

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**

Volume 48, No. 1 Whole Number 161 May 2023

MAY 27 MEETING IN COLLEGE STATION

Our next, in-person meeting will be at St. Mary's Catholic Center in College Station on May 27, 2023. The agenda is on the next page.

FIRST BRIGHAM AUCTION YIELDS CRAZY PRICES

The Eastern Auctions initial sale of Ron Brigham's Pence and Cents material was held March 17. Clearly a sampler of the entire holding, it still had lots with high catalog values, many of which were eclipsed. There appeared to be two whales among the fishes in bidding and winning most high value items and even a few others, much to my chagrin on one of the two lots I hoped to add to my intended uses exhibit. The prices on a few items exceeded understanding for what they were – but that happens when two well-heeled bidders want the same thing.

The first lot was Sanford Fleming's essay page for the 3d Beaver, which sold for C\$475,000 to the Canadian Museum of History, which now houses the Canadian Stamp Collection previously held by the defunct Canadian Postal Museum. I do not know what premium was paid for such material. Merely mortal material is increased by 18%. The second lot, the original die proof for the 3d sold for C\$62,500. Most proofs went for about 50% over catalog. Really nice 3d covers went up to double estimate of catalog. The stitch watermark unused block of 6 went for C\$35,000, over double estimate. One of three known covers with bisect 3d going to England sold under catalog at C\$30,000 – ex-Dale-Lichtenstein, while the unique part MNH block of four of the perforated 3d made C\$180,000.

The 5¢ Beaver Goodall die proofs in brown red and green hit C\$18,000 and C\$17,000, results of the bidding war between the two high rollers. A black plate proof of 9 hit a ridiculous C\$125,000, even so being the largest in that color (my response, so what – there are sheets of the proof in color of issue, this not particularly important philatelically although it could be positioned with plate flaws in 15 and 16). One of three imperforate blocks of four of the 5¢, ex-Pack, hit C\$85,000, again a bidding war result, and a MNH block of 9 of the stamp made C\$62,500 in the same war. An example of an overly-high price was a perforated 6d cover at C\$35,000. It was not even tied.

Goodall die proofs of the 10¢ Decimals went very high also. My beef with them is that they were produced in the late 1870s, 20 years after the issue, and they have no particular philatelic significance, and from my perspective are irrelevant to a Decimal issue exhibit. A MOG imperforate block of four of the 10¢ hit C\$160,000. Since there are a number of these blocks still around, the price makes little sense except to the two bidders. Mint blocks of four and strips in various shades of the 10¢ also went very high, from C\$10,000 for an imprint strip of 5 of the red violet/claret printing order 23C (I showed you an example of cover some time ago), to C\$25 and

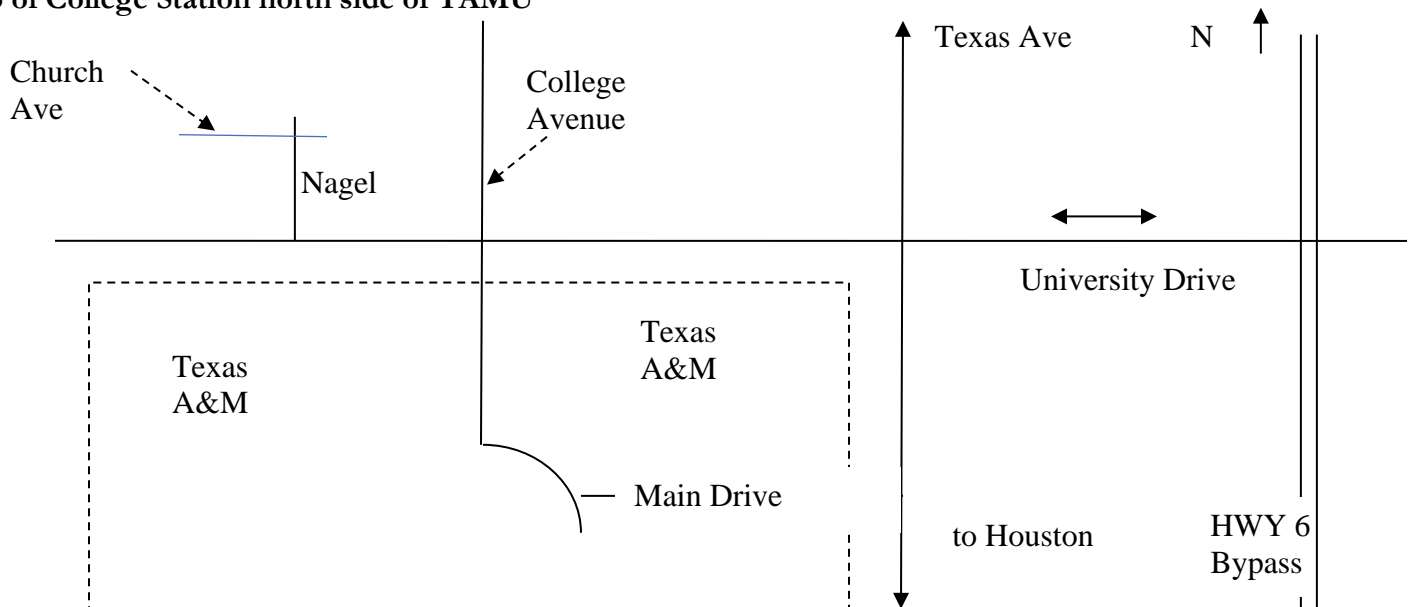
(continued on page 3)

PRAIRIE BEAVER MEETING, May 27, 2023

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, actions)
9:45 - 10:15	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
10:15 - 11:30	Activity: Creating George Dresser's 1 Frame Exhibit of the 10¢ Edward VII stamp- all
11:30 - 12:15	Clothesline Exhibit (BNA stuff, anything else of philatelic interest)
12:15 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 1:15	Business meeting
1:15 - 1:45	Presentation: Censorship on Post Cards- Ralph Poore
2:00 - 2:30	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
2:30 - 3:15	Presentation: Collecting Texas Poster Stamps and Cinderellas- Jeff Switt
3:15 - 4:00	Discuss and show something from a sideline collection- everyone
4:00 - 4:15	Wrap-up
4:15	Invitation to dinner at Willson's- 1200 Todd Trail, College Station

Map of College Station north side of TAMU



(continued from p.1)

C\$16,000 for violet shades. A cover with three copies of the Scott 16 10¢ black-brown plus 5¢ paying double Cunard rate to England went for a reasonable C\$9,500, largest of that printing on cover. The big bidders clearly did not have the lust for covers as they did for stamps.

A full OG mint 12d black with four margins went for a modest C\$90,000. Clearly both big bidders already had examples, for someone else bought it. Mint and used imperforate blocks of the half-penny went high as well, the ex-Pack ribbed paper at C\$40,000, while a full OG perforated block for an incredible C\$125,000. The 12 ½¢ imperforate OG top imprint pair sold for C\$145,000 – there are at least five other pairs and a strip of three all MOG. The 35¢ cover with pair of 12½¢ and 10¢ hit C\$42,500. There are six examples, all very similar. Previous sales have been in the \$10-15K range.

A part OG imperf block of four of the 2¢ Decimal went for a ridiculous \$50,000 – not particularly rare, with probably 10 examples around. A mint perforated block of the 2¢ hit C\$23,000, again not particularly rare. One of the two covers I wanted was the only one bid up by one of the heavy hitters against me (Why me, Lord?), paying a FREE registered cover, 2¢ the registration fee, only three recorded, but still, at C\$3,500 way more than other similar covers went for. I did get the following item.

1¢ Printed Matter to New Brunswick

This rate cover is scarce, 10 examples recorded, but what made it significant is the May 11, 1860 Hamilton Berri duplex cancel – the earliest recorded Berri duplex use. The Berri duplex cancelers were ordered for the largest cities in Canada, 4 for Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, London, Quebec and Kingston. Quebec only used it for a few days before breaking the canceler off from the date, as did Toronto – both are great rarities as duplex cancel on cover.



THE BABY SISTERS- Denise Stotts

The "Baby Sisters" experimental stamps were produced by the British American Bank Note Company around 1967. It is believed that they were originally issued for booklet production experimentation. Shown is a block of 20 from the one known sheet of 200 with the alternating colors. The one-color sheets were printed with 100 images. They also had gutter strips and were tete-beche, as seen in this example."



OVERSEAS MAIL FROM THE KLONDIKE- Vic Willson

The postal history of the Klondike gold rush was extensively documented by Robert Woodall in *The Postal History of Yukon Territory Canada* (1976). Other than articles on particular covers, the RCMP, and mail routes, nothing comprehensive has since been done. A newer work, *The Klondike Gold Rush Steamers: A History of Yukon River Steam Navigation* (2015) included discussion of mail carriage.

While the big strike on the Yukon hit in August 1896, news filtered out slowly in January 1897 and Dawson began to grow. Its first post office opened September 1897 but winter mail service was bad. Would-be miners dumped at Skagway started up Chilkoot Pass by summer 1897, but most were stuck en route that winter and did not make it to Dawson until ice breakup in the spring of 1898. Almost all claims on streams in the area had already been taken by then. While the RCMP ran the post offices at Lake Bennett, the head of Chilkoot and White Passes, and Dawson they were overwhelmed. Summer steamers brought and took mail between May and September 1899-1900. As many miners were Americans, the majority of mail went to the U.S. as far as I can tell. There were people from dozens of countries, but little overseas mail shows up, so either that mail is held in the recipient countries or doesn't exist in quantities. Kevin O'Reilly's BNAPEX Grand had only one cover, a 2¢ to England in the pre-1905 era.

Below are two covers (*Figs. 1 & 2*) I recently acquired going to Sweden in June and September 1902, one from Dawson and the other from Bonanza, 12 mile up Bonanza Creek from Dawson, opened in October 1899. This was where the original and greatest strike of all was located by George Carmack. The overpayment and use of the 2¢ Numeral speaks to the distribution of stamps sent to Dawson. Few 5¢ Numerals are seen compared to 1¢ and 2¢ Numerals before 1903 when Edward stamps arrived. Early on, the violet 2¢ was used but was quickly replaced by the red 2¢, issued in August 1899. The 5¢ was used for registered mail, which appears

to me to be scarce. The covers to Sweden went by steamer up the Yukon to Whitehorse, rail to White Pass, and steamer to Vancouver, received about 10 days later and moved onward.

My other overseas Yukon cover is also from Bonanza, to England (Fig. 3). It is a double weight ½ – 1 oz. rate. In 1901 the White Pass & Yukon Railroad and Northern Navigation Company built railroads and steamers that in summer reached Dawson and in Winter partway, the rest by dogsled and then sleigh. This cover went by sleigh to Whitehorse, where rail service had been extended from White Pass in 1901.



Fig. 1: Dawson, YT, June 10, 1902, to Sweden

Fig. 2: Bonanza, YT, September 9, 1902, to Sweden



Fig. 3: Bonanza, YT, April 2, 1904, to England

References:

- Turner, R. D. (2015). *The Klondike Gold Rush Steamers*. Madera Park BC: Harbour Pub. Co Ltd
Woodall, R. G. (1976). *The Postal History of Yukon Territory Canada*. Lawrence, MA: Quarterman.

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 lloydwill@aol.com