The Nova Scotia Post

The Monthly Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

October 2026
Volume 56 Issue 553

Up and Coming

Moncton Stamp Fair - October 10
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.

NS Stamp Club - October 13
Museum of Natural History, Halifax , NS
Round Table

Valley Stamp Club - November 7
Port Williams Community Centre.
"Buying and Selling Online"

NSSC Stamp Fairs
Nov 15 - 9 am-3 pm

East Dartmouth Community Centre
Live Auction at 1:30 pm

Stampex 2026 - October 24
Michelin Social Club
Bridgwater, NS

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

Dues

Annual dues are now owing. It is your responsibility to make sure your membership is current. Payments can be made by check to the address on page 2, in person (check or cash) at an NSSC meeting or event or by etransfer to treasurer@nsstampclub.ca.

Charles Babbage 1792-1871: The Computer Man

by Michael Peach

Relatively few scientists have been honoured on the stamp by Royal Mail, let alone twice. Charles Babbage (Figure 1) has been featured on two British stamps, once in 1991 in the Scientific Achievements set (Figure 2) and one of the ten fellows in the 2010 Royal Society 350th Anniversary sheet (Figure 3). Incidentally the bicentennial of his birth occurred in 1991. Who was Charles Babbage?

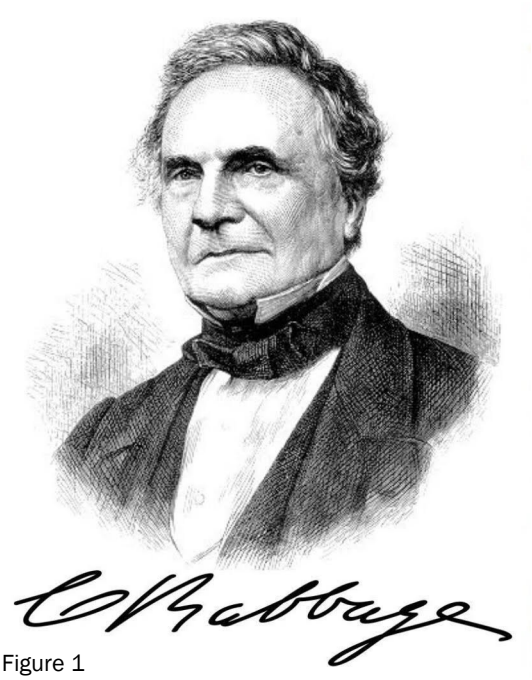


Figure 1

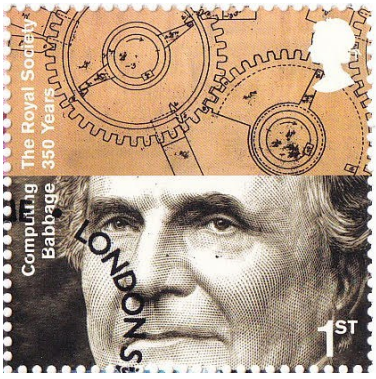
Charles Babbage was an English mathematician, inventor and mechanical engineer who was involved in many innovations. He studied mathematics at the University of Cambridge, completing his studies in 1814 subsequently becoming involved in various projects. On the death of his banker father in 1827 he became independently wealthy, inheriting £100,000, about £9 million today. He was Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge, 1828 – 1839, but did not give any lectures. Elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1816, he helped founding the Royal Astronomical Society in 1820 and the Statical Society in 1834.



Figure 2: Scientific Achievements

He studied the concept of the digital programmable computer and is credited by some as the father of the computer. He designed the Difference Engine, a mechanical calculator, and the Analytical Engine, the first real computer. The full engines were not built during his lifetime, but were later shown to operate.

Figure 3: The Royal Society - 350



Among other things he analysed the requirements for a modern postal system with his friend Thomas Colby, prior to the introduction of Uniform Four Penny Post, 1839, and later the Uniform Penny Post, 1840.

He died in October 1871 in London.

A TALE OF TWO POSTCARDS

by Marty Zelenietz

On the first Friday of June, two post cards from tourists arrived at my home. One was sent in 2026, one in 1911. One came in the mail; the other was hand delivered. One came from a very cold place, one from a very warm location. Both have stories to tell.

The first card was sent by my son-in-law from Spitzbergen Island in Norway's Svalbard Archipelago. Svalbard is the location of the Global Seed Vault depicted on the front of the card (Figure 1). The Vault, constructed inside an abandoned coal mine, stores seeds of ten of thousands of food plant varieties, ensuring their genetic diversity into the future.



Figure 1

On the message side of the card (Figure 2), my son-in-law noted the birds he saw in Svalbard (sadly, for the fans of Philip Pullman, he didn't see any armoured bears), and that he is sending the card from the second most northern post office in the world. Longyearbyen, at 78 degrees 12 minutes North latitude, is named for the American entrepreneur who established the coal industry there in 1906.

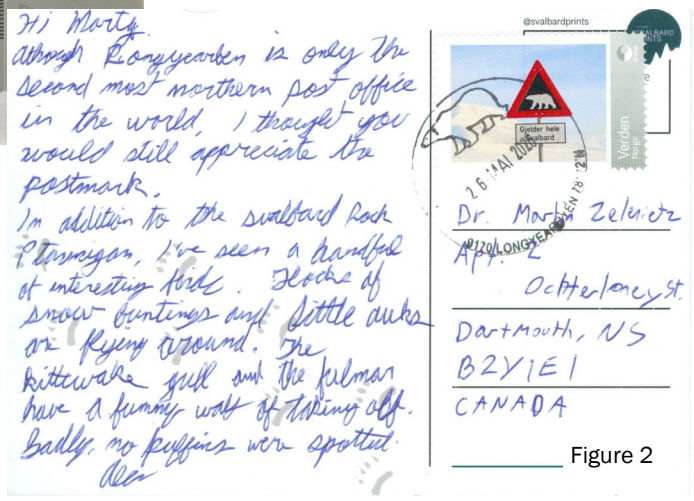


Figure 2

The Norwegian stamp, designated for world service, shows the iconic polar bear warning sign, also seen on the front of the card.

The card, posted on 26 May, arrived on 5 June, a relatively short transit time by today's standards. What is remarkable is that the card arrived at all: the last three characters in the postal code were totally incorrect. The card was delivered on the strength of the street address (obscured here) alone. Score one for Canada Post!

The second card came into my hands courtesy of Keith MacKay, who couldn't resist acquiring this early 20th century to-Halifax find on eBay. Sent from Jerusalem on 20 August 1911, the front of the card features the tomb of Lazarus (Figure 3). The message side recounts the sender's grand tour of the eastern Mediterranean, from Italy to Egypt to Palestine, detailing the various stops in the Holy Land (Figure 4).


Figure 3

At the time, Jerusalem and much of the Holy Land was part of Beyrut Vilayet (Province) of the Ottoman Empire. A quick examination of the stamp and cancel reveal that the card travelled via the Austrian Imperial Post. What's going on?

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the Ottoman postal system was rudimentary. Europeans living in the Levant found it inadequate for their needs, so many of their respective governments negotiated or imposed treaties allowing foreign postal services to operate on Ottoman territory. Thus Austria, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia came to have post offices abroad. Foremost among these was the Austrian Imperial Post.

Austrian legal authority to operate a postal ser-

CONTINUED TWO CARDS on Page 3

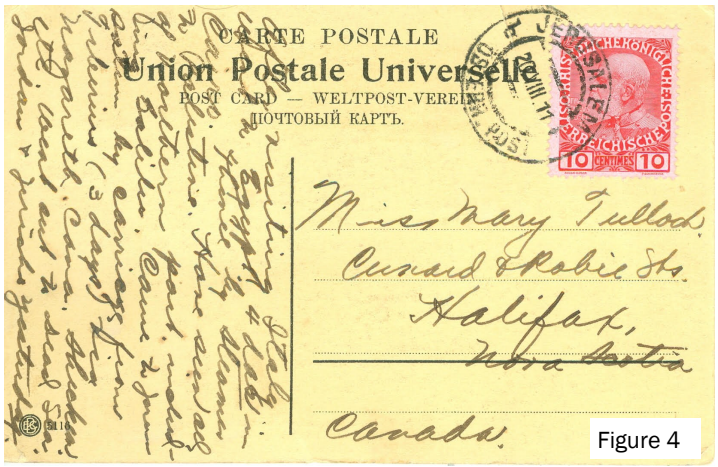


Figure 4

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 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

TWO CARDS... CONTINUED

vice in the Ottoman Empire dates back to a 1775 treaty. By 1859, Austrian post offices and street letter collection boxes could be found in Jerusalem and other cities in Ottoman Palestine (e.g., Jaffa, Haifa, etc.). The first stamps used came in 1864, the Lombardy-Venetia issue denominated in soldi and florins. These were replaced in 1867 by stamps denominated in Turkish currency, paras and piastres. Finally, stamps produced for Austrian offices in Crete were introduced, denominated in French centimes and francs. The currency switch was apparently related to exchange rate manipulation and undercutting Ottoman postal rates. Turkish attempts to control the situation, including occasional raids to confiscate stamps, proved futile in the long run.

A wide variety of cancels were employed until the outbreak of World War 1. Our card here has a fairly typical "JERUSALEM/ b/ OSTERR. POST" circular date stamp (in use between 1905 and 1911) cancelling a 10 centime Austrian Offices in Crete 1908 issue commemorating the 60th year of the reign of Emperor Franz Josef. The stamp is scarlet, on rose surface-coloured paper.

When Keith first showed me the post card, I remarked on the depth of the rabbit hole this one item could lead to. There are stampless letters, various cancels for Jerusalem and other cities, railway postal markings, the different stamps and postal stationery issued and used, and different destinations, not to mention searching for covers from the other foreign posts operating in Ottoman Levant. A check of various listings for Austrian Levant covers shows that European destinations are most common, with the USA following in frequency. Few cards or letters appear to have been sent to Canada. I will probably resist diving down this rabbit hole, but it surely has been instructive checking it out.

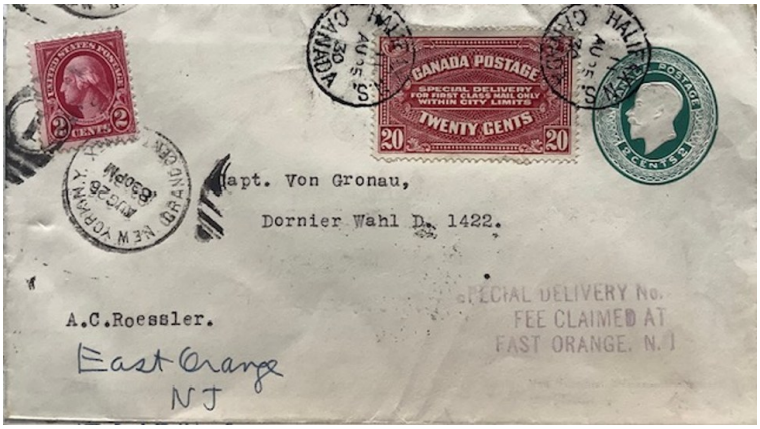
A note on sources:

Prior familiarity with Svalbard was augmented by searches on Google and Wikipedia. The Austrian Levant information came mostly from articles in my bound collection of The Holy Land Philatelist, volumes 1-7, 1954 to 1961, and my 1986 Scott catalogue. In these digital days, never underestimate the value of printed material.

VON GRONAU FLIGHT COVER

by Alan Matheson

Hans Wolfgang Gronau (February 25, 1893– March 17, 1977), was a German aviation pioneer and Luftwaffe general. In the early 1930s Von Gronau was part of the group of aviators attempting long distance and transatlantic flights. Perhaps his tow most famous flights were a 1930 flight in a Dornier Wal D-1422 flying boat which had been previously flown by polar explorer Roald Amundsen and his 1932 around the world flight in the Dornier Wal called the Greenland Whale which lasted 111 days covering 44,000km.



This cover is from the first flight when Von Gronau was attempting a northern route from Germany to the United States. Knowing his flying boat only had limited range, the 7520km journey had to be broken up into shorter segments. The aircraft took off from Sylt, Germany, on August 18, 1930. From there he stopped at the Faroe Islands, Reykjavik, Ivittuut (Greenland), Cartwright (Labrador) then onto Halifax where he landed on the harbour on August 25. In Halifax he received an enthusiastic welcome from officials and the general public. Departing Halifax, the next morning he finally reached New York later that afternoon where he received a rapturous reception.

The cover was carried on the Halifax to New York segment. It is a two-cent stationery envelope supplemented with a 20-cent special delivery stamp. It is cancelled with a HALIFAX N.S. August 25, 1930 postmark. To make sure the envelope could enter the U.S. domestic mail system, an American two-cent stamp was affixed. This was cancelled in NEW YORK N.Y. on August 26 8.30 pm at GRAND CENTRAL STATION cds. On the reverse is an EAST ORANGE N.J. AUG 27 1am 1930 receiver cancel.



Postcard showing the type of flying boat flown by Von Gronau (not the actual one)

VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS – OCTOBER 2026

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 AT-LANTIC zone.

Auxiliary Markings Club:
Oct. 13, 8 pm, Gordon Smith, "The Auxiliary Markings of Southern Africa." Zoom link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81690034552?pwd=9AJlnPLBF9UDjHbZ8eNxqbOTth4YAQ.1

British Empire Study Group:
Oct. 8, 8 pm, Ron Majors, "A rate study for the decimal issue of pre-Confederation Canada".

Collectors Club of New York:
Sept. 30, 6:30 pm, Akthem Al-Manaseer, "India Stamps used in Iraq."
Oct. 14, 6:30 pm, Jerzy Kupiec-Weglinski, "Airmail of the Siege of Przemysl (1914-1915)".

France and Colonies:
4th Sunday afternoon of the month
You can register at:
https://franceandcolonies.org/videopresentations.php

Learning About Stamps Online:
Oct. 20, 9 pm, Bill Schultz, "Philatelic treats: philatelic fun facts that are not well known". Registration link on the website:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/cw7p0yU-QIuHl9VBvBBa6Q.

North Toronto Stamp Club:
Oct. 15, 8 pm ,Paul Sarjeant "Unresolved Mysteries: The 1-Penny Stamps Released "By Mistake""
Oct. 22 8 pm, George Sachs, :History of a Small Town Through Postcards"

Philatelic Specialist Society of Canada:
Oct. 20, 8:30 pm, Anestis Karagiannidis, "1896 Olympic Games in Athens".

Postal History Society of Canada:
Not announced by publication time

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC):
Oct. 12, 8 pm, Stamp Talk, none due to Thanksgiving.
Oct. 19, 8 pm, Stamp Panel, Douglas Hill, "Canada's Joint Stamp Issues".

Royal Philatelic Society of London (RPSL):
Oct. 6, 11 am, Vernon R. Morris, Jr., "The Postal Crisis of 1775."

Society of Australasian Specialists / Oceania
Oct. 15, Ian McMahon, "Non-Denominated Postal Stationery of Australia".

West Toronto Stamp Club:
Oct. 6, 8 pm, Learning Workshop, "What did you do for your collection this summer".

FROM BNAPEX - SALABERRY-DE-VALLEYFIELD, QC

SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2026

The incoming BNAPS President is Gary W. Steele.

Jane Sodero, editor of the *Corgi Times,* was awarded the **John S. Siverts Award** for the Best BNAPS Study Group newsletter .

Exhibit Awards to NSSC members of BNAPS went to:

Gold

John A Hall - Marketing the Canadian War Savings Stamps and Certificates of World War Two

Gary W. Steele - Canadian Post Office Inspector Handstamps 1881-1954

Vermeil

Sean Weatherup - All Roads Lead to Moncton
William G. Robinson RPO Award



Sean Weatherup receiving his award from BNAPS judge Guillaume Vadeboncoeur