

CALGARY PHILATELIC SOCIETY — ESTABLISHED 1922

My favorite stamp of Niger Coast is Scotts #54 (Gibbons #65). The One Half Penny overprint on the 2 1/2 penny. The overprint was done locally on 20 sheets of 48(960 stamps). Surcharging was done in Sans-Serif Capitals with original values being struck out by two short bars on each side and value in words by two long horizontal bars. The overprint was set up in moveable type so as to surcharge one horizontal row of eight stamps at a time repeated six times down the sheet. Eight distinct settings were produced. During printing the "N" of "one" got broken producing the "OIE" variety as well possibly three lines of eight (24 stamps) received a double surcharge.

There is a question as to the necessity of issue even though such a small printing and face value are in question. The vice-consulate Arthur J. Griffith (a collector himself) authorized the surcharging. The stamps were placed on sale around August 10, 1894 at the old Calabar Post Office only. As to the question necessity of issue, I have copies cancelled as late as November 1894. I also have a cover mailed by A. J. Griffith to Mrs. A. G. Griffith on Nov. 17, 1894 with the "OIE" variety. This cover appears to be philatelically inspired in that it has Niger Coast #45 (2d.), #45 (2 1/2d.) and #54 to total 5 pence which would have paid the 1 ounce rate to the U.K.. However, he could have easily used Niger Coast 45 (2 1/2d.) twice to make up the rate. Also I have two copies cancelled on the same date, one of which still has original gum showing that the stamp could have been cancelled to order which was commonly done in the Niger Coast at the time to satisfy philatelic demand for so called used copies.

This now brings me to an interesting story about this stamp which I have experienced. A while ago I purchased a copy of #54 through the mail. Upon receipt it appeared to me the copy was a forgery in both cancel and surcharge. I returned copy to the dealer who then forwarded the stamp to the American Philatelic Society for expertization. The stamp was duly issued a certificate as being genuine. In turn I had the stamp forwarded to The Royal Philatelic Society of Great Britain who in turn issued a certificate stating both Cancel and Surcharge to be forged. I then resubmitted stamp to the A.P.S. who in turn reversed their original decision and declared the stamp had both forged surcharge and cancel. It is now being returned to the original dealer in question for a refund. The total time taken for above has been over two years. The moral is don't take expertizing certificates as Gospel, your own knowledge of specialized fields might be as good as the "Experts".

I would be happy to be contacted by anyone having or wishing more information on Nigerian Area Philately. I am also interested in trading or purchasing of Nigerian Area Stamps, Cancels or Postmarks (includes Nigeria, Lagos, Niger Coast, Northern and Southern Nigeria, Biafra and British Cameroons). Why not bring any surplus material to "Nigeria Night", February 5, 1980. P. Wolf, 253-3819.

WHAT'S NEW

..."Stamp News" the Australian monthly has recently been advertising for subscribers in several British and US stamp papers. They claim that the airmail rates on each issue is \$5 (and thens Aussie Dollars mate, where Dollar rates a capital. They happily are franked with Australian Antarctic Terr. high values which are valid for postage in Aussieland (no, they are not shipped to the south polar continent first!)

February 5th, 1980- Central Library (616 MacLeod Trail), Calgary
 7:30 p.m. Circuit books, Private Treaty Books, Wall Auction, Stamp Trading. 8:10 p.m. Business Meeting. 8:30 p.m. Guest Speaker - Mr. Philip Wolf, Topic: THE NIGERIAS (Stamps and postal history). 9:00 p.m. Back to Stamp Trading, etc. Newcomers and visitors always welcome.
 February 19th, 1980- C. U.P.E. Hall (10th - 13 Avenue S.E.), Calgary
 Monthly Auction. 7:30 p.m. Viewing of Auction Lots. 8:00 p.m. (sharp) Stamp Auction Sale. 9:30 p.m. Circuit books, Stamp Trading.

The annual convention of the American Philatelic Society takes place in Spokane, Washington September 25-28 at the Sheraton-Spokane and Riverpark Center. Perhaps a group from Calgary that wished to attend could share transportation or secure a reduced group rate on airline tickets. Any interest? If so please make a proposal at the February 5th meeting.... I see that several Commonwealth countries have released a Mickey Mouse omnibus series. Perhaps the local representative on the Canadian stamp design committee could be lobbied to secure a Canadian contribution to this apparently popular series. Write your member of parliament (or your local Liberal nominee to cover possible February 18th election results).... Good sales have resulted in past years from circuit books and private treaty books at the CALTAPEX stamp show which this year will be held May 28-June 1 at the Palliser. So now is the time to prepare circuit books and lots for submission before the show.... Donations of stamps, albums and catalogues are needed for the Society Junior Table at the CALTAPEX'80 show as in previous years. Why not clean house today and put surplus material to a good cause.... Ed Harris, CALTAPEX'80 show chairman, of course secured the Palliser Hotel site in 1978. We are locked into old hotel rates which have now more than doubled! This fortunate circumstance will certainly trim the anticipated show deficit but does not bode well for future shows or conventions. Advice: get in early on the package show and convention registration deal - a bargain!.... The local chapter of the British American Philatelic Society is alive and well. Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month usually at the residence of a member. Meeting information is available from Phil Wolf. A regional meeting of the BNAPS group is being planned for the CALTAPEX'80 show.... To put it in polite terms the mail delivery, particularly in December and January, has been the pits! If you subscribe to any of the US weekly philatelic papers you found several issues stuffed into your mail box at a single delivery. Somebody should move a motion that a letter of complaint be sent to "Public Relations" at the main mail storage office (used to be called the post office).

"CALGARY ZOO" COVER by Jim Taylor

A friend that knew I was a collector recently gave me the illustrated cover and printed enclosure. It is an unusual first day of issue cover with local significance for the 1979 17 cent endangered wild-life "turtle" stamp. A special slogan cancellation commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Calgary Zoo. A Calgary Zoological Society cachet illustrates "Dinny" the famous life-size model dinosaur, very familiar to zoo goers and a musk-oxen, an animal native to northern Canada (appears on Canada Scott #352).

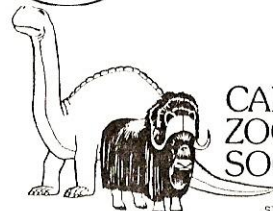
Obviously certain statements in the enclosure are misleading. Certainly the turtle stamp is fairly common and its distribution, happily, was not restricted to Calgary Zoological Society members! As to whether the cover itself will increase in value over the years? who knows? At any rate this item is interesting and would be a nice addition to a "Calgary" or postal zoo collection.



ST. GEORGE'S ISLAND,
 CALGARY, ALBERTA T2G 3H4

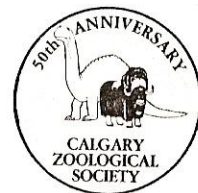


VISIT CALGARY ZOO
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 ZOO DE CALGARY
 1980-1989



CALGARY
 ZOOLOGICAL
 SOCIETY

ST. GEORGE'S ISLAND, CALGARY, ALBERTA T2G 3H4 / TELEPHONE (403) 265 9310



Dear Member:

The Calgary Zoo celebrates its 50th Anniversary during 1979 and we wish to extend a special thanks to all our members for their continued support over the years.

We thought you might like to have this letter mailed in a special envelope with the FIRST DAY ISSUE COVER of the new Endangered Wildlife Series Stamps. Only Society members will receive this special commemorative stamp. If you do not collect stamps, we suggest you pass it on to a friend who does. It will increase in value over the years.

Throughout the next few months we will keep you informed of special 50th Anniversary events taking place, including the opening of the brand new Australian complex scheduled for later in the year.

If you have not yet renewed your membership you will be pleased to learn the new memberships are valid for twelve consecutive months. (If you purchase one in June, for example, it is good till June the following year).

We hope you will visit the Zoo often during 1979 and help us celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

Sincerely,

Terry Hawitt
 President, Calgary Zoological Society

EDITORIAL....

What was it like the first time that you attended your very first meeting of the Calgary Philatelic Society? Probably, if at all anything like mine, it was a frightening experience. A room full of stern looking strangers who appeared to watch you out of the corner of their eyes to make sure you didn't pocket a circuit book or two! But it only took a few meetings (I am rather persistent when stamps are involved) before these very same people turned into good and valued friends. How do we treat visitors and guests to club meetings? Not very well. We are lucky if they are even recognised. What is needed is an ad hoc committee to act as guest greeters and give proper introductions to newcomers. This committee could also name-tag and welcome club members as well. ENTHUSIASM in large doses is required and required now to shake the lethargic attitudes which have been developed over the years when the club catered to a small group of die-hards (the writer among that group) when a meeting attendance of 15 bodies was an achievement.

Illustrious company - The Calgary Public Library and veteran CPS member Walter Jackson are embarking on a project that puts them in illustrious company. The British Post Office does it, Le Mans racing driver Alain de Cadenet does it, and so does internationally famous stamp expert Ernest A. Kehr of New York. It's the development and encouragement of stamp collecting among youngsters.

When Walter appealed for CPS volunteers to help in the Calgary project, he met with a quick response. As a result, everything appears to be set for stamp seminars in various parts of the city where youngsters will hear talks by CPS members and be introduced to the many pleasures that stamp collecting can provide.

Ernie Kehr, who used to come to Calgary to cover rodeo action at the Stampede for New York newspapers before he became a world authority on stamps, started his own youth project recently by establishing a \$US 10,000 fund in the United States to encourage young people to collect stamps for fun and education rather than profit.

And racing car driver de Cadenet, a specialized collector of Great Britain King George V issues and who works as a 'soft-sell' salesman for the British Post Office, has been visiting United States stamp shows promoting the collection of stamps by youngsters. Says de Cadenet: "A collector doesn't have to be an elderly person or a stuffy philatelist with a capital 'P'. I hate to hear kids say they are bored, or see them hanging around when there are so many fantastic things to be doing in life. All they need is some direction, then their own enthusiasm will carry them from there.

Globetrotters - Calgary Philatelic Society's globe-trotting sisters, retired school ma'ams Stella McArthur and Phyllis Weston, had no trouble keeping warm mentally if not physically during Calgary's early January cold snaps. They get out their albums and looked at stamps they had acquired in far away places and dreamed of warm days in Spain and other places much closer to the equator than snowbound Calgary.

Since retiring after many years of school teaching, Phillis and Stella have combined lively interests in both travel and stamp collecting. On several occasions they have entertained the CPS with accounts of their experiences in foreign stamp bourses and by displaying pictorial stamps of the countries they have visited.

Now there is a good program in the making for a CPS meeting next fall as a result of the next travel project planned by the two ladies. They have made arrangements to attend the London International Stamp Exhibition late in May, spend two weeks in London living in a rented flat (their travel experience says that's the best way to enjoy the British capital), then they will attend the once-in-a-decade Passion Play in Oberammergau, West Germany.

They will have much to talk about when they return after following their usual practice of browsing through stamp shops all along the route.

ANNUAL AUCTION JUNE 1st

The Society's annual stamp auction to be held in conjunction with the CALTAPEX'80 stamp show is scheduled for June 1st, 1980. The auction to be put on by the Calgary Stamp Shop will be conducted in two sessions: 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Deadline for members to submit lots is February 20th, 1980.