

HUNTSVILLE PHILATELIC CLUB NEWSLETTER

December 2009



American Philatelic
Society Chapter 597
www.stamps.org



Germany Philatelic
Society Chapter 15
www.gps.nu



Southeast Federation
of Stamp Clubs
www.stampclubs.com



www.stampclubs.com/huntsville/index.htm

This newsletter is published quarterly by the Huntsville Philatelic Club. Meetings are held on the First and Third Tuesdays of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Fern Bell Recreation Center, 107A Sanders Road SW. Visitors are always welcome.

MEETING CALENDAR

Dec. 1 - 7:00 One Page Exhibit – Bring a one page exhibit to compete for a prize, should contain a title, story with introduction, main body, & ending.

Dec. 15 - 7:00 Philatelic Auction Night

Jan. 5 - 7:00 To be determined

Jan. 19 - 7:00 Philatelic Auction Night

All regular club meetings begin at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted. Auction sellers are asked to arrive 15 minutes early to allow viewing of auction lots.

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Heinrich Hahn hhahn@bellsouth.net
Vice Pres: Ray Pietruszka pietrj@mindspring.com
Treasurer: Mike O'Reilly mcoreilly@yahoo.com
Secretary: Arthur Cole hpc-stamps@att.net
Directors: Dave Nicolas (past president),
Kathy Campbell, Bob Adams, Don Hill, and Fred Muhl

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Huntsville Philatelic Club - P O Box 4384
Huntsville, AL 35815-4384

Annual dues are \$12.00 per individual and \$3.00 per additional family member. Dues are prorated for new members and renewals are payable in January.

This month's newsletter and archives back to May 2005 may be viewed at our Southeast Federation web page:
www.stampclubs.com/news/news-huntsville.htm

STAMP CLUB NEWS

- HUNTSPEX 2010 was the topic of last month's Board Meeting:
 - HUNTSPEX 2010 dates: June 5 and 6
 - Chairman's listing, areas of responsibility
 - All areas of show will have firm budget
 - Proposal to cancel Award Breakfast, present Award Banquet on Saturday night instead
 - Proposal for less expensive Grand Award
 - Proposal for show topic: 50th Anniversary of Marshall Space Flight Center
 - Proposal to sell back cover of show program as advertising, additional advertising inside
 - Exhibit frame fees will remain same as last year

2009 TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS STAMP



*Madonna and
Sleeping Child*
by Sassetto

The original painting, more than 300 years old, was purchased in 1926 by American media capitalist William Randolph Hearst. The painting is housed at Hearst Castle, now a museum and open to the public as part of the California State Park System. 600 million, 44-cent, First-Class stamps, available in booklets of 20, were printed.

SOUTHEAST REGION STAMP SHOWS

February 13-14

ALAPEX 2010

Birmingham Philatelic Society, Bessemer Civic Center, 1130 Ninth Ave., SW, Bessemer. Contact Robert Hamill or Chuck Donaldson, 205-823-7364, 204-410-8383, mcbayerbob@bellsouth.net

June 5-6

HUNTSPEX 2010

Huntsville Philatelic Club, Bevill Center and Hotel, University of Alabama in Huntsville, 550 Sparkman DR (I-565, exit 12). Heinrich Hahn, 256-536-7785
http://www.stampshows.com/huntsville_hpc.html

2010 USPS NEW ISSUE PREVIEW

January

- Year of the Tiger
- Olympic Winter Games
- Mackinac Bridge
- Bixby Creek Bridge

February

- Distinguished Sailors

March

- Abstract Expressionists

April

- Julia de Burgos
- Adopt a Shelter Pet
- Pansies in a Basket

May

- Katharine Hepburn

June

- Kate Smith
- Oscar Micheaux
- Flags of our Nation
- Negro Leagues Baseball

July

- Scouting
- Comic Strips
- Cowboys Silver Screen

August

- Winslow Homer

October

- Hawaiian Rain Forest
- Holiday Evergreens
- Madonna & Child



for Stamp Collectors

- American Philatelic Society gift membership (\$48.00)
- A year's subscription to Linn's Stamp News (\$45.95)
- Encyclopedia of US Stamps & Stamp Collecting (\$28.80)
- Gift certificate from Subway Stamp Shop (any amount)
- A year's subscription to Scott Stamp Monthly (\$31.97)
- National Postal Museum gift membership (\$35.00)
- Generous supply of folding money (various denominations)
- Year's subscription to Gibbon's Stamp Monthly (£40.80)
- Jenny invert in a locket, Heritage Auction (+/- \$500,000.00)

CANADIAN TERRITORIAL MAIL - CONTINUED

John Burnett

In our last newsletter I wrote about mail to the western territories in both the USA and Canada. Here in part two I'll continue with more western territorial mails.

Figure 1 shows a cover from Cornwall, Ontario to British Columbia bought at auction from a little known auctioneer. The letter is addressed to Germanson Creek, Ominica, British Columbia and is dated October 1871.



First let me explain "Ominica", it is an unofficial area in north central British Columbia about the size of Alabama and in 1871 was the site of a gold rush which was an extension of the famous Klondike gold rush of 1870 – 1871. The letter greatly overpays the 3¢ letter rate as that was the domestic letter rate within Canada and British Columbia joined Confederation in 1868.

I originally thought it was a quadruple rate with a missing 2¢ stamp but upon close examination I could find no sign of a missing stamp. The letter was posted prior to the completion of the Trans Canada railroad and therefore had to use the southern route through the USA.

The most likely route would have been through Detroit, Omaha, Promontory Point, and onto Sacramento. The letter then traveled via stage to San Francisco and onto a steamer for New Westminster BC.

Figure 2 shows the transit strike of New Westminster, this strike was not illustrated in the auction catalogue and turns out to be an extremely rare colonial strike from New Westminster. That strike alone would have put the value of the cover at \$500 (I paid \$125)

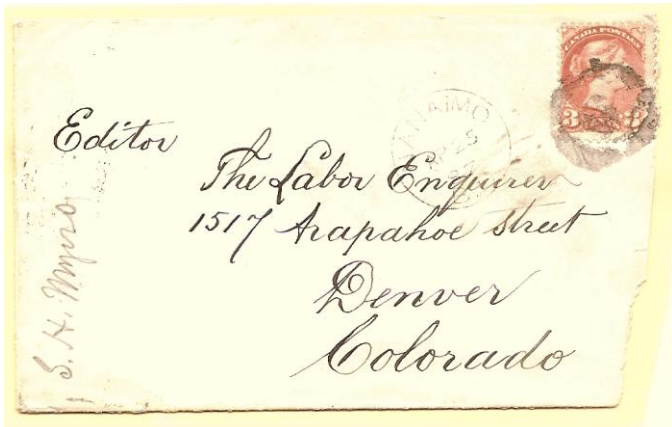


This article is continued in the e-mailed version of the newsletter or may be viewed at the Southeast Federation website www.stampclubs.com/news/news-huntsville.htm

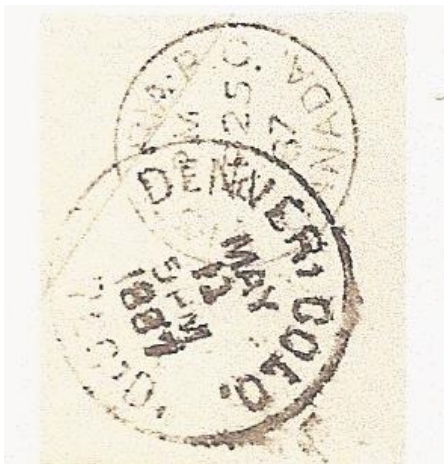
At New Westminster the cover would have then been put on a river steamer on the Fraser River and taken north to Boston Bar at the Hells Gate rapids. The letter would then have been transferred to a ride or carriage for the long trek north to Germanson Creek (another 600 miles north). Note the transit date at New Westminster, it's November and all routes north from Boston Bar would have been closed due to snow and would remain closed until April or May of the following year.

The Postmaster in New Westminster knew this, he also knew the Placer miners all went to the coast for the winter and worked the fish canneries until the gold fields again opened up. The Postmaster rerouted the letter to "Skeena" (a cannery town at the mouth of the Skeena River), based on the November 14, 1871 transit date and from sailing schedules from New Westminster I assume this letter was put on SS Otter which sailed for Skeena on November 16.

My next illustration shown in figure 3 is an all western piece of mail.



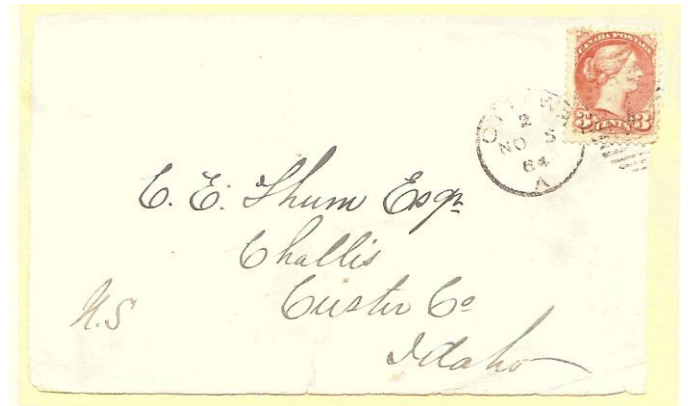
This letter originates in Nanaimo, British Columbia and is addressed to Denver Colorado. The letter traveled south on Vancouver Island to Victoria and then via ship to Port Townsend Washington Territory. This was originally to be the key city in Washington but somehow Seattle ended up with that distinction.



The letter then boarded a steamer for San Francisco and then traveled overland to Denver. The back of the envelope shows Victoria transit, Denver, and Port Townsend receiver postmarks.



My final example is a letter to Idaho. This letter would have followed the familiar rail route through Detroit, Omaha, Promontory point and then it would have transferred to a rider or stage for the long haul north into Idaho.



The covers shown in the last two newsletters are all ratty looking and full of the requirement that you know some history. When was a rail connection available in a given area, when were roads closed due to weather, what did unemployed workers do during the off season, what were the existing mail routes and a dozen other things.

I think this is what makes our hobby so interesting and sometimes tough. I keep a pretty large library of history books available as reference material. I read something about history every evening and have done so for more than thirty years and yet still I miss important things. I find fellow collectors a great resource; I also belong to the important societies that serve the area I collect.

If you plan to be a serious postal historian you have to become a history buff too!