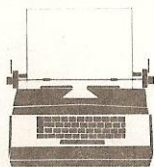




STAMP EDE

CALGARY PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Editorial Comment

(The letter reproduced below was received by the editor from a senior Society member and is presented in its entirety in the form of a 'guest editorial'-Editor.)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

The recent annual spring exhibition held by the Calgary Philatelic Society was termed by the Exhibition Manager to be a "success". I don't think this term is correct, and I would like to use the medium of this column to express my ideas. There is, in my opinion, much room for improvement in the Calgary Philatelic Society and I would like to offer some suggestions for consideration by your executive.

We are living in an era when the interest in philately has never been higher. Auction realizations throughout the world are at dizzying heights, the clamor for stamps at dealers' tables almost approach a stampede, and the Canada Post Office is now fully committed to supporting the philatelic fraternity through its often over-zealous marketing policies. Why then, in our population area of nearly half a million people are there so few collectors interested in taking part in a once-per-year event, or for that matter, why is attend-



ance at regular club meetings so spotty and interest so passive? It can't be from lack of hard work since, I think, many members of the club have shown their capacity for this hard work at several past exhibitions and the programs offered each month at club meetings. Please consider the following areas:

1. MEMBERSHIP

Membership is the key to any group. Membership in the Calgary Philatelic Society is relatively low when you consider there must be thousands of collectors in this city. I suggest a membership drive, lasting the full 1975-76 season. Posters, displays in public buildings, TV appearances, columns in the newspapers, etc. should be utilized to obtain new members.

2. MEETING PLACE

Our meeting place is split between two buildings and our auction night is structured to exclude all other philatelic activity. Every endeavour should be made to consolidate our meetings in one place and the auction should be trimmed to take up only half of one meeting per month.

3. CLUB ACTIVITIES

Diversification of programs is needed. Why not a Wall Auction, a draw, or raffle? Most of all we want to see stamps and a program of regular exhibits each club night would increase interest. It should be an honor to be asked to show 16 or 32 pages and continual upgrading of members' album pages would be the result. Why not a \$10.00 contest where exhibits valued at \$10.00 or less are shown in competition for a \$10.00 prize. Appeal, not value, would be uppermost here and we can keep everyone honest by including a "claiming" clause. Why not a Dutch auction, or have the club buy a large auction lot to be apportioned to participating members? Start with a few ideas, and more will automatically come.

4. PHILATELIC KNOWLEDGE

Enjoyment of the hobby is enhanced by the accumulation of philatelic knowledge. The club should sponsor a short session each meeting (say 7:30p.m. to 8:00p.m.) where knowledgeable collectors from the club explain and discuss fundamentals of the hobby such as paper

(Could you accurately explain "pasing" paper?), printing methods(How about "intaglio"?), gum (Do you know all about "gum arabic"?), separation(Can you explain "perce en arc"?), etc, etc., Explanation of basic and advanced philatelic terminology could dispel much of the mystery of stamp collecting for new members and could immediately direct these newcomers towards philatelic practices.

5. EXHIBITING

Interest in exhibiting seems to be at an all-time low. Empty frames at the last Exhibition formed a noticeable scar. Where is the old competitive spirit? If you don't believe in healthy competition, why not share the enjoyment of your treasures and knowledge in a non-competitive exhibit?

6. FRAMES

The club owns a battered old set, difficult to store, erect, and maintain. Poor design makes the mounting of pages difficult and often damaging to the items being exhibited. A new, well-designed set of exhibit frames, at least one of which would be available at each meeting, would do much to enhance interest.

7. JUDGING AND AWARDS

The club needs to develop knowledgeable and competent judges; printed rules and standards, and to build a tradition of prizes and awards that would encourage competition and friendly rivalry. The awards and standards of judging would create a sense of accomplishment and pride in the winners and desire for attainment of greater expertise from the "also rans".

8. FINANCES

The club is non-profit and accumulation of a surplus is not our aim. Let's dedicate our total resources to increasing membership and developing well-thought-out programs. It will pay dividends many times over.

9. PARTICIPATION

Finally, we should encourage participation from all who wish to contribute and work. Club members have many and diversified talents and if motivated by mutual endeavour and success can raise the club above the mundane or ordinary,

These are some of my observations and suggestions. Now it is your turn to let your executive know if you like the club the way it is, or do you want improvements?

(signed) E.A. Harris
Member No. 283

MEETINGS

1975

EXECUTIVE MEETING A meeting of the 1975-6 Executive of the Calgary Philatelic Society will be held Friday June 6th, 1975 at the home of the President elect, Jim Taylor. Members of the 1974-5 executive and any interested members are welcome to attend and contribute to the meeting. The Address is 5328 LaSalle Crescent SW, Lakeview. Time: 7:30pm. Agenda: Plans for the fall season etc.

REGULAR MEETING Lower floor of the Calgary Central Library, MacLeod Trail at 7th Ave. SW
June 3 7:30 Trading & Circuits
 8:10 Programme: to be announced
 9:00 Trading & Circuits

AUCTION MEETING C.U.P.E. Hall, 104-13 Ave. SE
Up stairs.

June 17 7:30 Viewing
 8:00 Auction

SEPTEMBER 1975 Time and place of the first meeting after the summer break will be decided at the June 6th executive meeting and the membership will be advised by letter.

FIRST DAY COVER!

Blank Cachet enveloppes of a type suitable for making FDC'S of the new Calgary Centennial Stamp are available from the Secretary.

FREE

Free 'Swap an' Trade' Ads to Members only (Non-commercial announcements only) Contact Secretary.