



The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

April 2012

Volume 41, Issue 421

UP and COMING

April 10 Club Meeting
Titanic - John Hall; Auction.

April 14 Douglas Gray Philatelic
Open House, Dartmouth

April 19 Friends of Philately
Bloomfield School, Halifax

April 28 Valley Stamp Club
Annual Stamp Ex (see page 4)

May 5-6 Orapex 2012
Ottawa, Ontario

May 8 Club Meeting
Show & Tell; Auction

May 12 Douglas Gray Philatelic
Open House, Dartmouth

May 13 Saint John Stamp Club
Spring Show (See page 4)

May 17 Friends of Philately
Bloomfield School, Halifax

June 1-3 Royal*2012*Royale
Edmonton, Alberta

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

Titanic - The Greatest Story Ever Told

by Jeff Parks.

Would the Titanic have been remembered 100 years after it's maiden voyage had it not struck an iceberg and sunk - probably not. And if you balk at that comment, name one ship that was launched and served it's masters that long ago. The *RMS Olympic*, yes - but only by association to it's sister ship *RMS Titanic* - both ships owned by the White Star Line of New York.. Many ships have come and gone over the years, the ones that we tend to remember are the ones that have proven a record (largest, fastest, etc), or have succumbed to some twist of fate, hostility, or error. Such is the fate of the Titanic.

We all know the story from book, film and even song. The Titanic enthusiasts have studied every detail of her design, build, sailing, the disaster, the passengers, sequence of events....the list goes on and on. But what makes the tale of the Titanic so endearing to the impassioned. Harland and Wolfe, the Belfast builders of the ship, insists that the Titanic was never advertised as unsinkable, but grew out of people's interpretation of the news stories of the day, in describing the ship's construction, concluded that it was practically unsinkable; and of the disaster itself.

Could the passenger list have fuelled the intrigue - many prominent Americans took the maiden voyage on this ship and perished. Maybe we, here in Nova Scotia, remember the story because of Halifax's involvement in the rescue and recovery in the days following - 150 unclaimed victims were laid to rest in Halifax. Halifax also has many reminders of the incident - artifacts, records and photographs at museums, monuments, and graves.

Finally, consider that the ship itself was unsalvageable for such a long period of time. It's exact whereabouts were unknown. It sank on April 14/15 1912, in about 12,500 feet (3,800 m) of water, a depth to great for recovery given the technology of the day, although many wild schemes were dreamt up. It wasn't until 1 September 1985 that the final resting place of the wreck was discovered 13.2 miles from the position reported by the Titanic's crew as it was sinking some 370 miles SE of Mistaken Point, Newfoundland.

This being the 100th anniversary of the disaster, many commemorative events are being planned in Nova Scotia (titanic.gov.ns.ca). On March 20th, Canada Post announced it's designs for the five Titanic commemorative stamps to be issued on April 5th. The stamps were design by Halifax artist/designers Dennis Page and

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Oliver Hill. The international rate stamp depicts the ship sailing on calm waters superimposed on a map with relevant locations to the ship's history. This stamp is available in a booklet of 10 and a souvenir sheet.

The Permanent™ domestic-rate stamps are formed in two pairs of se-tenant stamps showing the bow and stern of the ship, giving one a sense of the enormity of the ship. The bow and stern stamps are available in panes of 16. The bows also are printed in a booklet of 10. Two first day covers will detail both designs.

British Factory Girls' Ignorance Indirectly Responsible for Hobby

(From a stamp newspaper clipping of unknown source)

by Herman Herst Jr.

The famous "penny black" has as interesting a story behind it as any stamp. The events leading up to its issuance read like a legend. It is not generally known that to a an ignorant girl we directly owe our hobby of philately.



Prior to 1840, letters were not prepaid. Instead of paying for letters as they were mailed as we do today, the postage was collected from the addressee, and it was considered a breach of etiquette to assume that the recipient was not financially able to pay the postage on it when it arrived.

Rowland Hill, at work on his "Post Office Reforms" which were to revolutionize the handling of mail in England, was accompanying a postman on his route one day when he witnessed an unusual experience. The postman handed a letter to a young girl, demanding of her the shilling postage that was necessary for it. The girl examined the envelope, and then gave it back to the mailman, refusing to pay the postage.

As was his custom, the postman took the letter, and continued on his rounds. Rowland Hill, however, realizing the loss to the government from such an occurrence, tarried and spoke to the girl. She was not loath to tell him her story.

She was carrying on correspondence with her sweetheart, she said, although she was not able to read or write. However, they had decided among them a code, consistent of dots placed in different parts of the front of the envelope, and by merely glancing at the cover, she was able to discern the message. By handing it back to the postman, she was able to save the cost of postage. Inside the letter was nothing but a blank piece of paper,

After seeing this, Hill decided to advocate system whereby all postage would be paid before the letter were placed in the hands of the post office. This naturally brought about the idea of adhesive stamps, and the British penny black was the result, appearing on May 6 1840.



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.



On the Death of a King

In this year of celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, we must also remember that it was on the death of King George VI that Queen Elizabeth II was able to ascend to the throne. This interesting postcard is a recent addition to my collection. In fact, so recent that as of this writing it has not arrived in the mail yet. I bid on a similar maximum card about a month or so ago and the price elevated to a point that I felt it wasn't worth it even though I really, really wanted it - desire doesn't always win out at any cost. I don't remember the price it went for but I know it was over my \$40 max price. So, I lamented that I had not previously nor was I likely to ever find one again. One day in late March, on a whim, I searched eBay for "KGVI postcard". To my surprise and utter delight up pops this specimen for \$7 US on a 'Buy It Now'. I was not long in hitting the button to buy. So good things do come to those who wait - or are just down right lucky. The card is affixed with the 3c Postes-Postage issue of 1951 (Sc 286) and post marked QUEBEC P.Q. on FEB 6 '52 - the day that the King passed. This is the second item that I have in my collection with this date, the contents of which also announce his death.



Stamp Oddities

Although officially Czechoslovakian Territory (then part of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy) was on the side of the Austro-German powers in World War I, more than 400,000 Czech troops deserted to the Allied cause and were formed into special legions to fight against the Germans who had originally conscripted them. On 21 May 1938, Czechoslovakia officially honoured this historic event with several stamps...



Ironically, during this time Germany was fuelling an integration of the Czechoslovakian area known as the Sudetenland. This horseshoe shaped area mainly to the west and north of Bohemia and Moravia never formed single historic region, however the region was inhabited by mainly ethnic Germans. The area was part of Germany until 1806 and the German Confederation from 1815 to 1866. After the First World War, the Sudetenland became part of the newly formed Czechoslovakia. The "Sudeten Crisis" began following the Anschluss of Austria in March 1938 when Hitler declared himself the advocator of ethnics Germans living in Czechoslovakia. Germany, however, rather than invade this region negotiated an annexation of the



Sudetenland under terms outlined in the Munich Agreement and it was relegated to Germany between Oct 1 and Oct 10 1938. On Dec 4, 1938 97% of the population of the region voted for the NSDAP and about half a million Sudeten Germans join the Nazi party. A commemorative stamp (Sc B133) marks the occasion. Germany then invaded Czechoslovakia in March 1939

Following the war, the Potsdam Conference determined that ethnic Germans would have to leave the Czechoslovakia. The majority left but those who stayed behind had to prove their anti-Nazi affiliation. Some areas were resettled following the expulsion while other areas have remained vastly unpopulated.

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.

Douglas J. Gray Supplies Sale

While supplies last! (tax included)

Vario Sheets: 4 packs for \$20.00

tHinges: 2 packs for 5.00

All mounts: 20% off cat.

Call me with your order at 461-0528 and I will bring them to the next meeting.



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

NOVA PEX 2012

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

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A Favourite Cover by Elizabeth Sodero

Sometimes it isn't the stamps or the postmarks that catch the collector's eye. Sometimes it is the address or addressee. This 1863 British cover is addressed to:

*H.M. Paddle Wheel Sloop, Medea
Vera-Cruz, Mexico or Elsewhere
Capt Wodehouse Commg Officer
William Daking, Ship's Steward*

Numeral 225 (Cowes) cancels the penny red, b/s Cowes MR 3 63, red London MR 4 63.

A little research on Royal Navy vessels reveals that the Medea was a 2nd class sloop, launched in September 1833, of wooden construction and paddlewheel propulsion, 835 tons with 4 guns. The Medea served in the Mediterranean,

Valley Stamp Club

The Valley Stamp Club will be holding its annual stamp exhibition on Sat. April 28th at the Kentville Firehall. There will be door prizes, dealers, members tables etc. and also a stamp displays by VSC members.

Saint John Stamp Club

The Saint John Stamp Club will be holding its "Spring Show" on Sunday May 13th 2012 at the Howard Johnson Hotel, Main Street, Saint John, NB. Free admission to the show. For more information please call J. Young at (506) 849-2250.

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North America and West Indies, was involved in the 1840 blockade of Alexandria, and transported the Xanthian Marbles from Greece to the British Museum. The vessel was taken out of service in 1867.

