



The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

March 2012

Volume 41, Issue 420

UP and COMING

March 10 Douglas Gray Philatelic Open House, Dartmouth

March 13 Club Meeting Show & Tell; Auction

March 15 Friends of Philately Bloomfield School, Halifax

April 10 Club Meeting Program TBA; Auction.

April 14 Douglas Gray Philatelic Open House, Dartmouth

April 19 Friends of Philately Bloomfield School, Halifax

Travelling? Check out time and place of other shows at www.rpsc.org/shows.html

At Our Next Meeting

March will be show & tell month with presentations on topics from several members. An Auction will be held.

Members stock books are welcome starting at 7 pm, but must be cleared away to make room for the auction material. Stock books can be again viewed following the auction.

Charles Dickens in Halifax

By Michael Peach

This year is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens. He was born in Portsmouth on 7 February 1812, and died on 9 June 1870. Several countries issued stamps to honour Dickens on the centenary of his death, but not Canada. The British Post Office issued four stamps in 1970, all 5d, showing characters from Dickens's novels, Mr. Pickwick and Sam Weller, Mr. and Mrs. Micawber, David Copperfield and Betsy Trotwood, and Oliver Twist. The British 1993 Christmas stamps marked the 150th anniversary of the publication of *A Christmas Carol*. The five stamps showed various people and



scenes associated with the story: 19p – Bon Cratchitt and Tiny Tim, 25p – Mr. and Mrs. Fizziwig, 30p – Scrooge, 35p – The Prize Turkey, 41p – Mr. Scrooge's Nephew. A series of stamps will be issued by Great Britain in June. There are several other important events to mark in 2012, such as the Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics.

Dickens and his wife Catherine stopped in Halifax while *en route* to New York. They travelled on the *Britannia*, Cunard's newest steampacket, and docked in Halifax on 21 January 1842. The Dickens spent 7 hours in Halifax, while the crew was busy delivering and exchanging the mails, before setting sail for Boston and New York. The Dickens reportedly dined at the European Hotel, later renamed Atlantic Hotel, at 270-2 Upper Water Street. You cannot find a plaque on this spot. The hotel was demolished in 1934, and the site is now part of the new sewage treatment plant. The illustration shows the European Hotel on the day before it was demolished.

While Dickens visited Canada again, this was his only stop in Halifax. More details can be found in the *Mail Star*, 15 June 1970.



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New Handstamp by Gary Steele

**Branch Dead Letter Office
No. 12
APR 2 1918
TORONTO, ONT.**

Nineteen cities and towns in Canada were designated as Dead Letter Branches or Dead Letter Offices from 1898 to 1954.

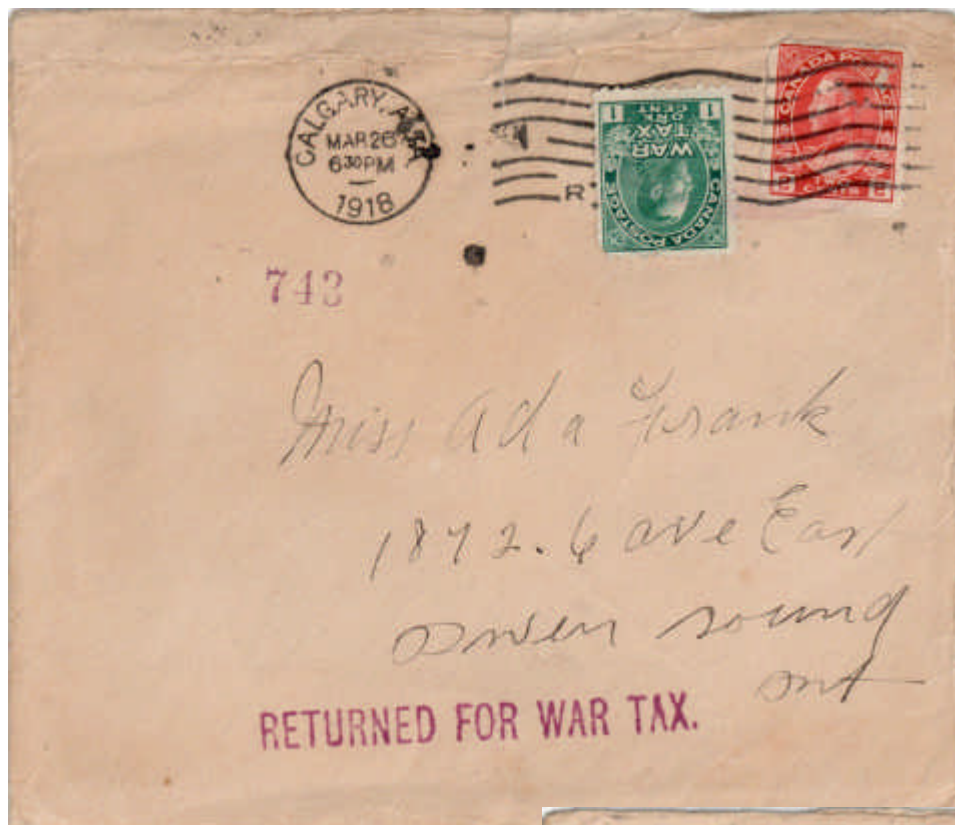
The four most common DLO handstamps are: Small Steel Circle, Oval, Rubber Circle, and Rectangle.

A city like Toronto used all four types at one time. Steel Circle handstamps were used in the first ten to twenty years and slowly phased out. Ovals started just afterwards but continued into the mid and late twenties. Ovals can be single, double or triple framed with the double frame being the most common. This however does not mean they were a common handstamp, as they varied in size and typeface.

One such group of Toronto Double Oval DLO handstamps has a total of 12 different numbers inserted (possibly to recognize each DLO clerk). Most handstamps are not known with this many numbers, some have only one #, and others up to seventeen.

Only four of these 12 handstamps for the Toronto DLO have been reported #3, #6, #7 and now the #12 listing. The #12 handstamp is fairly faint as it was struck over the back flap with a higher elevation.

The dimensions are 49mm x 34mm. Proofed on November 16 1916. Violet ink.



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.



Doug's Delights

by Douglas Gray

It has occurred to me that, aside from providing the Club with discount postage for the monthly newsletter for the past 12 years, I have not written any articles so here is my first attempt. But before I go any further I will answer the question readers will be asking themselves "what's up with the title"! Well, I originally sold my inexpensive stamps in dealer boxes labeled "Doug's Delights" and, in fact, I still do today. Only time will tell as to whether I have done the right thing in labelling my articles the same way.

When I first started my business in Toronto in 1985 I was fortunate to have an instant customer base from a number of my fellow employees who were members of our stamp group within the Ministry of Transportation where I worked for 32 years. I decided to take early retirement in 1997 and moved to Dartmouth shortly after meeting my now wife Vickie (who became my business partner, poor woman). Luckily, most of my fellow collectors from work have stuck with me (pardon the pun) and I continue to fill want lists for them. Very few of them buy from eBay because they know I can beat any listed price for comparable quality stamps. Today's stamp market is very competitive and one has to keep overheads to a minimum while accepting lower returns on investment. It is still possible to conduct a successful business in today's changing climate but one must adhere to the "Golden Rule" of business. Those that don't are usually doomed to failure.

The past 5 years have been both rewarding and challenging for me as the owner of Douglas J. Gray Philatelic Services, in terms of a greatly increased customer base while finding the stamps for those customers want at bargain prices. I have always prided myself in selling at very low prices and my "regulars" are the beneficiaries of this policy. The challenge is finding the right material at the right price so I can keep my customers satisfied. While we receive an average of 20 calls a month from people wanting to sell collections, I may buy only 2 or 3 collections. The rest are referred to my dealer friends in Toronto and elsewhere.

Although I have been in Dartmouth for over 14 years, it is hard to believe that I am just now unpacking my last boxes of material from my move and half the boxes are supplies. (Mental note: never pack stamps in boxes labelled Fragile Crystal). Since this material is long since paid for, I will be offering the supplies at greatly reduced prices while they last. You can check out the buy and sell section of the newsletter for some examples.

By now you will have noticed a lack of actual stamp talk in this first article so I will end by speaking to one my pet peeves. You would be surprised at the number of collections we appraise whereby the owner had placed marginal copies of mint stamps in albums which is good, with a hinge on the stamp instead of the margin which is bad! The obvious result is a collection worth about half of the value of unhinged stamps.

Stamp Oddities

Children's drawings often show up on stamps for various reasons. Czechoslovakia issued three stamps in 1958 to honour the work of UNESCO. The designs were drawn by three 9 year olds.



Austria held a country wide school drawing competition in grade 7 and up to promote the European Football Championships in 2008.



The result was thousands of entries for three stamps. "Footballing Europe" (left) was drawn by a 19-year old.

Canada has done this on several occasions, including Christmas stamps, the Scouts issue of 1983 and the one of four shown here (mid-left) "It takes a lot of people to build Canada" shows many races of children putting a jigsaw puzzle Map of Canada together". It was one of 56,000 entries amongst 8 to 12-year olds on the 'Stampin' the Future' theme.



Norfolk Island issued its first personalized stamps in a set of four in 2000. Personalized because the gutters had pictures and signatures of the four young artists. The stamp shown has many important features of Norfolk life including vibrant blue skies and sunny days.



If permitted, my next article will be a tribute to Arthur Wallace Leggett, a man who made an important contribution to Canadian Philately, and a personal friend who started me in the stamp business. I sincerely hope that you will find the article, well, a "delight" to read.

Douglas J. Gray Supplies Sale

I am selling the last of the supplies from my Toronto move.

While supplies last!

Vario Sheets: 4 packs for \$20.00 tax included

Hinges: 2 packs for 5.00 tax included

All mounts: 20% off cat. Tax included

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Classifieds

Amanda Lewis has begun a business selling stamps and supplies - more details will follow in future editions. You can contact Amanda at ARL1964@yahoo.ca.

STAMP SWAP: Available - Better worldwide and Canada for trade by want list:
penny.auction.stamps@gmail.com

Canadian Philatelist

If you are interested in back issues of The Canadian Philatelist, Volume 25, 1974, to Volume 49, 1998, please contact Michael Peach, 832-1662.

Membership

The following new member has been accepted into the Club:

#1055 Leo Feinstein, Halifax

**NOVA PEX
2012**

You might be thinking - Novapex? - Already? But really, it is not that far off. This year, 2012, will be a National Level Show held at the Dartmouth Sportsplex. Planning is well in hand. The dates for the Exhibit and Bourse is

Friday Sept. 28 to Sun Sept. 30, 2012

It is time to start thinking about exhibits and planning meetings. As always the Bourse will be filled with some familiar and new dealers. Prepare your items for sale at the NS Stamp Club Table - a perfect opportunity to clean out the chaff in your collection. For more information please visit the website

www.nsstampclub.ca/novapex12.htm

This Valentine's postcard, published by The Photogelatine Engraving Co Ltd, Toronto, and printed in Great Britain, depicts Lake O'Law Cape Breton. The Lake was depicted on a US rate (95c) Canadian stamp (Sc# 1855e) issued on 23 May 2000 as part of the 10 stamp Fresh Waters of Canada series.

**Fredericton Stamp Club**

The Fredericton Stamp Club will be holding a stamp show on Sat. March 31st 10am to 3pm at Fredericton High School. There will be door prizes, dealers, members tables etc. and also a display of some frames that their members have put together. If you have any questions, please call Lea Frizzell at 865-2353 or by email

leafrizzell@hotmail.com



Three of Canada Post's recent offerings:

Day Lilies -
March 1

Sculptor Joe
Fafard - Feb 23

