

SOS Signal

Stamps on Stamps Collectors Club

A Double Censored Norway First Day Cover By Lou Guadagno

On October 12, 1942, German occupied Norway issued two stamps (Sc #253-4) to publicize its participation in the European Postal Congress being held in Vienna that week. Germany had called for the meeting to consolidate the administration of the posts and telegraph systems in the overrun nations under its control, and to create a replacement for the Universal Postal Union which had suspended membership to those nations.

The founding of the European Union of Posts and Telegraphs was announced on October 19 and this organization controlled the international mail traffic in those countries until the demise of the Third Reich. Since the Union was an early example of organized multinational cooperation, this issue and others from Germany and the Netherlands are considered by many collectors to be forerunners of the Europa topic.

The same stamp on stamp design was used for the two stamps, showing a semi-postal stamp issued earlier that year, and the first stamp of Norway issued in 1855. The recent stamp (Sc # B25) was reproduced without perforations and modified to be a square, rather than rectangular as issued, most likely so it would match that of the first stamp. The bust on the semi-postal

stamp is that of the pro-Nazi prime minister, Vidkun Quisling whose name became synonymous for traitor in the early forties. Quisling stamps were not at all popular with most Norwegians and used stamps and covers of this issue are more expensive than the mint. The remainders of the stamps were invalidated in May, 1945 after the sur-



Norway Sc #253-4, issued 10/12/42



Norway #1

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render of the German occupation force. Quisling was tried for treason and executed in 1946.

I have several first day and commercial covers with this set, but my favorite is reproduced here. It is a small, plain cream colored envelope with the two stamps neatly tied to the cover

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Norway Registered FDC 10/12/42

A Double Censored Norway First Day Cover

By Lou Guadagno

"I wish I could say I was aware of the unusual nature of the cover when I bought it."



cover, it is probably addressed to a collector in Denmark. It has a Oslo registered mail sticker attached, but there is no receiving back stamp.

What is unusual about the cover is that it received German military censor office routing marks in both Norway and Denmark instead of just at the originating point.

The smaller Ao circle is the abbreviated mark for Auslandstelle (Foreign Office) Oslo and the larger Ak circle is that of Auslandstelle Kopenhagen, each being applied when the cover was

examined and cleared for forwarding.

Perhaps the censors were not stamp collectors and were bothered by the fact the envelope was sealed but had no contents!

I wish I could say I was aware of the unusual nature of the cover when I bought it, but it wasn't until many years later that a Scandinavian collector saw it in one of my exhibits and told me what a good item I had.

A Favorite Cover

By Harry Skallerup

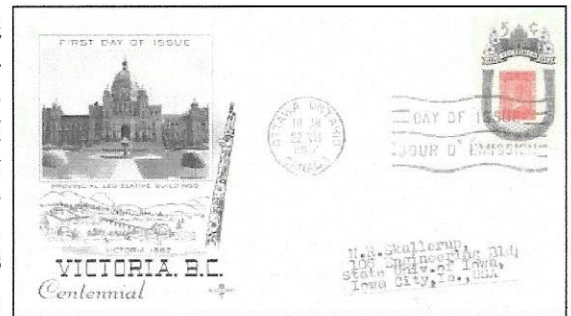
"I would come across it in a box of odds and ends that I seldom opened, and I would admire it anew, but I never really looked into the history of the stamp reproduced on it."

A year or so ago, when a call went out for members to contribute articles about favorite SOS items for possible future publication in the *Signal*, I thought that a Canadian first day cover I've had for many years, the Victoria, B.C. Centenary issue of 1962, might be a worthy candidate. It was the first "foreign" cover I ever collected, and in acquiring it I was awakened to the world-wide aspect of SOS. Over the years, from time to time, I would come across it in a box of odds and ends that I seldom opened, and I would admire it anew, but I never really looked into the history of the stamp reproduced on it. However, recent serendipitous philatelic articles and events and a little searching on the Internet have provided me with some factual meat to add to the bare bones account of my personal fondness for the cover, and perhaps make it worth reading.

In 1962, Victoria, British Columbia, celebrated its 100th anniversary as an incorporated city, and on August 22, a commemorative stamp (Canada #399) was issued in Ottawa in honor of the occasion. The design chosen for the stamp featured the first stamp used by both of the separate colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver Island in 1860. Scott, in its caption for the new



stamp describes it as "British Columbia Legislative Building and Stamp of 1860 - A193." It probably would have been easier to say that the 1860 stamp was British Columbia and Vancouver Island #1, but there had been two versions of it, B.C. & V.I. #1, imperforate (left figure), which apparently was never used postally, and #2, perforate (right figure), which was used by both



colonies until 1865 when they each began to issue their own stamps. In the interim between the two dates, problems developed with their original arrangement, especially when British Columbia changed its postal rate and Vancouver Island went to decimal currency.

What happened subsequently is beyond the scope of my story. But if you would like to read an interesting account of the postal history of these stamps, Charles J. G. Verge, an authority on Canadian philately, recently wrote about them in an illustrated article, "A British Columbia and Vancouver Island Primer."¹ Also color photos of all of the stamps of the two colonies (as well as those of the other four British colonies or any Canadian stamp, for that matter) can be seen on the Internet at the site of the National Archives of Canada (www.archives.ca/08/0806_e.html), which was the source for the illustrations of B.C. & V.I. #1 and #2 in the left column.

The 1962 Victoria Centenary issue was the second SOS that Canada had issued. Eleven years earlier it had reproduced its famous "Threepenny Beaver" stamp (as Canada #314), thus beginning a fitful procession of other SOS issues over the years, which in 1991-1992 included all of the first stamps of the colonial provinces on postal stationery (Canada #U132-137).² These envelopes are striking in appearance inasmuch as they each have different pas-

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A Favorite Cover

By Harry Skallerup

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tel-colored security linings that faintly tint the envelopes and compliment the modern, pastel-colored printed new denominations of 40 and 42¢ in the indicia. They were issued for the World Philatelic Youth Exhibition held in Montreal ("Canada 92"); and a short history of each stamp is given on the back of the envelopes. In this set, Vancouver Island's first stamp, which in September 1865 still bore the Queen Victoria head in its design (V.I. #3), is

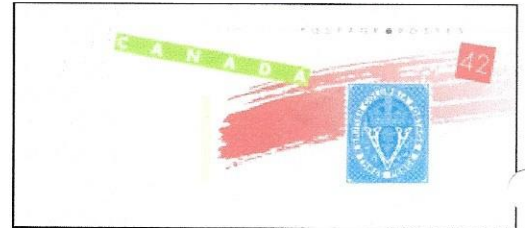


reproduced in its imperforate state on a on a small-size envelope (above), and the first British Columbia stamp of November 1865 (B.C. #7), with the colony's large "V", for Queen Victoria, design, is on a business-size envelope (at right).

The mention of envelopes brings me back to the reasons why the Victoria Centenary cover is a favorite. In effect, it is a reminder of my active first day collecting days as well as a kind of a personal philatelic time capsule. I apparently ordered this FDC directly from Rosecraft, a then flourishing Canadian cachet provider and first day cover service. It must have been sent to me through the mail. My name and address had been typed on a label that has a surface of exactly one square inch. I can't imagine anyone painstakingly typing the label only to stick it on a canceled cover and then enclose the cover in another envelope, address it, too, and then mail it. But then my Victoria FDC has only five cents postage

on it at a time when the postal rate from Canada to the United States was seven cents.³ This is a mystery to me. Trying to solve it has resulted in an unavailing hunt. Perhaps someone can give me a definite answer to how this happened?

Further evidence that the cover was probably sent through the mail is that it has a stiffener made of card stock in it, something unmailed FDCs usually do not have. Rosecraft put the stiffener to good use by printing a mimeographed message on it about two anticipated new issues. One had been delayed, but the other, a new 5¢ definitive was advertised as due to come out in September, and that a single-stamp FDC of it would be available for 23 cents. Also, four "Steel Engraved 'Rosecraft' envelopes for those who ser-



vice their own" could be had for 35 cents. Other prices for more stamps (i.e., pairs, blocks, plate blocks) and for larger quantities of envelopes were also given, ending with the note: "Add 15¢ if remitting by check. Parcel post prepaid." At the bottom of the card is the name J. C. Rosenbaum, with an address on Decarie Boulevard, Montreal.

Could anyone stay in business at those prices back then? Apparently so. It appears that Rosenbaum had been selling cachet envelopes for several years. I have seen a purported earliest Rosecraft cachet FDC dated 1958 offered for sale on the Internet. It was franked with a US stamp canceled at its first day city, so apparently Rose-

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"This is a mystery to me. Trying to solve it has resulted in an unavailing hunt. Perhaps someone can give me a definite answer to how this happened?"

A Favorite Cover

By Harry Skallerup

(Continued from page 4)

craft at one time created cachets for US as well as Canadian stamps. Its logo, a small rose depicted between the words *Rose Craft* appears at the bottom of the cachet designs. During August 1963–September 1965 Canada Post Office used two types of Rosecraft envelopes to replace FDCs that were damaged while being processed instead of its own "Crown and CPO" design — a testimony to the quality of Rosecraft cachets.⁴

Finding additional information about Joseph Rosenbaum or Rosecraft was another fruitless quest. So much for ancient personal postal history! It is time for me to put the stiffener back in the Victoria Centenary FDC and return it to the box of misplaced treasures without further "Disturbing the dust on a bowl of Rose-leaves" (apologies to T. S. Eliot).

"Could anyone stay in business at those prices back then? Apparently so."

Buyer Beware!

By Bill Critzer

To be the owner of a 'Post Office' Mauritius has been the desire of many stamp collectors. Only a few of the very wealthy have been able to realize that ambition. In order to satisfy this desire they've had to invest large sums of money. Those unable to do this have had to live in hopes of discovering a specimen by chance. But it is on record that at least one hardy bachelor was prepared to sacrifice his 'freedom' in order to possess a 2p 'Post Office' Mauritius. This intrepid soul, it was reported in *Vanity Fair* in 1891, inserted an advertisement in a Mauritius newspaper:

References

1. *Scott Stamp Monthly* (Mar. 2002): 30-36.
2. For Scott numbers of Canadian postal stationery see *The Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*. 2003 ed. Toronto: Unitrade Press, 2002.
3. A chronological table listing Canadian postal rates since 1943 is available at: www.adminware.ca/checklist/chk_rate.htm
4. Ralph Mitchener, "Canadian Post Office replacement and presentation first day covers," in Andrew Chung and R. F. Narbonne, *nada Post Official First Day Covers*. Toronto: Unitrade Press, 1996. pp. 107-113.

"A stamp collector, the possessor of a collection of 12,544 stamps, wishes to marry a lady who is an ardent collector and the possessor of the two-penny stamp of Mauritius, issued in 1847."

A philatelic journal, commenting on this advertisement, stated that "the stamp in question is, of course, a rare one, its market price being no less than £200 (remember this was in 1891); and the only thing that causes one anxiety on the advertiser's behalf is the fear that he may perhaps be imposed upon by a forged specimen."

New Issues by Lou Guadagno (new on list = *)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Values</u>	<u>Stamp Reproduced</u>	<u>Reason for Issue</u>	<u>Scott #</u>
✓ 03 07 01	Chile	* 2 x P\$300	Chile #1, 2	150th Anniv., First Stamps of Chile se-tenant	To come
✓ 03 07 01	Chile	* P\$ 2000	Chile #1, others tbi	150th Anniv., First Stamps of Chile (S/S)	To come
✓ 03 00 00	Cuba	* 15-75¢	Cuba #3771, 4209, 2492, 3172, 1535	Cuban Cigar Industry	To come
✓ 03 00 00	Cuba	P 1.00	Cuba #2774, 390	510th Anniversary, Founding of Havana (S/S)	To come
✓ 03 05 09	Italy	€ 0.41	Italy #481 (in exhibition logo), others	Veronafil Exhibition 2003	To come
✓ 03 05 31	Italy	* € 0.41	Italy #626—modified, value omitted	Siracusa Design	To come
✓ 03 06 12	Moldova	* 1.50, 5L	In margin #111,116,166,210,236 etc.	10 Years of Moldova Europa Stamps	To come
✓ 03 06 03	Neth. Antilles	* 70-240¢	Curacao #4	300th Anniv., J. Enschede Printers 4v se-ten	To come
✓ 03 03 13	Portugal	.30-.70E	Portugal #1, 2, 3, 4	150th Anniversary, First Stamps of Portugal	2541-4
✓ 03 00 00	Romania	* 1500 L	Moldavia #1	Imprinted Card—Classic Cover	To come
✓ 03 07 14	St. Lucia	* 20-95¢	St. Lucia #1, 2, 3	200 Years Continuous Mail Service 4v-1sos	To come
✓ 03 03 18	San Marino	* € 0.77	Spain \$649, Yugo #33, Italy #481	Veronafil Exhibition 2003 (SOS on tabs)	To come
✓ 02 12 18	Slovakia	* 10 sk	Slovakia #419	Stamp Day/Nitrafila	419
✓ 03 07 01	Spain	* € 0.76	Chile #1	150th Anniv., First Stamps of Chile	To come
✓ 02 08 30	Surinam	1700, 6800 sf	Netherlands #224, 103	Amphilex 2000	1282-4
✓ 03 06 03	Surinam	* 1700 sf	Surinam #7	300th Anniv., J. Enschede Printers	To come



Clockwise from upper left: Chile 07/01/03; Netherlands Antilles 06/03/03;
Surinam 06/03/03; Italy 05/09/03 imprinted card; Moldova 06/12/03;
Italy 05/31/03; Spain 07/01/03.

150th Anniversary of the Barbados Inland Post 1852-2002

By Bill Critzer and Martin Hirschbühl

The Postal Service in Barbados

Barbados was the “home” of the Imperial Postal Office—also known as the “Packet Agency”, this name was taken from the fast sailing ships called ‘Mail Packets’ which brought mail and passengers to the island. A warrant issued by King Charles II, dating back to 1663 established this first mail service in the British West Indies. It was under the control of the General Post Office in London and dealt only with mail being sent overseas or mail received from abroad, which had to be collected from the Agency; there was no local delivery, nor inland postal service.

In August 1851, through an Act of Parliament, Barbados became the second island in the West Indies to establish an Inland Postal Service. Unlike the Packet Agency 44 mail carriers were hired to provide a universal house-to-house postal delivery in rural areas—forty five years before this was achieved in England.

The Inland Postal Office was located at #5 Lancaster Lane in Bridgetown, between the Wharf and Broad Street. A branch office was also opened in each of the ten rural parishes. Conveyance of the mail between the General Post Office and the rural offices was done via mounted police. To further extend posting facilities, 30 letter Receiving Houses were opened to provide easy access for residents. The Barbados Parliament Buildings housed the Post Office from 1870-1984 when it was relocated to its present complex at Cheapside.

These stamps were issued on April 15, 2002.

First Stamp—Britannia

The first issue of Barbados stamps was received in February 1852 to coincide with the opening of the Inland Postal Office. They featured Britannia sitting on sugar bags—sugar represented the most valuable produce in the Empire. She was also featured on the stamps of Trinidad and Mauritius.

The early stamps bore no values and were distinguished solely by their colors. The first stamps printed with values were issued in 1858; however, it was not until 1874 that values were printed on the lower denominations. For thirty years, Britannia was featured on all issued of the Barbados stamps, the only distinction between the first stamp and later issues is that the values were printed at the bottom and “Barbados” was at the top. The first stamps in dollars and cents were issued in 1950.

Mail Delivery—Early Postman

This stamp features a Barbadian postman on his rounds in the early Twentieth Century. The postmen of Barbados had two uniforms: blue serge for the cooler

months, and light-colored cotton drill with red facing for the hot summer season. The postman didn’t knock in Barbados; instead he took letter round to the back of the house and gave them to servants, with the occasional cry of “Post here”. Barbados is one of the few countries in the world where there is still a daily letter delivery available to every address.

The Steam Packet—R.M.S. Esk

In 1895 after the Royal Mail Steam Packets Company transferred its operation from St. Thomas to Barbados, activities in the region were intensified and larger ships like R.M.S. Solent and the R.M.S. Esk regularly serviced the down-islands and the Leeward Islands.

In those days sailing the seas was a fairly risky business. Commanders of the vessels were issued strict instructions in relation to their handling of mail: their primary duty was to safeguard the mail; to outsail rather than engage the enemy and if in danger of being overpowered, the mail was to be weighted and sunk.

B.W.I.A Tristar

B.W.I.A Airline operation commenced in 1940. In the succeeding 30 years, the company experienced a number of fleet renewal operations and by 1970 entered the jet age. The arrival of the first Lockheed L1011-500 Tristar series in 1980 brought the airline into the wide body age. The airline is designated the National Mail Carrier of the Barbados Post.



SOSCC was founded in 1954. It is a non-profit philatelic organization serving a worldwide membership and is open to persons interested in stamp on stamp designs, stamp anniversaries and related topics. Dues are \$11 per year for members residing in North America and \$14 elsewhere.

Officers serve without compensation and are reimbursed only for expenses incurred on behalf of the club. You are cordially invited to associate with us. Please contact the Secretary Treasurer or use our website for more information and to become a member.

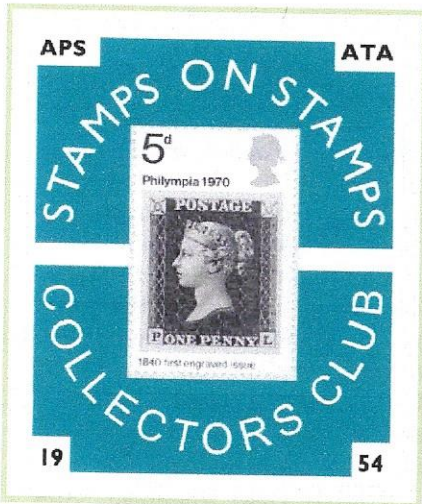
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Email addresses may be found on the SOSCC website.



More New Issues by Lou Guadagno



At bottom right: St. Lucia 07/14/03;
All others are Cuba 00/00/03

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