



The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

September 2010

Volume 40, Issue 404

UP AND COMING

Every Saturday 4pm Auction
Seaside Book and Stamp

Sept 3-5 BNAPEX 2010
Victoria, BC

Sept 11 BRUNPEX 2010
Rotary Lodge, Moncton, NB

Sept 14 Annual Club Meeting
Program

Sept 16 Friends of Philately
Bloomfield Centre, Halifax

Nov 12-14 CSDA Fall National
Exhibition Place, Toronto ON

Going to Ontario? Check out
shows at www.rpsc.org/shows.htm

NOVA PEX 2010

September 24 - 26, 2010

**Dartmouth Sportsplex
Dartmouth NS**

**DETAILS on Page 4
or at
www.nsstampclub.ca**

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Dumb Cancels: British Style

by Michael Peach

Dumb cancellations are defined as obliterations which bear no indication of the office of origin. An early example was the British Maltese Cross cancellation. During the two world wars these were applied to naval mail for security reasons to conceal the port of entry. In Canada during the Second World War the name was removed from the machine dater dies.

I recently found the cover shown addressed to well known London stamp dealer Oswald Marsh. It has four green King George V ½ d stamps with Downey heads cut out from postcards, to pay the inland postage, 2d / 3 oz in 1921. The right three stamps have a Universal machine cancellation, London E.C. SEP 21 1921. The stamp on the left missed and has an eight bar dumb cancellation.



The dumb cancellations were used during the First World War to conceal the location of the Home Fleet, when not at one of the chief naval ports.^{1,2} The cover addressed to another London stamp dealer H. Edgar Weston, with two green Edward VII ½d stamps cut out from envelopes also has an eight bar dumb cancellation, but clearly indicates that it was passed by a censor during the war. Edgar Weston mailed packs of stamped covers to Lieutenant-Commander R.L. Clayton for posting back individually.



Another cover to Howard Marsh (pg 2) with a red George V 1d Mackennal head scarlet stamp also has a dumb cancellation. Oswald Marsh's business was located at 1 Exeter Street during the Great War, and Howard was probably one of his relatives. This cover could have been mailed from one of the ships of the Home Fleet during the War when the letter inland rate was 1d.

.....continued page 2

Dumb Cancels continued

How did this cancellation come to be applied at the London E.C. office in 1921? It is obviously tied to the two stamps on the left and the left stamp was not added later. This cancellation is one of several types of dumb cancellations that were used on newspapers at the Newspaper Branch of the London Inland Section that had missed the regular cancellation, or on some printed matter³. This usage is not mentioned by Whitney² although Alcock and Holland¹ mention an early canceller at the Newspaper Branch with short thick bars.



The Newspaper Branch was at St. Martins-le-Grand, London E.C.. Was one of the eight barred dumb canceller still available for use at the London E.C. office in 1921, or did Oswald manage to obtain one?

¹R.C. Alcock and H.C. Holland The Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland R.C. Alcock Ltd. 1940.

²J.T. Whitney Collect British Postmarks, 7th Edn., British Postmark Society 1997.

³C.N. Fernau London postmarks used on printed matter and parcels from 1860 Great Britain and Commonwealth Philatelic Society (Switzerland) 1998.

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.

Stamp Oddities

Postage stamps overprinted or perforated with the word "SPECIMEN" were at one time sent by each country to the Universal Postal Union for distribution to each member country for purposes of identification, for archives and for distribution to postmasters and thus maybe avoid the use of forgeries. Today these are more than often issued for marketing purposes.

Where English is not the common language, the words Muestra (Spanish), Monster (Dutch), Muster (German), ? ????? (Russian), or Mihon (in Japanese) have been used instead of the word Specimen. Specimen stamps have also appeared with the text "CANCELLED, ANNULÉ

Specimen stamps were sent to postmasters as early as 1840 in Britain but without any marking. In 1847, the new one shilling stamps was marked with the word Specimen in order to prevent their postal use. The UPU members started receiving marked stamps from each other in 1879.



Normally issued in advance of the scheduled first day of issue, specimen stamps are normally sent to writers, editors and publishers for publicity purposes. Many countries also distribute them to those with standing orders of new issues, both collectors and dealers.

This material does frequently end up in the market. They have no postal validity but have come to be distributed to dealers and used as promotional items for collectors. Since they are worth more than the original stamp, many over the years have been forged. Postal Stationary and revenues can also me found marked specimen.

Specimen stamps by themselves is a specialized field of stamp collecting. As a growing number of postal administrations issue specimen stamps they have today also became popular for stamp collecting by country and by topic.

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Invalid Stamps on Cover

– Great Britain

by Michael Peach

While looking for material my exhibit on *Invalid Postage*, I found the cover shown. The 1972 cover is addressed to Harry Hayes, Batley, Yorkshire. At that time Harry was a part time dealer in Philatelic Literature, as well as a publisher. His business was sold in 1987 and now trades under the name of HH Sales, philatelic literature specialists and publishers.

The cover was mailed from Cricklewood, London N.W. on 11 December 1972, when basic the first class rate was 3p, and it has nominally stamps to the value of 3 pence. The only valid stamp, however, is the Machin 1½p definitive stamp, the other three being invalid. Britain had changed to decimal currency on 15 February 1971 and the validity of stamps with values in the old currency expired on 29 February 1972, so the Wilding ½d stamp is invalid. Ireland had also changed to decimal currency in 1971, but the ½p Eire stamp, being from a foreign country, is invalid in Great Britain. Postage due stamps were only used for the collection of postage due, and could not be used for the prepayment of postage. The cover was forwarded at the second class rate, 2½p, and charged postage due. The actual postage due on this cover is 2p, double the deficiency 1d.



Literature on the Web

There are many fine sites on the web for finding information about stamps and philatelic items. One such site is the Canadian Postal Archives housed on the Collections Canada website. The site has images and text of every stamp released in Canada from 1851 to 2009, and includes all former colonial issues. Each description contains a historical footnote, printer, designer, quantity, perforation, etc. and also provides information to other related documents held in the archive such as essays, proofs, covers - some of these with additional images. If you are a collector of Canadian stamps this site has all the basics you need to know except catalog number and value. You may even find a few surprises. Check out...

www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/postal-archives

The Halifax Philatelist - 1887

Below and right are a couple of ads from the Halifax Philatelist Vol. 1 No. 8, for August 1887.

PREMIUMS TO NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

We will send THE HALIFAX PHILATELIST one year, post free for 25 cents, and will give one of the following premiums to every subscriber:

- 100 Foreign Stamps all different.
- 250 mixed Foreign Stamps.
- 5 unused Foreign Stamps.
- 1 Sheet gummed paper.
- 10 Stamps from West Indies

This offer holds good until our next number is issued. Philatelists, show your appreciation of stamp collecting by subscribing for this paper.

Of this number we send a few collectors more than one copy; which we respectfully ask them to hand to some collecting friend. We shall only send you one sample copy; if you do not subscribe now, this number will be the last that you will receive. We shall not expect to get your subscription later by sending you another sample copy.

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Don't Quarrel



with your stamp dealer if he does not suit you in price or quality, — let him slide, and send your order to me. It will have

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Halifax, N. S.



**I WANT YOU
TO PAY YOUR DUES**

Dues are Now Payable

My invoice program is not working so hopefully that does not deter you from paying early. It is both time consuming and costly to send out multiple reminders. Save a tree and receive the newsletter on-line.

Novapex 2010

Fast Approaching

Novapex 2010, a National level show, will be held September 24 to 26, 2010 at the Dartmouth Sportsplex.

Volunteers are required for the set-up starting at 9.00 am on Friday 24 September, and for the take down at 3.00pm on Sunday when the show closes. Help is also required for the front desk, Children's Table and Club Sales Table.

Please contact Michael Peach (michael.peach@ns.sympatico.ca), or 832-1662 if you are able to assist.

A banquet will be held on Saturday evening (\$45) at MacAskill's Waterfront Restaurant. Tickets are available at the next Club meeting (Sept 14th). To purchase or reserve tickets contact Michael before September 17.



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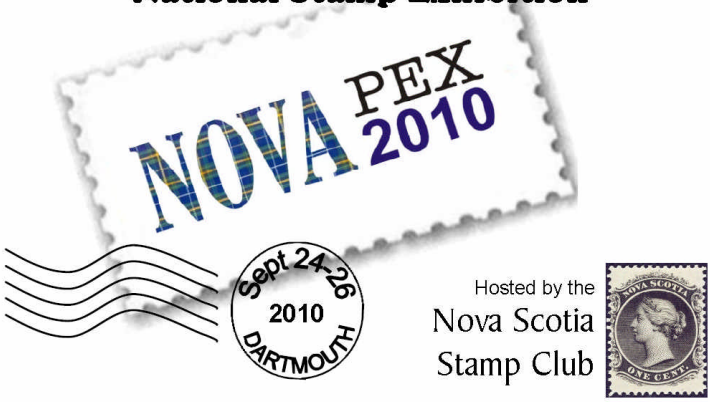
Sell Your Material at NOVAPEX!

- ?? Prepare your material for sale. Each cover, packet, bag, box, etc. should have a price and your seller's code, which will be the three initials of your name. The code is necessary so that you get credit for the sale. Some description or identifying information on the items should increase sales.
- ?? Write up an inventory list. After the show, this list will be returned to you along with any unsold items. The sold items will be checked off.
- ?? Pass your material to Karen Galbraith at the September club meeting, or contact Karen at 865-1361 to make other arrangements.
- ?? In lieu of charging for the table, the Nova Scotia Stamp Club will receive 10% of sales.
- ?? The material will be carefully watched at all times. However, the club and individual members will not accept liability for stolen or lost items. Any member who can help at the table for an hour during the show is encouraged to contact Karen.

The Nova Scotia Post Really Needs You!!!

Send me your articles and cover stories now. web-news@nsstampclub.ca. **THE CUPBOARD IS STILL BARE!!** Unless of a timely nature, items will be printed on a first come basis. **The deadline for the October 2010 issue is September 30, 2010.**

**Atlantic Canada's
National Stamp Exhibition**



Hosted by the
Nova Scotia
Stamp Club

NATIONAL / REGIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION AND BOURSE

September 24 - 26, 2010	Friday	2:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Dartmouth Sportsplex	Saturday	9:30 am - 5:00 pm
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia	Sunday	9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Exhibits	Dealer Tables
Souvenirs	Seminars
Youth Activities	Awards Banquet
Canada Post	Draws
...and More	

For more information, visit our website
www.nsstampclub.ca/novapex10.htm
or contact
Michael Peach, tel. 1-902-832-1662
100 Lake Drive, Bedford, NS, B4A 1H9