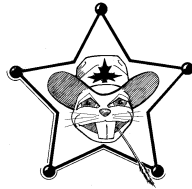


**BEAVER****CHATTER**

The Newsletter of the Prairie Beaver Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society, Ltd.

Chairman: **George Dresser** Treasurer: **John Furlong** Editor: **Vic Willson**

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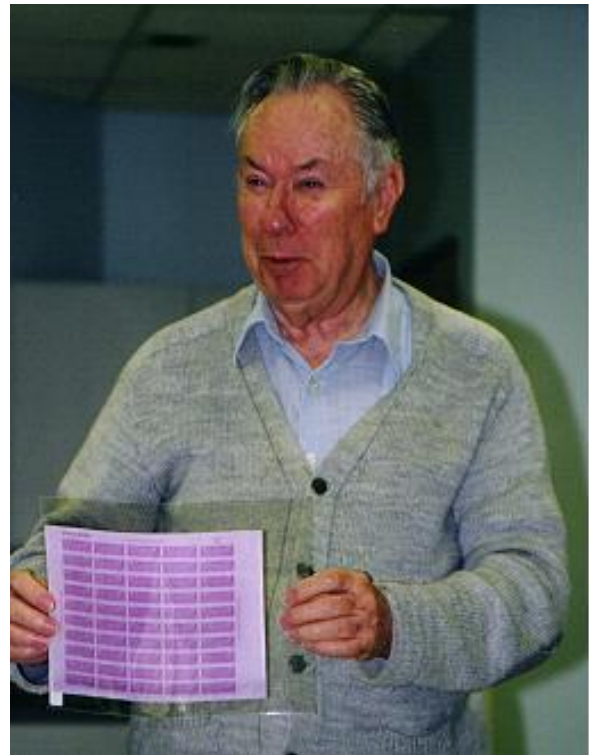
## GEORGE ARFKEN TO SPEAK IN HOUSTON

OTB member George Arfken will once again visit the Prairie Beavers during his annual wildflower tour while visiting his son in Houston. The March 6 meeting will include George's presentation on his newest work on 19<sup>th</sup> Century Postcards. The meeting will be held at the **Youth Building of St. Paul's Methodist Church, 5501 South Main** in Houston. The Youth Building is the two story structure north of the Church on Calumet St., where we have met numerous times over the last decade. A map is provided elsewhere in this issue. **John Furlong** will host; please contact him at [john.furlong@theaustin.com](mailto:john.furlong@theaustin.com) by email or a postcard to 8101 Amelia #306, Houston TX 77055 or by phone at 713- 468-0416.

George Arfkin will give morning and an afternoon presentations on the postal history of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. This is based on the collections assembled by Warren Wilkinson through Chuck Firby's guidance. Warren has won several recent Grand Awards at BNAPEX for these and last year for his BC postal history. Bring your NS and NB classic material if you have it.

### FALL MEETING SUCCESS

The Fall meeting of the Prairie Beavers was a great success. Hosted by Charles Deuer, MD, at his professional offices, the venue proved to be easy to get to from all directions, and quite spacious. Attendees included Bob



*George Arfken at a previous PB meeting in Houston*

Olds, George Dresser, Martin Shelton, Charles, Vic Willson, Woody Poore, Ralph Poore, and Jeff Switt.

In literature and online activity, Bob Olds reported on Ralph Trimble's re-entry web site, which can be accessed at <http://www.re-entries.com/index.html>. Jeff Switt showed a US postal guide for 1891. Charles Deuer presented a new Royal Train book. Vic Willson brought Horace Harrison's registration collection, bound into three volumes by BNAPS in its photocopy series.

He also showed Kimber Wald's marvelous collection of Special Delivery, the best since G H Davis's collection was broken up- also bound by BNAPS. Herb McNaught's Half Cents Small Queen collection reproduced by BNAPS was available, in the color and black and white versions (talk about redundant and unnecessary except for a few colorful covers!). George Dresser reported on Norris Dyer's Newfoundland 3c overprint BNAPS book.

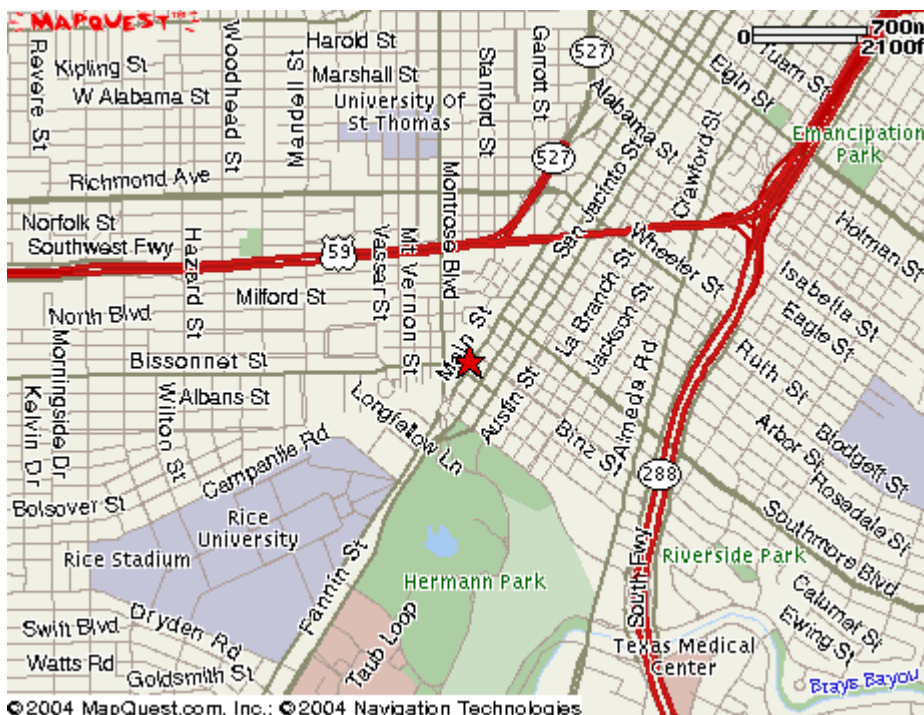
The first presentation was by Charles Deuer on the Royal Train, and Charles showed a lovely representation of collateral material such as porcelain plates, books, photos and framed pictures, copies of FDR correspondence with KGVII from the US archives, etc. He then showed a representation of covers related to the train's progress. The collection is reminiscent of Doug Lingard's outstanding collection of such material. The two should get together to compare notes. Doug is always at ORAPEX in early May, Charles.

The clothesline had its usual variety of material, including new postcard material from Vic Willson, such as a special delivery

postcard with US SD stamp turn of the century, a registered postcard to College Station from Canada 1892; Jeff Switt showed some US printed matter material with enclosures; Martin Shelton had some nice private picture postcards. George Dresser showed an AR letter form returned from Beirut, Ottoman Empire in the Edward period, a Hong Kong destination registered letter and a registered letter to Greece with 10c Edward.

Jeff Switt presented his grand award (Houston Stamp Show) exhibit of US Special Delivery rate material. Later Vic Willson showed cigarette and cigar taxpays to illustrate the variety of such material, with sheets of some issues. Much of that material was originally Ed Richardson's, through Lee Bandom to Don Makinen and Woody Poore, later purchased by Vic. It now has a 30 year+ provenance within the PB group.

While a somewhat smaller than usual gathering, the meeting had all the characteristics of a good PB meeting and was well enjoyed by all.



There are some significant road closings currently being made on US 59 and several related connecting roads. Those coming from the north and west might want to come over from the 610 loop on Bellaire and over on Main, for example. Check with John Furlong if not certain.

**PRAIRIE BEAVER MEETING, MARCH 6, 2004  
SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

8:45 - 9:00	Coffee, donuts, informal
9:00 - 9:15	Introductions
9:15 - 9:30	Book review
9:30 - 9:45	Internet review (new sites, action)
9:45 - 10:15	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
10:15 - 11:00	Presentation: NS and NB Postal History, Part 1 by George Arfken,OTB
11:00 - 11:30	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
11:30 - 12:15	Clothesline Exhibit (BNA stuff)
12:15 - 1:00	Lunch (hosted- bring appetite)
1:00 - 1:15	Business meeting <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Plan spring, summer, fall</li> <li>2. Exhibit/show attendance</li> </ol>
1:15 - 2:00	Clothesline exhibit non-BNA material- bring something from a different philatelic interest
2:00 - 2:30	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
2:30 - 3:00	Presentation: NS and NB Postal History, Part 2 by George Arfken,OTB
3:00 - 3:45	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
3:45 - 4:15	Presentation: Tobacco Revenues of the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century by Vic Willson
4:00 - 4:45	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
4:45 - 5:00	Wrapup, settle up
5:30	Dutch treat dinner- TBA



**SECOND EARLIEST  
CANADA-US  
SPECIAL DELIVERY  
COVER**

Through a stamp deal with fellow collector Bill Radcliffe, the cover shown on this page now resides on the first page of my Canada SD frame of covers to the US. Dated Hamilton, JY 4, 1895, the 3c postal stationery envelope was mailed to Newbury Port, Mass. With a 10c E2 affixed but not cancelled in Canada, per agreement from an as yet undetermined but presumably early time in the US special delivery era, the cover was placed in the US mails. In a New York and Chicago Railway Post Office car the E2 stamp was cancelled, another free strike affixed, and the cover sent to Newburyport with a July 5 receiver on the front.

The earliest recorded cover is also illustrated in color. It was in the Dale-Liechtenstein collection, sold in the "Ten" auction by Eatons in 1995, lot 2388. Mailed Oct. 19, 1892, to Brooklyn NY from Quebec, it also has an E2 along with a pair of ½ c SQs and 2c SQ on a hotel cover. The notation "Unique" was given with the photo listing, but no discussion of it in the text of the lot. Another cross-border cover in 1897 with a US E2 noted the registration



was unique on an overprinted EN14 with a 5c Jubilee, so maybe the typesetter used the same setup.

Of course what is earliest or second earliest lasts only until the next cover comes along. Clearly, however, 19<sup>th</sup> century usage of the US special delivery system from Canada is scarce to rare. The 1987 registration would have been redundant in the US but necessary in Canada to ensure internal registration. Since Canada used the same system for Special Delivery as for Registration when it was implemented in 1898, registration was unnecessary unless one wanted insurance, which was not available until March 28, 1904. Nevertheless, some individuals felt more secure including both methods of security.

BTW, Bill R. found this item in a dealer box in NJ for a nominal sum.

### An Extraordinary Item

The item shown at left is one of the most interesting items I have obtained in many years. It is part of a large cardboard container 12 ½" x 10" x ½" mailed from Bruno, Sask. To Berlin, Germany Dec. 8, 1927. What it contained will be shown at the Prairie Beaver Meeting. The notation on the front, "Printed Matter" indicates, along with the contents, that it passed at the UPU 2c per 2 oz. rate in effect Oct. 1, 1925. Additional confirmation of the connection to Bruno is contained with the item itself.

The franking of a pair of 20c Admirals is also probably unique for a foreign destination item. While I have a number of covers franked with single 20c stamps to various countries, usually paying 10c registration and 10c letter rate, there are few possibilities to have mailed material overseas in the 1912-1928 period with such a high franking. The other high value items I have are a strip of three of the 20c on a portion of a wrapper to Belgium that sent a copy of the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Canada to the library of the University of Brussels, registered for parcel to England from Dawson City, with a pair of 50c Admirals among other stamps, and a money parcel tag to England with a pair of \$1 Admirals. Not a bad showing of such multiples. Of course the 10c stamps are much easier to come across and many such exist.

The poor scan is due to the difficulty in getting a 3D object onto a flatbed scanner.



**ROBERT A LEE AUCTION** March 13 The upcoming Lee auction can't match the outstanding quality of the last few auctions that featured Horace Harrison's material (thank goodness as an ease to the pocketbook), but it has an incredible hoard of Yukon covers all sent to the Assistant Gold Commissioner during the first decade or so of the Gold Rush. Most are registered and many are from the outlying communities such as Forty Mile, Gold Run, Granville, Hunker, Last Chance, Lower Dominion, Paris, Pelly, Radford, Stewart River, Sulphur, and Thistle Creek. It is not told how this group of covers, located in Whitehorse, left government hands, but probably was thrown out by some idiot bureaucrat or clerk without looking at what it was. One cover has a full pane of the Edward booklet, and several have partial panes. This should stimulate Yukon collecting.

It is the increase in available material that ultimately creates collector interest and raises prices. The dearth of interesting Pence material is a great example of why it is little collected. Beyond 4 rings there is little to collect without buying in 4 or more figures. Of course the well heeled can go after the foreign material, but there are so few really different things to go after in the stamp area and domestic cover field that it is not of interest to work on. In contrast, there is not a great horde of Yukon material, but it is mostly reasonable prices (covers in the early 1900s can often be had for under \$25), has worldwide destinations available, various rates (such as the parcel post item to England mentioned earlier), much collateral material such as post cards, photos, etc. that it can make a really fun area to chase. The new batch can only add to interest.



**MARESCH AUCTION** March 2-4. This auction features some lovely advertising covers from Small Queen to Admiral eras. Someone had fun putting together the accumulation shown in the catalog in full color. What is noticeable in this auction as well as almost everyone else with Canadian material is the dearth of good early postal history material available these days. It is no secret that auctioneers are scrambling and rearranging their concepts of what can be sold. A few years ago Maresch would have consigned much of what is now pictured to large lots. One only has to look at catalogs from the early 1990s to see how things have changed. Are there more collectors soaking up the limited supply of postal history? Is it being accumulated in a few large collections? Certainly several of the big time collectors have taken big chunks of classic material off the market, but it is hard to believe it is all gone. Nevertheless, Pence, Decimal, and Large Queen covers are hard to come by, and what is being offered is usually second rate.

### Large Queen Stamps

I have been tracking LQs on ebay for some time. The availability on any given day of the number of stamps equal to their Scott number makes a joke of the Scott or Unitrade pricing. I commented a few issues back on the 1c LQ pricing, and it is clear that even exceptional quality stamps can be had for a fraction of catalog. One can put together on any given day a complete selection of mint LQs (at least they are advertised as such). Most are NG, although there are surprises. I purchased a 3c LQ with disturbed but full OG for

under \$50. A slightly better copy went for under \$200. The 3c has traditionally been one of the most difficult to find in mint OG condition, and only the 1c Yellow was considered to be tougher and more expensive. Most offered on ebay are NG and often questionable. Still, there is a lot out there. Similarly, compared with public auctions, there are lots of cancels on LQs to be found for quite good prices. I just bought a fancy cancel on 6c that I do not think viewers realized was a Toronto fancy 2 Lacelle 38. Two and four rings are not in that category, as there are enough competitors for the better numbers to run them up. The secret is to look at the small lots of either LQs or of Victoria stamps. Often there are good items in these to be had at great prices. Buyers are loathe to buy a lot with stamps they don't want, but to my eye you can buy the whole lot cheaper than what you would pay for the single item you want if it were put up individually.

There are enough nice used LQs to put together a nice little collection of cancels, fancy, auxiliary markings, cds's, rings, etc. For the 15c there are a lot of nice squared circles continually available, including some real rarities. A good eye scanning often marginal pictures can get real goodies. I know this to be true from the finds some friends are making.

The postcard to the right illustrates an interesting UPU regulation. While correctly paid, the card size was nonconforming to the requirement that nothing but the address was authorized on the front. Since this card to France violated the reg., it was charged as a letter shortpaid 3c = 15cm as noted. Apparently the double deficiency was not charged in this case.

