



The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

March 2010

Volume 39, Issue 400

UP AND COMING

Every Saturday 4pm Auction
Seaside Book and Stamp

March 9 Club Meeting
"What I Collect" - Panel
Members Stock

March 13 Douglas J. Gray
Open House Show, Dartmouth

March 18 Friends of Philately
Bloomfield Centre, Halifax

CSDA Spring National April 9-11
QE Bldg., Exhibition Place, Toronto

April 10 Douglas J. Gray
Open House Show, Dartmouth

April 13 Club Meeting
"Buying & Selling on eBay" Panel
Auction

April 15 Friends of Philately
Bloomfield Centre, Halifax

RPSC Convention May 28-30
Windsor ON

Novapex 2010 September 24-26
Dartmouth Sportsplex, Dartmouth

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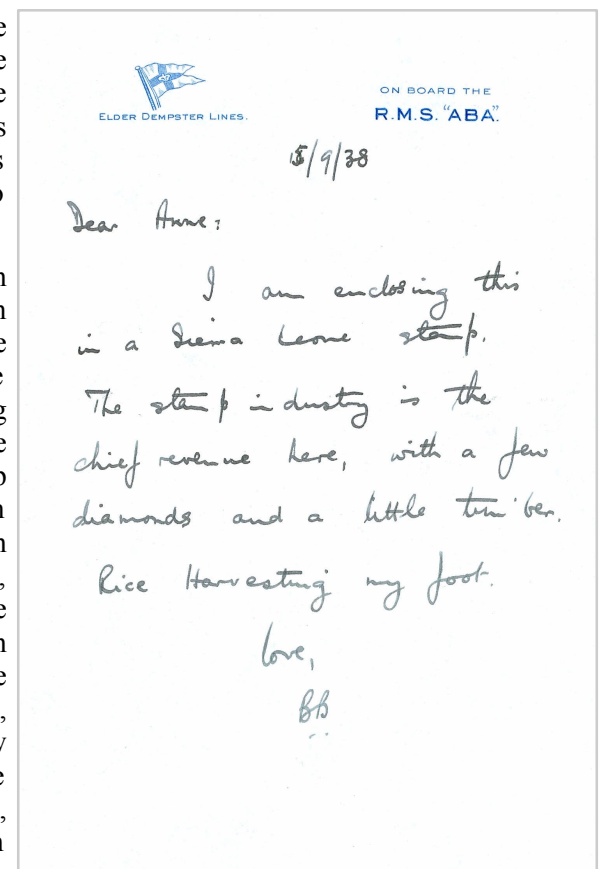
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Paquebot Cover

by Michael Peach

Before the age of air travel, when people traveled by sea, mail could be posted on board ship, and usually stamped Paquebot. Nowadays Paquebot covers are similar to First Day Covers, and mainly philatelic items. At the 1891 Vienna conference the Universal Postal Union established regulations for mail posted on the high seas. The mail was generally held by the ship's purser or postal officer, who at the next port would deliver all the mail received during the voyage to the post office serving the port. The mail was then marked Paquebot, or given other suitable marking, and put into the mainstream mail. Under the UPU regulations the mail should have stamps of the country of registration of the ship, and comply with the corresponding postal rates. If the vessel was in port, the postage must be paid with stamps of the country where the vessel was located. Stamps from the vessel's last port of call were usually also accepted.

The cover shown was written on 15/9/38 and was mailed in Freetown, Sierra Leone, on the same day, hence the Sierra Leone 2d stamp, presumably covering the preferential Empire rate. The cover, which has a boxed stamp POSTED ON STEAMER, is from the Elder Dempster Lines, which operated a service from Liverpool, England, to West Africa. The letter enclosed was written on board the R.M.S. ABA (see postcard on pg. 2). The writer, B.B., obviously did not know Miss Danby very well as there are two different spellings for Ann, Ann on the envelope and Anne in the letter. Christ Church is a



Continued page 2

unique institution, one of the largest colleges in the University of Oxford and at the same time the Cathedral Church for the Diocese of Oxford. In the 1930s the college was all male. In 1936, Dr. Herbert Danby returned to Oxford as Regius Professor of Hebrew and Canon of Christ Church. Miss Danby may have been an unmarried daughter.

The cover has a diamond mark, which would have been applied either at the British port of entry, or Oxford. Diamonds census marks were usually used during October to measure the volume of mail. The diamond is narrow, whereas most of the diamonds were squares.



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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 :

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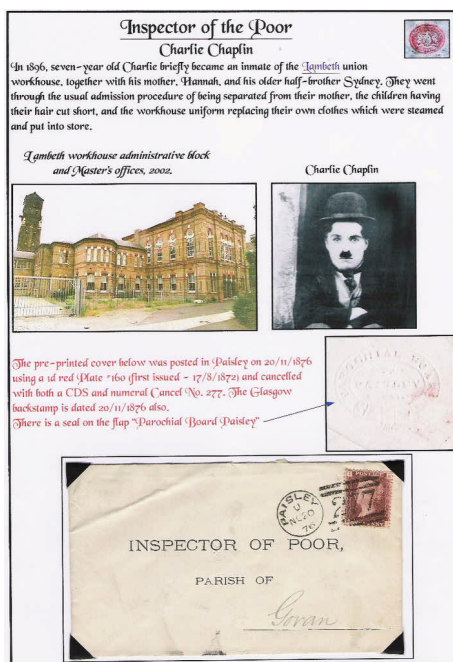
Social Philately

by Elizabeth Sodero

The subject of Social Philately arose at the workshop for exhibitors held Saturday Feb. 13, 2010. A number of people were not familiar with this class. It is sometimes called Display Class.

The concept of Social Philately began in Australia/New Zealand. The idea was to encourage exhibitors by allowing the inclusion of non-philatelic items in exhibits, thus creating a freer form. "Social Philately is the collection, study and displaying of philatelic and non-philatelic items which illustrate the inter-relationship between the postal services and an historical event, an industry, social activity or the development of a geographical area." (Social Philately Workshop, Glasgow 2000).

What can be included? All philatelic items – mint or used – and non-philatelic items, such as printed ephemera, writing paper/envelopes, maps, posters and prints etc., tokens, coins, medals, writing equipment, stamp boxes etc., laces, fabrics etc., samples of any type of goods relative to your subject.



The basic proportion of philatelic to non-philatelic items is important. Your exhibit is still basically a philatelic exhibit. It can be enhanced by non-philatelic items, but not overwhelmed by them. Most collectors have always supplemented their collections by related ephemera, maps, documents, and newspapers. These items can be included in your exhibit as long as the postal relationship is demonstrated.

As with any exhibit there must be a story. The story can be developed chronologically or by grouping the items. Judging of this class follows traditional score sheets, too much collateral material would be penalized under Treatment and Significance, while rare material would score well under Condition and Rarity. Social Philately just gives the exhibitor more leeway than the traditional classes provide.

Stamp Oddities

Part II - Mysterious Words...

by Michael E. Ruggiero

[Reprinted with the permission of the author. Originally printed in Japanese Philately (JP) Vol 64, No. 2 April 2009 - ed.]

[To recap, the discussion is about the "mysterious words" over the "R" registration marking being "Return receipt" and its meaning. The story picks up with a continuation of Prof. Handelman's comments.]

"More (circumstantial) evidence that it is what it appears can

However, Prof. Handelman stated that from 1879 it was obligatory for all UPU members to offer an A.R. service, and it seems to have been the practice in this period to attach the stamps paying the A.R. fee to the form, rather than the cover. The A.R. form was either sent attached to the cover or separately but in the same mailing. Prof. Handelman identified the "US postal guides of the 1880s" as a corroborating source which listed the incoming rates to the US from foreign countries including Japan. I found, as he had stated, that the 1882 US postal guide listed the return receipt fee from Japan to the US as 5 sen, and later found that this 5 sen rate was consistently listed in all other US postal guides from 1881 to 1892.

Conclusion

As Prof. Handelman believes, the "Mysterious Words" over the registered "R" marking (Figure 2 below) are most likely "Return Receipt". Since these words were not required by the UPI in 1884, who placed them on the cover? A Japanese philatelist who I contacted could find no record of its use in Japan, and no further information has been forthcoming from Canada.

Could it have been placed by the sender of the cover, and who is the sender? As mentioned in JP 62/20, Henry Hechler was a German who immigrated to Canada and became a stamp dealer. Many covers⁽¹⁾ addressed to Hechler have survived sent from various countries during the period 1875 to 1927. Possibly, as part of his business, he arranged for interesting covers to be sent to himself.

be found on the reverse (I have a colour scan of that, too). There is a piece of paper stuck to the envelope, over which Hechler has written 'Replied...' The piece of paper is plausibly a bit of the A.R. form that had been attached."

As mentioned in a comprehensive article on A.R. mail in JP(53/104-113), a passage on page 104 notes "Japan became a UPU member on 1877.06.01 but did not offer a domestic-mail "return-receipt" system until 1892.05.16 and did not begin offering the foreign-mail A.R. service until 1892.07.01". This 1892 regulation involved the application of an "A R" postal marking and prepayment of the fee by additional postage attached to the cover and paid by the sender.



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Until new information is received I would say in conclusion that the "Return Receipt" handstamp is a private marking. Japan may have been reluctant to initiate and A.R. service before 1892, but Hechler, knowing the UPU regulations, may have instructed the sender to insist on A.R.

An interesting postscript to my research about this cover is that from the information at hand, it is very likely that it is the earliest A.R. cover to Canada.

(1) At Novapex 2006 in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, one of the exhibits was titled "Henry Hechler, Entrepreneur". It received a Gold medal, the AP Research Award and the AAPE Philatelic Creativity Award.

400 Issues of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club Newsletter

by Jeff Parks, Editor

This issue of *The Nova Scotia Post* is the 400th in its current format. Started in about 1967 by George Penchard, the newsletter has taken on many forms and editors over the last 43 years. Mr. Penchard began the newsletter as a personal hobby, but it was five years later that he was actually named as editor by the club. This was announced in Vol. V No. 34 March 1972.

The editors over the years and the number of issues they have produced have been:

1967? – 1976	George Penchard	68
1976 – 1980	Ken MacDonald	40
1980 – 1986	Geo. MacKenzie	63
1986 – 1987	Marty Zelenietz	12
1987 – 1988	Steve Vernon	3
1988 – 1992	Elizabeth Sodero	43
1992 – 1994	Gillian Keeping	15
1994 – 1998	Elizabeth Sodero	41
1999 – 2004	Dennis Bedley	55
2004 –	Jeff Parks	55

At 10 issues a year, that should be 40 years of news, however in some years a few issues were dropped for various reasons. Numbers were also duplicated - by accident - and may not have been corrected in subsequent issues. So, while this may officially be Issue 400 - the number may actually be a little more, as seen in unnumbered issues over the years, including the "Really not a Newsletter" letters of 1998 and the odd summer issue ...or a little less, as the number of issues indicate above (395).

The numbering has been fairly consistent over the last 10-12 years and with the advent of the use of computers

for layout and organization we have been able to standardize the numbering and format of each issue.

Over the years the newsletter has provided a venue for club members to test their writing talents, show off some of their material, and bring forward information for the benefit of other members by imparting some of their knowledge. Club activities have always been forefront and have provided members with meeting notes, auction lists, Novapex (forms regulations, lead up, and post mortem), cartoons, new issue information, editorials, rantings, letters to the editor, press releases, articles of concern, and membership comings and goings.

There have been many authors of articles, some either providing material from other sources or written serials, and many more who have provided features, cover stories and items of interest to the pages. Some of the articles and serials have been written under assumed names or unnamed headings. Serials written by "The Olde Stamp Licker", "Norm D.E. Plume", Phil A Telic were thinly disguised assumed names, but serials named "Question Korner" "Sharpen Your Wits" and "Vox Pop" seem to, at least to this writer, be lost in perpetuity.

Thank you to all my predecessors for your devotion to the getting the newsletter out and to all the authors over the years for the great material...don't stop.

Here's looking to #500...only another 10 years and 400 pages to go!!!

Canada Strikes Gold

For those of you who may only follow new Canada Post stamp issues by their publications, such as *Details*, may be surprised to learn that a new, previously unpublished issue was released on February 14, within 24 hours of the first gold medal win, "to celebrate Canada's first-ever Olympic gold medal victory on Canadian soil". The domestic rate stamp features an image of the 2010 Olympic gold medal and comes in the following formats: booklet of 10, souvenir sheet of 2 and OFDC.



Homer! When are you going to break down and buy an album?

NOVA PEX 2010

Novapex 2010, a National level show, will be held September 24 to 26, 2010 at the Dartmouth Sportsplex. A silver award at the Regional level is required to enter, however the regional show will be available for new entries. It is a good time to start planning your exhibit. If you are interested in assisting with the planning and development of the show, please let the Club executive know. Details available on the club website... www.nsstampclub.ca/novapex10.html

The Nova Scotia Post Needs You!!!

Send me your articles and cover stories now. webnews@nsstampclub.ca

Unless of a timely nature, items will be printed on a first come basis. **The deadline for the April 2010 issue is March 26, 2010.**

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