



Nova Scotia Stamp Club Newsletter

November 2006
Volume 36, Issue 3
Number 366

UP AND COMING

Every Saturday 4pm Auction
Seaside Book and Stamp

November 14 Club Meeting
Czeslaw Slania - Jane Sodero,
Circuit Books

November 16 Friends of Philately

November 18 Stamp Fair & Auc-
tion, Burnside Motel, Dartmouth NS

November 18 Saint John Stamp
Club Show, Coastal Inn - Fort
Howe Hotel, Saint John, NB

December 2 Moncton Stamp Fair

December 9 Stamp Fair & Auction
Burnside Motel, Dartmouth, NS

December 12 Club Meeting
Christmas Quiz, Charity Auction,
Social

December 16 Friends of Philately

January 9 Club Meeting
40 years of the Stamp Club Newslet-
ter, Circuit books

January 12 Stamp Fair & Auction
Burnside Motel, Dartmouth, NS

A Tale of Two Parcels

by Marty Zelenietz

Reconstructing postal rates for a given time and place is one of the challenging aspects of collecting postal history. Philatelists engage in spirited debate when interpreting rates, markings and routes from centuries gone by. The Canadian Philatelist has recently carried a lively discussion about the route of a 19th Century cover from an English debtor's prison. In the same publication, George Arfken regularly illustrates and analyzes 19th Century Canadian postal history, schooling us in the different routes and rates of the day. There is much to be learned from those lowly "old envelopes."

You would think that our own era, in contrast, lacks the pizzazz or glamour of those bygone eras. Think again. With all the different forms of mail carriage available, with their various delivery times and weight classifications, the modern era is a fertile field for the postal historian of the future. Accessing and accumulating rate information now is crucial to a future understanding of the postage costs of the day, as many prepaid envelopes (from Canada and other countries) carry no indication of cost (thus allowing them to be used without modification as rates change on a yearly basis).

Once you have the rate information, you may be left scratching your head in wonder, as I was during a recent visit to the post office. I'm beginning to get the impression that postal rates are decreed by the same crew that figures out air fare structures for commercial air lines. You know what I mean- things don't

seem to make sense to us normal Joes. Here is my tale of confusion and caution.

I went to the post office the other day, to mail two small parcels, gifts to friends and relatives. Both were enclosed in bubble-wrap mailers. One item was destined for Ontario, the other for the US. The parcel for London, Ontario (distance from Halifax about 2,100 km, according to Google Map) weighed .224kg. I was told it would cost \$8.15 to send it "Regular Parcel," and about another dollar and change to expedite it to three day delivery. I chose the slow route. In addition to the \$8.15, I had to pay a \$.63 fuel surcharge, and 6% GST (yup, 6%- no 14% HST on this. Is Nova Scotia overlooking a valuable source of revenue, or is Canada Post pulling a fast one on the province?). Total cost for the .224 kg parcel to travel by truck some 2,100 km: \$9.31.

The parcel going to Chicago (about 2,800 km away from Halifax) weighed almost twice as much: it tipped the scale

at .443 kg. Weighing more, and going farther, one would suspect that it would cost more than the parcel to Ontario. Wrong. I was offered options: Small Packet Surface or Small Packet Air. I chose Air, which cost \$7.90. Period. No fuel surcharge, no GST (because it cost more than \$5 to send out of the country). Let me review that. Total cost for the .443 kg parcel to travel 2,800 km by air: \$7.90.

What is the difference? A matter of



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Two Parcels... Continued

semantics. In Canada we can send "parcels." Internationally, we can send "small packets." They may look the same, but they are treated (and rated) as different classes of mail. Something for the postal historian of the future to keep in mind.

I'm playing with the cost/gm/distance ratio. Once I get it right, if I use the reducing cost scale found by my comparison, I may learn that I can send 10 kg of bricks to Japan for free, and that Canada Post will *pay* me to send 15 kgs of wood to Mongolia. I'll get back to you on that.

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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, US\$25 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.

George A. MacKenzie 1930-2006

George Albert MacKenzie (Captain Retired) passed away October 1, 2006, in the New Halifax Infirmary, QEII. Born in Halifax, he was a son of the late Albert and Mary (Allison) MacKenzie. George served with the Canadian Armed Forces for 37 years. He was stationed at CFB Greenwood; CFB Trenton, Ont.; CFB Llangar, England; CFB Shearwater and Maritime Command, Halifax. Following his retirement he worked for IMP Group in Halifax International Airport and Hammonds Plains.

He was a lifelong stamp collector and honorary life member (HL656) of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club. He was an award winning philatelic exhibitor at the regional and national levels, and specialist in aviation on stamps. He was also a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, to which he contributed greatly to the Slide Show Program on various topics. He started military stamp clubs at CFB Trenton and CFB Greenwood. He is survived by his wife, Blanche Beckwith and daughter, Heather MacKenzie, both of Halifax. Donations may be made in George's name to the Nova Scotia Stamp Club, 102 Birch Bear Run, Lewis Lake, NS B3Z 4B8, or a charity of your choice.

A partial scan (below) of a license, Form 250-26-3-'81, to sell Postage Stamps contributed by our ephemera expert - David Jones.

POSTAGE STAMP LICENSE.

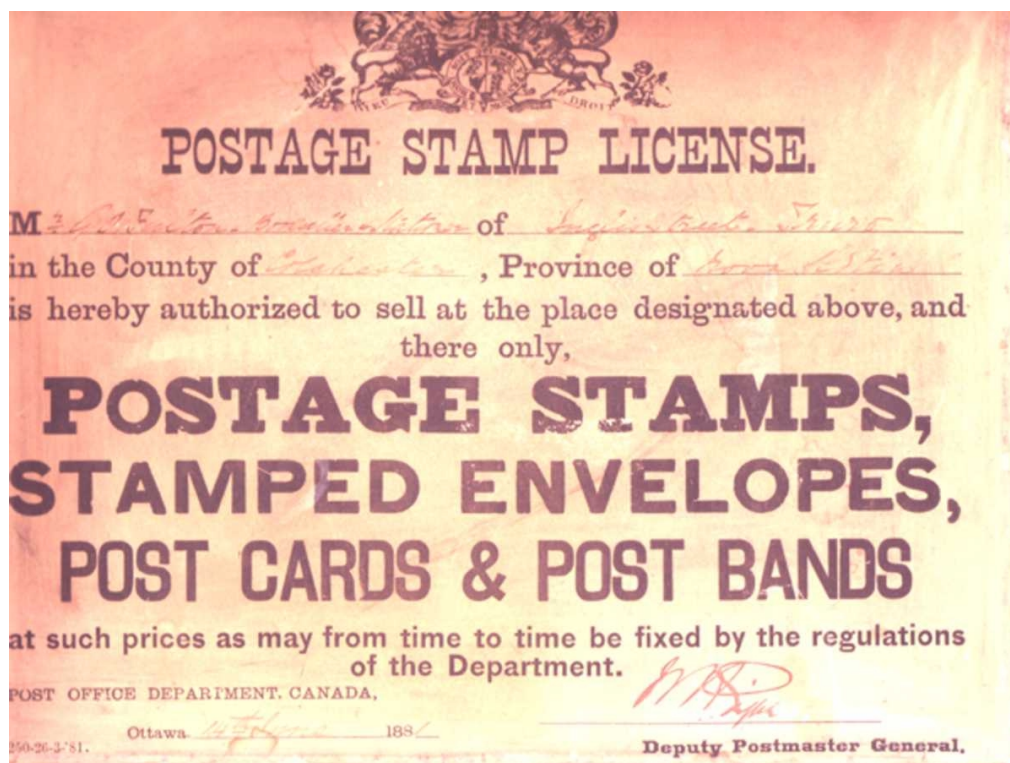
Mr. G.O. Fulton Bookseller and Stationer(?) of Inglis Street, Truro in the County of Colchester, Province of Nova Scotia is hereby authorized to sell at the place designated above, and there only,

**POSTAGE STAMPS, STAMPED ENVELOPES,
POST CARDS & POST BANDS**

at such prices as may from time to time be fixed by the regulations of the Department.

Post Office Department, Canada.
Ottawa, 14th June, 1881.

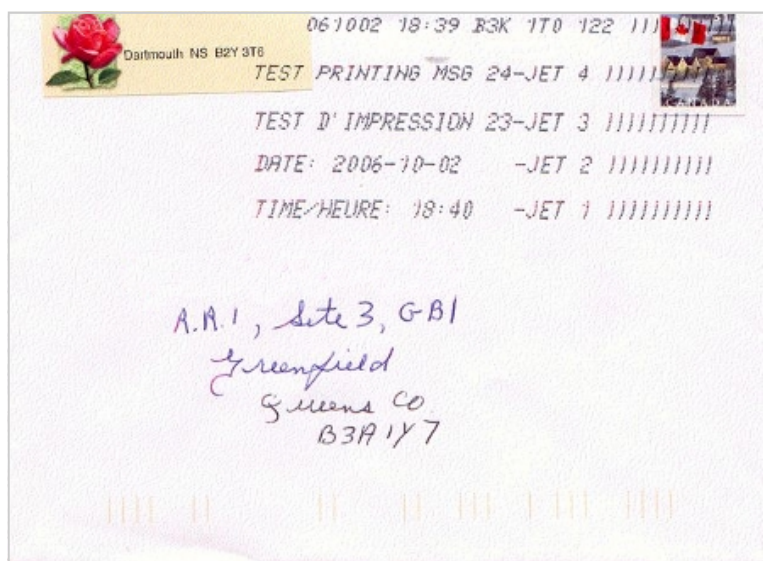
(Signature unintelligible)
Deputy Postmaster general.



Cover Story

The cover shown below was provided by Dennis Bedley. The addressee's and return address names have been obliterated to protect privacy because this is such a new cover. The envelope has a cancellation dated October 2, 2006 (061002 18:39 B3K 1T0 122). The first line cancel (normally found on cancelled mail) is followed by four test imprint lines noted as Jets 1 to 4. The first two lines have the text "TEST PRINTING MSG 24-JET 4" and in French "TEST D'IMPRESSION 23-JET 3". The last two lines indicate "DATE: 2006-10-02 -JET 2" and "TIME /HEURE: 18:40 -JET 1". Inkjet cancellations usually have date and postal code on line one followed by either 121 or 122 for B3K 1T0 and two subsequent lines with www.canadapost.ca and www.Postescanada.ca.

What is the significance of the test printing cancellation? Is this a test when they first start up the equipment? Perhaps some one more familiar with Canada Post cancellations can explain to the rest of us what this means. Send your replies via webnews@nsstampclub.ca or to the address on page 2.



Stamp Oddities

The Battle of Monmouth (June 28, 1778) in New Jersey was a turning point in the American Revolution for General George Washington, proving that his American army could stand against the British Regulars and that his army was more than just a rag tag bunch of locals.

During the battle, a camp follower, Mary Hays, brought water to the troops from a nearby spring while her husband, Captain John Hays, manned a cannon on the field. Under fire, and loosing men, the artillery unit was going to fall back. John had been wounded or succumbed to heat exhaustion (it had been a merciless hot day). Mary volunteered and bravely served in her husband's place. According to the legend, after the battle, Washington issued her a warrant as a noncommissioned officer, and she was thereafter known by the nickname "Sergeant Molly". After Hayes' death after the war she married John McCauley, moved to Carlisle, Penn. and died there Jan 22, 1833.

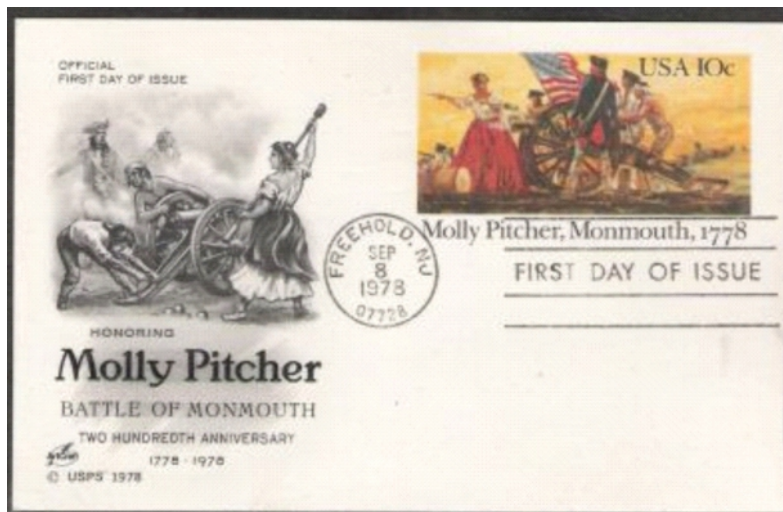
"Molly Pitcher" was a nickname given women who carried water to soldiers on the battlefield and the "name" most associated with Mary Hayes McCauley. However, who the "real" Molly Pitcher was is conjecture. Tales of Molly Pitcher grew with the telling and she is as much folklore as history. She may well be a composite image of a number of women including Margaret Corbin, who likewise took her husband's place at the cannon at the attack on Fort Mifflin in November 1776. The image of Molly Pitcher offered a popular symbol extraordinary female bravery in war."



In 1928, "Molly Pitcher" was honored with an overprint on a 2c Washington stamp to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Battle of Monmouth. The postal stationery cover (shown below) was released in 1978 to celebrate the 200th anniversary. "Molly" was further honored in World War II with the naming of the

Liberty ship SS Molly Pitcher, launched, and subsequently torpedoed, in 1943.

There is a hotel, the Molly Pitcher Inn, in Red Bank, New Jersey - not far from the site of the Battle of Monmouth, a rest stop on the New Jersey Turnpike at



Southbound Mile 71.7, and a stretch of US Route 11 between Shippensburg and Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, all named in honour of Molly Pitcher.

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Notes from the October Meeting

The NSSC Club meeting was held on October 10, 2005. Presentations were made by Karen Smith, Trivium Design Inc. Halifax on the design components of the Atlas of Canada Stamp and by Yves Piche, marketing manager with Canada post who discussed new ventures with Canada Post and to reiterate that they do still are about collectors. He provided a copy of the 2006 Stamp book that was won by Jim Hanifen. No auction was held - again! We hope you are saving up items for Christmas! An Executive meeting was held on October 17th. The next meeting of the club will take place on November 14. Jane Sodero will give a presentation on Engraver Czeslaw Slania. This will be a circuit book month.

Annual Member Dues

Membership fees were due as of July 1. The third invoice has been included in this mailing for those of you that have not yet submitted (not too many left now). Please let us know your intentions. Our club runs on these fees and it is hard to plan events if we do not have the balance to support those projects. Membership cards are enclosed for those who have paid. The address for sending dues is on page 2 or dues can be paid at the meeting. Please be prompt, members not paid up by Dec. 22/06 will be cut from the roll.

Cover Box

Covers are available at the monthly meetings. In our "Worldwide Covers" box - a bargain can be found at 50 cents each, or 5 for \$2. The Canada and the USA covers are a real deal at 3 for a loonie (\$1)!! All proceeds from cover sales go directly to the club.

Newsletter Articles

If you have an item (article, cover, show & tell) for the newsletter please contact Jeff for details at: webnews@nsstampclub.ca or by mail (pg. 2). Unless of a timely nature, items will be printed on a first come basis. **The deadline for the December issue is Nov. 30, 2006.**

December Charity Auction

As is normally the case, we will hold a charity auction at our December meeting. Items for this auction do not have to be of a philatelic nature and all proceeds go to a yet to be named charity. However in keeping with tradition the charities will probably be the Food Bank and the Salvation Army.



Canada Post's recent issue of Christmas definitives.



A second domestic rate definitive was also released.

Royal* 2006* Royale

Congratulations to our club members on receiving silver medal awards at Royal* 2006* Royale in Calgary.

Milford House Postcards 1905 to Present: A Rustic Resort for Over a Century - Jane Sodero

Papua and New Guinea: The Missing Years, 1945-1952 - Marty Zelenietz

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NOVA PEX 2007

**NOVAPEX 2007
September 15-16, 2007**

Dartmouth Sportsplex

Novapex 2006 is just finished and now we are looking forward to Novapex 2007 which will be held in September. This will be a Regional show only. Planning is in the works and more details will be provided as they become available.

Thank You

The family of the late George MacKenzie would like to express their heartfelt thank-you to the members and their families who showed such kindness and support during our recent sad loss.

We sincerely appreciate all those who attended the visitation and memorial service. Thank you so much for the many cards, telephone calls and donations.

Your kindness and support meant so much during our difficult time.

Sincerely,
Blanche and Heather MacKenzie

Oct 20, 2006

Private Stamp Sale

My large collection of world wide mint and used stamps and other philatelic material is offered for sale. Interested buyers are invited to submit a want list of their needs. The list should include name of country, Scott Catalogue numbers and Scott Catalogue prices. Sale includes partial mint and used mounted collections of a lot of countries, as well as individual stamps (mint and used). Since I have no capacity for computer submissions, all bids should be written and include name, address and telephone number. Send your want list to:

Harry Steele
123 Evans Avenue
Halifax, NS, B3M 1C8
(902) 443-9458