



The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

May 2018
Volume 47, Issue 468

UP and COMING

May 5-6 ORAPEX, Ottawa's National Stamp Exhibition

May 8 Club Meeting

May 12 Moncton Stamp Fair, RC Legion, 100 War Veterans Ave, Moncton NB 10 am - 1 pm.

May 17 Friends of Philately

June 22-24 Royale 2018 Royal St Catharines ON

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

SHOP CAREFULLY

by Marty Zelenietz

I'm sure we've all had moments of philatelic purchasing that we've come to regret- either not buying that elusive item that we've searched for, or paying way too much for something we really want to add to the collection. We learn from our mistakes. And as we develop a particular collecting interest, we get a feel for the market, and can avoid additional mistakes.

But what happens when we enter a new field or start a new interest? Are we doomed to make more mistakes as we learn the ropes? Or can we apply lessons from past experience to the new field?

I recently faced a "new field" situation while working on my "birds seen in Australia" collection. I was contemplating how to handle the Black Swan, an iconic Australian bird. I had enough stamps for an interesting page, including both modern items and colonial issues from Western Australia. But I wanted something else, something to spice up the page featuring 150 year-old stamps. Perhaps an example of Western Australia postal stationery with the classic indicium of the Black Swan? Good idea- and once I decided that, I wanted instant gratification. But I had no knowledge of colonial Australian postal stationery. I was familiar with modern Australian postal stationery, having explored it to flesh out the bird collection. So I knew some places on the Internet to poke around. Searching a number of sites bore little fruit, but gave me some hope and basic information. At last, I found an eBay "Buy It Now" offering of a 1894 1½d Western Australia postal card (Higgins & Gage 5) at what seemed a reasonable price (US\$4 plus US\$3.99 shipping, about C\$10 total at the time of purchase) from a reputable source. To satisfy my urge, I ordered in haste.

Happy to say, I do not regret the purchase. I lucked out. In March, to assuage my curiosity on the wisdom of my purchase, I searched four stamp websites: Stamps 2 Go, Hipstamp, Delcampe, and eBay. Using a variety of search terms, I was able to locate only two other H&G 5s. Both were mint, as was my purchase. One, with a bent corner, was available for C\$12.89 plus \$6.44 shipping. The other (illustrated top) was a whopping C\$57.98, plus \$3.87 shipping, and appeared to have more foxing, toning and spotting than my \$10 purchase.

I wondered if the price disparity was a fluke for H&G 5, or indicative of a broader trend. I decided to examine the price spread on a more frequently encountered issue, the 1d blue 1894 Western Australia postal card (illustrated below), H&G 2. I found six mint (and two used) examples on eBay, none on Stamps 2 Go, one on Hipstamp (a duplicate of an eBay listing), and one on Delcampe. The eBay prices listed (in C\$) for the mint examples were:

6.49 + 2.59	12.89 + 2.58	6.44 + 16.75
39.04 + 6.29	42.51 + 3.87	79.52 + 11.10.

Quite a spread, from \$9 to \$90, even taking into consideration condition (many did not have scans of the back, where hinges and adherences can be lurking). The Delcampe item had a start bid of around C\$4.70, with \$2 shipping.



SHOP CAREFULLY CONTINUED

I also found two used examples with "Buy It Now" prices of about \$86 and \$120, shipping included. Too pricey for my topical tastes (and for others as well—they remain unsold after weeks of listing). Then, about a week after writing the first draft of this article, a couple of used Western Australia postal cards turned up on an eBay auction. I bid on the used H&G 2, not expecting to be successful with a US\$35 bid, given the asking prices of the used cards mentioned above. Much to my delight, my collection is now enhanced with a used H&G 2, purchased for a grand total of about C\$16. Yet another week later, two more used H&G2s appeared for auction on eBay. They went for \$29 and \$100 (each included a C\$17 shipping charge). The range in prices for used cards can be explained, in part, by the relative scarcity or commonness of mail to or from the sending and receiving offices. Overall, I am pleased with my purchase as it suits my needs.

This little exercise serves to reinforce the need for careful shopping. In these days of on-line purchases, the care is not just for comparative pricing: using the right combination of search terms can lead to more possibilities, and perhaps less expense. Be armed with knowledge, and as always, buyer beware.

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...

NS Stamp Club c/o Jeff Parks
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

EXHIBITING THE HALIFAX EXPLOSION

by Leon Matthys

Over 2300 hours of research and work were put into the creation of the 5-frame open class philatelic exhibit. The public saw its premiere in Toronto in 2015 in a local show. Since then, it's been expanded into a road-show featuring a multi-media power-point presentation. Generally viewed by stamp and postcard enthusiasts around Toronto and Halifax, Tuesday, March 27, 2018 was the debut venture into the museum-space for this presentation. The fellow 'History-Conscious' museum-goers can appreciate what stamp collectors and exhibitors see in their hobby.



1. The exhibit is set up at the back of the Small Craft Hall right next to the museum's own exhibit on the explosion.



2. NSSC member and exhibitor, Leon Matthys stands beside the first 3 of the 5 philatelic frames dedicated to the Halifax Explosion.



3. From all walks of society, not just stamp collectors, the audience ranging from teens to seniors received the exhibit's story and the tragedy as it was introduced in parallel.

4. Thanks to Andrew Aulenback, Museum host, for this panorama and photo coverage of these wonderful shots of the crowd of around 40 taking in the presentation in the small vessels setting.

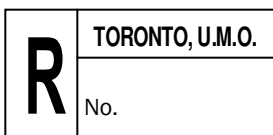


5. Explaining stamp exhibiting and telling the explosion story to the crowd. Some fine history passionate folks were in town from Manitoba even!

I wish to express a *ginormous thanks* to the Nova Scotia Stamp Club's exhibition committee and president for making this event possible. Without either, this Tuesday Talk wouldn't have been such a success.

UNDELIVERABLE MAIL OFFICE (UMO) - DLO HANDSTAMPS #36

by Gary Steele



47x23 mm

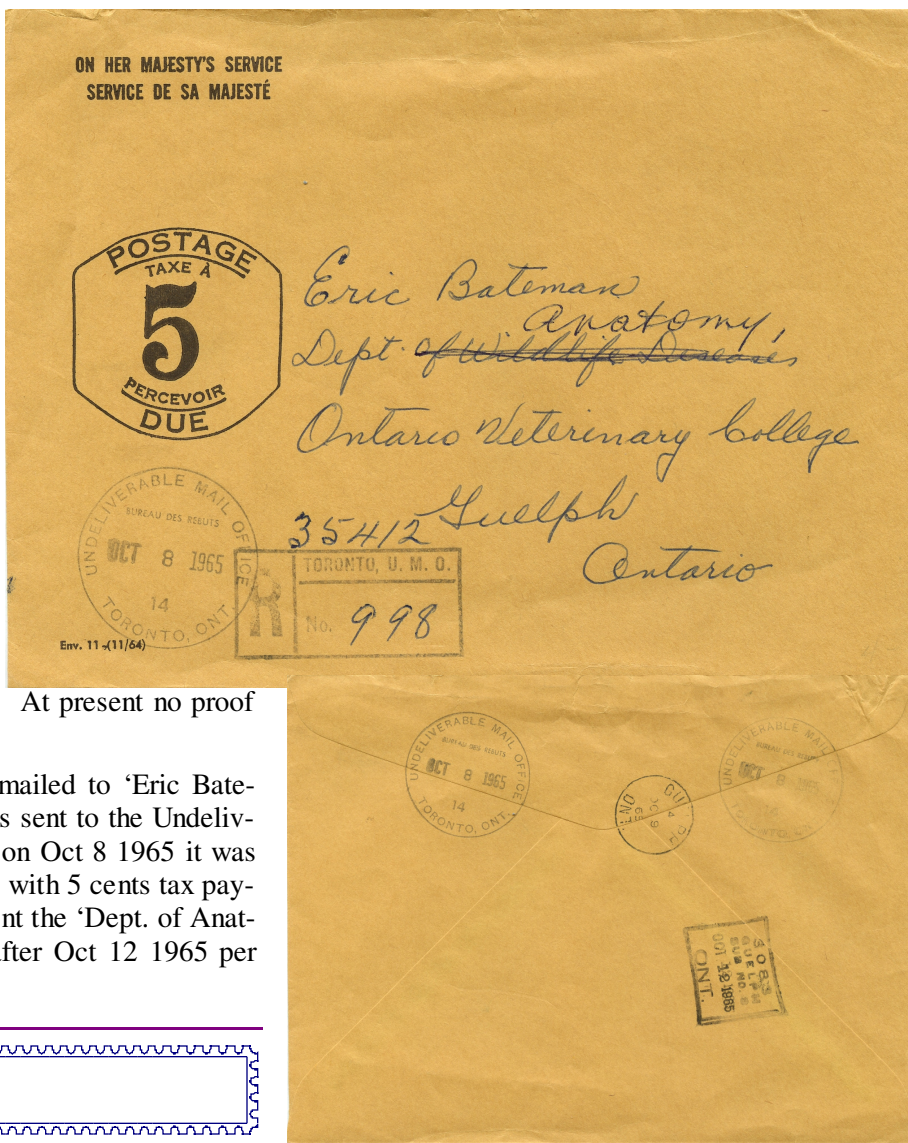
ONLY KNOWN COPY

While recently attending the first ever Postal History Society of Canada Symposium 2017 after two days of museum visits and presentations we were allowed to search dealers stocks on Saturday and Sunday.

Never stop searching for material. Something will turn up somewhere when you least expect it. I came across this more modern but early UMO Return Letter Envelope not knowing if I had it already.

Turns out there is a report of a Toronto UMO bilingual registration handstamp but not for this particular one making it a new discovery, OKC. At present no proof is yet recorded for this handstamp.

Originally a registered letter would have been mailed to 'Eric Bateman of the Dept. of ...?'. Failing delivery it was sent to the Undeliverable Mail Office whereby it was opened, and on Oct 8 1965 it was re-registered in an OHMS UMO return envelope with 5 cents tax payable. Note redirection again to another department the 'Dept. of Anatomy'. Final delivery would have been made after Oct 12 1965 per MOON backstamp.



Stamp Oddities



In Switzerland, embroidery has had a long and rich tradition. What started as pure handicraft in the 1800s, eventually grew to the most important industry in eastern Switzerland by the early 1900s, employing about one fifth of the population. Available American markets led to a boom in the cottage industry that led to the development of embroidery machines. Record levels of sales were attained by 1919, faltered and revived before WWII, then peaked in the 1960s and again around the early 1980s.

To honour this industry, Switzerland released an embroidered stamp on 21 June 2000. Not an image of embroidery, but actual embroidery! In contrast to a printed stamp, the embroidery process produces a true

three-dimensional stamp. It was embroidered with thread of a superior fabric of polyester quality with a satin sheen. The thread used was specially made and dyed in two tones of blue, being also remarkably strong. The material made was used exclusively for the manufacture of the stamp. Even the self-adhesive coating was developed expressly for the stamp. This multi-layered coating allows removal of the stamp from the envelope without leaving any coating residue. The coating is sealed with peelable foil, the cut in the foil permitting for an easy and fast removal.

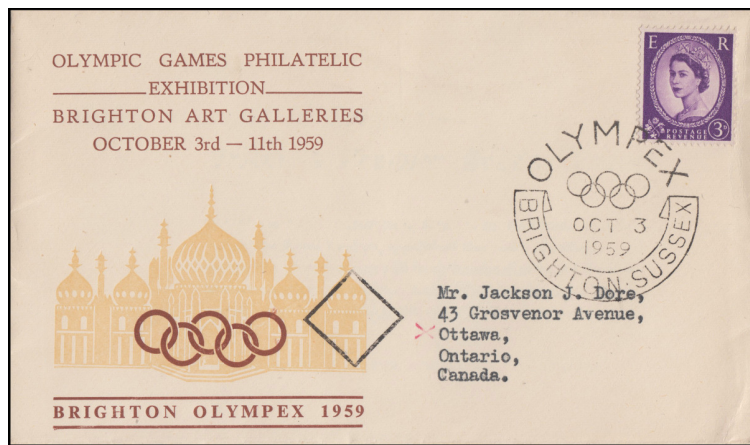
The stamps were produced using an embroidery machine with 340 needles, each producing one stamp in one embroidery pass across 9.3 metres of fabric. The stamps are then stretched and a self-adhesive coating is applied in several passes. Because each stamp is independently produced, minimal differences may occur between stamps—which is common in the embroidery process—producing a stamp where every one is unique.



1959 BRIGHTON OLYMPEX

by Michael Peach

The Brighton Olymplex was an exhibition of Olympic related philatelic items, held in October at the Brighton Art Gallery. The exhibition was organised by Ernest Trory, a well known authority on Olympic Philately (and member of the British Olympic Committee). Commemorative covers were issued and there was a Special Events postmark. These are illustrated. The cover has the Olympic rings with the Royal Pavilion, Brighton in the background. The cover was mailed at the preferred surface mail rate, 3d, to Ottawa from Brighton on 3 October 1959, the first day of the exhibition. Diamond marks were applied when counting the volume of mail passing through a specific office during October. In this case it must have been counted at the office of exchange for sea mail to Canada, possibly Southampton, as similar covers to inland destinations do not have one. It is not clear where the small red cross next to the diamond was added. There are no back stamps.



NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION

NOVAPEX 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
Souvenirs
Club Table
Door Prizes

Stamp Dealers
Group Meetings
Awards Banquet
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



CLUB NEWS

April's meeting saw a fascinating presentation on Admiral re-entries and retouches by Bill Burden. Bill shows true dedication to documenting the many varieties available- it is a wonder that he has any eyesight left! We also had a presentation on stamp insurance by Bob Boehner: anyone interested in further details can get in touch with Bob at the May meeting or by emailing him at robert.boehner@sunlife.com.

The May meeting on Tuesday, 8 May, should be a blockbuster. Elia Anioia of Canada Post will be presenting on "How A Stamp Gets Created" and other topics. Elia will be accompanied by Susan Gilson, Stamp Design Manager of Canada Post, and Larry Burke, the stamp designer of the recent Halifax Explosion issue. Because of the anticipated length of the presentations and following Q&A, we will forgo the usual auction. Rumour has it that Canada Post will be providing light refreshments: more incentive to attend!

The Nova Scotia Stamp Club Facebook page (which is sort of loosely affiliated with the club - the relationship will be sorted out) will now be administered by club member Leon Matthys, who takes over from Marcus Brauer. Marcus is stepping back from active stamping for a while, but he'll still be around.

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME to the Nova Scotia Post: write up an interesting stamp or cover, talk about a treasure in your collection, explain an item of philatelic jargon for Stamp Talk. Write something short - write something long. Write a serial or regular column. Share an outstanding title page from an exhibit. We like everything. Email your contributions to Marty (zelen@ns.sympatico.ca) and we'll get you published.

NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB CENTENARY

by Marty Zelenietz

The cover and cancel arranged for our 80th anniversary in 2002.

