

HUNTSVILLE PHILATELIC CLUB NEWSLETTER

February 2011



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 monthly 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, 107 Sanders Road SW. Visitors are always welcome.

MEETING CALENDAR

Feb. 1 **One-page Exhibits, the theme is "valentine"**

Feb. 15 **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 for viewing of auction lots.

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Heinrich Hahn hhahn256@comcast.net
Vice Pres: Ray Pietruszka pietrij@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.

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www.stampclubs.com/news/news-huntsville.htm

SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF STAMP CLUBS

The Southeast Federation web site is a great source for information about stamp collecting activities in the Southeast region. Please visit www.stampclubs.com

HUNTSPEX 2011 NEWS

44TH ANNUAL HUNTSVILLE PHILATELIC EXHIBITION AND BOURSE

- Dates: June 4-5 at the Bevill Center & Hotel
- Theme: 50th Anniversary of America's First Manned Space Flight, May 5, 1961
- Events: 11 Dealer Stamp Bourse
U.S. Postal Service Station
Philatelic Exhibition
Awards Dinner at the Soldatenstube

SOUTHEAST REGION STAMP SHOWS

February 12-13 **ALAPEX 2011**
Birmingham Philatelic Society, Bessemer Civic Center, 1130 Ninth Ave., SW, Bessemer. Contact Robert Hamill at 205-823-7364, or Chuck Donaldson at 204-410-8383, mcbrayerbob@bellsouth.net

February 26-27 **Winter Stamp Show**
The Mansour Center, 995 Roswell St. NE Sat. 10 AM - 5 PM, Sun. 10 AM - 3 PM, Stamp Dealers Association of Georgia, Kim Conti, 770-426-6504

March 5-6 **KNOXPEX 2011**
Tennessee Philatelic Society, Holiday Inn Knoxville-West, 304 Cedar Bluff Rd., Knoxville. Contact Tom Broadhead, 865-974-1151, twbroadhead@utk.edu
www.stampclubs.com/knoxville

March 12-13 **Nashville Stamp Show**
Nashville Philatelic Society, The Music Valley Event Center, 2416 Music Valley Drive, Suite #144, Nashville. Contact Tom Tribke, ttribke@bellsouth.net; www.nashvillephilatelic.org; 615-833-5161.

April 9, 2011 **Stamp & Coin Show**
Montgomery Area Stamp Club, Holiday Inn, Exit 179, Intersection of I-65 & Cobbs Ford Road, Prattville Alabama. Contact: Dwayne Selix 334-365-2992
Stamper98@mindspring.com

WARTIME SECURITY BREEDS COLLECTIBLES

John Burnett

Many people don't realize that Newfoundland was not part of Canada when WWII broke out in 1939. In fact, Newfoundland was England's oldest colony at that time. She produced her own stamps and would continue to use them until she joined Canadian Confederation in 1949.

That piece of history is important to this article and is a necessary piece of knowledge you need to interpret in context with some WWII's history. What I want to discuss with this article is the mail that passed through *HMCS Avalon*.

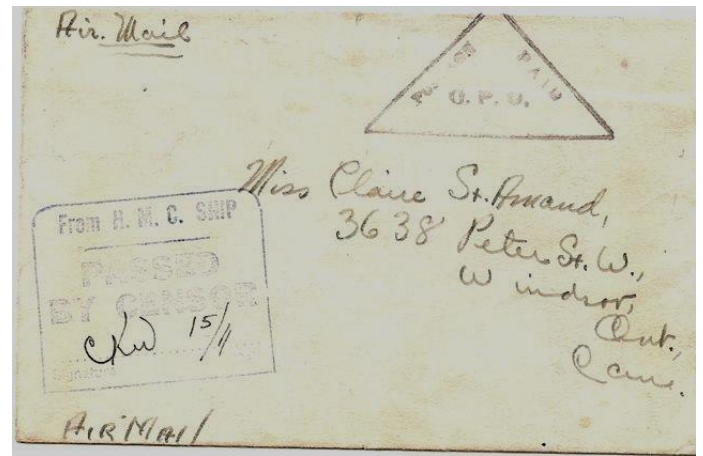
All Canadian naval bases were given ships names and conducted themselves as if they were ships even though they were land bases. All Canadian ships were given the prefix HMCS (His Majesties Canadian Ship) followed by the ships name. HMCS Avalon was the naval base at St. John's, Newfoundland.

Early in 1941, German submarine activity in the North Atlantic had increased to such an extent that the British Admiralty requested that the Canadian naval facility at St. Johns be expanded. This expansion was necessary to support the increasing volume of convoy operations required to get critically needed supplies to the British Isles.

With the increased naval operations (Canada would end WWII as the world's third largest navy) St. Johns became an important postal hub and transfer point for military mail.

As in the United States and Great Britain most mail from Canadian naval personnel on active duty passed through with free franking privilege (i.e.: no stamp required). Any letter requiring special service, registration, air mail etc. required that service be paid for with proper postage attached.

Since Newfoundland was a British colony with her own stamps it was felt that an Axis sympathizer could identify the buildup of forces in St. Johns and so it was decided to not use the stamps of Newfoundland but instead, use a triangular rubber stamp to signify that all charges had been paid.



Shown above is a scan of a letter from an active Canadian naval person requesting air mail service.



And Now the Rest of the Story: Security was breached the minute the triangular stamp was applied; you see, only HMCS Avalon was to ever use this hand stamp and identifying the buildup was simply a matter of seeing the increase of rubber stamps being applied.

YOUR PHILATELIC VOCABULARY 2

This is another in a series of philatelic definitions that will appear in club newsletters. The source of information is a book entitled "*The Stamp Collectors Encyclopedia*" by R.J. Sutton published by Bonanza Books, 1959. All copyrighted material reproduced in this series is within the limitations of the doctrine of fair use, specifically for nonprofit scholarship, educational, and research purposes.

A.H.PD – From 1906 to 1910 stamps of Portugal were overprinted with these initials for use in the Azores. The overprint stands for Angra, Horta, and Ponta Delgada

A.I.F. – Australian Imperial Forces (1940 set for Australia)

A.M. – overprint or inscription on stamps of Greece, 1900 -2, standing for Axia Metallike (Gr.) = value in gold. They were used mainly on overseas parcels, on which postage had to be paid in gold currency.