



Nova Scotia Stamp Club Newsletter

October 2002
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Letter Boxes

By Michael Peach

In the United Kingdom the first letter boxes for use with prepaid mail and located away from a post office were brought into use on 23 November 1852 in St. Helier, Jersey. The boxes are usually called Pillar Boxes in Britain. Their use was instigated by Anthony Trollope, the novelist, who before becoming a full time writer was employed in the senior management of the Post Office. The British Post Office is marking the 150th Anniversary of this event by issuing a series of "Pillar Box" stamps on 8 October. The stamps show Pillar Boxes through the years, starting with an 1857 box, up to a current "new style" box.

During the course of his Post Office career Trollope was assigned to the south-west district of England in 1851. His task was to improve the services of the Post Office. In November 1851 he went to the Channel Islands for 20 days. He completely reorganised the postman's routes and increased the number of daily deliveries. At St. Helier he suggested the provision of roadside letter boxes, such as those already in use in close by France. The main advantage of these boxes would be that people would not have to use the principal post office for mailing letters, as stamps appear to have been readily available on most streets. The boxes had to act as a safe receptacle. The first boxes were hexagonal, about four feet high and were made of cast iron by John Vaudin of St. Helier at a cost of £7. On the mainland the first box was erected at Botchergate, Carlisle in September 1853. Within a few years there were pillar boxes throughout Great Britain. The introduction of the pillar box in Great Britain was one of Trollope's major innovations in the postal service.

None of these ideas were novel. The first workable system of letter boxes away from post offices occurred in France. In 1653 as part of a system devised by Monsieur de Velayer roadside letter boxes were erected at the corners of the main thoroughfares in Paris. The boxes were part of the local post, under which prepaid letters could be sent

two or three times a day to various parts of the city. The letters had to be enclosed in prepaid envelopes which could be purchased at special offices. The scheme was not a success. A second attempt in 1758 was successful. At that time there were six letter boxes in use in Paris. In 1829 with the establishment of the *Post Rurale*, roadside letter boxes were introduced generally to all towns and villages in France. In 1836 post boxes sited away from the post offices were available for unpaid letters in every commune in Belgium where there was no receiving office. Similarly in Germany in 1842 boxes were erected away from the post office. All the early boxes were of a somewhat flimsy construction. Cast iron boxes were in use in the streets of Belgium by 1850, probably for prepaid mail as stamps had been introduced on 1 July 1849. Indeed one of the Belgian letter boxes was proudly displayed at the Britain's Great Exhibition of Works and Industry of all Nations in 1851. Here it was seen by Rowland Hill, as well as Anthony Trollope.

In Canada stamps had been introduced in 1851 and the earliest recorded street letter boxes were erected in Toronto. The three boxes were placed in service in June 1852. There appear to be no detailed drawings of these historic boxes (Farrugia). In the Chronology of Canadian Postal History, on the web, it states for 1852 "For the better accommodation of such portions of the Cities of Québec, Montréal, and Toronto, as lie more or less remote from the Post Office in each City respectively, Receiving Offices have been established in each City, at convenient points from whence letters are taken at certain stated hours, and conveyed, without charge, to the City Post Office, by Carriers employed by the Department." (Annual Report 1851-52, p. 9.). If this is indeed the case the use of letter boxes for prepaid mail in Canada would have predated their use in Great Britain. The Toronto City Archives have no information about this. Does anyone know where the first free standing letter boxes were placed in Halifax?

Literature: J.Y.Farrugia, *The Letter Box*, Centaur Press 1969.

Up and Coming

October 8 Club Meeting
"My Ugliest Stamp" Show
Circuit Books

October 12 Stamp Fair
Burnside Hotel

October 19 Brunpex 2002
Fundy Stamp Collectors Club
Moncton

October 26 South Shore
Stamp Club Annual Show
Bridgewater

November 12 Club Meeting
Bill Burden - Small Queens
Auction

December 10 Christmas Social
Christmas on Stamps
No limit Charity Auction.

January 14 Club Meeting
How to Improve Your Collection
Back to Basics session
Circuit books.

February 11 Club Meeting
Royal Slide show. Some humour
on Valentine Day. "Break the Winter
Blues Anything Goes Auction"

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**USPS Tentative Release
Schedule for 2003**

The 2003 program will be unveiled October 10th at Legoland in California with giant stamp designs created out of Legos building blocks!

January

Year of the Ram. Single 37¢ self-adhesive commemorative stamp, pane of 20.
Thurgood Marshall. Single 37¢ self-adhesive commemorative stamp, 26th in the Black Heritage series, pane of 20.

February

American Filmmaking: Behind the Scenes. Ten 37¢ self-adhesive commemorative stamps featuring: Art Direction, Costume Design, Camera, Direction, Editing, Make-up, Music, Screenwriting, Sound Effects, and Special Effects, pane of 10.

March

Ohio Statehood. Single 37¢ self-adhesive commemorative stamp, pane of 20.
Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge. Single 37¢ self-adhesive commemorative stamp, pane of 20.

April

Cesar E. Chavez. Single 37¢ self-adhesive commemorative stamp, pane of 20.
Zora Neale Hurston. Single 37¢ self-adhesive commemorative stamp, pane of 20.

**Nova Scotia Stamp Club
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada**

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.

Dues are \$15 per person or \$22.50 per couple (\$20 US) payable to:
John Harvey, Treasurer
46 Farquharson St.
Dartmouth, NS B2W 4A8

The newsletter is published monthly (except summer). The Newsletter mailing address is:
Dennis Bedley
385 Poplar Drive.
Dartmouth NS, B2W 4K8
bedleyd@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

The Club website is located at:

<http://www.nsstampclub.ca/>

and is maintained by club members Neil and Judy Bowlby. (bowlby@accesswave.ca)

USPS contd.

April

First Powered Flight. Single 37¢ self-adhesive commemorative stamp, pane of 10.
Louisiana Purchase. Single 37¢ self-adhesive commemorative stamp, pane of 20.

May

Mary Cassatt. Four 37¢ self-adhesive commemorative stamps, booklet of 20.

June

Southeast Lighthouses. Five 37¢ self-adhesive commemorative stamps featuring: Cape Henry Lighthouse, Virginia; Cape Lookout, North Carolina; Morris Island, SC; Tippy Island, Georgia; and Pillsboro Inlet, Florida, pane of 20.

July

Old Glory. Five 37¢ self-adhesive commemorative stamps, prestige bkl of 20.
Arctic Tundra. Ten 37¢ self-adhesive stamps, 5th in the Nature of America series, pane of 10 and press sheet of 60.
Korean War Veterans Memorial. Single 37¢ self-adhesive commemorative stamp, pane of 20.

August

Audrey Hepburn. Single 37¢ self-adhesive commemorative stamp, 9th in the Legends of Hollywood series, pane of 20.

September

Roy Acuff. Single 37¢ self-adhesive commemorative stamp, pane of 20.
Early Football Heroes. Four 37¢ self-adhesive commemorative stamps featuring: Walter Camp, Red Grange, Bronko Nagurski, and Ernie Nevers, pane of 20.

October

Reptiles and Amphibians. Five 37¢ self-adhesive commemorative stamps featuring: The Scarlet Kingsnake, the Ornate Chorus Frog, the Blue-Spotted Salamander, the Ornate Box Turtle, and Reticulate Collared Lizard, pane of 20.
Holiday Music Makers. Four 37¢ self-adhesive commemorative stamp, pane of 20, book of 20, and vending book of 20.

To be Dated

Purple Heart. Single 37¢ self-adhesive definitive stamp, pane of 20.

American Design series, various formats. Single 10¢ definitive stamp,

**USA Kennedy Memorial Stamp -
May 29, 1964**

by Charles H. Morsehead
Member,
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

The following article was clipped from an unknown publication with the headline title **STAMPS** and dated to 1964. Just a small piece of postal history. -ed.

The John Fitzgerald Kennedy memorial postage stamp was created by one of the nation's top design firms, Postmaster General John A. Gronouski announced, a short time ago, as photographs of the stamp design were first made public.

The 5-cent stamp will be issued on May 29, the 47th birthday anniversary of the late President. First day ceremonies for the stamp will be in Boston. It is a blue-gray stamp in horizontal format, with an initial print order of 250 million, double the customary production of commemorative stamps.



Mr. Gronouski described the Kennedy stamp as "the most carefully planned stamp in postal history." He said that a seven-man team in New York City design firm of Raymond Loewy-William Snaith had worked exclusively on the project from January 16 to March 17, when the design was approved.

The stamp combines an informal portrait of Mr. Kennedy and a reproduction of the eternal flame on the Kennedy grave. Circling the stamp is a quotation from the inaugural address of 1961 "...and the glow from the fire can truly light the world."

This is the design the Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy and members of the Kennedy family chose from a portfolio of 16 proposals submitted by the Loewy-William organization.

Jersey Postage
Due 1p



Shows and Fairs This Fall

Saturday **October 5, Truro Philatelic Society Annual Show**, Howard Johnson Motor Inn (Keddy's), Prince Street, Truro

Saturday **October 12, Stamp Fair** Burnside Hotel, Windmill Rd., 10 am 3 pm

Saturday **October 19, Brunpex 2002**, Fundy Stamp Collectors Club, Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel (formerly Keddy's Brunswick Hotel), 1005 Main Street, Moncton, 10 am 4 pm

Saturday **October 26, South Shore Stamp Club Annual Show**, Wandlyn Inn, 50 North Street, Bridgewater, 10 am 3 pm. Workshop on "How to Appraise the Value of a Collection".



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Penang

1856 (Sept 24) Entire letter to Marseilles, bearing 1854 4a. blue and red 4th. printing with good to large margins, centrally cancelled "B/147" and showing red Marseilles entry c.d.s. and handstruck "10" alongside with "PENANG/P.O." c.d.s in red. Extremely rare only two other covers recorded bearing 4a. (both cut-to-shape) cancelled "B/147". R.P.S. Certificate (1970).

Estimate US\$8,000 - \$12,000

From a recent Spink Auction Catalogue. Just in case you have one in your collection. -Dennis



World Teacher's Day

USED NEWS

This page contains news items from previous newsletters that still contain current information. We will run these items in successive newsletters as reminders of coming events and opportunities as space is available.

NOVAPEX 2003 : 3-4 May

Please make a note of this important date. It is not too early to start thinking about Novapex 2003. Doug Gray, 465-3268, DJGPS89@accesswave.ca, has agreed to act as the Chair. Novapex is the highlight of the year for the Stamp Club. It is an activity that depends on the involvement of all the members of the club. A small group has already started planning, so that it can be improved. Do you have any ideas? If so please contact Doug.

One of the features of Novapex is the exhibition. Have you considered what you might exhibit next year? It is certainly not too early to think of a topic. With the busy Fall activities coming up, there will be plenty of opportunities to check out the various dealers' stocks to try and find any elusive items. If you have never exhibited before why not try to prepare a one frame non-competitive exhibit. You will not be limited by any of the constraints applying to the competitive exhibits. The judges will be more than willing to give constructive comments to how any exhibit can be improved. Please remember that an exhibit must have received at least a silver at the regional level, Novapex, before it can be submitted at the national level, Royal 2004.

Club Approaches 1000

The Nova Scotia Stamp Club is rapidly approaching membership number 1000. To speed us there, and to mark the occasion, The Club Executive has decided to offer a bit of an incentive. Member number 1000 will receive a gift suitable for the occasion and the person who recruits the 1000th member will receive a sheet of Canada Post's Picture Postage Stamps with his or her picture on the stamp. Think of it - your own postage stamp, just for recruiting member 1000. So start recruiting today. Application forms are available at club meetings, and in the NSSC brochures prepared by the Bowlbys.

Nova Scotia Stamp Club Program for 2002-2003

This year, every meeting will feature an "Open Frame", pages of material posted by members for display and discussion. We hope that members will take advantage of this opportunity to share interesting philatelic material with others.

Club dues were due at the September meeting. Bring your \$15 for John Harvey.

October 14. "My Ugliest Stamp" Show and Tell Contest- Prize awarded to item that garners the most member votes. Back to Basics session-Measuring Perfs and Stamps. Circuit books.

November 12. Bill Burden on Small Queens. Auction, 5 item limit.

December 9. Christmas Social. Michael Peach on Christmas on Stamps. No limit Charity Auction.

January 14. Panel, How to Improve Your Collection. Back to Basics session: soaking and self-adhesive stamps. Circuit books.

February 11. Royal Slide show. Some humour on Valentine Day. "Break the Winter Blues Anything Goes Auction".

March 11. Off site meeting, probably Almon Street PO tour. Details tba.

April 15. Guest Speaker, to be announced. Circuit books.

May 2-4. Novapex 2003, Dartmouth Sportsplex.

May 13. 20th Century Nova Scotia Postal History, presented by Elizabeth Soderer and Hugh Rathbun. Auction, limit 5 items.

June 10. Philatelic Flea Market. Stamp Quiz.

Newsletter Articles

Full of good ideas for a newsletter article. Please submit articles or information to Dennis Bedley by mail, email or in person at the monthly meetings.

Royal*2003*Royale

Royal*2003*Royale, the 75th Exhibition of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, will be held in the arena building of **The Hanover Regional Aquatic Centre and Coliseum**, from May 20 to June 1, 2003.

All Registrations for Royal*2003*Royale will be through **Hanover Holiday Tours Limited** (1-800-265-5530).

The sponsoring club, Saugeen Stamp Club, has a website with information for exhibitors, accommodations, directions, etc. at: [/log.on.ca/saugeenstampclub](http://log.on.ca/saugeenstampclub).

Fund Raising for ROYAL*2004* ROYALE

The Christmas Social will feature a draw for the book **"The Edward VII Issue of Canada: a detailed study"** by **George C. Marler**, donated by Canada Post. Tickets are available at all the club meetings - price \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Doug Gray will also have tickets available at Stamp Fairs and various Fall shows.

Now Available

The Nova Scotia Stamp Club - Royal 2004 Royale Pins. The pins feature the design from a Nova Scotia stamp, Scott 2, with a deep blue background and Royal/Royale replacing Three Pence along the sides and 2004 in the corners. They can be purchased at Club Meetings or Seaside Book and Stamp for C\$8. Mail in orders are available C\$10 postpaid in Canada or US\$10 foreign postpaid (payment in cash or cheque) from:

NSSC Pin
33 Beech Street
Dartmouth, NS
B3A 1Y6

If these are all sold, we are planning to produce pins with a deep red or green background.





Stamps Depicts History (Associated Press)

Photography is history in the making. A tribute to the photographers who provided compelling images featured on a new pane of 20 37-cent U.S. stamps for release June 13. The title of this special pane is masters of American Photography.

The honoured photographers are: Timothy H. O'Sullivan, Carleton E. Watkins, Gertrude Kasebier, Lewis W. Hine, Alvin Langdon Coburn, Alfred Stieglitz, Man Ray, Edward Weston, James VanDerZee, Dorothea Lange, Walker Evans, W. Eugene Smith, Paul Straid, Ansel Adams, Imogen Cunningham, Andre Kertesz, Garry Winograd, Minor White, Sands Southworth and Josiah Johnson Hawes.

Stamp on stamp 2c Victoria on current 48c, released on the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association.

Canadian Stamps To Come

October is Stamp Collecting Month

Oct. 1, Mountains.

Oct. 4, World Teachers' Day.

Oct. 24, Toronto Stock Exchange.
150th Anniversary

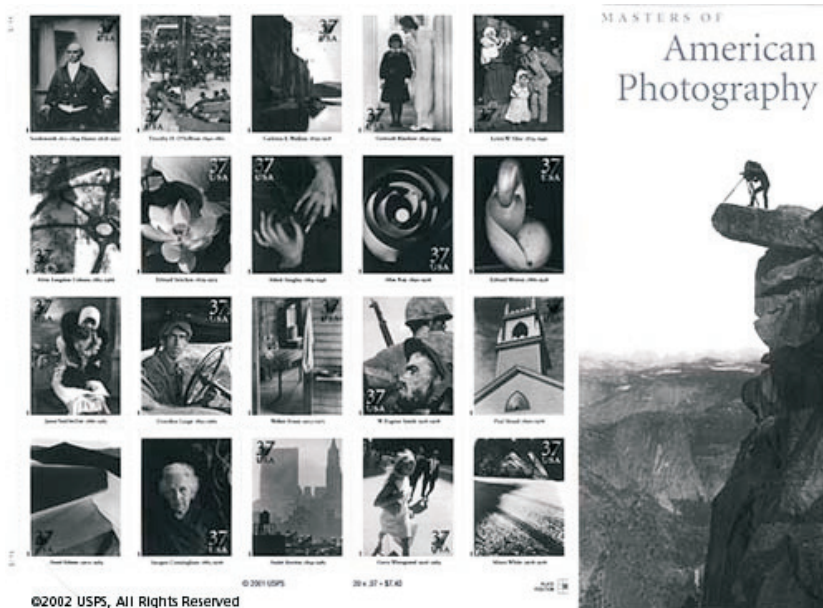
Oct. 31, Communications Technology.
Guglielmo Marconi and 100th anniversary of the Pacific Cable)

Nov. 4, Christmas. Aboriginal Art

Nov. 7, Quebec Symphony Orchestra.
Centennial

More on these and other Canada Post releases can be reviewed in *Canada's Stamp Details* or in the **What's New** section of the Canada Post website:

[//www.canadapost.ca/personnal/collecting](http://www.canadapost.ca/personnal/collecting)





The item shown on this page is Austrian from about 1858 that I recently aquired on ebay. I am interested in what the letter says if anyone would like to take a hand at translation from which I believe is in German. I also have some French letters which will be shown in future issues.

-Dennis.

