



The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

December 2019
Volume 49, Issue 483

UP and COMING

December 10 Club Meeting
Anything Goes Auction; Social

Dec. 14 Moncton Stamp Fair

Dec. 19 Friends of Philately

January 14 Club Meeting

Jan. 11 Moncton Stamp Fair

Jan. 16 Friends of Philately

February 8 Moncton Stamp Fair

Feb. 11 Club Meeting

Feb. 20 Friends of Philately

MARch10 Club Meeting

Mar. 14 Moncton Stamp Fair

Mar. 19 Friends of Philately

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

DESIGNER OF CANADA'S 1970 15¢ CHRISTMAS STAMP

by Michael Pierce

For a number of years, I have been doing a research project on the Christmas stamps that Canada issued for the 1970 Christmas season. These stamps were designed by Canadian school children, who participated in a country-wide design contest held during the 1969 Christmas season. From the 50,000 plus entries received by Canada Post, 12 winning designs were chosen and they became Canada's 1970 Christmas stamps. The stamps were issued as both regular and Winnipeg tagged issues.



Figure 1

During my research, I discovered a number of contradictory statements as to who the actual designer of the 15 cent value (Scott 530) was (Figure 1). Some publications would state that 10 year-old "Janis Dojcak" was the designer of the stamp (eg Unitrade Catalogue of Canadian Stamps – see Unitrade Catalogue illustration for same Figure 2). Other publications, including my old Minkus Stamp Album, stated that the designer of this stamp was "Tanis Dojcak" (Figure 3). Both children were 10 years of age and lived in Flin Flon, Manitoba at the time of the contest. The design shows a person bringing home a Christmas tree on a sled pulled by a snowmobile.



Figure 2

As the 50th anniversary of both the stamp design contest (1969) and the actual issue of the stamps (1970) approached, I thought it was time to discover who the real designer of this stamp was and have her recognized as such.

This was my project for 2018. Up until then I had spent many, many hours online trying to solve this riddle. At the urging of one of my daughters, I tried using the medium of Facebook and found who I thought I was looking for. A follow-up telephone call confirmed this. I was able to speak with the actual designer of the 15 cent Christmas stamp. An early Christmas present for me! Her name, she said, was "Tanis" not "Janis". (She is now Tanis McIntosh and still lives in Manitoba.) She told me that she had been aware for many years that her name had been spelled incorrectly. I assured her that I would have it corrected for her. This would be my Christmas gift to her.

Having discovered who the real designer of the stamp was, it was time to see how this error had occurred in the first place. Even Library and Archives Canada (LAC) had her name listed as "Janis", not "Tanis". The culprit was the Canada Post Office. The official brochure they printed for these stamps in 1970 actually spelled her name as "Janis", not "Tanis" (Figure 4). This error was copied throughout the years in various publications.

2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the Christmas stamp contest of 1969, sponsored by the Canada Post Office. What better time to set the record straight. Tanis, too, would appreciate it if we recognized her as the designer of this particular stamp.

I have been in contact with Robin Harris, Editor of the Unitrade Catalogue of Canadian Stamps. Tanis' name will be spelled correctly in the 2020

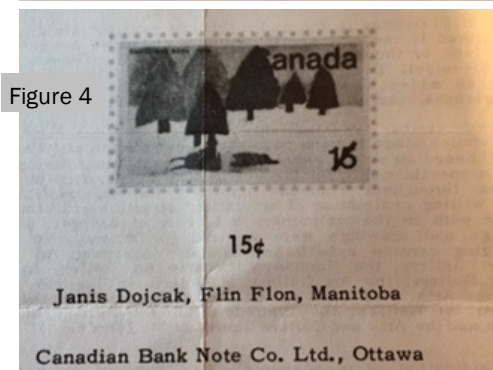
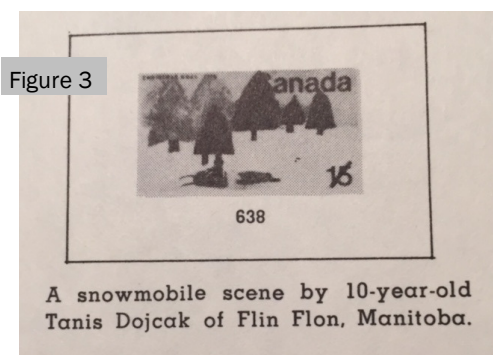


Figure 4

15 CENT DESIGNER CONTINUED

edition of this publication. My archivist at LAC has confirmed that their records have been amended to show this correction.

A tip of the hat to the publishers of my Minkus Stamp Album! They actually spelled Tanis' name correctly many years ago. It was their correct spelling of her name that sent me on my quest to discover who the real designer of this stamp was.

Figure 5 is a First Day Cover regular issue stamp with Ottawa FDC cancellation. Figure 6 is Winnipeg tagged issue with Winnipeg cancellation.



Figure 5



Figure 6

The Nova Scotia Post

is a publication of the
Nova Scotia Stamp Club
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Marty Zelenietz - Editor
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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 membership applications and renewals** to...

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

DLO HANDSTAMPS #46

by Gary Steele

Branch Dead Letter Office
2
OCT 22 1924
TORONTO, Ont.

Upon review of all known proofs in Proof Strikes of Canada volume XXIII, there is no similar rectangle compared to the one shown below. The reason is due to the '2' in the upper right. These numbers usually pertained to a certain 'Clerk' hand-

dling a DLO item at the larger offices.

The handstamp is 49mm x 34mm in size, sans-serif lettering in the 1st line, with the '2' and 'TORONTO, Ont.' fully seriffed.

The letter started off as a common three cent Admiral cover Oct 6, 1924 from the Toronto Postal Terminal A addressed to Chicago, Ill. However, per auxiliary marking to the left 'MOVED LEFT NO ADD L1518' and mark 'UNCLAIMED' it left Chicago Oct 8, 1924 heading back to Canada. In Canada it was received at the Toronto Branch Dead Letter Office Oct 15, 1924 per the double oval handstamp.

It appears per the black boxed handstamp on the front 'REBUTS / UNCLAIMED' to not have found the addressee. The black boxed Branch Dead Letter Office handstamp was applied a week later on Oct 22, 1924, whereby the cover was placed in a Return Dead Letter Office envelope.

I am hoping that most members are getting a better feeling for this type of material. Should you have any questions with the items shown or your own material please feel free to contact me at gwsteele57@gmail.com.



COVER STORY—SGT MAJOR HOLDER, “HALIFAX RIFLES” , & THE HALIFAX EXPLOSION

by Jeff Parks

As collectors, we are usually interested in the philatelic components of a cover. Take for instance this Clayton & Sons cover from my collection - one of the most readily available illustrated mail covers for this factory. In addition to the illustration, interest could also lie in the commemorative stamp use, or the flag cancel with slogan, but it is the addressee, Sergt. Major Holder, that I am drawn to, mainly because of the destination, McNabs Island in Oct 1917. Who is Sgt Major Holder and what role did he play in the defence of Halifax during the Great War (WWI)?

George Hunter Holder was a Chartered Accountant and since Oct 1904, a member of the 'Halifax Rifles'. He moved through the junior ranks quickly: Cpl 1906, Sgt 1908, Color Sgt 1909, Orderly Room (OR) Sgt 1911, and Quartermaster Sgt in 1914. He re-engaged with the militia on 10 May 1914, well before the outbreak of war, and was promoted to Asst Sgt. Major Jul 1916 and Sgt. Major by Regimental Order #214 - 1 Aug 1916.

Canada was a self governing nation but did not control its own foreign affairs. The government could decide the nature and extent of its war effort, but legally the country was at war the instant Britain declared one. On 4 August 1914, the 63rd Regiment "Halifax Rifles" militia unit was ordered out for service in defence of Fortress Halifax. Details of the "Halifax Rifles" were placed on active service on August 6th for local protective duty and 'B' Company went to McNabs Island on August 12th, specifically Fort McNab and Fort Hugonin. On arrival the Company was put to work digging trenches, placing wire entanglements, constructing block-houses, dugouts, etc. The men were driven at top speed at this work, officers and men working all day as well as doing picquet duty at night.

In "Reminiscence of Jean Holder" (1985), from the NS Archives, Halifax Explosion Collection, Jean states that her father, who was stationed on McNabs Island, "had been ordered to lead a funeral party that afternoon of Dec 6 for a deceased soldier. With the destruction of the day the funeral was held. 'We were under military orders to conduct that funeral and that's what we did', he said. As the 'procession marched along the streets, soldiers stopped what they were doing, and saluted.' His orders were not changed until after the funeral when the soldiers assembled to get the duty boat

back to McNabs Island. New instructions were [given] to assist with relief and rescue."

Because he had a family in town Holder was permitted to sleep at home (128 Cunard St - across from Clifton St) on the night before funeral detail. The Halifax Explosion occurred just as the children were heading out to school on the morning of 6 December. Jean states "we lived more than a mile from the site of the explosion but the house was damaged to a much greater extent than neighbouring houses. Or other houses much closer to the devastated area." Their home was severely damaged, likely due to the force of the blast from the Narrows directly down Clifton Street.

There were six children aged 2,4,6,&8 (including two younger sets of twins). Only Jean's mother Gertie was injured but she didn't even realize it for a few days. Two doctors and a nurse, all from Massachusetts, stopped by to check on the family. On examination the children were declared well and uninjured. Jean's sister Grace had pieces of glass in her head that they did not remove since it wasn't bothering her (it came out over the next thirty years). Her mother, when asked, said "Oh! I'm all right." "Then why is your head was wrapped up like that?", they asked. She was dressing one of the children when the explosion hit and blood trickled down her neck so she wrapped a nightdress around her head and forgot about it. They had to sew her ear back on. On the day of the explosion Jean's Grandad asked George "Where's Gertie? Who is that crazy woman with the children?" He hadn't recognized her.

The Halifax Rifles on McNabs Island escaped the full force of the explosion. Nevertheless, fourteen injuries were reported, mostly cuts about the head and neck and a few badly sprained backs.

Sgt Major Holder was discharged 15 May 1918 from McNabs Island. His last pay included regular pay of \$1.85/day, field pay at 20c/day, and he was paid Separation Allowance of \$25. A total of \$127 was paid out.

The 63rd Regiment "Halifax Rifles" was in service 1860-1965 until it was put on the Supplementary Battle Order. It was reactivated in 2009 for armoured reconnaissance and is the only regiment since the 1960s to be reactivated from the Supplementary Battle Order.



Clayton & Sons, Halifax to Sergt. Major Holder/ McNabbs Island,/ NS with a 3c Confederation Jubilee stamp tied by a Halifax CDS Oct ? 1917 and International Postal Supply machine Flag / Slogan Cancel "Help Win the War Buy War Savings Certificates". Domestic Surface Letter Rate 3c in effect 1915-1926.

A NOVEL MAIL BOX

by Michael Peach

When I was busy waiting for a return flight to Canada from London's Heathrow Airport, Terminal 2, I noticed the mail box shown. Further investigation showed that although it appeared to be a regular box with a pick-up schedule on the front, the back was partially transparent plexiglass. You could see your letter waiting to go on its way when the box was emptied. Maybe this was an added security feature.



NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB CENTENARY

by Marty Zelenietz

Alas, I have run out of my own material for this occasional column, which features covers, cancels, and other souvenirs of past Nova Scotia Stamp Club shows. The idea behind the column was to look back at our history as we build towards our centenary in 2022. It started when someone shared the menu for the 1925 stamp show banquet, and then I won a 1970s show cancel that proved a bit of a puzzle that the membership solved. Overall, I have been able to show material from the following years: 1925, 1975 (a fifty year gap there), 1979, 1980, 1982, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2004, and 2016. If you have souvenir material from other shows, I would appreciate receiving a copy or scan of the item(s), along with a brief write-up (if possible).

Some years ago we started building an archive of all the club newsletters; however, this project has been stalled. If you have access to a scanner and are savvy with creating bookmarks in Adobe Acrobat (or PDF software), we could use your help. This is a project we would like to have completed before the centenary.

In addition to scanning we could use some help selecting articles from past newsletters to develop a compendium of articles to be "published" for the centenary. This may include searching for images that represent figures from by-gone issues prior to the use of a computer for editing the NL. Hands up for volunteers?

Thanks.

CLUB NEWS

Many thanks to Kathy Hartley, Reference Librarian at the Harry Sutherland Library of the V.G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation for her informative presentation at the November meeting. What amazing resources!! If you want to tap into them, you can contact Kathy at library@greenefoundation.ca

John Harvey is stepping down from the executive and as membership coordinator. We want to thank him for his service to the club. For the time being, Jeff Parks (address on page 2) is handling all the membership applications and renewals. **DUES ARE NOW OVERDUE!!!**

Our next meeting, on 10 December, is the annual Christmas Cheer Charity Anything Goes Auction and Social. Bring your contributions (philatelic or otherwise) for the auction, and your bulging wallet to bid big for charity (Feed Nova Scotia and the Salvation Army). Also bring along some tasty treats, and your significant other, for the Social. Heather is preparing another one of her wickedly good holiday quizzes to keep us entertained. The theme of this month's Show-and-Tell is "Season's Greetings," so prepare something interesting to share. Meeting starts at 7:30 in the auditorium of the Nova Scotia Museum on Summer Street.

Our Facebook page is growing in popularity, and utility. Look for "Nova Scotia Stamp Club" on Facebook, "like" the page, and join the group. Thanks to Jane Sodero for her Fb work.

Happy Holidays to all.

!!! DUES !!!

Last chance to pay dues - Pay now and avoid the nagging. Pay for several years even! Dues will be collected at the December meeting for 2019-2020 or you can send a cheque to NS Stamp Club (address page 2).