



Nova Scotia Stamp Club Newsletter

December 2004
Volume 34, Issue 4
Number 347

UP AND COMING

Every Saturday 4pm Auction Sea-side Book and Stamp

December 11 Stamp Fair
Burnside Motel, Dartmouth

December 14 Club Meeting
"Royal 2004 Slide Show"
Charity Auction - Anything Goes
Holiday Social

January 8 Stamp Fair
Burnside Motel, Dartmouth

January 11 Club Meeting
"From the Mailbag"
Circuit Books

Stretching Out Summer

by Marty Zelenietz

Now that an early winter has us in its cruel embrace, memories of summer seem more distant than ever. I've found how to or at least a way to keep summer's memories fresh in my mind, to stretch out those long, warm days to fight the winter's gloom.



We went to England this past summer to attend a family

wedding. Once clear of the smelly, crowded confines of Heathrow, I remained on alert for English avian life. On my last trip to England, I'd identified 28 species of birds. I wanted to add to the total this time around.

Good luck was my companion: everywhere I looked, I found birds to add to my list. My sister-in-law's garden was a mecca for English Garden birds: Robins, Chaffinches, Blue Tits, Great Tits and a host of other birds.

We even spotted a scarce Red Kite high overhead one day.

The ancient walled city of York provided its fair share of birds for my list: Bank

Swallows flying low over the River Ouse, a Common Merganser (called Goosander in Europe) bobbing on the river amidst the ducks, and Black-headed Gulls perched on the building overlooking the river.



A reservoir near Northampton provided Gadwalls and Tufted Ducks for my

viewing, as well as Grey Herons and Great Crested Grebes. The shores sheltered Goldfinches and Yellowhammers, and Common and Arctic Terns winged over the water.



Cruising along the Kennet & Avon Canal at a stately 3 knots offered another opportunity for the birder in me. I encountered several species of warblers in the reeds and underbrush, discovered that although Mute Swans may like garlic bread for breakfast, they don't eat pasta, and found the mystery bird (later identified as a Egyptian Goose) that I told Club members about in



Continued on Page 2

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Summer... Continued September.

After a mere twelve days in England, twelve days devoted to family festivities and museum going (not really dedicated to birding), I left with a satisfying 58 species on my list. So what, you may ask, does all of this have to do with stamp collecting?

Back in Halifax, the push was on to convert my bird list into a philatelic memento of the summer. I wanted to put together a collection featuring all the birds I had seen. A few decisions had to be made. I would favour bird stamps from the British Isles over all others- stamps from GB, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, and Ire-



land seemed most appropriate. I wouldn't go nuts look for 2004 issues, although this is a particularly good year for European bird stamps. Some time well spent with my Stanley Gibbons "Collect Birds on Stamps" showed me that most of the birds could be found on stamps, if I looked hard enough. Many provided to be lurking in my own duplicate box- I knew there was a good reason for my promiscuous accumulation of used birds stamps. A few other birds adorned booklet covers or postal stationery. But the collection is not yet complete. I am still tracking down several species, hoping that someone somewhere has them in stock. And



so, as the days grow even shorter, I can still

spend time in those warm summer days, working on my collection and remembering the birds that brightened my trip to England.



Stamp Collecting Quizzlers

1. What kind of a stamp would the Germans call "Zeitungsmarke"?
2. The Five Pound Orange originated from what Great Britain stamp?
3. What is on the first stamp of independent Kingdom of Jordan (1946)?
4. How many sheets of the famous Inverted Jenny were discovered in 1918?
5. What country was first to issue Disney stamps?

Answers on Page 4

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 Farquahson 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

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



Stamp Oddities

In 1955, China issued a stamp (Sc. 245) depicting Chang Heng (78 A.D. - 142 A.D.), geographer, mathematician and astronomer royal to the Han Dynasty, whose inventions included a seismoscope (AD 132), which he called an "earthquake weathercock", depicted on a Chinese stamp in 1953 (Sc.199). He described a round earth in infinite space, and invented lines of longitude and latitude.



The seismoscope was a large bronze urn with eight dragon heads gazing outward in different directions, each holding a bronze ball in its jaws. A delicate inverted pendulum hidden in the urn moved with the slightest seismic ripple. The swinging pendulum tapped a mechanism that dislodged the ball from the dragon's mouth in the direction of the quake. The balls fell into the open mouth of the bronze toad below.



Doubt was cast on the instrument when one day a ball fell but no quake was felt. A few days later the astonished court was to find out that a town 400 miles away had been savaged by an earthquake.

After the Mongols overran China knowledge of the seismoscope vanished. It wasn't until the 1830s that the study of pendulum devices for detecting the earth's tectonic movements was recommenced.

The View From Here

Compiled by Dave Harvey

Several Articles from the HALIFAX PHILATELIST vol 1, no. 1, January 1887.

Mr. E. Smith of Halifax has lately tried the experiment of sending a p.c. [Post Card] around the world, to see in what time it could be done, and we believe he has succeeded in lowering the record. The card was addressed to the British Consul, Madras, India, via San Francisco and Japan and requested him to remail it as soon as received to 57 Spring Garden Road, Halifax via Bombay and England. It was posted at Halifax Sept 10th arrived at Madras Oct. 14th was re-mailed Oct. 15th reached Bombay Oct. 18th Sea P.O., Oct 22nd and was received at Halifax on the morning of 23rd Nov. having made the circuit in 73 days.

We had the pleasure of seeing quite a curiosity the other day in the shape of an original envelope with a one shilling and sixpence and two one penny Nova Scotia Stamps attached, all properly post marked. The happy possessor was Mr. C. Wesley Price of Plymouth, Michigan, who secured it while travelling through Nova Scotia.

Mr. J. A. Craig of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, informed us that not long since he obtained a genuine Connell stamp of New Brunswick on the original envelope



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New Members

George Murphy of Lower Sackville, collects worldwide, FDCs, and historic Plate Blocks. Roland Deveau of Bedford collects worldwide, but more particularly Canada, Bermuda & Newfoundland. Please welcome our new members to the club.

Quizzler Answers

1. Newspaper stamps.
2. £5 telegraph stamp.
3. Symbols of peace and liberty
4. One
5. San Marino

RPSC - 77th Convention - London, Ontario, May 27-29, 2005. Hosted by the Middlesex Stamp Club. Check out the NS Stamp Club website for a link to Royal*2005* Royale.



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Newsletter Available Electronically

The club newsletter is now published monthly on our website - www.nsstampclub.ca - at a reduced resolution and usually about 300 Kb in size. 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 details at: webnews@nsstampclub.ca

Classifieds

Private collector seeking Canada postal ephemera - anything that hung on the lobby walls related to stamps and services wanted, plus bulletins, notices, new issue brochures. Also selling / trading similar to feed my habit. David G. Jones 184 Larkin Dr., Nepean, Ont. K2J 1H9

commadore@sympatico.ca;

Member: NSSC, RPSC, ASPPP, CFPS

Did You Know?

Stamps started out as purely practical objects and it is not generally known that Australia was a pioneer in their development. In November, 1838, the Colonial Postmaster-General in Sydney introduced a system of pre-payment for letters which used a form of postage stamp. This was probably a world first. For, although an Englishman, Roland Hill, thought up the idea of the postage stamp, pre-paid postage in New South Wales pre-dated the famous British 'Penny Blacks' (the first adhesive stamps) by about two years.

Cancelled

If you would like to receive specific Canadian stamps cancelled on your monthly newsletter, please forward stamped envelopes (I will address them) to the editor (Address pg 2). Unfortunately, it seems my local PO (as small as it is) does not hand cancel stamps and spray cancels will probably be the method of cancellation, but I'll do what I can to encourage the Post Mistress to cancel them.

Here is something you don't see that often in Canada any more with the advent of spray on cancellations - Killer cancellations - you will only get them with hand cancellations at Post Offices.

