



THE CALGARY STAMP

CALGARY PHILATELIC SOCIETY — ESTABLISHED 1922



CPR Hotel, Banff N.W.T. - Circa 1888

CALGARY PHILATELIC SOCIETY
BOX 1478 • CALGARY, ALBERTA • T2P 2L6

CALGARY PHILATELIC SOCIETY DIRECTORY

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President	Greg Sereda
Past President	Don Fraser
Vice President	Steve Davies
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Treasurer	John Jarabek
Directors	Don Fraser (ex officio)
	Ray Skrepnek (1st year)
	Ed Harris (1st year)
	Dale Speirs (2nd year)
	Jim Taylor (2nd year)

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Archives	Bob Monilaws
Auction Manager	Jack Cotton
Bulletin Editor	Dale Speirs
Caltapex Chairmen	Phil Wolf
	Greg Sereda
Circuit Books	John Barber
Private Treaty Sales	Al Munro
Program Director	Leanna Johnson
Sergeant-at-arms	Steve Davies (ex officio)
Sunday Bourse	Walter Jackson
Wall Auction	John Van Staden Jr.

BULLETIN DEADLINES

For the February issue, copy must reach Editor by Jan.	14
April	March 18
June	May 11
September	Aug. 15

Material to be published should be typed or printed. No handwriting please. Submit material to the Editor, Dale Speirs, at the meetings or auctions, or mail to: Box 6830. Stn "D", Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The recent economic climate has had a profound effect on the lives of all Canadians. Government and private industry alike have had to deal with the transition from a "boom-town" economy to a considerably slower marketplace.

While the consequences in most fields have been negative, philatelists, particularly collectors of Canada, have managed to benefit from the downturn in the economy. Some might suggest that collections have devalued, thereby hurting the average collector, and indeed this is true for all those who invest in stamps, or hope to dispose of their collections for a profit. I'm sure most of us have done at least a little wheeling and dealing at one time or another, and may have been caught to varying degrees by the slump. But on the positive side, those collectors who, like myself, will probably die with their collections intact, have found that an opportunity is at hand to obtain quality material at bargain, or at least fair prices, as opposed to the inflated prices of the past few years.

A casual glance at the last few issues of Lyman's shows quite clearly that Canadian stamps have plunged in the recent past. Those who buy at auction or skim prices realized lists know that most lots, even those containing high quality material, can be obtained with significantly lower bids.

Consequently, now is likely the best time for philatelists to add to their collections. Don't worry about the lower assessed value of your collection. Enjoy! Pick up that item you've wanted for so long but couldn't talk yourself into buying. After all, latest rumors indicate that prices may soon start to rise again!

Good collecting.



Greg Sereda
President

by Bob Monilaws

McGreely's Express - This was river boat mail service run by a Mr. S.C. Marcuse between Dyea and Skagway during the 1898 gold rush. Local stamps were used and showed a dog sleigh and the words 'McGreely Express'.

Sir Bertram McKennal was an Australian sculptor whose profile portrait of King George V was the basis of most of the stamp designs of that reign.

Paraph - is a flourish or a contraction of a signature or initials. The overprint in the stamps of Cuba used in Porto Rico in 1873-76 is a good example. Another is the Arabic motif in the center of early Turkish issues.

Edward Loines Pemberton (1844-78) - was a famous stamp dealer and philatelist. He was one of the founders of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, and one of the earliest philatelic authors. In 1874 he published 'The Stamp Collectors Handbook'.

The Pembina Twins - is the nickname given to a pair of 1857 Canadian 7^{1/2}d stamps. This pair was postmarked in 1858 at Pembina, North Dakota, and later soaked off the cover and separated. They have since been brought together and now reside in one stamp album.

Metric measure - The perforation gauge uses a standard of 20 millimetres. The perf number is therefore the number of perforations on a stamp per 20 mm. Stamp measurements, overprint spacing, etc., are given in mm.

Pen cancelled - is a term often understood as 'used for revenue purposes'. Numerous cases exist where stamps are pen-cancelled in emergencies or because hammers are not available. As an example, Nicaragua pen-cancelled their stamps for the first seven years.

Quaker postmark - An American term. Applies to postmarks with the month indicated by a number instead of a name. The term arose because Quakers object to pagan naming of months. (Editor's note: In Canada, the same practise has arisen so as to avoid the hassles associated with bilingualism.)

WALL AUCTIONS AND HOW THEY WORK

by Dale Speirs

A feature of the Society's monthly meetings is the Wall Auction, currently in the charge of John Van Staden Jr.. Auction lots are brought in by members before the general meeting begins. The lots are spread out on tables as for regular auctions, but there is no verbal bidding. Instead, the bidder writes a bid on the preprinted sheet to which the lot is attached and also puts down some sort of identification. Most people identify their bids with their membership numbers but some use their initials. The last (and highest) bid wins the lot. At 8 pm sharp, bidding ceases and everyone must stand back from the tables. As the cut-off time approaches, the crowd around the tables will suddenly increase in size, as the bidders make certain they haven't been outbid at the last moment.

The general meeting then gets underway, and as everyone concentrates on the meeting the Wall Auction Chairman goes thru the lots and sorts them out according to bidder. After the meeting ends, usually about 9 pm or so, bidders come up to pay for their lots and all the various accounts are settled.

To conclude on a humorous note, at one recent auction I had bid on a lot, then started to move on. A friend asked to borrow my pen, and then bid on the lot I had just bid on!



British River Fishes 26th January 1983

GONE TROPPO? DOWN UNDER FANS TAKE NOTE!

The Australiasian Study Group meets the third Wednesday of each month, year round. All collectors are welcome to the informal meetings, especially those interested in stamps from Australia, New Zealand, and the southwest Pacific region. For location of the next meeting, phone Leanna Johnson at 242-2864 or Don Fraser at 274-7411.

SUNDAY BOURSE

The next Sunday Bourse will be held on April 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the American Women's Club. The street address is 1010 - 14 Avenue S.W., and there is parking on the west side. Vest-pocket dealers, collectors, and anyone else with the day off and money in the pocket are invited to attend. For further details phone Walter Jackson at 242-4128.

UPCOMING SHOWS

MAY 6th - Antique and Collectors Show and Sale at West Hillhurst Community Hall, corner of 19th St. and 6th Ave NW. Held from 10 am to 4 pm, admission is 50¢, seniors free. For details, phone 282-7129

April 7 and 8 - Calgary Numismatic Show, Marlborough Inn

October 12 to 14 - Caltapex '84. Volunteers needed, please contact Show Chairman Ray Skrepnek at 278-0040. For information on exhibiting contact Guy Boissonneault at 230-7760 or 237-7863.

APRIL PROGRAM

At the next general meeting on April 4th, the program will be entitled 'A tour of the People's Republic of China'.

BACK IN THE OLD DAYS OF PHILATELY

by D.C. Speirs

There is a great deal to be learned from the philatelic literature, and here I exclude catalogs. Catalogs are suitable for vest-pocket dealers and collectors who do nothing more than fill in blank spaces. The books and periodicals are what the true philatelist will consult. As recently as a few years ago, I had no trouble in buying philatelic literature at low prices. Now there are more people who realize the truth of the saying, 'Buy the book before you buy the stamp'. Consequently, auction prices for stamp publications are increasing. At a recent CPS auction, I was the successful bidder for some old back issues of 'Stamp Collecting', but only after a spirited contest with other members.

Reading the back issues is a pleasant way to spend an evening, and many of the subjects of World War One can be repeated today without change. In the 1915 volume of Stamp Collecting, the various articles and letters discuss forgeries, unnecessary stamp issues (mostly overprints), recruiting junior members, dealers, and stamp-collecting in the old days. The biggest fad at that time was for Togo war provisionals, and page after page goes on about overprint varieties, postmarks, and perforations. The New Issues column makes one appreciate our modern communications network, as the collectors of those days took months to find out about new issues. One interesting definition was that for bisects, which were called 'scissors provisionals'.

The 1922 volume of Stamp Collecting was equally interesting to read. Here are some extracts.

page 226(xvii) - (the writer is discussing stamp designs) 'Of the allegorical pictures of pre-war days we always held the finest to be the extraordinary phenomenon of a messenger boy actually running on special delivery.'

page 249 - 'Don't use your fist to settle new stamps into your album. Borrow a hammer.'

page 448(xli) - '... a state of somnolence pervaded the auction room periodically and gentlemen had to be aroused by an attendant when Lot 222 hove in sight ...'

page 488 - (an aside in an article on Papua stamps)
' ... in most parts of the territory the tax collector is greeted with cheers, and exemption from taxation is bitterly resented.'

page 488(xlvi) - ' ... when every sea was covered with French privateers, the Postmaster-General had great and constant anxiety. Orders were issued to the Captains "that they should run when they can, fight when they can no longer run, and throw the mails overboard when fighting will no longer avail."

page 508 - 'An unusual incident of the long drawn out strike of postal workers in Spain ... was the decision of the Madrid postmen not to cancel stamps with the official mark and date. Owing to this, large numbers of stamps were used again and again, and it is estimated that during the few days this particular form of protest was in force the Spanish government lost 2,000,000 pesetas (80,000 pounds sterling) a day.'

The third volume of Stamp Collecting purchased at the auction covers the period from October 1928 to April 1929.

page 19 - ' ... I was only able to purchase for myself and my friends, after hand to hand fighting as in war time, six sheets consisting of twenty-four sets. For two and a-half hours I stood in a queue in the midst of a crowd of unruly youths, exhaling perspiration and other disagreeable perfumes, who had been sent by philatelists to purchase sets for them.'

page 284 - 'A pedestrian noticed in the early hours yesterday that an individual was extracting correspondence from a pillar box by means of a wire hook. A policeman was immediately advised, but when he arrived on the scene the thief had already disappeared. On the ground were found two opened letters from the covers of which the stamps had been abstracted. It is thought that the individual in question is either mad or a hardened and dangerous stamp collector.'

page 484 - ' ... "I am struck," says a contributor, "by the number of dealers in Iceland. I always understood the main industries of the island to be flirting and fishing, with a very short fishing season. The exports I now know to be ice, geysers, and postage stamps.'

page 781 - 'A Welsh Member of Parliament the other day asked whether it was a fact that the Postmaster of Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllllandysiliogogogoch was unable to pronounce the name of his Post Office. It is quite possible, and I occasionally drop an "l" or so myself. Locally it is known as Llanfair P.G., and the usual cancellation is, I believe, Llanfairpwll. I know the village well, and its length is hardly greater than its name in large print; it stands on the road from Menai Bridge to Holyhead, about two miles from the bridge, and thousands of cars rush through it daily without stopping to spell it.'

The following extract from the October 20th, 1928 issue of Stamp Collecting refers to exchange packets, which Calgarians would refer to as circuit books. The advice is nearly sixty years old, but is as timely as ever, and comes from B.S.H. Grant.

'A great many stamps are overpriced without regard to condition, and evidently the seller is more on the make than to benefit his fellow collectors. The ordinary collector will not buy stamps from his exchange packet at prices which are in excess of those he can secure them for from a dealer ... '

'Exchange packets have been described in the past as "Garbage heaps of philately" ... '

'The exchange branch should be run largely on mutual understanding and goodwill.'

The advertisements in these old issues of Stamp Collecting are much the same as ads seen today. Some advertisers fill their space with line after line of small type, a poor way of doing things. More progressive dealers know that a cleanly done ad with an uncrowded appearance makes a better display. I will not bore you quoting prices as obviously stamps were cheaper back then. I have never had much patience with people who tell me how Zeppelins could be purchased at face sixty years ago, and Jubilees were a steal.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

These ads are free to C.P.S. members wanting to buy, sell, or trade philatelic material. Limit is ten lines, including name and address. Submit ads to the Editor, next deadline is May 11.

WANTED TO BUY - Back issues of the following stamp journals, clean unmarked copies only. Phone Dale Speirs at 243-1752 or see me at meetings.

American Philatelist - 1982 Nov, Dec
1981 Jan to May
1980 August
1978 Jan to May, July
1977 and earlier: all

WANTED TO BUY - Postcards of Calgary, any era. Phone Julius Szekrenyes at 282-7982.

WANTED TO BUY - Danish material, preferably before 1950. Contact Morten Theilgaard at 252-0007.

THE STAMP GALLERY (Room 409, 815 - 1st Street SW) has recently opened to fill all your philatelic needs. We specialize in want lists from Canada, U.S.A., British Commonwealth, and western Europe. Stamps, covers, and postcards. Open Tuesday to Friday 10 am to 5 pm, Saturdays 10 am to 3 pm.

WANTED TO TRADE - General collector wishes to trade used British Commonwealth and world for used same. See me at the next meeting or call 286-8907 Steve Davis.

MEETING DATES

1983

November	13		Sunday Bourse
	15		Auction
	23		Auction
December	7		General meeting
	15		Christmas party

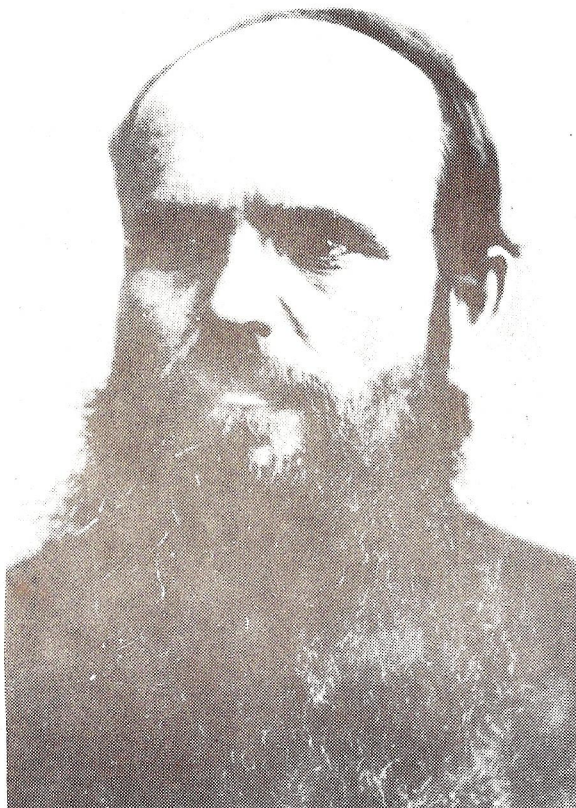
1984

January	4		General meeting
	17		Auction
	25		Auction
February	1		General meeting
	5		Sunday bourse
	22		Auction
March	7		General meeting
	20		Auction
	28		Auction
April	4		General meeting
	17		Auction
	25		Auction
May	2		General meeting
	15		Auction
	23		Auction
June	6		Election meeting
	19		Auction
	27		Auction

General meetings and auctions are held in the lower auditorium of CUPE Hall, corner of Center Street and 13 Ave SE. Starting time is 8 pm sharp.

Sunday bourses are held at the American Women's Club, 1010 - 14 Ave SW. Bourses are open from 10 am to 430 pm. For further details phone Walter Jackson at 242-4128.

Calgary's first post office began operations one hundred years ago on October 1, 1883. The postmaster was Wm. Bannerman.



William Bannerman