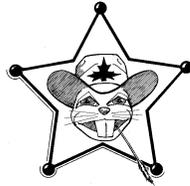


BEAVER**CHATTER**

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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2005 PB Meeting Schedule

The Prairie Beavers agreed to the following meeting schedule:

- A January 15 meeting in College Station at the Community Center
- An early March meeting in Houston, probably Mar 12
- A late May meeting in Bowie, likely May 21
- September 16-18- **Greater Houston Stamp Show**

JANUARY 15 MEETING IN COLLEGE STATION

The next Prairie Beaver meeting will be at the College Station Community Center on George Bush Drive across from the TAMU campus golf course. Contact Vic Willson if you need room arrangements. The local motels and hotels should have room availability, although this is the weekend before classes resume, so some parents may be in town moving their kids back. The Holiday Inn is close, as is the Hampton Inn. You can check easily online by using Google to search "college station hotels" or call Vic at 979-696-0193.

BNAPS ONLINE PUBLICATIONS- TOPICS AND CUMULATIVE INDEX

The BNAPS Board approved placing the entire TOPICS volumes up to 5 years ago in an online searchable database at the BNAPS website <http://www.bnaps.org>. In a letter to the editor of the upcoming Portraits, Dale Spiers castigates this decision as gutting the benefits of BNAPS for members. Those in favor felt the education mission of the Society was supported by making our knowledge base more available, and the five year lag would retain those who want current or new information. Spiers suggested that the Study Groups were not much of a benefit, and on this point I think he is quite mistaken. Joining BNAPS just to get Study Group newsletters should be a major inducement for anyone who is serious about a specialty area. There was no movement toward adding the Study Group newsletters, although that info is much more detailed and inaccessible now than TOPICS, which can be obtained through APS in any case.

The search function is based on the cumulative index developed by Charles Livermore. Under copyright law, BNAPS can make available the entire volume set, which it owns, as long as individual

articles, which may be copyrighted by the author, are not separated out for listing or reproduction. Fair use laws allow individual copying for limited use. With the potential of the IRS to breath down BNAPS's neck on its income and expenditures, the Society clearly needs to create and support more educational activities such as the handbook publications, books, outreach programs, etc.

THE CEYLON FIND

One of the most important correspondences of the last 50 years recently surfaced. A cover was put up on ebay that had 22c postage paid with 2c and 4x5c Small Queens dated 1877 to Ceylon. It took me about 2 minutes to figure out this was a previously unrecorded rate and destination. While the date was correct for the 20c rate via Brindisi, the 2c extra was for the US routing via New York. No such rate to India, Burma, Ceylon, or Singapore has previously been recorded (see pic on next page).

Fellow BNAPSer Bill Radcliffe put a marker bid on it, and after a couple days the lot suddenly was withdrawn. About a half day later Dealer Bill Longley sent an email with a listing of almost a dozen covers to Ceylon, about with the pre-UPU rate and half at the post-UPU 10c per half oz. rate. Many were multiple weight frankings. This listing includes:



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE WILLSONS



Pre-UPU

7x3c+1c SQ Feb 1877
 4x5c+2c SQ Apr 1877
 " May 1877
 " July 1877
 " July 1877
 " Aug. 1877
 " Nov. 1877
 7x3c, 1c stp missing Jan 1878
 4x5c+2c SQ Mar 1878
 4x5c, 2c stp missing Apr 1878
 4x5c+2c SQ May 1878
 " July 1878
 post-UPU
 2x5c SQ Sep 1878
 3x3c SQ 1c stp missing Oct 1878
 4x5c SQ Feb 1879
 2x5c SQ Apr 1879
 3x5c+2x2c, 1c stp missing May 1879
 4x5c SQ May 1879
 2x5c SQ Mar 1880



Longley apparently contacted the owner of the ebay cover and convinced him to sell the entire correspondence. Apparently the owner is an elderly fellow, a direct descendent of the correspondents, who owned a coffee company in Ceylon. Bill Radcliffe was offered for sale the double weight of May 1879, an outstanding cover. I couldn't properly edit it from the acrobat file but will bring it on a laptop for those who want to see all the covers at the Jan. meeting.

PARCEL POST MANIA In the "when it rains it pours" division, I have had the opportunity to buy three important parcel post items in the last couple months after having gone after Horace Harrison's material last year. I am happy to report that these new items were the equal of what Horace had in the comparable periods. In addition, all three had 15c Large Queens as part of the frankings, which significantly improved my variety of frankings in the parcel post area. I can now show frankings with the 5c and 12 ½ c Decimals, ½ c, 1c red, 3c, 5c, 12 ½ c, and 15c Large Queens. 1c, 3c, 5c, 6c and 10c Small Queens, 50c Widow Weed, 20c Edward, along with 5c RLS. In 5th class I can show 1c, 2c, 3c, and 10c Small Queens along with 5c RLS, as well as 1c and 5c Jub, as well as assorted Leaf and Numeral issues. Shown on the next page are some of these new acquisitions.

In Harrison's book on Canadian registration, he comments that parcel post items with the 5c RLS are scarce to rare. The top piece has an 1888 date, and the 15c is a nice shade of blue. The bottom piece includes a ½ c Large Queen, one of only a couple items (Horace had another) with that stamp. Both items pay the triple 6c rate per 4 oz. The third item shown is a 25c franking in the period when the rate was 12 ½ c per lb prior to 1879. It is dated 1868 with 15c, 1c, and three 3c Large Queens, all tied by 4 ring 47 cancels of Three Rivers.

Dissa & Data here's some info on the Arlington show. Jay and Jeff served on the jury of the Mid-Cities show. Also seen in attendance were Martin Shelton who had a bourse table, Denise Stotts helping Jay spend his money (she won a \$25 door prize good at any dealer) and Dr. Charles Deuer. Jeff has a new website, <http://www.postalhysteria.net> with covers for sale, both US and Canada. Take a look.

**PRAIRIE BEAVER MEETING, Jan. 15, 2005
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: Building a Single Stamp Exhibit- Gary Giroux
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
1:15 - 2:00	Buy-in Auction: \$10 gets you in
2:00 - 2:30	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
2:30 - 3:00	Presentation: Uses of the 20c Admiral - Vic Willson
3:00 - 3:45	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
3:45 - 4:15	Presentation: TBA
4:00 - 4:45	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
4:45 - 5:00	Wrapup, settle up
5:15	Dinner at local restaurant



The Willson clan, left to right: Kurt, Vic, Dustin (1 year old), Carl, April, Eric, and Scott. Grandson Micheal is hiding. All will be in College Station for the holidays, and all wish you the best for this season and for the coming year.

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**