



**February 2007
Volume 36, Issue 6
Number 369**

Up and Coming

Every Saturday 4pm Auction
Seaside Book and Stamp

February 10 Stamp Fair & Auction
Burnside Motel, Dartmouth, NS

February 13 Club Meeting Centennial Stamps, Auction

February 15 Friends of Philately

March 3 Moncton Stamp Fair

March 13 Club Meeting

Birds on Stamps, Circuit Books

March 15 Friends of Philately

March 16-18 Great Western CSDA
Stamp Show, Langley BC

March 23-25 Edmonton Stamp Club Spring National

April 7 Moncton Stamp Fair



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The 3rd International Polar Year

by Jeffrey Parks

This year, and next, marks the 125th anniversary of the first International Polar Year (IPY) (1882-83) and the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year (1957-58). The IPY and IGY were major initiatives that brought significant new insights into global processes and laid the foundation for decades of invaluable polar research.

A second IPY occurred fifty years later in 1932-1933. The third IPY (2007-08) will be a collaborative, bipolar, multidisciplinary and internationally coordinated research effort of polar observation and analysis.

The first IPY (1882-1883) was inspired by Austro-Hungarian navy officer Lt. Karl Weyprecht (right) (1838-1881) who, as a scientist and explorer, co-commanded the Austro-Hungarian Polar Expedition of 1872-74 which discovered Franz Josef Island in the Russian far north. Weyprecht and German polar explorer/scientist Georg von Neumeyer (1826-1909) proposed the IPY concept to the 2nd International Congress of Meteorologists in Rome in 1879.



The key concept was that geophysical phenomena could not be surveyed by one nation alone. They argued for a coordinated scientific approach, with observers making coordinated geophysical measurements at several locations during the same year. Many countries sharing responsibility and cost for programs would maximize the number of coordinated scientific observations. The IPY is the most

famous example of such a cooperative

Twelve countries participated: the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States, in 12 Arctic and 3 Antarctic expeditions. Observations included meteorology, geomagnetism, auroral phenomena, ocean currents, tides, structure and motion of ice and atmospheric electricity.



Forty nations participated in the Second Polar Year which program studied how observations in the polar regions could improve weather forecasts and investigate the global implications of the newly discovered “Jet Stream”. Advances in meteorology, magnetism, atmospheric science and mapping ionospheric phenomena were made during this period.

Interest in polar philately and polar themes on stamps has been evident



IPY... Continued

since the early Antarctic expeditions. Material from both poles have been created for many expeditions over the years. The first IPY stamps were created in 1932 (such as Russia Sc# C34 above), in 1957 for the IGY and in 1982 to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the first IPY (Korea Sc#1289 previous page) or 50th Anniversary of the second (French Southern & Antarctic Territories Sc# C75 below) depending on the history of the issuing countries involvement.



Many countries including Canada and the United State (previous page) will be issuing IPY stamps in February to mark the anniversary and future of collaborative polar research.

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.

A Speculative Comment

by David Jones

It used to be that stamps were used for postage - almost exclusively, while a small portion would have been saved by collectors. In those days, there were many thousands if not hundreds of thousands of postally used copies of all but the most high values readily available to what was really a small number of collectors. Few could afford to purchase a high value stamp for the simple pleasure of putting it in a book and saving it. As a category of philately, mint high values - esp. MNH - of this period have appreciated constantly to very attractive levels.

Now let's fast forward to 2007. The postally used water-activated postage stamp is becoming a bit of a rarity. And it is becoming increasingly difficult to acquire (legitimately) used copies of high values, and almost impossible to acquire used copies from mini and souvenir sheets.

As the economy continues to be robust, it is not impossible for a collector to acquire ALL the mint issues of a country each year - even though that might run to a day's pay or two for the year.

So where is the (investment / appreciation) value to be had today and tomorrow? I'd say that greater value increments will be seen in the legitimately used commemoratives and high values, especially if they happen to have a legible cancellation - CDS being at the top of that list. On the other hand, I find self adhesives not altogether different from meter postage and not very interesting - as well as hard to maintain and display.

I'd argue the position and prestige of postal history will increase as the focus shifts from trying to find and collect ever more rare postally used stamps, to the increasing use of a very wide range of media for payment of postal service.

Though there are specialists now in these areas (and more power to them!) some of us have disdain for postage meters (both privately held and those in use at post offices) because we saw them as a real threat to our beloved stamps. I for one think of all the packages I have received over the years with a high value label pasted on - and thinking - the sender could have made my day - and covered the shipping cost - by pasting on a dozen high value stamps instead.

Besides, metered labels never did rate high on attractiveness - being about as bland as institutions could make them. And now, this issue of machine-produced postage is compounded by pre-paid packages, bar codes and other devices for proof of shipping paid. It makes one think. Just what is the core of philately anyway? Is it the art and science of the stamp? Or is it the mechanics and processes of getting mail into people's hands?

If it is the former - we face the dreaded prospect of collecting stamps manufactured for collectors, cancelled to order and available on any subject we wish. (Picture postage anyone?)

If it is the latter - imagine the varieties in packaging and methods of payment. Imagine what can be done with studies on ink-jet printing for example (I'm trying to be objective here folks).

I'm not trying to sell a perspective. Really, I'm just asking a question. Is the hobby in transition? Have we any role to play in defining what we are and what we do, or are we at the whim of the agencies? Thoughts appreciated.

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Cover Story - No Post Office Named & No. 25 Backstamp

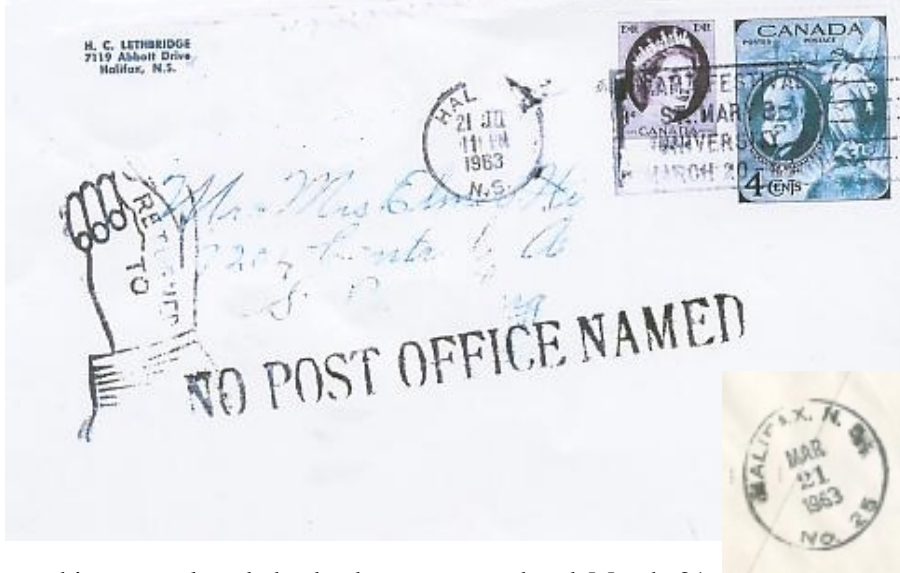
This month's cover story is the result of some serious sleuthing by three of our membership. The cover shown, which belongs to David Cooper, appears to have been mailed and between mailing and machine cancel the place of destination was obliterated. The post office then stamped the rigid digit RETURNED TO and the largest NO POST OFFICE NAMED hand stamp he had ever seen. Both the

Office in 1945 right after the war.

I showed him the cancel. He says that it was from the Directory Service section. Any mails that were undeliverable or requiring redirection were sent to this section. There were 2 senior clerks who worked this section full time plus when required additional clerks would be assigned to handle any back log. Directory came under the supervision of the City Section. This branch to my knowledge still exists. When I transferred from the Regional office to the Halifax Post Office it was on the City Floor/Section. The full time guys who worked in Directory had been there for years! The cancel was used as a hand stamp indicating the date it was processed through this section. Lycon did not think there was any significance to the number "25". He thought it might have been originally been a clerk number but the reality was that anyone assigned to the section would use whatever hammer was handiest. He indicated that in his time and I recall in mine as well that there were a variety of hammers that were in this section.

So in summary here is what we know...

- 1) Cover mailed on 21 III 1963 11 PM Halifax, N.S. to an indiscernible address.
- 2) After going through the machine canceller, the address was found to be unreadable due to damage on the face of the envelope.
- 3) Mail that was undeliverable was sent to the Directory Service Section, under the direction of (Halifax) City Section.
- 4) As the destination city could not be read the large NO POST OFFICE NAMED was applied.
- 5) The cover was then sent to the Directory Service Centre (DSC) where it was back stamped with HALIFAX, N.S. - NO. 25 on MAR 21, 1963. The DSC also applied the large RETURNED TO hand stamp.
- 6) These hand stamps have been known since the 1920s as shown in proof books.
- 7) Former Canada Post employees advise that these hand stamps were used as a date stamp indicating the date mail was processed through Directory Service Centre.
- 8) At this time the NO. 25 has no particular significance and at one time it may have originally been assigned to a specific clerk but was probably used by any clerk during a shift.



machine cancel and the back stamp are dated March 21, 1963 and are apparently all Halifax Markings. However, the meaning of "No. 25" on the backstamp is the unknown quantity here.

With the help of Hugh Rathbun, one of our NS postal history experts, and President John Eldridge, a former Canada Post employee, this cover's history has been given a little more light. We will let them tell the story...

Hugh - Quite a number of those Halifax circles with "No. 7", "No. 23", etc. were issued between 1922 and 1950. Before I saw in the proof books how many there were, I thought they might be sub office numbers i.e. Halifax No. 6 used at Halifax Sub 6. However, that is not the case as the numbers do not correspond (a Halifax No. 20 was proofed in 1922 and a Halifax No.30 proofed in 1939 and there were no subs with those numbers in those years). Possibly they are clerk numbers, but I have not seen any evidence to suggest that. The numbers no doubt had some administrative purpose, but I don't know what that was. Sydney was issued similar date stamps with those numbers.

John - I met John Lycon who was one of my old bosses when I was in the Post Office. He had been Supt of Mails at the Halifax Post Office for years up to 1975 when he went to the Regional office where I worked for him. He started at the Post

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Faux pas!!

Seems I had too many late nights prior to the last newsletter and the proof-reader was asleep at the wheel. There was no image of the cover in Dennis' January article on RPOs and Part 1 of the article is the only part. But in all fairness Dennis didn't give me the image of the cover either!!! Some of the dates in Up and Coming were also a bit off and have been rectified in this NL and the website. My humble apologies.

The RPO story in the January newsletter brought to mind envelope below - an item I had done in 1960 when it became evident we were seeing the last of the Sydney and Louisbourg Railway. While not philatelic as such, it is an interesting memento of the railway history of the time, and no doubt a role was played by this network in the transport of mail.

The cover is stamped by CN Express in Glace Bay, Louisbourg and Sydney; "Carried by Motor Truck" is likely CN Express; The S&L Railway in Glace Bay, Mira Station and Louisbourg. Sadly the July 11 Louisbourg Station is almost illegible, and I have no recollection of the significance of the lovely large "R" stamp, or why I included "Dominion, N.S." Perhaps someone familiar with the history could elucidate.

- David Jones



**Edmonton Stamp Club Spring
 National Show March 2007**

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, 2007.

Our show is March 23 -25 at our usual venue (West Edmonton Mall), and is a RPSC-accredited national level show. Our website <http://www.edmontonstampclub.com/> contains information about the show, as well the prospectus and entry forms. We welcome exhibits and attendees from across Canada and the United States.

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

**NOVA PEX
 2007**

September 14-16, 2007

Novapex 2007 will be held in September at the Dartmouth Sportsplex. This will be a Regional show only. Planning is in the works and more details will be provided as they become available. If you are interested in being on the Novapex Committee let us know.

Membership

A member application has been received from Robert Soper. Bob is a former member of the club and he collects Newfoundland, Folkard postcards (lettercards) and Newfoundland postcards. Welcome Bob.

We also note the passing of Violet Sellick (#623), age 87 on January 19, 2007. She had been a member since Nov 1976. Our condolences to her family.

The count (and money) is finally in and four names have been removed from the roll - 3 for non payment and 1 resignation. Complete details will be made at the club meeting and in the annual report of membership.

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

We have all the major articles we need for this year but are still looking for stamp oddity and cover story pieces as well as interesting marks and stamp items. Unless of a timely nature, items will be printed on a first come basis. **The deadline for the March issue is Feb. 28, 2007.**