



# The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

February 2011

Volume 40, Issue 409

## UP AND COMING

**Feb 8** Club Meeting  
Member's Stock

**Feb 12** Doug Gray Philatelic  
Open House, Dartmouth NS

**Feb 17** Friends of Philately  
Bloomfield Centre, Halifax

**Mar 8** Club Meeting  
Auction

**Mar 12** Doug Gray Philatelic  
Open House, Dartmouth NS

**Mar 17** Friends of Philately  
Bloomfield Centre, Halifax

**Mar 25-27** Spring National  
Edmonton, AB (see pg 4)

**Apr 9** Doug Gray Philatelic  
Open House, Dartmouth NS

**Apr 12** Club Meeting  
Members Stock

**Apr 21** Friends of Philately  
Bloomfield Centre, Halifax

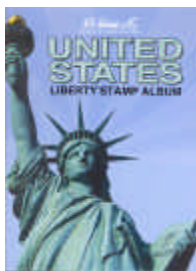
**Apr 30 - May 1** Orapex  
Ottawa, ON (see pg 4)

**Going to Ontario?** Check out  
shows at [www.rpsc.org/shows.htm](http://www.rpsc.org/shows.htm)

## What I Collect and Lessons Learned

by Jeff Parks

I started collecting stamps 38 years ago when I was 11 because a couple of the neighbourhood kids in Liverpool did likewise, sponsored by their collector parents and grandparents. It was the thing to do on our short street of 11 houses and a bazillion kids. Over the years, once I grew out of collecting the world, I got established in several countries of interest. I, for the most part, collected stamps in isolation fuelled by back of comic book offers for stamps on approval and infrequent trips to Halifax to Scotia Stamp Studio. The University years were lean - money went to other pursuits, but I still tried to maintain what I could. Sometime after moving to Fredericton in 1992, I got my collection back on its feet and moving again. I caught the end (the last hour) of a Royal show (damn!) and kept threatening to join the local club - something I've never done before - other than the kids on the street of course. Back in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, I found Seaside and started a new supply chain. I was handed a card and asked to join NSSC and I jumped on it. I learned quickly that stamp collecting is great, but postal history was new avenue that I had really never explored - covers were something that you cut up to get the stamps off of - oh boy!



First, I learned that there are a lot of interesting, specialty-areas to collect in Canadian stamps. Some areas are well documented, heavily collected, coveted and costly. Some areas are unique and because of limited scope can be quite easy to collect all the bits and pieces that make up a nice collection and a great exhibit, especially when you are still on a budget of sorts. So I found "a" stamp that I liked - The Halifax Bicentenary Issue - June 1949, and set my sights on all it's collecting eccentricities. Okay not a biggy - two plates, a little history, hard as heck to find used in any quantity that's not philatelic and of course the clincher - a large contingent of FDCs. So that was my first challenge - mission accomplished - sort of!?! A couple of Local Shows, A national Level and a BNAPS show - all with different opinions and results. All great ideas but hard to confidently move forward with such swings in judging call.



So then, what next. Small queens and, well, almost anything up to pre WW II was expensive highly variable, highly collectible and, oh...did I mention expensive (Budget!). Keeping with the post war George VI theme, I had a series look at Postes-Postage issue 1949-1951. A little research showed that there is not a lot written on this series. The other two definitive issues of KGVI are a study in contrasts, lots of interest, lots of varieties, and again highly collected. Maybe because I remembered these stamps from my collecting youth (they were plentiful then - less than 20 -25 yrs old) that I set my mind to these stamps as my next collecting interest.

.....continued page 2

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My interest in this series really started to fester at the Halifax BNAPS show. I met some interesting people and saw some incredible BNA exhibits. I started to look. My first line of attack was to collect all the plate block corners (50 plates x 4 corners) and as many covers that I could find. Domestic covers are easy to find but covers to foreign destinations - not so much - at least in Canada. eBay readily supplied most of the plate corners over time and many covers. A trip to London UK in 2009 added some much needed foreign content to my collection (although the material was surprisingly not that plentiful at the stamp show I was at!!). Over time my collection has grown - enough so that I decided to exhibit at Novapex 2010 to very encouraging results. I have a long way to go yet. That was just plate blocks (1 corner left to find - at \$200 catalogue). Now my attention has turned to the other aspects of the series - booklets, coils, officials, precancels, and of course all those errors and odd items. It is like starting all over again - and the focus is so large. This is not what I had envisioned when I started, the more I collect the more I know and I have found tidbits of information that still does not to be published yet - a task for another day perhaps. Encouraged and supplied by other KGVI collectors, I soldier on. It is almost like collecting in isolation again, but I know there are other collectors of this material out there, especially those people on eBay that always seem to get that item for \$1 more than I think it is worth or willing to pay.

What I didn't know when I started this series is just how much variety is out there - misperfs, colour smudges, plate wear and plate cracks. I have learned much about the postal rates of the era and that things are not always as they appear. I wish I could go back now and tell that 11 year old starting out with his Uncle's old world stamp book and collection just what he was in for. Would I tell him to change anything? Probably not - but just have fun, learn, and maybe, just maybe, buy some KGVI postes-postage material when you can afford it, so I can find it in my collection when I start down that road.

## Stamp Oddities

### One for the Record Books



This stamp was posted on eBay on Jan 10, 2011. It was described as a US Scott #9 Type IV 1c blue imperforate Franklin with a very light cancel of the 1851-57 printings, catalog value - \$160.00, offered at an opening bid of \$0.99. Yes, only 99c. Someone indicated that this well could be the rarer Scott #5 7R1E Type I of the same printing that catalogs for \$69,000.00 with a potential for more at a good professional auction. The seller was encouraged to stop the auction and review the selling price. However, in all fairness to an auction item already in play, the seller decided to leave it as offered and may the best bidder win!

So the price started to climb. First \$9, then \$100, \$175 - after 4 days, 20 bids were entered with one bidder, trying 9 times over two days to be top dog, finally stopping at \$5,000. A new bidder (with a feedback count of 1!) jumped in and took the bid from \$5,500 to \$10,000. With 3 days left to go a bidder who jumped in at the \$300 bid level held top bid at US \$10,100.00. Alas this bidder was in again at \$12,500 but topped out at \$15,100 with two days left. If this is starting to sound like a horse race - maybe so.

Then nothing - no bid for two days. Finally, with three hours left to go in bidding, seven new bidders jump in, three of them in the last two minutes. And the winner - the newest bidder a sniper with 4 seconds remaining - paid US \$32,500.00 for said stamp.

My only hope is that he got what he paid for - a bargain at less than half the price. If not he paid a lot for a \$160.00 stamp.

What about the seller? That nice guy that let the auction ride despite betting on not getting a bigger payday. He probably did well. Assuming that he paid some equivalent to what we thought he originally had. Can you imagine - selling an item that you think is worth a couple of hundred and making over \$32K. Time to check the closet again.



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New Glasgow, NS, native, Carrie Best (1903-2001), is presented on one of two Black History stamps issued Feb 1, 2011.

### 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.



## COVER STORY

by Elizabeth Sodero

Cover addressed to Mr. S. P. Osgood at New Brunswick Nova Scotia postmarked at Carrara, Italy Dec. 16, 1885. Pen notation on front "Invoice dated Dec 5/85". Reverse indicates letter is from Wm. C. Townsend of Carrara, an unlikely name for a resident of Carrara. A little searching revealed that Townsend ran a marble company in Zanesville, Ohio, but in 1880 he opened a studio in Carrara for marble monuments, statuary and vases. S.P. Osgood, originally from Bangor Maine, relocated to Saint John in 1848 as a dealer in marble monuments and tablets. His marble works (King Street East) were destroyed in the Great Fire of Saint John 1877, but his business continued. He also supplied marble soda founts, counter and tabletops, mantles and marble for cabinet work throughout New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. We may surmise that Townsend was his Italian supplier. Mailed in Carrara 16 12-85, the Saint John receiver is dated DE 29 85, paid by green 'centesimi cinque' and orange 'centesimi venti' King Humbert I. (Cover found in junk box, stamp shop near Accademia, Florence Italy, 2010, E & P Sodero).



## New Rates

As was reported in the January Newsletter, the Canada Post rates have increased as of January 17, 2011. The new issues for the rate change include The *Canadian Pride* series of domestic Permanent™ stamps. Similar in scope to the "Flag over" issues of previous years, these five new designs represent the flag in more subtle ways that may be more evident around the world. The souvenir sheet is shown upper left and the five individual booklet stamps are shown on page 4.

The other series of *Baby Wildlife* is made available for domestic (59c), Oversize (\$1.25) US (\$1.03) and International (\$1.75) rates. Canada Post calls it the "Ahhh" factor with baby hares, goslings, fox kits, and polar bears on the designs. This is the beginning of a multi-year series of stamps on the same theme, The souvenir sheet is shown left, but all designs are available as coils and booklets (except P).





## Classifieds

HELP - ARTHUR A. BARTLETT

I am looking for any covers either addressed to Bartlett (& King) Charlottetown, or a corner cover from Bartlett & King. I am working on an article on Bartlett, and would like copies of a few more covers. If you can help please call 832-1662, or email Michael Peach at :

[michael.peach@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:michael.peach@ns.sympatico.ca)

NOVA SCOTIA cover and letter related to horse racing \$10. Contact David Jones at

[shibumi.management@gmail.com](mailto:shibumi.management@gmail.com)

STAMP SWAP: Available - Better worldwide and Canada for trade by want list. E-mail to

[penny.auction.stamps@gmail.com](mailto:penny.auction.stamps@gmail.com).

LOOKING FOR COVERS franked with coils and booklet stamps of the Canada KGVI Postes-Postage Issue to both domestic and foreign locations. Contact Jeff Parks at

[jeff.parks@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:jeff.parks@ns.sympatico.ca)

If you are looking for something in particular and would like to post a classified for it, please contact the editor - Details on page 2



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## ORAPEX 2011 April 30 - May 1 "CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS."

Founded in 1961, this year's exhibition will feature an archival exhibit of ORAPEX's first fifty years through souvenir covers, overprinted Canadian stamps, and program guides, as well as articles and photos.

ORAPEX 2011 will also honour Dr. Robert (Bob) Smith for his contribution to the postal history of Canada. Dr. Smith has written over two hundred articles, editorials, booklets and books, including the two publications listing the opening and closing dates of all Ontario Post Offices.

ORAPEX 2011 will be held Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and Sunday, May 1, 2011, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa. It will feature over 150 frames of exhibits. The Grand Award winner of this Canadian national level stamp show will be eligible to compete in the American Philatelic Society's "World Series of Philately" championship exhibition in 2011.

ORAPEX 2011 will also offer Canada's largest bourse with over 40 stamp dealers, free admission and free parking. For more information about ORAPEX 2011, please contact Dr. Robert Pinet at 400 Slater, #1011, Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7S7, (613) 745-2788, [pinet.robert@gmail.com](mailto:pinet.robert@gmail.com) or see the prospectus and entry forms at [www.racentre.com/raweb/e/sports/stamp.html](http://www.racentre.com/raweb/e/sports/stamp.html)

Send me your articles and cover stories now. Unless of a timely nature, items will be printed on a first come basis. Thanks for all those who have contributed in the past we look forward to hearing from you again. **The next deadline for the March 2011 issue is February 25, 2011.**



## Edmonton - Spring National Show March 2011

The Edmonton Stamp Club's Spring National Stamp Show will be held March 25-27 at West Edmonton Mall, and is a RPSC-accredited national level show. An open invitation has been sent to anyone who has previously exhibited at a regional or local show, and has received at least a silver medal in open competition, to exhibit at a national show. **Exhibit applications will be accepted up to March 1, 2011.**

The following website provides further information about the Edmonton show [www.edmontonstampclub.com/](http://www.edmontonstampclub.com/). Copies of the Exhibit forms and prospectus are also there or available for the NS Stamp Club by request.

## Novapex 2011

The clock has been set a ticking on Novapex 2011. This local show and bourse will be held at the Dartmouth Sportsplex September 23-24, 2011. John Hall has agreed to Chair the event and will be raising a committee in the coming months. If you are interested in helping with the planning of Novapex please contact John or the newsletter. Exhibit Entries will be available soon.

## Membership

We have received applications from Robert Bowlby and Chris Bowlby of Halifax. Robert collects Canadian, Bermuda and Caribbean Countries. Chris is mainly interested in Canadian stamps.

The membership list has been shortened slightly as per this time of the year. We have removed the following people from the membership roll for non-payment of dues.

979 - Bryan Rapson

981 - John Ingram

1040 - David Wolfe