



Nova Scotia Stamp Club Newsletter

March 2008
Volume 37, Issue 7
Number 380

Up and Coming

Every Saturday 4pm Auction
Seaside Book and Stamp

No Burnside Stamp Fairs until April

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

March 20 Friends of Philately

April 8 Club Meeting
RPOs S. Weatherup; Auction

April 12 Burnside Stamp Fair

April 17 Friends of Philately

April 26 Valley Stamp Club
Annual Show and Bourse
Kentville Fire Hall 10 - 4pm

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

Railway Letter Post Cover

by Michael Peach

While recently searching for some stamps showing Lewis Carroll, I found the cover shown on eBay. The cover had passed through two British Railway Letter Services, the Llechwedd Slate Caverns Railway, the Ffestiniog Railway, before entering the Royal Mail. The 1982 cover marks the 150th anniversary of the Act of Incorporation of the Ffestiniog Railway and the reopening of the last part of its restored line to Blaenau Ffestiniog in 1982. The Railway Letter Post had been created on 1 February 1891, by agreement between the Postmaster General and 75 British railway companies.

The Llechwedd Slate Caverns in Blaenau Ffestiniog, North Wales, are now a major tourist attraction. The quarry was opened in 1846 and opened to the public in 1979. An incline was built in 1848 to connect with the Ffestiniog Railway to transport the slate to Porthmadog. The stamp, or rather label, based on an original John Tenniel drawing for *Through the Looking Glass*, has inscriptions in English or Welsh. It shows a scene in a railway carriage with Alice on the right, the man dressed in white paper and the goat opposite, and the guard looking at Alice through an

opera glass. Down the sides is written Lewis Carroll 1832-1898 and behind Alice, Alice Liddell, the inspiration for the Alice stories, 1852-1934. The cover was mailed underground in the caverns. The deep mine passenger car is shown on the cover. It has a grade of 1:1.8.

On arrival at the surface the cover was transferred to the narrow gauge Ffestiniog Railway for conveyance to Porthmadog. The railway is another major tourist attraction. The two Ffestiniog railway stamps were issued to mark the 150th Anniversary. One shows the seal of the Railway and James Spooner who was responsible for the survey and construction of the railway, and the other a train at Blaenau Ffestiniog in 1939.

On arrival at Porthmadog the cover was posted in the Royal Mail system for delivery in Penrhyndeudraeth. The railway has a station at Penrhyn, the station for Penrhyndeudraeth. The cover has a Welsh 15½d stamp, paying the inland first class rate.

The stamps issued by the various Railway Letter Services are usually classified as Cinderellas.

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Kobe Cover in February Issue

It may come as no surprise that the Henry Hechler cover in the feature article on page 1 of the February NL belongs to the collection of Lorraine Rasmussen. Although the article stated anonymity of ownership, Lorraine has allowed us to "let it slip".

One Frame Competition 2008

The NS Stamp Club is aiming to repeat last years success of the team one frame competition. The team from the members of the British Collectors Club of Nova Scotia (BCCNS) were the eventual winners.

Teams are already being organized again this year. Exhibits can be entered either in the BNAPS part of the show (BNAPS members and area only) or the Novapex part. Entry forms can be found on the web,

<http://www.asch.ndirect.co.uk/bnapex2008/default.asp>

or

<http://www.nsstampclub.ca/pdfs/novapex08entry.pdf>.

We hope that you will be able to participate.

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.

Canada - Peonies

Canada's newest release features two Canadian hybrid peonies, the Elgin and the Coral 'n Gold. The stamps were released on March 3 in a SA booklet of 10 and a souvenir sheet.



The Nova Scotia Stamp Club and the Atlantic Chapter of BNAPS are planning the philatelic event of 2008 in Nova Scotia.

BNAPS+2008+NOVAPEX

Lord Nelson Hotel, Halifax

August 29-31, 2008

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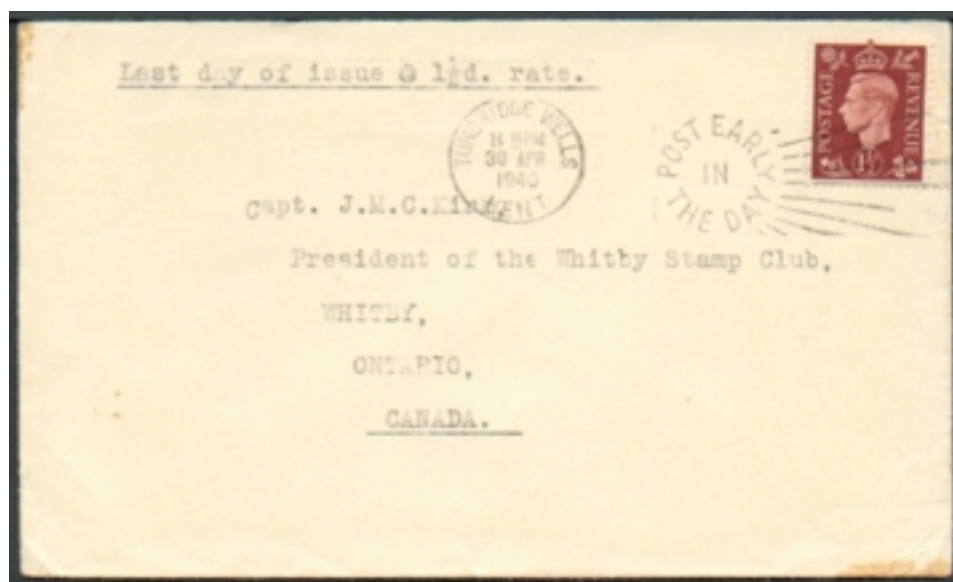
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UK Last Day of Rate

When looking through a dealer's UK cover box recently, I found the cover pictured. The cover is obviously philatelic. It was mailed from Tunbridge Wells on 30 April 1940 to Whitby, Ontario and has a red brown George VI 1½d stamp. The Empire rate had been 1½d/1oz from 29 May 1922, and was increased to 2½d/1oz on 1 May 1940, just before the 100th anniversary of the first adhesive stamp, the Penny Black.

Covers with some special interest, such as the last day of a rate, can add another aspect to your collection or exhibit. It may mean sorting through endless covers, as they are not usually marked like this one. - Michael Peach



Where in the World!?

by Jeff Parks



North Ingermanland
St. Petersburg, founded as a new capital for Peter the Great's Russian Empire in 1702, provided the Russians with a new window to Europe through the Baltic Sea. The area was inhabited by "Ingrians" an industrious

woodcutting, farming, and fishing peoples of Finnish extraction. Though few in number, they never lost their sense Finnish affinity throughout 200 years of Tsarist rule.

The Russian Revolution in 1917 provided the half a million Ingrians an opportunity for changing their destiny and were encouraged along the path of autonomy, first by the unpopular Kerenski government then for a brief time by the Bolsheviks. An independent state linking the Finns with the Estonians was envisioned, leaving the Russian-speaking St. Petersburg as an autonomous entity.

When Lenin abandoned any notion of autonomy thousands fled across the Gulf of Finland to Helsinki. Late in 1919, a mixed Finnish-Ingrian force invaded the area seizing several villages, the most important being Kirjasalo where an Ingrian National People's Committee established the government of North Ingermanland (also known as "Pohjois Inkeri") with the objective of seeking unification with Finland. The politics of the area was complicated by a host of volatile factions leaving the Ingrians with little sense of which direction to turn after being spurned by the Finnish.



During a brief time stamps were created in 1920, first to provide the invaders an opportunity to post letters back to their families in Finland. They were printed in Finland with the help of the government but they had to follow the UPU guidelines for mail cartage. The ruling government realized the value of the stamps

to worldwide collectors and a second printing was created mainly for the philatelic market. It was said that sales supported about 65% of the governments budget. Only the second North Ingermanland issue pictorial designs has been heavily forged. Credible forgeries of the first issue have not been reported.

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Cover Story

by Jeff Parks

Colonel Henry Willis-O'Connor, DSO (April 1, 1886 - April 25, 1957) served chiefly in staff positions with the Canadian Corps during the First World War. A native of Ottawa, he served with the Governor General's Foot Guards from 1911 to 1914.

At the onset of WWI, on 22 September 1914, he was attached to the 2nd Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, as Captain and Adjutant and proceeded with the unit to France in February 1915. On two occasions, in May and June of 1915, he was wounded. Following his recovery he was appointed Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to GOC 1st Division in September 1915. The following April he was promoted to temporary Major and then ADC to the Canadian Corps in June 1916 under General Sir Arthur Currie. Following the armistice Willis-O'Connor returned to Canada in 1919 and served as ADC to Sir Julian Byng, his former Canadian Corps commander and later Canadian Governor General from 1921 to 1926.

Willis-O'Connor retired from the Army in 1946 with the rank of colonel. His daughter married Hart Massey, son of future Governor General Vincent Massey, in 1948. In 1954 he co-wrote a book "Inside Government House" with Madge MacBeth. He died in his home town of Ottawa in 1957 at the age 71.

He continued to serve as ADC to the Governor's General until at least the service of Lord Tweedsmuir (1935-1940). The cover shown below was addressed to Willis O'Connor at Government House in Ottawa in 1937, posted from the RMS Lady Drake and routed through Boston, Massachusetts. The envelope is Canadian National Steamships as indicated on the backflap (not shown) and franked with a 3c carmine KG VI and QE stamp issued May 10 1937. A manuscript Private is written in the upper left corner.



Stamp Oddities

.When it was first introduced in 1890, the key type stamp was considered dull and dreary. They were something less than an improvement over the intaglio - printed designs of the British Empire that preceded them.



The Key type designation was applied to those definitive stamps printed of a standard design used for a number of different colonies. The "key (or head) plate" laid down the main design elements of the stamp and the country and denomination was applied by a second "duty plate". The former was so called because the design usually incorporated the head of a ruling monarch.



De La Rue, a British security printing firm, is thought to have originated the key type stamps, presumably as cost saving measure when many colonies wanted their own stamps.



The key type stamps were used in the British Commonwealth through five monarchs up to 1954 - Victoria, Edward VII, George V, George VI, and Elizabeth II.

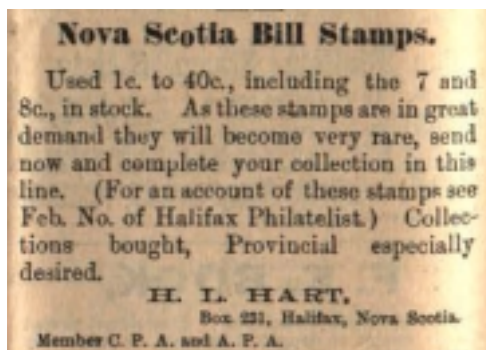
The French also used the key type design on their Commerce and Navigation series for many tiny colonies.

The more attractive "Kaiser's Yacht" series was used by the Germans for their colonial key types and Portugal has the Ceres type design.



Not so long ago at a Post Office not so far way...in 2007, the USPS placed these R2D2 decorated mailboxes randomly throughout the country to help celebrate the 30th anniversary of *Star Wars*. Use the mail - feel the force!

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



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 April '08 issue is March. 28, 2008.**

"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

Membership

It is with regret that we announce the passing of Lynda Bray of Dartmouth. Lynda was the wife of member John Bray and co-owner of Moody Blue Stamp Company.

We also announce the passing of member Albert Johnston #679 of New Glasgow. Mr. Johnston was a member since 1979.

Our sympathies to both families.

We have removed the following members from the roll for nonpayment of dues:

Pierre Braun #1014

Reginald Crick #999

Jacques Laverdure #844

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