



The Nova Scotia Post

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

January 2021
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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 –TBA
Moncton Stamp Fair - Cancelled

Friends of Philately - Cancelled

Check out the status of other shows at

www.rpsc.org/shows.html or
www.csdonline.com/shows

Stay Home! Stay Safe!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

If you still haven't paid your DUES, no worries, you are safe until June 2021. After that we will be looking to renew your membership. Any payments will extend your membership to 2022. We hope that the coming year is much brighter and we hope to see you again all soon.

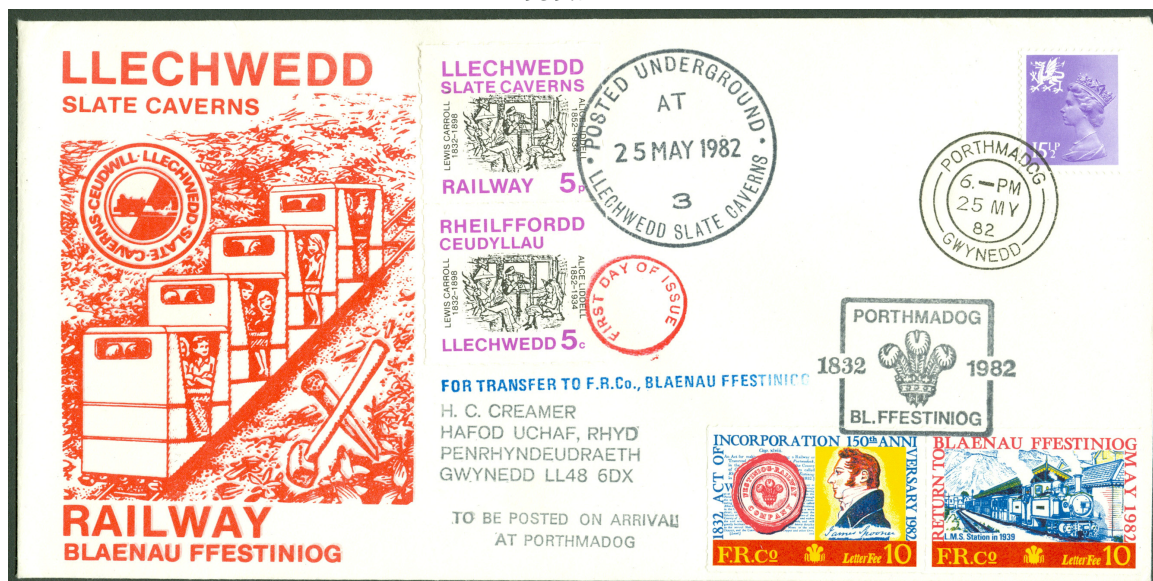
COVER FROM THE DEPTHS

by Michael Peach

While recently searching for some stamps showing Lewis Carroll, I found the cover shown on eBay. The 1982 cover, cancelled twice on 25 May, had passed through two British Railway Letter Services, the Llechwedd Slate Caverns Railway and the Ffestiniog Railway, before entering the Royal Mail. The cover marks the 150th anniversary of the Act of Incorporation of the Ffestiniog Railway and the reopening of the last part of its restored line to Blaenau Ffestiniog in 1982. The Railway Letter Post had been created on 1 February 1891, by agreement between the Postmaster General and 75 British railway companies.

The Llechwedd Slate Caverns in Blaenau Ffestiniog, North Wales, are now a major tourist attraction. The quarry was opened in 1846 and opened to the public in 1979. An incline was built in 1848 to connect with the Ffestiniog Railway to transport the slate to Porthmadog. The stamp, or rather label, based on an original John Tenniel drawing for *Through the Looking Glass*, has inscriptions in English or Welsh. It shows a scene in a railway carriage with Alice on the right, the man dressed in white paper and the goat opposite, and the guard looking at Alice through an opera glass. Down the sides is written Lewis Carroll 1832-1898 and behind Alice, Alice Liddell, the inspiration for the Alice stories, 1852-1934. The cover was mailed underground in the caverns. The deep mine passenger car is shown on the cover. It has a grade of 1: 1.8.

On arrival at the surface the cover was transferred to the narrow gauge Ffestiniog Railway for conveyance to Porthmadog. The railway is another major tourist attraction. The two Ffestiniog railway stamps were issued to mark the 150th Anniversary. One shows the seal of the Railway and James Spooner who was responsible for the survey and construction of the railway, and the other a train at Blaenau Ffestiniog in 1939.



On arrival at Porthmadog the cover was posted in the Royal Mail system for delivery in Penrhyndeudraeth. The railway has a station at Penrhyn, the station for Penrhyndeudraeth. The cover has a Welsh 15½d stamp, paying the inland first class rate.

The stamps issued by the various Railway Letter Services are usually classified as Cinderellas.

DEAD LETTER OFFICE HANDSTAMPS #57

by Gary Steele

BRANCH DEAD LETTER OFFICE

CLERK IN CHARGE

Nov 26 1934

• HALIFAX N. S. •

Double rubber circle handstamp
36mm + 25.5mm diameter
One of two reported, LRD

Ottawa



Halifax



A happy recent acquisition is this double circle Halifax DLO handstamp. These types of handstamps are extremely rare in Canadian DLO material, seldom seen or used by the various departments and branches.

Of all the 18 DLO branches and offices, only four similar type handstamps are known proofed or recorded over the years: Edmonton, Ottawa, and Victoria besides the Halifax shown.

A Jan 13, 1910 proof of this handstamp exists, there is one other reported copy (which I have not seen) dated Oct 8, 1915, and then this item dated Nov 26, 1934 a substantial period between usage.

Envelope 6. D-100,000-13-11-33 printed in 1933 was likely used to forward paid mail to the Hamilton Chewing Gum Co.



Note used by the Superintendent for the Ottawa handstamp, and Clerk in Charge for Halifax handstamp.

SHAND DAM OFFICIAL OPENING CANADA 1942

by Tom Reyman

The first dam on the Grand River in Ontario, Canada was the Shand Dam. The need for this dam was recognized in the mid-1930's as a means of controlling flooding that would occasionally occur. At times, the river overflowed and caused much damage, and, at other times, the flow was too low resulting in water shortages that affected commerce. The dam promised a means of controlling flow and providing for a planned management of water resources.

The dam commission was formed in 1934 and construction began in 1939. When WWII began in 1939, consideration was given to suspending construction

but ultimately the work continued to completion in 1942. The finished dam formed a 12 km/7.5 mi. lake which makes the watershed less prone to flooding and water shortages.



This air mail cover celebrates the completion of the dam and its dedication on August 7, 1942.

Reference: www.grandriver.ca/grandactions/publications_GA_2009_2_MarApr.pdf

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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

MY WILD GOOSE CHASE

by Elizabeth Sodero

Among my covers there is a very pleasant 1878 mourning cover from Sydney Nova Scotia (MR 6 78) to Bath England. It bears a slate green 5 cents small queen, with Sydney circle and cork cancels in blue.

The back stamps are Halifax (MR 8 78) and Bath (MR 20 78). A manuscript 'via Merville' is in upper left corner. Merville, County Donegal, Ireland, was an important point of embarkation for travellers in the late half of the 19th century, serving the Anchor Line of Glasgow. In 1911 Cunard took over the Anchor Line. The Allan Line also used Merville.

Intrigued with the spelling 'Cruikshank', I googled George to find that a George Cruickshank died Feb. 1 1878 in London Aha! a mourning letter would fit. It could be addressed

to a son who lived in Bath! One can become amazingly creative as one searches. However, the bits would not fit into place.

This George married twice with no children, but had eleven illegitimate children whose surnames were Archibold. Thus a wild goose chase! However, the search revealed the wrong George as an eminent caricaturist and political cartoonist,

much like Hogarth, a member of the Royal Academy and highly esteemed by Dickens for whom he illustrated a number of books.

The search was fun and I still like my pleasant little mourning cover.

After submitting my item to Marty Zelenietz for the newsletter, I received an email from Jeff Parks who, intrigued by where Combe Down, Bath was, did further research about the address and name George Cruickshank. Jeff unearthed a George Cruickshank, local landowner and hosier (merchant in hose/stockings) who lived at Belmont House. This George's second wife died in 1878. A mourning letter would

be appropriate. Jeff's ability to access cemetery records and historical documents makes the hunt even more fascinating (and challenging). Bath is a designated World Heritage Site. Belmont House is built on Roman ruins which are responsible for that designation. Much of interest, but still the unanswered question - "Who was writing from Sydney Nova Scotia?" My thanks to Jeff for making the goose chase even more fun.



CLUB NEWS

It is with sadness that we note the passing of long-time former member Betty Annand.

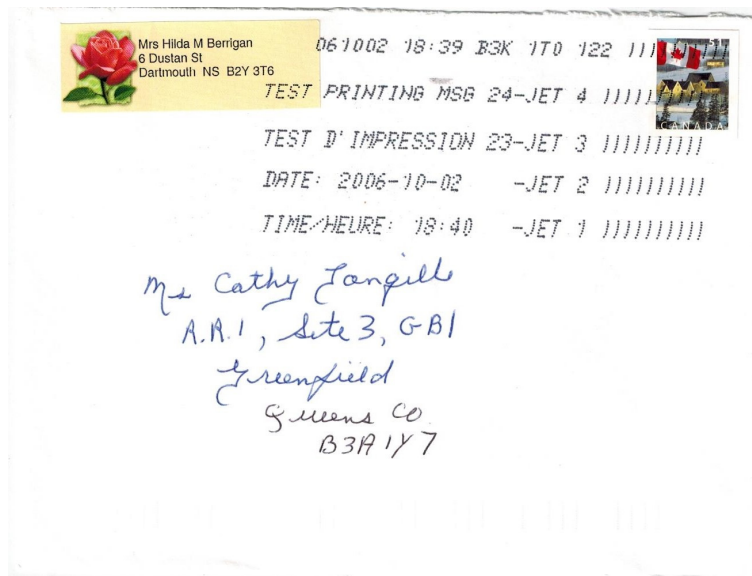
We want to welcome Karen Farquhar, membership #1098, to the Club. Karen has been a member for a little while, but her paperwork fell through the cracks, for which we apologize. She is now officially a member.

It is unlikely that we will have a Club meeting in January, but we are hoping that circumstances allow us to gather in February. If there is a sudden change, and a January meeting is approved, you will be notified by email (and by phone for those members in the province who receive the Post by mail).

Happy New Year to all. Here's hoping that 2021 is a better year than 2020.

TEST CANCEL

Dennis Bedley has sent in the test cancel illustrated here. He has another in his collection, and is seeking information about them. If you can help Dennis out, he can be reached at x.ero.123@hotmail.com.

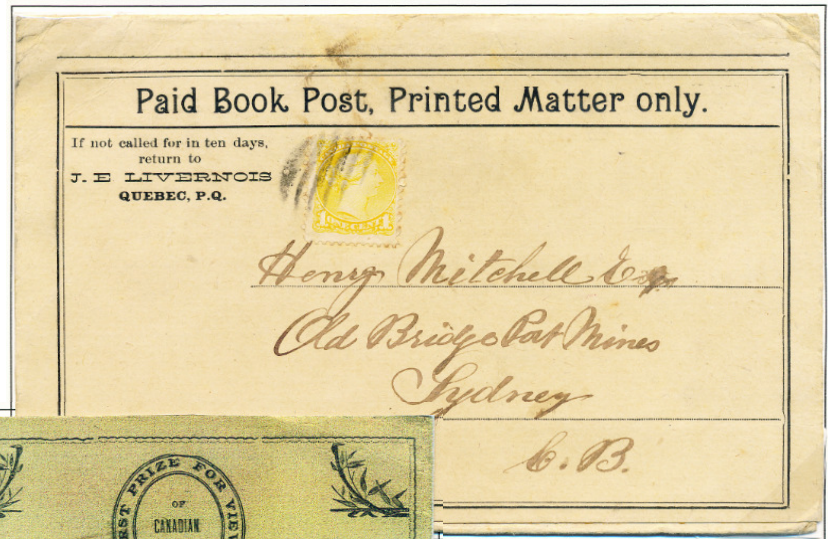


1 CENT BOOK POST/PRINTED MATTER RATE

by J.A. (Jack) Forbes

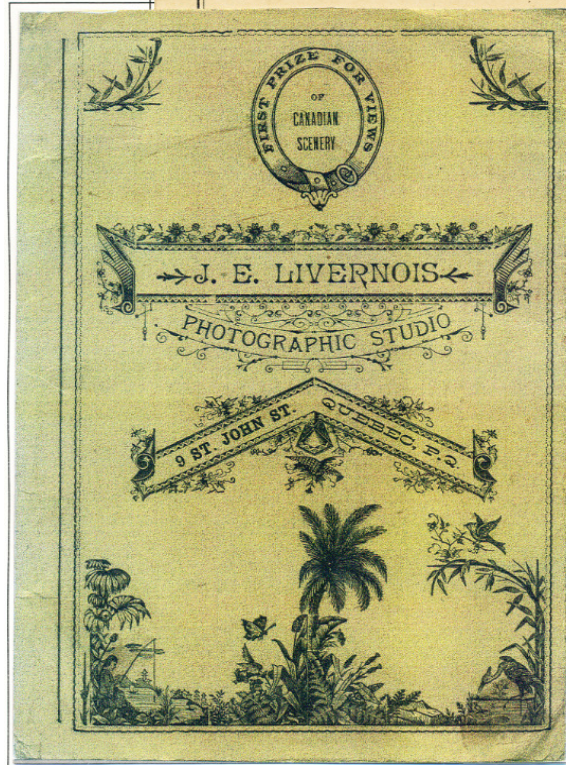
According to *The Canadian Posted Letter Guide—The Classic Period 1851-1902*, this rate belongs to the “SPECIAL NON-LETTER RATES” category which carries over from the Pre-Confederation Period.

The Small Queen on this example is in the Rich Lemon Yellow colour, with 12x12 Perforations (Montreal Printing) generally found in use during the latter three months of 1879. It is cancelled with a partial strike of a Jarrett Type #179 - 8 bar hammer.



VIRTUAL EXHIBITING

Virtual exhibiting is philately's response to the challenges posed by COVID-19. Recently, Jack Forbes and John Hall participated in the FAEF Expo 2020 in Argentina: Jack received a large vermeil for his multi-frame exhibit *Cyprus - King George VI Definitives used on Surface Mail* and a gold for his single frame *The British Philatelic Association's role in the U. K.'s Import/Export Control, 1940-1953*, and John was awarded a large vermeil for his multi-framer *Rates and Usages of the Canadian National Parks Stamps*. Congratulations to both. If you want to give virtual exhibiting a try, CANPEX 2021, April 7-30, 2021 will be **Canada's First Virtual National Level One Frame Exhibition**. Exhibits awarded a vermeil medal or higher will qualify to enter CAPEX 22 or other international level exhibition. If you are interested, go to the Canpex website, www.canpex.ca, to read the prospectus and get an entry form. Deadline for entries is March 08, 2021.



J.E. (Jules-Ernest) Livernois took over the family business, founded in 1854, from his parents in 1873. It is described as being one of Quebec City's leading photographers. His son followed him in the form but the easy availability of commercial cameras to the public spelled the demise of the company's influence, and they closed in 1953. 300,000 of their photos are housed in the National Archives of Quebec.

TWO COVID COVERS

John Hall has brought to our attention the two covers illustrated here. They speak to the challenges that organized philately faces during the global pandemic.

COVID-19 Influences Ceremonies



**Ceremony Marking the Centenary
Of the First Trans-Canada Airmail
Flight** Shearwater, NS Oct. 7, 2020

