



The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

March 2020
Volume 49, Issue 486

UP and COMING

March 10 Club Meeting

Dennis Bedley on Postage Dues;
Show & Tell - "Hearts Delight"

March 14 Moncton Stamp Fair

March 19 Friends of Philately

April 7 Club Meeting

April 11 Moncton Stamp Fair

April 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

POSTAL STATIONERY: WHAT IS IT? WHY COLLECT IT? PART 1

by Marty Zelenietz

Many collectors ignore their stamps' fraternal twins, postal stationery. Born on the same day (sold starting 1 May 1840 and valid on the 6th), and offspring of the same drive for postal reform led by Rowland Hill, postal stationery has taken a back seat to stamps from the get-go. The Mulready letter sheets, in 1d and 2d denominations, were mocked for their elaborate allegorical design, and never found favour in the public eye. In this series, I will explore this often overlooked aspect of philately by addressing several questions: What is postal stationery, why should you collect it, and how to collect it?

What is Postal Stationery?

Rather than reinvent the wheel by cobbling together my own definition, I turn to Wikipedia for a concise definition: "a *stationery* item, such as a stamped envelope, letter sheet, *postal* card, lettercard, aerogram or wrapper, with an imprinted stamp or inscription indicating that a specific rate of *postage* or related service has been prepaid." This just about covers it all. The "imprinted stamp or inscription" is called the indicium (pl. indicia). Its value is not always transferrable to another item. Many of you will be familiar with Michael Peach's exhibits of UK stationery cutouts used as postage on ordinary envelopes, a recycling of sorts of the indicium. While allowed in the UK, it was not legal in many other countries.

What kinds of stationery were imprinted with pre-paid postage? Let's take a look at various postal issues bearing an indicium.

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Wrappers

In the 19th Century, governments sought to facilitate communication for reasons of commerce and politics. One way to do this was to offer concessionary postal rates to newspapers, magazines, and journals. Individual periodicals could be sent by wrapping them in a sleeve preprinted with an indicium. Figure 1 shows an uprated (additional postage added) Victorian wrapper from the UK to Belgium.

Postal Cards

Postcards and postal cards - what's the difference? Postal cards are official issues that bear pre-paid postage, an indicium. Postcards require the addition of postage to be carried in the mails. In the 19th Century, with urban mail delivered several times a day, and with limited telephone service, people often communicated (and even set up appointments for the same day) by sending inexpensive postal cards back and forth. Figure 2 shows a Western Australia 1d postal card, with sending and receiving marks of 6 April, 1898, requesting the recipient to attend a meeting on the evening of the 6th.

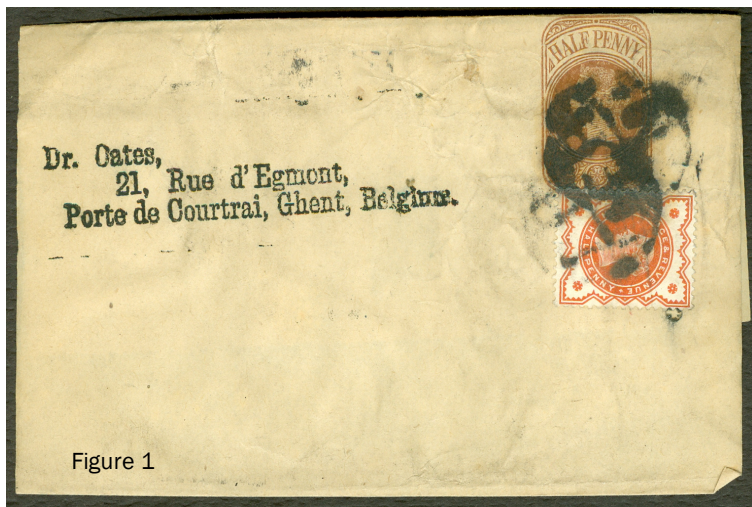


Figure 1



Figure 2

THE BRITISH ARE COMING...

The British North America Philatelic Society that is! 2020 will see the annual convention of BNAPS in Dartmouth September 4th to 6th at the DoubleTree by Hilton, next to the McDonald Bridge.

The program is still being finalized but if you are planning to exhibit the prospectus and forms are now posted on...

<http://www.bnaps.org/bnapex/bnapex2020-Halifax/exhibits.htm>

The frame limit is 160 (a number decided on after the last BNAPEX in Halifax in 2008 - we crushed it!) so get your entry in early. If you are planning to stay the weekend in Dartmouth, there are a block of rooms at the DoubleTree. Booking info can be found here...

<http://www.bnaps.org/bnapex/bnapex2020-Halifax/accommodation.htm>

BNAPEX 2020 is being chaired by Gary Steele and co-chairs Jeff Parks and George Lafontaine, and they are supported by a strong committee who are dedicated to make this convention a raging success. But they will need a bevy of volunteers, especially around the time of the convention to assist with setup/teardown, hospitality, front desk and a host of other jobs that the committee will need done. If you are interested in helping, contact Gary at bnapexchairman@bnaps.org.

The Nova Scotia Post

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Jeff Parks - Layout

[http://www.nsstampclub.ca/
webnews@nsstampclub.ca](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 and renewal payments to...**

NS Stamp Club c/o Jeff Parks

102 Birch Bear Run, Lewis Lake, NS B3Z 4B8

QUEEN HOTEL - HALIFAX

by Dennis Bedley

Shown here are two envelopes mailed in Halifax 1924 and 1925 using Halifax Queen Hotel envelopes. The top envelope has an Admiral Issue 3 cent carmine cancelled November 12 1925. The one below is also a Queen Hotel envelope showing the reverse (found on both envelopes) and was cancelled in Shediac NB 1924. Envelopes used during the same time period often had information on the reverse about businesses or towns, for the benefit of tourists and travelling salesmen.

The Queen Hotel fire in March of 1939 was the greatest Halifax disaster since the 1917 Halifax Explosion. Twenty eight people died in the inferno. The fire also destroyed two adjoining buildings causing \$800,000 in damages.

In the aftermath, The Hon. M. B. Archibault, Justice of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, was appointed as a one-man commission to investigate fire prevention, fire suppression and the safeguarding of human life in Halifax with particular reference to the Queen Hotel fire. His report noted that there was a scarcity of ladders of sufficient length to reach the upper floors of the building. The Fire Department had an aerial ladder which was considered unsafe. The men using the ladder were advised by the Chief of the Fire Department that they used the ladder at their own risk. The overhead live wires plus the lack of up-to-date speedy wire cutting apparatus greatly hampered the fire fighters during the fire and interfered with the work of rescuing the occupants of the Hotel.

Justice M.B. Archibault's inquiry faulted the hotel owner for lack of safety features and staff training. He also faulted the Provincial Fire Marshall for not enforcing its fire regulations for Hotels and the Fire Department for lack of equipment.

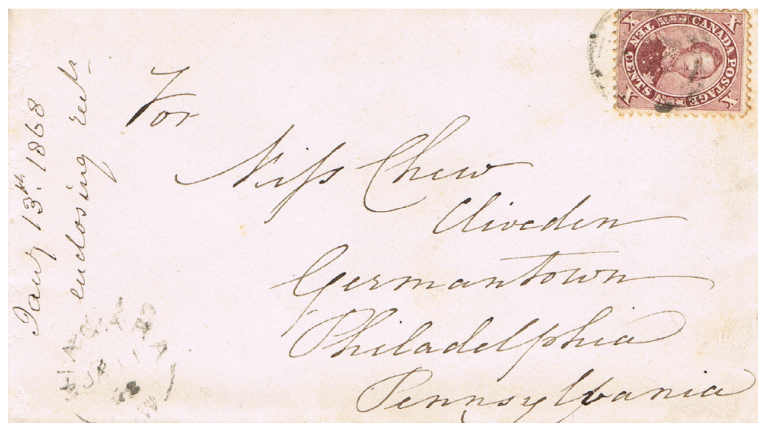
In the end the cause of the fire was never established although there were several possibilities and probable contributing factors such as disused grate, improperly sealed chimneys, an earlier small fire in a utility closet, etc. The Fire Marshall's Office acted on recommendations to implement better fire safety regulations with the power to enforce them.



AN INTERESTING ADDRESSEE

by Elizabeth Sodero

A lovely clean cover with good Prince Consort usage, made more interesting by the addressee, Miss Chew, of Cliveden, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with a handwritten 'received in the afternoon Jan'y 13th 1868'.



CLINTON U.C. JA 11 1868
 cds NIAGARA C.W. JA11 68
 10 cent Prince Consort (dot in oval above 'P')

Cliveden was the summer retreat of Benjamin Chew of Philadelphia, 1722-1810, lawyer, judge, Chief Justice, High Court President. Chew was placed in 'preventive detention' in 1777 during the American Revolution and the house seized during the Battle of Germantown. The Chews moved to Delaware amid the political unrest but were able to buy back the house in 1797. It remained in the family for five generations. It is now operated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as a museum. (*Presumably Miss Chew is a granddaughter of Benjamin*).



DLO HANDSTAMP #49

by Gary Steele

DEAD LETTER OFFICE

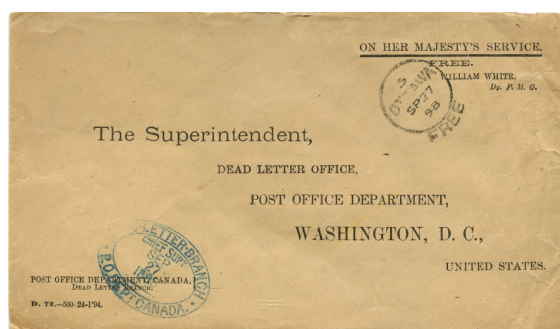
POST OFFICE DEPT CANADA

28mm diameter three point crown wax seal. Proof date March 1895



Christmas seems to come often to stamp and postal history collectors. Most of the time you don't even know it is coming. This particular item shown is exactly that. I purchased the envelope for the handstamp on the front by the Chief Superintendent of the Dead Letter Branch, (Ottawa) Sep 27 1898 just after the decentralization of the Ottawa DLO (July 1, 1898). Thinking this may be an early usage was the main reason for purchasing it.

Upon exami-



nation I could feel there was a wax seal on the back. The wording is distinctly different

from the wax seals of the earlier pre-1898 Ottawa DLO and other branch offices after 1898. Notice the three point crown instead of a Lion and Unicorn for earlier wax seals.

An interesting feature on the front is the pre-imprinted destination to: The Superintendent, Dead Letter Office, Post Office Department, Washington, D. C., United States. There must have been sufficient mailings between the Superintendents to warrant a pre-printed order of envelopes. It would be interesting to see if a reciprocal envelope from the U. S. department existed.

Two days was all it took to reach Washington having been mailed on Sep 27 1898 with receipt on Sep 29 1898.



POST OFFICE DEPT. CANADA
 DEAD LETTER OFFICE
 With lion and unicorn pre-decentralization period.

POSTAL STATIONERY CONTINUED

Postal cards were not limited to domestic use: they could be inscribed and valued for carriage to foreign destinations, like this German New Guinea Universal Postal Union card (Figure 3).

If you wanted to increase the likelihood of a response, and thought that saving the recipient the expense of return postage would help, you could send a postal reply card: a double-size card, folded over, with the return card attached. Complete reply cards are usually available only unused: used cards have been separated, with the two sections ending up miles, or continents, away. Figure 4 shows the



Figure 3

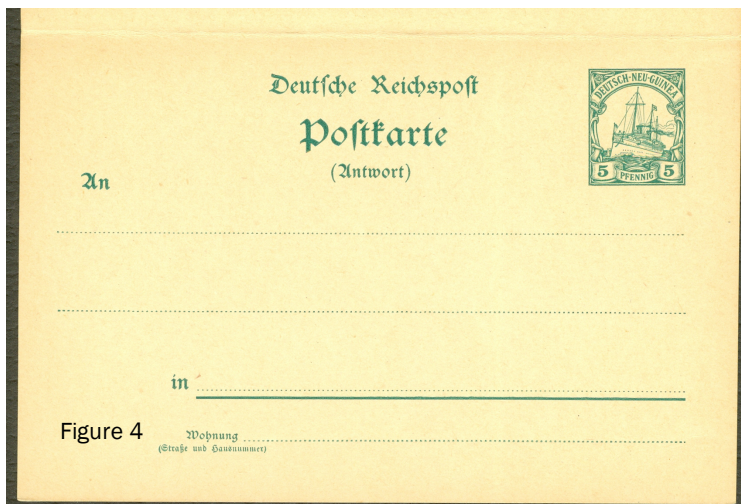


Figure 4

cropped return portion of an unused German New Guinea card, and Figure 5 is the original portion of a US return card (as indicated by the message on the back, the rouletting

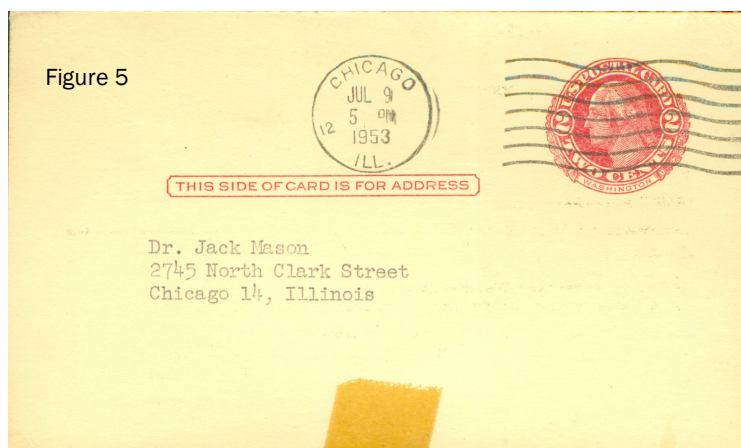


Figure 5

across the top, and the cellophane tape seal on the bottom).

Postal cards offered the convenience of combining both stationery and postage into one simple package. What they did not offer, however, was privacy of communication, for the message was visible to anyone handling the item. In the 2nd installment of this series, we will look at letter cards and letter sheets, items featuring both convenience and privacy.

CLUB NEWS

Once again, Mother Nature got the better of us. The February meeting was canceled because of a snowstorm. We tried to contact the membership via email, and called a couple of members who aren't on line. If you don't have email, and require a call if a meeting is canceled, please let the Executive know, and we'll put together a call list.

Because of the cancellation, everything planned for the February meeting will be moved back to March. Dennis Bedley will present on postage dues. John Hall's presentation scheduled for March on recycling a stamp exhibit will be postponed until the 2020/2021 club year. And the show-and-tell theme will be "Heart's Delight." Hope to see you all at the meeting on the 10th. Stay warm.

NS STAMP CLUB CENTENARY

by Marty Zelenietz

Another item supplied by Michael Peach is this cover from "NOVAPEX- BNAPS 71." The Cachet features our long-time home at the Nova Scotia Museum, and the late August date indicate show timing dictated by BNAPS.

This is my last bit of material for the centenary column. I need your support (i.e., new material) to continue this. If you have covers, programs, or other show memorabilia not yet featured, please share it with me.

