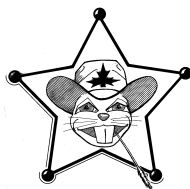


BEAVER**CHATTER**

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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July 10 MEETING in College Station at . St Mary's Catholic Center, 603

Church Avenue, College Station, Texas 77840, Room 208. See map on p. 2

PRAIRIE BEAVERS DO WELL AT ROMPEX

Member Jay Stotts received a gold and Reserve Grand for his *United States 4th Bureau Issue* exhibit at the Denver ROMPEX show in May. Jay also won the United States Stamp Society Award. Nearly complete, the exhibit shows how well both great material and excellent visual display can be merged. Denise Stotts exhibited her *Japanese Art* for the first time, received a well-deserved gold and the American Topical Association First Medal and the American Philatelic congress Award for Writing Excellence. The exhibit was a delight to view. Larry Ballantine received a gold and the United States Cancellation Club Award for his *U.S. Private Inter-City Posts*. I may be wrong, but I believe this is the first time exhibiting nationally for this exhibit. Ron Strawser received a gold and the United Postal Stationery Society Marcus White Award for *Postal Cards of the Belgian Congo*. Vic Willson received a gold and the APS Pre-1900 Medal for his Canada 19th Century Nonletter Mail. These folks and Beth Strawser and Bill McDaniel competed in a group competition as the Midnight Bandits, losing by one point to the Women Exhibitors, although as an outsider looking in, points should not have been awarded for the Ephemera Society certificate of appreciation, which were given to any exhibit that had any ephemera in it, hardly a criteria for excellence. Many of the WE exhibits focused on such things. Sour grapes? Sure. If you can't be gracious, be surly ☺

In any case, we claim all the above for our group and are proud of all.

NOT GETTING INTO BNAPEX10 EXHIBITING

I suspect several would-be exhibitors for Victoria over Labor Day were shocked to find that the frames were sold out before early March, me included. Even though there had been mention of a move to reduce the frame size to lessen the burden on judges, and the difficulty of getting frames to Victoria, it probably did not dawn on them that things would fill up so fast. One of the problems with this is that exhibiting is a major reason a fair number of people go to the convention, and the regular exhibitors are a significant group of supporters for the annual meeting (along with the officers who have to go). With airfares going nowhere but up in future, we will have a serious problem for some venues if 10 or 15 potential exhibitors (and their spouses) are turned away and then decide not to attend, as that can make or break some site budgets. It is a real problem from the judging perspective, also, and as a regular judge, it is a problem to ask a judge to pay their way to the venue and then spend 2 of the 3 days of the convention working on the exhibits- hardly an inducement to attend when costs are going up.

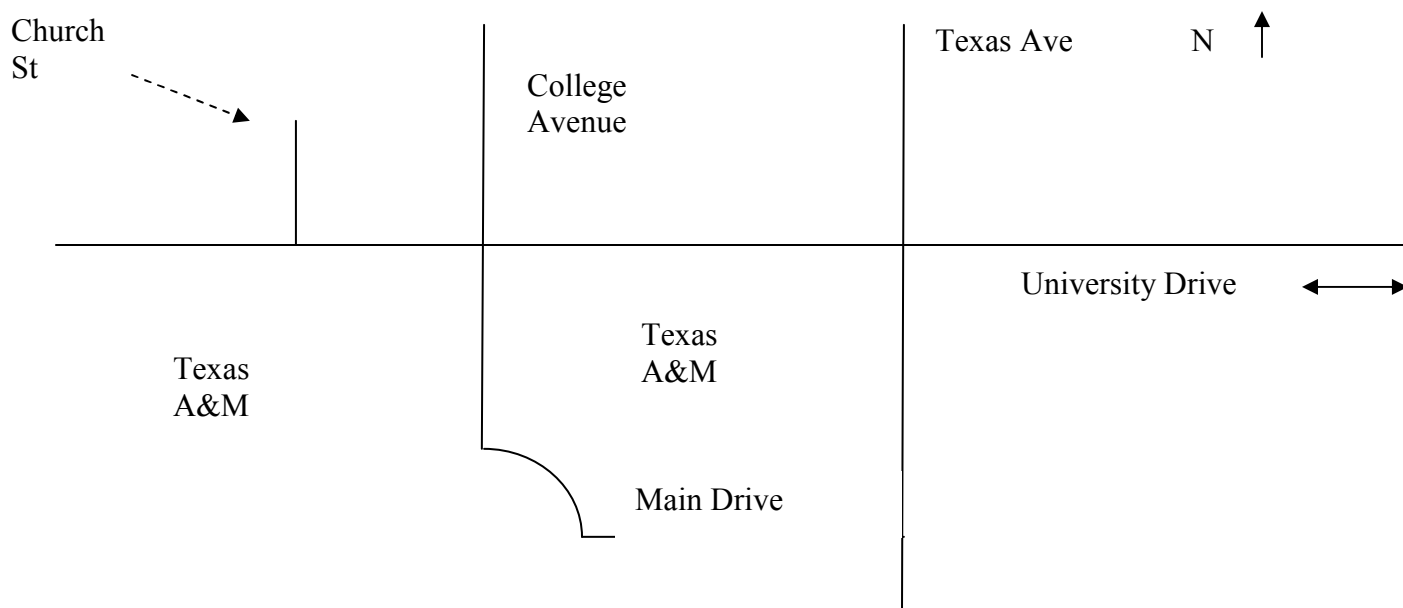
I think the Society needs to think about this for the future. While paying judges fixes part of the problem, the small pool currently listed needs to be enlarged, and the number of frames increased in some way. I have long advocated using virtual exhibiting for locations where frames are hard or impossible to get to (think Bahamas), and perhaps it is time to consider different classes, including online/virtual exhibit classes. These might not (continued on p. 3)

PRAIRIE BEAVER MEETING, April 10, 2010

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

8:45 - 9:00	Coffee, donuts, informal
9:00 - 9:15	Introductions
9:15 - 9:30	Book reviews- new BNAPS books
9:30 - 9:45	Internet review (new sites, action)
9:45 - 10:15	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
10:15 - 10:45	Presentation: tba
10:45 - 11:15	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
11:15 - 12:00	Clothesline Exhibit I: BNA-related
12:00 - 1:30	Lunch
1:30 - 2:00	Business meeting and BNAPS info
2:00 - 2:30	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
2:30 - 3:00	Presentation: tba
3:00 - 3:30	Discussion: Philatelic literature
	Future- electronic vs. paper
3:30 - 4:00	Swap, Sell, Buy Trade
4:00 - 4:30	Presentation: tba
4:30 - 5:00	Wrapup
5:15	Dinner at local restaurant

Map of College Station north side of TAMU



More 9d rate covers to the West Coast- Vic Willson and Bill Radcliffe

Arfken and Firby (2006) discussed covers to California in the surcharge period for U.S. mails, which was in effect from 1851 to mid 1863. A new correspondence recently purchased by us adds some interesting new items to their documentation. In addition, we illustrate a cover obtained by the first author a number of years ago and add a discussion of the topic of registration to the mix.

First, Figures 1 and 2 show a stampless cover sent from Belleville, ON, on Sept. 29, 1851. The franking is shown as both a 9(d) and 15 in manuscript as well as two red PAID handstamps and the CANADA in arc. The Belleville dater shows SEP 2/ xxxx below. The letter date inside is shown in Fig. 2, Sept. 29, 1851. This is from the same correspondence as the double rate 18d cover shown in Arfken and Firby, sent 3 days prior to this one, both to James Fidler in San Diego. We observed Jeff Switt pluck the 9d cover dated Nov. 27, 1855, from a dealer's stock in front of us a few years ago, later sold in the Wilkinson sale as lot 194.

Next, we show three new West Coast covers, but to Oregon. One was sent in 1853, the second in 1856, and the third in 1858 (Figs. 3-5). They represent the first West Coast U.S. covers beyond California in the pence period. Fig. 5 is of particular significance because it was intended to be registered. Paid at 9d, 6d to the U.S. plus 3d for the registration fee, it appears the fee was credited as the 9d rate to the West Coast while foregoing the registration in the U.S. While this is not conclusive, there did not seem to be registration available to the West Coast through most of the routes (Panama or Overland) until after the end of the Civil War because of the lack of security. The only other registered item in the pence period is the marvelous 7/9d cover to Vancouver Island via Olympia, Washington, in 1856, paid $7/6 = 10 \times 9d + 3d$ registration. It did not have any U.S. registration indications either. It was directed via New York and Panama. This cover is shown as Fig. 144 in Arfken, Leggett, Firby & Steinhart (1997).

EXHIBITING *(continued from p.1)*

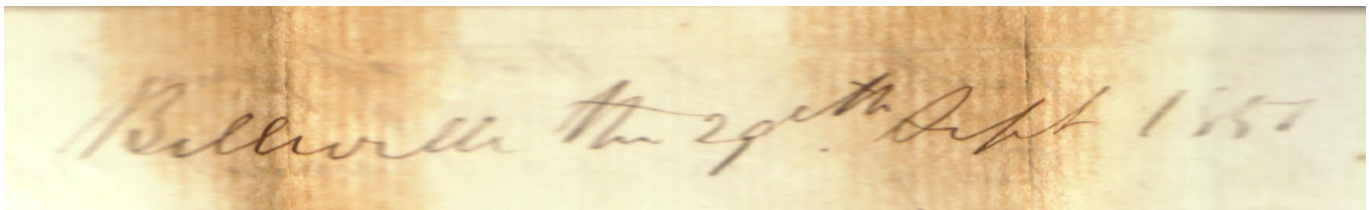
satisfy some exhibitors, but might well others. For example, with sufficient time, judges might view electronic versions of an exhibit well ahead of the convention, request clarification from the exhibitor, and either not give traditional awards or limit these to certain categories or conditions. An exhibitor might wish not to be considered for level awards but still receive a certificate of participation, or separate electronic awards. The exhibit would be shown as photocopies on bulletin boards, for example, for specific times or in the study group meetings, or...

You might ask why one would do this? Personally, I would rather have folks see my material in several areas than worry about the award. I have always found exhibiting to be the best advertising for areas I collect, and for potential sellers or traders to see it.

Another approach would be to set up a nice HD TV, say 40", and have the electronic exhibits available to view during the convention. Thus, I could spend time with something I really am interested in. Perhaps, with permission, pages could be electronically captured and stored on one's flash drive for information, or even the entire exhibit. I personally would be happy to make my exhibits available.

Of course there is potential for abuse, such as not owning the material in an electronic exhibit, but with public viewing that will be outed speedily, and the threat of banishment from exhibiting in the future would be a significant deterrent. Coupled with ineligibility for the major awards, there would be little inducement to cheat on electronic exhibits. Comments at the meeting?

The last cover we show is to Oregon in the Decimal period. Mailed in 1863, it indicates 15¢ paid in cash to the same recipient as the others, the decimal equivalent of the 9d rate. While at least 4 Decimal-franked covers were recorded by Arfken & Leggett (1996), with an unknown but likely similarly limited number of stampless covers, this is the first we are aware of the Oregon. Another similar cover was offered for auction from the same seller, but someone had placed a 17¢ Decimal stamp over the "Paid" manuscript, not tied and clearly fraudulent.



Note: Figs. 3-5 will be provided at the July 10 meeting

Member Joe Horn came up with this item at the last Bryan-College Station Stamp Club meeting. It was sent from the US, likely containing either stamps for sale or a check to purchase stamps from the Rev. Butler, well known to Canadian philatelists as one of the primary Newfoundland stamp dealers in the early to mid-20th century. Several articles have been written about him in TOPICS over the years by Bob Dyer. Combinations like this are interesting- anyone got some?

