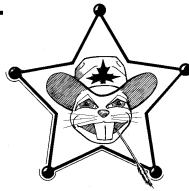


BEAVER



CHATTER

The Newsletter of the Prairie Beaver Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society, Ltd.
Chairman: **George Dresser** Treasurer: **David Nickson** Editor: **Vic Willson**
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DECEMBER 17 MEETING IN COLLEGE STATION

Our next, in-person meeting will be at St. Mary's Catholic Center in College Station on December 17, 2022. The agenda is on the next page.

JAY STOTTS WINS GRAND AWARD FOR LITERATURE AT CHICAGOPEX FOR "The United States Fourth Bureau Issue 1922- 1938"

The legacy of a true philatelist is the generation of knowledge that moves the hobby forward. Jay has certainly secured his place with the monumental reference work of the 4th Bureau that we were able to inspect at the last meeting pre-sale. This is an example of the standard reference works that last decades, Congratulations to Jay and the contributors to this outstanding book.

Brigham Pence and Cents Collections to Go Under the Auction Hammer. Ron Brigham, deceased in August, did not put his Canada Pence or Cents in his auctions of all his other collections. They will be auctioned over the next several years, Included are multiple examples of mint and used 12d black Scott #3's including covers, for those with deep pockets, and many unique items. Brigham pulled together material from most of the major collections over the last 30 years to win several international grand awards.

2-Ring Numerals Auctioned at Eastern Auctions in November. The best accumulation of 2-ring numeral cancels of Canada on Large Queens was recently put under the hammer. It was the best variety since Jim Hennok's sale in 2009. The 1-60 numbers were issued around April 1, 1869, comprising the 60 largest towns of Canada, although a few do not conform. Only a subset of the numbers succeeded into the Small Queen period in 1870, with fancy cancels and duplexes favored over them. My theory is that a few postmasters refused to receive them and they were sent elsewhere.

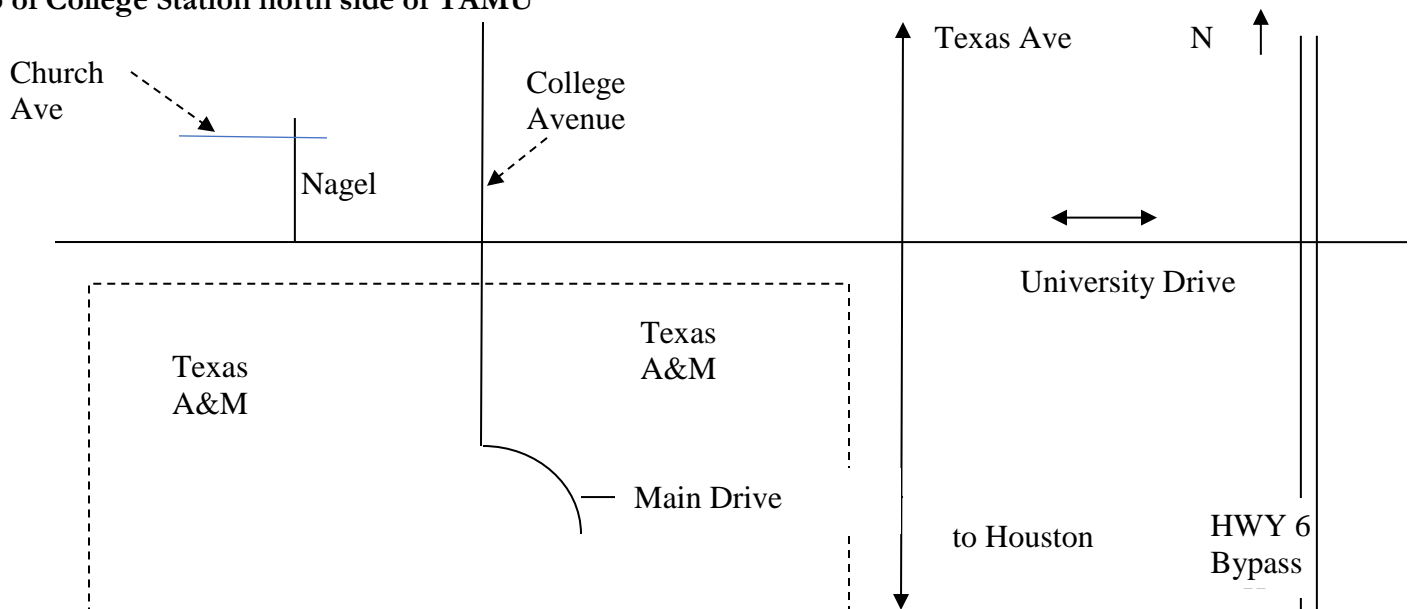
The prices were very high for stamps, surprisingly moderate for covers. The highlight was the only recorded cover of #20 to Galt sold for around \$2,000 US, it being the only example to identify Galt associated with the number. Higher numbers received higher bids associated with lower town mail volume, with a similar pattern for higher value Large Queens. The exception was the 1¢ red brown, since it was replaced by the orange yellow color in late January 1869. Large cities used up their stocks over a period overlapping the numerals, but small towns had long since used up their red browns, so any high number was rare. The same principle was shown for the 12½¢ and 15¢ stamps. While I was able to purchase 4 covers I was badly outbid on the 4 lots of numbers I wanted to add. For example, the #17 on 1¢ yellow orange in VF condition went for almost \$,1000. C'est la vie.

PRAIRIE BEAVER MEETING, December 17, 2022

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 - 11:00	Presentation: Canadian Mail to the Pre-Confederation Maritimes- Vic Willson
11:00 - 12:15	Clothesline Exhibit (BNA stuff, 00 anything else of philatelic interest)
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 1:15	Business meeting
1:15 - 2:00	Presentation: U.S. Precancels- Jay Stotts
2:00 - 2:30	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
2:30 - 3:15	Presentation: King Edward VII Canada 10¢ Covers- George Dresser
3:15 - 4:15	My favorite philatelic item- everyone
4:15 - 4:45	GHSS Review- HPS members
4:45 - 5:00	Wrap-up
5:15	Dinner at local restaurant

Map of College Station north side of TAMU



CANADIANS IN THE 1884 BRITISH NILE EXPEDITION TO KHARTOUM- Vic Willson

General Charles “Chinese” Gordon was sent in early 1884 to effect the evacuation of British personnel from Khartoum after a disastrous defeat by the Egyptian army at the hands of an insurrectionist jihad led by the Mahdi, a Muslim messianic leader. When the British took Egypt in 1882 to secure the Suez Canal, the Sudan, governed by the UK, was effectively appended to Egypt, which was given the task of governing it, which they did badly. The British government had no intention of being dragged into a remote war there and sent Gordon. He had other ideas, however, as a previous governor of the region, and instead set up defenses of Khartoum. This was inadequate and by spring 1884 Gordon was asking for supplies and reinforcements, contrary to his instructions. Bowing to public pressure Gordon managed to generate, the British government assembled a task force to go up the Nile to save Khartoum from the Mahdi, who had now besieged it.

The Expedition leaders fancifully thought Canadian voyageurs would be helpful, never mind that there had been no voyageurs for 40+ years given railroads and steamboats. Canada dutifully supplied 386 boatmen instead as contract civilians along with 8 Canadian Militia officers to somehow manage the civilians. The length of service for the boatmen was 6 months. One of the officers was a medical man, Surgeon Major John Nielson, a veteran of the 1879 Red River Rebellion expedition, and a correspondent for several newspapers to write about the expedition.

The Canadian contingent left Montreal September 14, arriving at Alexandria October 7. The relief expedition began upriver soon thereafter using steamboats to tow whaleboats full of British soldiers. At Wadi Halfa the Canadian boatmen began earning their pay getting the whaleboats through the upstream rapids-slowly. By January 1885 they were only at the 4th set of rapids. Contracts for the Canadians were up and Khartoum was in dire straits. Contract renewals were not sufficiently enticing and only 89 boatmen re-up'ed. By then it was too late- Khartoum fell on January 25 and Gordon, among other British, was killed.

The non-renewers left for Canada through Malta and Queenston, Ireland. The re-ups started home on March 13, the Expedition never making it to Khartoum. A total of 16 boatmen and officers died enroute, on the march, or homeward, all from disease or accident. None saw active engagement.

Only 13 covers from Canada to any of the 394 officers and boatmen of the Expedition have survived, all to Surgeon Major Nielson. Four covers are known from members posted in Egypt to Canada. Surely there more out there not recognized. Below is a new find shown in Fig. 1, sent from Quebec Nov. 8 with a London transit date of Nov. 8, no receiver but a London UK Nov. 18 transit cancel (Fig. 2). The other known covers have dates of October 4 (Winnipeg, Quebec, 2), November 1 (Quebec), November 7 (Kingston), November 21 (Quebec), November 27 (Quebec, Kingston), December 2 (St. John NB), December 4 (Quebec), and December 11 (Kingston). One cover has an illegible dater. The accumulation of material is the smallest of any Canadian military operation. While unimportant to Canadian history, it is a fascinating sidenote for philatelic pursuit, one I have spent decades chasing.

References

Richardson, E. A. (March-April 1983). Canada's Voyageur Contingent on the Nile- 1884-1885. *BNA Topics*, 40(2), pp. 40-46. British North America Philatelic Society.

Wikipedia (undated). *Charles George Gordon*

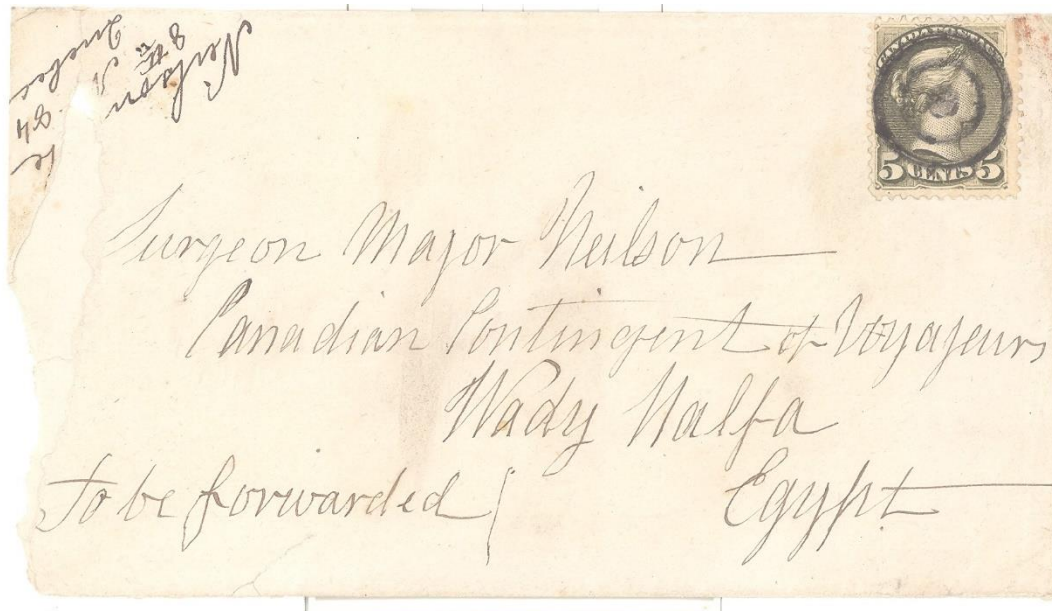


Fig.1: Cover to Surgeon Major Nielson on the Nile from Quebec



Fig. 2: Nielson cover back daters of Quebec Nov. 8, 1885 and London transit Nov. 18

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