



# The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

May 2009  
Volume 38, Issue 9  
Number 392

## Up and Coming

Every Saturday 4pm Auction  
Seaside Book and Stamp

**May 9** Douglas J. Gray - Open  
House Show, Dartmouth (pg. 4)

**May 12** Club Meeting  
Program TBA, Members Stock

**May 21** Friends of Philately  
Bloomfield School, Halifax

**June 9** Club Meeting  
Program TBA, Members Stock

**June 12-14 Royal\*2009\*Royale**  
Parkway Convention Centre  
St. Catharines, Ontario  
St. Catharines Stamp Club

**June 13** Douglas J. Gray -  
Open House Show, Dartmouth  
(pg. 4)

**June 18** Friends of Philately  
Bloomfield School, Halifax

**Sept 25-26 Novapex 2009**  
Dartmouth Sportsplex, Dart-  
mouth

## Charles Darwin and *The Origin of Species*

by Marty Zelenietz



2009 brings a double-barreled salute to Charles Darwin. We observed the 200th anniversary of his birth on 12 February, and will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the publication of *The Origin of Species* in November. In the philatelic world, the Czech Republic was first off the mark, issuing a 200th birthday commemorative on 2 January. Great Britain, Darwin's country of origin, soon followed suit on 12 February with a six stamp set, prestige booklet, and other items. (see page 2)

This is not the first time that Darwin has been honoured on stamps. His death centenary in 1982 was marked in Great Britain by the release of a set of stamps (below) designed by David Gentleman. The tiny Caribbean country of Antigua also issued a set to mark the occasion (Scott 658-62). 1982 also saw the release of several sets marking the sesquicentennial of Darwin's visit on the HMS Beagle to remote South



Atlantic islands, including Ascension (305-8), St. Helena (368-71), and the Falklands (344-7). Great Britain also included Darwin (or one of his finches, at least), in the Millennium issue (left). The site of the biological diversity that inspired Darwin, the Galapagos Islands, features occasionally on Ecuadorian stamps (right).



Why Darwin? After decades of pondering the information he gathered as a naturalist on the five year cruise of the *Beagle*, and spurred by his correspondence with the independent naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace, Darwin proposed his theory of evolution through natural selection.



By providing a unified explanatory scheme for the diversity of life on earth, Darwin gave us the lens through which we view the world of life around us. Not the first to propose a theory of evolution (others, including the French naturalist Jean-Baptiste Lamarck, and Darwin's own his grandfather Erasmus, had toyed with the idea), his idea of natural selection provided a mechanism through which evolution could work. He revolutionized the world of science. This leads us to wonder why aren't there *more* stamps that honour this scholar?

No Darwin stamps were issued in 1959, the sesquicentennial of his birth, and the centenary of the publication of *Origin*. This may be explained by the conservative stamp issuing policy of the day: in the decade 1951 to 1960, Great Britain issued a total of five commemorative sets, compared to the *dozen* planned for this year *alone*.

...continued on pg 2

## SEASIDE BOOK & STAMP

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Only a few stamps appeared in 1982 to mark Darwin's death centenary. Most members of the Commonwealth did not hop on the Darwin bandwagon. There was no bandwagon. Just three years later, the entire philatelic world went overboard as country after country issued stamps (totaling in the many hundreds) to celebrate the bicentenary of Audubon's birth. The birds-on-stamps world has not been the same since.

Why this stark contrast? Perhaps, in part, because of subject material: Audubon provides us with stunningly coloured images of birds. These images are so endearing and enduring that they still appear regularly on stamps, such as Canada Post's recent issues. What does Darwin have to offer- the visage of a grumpy old man, some nondescript black birds, exceptionally ugly iguanas?

I believe the reasons are more profound than mere visual images. Audubon's work offended no one. Darwin, on the other hand, offended large portions of Victorian society. More importantly, Darwin's ideas challenged the supremacy of religion and the church as the ultimate arbiters of explanations of life and its origins. After Darwin, the wonders of creation and the diversity of life could be understood without reference to a supreme being.



**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](mailto:webnews@nsstampclub.ca)

Advertising rate for the newsletter or website is \$50 (CDN) per year.

This idea offended many in the 19th Century: it still continues to offend, as demonstrated by the drive to teach "creationism" and "intelligent design". A recent poll in the UK (reported by the Guardian) showed only 25% of those surveyed believed that Darwin's theory of evolution was "definitely true". Another 25% thought that it was "probably true", leaving half the surveyed population strongly opposed to, or confused about, the theory. One wonders if they will refuse to use the Darwin stamps.

Collecting Darwin could make for an fascinating, if difficult to accumulate, collection. This is the year to rise to the challenge.

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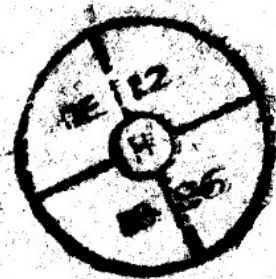
## Cover Story

by Jack Forbes, Michael Peach, & Jeff Parks

The back of the cover shown has a segmented circle marking with DE / 12 / 18 / 96 in the segments, starting from upper left. The date corresponds to the mailing date of the letter. Also, there is a small H in the circle in the middle of the mark.

The cancellation was used at the London Foreign Branch for mail to be made up in bags at the port, rather than in London. Most mail was made up into bags in London. The "H" stands for Holyhead, for Irish mail, and it may have been mailed too late to catch the steamer in Liverpool, so it was sent via Queenstown. The slight imprint on the front of the cover appears to be a reverse transfer from another envelope.

The envelope itself may have been preprinted for use to a Nova Scotia address. Nothard & Lowe were in the fruit and vegetable business. They bought apples from the Annapolis Valley and imported them to England. Newspaper reports and advertisements of the day spoke of the firm having agents in Wolfville and Berwick. Note that the cover is addressed to The Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. As an aside, the Ottawa receiver has the year ('96) inverted.



## Stamp Oddities

In the early 1900s, Britain, France, Germany, Austria and Russia operated foreign post offices in Turkey. Letters posted in these offices meant a loss of revenue for the Turkish Government. The Turks came up with a plan to counter this. Anyone who bought bulk supplies of Turkish stamps received a 20 percent discount on the cost of the purchase, however the stamps had distinctive overprint - an Arabic "B" for "Béhié" meaning "discount" in carmine or blue. The system operated from 1906 to 1941 when the foreign post office system was abolished in Turkey.



Normal Stamp

Overprint



## Canada Post Recent Issues

April 9 - Preserving the Poles - two domestic rates highlighting the arctic tern and the polar bear. (Sheet of 16 and a Souvenir Sheet of 2)

April 22 - Monarch caterpillar - a 2c addition to the beneficial insects series.

The next stamps to be released in this quarter include the Canadian Horse and Newfoundland Pony stamps in May, and stamps on Diplomacy, Boundary Waters Treaty and Recording Artists in June.



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## Literature

In the Cooper collection, there are runs of various publications. These are available free from Jane Cooper:

Nova Scotia Stamp Club Newsletter  
1985 -1993

British Collectors Club of Nova Scotia  
Newsletter

Friends of Philately Newsletter

German Collectors Club Newsletter

Perforations – numerous

Various auction catalogues, Maresch,  
Robert Lee, Bow City, Spink, etc..

Please contact Jane,  
[nannyjcooper@aol.com](mailto:nannyjcooper@aol.com) or  
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**Douglas J. Gray 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.

**NOVA PEX 2009**

Novapex 2009 planning is in full swing and we need your help. The show and bourse, under chairman John Hall, will be held on September 25 and 26 at the Dartmouth Sportsplex, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. If you are willing to take on a particular role in the organization of the event, please contact John or one of the club directors. Information concerning the stamp show will be posted in this newsletter and the website [www.nsstampclub.ca](http://www.nsstampclub.ca) as it becomes available.

Applications for **Exhibits** are now being accepted. The prospectus and application form have been enclosed with this newsletter. Additional forms are available at the club meetings, on the website (follow the links to Novapex 2009) or by contacting the editor (page 2). Any questions concerning the exhibit regulations can be directed to Sean Weatherup.

If you are a **Dealer** and would like to attend the show please contact Neil Bowlby - see our website for details.

The **Team Competition** will again be a highlight of Novapex 2009. Teams consists of 5 members each with a single frame entered in the exhibition. Individual points are tallied for an overall Team score. Entry Forms, outlining the scoring system that will be used, are available at the web link above, at monthly meetings, or by writing to the newsletter.

The Dave Cooper Memorial Trophy is presented to the 5 winning members of the One-Frame Team Competition. Each individual Team member also receives a circular medallion.

Other awards available at this year's show include:

J. Doug Allen Novice Award

Ken C. MacDonald Postal History Award

George MacKenzie Aerophilately Award

People's Choice Award

**Membership**

An application for membership has been received from Keith MacKay of Halifax. Keith's collecting interests include basic used Canada collection up to about 1992, with Nova Scotia cancellations and especially Gottingen Street and Morris Street office cancels.

Don't forget that dues become payable at the end of June for the 2009-10 stamp collecting year. If you are thinking "What? Already!" then this year please pay your dues in a timely manner. The club does not have a large operating budget and all activities come out our dues. If dues are not paid on time then programs may be in jeopardy or...member dues may need to increase to cover any future shortfalls.

**Email Contact Information**

If you haven't heard from us in a while by email or you have recently changed your address, please forward your email address to

[webnews@nsstampclub.ca](mailto:webnews@nsstampclub.ca)

and we will put you on our list. We do not give out email addresses to anyone nor do we publish them without permission.

**The Nova Scotia Post Needs You!!!**

Please. Please. Please!!!...new material and writers are required. This is the club newsletter, it would be nice to have more member participation. If 20 members committed to writing 2 articles (one feature and one cover story or other short piece of interest) per year we would be brimming over with material. Currently we have a stable of 3 to 5 writers providing material and thanks to those who contribute - like you!!!

Send your material to:

[webnews@nsstampclub.ca](mailto:webnews@nsstampclub.ca)

Unless of a timely nature, items will be printed on a first come basis. **The deadline for the May '09 issue is April 27, 2009.**

**Douglas J. Gray  
Philatelic Services**

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