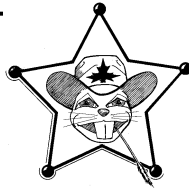


BEAVER



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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October 14 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

DONATION AUCTION THIS MEETING

We will hold a donation auction to benefit our somewhat depleted treasury. We do have meeting expenses for room rental. Please bring material that might be of interest to our attendees, and bid generously!

BNAPEX 2017 Calgary

Your chairman George and editor Vic made the trip to Calgary around the Labor Day weekend for the annual meeting of BNAPS. George and Mary Elizabeth drove up from College Station ahead of the hurricane, stopping at various national parks along the way, while Vic and Carol left from their condo in Crested Butte a couple days ahead. By that time the western fires were in full blaze, and from about Salt Lake City northward the skies were brown, mountains hidden in smoke, and air hardly breathable in some locales. Calgary was quite hot and smoky. Vic and Carol returned via Glacier NP, whose Going to the Sun Highway was closed because of a large fire. On the western side of the park the sky was again brown clear to Boise, their destination, and after visiting Carol's sister, remained so until the east side of the Wasatch Mountains in Utah. No mountains to be seen in one of the loveliest parts of the U.S., the Sawtooth Mountains.

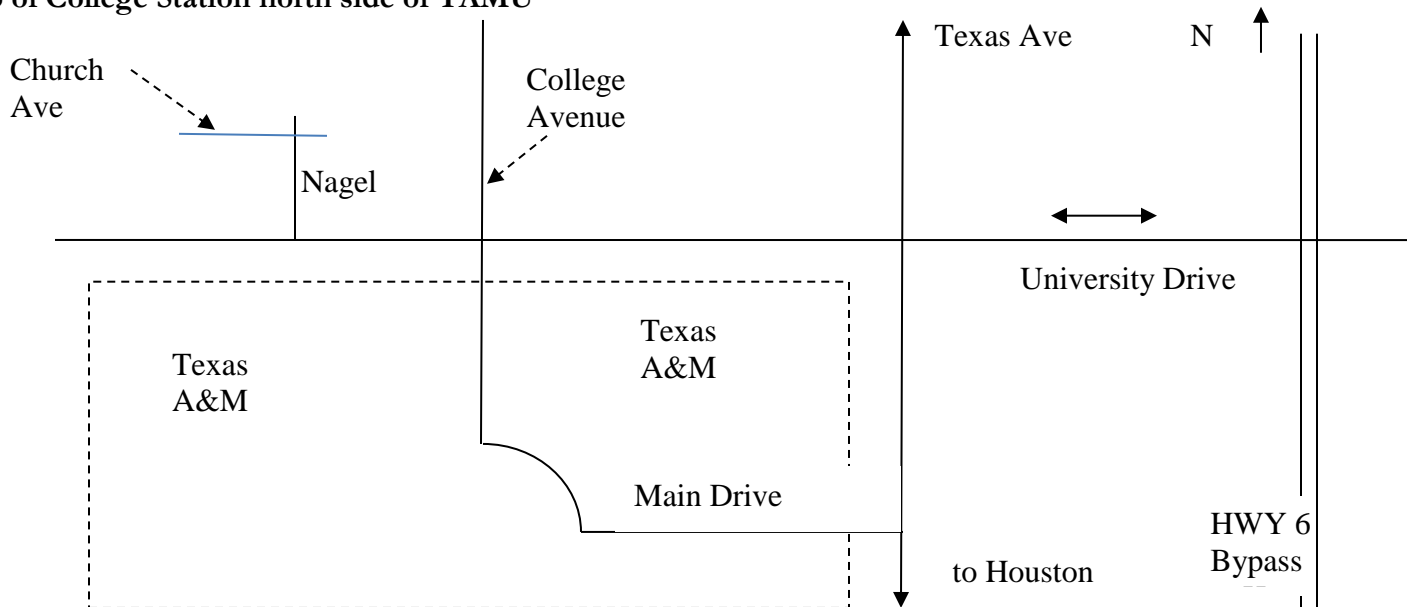
The show had some outstanding exhibits. Grand award was won by Ron Majors for his 1859 Decimal postal history. It had received the Reserve 5 years ago, and Ron added the missing pieces to create the best showing of this material ever put together. I had seen all the previous major exhibits of this issue over the last 40 years, and it combined all the significant material from all, including the major items of Horace Harrison's registration that were absent from most of the previous ones. The reserve went to David Piercey, an Edmonton collector, who put together a marvelous showing of Newfoundland coastal steamship mail in the 19th century. The layout in describing the material was superb, and the material extraordinarily scarce from this area not known for its literacy over 500 years of fishing and lumbering. The Ed and Mickey Richardson Award went to David Bartlett for Vended Postage Automation, showing the development of vending machine stamps, including an early vending machine on a chair next to the exhibit (not counted for or against the exhibit!). Of particular interest was the new experimental material David showed that could have stood by itself as a great exhibit. Of interest to Denise Stotts was the John Arn White Queen Award for best Elizabethan material, given to Joel Weiner for The Centennial Booklets of Canada 1967-1972, quite complete including errors and varieties. (*continued p.3*)

PRAIRIE BEAVER MEETING, October 14, 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: Australia: The King George VI Zoological Issues: Jay Stotts
11:15 - 12:00	Clothesline Exhibit
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 1:15	Business meeting
1:15 - 2:00	Presentation:
2:00 - 2:45	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
2:45 - 3:15	Presentation: American Exceptionalism: Gary Giroux
3:15 - 4:00	Donation auction
4:00 - 4:30	Swap, sell, buy, trade
4:30	Wrapup
	Leave for dinner at local venue

Map of College Station north side of TAMU



Continued from p. 1

Your editor served as Chief Judge along with Gary Steele, JC Michaud, and Mark Berner. There were about 140 frames and 28 exhibits, yielding 12 golds, 5 vermeil, 5 silver, 3 silver bronze, and 3 bronze. A session on proposed clarification of BNAPS judging standards was held after the critique/feedback session on Sunday preparatory to issuance of a policy statement recently released about the topic. In part it was the result of a brouhaha from last year when a national gold level post card exhibit received a bronze at the 2017 show. BNAPS does not judge deltiology in general unless it has a clear tie to BNA philately, and the show organizers last year probably should not have even accepted the exhibit, which was focused on the work of a Canadian photographer. The broader issue of what constitutes BNA philately has been controversial ever since John Robertson's cross-border mail exhibit, which had more US than Canadian material (it was both accepted and received high awards but generated a lot of heated commentary). I don't think that would be problematic now. Since BNAPS is not a generalist society and does not abide by FIFA or any national guidelines, it is not uncommon for exhibits that get high awards in national shows get lower awards in BNAPEXes and vice versa. The new guidelines and policy reinforce some differences that reflect that.

NUMERAL STAMPS ON COVER

Looking for scarce items for a collection is a strange process. In statistics there is a theory about waiting time at checkout that, along with the theory of random numbers, shows that the time between events is not nearly as uniform as one might think. There can be large gaps between one event and another, followed by very short gaps. This is true of locating scarce items as well, although the propensity of such material to be gathered together by a serious collector tends to make the events less unrelated than random theory predicts. This occurred for me in June of this year. I have been looking for examples of the 6 cent Numeral, Sc. 80, single usage on cover for a number of years. Not one example has shown up at auction or ebay in at least 15 years, even though it has a decent current catalog of C\$700 (way underpriced in my estimation). The stamp was issued Aug. 27, 1898, and was obsolete for most uses on Jan. 1, 1899, since the domestic and US letter rate went from 3¢ to 2¢ per oz. and the UK rate from 5¢ to 2¢ per ½ oz. on Dec. 25. Thus, for the primary likely usage there was 4 months' potential for the stamp's application. Triple rate letters are very scarce in Canadian philately in any period- I have never seen that usage for the 6¢ post-1898.

Over the last couple years I let it be known I was looking for single usage to dealers and stamp friends, and reiterated it at ORAPEX in Ottawa in May. I was not on the floor an hour when a friend said Dave X was looking for me as he had some material I might be interested in. I met him, he described having 4 covers with single usages, and would I be interested. He did not have the material with him but would email scans, and if interested would set prices for each and a lot price for all. Short story, I took a look and bought the lot without any hesitation. He had begun accumulating material for an exhibit but was giving up as it was taking too long to find sufficient material.

The first item shown is a registered printed matter cover sent from St. Hyacinthe Aug. 18, 1899, to Montreal, 1¢ per 4oz plus 5¢ registration, Aug 19 receiver on back. All Canadian mail could be registered in this period. Thus, here is an extremely rare postal usage of the stamp (printed matter could only be registered after 1889 and I have recorded fewer than 10 up to this date of any issue). What was even more interesting was that a second registered printed matter cover was in the lot, sent from Montreal to Three Rivers. I sold this to a prominent collector at BNAPEX who has like me been looking for any example for years.

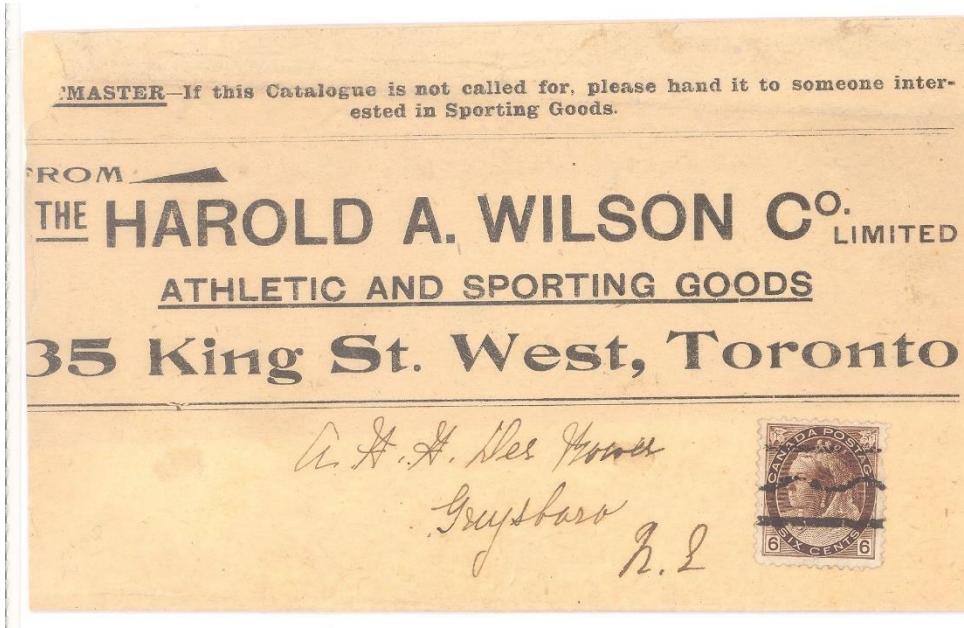
The second example is a precancel usage on a wrapper paying the 6¢ for up to 24 ozs. prior to 1902 or 12 ozs. thereafter, the latter more likely given the weight difference. This usage is listed in the Unitrade catalog but I had never seen an example before.

The third example is a registered drop letter mailed at Moncton, NB, Dec. 13, 1898. Drop letters were 1¢ per oz. for non-delivery cities and 2¢ for free delivery cities, Moncton the former.

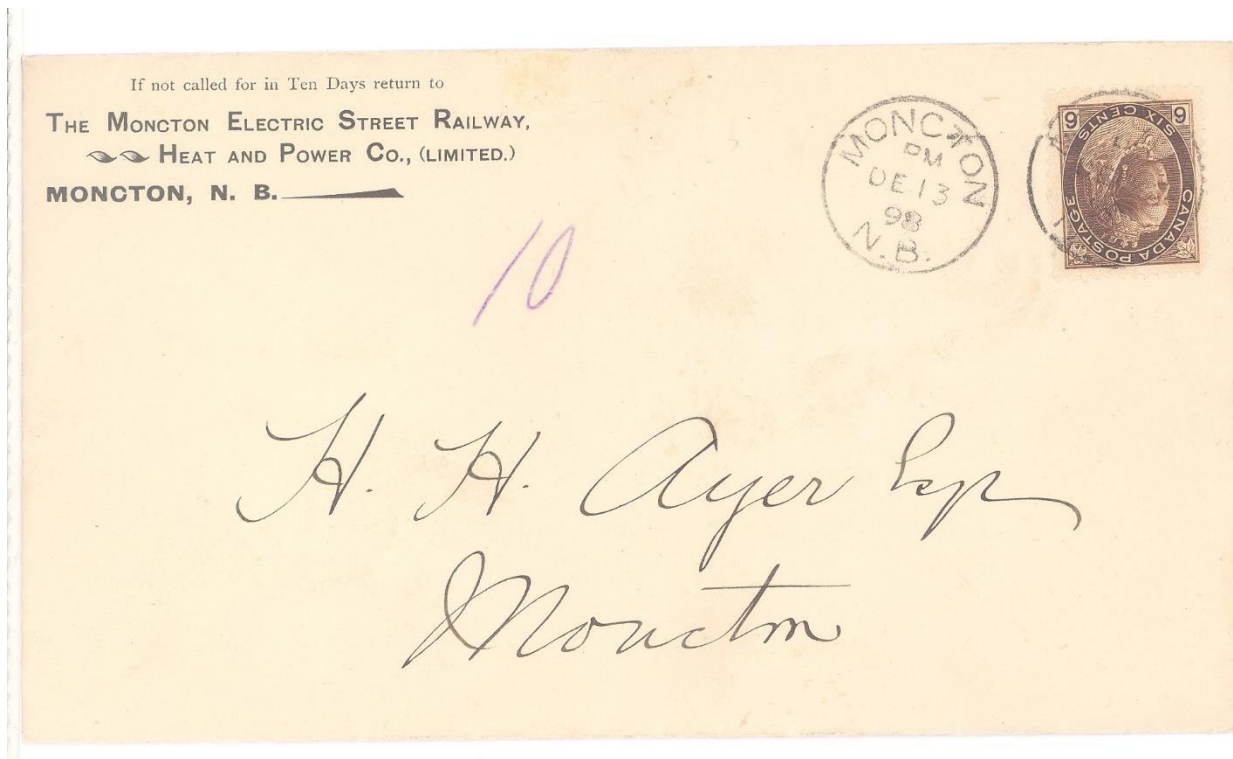
Registered printed matter



Printed matter up to 12 Ozs.



Registered drop letter



Thus, in one lot I acquired three different usages of the stamp. I can think of a couple more likely single usages, such as 6 lbs. on a bulk newspaper receipt, 1¢ per lb. although I have never seen one, or triple rate letter in 1898, but will be satisfied with what I have.

The other Numeral item is even rarer than the 6¢. The 20¢ Numeral was issued Dec. 24, 1900, for no specific rate purpose but as a make-rate for high rate material. It was superseded in Sept. 1904 by the 20¢ Edward. Most high value stamps of the period went on bulk newspaper receipts, money packets from one bank to another, or overseas multiweight material such as journals or large letters. In June a single use example came up on ebay in France, paying the 4x ½¢ per oz. UPU letter rate to Germany. In my recording of such covers, I had previously listed three, to Guatemala, Sweden, and France. There are a handful of items with frankings including the 20¢ as well, and I owned one many years ago. In checking with Johann Tanguay, lotter for Eastern Auctions, and other collectors of this period, we could not come up with any others, and my find (I did purchase it) was new to those folks. The cover went from Quebec City, JY 8, 1903 (note: still valid use since the Edward was not out until 1904, 1 year later) to Neupfen (JY 20 receiver on back).

Interestingly, a later franking with a 5¢ Edward paying 4x UPU plus registration was sold by the same person, and that will be in the next Eastern auction, at a valuation several times the selling price.

Finally, in the when it rains it pours category, the cover below pays the 3x UPU rate plus registration from St. Catharines OC 14, 1901, to Buenos Aires via New York with appropriate transits and receivers on back. I won it on ebay 2 weeks ago, still in transit. It goes with the perfin pair to British Honduras paying printed matter that I showed at the last meeting.

20¢ Numeral paying 4x UPU rate to Germany



Triple UPU rate registered



TEXPEX DONE FOR

The TEXPEX APS show will not be put on in 2018. It was clear from the 2017 show that there were insufficient volunteers in the area to make it work. Vince King did extraordinary work keeping it going for the 5 year run at the Hilton, but it wasn't enough. Sadly, this seems to be a common theme. APS needs to think about how shows are going to continue in many parts of the country. Doing the same thing and expecting different results – the definition of insanity.

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