

# 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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## MARCH 4 MEETING IN HOUSTON

The next meeting of the Prairie Beavers will be held March 4 at the meeting hall of the the **Youth Building** of St. Paul's Methodist Church, 5501 South Main in Houston. The Youth Building is the two story structure north of the Church on Calumet St., where we have met numerous times over the last decade. A map is provided elsewhere in this issue.

**Ed Christman** has been ill and hospitalized. We hope he will be well enough to attend our meeting. In any case if you have not done so, you might drop him a line to cheer him up. His address is 5419 Jason St. Houston TX 77096

**BCS Stamp Club organized.** PB members George Dresser and Vic Willson have organized the BCS Stamp Club, a club affiliate of the American Philatelic Society. The club meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. After an organizational meeting with about 20 attendees, the next couple meetings have shaken down to about 10 or so members. The meetings last about 1 ½ hours, and include presentations, show and tell by attendees, material for trade or sale, and upcoming, APS stamp circuits. The club resurrects the TAMU stamp club, which ran for many years but folded due to lack of student attendance, required by TAMU for

**OTB member George Arfken** will once again visit the Prairie Beavers during his annual wildflower tour while visiting his son in Houston. The March 6 meeting will include George's presentation on his newest work on the postal history of the 1897-1911 period with Bill Pawluk. Bill's exhibit on this area won the Grand Award at BNAPEX in 1995. His exhibit was published by BNAPS in its collection reproduction program, and I use it regularly for its wealth of information. I look forward to this expanded work.

### Upcoming Events

**TEXPEX** April 7-9 DoubleTree Hotel Dallas  
Near the Galleria, Dallas Texas

Same location: LBJ Freeway at Midway Road

**ORAPEX** May 6-7 RA Stamp Club, RA Centre  
Curling Rink, 2451 Riverside Drive, Ontario.

Write Tom Hare [thare@sutton.com](mailto:thare@sutton.com).

**Washington 2006** May 27-June 3 Wash- ington  
Phil. Exhibition, Inc., APS & FIP Patronage,  
Washington D.C. Convention Ctr.

[www.washington-2006.org](http://www.washington-2006.org)

**Prairie Beaver Meeting** Bowie TX tba,  
May/June

**BNAPEX 06 Aug 31-Sep 3** Holiday Inn,  
Sudbury, Ontario. Contact John Frith,

[johnfrith.sudburystamps@sympatico.ca](mailto:johnfrith.sudburystamps@sympatico.ca)

**Greater Houston Stamp Show**, Sep. 16-17,  
Humble Civic Center 8233 Will Clayton Parkway,  
Humble, Texas Denise Stotts, PO Box 690042,  
TX 77060-0042

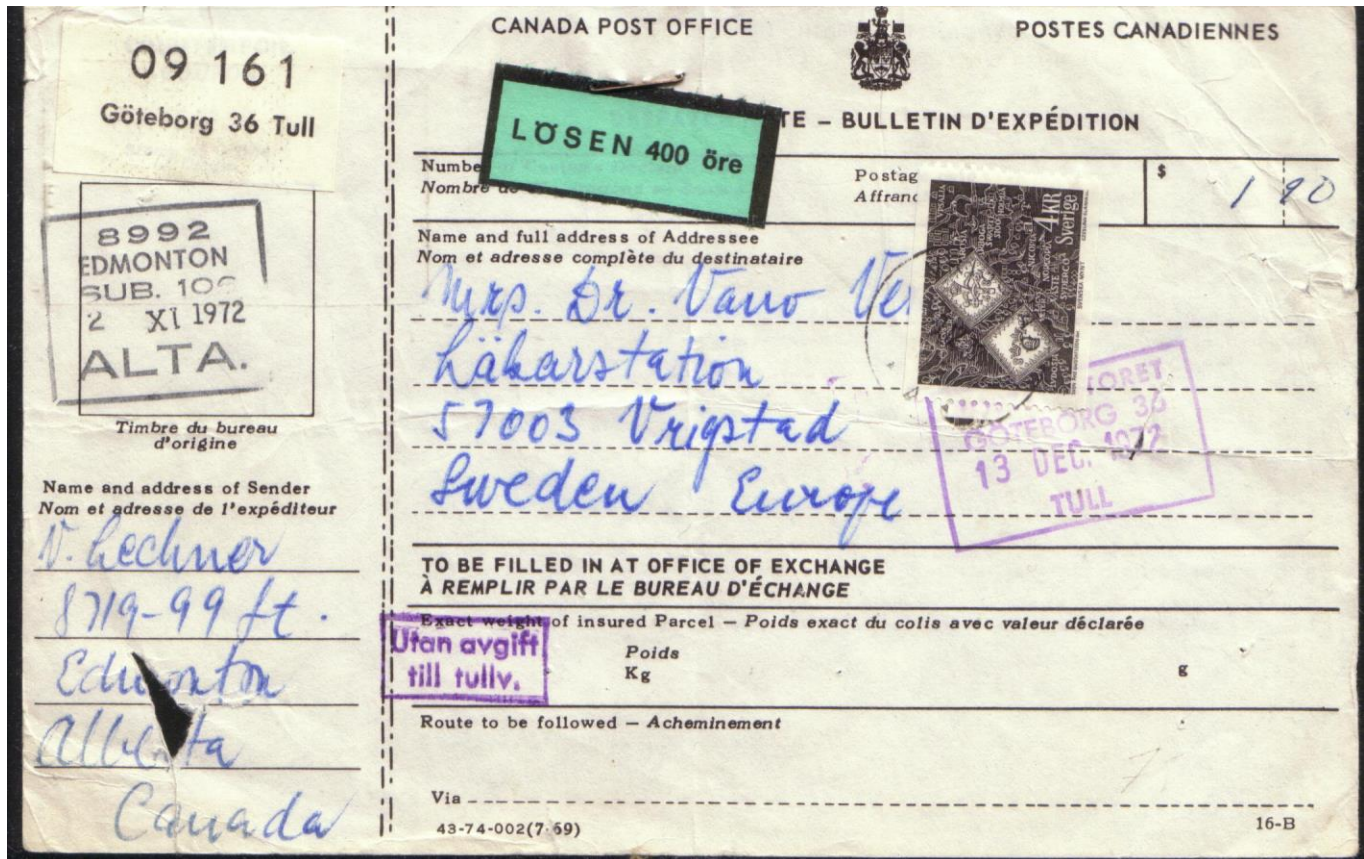
recognition and use of TAMU facilities. The club meets at local doctor Barry Paul's conference room at his offices.

**PRAIRIE BEAVER MEETING, MARCH 6, 2004  
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 - 11:00	Presentation: Postal History of the 1897-1911 Period by George Arfken, OTB
11:00 - 11:30	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
11:30 - 12:15	Clothesline Exhibit (BNA stuff)
12:15 - 1:00	Lunch (hosted- bring appetite)
1:00 - 1:15	Business meeting <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Plan summer, fall meetings</li> <li>2. Exhibit/show attendance</li> </ol>
1:15 - 2:00	Clothesline exhibit non-BNA material- bring something from a different philatelic interest
2:00 - 2:30	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
2:30 - 3:00	Ebay auction: guess the prices for recent ebay items; prizes for 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> places
3:00 - 3:45	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
3:45 - 4:15	Presentation: Canada EFOs by John Furlong
4:00 - 4:45	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
4:45 - 5:00	Wrapup, settle up
5:15	Dutch treat dinner- Houston Art Museum

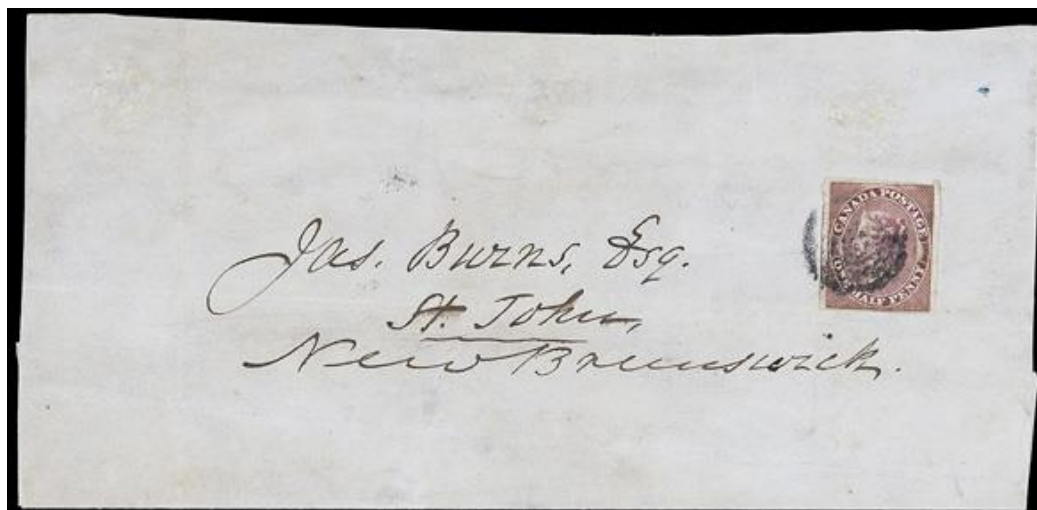
**WHAT'S HOT- WHAT'S NOT- CANADA:** HOT: Top quality classic material, especially exhibit pieces, best quality stamps, exceptional covers; Large Queens all areas; airmails, especially pioneer flights, semi-officials; Errors, Freaks, and Oddities; Centennials; wildlife definitive stamps, Polar Bear \$8 stamp. NOT HOT: second quality material, FDCs; mint hinged, disturbed gum, regummed, or NG classic stamps; first flight covers;

**AN UNUSUAL PARCEL POST ITEM.** The item shown below struck me as uncommon enough to warrant purchasing from a Swedish stamp company. It is a Canada Post Office Dispatch Note for an insured parcel post item. Sent from Edmonton Nov. 2, 1972 to Goteborg, Sweden, it indicates the C\$1.90 was paid on the item. In Sweden it was rated as shortpaid 400 ore, noted with the green Losen 400 ore label, and Sc. 754 4 kroner stamp attached and tied by an indistinct circular cancel indicating payment. A receiver under the stamp was dated Dec. 13 at Goteborg. Anyone have other examples of this parcel post dispatch note?



**RARE HALF PENCE ITEM IN MARESCH FEB 28/MAR 1 SALE**

The wrapper shown below, presumably holding a newspaper, is one of only two half pence covers used from Canada to another province (the other is to PEI in the Wilkinson Canada exhibit) in the pence period; there apparently is also another half pence item used from NS to NB. It will be sold in the upcoming auction. Your editor



badly needs this item for his nonletter mail exhibit, but time and money will tell if it is within his reach.

Also in the sale are some marvelous NB and NS covers and stamps from a collector who used Maritimus as his pseudonym. He included covers to NS and NB and has many desirable items. This can be viewed at <http://www.maresch.com/auctionsale.htm>

CANADA TO HONG KONG 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY- The item shown here was won on ebay recently. I had marked it as of great interest in that I did not remember ever seeing a 19<sup>th</sup> century cover to Hong Kong. A review of the Decimal, Large Queen, and Small Queen books, auctions, and reference material I have accumulated seemed to confirm that all the China covers recorded went to the Empire and not to British Hong Kong. I emailed Gray Scrimgeour, who noted that in the 1983 Maresch sale of Harry Lussey's covers there was a Hong Kong cover, and he thought this was it. A closer inspection of the partial photo in the sale and the description of the cover showed that the Lussey cover was from the same correspondence with the same franking, mailed within weeks of each other, but not the same cover. Gray further noted that Francis Au of Vancouver is a dedicated collector of Pacific mail, and that he, along with Brian Murphy, had only recorded one other item, a registered cover paid with 5c SQ and 5c RLS. This item was not in the Arfken listing of foreign destination 5c RLS covers published in TOPICS in the 1990s. Thus, to date there are apparently 3 covers to Hong Kong in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, making it one of the rarer destinations. Even though I do not now actively collect in an area this would fit with, I was taken with it.

Mailed from Toronto March 29, 1894, it was requested to go via the Empress of India (out of Vancouver, I think). It arrived in Hong Kong April 24, was readdressed to Halifax. Hong Kong post restamped it on April 26, and it was received in Halifax May 30. An UNCLAIMED handstamp was affixed and it was sent to the Dead Letter Office in Ottawa with July 31, Aug. 1, and indistinct receivers. An outstanding cover.



**COVERS TO CHINA:**  
 Pence: to Shanghai 1857 (stampless)  
 Decimals: 13 covers (12 from Kip correspondence), other just listed as China; some of you will remember Ed Richardson's copy, 35c paid with 3 x 10c + 5c, p. 276 of Arfken & Leggett's *Canada Decimal Era* work.  
 Large Queens: no recorded covers



**PROOFS** In traditional stamp collecting and exhibiting one needs to include pre-production material showing how the stamp(s) was conceived, designed, experimented with and revised prior to printing, as much as can be found and collected. After the American Bank Note sale in 1990, there seemed to me to be a permanent depression of prices. Consequently the prices paid for many proofs of 19<sup>th</sup> century Canada seem quite reasonable. Ed Richardson once told me he would pay up to \$90 for any proof, never more unless exceptional. Now on ebay it is possible to purchase examples of

many 19<sup>th</sup> century proofs for less than that. There are certainly varieties that will sell for much more, but if one simply desires one example, showing the near perfect printing intended for the stamp, then many of these are available, particularly Decimal, Leaf, and Numeral issues.

