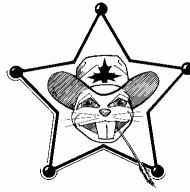


BEAVER**CHATTER**

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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NOVEMBER 19 MEETING AT COLLEGE STATION

The Dressers and Phillips' will host the next PB meeting at College Station on Saturday November 19 at the College Station Conference Center. Those who can make it up there on Friday evening are invited to a 7pm no-host dinner at Wings and More, south College Station at Deacon and Texas Ave. South (going toward Houston on Texas Avenue past the Walmart about a half mile to the Deacon stop light, right turn to Wings. They have great wings, chicken-fried steak, etc. Let George know at 979-696-4361 if you are coming Friday or Saturday or email at g-dresser@cox-internet.com drop a card to 501 Fairview Ave., College Station TX 77840.

GREATER HOUSTON STAMP SHOW SEPTEMBER 17, HUMBLE CIVIC CENTER

The PBs met at the GHSC on Saturday. In attendance were Rick Parama, Ed Christman, Jim Kulwicki (in from Kentucky), Vic Willson, and several attendees to the show. Jeff Switt was a dealer but also subbed as a judge after Ann Triggler had to cancel out, so he was at the frames and unable to attend.

Attendees caught up on current situations. Jim K. is a doctoral student in history at the U. Kentucky, will complete his degree in perhaps two years, then on to an academic career. Rick Parama is at least temporarily back in the US, although potential large-scale projects in Asia may send him back. Discussions of online stamp activities, some new literature, and new acquisitions filled up a couple hours of discussion.

At the show the Black Stamp/Philatelic Material Challenge was won by Brad Horton for a full-face McKinley card. Vic Willson won reserve grand for his Canada Post Cards 1871-1928.

Vic Willson Wins Grand Award at BNAPEX 2005

PB member Vic Willson received the Grand Award at the Edmonton BNAPEX convention for his *Postal History and Usages of the Canada Post Card 1871-1928*. The unexpected winner was chosen over Kevin O'Reilly's *A Pre-Confederation Postal History of Labrador*, reserve grand winner, and Warren Wilkinson's *Prince Edward Island Postal Rates 1851-187*. A beautiful pottery plate was given as the award, and it will be shown at the Nov. 19 meeting.

BNAPEX 05 was an excellent convention with great attendance, a superior bourse with over 30 dealers, some of whom are never seen outside the BC/ALTA area, and some fine study group meetings. A few meetings had serious problems with nonattendance, but the usually active ones were well attended with good programs. There were several nice tours, including to Fort Edmonton and surround, to the Provincial Museum, and to one of the interesting shopping streets. A Thursday night visit to a local ranch with dinner was quite enjoyable. If you see the photos in the latest *BNA PortraitS*, the first issue in color (colour for the Canadians), you will get a sense of the meeting.

If there was a disappointment for me, it was the lack of significant Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, and Alberta postal history exhibits. Given the 1905-2005 celebration I expected significant material to be shown, but it was not there. Joe Smith's *Golden Prairie Diamonds* was as close as it got, unfortunately.

Clint Phillips was the other PB member to exhibit, with *Canada and the United States Connection*, which received a bronze, but some suggestions to publish it in segments and to continue the concept. We encourage him also to pursue it, as it is both novel and open-ended as to topics to pursue through philately. As Earle Covert has shown repeatedly, exhibiting can be about exploring new ideas, material not otherwise shown, or stuff that does not fit typical philately.

**PRAIRIE BEAVER MEETING, November 19, 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 - 10:45	Presentation: <i>The Turkey Track and Fort Mcleod</i> by Rick Parama
10:45 - 11:15	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
11:30 - 12:00	Clothesline Exhibit
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch provided by hosts
1:00 - 1:15	Business meeting
1:15 - 2:00	Silent auction begins (accumulated donations), Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
2:00 - 2:30 and Vic Willson	Presentation: BNAPEX exhibits: Clint Philips
2:30 - 3:30	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade; Silent auction ends
3:30 - 4:00	<i>Mock auction of auction items already sold (\$1000 phantom start amount) Prizes for closest buy prices</i>
4:00 - 4:45	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
4:45 - 5:00	Wrapup, settle up
5:15	Dinner at local restaurant

MAIL TO THE USSR- 1923.

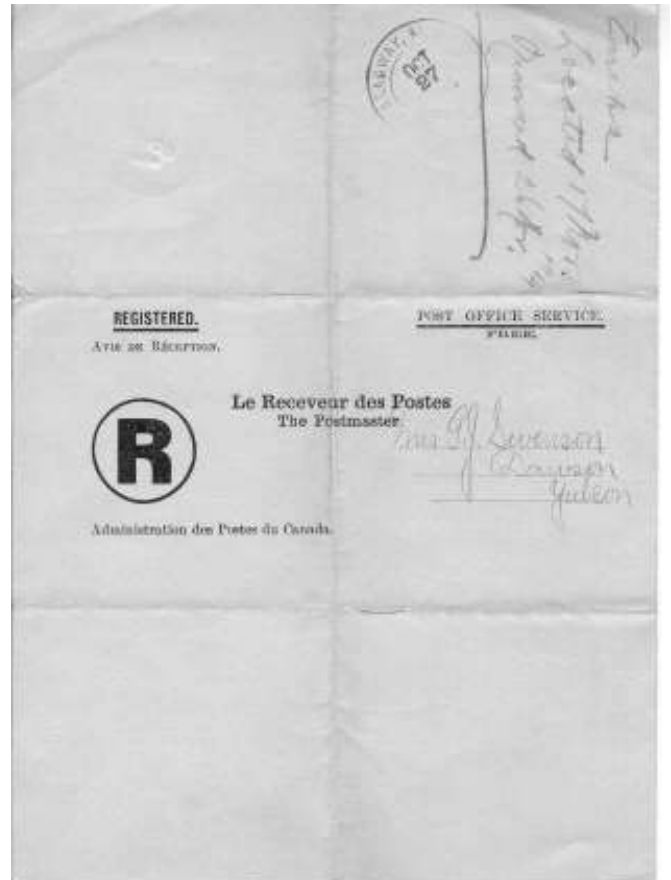
One item I have looked for over the last decade plus and finally acquired at Edmonton is a cover to the USSR during the Admiral period I collect. I have a personal interest, as my mother was born in Kiev, Ukraine, in 1922, and told me about life under the communists during the 1920s and 1930s. One thing was certain- very quickly letters from outside the USSR were viewed with suspicion as the White-Red civil war raged in the early 1920s, and the potential to be shot or sent to Siberia as a counter-revolutionary was quite real for receiving a letter from the West. The cover shown below was sent at the 10c per half oz rate from New Westminster, BC, Oct. 29, 1923, to Odessa, Ukraine. While in previous times it probably would have gone via Siberia, at this time Siberia was still in uncertain conditions (at one point it revolted from Moscow), and likely the cover went east. On the back are a Moscow transit of Nov. 19, Odessa Nov. 22 receiver, and Return/Unknown markings on the front with indecipherable dater. The cover was received at Montreal Jan. 21, 1924, Montreal DLO Jan. 23, and on to the Ottawa DLO Jan. 24, with a boxed DLO Ottawa Feb. ?. Perhaps Mr. Faust was already gone. The OGPU very likely had already recorded his name. Such was security there.



At left is a properly rated 60c under 20gr airmail letter to Nigeria from Christopher Lake, SASK, dated June 6, 1982. There is no receiver. The rate was in force for a little over 1 year, from Jan. 1, 1982 to Jan. 14, 1983. Who's got other such items? This is the classic material of Canada in 70 years.

FOR A PENNY OR TWO... I am putting together a series of articles for TOPICS to continue Allan Steinhart's series that ran from about 1989 to 1996 on post cards of interest. Allan focused on 19th century cards in the 20 or so articles he completed, while I will expand it to encompass the entire range of cards, including interesting modern cards as I run across them. In some cases I am updating what Allan originally presented, and in others adding new things. You have seen many of these over the last few years in either a presentation or in the Clothesline exhibit, but some will be new. Below I show the last card of my exhibit, acquired only a few weeks before I had to complete the exhibit (spending August in Colorado required finishing it in July). Fanning Island was annexed by the British as an intermediate stop for a transpacific cable in 1888. The cable was not laid until the beginning of the 20th century, and Fanning Island indeed was a necessary station. The card is to a person associated with the project, leaving Bamfield BC Nov. 27, 1903, transit Victoria Dec. 3, and arriving at the island Jan. 23. Two months to an isolated island at this period is probably not bad. This is probably one of the most isolated destinations for any post card from Canada.

Acknowledgment of Receipt (AR) Dawson to Juneau – George Dresser



This example AR form from The Postmaster, Mrs. G. J. Swenson, Dawson, Yukon (Territory), OC 17 06, for a registered letter addressed to Mr. John Dolan, Juneau Alaska (Territory) was received in Juneau on OCT 29, 1906, signed by the postmaster E. J. Burris, and cancelled with a

double line magenta receiver/transit CDS. A partial double line Skagway, Alaska, OCT 27 1906, CDS in magenta is on the reverse. The correct postage is paid by a 5 cent blue Edward VII, Scott 91. This fee was in place from 1 April 1879 through 30 September 1921. This form is considered rare by Handleman (David – AR Avis de reception, 2002) – “They are still rare in the period 1900-1910 – at most a handful of each are known – with relatively small print runs varying from 1000-10000.” The form is in a remarkably good condition and provides an interesting piece of postal history for Canada and for Alaska.

Beaver Chatter is the unofficial newsletter of a bunch of BNAPS members who, through no fault of their own, happen to live in the state of Texas. Opinions expressed are those of the authors who like to put their thoughts, philatelically or otherwise, into writing. Unless noted, articles are the effort of the Editor. Distribution is free to BNAPS members in the area who find it worth their while to participate in the group's activities, to certain BNAPS officials, and to whoever strikes the Editor's fancy. Newsletters are available to editors of other publications who wish to exchange samples of their labors. Articles, opinions, and general BS are solicited for publication by anyone who cares to write, and contributors will be rewarded with a complimentary copy of *Beaver Chatter*. Submissions can be sent to Vic Willson, P.O. Box 10026, College Station TX 77842 or emailed to loydwill@aol.com or y-willson@tamu.edu