



# The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

September 2020  
Volume 50, Issue 491

## 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.

NS Stamp Club Meetings  
September - Cancelled  
October 3rd Saturday - see Club News pg 4

Moncton Stamp Fair - 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 I COLLECT IT? PART 6

by Marty Zelenietz

### How to collect?

Once you've decided to take the plunge into postal stationery, you have to learn what is out there and decide what and how you are going to collect it.

### Catalogues

One of the essential tools of collecting is a good catalogue to provide the collector with necessary information on date of issue, varieties, printing methods, etc. The *Higgins and Gage World Postal Stationery Catalog* (in 19 volumes) is the go-to reference for postal stationery collectors. Unfortunately, there are a couple of problems with H&G: it is more than 30 years out of date, and it is not readily accessible to the general collector. If you can find it, it is great reference for older issues.

Specialized country catalogues often contain a section on postal stationery for that country. The *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers*, *The Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*, and *Bale Specialized Catalogue of Israel Stamps* are all examples of country catalogues that provide detailed information on postal stationery issues. The drawback here is that specialized catalogues are not available for all countries: you might be stumped trying to find information on your Ghanaian aerograms.

Topical specialization is another catalogue possibility. I own a copy of *Birds on Stamps of Postal Stationery till 2010* by Michael Gibbon (Figure 32), with subsequent updates for 2011 and 2012. I don't know the current status or availability of this catalog. There might be other specialized works out there for other topics- one would have to search them out.

### Format

Initially, collectors in the US and Canada did not save entire envelopes of the early PSEs (pre-stamped envelopes). They preferred "cut squares" which preserved the indicium and some surrounding paper. Today the preference is for collecting entires: bulkier than cut squares, but offering the advantages of showing the whole design (as many PSEs, postal cards, and aerograms are illustrated and have printed instructions) and, if used, offer postmarks, cancels and instructional markings that enhance the interest of the item. If you do come across older cut squares, do not dismiss them out of hand: The March 3-5, 2020, Siegal auction featured a mint US cut square of U308, the 1887 2¢ green on blue George Washington, with a Scott value of US\$12,500. The entire census of this issue consists of two mint cut squares, two used cut squares, and two used entires.

Letter sheets, aerograms, and PSEs can also be collected as "fronts," just the front panel. As with cut squares, fronts are less valuable than entires, but can still be welcome additions to your collection. My Israel Interim 1948 collection has one US aerogram front (Figure 33, page 3) from the first flight of the Palestine Emergency Delivery Inc. (PEDI) of 21 May 1948. All mail pieces were numbered as they came in for processing: my front shows the extraordinarily low number of 125.





## DEAD LETTER OFFICE HANDSTAMPS #53

by Gary Steele

to Tibet, returned to the Ottawa DLO

## DEAD LETTER OFFICE

NOV 3 1913

OTTAWA, ONT.

Oval 47.5mm x 42mm  
Proofed APR 28 1913

There are Canadian postal history covers that are remembered for the period they were mailed. This is one such cover for the Admiral period with an Admiral 10

cent plum (brown purple) mailed June 21 1913 from Binscarth, Man. The franking paid the Registration fee of 5 cents and 5 cents for the 1st class letter rate up to 1 ounce to Tibet, Asia.

Upon arrival early August in Tibet it was marked **unclaimed** and **no British Minister at Lhasa** on both the front and back.

The Indian Dead Letter Office was the next destination at both Calcutta and Bombay, finally being sent to the Ottawa, Ont. DLO NOV 3 1913.

The Ottawa DLO handstamp is quite rare in its own right, an **ONLY KNOWN COPY** of this single frame oval with dimensions of 47.5mm x 32mm in a violet ink. A similar handstamp exists of which I do have a copy



with larger dimensions and slightly different lettering characteristics.

We can only assume it was returned to Walter Ireland of Binscarth, Manitoba in a Dead Letter Office return envelope.

**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

## POSTAL STATIONERY

CONTINUED FROM Pg 1

## Mint or Used?

The choice is yours. The concept of "mint" when applied to aerograms becomes very slippery: if mint means "as issued by the postal authorities," then "mint" aerograms are the unfolded sheets as sold by the post office. Folding them to their "through the mails" size makes them less than mint, but this is often how they are described. Unfolded aerograms are also a problem to mount on album pages, as they can be larger than the standard page size.

I prefer my postal stationery used. I like reading the messages on postal cards and aerograms, as they offer insights into the social history of the times. The postal markings on used stationery allow you to explore the postal history of the era. In my eyes, used stationery is of far more "value" than

Continued Page 3

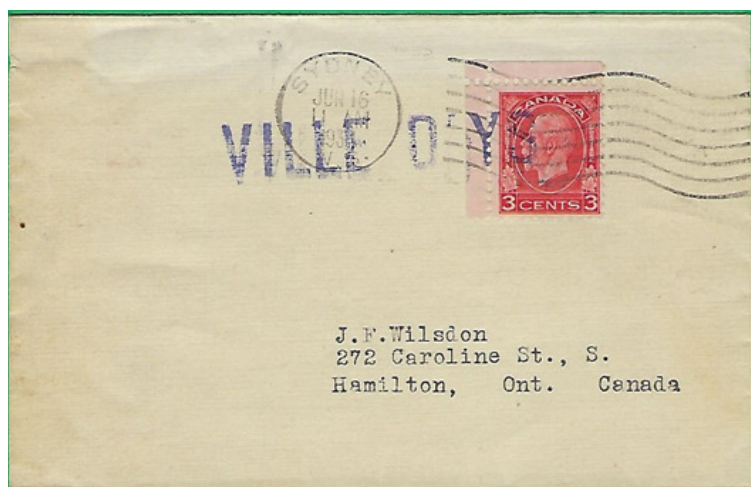


## SHIP COVER POSTED AT SYDNEY, NOVA SCOTIA

by Tom Reyman

Saint Pierre and Miquelon Islands, located just off the South coast of Newfoundland, are officially a Territorial Collectivity of the Government of France. As such, the French Navy has provided military protection for the islands and for the fishing rights of its citizens since the late 1800's. After World War I, the French Government purchased the British warship HMS Andromeda and renamed the ship Ville d'Ys. Through the 1920's to the beginning of World War II in 1941, the ship was assigned patrol duty around the islands of Saint Pierre and Miquelon and the fishing locations around the Grand Banks and Iceland to maintain the fishing rights of the Saint Pierre and Miquelon citizens. The ship did have docking permission at several Canadian ports such as Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island and Sydney, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia and periodically stopped at those cities.

This philatelic cover, with a cancellation date of June 16, 1934, shows the hand stamp of the Ville d'Ys ship name on an envelope with a Sydney postmark. The author questioned



under what circumstances the cover would receive a hand stamp with the ship name when the mailing was directed to Ontario, presumably, not being carried by the ship to its destination. With the assistance of some other philatelists, sources were found to answer that question.

Based on the information from the various referenced articles it appears that the subject cover was probably prepared on board the Ville d'Ys while the ship was visiting Sydney. The cover was franked with the Canadian #197 stamp and then hand stamped with the "VILLE D'YS" ship identifier. The ink from that hand stamp is on top of the postage stamp. The mailing was then sent to the Sydney Post Office for processing. That conclusion was reached after Carl Munden correctly noted that the Sydney cancellation was applied over the hand stamp. At that point, the cover entered the normal Post Office system for delivery to the recipient in Hamilton, Ontario.

The author wishes to thank the many members of the Nova

Scotia Stamp Club for their interest and assistance as information was gathered concerning the ship and the circumstances surrounding its deployment in the area around Cape Breton and Newfoundland. These responders included Marty Zeleznietz, Kerry DeLorry, Guy Jefferys, Loic Detcheverry, Carl Munden, Michael Ratushny, Stan Dunfield, and Dr. Robert Boudreau.

### References:

<http://envelopmer.blogspot.com/2019/02/aviso-ville-dys-canada-gaspe-station.html>

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Saint-Pierre-and-Miquelon>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/saint\\_pierre\\_and\\_miquelon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/saint_pierre_and_miquelon)

<https://sailstrait.wordpress.com/?s=Attacked+with+potatoes>

## POSTAL STATIONERY

CONTINUED FROM PG 2



Figure 33

mint. Perhaps surprisingly, even recent used postal stationery can be of higher catalogue value than mint is. Canada's last aerogram (UA 54), issued in 1996, has a used catalogue value more than 10 times higher than the mint value. My search for the 90¢ Harlequin Duck aerogram used is ongoing.

Purists in the field insist on collecting used postal stationery items that haven't been "uprated" with additional postage added to change the item's utility (e.g. make a domestic PSE usable for airmail service) or extend its validity after a rate change. I don't particularly care if an item has been uprated, provided it was used within a "reasonable" time period after the issue date.

This ends my exploration of postal stationery. I hope it has proved of some use and interest, and perhaps started you poking through your boxes of stuff looking for additions to your collection.

## INTERNATIONAL MAIL - GREAT BRITAIN METER FRANKING

by Michael Peach

Meter marks are the only British stamps that can include the country name Great Britain.

Meter franking was introduced in Great Britain after the end of the first World War. The markings were always in red, the colour that had been used initially during the Victorian era to indicate that the postage had been paid. For international mail the country of origin had to be



included on the stamp or meter mark. There was no problem with mail having a postage stamp, as Great Britain

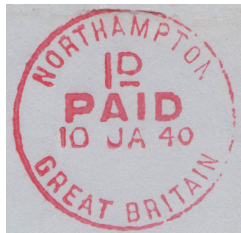
being the first country using stamps for the payment of postage, the sovereign's head is sufficient. There is no sovereign's head on a meter franking so it had to include Great Britain when used for overseas mail.

Meter franking of international mail was approved by the Universal Postal Union in November 1920. There were a number of conditions:

1. The franks had to be printed in bright red
2. The name of the country had to appear in the frank.
3. The value had to be shown in Arabic figures
4. The frank had to be in the top right corner on the address side



The UPU agreement came into effect on 1 January 1922. Hence all subsequent meter marks on international mail included Great Britain.



A few early hand stamps have been noted using England as the country of origin. There are problems with Northern Ireland as it is not part of Great Britain, and the country is usually omitted, although some examples can be found with Northern Ireland.



Some examples are shown throughout this article.

## CLUB NEWS

There will be no Club meeting in September, but we have a meeting for October! The Nova Scotia Museum's decision to remain closed for group and society meetings through November has led the Executive to explore alternate meeting sites where physical distancing is possible. We will meet again on Saturday, 3 October, at 2 PM, in Christ Church Hall, Dundas Street, Dartmouth, for our Annual General Meeting, an auction, and maybe a flea market/swap session. In the meantime, if you haven't yet paid your 2020-2021 dues, please send them in to Jeff.

Canadian Stamp News reported in July "Another Grand Prix for prolific exhibitor JJ Tillard". NSSC member Jean-Jacques Tillard's "Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, ses surcharges au 19ème siècle," 8-frame exhibit (Traditional) won the Grand Prix at Estonia 2020, a national exhibition recognized by the Federation of European Philatelic Associations, held July 10-12 in Tartu, Estonia. It tied for the highest scoring entry with 96 points. M. Tillard, a resident of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, who exhibits almost exclusively on the postal history of the islands or themes based on the islands, has won nearly 150 gold or large gold medals since 2006. He reached 100 gold medals in 2016 at Canpex in London, ON.

Our congratulations is extended to JJ for his most recent win, his success in the exhibiting arena, and in promoting the philately of SPM.

Stay Safe.

### PETER DOUGLASS (1920-2020)

A long time philatelist (NSSC #305) and Emeritus member of BNAPS passed away recently at Camp Hill Hospital in Halifax on July 3rd. Peter was an enthusiastic Admiral collector, and retained an interest in that field even after disposing of his holdings. He was a member of the club until 2011 (age 91). Peter was excited to reach his 100 milestone this year. His other hobbies included boating, ship building and genealogy. He was a founding member and past commodore of the Dartmouth Yacht Club. Our condolences to his family.

### DUES! DUES! DUES!

Your action is requested to pay your dues promptly. Remittance address is on the bottom of page 2. Please pay soon to avoid being sent home for not having done your homework. Remember it is your responsibility as a member to keep your membership in good standing.