



Nova Scotia Stamp Club Newsletter

www.nsstampclub.ca

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June 2004

Up and Coming

Every Saturday 4pm Auction
Seaside Book and Stamp

June 8 Club Meeting, Social
Philatelic Flea Market

June 12 Kermese
Stamp Table and so much more

June 12 Stamp Fair
Burnside Motel, Dartmouth

Summer Stamp Fairs TBA

Fall Stamp Fairs
Second Saturday of the Month
Burnside Motel, Dartmouth

September 14 Club Meeting

October 12 Club Meeting

ROYAL 2004

I would like to thank all the members of the Club whose untiring efforts made Royal*2004*Royale such a success. I am sure that we will remember it for many years. I do not think that we need to wait another 39 years before hosting the next Royal*Royale.

Michael.

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Botswana Meter Marks

by Gordon Smith

We have all seen them - those red marks on envelopes that are used in place of stamps. Metered postage was first introduced in 1903 in Norway. The Universal Postal Union approved the use of metered mail for international postage in 1920. In 1962, the worldwide value of postage paid by meters exceeded that of adhesive postage stamps. In 1996, United States Postal Service had revenue of \$56 billion, of which meters accounted for \$21 billion of the total, while \$12 billion came from the lick or peel variety of postage. The rest of the revenue came from express mail, parcel post, certified letters and so on.

While other countries in the region, such as South Africa and the Rhodesias, were issuing meter licences as early as the 1920's, Botswana (known as the Bechuanaland Protectorate prior to independence in 1966) remained largely undeveloped until the 1970's, and there does not appear to have been any licences issued prior to that decade.

The first known Botswana meter franking is licence no. UA1, issued to the Standard Bank of Botswana in the capital city, Gaborone, dated 13 November 1970 (Figure 1). This mark was created by a Universal MV 'Automax' machine from Universal Postal Frankers Ltd.



Figure 1:
Earliest Known Botswana Meter Mark

The meter marking machines quickly appeared in most of the major centres in the more developed eastern portion of the country. Today, the use of machines has spread to relatively rural communities throughout all parts of the country.

232 licence numbers had been issued by March 1999, at which time the Post Office reviewed and contacted the list of licence holders to confirm that they were still using their licence. The Post Office recalled 78 unused numbers and prepared to re-issue them to new users. Including the re-issued numbers, a total of 327 licences had been granted by August 2002. As of April this year, the Post Office has suspended issuing new licences pending the introduction of machines that can be digitally recharged by telephone.

In countries other than Botswana, the meter licence prefix usually indicates the meter machine make and or model. In Botswana, after an early attempt to assign prefixes, postal authorities seem to have settled on the universal prefix 'R' for all meters used in the country.

Through my research I have developed a list of licence holders and a typology of marks resulting in the identification of 19 types of marks and over 70 sub-types. The typology is based on the analysis of a variety of characteristics of a mark (Figure 2). I am trying to link the mark to a particular make and model of franking machine. I am also developing a list of earliest recorded dates, errors, and logos. Visit my web site for more information:

www3.ns.sympatico.ca/hoddersmith

Continued **Botswana** Page 2

Overheard a Dealers Table

One dealer was asked, How does one become a stamps dealer?"

The reply. "First you buy a bag of marbles. Then every time you buy a stamp collection, remove one marble for the bag and throw it away.. When you've lost all your marbles you are a stamp dealer."



New issues in June. The booklet of six tourist attraction stamp, issued June 1, depicts the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal. Lest we forget the D-Day 60th anniversary June 6.

**Nova Scotia Stamp Club
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada**

<http://www.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.

Dues are \$15 per person or \$22.50 per couple (\$20 US) payable to:

John Harvey, Treasurer
46 Farquharson St.
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The Newsletter mailing address is:
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385 Poplar Drive
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or Jeff Parks, Layout Editor
jlparks@accesswave.ca

Advertising Rate: \$25 (CDN) per year

The Club website is maintained by Neil and Judy Bowlby. (bowlby@accesswave.ca).



Figure 2:
Parts of a Meter Mark

Botswana continued

So, why do I collect Botswana Meter Marks? I lived there for 8 years. While I collected the country's stamps, there are only a small number of issues, and I quickly developed a fairly complete collection of used and mint. Collecting varieties is expensive and is not a primary interest of mine. I am attracted to postal history and unusual items such as local posts, Christmas seals, registration markings, official free marks, etc; basically, any non-stamp method of assisting things to be delivered to others through the mail. While in Botswana, meter covers were relatively inexpensive to obtain and I was and continue to be able to do original research on a neglected method of moving the mail. I find it an interesting aspect of postal history.

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Stamp Oddities

The Kingdom of Bhutan is a country nestled in the eastern Himalayas. The only source of foreign exchange once was the exotic stamps it sold in international markets, featuring everything from paintings by the likes of Renoir to the space program.

On April 15, 1973, Bhutan, issued a series of stamps that looked like record albums. If you put them on a record player and they would actually play. The seven stamp series (Scott 152, 152A-F) play the Royal Bhutan anthem (25 ch), Bhutanese History -in English or Bhutanese (depending on the denomination), and Bhutanese folk



songs or combinations there-of. The Scott 152C (3 nu) and 152F (9 nu) airmail varieties (left) are 100mm in diameter, the rest in the series are 69 mm in diameter, all in a variety of colours.

Royal*2004*Royale a Big Hit

By all indications, the 76th National Convention of the Royal Philatelic Society in Halifax, Nova Scotia - Royal*2004*Royale was a huge success. Not only did the Lord Nelson provide ample space for a national show of this calibre, the setting was also intimate enough to give you a homey feeling that a convention centre would not.

Nova Scotians, Maritimers, and of course other convention goers, were provided with a large bourse that hasn't provided this much material to choose from in the Halifax area for some time.

The exhibits provided a variety of topics and subjects to all those interested and all exhibits received an award (RPSC medals- bronze to gold). In addition to the Royal awards, major prizes were also awarded and NSSC club Member Sandy Clark took the top prize and several other awards for his *Early Nova Scotia Postmarks* exhibit. Other club members also received top awards.

Major Prizes to NSSC Members

GRAND AWARD

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY AWARD

POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF CANADA AWARD

KEN C. MACDONALD AWARD

Sandy Clark, Early Nova Scotia Postmarks

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PHILATELIC EXHIBITORS AWARDS

Marty Zelenietz, Lakatoi!!

HENRY HICKS AWARD

Graham McCleave, Registered Letter Stamps-Canada

MADGE MORISON AWARD

Michael Peach

For a complete synopsis of all medal and major award winners of **Royal*2004* Royale** visit the Nova Scotia Stamp Club website at :
<http://www.nsstampclub.ca/royal>

- Photos - 1. Bourse participants in the Admiral Room with Youth Exhibits.
2. Cunard/Allan Stamp mock up from stamp launch next to CSN table.
3. Studying the exhibits.
4. Looking for that elusive item in the Regency Ballroom.
5. A view of the exhibit setup.
6. Gearing up the next generation of stamp collectors in the Youth area - "The Back Alley".



ROYAL YARD SALE

There are a number of items used for the Royal that are no longer needed:

Old style NSSC frames, for 8 pages, with Plexiglass, \$ 8 each

Blackboard type easels, \$ 6 each

Filing cabinet, 2 drawer standard size with lock, as new, \$ 25

Plexiglass, new, for old style NSSC frames, \$ 7 each.

Contact Michael, 832-1662

Newsletter Articles

Thanks to all those who provided articles or ideas for this year's ten newsletters. The summer break is upon us and now is a good time to put pen to paper and get the those articles written for next seasons newsletters. Don't know what to say? No worries, one typed page will fill several columns - but add images and descriptive text and the length can be shorter. Feeling a bit more prolific? Again if you have a long article we can serialize it over several months. Let others see what's in your collection, share your research and knowledge. Our newsletter is a good proving ground for the national journals. Contact Dennis or Jeff for more details.

Worldwide Cover Box

Thanks to member's generosity, our "Worldwide Covers" box is full again and surely a bargain at 50 cents each, or 5 for \$2. This is worth checking out!

NEW!!!- a second box of covers, exclusively from Canada and the USA. Three for a buck, a lone loonie- what a deal!! Stock up while they last! All proceeds from cover sales go directly to the club.

Thanks to the estate of the late Brig. George Robertson, we now have a pile of interesting covers to add to the worldwide and Canada/US boxes. Our thanks to Shirley Robertson for donating the material. It may take a couple of months to fit them all in, so keep you eyes peeled for new additions.

**Newsletter Available
Electronically**

If you wish to receive the newsletter in an electronic format (Adobe Acrobat - pdf) you can download it from the club website www.nsstampclub.ca. The web version has a reduced resolution from the original and usually has a size of approx 300 Kb.

Couldn't make it? See the results at the Royal*2004*Royale website: <http://www.nsstampclub.ca/royal>

Back of Book Stuff

Do you like doing word searches? Check out *Black Dog's Stamp Collecting Word Search Game* with seemingly endless rescramble possibilities.

<http://blackdog4kids.com/games/word/seekword/stamp-collecting.html>

Now that summer is finally here do you find yourself lamenting for winter? Visit the Finish Post's *Santa Claus Main Post Office* website and get the jump on Christmas.

<http://www.pmk.posti.fi/santa/engl/mainoffice2.htm>

A \$8 Grizzly Bear and a couple of low-value definitive stamps cancelled 2004-04-01 in Port Hastings with a pictorial cancel - "Gateway to Cape Breton".



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A mail box seen by the Bowlby's on the roadside in a small farming community called Culverden, on the South Island, New Zealand.

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