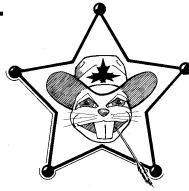


BEAVER



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**

Volume 42, No. 1 Whole Number 148 May 2017

May 27 MEETING IN COLLEGE STATION

We will meet at the St. Mary's Catholic Center, Church Avenue, College Station, Texas 77840, meeting wing on the second floor, probably Room 207, but it should be easy to find. Map p.2

TEXPEX 2017 PB WINNERS

The 2017 TEXPEX APS show saw Jay Stotts receive a large gold for his single frame US 14 cent Fourth Bureau exhibit, and Denise win a vermeil for her single frame Canada private order stationery of the 8 cent Centennial stamp exhibit.

ORAPEX 2017

Your editor made his annual trek to Ottawa for the Canadian national show ORAPEX, held each year on the first weekend in May. As previously over almost 20 years, he flew to Philadelphia and carpooled with three other Canadian collectors, including Bill Radcliffe, BNAPS vice president for study groups, Mike Smith, editor of *Dots and Scratches* (newsletter of the Reentry Study group and winner of the 2015 best newsletter award by BNAPS), and Ron Majors, editor of BNA TOPICS. All in the car collect primarily 19th century Canadian material, and the almost continuous discussion over the 7 hour trip up Interstate 81 into Canada focused on Canadian reentries on its first two issues, the major current tussle over the printing of the 6 cent Small Queen between Jim McCormick (our Ottawa host for the weekend) and John Hillson of CPSGB, Civil War postal history of Canadian mails with the Confederacy, etc. After sampling Jim's good stock of beers, and a dinner at a local pub, the real fun began, with about 15 or so Canadian philatelists arriving at Jim's for a near-all night session of looking at phenomenal material, trading, buying, selling, and a bit of wine and beer. This group included a fair number of the best philatelists in Canadian collecting, eclipsed only by the next night's meeting.

While the ORAPEX show itself was mildly disappointing (except for the occasional significant find among dealer stocks by very sharp-eyed experts), and the exhibits were modestly interesting at best, the annual meeting at Guillaume Vadeboncouer's apartment building party rooms that evening was spectacular. A total of 21 collectors attended, including one of Great Britain's leading philatelists (who flew over specifically for this get-together). That group represented a majority of the preeminent authorities and philatelists of BNA material. The amount of material shown was staggering, with probably a 7 figure value all told. I would not be surprised if 6 figures in value of material changed hands that night (only two dealers were present, and those only briefly). Interestingly, most of the focus was on stamps and cancels, with little discussion or view of postal history. That is significant in that many of those philatelists do not regularly attend BNAPLEX meetings or even had membership, although most are regular contributors to the Confederation newsletter. Editor Glenn Archer attended, and received his award for best newsletter of 2014. Glenn is a member of the Vinnie Greene Foundation expert committee and one of perhaps two or three leading experts on the Large Queens- I had him review my 12 ½ cent Large Queen exhibit shown at GHSS to get suggestions and expertization on the cheap.

After another night ending at or after 3am we staggered home for 4 or so hours sleep, back to the show to settle up debts, and drove back to the Philadelphia area, in by midnight or so.

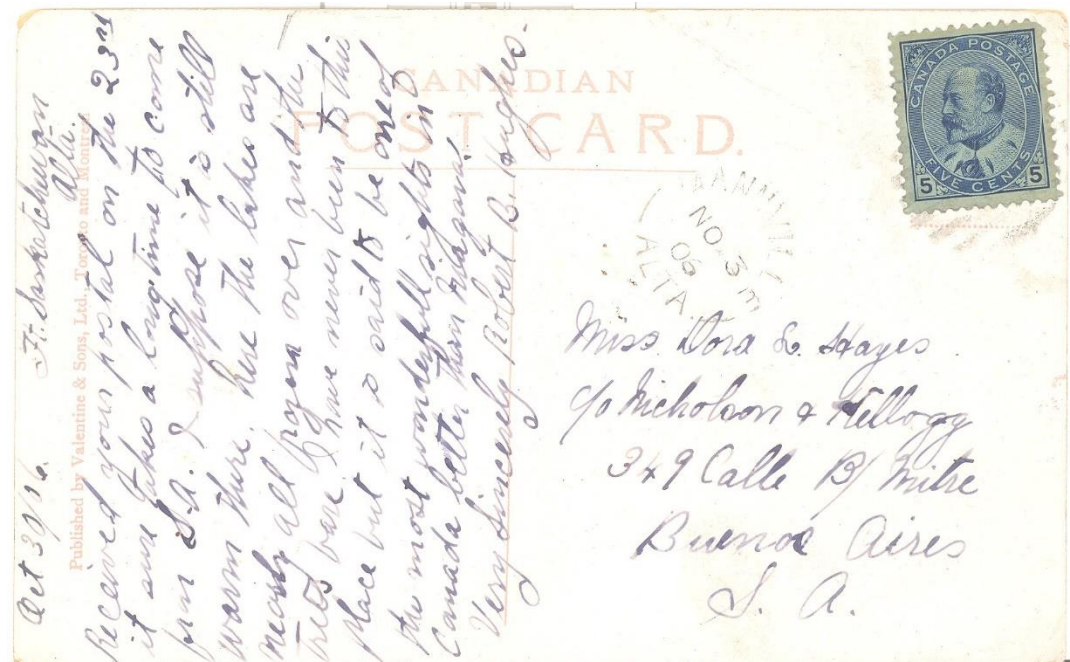
Why I brought up the membership in BNAPS is that the Society has been for 3 decades primarily a postal history society, both in its emphasis in BNA TOPICS and in its study groups. While stamp-focused research has always been there, little article material ever showed up for publication. The Confederation, Admiral's Log, Elizabethan, and other newsletters have begun to reflect renewed interest in stamp-oriented research over the last 10 years, but it has not shown up much in the journal. If Society members don't see new research on stamps, they won't focus on it or see the Society as a place to find new information, which is what I am seeing with the group at Guillaume's. From a Society perspective, it has to bring that group in to thrive. There are quite a few younger collectors in that group (under 60 = young), who are at best marginal and sometime attendees at BNAPEX regional and national events. BNAPS needs to expand, try new things, or ultimately fold.

PHSC SUMMER MEETING

A significant potential rival to BNAPS has sprung up with a summer meeting being organized by the Postal History Society of Canada in Toronto in July. The organizers invited some of the leading philatelists of BNA to present work on a wide variety of topics in stamps and postal history. It is already well-subscribed and filled with interesting activities for serious Canadian philatelists. The goal is to make it an annual event for serious philatelists to plan around to attend. If the people I mention previously at the ORAPEX event find this meeting more interesting, they may well skip BNAPS. That will not bode well for BNAPS's future.

ANOTHER DIVIDED BACK CARD

The card shown below to Argentina was mailed from Mannville, ALTA, on Nov. 3, 1906 to Buenos Aires. Paid at the proper 5 cent letter rate, not available to Argentina until January 1, 1907, it is a scarce example of a card properly paid for this period. I have been accumulating such cards paid improperly at 2 cents (rarely charged double deficiency if at all), cards properly paid to the expanding list of countries with which Canada extended the post card rate for divided backs, as well as a few properly paid 5 cent letter rate cards. Eventually I will write all this up.

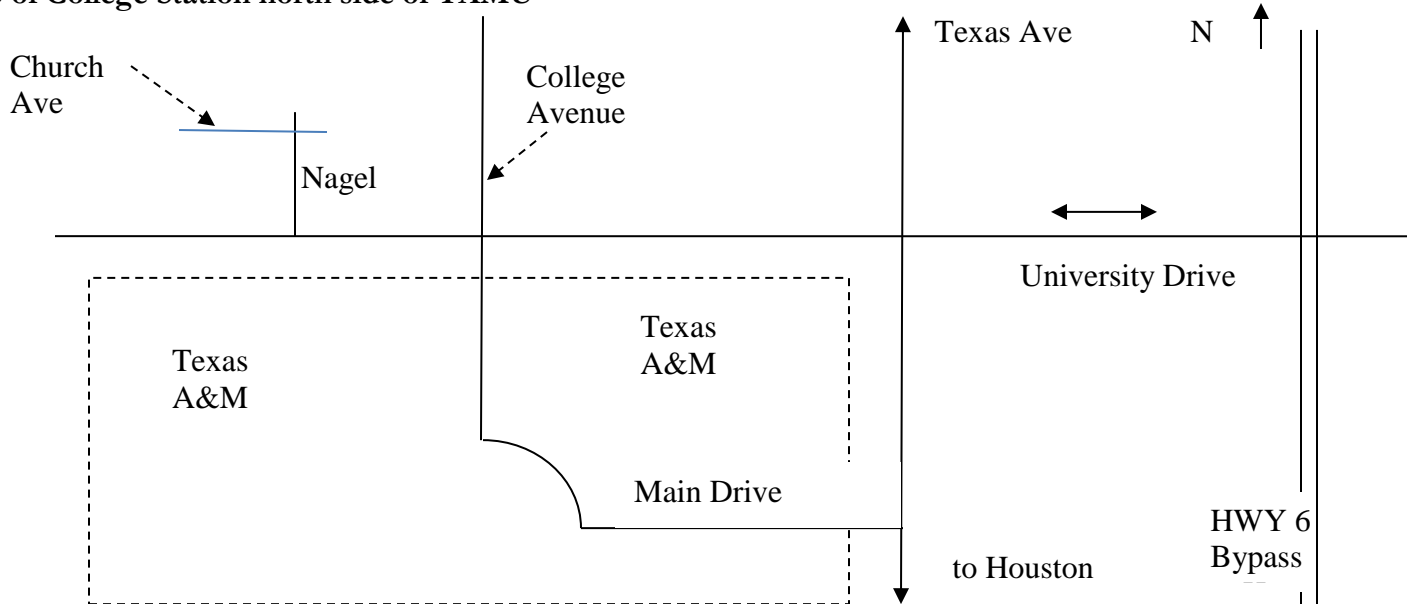


PRAIRIE BEAVER MEETING, May 27, 2017

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

8:45 - 9:00	Coffee, donuts, informal
9:00 - 9:15	Introductions
9:15 - 9:45	Book reviews- new BNAPS books, auctions
9:45 - 10:15	Swap, Sell, Swap
10:15 - 11:00	Presentation: Ribbons And Paper Go To War: John Furlong
11:15 - 12:00	Clothesline Exhibit
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 1:15	Business meeting
1:15 - 2:00	Presentation: Centennial 8 Cent Postal Stationery Issue: Denise Stotts
2:00 - 2:45	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
2:45 - 3:15	Presentation: Presentation: Plates and States of the 10 Cent Decimal Issue: Vic Willson
3:15 - 4:00	Swap, sell, buy, trade
4:00 - 4:30	Wrapup
4:30	Leave for dinner at local venue

Map of College Station north side of TAMU



THE 10 CENT DECIMAL CONSTANT PLATE FLAW “STRING OF PEARLS”



The 10 cent Decimal “Consort” stamp was issued for the new currency of Canada on July 1, 1859. It paid the ½ oz. rate to the U.S. or double domestic rate. The original intended color was dark brown. A new acquisition of mine is shown on cover here to indicate the first printing color:

Mike Smith acquired full proof sheets of both early and late printings of the stamp. These and other



proof stamps and multiples that include position 3 of the sheet all show the same flaw, indicating it was never retouched, removed, or altered during the life of the stamp across 9 years. This flaw is known as the string of pearls because of the presence of 7 small dots in the upper oval blank space between two lines defining the oval over the P and O or POSTAGE. This flaw catalogs for \$250-400 used and \$1000-4000 mint, depending on condition and centering. It is grossly undervalued on cover at around \$1000. Of course an early printing is many times those valuations, which are for later printings. The proof shown is of a very early printing, the intended color of the stamp (and similar to the intended color of the previous 6p stamp it was modeled and taken from). That the first-issued stamp deviated so far from this shade is unexplained, but the second printing reverted to a purple color.

The stamp is platable not only because of the pearls but for the dot over the left X and dot in the A of Canada, so

even with a cancel obscuring the string, one can find the position if you know what to look for.

USES OF THE 10 CENT DECIMAL STAMP

The intended use of the 10 cent decimal stamp was for a half-oz. letter to the U.S. Trade with the U.S. had long eclipsed trade with Great Britain and the British Empire, so much so that the currency was changed from the English shilling/pound system to decimal at par with the U.S. dollar. Printing numbers for this stamp were second largest behind the domestic 5c Beaver stamp, supporting this assertion. Use of the stamp to pay double domestic rate exists but is not at all common. Other uses are rare: double rate (same as domestic) to New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island; and single ½ oz. rate to California and to British Columbia after July 1, 1864. All other uses were for larger multiple weights or make-up for high foreign rates. There are few foreign rates with the 10 cent and they are uniformly expensive. A recent cover to Amoy, China (the Kip correspondence of missionaries) with a pair of 12 ½c Decimals and 10c was sold in Kohler for e7000 plus commission etc. A cover originally franked with 3 10c Decimals is shown below to Rome overpaying the 29c rate



It was mailed Jan. ?, 1863, from Montreal (Berri duplex can be discerned) with British PD and London Paid handstamps in red, It transited to Calais Jan. 26 and arrived in Rome Feb. 2. The Allan line (must be for the 29c rate) steamer *Anglo-Saxon* left on Jan. 11 from Portland, Me., and arrived in Liverpool Jan. 24, best fitting these dates.

The slash is known on all the Rome covers in this period (total of 6), and does not indicate anything due, as it would for British mail, so since the

PD and PAID marks on all clearly show adequate payment, its purpose is unclear. Obviously it was put on during transit as it covers the space where the 10c fell off on this cover. Most of the covers are to the same recipient for the 6 known covers.

Other covers bearing the 10 cent go to the UK, France, Prussia, Wurttemberg, Norway, Holland, Belgium, Gibraltar, Newfoundland, St. Thomas DWI, Barbados, British Guiana, Cuba, New Zealand, and Victoria (Australia). Most are unique or there are only a handful. This is not a collecting destination for the faint of pocketbook. Ed Richardson has examples of all of these except the Holland and Cuba covers, and I was fortunate enough to be able to study (although not buy) them.

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 lloydwill@aol.com or v-willson@tamu.edu