



# Nova Scotia Stamp Club Newsletter

February 2006  
Volume 35, Issue 6  
Number 359

## 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

**February 4** Moncton Stamp Fair

**February 11** Stamp Fair & Auction  
Burnside Motel, Dartmouth

**February 14** Club Meeting  
RPSC Slide Show; Communica-  
tions & Appraisals (2)- Doug Gray  
Auction

**March 4** Moncton Stamp Fair

**March 11** Stamp Fair & Auction  
Burnside Motel, Dartmouth

**March 14** Club Meeting  
Panel on Exhibiting; Circuit Books  
**March 24-26** Edmonton Stamp  
Club Spring National Show

**April 15** Stamp Fair & Auction  
Burnside Motel, Dartmouth

**April 11** Club Meeting  
Auction

**May 27** Kermesse - Stamp Table

## On the Post Office Trail

By David G. Jones

In June, 1960 I visited Mr. G.E. Penney, the Postmaster of North Sydney to ask him about the "Gypsy Moth CF-AGL" that had flown mail between Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

After an enlightening interview, and on the spur of the moment, I had the Postmaster sign and date stamp an envelope for me as a souvenir. That started a collection that I would pursue for six years, and with a growing sense of panic. Why panic? Well the Post Office Department in its wisdom was shutting down rural post offices, and I had decided to visit every post office in Cape Breton to obtain a stamped envelope like that one from Postmaster Penney.

Well I made it to over 100. This, as a youngster with no money, who for the most part hitchhiked from village to village over the summer months. I was also driven by my interest in Post Office ephemera – in those days, limited solely to new stamp issue posters that I had started collecting in 1955.

There were fascinating days and very busy days. But not always fruitful. Sometimes I hiked all day to a remote office only to find it had closed the week before. Other days were bountiful.

For example, on 29 September 1964 I got to Arichat, Cannes, Cap-la-Rone, D'Escousee, Grand Anse, Port Royal, Poulamon, River Bourgeois, Rocky Bay, Petit de Grat Bridge, Poirierville, Louisdale, Martinique and Hawker.

A leaner day was July 27, 1964 when I finally located L'Ardoise. Why "finally?" Well It is an interesting story. I was looking for a place Cape Bretoners call "Lord Ways" and tried as I might, I could not locate it on the map, or on the road. Finally, on July 27 I was picked up by someone who knew where it was, and what my problem had been. I was giving the place a French pronunciation and nobody could figure out what I was talking about!

Shown here are the delightful L'Ardoise backstamp CDS and MOON cancellations, and a photo of the post office as it was then. The building is probably long gone, but perhaps the "Lord Ways" post office carries on – in a beautiful new brick and chrome building.

You can see several other of my MOONs on the BNAPS "Krazy Collections" site at:

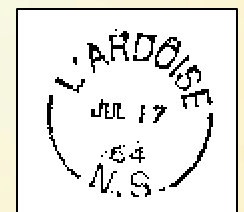
<http://www.bnaps.org/krazy.htm>

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backstamp

### Did You Know

...that all Canadian postage stamps issued since 1859 can still be used to pre-pay postage?

...that, in the early days, when mail could be sent either prepaid or collect, the Post Office made a refund to addressees who found that they had paid postage on anonymous letters?

...that a boon to postal customers was introduced in 1858, when sheets of stamps were first perforated? Prior to that each stamp had to be detached from the sheet with scissors.

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#### 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](mailto:webnews@nsstampclub.ca)  
Newsletter address as above.

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

### James Chalmers, 1782 - 1853

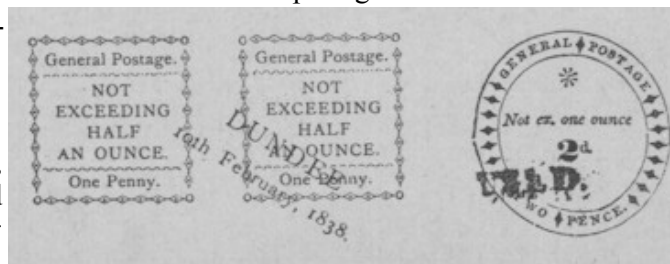
By Michael Peach

I recently came across the cover shown, claiming that James Chalmers of Dundee was the Inventor of the Adhesive Stamp and Pioneer of Postal Reform. The cover has a 1½d and a 2½d Centenary of First Adhesive Stamps, with a first day cancellation 6 May 1940 at Sheffield. The Empire Surface Rate to Canada had been increased to 2½ effective 1 May 1940, so the cover is over paid by 1½d.

Who was James Chalmers?

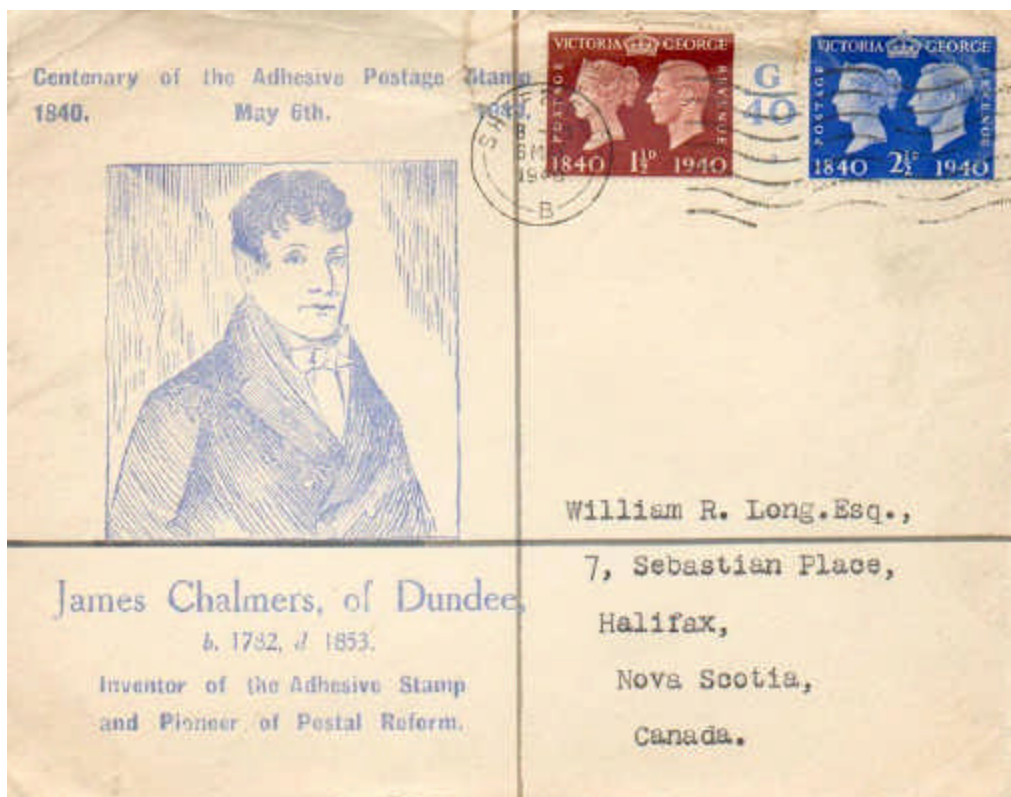
James was a native of Arbroath. In 1809 he entered the business of his brother in Castle Street, Dundee, as a bookseller, bookbinder, printer and publisher, and on the death of his brother in 1822, he ran the business. James was active in civic affairs, but his burning enthusiasm was *Postal Reform*. Any history of Postal Reform mentions his contributions. In December 1837, he sent a plan to Robert Wallace, Member of Parliament for Greenock, and a strong advocate of postal reform. On 28 February 1838 he published a statement in the

margins of which he illustrated designs for both one penny and two penny values. The last stamp is cancelled with a Dundee date stamp, see illustration. This is the first essay for an adhesive stamp showing a cancellation<sup>1</sup>. Neither James Chalmers or Rowland Hill can claim to be inventor of the adhesive stamp, as the Stamp Office had been producing adhesive stamped labels for the payment of various taxes from as early as 1711<sup>1</sup>, however Chalmers may well have first suggested the use of adhesive stamps (labels) for the prepayment of postage.



More information about James Chalmers can be found in the book *James Chalmers Inventor of the Adhesive Postage Stamp*, Edited by W.J. Smith, 1970.

<sup>1</sup>The British Postage Stamp of the Nineteenth Century, Robson Lowe, National Postal Museum 1968.





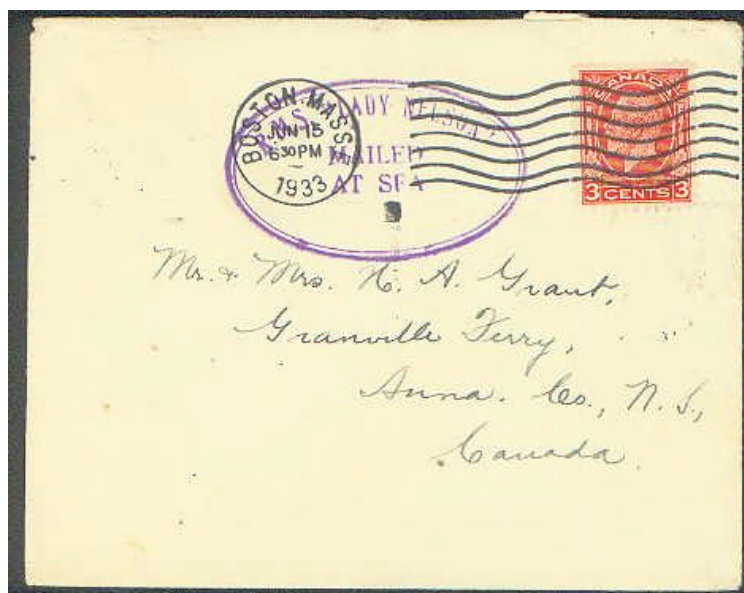
## Every Cover Tells A Story

by David Jones

I've always been intrigued by posted at sea / paquebot cancels - and wondered why there is not more attention paid to them... because - romantic that I am - I always think there is a story behind these lovely covers.



1. A cover mailed from the S.S. Monarch of Bermuda en route to New York in November 1937, and forwarded to Halifax with the payment of 5 cents US. Cancelled New York, N.Y. and stamped "Posted on the High Seas."



2. Cover from a staff member of the R.M.S. Lady Nelson, Halifax - "Mailed At Sea" to Granville Ferry, cancelled in Boston June, 1933.



3. A cut square from a large Furness Withy, Liverpool envelope - 3 pence UK cancelled "Paquebot - Posted at Sea - Received at Halifax 1961. Franked (rubber stamp) "Consignees Mail."

## Stamp Oddities

The posthorn and crown numeral definitive series of Norway is a very familiar set of stamps to many collectors. Designed by architect Andreas Friedrich Wilhelm von Hanno in 1871, the stamps are still being issued today and are commonly referred to as the world's longest uninterrupted definitive stamp series. The design has undergone some changes as printing technology has advanced and re-engraving of the dies is required. The original series was letterpress printed, photogravure was used in the 1940s and 50s and finally the intaglio engraving process has been used since 1962. Norway even released a stamp on stamp commemorative in 1972 to celebrate the stamps centenary. Prior to 1877 the currency value on the stamps was expressed in skilling and then in øre since that date.



1872 (Sc. 16)



1908 (Sc. 58)



1950 (Sc. 307)



1997 (Sc. ?)

The stamp design consists of a central the Royal Crown and Posthorn (indicating official postal activity) surrounded by an darkened oval containing the country name and value, and wheels with wings in each corner representing speedy transportation of mail by rail. Design differences over the years also exist in the vertical shading of lines, the size and shading of the posthorn (from 1882 to 1893 the posthorn was not shaded), typography, and in the corner wings. Up to 2002, 153 main issues and seven stamp-on-stamps, have been issued.

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## Edmonton Stamp Club Spring National Show - March 2006

As Exhibits Chair, (and as RPSC Judging Coordinator), I am interested in attracting as many exhibits as possible to our show. Anyone who has previously exhibited at a regional or local show, and has received at least a silver medal in open competition, is eligible to exhibit at a national show. **Exhibit applications will be accepted up to March 1, 2006, so now is the time to get your applications off.**

Our show is March 24-26 at our usual venue (West Edmonton Mall), and is a RPSC-accredited national level show. Our website (see below) contains further information about the show, as well as copies of the Show Prospectus and Official Exhibit Entry Form. We welcome exhibits, and attendees, from across the country and the USA.

Please consider exhibiting with us this year, or encouraging any other interested collectors to do so with us as well.

David Piercey, Exhibit Chair,  
Edmonton Spring National Stamp Show  
<http://www.edmontonstampclub.com/>



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## Notes from the January Meeting

Several items of note arose from the January meeting. Our overdue Charity Auction raised \$250 which will be split between the two charities designated by the Executive.

At long last we were able to complete the final draws from Novapex 2005. The Peoples Choice Award goes to Clifford Abram for his gold medal exhibit "A Man, A Ship, A Legacy" (Nelson). The Draw Prize, which was the excellent book on the Edward VI issues was won by George Lafontaine.

A membership vote was taken on the proposal to ad International Rate for membership. After some discussion, which the Executive will taken under advisement for future review was passed. The change is effective on July 1, 2006.

Jack Forbes provided an interesting look at his collection of Cyprus stamps, highlighting early issues.

## Membership News

A membership application has been received from Jim Hanifen, of Lewis Lake, NS, who collects worldwide. He labels himself more of a hoarder than a collector and looks forward to a time when he can spend some quality time with his "hoard".

It is with regret that we mention the passing of member Graham Downey #891, an avid stamp collector who belonged to the Nova Scotia Stamp Club, British Collectors Club of Nova Scotia and Friends of Philately.



Wolfville Post Office pre-1915

# NOVA PEX 2006

**NOVAPEX 2006**

**Sept 15-17, 2006**

**Dartmouth Sportsplex**

Novapex 2006 will be a regional/national show. This means that exhibits can be judged at the national or regional level. It will be the only national exhibition in the east since Royal 2004, and we hope that as many members as possible take this opportunity to exhibit at the national level. There will be space for 160 frames, and we expect that there will be several out of province exhibits. We already have some out of province dealers coming. **Please make a note of the date.**

## Exhibiting at NOVAPEX 2006

It is not too early to think about your exhibit(s) for Novapex 2006. We already have about 30 frames allocated, at least 20 are from out of province exhibitors. Exhibits can be submitted at the **National** or **Regional** level. The usual Novapex is a regional level show. For exhibits at the national level, the exhibits must have received at least a silver at a regional show. Further details are given in the Prospectus enclosed with this Newsletter. In accordance with standard procedures, there is a frame charge for national level exhibits, detailed in the prospectus. We hope that as many of you as possible will have exhibits at Novapex 2006, particularly at the national level. We need to make Novapex an outstanding success.

Any queries, please contact Marty,  
[zelen@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:zelen@ns.sympatico.ca) or 463-0687

## Newsletter Articles

Thanks to those who helped, especially the Melanson's, with an extra "hand" to get the January newsletter out. If you have an item (article, cover, show & tell) for the newsletter please contact Jeff for details at:

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

Unless of a timely nature, items will be printed on a first come basis. The deadline for the March issue is February 28.