



# The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

June 2020  
Volume 49, Issue 489

## UP and COMING

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

Moncton Stamp Fair– Cancelled

NS Stamp Club Meeting -  
Cancelled until September

Friends of Philately - Cancelled

Royal 2020 Fredericton -  
Cancelled

BNAPLEX 2020 (Halifax) -  
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 4

by Marty Zelenietz

### Airletters/aerogrammes

Aerograms (aka aerogrammes, airletters, air letters) could be classified under “letter sheets,” but for me they form a category all their own. For a fixed price, usually below the cost of an airmail letter, one could get postage and stationery combined. For example, the regular airmail letter rate from Papua New Guinea to Canada in 1982 was 45t, while the aerogramme rate was 20t (see Figure 17). The discount rate precluded putting anything inside the folded airletter form: forms from various countries are inscribed “No enclosures permitted” or with a warning that an airletter containing an enclosure will be sent at airmail letter rates.



Figure 17

Figure 18 (below): Israel 1970 issue.  
Single (top) sealing flap. Overall size:  
28 cm x 18 cm. Folded size: 14 cm x 9  
cm. Available writing surface: 756 cm<sup>2</sup>.



I am particularly fond of aerograms: while I lived abroad, in Israel and Papua New Guinea, I relied on aerograms as my main means of communications with family and friends. They were particularly useful in the bush in PNG, where postage (and stationery of any form) was generally unavailable. We always left town with a supply of aerograms in our kit.

The size, shape, number of folds and number of seals on airletter forms has varied over time and place. Below I list several examples. The dimensions given are only approximate, as folding and sealing the forms was not a precise art. The overall (unfolded) size excludes the flap(s).



## Stamp Oddities

Certainly we all want the pandemic behind us and have life return to “normal”. As hobbyists, forgetting this time may not be so easy, especially with the reminders that several philatelic issuers have put before us. In mid-March, Iran was the first country to issue a COVID-19 themed stamp that honours their medical professionals - “National Heroes”. By the end of the month it was joined by



two Viet Nam issues that commemorated front-line workers, and Switzerland issued a “COVID-19 Solidarity” semi-postal stamp in early April. On April 26 the Isle of Man issued “Carry Us Through” a 8-stamp set which “reflects the unique response of the island population to the challenges brought by the coronavirus”. Other countries have reported issues are pending but no dates have been given. One wonders how, or if, a future exhibit would tackle this subject matter.

### The Nova Scotia Post

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<http://www.nsstampclub.ca/>  
[webnews@nsstampclub.ca](mailto: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

## CANADA POST INTERNAL HANDSTAMP #15

by Gary Steele

**SPECIAL AGENT**

**NOV 11 1898**

**P. O. DEPT, CANADA.**

41.75mm x 28.25mm npk

**P. O. INSPECTOR'S  
OFFICE**

**NOV 18 1898**

**VICTORIA, B. C.**

42mm x 28mm npk



Pre 1900 Canada Post Office Internal Handstamps are not common. Most have not been proofed thus with these two handstamps NO PROOF KNOWN

It is not known where this unsealed envelope originated. I assume Eastern Canada as the SPECIAL AGENT handstamp is dated NOV 11 1898 and then forwarded to the P.O. INSPECTOR'S OFFICE, VICTORIA, B.C. NOV 18 1898.



If it was returned in a Dead Letter Office Return envelope to sender if mailed in B.C. this would explain why there are no additional handstamps.

The reason this cover was handled

by the Special Agent and PO Inspector is that the 3c Numeral stamp was cut out from another envelope uncanceled and pasted onto the envelope addressed to San Francisco, Cal. It is possible as I have done it many times, that an envelope was made up to an individual and not used.

Unfortunately, there are no notations, imprints or manuscript markings to help in the full story of this item. Note that a certain number of P. O. DEPT. CANADA handstamps exist and are assumed to be from the Ottawa Head Post Office.

## CLUB NEWS

The Executive video-conferenced on 26 May and discussed the immediate future. Obviously, the June meeting is cancelled. We await provincial regulations and guidelines to make solid plans for September, and will not plan on a Fall Stamp Fair. Tentatively, September will be a social meeting, with the AGM postponed until October. Plans are flexible. Guy Jeffery, immediate past president, is assembling a slate of officers for the AGM.

In the meantime, 2020-21 dues are due. Please send your cheque (\$15 single, \$22.50 family, \$20 United States, \$25 international) to NS Stamp Club c/o Jeff Parks, 102 Birch Bear Run, Lewis Lake, NS B3Z 4B8.

We have received a membership application from Paul Young of Maine. He is a great-grandson of Henry Hechler.

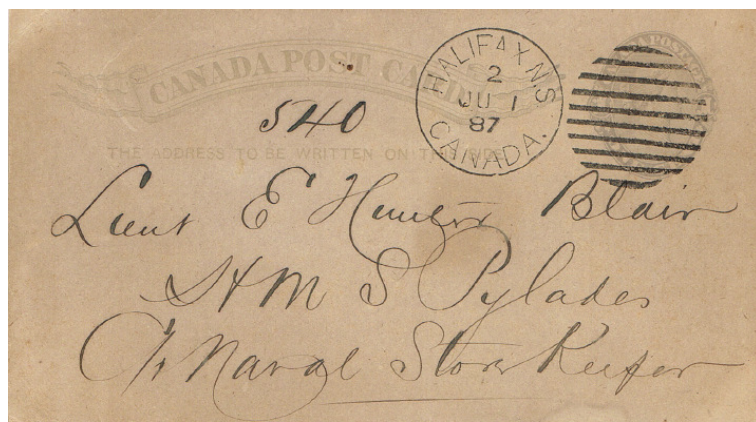
We all look forward to meeting again and swapping stamps and stories. If you have questions to share with the membership, you can do so on our Facebook page or by forwarding your question to Marty. We've had some positive response to this process. Enjoy your stamps, and stay safe.



## CANADA POST CARD 1887

by Elizabeth Sodero

This Canada Post Card (scrollwork type of 1887), tied with a Halifax NS Jul 1 87 CDS and obliterator cancel, is addressed to Leut. E. H? Blair of HMS Pylades c/o Naval Store Keeper. The card is mailed On Her Majesty's Service, from the Appraisers' Office, Customs Examining Warehouse located at 247 Hollis Street Halifax NS to inform of a parcel that is "supposed to contain dutiable articles". It is presumable that script 540 above the addressee is in reference to the parcel number at the PO.



HMS Pylades, launched in November 1884 at Sheerness Dockyard, Kent, was barque-rigged Satellite-class composite screw sloop of the Royal Navy, with a compliment of 170 to 200. She was later reclassified as a corvette. The Pylades initially served North America and the West Indies, but in 1894 it was sent to Australia via Fiji, Samoa and the South Pacific.



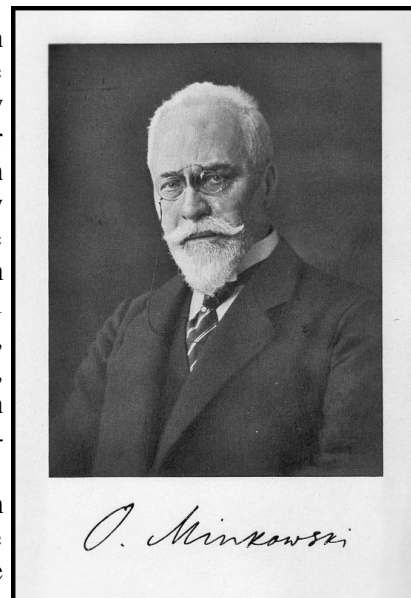
The present Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (pictured here) was the former Post Office that housed the Customs Examining Warehouse where Lieut. Blair was required to report to pick up his "dutiable" parcel.

## DIABETES IN 1889 AND OSKAR MINKOWSKI

by Michael Peach

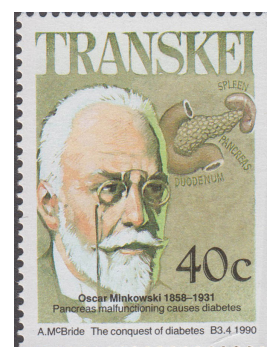
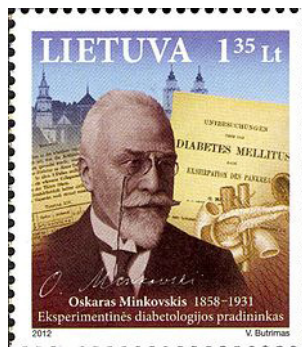
The centennial of Banting's treatment of diabetes in humans with an extract of insulin will occur on 23 January next year. Prior to Banting's discovery, several groups had been active in research on diabetes. While researching for an article about the centenary, I noticed the pioneer contribution of Oskar Minkowski.

Minkowski was born in Aleksotas, then part of the Russian Empire and now part of Lithuania. After attending school in Königsberg, Prussia now Kaliningrad, Russia, where the family had moved in 1872, he attended medical school in Königsberg, Freiburg and Strasbourg, graduating in 1881. In 1888 he became an associate professor in Strasbourg. In a chance meeting with Josef von Mering in the library they discussed the pancreas enzymes. von Mering asserted that this was necessary to break down fatty acids in the gut. Minkowski was skeptical and volunteered to surgically remove the pancreas from a dog to check the consequences. Following surgery, there were high levels of glucose in the dog's urine and the dog developed diabetes. The primary link between the pancreas and diabetes had been established.



The results were published in 1889 and are acknowledged by Banting et al. in their subsequent publication. Minkowski was nominated for the Nobel prize six times.

Minkowski was honoured with a stamp issued by his native country Lithuania in 2012 (Sc. 984) as Founder of Experimental Diabetology and in 1990 by Transkei, formerly an unrecognized state in South Africa. Minkowski is seen in the Lithuanian stamp against a background of the cover of the publication of *Diabetes Melitus nach Pancrexextirpation* by J. v. Mering und O. Minkowski in *Centralblatt für Medicin*, 8 June 1889, some of the text and a view of Aleksotas.





## POSTAL STATIONERY: PART 4

CONTINUED

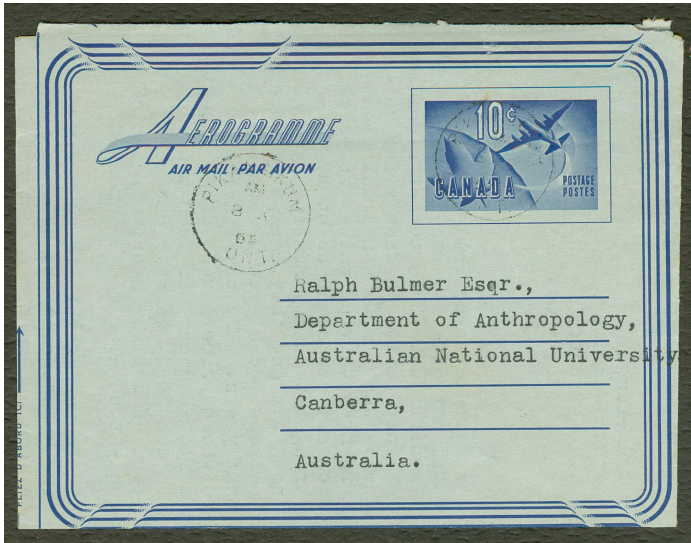


Figure 19. Canada 1953 issue. Two (top and right) sealing flaps. Overall size: 24.5 cm x 18.5 cm. Folded size: 12.5 cm x 9.5 cm. Available writing surface: 684 cm<sup>2</sup>.



Figure 20. United States 1967 issue. One (top) sealing flap. Overall size: 30 cm x 18.5 cm. Folded size: 15 cm x 10 cm. Available writing surface: 850 cm<sup>2</sup>.



Figure 21. Israel 1975 issue. Three (top and both sides) sealing flaps. Overall size: 26.5 cm x 19.75 cm. Folded size: 20 cm x 9 cm. Available writing surface: 690 cm<sup>2</sup>.

I measured the available writing surface because to me, it mattered. One could squeeze an incredible amount of news and information into an airletter: when writing home from PNG, we covered every available surface with single-spaced small-font typing. Used aerograms can be an important source of both postal and social history.

Designed to travel overseas, aerograms were often decorated with scenes that promote travel and tourism (Figure 22). Such items can be a delightful addition to one's collection.

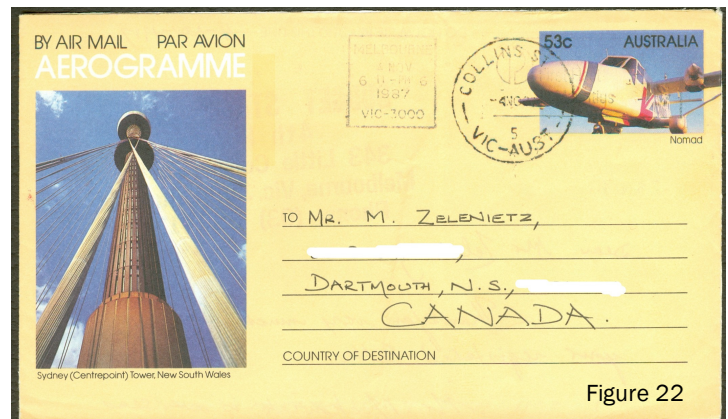


Figure 22

## Other Postal Stationery- Pneumatic Post

Beginning in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, various government post offices developed pneumatic tube systems for rapid delivery of local (city) mail. New York and Philadelphia are examples from the US. Toronto had a limited private system, not available to the public. Major European cities, like Paris and Berlin, had extensive system measuring hundreds of kilometres. Some of these systems lasted well into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Some countries, including Germany, Austria, France and Brazil, issued postal cards and pre-stamped envelopes specifically for use in the pneumatic post. I haven't thoroughly researched the topic, nor have I any examples of pneumatic post stationery in my collection, but one should be aware of the collecting possibilities here.

Although I've briefly touched on these issues, the next instalment will explicitly explore the questions of why and how to collect postal stationery.

## DUES! DUES! DUES!

It is that time of year again to pay you dues. Dues are payable on July 1 of each year. Please remit now if you owe for the 2020-21 stamp collecting year. If you are unsure of your status contact Jeff at [web-news@nsstampclub.ca](mailto:web-news@nsstampclub.ca). See remittance address on the bottom left corner of page 2.