



# The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

May 2020  
Volume 49, Issue 488

## UP and COMING

**Regularly planned activities have been cancelled as have many philatelic shows in the near future. We will update as we learn more.**

Moncton Stamp Fair– Cancelled

NS Stamp Club Meeting - Cancelled

Friends of Philately - Cancelled

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!**

## POSTAL STATIONERY: WHAT IS IT? WHY COLLECT IT? PART 3

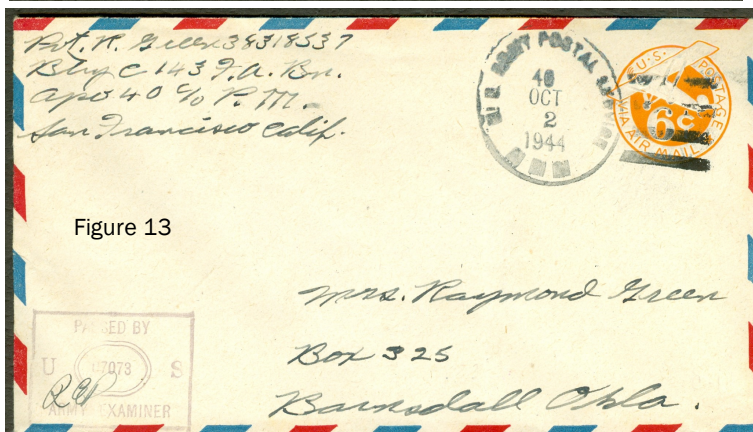
by Marty Zelenietz

### Pre-stamped envelopes

Pre-stamped envelopes (PSEs), also known as stamped envelopes, first appeared in Great Britain in 1841, the year following the introduction of the postage stamp and the prepaid letter sheet. A PSE is an envelope sold with an indicium printed on it, to signal that postage has been paid. As an additional security measure to prevent counterfeiting, part of the design (often a bust of a head) was embossed into the paper. Canada issued its first PSE in 1860, and the United States in 1853. Even more security was provided by using watermarked paper: Figure 10 shows a recut die of the 1903 embossed Washington 2¢ envelope on paper with a double-lined “US”, single lined “POD” & “1903” watermark, used to Toronto in 1907.

Unlike letter sheets, letter cards, and postal cards, the writer had to supply his/her own stationery to convey the message. Early collectors of PSEs cut them down and saved “cut squares” showing the indicium and a small border of blank paper. Today, people collect PSEs as entires.

Pre-stamped envelopes offered the convenience of not having to put individual stamps on envelopes. Businesses and large mailers recognized the savings in la-





## CLUB NEWS

We are delighted to note that our member John Hall has been appointed by the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) as the RPSC delegate for the FIP Revenue Commission. Congratulations John!!!

Congratulations also go to Jack Forbes for his trifecta at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition in February. His 10 frame exhibit *CYPRUS - King George VI Definitives Used on Air Mail Items* received the American Air Mail Society GOLD Medal; the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition GOLD Medal; and the Postal History Society Inc. Medal for the Best Postal History Exhibit awards. Job well done!



BNAPS has informed us that BNAPEX 2020, scheduled for the Labour Day weekend here in Halifax, has officially been cancelled due to COVID-19. It looks like we will host BNAPEX in 2023, the first available date.

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### 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

## DLO HANDSTAMP #51

by Gary Steele

### DEAD LETTER OFFICE

APR  
15  
1888  
CANADA.

41x27mm  
double oval  
Proof date  
AUG 5 1881



Unfortunately I do not have this handstamp on a cover or piece. This item and another of a lighter strike on a pair of OX1's were recently in Eastern Auction's latest sale.

Fortunately there is a proof known with a much earlier date of 1881. A search of Dead Letter Office seals has turned up only one similar cancel. It may be possible one exists on a Dead Letter Office cover with an OX1. However, as only a handful of these OX1 covers exist the odds of one turning up are slim.

One such cover seen below has an OX1 attached to the end where it was opened



with similar tear marks

As the envelope was NOT CALLED FOR in the early days of Manitoban postal history, it was sent to the Dead Letter Office.



Proof Strike







## POSTAL STATIONERY: PART 3 CONTINUED

bour. The US Post Office Department offered a further incentive: for a small fee, they would preprint the corner card (business name and return address) on bulk orders, as we see in Figure 11 (this 1893 Columbian issue was printed with four different dies on paper with an illustrated “Liberty/Columbus” watermark). A century later, the service was still being offered, evident from the corner card on the uprated 1991 “Love” PSE used in 1996 (Figure 12).

PSEs were valued and issued for more than just domestic-rate letter service. Figure 13 features a 1942 air mail PSE used in October 1944 from US Army Post Office 40, then located at Cape Gloucester, New Britain (New Guinea). I did my anthropological field work in the Cape Gloucester area, which is why this cover is dear to me. The free franking privilege of US active service personnel during the Second World War did not extend to airmail service: however, a concessionary rate of six (6) cents for airmail from and to servicemen did apply.

Registered pre-stamp envelopes were issued in various part of the British Empire and Commonwealth (Figure 14). Printed on heavy, card-like stock, with detailed instructions for use (and a paragraph regarding compensation on the back), they required servicing at a postal counter- you couldn’t just drop them in a mail box.

PSEs were also issued for official use. In the 1800s in the US, the indicium designated the authorized government de-

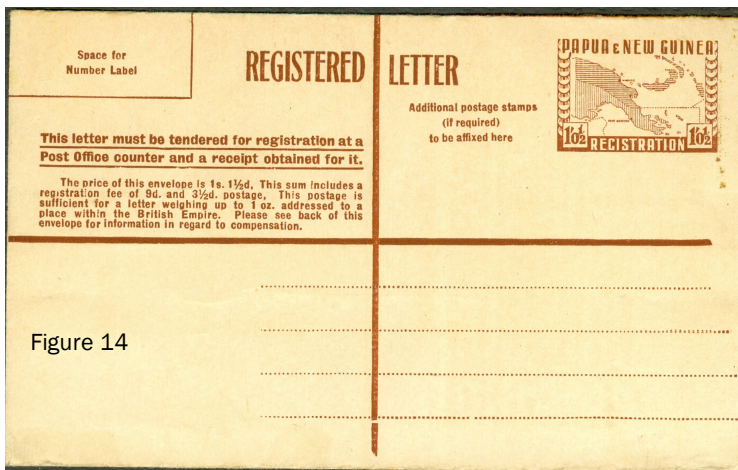


Figure 14

## CLUB NEWS CONTINUED

The Club Executive teleconferenced on 28 April. A decision regarding the June Annual Social was postponed until the Executive meeting in May: we don’t know if the Museum will reopen by then, what the provincial rules on physical distancing will be, etc. We will explore the possibility of having the June Social in July, and also combining the Social with the AGM in September. We discussed ways of keeping Club members in touch with each other during these “distancing” times. Stay safe, and stay healthy.



Figure 15

partment or bureau. Although later issues were generally inscribed “Official Mail,” some very specialized items still occurred, such as this scarce 1992 State Department PSE used only to mail out passports (Figure 15).

Modern PSEs are often issued to commemorate a specific event, and receive colourful illustrations tied to the theme.



Figure 16

Australia remains a prolific issuer of illustrated commemorative PSEs, such as this 1981 International Botanical Congress domestic-rate piece (Figure 16). Originally sent on 24 August, the cover was returned for additional postage, the postage due message covered over by the additional stamp, and re-entered the mail stream on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Part 4 of this series will wrap up the “What is it?” question with a look at airletters/aerogrammes and other stationery forms.

## CHOLERA EPIDEMIC CONTINUED

The letter goes on to discuss farm produce price and the necessity for moral rectitude.

This letter serves to remind us of the toll infectious diseases can take on our society.

If anyone can help decipher the rate of this letter, or the indistinct black postmark on the lower right corner, please get in touch with Dennis Bedley at: [x.ero.123@hotmail.com](mailto:x.ero.123@hotmail.com).