



Nova Scotia Stamp Club Newsletter

September 2004
Volume 34, Issue 1
Number 344

UP AND COMING

Every Saturday 4pm Auction
Seaside Book and Stamp

September 11 Stamp Fair
Burnside Motel, Dartmouth

September 14 Club Meeting
Annual Meeting - Summer Finds

October 2 Truro Philatelic
Society Annual Show and Bourse
Howard Johnson Hotel, Truro

October 9 Stamp Fair
Burnside Motel, Dartmouth

October 12 Club Meeting
TBA

October 16 BRUNPEX 2004
Howard Johnson Hotel, Moncton

October 23 South Shore Stamp
Club Annual Show
Wandlyn Inn, Bridgewater

Isambard Kingdom Brunel, 1806-1859 **- Eminent Victorian Engineer**

by Michael Peach

A recent issue of British stamps showed the *S.S. Great Western*. This was one of the ships designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel (1806-1859), one of the pre-eminent British engineers during the Victorian era, probably the most eminent. In the 2002 poll conducted by the B.B.C. in Britain, he was second in the rankings, the first being Sir Winston Churchill. He was associated with bridge building, the first Thames tunnel, field hospitals, railways, and ships and dockyards. He left landmarks on England that are still visible and operational, such as the Clifton Suspension Bridge, the Maidenhead Bridge, the Royal Albert Bridge at Saltash, and the Box Tunnel. The last three were associated with his great railway enterprise, the Great Western Railway.

There is a collage showing some of Brunel's works in the Transportation set of the British Millennium Series, issued in February 1999. The 43p value "Linking the Nation", Sc 1845, shows



The Royal Albert Bridge, Saltash, in the upper left, the broad gauge railway at Paddington station in the centre, and the *Great Britain* in the upper right. I have been unable to find any other stamps showing Brunel's railways and bridges. There are various stamps showing some of the Great

Western Railway, including the locomotives, but none with the broad gauge locomotives.

His great ships, the *P.S. Great Western*, the *S.S. Great Britain*, and the *P. & S.S. Great Eastern*, are all shown on stamps. All the ships were "firsts", ahead of any other ship at the time. The first illustration shows Brunel smoking a cigar, before the first attempted launch of the *Great Eastern* in 1857, typically wearing a large stove pipe hat. He was only 5 feet tall.



Brunel's interest in ships began about 1835. He began construction of the *Great Western* in Bristol in 1836. Launched in 1837, she was powered by sail and paddle wheels and was by far the largest steamship in the world. The *Great*



SEASIDE BOOK & STAMP

*For All Your Stamp
and Supply Needs*
10% Discount to Subscribers
on All Album Supplements

23 Alderney Drive
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Phone: (902) 423-8254
1-800-37STAMP
Fax: (902) 461-0744

e-mail: seaside@seasidebs.com
Web: <http://www.seasidebs.com>

Brunel... Continued

Western was the first steamship to engage in transatlantic service, the first trip to New York taking 15 days and 14 days return

Construction on the second ship, the *S.S. Great Britain*, began in 1839.



She was first floated in 1843. Twice the tonnage of any previous ship, she was the first iron-hulled propeller driven ship to cross the Atlantic. All went well for two years until she ran aground near the Isle of Man. Her owners, the Great Western Steamship

Nova Scotia Stamp Club Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

<http://www.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) which is released on the first week of the month.

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 mailing address is:

Dennis Bedley, Editor
385 Poplar Drive
Dartmouth NS, B2W 4K8
bedleyd@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

or Jeff Parks, Layout Editor
jlparks@accesswave.ca

Advertising Rate: \$25 (CDN) per year

The Club website is maintained by Neil and Judy Bowlby. (bowlby@accesswave.ca).

Company, went bankrupt, but the *Great Britain* was repaired, sold, and used for many years, carrying at least 15,000 emigrants to Australia. After a varied career she ended up in the Falkland Islands, serving as a store ship in Port Stanley for fifty years. In 1937 she was left to disintegrate in Sparrow Cove. But this was not the end of the *Great Britain*. In 1970 she was towed back to Bristol where she passed under one of Brunel's masterpieces, the Clifton Suspension Bridge. She is now being fully restored at the Great Western Dock in Bristol and is used as a ship museum. Incidentally, the replica of Cabot's *Matthew*, which sailed into Halifax in 1997, is docked in the same museum area.

The last great ship, The *Great Eastern*, was enormous by the standards of the day. Five times bigger than any sea going craft built up to that time, she was also the first iron double-hulled ship. She was the largest ship in the world until the *RMS Lusitania* was launched in 1906. Construction



was started in 1854. After a series of mishaps she was launched in 1858. She was designed to carry 4000 passengers and intended for the emigration market to America and Australia. Due to its enormous size and capacity, she eventually found a role as an oceanic telegraph layer, carrying the 5,000 tonnes of galvanised cable which was payed out into the ocean from Valentia Island, Ireland, to Newfoundland. When, in July 1866 The *Great Eastern* steamed into Heart's Content, Trinity Bay, Newfoundland, a hundred years of transatlantic communication by cable had begun.

HELP: I have been able to locate one further stamp featuring Brunel's works, Antigua and Barbuda, Sc. 2110, part of a Railway Souvenir sheet, with the Stephenson locomotive Patente. I have not been able to obtain a copy. The Brunel stamp shows Brunel's trestles over the Lynher River (in south Cornwall). Brunel had perfected the use of timber for bridges and viaducts. Does anyone know of any further stamps showing Brunel's railways and bridges?

NICKERSON STAMPS

*Worldwide Stamps
Bought and Sold.*

*Service is our Specialty.
Albums, Supplements and
Supplies also Available.*

9 Old French Road
Kingston, Nova Scotia
Phone: (902) 765-4685
e-mail: aikico@ns.sympatico.ca

The Quizzlers

A new feature in the newsletter. Test your knowledge. If you would like to contribute, please send questions and answers to the editors.

1. What two countries in the British Commonwealth in addition to Canada had stamp series referred as the "Admirals"?
2. What is a vignette?
3. Which American President was an influential stamp collector?
4. What do the initials S.O.N. in an auction catalogue mean?
5. What is a cartouche on a stamp? Not all stamps have cartouches.

Answers on Page 4

Stamp Oddities

Guillaume Apollinaire (1880-1918), an innovator of French poetry, editor, and art critic, was a major player in the avant-garde movement associated with French literature at the beginning of the 20th century. Besides poetry, Apollinaire published semi-pornographical books; he was an innovator in the theatre of the absurd, and made known Cubism as a school of painting.

In August 1911, Apollinaire was jailed for six days, suspected of masterminding the theft of the Mona Lisa



(shown here on Germany Sc. 687 issued in 1952) from the Louvre. He had been most vocal in his censure of the lax security at the Louvre. The circumstantial evidence which pointed to Apollinaire also pointed to his friend Picasso, who had purchased some artifacts that had been stolen from the Louvre by Géry Piéret, a starving artist and former employee of Apollinaire's, who liked spending time in the Louvre to view the artwork.

The real thief, Vincenzo Perugia - an Italian living in Paris, was caught when he tried to sell the painting to a Florentine art dealer in December 1911. His motive for the theft was to repatriate "La Gioconda" to its rightful country of origin.

In 1961, France made amends by honouring Apollinaire on the semi-postal stamp depicted above, part of a five stamp set (France Sc. B355).



His motive for the theft was to repatriate "La Gioconda" to its rightful country of origin.

In 1961, France made amends by honouring Apollinaire on the semi-postal stamp depicted above, part of a five stamp set (France Sc. B355).

1949 KGV Issue Recall

Have you ever wondered why the King George VI issue without Postage/Postes was released **after** the issue which included these words? Normally you would expect to see the non bilingual issue issued first, then someone would notice that the stamps were unilingual and another printing, with the bilingual wording, would be made.

The story goes that the unilingual set (Scott 289 - 293) was actually printed first and was ready to go on sale but, two days before the release date, all postmasters were told to return, unopened, all the stamps of that issue. The reason - an election was being held. To satisfy the demands of the French speaking people and to secure their votes, the Liberal Government recalled the issue in order to include into the design Postage - Postes. A bilingual stamp. These bilingual stamps (Scott 284 to 288) were released 15 November 1949. In January 1950, shortly after the election, the unadorned stamps were released.

Source: *Creative Retirement Stamp Club Newsletter*; compiled by George Apps, Spring 1995



Fore!!

Canada Post commemorated the centennial of the Canadian Open with two golf ball sized, domestic rate commemorative stamps - dimples included - released in August 2004. First played in Montreal in 1904, the year's 100th Open is being hosted by the Glen Abbey Golf Club in Oakville, Ontario, in September 2004. The stamps were release in a self-adhesive booklet of 8 (4 of each design).



We are looking for unusual mailboxes to post in the newsletter. If you see one in your travels please take a picture and submit it with accompanying information to the editors. Don't forget the Stamp Club when mailing out postcards from your travels as well.

Douglas J. Gray Philatelic Services

CSDA - RSPC - BNAPS - APS

*Choice Canadian and
British Commonwealth
for the Serious Collector.*

Large Collections bought and sold.
Estates appraised and liquidated.
Complete line of supplies
at discount prices.

PO Box 24105 Micmac Blvd.

Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Phone: (902) 465-3268

e-mail: DJGPS89@accesswave.ca



This registered cover was mailed from Halifax, N.S. to St. Louis, Missouri on May 27th, 1944 (CDS) and passed by the postal censor in Halifax the same day. Back Stamps show the trail of travel - Montreal & Toronto R.P.O. May 28th, ; Chicago, IL May 30th purple Registry Division handstamp; and lastly, the Saint Louis,

MO May 30th received handstamp and Registered handstamp of May 31st, 1944.

2004 - 2005 Club Program

This season's program is still pending confirmation and will be printed in October's newsletter. If you have any thoughts on program items, pass them on to the Executive.

Worldwide Cover Box

Thanks to member's generosity, our "Worldwide Covers" box is full again and surely a bargain at 50 cents each, or 5 for \$2. This is worth checking out!

NEW!!!- a second box of covers, exclusively from Canada and the USA. Three for a buck, a lone loonie- what a deal!! Stock up while they last! All proceeds from cover sales go directly to the club.

MOODY BLUE STAMP COMPANY

*British Commonwealth
Canada
Newfoundland
Worldwide Topicals*

77 Stewart Harris Drive
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Phone: (902) 434-8439
e-mail: sales@moodybluestamps.ca

Quizzler Answers

1. New Zealand and Rhodesia.
2. It is the centre design of a stamp that is surrounded by a frame, usually of a different colour. The vignette is usually a portrait or important place or event, and stamps with this layout can produce "Inverts" when the vignette is upside-down.
3. Franklin Delano Roosevelt.
4. Socked On the Nose, a stamp with a nicely centered cancellation.
5. It is usually a small area of a stamp left blank for the later insertion of a country name or denomination. In this way the design could serve several countries. It was a common feature of the British Commonwealth omnibus issues, and also other European colonial issues.

We're on the web
www.nsstampclub.ca

Newsletter Available Electronically

The club newsletter is now available on our website in an electronic format (Adobe Acrobat - PDF). The web version has a reduced resolution from the original and usually has a size of approx 300 Kb.

Be A Contributor

The editors welcome your input. One typed page will fill several columns - but add images and descriptive text and the length can be shorter. If you have a longer article we can serialize it over several months. Let others see what's in your collection, share your research and knowledge. Our newsletter is a good proving ground for the national journals. Contact Dennis or Jeff for more details.