



The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

June 2012
Volume 41, Issue 422

UP and COMING

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

June 9 Douglas J Gray
Open House Dartmouth

June 12 Club Meeting
Year end Flea Market, Closing
Social

June 14 Friends of Philately
Bloomfield School, Halifax

June 17 Halifax Coin Show

Aug 31 - Sep2
BNAPEX/CAPTAPEX
Calgary Philatelic Society

September 8 BRUNPEX 2012
Rotary Lodge, Moncton, NB

September 11 Club Meeting
Program ideas welcome

September 28-30 NOVAPEX 2012
Dartmouth Sportsplex

November 9-11 CSDA National
Toronto, ON

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

Donald Alfred King (1866-1934)

by Michael Peach

One of the prominent names among the pioneers of philately in Canada was Donald King. Donald King was born on Prince Edward Island on 29 October 1866. At an early age he moved with his parents to Halifax. He started work at the Halifax Post Office on 13 May 1886, as a 3rd class clerk. He continued to work at the Post Office and was Postmaster from 1 November 1924 to 1 November 1933. He would have spent his entire career with the Post Office at the old Post Office, now the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, on Cheapside, George and Hollis Streets. He died in Halifax on 28 July 1934.

He was a lifelong philatelist, and an active dealer during the period 1890-1924. As a civil servant he was not allowed to be directly involved in any business, in this case the stamp trade, and he traded using his wife's name Emily, not as reported earlier using his daughter's name, also Emily, who was born in 1898.



He was actively involved in organized philately. In the February 1888 Halifax Philatelist it was reported that he was secretary of the Nova Scotia Philatelic Association. The Canadian Philatelic Association held its first convention in Toronto in 1887. The local Halifax group organised the second CPA Convention in 1889 at the Halifax YMCA, then on Prince Street. At this meeting King was elected secretary, and Alvan J. Craig (Pictou) became President. In 1893, he was elected a member of the Philatelic Society, London, now The Royal Philatelic Society London.

He was an authority on the stamps of the provinces, and Canadian stamps. He shared his knowledge by many contributions to the philatelic literature. In the January Halifax Philatelist he described the colour error of the 2¢ registration stamp and in later issues the

Douglas J. Gray Philatelic Services

CSDA - RSPC - BNAPS - APS

*Choice Canadian and
British Commonwealth
for the Serious Collector.*

Large Collections bought and sold.
Estates appraised and liquidated.
Complete line of supplies
at discount prices.

Phone: (902) 461-0528
e-mail: DJGPS89@accesswave.ca
PO Box 24105 Micmac Blvd.
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia





Continued from Page 1

5¢ NB Connell stamp. In 1895 he wrote a series of articles for Gibbons Monthly Journal on B.N.A. stamps. He was the author of the monograph, *The Postage Stamps of Nova Scotia*.

He was involved with Arthur Bartlett in a syndicate which purchased the remainders of the Nova Scotia stamps from the Nova Scotia government in 1896. The stamps had been found by King in an attic of the old parliament buildings in Ottawa. The syndicate purchased them for \$18,000, a vast sum in those days. He was also a speculator in contemporary Canadian stamps. When it became clear that the that ½¢ and 6¢

Jubilee stamps were in short supply within a few weeks of being issued, he wrote to the Postmaster at Port Hood, requesting that he send him all of these values that he had available.

Locally he was an active member of the Waegwoltic Club, serving for three years as President and a member of the Overseas Club.

MOODY BLUE STAMP COMPANY

*British Commonwealth
Canada
Newfoundland
Worldwide Topicals*

77 Stewart Harris Drive
Dartmouth, N.S. B2W 3Z8
Phone: (902) 434-8439
e-mail: sales@moodybluestamps.com
www.moodybluestamps.com

The **Gabarus Post Office**, shown here, has changed little since NSSC member David Jones first visited it 50 years ago. The post office located in the small Cape Breton community was originally opened as Gabarouse Barachois in 1887 and became Gabarouse "B" in 1955. LB Macpherson does not state when it became the current spelling but one can assume that it was before 1982 (the published date of his treatise on NS Post Offices). Ninety-five year old Lottie Morrison, in a 1985 interview with *Cape Breton Magazine* stated that her father, Roderick Morrison, ran a rather large store that had a post office in it, amongst other amenities, that served the local population of the north shore area near Gabarus.

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.



From Old to New Scotland - A Book Presentation

At the May meeting of the NS Stamp Club, we had a visit from Ms. Elizabeth Nairn, a past president of the Caledonian Philatelic Society (based in Glasgow, Scotland) and also past chair for the Edinburgh Stamp Group. She was in the Halifax area doing research on the maritime history of the region. On the occasion of her visit she presented the club with a luxuriously bound copy of the Caledonian Philatelic Society Centenary Book which was immediately turned over to our Club Librarian. Ms. Nairn provided a brief overview of the clubs to which she belongs and gave Club Members a standing invitation to visit any meeting if they find themselves in Scotland.

The Caledonian Philatelic Society was originally named the Junior Philatelic Society of Scotland but changed its name in 1930. The first President was Sir John Ure Primrose, Lord Provost of Glasgow, and afterwards the first honorary President of the Society, a position he held until his death in 1923. One of the founding members and a member of the first committee was Sergeant Philippe Durand who continued his membership well into the 1970s. Many current members knew Philippe Durand and that memory of him provides an evocative link back to the origin of the Society. (source: CPS web)

NSSC President Keith MacKay (below left) presented Elizabeth Nairn (below right) with several of the club 2004 RPSC pins, depicting the Nova Scotia stamp designs, as a show of appreciation and as a memento of her visit.

If you would like more information Caledonian Philatelic Society, see the following website

www.caledonianphilatelic.org.uk/

The Edinburgh Stamp Group does not appear to have a web presence, however a web search did reveal plenty information concerning meeting places and times.

Stamp Oddities

This item is from the Northwest Philatelic Library (NPL) newsletter *Book Reports* for March-April 2012. NPL is located in Portland, Oregon. —ed.

Every now and then, we are faced with an interesting inquiry. We would like our readers to weigh in on a solution. This is our 14th “Stumper.”

The item in question is shown below. It is triangular in shape with a polar bear standing on an ice floe in the central vignette. Inscriptions along the edges are “ALASKA” in the center, “ARCTIC AIR” on the left and “MERCY FLIGHT” on the right. A 10 is placed in both the left and right corners. These items are known in a variety of contrasting colors for both the frames and vignettes. The items, however, are not routinely available from dealers or at auction, and particularly not in unused form. The ‘Stumper’ is to identify the item, to explain its source and describe its production.

If you have a plausible solution, please submit it to NPL (nwpl@qwestoffice.net). We will write it up in a future issue of *Book Reports* and give you full attribution. Document your solution to the extent practicable. The “best” solution will be determined by NPL.



Machin Information

A very interesting presentation was given at the May meeting on the history of the United Kingdom Machin stamps. This was not a comprehensive discussion but gave a broad overview into the development of the long running (45 years this month) series of stamps. Several references were given that those present asked to have published here.

The Connoisseur Catalogue of Machin Stamps and Decimal Definitives—Online Edition, Edited by James Skinner. The web version of their 10th edition and it's supplement is free access until such time that the publisher is satisfied with the functionality of the site, when they will charge a "small subscription fee".

www.connoisseurcatalogue.net/

Norvic Philatelics website, www.norphil.co.uk/, provides a blog (norphil.blogspot.ca/) of interesting facts on the more current editions of the Machins.

Robin Harris, editor of the *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*, has an extensive website dedicated to Canadian Elizabethan, US PNC and UK Machin stamps www.adminware.ca/machin.htm. Robin draws on many of the resources available to provide a comprehensive site containing 250 pages with over 500 images on all of the Machin issues. He also provides a 25 page PDF document named *Simplifying the Machins* help collectors understand the Machin basics. Accompanying this document is a free, 25 page full colour 'Basic' album pages. More advanced pages (Novice, Intermediate and Specialized) can be purchased through the website.

Further to this discussion I did a web search and offer the following links that may be of interest on this subject:

Machin Collectors Club machins.org/ - 1900 members worldwide.

West Toronto Stamp Club - Machin Study Group westtorontostampclub.org/10.html

Machin Definitive Stamps
website.lineone.net/~gbmachins/index.html

The AHI Machin Catalogue ahi2000.com/machin/index.htm

Machin Mania www.gbstamps.com/machins/

Machins Made Easy www.gbmachins.co.uk/



Licker Beware

by Michael Peach

Recently there have been reports in the *Canadian Philatelist* about the application of sophisticated scientific methods to philately. Beta-radiography, a weak kind of X-ray, has been used to detect watermarks and laid paper. Both paper production processes are similar in that a wire mesh is pressed onto the damp paper, causing a slightly different thickness of the paper.

In the March 2012 issue of the *American Philatelist* I noted two items of scientific interest. The article on Philately and DNA reports that if you have ever licked a stamp you can be traced. Such minute amounts are needed for a DNA analysis that even your finger prints on self adhesive stamps may be sufficient to obtain a DNA profile. In 2001 the DNA profile from adhesive stamps was used to trace the sender of the Anthrax Letters in the USA. The sender was found to be Dr. Bruce Irvins, who committed suicide before he could be arrested. In England the Bournemouth Bomber, who had mailed bombs to several customers of the chain grocery store Tesco, was traced from a postage stamp that he had licked.

The other item of interest was the announcement of the First International Symposium on Analytical Methods in Philately to be held at the National Postal Museum in Washington. Non-destructive spectroscopic methods will be demonstrated to determine the composition of the printing ink and the analysis of pigments and adhesives. The analysis and naming of the colour is much more difficult, as the colour depends on the exact history of the printing. Variables include the cleaning of the printing plates, the batch of the ink, whether the gum seeped through, how long it was soaked, etc.. The exact colour has been found vary from stamp to stamp, and colour ranges were determined for a specific named colour.

I must emphasise that the analytical instrumental methods for philately are not likely to become common. The cost of a DNA profile is quoted as \$1,000. Colorimetry can only be carried in a well equipped laboratory.

Why Did I Become a Dealer?

by Marc Brauer

On April 14th, my son and I loaded up the van with stamps and Lego and set up a booth at the Shearwater Hobby Show. Mackenzie set up a Lego display on a table for no cost and had an excellent time showing off his creations. I had decided to pay \$20 for my table in an attempt to sell off some surplus stamp materiel. Over the course of six hours, I had only brought in \$15.

Some might have thought this exercise as futile, as we were only at the show for one day and had a net loss of \$5, but it was a wonderful experience. I had an opportunity to connect with my son, see him take pride in his achievements and really enjoy himself. As for the stamp table, our family had recently received a wonderful gift from Mr. Gary Steele consisting of many albums, and stamp materiel. Our children had been able to pull all they wanted from the collection, so we brought the remainder to the show. After the first two hours, it was evident that this was not a stamp buying crowd. I changed tactics. For the children who expressed even a small interest in philatelics, I guessed their birth year, and gave them each a Canada Post yearbook from their birth year. After which I was able to show them a penny black. I was able to do this for about 20 children.

It was truly an enriching event, allowing me to demonstrate a little generosity in front of my kids and hopefully help the hobby along in one or two kids. My sincere thanks to Gary for being the catalyst for this event!



Could Some of Them be Buried in Halifax?

by JA Forbes Jr

In their January 21, 2012 Public Auction, MacDonnell & Whyte of Dublin, Ireland featured a Titanic related Post Card from a son to his father, as Lot #407. The message was written en route from Southampton to Queenstown, and posted during the stop at Queenstown. (See below).

In the text of the card, Andrew tells his father, William Johnston of his plans (A part of the note is show below).

The note reads:

Titanic / Thursday 10 O'clock

Dear Father

I had not time to write before we sailed. The top is the name of the boat. We don't get to New York till Wednesday next so I will write when we get there.

Your affectionate Son

Andrew.

It seems that Andrew was accompanied by his wife, Eliza, son William and daughter Catherine. Travelling with the Johnstons were six relatives/friends. Details concerning this group are available at Encyclopaedia Titanica

<http://www.encyclopedia-titanica.org/titanic-victim/andrew-emslie-johnston.html>

As noted, none of their bodies were identified, if found, which gives rise to the possibility that some of them may indeed be resting in a Halifax graveyard.

Incidentally, the Post Card, with a suggested realization of 5,000 Euros, sold for 8,500 Euros (about \$11,000 CAD).



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

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.

NOVA PEX 2012

Novapex 2012 is a National Level Stamp Exhibition and Bourse to be held at the Dartmouth Sportsplex.

Friday Sept. 28 to Sun Sept. 30, 2012

Exhibit entry forms are due to [Sean Weatherup](mailto:Sean.Weatherup@nsstampclub.ca) by 15 August 2012. So the time is getting short - act soon. If you would like to have a group meeting during the show please contact the organizers. 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



NICKERSON STAMPS

*Worldwide Stamps
Bought and Sold.
Service is our Specialty.
Albums, Supplements and
Supplies also Available.*

941 Old French Road
Kingston Nova Scotia B0P 1R0
Phone: (902) 760-0557
e-mail: aikido@eastlink.ca
www.nickerson-stamps.com

DUES DUES DUES

Yes folks. It is that time of the year again. Dues become payable on July 1. I will be taking cash or cheque at the June meeting. Also you can send a cheque to the NS Stamp Club care of the address on Page 2. Invoices will be sent out in October and December, so pay early and avoid the hassle and waste of paper. If you are unsure if you are due on July 1 please contact me at webnews@nsstampclub.ca or 876-0099.

New Member

Marcus Brauer, Dartmouth, collects Canada, Worldwide (Pre-1940) and is an International trading partner. He is also assisting his son raise money to attend the Scout Jamboree in Alberta in 2013 by offering a unique Bluenose collectible. See Marc for more details.

No News in May

For those of you that don't get a monthly meeting announcement, you are probably wondering what happened to the May issue. Two words - computer crash. I did not get set up in time to publish in May so therefore a slightly larger edition in June. I'm still looking for your great articles, news tidbits and interesting cover stories to help fill the pages. What? You think I make this all up myself—this is your newsletter please contribute.

Appointments and Awards

New Brunswick Philatelist, and educator/author, Michael O. Nowlan has recently received a three year appointment to the Canadian Stamp Advisory Committee starting April 1, 2012. An accomplished author, poet, and retired teacher, Mr. Nowlan has been collecting since the age of ten and now writes regularly on philatelic topics. He became an RPSC fellow in 2009.

Anthony (Tony) Thompson, a former local BNAPS member known to many NSSC members, was recently awarded the \$US 1,000 Pratt Award by the Collectors Club of Chicago for his articles "Newfoundland's Industrial Issues and the 'Coat of Arms' watermark layout" and "Naming the Newfoundland watermark varieties". Both articles were published in BNAPS Topics in 2011. The award, named for eminent Newfoundland collector, researcher and author Robert H. Pratt, is given for the best philatelic writing published on a Newfoundland topic in a given year.

Orapex 2012, which was held in Ottawa in May saw several members achieve substantial awards. Gary Steele won a Gold, APS Excellence Award (1900-1940), and the Reserve Grand Award for "The 1937-38 definitive Issue". Jean-Jacques Tillard received a Gold and the One-Frame Grand Award for "La Surcharge SPM gothique de 1885".

Brainard Fitzgerald won a Vermeil and BNAPS-Best BNA 2-4 Frame for "A Postal History of Imperial Oil - Atlantic Perspective". He also achieved a Gold rating for "The 1939 Royal Tour of North America: The Philatelic Trail". Doreen Fitzgerald received a Vermeil and the R. D. Michener Award (Most Innovative Display) for "Greetings from Digby through Postcards".

Michael Peach received a Silver award for his single frame exhibit "Invalid Postage: Stamps and Labels - Great Britain". Congratulations to all our members who have achieved philatelic exhibiting success.