



Nova Scotia Stamp Club Newsletter

September 2007
Volume 37, Issue 1
Number 374

UP AND COMING

Every Saturday 4pm Auction
Seaside Book and Stamp

September 8 Burnside Stamp Fair
and Auction, Burnside Motel

September 11
Club Annual Meeting, Circuit Books
Send in your ideas for guest speakers
or offer up yourself.

September 14 -16 NOVApex 2007

Sept. 20 Friends of Philately
Bloomfield School, Halifax

October 9 Club Meeting, Auction

October 13 Burnside Stamp Fair

October 20 BRUNPEX 2007
Chateau Moncton 10am - 4 pm

NOVA PEX 2007

September 14-16, 2007

Dartmouth Sportsplex
Dartmouth Nova Scotia

See Page 4 for details or

www.nsstampclub.ca/novapex07.htm

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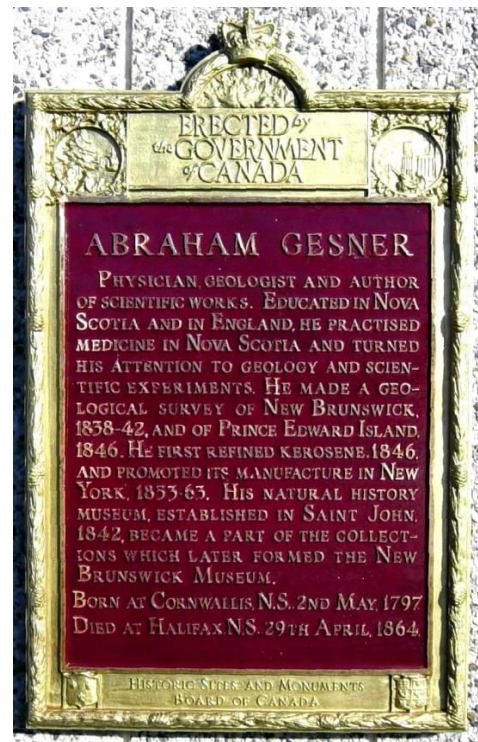
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Abraham Gesner (1797-1864) Pre-eminent Nova Scotian

by Michael Peach

If you are in taking a drive in the Annapolis Valley and are in the Kentville/New Minas area, why not take exit 12 on Highway 101, direction New Minas. This will lead you to Middle Dyke Road, and about one kilometre after crossing Belcher Street, there is a monument to Abraham Gesner on the east (right) side. The plaque states that Gesner, one of a rare group of multit talented Victorians, was a physician, geologist, and general scientist. One of his major claims to fame was the refining of kerosene in 1846. Kerosene, or coal oil, burned more cleanly and was less expensive than the then used whale and vegetable oils. This was a leading factor in the demise of the whaling fleet. Whereas in 1846 there were 735 ships in that fleet, thirty years later, in 1876, it was down to a mere 39 ships. Kerosene had taken over the whale oil market. Gesner is now credited with saving more whales than Greenpeace ever can! The price of sperm oil reached its high of \$1.77 per gallon in 1856; by 1896 it sold for 40 cents. Yet it could not keep pace with the price of refined petroleum, which dropped from 59 cents per gallon in 1865 to a fraction over seven cents in 1895.

The discovery of kerosene was celebrated in 1988 by the issue of a stamp



illustrating a kerosene lamp (Scott 1206) part of the Canada Day Science and Technology series. Previously the 1958 Oil Industry stamp had shown a kerosene oil lamp. Gesner was also honoured in the Father of Invention series of the millennium stamps.



Abraham Gesner was born in Cornwallis Township, now Chipman Corner, on 2 May 1797, and died in Halifax on 29 April 1864.

Gesner was involved in other scientific projects. In 1838 he published a study of the geology of Nova Scotia, which

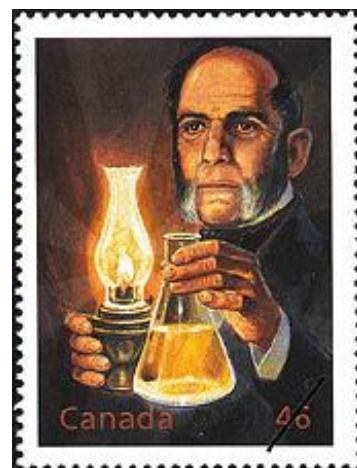
Continued on Page 2

... Gesner Continued



included a discussion of the key deposits of iron and coal. In 1838 he became the New Brunswick Provincial Geologist, charged with producing a similar geological survey of the province. It was during this survey that he found a bituminous asphalt, albertite, which he heated to a high temperature in a closed retort to produce kerosene. In 1842 he established the Gesner Museum in Saint John, New Brunswick, the first public museum in Canada.

Subsequent to his discovery of kerosene, which he patented in 1854, he appears to have devoted much of his energy to the production and use of kerosene on Long Island, New York. In 1863 he sold his patents and returned to Halifax, where he was appointed Professor of Natural History at Dalhousie University. He died in Halifax shortly thereafter.



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Stamp Oddities

Wadhwan was a feudatory state of India that issued this stamp in 1888 good for postage only in the state. This one stamp makes up an entire collection of this state. No postal history may be more interesting to collect here.



When Hungary went through an inflationary period in 1946, it issued a set of 15 "Dove and Letter" stamps worth an astounding 661,888 trillion pengos. In Europe, their billion is our trillion. The largest single denomination was 500,000 trillion pengos. Inflation during the Hungarian postwar period 1945-46 was 4.19 quintillion percent. That is eighteen zeros. Ouch!!!

Lawrence of Arabia is credited with having designed the first stamp of Hejaz issued when the country gained its independence in 1916. Hejaz, in present day Saudi Arabia, defined mostly by the Red Sea extended from Haql on the Gulf of Aqaba to Jizan near the current Oman border, was independent until 1924 when it joined Ibn Saud's sheikdom to form the Kingdom of Hijaz and Nejd, later the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



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.

Ron Leith Auctions Inc. has forwarded to me copies of their latest auction catalogue for Sept. 27, 2007. The catalogues will be available at the club meeting to give those interested a few extra days. The remainder will be distributed at Novapex

New Member

Laszlo Szantor, Halifax, has applied for membership in NSSC. He collects Canada, Hungary, old action postcards and as he says "classics for a poor man's collection". Mr. Szantor is a past member of the Middlesex Stamp Circle (1970s) of London Ontario.

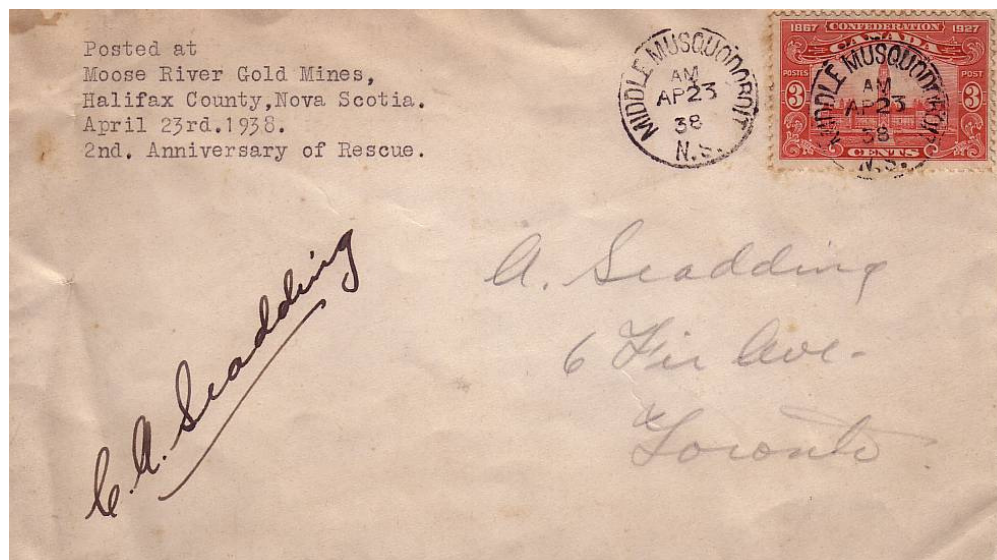
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Cover Story - The Moose River Gold Mines Rescue

by Jeffrey Parks



Being a Geologist by training, I am always on the lookout for interesting postal material with a "geologic" bent. This cover caught my interest earlier this summer on eBay. Although I wasn't really up on the details of the Moose River Gold Mines disaster, other than to know that was where CBC Radio cut it's teeth as a broadcaster, it wasn't until I investigated who C.A. Scadding was that I had palm slap to the forehead moment.

In 1866, Moose River, Halifax County, was a lumbering district connected to the Musquodoboit Valley by road. The district has been known for its gold bearing rocks since the mid 1800s. In 1876 the first mining surveys began at Moose River and by 1881 the Moose River Gold Mining Company was formed. Until WWI the area produced modest returns for the miners at just over 1 ounce of gold per ton of rock mined. After that time, work in the area continued sporadically and a renewed mine in the mid thirties had reopened and worked right up until April 12, 1936.

On that day, after the last shift, mine owners Dr. David Robertson and lawyer Herman Magill, accompanied by timekeeper C. Alfred Scadding, went down the lift to inspect the Meyers shaft. When Scadding heard an unusual noise, and at his insistence, the men started to head back to the surface. Suddenly the timbers supporting the walls and roof started to crack and the roof gave away trapping the men in a small space at the 141 foot level.

Immediately the alarm went out at the surface and the local miners began work to get to the men. Miners from other jurisdictions - Westville, Caribou Mines, Montague Mines, Springhill, Goldenville, Waverly, Stellarton - arrived within days to assist in the rescue attempts. No one knew if there were any survivors. After six days of clearing passages and drilling the officials decide to abandon the rescue attempt. Billy Bell, the driller, refused to give up and eleven hours later a steam whistle blast sent down the 1 1/2 inch drill pipe is responded to by Scadding tapping on the drill pipe. There are survivors.

Scadding let the rescuers know by yelling up the pipe that the three were in desperate condition. Both Robertson and Magill had been sick from the cold and damp from the onset of the collapse. Magill finally succumbed to pneumonia on April 20, the morning after hope of rescue was re-established.

News of the disaster had reached the media and was being heavily published in papers around the world. J. Frank Willis of the CRBC, received permission to go to the mine on the 20th and made his first broadcast at 6 pm that day using the newly run phone lines brought in for the rescue. He made 2-two minute reports every hour live to North America and Europe for the 56 hours till the rescue. Finally on Thursday, April 23, through the experience of coal miners tunneling from a nearby shaft, Robertson was the first to be brought out of the mine at about 12:45 am, followed by Scadding 15 minutes later.

So, back to the cover posted to and signed by C. A. Scadding to commemorate his rescue two years prior. There had been a post office at Moose River Gold Mines but it closed in 1928 before the current mine was open. Scadding posted his cachet at Moose River and the cancel is Middle Musquodoboit AP23/38, instead of Upper Musquodoboit, which is closer to Moose River. None-the-less, a nice postal souvenir of Nova Scotia's mining legacy.

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)!!

However..., lately all covers have been moving at **10 cents** a piece in an effort to turn over the stock. Marty Zelenietz, our cover care-taker, is looking for an new infusion of covers for sale. If you have some to donate see Marty. All proceeds from cover sales go directly to the NS Stamp Club.

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NOVA PEX 2007

Novapex 2007 will be held in September 14 to 16, 2007 at the Dartmouth Sportsplex. This will be a Regional show only.

Schedule

Friday, 14 September, 2007

3.00 pm Show opens
8.00 pm Show closes

Saturday, 15 September, 2007

9.30 am Show opens
10:00 am Youth Stamp Clinic
- Main Hall (Youth Table)
12:30 pm BNAPS 2008 Committee Meeting - Nantucket Room
2:00 pm Nova Scotia Postal History Study Group
- Nantucket Room
3:30 pm British Collectors Club of Nova Scotia
- Nantucket Room
5.00 pm Show closes
6:30 pm Awards Banquet Reception (Holiday Inn Harbourview - across the street)
7:00 pm Awards Banquet

Sunday, 16 September, 2007

11:00 am Show opens
11:00 am BNAPS - Atlantic Chapter Meeting - Nantucket Room
2:00 pm Seaside Book & Stamp Annual Auction
- Nantucket Room
3:00 pm Show closes

Club Table at Novapex 2007

The club table is a venue for members to sell their wares. There is no up front table fee, however, 10% of your sales goes to the club. Prepare your stamps, covers, philatelic books, circuit books, ephemera, etc. for sale. Do an inventory, mark items with a unique code such as first 3 letters of your last name followed by a numeric series e.g PAR123, and pass the inventory list on to Hugh Rathbun, who is coordinating the Table again this year. Helpers are also required to assist with sales and organization of material during Novapex. Hugh can be reached by email at hrathbun@eastlink.ca. Let's make the table another success.

Novapex Awards Banquet

The Annual Novapex Awards banquet will be held at the Holiday Inn Harbourview, Dartmouth - across from the Sportsplex. Pre-dinner refreshments will be served at 6:30 pm on Saturday September 15 with dinner commencing at about 7:00 pm.

Menu

Salad - Mesclun Greens, Pears, Candied Walnuts and Gorgonzola Dressing

Entrée - Drunken Breast of Chicken with a White Wine & Fig Sauce

Dessert - Field Berry Cobbler with Vanilla Cream

Tickets for this event are **\$35 each** and are available from Jeff at 876-0099 or webnews@nsstampclub.ca, at the club meeting, or at Seaside Book and Stamp. Reserve yours, now tickets are limited.

All Hands on Deck!!

September is here already and **Novapex 2007** is days away. We need people for the various jobs associated with the exhibition: Set-up and tear-down, youth table, club table, reception desk, tour guides.

If you are interested in helping out please send Jeff an email (webnews@nsstampclub.ca) or call 876-0099 indicating your participation and for what function. Sign up sheets will be available at club meeting.

Seaside Book & Stamp Annual Auction

Seaside's Annual Auction will take place in the Nantucket Room at the Dartmouth Sportsplex on **Sunday September 16 at 2pm**. Material for the auction may be delivered to Seaside Book & Stamp on or before Wednesday Sept 12, 2007.

Royal*2007*Royale The 79th Annual Convention of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada will be held in Toronto, Oct 12-14, 2007. Sponsored by The GTPA and CSDA, details at

<http://www.gtapa.org/Royal/>

This newsletter is brought to you by...



The invoice is in the envelope. Please pay in a timely matter.

Novapex 2007 Team Competition

The Teams have assembled the competition is on. This is year one for what is hoped to be an annual "One Frame Team" competition. A team shield and individual plaques for the winning team members are available.

Lots of Dealers at Novapex

For a regional show we have managed to secure a good number of dealers. There should be something for everyone.

Acadia Stamps

Seaside Book & Stamp

Jim Carde

J. Claude Michaud

Mac Stamps,

Nickerson Stamps

Millbar-Paige

Moody Blue Stamp Co.

Lewis Stamp Co.

NS Stamp Club - Members Table

Royal 2004 Royale Pins

Marty has located the stash of Royal 2004 pins and are offered for sale for \$5 each. Yes, that is 3 pins for \$15. If you recall the original price was about \$8 each. The best deal in town.

Newsletter Articles

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 October issue is September 28, 2007.**