

Glenn F. Hansen (1922-1999): An Appreciation

By Charles J.G. Verge

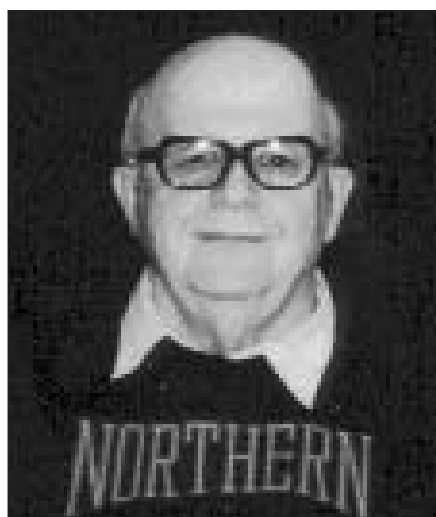
Glenn Hansen passed away September 21, 1999 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. His major contributions to Canadian philately included his catalogue *The Guidebook and Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* (two editions); his magnum opus *The Squared Circle Postmarks of Canada* that he co-authored with W. G. Moffatt and he was the long-time stamp columnist at *The Winnipeg Free Press* where he promoted the hobby to the non-philatelic community.

Born June 29th, 1922, in Winnipeg, he lived there since birth, except for two years spent in Dauphin, Manitoba.

Dauphin is where he began his writing career for the newspapers with a column called "Scopesight" which did not deal with stamps at all. It was a column on outdoor sports with an emphasis on fishing. He had friends who helped him on things like hunting and dogs and they even had a weekly radio program on CKDM in Dauphin. He and three friends met around a rickety card table with a mike in the centre firmly ensconced in a roll of toilet paper. They were supposed to be answering questions sent in by listeners but most of the time they lied and made up the questions themselves. It was loads of fun and he understood that the program continued on without his help when he went back to the city. This time reminded him a lot of his old column in *The Buffalo* called "Ask the Editor."

His young years were made happy by the fact that his family owned a log cabin on Lake Brereton in the Whiteshell where he was responsible for fetching water from the lake which was a 15 minute walk through the bush. Fortunately he wasn't too popular with the mosquitoes so the only thing that really bothered him was when he woke up some sleepy owl perched in a tree along his path. It was here where he also became fond of the black bears and was able to befriend them to the point where his family later worried when he took photos of them from distances less than 20 feet.

He began collecting things at the lake, mainly rocks that he gathered at the lake shore while swimming. He took up stamp



collecting with a White Ace album of the stamps of the United States and later another White Ace album for Canada. Sure, this was mainly space filling but a wonderful way to learn a bit about arranging album pages attractively. He dealt with Fred Peters on Logan Street in Winnipeg in his early days who taught Hansen how to have an eye for condition and cancellations. When Fred Peters moved to Portage and Arlington he began to deal with Frank Whitebread who had a store on Croydon Avenue.

For a period of time Hansen specialized in the Small Cents Issues of Queen Victoria and the Admiral Issue of George V. But it was the advent of the Centennial Issue and the use of ultraviolet lamps that made that issue take off with him and others. It was the discovery of 17 varieties of paper that led to a number of Frank Whitebread's customers spending their weekdays visiting all the stamp counters located in drug stores. Perhaps the next most popular issue for him was the Admiral Issues of King George V and to him it was the most challenging. As a result of the interest in these two issues he decided to publish his catalogue of Canadian stamps at a time (1971) when he thought the Centennial Issue was drawing to a close. This was not the case so a couple of years later he produced the second edition of the catalogue (1973). He was proud that both editions were still being used by collectors at the time of his death.

The last 32 years of his working life was spent as an assistant-treasurer and treasurer of a school division in Winnipeg. He retired from this position

in 1987. After retiring he swung away from the stamps of Canada, after a period of time with the Squared Circles of Canada, to the stamps of Denmark and most particularly with a collection of Ferry Post stamps of that country.

He married at the age of 25 and raised three daughters, none of whom were interested in stamps. His wife passed away in 1995 after almost 49 years of marriage. His Squared Circle collection was sold to an undertaker, through a well known Winnipeg dealer. The story has since gone the rounds that this undertaker decided to take his stamps with him to the grave and buried his holdings in an hermetically sealed vault under his casket. This made Hansen sick when he heard about it because he felt that all stamp collectors are really just custodians pro-term of any stamps they possess. He felt that there is a sort of unwritten law that everything passes on to others at some time or another.

His writings:

The Guide Book and Catalogue of Canadian Stamps (two editions);

"The Tagged Stamps of Winnipeg" in *The Canadian Philatelist*;

"The Canadian Stamp Collector" in *BNA Topics*;

The Squared Circle Postmarks of Canada (4th edition with W.G. Moffatt);

"Mint Stamps" in *Maple Leaves*;

"A Chart of the 1967 Definitive Issue Using the U.V. Light" in *BNA Topics*;

"Canada's Cello-Paqs, Miniature Panes, Miniature Sheets and CAPEX Souvenirs – an Update of an Article by E.J. Whiting in *BNA Topics*;

"Miniature Sheets That Can Prove Lucrative...but Check for Quality" in *Canadian Stamp News*;

"A Crying Queen to Match the Weeping Princess" in *Edmonton Stamp Club Bulletin*;

"A Postal History of Rat Portage, Keewatin with Some Reference to the Province of Keewatin, its Own Postal and Railway History, 1876-1886" in *BNA Topics*; and

"The Stamp Collector" column in the *Winnipeg Free Press* for over 25 years. 🍁