



The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

November 2019
Volume 49, Issue 482

UP and COMING

November 12 Club Meeting
Speaker: Katherine Hartley
Show/Tell: Military Philately

Nov. 16 Moncton Stamp Fair
RC Legion, 100 War Veterans Ave
Moncton NB 10 am - 4 pm

Nov. 17 NSSC Stamp Fair
East Dartmouth Community
Center

Nov. 21 Friends of Philately

December 10 Club Meeting

Dec. 14 Moncton Stamp Fair

Dec. 19 Friends of Philately

January 14 Club Meeting

Jan. 11 Moncton Stamp Fair

Jan. 16 Friends of Philately

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

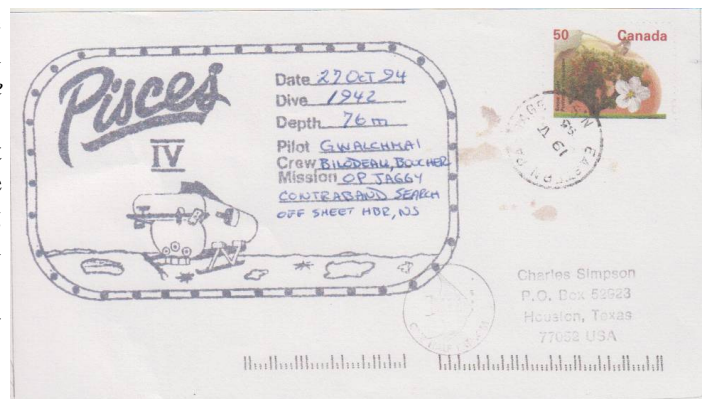
PISCES IV – DEEP SUBMERGENCE VEHICLE

by Glenna Metchette

The Pisces series of submersibles were representative of early manned underwater vehicles that proved to be workhorses in offshore exploration. The three-person research vehicles, were designed and built by now defunct International Hydrodynamics of North Vancouver, BC. Originally, *Pisces IV* was built for Russia in 1971; however, the Canada would not issue an export permit based on U.S. national security concerns of the potential transfer of sensitive technology to the Soviets. It was purchased instead for the Department of Fisheries & Oceans.

In 1993, a bundle of cocaine laden pipes was tossed overboard from the *Fortune Endeavor*, a stern trawler, after the smugglers got spooked. In 1994, the RCMP and the Navy during "Operation Jaggy" searched for the contraband that involved wiretaps, spies and a full-sized tracking submarine. However, it was Lt- Cmdr Robert Gwalchmai

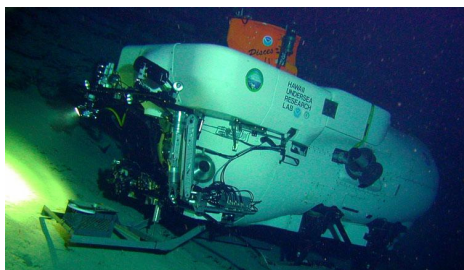
aboard the smaller *Pisces IV* who made the discovery of 750 kilograms of South American cocaine, worth \$500-700 million on the street, off Sheet Harbour, Nova Scotia. After months of searching and eleven dives, the cocaine-stuffed sewer pipes were found at 55 metres depth, perched at the lip of an underwater cliff. "They couldn't have picked a worse place to drop it," said Gwalchmai. "There were canyons and crevices all over the place, like Peggy's Cove, only worse."



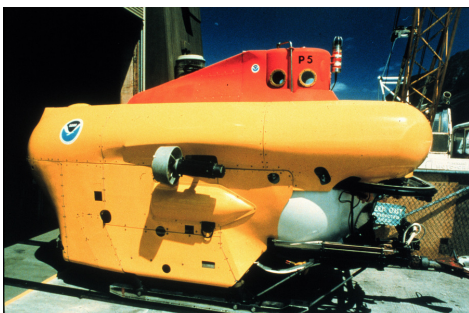
Pisces IV already had an impressive history. In 1975, four pressurized metal railway tankers filled with 374 tonnes of liquid chlorine vanished from a barge during a fierce storm while being towed to the Powell River Pulp Mill in BC. Repeated sweeps by side-scan sonar determined they were not in shallow water. When in water shallower than 50m, liquid chlorine can form a lethal gas which rises to the surface. *Pisces IV* proved invaluable in tests to determine the interaction of liquid chlorine and seawater. Inside *Pisces IV*, R. W. MacDonald, an ocean chemistry scientist, filmed tests that released small amounts of chlorine in water up to 120m deep. They showed that leaked chlorine headed straight for the bottom because it and the hydrate it forms on contact with water are both heavier than water. In March 2018, two blobs were found 300m on the seabed that might be the long-lost rail cars. "After 40+ years of corrosion, the tank cars have likely leaked their chlorine without leaving any trace at the ocean surface," said Macdonald. He believes it would be a greater risk in trying to recover them than there would be in letting these "sleeping dogs" lie.

On Aug. 28, 2002, *Pisces IV* & *Pisces V*, operated by NOAA's Hawaii Underwater Research Laboratory, found a two man Japanese midget submarine, the first vessel sunk in the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. This has been described as the most significant modern marine archaeological find ever in the Pacific, second only to the finding of the Titanic in the Atlantic. To date four of the five midget subs have been found. The discovery confirms the sub was depth charged and that both torpedoes are still in place and may still be active. Its exact location is protected by the US State Dept. All research actions are being conducted with proper respect for the site's histori-

Continued Page 2



Pisces IV (Source: Smithsonian - ocean.si.edu)



Pisces V (Source: NOAA - Public domain)

PISCES IV CONTINUED

cal significance and war grave status.

On June 20, 2008, the B.C. Institute of Technology awarded Alan Trice, the *Pisces* designer and manufacturer, an Honorary Doctorate of Technology. He was “recognized as one of the pioneers in the subsea industry for BC. For 45 years he has contributed toward the practice of engineering and manufacturing in this specialized area.”

Despite lengthy research in archives across Canada, the author has been unable to determine who managed and distributed *Pisces IV* dive covers. She has several of these covers in her collection, each noting information about a specific dive. Any information would be welcome. It is interesting that this particular cover was postmarked at Eastern Passage, NS on May 19, 1995, several months after the conclusion of “Operation Jaggy” and the imprisonment of 18 members of the drug cartel.

Sources: Boyce, Craig. “Lost coke found: Navy Divers find \$0m drug shipment off NS coast.” *The Daily News* (Halifax), Nov. 16, 1994.

BCIT Awards Honorary Doctorate to Al Trice. ISE International Submarine Engineering Ltd., 2008.

Cedilot, A. & Noel, A. 2010. *Mafia Inc: The Long, Bloody reign of Canada's Sicilian Clan.* Toronto: Random House.

Chapman, R.R. 1975. *No Time on Our Side.* Hampshire, England.

Institute of Ocean Sciences, 1975 *Annual Report*, Patricia Bay, BC.

Macdonald, R.W., Scientist Emeritus, Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Institute of Ocean Sciences, Sidney, BC. Correspondence, May 2019.

Macdonald, R.W. “The Interaction of Chlorine & Sea-water, with Special Reference to The Four Liquid Chlorine Tank Cars Lost in British Columbia Coastal Waters.” *Journal of Hazardous Materials*, 2 (1977/78) 51-75. Elsevier Scientific Publ. Co., Amsterdam.

Toronto Star. “Sub finds cocaine cache off Nova Scotia,” Nov. 16, 1994.

Wiltshire, John C., Ph.D. “The Search for the World War II Japanese Midget Submarine Sunk off Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.” Web archive accessed Feb. 5, 2019.

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Marty Zelenietz - Editor
Jeff Parks - Layout

<http://www.nsstampclub.ca/>
webnews@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.

Send **new membership applications** to...

NS Stamp Club c/o Jeff Parks
102 Birch Bear Run, Lewis Lake, NS B3Z 4B8

Membership renewals are sent to...

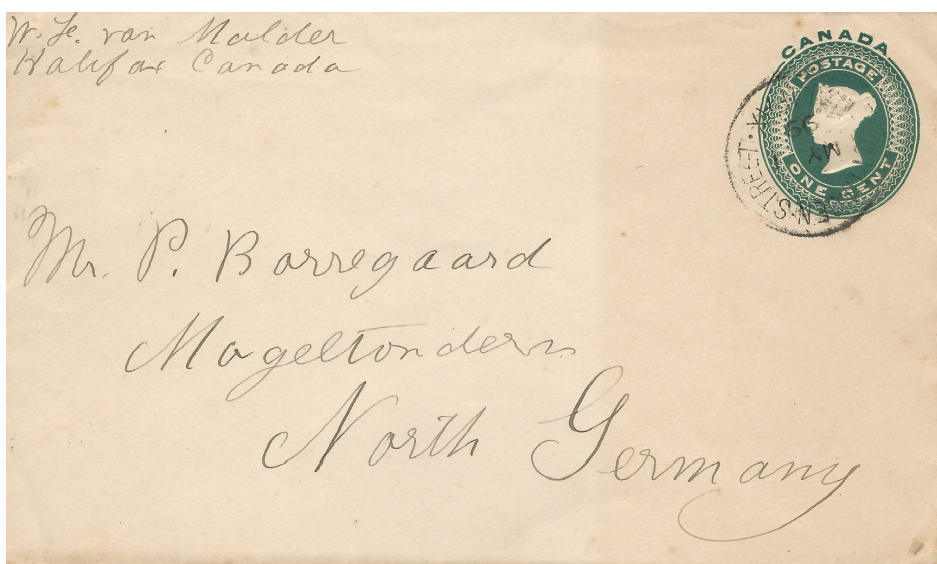
NS Stamp Club c/o John Harvey
46 Farquharson St, Dartmouth, NS B2W 4A8

DESTINATION MOGELTONDER

by Keith MacKay

This cover is an example of Canadian postal stationery #U9, a cream-colored envelope embossed with a profile of Queen Victoria with a postage value of 1 cent. Issued in 1898, this product was in use until replaced by #U15 bearing Edward VII's profile in 1905. The cover was sent unsealed, so 1 cent paid the rate for circulars going to European destinations. It was postmarked at the Gottingen Street post office on May 1, 1899.

The Gottingen Street branch post office opened on March 1, 1894 and canceled its regular mail with that name until September 30, 1903. During that period, Germany had not yet coalesced into the country we know today - just as Canada had not. Politically, Germany was an empire dominated by Prussia and included the state of Norddeutschland (“North Germany”). At the time this cover was sent, North Germany included the duchies of Schleswig



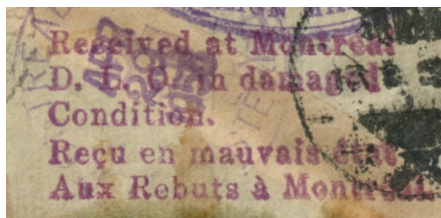
and Holstein as a result of the outcomes of the Second Schleswig War (between Denmark and Germany) and the later Austro-German War that ended in 1866. The cover is addressed to Mogeltonder, North Germany, a small village in Northern Schleswig a little to the west of Tonder. Historically, the population of Northern Schleswig was overwhelmingly Danish-speaking, and, based on a plebiscite following Germany's defeat in World War I, the territory was reunited with Denmark in June, 1920. So today, Mogeltonder is located in southern Denmark, a little to the north of the border with present day Germany.

DLO HANDSTAMPS #45 - NEW HANDSTAMP

by Gary Steele

Received at Montreal
D. L. O. in damaged
Condition.

Reçu en mauvais état
Aux Rebutis à Montréal.



Little did this cover know leaving Indonesia for Jamaica, BWI that it would end up in Canada only to be redirected back to Indonesia.

Few handstamps were left out from several post offices and various departments within the Canadian PO. Of note from 1954 to 1955 onward the Dead Letter Office changed its name from the **Dead Letter Office** to **UNDELIVERABLE**



MAIL OFFICE. The circle UMO handstamps are dated June 3rd and June 31st while the five line Advice handstamp in the lower right has the letters **D. L. O.** in the second line. A few special DLO handstamps are have been known used for years after 1954.

Advice handstamps as we call them are 35 times scarcer than a regular DLO handstamp on cover. This one is the only reported copy I know of.

It may take a few pages to describe all that has occurred here, however, of note are the dates between the UMO handstamps and the British & Foreign Mail Branch bouncing back and forth. A few additional puzzle pieces would have also shown on the Return Dead Letter envelope.

FUNNY OR SAD?

by Marty Zelenietz

Looking for stamps on the internet is a way many of us spend innumerable hours. We quickly learn to suss out knowledgeable vendors from those who don't know the difference between a hinge and tongs. Descriptors like "old" or "vintage" alert us to the seller's lack of familiarity with philately.

I didn't know whether to laugh or cry when I came across the eBay listing shown in the cropped screenshot below. It came up in my saved search for "birds used". It is wrong in so many ways. It purports to offer seven "rare" Australian stamps. In reality, all are common low-value (both face value and catalog value) stamps from the George



7 Rare Australia Stamps like George V, Princess Elizabeth, I

Condition: --
"Used in mint condition"
Time left: 1 day 4 hours Saturday, 21:43

Starting bid: US \$21.95 [0 bids]
Approximately C \$29.16

Place bid

Enter US \$21.95 or more

Add to Watch list

No returns

Longtime member

Shipping: US \$3.50 (approx. C \$4.65) USPS First Class Mail International / First Class Package International Service | See details
International items may be subject to customs processing and additional charges.
Item location: Bristol, Tennessee, United States
Ship to: Worldwide

V and George VI eras. They are described as "Used in mint condition". Huh? Yes, they are used- some of them very roughly, missing corners and perfs, with smeary cancels. And, by definition, as "used", they can't be "mint condition". Finally, the starting bid was US\$21.95! Most of these (in better shape) can be picked up in dime books at our Show or Fair. The lot was relisted twice before it disappeared. I suspect the vendor did not get his pie-in-the-sky price, and just gave up on his treasures.

CLUB NEWS

It is with a heavy heart that we start this edition of club news. It is our sad duty to report a number of deaths in our philatelic community over the past month: John Bray, club member and familiar to many of us as the face of Moody Blue stamps; long-time member Barry Zolkivski; and Millie Forbes, wife of club member Jack Forbes. We offer our condolences to Jack and the members of John's and Barry's families on their losses.

The next Stamp Fair is set for Sunday, November 17th at the East Dartmouth Community Centre on Caledonia Road. There will be up to 15 dealers, and an afternoon auction with a minimum \$2 reserve. Members may put a few items in the auction. The Fair opens at 10 AM. Bob Bochner has again been point man in organizing the Fair.

The guest speaker for our November meeting will be Katherine Hartley, the Reference Librarian at the Henry Sutherland Philatelic Library of the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation of Toronto. Kathy looks forward to meeting Club members and sharing information about the Library. She's been following our exploits the last couple of years, as a copy of The Nova Scotia Post is forwarded monthly to the Library. In addition to Kathy's presentation, we'll have the usual auction. This month's Show and Tell theme is Military Philately: stamps, covers, and anything related to the military. Bring something in to share with the membership. The meeting starts at 7:30 on the 12th, at the Nova Scotia Museum.

Jane Sodero is the new administrator for our Club Facebook page. She is posting interesting stamp stuff almost every day. Go check out the new "Nova Scotia Stamp Club" site on Facebook. Join it, like it, follow it. Many thanks to Allison Chua for setting up the page and reintroducing us to Facebook.



Figure 1



Figure 4

NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB CENTENARY

by Marty Zelenietz

Royal 2004 was the first truly national philatelic exhibition hosted by the Club during all the years of my membership (I joined in 1979). The previous Halifax-hosted Royal was in 1965! The driving forces behind us hosting the Royal were the late J.J. MacDonald (who convinced us we could do it) and Michael Peach, who undertook to chair the event. All who attended the show agreed that Royal 2004 was a resounding success.

The show's theme was the 250th anniversary of Canada's first post office. Hugh Rathbun designed two cinderella souvenir sheets for the show, sold at the reception table. The \$2 sheet (Figure 1) features two images of Halifax post offices from Hugh's postcard collection. The \$4 sheet (Figure 2) shows a detail from a painting by Dusan Kadlec. Hugh met with Dusan Kadlec's son to obtain permission to use the image and to get a copy of the painting to use. Sherman Hines' staff did the fine design work and printing.

As a banquet souvenir, the \$4 sheet was canceled with a facsimile of the 1843 Halifax Ship hammer (Figure 3) (a unique marking discovered by Hugh), adorned with the signature of Arthur Woodbridge, the Nova Scotia DPMG who authorized the mark. The sheet was enclosed in an explanatory card from the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (Figure 4), currently housed in the building that served as Halifax's Post Office from 1871-1937.



Figure 2



Figure 3