



Nova Scotia Stamp Club Newsletter

February 2008
Volume 37, Issue 6
Number 379

Up and Coming

Every Saturday 4pm Auction
Seaside Book and Stamp

No Burnside Stamp Fairs until April

February 12 Club Meeting
Post Boxes M. Zelenietz; Auction

February 21 Friends of Philately
Bloomfield School, Halifax

March 1 Moncton Stamp Fair
Parks House Inn, Moncton

March 11 Club Meeting
Easter Quiz H. MacKenzie; Mem-
bers Bourse

March 20 Friends of Philately

April 12 Burnside Stamp Fair

April 26 Valley Stamp Club
Annual Show and Bourse

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

Mysterious Words

by Michael E. Ruggiero

An intriguing cover, whose owner prefers anonymity, was recently referred to me for analysis and comment. The cover, illustrated in **Figure 1**, was sent by registered mail from Kobe to Canada in 1884.

The addressee on the cover, **A**, Henry Hechler, was a German who immigrated to Canada and became a stamp dealer. Quite a few covers from various countries, between 1875 and 1927, are known addressed to Mr. Hechler.

The cover's present owner was specifically seeking feedback about the rate structure of the cover which has a total franking of 25 sen, comprising three Koban stamps (1 sen green Scott #72, 4 sen blue-green Scott #58, & 5 sen ultramarine Scott #74) totaling 10 sen in the top-right corner, **B**, together with a 15 sen lilac bird stamp (Scott #47 Syll. 3) from the Cherry Blossom series, **C**, at the lower left. All the stamps are tied by the large Kobe black bota cancellation.

The cover has a number of other postal markings besides the bota cancellations. The 1 sen stamp is also postmarked by a

dark purple Kobe octagonal datestamp, **D**, dated 3? December 1884. Just to its right is a boxed "R" registration marking, **E**, in a lighter purple overwritten by a word or words in the same color. The REGISTERED YOKOHAMA small (19-20 mm) single-circle thimble, **F**, dated 4 January 1885, was applied in what the cover's owner describes as "pinkish violet" ink. It is the earliest known use of this datestamp. It is also the only registered thimble from Yokohama recorded in 1885 that lacks serifs on the letters.

The back of the cover (not shown) bears three transit cancellations and one receiving cancellation. These are red registration cancellations (San Francisco, 17 January 1885 and Boston, 26 January 1885), and a black transit marking (St. John, N.B., 27 January 1885). The arrival marking, also in black, is Halifax, 28 January 1885.

The six 3-, 4- and 5-digit numbers appearing on the cover are registration numbers affixed by five of the post offices along the route. One of them (6918) appears twice, once at the upper

Figure 1

Continued on Page 2

MOODY BLUE STAMP COMPANY

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... Airgraphs Continued

left, and, less clearly, to the right of the 15 sen stamp. Typical of the times, most post offices used their own registration numbers, striking through the number applied by an earlier office that handled the letter.

The 2006 Japanese Stamp Specialized Catalog (JSCA) states that the postage rate from Japan to Canada in 1884 was 5 sen for each 15 grams weight, and that the registration fee at the time was 10 sen. Thus, if the cover in question and its original contents weighed over 30 grams, but less than 45 grams, the postage charge would have been 15 sen, and the additional fee of 10 sen for

registration would make a total of 25 sen, corresponding to the amount of franking on the cover.

Questions have been raised as to whether the cover contained a weight of 31-45 grams, based on its relatively small size. Since we do not know what the cover carried, it is not possible to support or refute these allegations. Another theory is that the 25 sen rate may include an A.R. (Avis de reception) charge, of possibly 5 sen. This conjecture is based on the interpretation of the words over the "R" registration marking (as shown enlarged in **Figure 2**) as "Return Receipt" and evidence that there was something attached on the back of the cover. A system of return receipt, Avis de reception, or A.R., was adopted by the

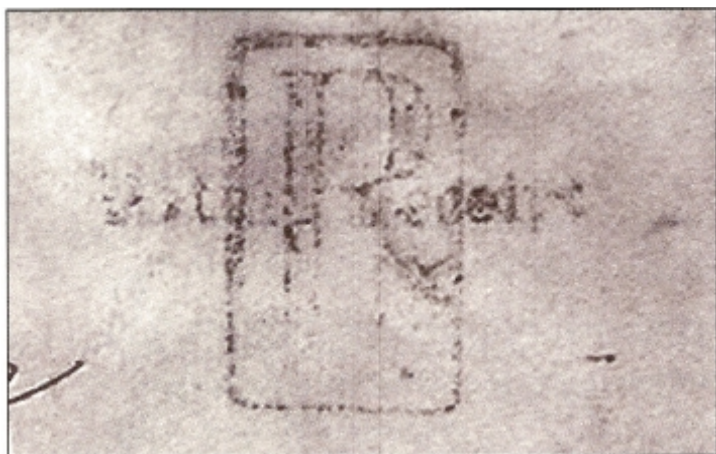
UPU at its 1891 congress in Vienna, and took effect in Japan on 1 July 1892 (JP 37/5). The 1884 cover in question obviously predates the inauguration of this international regulation.

Several philatelists have looked at the "R" marking and what is over it. Most see to the right of the "R"

marking the word "Receipt", but what is before varies. Some see the word "Postal", others see "Retain", a form of the word "Register", and even "Retour" (French word meaning "Return" commonly used on 19th century Japanese mail). The owner of the cover sees "Postal Receipt" across the "R" marking. I have written to philatelists in Japan and asked them about the words over the "R" marking. Their response was, "We have never seen such a postmark (official/governmental) in any books and on any covers up to the present."

I have not personally inspected the cover, but I have both black & white and color photocopies, as well as enlargements of some areas of the cover.

Figure 2



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.

Conclusion

The mysterious words over the "R" marking are in purple ink. This makes one wonder, since the Kobe octagonal cancel and the "R" marking are also in purple ink, whether the Kobe Post Office applied the unresolved phrase over the "R" marking. If the wording is associated with registration, then no extra postage would be needed, as the 10 sen fee would cover this situation.

Without having the actual cover in question in hand to physically inspect it, it is not possible to come to any definitive conclusions. I would welcome any further comments about this cover.

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A Memorial Tribute to Dr. J.J. MacDonald

by Rod MacLennan

Dr. J.J. MacDonald is a name well known to and respected by philatelists in Nova Scotia and across the country. Music lovers in Halifax were recently treated to a Symphony Nova Scotia presentation of a new work that drew inspiration from "J.J.'s" excellent book, *The Nova Scotia Post*. Dr. J.J.'s widow, Dr. Jane Gordon, had decided to commission a new work to honour her late husband's loyal interest in symphonic music. Jane selected Elizabeth Raum, formerly of Halifax, but now living in Regina, to compose the new piece. During her discussions with Ms. Raum, Jane showed her the book, *The Nova Scotia Post*, and the composer, somewhat to her surprise, discovered the book to be a fascinating history of Nova Scotia, albeit seen through the story of the development of the province's postal system. With that inspiration, Elizabeth wrote a five movement piece she has entitled "Halifax Harbour". The piece progresses from the first movement, "Sunrise on Halifax Harbour" (waves, seagull cries, misty sunrise), through subsequent movements entitled "Ancient Peoples" (Acadian, Mi'kmaq, British, sailors), "Tall Ships" (billowing sails, sea sounds), "The Baron of Duncan's Cove" (a tribute to former Atlantic Symphony colleagues of the composer), and finally, in the last movement "JJ", which captures his interest in Bach.

Symphony Nova Scotia performed the world premiere of the work (about twenty minutes in total) on January 17, 2008 at the Rebecca Cohn (Dalhousie Arts Centre, Halifax). The audience, sometimes wary of the atonality and disruptive rhythms of much modern classical music, were delighted with the more traditional style in which Ms. Raum wrote the work. The enthusiastic response for the orchestra, its conductor Dinuk Wijeratne, and the composer herself who was in attendance, was testimony to how much it was enjoyed. J.J. would have been delighted!

Mr. MacLennan was a close friend of Dr. MacDonald's, and a distinguished philatelist in his own right. -ed.

Where in the World!?

by Jeff Parks

Trengganu is one of the states in the Federation of Malaysia and it's situated on the East Coast. The state has one of the most beautiful and exotic islands in Malaysia. It fell under pseudo Siamese rule in the late 19th Century, and eventually became a British protectorate in 1909 under the terms of the Anglo-Siamese treaty remaining one of the



unfederated Malay States until WWII. In 1941 Japan invaded, deposing the Sultan and turning the state back to Thai control in 1943. British troops returned in 1945 freeing Trengganu and restoring the rightful Sultan. The inhabitants opposed plans for the Malay Union in 1946 and the state joined the

new federation of states on 1st February 1948. It joined the other states of the peninsular to form the independent Federation of Malaya on 31st August 1957 and became a state of Malaysia on 16th September 1963.



The first stamps were issued in 1910 depicting the ruler Sultan Zenelabidin

(top). The Japanese occupation issued their own stamps or overprinted existing stamps (2nd from top). Stamps of the Malaya Federation were used from 1957 to 1963. Stamps of Malaysia inscribed with "Trengganu" as part of the 1965 orchid series and in 1971 showing butterflies.



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Stamp Oddities

Lundy Island is probably the oldest and most famous of the local posts of Britain. The islands stamps began in 1928 when the British Post Office withdrew from the island. Envelopes are franked on the back with Lundy stamps and then put into

the regular mail system with appropriate British stamp affixed. Once a haven for pirates and smugglers, the island belonged to the Crown from 1150 to 1647 when it was sold to private interests. In the 1860s there was a granite quarry that employed about 200 people. Martin Harmon bought the island in 1928 and got into a dispute with the PO causing their withdrawal.

The population is now about 30, with a tourist influx of 25,000 over the course of a summer. The Local post offered its first stamps on Nov 1, 1929. An air mail service began in 1934 to Barnstaple, Devon and boat service exists between Bideford and Ilfracombe. Most of the stamps are purchased by tourists and collectors. New stamps are issued in moderation.

Now available on the Web

Several resources are now available on the internet. Siegel Auctions has its complete collection of rarities catalogues 1964-2007 online at www.siegelauctions.com/rarities.htm

BNAPS now has BNA Topics on line beginning with March 1944 to present. An search function can also be found at www.bnatopics.org

The RM Philips Collection, at the British Royal Postal Museum & Archive, is an essential resource to understand to postage stamps and philatelic research.

postalheritage.org.uk/collections/archiv/e/stamps/phillips/

Edmonton Stamp Club Spring National Show March 2008

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, 2008, so now is the time to get your applications off.

Our show is March 28-30 at our usual venue (West Edmonton Mall), and is a RPSC-accredited national level show. Our website is listed below and further information about the show and, copies of the relevant forms can be found at

<http://www.edmontonstampclub.com/>

We welcome exhibits, and attendees, from across the country 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

From the *Halifax Philatelist*, Feb 1888...



"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.

Membership

An application has been received from Tyson Koops, Halifax. He collects Canadian with emphasis on the Provinces. There are still six outstanding accounts for dues. These have now been cut off from receiving the Newsletter and efforts will be made to contact them.

FOR SALE

For sale as a lot. VF MNH Canada Uncut Press Sheets. Birds 1631, 1710 and 1770. 1770 is signed. Also Year of Monkey, Tiger, Rabbit and RCMP. Total catalogue \$660. Total price \$325 delivered / insured.

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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 Macrh '08 issue is Feb. 29, 2008.**

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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