



The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

February 2009
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Number 389

UP AND COMING

Every Saturday 4pm Auction
Seaside Book and Stamp

February 10 Club Meeting
Famous Canadians on Stamps
A "Heather" Quiz, Auction

Feb. 14 Halifax Stamp Fair
Doug Gray (See Pg. 4)

Feb 19 Friends of Philately
Bloomfield School, Halifax

March 10 Club Meeting
Members Night "What I Collect"
Circuit Books

March 14 Halifax Stamp Fair

March 19 Friends of Philately

April 11 Halifax Stamp Fair

April 14 Club Meeting
Program TBA, Auction

April 17-19 CSDA Spring National
Postage Stamp Show
Toronto, ON

April 18 Exhibiting Workshop
Sackville Library (Details on Pg. 4)

April 25 Valley Stamp Club
Annual Exhibition and Bourse

Industrial Design a Collecting Challenge

by Jeff Parks



There are not many modern commemoratives that have provided more of a challenge to the collector than that of the Industrial Design stamp of 1997.

Industrial design is a creative activity based on design principles, incorporating industrial processes that include contributions from many professions to establish functional product lines that improve our quality of life. The term came into use following the industrial revolution when the craftsman-based society started a shift towards a manufacturing-based society and how those manufactured products might look.

In 1997, Canada Post released one of its most complicated pane of stamps to date to collect. There was a pane of similar layout in the Governor General Jeanne Sauvé issue of 1994 (right) but with only four tab designs. The stamp and tab design for the industrial design issue, depicts various objects of furniture, tools and vehicles designed and built in Canada. These represent the history of Canadian design through four functional themes - home, mobility, leisure and work. It was released on the 20th International Congress of the *International Council of Societies of Industrial Design*, to whom the definition above is partially attributed.



The pane consists of 24 stamps with a similar design, and 24 tabs with 12 unique designs in two colours. The tabs are also alternated in position in each row - right in rows 1, 3 & 5 and left in rows 2, 4 & 6. Therefore if one were to collect the used stamp and a tab there are 44 combinations of stamp and tab to choose from depending if you want the tab on the left or right. The perforation pattern is offset and lends itself to easy separation of stamp and tab as laid out on each row and column. The difficulty arises in detaching the alternate combinations. Separating the selvage first and then separating the columns produces 24 stamp/tab combos.

Continued page 2



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However if one were to separate the rows first, the alternate combo can be achieved - otherwise some fancy zig-zag separation would be required.

Each design is lettered and corresponds to a cross reference in the selvedge with the designers name - A-D are on the stamps and E-Z on the tabs.

Collecting all of the tabs used has been a challenge. Next is the probably insurmountable task of finding the 44 stamp/tab used combos on cover and in period. Finding these would probably make for a good exhibit. Now if I only had someone to show me the way. Hint: see page four under workshop.

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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 \$50 (CDN) per year.



Cover Story - A.M. Bell & Co.,

by Jeff Parks

When collectors in Atlantic Canada see covers addressed to A.M. Bell & Co., we probably don't pay them much attention because they seem to be very abundant. Just who was A.M. Bell, anyway? Andrew Mackinlay Bell (1847-1918) was a native son of Halifax. In his early life he worked for Black Brothers, a prosperous business principally in hardware, which gave him grounding in retail trade. By 1875 he started a retail business of his own, eventually moving into wholesale trade and by the 1890s the company became known as A.M. Bell & Company.

Ralph Bell (1886-1975), Andrew's son, joined the firm in 1910, having returned from a stint in the Canadian West. The company was incorporated as A. M. Bell & Company, Limited, that year. Andrew's other son, Winthrop Bell (1884-1965), who was educated in engineering and philosophy and is most remembered for his genealogical and historical works, assisted with his brother's interests throughout the years.

Andrew started to suffer from angina in 1912 and by 1914 ownership of the company passed to Arthur Wissell and his associates. Andrew remained on indirectly as the creditor of the new owners. A.M. Bell passed in August 1918. Ralph Bell had withdrawn from the company in 1913 and became a leading citizen in his own right, eventually overseeing the merger of several fish businesses that became known as National Sea Products Limited, and serving as its first President. He also was president of Halifax Insurance Company, Principal of Pickard Investment Co. and VP of the Bank of Nova Scotia.

A.M. Bell & Co was sold to Wm. Stairs, Son & Morrow in 1948. In turn, Stairs was sold to Champ Investments (1972) and then to J.W. Bird & Co (1975) where it remains today as Bird-Stairs.

Look for these new Canada Post issues after Feb 2.



Abraham Doras Shadd & Rosemary Brown

New Canada Post Rates

In January 2009, Canada Post quietly announced new rates as follows:

Domestic

Standard - up to 30 g **\$0.54** / up to 50g **\$0.96**

Oversize - up to 100g - **\$1.15** / up to 200 g **\$1.92**

United States

Standard - up to 30 g **\$0.98** / - 30- 50g **\$1.18**

Oversize - up to 100g - **\$1.96** / up to 200 g **\$3.40**

International

Standard - up to 30 g **\$1.65** / up to 50g **\$2.36**

Oversize - up to 100g - **\$3.90** / up to 200 g **\$6.80**

For more information on current Canada Post Postal Rates and cost of other services, please refer to "Postal Prices - Canada, U.S.A and Other Countries" Circular T455161(09-01), January 2009.

Update on Olympic and other New Issues

Those of you who collect new Canada stamps, may have had some difficulty obtaining new issues, Souvenir sheets and FDCs at your local outlet as of late. I made the rounds to 5 POs and 4 outlets in my search for recent 2009 issues in mid to late January. The same story was given

everywhere - the strike of some CP employees has slowed down the process of getting stamps to the offices. OFDCs and souvenir sheets, I assume because they are not mainstream in moving the mail, are the harder items to find, if at all. As of writing, the strike is now over the philatelic material is starting to move again. So if you couldn't find the new issues before, get out there again and ask.

On a final note, with the exception of the aforementioned items, all the Olympic stamps were available on Jan 12 in some format or other, except for the \$1.18 booklets and coils. This rate to pay the oversize US rate takes effect on Feb 12, but is expected that this rate stamp will be not be available until later in the month.



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Stamp Oddities

For years, it was believed that only one of the original Town of York buildings had survived and was still standing in downtown Toronto. In 1980, a second building had been discovered standing almost next door but forgotten for almost 100 years.

The building everyone knew of was the historic Bank of Upper Canada (1827) at George and Adelaide Sts. The bank failed in 1866 and the building was sold (1870) to the Christian Brothers and became De LaSalle College. The college expanded and a huge addition was constructed. The purchase of the neighbouring property saw the incorporation of the house on said property into the addition, changing the shape of the windows and roof to conform with the rest of the college building. During restoration in the 1980 the original building was rediscovered.

Hailed as one of the most historic buildings in Canada, it was built in 1833 as the fourth Post Office of York and subsequently the first PO of Toronto when the town change its name in 1834. It may be the oldest existing PO building in Canada. Besides the PO, the building was the home of postmaster James Scott Howard.

Born in Ireland in 1798, he immigrated to Canada and found a job in the little York PO. The postmaster at that time was William Allan who later became the first President of the Bank of Upper Canada when it was founded. Howard, obviously a man of ability, was appointed to succeed Allan in 1828. He



purchased, for 500 pounds sterling, the easterly most 60 feet of the Bank's property on Duke Street (now Adelaide) and built a handsome 3-storey red brick home for his family. As it was the custom for the

postmaster to supply the space for a post office, Howard included these rooms in the design on the western side of the building, each with separate entrances. He was the highest paid Postmaster in Upper Canada.

Howard, as postmaster, was one of the leading figures in town. Howard's future seemed secure, but on December 13, 1837, a week after William Lyon MacKenzie led a band of armed rebels in an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow the government and capture the City, Howard was fired. Postmasters were found to be open sympathizers of the Reform movement. Howard remained a neutral figure, friendly to both sides. He did not even dare to vote and for this reason people had long been suspicious of him.

Charles A. Berczy, Post Office Surveyor, discovered that a letter sent to Howard contained a second letter that was to be forwarded to a Reformer in York. For this Howard was considered a traitor and fired. Berczy became next Postmaster, and in 1839 he moved the PO to a new location.

Membership Report

We are still following up with a few late payers and to date have only had two additional resignations:

#661 Harry Steele

#943 Murray Forbes

The total membership of 116 (including those in arrears) is as follows:

Members: 98 (1 Lifetime)

Family: 14 International: 4

NOVAPEX 2009

Novapex 2009 planning is underway. The show and bourse, under chairman John Hall, will be held on September 25 to 27 at the Dartmouth Sportsplex, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. I am sure John would love to hear from you if you are willing to take on a particular role in helping to organize the event. Information concerning the stamp show will be posted in this newsletter and the website www.nsstampclub.ca as it becomes available.

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Newsletter Articles

Christmas is all packed up for another year. Have some extra time on your hands? How about writing a short philatelic article or a couple of paragraphs on your favourite item. How about writing a serial or theme based column. It doesn't take much material to fill 4 pages - I do it every month - thanks to those who contribute - like you!!!

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 March '09 issue is Feb. 22, 2009.**

BUILDING A PHILATELIC EXHIBIT WORKSHOP

Saturday April 18, 2009

10 am to 1pm

Sackville Library

636 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville

This workshop is for those potential first time or novice exhibitors who would like to get a handle on how to put together or improve on an exhibit. This workshop is about layout and design of your exhibit and not about the mechanics of "making" the page. Bring your philatelic materials, notepad and pen, pencil and ruler. Paper for layouts will be supplied. Cost: absolutely Free!

HALIFAX STAMP FAIRS

Doug Gray is offering an Open House show at 6 Berkley Brae, every second Saturday of the month from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm. There is ample free parking at the Penhorn Mall. Doug is also open to club members Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment - 461-0528.

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Mahone Bay Post Office, Current day

HELP REQUESTED

British Diamond Letter Marks

In order to complete an article on British Diamond Letter Marks, Michael Peach needs some more examples of covers or postcards, colour copies or scans, specifically, mail from overseas mail coming into the UK ...

- * OHMS covers
- * Paquebot covers with diamonds
- * Airletters, or aerogrammes
- * Triangular cancellations with diamond markings

The diamonds were not cancellations, but were used when mail, either outbound or inbound, was counted. The marks can be either on the front or back.

If you can help, please contact Michael at 832-1662.

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