

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

TRANSATLANTIC STUDY GROUP

Newsletter No. 2

October 1986

BNAPEX 86

The first meeting of the study group was held during BNAPEX at the Dearborn Inn on Saturday, 29 August 1986, with ten members present, including John Burnett, the Study Group Coordinator. I reported on the progress of my discussions with respect to producing a handbook and received the support of all present to pursue the matter to fruition (see below).

Although it was not raised at our meeting, at the meeting of the Study Group Chairman, John Burnett brought up the subject of judging exhibits at BNAPS meetings. Apparently some study groups favour providing specialists to advise the exhibition juries on the fine points of exhibits in each specific area. The general consensus was against the idea and instead it was suggested that exhibitors should take more care in preparing the introductory page of their exhibits, bringing out the "fine points" themselves. John plans to produce some ideas for further consideration, but I have not received anything yet.

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Transatlantic Handbook

I was in Toronto on the way to Dearborn in mid-August and spent several days producing the index for my forthcoming book, "Steam and the North Atlantic Mails" from the page proofs, which were awaiting my arrival. When I delivered this to Unitrade Associates and went over some final details pertaining to the book, I took the opportunity to explore with Don Wainwright his suggestion made at AMERIPEX 86 that the handbook take the form of a 7 3/4" x 10" 3-ring hardcover binder, so that individual sections or chapters could be published as they are finished. He was prepared to go ahead with the idea as a Unitrade publication in the BNAPS Handbook series, and when I outlined what was underway and could be available by the end of the year, he was ready to begin as soon as we provided the first sections.

Before leaving Toronto, I discussed the proposal with Allan Steinhart, the Chairman of the Handbook Committee. He supported it, subject to the same terms as have been arranged for other handbooks currently being published by Unitrade Associates. These are in essence that the Society holds the copyright and receives the royalties, while Unitrade meets the production costs and handles the distribution. With Steinhart's approval, I reported to the Dearborn meeting and received its support to proceed, as noted above.

Following the concept that the handbook should be a comprehensive reference document covering all aspects of transatlantic mail, there are a number of subject sections which only require the collation of existing information and these will be the first to appear. I am presently working on this and asking some of our most knowledgeable members in each area to vet them for me. At present, these are:

Postage Rates - Packet, Ship Letter, Inland (BNA, GB, US)
Falmouth Packet Sailings 1827-1840
Ferriage
Freight Money
Rate Marking Handstamps.

Various members of the group are working on other aspects of the subject, so hopefully there will be further sections to add to the above in the not-too-distant future.

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Other Publications

For those of you who were not at Dearborn, Jim Hennok has reproduced Earl Palmer's collection of Upper and Lower Canada Cross-Border Mail to 1851 as the second in his series of postal history collections; the 1985 publication of my B.N.A. Transatlantic Stampless Mail being the first. I mention this because the book has information on rates, ferriage, etc. which, although peripheral, has some relation to our area of interest.

This newsletter will be mailed from Toronto in ten days' time, when I shall be exhibiting my AMERIPEX 86 U.S. transatlantic exhibit at Stamp Marketplace, by invitation. At the same time, I shall be delivering some 380 pages of my U.S. transatlantic covers to Jim Hennok to be the fourth book in his series. For any group members interested in early transatlantic letters, it will contain over thirty pages of Colonial Period covers, which are after all B.N.A. transatlantic mail.

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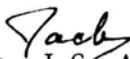
New Group Members

Since the first newsletter, the following have joined the Study Group:

- Charless Hahn
- Bob Heasman
- Leo La France
- Sam Nickle
- Preston Pope
- Ed Richardson
- David Whiteley

and I am expecting to hear from Paul Burega with his \$10.00, which will bring our total to thirty-three.

That seems to be all there is to report.


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