



## **BNAPS NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP NEWS**

**Edition #30 – July 15, 2025**



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**Page 1**

**From the Editor:** Just a reminder, I still need articles for the Newsletter. Please consider writing something: a recent acquisition, a favourite cover, a favourite stamp issue, etc.

### **BNAPEX 2025**

We will be holding a Study Group Meeting at BNAPEX in Vernon BC 19 - 21 September 2025  
Saturday September 20, 10:00-11:30 in the Columbian Room

**WE NEED A SPEAKER(S) for this meeting. Please let me know ASAP if you intend to go to the meeting and if you are willing to make a presentation.**

#### **The convention venue is**

Prestige Vernon Lodge and Conference Centre

3914 - 32nd Street, VERNON BC V1T 5P1

Hosted by the BNAPS Pacific Northwest Regional Group.

#### **Anniversaries noted**

BNAPEX 2025 Vernon will mark the following anniversaries with special covers and postmarks:

50th anniversary of Parliament naming the beaver as an official symbol of Canada

60th anniversary of the Canadian flag

113th anniversary of the establishment of Vernon Military Camp

#### **Important dates**

15 June - End of initial acceptance period for requesting exhibit frames

30 June - Last day to register for the BNAPEX convention so as to be entered in the draw for \$100

15 July - Last day for requesting exhibit frames

31 July - Last day to reserve a room at the convention hotel so as to be entered in the draw for free hotel room for one night (up to a maximum of \$179)

15 Aug - Last day to register for the BNAPEX convention

15 Aug - Last day to update exhibit synopsis and title page

31 Aug - Last day to reserve hotel room at the BNAPS group rate

18 Sept - Exhibit mounting and bourse set-up

19 Sept - Exhibition opens: bourse and seminars

20 Sept - BNAPS Past-Presidents' Reception & Awards Banquet

21 Sept - Last day of the convention; exhibit take-down

#### **Registration**

You must register to sign up for the day trips or attend Friday's night-out dinner or Saturday's awards banquet. The registration includes access to the exhibition, bourse, and study group meetings. Click **REGISTRATION** at left to register and pay.

A walk-in fee of \$5.00 per day is charged to access the bourse on Friday or Saturday for persons 18 years of age or older. Access is free to all on Sunday. This fee is charged **ONLY** if you do not register for any of the special events (the three day trips, Friday night-out, or Saturday awards banquet).

The BNAPEX convention is a great place to view exhibits of Canadian stamps and postal history, talk to fellow attendees, and visit the dealers.

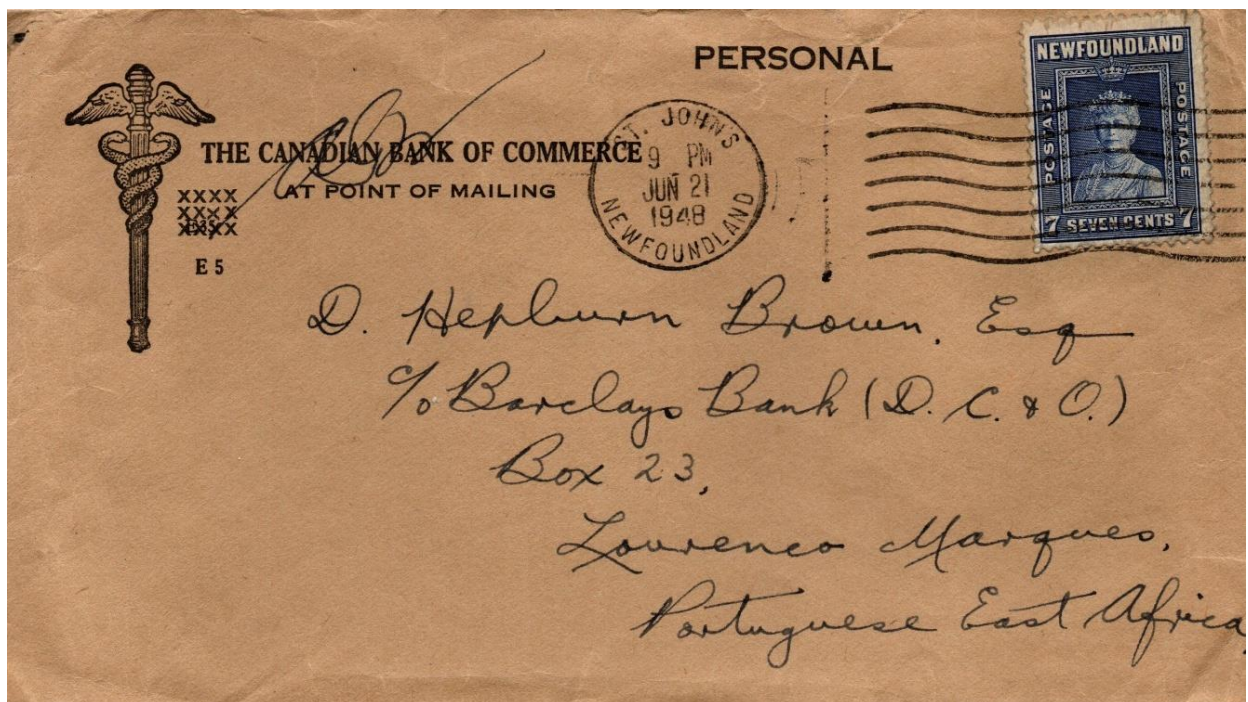
**From Klaus Wehlt: A cover from St. John's to Lourenco Marques in Port. East Africa, 1948**

I am interested very much in the postal history of Newfoundland. Primarily unusual postage rates but also unusual destinations.

It goes without saying that I struck on a letter from Newfoundland to Portuguese East Africa from 1948.

The destination Lourenco Marques is the former capital of Port. East Africa. After the Carnation Revolution in Portugal in 1974, the colony became independent in 1975 and henceforth called itself Mozambique. The capital has since been called Maputo.

This is apparently a business letter from the branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce in St. John's to the branch of Barclays Bank in Lourenco Marques. The letter was correctly franked with a 7c Queen Mary stamp of the Second Resources issue. At that time the foreign letter postage (overground mail).



An airmail letter to Port. East Africa would have cost 45c at the time. The letter was machine canceled in St John's on 21 June 1948. On the backside there is a faint arrival postmark from Lourenco Marques from July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1948.





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Page 3

#### From the Family of C.A. Stillions: Hello all,

We want to thank all of you who attended C.A.'s tribute on June 5th. The evening was indeed special and so gratifying for us. We had the sense that everyone was keen to share their regard and respect for C.A. As we finally put faces to names--from work colleagues, stamp friends and SW Waterfront Village group, we learned even more aspects about C.A.'s life, work, and personal interactions.

The memorial table was overflowing with awards from C.A.'s career and philately. His framed watercolor paintings from his early 20's made a nice backdrop. A highlight for the family was when the 13th Architect of the Capitol, Thomas E. Austin, made an unexpected presentation to Eric and Emily of the *AOC13 Commendation Coin* to honor C.A.'s legacy at the U.S. Capitol. (see below). Guests received a token bag which included a lithophane depiction of C.A. that Eric created with 3D printing. It's a translucent plaque that, when illuminated from behind, displays a photographic image.

If you were unable to come, we greatly appreciated receiving your sympathies and personal stories. A few links and photos follow to share the tribute:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JH9dMSWxEtVv\\_xCbbO0XxfPJHlerSa2?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JH9dMSWxEtVv_xCbbO0XxfPJHlerSa2?usp=drive_link)  
[Career-Philately-SW Waterfront Village friends](#) and [Early life & family](#).

For philately friends: A live auction was held by [Kewriga Auctions](#) at the June NAPEX Show of "The C.A. Stillions Collection of Washington D.C. Postal History." (See attached bio from this catalog.)

With our sincere thanks,  
Eric, Emily and Diane



Tom Austin, Coin presentation 2025/06/05

# Clarence A. (C.A.) Stillions

## Early Life: Illinois

On May 23, 1941, Clarence Arthur was born on his maternal grandparents' farm in Sumner; son of Woodrow Wilson (aka Woody) Stillions, an engineer, and Margaret Lou Piper, a high school teacher. In 1944, C.A.'s sister, Sally Jo was born, and by 1967 the family moved from Charleston to settle in a new home built by Woody in Mattoon. Heartache struck when 5 year old Sally got polio and required months in a hospital and years of physical therapy. The family dynamics were naturally focused on Sally's needs. To bring balance and attention to both children, Margaret steered Woody's attention to Boy Scouts to help father and son have meaningful time together.

## Scouts to World View in Stamps

As a young scout, C.A. began collecting stamps. He earned his *Eagle Scout* and then went on to *Explorer Scout*. Scouting also opened his world view. C.A. attended National Jamborees in the U.S., but also sailed to Warwickshire, England for the 1957 World Jamboree with an Explorers troop that continued its trip to Paris, Rome, Greece, and more.

## Dedication to Philately

C.A.'s bond with BNAPS started in 1969 by getting involved with convention organization committees. He began to focus on British North America, on the topic of Canada's pre-confederation province of Newfoundland. The detailed depictions on the Newfoundland Stamp Definitives were a true passion and he amassed a vast collection. In addition to Newfoundland stamps, and postal history that barely survived WWII, he acquired covers ranging from 1861 to 1949.

He served on the BNAPS Board of Directors from 1976-78, and chairman of the Editorial board from 1982-89. The Newfoundland Study Group in philately was founded in 1985 by 14 dedicated philatelists, with C.A. elected as chairman and editor (1985-92) of its Newsletter. In 1989, he was

inducted into the BNAPS Fellowship of the Order of the Beaver.

One of C.A.'s outstanding achievements was digitizing some 4,400-35mm slides from Col. Robert H. Pratt's Collection of Newfoundland Stamps so they could be accessed worldwide online. In the same vein, C.A. donated his collection of the 1937 King George VI-"Long Coronation Issue" of Newfoundland, to be archived with the Government of Canada. This consisted of 77 die proofs and 45 plate proofs for all denominations as well as 4 sheets (300 postage stamps), press proofs and more. This is accessible at <https://library-archives.canada.ca>. C.A. went on to win a Vermeil medal with this subject at the 'Royal 1991', the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada's annual convention and exhibition.

For one of his later exhibits, "*Newfoundland: The Last Definitives: Perkins Bacon and W.W. Sprague Printings*," C.A. earned a Gold Medal (2018), and in the same year, he authored a book of the same title. He also wrote the book entitled, *Newfoundland's Last Definitives: The Waterlow Printings* (2019).

C.A. was inducted into the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) Hall of Fame (2019) to recognize his many years of distinguished service.

In August, 2024, C.A. won his very last Gold Medal for his exhibit, "*Washington, DC's Earliest Duplex Postal Markings*," which he showed at the Great American Stamp Show, hosted by the American Philatelic Society, the American First Day Cover Society and the Topical Association, in Hartford, Connecticut.

C.A. was motivated to establish various local Stamp groups in the Washington, DC area. He was one of the co-founders of the Washington Stamp Collectors Club. He was not only in awe of both *history* and *stamps*, but where these two interests merged, they called on him to deeply research the historical background of his philatelic discoveries. He loved U.S. and World History in equal measure, and having moved to Washington, D.C. in 1972, he took delight to be in this city of U.S. historic significance, with numerous global opportunities.

## Forefathers Led to

**A/E Career** Following three generations of builders



Clarence A. Stillions, 1941-2024

- from John Stillions, to his son Clarence Arthur (C.A.'s *namesake*), to his son Woodrow--'little C.A.' followed in his forefathers' skillful craft and studied at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, earning a Bachelor of Architecture degree (1965) and continuing to earn a Master of Architectural Engineering (1967).

As an architectural engineer, C.A. worked mostly as a Structural Engineer, with the added knowledge of architecture. Following college, his career began in Houston, TX before moving to Washington, DC. He held positions with several notable Engineering firms over the years. While working for a global firm, he had more world exposure, working on 36 U.S. embassies across the globe-- e.g., El Salvador, Venezuela, Chile, Tunisia, Egypt, Turkey, and others--surely contributing to his stamp books and collections.

## U.S. Capitol Service

A highlight of his long career was his position as the sole Structural Engineer for the Architect of the Capitol (AOC). The AOC is responsible for maintaining and modifying a host of buildings, including: The U.S. Capitol, the Senate Office Buildings, the House of Representatives Buildings, the Library of Congress, and the Botanical Gardens.

C.A. retired from the AOC in 2016 after nearly 20 years of service. C.A. was highly regarded and worked on many notable AOC projects (the new Capitol Visitors Center, the Dome restoration, various Tunnel work and other infrastructure projects). Throughout his dedicated service, he received numerous commendations. He was recognized in particular during critical historical moments of crises, such as, the "September 11" terrorist attack, the subsequent anthrax incidents, and the atypical earthquake that occurred in D.C. in 2011, which required overall assessment of the safety conditions across the AOC's campus.

At his retirement ceremony, he was honored and received the **Architect's Distinguished Career Award**.

**\*\*Relentless Silence\*\***

**\*\*The Speech: Silent but Not Invisible\*\***  
Eric Stillions

Thank you all for being here this evening. Walking around the room tonight, I'm moved that so many of you made the effort to come and share personal experiences with my father. We are here to honor not just my father but also your colleague and friend.

Some of you knew him as the structural engineer, some as a friend from the Waterfront Village community group, and some as a fellow philatelist. If you don't know what that word is, it's an oddly beautiful word for a quiet pursuit: stamp collecting. Whether or not he achieved the largest stamp collection is up for debate, but a 70-plus-year obsession is no small feat.

Regardless of when, where, or how you met him, his contributions and steadfast character are what we all came to recognize most. If you really knew him, you knew he was a man of few words. His silence wasn't out of disinterest; I believe he valued the strength of silence. One word to describe him is **\*\*taciturn\*\*** - taciturn, but never empty.

He was a man who could calculate the load-bearing capacity of the Capitol Dome but couldn't bear the weight of small talk.

I think his greatest professional achievement was his nearly 20 years of working at the Architect of the Capitol (AOC). He loved this city, its buildings, and their historical significance. His love for U.S. and D.C. history shone through in the small conversations he had and the vast details he shared with colleagues and friends.

Over the years he spent at the AOC, he didn't talk much about his work - some of that was due to security clearances, some by choice.

While the dome restoration project was underway at the U.S. Capitol, he invited me for a unique tour into the dome and to the base of the statue. I felt a sense of privilege standing at the top of the rotunda, looking down at the tourists on their guided tours, hearing their conversations word for word. Dad

shared many details on that tour that he might not have uttered any other time. Many of those details I've since forgotten, but the memories and visuals flash in my mind from time to time - like the view of the Mall from the west side of the Statue terrace.

I never had the opportunity to walk through the Capitol Visitor Center with him, but I did recently. Walking into that large, open, welcoming area, I couldn't help but feel his presence. I'd look up at the tops of the columns he had weighed and calculated—the details that I'll never fully know, but that thousands of visitors will never even think about. His work was unseen by many, but appreciated by the few who witnessed his dedication to preserving the buildings that uphold our democracy.

I moved away in my early twenties. To say we were close before is a stretch, and adding 3,000 miles between us made us even more distant. Whenever we talked, I could always predict how our phone calls would start:

“Hey Dad, how are you?”

“Oh, it's been a while, but I'm hanging in there.” He would respond.

Then—the long silence. For him, I think it was enough just to have me on the other end of the line, taking a moment from my busy life to check in. More often than not, I'd be the one to break the silence, sharing the latest movie project or engineering challenge I was facing on a film set. Our conversations would drift to his life, the weather in D.C., or the political climate, his travel plans from the next big stamp convention.

Recently, I learned from one of his stamp friends that one of his quiet enjoyments was going to the movies—and sitting through till the credits—just to see my name appear on the big screen. I can't imagine what movies he sat through - maybe a Marvel blockbuster, maybe some horror flick I worked on. He was there, proud and supportive, giving me that silent recognition of my achievements.

In his quiet way, he taught me a lot. Not always directly, and rarely with open affection, but through

presence, discipline, and consistency.

Philately there's that word again. He loved stamps and postal history. Now, if you knew him outside of the stamp collecting world, if he talked about it, you might think to yourself, Wow, what a fascinating “hobby”. However in reality, it was a life-long obsession. I would call it an addiction.

After he passed, I began to explore his collection—a glass of wine, some nights a bottle or two, at my side. Sitting on the floor in his stamp room—yes, a room—I pulled each book from the shelf and flipped through it with delicate hands, page by page. I admired the delicate placement, the chronological order from Country's to Zip codes — everything arranged with care.

Stamps gave him a small, perfectly-ordered world where things are calm and quiet, yet filled with history and artistry. Philately wasn't just a hobby; it was a pursuit to preserve history. It was a small universe that made sense to him. His exhibits that he displayed at conventions, were meticulous, his handwritten notations, the All-Caps, San-serif typography—even with the occasional spelling error—the frames filled with passion, dedication, preservation. In his displays, where the stories told from a piece of mail, confined between the corners of an envelope, can only be heard if one was to quietly listen.

BEAT.

So raise your glasses.

Dad, your silence was never emptiness. It was structure. It was steady. And it will echo on, quietly, in the lives you helped shape—and in the structures you preserved, including mine.

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