacKenzie and 49 members and guests. The minutes of the April 12, 1988, Annual Meeting were approved as amended to include the names of the newly elected Executive.

OLD BUSINESS: Alexander Doucette has agreed to continue as the Coffee Committee Chairman again this year. Thanks Alex.

NOVAPEX '89: John Hall summed up Novapex '89 as a great success. Also an Exhibition Chairman is needed for Novapex '90.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Archie Thomas gave a very complete report of the Club's accounts for 1989 stating total receipts of \$7,239.35, total expenses \$7,550.09 with a net loss of \$310.74. Archie also stated in his report that losses resulting from the Exhibition were a result of price increases at the hotel and the purchase of frames and plexiglass. A motion by Bob Vaison on behalf of the Club, thanked Archie Thomas for his many years of service to the Club.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Ron Lewis presented his report slating the new list of officers to be voted on. The list is as presented:

President	George MacKenzie	Newsletter Editor	Elizabeth Sodero
1st Vice President	Marilyn Murphy	Corresponding Sctry	David Cole
2nd Vice President	John Hall	Directors	Stan Dunfield
Treasurer	John Harvey		George Lafontaine
Recording Scrtcy	Joan Harris	Hon. Director	Collins Baugild
Past President	Ron Lewis		

A motion was put forward by Doug Allen for nominations to cease, seconded by Dave Cooper. This is the new Executive of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club for 1989/90. Good luck ladies and gentlemen.

NEW BUSINESS:

THANKS: President George MacKenzie thanked those members of the Executive who retired this year due to various reasons. Thanks went to Russell Saulnier, Larry Hitz, John Hurst, and Archie Thomas.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President George MacKenzie highlighted his review of the past year as a year of PARTICIPATION. George stated that he would like to see more Club members becoming involved in Club functions such as the Exhibition. In his message George also stated that this year's Exhibition was probably the largest and best to date. George thanked all those members who were involved with the Exhibition. At the conclusion of his speech George thanked the members of the old Executive and welcomed the new Executive, and he also extended his thanks to all Club members.

LONDON STAMP WORLD '90: Doug Allen gave an up-date on the London Stamp World '90 trip. A down-payment of \$150 is required by Sept. 30 if you are going to attend. Please phone Doug at 463-4472. The dates are May 2 to May 13 inclusive. Doug has arranged airfare, accomodations, and a week's transportation pass for an approximate cost of \$1250 per person, double occupancy.

ASSISTANT AUCTIONEER: An assistant auctioneer is needed, please see Stan Dunfield if you are interested.

EXHIBITION '89 MEDALS: Any member who won a medal at this year's Exhibition who would like to have it engraved, please see Marilyn Murphy.

DUES: John Harvey is now accepting dues for 1989/90.

The meeting concluded with 60 lots for auction,
Respectfully submitted,
Russell Saulnier, Recording Secretary.

THE MACHIN MAZE

by Doug Allen

This writer's candidate for the most complex series of stamps ever devised by a postal administration is the ongoing saga of the Great Britain Machin definitives.

The basic design, which evolved from a plaster cast bust of Queen Elizabeth sculpted by Arnold Machin R.A., is pure and classic in its simplicity. But that is where the simplicity ends. Oh yes, the initial 1967 - 1970 £.s.d 16 value set wasn't too complicated, but even it has a fair share of different gums, paper and phosphor banding and booklet panes to bedevil the collector. However, when Britain changed over to decimal currency and 9 new stamps were issued on February 15, 1971, in the middle of a Post Office strike, things really started to get difficult. Over the years since gum changed from gum arabic to PVA and then dextrin was added. Paper changed from cream to fluorescent white, all over phosphor and then to phosphorized with at least three sub types. Phosphor banding, added to activate automatic sorting machines, has resulted in numerous distinct varieties, right bands, left bands, two bands, centre bands, narrow bands, wide bands, missing bands, everything except the band of the Grenadier Guards.

Colours? Have they got colours, virtually all the visible spectrum has been employed to aid in separating the ever increasing number of denominations necessitated by the upward surge of postal rates from 1971 to date. Then there are the printers. Harrison & Sons had the field entirely to themselves using the photogravure process until 1980 when J. Waddington and House of Questa got a crack at producing some values by lithography. Waddington has now bowed out, but Questa is still in there pitching and in 1989 Walsall Security joined the fray particularly in producing stamp booklets.

Ah, stamp booklets, now there is a ball of wax for you. They have really proliferated and I am sure there are more than a few collectors in British mental institutions whose condition was brought on by trying to keep their booklet collections complete. Even collectors who eschew booklets, but wish to obtain all the stamp varieties, can't ignore them for many major varieties only occur in booklet panes. The latest "prestige" £5 London Life booklet contains no fewer than 8 new definitive stamp variations.

When the Machin design originated it was envisaged it would have a long life, but it is now 23 years old and surely it is time for a change. Such a change would enable collectors to sit back and take stock of the last two decades production and fill in their gaps. This collector is trying to do just that now and with over 400 Machin varieties in his albums and stock books is just about to embark on mounting them for possible exhibiting. It looks like a long winter!

MEMBERSHIP:

Application: Robert William Scott, 11 Flaxcombe Crt., Dartmouth, B2Y 4C4
Interests: Canada, U.S., U.K., U.S.S.R., Commonwealth and
France. Memberships include N.S. Junior Stamp Club.

PENPALS:

Canada, in French: M. Eric Gagnon, 1416 Craig #1, Sherbrooke, Quebec, J1H 4H5

Indonesia, in English: Kartono, Jl. Jend. Sudirman 577, Purwokerto - 53114, Indo.

DDR, in English: Dipl.-Chem. Steffen Kircheisen, Paul-Lehnhardt-Strabe 28,
Johanngeorgenstadt, 9438

Algeria, in English: Azzouz Benameur, B.P. 65, Saida, Algerie

(Ed. note: I will have these letters with me at the Annual Meeting.)

PHIL-A-TELIC:

Well, here we go again on another season of questions and answers, and hopefully we'll get as many answers as questions this time around. To start off, one of our members will answer his own question although he does give credit to some members who helped him get his answer. Refer to Newsletter #207, Vol. 25 #8 for the question.

Dear Phil: Several Club members made some suggestions to me as to where I might find information regarding my blue Newfoundland "Whatisit". The answer was finally found in a BNAPS Handbook titled, BNA Fakes and Forgeries, by E.A. Smythies, from our own library.

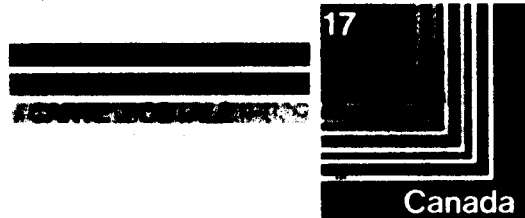
My "Whatisit" is a forgery produced by the Spiro Brothers at Hamburg, who plied their trade between 1870 and 1900. The objective, contrary to my suspicions, was to delude collectors, not to defraud the Post Office. (The cancellation was fake). Smythies describes the attempts at perforations as "very feeble". The term is too strong. I was convinced the stamp imitated was the rouletted #39 issued in 1877. The actual object of flattery was the 1873 perf 12 version of #34.

These forgeries have been described as "Album weeds", my inference is that they were produced in considerable quantity during the infancy of our hobby, and the vast majority of them suffered the same fate as garden weeds in subsequent years. The result is that the weed is much less common than the genuine article.

The name Spiro has a decidedly un-teutonic ring about it. Being the same as King Richard's sidekick, I smell an olive. Any further comments about the phenomenon of forgeries or the story of the Spiro Brothers would be most welcome. Thanks to all of you who helped point me in the right direction. Regards, Eric Malmberg.

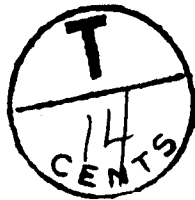
Thanks also from Phil. Questions and/or answers to Phil-a-telic, 1333 South Park Street, Apt. 515, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2K9

DUE - TAX? contributed by Lucille Robinson

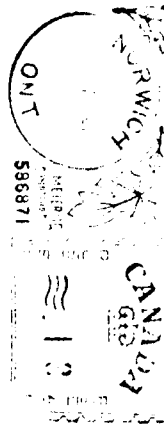


This is a printed pre-paid card of 17 cents with an additional meter stamp of 13 cents mailed from Norwich, Ontario to the U.S.A. It is short by 2 cents to cover the 1983 first class rate of 32 cents. (The reverse of the card gives a mailing date of sometime after Jan. 20, 1983.) Why then is there a "Due-tax" of 14 cents?

FIRST CLASS



CHRISTIANITY TODAY
Attn: Sally Shoemaker
465 Gundersen Drive
Carol Stream, IL 60187



ROYALE * 1991 * ROYAL

The 63rd Annual Convention of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, and National Exhibition: sponsored by Lakeshore Stamp Club. To be held on April 5-6-7, 1991, at the Dorval Community Centre, 1335 Lakeshore Drive, Dorval (Greater Montreal). Free admission and free parking: accessible to the physically handicapped. Frames (holding 16 pages 8½" x 11") \$10 per frame: Juniors (12 to 18) \$2 per frame. Judges critique. Seminars. Club Bourse plus 18 commercial dealers. Canada Post. Entry deadline January 15, 1991. Prospectus and information from Raymond W. Ireson, Exhibition Chairman, 86 Cartier, Roxboro, Quebec H8Y 1G8

Letter received from Mr. Ireson dated 1990-08-13.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Corresponding Address of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club:

P.O. Box 8541
Station A
Halifax, NS
B3K 5M3

NOTE: THIS DOES NOT AFFECT THE NEWSLETTER.



DID YOU NOTICE SOMETHING DIFFERENT WHEN THE POSTMAN DELIVERED YOUR NEWSLETTER ?

This month's mailing is courtesy of Canada Post, in order to advise you of the new location for philatelic services. As you are well aware, the office at Scotia Square has closed. Services are now at Bedford Row, and awaiting your enquiries.

The address is 1713 Bedford Row, Halifax, N.S. B3J 1T5

Telephone: 426-2293

We thank Canada Post for this mailing, we really appreciate this contribution to the Nova Scotia Stamp Club, and I am certain our members will make good use of this new location.

TRURO PHILATELIC SOCIETY: The Annual Show and Bourse will be held Saturday, October 13, 1990, at the Best Western Glengarry in Truro, N.S. The only contact received was for Penny Ferguson, at 895-1345, for the banquet, but I am sure she could assist you in any enquiries.

MORE CORRESPONDENCE: Letter received in English, from a collector of stamps, postcards, coins, etc. who will answer collectors who write in English, Spanish and Portuguese: Luca Donoia, Panamericana Sur, KM 196, Chinchá Alta, Ica-Peru.

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PROGRAMME DIRECTOR:

Former Programme Director, Stan Dunfield, has finished. He will no longer be Programme Director. It is final. Will someone please step forward and help out your Club? Certain programmes are automatic, such as the Annual Meeting, the flea market, the Giant Auction, etc. It is just a matter of filling in the gaps, whether with a speaker, a slide show or something creative. This is an extremely valuable part of a Club meeting, we all benefit from our programmes. So think it over, perhaps you and a friend would take it on together.

COFFEE CONVENOR: Another job that is available for the coming year. This also could be a shared venture. If you wish to help out the Club speak with any member of the Executive, he/she will direct you to the right person.
