



THE NOVA SCOTIA POST

Monthly Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

December 2023
Volume 53, Issue 524

UP AND COMING

[Moncton Stamp Fair](#) - December 9
100 War Veterans Ave, Moncton NB

[NS Stamp Club](#) - December 12 7:30pm
Holiday Social and Charity Auction
Museum of Natural History

[Friends of Philately](#) - December 21
3rd [Thursday](#) of the month
Museum of Natural History

Check out the status of other shows at
www.rpsc.org/shows.html or
www.csdaonline.com/shows

NSSC 2023-24 PROGRAM

If you have a program or newsletter item that you want to share please let us know. We still have program openings for the 2024 season. Bring a Show and Tell item to any meeting.

December 12 - Anything Goes Charity Auction and Social

January 9 - Michael Pierce TBA

February 13 - TBA

March 12 - TBA

April 9 - TBA

May 14 - TBA

June 11 - Closing Social

NEW NS STAMP CLUB MEMBERS

- 1112 - Barry Rodenhiser,
Middle Sackville, NS
- 1113 - Olivia Tong, Halifax, NS
- 1114 - John Frampton, Halifax, NS
- 1115 - Mike McKinnon,
Musquodoboit Harbour, NS
- 1116 - Evan Richard, Lake Echo, NS

WHY I COLLECT...

by Marty Zelenietz

Junk. Trash. Dunes. Wallpaper. Call it what you will, there are some very sketchy and questionable “stamps” out there on the market. Back in the day, they would receive a black blot from the American Philatelic Society, warning collectors to stay away. Catalogs might list them unpriced in a footnote, commenting that they were speculative, unnecessary, and exploitive. But the world has changed and it seems almost anything goes today. Perusal of the Scott’s New Issue Update in Linn’s Stamp Weekly reveals mega-issues of stamps from nations large and small. Countries with formerly conservative issuing policies, like Japan, have joined the ranks of many enthusiastic island and developing countries in releasing a flood of stamps geared toward garnering revenue from collectors.

The proliferation of issues is usually aimed at the topical or thematic collector. And if you can fit more than one topic on stamp, even better! Figure 1 shows a 1985 issue from Burkina Faso that checks off three boxes: birds in general, Audubon in specific, and scouting. It’s a winner!



I steered clear of wallpaper issues for many, many years. My collecting focussed on a few countries that interested me or that I had ties to: Israel, Papua New Guinea, Japan. As they began to issue more and more stamps, I morphed into collecting postal history. In this new (to me) field, I strove to gather genuine postally used covers, staying away from philatelically created items, until I realized that often the only items available were philatelic in origin. My descent down the slippery slope had begun.

I became a topical collector when I fused my passions for bird watching and stamp collecting. I decided to put together a collection of stamps that showed the birds I had seen while out birding. I began with the notion that I’d just collect used, single stamps. I soon realized that the field was much broader, and started adding in other philatelic issues that showed the birds I’d seen: postal stationery, souvenir sheets, conservation and hunting stamps, and the like. While I stuck to my principle of used singles, I noticed that more and more cancelled-to-order stamps, and mint souvenir sheets and booklets, were creeping into the collection. And for many of these items, the issuing country had little or no legitimate connection to the subject matter.

Hummingbirds are a case in point. I like hummingbirds: they are small, colourful, active, and ornithologists have given them captivating names like Glowing Puffleg, Band-tailed Barbthroat, and Blue-throated Goldentail. Over 360 species of hummingbirds have been identified, and of these, I have seen 99 in the wild. The salient feature of hummingbirds is that they are a western hemisphere family of birds: they are **only** found in the Americas and Caribbean. Not in Africa, not in Asia, not in Oceania, not in Europe. So, one would expect to find them on stamps from those countries, and one does. One would not necessarily expect to find them on numerous issues of African countries (where the birds don’t exist), but one does. And therein lies my dilemma.

Not all of the hummingbirds I’ve seen can be found on stamps from the Americas. Many of those missing from issues from the

Why I Collect continued on Page 3

MEREDITH MACKINLAY – EGG DESIGN, HALIFAX, NS

At the November meeting of the Nova Scotia Stamp, we were pleased to welcome local designer Meredith MacKinlay of Egg Design who designed the Animal Mothers and Babies stamps which were issued in April 2023. In her presentation, MacKinlay outlined the design process of the stamps.



In the summer of 2021, she was invited by Canada

Post to present a proposal for a group of stamps on the theme of Animal Mothers and Babies. Canada Post had determined that there was an interest in continuing to issue wildlife stamps and that the theme of motherhood was also popular with the public. In preparing her proposal, MacKinlay consulted previous wildlife issues from Canada and around the world.

In her initial presentation to Canada Post in October 2021, MacKinlay explored a wide variety of photographic and illustrative design approaches focusing on sea otters and red-necked grebes. In consultation with Canada Post, she refined three options for presentation to the stamp selection committee. In one of the illustrative approaches presented, she wanted to find a way to incorporate the sense of motherhood and home through the use of fabric arts such as embroidery, and worked with Temagami Anishinaabe artist Caroline Brown to bring the concept to life. Brown's use of embroidery and beadwork would prove to be an excellent medium for the design.

Once MacKinlay received the "go-ahead" on the concept in January 2022, she and Brown worked together, first in sketches and then in embroidery, to prepare the final pieces of artwork. They worked with wildlife experts to fine-tune details such as the fur and eyes of the otters and the eyes and beaks of the grebes. Much of this work was done by Brown digitally before a final

alterations to the embroidery was completed. Meanwhile, MacKinlay worked on adding details such as the Latin animal name, the "P" and Canada to the frame. She also worked on the First Day Cover, souvenir sheet and booklet designs. She also designed the First Day cancellation which proved challenging due to the texture of the stamps.



The next challenge was to reproduce the embroidery on the stamp. Several methods were tried but, in the end, traditional digital photography on a sunny day proved most successful. The images were then turned over to a retoucher who meticulously removed the background fabric from the photographs.

MacKinlay explained that while it was a long process stretching over a year and a half the actual work often happened many shorter spurts. She found Canada Post and the Committee very receptive and would be pleased to create another stamp for Canada.

*****Meredith MacKinlay has taken the time to autograph 2 First Day covers (donated by Stamp Fair regular Brian Herteis, Corner Block Stamps) and a stamp booklet to be included in the December Charity Auction.*****

The Nova Scotia Post

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Jeff Parks - Graphic Design

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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

THE GREENE FOUNDATION WELCOMES NEW LIBRARY MANAGER



The Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of Natalie Mitchell as Library Manager of the Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library in Toronto, effective November 1, 2023.

Natalie earned Bachelor and Master of Arts, History, degrees at the University of Akron. She has also earned a Master of Information degree at the University of Toronto with a concentration in Archives and Records Management and collaborative specialization in book history and print culture. Natalie brings experience with managing the acquisition and maintenance of collections from rare books & manuscripts to archives and in completing large-scale digitization projects with the requisite meta data generation, in both corporate and academic environments.

Greene Foundation Vice President, Ingo Nessel stated "We are excited to welcome Natalie to our organization. As we seek to enhance our library's services and reach, Natalie, as Library Manager, will be important to its future and a key advocate."

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WHY I COLLECT... CONTINUED...

Americas can, however, be found on stamps from Africa! Figure 2 shows a Rainbow-bearded Thorntail, a 1989 cancelled-to-order stamp from St. Thomas and Prince Islands. This is the **only** stamp ever issued showing the bird. Similarly, Figure 3 illustrates a 2015 mini-sheet from Guinea with the unique issues of the Speckled Hummingbird (upper left) and White-throated Mountaingem (lower left). Looking through my collection of that western hemisphere phenomenon called hummingbirds I find stamps from Chad, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, St. Thomas and Prince, Sierra Leone, Togo and Uganda! Most of them never have seen postal service in their country of issue and never will. They were created for the collector market, to generate money for somebody's pocket. And yet, because they fill holes in my collection (and thereby make me happy), I will continue to acquire them. What a hobby!



CANADA POST HONOURS MONA PARSONS

On November 6, 2023 Canada Post issued a stamp honouring Mona Parsons. Parsons was the only known female Canadian civilian to have been imprisoned by the Nazis during World War II.



Born in Middleton, in 1901, Parsons grew up in Wolfville. After training as a nurse, she married a Dutch businessman, Willem Leonhardt, and moved to the Netherlands. She and her husband were active in the resistance and their home in Laren was used to shelter Allied airmen.

When she and her husband were arrested, a tribunal found her guilty and sentenced her to death. She appealed the verdict and was re-sentenced to life at hard labour which she served at Anrath Penitentiary, Wiedenbrück and finally, Vechna.

In March 1945, Parsons and another prisoner escaped during the allied bombardment. They walked 125 km across Germany to the Netherlands where she was taken to an Allied camp and identified herself as Canadian, the intake officer was a member of the North Nova Scotia Highlanders from Halifax.

She lived in the Netherlands until her husband's death in 1956 when she returned to Nova Scotia. She remarried and lived in Wolfville until her death in 1976.

Today, a statue of Mona Parson can be found in front of the Wolfville, Nova Scotia, post office.

Canada Post, 2023. For more information read: Andria Hill-Lehr *Mona Parsons: From Privilege to Prison, From Nova Scotia to Nazi Europe.*

Photos by Hugh Rathbun



**Join us for the Annual
Anything Goes Auction for Charity
and Holiday Social**

ANYTHING GOES



Please bring your items to support our charities and some goodies for the social event

**December 12
730 pm**

**Museum of
Natural History**

Merry Christmas

Happy Hanukkah

Joyeux Noël

Happy Holidays

GREENE FOUNDATION LIBRARIAN... CONTINUED...

The Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library is home to the foremost British North America philatelic reference collection in the world including a significant collection of early Canadian philatelic journals in OCR searchable format, a comprehensive collection of Canadian auction catalogues and research collections from important Canadian philatelists. In addition to its British North America focus, the library maintains reference material applicable to philately in general and selected worldwide publications. The Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library is a contributing member of the Global Philatelic Library which combines the catalogs of 27 philatelic research libraries worldwide online.

For more information on visit <http://www.greenefoundation.ca/>

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

By Michael Peach

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens is a Christmas favourite. Dickens was an English novelist and social critic who created some of the world's best-known fictional characters, and is regarded by many as the greatest novelist of the Victorian era. The story was first published in London in 1843. It can always be seen on TV, either in the 1951 black and white version with Alastair Sim as Ebenezer Scrooge or in one of the many more modern versions.

At Christmastime 1993, the British Post Office marked the 150th anniversary of the publication of The Christmas Carol with a series of five stamps illustrated by Quentin Blake featuring characters from the story. Quentin Blake is an English cartoonist, cari-



aturist, illustrator and children's writer perhaps best known for his illustrations in Roald Dahl books.

The 19p stamp shows Bob Cratchit carrying Tiny Tim, the 26p Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig with whom Scrooge has been apprenticed, the 30p Scrooge in his counting house, the 35p the prize turkey that Ebenezer purchased on Christmas Day for the Cratchit family and the 41p Ebenezer joining the Christmas Day festivities at his nephew's home.



The British Post Office has recognized several of Dickens' books and characters but they have not issued a stamp featuring Dickens himself. The Soviet Union marked the sesquicentennial of his birth in 1962 with a stamp. The 175th anniversary of Dickens' birth in 1987 was noted by St. Vincent with a pair showing the Cratchits' Christmas.

