



# The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

April 2020  
Volume 49, Issue 487

## UP and COMING

**The following are regularly planned activities but they may be or have been cancelled**

**April 11 Moncton Stamp Fair**

**April 14 Club Meeting - Cancelled**

**April 16 Friends of Philately**

Check out the status of other shows at

[www.rpsc.org/shows.html](http://www.rpsc.org/shows.html) or  
[www.csdaonline.com/shows](http://www.csdaonline.com/shows)

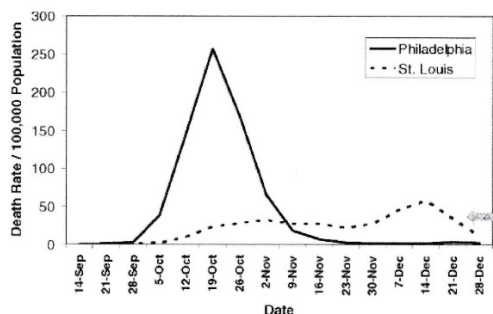
**Stay Home! Stay Safe! Stay Healthy!**

## SOCIAL DISTANCING - THE BEST DEFENSE AGAINST PANDEMICS

by Glenna Metchette

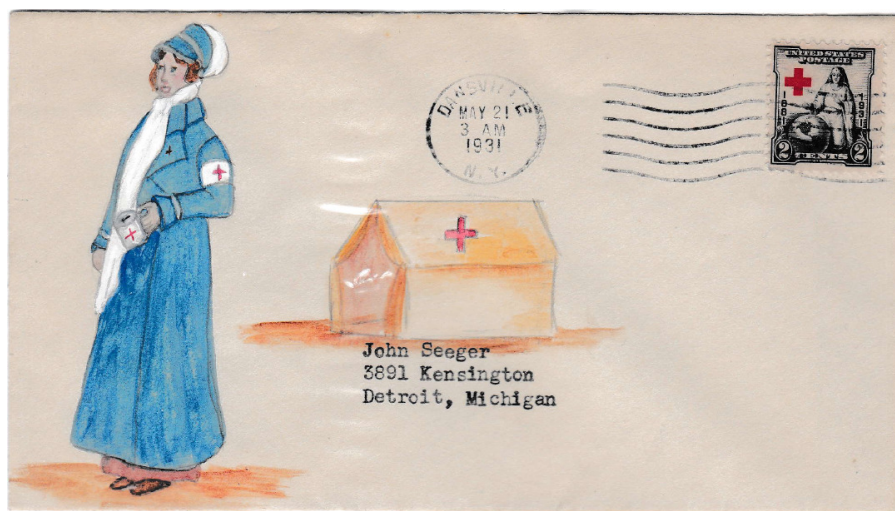
The Dean of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health says “social distancing – successfully practiced by some cities during the influenza pandemic of 1918 – is our current best defense against the cascading effects of COVID-19.”

The 1918 flu pandemic infected 500 million people around the world and killed 50



<https://www.pnas.org/stanford.idm.oclc.org/content/104/18/7582>

to 100 million of them – three to five percent of the world’s population. It began in January 1918 and didn’t end until December 1920, almost 100 years ago. During the 1918 influenza epidemic, extreme social distancing in St. Louis saved untold lives, while in Philadelphia, the stubborn refusal to cancel a World War 1 parade resulted in a rapid and avoidable spread of the disease (see graph).

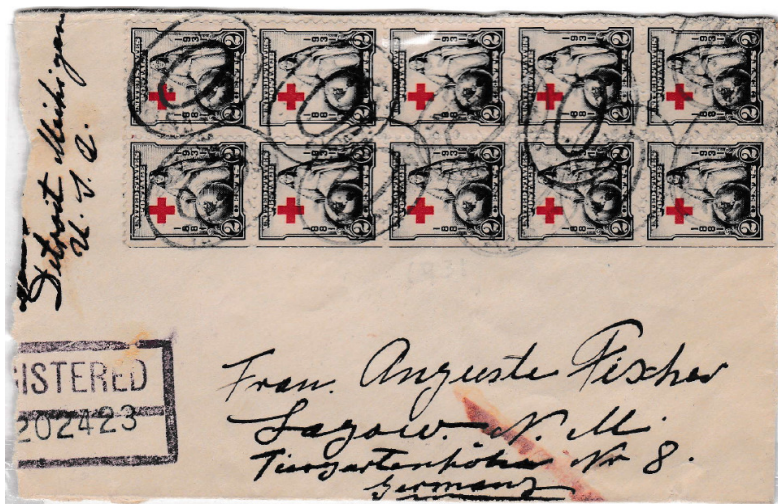


The Red Cross recruited 15,000 women, including regularly enrolled nurses, to respond to the 1918 deadly outbreak. On January 27, 1919, the Red Cross reported 204 of its nurses had died combating this worldwide influenza pandemic.

While the 1918 H1N1 virus has been synthesized and evaluated, the properties that made it so devastating are not well understood. With no vaccine to protect against influenza infection and no antibiotics to treat secondary bacterial infections, control efforts worldwide were limited to non-pharmaceutical interventions such as isolation, quarantine, good personal hygiene, use of disinfectants, and limitations of public gatherings.

As I am writing this, three suspected cases of COVID-19 have been discovered in Nova Scotia; in B.C. where I live, we currently have 64 cases, many concentrated in institutions that care for the elderly.

Like the 1918 pandemic, this pandemic is having an impact on the Red Cross. In the US alone, the Red Cross has lost out on 800 blood drives due to hosting areas being forced to shut down. That number equates to potentially 18,000 units of blood. The level for blood is at an urgent need, approaching emergency need. They are asking anyone who is healthy and able to donate to please do so now. The Red Cross has implemented new precautions for donating blood. They are taking temperatures of donors before they check in. In addition, more cleaning measures have been added to an already very stringent cleaning routine.





## PANDEMICS...

In these trying times as we move to protect the health of our family, friends and colleagues, we must also give respect and care to the caregivers. For as proven time and again, it is the frontline health care and public health workers, whether in the field, in clinics, or in international relief settings, who serve as a vital first line of defense in protecting the health of populations.

The hand-drawn Red Cross cover and the registered cover with double oval hand-stamped cancellations feature Scott #702 issued on May 21, 1931. The central design of this two-cent stamp is the figure of a Red Cross nurse kneeling before the globe with outstretched hands. It was reproduced from a 1930 poster entitled "The Greatest Mother."



### 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 membership applications**  
and **renewal payments** to...

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

## SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE DATE DILEMMA

by John (Hall) Watson MD

One night in our digs, Holmes turned to me and asked "Have you seen my latest philatelic acquisition, Watson?"



I had to admit that I had not and asked to see it. Holmes brought out a page from his stamp album.

"This is a bank deposit receipt dated July 13th, 1914 from Canada with a two cent war tax revenue stamp affixed".

"How can this be?" I cried. "War tax in Canada was not in place until April 15th, 1915! Bank deposit and withdrawal receipts did not need the two cent war tax stamp receipt until then."

I was quick (too quick as it turns out) to make my opinion known – "Canada did not even declare war until months after July 13, 1914. Holmes, you have been duped by a philatelic forger!"

Holmes was not fazed by my outburst. "I too was confused when I first saw the date and the revenue stamp. But if you study the receipt, Watson, and use the methods I have taught you it is obvious that other factors are at play here".

Holmes pointed at the receipt - "Note the written comments at the lower left, Watson. The bank has noted that one year plus thirty-three days of interest has been accrued and have been calculated as \$57.14. Also note the large **PAID** punched into the paper plus a **PAID** handstamp.

"So?" I warily asked.

"Watson, Watson, Watson – all these facts I have noted leads to the inescapable conclusion that the depositor presented this deposit receipt at the bank looking to get their money. Based on the deposit date of July 13th, 1914 and the bank's notations of one year and thirty-three days of interest, you can calculate that the deposit was withdrawn on or about August 09, 1915. Note the cancel on the war tax stamp - Aug 9, 1915 - confirms this."

Holmes was not finished - "Because of the bank's calculations, the cross out of bank signatures, and the **PAID** handstamps, this deposit receipt has now become a withdrawal receipt, and as the withdrawal occurred after the start of war tax, the bank was required to add the two cent war tax stamp".

"That sheer genius, Holmes!"

"Its Philately, my dear Watson. Philately."



## POSTAL STATIONERY: WHAT IS IT? WHY COLLECT IT? PART 2

by Marty Zelenietz

I'll preface this installment on postal stationery by saying that I feel like I'm writing an obituary. Electronic communication has largely displaced the need for most postal stationery items. The telephone obviated the need for cheap and rapidly delivered postal cards in the last century. More recently, email and texting has replaced the use of items such as letter sheets and aerograms (airletters) for long-distance personal correspondence. Pre-stamped envelopes (PSEs) are still around, however, being issued by many countries (Canada and the US included) even today.

### Letter sheets

Letter sheets were, in a way, a continuation of the folded letter tradition of writing and sending letters. Before the widespread use of envelopes (commercially produced or hand made) in the mid 1800s to enclose correspondence, senders would leave one side of a letter blank, fold the paper to cover the message, seal it (often with wax) and then use the blank face to write the destination information. Mulready's letter sheet of May 1840 provided the correspondent with the "complete kit"- a sheet on which to write, an address surface, and prepaid postage. His design met with public ridicule, but the idea was sound, and the GPO soon issued a less controversial design. Letter sheets combined both stationery and postage for one low price: they were usually sold at "face" value, the value of the postage indicated by the indicium, with no premium added. They remained in use in various countries well into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Figure 6 shows an opened-out, three-fold, single-seal (top flap) Israel domestic letter sheet of 1960, and Figure 7 illustrates a 1966 letter sheet I used in Israel in 1970, returned to me because the addressee had moved on.

### Letter cards

Postal cards offered convenience and affordability, but not



Figure 6

Continued Page 4

## DLO HANDSTAMP #50

by Gary Steele

**DEAD LETTER OFFICE**  
**JA 31 1898 & FE 2 1898**  
**CANADA.**

28.5 mm diameter closed circle.  
Proof date March 6 1889

Not the prettiest of covers but certainly an interesting item as there are not that many Small Queen era covers to the West Indies.



A business envelope mailed from Montreal, Que. on NO 8 1897 just prior to the issuance of the Maple Leaf definitive five cent issue must have been franked with a five cent Small Queen stamp. The postage stamp appears to have fallen off in transit from rough handling or inclement weather. Transiting through New York on NOV 9 (machine cancel) and eventually to Port of Spain, Trinidad, WI on NO 22 1897. A manuscript postage due notation of T25 (centimes) is shown. In addition on the same date is another manuscript notation 'Not Known 22 11 97' and on the reverse UNCLAIMED. No discernible reason given other than maybe the addressee did not want to pay the postage due fee: it was then sent back to Canada to the Dead Letter Office in Ottawa.

A closed circle DEAD – LETTER . OFFICE CANADA. handstamp dated JA 31 1898 is shown. Ironically, a REC'D AT DEAD LETTER OFFICE 1 CANADA. dated FE 1 1898 also appears, probably handled by another DLO clerk to show when they received the item. Processed on FE 2 1898 per 2nd closed circle DEAD – LETTER . OFFICE CANADA. handstamp it appears to have been returned in a Dead Letter Return envelope as no additional postal markings appear on this item.



## POSTAL STATIONERY CONTINUED



privacy. By the late 1800s, postal administrations were selling a product that offered more message surface, and more security, than postal cards: letter cards. Letter cards were forms, printed on card stock and prefolded, with gummed and perforated edges. You'd write your message on the blank side, fold and seal it, and send it. The indicium indicated postage paid at the letter (not postal card) rate. The recipient would tear along the perforations, unfold the card, and read

## CLUB NEWS

The March meeting was well attended. Dennis Bedley gave an interesting talk on postage dues and their use. Several people took the opportunity during Show and Tell to share bits of their collection.

The Executive had a teleconference on 24 March to sort out the near future. Given these uncertain times, the April Club meeting is **CANCELLED**, as is the April Stamp Fair and the May Club meeting. We are keeping open the possibility of the June Annual Social. Emails and the Nova Scotia Post will continue to come out on schedule, to keep you informed.

As of this writing (25 March), the fate of the Valley Show in late April is up in the air. It has not been officially cancelled yet. Stay tuned.

Stamps are a great way to keep occupied during these times of isolation and social distancing. Work on your collection, peruse web sites for new treasures, catch up on that backlog of philatelic reading. You could even write something for the Post! Above all, stay safe and healthy.

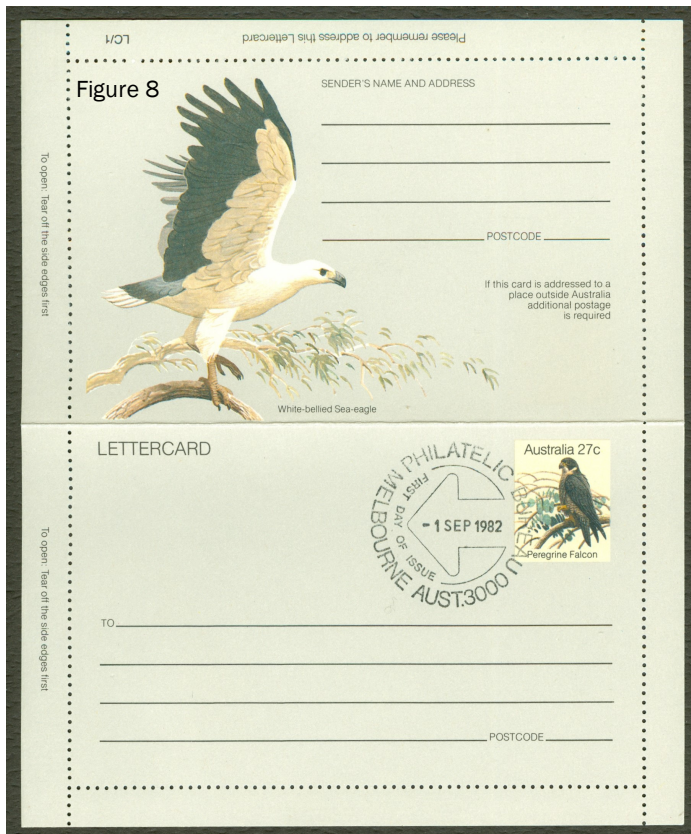
## HOMEPEX 2020 ON FACEBOOK

With current exhibits being cancelled and others on the horizon in jeopardy of cancellation: introducing **Homepex 2020** on our Facebook page. We are inviting people to share parts of their collections in two categories: Single Page Exhibits and Title Pages.

Without too many rules, the Single Page Exhibits should tell a story, beginning to end, on a single page. Some great examples can be found on the Ottawa Philatelic Society website at <https://tinyurl.com/t9js96q>.

Title Pages introduce a larger exhibit (real or imagined). Guidance on Title Pages can be found here <https://tinyurl.com/vogclj3>.

To add a little incentive, there will be a prize to the most 'liked' entry in each category. To add an entry, send a .pdf or .jpeg through the Facebook message system or email it to [jane.sodero@gmail.com](mailto:jane.sodero@gmail.com) and it will be uploaded to the appropriate folder. Stop by the page and 'like' your favourite.



the message. A quick perusal of eBay shows letter cards issued by a wide variety of nations in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and well into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Figure 8 features an opened-out 1982 Australian letter card (unused, but with first day cancellation) with the sealing edges intact, and Figure 9 a used 1985 domestic rate Australian letter card, uprated for airmail service.

