



The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

May 2015
Volume 44, Issue 448

UP and COMING

May 2-3 ORAPEX,
RA Centre, Ottawa, ON

May 12 Club Meeting
John Hall - Lusitania; Auction

May 16 Moncton Stamp Fair
Royal Canadian Legion
10am— 4pm

May 21 Friends of Philately

May 22-24 Royal 2015 Royale
London, ON

June 9 Club Meeting
Closing Social

June 18 Friends of Philately

September 11-13 BNAPEX
Niagara Falls, ON

September 26-27 NOVAPEX

Dartmouth Seniors Club
Details on the website

www.nsstampclub.ca

Travelling? Check out time and
place of other shows at

www.rpsc.org/shows.html or
www.csdaonline.com/shows

May 1 1840 - Worlds First Postage Stamp Turns 175

by Jeff Parks

The Penny Black was the world's first adhesive postage stamp used in a public postal system. The stamp was issued in Great Britain on 1 May 1840 and was in official use by May 6. The stamp was issued in London post offices first but other offices soon got a supply as well. The stamp features a profile of Queen Victoria, based on a sketch from when she was 15 years old and was to remain as her image on stamps until the end of her reign. She came to the throne only three years previously and was married to Prince Albert in 1840. The stamp was designed by William Mulready.



Sir Rowland Hill's 1837 publication *Post Office reform; Its Importance and Practicality*, challenged for change in the British postal system. The concept of an adhesive stamp to pre-pay postage was proposed "...A bit of paper just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash". Prior to this payment was received on delivery. A folded sheet to form an enclosure or envelope was also put forward as an idea to stabilize postal rates. Mulready also designed the first envelope for sale in the post office; however, an elaborate "poetic" design inspired by the country's empire, with a figure of Britannia and an apathetic lion in the middle, it was roundly mocked and inspired so many caricatures it had to be withdrawn (see below).



The stamp was printed in 11 plates on unperforated sheets that required cutting with scissors. Perforations were not introduced until 14 years later. The total print run was 286,700 sheets of 68.8 million stamps. Of the 11 plates, Plate 1 was re-engraved and is considered as two plates and Plate 11 only had a few examples printed in black before switching dyes to print the Penny Red. The letters that appear on the stamps were for extra security a complete sheet of 240 impressions (240 pennies = £1) had a unique series of letters –AA to AL on the top row and AA to TA on the left column.

Ultimately, it was the reason for the stamp's name that marked its demise. The wonderfully gloomy black ink easily disguised the red ink used to cancel stamps – this made them easy to reuse.

Within 12 months, the Treasury reprinted it as a red stamp, and changed the cancellation stamp to have black ink. The Penny Red was born, but the Black remains the memorable – and valuable – one. With just 68 million stamps printed, they are worth anywhere between £1,800 and £15,000 a piece.



The Great War - Mail Home Part 1

by Michael Peach

Secrecy of the location of the troops in Europe was of paramount importance. The morale of the troops was maintained by contact with the family at home. From the front mail was censored, or a standard postcard was written.

The forces could write letters and mail them at the Army Post Offices. There was no stamp needed, but the contents had to pass the censor. The two covers shown (right), one to Conduit Street, London was mailed on 2 November 1914 at the Army Base Post Office and the other to Hammer-smith, London, was cancelled 22 November 1914 at the Army Post Office 11. Soldier's mail within the country was not censored, but was mailed

free, as seen on the 10 October picture postcard (left) from Southampton to London. In pre-stamp days charges written in red had been prepaid.

Things were different with mail from the sailors. Concealing the location of the fleet or individual ships was

important. Mail from the fleet was landed not only at the chief naval ports, where machine cancellations were used, but also at other ports. Crudely made cross cancellations were used as well as gridded circles with seven or eight lines. These covers and cards cannot be dated. Crude



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.



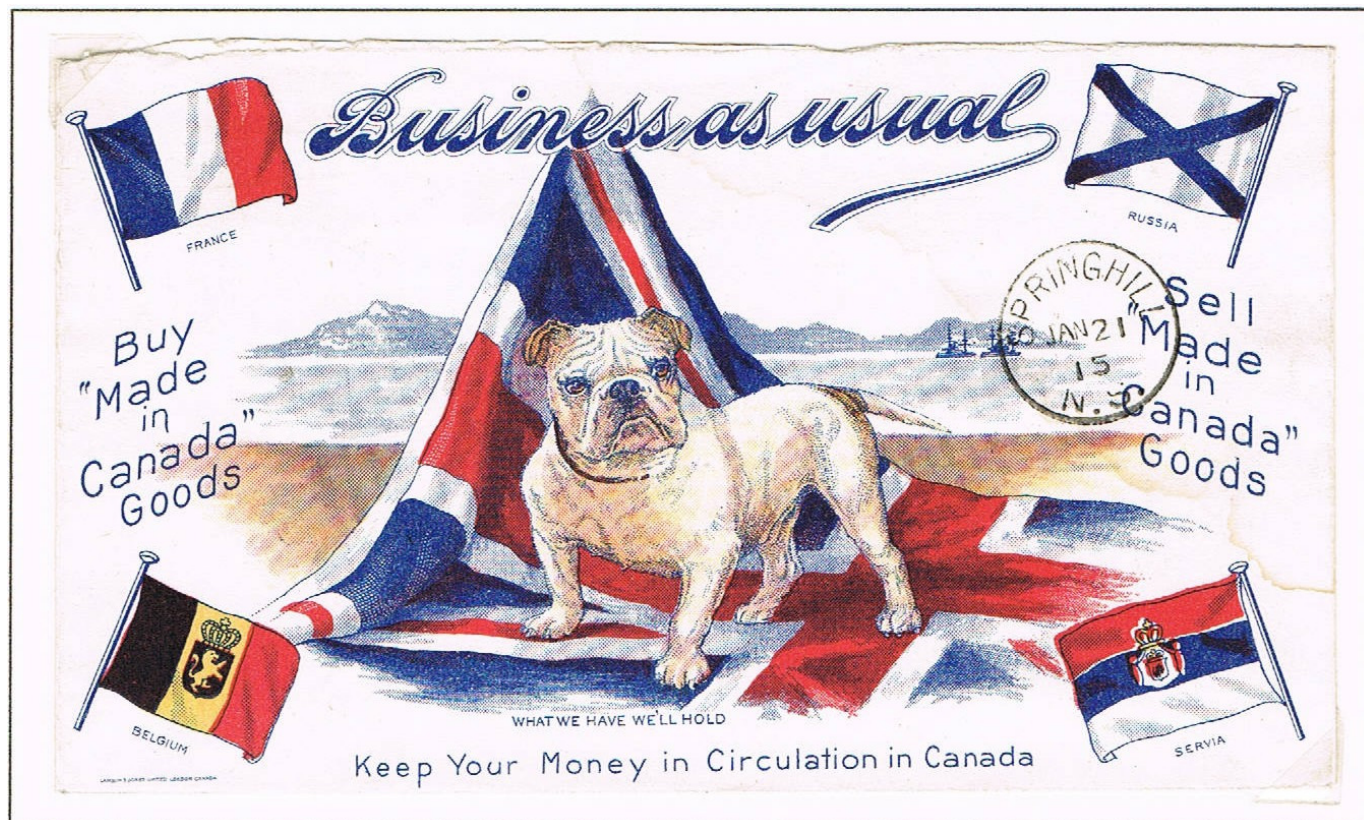
crosses are seen on the picture card to Edinburgh to his lady love in Edinburgh and on the cover to Barclay and Co., Mortlocks Bank in Cambridge with a red 1d stamp George V stamp neatly cut out from another envelope.

Some stamp dealers arranged for covers to have dumb cancels. H. Edgar Weston prepared bundles of mail addressed to himself and mailed individually by Lt. Commander R.L. Clayton. One has two

green Edward VII 1/2d cutouts and a passed censor stamp and the other has a 1d scarlet George V cut-out from an envelope, both have 8 line barred cancellation. Herbert

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Patriotic Cover: T. RANKINE & SONS Limited



Established in 1826, T. Rankine & Sons Limited commenced the business in a combined shop and dwelling on Mill Street, Saint John, NB. The factory was destroyed by the two Great Fires in 1849 and 1877 and were both replaced. By 1926, according to the firm's self promotional booklet on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary, the company was in its four generation of ownership, sporting three buildings of four stories each with a total floor space of 30,000 sq ft on Mill and George Street. The process was almost completely mechanized producing 650 tons of product a year. This company is famous for the more than 100 varieties of biscuits including soda crackers and pilot biscuits, animal crackers,

jam and fig filled cakes, short breads, marshallow cakes, ginger cakes, breads and snaps, Arrowroot, Milk Lunch, and Girl Guide Cookies, to name a few. The all over colour illustrated advertising cover is marked "Business as usual" with Buy and Sell "Made in Canada" Goods flanking the English bulldog centered on the Union Jack and surrounded by the flags of France, Belgium, Russia and Serbia (Serbia). The cover is mailed from ST JOHN NB JAN 20 15 and received at SPRINGHILL N.S. JAN 21 15. Not shown is the obverse that has two cents postage since War Tax (plus 1c) was not introduced until April 15, 1915. War Tax was abolished on July 1 1926.

Mail Home Part 1 Continued



was a collector of covers with cut-outs (stamps cut out from postal stationery) to prepay the postage.



