



Nova Scotia Stamp Club Newsletter

October 2004
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Number 345

UP AND COMING

Every Saturday 4pm Auction
Seaside Book and Stamp

October 9 Stamp Fair
Burnside Motel, Dartmouth

October 12 Club Meeting
Royal Slide Show, Auction

October 16 BRUNPEX 2004
Howard Johnson Hotel, Moncton

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

November 9 Club Meeting
"Royal Death & Mourning"

November 13 Stamp Fair
Burnside Motel, Dartmouth

December 11 Stamp Fair
Burnside Motel, Dartmouth

December 14 Club Meeting
"Royal 2004 Slide Show"

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Trial Cancellations - Post Cards (Great Britain)

by Michael Peach

In response to demands for cheaper postage, on 1 October 1870 the Post Office introduced postcards. The first use of such cards had occurred in Austria exactly one year earlier. The British postal stationery cards had a lilac border and a ½d. letter press printed stamp. The use of adhesive stamps only on postcards was prohibited until 31 August 1894. There was an enormous demand, on the first day 500,000 cards went through the London G.P.O. and in the first year 76 million were used in the country. The strain on the Post Office facilities was compounded by a large volume of circulars due to the introduction of the half

penny rate for printed papers, etc. on the same day. Instructions were given to the Postmasters to give priority to cancelling letters. Maybe this was the first step towards a two tier system.

The cards had to be cancelled by a single date stamp on the front. It was not possible for the delivery office to date stamp them on the back, as was the custom with letters. Although the Post Office had undertaken trials of some machine

cancellations, hand stamping at a rate of about 200 letters per minute was the normal method of cancellation. The Post Office consulted Joseph Sloper, whose machines were being used to perforate Money Orders. The 10 October 1870 Post Office Circular stated that trials were started in several cities using a punch. These are sometimes referred to as "Sloper Experimental Cancels". The punches had inch



long pins and were able to service 96 cards at one time. In Manchester a hole was clipped in the side of the card; Birmingham, Bradford, Edinburgh and Liverpool punched a single hole through the stamp; Liverpool and London used a group of holes forming an arrow; London also perforated the card with holes arranged in the shape of an orb. The punches were not dated, another sign of a second class service. The dates can be found with the mes-

Continued on Page 2

Trial Cancel... Continued

sage, or sometimes there is a receiving office stamp on the front. Although punching speeded up the



cancellation of the postcards it sometimes removed part of the communication on the back, leading to a number of complaints. The use of punching gradually declined and ceased altogether in 1876.

Three punched cards are shown. The early postcards had "To" on

the address side. Starting on 1 January 1875 cards were printed without "To". The one to Mere has a

London arrow punch cancellation and is from Robt. Kerr, Chancery Lane, W.C., London and is dated 24 June 1871. The message on the card to Paisley is dated Nov. 25/74 and concerns an order for mufflers (a scarf worn for warmth).

There is no address for the sender, but the spear side clip was used in

Manchester between 3 December 1870 and 25 November 1874. The third card, dated 5/4/1876 and addressed to The Royal Bank of Scotland, Perth, has a single hole punch and no "To". Although

the card is from the Royal bank of Scotland, Bishop Street Within, London, the single hole punch was not used in London, and is probably from Edinburgh. This is a very late use of the single hole punch.

The first regular use of undated cancellations started in May 1893 with the triangular cancellations, identified solely by the office telegraph code. In May 1892 The Post Office had permitted printed circulars, including typewritten ones, to be mailed at the 1/2d. rate. As there was no guaranteed delivery date, the triangular cancellations were not dated.

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<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 Farquahrsen St.
Dartmouth, NS B2W 4A8

The Newsletter mailing address is:

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Advertising Rate for the newsletter
or web site: \$25 (CDN) per year

Thanks Dennis

The NSSC Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to thank **Dennis Bedley** for his seven years of service to the Nova Scotia Stamp Club as Newsletter Editor. Dennis recently resigned due to a change in family commitments. Jeff Parks, who has done the newsletter layout for the last two years, takes over as Editor with this issue.

We're on the web
www.nsstampclub.ca

Check out our newly revised site

Stamp Oddities

Telegraph stamps have been given a bad rap by many collectors but in actuality they are more akin to their postage stamp cousins than the more desired collectable revenue stamps. Telegraph stamps indicate a fee paid for the delivery of a telegraphic message.

Originally, telegraphs were privately owned, but more governments became involved with the administration of this revolutionary communication service, usually in conjunction with the postal service. Canada and the US governments did not have public telegraph systems so any telegraph stamps issued are considered as local or private stamps.

British military telegraph stamps were used in Britain, Egypt, Gold Coast, South Africa, Orange River Colony, Sudan and Bechuanaland. In 1898 British Army Forces in Sudan issued an unusual series of military telegraph stamps. Each stamp was perforated down the centre so that they could be torn in half when placed on the telegraph forms. The intent of this perforation, when used, was to have half of the stamp to remain with the message and half with the receipt when they were separated.



The 5 millimes brown and violet military telegraph stamp depicting the camel train along side a telegraph line is shown above.

Automobile Name Cancels

by George MacKenzie

I am working on a project to obtain cancelled covers of US place names pertaining to automobiles. One such place - Chevrolet, Kentucky, 40831 - was listed in the US Zip Code book of 2003. Below is a letter that was handwritten by the Postmaster of Hanlan, Kentucky, ZIP Code 40831, and returned with my uncanceled cover. I find this a sample of Philatelic trivia that may be of interest to other members, especially since Chevrolet is closed and still appears in the ZIP Code book while Hanlan doesn't.

Mr. MacKenzie,

My Name is Scott Estep. I am the Postmaster of Hanlan, KY, 40831. I get many requests for a Chevrolet postmark. Hanlan Co. and its surrounding areas are coal mining towns. When the coal industry was at its peak there were homes spread all throughout the county. If you work at a coal mine, you bought land and built a home on the road to work. Our county is not that big, but at one time we had over 40 post offices, some serving only a few customers. We have a 30 mile stretch of road that has 5 post offices on it. We have one post office that looks like a chicken coop and only has 14 customers, the postmaster is 91. We also have one office inside of a barn (a real barn, full of animals) it serves 27 customers. As the coal business has dropped off, so have the smaller post offices. Chevrolet has been closed for almost 20 years. It was never a town, just an area of houses on the way to work. So I couldn't help.



Scott Estep

The Quizzlers

Test your knowledge. Forward your contributions to the editors.

1. What is a pair of stamps called when one stamp is upside down in relation to the other?
2. During WWII Britain only issued one set of commemorative stamps - commemorating what?
3. What year was the first piece of mail flown across the Atlantic was carried on the NC-4, a Navy aircraft that flew from Halifax to Lisbon, Portugal with stops in Newfoundland and the Azores.
4. What does the German word "Flugpost" mean?
5. What is the Italian word for postmark?

Answers on Page 4

Recent Issues



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Cinderellas were used during the 60's thru to the 80's on the Ford Tri-Motor - "The Tin Goose" airmail service between Rattlesnake Island and Port Clinton, Ohio; just south of Canada's Pelee Island, Lake Erie. A book "The History & Local Post of Rattlesnake Island, Lake Erie" (by John Wells) was published some time ago that has the complete full colour illustrated list of all the stamps issued, plus a selection of errors and varieties. The cover above does not have a Cinderella stamp but does have Local post markings from 1966.

New Member

Allan McKeown of Halifax has recently joined the NSSC. He is a collector of British Commonwealth. Welcome Allan.

Novapex 2006

Attached with this month's newsletter is the Novapex 2006 proposal for your perusal. The emphasis of the proposal is to raise our annual show from a regional to a regional/national exhibition. Our success, financial and otherwise, in putting on Royal*2004*Royale has been the catalyst for this move. The proposal will be discussed at an upcoming club meeting.

October is Stamp Collecting Month

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Happy Halloween



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Newsletter Available Electronically

If you wish to receive the newsletter in an electronic format (Adobe Acrobat - pdf) you can download it from our website www.nsstampclub.ca. The web version has a reduced resolution from the original and usually has a size of approx 300 Kb. Please let us know if you wish to discontinue receiving a copy by mail.

webnews@nsstampclub.ca

Newsletter Articles

We are always looking for articles and interesting tidbits for the newsletter. Many members have provided us with feature articles as well as one column submissions and images of interesting cancels, covers and stamps. One typed page will fill several columns - but add images and descriptive text and the length can be shorter. Let others see what's in your collection, share your research and knowledge. Contact Jeff for more for details - webnews@nsstampclub.ca

Quizzler Answers

1. Tete-beche.
2. 100 years of postage stamps (1840-1940).
3. 1919.
4. Airmail.
5. Bollo.