



# Nova Scotia Stamp Club Newsletter

November 2004  
Volume 34, Issue 3  
Number 346

## UP AND COMING

Every Saturday 4pm Auction  
Seaside Book and Stamp

**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"

## Membership Fees are due.

Please send you payment of  
\$15 for person or \$22.50 per  
couple to John Harvey as soon  
as possible. Details on page 2.

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## In Flanders Fields

by Jeffrey Parks

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we  
lie*

*In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies  
grow*

*In Flanders fields.*



Major John McCrae, a surgeon and teacher, attached to the Canadian 1st Artillery Field Brigade during World War I,

penned "We shall not Sleep" later called "In Flanders Fields" in 1915 during the Second Battle of Ypres in an area known as Flanders in Belgium.

He wrote the poem during a few brief moments rest from his work in the dressing station to vent his anguish over a close friend's death. The previous night, May 2, McCrae said the committal from memory, as best he could, as he buried friend and former student Lt. Alexis Helmer, in a little graveyard on Essex Farm near the station. Helmer had been killed by a

shell burst during one of the hottest fights of the battle. McCrae was no stranger to writing, besides having authored several medical texts and he had also dabbled in poetry.

A young sergeant-major, Cyril Allinson, was delivering the day's mail when he spotted McCrae sitting on the back of an ambulance and scribbling in a notepad. "His face was very tired but calm as we wrote," Allinson later recalled. "He looked around from time to time, his eyes straying to Helmer's grave."



McCrae silently exchanged the mail and handed his pad to the SM. Moved, Allinson read the perfect ly described around him .

The poem was almost not published. McCrae was unhappy with the prose and discarded it, but it was retrieved by his CO, Lt. Colonel Morrison, who had read it and sent it to *Punch* magazine, in England, who published it on December 8, 1915.

Poppies only grow from seed, requiring two years of alternating hot and cold temperatures, and flower when there are no competing plant life in the vicinity. The seeds may lie dormant for years. The whole Western Front had been uprooted from

Continued on Page 2

**Flanders...** Continued

battle, so the blood red poppies, like before unseen, were now blossoming prolifically, especially between the makeshift graves marked by wooden crosses.

On Nov. 9, 1918 - two days before the Armistice was signed ending World War I - Moina Michael, an educator in the USA, was reading the Ladies Home Journal when she saw a poem entitled "We Shall Not Sleep" by Col. McCrae, who had died on January 28, 1918 of pneumonia complicated by meningitis. Deeply moved, Michael penned "We Shall Keep the Faith" as a response to what she had just read.

*Oh! You who sleep in  
"Flanders Fields,"*

*Sleep sweet -- to rise anew!  
We caught the torch you threw  
And, holding high, we keep the Faith  
With all who died.*

*We cherish, too, the poppy red*

*That grows on fields where valor led;  
It seems to signal to the skies  
That blood of heroes never dies,  
But lends a lustre to the red  
Of the flower that blooms above the dead  
In Flanders Fields.*

*And now the Torch and Poppy red  
We wear in honor of our dead.  
Fear not that ye have died for naught;  
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought  
In Flanders Fields.*



She resolved always to wear red silk poppies - poppies of Flanders fields and began a campaign to make the poppy a symbol of tribute and support for veterans and their families. Her persistent efforts led to the emblem's American launch by March 1919. The movement caught on, spreading to over 50 countries. She received many awards and accolades throughout her life, nationally and in her home state of Georgia, for her efforts and for the rest of her life she was known as the "Poppy Lady."

In 1948, four years after her death, the US Post Office issued a commemorative stamp (Sc. 977) in her honour.

Canada honoured McCrae with a stamp (Sc. 487) in 1968 the 50th anniversary of his death.

The Memorial Chamber, located on the third floor of the Peace Tower in the Par-



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liament buildings at Ottawa, was opened in 1928. Upon one wall is inscribed the text of "In Flanders Fields". The stamp (Sc. 241) was released in 1938 as a part of the Pictorial Issue.

Other stamps issued to honour those Canadians who had fallen during World War I are the National War Memorial (Sc 247) issued in 1939. Originally built in 1929, the memorial was subsequently inscribed with the dates of World War II and the Korean War.

The heavily fortified Vimy Ridge, France was taken by four Canadian Divisions in April, 1917. The Memorial at Vimy, depicted in Sc. 486 - 1968, honours the sacrifice of the thousands that died in that battle.



LEST WE FORGET

## 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 Farquahrsen St.  
Dartmouth, NS B2W 4A8

The Newsletter mailing address is:  
Jeff Parks, Editor  
102 Birch Bear Run  
Lewis Lake NS, B3Z 4B8

[webnews@nsstampclub.ca](mailto:webnews@nsstampclub.ca)

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

## Stamp Oddities

The artist who designed the ½d common design stamps from Aitutaki, Niue, Rarotonga and Penrhyn issued in 1920, depicted Captain Cook landing on Niue Island on June 7, 1774 during his second voyage. The artist however made several mistakes.

1. Cook's Ship, HMS Resolution, had three masts instead of two.
2. The design shows Cook landing with a large party where as he only had two men with him on the occasion.
3. The stamp depicts natives in the foreground. When Cook landed he saw none. In fact, it is recorded that he was unable to land for provisions due to the hostile reception of the natives
4. Niue is a coral island and has no mountains as shown in the design.
5. Palm trees were non-existent on Niue Island in 1774. They were later imported from Samoa.

Shown below are the green and black stamps of Aitutaki (Sc. 28) and Niue Island (Sc. 35). A watermarked version of the common design was later released in 1927.



## In Memoriam: Harry Frederick DeYoung 1921-2004

by David Cooper, Sr.

I came to Halifax in December, 1962 and first worked in an old enclosed pier on the waterfront. I met Harry early in my Halifax career. For those not involved in international trade, there is no resemblance to the present waterfront. We had break-bulk ships, the sheds were full of cargo of every shape, size and we had direct service to the West Indies, Europe, and many other areas of the world and required extensive hand and back labour in what could be dangerous conditions.

This is the area that Harry, born in Eastern Passage, worked during his lifetime. Although Harry was not tall in size, he was in stature and well respected in the trade.

Harry worked for Cunard Steamships, Eastern Canada Stevedoring, I.H. Mathers and probably other firms in such positions as ships boarding officer, freight checker, etc. I understand that as a boarding office, he would often trade or sell stamps with the crews of the ships, so stamp collecting has been a major part of Harry's many years.

Harry was a long-time member of the NSSC where we generally sat in the front seats at meetings. He was a stalwart member of the Friends of Philately and after the Friends moved to Bloomfield Centre it was, until very recently, my pleasure to get him to the meetings.

Harry enjoyed stamps of all kinds and would often bid on those that he liked and, although was unable to make the last few meetings, was active at home until very near the end of his 83 years.

## The Quizzlers

1. What is the older name of Republic of Benin?
2. In the year 2000 which country released the maximum number of stamps and how many?
3. What is the name given to the original engraved form from which plates are made for printing stamps?
4. In September 1918, the U.S. Post Office sent two pilots on a path finding flight between which two U.S. cities in an effort to expand the country's airmail service?
5. What was the first philatelic item donated to the Smithsonian Institute 1886?



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### New Members

Allan McKeown of Halifax has is a collector of British Commonwealth. Steve Cruse of The Woodlands, Texas collects used Canada and BNA stamps and covers. He is also a APS and BNAPS member. Robert Gibson of Halifax says he is getting started again after 50 years away from the hobby. Please welcome these new members to the club.

### Did You Know?

Before stamps were invented, the person who received the letter was charged by the number of pages, and also by the distance the letter had travelled. An Englishman called Rowland Hill came up with the idea of pre-paying for postage with 'postage stamps'. Today stamps just seem like common sense, but the Postmaster General at the time complained, 'Of all the wild schemes I have ever heard of, this is the most extraordinary!' However, Hill's idea was adopted and other countries soon started to issue stamps.

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### Worldwide Cover Box

Our "Worldwide Covers" box is full and surely a bargain at 50 cents each, or 5 for \$2. This is worth checking out! A second box of Canada and the USA covers are a deal at 3 for a loonie!! Stock up while they last! All proceeds from cover sales go directly to the club. Available at club meetings only.

### 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](http://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](mailto: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 details at: [webnews@nsstampclub.ca](mailto:webnews@nsstampclub.ca)

The 77th Convention of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada will be held in London, Ontario, May 27-29, 2005. The show will be hosted by the Middlesex Stamp Club. Check out the NS Stamp

Club website for a link to Royal\*2005\*Royale.

### NS Stamp Club 2004-2005 Executive

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### Quizzler Answers

1. Republique du Dahomey
2. Liberia - 771 total = 677 stamps and 94 souvenir sheets.
3. Die.
4. New York and Chicago.
5. Pane of 10¢ Confederate stamps.

