

CELEBRATING

1922

2022



100 YEARS

# THE NOVA SCOTIA POST

Monthly Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

May 2023  
Volume 52, Issue 519

## UP AND COMING

[ORAPEX 2023](#) May 6-7  
Nepean Sportsplex, Ottawa ON  
[orapex.ca/](http://orapex.ca/)

[NS Stamp Club](#) - May 9 7:30pm  
Museum of Natural History

[Moncton Stamp Fair](#) - May 13, June 10  
100 War Veterans Ave, Moncton NB

[Friends of Philately](#) - May 16  
3rd Tuesday of the month

[Halifax Stamp Fair](#) - June 3  
East Dartmouth Community Center  
Details to follow

[National Postage Stamp & Coin Show](#)  
September 9-10  
Hilton Mississauga, Mississauga, ON  
[stampandcoinshow.com/](http://stampandcoinshow.com/)

[BNAPEX 2023 Halifax](#) - Sept. 15-17  
Best Western Dartmouth  
[bnaps.org/bnapex/bnapex2023-Halifax/](http://bnaps.org/bnapex/bnapex2023-Halifax/)

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)

## NSSC 2022-23 PROGRAM

May 9 Bill Burden...TBD

Jun 13 Closing Meeting.

Auctions occur at every meeting. Show and tell items are always welcome.

If you have a program or newsletter item that you want to share please let us know.

## Call for Volunteers

Ahead of the September Annual General Meeting, the Executive is currently seeking volunteers for any role on the executive. If you are interested in helping, please contact Guy Jeffrey [guy.jeffery5@gmail.com](mailto:guy.jeffery5@gmail.com)

## THE ALLIED WAR SUPPLIES CORPORATION THROUGH POSTAL HISTORY

by Jim Graham

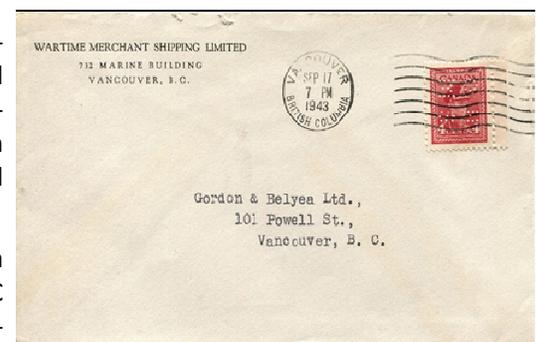
The depression of the 1930s was devastating for Canada. Largely dependent on exporting raw materials and with minimal industry, unemployment was rampant and by 1939 it was still over 12%. One in five Canadians relied on government relief for support. The outbreak of World War II changed all of that. Everyone who wanted to work could find employment; the Country was, in comparison to many, rich; and by the end of the war the "Dirty Thirties" were, for most, in the distant past.

The catalyst for this change was the Department of Munitions and Supply with the Allied War Supplies Corporation together with numerous "Boards" and some 30 newly created crown corporations. Taken together it was, in a sense, one of the biggest businesses in the world. It coordinated the manufacture and purchase by the British and other Allied governments of goods including military transport vehicles, tanks, cargo and military ships, aircraft, guns and small arms, ammunition as well as uniforms, minesweeping equipment, parachutes, firefighting equipment and hospital supplies.

The Allied War Supply Corporation (AWSC) was incorporated July 23, 1940. At a time, the allied forces were in desperate need for all forms of munitions. To meet this need the AWSC administered, directed and supervised the construction of plants and the conversion of existing industries to produce the range of chemicals, armaments and explosives required for the war effort.

The main contribution of Canada to allied wartime shipping lay in the building of ships for sale to Britain and the United States and in the building and operation of ships under the Canadian ensign. The total shipbuilding effort, conducted by all the major shipbuilding firms and coordinated by a government corporation known as War-time Merchant Shipping Ltd., amounted to 456 merchant vessels, with a dead-weight capacity of just under four million tons. In addition there was a purely naval program amounting to some 300 ships.

The covers illustrated here are just a small sample of the reach of the AWSC and the types of goods which were manufactured.



## A NEW DLO TYPE - ARTICLE #78

by Gary Steele

I am almost at a loss for words to start off the description of this DLO handstamp example. I feel like I am in the infrared **red zone** for the James Webb Space Telescope. I have not seen a similar handstamp of anything like this in Canadian postal history and especially not in the DLO. About the closest is the Registration handstamps with three boxes and a large R.

A printed matter item from the Royal Meteorological Institute of the Netherlands, in de Bilt was mailed to the Belén Magnetic, Meteorological and Astronomical Observatory in Havana which was established in 1857 as part of the College at Jesuit Convento de Belén<sup>1</sup>. From 1893 until 1925, Lorenzo Gangoiti, SJ (lower right<sup>1</sup>) was the Director of the Collegio de Belén. Gangoiti played a key role in communicating storm threats to the United States despite the political climate, although the United States did not always heed his warnings which lead to disastrous consequences 1900 when the deadliest natural disaster in US history hit Galveston, Texas<sup>2</sup>.

Havana was likely misinterpreted as Canada. The postmark date is unreadable however other markings show around June 1898.

Thus, it was sent to the Canadian Dead Letter Office in Ottawa. This was during the time of the Cuban War of Independence and possibly could not be delivered to Cuba resulting in the special double boxed handstamp 'No postal communication...' per attached picture.

In addition, a closed circle **DEAD LETTER OFFICE +**

No postal communications  
with this destination at  
present.

D. L. BRANCH, CANADA.

70mm x 26mm, double  
boxed handstamp  
Sans-serif, first three  
lines mixed,  
4th line caps, all lettering  
in italics  
No proof known.

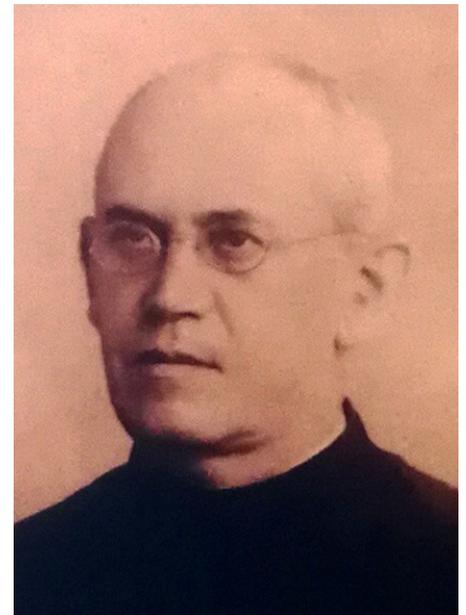


**CANADA +** handstamp was applied with a June 29, 1898 date. This date is exceptional in that the decentralization of the DLO occurred on June 30, 1898 to start at other offices on or after July 1, 1898. Few DLO examples have been found for July 1898 which indicate it was a slow process to start up at the new branch DLO's.

An additional handstamp of 21 JUL 1898 Amsterdam and 25 JUL 98 de Bilt indicate a return of the printed matter item to the Netherlands.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www3.astronomicalheritage.net/index.php/show-entity?identity=188&idsubentity=1>

<sup>2</sup> <https://mediccreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/mr-702.pdf>



### The Nova Scotia Post

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Jane Sodero - Editor  
Jeff Parks - Layout

<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

**MESSAGES IN CODE**

by Michael Peach

Postal stationery postcards were approved for use in the Great Britain starting on October 1, 1870. Beginning in September 1894, adhesive stamps could be added to blank cards. From that time, postcards became a cheap and rapid means of communication. In Victorian London, there were hourly deliveries six days a week. In other big cities, such as Birmingham, there were six deliveries per day. As late as the post-WWII era, some towns had two deliveries per weekday and one on Saturday.

Since postcard messages were not private, they were sometimes read by the postie. To avoid prying eyes, some people used code when writing postcards. The codes were often simple, such as Morse code, semaphore or numeric starting with 1 = A.

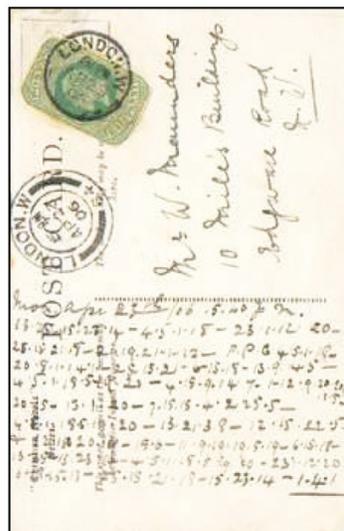
This postcard featuring a picture of St. Nicholas' Church, Great Yarmouth, was mailed in London SW, AP 23 06, 6 PM to a local address off Edgware Road.



In 1908, the inland postcard rate was 1/2d and the green Edward VII 1/2d stamp cut out from a newspaper wrapper

was valid for postage.

The message reads 13.25-15.23.14-4.5.1.18-23.1.12.20-25.15.21.18-21.19.21.1.12-p.p.c.-4.5.1.18-20.8.1.14.11-25.15.21-6.1.5.1.8-1.3.9.1.4.5-4.5.1.18.5.19.20-4.15.9.14.7-1-12.9.20.20.12.5-20.15-13.1.20-7.15.15.4-2.25.5-4.5.1.18.5.19.20-13.2.1.3.8-12.15.2.2.5-&-12.15.20.19-15.6-11.9.19.19.5.19-6.1.5.1.8-13.25-15.2.3.14-4.5.1.18.5.19.20-23.1.12.20-6.18.15.13-25.15.21.18-15.23.14-1.4.1.



(In the middle of the message 20.15-13.1.20 should probably have been 20.15.15-13.21.3.8)

Can you decode the message?

The message is:

My own dear Walt. Your usual p.p.c. dear. Thank you for mine dearest, doing a little to mat (too much). Goodbye dearest much love and kisses for my own dearest Walt. From your own Ada.

**EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN**

by Marty Zelenietz

How often does our journey lead us back to our starting point?

My renewed interest in stamp collecting as an "adult" came while I was in graduate school, looking for some distraction from my studies and research. Family correspondence with relatives in Israel and letters that I'd sent home while studying and working there, provided ready-made material for a start. I diligently cut stamps off of envelopes and air-letters (ouch!), soaked and pressed them. A local stamp store in Hamilton sold me a stock book, and I was up and running. I had stamps - but not all the stamps of Israel. How could I determine what was missing? The public library was the solution- I learned about Scott's catalog and xeroxed the pages. More visits to the stamp store started to fill the gaping holes in my "collection" on a very limited budget. Outgrowing the stock book, I took the plunge and bought the Minkus album for Israel tabbed stamps. What is a tab, you ask? Ever since the first issue of 1948, Israeli stamps have had explanatory labels printed in the bottom selvedge of each sheet (Figure 1).



Figure 1 - Israel #2 with tabs

Especially in the early issues, a full tab attached to the stamp dramatically increases its value over its un-tabbed counterpart. My mother worked at a department store in Chicago that had a stamp department, and her employee's discount helped me fill more and more of the affordable holes of tabbed stamps.

Living in Papua New Guinea for my doctoral research broadened my collecting interests and added a new area to my collection. I became enthralled with the contemporary issues, and delved into the twists and turns of the country's convoluted colonial past. I took out a standing order with the Papua New Guinea Philatelic Agency, and did the same with the Israeli Philatelic



Figure 2 - A Port Moresby cover with a tale to tell

**CONGRATULATIONS TO CLUB MEMBER GORDON SMITH!**

An article Gordon wrote about meter marks from Botswana was recognized by The Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa as being the best article published in *Forerunners*, Journal of the Philatelic Society of Greater Southern Africa in 2022. The article was titled "[Post-Independence Industrial Development of Botswana as Illustrated through Meter Marks: Large Companies](#)".

The citation for the award said:

*[The article] was selected for its original research on a subject that is little looked at yet is historically important as to its social and economic impact on Southern Africa. It is also an excellent source for thematic collectors to acquire various elements for their collection and exhibits. Articles like yours that expound on the areas of sparse collecting populations make Forerunners the interesting and well reviewed publication that it is. Bringing these subjects to the fore-front are of importance for the area of the world we collect and love.*

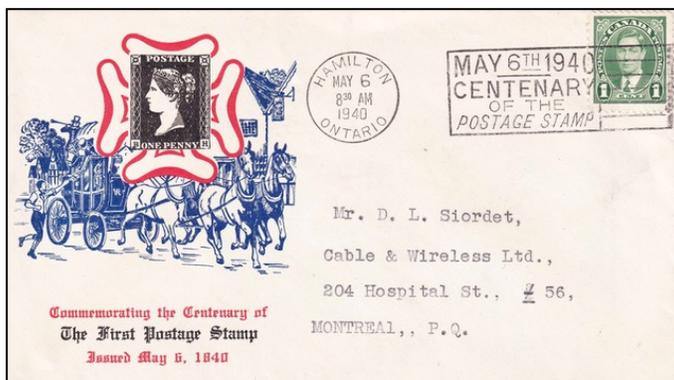
A copy of the article and a copy of the certificate can be found at: <https://postalhistory.ca/botswana-meter-marks/botswana-industrial-development-illustrated-through-meter-marks/>.

**MAY 6, 1940**

by Michael Peach

This year, May 6th is the date of King Charles III Coronation but in 1940 it was the centennial of the Penny Black issued on May 6, 1840. Numerous celebrations had been planned for the centennial but many were curtailed by the outbreak of war in September 1939.

Although Canada did not issue a commemorative stamp, a commemorative slogan cancel was used in Hamilton, ON on May 6, 1940.



Commemorating the Centenary of The First Postage Stamp Issued May 6, 1840



**OLD IS NEW CONTINUED...**

Agency. New issues began to arrive on a regular basis. In the meantime, my focus drifted to postal history: postwar PNG, and the 1948 Israel Interim period. By 1986 or so, proliferating new issues from my two favourite countries, combined with my own uncertain employment situation and family obligations, made it clear I had to choose- new stamps, or old covers. Old covers won out, as each presented a story to unravel and tie into a larger narrative (Figure 2).

When I found myself teaching modern Jewish history in my synagogue school during the first decade of the 2000s, I gravitated towards using stamps as a teaching tool. I resubscribed to my standing order for Israeli stamps, and eventually wrote a textbook of recent Jewish and Israeli history featuring stamps. In the classroom, I used my more-than-ample stock of used Israel stamps as rewards and incentives for the kids to study and do well on the quizzes (and perhaps create some stamp collectors, as well). Many NSSC members knew of this and I gratefully received many contributions for this project.

I returned to university teaching in 2010, let my Israel standing order expire, and put my Israeli material aside. By then, I was a decade deep into my pursuit of bird stamps, a passion that still rules my life. And then... In March 2023, Guy Jeffrey sent me a note- he had found some early Israel in one of his boxes, and did I want to have a look at it? Why not? I went over, oohed and aaahed over things that were missing from my (long neglected) collection, some money changed hands, and then we went for a drive in his new electric vehicle.

Mounting my new acquisitions in the album, I came to the sad realization that some old friends were now going to be relegated to living in a stock book. I couldn't really bear to part with my used set of Israel's first high values, Scott #7-9 (Figure 3). What to do? I had an empty Schaubek springback album that had pages for Israel's first twenty years, part of the material donated for my teaching project. Perhaps I could put together a simple, straightforward collection of used, untabbed singles? I already had most of the expensive items. I poured over my stock of Israel, filled some glassines with material to use, and regretted giving away so many nice singles to my students. A perusal of a few stamp websites showed me that I could fill many of the blank spaces for a dime apiece, as almost all of the stamps I need are minimum catalog value.



Figure 3 Israel #7

These days, I find myself deriving pleasure from carefully hinging and mounting used stamps in their appropriate prepared spaces on the album pages. Quite a difference from designing and printing pages to explain a cover from Jerusalem or Port Moresby in 1948, or to showcase three related species of birds I've seen in the wild, but a relaxing, inexpensive pleasure nonetheless. After nearly fifty years of collecting, I've arrived back where it all started for me.