



Nova Scotia Stamp Club Newsletter

April 2006
Volume 35, Issue 8
Number 361

Up and Coming

Every Saturday 4pm Auction
Seaside Book and Stamp

April 7-9 AmeriStamp Expo
QE Bldg, Exhibition Place, Toronto

April 11 Club Meeting
Postal Ephemera and Philatelic
Collaterals - David Jones; Auction

April 15 Stamp Fair & Auction
Burnside Motel, Dartmouth

April 20 Friends of Philately
Bloomfield School, Halifax

April 22 Valley Stamp Club
Annual Exhibition and Bourse
Kentville Fire Hall

April 29 St. John's Philatelic Society
Annual Exhibition, Holiday Inn

May 9 Club Meeting
St. Pierre & Miquelon Collection -
Gordon Smith; Circuit Books

May 6 Moncton Stamp Fair
Park House Inn, Moncton

May 13 Stamp Fair & Auction
Burnside Motel, Dartmouth

May 18 Friends of Philately
Bloomfield School, Halifax

May 27 Kermesse - Stamp Table
IWK Grace & Gorsebrook JHS

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History of the Lunenburg Post Office

By John Creighton

The property on which the Lunenburg Post Office now stands was originally comprised of 6 lots (Rudolf's Division Section B Lots 1-3, 12-14 in the original town layout). Around 1800 there was a house, a store and a barn on the properties. By 1864, these buildings were torn down, except for a building noted on Lot 12 in 1879, and the lots remained empty until the first "modern" Post Office was built in 1895.

Over the years, the property was owned successively by Dr. John Bolman, the first doctor to practice in the Town of Lunenburg; Benjamin (Philip) Knaut, a merchant and Sheriff of Lunenburg; Capen and Cassandra Oxner, merchants; and lastly the Honourable John Creighton (1794-1878) Q.C., M.L.C.

In 1793 all fourteen lots on the block were acquired by Benjamin Knaut, keeping eight lots for himself and selling the off remainder. In the middle of the block, he built himself a house around 1805 which was purchased in 1826 by the Hon. John Creighton for 420 pounds. The house remained in the Creighton family until 1888 when his widow Catherine Anne passed away. Today, the house located at 125 Pelham Street, a National Historic site known as the Knaut Rhuland House (just behind the current PO), is owned by the Lunenburg Heritage Society and is open to the public.

It is unknown when Creighton purchased the six lots on which the PO

stands. In May 1887, just a year before her death, Catherine Anne sold the six lots to the Federal Government for \$3,900.00. It consisted of 9,500 square feet of land being a lot of about 120 by 80 feet. Until the Post Office was built in 1895 the Government paid \$200 to \$250 annual interest on the loan for the property, in the interim period from 1887 to 1895 the property was used as a lawn tennis ground with an annual rent of \$8.00. The cost to build the Post Office in 1895 was \$29,000.00.

By the 1950s the Post Office was deemed inadequate to accommodate an expanded mail service, especially in rural delivery. An extension was considered but it would exceed the original cost of the building, and extensive renovations and long term maintenance to the existing building were also required. The new building was designed to meet the needs of the Post Office and also house the Customs, Fisheries and Un-

Continued on Page 2



This photo, circa 1880, shows the outside of the post office at that time, located on Lincoln Street. The building later became part of the Steadman's Store. Source: *Lunenburg Academy Seagull Yearbook 1956*

Lunenburg... Continued

employment Offices.

In the fall of 1954 the Post Office temporarily relocated to the former Lunenburg Coal & Supply Co. building and construction was begun by Acadia Construction Co. of Bridgewater, NS. Demolition was halted by cold weather in January and continued in April 1955. By July the steel skeleton was constructed and the cornerstone was



Lunenburg Post Office and Custom House circa 1905. From a post card of the day.



Lunenburg Post Office Centre
Photo courtesy of Eleven Eleven Companies (Bldg owner)

laid in August by Hon. Robert H. Winters, MP Queens-Lunenburg, and Minister of Public Works. The building exists to this day as the Post Office Centre (above, right) with some of the other government offices having relocated to newer accommodations in Bridgewater, NS. The building is now in private hands.

The Lunenburg Post Office (shown left ca.1905) is another example of the federal government removing these wonderful masonry edifices in small towns across our land to be replaced by the more "modern", institutional "boxes" of the later mid 20th century - thereby losing pieces of our built heritage.

HENRY HECHLER BISECTS

by Michael Peach

In the March 2006 Newsletter, when discussing Bisects, I mentioned that fake bisect covers can be prepared by mailing a letter with the correct postage and adding a bisected stamp as a label. Subsequently a low value stamp can be removed, with the bisect providing the missing amount. The cover shown in the article was sent by Anton Hechler, Henry's brother, to his wife Mary. Anton had a "Fancy Goods" store a few doors from Henry's and may also, for a time, have been a dealer. The cover, as shown, has the correct rate for postage to the USA in 1894, 3c, two ½c stamps, a 1c stamp and a bisected 2c, 1c.



There are no known Henry Hechler covers made by this method, although the one shown may have been prepared with his help or permission, as there is a Henry Hechler advertising stamp on the back.

Thanks to Mrs. Lorraine Rasmussen, the current owner of the cover, for this information.

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
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webnews@nsstampclub.ca
Newsletter address as above.

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

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Every Cover Tells A Story

by Marty Zelenietz



This month's cover was carried on the east-to-west (Lakehurst, NJ to San Diego, CA) transcontinental flight of the United States Navy rigid airship (dirigible) USS Akron, ZRS-4, 6 May to 11 May 1932. Launched in September 1931, the Akron was designed for fleet scouting operations, and carried aircraft aboard to increase the search range. The Akron went down in a storm on 4 April 1933: only three men of the crew of 76 survived. Shortly thereafter, the Akron's sister ship, the USS Macon, was launched. The Macon carried five Sparrowhawk biplanes housed inboard, and launched by a trapeze. The Macon, on its 54th flight, went down off of Southern California on 11 February 1935: two of the 83 crewmen perished. The Macon's demise effectively ended the US Navy's experiments with dirigibles.



This cover is just one of many donated to the NSSC by club member Cliff Abram. Cliff has broken up his "History of the Letter" exhibit, and donated many items from it to the club to sell with proceeds remaining with NSSC. Marty is handling the sales, which have been brisk. However, many fine items remain- Pigeongrams, Thurn & Taxis covers, Steam Boat

covers from Upstate New York, Clipper airmail covers, and a fine Wells Fargo entire (cover & letter) from Carson City, Nevada, for example. You can see these covers, and make an offer, by calling Marty at 463-0687. Marty will bring them to the April 11th club meeting, and will hover over them like a hawk.

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Stamp Oddities

Perforations - those tiny holes that make stamps easy to separate have an interesting history. A recent review of the "Guinness Book of Stamps - Facts and Feats" (McKay, 1988) revealed the following astonishing facts.

We all know that the earliest stamps were imperforate and had to be cut, but in the late 1840s, Irishman Henry Archer, producer of the "Prince Consort Essay", patented a stamp perforating machine. After many trials, that include rouletting, the machine was put into use by the British PO in 1854. Sweden was next with perforated stamps in 1856, the USA in 1857 and Canada (the first British colony) in Dec, 1858.

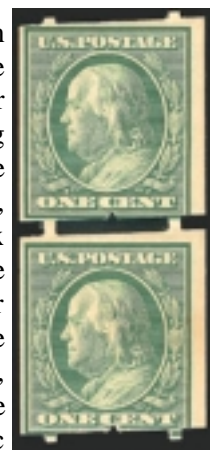
Once everyone started perforating stamps, collectors needed a way to distinguish the perforation size, so the gauge was invented in Paris by Dr. J.-A. Legrand in 1866. The gauge used a method still accepted today of measuring the number of holes in a line 2 cm long with the top row listed before the side row (e.g. 13 x 12).



The Malay States issued a series of stamps in 1949-55 that had the highest known perforations at 17½ x 18. It is impractical to have perforations higher than 15 because the closeness of the holes tends to make sheets come apart when handled.

The largest holes covering one side of a stamp was a 5½ gauge on a Brazilian stamp series of 1899. Stamps issued in June 1895 for the Indian state of Bussahir had an irregular perforation of 7 to 11½ that was effected by a sewing machine. Bosnian stamps in 1901-07 have gauging of 12½ x 6 or 12 x 6½.

The US 1c Franklin and 2c Washington stamps of 1908/9 (Sc.# 343, 344) were issued in imperforate sheets that were later cut into coil strips for use in private mailing machines. Examples of this usage are those of the Attleboro Stamp Company, Attleboro, MA, who used their own machine to affix stamps to their company newsletter, the "Attleboro Philatelist", during the summer and fall of 1909. They only used three stamps in this manner, including the Sc 343, and 344 (a pair of Attleboro Sc343 are shown at right) and also the one the 2c Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition issue of 1909 showing William H. Seward (Sc #371) (shown bottom



left). The stamps were perfed with a long rectangle separated by small bridges of paper showing only three holes per side in the coil strip. The Schermack Co. has manufactured a similar perforation (known as Type III) on stamps from 1906 to 1926.



CLUB TABLE AT NOVAPEX!

A new feature at NOVAPEX 2006 will be a club table where members can sell their material. This is a wonderful chance to offer your goods to a large audience. Instead of paying for a table, sellers at the club table will pay a 10% commission to the NSSC. Let's make this table as exciting as a new dealer coming to town. Prepare your stamps, covers, philatelic books, etc. for sale and pass the material and an inventory list to Hugh Rathbun, who is coordinating the club sellers table.

Membership

Patrick Burns #995 has been reinstated as a member. Membership now stands at 122 including 2 Life, 2 International and 1 US members.

Notes from the March Meeting

The March meeting of the NSSC was held on March 14. A lively presentation and discussion on How to Prepare a Stamp Exhibit was presented by Marty Zelenietz. Many questions were asked and Marty brought his many years of experience to the subject.

The monthly draws raised \$40 for the club with the typical rogues gallery winning the prizes. Lots of material was brought for the circuit books session, but a deplorable lack of tables (March break usage) meant that we could not spread out much. Is this what members want to see every other month.

A Novapex 2006 Committee meeting was held on March 21.

An Executive Meeting was held on March 28 with on going discussions on finances and Novapex related issues taking precedence.

Newsletter Articles

Thanks to those who helped with an extra "hand", especially the Melanson's, 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

Unless of a timely nature, items will be printed on a first come basis. The deadline for the May issue is April 27.

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 late to think about your exhibit(s) for Novapex 2006. We already have over 30 frames allocated, many are from out of province exhibitors. Exhibits can be submitted at the **National** or **Regional** level. The usual Novapex is a regional level show is available for first time exhibitors or those who do not want to enter a nationally judged exhibit. At the national level, the exhibits must have received at least a silver at a regional show. In accordance with standard procedures, there is a frame charge for national level exhibits. Details are in the Prospectus which is available on the website, club meeting or by writing the stamp club (page 2). 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 or 463-0687.



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