



Nova Scotia Stamp Club Newsletter

December 2005
Volume 35, Issue 4
Number 357



UP AND COMING

Every Saturday 4pm Auction
Seaside Book and Stamp

Friends of Philately - Meet 3rd
Thursday of the month at Bloom-
field School, Halifax, NS

Dec. 10 Stamp Fair & Auction
Burnside Motel, Dartmouth

December 13 Club Meeting
"Christmas Quiz" - H. MacKenzie
Charity Auction

January Stamp Fair & Auction
Burnside Motel, Dartmouth

January 10 Club Meeting
"My Cyprus Collection" - J. Forbes
Circuit Books

Canada Post - Celebrate Thysself

By Jeffrey Parks

2005 is drawing to a close and we have yet to see any indication that Canada Post will (probably not at this late date) celebrate the 250th anniversary of the first "official" post office in what is now Canada at Halifax (1755). As we - NSSC Members - may recall, last year, 2004, was the 250th anniversary of the first "unofficial" or private post office in Halifax, a fact that Canada Post did not want to recognize officially. Their take on the 2004 anniversary was that they would hold out until the 2005 anniversary and maybe do honour then with at least a commemorative envelope. No!

So what does Canada Post think is important to celebrate. You would think that recognizing the first "official" or even "unofficial" post office in Canada would be "a good thing", to quote a certain daytime diva. But to no avail. Looking back over this country's 2000 or so stamps I thought I might find a stamp that celebrated the anniversary before - 50 or 100 years ago. No again!

Flipping through the pages of my Canada album and the catalogue I decided to make note of Canada Post's celebration of itself and its' business.



In 1898 the Post Office issued what was to become known as the world's first Christmas stamp, (Sc. 85 & 86). The intention, of the stamp though was to commemorate the Post Office's involve-

ment with proposing the standardized Imperial Penny Postage rates.

In 1951, Canada Post issued 4 stamps (Sc. 311-314) on the stamp centenary depicting methods of moving the mail over that period and a stamp-on-stamp of the threepenny beaver.



Throughout the years Canada Post has commemorated the establishment of, and CP's involvement in, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) on four occasions with nine stamps and a souvenir sheet (Sc. 648 shown).



The Letter Carrier Service was commemorated in 1974 on the Centenary of the Letter Carrier Delivery Service with a set-tenant set of six stamps. (Sc. 639a)

Continued on Page 2

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Canada Post... Continued

Postal Codes were a new venture in 1978 and CP issued two stamps (Sc 815-816) to remind us that they should be used.

Although the Canadian Forces Post Office was not directly a Canada Post function, the crown corporation lent employees to the war effort to help move the mail throughout all theatres. (Sc. 1094)



The Prestige booklet (Sc. 1272-1273) of 1990 depicted CP mail trucks and was issued in recognition of Canada Post's development.

The postal authority for Canada was transferred from Britain in 1851. Canada Post marked the 150th anniversary with another stamp on stamp design showing the threepenny beaver (Sc. 1900). The original stamp design was penned by Sir Sanford Fleming.



One of the Flag over designs from

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 C\$15 per person (US\$20 US or International) or C\$22.50 per couple payable to :

Nova Scotia Stamp Club
102 Birch Bear Run
Lewis Lake, NS B3Z 4B8

webnews@nsstampclub.ca
Newsletter address as above.

Advertising rate for the newsletter or website is \$25 (CDN) per year

2002 shows the Canadian Flag flying in front of the CP headquarters in Ottawa.

The Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association is the largest bargaining unit representing employees at Canada Post.



They celebrated their 100th anniversary in 2002 and Canada Post commemorated the event with a domestic rate commemorative.

The NSSC did issue two cinderella mini sheets at the Royal*2004*Royale which commemorated the establishment of the first "unofficial" post office in Canada at Halifax 250 years prior. However, of all the designs submitted for cancels at that show, the only one turned down by CP was the one depicting that anniversary.

Don't forget to pick up a commemorative envelop of Canada Post's 25th anniversary as a Crown Corporation due for release in 2006.

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Stamp Oddities

The Republic of Haiti became an independent nation in January 1804 when the only successful slave rebellion (begun in 1791) in world history, lead by Toussaint L'Ouverture, denounced France's colonial rule. Originally encompassing the whole of the Island of Hispaniola, the eastern part of the island revolted in 1843, forming the Dominican Republic, leaving present day Haiti with about one third of the island's area. The country's longevity as a nation is second only to the USA in the western hemisphere.

Haitian currency is expressed in gourdes (100 centimes) - a kind of melon. Following independence in 1804, the new ruler of Haiti, Henri Christophe, had no currency, so he based



all monetary transactions on the value of gourds, which grow prolifically in Haiti. Since then the currency of Haiti has been expressed as 'gourdes'. The Haitian gourde (HTG) is worth about 2.76 cents Canadian (1 CAD = 36.16 HTG).



In 1975, an international scandal arose in Haiti when it was discovered that an extraordinarily beautiful series of Audubon birds on stamps, ranging in denomination from 5 cents to 5 gourdes, were fake. They were quickly with-



Post marks in red (left) and green (right)

drawn from circulation when a Commerce Ministry lawyer, and avid collector, responsible for approving all stamp issues received an ad for the stamps. The stamps were printed in Russia, and the corroborating evidence of their authenticity, required for the international philatelic market, was either forged or coerced. Several top ranking Duvalier-loyal officials pleaded guilty in the first ever televised trial. Some officials found guilty were innocent but made scapegoats by the administration. They were rewarded for their complicity by early release from comfortable jails, money, jobs, and cars. The scandal illustrated to what lengths Haiti's leaders would go to in their quest for quick cash.



A Member Asks?

A member of the club has asked for some help to locate a couple of items for his collection. He has 47 of the 50 current 50c flag booklets, 1st printing "C" paper and is looking for OA, OB, and OC; wide (5) roulettes. These are the ferry/Toronto skyline scene. If you have these and would like to sell, trade or give away, please contact the editor (page 2) for contact information.

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Every Cover Tells A Story

by Jeff Parks

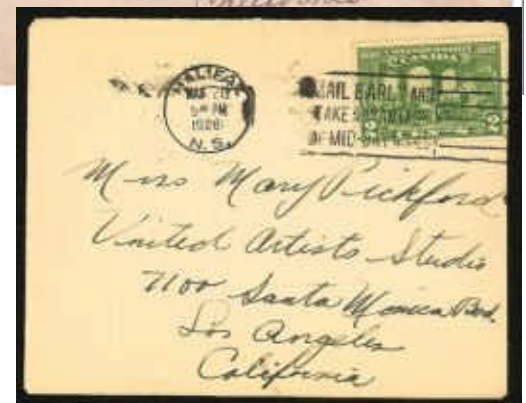
Sometimes the odd cover crosses one's path that catches your eye, not because of the philatelic value, but because of some other attribute such as who the cover is addressed to or from.

Such a cover recently crossed my path when I was intrigued to find a cover addressed to Mary Pickford and post marked in Montreal. Soon after my purchase, another club member, who had heard of my find showed me a cover to Mary Pickford that he had recently found post marked in Charlottetown. Subsequently I did an internet search and came up with an eBay auction offering a Pickford cover postmarked in Halifax. All three covers were posted on various dates in March 1928. Thinking this just too coincidental, I broadened my internet search (a wonderful wealth of both visual and knowledgeable material) to see if the March date was significant, thinking that perhaps a contest or the like was responsible for the "letters". Although nothing conclusive, I did find some facts that correspond to events in Miss Pickford's life.

Mary Pickford, *America's Sweetheart*, was born Gladys Louise (Marie)? Smith on April 8, 1892, Toronto Ontario, and died May 29, 1979 in Santa Monica, California. Mary's family included actors Jack Pickford and Lottie Pickford. Her mother, Charlotte Smith, also had acting credits.

Pickford-Fairbanks Studios began business in 1919, and also included among its founders, Douglas Fairbanks who was Pickford's second husband, Charlie Chaplin, and the man who started Mary in pictures, director D.W. Griffith. The name of the studio was changed to United Artists in 1922 and United Artists Studios in 1928.

Her last Silent Film was "My Best Girl" released in November, 1927. Mary's first talkie was "Coquette" released in March 1929 for which she won *Best*



Actress Oscar. She retired from acting in 1933 but continued a long career in the business.

On March 22, 1928, Mary's mother, Charlotte Smith Pickford, died after a lengthy illness with cancer. As an outpouring of her grief Mary bobbed her hair, cutting the curls she was always known for, something that she would not have done while her mother was alive. The hair cut caused a national furor.

Conclusion.

While nothing conclusive about the dates could be found, the covers could represent condolences over her mother's illness and subsequent death. But unless more is known this is only conjecture. If you are a Pickford aficionado and can shed some light on March 1928, I would like to hear from you.



Did you know that?

During the first ten years of postage stamps, the British Post Office experienced a serious problem as the postage stamps frequently fell off the envelopes. Hundreds of loose stamps were found in post office bags. One of the side effects of perforations was that the stamps adhered better to the envelopes.

Christmas Seals

These "stamps" were conceptualized in 1903 by Danish postman Einar Holboell as a gesture to raise money at Christmas time for the less fortunate. Fellow postmen were enamored with the idea and in 1904, with the blessing of the King and an image of the Queen on their stamp, the Christmas Seal was born. It was decided that money raised would benefit those children with Tuberculosis. The campaign came to the USA in 1907 and Canada in 1908. Shown at the right are Danish seals for 1913 and 1918 and Canadian Lung Association Christmas Seals from 1956.



New Member

A new member has recently joined the club. Pierre Braun of Dartmouth has interests in Canadian and Topical collections.

NOVA PEX 2006

NOVAPEX 2006

Sept 15-17, 2006

Dartmouth Sportsplex

Nova Scotia's first Premier National/Regional Stamp Show and Bourse. It is hoped that as many members as possible will be exhibiting at the national level (previous award at regional level required). There will be space for 160 frames. Out of province exhibits and dealers are expected. It will be the only national exhibition in the east since Royal 2004. **Please make a note of the date.**

Worldwide Cover Box

Covers are available at the monthly meeting in our "Worldwide Covers" box - a bargain at 50 cents each, or 5 for \$2. The Canada and the USA covers are a deal at 3 for a loonie!! All proceeds from cover sales go directly to the club.

A Club Frame

Don't forget to prepare a one page exhibit for the December Club Meeting. We are trying a concept called a Club Frame where members can showcase something of interest on one page. Any topic will be accepted. Your contribution may go toward creating a 16 or 32 page exhibit of club interests in future shows.

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