



Nova Scotia Stamp Club Newsletter

December 2002
Volume 32, Issue 4
Number 327

A Hundred Years Ago Posted in Advance for Christmas Day Delivery - Great Britain

by Michael Peach

Back in the heyday of the Post Office, services were available on Christmas Day and deliveries were made. Christmas Day cancellations are not too uncommon. When I was a student in England, I worked as a Christmas temporary at the Post Office and delivered mail on Christmas morning. If Christmas greetings were posted on Christmas Eve, it should have been delivered the following morning. In the Early 1900s it was customary to do just that. This created considerable pressure on the postal system. The heavy rush of postings on Christmas Eve could be avoided if it were possible to mail cards and letters prior to Christmas Eve for delivery on Christmas morning. In September 1902 a pilot scheme for early mailing was proposed by the Surveyor for Manchester for implementation in Rochdale during the 1902 Christmas period.

Between December 17 and 23 1902, the people of Rochdale could hand in their Christmas cards and letters at the Post offices in the Town for Christmas Day delivery. This mail was distinguished by using a special hand stamp. Letters with the red King Edward 1d. stamp were cancelled in a black while red ink was used for the green halfpenny stamps on unsealed letters or cards. The letters and cards were placed in special bags or bundles which were sent daily to the Head Office. The mail was sorted in a special room. A special delivery was arranged for Christmas morning, partly by ordinary postmen and partly by temporaries.

The local press was enthusiastic and the scheme was deemed a success. It was reported that 18910 cards and letters were posted, nearly all for town delivery. The pressure on Christmas Eve was relieved and outgoing mail was handled promptly. The following Christmas, the trial was extended to other Post Offices in Lancashire. More information about this will follow in a future article.

Annual Christmas Social at December Meeting.

As in previous years we will be holding our annual charity auction during our December Christmas Social and Meeting. Please bring any item (not just philatelic) for the auction. All proceeds will be donated to our charities of choice - the Salvation Army and the Metro Food Bank. Last year we donated \$340 dollars - half to each charity.

Also, while you are in a giving mood, please bring sandwiches, sweets, or other assorted munchies for the social gathering following the December meeting.

As a special treat, another item donated by Dr. J.J. MacDonald will be auctioned at the December meeting. The items consist of Christmas and other Charity seal dating as far back as 1953.

Donated Materials Needed

Philatelic material is required for the Youth Table for Novapex 2003 and Royal 2004. Please contact Elizabeth Sodero for more information.



Up and Coming

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

December 14 Stamp Fair
Burnside Motel

January 11 Stamp Fair
Burnside Motel

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

February 8 Stamp Fair
Burnside Motel

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

March 11 Off Site Club Meeting
Almon Street Sorting Station.
Details will be announced.

April 15 Club Meeting
Guest Speaker
Circuit books.

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General Balbo's Flying Armada

The Story of a Famous Overprint

by James Gray

Reprinted from *The Canadian Philatelist*,
March - April 2002

If you had been in St. John's, Newfoundland, on July 26, 1933, you might have seen a very long line of customers outside the Main Post Office of that city. What were they after? A very unusual philatelic item? Something that you could count on to increase in interest and value in a very short time? Every stamp collector's dream? Yes, yes, yes. If, when you reached the wicket of that Post Office, you were lucky enough to purchase the seventy-five cent bistre coloured stamp overprinted GENERAL BALBO/ FLIGHT/ \$4.50, then stick it on an envelope addressed to someone in Rome. Italy, or back to yourself in St. John's, and ask the clerk to



cancel the stamp carefully, he would have added it to the growing pile of similar covers on his crowded counter. What happened next? A special postman, selected for the task, was given the responsibility for scooping up the pile, inserting it gently into a large, clean canvas bag, taking it in his van to

Shoal Harbour near Clarenville, and putting it on board one of twenty-three Savoia-Marchetti flying boats docked there under the command of General Italo Balbo, the thirty-seven-year-old Minister of Aviation.

The flying boats were on the return flight to Rome from Chicago, where they had been on show at the great Century of Progress Exhibition. Balbo had anticipated a stop of only two or three days in Newfoundland, planning to leave at first light on July 29, but, at the last moment, a cyclone blew across the expedition's path. To make matters worse, news came that huge fog banks had developed over Ireland, where the expedition was due to arrive en route to Rome. It wasn't until August 8 that he was able to take off, this time heading for the Azores. Nine of his aircraft landed at Horta, and fifteen at Ponta Delgada. Balbo had already lost one of the seaplanes at an earlier stage. Now another one, as it took off from Ponta Delgada, overturned and the pilot was fatally injured. Balbo learned of the fatality only after he arrived in Lisbon, and he at once declared a day of mourning before proceeding on the last leg of the journey from Lisbon to the Lido di Roma, a distance of 220 kilometres, which he accomplished on August 12, 1933. There he was met by a huge crowd and was embraced by none other than Il Duce, Benito Mussolini, who promoted him on the spot to the rank of Air Marshal, and later to the governorship of Libya, then an Italian colony.



If you're wondering what happened to that cover you might have purchased on that day in 1933, you'll be relieved to know that it wasn't on the unfortunate seaplane that was lost. Not only did it survive, but it was handsomely

front stamped GROCERIA AEREA DEL DECENNALE ITALIA-NORD AMERICA and back-stamped SHOAL HARBOUR, TORINO and ROME. If you were especially lucky, you might even have had your cover autographed by one of the pilots. Your investment, remember, was \$4.50, admittedly a large sum in 1933. Remember too that no fewer than 1083 pieces of mail with the St. John's cancellation, and 70 with



the Shoal Harbour strike, had been on board one or more of the aircraft. Your cover would have come back to you with the additional arrival backstamp ST. JOHN'S AUG. 28, 1933. If you survived the following 68 years and checked your Unitrade catalogue you would find your cover priced at \$1100, not a bad return on your original investment. Some of your friends, perhaps a little less venturesome than you, might have simply purchased the stamps themselves, either in singles or blocks of four, and their return would have been approximately half of yours. To be sure, they could possibly have purchased one with an inverted surcharge, now priced at \$25,000, or one of a slightly different colour light orange instead of bistre again catalogued at \$25,000.

As everyone knows, philatelic bonanzas usually have a downside. In this instance, some later buyers of the overprinted issue have been unlucky enough to waste their money on forgeries, which are plentiful but not always easy to spot. For instance, the two obliterating rectangles on the stamp are closer together on some forged specimens, the bar under 1933 is thicker on the left than on the right, the curved part, or ball, of the 5

Continued on Page 3

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)

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Balbo's Armada continued

is much wider open than in the original overprint, and so on. Caveat emptor!

The number of stamps overprinted, by the way, was 8040, of which were 40 were defective and destroyed. I believe that most were sold in so-called "sheets of four", but how many survived in that form no one knows.

One interesting sidelight: Iceland, where Balbo's Armada arrived on June 16, 1933, en route from Rome to Chicago, overprinted three stamps, to mark the occasion, with the inscription HOPFLUG ITALIA 1933. These overprinted were used to pay the charge on postal matter sent from Iceland to the United States on the Italian seaplanes. Listed in Scott as C12, C13, and C14, they are valued from about \$140 and \$1000 unused, and double that on cover, but Scott warns the excellent counterfeits exist.

Why was Balbo's Armada so remarkable? We have to remember that it flew at a time when aviation was still in its infancy. An earlier expedition in 1931, scheduled to fly from Rome (Orbetello seaplane port) to Rio de Janeiro, a distance of 10,400 kilometres, lost five of its fifty men and three of its twelve aircraft on the way. The second expedition, consisting of twenty-five planes and one hundred crewmen, covered the distance of 19,000 kilometres from Orbetello to Chicago and back, but at a loss of the two aircraft and two men. Though the purpose of the expeditions was to show the world, and

particularly to many Italian expatriots in the U.S.A., the aeronautical might of Mussolini's Italy, those losses cast a shadow on Balbo's achievement to some extent. All the same, General Italo Balbo goes down in history as one of the true pioneers of the aviation, taking his place along such celebrities as Lindbergh, Wiley Post, Byrd, Amelia Earhart, Jacqueline Cochran, Amy Johnson-Mollinson, and others.

A dedicated Fascist and, in the eyes of some historians, the man closest to Mussolini himself, had to all appearances a very bright future indeed. That was until World War II when his plane, a trimotor bomber, was shot down in flames by one of his own anti-aircraft batteries, apparently in mistake for a British attacking bomber. Balbo was forty-four years of age.

Author's Note:

One of the best books on the subject of the intrepid General Balbo is Italo Balbo: a Fascist.

Life by Claudio G. Segrè, published by the University of California Press (Berkeley, 1987) to which I am indebted for some of the information on Balbo's career. J.G.

Editor's Note:

The Armada also stopped in Cartwright, Labrador; Shediac, New Brunswick; and Montreal, Quebec on its way to Chicago in July 1933.

Edmonton Spring National Stamp Show 2003

The annual Edmonton Show is a national exhibition to be held next year from March 28 to 30, 2003. Details of the Rules and Regulations for the Entry of Exhibits as well as an Entry Form are available to us. To obtain a copy or for more information, please contact Michael Peach, 832-1662.

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.

Remember: we are only 15 people away from our 1000th member.

EXPO 67 Exhibit to be Auctioned

J.J. MacDonald has graciously donated a framed EXPO 67 exhibit which the club will be auctioning off at the December Christmas Cheer meeting. The Exhibit frame, which measures approximately 24 by 36 inches, contains both envelopes and mint stamps.

Newsletter Articles

Do you have an interesting postal history topic that you would like to share? Please submit newsletter articles or information to Dennis Bedley by mail, email or in person at the monthly meetings.



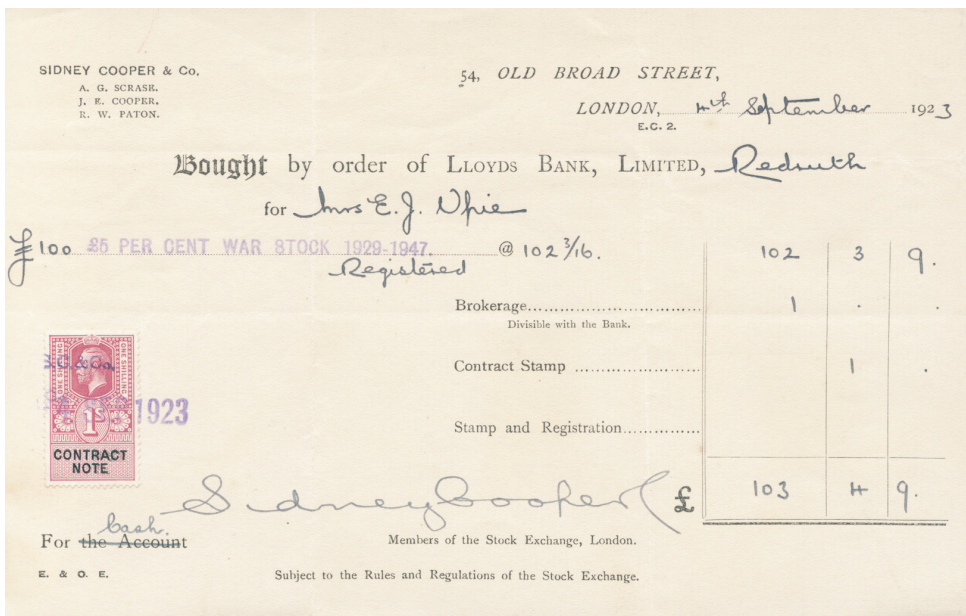


1934 Airmail with 1 and 2 Mark stamps of the Zeppelin and a 25pf definitive. The cachet has 2 "Braunschweig - 2" postmarks and a red "Deutsche Luftpost - Europa - Sudamerika" mark. An interesting cover from a recent auction offering.

The First Christmas Stamps

Christmas as a theme on stamps have been popular among collectors for a long time. Issuing of Christmas stamps has become a tradition by many countries.

In 1898, Canada became the first country in the world to issue a CHRISTMAS stamp when 'XMAS 1898' was added to a two cent stamp design depicting a map of the world. This stamp is famous among collectors as the 'Map on Stamp'. Some philatelists have opined that Christmas stamps are a fairly new idea. It is because of "XMAS 1898" appearing in the design of the stamp that this design is popularly regarded as the first Christmas stamp. This claim to fame is doubtful because they were issued to commemorate a secular event, the introduction of the Imperial Penny Postage Scheme on Christmas Day, 1898. The Canadian Post Office never thought that they might be used on holiday greetings in such overwhelming fashion. However, when Canada issued its first "real" Christmas stamp in 1964 and it also turned out to be so popular that within six years she was issuing a dozen different Christmas designs. The 1964 Canadian Christmas stamps featured a family and the Star of Bethlehem, and two stamps were issued.



The Lord of the Rings stamp collectable memorabilia

New Zealand Post offers you the FINAL opportunity to purchase 'The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring' stamp collectables, designed in conjunction with Peter Jackson, the film's director.

The phenomenal success of this beautifully presented pictorial collection has resulted in only a limited range of collectables left for purchase. This fantastic stamp issue will be withdrawn

from sale by New Zealand Post on the 3rd December 2002 making this a truly valuable opportunity to purchase your 'film' memorabilia.

If you would like to receive further information about New Zealand stamp and coin collectables - including other 'The Lord of the Rings' product issues click below to subscribe to our email newsletter.
<http://www1.nzstamps.u1.co.nz/UM/T.a.sp?A28.688.66.2.14222>

New Zealand Post Stamps Centre
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New Zealand

www.nzstamps.co.nz

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Fax: (64) 06 345 7120



USED NEWS

This page contains news items from previous newsletters that still contain current or updated 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.

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Fund Raising for ROYAL*2004* ROYALE

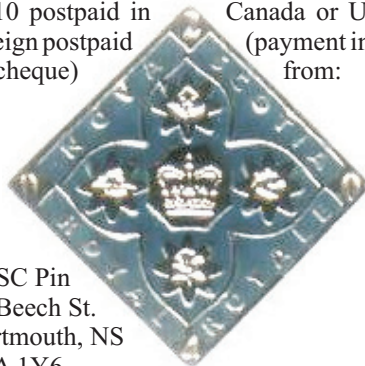
Do you know of anyone who might like to make a donation towards Royal 2004? If so, please contact Michael Peach, 832-1662. We are also looking for advertisers for the programme. The price of advertisements will be very reasonable, from about \$25 for a quarter page to a about \$100 for a full page. The prestigious spaces inside and outside the cover have already been allocated. If you can think of any names of potential advertisers, please contact Doug Gray 465-3268, DJGPS89@accesswave.ca.

Royal 2004 pins are now available and are already selling well. If you have not purchased yours yet, do not delay - see details below. When the current lot have all been sold, we are planning to produce pins with a deep red or green background, as per Scott

If you are interested in Canadian stamps then you cannot afford to miss the opportunity to buy draw tickets for the excellent book "**The Edward VII Issue of Canada: a detailed study**" by George C. Marler, which has been donated by Canada Post. Tickets are available at all the November and December club meetings - price \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The name of the lucky winner will be drawn and announced at the Christmas Social on Tuesday, December 10.

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 St.
Dartmouth, NS
B3A 1Y6

Nova Scotia Stamp Club Program for 2002-2003

Don't forget to bring Open Frame pages to the monthly meeting. The Open Frame will host pages of material posted by members for display and discussion. We hope that all members will take advantage of this venue to display some of their collection.

Don't forget about those club dues. Please contact John Harvey if you are in arrears. It was noted at the last meeting that only about sixty percent of the membership has paid for this year. **Pay now!!! This means you!!!**

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, Tour of the Almon Street Sorting Station. Details will be announced when available.

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.

Royal*2003*Royale

Royal*2003*Royale, the 75th Exhibition of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, sponsored by the Saugeen Stamp Club (log.on.ca/saugeenstampclub), will be held in the arena building of **The Hanover Regional Aquatic Centre and Coliseum**, from May 20 to June 1, 2003. Registrations for Royal*2003*Royale will be through **Hanover Holiday Tours Limited** (1-800-265-5530).

Stamp Collecting and the Internet

by Jeff Parks

Robin Harris, a computer consultant and software customization specialist, from Winnipeg, is the webmaster for the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, www.rpsc.org, and, until recently, was responsible for the design and maintenance of the website for the Saskatoon Stamp Centre, www.saskatoonstamp.com, which still has the look, feel and on-line shopping cart as he designed them.

Robin has a website of his own, www.adminware.ca, which contains a plethora of "information for the discerning collector", as his banner denotes, and he is the author of seven different books on the Canadian definitives issued since 1952. Canada has been very prolific in releasing definitive stamps over the past 50 years but very little has been written about them (except for the *Centennials*). The web pages provide details of each volume, price and ordering information. A table of contents, features of the volume and updates since publication contained within the printed pages is just enough to whet the philatelic appetite of any budding Canadian definitive collector. The **Canadian Specialized Definitive Books** are available locally at Seaside Book & Stamp.



The bulk of Adminware's philatelic pages are devoted to the Canadian Elizabethan definitives (1952 - present), British Machins, and US Plate Number Coils and 32c Flag over Porch. The web site offers several hundred pages of information.

The Canada definitive specialized checklists are extracted from the series of specialized Canadian definitive books. The checklists, which are constantly being revised, are mostly complete, but the site states that pictures and additional links, as well as checklists of all known perfins, booklets, tag errors, and other subject matter will be added. Web links to the BRC Canadian Definitive Stamps,

Canada Specialized Books & Album Pages

[updated Mar 26, 2002]

I have prepared *seven* different **books and album pages** on the Canadian definitives issued since 1952.

Released starting in April 1997 they have won VERMEIL awards at ORAPEX 1997, APS Stampshow 97, and APS Stampshow 01.

Canada definitive specialized checklists

Checklists of Canadian stamps for the discriminating collector
[updated Oct 14/02].

Lists...
Cameo (1962-66)

Elizabethan **postal rates**
[updated Jan 5/02]

Study Tips

Canadian Elizabethan
Specialized **Study Tips**
[updated Nov 14, 2000].

Elizabethan II Study Group

A specialized Study Group of the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) exists for the Elizabethan II era.

<http://members.shaw.ca/candef>, are given where applicable. Robin feels that the BRC site complements his format. The BRC site also includes a cross-reference between the Scott and Darnell catalogues numbers.

In conjunction with the checklists and booklets, the Adminware site offers several study notes and tips on all on variety of the definitives.

As with the theme of the rest of the web site the notes and tips are related to Elizabethan era (1952-present) definitives. A discussion on modern stamp paper considers paper texture (ribbed), surface (coated), and supplier. Other study notes are provided on fluorescence, Canadian phosphor tagging and a discussion of postal rates since 1952.

Canada Post

Annual stamp programs by Canada Post:

- **2002** [updated Oct 4, 2002]
- **2001** [updated Jan 13, 2002]

Selected Canada Post links new

Recent Finds

Tips on "rare", recent Canadian issues
[updated Jan 5/02].

Machins

[updated Aug 15, 2002]

I have always had an interest in the on-going **Great Britain Machin** series of stamps. Click here to enter the Machin portion of this site (over 200 web pages listing over 1,400 varieties).

United States

[FOP updated Apr 12, 2002]
[PNC updated Aug 26, 2002]



My first stamp collection, started in 1966ish, was United States. Here you will find sorting tips for the **32c Flag Over Porch** and an extensive site on the **Plate Number Coils**.

The study tips section has a series of tomes on a variety of the modern definitives. Space does not allow me to discuss each tip, but suffice it be to list the categories and please find the time to peruse the site at your leisure.

- \$1 and \$2 Architecture (perfs)
- Queen Elizabeth II, 1987-present
- 8c Centennial, Extra Spire
- 50c Prairie Town Street Scene
- Hook-tag flaw, 1981/82
- 1998 Stylized Maple Leaf self-adhesive
- 1994 \$1 and \$2 Architecture "glow varieties"
- 1999 Orchids of Canada
- Scott number changes to recent Canadian definitives
- Non-denominated Canadian stamps and stationery
- Recent "rare" Canadian issues.

The Machin portion of this site contains over 200 web pages listing over 1,400 varieties. The information contained in this site can be used to study and sort **used** specimens. The pages found on this site reflect Robin's personal studies of this fascinating series of stamps and are not meant to be a complete listing of every Machin variety ever produced. This section of the site was awarded a web Stamp Site of the Week Designation -

www.lawas.co.nz/stampofweek.

Varieties included in the lists range from value, perf and colour changes to phosphor bands, paper and printing methods, to name a few. However, the site does caution that discussions do not include such things as the two types of elliptical perfs, se-tenant combinations, booklet panes, colour shifts and imperforate errors.

The last major section of Adminware's philatelic site covers a discussion of the US plate number coils and the 32c Flag over porch. What began in 1995 as the release of a new "Flag over ..." design in coil and booklet formats has turned into one of the USA's most complicated modern-era single-design collecting field.

The website provides a good easy to use discussion of the subjects and is an often used reference for my collection. If you have internet access and have these collecting interests, I would encourage you to review this excellent website.

462

TELEPHONE N° 35.
TELEGRAMS:-
HODGE, OAKLEIGH, REDRUTH.

OAKLEIGH
JOINERY WORKS, REDRUTH,
CLINTON ROAD.

July 31st 1917

Messrs The Executors of the late M^{rs} Eliza Opie.

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1917

July 5th To unpolished panelled Canadian Elm Coffin

- with raised and moulded lid, selected silver plated

- mounts, engraved plate, embossed swansdown

- linings, side sheets, fulling & shroud for the late

M^{rs} Eliza Opie.

8 18 0

- Burial Fee (Redruth Cemetery)

13 0

- Brick Grave with thick slate Cover

2 15 0

- 6 Bearers and gloves

1 10 0

- Hearse and pair

17 6

- 4 Carriages and pairs

3 0 0

- Special Fee to Minister (Rev C. Stuckbery)

5 0

- Wesley Chapel Keepers Fee

2 6

- removing headstone and Curb

18 6

- Obit notice (Cornubian)

1 7

- re-instating Curb & headstone, including lettering

- additional inscription, concreting top, and cleaning

3 7 6
22 8 7

With Thanks.



1917
Paul

Here is an interesting item
for this person's last
arrangements. A far cry
from the cost today!!



Since Christmas is just around the corner, we thought that we would close this issue with a card and cover. This particular item is from Dennis's collection. I wonder how many of you looked at the cover and cancels before reading the sentiment on the card? No harm in that I guess given our passion for the subject.

Just in case you can't make out the cancel - note that the cover is cancelled in Miami FLA. Station A on Dec 25. 3:30PM 1922. The backstamp indicates that it was received at the local post in Scotsburn, Nova Scotia on the morning of Dec 28 1922.

We just don't see service like that anymore. This is a nice North American parallel to Michael Peach's article ...*Posted in Advance for Christmas Day Delivery* on Page 1.



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