

# NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB



No. 219

Newsletter

Vol. 26 #10

Meetings: Second Tuesday of the month at the Nova Scotia Museum, Summer Street, Halifax, N.S. at 8 p.m. No meeting July or August.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 11, 1991. FLEA MARKET.

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

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FLEA MARKET: The programme for June 11 is the annual June Flea Market. The museum doors do not open until 7 p.m., but you can set up immediately and start your business. There are a few tables on hand, but some people prefer to bring their own -- a folding cardtable is easily transported. A great way to clear up some of those accumulations, and a great time to acquire material.

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## MINUTES, May 14, 1991

The regular monthly meeting of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club was held on Tuesday, May 14, at 8 p.m. at the Nova Scotia Museum. In the absence of the president and the two vice-presidents, the chair was taken by past president George MacKenzie. 50 members were present.

The minutes of the April meeting were read. It was pointed out that the reference to the Halifax Main Post Office was incorrect and that the proper name was Halifax Central Post Office. The minutes were approved as corrected. George MacKenzie congratulated the award winners of Novapex '91. The 1992 exhibition will also be held at the Dartmouth Masonic Centre. Ken MacDonald presented medals and plaques to the award winners. Due to a mix-up in ordering medals from the RPSC some silver medals were not presently available. Major awards given were, the Novice award to Michael Peach and the Bill Stevenson award to Cliff Abram. Cliff is a three time winner of this award. A letter from Bob Fear, thanking the Club for their good wishes, was read. Bob had been given the Nova Scotia Stamp Club award for his long interest in, and devotion to, the club. A letter from Dan Bonner of Canada Post was read. The club is invited to visit and tour the Almon Street mail sorting station. The visit would take the place of the regular meeting in October or November. The membership expressed interest in the possibility. The last executive meeting of the season will be held on May 27. Don't forget Kermesse on June 1, at 10 a.m. George MacKenzie gave a talk and slide show based on the excursion to London '90. The meeting adjourned at 8:50. After coffee and doughnuts, an auction of 49 lots was held. Dave Harvey, Recording Secretary

TRURO PHILATELIC SOCIETY: Monday, June 10, 1991, 7:30 p.m., Room 164, Cox Institute, N.S.C.A., Bible Hill. Programme: Dr. Sers on Latvian and early Russian stamps. The TPS Stamp Exhibition and Bourse will be held at Keddy's Motor Inn, Prince Street, October 5, from 10 - 5, with a banquet at 6 p.m.

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U.S. RETURNS RARE STAMPS TO REUNITED GERMANY:

This article was included with the German Stamp Club Newsletter - I don't know who should receive the credit.

The U.S. Customs Service has returned to the German government six stamps and two covers valued at more than \$1 million. Before WW11, the items had been in the collection of the Reichspostmuseum in Berlin. They were reported missing in 1945 from a salt mine near Leipzig where they had been stored for safekeeping during the war.

The stamps and covers came to light in 1976 when a British dealer was approached at the INTERPHIL exhibition by a man offering them for sale. Recognizing them as the missing items, the dealer notified Scotland Yard, which alerted Interpol, which, in turn, referred the case to U.S. Customs in 1977.

When interviewed by Customs agents, the man said the items were a gift from an elderly couple, German, whom he had helped escape to the West at the end of the war. He turned the stamps over to the Customs Service, which has had them in storage ever since. The man died in 1980, leaving unresolved many inconsistencies in his story.

Both East and West Germany laid claim to the stamps and covers; the United States asked them to settle the issue between themselves, but it never was. With the unification of Germany on October 3, the question became moot and U.S. Commissioner of Customs Carol Hallett returned the items to the German Embassy in Washington, D.C. on October 18.

The stamps are: Mauritius, 1-penny orange of 1847 (fourteen copies known); British Guiana, 2-cent black on pale rose paper of 1850 (ten copies known) and 4-cent black on blue of 1856; and Hawaii, 2-cent blue (fifteen copies known), 5-cent blue, and 13-cent blue of 1851-52.

The covers bear a Mauritius 2d dark blue of 1847 (twelve copies known) and a Hawaii 13-cent blue of 1851-52.

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TIGH LITHRICHEAN: from Kevin Cox' article in Globe and Mail, May 18, 1991.

Mabou, a town of 600, is only the latest of about 830 rural post offices that have been closed so that mail service can be provided through a local store. The people of Mabou are insulted by the closing of their Tigh Lithrichean, the only federal government presence in their community, by Ottawa-based bureaucrats who did not consult them. A crowd of 500 of the 600 residents booed a Canada Post video, and the opposition is so great that all three retail stores have refused to house the retail postal outlet. Canada Post officials warned that if an outlet was not found, people will have to drive 16 kilometres to use the Port Hood outlet. There are now hints that the case will end up in court.

## THE LURE OF POSTAL HISTORY

By Doug Allen

The writer recently added another item to his collection of Postal History, an entire letter written from Castle Douglas, Scotland in 1797. On the surface it is less than remarkable, oh yes it is in remarkably clean condition for its age and it does bear a two-line CASTLE DOUGLAS town marking and a manuscript 10 signifying the 10 pence postage paid to Edinburgh, but on the reverse it bears a well-struck "Bishop Mark". The latter alone makes it worth far more than the very modest price I paid for the letter. But there is more, part personal, Castle Douglas is the small village where the writer was let out of a windowless van in a rainstorm in 1944 during a simulated escape exercise with instructions to: (1) ascertain where my partner and I were (2) make our way back to our airbase at Dumfries evading guard dogs and report to our commanding officer (3) accomplish all this while speaking no more English than we could German. To shorten this narrative, we did make it. The fact my partner, a Pittsburgh born R.C.A.F officer, could speak fluent German helped us tremendously, got us a lift on a passing automobile, several beers in a pub in Maxwellton and a warm stove at which we dried our soggy clothing. But it was at Castle Douglas where our odyssey began and now I had a 194 year old letter posted from there. Carefully unfolding the letter revealed in very legible handwriting a fascinating tale recounted by a disgruntled landlord to his Edinburgh solicitor of a tenant farmer who refused to pay his rent and was ignoring all efforts made to force payment. There was also reference to the need to prove the will of the landlord's late brother in order to obtain funds which had been placed with the Court of Chancery. Truly I had acquired a most interesting item for my collection.

The foregoing is illustrative of what you may come across if you expand your stamp collecting to include postal history. I have many other items that provide evidence of postal markings and rates, routes travelled and methods of transport, but also tell stories of life styles, political intrigue, friendships, family relations and much else. One letter I have, written in 1864 from a family in Ireland to a son employed on a farm in Indiana consoles with him for having to work so hard at husking corn his hands bled. Six family members each wrote a portion of the letter and they entreated him to send money as their flax crop was poor and prices for it low. They also told him of a murder of a friend with the murderer using a "baynet".

I have letters written by members of the nobility, using their free franking privileges, many to or written by lawyers and bankers in addition to the common folk. I have two letters carried in 1864 from Liverpool to Halifax on the same voyage of the "S.S. Asia", one of them pertaining to a shipment of gold from Waverley. Another cover in my collection was salvaged from the wreck of the "S.S. Labrador" which sunk off the coast of Scotland on March 1, 1899 while en route from Halifax to Liverpool.

Oh yes, postal history has a appeal that can be matched by few other aspects of our hobby and I could tell of many other intriguing items, but if I proceed further I risk the wrath of our long-suffering Newsletter editor who has so kindly published my scribblings.

Thanks, Doug, the Editor loves these scribblings.

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### HALIFAX POSTCARD SOCIETY:

The Halifax Postcard Society meets at the Nova Scotia Museum, the fourth Friday of the month, at 8 p.m. The May programme will be "Oxen on Postcards". June will feature a Flea Market. They also do not meet in July or August.

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COVER OF THE MONTH: Dave Cooper

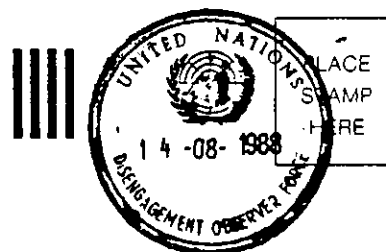
This write-up is being done on New Year's Eve. I just wrote to my mother's sisters and included copies of my high school's 60th year anniversary booklet. I also carbon copied to a teacher from my school days who was very involved in the reunion. What has this to do with this month's cover?

The foreword reads in part - - "few, if any of the students entering those bright new halls ----- could even imagine how different their world would be compared to that of their children or grandchildren". It goes on to refer to "started just prior to the Great Depression, saw rise of the Fascist dictators, carnage of WWII, nuclear age; TV pictures of man on the moon; and up to the computer age of high tech. (Anniversary 1928 - 1988) Fort Erie.

This cover does not refer to a specific war. It refers to Canada's main occupation since WWII, peace keeping. Perhaps Marilyn Murphy knows where this was sent from. It is a license renewal envelope and is cancelled with a very clear large 1 - 5/8" (42 mm) double ring cancel (free franked) with United Nations at top, DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE at bottom, 5/8" U.N. globe and 14-08-1988 in centre. Hopefully the troops in the Persian Gulf will only be Peace Keeping.

Form 28A

R. Gudin  
P.O. Box 766  
#1 Greenwood Pines  
Greenwood, N.S.  
B0P 1N0



Registry of Motor Vehicles  
Licenses and Registrations Division  
PO Box 1652 Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 2Z3



(NOTE): As Dave's introduction indicates, this article was submitted in early January. I keep these articles on file for suitable space, and usually for suitable times. However, as you read, you will be aware that a great deal has happened worldwide since the submission and printing of this item.

A further point of interest: those who were at the May 14 meeting will recall Al Burditt's comments on Dave's Cover of the Month in Newsletter #218. It seems that Miss Margaret Hawkings and F/O Hollway married, and had five children. Al was going to forward a copy of the Newsletter to them.

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PHIL-A-TELIC: Not much response from members lately so get out your pens and drop PHIL a line - I think we have done pretty well over the past few years. PHIL has one of his own this month and it has to do with GST in regard to purchase of stamps. In the case of sending letters out of the country, at least one postal outlet will not charge GST if the stamps are bought, put on

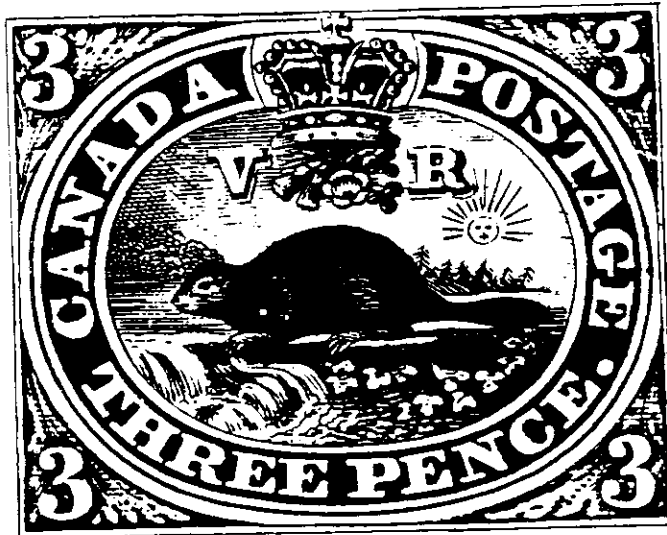
the letter or parcel and mailed on the spot, while most of them charge GST regardless. What is the Canada Post regulation in this matter? Let's hear from our Canada Post members. Don't forget to address your questions, or in this case your answers to PHIL-A-TELIC, 1333 South Park St., Apt. 315, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2K9

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SILVER MEDAL, ORAPEX: Doug Murray for The Post Office on Prince Edward Island.

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PUBLIC GARDENS: You are all aware that our Halifax Public Gardens is appearing on a 40¢ stamp, but did you realize that one of the carpet beds in the Gardens this summer will salute Canada Post by portraying Sir Sanford Fleming's beaver stamp, complete with "happy face"? This planting will be done in June, as soon as the more delicate annuals can tolerate the weather.



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TORONTO'S FIRST POST OFFICE: 260 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, 865-1833, tours by appointment. Full postal and philatelic service seven days a week, 10-4p.m.

First opened in 1833, the post office had a reading and writing room so that people who only made the trip to town occasionally could draft replies to their correspondents on the spot. They would have learned a letter was waiting for them from a notice published in the local paper. Just before the 1837 Rebellion in Upper Canada, Postmaster James Scott Howard refused to open mail of suspected rebels for the authorities, and was fired on suspicion of supporting armed rebellion. His successor moved the post office to a new location, but the Town of York Historical Society reopened the original in 1983 as a museum and working post office. Visitors can write a letter with a quill and seal it with wax for a charge of \$1. The letters are hand-cancelled before being sent to Canada Post for hand sorting, machine sorting would break the seals.

From the Globe and Mail, Saturday, May 18, 1991.

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MEMBERSHIP: Granted to # 889 Jay C. Kennedy.

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CONGRATULATIONS: to Anne-Marie Belliveau, granted Honourary Life Membership in the Valley Stamp Club.

to Gary Steele for his Silver with Felicitations at Orapex.

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DUES ARE DUE: Club dues will be received by the treasurer, John Harvey, 46 Farquharson St. Dartmouth, N.S. B2W 4A8. Single - \$15, couple - \$22.50, outside Canada - \$20 (Canadian).

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THE ANNUAL NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD AT THE DARTMOUTH MASONIC CENTRE, SATURDAY APRIL 11 AND SUNDAY APRIL 12, 1992.

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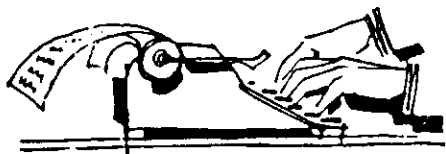
From the NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM:

Halifax was Canada's first post office. It was opened in 1755 and was used primarily to handle mail received with some infrequency from England. When Britain assumed complete control of the former French colonies in 1763, Benjamin Franklin, who was already acting as deputy postmaster-general in the thirteen American colonies to the south, took charge of Canada's postal system and was answerable to the Home Office of the Post Office in England. His aide in Quebec was Hugh Finlay.

Finlay was efficient and he quickly effected major improvements in the system. When the American Revolution started, Franklin's services were terminated and he was succeeded by Finlay.

When the British North American Colony was turned over to colonial administration in 1851, Nova Scotia took over the administration of its own postal system in the same year. The early stamps of Nova Scotia were printed for the postal service by the American Bank Note Company of New York. When this colony joined the Canadian Confederation in 1867, thus forming a province of the Dominion, it stopped issuing its own stamps and started using the postage stamps of Canada.

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This is the last Newsletter until the end of August. Hope you have a happy summer. May has been so busy that I am looking forward to some time out in the yard,

digging and mowing. If the early garden has been any indication it will be an exceptional year. The bulbs, tulips and daffodils have been spectacular, and we look forward to swimming, canoeing and picnics at the provincial and national parks. This province has so much to offer in the summer - so once we get the younger one through her final exams, we will be on our way.