



The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

April 2011

Volume 40, Issue 411

UP AND COMING

Apr 9 Doug Gray Philatelic
Open House, Dartmouth NS

Apr 12 Club Meeting
One Page Exhibit - Members Stock

Apr 21 Friends of Philately
Bloomfield Centre, Halifax

Apr 30 Valley Stamp Club
Annual Show and Bourse (pg 4)

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

May 10 Club Meeting
Program - TBA, Auction

May 13-15 Royal*2011*Royale
Dorval, Quebec
www.ROYALE2011.com

May 19 Friends of Philately
Bloomfield Centre, Halifax

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

**If you have a presentation idea
for a meeting please let us know
- See page 4.**

The Conch Republic - A 29-year Old Cinderella Story

by Jeff Parks

April marks the 29th anniversary of the declaration of independence of the Conch Republic. I know, you have that glazed look about you, and you are thinking "where in the world...?". Back in April 1992, the US Border Patrol put up a checkpoint in Florida City, Florida - the gate way to the Keys - to catch illegal aliens. Assuming that the Boarder Patrol can only set up on a border, some of the residents of the Keys thought that their constitutional rights were violated and a few days later (April 23) in retaliation and as a symbolic gesture, the Mayor of Key West, Dennis Wardlow, lowered the US flag, raised the flag of the Conch Republic and declared war on and seceded from the United States of America. It was named Conch in honour fo the Conchs form Bahamas that settled the Keys. He then lowered the flag, surrendered to US authorities and requested \$1 billion in foreign aid; making headlines around the world. Poppycock you say...no wait....they take this very seriously - tongue in cheek, of course. So if you find yourself in Keys in late April this year - drop by - the festivities start on April 22.

So, why, do you ask, am I waxing on about a nearly 30 year old self declared Republic in the good ole U.S. of A. Simple answer... every country, needs a postal service and stamps to go along with it. The first postmaster of the Conch Republic was Pasquale Goicoechea and on April 23 1982 the Republic joined the ranks of stamp issuing entities with the release of four stamps that commemorated the Republic's new found



independence (below - cancelled first day of issue on piece). The stamps were printed as se-tenant imperforate sheet of the following configuration: 1 conch - palm studded seascape; 5c - grounded sailing ship; 20c - pelican (the national bird of the republic); and 1 queen conch - conch shell (a queen conch is equal to 100 conch). The stamps had an orange frame and aqua design. A second set of stamps were printed with the

colours reversed.

In December, a third set was issued with the same design and printed with lilac colouring and a green overprint ("Holy Day 1982" on the 1c and 1Qc values and "Christmas 1982" on the 5c and 20c values) to celebrate Christmas. This set was issued in both perforate and imperforate formats. By 1983 the USPS gave informal recognition to this republic, when mail simply addressed to "Postmaster, Conch Republic" was forwarded to Goicoechea in Tavernier, Florida.

In 1984, a 25-year old, female, loggerhead turtle named "Lucky" received surgical implants of two new front flippers that were torn off by a shark in the wild. The implants

.....continued page 2

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were made by Goodyear of the same rubber material as the moon buggy tires. Coloured the same green-brown as the turtle, they were at first very successful and hopeful that Lucky would make a full recovery. However, a week later one of the prosthesis fell off and surgeons were unsuccessful in reattaching it. So Lucky was to live out the rest of her days as a three-flipper turtle.

In honour of Lucky, a then resident of the Theater of the Sea in Islamorada, Florida (Keys), the Conch Republic issued a "Save Our Wildlife" stamp of 1 Queen Conch



showing Lucky - the "First Marine Animal Surgical Implant in the World" (FDC shown below).

On January 13, 2006, the abandoned span of Seven Mile Bridge, which had been replaced by a parallel span in 1982, was annexed by the Conch Republic. On January 4, fifteen Cuban refugees had reached the bridge, but had been returned to Cuba by the Border Patrol because of a federal decision under the "wet feet/dry feet" policy of the US government. That policy says any structure not connected to land is not a territory of the US. The rationale was that, since two sections of the span had been removed and it was no longer connected to land, it was not part of U.S. territory subject to the "dry feet" rule, and thus the refugees were not permitted to stay. Seizing upon the apparent disavowal of the abandoned span by the U.S., the Republic claimed it as theirs. It was expressed that the bridge could be used to build affordable, ecologically friendly housing. In response, a spokesman for Florida Governor Jeb Bush, declared "With all due respect to the Conch Republic, the bridge belongs to all the people of Florida, and we're not currently in negotiations to sell it." The refugee decision was later overturned, but only after the refugees had been returned to Cuba.



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.

So this ends our short tour of the Conch Republic Cinderella stamps. Mr. Goicoechea, of Russian parentage, was

showing Lucky - the "First Marine Animal Surgical Implant in the World" (FDC shown below).

Stamp Oddities

A 1960-61, 50A airmail stamp, issued by Israel depicts the famous windmill erected, outside of Jerusalem, by Jewish-Italian Sir Moses Montefiore in 1857. It was a part of his daring plan to settle Jews outside of the historic *Holy City*, to attract settlers and make the Jews independent of charity from abroad. He is known to have quoted an old saying "Where there is flour - there is no Torah." The experiment succeeded and after that time, Jews began to settle outside the fortified walls of Jerusalem for the first time in centuries. The quarter that sprang up, called Yemin Moshe, was by the 1960s a deplorable slum that has since been gentrified and is now a most fashionable place to live.

Montefiore's name became widely known for his philanthropic projects to help Jews, and also for pleading the case of Jews the world over. For his involvement with and compassion for his fellow Jewish people, he was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1846.

The stamps, shown below, depict the windmill in a view of Jerusalem on the 50 A and Jethro's tomb on the 40 A (right).



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COVER STORY

by Brainard Fitzgerald

The Royal Train Purple Ink Covers, 1939 The Post Office Departments intended to cancel all philatelic mail as of May 15th, 1939. The official notice of the Royal Train Post Office made it clear that all mail to obtain Royal Train cancellations must be in Ottawa on May 12th to be a joint first day cover with the Royal Train Cancellation, this would be May 15th, 1939.

The philatelic mail was to be handled on the Royal Train after the first day covers were out of the way. Of course, the Postal crew got a real break when they had to wait two days in Quebec for the Royal Party. They had been held up by bad weather on the Atlantic.

The Post Office car was part of the Train which preceded the Royal Train by a few minutes during the entire tour.

It had been rumoured that the Royal Train cancellations were to be in purple ink, but this did not come true except for a few cases. Having a look at several of these covers which were done in purple ink, one would conclude that the ink was difficult to work with as the covers got messed up, smudged and over all messy cancels. Certainly they were not appealing to the recipients.

This cover illustrates the messing of the purple ink which probably was the reason for their short time in use. The cover also shows the Royal Train cancels in French – both the machine cancel and the handcancel, the registered being in English.

From the “Weekly Philatelic Gossip”, Sept. 14, 1940, R. A. Jamieson stated that there were about 75 of these purple ink covers in collector’s hands. By the 1980’s he had lowered his original estimate – he doubted that there were 50 such purples.

Doug Lingard in his exhibit on “The 1939 Royal Train Postal Markings and Their Majesties Tour of North America” in 2006 estimates that there are 10 such covers with French purple ink flag cancels, all dated May 15th and have the first time mark of the Royal Train cancellations – that being 3 a.m.



AMERISTAMP EXPO 2011 1-Frame Team Results

By Elizabeth Sodero

Halifax Explosion (Peach, Forbes, Zelenietz, Sodero J & E) participated in AmeriStamp Expo, Feb. 11-13, 2011 in Charleston, SC. This was the APS Winter Show. The summer show will be in Columbus, Ohio Aug. 11-14, 2011. The results were slow to be tabulated and are as follows:

Team Name	New	Type	Youth	Novice	Medal	Bonus	Total
Collectors Club of San Francisco	50	10	0	0	490	35*	585
Oldies But Goodies	40	15	0	0	490	15	560
High After Five	20	20	0	0	500	5	545
Redwood Emperors	0	20	0	0	490	0	510
West Essex Philatelic Society	40	25	0	30	390	15	500
Rossica Fire Brigade	10	15	0	0	460	10	495
Volunteer 5	0	25	0	0	440	0	465
Halifax Explosion	0	15	0	0	440	0	455

Team results - Jane Sodero gold, Michael Peach and Jack Forbes vermeil, Marty Zelenietz and Elizabeth Sodero silver. As you can see in the chart, points are awarded in six categories. Several teams scored significantly with new exhibits, though our understanding was that an exhibit had to achieve a certain medal degree in order to participate in the competition, next time we will have to read the small print! Special show awards garner bonus points. Ours also was the only team from outside the US. It was a good experience, a show of over 300 frames with 65+ dealers. The show featured the APS Single Frame Championship invited competitors (including Tony Thompson who earned his invitation at Novapex 2010) and the APS Most Popular Championship.

I was fortunate to be walked through my two exhibits by panel judges, Philip Stager and Janet Klug. Their input was helpful – and creative! The most interesting aspect of each was the

“selling” the exhibitor must do in the synopsis to the judges. The judges did not receive one of my synopses which put the exhibit at a distinct disadvantage. All in all an excellent experience, I’m certainly glad we participated.

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

For Sale from Club Member. Canada MNH VF plate blocks, souvenir sheets and collections. Face + 15%. No shipping charge. D.G. Jones, 184 Larkin Dr., Nepean, ON K2J 1H9
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STAMP SWAP: Available - Better worldwide and Canada for trade by want list. E-mail to :

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

There are several stamp club newsletters being distributed electronically and by mail that I receive. If you are interested in having any of these forwarded to you (email only - sorry), please let me know.

Valley Stamp Club
St. John's Philatelic Society
Valley of Ottawa Masonic Stamp Club
Northwest Philatelic Library

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 May 2011 issue is April 30, 2011.**

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

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.

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NOVA PEX 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.

Chuckle

A little boy was waiting for his mother to come out of the grocery store. As he waited, he was approached by a man who asked, "Son, can you tell me where the Post Office is?"

The little boy replied, "Sure! Just go straight down this street a couple a blocks and turn to your right."

The man thanked the boy kindly and said, "I'm the new pastor in town. I'd like for you to come to church on Sunday. I'll show you how to get To Heaven."

The little boy replied with a chuckle. "Awww, come on... You don't even know the way to the Post Office."

Club Table at Valley Show

Karen Galbraith is organizing the NS Stamp Club table at the Valley Stamp Club Annual Show. Please bring material to the next meeting on April 12th. Each item should be identified with a label showing an name code and the item number e.g. PAR-123. There must also be an accompanying list of material. Call Karen at 865-1361 if you wish to make other arrangements.

The Valley Stamp Club

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2011

ANNUAL STAMP EXHIBITION AND SALE

Saturday April 30, 2011
10:00 am - 4:00 pm



Stamp Exhibits
Sale Tables
6 Stamp Dealers
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Canada Post

Auction 2:00 pm

to be held at the

Kentville Fire Hall

FREE ADMISSION

