THE NOVA SCOTIA POST

The Monthly Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

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A DOWN UNDER RABBIT HOLE

by Marty Zelenietz

No, this isn't about the plague of rabbits introduced to Australia by the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788, although the saga of the resulting struggle to control them would make for an interesting thematic exhibit. Instead, this is about my encounter with Western Australia revenue stamps. Huh?



Figure 1

I am always on the lookout for material that fits my collection of stamps of birds that I have seen in the wild. One such bird from my trip to Australia was the Black Swan. This elegant bird was the central design feature on stamps of the colony of Western Australia from 1854 to 1899 (Figure 1). I have a sampling of about 20 different colonial Black Swan stamps in my collection and a fine used example of a Western Australia post card with the Black Swan indicium, as well as a dozen or so more modern stamps. But the Black Swan did more than mere postal duty, as it served as the basic design Western Australia revenue stamps for more than six decades.

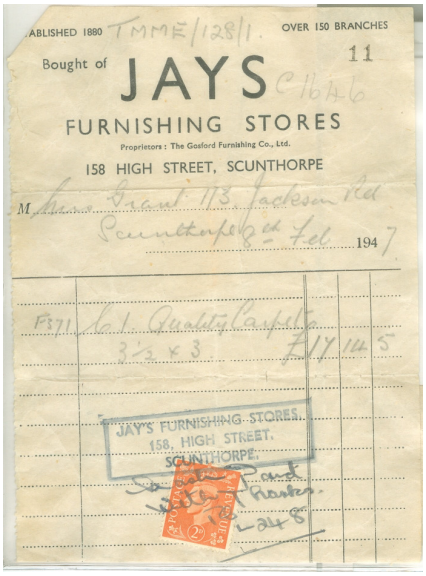


Figure 2

Some collectors may not be familiar with revenue stamps, which serve to pay the tax on various financial transactions such a deed transfers, cheques and bank drafts, commercial purchases, etc. Revenue stamps often look like postage stamps: in fact, many British and British colonial definitives were inscribed "Postage/Revenue" so the stamps could do double duty. Figure 2 shows a George VI 2d stamp used on a receipt from 1947. Even the Queen Elizabeth II coronation commemoratives bore the "Postage/Revenue" text (Figure 3).



Figure 3

The colony of Western Australia followed a different path. The first revenue (or fiscal) stamps there, issued in 1881, consisted of Black Swan postage stamps overprinted "I.R." (for Internal Revenue). Later that year, a regular definitive series inscribed "Internal Revenue" was released (Figure 4). All the stamps were monochrome, in dull purple, with the lower values in a vertical format, and the higher value horizontal.



Figure 4

In 1904, the state of Western Australia began issuing the series of revenue stamps that became known as the "Long Swans" (Figure 5). This mostly bi-coloured series lasted until 1941, when it was replaced by smaller

CONTINUED RABBIT HOLE on Page 3

UP AND COMING

Valley Stamp Club - November 7
Port Williams Community Centre.

NS Stamp Club - November 10
Museum of Natural History, Halifax , NS

Moncton Stamp Fair - November 14
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

NSSC Stamp Fairs
Nov 15 - 9 am-3 pm
East Dartmouth Community Centre
Live Auction at 1:30 pm See Page 4.

South Shore Stamp Club - Nov. 28
New Life Christian Church, Elm St.
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.

#91 UNIQUE NEW HANDSTAMP

by Gary Steele



Dimension 40mm
Serif letters, all caps
Semi-colon after 'OTTAWA;"

Many interested philatelists local and across the country have asked a variety of questions on the articles about Dead Letter Offices which they have seen in the Nova Scotia Post. One common question is how I find the material and how do I recognize it as something unusual. Spending time reviewing different items while dissecting the differences in general and between similar items is usually what it takes. Unless you have several different copies and types from one city, distinctions such as the shape of the cancellation, whether circular or rectangular, as well as whether the border is a single or double line, usually points one in the right direction.

Sometimes recognizing an item you have not seen before is like a dream - you think you remember it, but something seems different or not right. Once you obtain the item you get a chance to measure it and compare it to other similar items.

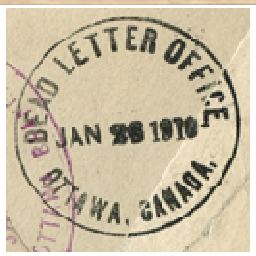
On this piece, the black circle all caps handstamp is not a usual item on a Dead Letter Return envelope. The bold larger lettering is another main feature, as well as the colon after 'OTTAWA;'. However, upon examining the listings for Ottawa circle handstamps there were about 10 known which I have in my collections – not one with a colon.

Next is measuring the dimension or diameter in this case, this strike measures 40mm much larger than the 34mm to 37mm diameters of the 10 known I mentioned.

Upon reviewing some other types such as the purple Nov 25 1907 era handstamp and the black JAN 26 1910 later use, one can see fairly easily the differences I would look for. If everything was similar, I would also maybe measure the height of the lettering and the distances between the beginning and ending of each line or the spacing between the letters on the outside rim and inside rim.







To sum up, a unique circle DLO handstamp was applied to a Dead Letter Return envelope in 1922, the exact date is stuck under the 1 cent postage due stamp. A large **POSTAGE DUE 3 - O –** in a double oval handstamp indicates **Ottawa** for the '**O**' and **3** cents Dead Letter Return fee owed by the sender a ***Mr. J. W. Henderson 397 Westhill Ave.*** of the originally enclosed item. In this case the fee was paid, and the 1 cent and 2 cent 1st Issue of Canada postage due stamps were applied.

I hope this explains a little bit of the process involved in not only examining DLO handstamps but most handstamps of Canadian philately.

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Jane Sodero - Editor
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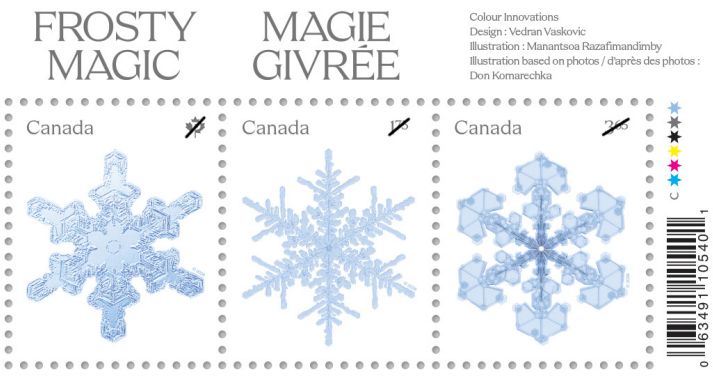
http://www.nsstampclub.ca/
webnews@nsstampclub.ca

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



'TIS THE SEASON

The recent Christmas issues form Canada Post include this 3-stamp souvenir sheet of snowflakes with domestic, USA, and international rates.

Canada Post has been issuing Christmas themed stamps since 1964.

RABBIT HOLE... CONTINUED



Figure 5

monochrome issues. The Long Swans caught my eye- a beautifully designed stamp issued in a variety of attractive colours. But the Long Swans are a true rabbit hole of collecting: over the span of their use, they were produced by different printers, on papers with three different watermarks, and perforated anywhere from 11 to 14.5. Then there are the imperfs, inverted watermarks, special cancels, etc. David Elsmore's on-line catalog (https://www.ozrevenues.com/Revenue-Railway-Local-Perfin-Catalogue/wa-revenue-catalogue.htm) explores the true complexity of this issue.

I faced a dilemma. I was not prepared to spend the next several years (and substantial amounts of cash) diving deep down the Long Swans rabbit hole. Nor could I resist these gorgeous stamps. In the end, I found several stamps, in different values and colours, that would make for an attractive album page in my collection (Figure 6 –below). The Long Swans show us the true joy and freedom of collecting: each collector can decide what to collect and how to collect it. Have fun with the hobby.



TRAVELLING STAMP SHOW

by Michael Peach

During the 1930s Joseph Whiteborough, a well known figure in the pre WW II USA stamp world, had a stamp store, Garden City Stamp Agency in Chicago. He also had the first travelling stamp shop, the *Phila-Mobile.* The *Phila Mobile* was built like a Pullman car with two rooms, living and sleeping, as well as an observation platform. It has been reported to have brought good business for its owners and to have travelled many thousands of miles in the USA



CONGRATULATIONS!

A hardy congratulations to club member Cassie Perusse who recently participated in the British Thematic Association One-Frame Competition with her exhibit "The Rosehip: A Natural and Cultural History". She received 88 points for a Gold medal and also garnered the John Fosbery Trophy for the Best Open Class exhibit. We look forward to seeing her exhibit in the near future.

EDITORIAL NOTE: TO CLUB MEMBERS

Some of you may have heard that I will be moving to the Montreal area in the near future due to a job relocation for my husband. For the time being, I will remain as Newsletter Editor thanks to the stellar work of Jeff Parks who catches my errors and does the newsletter layout. Having said that, if someone is interested and able to take over the role of Editor which includes attendance at the Executive Meetings which are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month, please let me (or one of the other executive members) know. I will be attending club meetings and events when I am able between packing and house-hunting. I have enjoyed being back at my home club for the last 7 years and serving as your newsletter editor. A huge thank you to all the contributors to the newsletter – we wouldn't have this wonderful journal if it weren't for these people taking the time to share their interests.

VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS – NOVEMBER 2026

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:
Nov. 10, 8 pm, Sam Chui, PhD: *The handling of underpaid mail of Hong Kong, the first 80 years, 1881-1960* Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81690034552?pwd=9AJlnPLBF9UDjHbZ8eNxqbOTth4YAQ.1

British Empire Study Group:
Nov. 12, 7 pm, Emory Toops: *Regime Change in Vietnam: Issues of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and Restoration of Postal Services in the Defeated South*

Collectors Club of New York:
Nov. 4 , 6:30 pm, Daniel Knowles: *Suspended Mail Services Across-the-Lines During the American Civil War*

Learning About Stamps Online:
Nov, 17, 9 pm, Panel: *The Liquidation of a Stamp Collection*

North Toronto Stamp Club:
Nov 19, 8 pm ,Paul Sarjeant: *Unresolved Mysteries: The One Penny Stamps Released "By Mistake"*

Philatelic Specialist Society of Canada:
Nov 18, 8:30 pm, George Constantourakis: *Rep. of Venice - Mail Routes from/to the Levant.*

Postal History Society of Canada:
No meeting noted at time of publication

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada:
Nov. 9 8 pm, Stamp Talk, Arnie Janson: *Military Postal History Varieties*
Nov. 16, 8 pm, Stamp Panel, *TBD*

Royal Philatelic Society of London:
Nov. 3, 11 am, Jean Wang: *Smokes for the Troops: British and Canadian Tobacco Funds in World War One*

Society of Australasian Specialists / Oceania:
Nov. 19, Joseph Morrison: *Something Samoa*

Stamp Oddities

If you are like me you probably have a pile of Christmas stamps that don't get a lot of your attention, mostly for the shear volume of them. However, this may require a second look. The 1982 Canada Christmas issue (Sc 973iii) can be found with an orange background instead of the normal bright red (SC 973). See Figure below.



Unitrade only records 10 known copies of mint stamps valued around $750. This is known as a Repellex error, where part of the colour is missing on part of one the column of 10 stamps. From Pierron's EFO catalogue (pg 428), the *variety occurred due to spillage of cleaning fluid (trade name Repellex) designed to prevent the build-up of excess ink on the rollers.* Four sheets are also known that have varying degrees of error (40-80% of the background). Unitrade states *values range from $100 – $350 depending on the percentage of orange background.*

It is thus unlikely that one will be found in your "extras" lots but isn't the thrill of the chase half the fun.

Good hunting !!

STAMP FAIR
Hosted by The Nova Scotia Stamp Club
Sunday
November 15
9:00am – 3:00pm
East Dartmouth Community Centre
50 Caledonia Road
Dartmouth, NS


DEALERS WILL BE PRESENT SELLING AND BUYING STAMPS
LIVE AUCTION AT 1:30PM
FREE ADMISSION
FREE PARKING