



THE CALGARY STAMP E D E

CALGARY PHILATELIC SOCIETY
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CALGARY PHILATELIC SOCIETY — ESTABLISHED 1922

Bulletin — Ed Harris
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PROGRAMME NOTES

For the first meeting in May we will have a little different format from previous meetings. As a means of providing some variety and encouraging more audience participation in the program, we will have a quiz style of stamp discussion.

You will remember from reading previous announcements that there will be a panel of our members to field your questions on all manner of philatelic quirks. Several questions have been received so far and we expect more from the floor. So have some queries ready to ask the panel. Help to make the evening entertaining and informative for everyone. Our hobby has a multitude of interesting facets to explore opportunities to do original research, and study material by the carload. So come and share some of your questions by testing the experts. The questions which generated the most interest and discussion will win a free ticket to CALTAPEX '81 covering all the events including the banquet.

For the June meeting I am trying to line up a guest speaker from the Graphic Arts dept. from SAIT to talk to us about stamp production from the printer's point of view.

See you all at the next meeting, May 13th, at the Fort Calgary Interpretive Centre.

COVERS

Many collectors shy away from covers because they are bulky and difficult to mount. Ace Art Company makes a king-size transparent photo corner which is easy to use and costs about \$1.75 per 100. Because of minimum quantity requirements, the club could order in bulk if there is enough interest shown. Let Emma Benning know what quantity you require.

Former Calgarian John Payne's collection of stamps and covers, entitled "Canada's Registration System 1827-1914", was awarded a silver medal at the prestigious "ARIPEX '81" held by the Arizona Federation of Stamp Clubs in Phoenix, Arizona.

Mr. Payne, who now lives in Mesa, Arizona was for many years circuit book manager for the Calgary Philatelic Society and was well known as a specialist in the 1859 Canada "Cents" issue. Part of his collection of early Canadian money letters and registered envelopes was featured in the CPS show a few years ago when the club's annual exhibition was last held at the downtown Westward Inn.

A "crime" that is apparently condoned by both the Canadian Post Office and the United States Postal Service has been committed in connection with the temporary "B" stamps issued in the U.S. when first class postage rates were raised to 18 cents in March.

The stamps, which were printed without a denomination because of uncertainty regarding the amount of the increase, were for domestic postage only and their use on international mail is illegal.

However, there are reports of several letters bearing the mauve-colored "B" stamps being received in Calgary. Since no postage due was charged, it appears that postal authorities on both sides of the border have been closing their eyes to the breach of the regulations. Such covers are nice items for either a Canadian or U.S. collection — and they might even be worth some extra bucks some day.

Ever since stamp collecting started, in the early 1840's, completeness appears to be probably the most important objective for the collector. At first, completeness, I am sure, was comparatively easy, but as time went on, increased value and a burgeoning number of issues pushed this elusive goal farther and farther away. Perhaps near the end of the Victorian era the idea of specializing in a particular group of countries, such as the British Empire, seemed to take over. Later, areas of the British Commonwealth such as British Africa or the Caribbean were in vogue. Not too long ago, one could concentrate on a single country and hope within a reasonable length of time to "complete" the country. Now the idea of specializing in a single issue or a single stamp appears to be the order of the day. Where do we go from here? Stamp collectors will, no doubt, always try for completeness of a stamp, an issue, a country, and many fine collections and exhibits will be enjoyed by us all. However, for most of us, increasing prices make new acquisitions difficult to obtain, and we should explore other avenues of our hobby.

A lot of fun can be had by pulling together small (100 items or less) sideline collections which require very little money, but may require a lot of searching. If you have several friends searching at the same time, it increases the fun and makes duplicates available.

Through these columns in the coming months we hope to promote the formation of these fun collections, publish a check list for each collection, and bring material out of mothballs. If you are interested in this project please let me (Ed Harris) know so that we can gauge the response. Perhaps we should publish the names of those going after each collection. Meanwhile, here is a short list of small sideline collections that come to mind:

1. Calgary Illustrated Slogans - you'd be surprised at how many there are.
2. Alberta Split Ring cancels currently in use - I've misplaced my list but I think there are about 100.
3. Canada Barrel cancels - a new group has just been formed to study these.
4. Used dated blocks of all Canadian issues current in 1980. If that is too easy, try blocks of 9, and while at it, make them all Calgary cancels.
5. Calgary Stampede covers - one for each year since 1935.
6. The Military Slogans of the 1960's.

We will continue to develop our list and will make them available. Assistance in any of the above areas would be helpful.

Jim Taylor and his CALTAPEX '81 committee would like to offer the bargain given at the 1940 annual convention of the American Air Mail Society in Toronto, but inflation has them licked.

At the big stamp bash 41 years ago, those who attended were charged a registration fee of \$3.50. For that sum they received a souvenir badge that admitted them to the show, a ticket to a stag and cocktail party that included entertainment, a tour of the city, a ticket to the annual international dinner and a souvenir presentation book of current mint Canadian stamps presented by the Canadian Post Office Department. Face value of the stamps was \$2.49 and Scott catalogues them today at more than \$300.00.

If you have ever wondered what the world thought of stamp collecting more than 100 years ago, read this excerpt from a copy of the Boston Daily Advertiser of 1860:

"There is a mania in some circles for collecting postage stamps of all nations. Some collections number 300 varieties. The comparison of the different heads and legends adopted by the several different powers of the world makes the collection something more than a mere pastime and gives it something of the dignity and value of a collection of coins and medals. This elegant and curious mania is now chiefly indulged in by young ladies, but we cannot tell how soon it may take possession of the more mature portion of mankind".

PROGRAMME

May 13	Fort Calgary - General Meeting
May 19	Auction - CUPE Hall
May 27	Auction - Fort Calgary
June 10	Fort Calgary - General Meeting
June 16	Auction - CUPE Hall
June 24	Auction - Fort Calgary
