

THE NOVA SCOTIA POST

Monthly Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

January 2024
Volume 53, Issue 525

UP AND COMING

NS Stamp Club - Jan. 9 7:30pm
Museum of Natural History

Winter Stamp Fair - Jan. 14 9am – 3pm
East Dartmouth Community Centre
See below for details

Friends of Philately - Jan. 18
3rd Thursday of the month
Museum of Natural History

Moncton Stamp Fair - Jan. 13
100 War Veterans Ave, Moncton

NBCheck 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.

January 9 - Michael Pierce: The Machines How They Came To Be

February 13 - TBA

March 12 - TBA

April 9 - TBA

May 14 - TBA

June 11 - Closing Social

WINTER STAMP FAIR

Sunday, January 14 2024
9 am - 3 pm

Dealers / Club Table
Live Auction at 1:30

East Dartmouth
Community Centre

50 Caledonia Rd., Dartmouth
Free Admission / Free Parking

!!Help....Volunteers Needed!!

RABBIT HOLES AND WONDERLANDS

by David McLaughlin

When collectors get together there is regular mention of having gone down another rabbit hole and the intonation is often that it was a fruitless exercise, something to be avoided in future. Here is my story of a rabbit hole with a wonderland at its bottom.

I collect the Maple Leaf Issue 1897-1898. Some years ago, I saw a registered UPU rate cover from Middleton, Annapolis to Rev. Batista in Port au Prince, Haiti. It was a correct rate to a nice destination, but it had tropical toning, so I didn't buy it. The cover popped up again several times, but I still did not purchase it. A few years later I saw another cover in J-Claude Michaud's stock with the same 3 cent & 1 cent franking and the same Middleton, Annapolis postmarks, but this time to Fremantle, Western Australia. The distinctive handwriting on the first was repeated on this cover. I asked J-Claude to put it aside for a few minutes. I walked across the bourse floor to see if the other cover was still available, and it was. I bought both and for a time displayed them on a page in my exhibit with 3 small maps showing their routing from Middleton to opposite sides of the world. I always wondered who the sender was.



Figure 1: Charles Fisher with his daughters Madeleine and Dorothy
(Source: Rob Fisher)

A few more years passed and then Vic Willson's Victorian Postal Stationery cards came up for auction. I was interested in cards uprated with one cent Leaf stamps for the UPU postcard rate. One card stood out; an uprated card to Mashonaland, Africa, posted again from Middleton, Annapolis and again with the same distinct script. The sender's name was Charles F. Fisher.



Figure 2: Postcard back "From C. F. Fisher, Stationer, Middleton, NS
(Source: Rob Fisher)

But who was Charles F. Fisher? I got several good leads to follow from Nova Scotia collectors. Jane Sodero also posted my query in the Nova Scotia Post. Brian Murphy answered, confirmed that Charles Fisher was a stamp dealer and e-introduced me to Robert Fisher, Charles Fisher's great-grandson, who in turn provided me with Charles Fisher's family tree and advised me of his work as a Middleton merchant, antique dealer, Annapolis County postcard publisher in



Figure 3: C. F. Fisher Store, Middleton (Source: Rob Fisher)

Rabbit Holes continued on Page 3

BRACKETED (#) HANDSTAMPS

by Gary Steele

INSPECTION SERVICE

APR 4 1944

DEAD LETTER OFFICE
OTTAWA. (2)47mm x 30mm
sans-serif, all caps, single frame
no proof known

There are three Ottawa **INSPECTION SERVICE** handstamps known that have not been found in any other city listing. The key characteristic is that they have a number in brackets after 'OTTAWA,' on the lower line 'OTTAWA, (2)' as shown in Figure 1 and 2.

The other numbers known to exist are (14) proofed on Jan 13 1930 and (17) proofed on Jul 6 1940. There is another (14) hammer yet to be reported in use which was proofed on Oct 10 1946 in Hughes (p. 108-5-2)¹. It is unclear why there are proof strikes of two number 14s.

This (2) handstamp is only a single frame rectangle unlike the (14) & (17) handstamps shown that are clearly a double frame rectangle used during similar time frames (Figures 3, 4, 5). Minor lettering differences do exist in height and width.



¹Hughes, J. Paul. Post Office Departmental Proof Strikes of Canada. (Series - Proof Strikes of Canada Vol. 18). Kelowna, B.C.: Robert A. Lee Philatelist Ltd., 1992

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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



RABBIT HOLES... CONTINUED...

addition to stamp dealer.

Charles F. Fisher (b. May 4, 1874, Fredericton – d. August 27, 1951 Boston, MA) was the grandnephew of Charles Fisher, premier of New Brunswick in the 1850s and delegate to the Intercolonial Conferences in Quebec in 1864 and London 1866-1867 leading to confederation. His great aunt Anne was married to Charles Connell, New Brunswick Postmaster General, who famously had a stamp produced with his own image. Besides the three outgoing covers that I have to Western Australia, Haiti and Mashonaland, Brian Murphy has an incoming cover from Leeward Islands; Jane Sodero found incoming covers in the PhilaSearch¹ database (from China and Bermuda. In addition,



Figure 4: Middleton, Annapolis, N.S. to Salisbury, Mashonaland, Africa [Harare, Zimbabwe] Feb 7, 1898 – no arrival markings. (Source: David McLaughlin)

CLUB MEMBER ROB FERGUSON WRITES:**Looking for Oslers**

At the Christmas meeting of the NSSC, I won a bid on a collection of covers. They had come from a larger collection offered at the November Stamp Fair and at the Christmas meeting. Surprisingly, among the envelopes I had purchased were several 19th century covers addressed to ancestors of mine. I would be interested in seeing any others that members may have purchased. If you have envelopes addressed to H.B. Osler; Osler & Hammond (a brokerage firm); Osler, Moss & Foster (a law firm); or, any that might include the Osler name, please contact me at: robferguson51@gmail.com.



Figure 5: Middleton, Annapolis, N.S. to Port au Prince, Haiti, Jun 17, 1898. B/S Saint John, N.B. & New York - 40 days (Source: David McLaughlin)



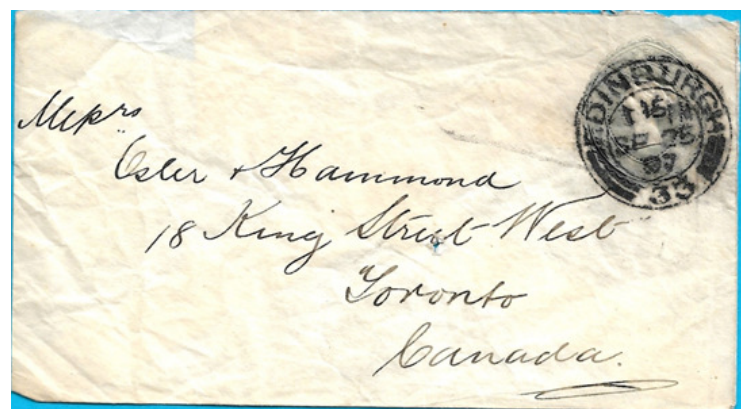
Figure 6: Middleton, Annapolis, N.S. to Fremantle W. Australia, Jun 4, 1898. Via Halifax N.S., London, & Perth - 44 days (Source: David McLaughlin)

Bill Longley sold an outgoing Charles Fisher postcard to Campinas, Brazil several years ago. A writeup of the post card remains on his website².

Thank you to Brian Murphy, Jane Sodero, Robert Fisher and all who helped turn this rabbit hole into a wonderland for me.

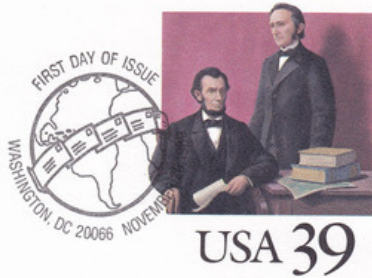
1. www.philasearch.com

2. <https://longleyauctions.com/2020/01/04/rare-5c-connell-stamp-offered-for-sale-in-brazil/>



MONTGOMERY BLAIR - USA POSTMASTER 1861-1864

The sesquicentennial of the Universal Postal Union, UPU, will be celebrated this year, 2024. The initial impetus to simplify international postage was made by Montgomery Blair. Montgomery Blair was a member of a well known politically active family and as a strong anti-slavery advocate, he became one of the earliest supporters of the Republican Party.



In 1861, President Abraham Lincoln appointed him as Postmaster General. The Post Office Department was in near shambles financially and the public was dissatisfied with the services offered. The whole system was too complex to be readily understood by postmasters. The international mail system was poor and defective, almost beyond belief.

Blair instituted a number of reforms, including free city delivery, the money order system and the railway mail service. His major contribution to international mail was the organisation of the first Universal Postal Conference in Paris in 1863 with 15 European and American postal administrations. The conference established important general principles, but implementation was delayed by the American Civil War and the Franco Prussian War. Blair fell out of favour and was replaced by President Lincoln in 1864.



The Universal Postal Union, UPU, was later formed as a result of the 1874 Berne conference that had been organised by Dr. Heinrich Stephan, a career bureaucrat with the Post Office. (Dr.

by Michael Peach

Heinrich Stephan was ennobled by the Kaiser in 1884 becoming von Stephan.)

Montgomery has been featured on various stamps. In 1963, the US Post Office marked the centenary of the Paris Conference with an airmail stamp. He was recognised with Heinrich Stephan as one of the pioneers of Universal Post in 1974 by Belgium and by Switzerland together with Eugène Borel, a key player in the formation of the Union and its first director.



The 20th UPU Congress was held in Washington in 1989 and the USPS issued a commemorative aerogramme. The 39c stamp shows



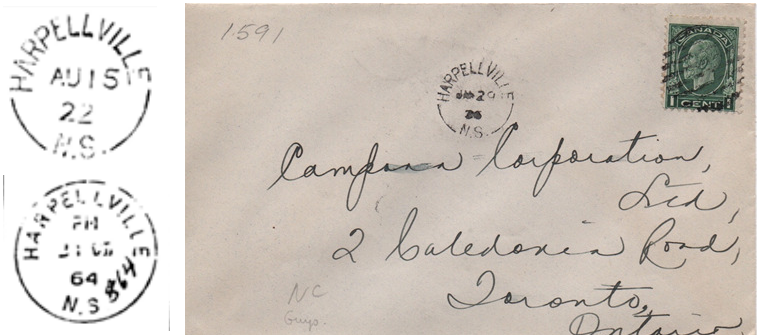
HARPELLVILLE, GUYSBOROUGH CO, NS

Some time ago a club member mentioned to me that he was from Harpellville. Since it is in Guysborough County, it is one of the offices I collect. Located in the Municipality of the District of Saint Mary's, it is about 20 km from Sherbrooke and 5 km from Port Bickerton. A 100-acre land grant was given to Luke Harpell in 1874 and another to Theodore Luke Harpell in 1919.¹ The post office opened on September 1, 1922 and closed on March 30, 1968 PO due to its "limited usefulness". Residents then received their mail via Rural Mail Delivery service via Sherbrooke RR #2.²

The first postmaster was Howard Stanley Harpell, according to the 1921 and 1931 censuses he was a carpenter and a fisherman. Upon his death in 1935 at aged 46, his widow, Emma Kate (Kaiser) Harpell acted as postmistress until Isaac Harpell, Howard's brother, was appointed until 1961. Jean Minerva (Horton) Kaiser was the last postmistress of Harpellville before the office closed in 1968, along with many other rural post offices.³

by Jane Sodero

Two proof strikes are documented – a split circle from 1922 and a circular date stamp from 1964. The cover from January 1936 is addressed to the Campana Corporation in Toronto which sold hand creams and cosmetics.



1. <https://archives.novascotia.ca/places/>
2. <https://bitly.ws/38wKh>
3. <https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/>