



The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

February 2018
Volume 47, Issue 465

UP and COMING

February 13 Club Meeting

February 10 Moncton Stamp Fair

February 15 Friends of Philately

March 24-25 2018 Spring National
Edmonton Alberta

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

NO LAUGHING MATTER: KOOKABURRAS ON AUSTRALIAN POSTAGE

BY MARTY ZELENIEZ

Perhaps my most memorable “sound bite” of Australia is the crazed laughter of a family of Laughing Kookaburras echoing across a field. Their raucous calls provide the sound backdrop for every movie set in the jungles of the South Pacific. While the Emu appears on the Australian coat of arms, and is the unofficial bird of the country, the Laughing Kookaburra is a much more embraced and beloved symbol of Australia. It has appeared on numerous Australian postal issues over the last century. Let’s take a quick look at this bird and its depictions on stamps and stationery.

The Laughing Kookaburra (*Dacelo novaeguineae*) is the largest kingfisher found in Australia. They can be long-lived birds (20 years or more), are often found in family groups, and feed on a variety of insects, reptiles and other creatures (one I saw in the Cairns botanic gardens had the tail of a lace monitor lizard dangling from its beak). The kookaburra’s first depiction on a stamp was in 1914, a large, brown 6d definitive (Figure 1). The same design was used 14 years later on a blue 3d stamp issued to mark the 4th Australian Philatelic Exhibition. Another large brown 6d definitive was issued in 1932, with the bird appearing a bit more groomed (Figure 2). Later in the decade, a small-format purple-brown 6d definitive was released. This 1937 issue was followed by stamps of the identical design, but of different shades and perfs, in 1942 and 1944. Figure 3 shows a 1944 issue used in Papua and New Guinea in 1951, prior to the release of TP&NG stamps.



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 4



Figure 5



Figure 7



Fig 6



Fig 8



Figure 10



Fig 3

More than 30 years elapsed before the next kookaburra flew onto the scene, in the form of a 20c stamp-on-stamp issue of 1978 (Figure 4). A tiny image of the bird appears on the “Faith In Australia” commemorative of 1984, but the bird regained centre stage in the 1986 36c wildlife issue (Figure 5). 1990 saw a kookaburra pair (Figure 6) on Christmas 38c stamps available in sheet and booklet formats. The 1993 70c wildlife issue (Figure 7) can be found with both orange and brown inscriptions.

Twelve years passed until the next kookaburra stamp (Figure 8). From this point on, kookaburra stamps can be found in a variety of formats: sheet, water-activated gum, self-adhesive, booklet, etc. 2009 had six distinct varieties of “favourite stamps” stamp-on-stamp showing the first kookaburra stamp (Figure 9). A young bird is on 2013’s \$1.70 “Bush Babies” set (Figure 10), somewhat older bird graces the poster nostalgia set of 2014 (Figure 11).



Figure 9

KOOKABURRAS Continued

Australia is a prolific issuer of postal stationery, and twice kookaburras have appeared on pre-stamped envelopes as part of sets featuring birds: once in 1978 (Figure 12), and again in 1999.



Figure 11

As I continue my search for all these stamps and varieties, I can hear the kookaburra laughing at this strange pursuit.



Figure 12

The Nova Scotia Post

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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 John Harvey
46 Farquharson St, Dartmouth, NS B2W 4A8

STAMP TALK - LET'S DISCUSS STAMP HINGES

by Vincent Green

Editor's Note- Our practice is to publish original material, but Jack Forbes suggested members might be interested in the following, so he contacted the author, Vincent Green, and received permission for us to reprint this. It first appeared on the Sandyfare website in their (oh my!) Stamp Talk section. Here is the beginning- please follow the link below for the complete article.)

As a teenager in the early 1980s I worked in a stamp shop. One fateful day a gentleman arrived with a collection of Great Britain stamps he wanted to sell. The lovely hingeless album contained everything between 1937 and 1970, including all the best stamps such as the various "Castle" high values, all the different definitive sets including watermark errors, and the Commemorative sets with phosphor sorting bands across the surface. I checked all the best stamps and found everything to be in perfect never hinged mint condition. I talked to my boss and we made a good offer. The gentleman said he'd consider our price whilst he had something to eat and we helpfully suggested a nearby café.

An hour later he returned and accepted our offer, which was a lot of money at the time. The following week I began to take the best sets out of the albums to add to our stock... and discovered the owner had not spent that hour eating in our favourite café but instead had spent his time swapping all those expensive never hinged stamps for hinged ones...

The differences between hinging and not hinging mint stamps has been on my mind a lot recently, to the extent that having seen, for probably the thousandth time, a collection of stamps damaged by poor hinging, I posted a video called "How to Hinge Stamps" on Youtube. Clearly Beyonce and Ed Sheeran can relax, it will never be an internet sensation but I do hope a few collectors will find it helpful. At the start of the video I made it clear that I didn't want to discuss whether putting a hinge on the back of a stamp was a good idea in itself, as that was a separate issue altogether. However I think it's correct to say that an unused stamp which still has its gum is worth more, all other things being equal, if it had never had a stamp hinge affixed to that gum.

I started in the stamp business as a 14 year- old working in that stamp shop on Saturdays and at stamp fairs on Sundays. This was the late 1970s and the importance of mint stamps being mounted or unmounted was by then very well-established.

I've always assumed that this differential came about as a result of hingeless albums being developed sometime after the war. As I considered writing this article I asked around but no one seems to know for sure, so I guess that whenever this two-tiering of mint stamp prices occurred, it probably occurred slowly. One "old-timer" (sorry) feels he first saw these two basic price differences in mint stamps reflected in lists of German stamps. That seems to make sense as I believe the German manufacturers were the first to produce attractive hingeless albums as plastic technology improved, but he also suspected that more valuable individual stamps may have been marketed as not being previously hinged long before then - the 'fad' only reaching out into the mainstream market as those fancy new albums came along.

As I work in the same office with seven other stamp experts I know that there are very few things we can all agree on. For example I prefer the appearance of older stamps displayed on album pages using stamp hinges, yet many of my colleagues like to see all stamps in some form of hingeless polymer mount, whilst I feel only modern stamps look at their best displayed that way!

For the rest of the article, go to

<http://www.sandafayre.com/philatelicarticles/letsdiscusstamphinges.html>

DISTRICT DEAD LETTER OFFICE

DLO HANDSTAMPS SERIES #34

by Gary Steele

District Dead Letter Office

No. 2

Jan 9 1934

OTTAWA, ONT.

With DLO handstamps there is some consistency in the various types and sizes either individually or in groups when ordered.

It appears that many handstamps were ordered at separate times.

When needed the manufacturer tried to match up the size, borders, fonts, mixed or caps and seriffed or sans-serif lettering. Although without comparisons of all previously made handstamps time and money for a low



cost was not a consideration.

Fortunately for us Postal History collectors this is what makes our hobby interesting. You may want variety but not so much that nothing is consistent.

There are 14 different but similar single frame Ottawa, Ont. rectangular handstamps with most being one of a kind. This one is quite similar to a previously reported handstamp, however, in the other item there is a comma after 'Office,' and the dimensions are distinctly larger.

A simple Jan 7 1934 medallion issue cover was imprinted on the front **Return for better direction / NO SUCH STREET IN / KINGSTON, ONTARIO** and **Not in directory / nor known / BY CARRIERS**

On Jan 8 1934 it appears to have been forwarded to the Ottawa District Dead Letter Office from Kingston.

Thus received it was promptly handled by the DLO on Jan 9 1934 and probably returned to the sender in a Return Dead Letter cover.



On the front is an address 29 Van Buren St. as best as I can make out. No such street seems to exist in Canada then or now, according to Google maps.

HOW TO ADDRESS A LETTER - 1863

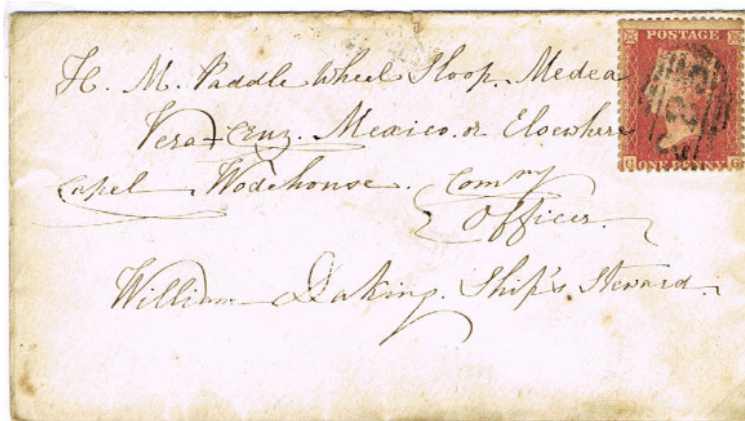
by Elizabeth Sodero

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

Imagine being able to address a letter to Elsewhere in this day and age and have it delivered! The numeral 225 (Cowes) cancels a penny red, b/s Cowes MR 3 63 and red London MR 4 63, the written address ties the stamp.

A little research reveals that the Royal Navy Medea was a 2nd class sloop, launched in September 1833, of wooden construction and paddlewheel propulsion, 835 tons with 4 guns. She served in the Mediterranean, North America and the West Indies, was involved in the 1840 blockade of Alexandria, and transported the Xanthian Marbles from Greece to the British Museum. Medea was taken out of service in 1867.

"Elsewhere" was undoubtedly an accurate address for William Daking.



MARCOPHILY FUN 1

by Keith MacKay

Match the postmark to the image on the stamp. (See 1938 Pictorial Issue, each cancelled in the place that the image represents).

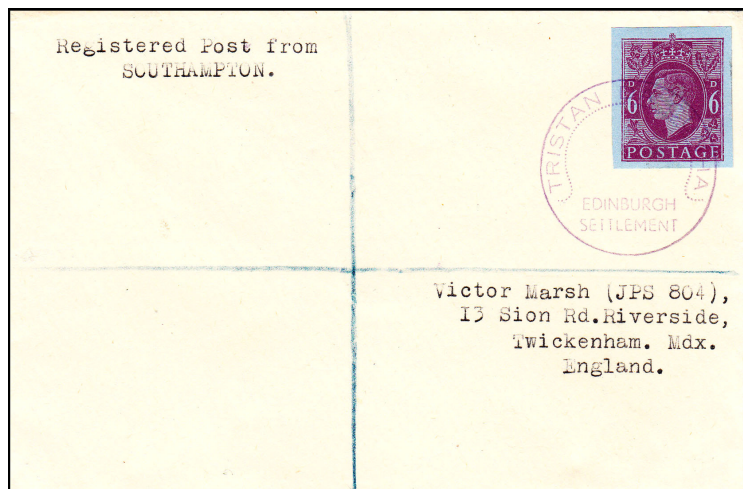


TRISTAN DA CUNHA

by Michael Peach

Tristan da Cunha is a remote volcanic archipelago in the South Atlantic Ocean, 2,816 km from the nearest land, South Africa, and 3,360 Km from South America, and is part of the British overseas territory of Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha. Its 262 inhabitants are British citizens. Valuable foreign earnings come from the royalties from the commercial Crawfishing (or Tristan Rock Lobster) industry and the sale of postage stamps and coins, especially to philatelists and collectors worldwide. Tristan da Cunha stamps were first issued on 1 January 1952. There are four employees of the Post Office. It has its own British postcode, TDCU 1ZZ.

London stamp dealer Edgar Weston, alias Victor Marsh had connections on Tristan da Cunha, and had a series of covers with cut-out stamps mailed to himself. Undated cover from Edinburgh Settlement, the main settlement, on Tristan da Cunha, with 6d stamp cut out from an air letter, issued in 1950-51.



NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB CENTENARY

by Marty Zelenietz

I want to thank Dave Harvey and Lloyd Melanson for responding to my query about the Phyllis Blakeley autograph on the souvenir from the 1979 NSSC Exhibition souvenir. Phyllis Blakeley (1922-1986) was a major figure in Nova Scotia historiography, working at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia for 40 years and retiring in 1985 as the Provincial Archivist. Trained at Dalhousie (B. Ed., M.A.), she published extensively on the history of Nova Scotia. Her honours and recognitions include the Order of Canada (1978), honorary degrees from Saint Mary's (1983) and Dalhousie (1977), and appointment as a Fellow of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society (1979). She was invited to open the 1979 NSSC Exhibition, thus her autograph on the souvenir. It is perhaps fitting that the centenary of her birth is also the centenary of the club.

CLUB NEWS

Want to exhibit for the first time and are wondering where to start, or are you an exhibitor who wants to pick up some tips on how to improve your current exhibit? The Club is looking at organizing a workshop on exhibiting for a Saturday or Sunday in April if there is sufficient interest. If you'd like to participate, contact Guy Jeffery, guy.jeffery5@gmail.com or John Hall, john_hall_13@hotmail.com.

The ongoing high cost of storing our exhibition frames came up at the January Executive meeting. We are reaching out to the membership to see if anyone has clean, dry storage space available to rent. For details on the size of space we need, and what we are prepared to pay, please contact Keith MacKay at keithmackay@eastlink.ca.

Hugh Rathbun will be presenting "Handpainted FDC Cachets for American Authors" at the 13 February meeting. Be sure to attend. We are also trying a new twist on the "Show and Tell" and auction parts of the meeting- we are experimenting with a "Show and Tell and Sell" event. Bring an item for the "Show and Tell", briefly explain it, and put it or a similar item into the auction. Give it a try.

We won't have the museum space for our March meeting, so we are organizing a field trip to the Almon Street postal facility. Details of the trip will appear in the March Nova Scotia Post. Looking ahead, Bob Boehner will be talking about insuring your stamp collection in April, and May will see a visit from some people at Canada Post. Details to follow.

MONCTON STAMP FAIRS take place each month at the Royal Canadian Legion, 100 War Veterans Ave., Moncton, NB 10 am to 4 pm. Silent Auction from 10 to 1, Live Auction at 1:30 Dates: Feb 10, Mar 10, Apr 14 and May 12.

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION

NOVA PEX 2018

National Stamp Exhibition & Bourse

EAST DARTMOUTH COMMUNITY CENTER
50 CALEDONIA RD
DARTMOUTH, NS
LOCATED NEXT TO BEAZLEY FIELD AND CALEDONIA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
SEPT 14 15 & 16, 2018

Exhibits	Stamp Dealers
Souvenirs	Group Meetings
Club Table	Awards Banquet
Door Prizes	Hourly Draws

Youth Day on Saturday with free stamps and supplies for all youth participants

Hosted by the
Nova Scotia Stamp Club

www.nsstampclub.ca/novapex18.htm

MEMBERSHIP DUES are now past due. It is your responsibility as a member to stay in good standing with the club. Please send a cheque or pay cash in person (\$15 individual, \$20 family) payable to:

Nova Scotia Stamp Club c/o John Harvey
46 Farquharson Street, Dartmouth, NS, B2W 4A8