

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

TRANSATLANTIC STUDY GROUP

Newsletter No. 5

October 1987

BNAPEX 87

The annual BNAPS meeting at Charlottetown had the usual mixture of fun and good fellowship, with enough philately to satisfy all. Space limitation restricted the exhibition to sixty-two frames, with members showing one or two frames by invitation. As a result, the cream of B.N.A. stamps and postal history was on display. The small bourse was adequate to drain away the spare cash of the attendees.

As has become necessary with the large number of study groups, there was much doubling up of meetings, with three sessions of three or four groups meeting simultaneously on Thursday, and two sessions of four groups each on Saturday, for a total of eighteen group meetings. These were followed by a meeting of the group chairmen, at which ways of reducing the degree of concurrency was discussed. Hopefully this can be improved as there were some regrets/complaints from those who could not attend all the meetings of interest to them.

The Transatlantic Study Group met on Saturday afternoon and most of the time was spent discussing the new handbook and its possible expansion either as a supplement or in a second edition. While the present edition represents the combined efforts of about six group members, any significant extension will need everyone's contribution, as much of it will be the addition of fine structure to the general information in the present book. This means that seemingly trivial facts could be valuable additions.

The social side of the meeting will be its best-remembered part. On Wednesday morning, there was a tour of the city of Charlottetown in former red London double-decker buses, with the ladies travelling separately for a coffee hour with the Lieutenant Governor. That evening everybody was taken to New Glasgow in the same buses, which are not the best for highway travel, for a magnificent lobster dinner. On Friday, there was a tour of the North Shore which included stops at Green Gables, Cavendish; the Woodleigh replicas, near Burlington; and the Malpeque Gardens - this was quite a day. The meeting was concluded on Saturday evening with the annual banquet.

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL HANDBOOK

In spite of the manuscript being delayed in the Post between Bermuda and Toronto, the University of Toronto Press came through, and Allan Steinhart got some books just before he started out for Charlottetown. As a result, we were able to launch the handbook at the meeting, where it got a favourable reception. The handbook is being distributed through the Society's book department. The retail price is Cdn.\$10.00, with a special price to members of our Study Group of Cdn.\$5.00, with a handling charge per order of Cdn.\$2.00, if ordered from:

BNAPS Book Department
P.O. Box 1082
Oakville, ON, Canada L6J 5E9.

The handbook consists of 69 pages and contains the following sections:

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FUTURE INFORMATION GATHERING

In discussing possible areas in which we should be working to improve existing information, the following have been identified and work is getting underway to create new sections for the handbook. As this is only a start, further suggestions will be welcome, particularly if the proposer can supply, or is prepared to help find, the necessary material.

(a) B.N.A. Ship Letter Marks. Allan Steinhart and J.J. MacDonald have accepted the lead role in this, but anyone with an unusual ship letter marking or any related information is asked to send it to me.

(b) Special Currency Exchange Rates. There were some short-lived exchange rates between Canadian and U.S. currencies in the early 1840s to be recorded.

(c) Information about the New Brunswick/United States mail transfer arrangements, and the N.S./U.S. and N.B./U.S. postal agreements. There is some doubt as to whether there were any formal arrangements/agreements between the U.S.P.O. and the N.S. and N.B. Deputy PMGs before the consolidation of the Canadian postal service. If anyone has any information or thoughts on this subject, please send them to me.

(d) British Packet Agent's Fee. Earl Palmer has an 1816 letter in his Cross-border collection which refers specifically to 2d Cy. being collected for Thomas Moore, the British packet agent at New York "for trouble". As far as is known, this additional charge was never included in the total postage shown on a letter, nor is any other reference to it known. Can anyone add anything?

(e) American Sailing Packet Dates. This is a very long-term project, which will require access to New York and Liverpool newspapers from 1819 for the start, and other papers as the services were expanded. If any group member is willing to begin this search, I can provide some guidelines as to what to look for, together with ship names, etc., and to coordinate any research.

EXPANDING THE NEWSLETTER

All the newsletters have been solely my effort, as no one has sent in any items of interest, questions for group answers, or suggestions. I should be happy to expand the newsletter, if there were suitable material. As I use a fairly highgrade photocopier for reproduction, good photocopies of covers, etc. could be included. If you think of something to write about or have a suggestion, send it along.

Jack Arnell