



The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

January 2017
Volume 46, Issue 455

UP and COMING

January 10 Club Meeting
January 14 Moncton Stamp Fair
January 19 Friends of Philately
February 11 Moncton Stamp Fair
February 14 Club Meeting
February 16 Friends of Philately
March 11 Moncton Stamp Fair
March 14 Club Meeting
March 16 Friends of Philately
April 22-23 Novapex 2017
Dartmouth Seniors Centre
May 25-28 Royale 2017
Boucherville, Quebec

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

Welcome to a new year of collecting and studying our stamps and covers. To kick the New Year off, we've invited philatelic judge and exhibitor John Hall to outline some of the judging changes that come into effect on 1 January. These changes, particularly the exhibiting categories, are reflected in the Novapex 2017 Exhibiting Prospectus and Application forms, which are attached to this newsletter. Remember that Novapex this year is a Regional Show, and will be held at the Dartmouth Senior's Centre on April 22nd and 23rd.

We are also initiating an occasional (maybe permanent?) new column, *Stamp Talk* (I'm open to alternate names). *Stamp Talk* is here to explain all those terms that we find in stamp collecting- terms that mystify, terms that confuse. Time to end the mystification and confusion. The first couple of columns have been contributed by Guy Jeffery (whose contribution gave me the idea for the new column). I'll pester him to continue, but everyone is welcome to contribute: pick your favourite or most confusing philatelic phrase (kiss print, tete-beche, misperf, whatever), write a short description or explanation in clear language, and send along one or two illustrations that aid in understanding.

One more new thing for 2017. Gary Steele has inaugurated a new series of original articles on Canada Post Internal Handstamps, also known as Departmental Handstamps. We'll be alternating this new series with his ongoing research on the Dead Letter Office markings and usages.

We close out this New Year Message with a congratulations to our long-serving secretary, Bob Boehner. The Executive recognized Bob's exceptional service to the Club, and to philately in Nova Scotia, by awarding him the Nova Scotia Stamp Club Trophy. The award was announced and presented at the December meeting.

Bob Boehner (left) receiving the Nova Scotia Stamp Club Trophy



from past president Keith McKay.



Stamp Talk: Constant Plate Varieties

by Guy Jeffery

Constant Plate Varieties are described either as re-entries or damaged plates.

Re-entries are the result of a change in the printed stamp because of a deliberate change to the printing plate. The plate was re-entered to correct wear or damage to the plate. There are various subsets of re-entries such as "fresh" or "latent" but they are for the very specialized re-entry collector to determine. For this intro it is enough to say that someone involved in the stamp production process made a decision to "fix" the printing plate and in doing so they changed the printed stamp from what was intended.

Re-entries are usually very minor and consist of extra lines appearing in the re-entered stamp. Re-entries can be very valuable. The five cent re-entry on the six cent small queen catalogues at more than \$3,000.00. Others can be worth several hundreds of dollars.

Damaged Plates usually occurred during the printing process and were NOT the result of a deliberate repair to the design of the stamp. The more obvious damage categories are scratches, foreign material on the plate, and plate cracks. The damage would eventually be repaired when a new plate was put in production or the damaged plate was re-entered. A good example of this damage is the "vampire bite" on the three cent small queen.

One interesting term that we see occasionally is a slip print. A slip print can be confused with a re-entry. It is the result of a paper slip during the printing process and the result is a stamp that has numerous blurred lines usually over all the stamp or in the top or bottom half. Re-entries have sharp lines and are constant. Slip prints are not valuable.

Here are two illustrations.

This is an example (left) of a re-entry. Note the doubling of the design in the top one-third of the stamp and the bottom left corner. The lines are clear and sharp and the "repair" to the plate caused a second impression with a different stamp resulting.

The second stamp (right) is a "vampire bite" 41vi with damage to the plate in the queen's neck and to the left of the right 3.



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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. Send **new memberships** to...

Nova Scotia Stamp Club
102 Birch Bear Run, Lewis Lake, NS B3Z 4B8

Membership renewals are sent to
NS Stamp Club c/o Marilyn Melanson
28 Birch St Halifax, NS B3N 2V1

USA Forever Turns Ten

Forever Stamps were created by the United States Postal Service (USPS) in 2007 as non-denominational postage for first class mail. Similar to Canada's Permanent stamps, they can be used to mail first class letters no matter what the postal rate and with no added cost if purchased at a lower rate. Of course the denomination is usually lined out in depictions such as this so as not to be copied and used illegally; but there is something just a little foreboding about this image of a planned 2017 release given recent events.



Canada Post Internal Handstamps

by Gary Steele



This is a new series of articles on a totally new subject. **Departmental Handstamps** or as I call them **Canada Post Internal Handstamps**.

Looking through proof books I have come up with over 80 different departments or Departmental Handstamp sections that are not of regular post office mail matter. Several categories have more than one sub-heading such as Department, Section, Division, Wicket, Branch, Audit, Tender etc.

I have split the full subject matter into three sections: Pre-Confederation such as the item shown herein, from Confederation onward to 1975 of approximately 4000 items, and after 1975 which is not part of this study as there are I believe over 20,000 items proofed alone.

There are many items that will not be included in this subject, such as MO and Postal Note handstamps as they may be from thousands of offices, regular Postmaster or Assistant Postmaster handstamps or Letter Carrier handstamps. However, if there is a Manager, Office or Division handstamp those items will be included. Many terms and guidelines are still to be determined for this study.

This particular item appears to be from the Montreal, L.C. General Post Office O.H.M.S. **ON POST OFFICE BUSINESS / FREE** dated MAY 16 1848 to Hornby. On the backside it was sealed with an official governmental department handstamp similar to the Mail Bag Tag Wax Seal handstamps or the Dead Letter Office Registered Wax seal handstamps. As far as I can make out the wording on the Wax Seal is: GEN^L POST OFFICE B. N. AMERICA • DEP^T POST MASTER GEN^L • with a crown and crest in the middle.

If anyone comes across any covers with internal handstamps I would be interested in them at gwsteele57@gmail.com Further articles will be forthcoming for future NSSC Newsletters.



Stamp Oddities

Wyatt Earp as depicted on this 1954 Falkland Islands Dependencies (Sc#1L21) stamp began life in 1919 as the Norwegian herring fishing vessel *Fanfjord*. She was purchased in 1933 by American explorer Lincoln Ellsworth for four of his Antarctic expeditions as a base ship for his aircraft. He renamed it after the famed US Marshall. In Feb 1939 she was sold to the Royal Australian Navy and later that year renamed to *Wongala*, an aboriginal word meaning boomerang (the originally proposed name for the vessel). After on trip as a Fleet Auxiliary vessel, she was laid up and the reconfigures as an Examination Vessel HMAS *Wongala* from 1940 to 1943. In 1944 she served



Wyatt Earp continued Pg 4

Club News

Moncton Stamp Fairs

The Moncton Stamp Fair is located at the Royal Canadian Legion, 100 Veterans Avenue Moncton on the Second Saturday of the month. The Fundy Stamp club will hold a Silent auction between 10 am and 1 pm and a Live Auction at 1:20 pm. Fundy Club Members may present stamp lots for the auctions.

Newsletter Material

The Nova Scotia Post is looking for articles of interest to the membership. Do you have an interesting or unique cover? Write it up and send it in. Find a new variety? Tell us about it. Been doing some research? Share it with us. Have an opinion about the club? Let the membership know. We are here for you. Thanks in advance.

Membership Dues

Last call for dues before we get out the big stick. It is your responsibility to ensure that your membership stays current. Individual dues are \$15 and a Family membership (same address) is still a bargain at \$22.50

Do not send dues to the new member address.

Dues are payable to:

Nova Scotia Stamp Club
c/o Marilyn Melanson, Treasurer
28 Birch St Halifax, NS B3N 2V1

Wyatt Earp continued

as a Guard ship and was paid off at Port Adelaide in July. The Boy Scout Association used her as a Sea Cadet training vessel from 1945 to 1947 when it was returned to the navy on request for conversion for Antarctic exploration. Since her previous fame in the Antarctic was under the former name, it was reinstated in July 1947 as HMAS *Wyatt Earp* and she was recommissioned in the RAN in November. On her return in April 1948 it was decided she would not be used for further Antarctic voyages and was again paid off at Melbourne in June 1948.

In 1951 she was sold to the Agra Shipping Company and, under her former name *Wongala*, was used as a tramp vessel between Australian and Tasmanian ports. Ulverstone Shipping Co bought and renamed her *Natone* in 1956 and she continued to tramp to Tasmanian ports for another 18 months when she began service between Queensland ports. In January 1959, enroute between Cairns and Brisbane, two severe storms taxed the aging vessel and the second storm was her undoing. Leaking and the pumps unable to cope, she was sail rigged and made Rainbow Bay, but the moorings failed and she ran aground near Mudlow Rocks. The crew of 18 made shore 6 miles hence by using the hatch covers as rafts.

New Judging Guidelines

by John Hall

January 01, 2017 will see the implementation of new judging guidelines in the world of philately. The 7th edition of the American Philatelic Society's Manual of Judging will expand and clarify the rules for exhibiting and judging - this manual is also followed by the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and the Nova Scotia Stamp Club.

The classification of exhibits has been expanded to 17 different classes:

- Advertising, Patriotic, and Event Cover Exhibits
- Aerophilately Exhibits
- Astrophilately Exhibits
- Cinderella Exhibits
- Display Exhibits
- Experimental Exhibits
- First day cover Exhibits
- Maximaphily Exhibits
- Picture Postcards
- Postal History
- Postal Stationery Exhibits
- Revenue Exhibits
- Thematic Exhibits
- Topical Exhibits
- Traditional Exhibits
- One Frame Exhibits
- Youth Class Exhibits

Most of these are like the old classes, but you will note new classes such as Experimental. Each class is discussed in the manual and comments are given on how to exhibit in that category, what is expected to be shown, and how the Judges will look at exhibits in that class.

The award levels for exhibiting has been expanded to nine - Large Gold, Gold, Large Vermeil, Vermeil, Large Silver, Silver, Silver Bronze, Bronze, Certificate.

If you exhibit or are considering exhibiting, it is critical that you look at the new guidelines in preparing your exhibit. Just go to the American Philatelic Society website (<http://stamps.org/Home>), click on Stamp Collecting at top left, select Exhibiting, second from bottom. On the next screen at far right under Help with Exhibiting, halfway down is Judges manual. By selecting this, you can download the 65-page manual, read it on line, or print it. You do not have to be a member of the APS to access the Judges' manual.

The Novapex 2017 show in April is fast approaching and this winter is a good time to work on your collection. If you really want to know your stamps and have fun, I highly encourage you to consider exhibiting.