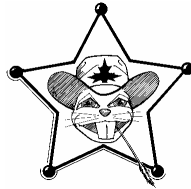


BEAVER**CHATTER**

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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October 7 MEETING IN COLLEGE STATION

The next meeting of the Prairie Beavers will be held at the College Station Conference Center, 1300 George Bush Drive and Holik across from the Texas A&M golf course. Call George Dresser at 979-696-0193 to confirm attendance or email him at g-dresser@cox.net. Vic and Carol Willson will host lunch. If you require a motel, contact Vic at 979-696-0193 or make your own. Reasonable venues include the Holiday Inn, Hampton Inn, Clarion Inn, Days Inn, Motel 6, Ramada Inn, Super 8, all on South Texas Ave. in College Station, within a mile or two from the Conference Center. Prices range from \$40 to 70 per night for these in general.

SWITT RESERVE GRAND WINNER AT GHSS

Jeff Switt won the Reserve Grand Award for his FECB exhibit, recently revamped and expanded after some percolating time, at the Greater Houston Stamp Show Sept. 15-17. Both Jay and Denise Stotts exhibited several exhibits; Jay received golds for his 1 frame of the 10c Monroe and for his multiframe 5c Kosciusko stamp, while Denise received a Vermeil for a 1 frame topical on the Yellow Brick Road. Vic Willson won a Vermeil for his 1c Yellow Large Queen 1-frame exhibit. Ron Strawser won a gold for the Swiss Large Landscapes of 1949 multiframe exhibit.

The show had its usual highlights at the banquet and awards ceremony. The 1-frame yellow competition generated a number of "Secretary's Awards (Jay giving whatever he likes), including the Planning a Head award to Vic for the LQ exhibit and an award to Denise (Jay will have to recap it as I did not write them down) among others. All except the winner, a Boer Commando mail exhibit, received lemons as consolation prizes.

The annual color (colour for the Canadians in the crowd) selection process had aspects of Curly, Shemp, and Moe, but resulted in BLUE for next year's challenge

JUNE MEETING IN MONTAGUE

A small but enthusiastic group met at Jeff Switt's home for the June 10 PB meeting. Those who made it up to Montague on Friday were treated to a Texas dinner by the Switts. PB meeting participants included the Dressers, Ralph and Woody Poore, Vic and Carol Willson, and Erick Middleton. A relaxed discussion of various topics was followed by a talk on collecting commemoratives on cover by Jeff, illustrated with US commems. The clothesline produced many interesting items from Washington 2006 by Vic and George, as well as other BNA items by other attendees. An extended discussion of internet issues and problems took place in the afternoon following a great lunch prepared by Susan and Jeff. After digging into Jeff's various cover boxes the group had dinner at a new Italian restaurant in Bowie.



New Find: The 20c AR card above was recently unearthed by Bill Radcliffe at the SEPAD show. After consulting with Vic Willson he purchased it and subsequently sold it to Vic. The card is an after-posting request for acknowledgement of delivery to the US. Sent to L. Seale Holmes (noted stamp dealer) it is the only 20c to the US or a foreign destination.

**PRAIRIE BEAVER MEETING, OCTOBER 7, 2006
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: Foreign Exchange Control Board by Jeff Switt
10:45 - 11:30	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
11:30 - 12:15	Clothesline Exhibit (BNA stuff, anything else of philatelic interest)
12:15 - 1:00	Lunch (hosted- bring appetite)
1:15 - 1:45	Business meeting
	1. Plan winter, spring meeting
	2. BNAPS issues- George Dresser
1:45 - 2:30	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
2:30 - 3:00	Presentation: Admiral stamp lathework - Rick Parama
3:00 - 3:45	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
3:45 - 4:00	Presentation: BNAPS judging- Vic Willson
4:00 - 4:45	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
4:45 - 5:00	Wrap-up, settle up
Dinner-	tba

Canada to New Mexico- even though I got rid of my North America destination collection, I can't resist picking up covers to western destinations such as the one at right to NM from Woodstock, dated Dec. 29, 1897. Over the years I have found Large and Small Queen covers to the Dakotas, California (including a new one prior to completion of the transcontinental railroad in May 1869), Oregon, BC, Indian Territory, and Montana. With some leftover items to Colorado and Idaho, could be an interesting one-frame eventually.



CPR cards: collectors like Erick Middleton and Bill Walton collect the CPR cards as postal stationery items, chasing designs and design variations. While I leave that aspect to them, I always check out the destinations that can go in my postcard exhibit or my nonletter mail. The card to the right was sent to Russia in March 1901 at the 1c printed matter rate rather than the 2c postcard rate. While it stretches a bit my Victoria nonletter mail period, it can go in both. I asked Walton how many destinations he had for all such cards, and he replied he had never viewed the cards that way. One more approach to take.



THE PHANTOM EXHIBIT ITEM. In putting together a 1-frame of the 1c Yellow Large Queen stamp for the GHSS, I was able to locate a very rare item, shown at left. Imprints of this stamp are known only as 1) a mint imprint block of 4 in Brigham's LQ exhibit; 2) a mint strip of 3 with part imprint at left; 3) a single on cover with part imprint (Radcliffe collection); 4) the single at left; 5) a single with tiny portion in selvedge (Radcliffe). To determine that I went through all the auction catalogs of the last 50 years I have, including Liechtenstein, Caspary, Jarrett, Lussey, Richardson, Reford, etc.

The stamp was sent registered from Canada on Aug. 24, entered the US according to Canada Post on Aug. 28. Then, there was no record of it by either the USPS or Canada Post until the other day, when it was recorded as entering the US Post on Sept. 12. While I still have not gotten it, at least it is now in the mail stream. The question is, what happened to it for 15 days? My theory is that it was held for homeland security inspection, although it could have just sat in a mail bag for that time. In any case, it never made it into the exhibit- I put a photocopy in as I had already done up the page and didn't have time to redo it.



MODERN POSTAL HISTORY. Time for a new collecting focus? How about foreign destination Canada covers. Below are a cover to Thailand mailed March 15, 1988 with receiver on back at 74c airmail rate in effect 1 year; and a postcard to Cambodia mailed April 1998 at 90c letter airmail rate (no PC rate) with May 2 receiver at Battambang



A COMMENT ON SELECTING AREAS TO EXHIBIT (and collect- they are not the same):

it has taken several decades to figure out, but I pick areas that:

1) have not been significantly developed (see page above);

2) are ripe to collect even if done before because a significant amount of important material can be had at one time; or

3) both 1 and 2.

The limiters are how much money will be put into it over a long period of time, and knowing what is likely to be available, including the last pieces that will be needed. That is why I didn't collect Pence Canada. I will not have the money to spring for the quality 12d stamps and cover I would likely want for a serious exhibit, although most Pence exhibits do not have a cover either. Even Lou Ludlow's grand award at BNAPS did not have either a mint copy or a cover of the 12d. Instead, wanting to work on 19th century, I limited myself to nonletter mail. I could afford the half pence covers needed (or eventually will find a way to pony up for the 5x 1/2d to Norway or Germany I need to complete the exhibit in a meaningful way- I know where they are and when they are likely to become available).

While waiting for the last couple items I planned for (over 10 years ago), I have had a lot of fun getting Decimal, Large, and Small Queen newspapers, circulars, printed matter, parcel post, 5th class, and 4th class material. Most was reasonable, much inexpensive or at least inexpensive compared to more conventional usages of the stamps. There was far less than what is available comparably in US material, but prices were generally even lower (except for occasional foreign destination items). I have taken this tack with 20th century Admiral era material, 19th century postal cards of Canada, Canada preWWII airmails to Central and South America, and even my Canadian 19th century North America destinations, which won Grand Award at a BNAPS convention in 1994, and the exhibit competed well against others totalling many times the value. Were there some expensive items? You bet, but they all eventually sold for as much or more than they cost.

As my income rose and I turned over material I had collected but gotten out of, I was able to increase the level of purchases, and my sights raised about what could be collected. Also, I took the plunge when major collections came on the market, prioritizing what I absolutely had to have if the exhibit was to improve. While I sometimes missed out, I mostly have gotten what I needed in those auctions. The key to all of that is to collect long enough to get to know what is out there, get literature on it (previous auction catalogs when no lit is available), and not hesitate when something you've not seen comes along. I think it is most dangerous to spend a lot on an item when you have not yet really learned the territory. That is where someone more expert can really help. My mentor was Ed Richardson and our 10 year association gave me a lifetime of background knowledge, as he collected absolutely everything ever seen in Canada by the time of his death.

The direction for Canada collecting for the last 30 years has been specialization; ever more detailed investigations of particular areas or topics. This has generated new rarities that years ago were ignored or disdained, permitted long-term pursuit of scarce material with relatively little outlay, and allowed the potential to recoup most of the outlay when well-done in display and writeup. Even when of limited interest, those who put together nice material that is organized and can be recognized as focusing on a topic can get some of their money back- as long as they don't sell to a dealer for peanuts. Such material should always go to a specialty auction or a dealer familiar with the material, perhaps to broker a private sale on consignment. It should never go to a general stamp dealer unfamiliar with the area just because he is in the area. Better preparation results in better results. I have long heard that one should not expect a return on stamps, just consider it recreation costs, but that mostly applies to putting stamps on pages of general collections or rearranging common material, however pleasing it looks. Targeting new areas and breaking new ground can help you get some of the costs back, if not all when enough time elapses. Is it better than the stock market long-term growth? Probably not, but you may do about as well, and think of the fun you had along the way.