



The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

September / October 2014
Volume 44, Issue 442

UP and COMING

October is Stamp Collecting Month

October 14 Club Meeting
Small Queen Reentries—G. Jeffery; Auction

October 16 Friends of Philately

October 16-18 Eastern Auctions
Lord Nelson Hotel, Halifax, NS

October 25 South Shore Stamp Club, Stamp Show and Auction
Michelin Social Club
Bridgewater - See page 4

November 8 Moncton Stamp Fair

November 11 Club Meeting

November 14-16 CSDA
National Postage Stamp Show
Toronto, ON

November 20 Friends of Philately

December 9 Club Meeting

December 18 Friends of Philately

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

Newsletter Material

The material for the newsletter has been rather thin as of late—and one of the reasons why there was no September issue. Please, everyone, dig! There must be something of interest that you can write a couple of paragraphs or a story on. It is an easy task for me to fill many pages when there is a story at hand. Not so much when I must dig for the material myself. Thanks in advance.

Dr. Bernhardt Assmus **First convicted stamp forger**

by Michael Peach

On 8 February 1892, Dr. Bernhardt Burghardt Assmus was found guilty at the Central Criminal Court, London, for unlawfully obtaining money by false pretenses, selling forged stamps as genuine, to Morris Giwelb, and was sentenced to three years penal servitude. This was the first prosecution of this sort in Great Britain.

Details about Dr. Assmus are sketchy. He was born about 1856, and was originally from Hamburg. From 1882 he was proprietor of the *German Gazette* in Paris. About 1887 he moved to London, lost his money in a bad speculation and was declared bankrupt in 1890. He then started forging stamps. He sometimes used the alias A. Bernard.

In August 1890, he sold an altered Penny Black with VR in the upper corners to London stamp dealer Morris Giwelb for £4. These were official stamps and used for experimental purposes and not for postal purposes. The current catalogue value is in excess of \$50,000. Giwelb later ascertained that this was a forgery. A few days later he purchased a brown Mexican stamp for £15, from Assmus. He found that this had been coloured.



Previously Assmus had tried to sell forged a V.R. stamp to London stamp dealer Theodore Buhl, who recognized it as a fake. Bournemouth stamp dealer Percy Bright, of Bright and Son, and his store manager Harry Hilckes purchased several Baden stamps for £5. These were subsequently found to be forgeries, but Percy Bright did not lay charges.

Prior to the trial, DS Reuben Pensen after arresting Assmus discovered about 900 stamps in his wallet, including 99 Baden stamps similar to those purchased by Percy Bright. A subsequent search of his lodgings in Islington found about 4000 stamps, tools for forgeries, bottles of various chemicals, metal types V and R, etc.. It must be noted that Assmus has been reported as being a chemist.

I have not been able to find any details of his life in Britain or elsewhere after leaving prison. He did not attain the notoriety of some of the other forgers active at the end of the Victorian era.



World Cup – Germany Winners

The German Post Office, Deutsche Post, was so confident of a German win during this summer's World Cup Soccer Tournament in Brazil that it had printed five million commemorative stamps before the final match was even held. If Argentina had won the final on 13 July, the stamps would have had to be pulped. The 60c stamp marked "Germany Football World Champion 2014" went on sale on 17 July. Commemorative copies were given to the coach, players and team staff. The stamp design process usually takes at least six months but this contract was only started after the tournament began. Had Germany not won and all copies not destroyed—the value of this stamp could have been very high.



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.

Membership is C\$15 per person (C\$20 US, C\$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.

D.L.O. CANADA

FEB

14

1908

TORONTO BRANCH

#19 Continuing Series by Gary Steele
New Handstamp (OKC)



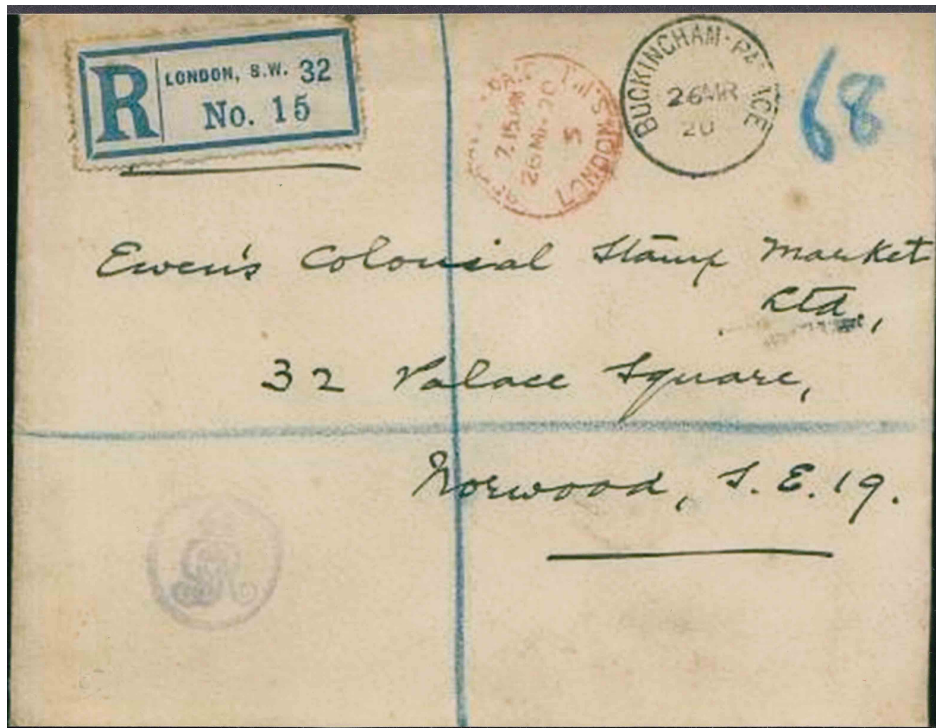
Someone was in trouble on Valentine's Day. On February 14th 1908 a Valentine was sent to a Miss Myrtle Watson in Toronto with no postage. It was thus sent to the Toronto Dead Letter Office on Feb 14 1908 per large 34mm black handstamp.

A note would have been sent to the addressee asking for payment per file #16692 on the left. Once payment was received the 1c Edward was applied and cancelled by a Toronto DLO oval handstamp Feb 17 1908, the File # crossed out per regulations and forwarded through the postal system the same day being three days late.

This is a very interesting previously unknown handstamp. Although it is a circle type single frame, the outside is shaped like a bottle cap. There is no proof known. All letters are sans-serif and large caps 5mm in height. There are no other similar handstamps that I am aware of.



Eight British Prime Ministers will appear on four 1st Class and four 97p stamps to be released on 14 October 2014.



Cover Corner

by Michael Peach

Royal Mail – The real Thing

I recently came across the 1920 registered over to the London stamp dealers, Ewen's Colonial Stamp Market. It was mailed from Buckingham Palace, undoubtedly from the stamp room, on 26 March 1920, when Edward Denny Bacon, later Sir Edward, was the curator of the Royal Collection. There was no stamp. Why? There was a Court Post Office at Buckingham Palace, and until 31 March 2001 the services were provided free by Royal Mail. Note the GR cachet on the left.

Justice for Postal Workers

by Dennis Bedley

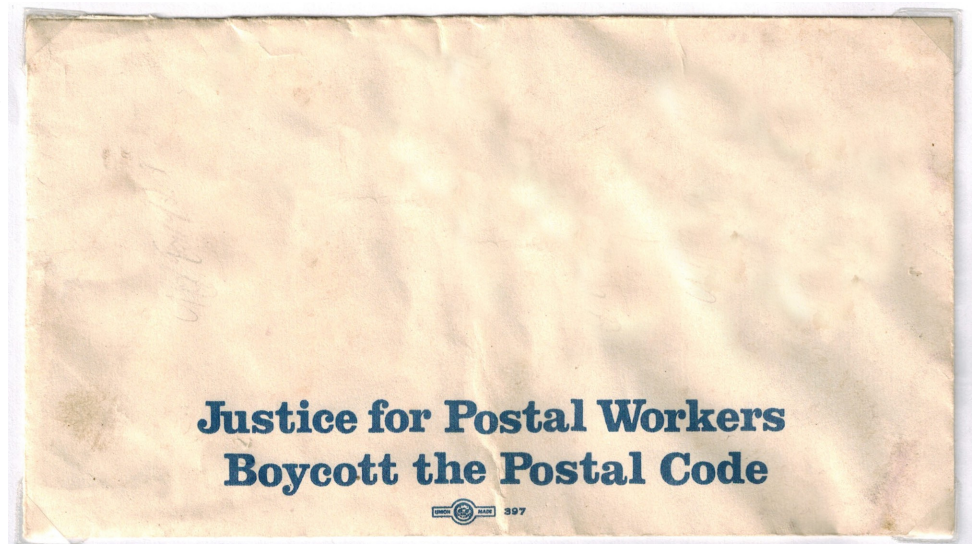
Canada was one of the last western countries to get a Nationwide postal code system. A report tabled in the House of Commons in 1969 dealt with the expected impact of environmental change on the Post Office vase on the volumes of mail passing through the country's postal system which had reached billions in the 1950 and 10s of billions in the 1960s.

In Feb 1970, Communications Minister Eric Kierens announced that a six character system would be introduced beginning with a test in the City of Ottawa on 1 April 1971, led by John E.J. Carisse, Canada's first Postal Code Officer. Coding of Ottawa was followed by a provincial roll out of the system across the country that was completed between 1972 and 1974.

The postal code allowed Canada Post to easily speed up the mail delivery as well as simplify the flow of mail across the country.

However, when the automatic sorting system was initially conceived, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers and other relevant unions objected to it, mainly because the wages of those who ran the new automated machines were much lower than those who had hand sorted the mail. The Unions ended up staging job action and public information campaigns with the message that they did not want people and businesses to use the postal codes on their mail.

The 20th of March 1974 was declared "Boycott the postal code day". The envelope shown (which I found in the rafters of my cottage) is possibly from that campaign. Eventually the Unions started being compensated once the automated system was in use and began generating significant revenue for Canada Post.



Classifieds

Wanted: 1-Cent Small Queens cancelled on Aug 28/97 and Oct 8/97. keithmackay@eastlink.ca / 902-421-1376.

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

Hinges: 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.

Framed Bluenose Keepsakes

consisting of the 1929 50c Bluenose stamp, a 1937 Dime and a piece of the new replica Bluenose II½, is available for \$50 each and can be purchased through Marcus Brauer (466-4339). Photos of the project development and available frames can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/c42o6te> and <http://tinyurl.com/c5hy7vz>. This endeavour is supporting local Scouting.

Membership

DUES. Yes it is that time of the year again. A slight change in the way we do business this year—do not send dues to the newsletter address.

Dues are payable to:

Nova Scotia Stamp Club

c/o Marilyn Melanson, Treasurer

28 Birch St Halifax, NS B3N 2V1

Member cards will be available in October or the next mailing.



South Shore Stamp Club STAMP SHOW and AUCTION

SATURDAY OCTOBER 25th

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Michelin Social Club

221 Logan Rd, Bridgewater

Stamp Auction 1:00 pm

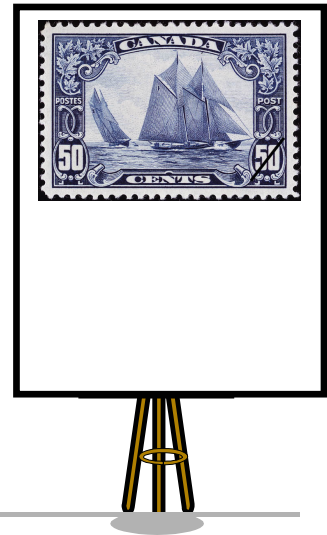
Stamp Exhibits

Slide Presentations:

10:30 Endangered Species on Stamps

11:30 Trains on Stamps

Stamp Dealers in Attendance



COFFEE and SNACKS AVAILABLE

2014-15 Officers Appointments

President	Keith MacKay
Vice President	Bob Bowlby
Past President	Sean Weatherup
Secretary	Bob Boehner
Treasurer	Marilyn Melanson
Newsletter Editor	Jeff Parks
Directors	Gary Steele
	Marty Zelenietz
	Peter Sodero
RPSC Liaison	Marilyn Melanson
Auctioneers	Jeff Parks
	& Stan Dunfield
Librarian	Heather MacKenzie
Archivist	Lloyd Melanson
Auditor	Dave Harvey
Membership	Jeff Parks

By constitution the September meeting is the Annual General Meeting, where we review the past year and elect new officers for the club. The slate of officers and appointments are provided here. The slate of officers is ratified by the members and appointments ratified by the Executive at their next meeting.