



Nova Scotia Stamp Club Newsletter

January 2008
Volume 37, Issue 5
Number 378

Up and Coming

Every Saturday 4pm Auction
Seaside Book and Stamp

January 5 Moncton Stamp Fair,
Park House Inn, Moncton

January 8 Club Meeting, Hugh
Rathbun presentation, Club Mem-
ber's Fair

January 12 Burnside Stamp Fair
Burnside Motel, Dartmouth

January 17 Friends of Philately
Bloomfield School, Halifax

January 17 Symphony Nova Sco-
tia performance of JJ. MacDonald
memorial commissioned work.
See pg 4 for story.

May 16-18 Royal*2008*Royale
80th RPSC Annual Meeting,
Hotel Gouverneur, Quebec City

August 29-31

BNAPEx+2008+NOVAPEX

Annual Convention of the British
North America Philatelic Society
and the Regional Exhibition of the
Nova Scotia Stamp Club
Lord Nelson Hotel, Halifax, NS

Airgraphs

by Michael Peach

Airgraphs, not to be confused with aerogrammes or air mail lettersheets, were used during the second World War. The quickest means of communication was via air, either air mail or airgraphs. In those long past war years, air travel and air transportation were much different from today. Airgraphs were a means of sending large numbers of letters or greetings rapidly.

Airgraphs were introduced for mailing purposes in Britain in August 1941 for relatives and friends to communicate with the armed forces and Merchant Navy. Initially the service was from

Britain to the Middle East. Mussolini had closed the Suez Canal. Mail had to be sent via the Cape of Good Hope, and a letter from India, for example, took between three and six months. The Airgraph service was gradually extended and included the Commonwealth troops. Similarly letters could be sent home by the forces. The original message was written on a special form, available from local post offices, where it could be returned. The form was then sent to the Main Post Office in London, the King Edward Building. There it was numbered and photographed onto microfilm, 16 mm.

The microfilm was flown to its destination, an approximately quarter size positive print was made and mailed to the recipient. In Canada the system was inaugurated in November 1941 for messages to the Armed Forces in the United Kingdom. In November 1942 the service was extended to permit any personnel of the Allied Armed Forces serving in Canada to send messages to their families and friends in Britain. I have not been able to find out where the photographic laboratory was in Canada.

The advantage of this system was that the weight was greatly reduced: spools with 1600 airgraphs on microfilm weighed 5 oz (154 g), compared with 50 lbs (22.5 Kg) for the same number of letters. Copies of the microfilm were



Continued on Page 2

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... **Airgraphs** Continued

retained for reference. By 1 October 1942 about one million Airgraphs were being sent in each direction per week. A disadvantage of the service was the lack of privacy. Information about the sender was also required.

The service ended on 31 July 1945. During its operation 135,224,250 airgraphs were sent. A similar service in the U.S.A. was known as V-mail.



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

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



Happy New Year
 Year of the Rat
 1984, 1996, 2008



The illustrations show a letter from a Lance Sergeant in England to his parents in Halifax, dated 7 September 1942 (Figure 1, pg 1), and mailed in the envelope marked Airgraph Air Mail Postage Paid SEP 18 1942 (Figure 2, upper far left). The other envelope, Airgraph, has no contents, and was probably mailed in the United Kingdom on 31 May 1942 (Figure 3, lower far left). The Christmas Greetings are from Capt. George Taylor in the West NS Regiment in Italy, to Weymouth, Nova Scotia (Figure 4, left). The sheet was folded, stuck with a drop of glue and then mailed in Canada on JAN 25, 1945. It arrived in Weymouth on JAN 26 45 (Figure 5, lower left).

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Illustrator Needs Assistance

A local (HRM) illustrator and am working for a Newfoundland publisher on a children's book which is based on a factual story about the Gipsy Moth plane that flew airmail in that province. She was wanting to include in the book some examples of Newfoundland postal history particularly stamps available during the early 1930s. She is also trying to find some kind of visual reference for a postal carrier's outfit for the same time period but this is proving extremely difficult. She may be attending the December meeting to have discussions with us. If you have anything to contribute please contact the editor and I will put you in contact with the illustrator.

History Lesson - A Stamp Flap

These "Letters to Editors" were forwarded by David Jones. I can only surmise that may be all related however the were listed from different papers. I will provide the text and dates (where known - some are dated 1876,). If nothing else they make for amusing reading. If you have more to contribute about this particular issue of the Post Office not selling stamps. Please let me know so that I can share - Jeff.

Correspondence.

Postage Stamps and that sort of thing

To the Editor of the Daily Reporter and Times;

Sir,- What a miserable thing it is Mr. Editor, that we have a government so neglectful of our commonest interests that they will not sell us - even a *Postage Stamp!* Was ever such a thing heard of? And who are the wretches responsible for it? Is there another city on America where a state of things like this exist? The Government of the Dominion have decreed that all letters sent through the Post Office must be prepaid with stamps - and, as far as the Halifax Post Office is concerned, that also appears to have decreed that it will not sell us a postage stamps to enable us to send our letters by mail. Who recommended these ingenious manoeuvres for tormenting the whole community? Is it political spite against Halifax, or did it originate in the stupidity of the Halifax Post Office? If the latter, it is quite time that a change took place in that branch of the Dominion P.O. Department. Is it a display of the wisdom of the Hon. Mr.. Huntington, the Postmaster-General, to relive our *hard-worked* P.O. officials from the onerous task of *selling* postage stamps? He ought, then, to be ashamed of himself, for they have quite sufficient leisure to attend to this duty. Really, sir, if he and his anti-protection colleagues have very few real friends in Nova Scotia, I can conceive of no reason why he should make enemies in this gratuitous manner, or hasten the fulfilment of the adage - that " the last *straw* breaks the camel's back."

Now, sir, can you suppose it possible that it is difficult to get a three cent stamp or postal card, or other stamp, at any of the places in Halifax *authorized* to sell postage stamps! And yet this is what it has come to! Parties *authorized* have *none to sell!* and it may be well supposed will not sell to lose by it, as they inevitably must do, if they have to pay *cash* for them, and gather no discount, or little or none on their quality. Postage stamps are now chiefly procurable through the country post offices, and per favour of *unauthorized*

shopkeepers in Halifax, whose country customers remit a few occasionally to pay the *flag-end* of their bills!

Is there, can there be, any object to be gained by pursuing this ignoble policy? It used to be the case that by purchasing a reasonable amount of stamps, a discount of 5 per cent was allowed to the buyer - a cash transaction of course, but a loss at that to the taker. Now, there is not a stamp to be got at the Post Office for love or money - nor will that Dominion establishment take cash in pre-payment of letters, - and the Blackadder who guards its sacred precincts, hisses at the application of any person desirous of remedying the evil, and refers them to Ottaway (sic)- the head quarters!

Well, sir, what are we to do? Her Majesty's tropps want postage stamps. The Navy wants them. The Public Service requires them. The people can't do without them! Shall we make a raid on the reserved stores of the Post Office? That would probably do us little good. Shall we upset the Postmaster? Pooh! poor fellow! He hasn't brains enough to be responsible for any experiment; and whether or no, his time is short.

It is rather a dangerous experiment interfering with the sale of postage stamps, whoever is responsible. Why is it that parties *authorised* do not sell them, and others *not* authorised supply them, whenever casual remittances enable them to do so? Why, also, have the people, of the country facilities for procuring them from their Post Offices that are not possessed by the people of the city?

Have we not Mr. Editor, a right to insist that the Post Office Department set apart a suitable place in their own premises, expressly for the sale of every description of stamp...

[Unfortunately the article is cut off. However, I will endeavour to follow through on this interesting story - ed.]

Keeping with a historical note, below is an ad for pre-Confederation stamps sold by ABS DeWolf of Halifax in Feb. 1887 - from that edition of *The Halifax Philatelist*. If only they were still available at that price....

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Newfoundland 3, 5, 4, 6, 6½ 8d & 1s	1.50
Prince Edward Island 1, 2, 3, 6, 4, & 12c	30

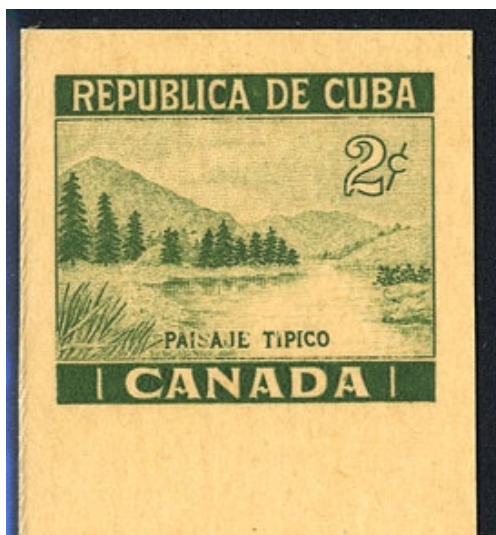
—
Sheets of rare stamps sent to parties giving good references.
25 p. c. Commission.
A. B. S. DeWolf,
Box 219 Halifax, N S.

Stamp Oddities

This month's feature is an Imperforate Plate Proof Gutter Pair on Card (upper half shown), in Green, being offered in an upcoming Cherrystone Auction. This Cuban stamp depicts a Canadian scene. Not having seen this before the Scott catalogue was consulted to cast some light on this issue. It appears that the stamp which resulted from the proof was part of a fifteen denomination set depicting coats of Arms, famous people or scenes, from a variety of North, Central and South American countries (Scott #'s 340-354). The particular stamp portrayed in the proof is Scott #343, and it was issued in carmine.

This issue was released on October 13, 1937, and the notations in the catalogue indicate that there were some peculiarities in connection with this series. Scott states that: "Nos. 340 to 354 were sold by the Cuban Post Office for three days, Oct. 13 - 15, during which [time] no other stamps were sold. They were postally valid for the full face value. Proceeds from their three-day sale above 30,000 pesos were paid by the Cuban Post Office Department to the Association of American Writers and Artists. Remainders were overprinted "SVP" (Without Postal Value)."

The Spanish text on the bottom of the stamp - "paisaje tipico" means "typical landscape". Typical? Don't they know how big Canada is?



Symphony Nova Scotia to perform Dr. J.J. MacDonald inspired work

Members of the NS Stamp Club might be interested in the January 17, 2008 concert of Symphony Nova Scotia. Jane Gordon gave a donation to the Symphony to commission a piece by a woman composer in memory of her husband, Dr. J.J. MacDonald. "While music had always been a part of his life, attending the symphony was one of the things he got joy from in the last years of his life", Gordon says.

Elizabeth Raum, from Saskatchewan, was given the commission and Jane met with her to tell her about J.J.'s life and interests. She was particularly interested in his work as a philatelist and read his book *The Nova Scotia Post*. She is using the book as a inspiration for the work which will premier on the 17th. This is likely the first time the book has been used in that way. Ms. Raum will be at the premiere and will speak about her work. The working title of the piece is Halifax Harbour.

Tickets for the concert are available through the Rebecca Cohn Box Office.

<http://www.symphonynovascotia.ca/default.asp?mn=1.242.317.322>

Click on A *Symphony Premiere* link for details of the performance with conductor Dinuk Wijeratne.

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unchanged.



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 February '08 issue is Jan. 31, 2008.**

DUES..DUES..DUES

If you are reading this. Congratulations, You have paid your dues. There will be about six members dropped for lack of payment. Thanks again for your patronage.



Okay, now I have seen everything

"Post Offices of Pre-Confederation Newfoundland"

Available on CD only from Carl Munden. Price CDN \$35.00. This project was completed in MS Word and may not be compatible with a Mac computer.

Novapex 07 souvenir postcards with the stamp and show cancel, the cost is \$2 each plus shipping, are still available. Contact the Newsletter for you copy.

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