

HUNTSVILLE PHILATELIC CLUB NEWSLETTER

November 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

November 3

6:30 Board Meeting – HUNTSPEX 2010

7:00 Member's Show & Tell – Bring any item from your collection

November 17 7:00 Philatelic Auction Night

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

Dec. 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 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

- **Thank you** to the 15 members who have asked to receive only the emailed newsletter; this will save the club needed funds. Any additional members who would like to opt out of the postal mailed version, please send an email message to the club secretary at hpc-stamps@att.net
- New **club officers** were elected in October for the 2009-11 term. Please take note of their contact information to the left.
- A **Board Meeting** has been called for Nov. 3 at 6:30. All club officers, directors, and interested member are asked to attend. This will be an organizational and planning meeting for our annual stamp show, HUNTSPEX 2010.
- Last month's meeting featured a presentation by **John Burnett** regarding 'one page exhibits'.



John has also volunteered to provide a series of short articles for the club newsletter.

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, mcbrayerbob@bellsouth.net

2009 NEW ISSUE CHECKLIST

January

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alaska Statehood | <input type="checkbox"/> Year of the Ox |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon Statehood | <input type="checkbox"/> Edgar Allan Poe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Redwood Forest | <input type="checkbox"/> Old Faithful |

February

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abraham Lincoln | <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Rights Pioneers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Miami University | <input type="checkbox"/> Patriotic Banner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Seal | <input type="checkbox"/> Liberty Bell |

April

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Wright | <input type="checkbox"/> Polar Bear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Koi Fish | <input type="checkbox"/> Purple Heart |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tiffany Lamp | |

May

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Flag | <input type="checkbox"/> Wedding Rings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wedding Cake | <input type="checkbox"/> The Simpsons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seabiscuit | <input type="checkbox"/> American Flag |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Hope | <input type="checkbox"/> Liberty Bell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Love/King & Queen | <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Lasker |

June

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Flag | <input type="checkbox"/> Anna Julia Cooper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Celebrate | <input type="checkbox"/> Dolphin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zion National Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Teton National Park |

July

- Gulf Coast Lighthouses

August

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flags of Our Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> Early Television Memories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liberty Bell | <input type="checkbox"/> Hawaii Statehood |

September

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eid | <input type="checkbox"/> Thanksgiving Day Parade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gary Cooper | <input type="checkbox"/> Supreme Court Justices |

October

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kelp Forest | <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Holidays |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hanukkah | <input type="checkbox"/> Kwanzaa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Madonna & Child | |

These Scarce Covers Look More Like Discards

John Burnett

There is no doubt that reading up on your favorite area of BNA collecting can help you build your Canadian collection. I purchased the three covers illustrated with this article after reading an informed article in *BNA Topics*, the official journal of the British North America Philatelic Society. At first glance the covers don't look very appealing and I never would have purchased them had I not known a little bit of history.

In the December 2007 issue of *BNA Topics*, Victor Willson began a two part article titled "*Canadian Letters to the American West in the 19th Century.*" The article asserts that such mail to US western territories and the Canadian west are really scarce. Although my illustrated covers look tattered, they serve as examples of these hard-to-find uses.



The cover shown above carried a letter addressed to Major James Walker, the superintendent of the North-West Mounted Police (later the RCMP). The letter is addressed to Bow River, Northwest Territories, and was sent from Ingersoll, Ontario via Ft. Benton in Montana. The North-West Mounted Police were located at Ft. Calgary on the Bow River in what was then the Northwest Territories. This area would later become the province of Alberta. Ft. Benton is approximately 75 miles south of the USA Canadian border.

A Windsor Ontario transit strike from the back of the envelope is shown enlarged below and dates it as March 17, 1882 and helps establish the route the cover took. The letter would have traveled by rail to Detroit, Michigan then onto Omaha via Chicago. At Omaha the envelope would have been transferred to a boat or river barge and run the Missouri River to a point near Ft. Benton. The letter would then have been transferred to a stage or ox cart for the trip north to the small settlements along the Bow River in Canada.

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



In 1882 the North-West Mounted Police had an establishment of eight men at Ft. Calgary. The mail had to travel this southern route through the United States because the rail head of the Trans Canada railroad was still in Manitoba, some 600 miles east of Ft. Calgary, and would not reach Calgary until August 1883. Ft. Calgary didn't get its first post office until October 1883.



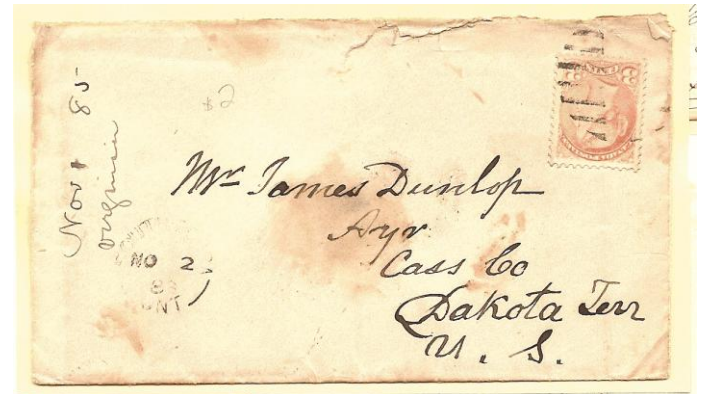
My second cover is addressed to Bellevue in the Nebraska territory. This cover is just as ratty as the one shown in figure 1. This cover has a couple of very interesting characteristics. The envelope has been franked with a pair of 3¢ small queens, of the first Ottawa printing, making up the proper 6¢ first-class-letter rate to the United States. This was a treaty rate between Canada and the USA for letters with prepaid postage using postage stamps.

Although it was still possible to send a letter to the USA unstamped for collection of 10¢ upon pickup, the 6¢ rate was established to encourage people to prepay their letters. The letter was posted November 28, 1871, nearly five years before Canada would enter the Universal Postal Union. The location given on the date stamp on the front of the envelope is Van Kleeck-Hill, Ontario, located on the St. Lawrence River near Prescott.

To establish how this letter made it to the Nebraska Territory, we have to make a couple of assumptions. Because of the location of Van Kleeck-Hill, the letter could have taken one of two routes: via the Grand Trunk Railway to Windsor (Detroit) or south to

New York and then west into the United States. The "TO LATE" marking across the front of the cover may be an indication that it missed the mail car and was delayed one day in its journey, though other explanations may exist to explain the marking.

I believe most of the mail from eastern Ontario used the Grand Trunk to Detroit and our letter would have gone via Chicago and Omaha to Nebraska. The variety of the small queen stamps on this cover are the "printed on soft thick paper" variety. This is evidenced by the thickness of the stamp and the perforation inserts still adhering to the stamps.



My third cover, also well worn, is franked with a single 3¢ small queen stamp and was posted November 2, 1883 at a town or city (unreadable) in Ontario. At the time postage to the United States was 3¢ per half ounce prepaid with postage stamps. The letter is addressed to Ayr, Cass County in the Dakota Territory. The envelope likely traveled the Grand Trunk Railway to Detroit then continuing via rail to St. Paul via Chicago. From St. Paul the letter would have traveled overland into the Dakota Territory. As you can see all three covers are in terrible shape and would not have caught my eye had I not read the article in *BNA Topics*.

Next month I will write more on western covers for our newsletter. Western Territorial mail is both fascinating and getting hard to find. Just because a cover looks ratty doesn't mean you should pooh pooh it until you understand where it went and how it got there. Please let me know if this and other articles such as this are of continuing interest to you as I really only collect Canada and everything I will write about will concern some form of Canadian philately.

I challenge you all to try and write something for the newsletter; I'll volunteer to edit your work for you. Just start out with a list of the things you want to talk about in your article, make sure they are in chronological order, and then write a SHORT paragraph about each item on your list. Remember when you write for a newsletter or newspaper a paragraph is generally limited to a sentence.