



THE CALGARY STAMP

CALGARY PHILATELIC SOCIETY - ESTABLISHED 1922

February 1985
Volume 6, Number 8

If you have always wanted to own an original inverted center, your wishes have come true. There are only 175 of these inverts in existence, all of them imperforate. Who says it doesn't pay to belong to the Calgary Philatelic Society?

The next issue of the STAMPede will feature a double invert, with both the center and the frame inverted. The watermark will be whatever the printer happens to have on hand at the time.

INVERTED CENTER!

by Steve Davis

-74-

CALGARY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE

President	Steve Davis
Past-President	Greg Sereda
Vice-President	Phil Wolf
Treasurer	John Jarabek
Secretary	Mike McPhail
Directors	Greg Sereda (ex officio)
	Al Munro (1st year)
	Emma Benning (1st year)
	Ed Harris (2nd year)
	vacant (2nd year)

COMMITTEE HEADS

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

The Calgary Philatelic Society may be contacted at:
Box 1641, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2L6.

BULLETIN DEADLINES

For the February issue, copy must be in by February 6.
April 3
June 5

Material to be published should be submitted to the
Editor at the meetings or auctions, or mailed to:
Box 6830, Stn "D", Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7.

General collectors in this day and age are few and far between, according to some people. I believe the foregoing statement to be false. General collecting seems to be making a comeback, only nowadays the word 'general' has a different meaning. Years ago, a general collector collected the world. Today the general collector collects 'generally' whatever strikes his or her fancy.

I consider myself a general collector since I have to restrain myself on many occasions from collecting too much. It is difficult to limit a general collector though, and as long as he or she is having fun, then why add limits.

Specialist collectors are the researchers and detectives of philately. Without them, the hobby would be poor indeed. General collectors are the silent majority and keep things in perspective. Both complement each other and enrich this wonderful hobby.

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I note that before long the present executive's term will be up. Please think seriously about what you can do to help the club in the coming year, either on the executive or in some other capacity. You get out of a club what you put into it. Let us keep this club strong and healthy. I look forward to meeting everyone at future meetings.

Good collecting.

BULLETIN BACK ISSUES WANTED

If you have any unwanted back issues of this bulletin, then the Editor will be pleased to take them. They will be used as giveaways to new members, junior collectors, and for publicity purposes. Thank you.

by Robert Service (with permission of Dodd, Mead & Co.,
from the book More Collected Poems by Robert Service)

My worldly wealth I hoard in albums three,
My life collection of rare postage stamps;
My room is cold and bare as you can see,
My coat is old and shabby as a tramp's;
Yet more to me than balances in banks,
My albums three are worth a million francs.
I keep them in that box beside my bed,
For who would dream such treasures it could hold;
But every day I take them out and spread
Each page, to gloat like miser o'er his gold;
Dearer to me than could be child or wife,
I would defend them with my very life.
They are my very life, for every night
Over my catalogs I pore and pore;
I recognize rare items with delight,
Nothing I read but philatelic lore;
And when some specimen of choice I buy,
In all the world there's none more glad than I.

Behold my gem, my British penny black;
To pay its price I starved myself a year,
And many a night my dinner I would lack,
But when I bought it, oh, what radiant cheer:
Hitler made war that day - I did not care,
So long as my collection he would spare.

Look - my triangular Cape of Good Hope.
To purchase it I had to sell my car.
Now in my pocket for some sous I grope
To pay my omnibus when home is far,
And I am cold and hungry and footsore,
In haste to add some beauty to my store.

This very day, ah, what a joy was mine,
When in a dingy dealer's shop I found
This franc vermillion, eighteen forty-nine ...
How painfully my heart began to pound:
(It's weak, they say) I paid the modest price
And tremblingly I vanished in a trice.

But oh, my dream is that some day of days,
I might discover a Mauritius blue,
Poking among the stamp-bins on the quais;
Who knows? They say there are but two;
Yet if a third one I should ever spy,
I think - God help me! I should faint and die ...

Poor Monsieur Pons, he's cold and dead,
One of those stamp-collecting cranks.
His garret held no crust of bread,
But albums worth a million francs.
On them his income he would spend,
By philatelic frenzy driven;
What did it profit in the end...
You can't take stamps to Heaven.

THE BORE WAR

by Ken Sumpter (extract from Stamp Collecting Weekly # 3325,
page 2033, August 18, 1977)

Mint - The stamp is in the condition as it was issued. You
also need the Mint to buy it.

Minor thinning - Only the border is left.

Minor variety - Looks as though it's just come from the coal-face.

Inverted - It doesn't look any better upside down.

Unhinged - No comment.

Classic - Any stamp that doesn't look as though it's been
printed by a short-sighted house painter.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING APRIL 13?

CALTAPEX will not be held this year so as not to conflict
with BNAPEX 85 in September. Rest assured though, as CALTAPEX
will return in 1986. This year only there will be a small one
day show at the Marlborough Garden Court in the Marlborough Inn.
This show will be held on April 13. For further information,
contact Guy Boissonneault at 274-4607.

The Editor recently bought an old book with uncut pages, and before he could read the book, had to slit the pages open with a knife. Purist book collectors would be aghast, for in their opinion a book with uncut pages is worth more. The Editor will respond that the whole idea of books is that they be read, and an uncut book is likely a criminal waste of intelligence and money.

Uncut books are like never-hinged stamps, a waste of money. Gum on older stamps is actually dangerous to the stamp and is best washed off. Since 90% of collectors in bygone years used hinges, it is rather suspicious that most classical stamps offered today are never-hinged.

What is your opinion? Pro or con? Write the Editor, and see your name in print! (Anonymous or pseudonymous letters not accepted, as you are expected to have the courage of your convictions).

AUCTIONS

OUR AUCTION LOTS HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY SELECTED WITH NICE AND CLEAN MATERIAL OF CANADA AND NFED WITH MINT, MNH, USED, AND POSTAL HISTORY, INCLUDING MANY CHOICE AND SCARCE ITEMS FROM EARLY TO MODERN.

WRITE OR CALL FOR FREE CATALOGUE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR MARCH 9th AUCTION

SEVERAL ADVERTISING COVERS AND MANY POSTCARDS, #40VF USED, #40F7VF USED, #80VF PROOF, #20VF MINT POG, SOME JUBILEES MINT AND USED WITH FLAG AND TOWN CANCELS, #62VF USED, #94VF LH, #133VF PASTE UP STRIP OF 3 MINT(1NH) #136, 137, 138VF NH PAIRS-LATER ISSUES WITH MINT, MNH, MANY BLOCKS AND PLATE BLOCKS INCLUDING #268/273 IN PL. BLOCKS AND #321 IN A MS OF PL. BLOCKS, C2 VFNH BLOCK OF 4, 09VF NH, 025 VF NH, 027 VF COS, 011 VF NH PL. BLOCK OF 4, NFED WITH MINT, MNH, INCLUDING C12 F4VF NH AND C14a VF NH IMPERF PAIR.

WE NOW ACCEPT MATERIAL FOR OUR MAY AUCTION
APPROVALS-PRIVATE TREATY

C. RAFTOPOULOS STAMPS



P.O. Box 117
Penticton, B.C. V2A 6J8
Phone (604) 493-4560

AUSSIE COBBERS.

by Don Fraser

This is the first of what is hoped will be a series of articles from the members of the Australasian Study Circle. This group has been meeting once each month for about 2½ years, on a rather informal basis. Meetings are held in members homes to promote a social as well as a philatelic atmosphere.

At the present time, our project of study is in the realm of show exhibiting. Each member is preparing a short exhibit on any subject of his or her own choosing within the geographical area of our interest. Upon completion, each exhibit is judged by the membership at large. In this way we hope to increase interest in the competitive exhibiting arena. Often members bring partly-completed pages for some suggestions from the group, when it is a good time to get some different ideas on presentation rather than when the whole thing is completed. So far the project has met with enthusiastic participation. Everyone is learning more about their particular field of collecting and becoming more discriminating in the acquisition of material.

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Everyone knows that the Penny Black of Great Britain was the first prepaid postage stamp. Or was it? As a matter of fact, stamps were being sold in Sydney to prepay postage well before the Penny Black went on sale! In brief, the story goes as follows.

Australia was first settled in 1788, but not until 1809 was the first official mail service commenced. A convict by the name of Isaac Nichols arrived in the colony in 1791, served his term, and was granted freedom in 1796. Nichols, it would appear, was a very industrious sort of fellow since shortly after this he was given the appointment (by the Governor of that day) of the prestigious "Superintendent of Convicts" and assistant naval officer. Both posts gave him considerable power since as the naval assistant he was responsible for collections of custom duty at the port. This brought him in contact with the conveyance of letters both official and private. Realizing the need for a well-organized approach to the carriage of mails for the colony, he was to become Australia's first postmaster in 1809.

Before Nichol's guiding hand took hold of the postal system, things were run on a very loose basis, with letters and parcels going astray. Those with the biggest purse got the best service. A fee of 1/- per single sheet to England was established (about \$20.00 today) and local mail was set at 1d for soldier's mail.

In April 1829 a new postmaster was appointed, namely James Raymond. He introduced a uniform rate of 2d for all town letters. Prepayment could be made at the G.P.O. if the sender wished to do so. It has been reported that Raymond was in correspondence with Rowland Hill concerning his plan for uniform postage fees in England. In 1838 Raymond received approval from the colony governor Sir Richard Burke to sell prepaid embossed stamps at the post office.

These stamps show the seal of the colony and carried the denomination of 2d. They were sold singly or at 1/3 per dozen. Seals were embossed on letter sheets and envelopes. Citizens could take their own stationery to the post office for embossing. The actual date of sale was from November 1838, so they predate the Penny Black by about 18 months. In spite of the innovative service offered by the post office of the day, these seals did not really catch on with the public. They continued on sale until after the first postal adhesives were issued in January 1850. Much prized by collectors today, the seals of Sydney, N.S.W. are quite scarce and command very high prices.

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If any C.P.S. member has questions on any aspect of Australasian philately, we will be pleased to try to find answers for you. If you would like to join our regular monthly meeting, please be sure of a warm welcome. Contact Don Fraser, Jon Johnson, or Steve Davis.

(Editor's note: What in the world is a cobber?)



The above stamp is for sale at \$999,999 per copy, mint unHINGED. UnHINGED collectors should read page 78.

WHY DOES PHILATELIC LITERATURE NEVER PROGRESS?

by Dale Speirs

If you pick up any scientific periodical and skim thru the articles, you will notice that most, if not all, of the articles have a list of references at the end. An author cannot provide the entire history of a subject and still write about new discoveries in a short article. By listing previous works, the author assists the reader in finding the past work done and in locating detailed works on a subject. The reader is not put to the tiresome and makework drudgery of searching indexes and tables of contents. This method of writing up articles is a major reason why science has progressed so rapidly, because researchers do not waste time and money repeating experiments already done by others.

By comparison, look at any philatelic article. Lists of references are conspicuous by their absence. Authors speculate inaccurately about matters that were solved years ago. Indexes that are available are mostly incomplete or vague, and involve long hours paging thru magazines.

Most stamp collectors confine themselves to owning the latest edition of Scott's or Lyman's, and perhaps one or two handbooks. They buy forgeries or reprints without ever knowing such, and when writing up album pages, simply repeat whatever the catalog says.

Consider the stack of philatelic magazines in this photo. Somewhere in these hundreds of issues is information of great value. That information may as well have never been printed, for all the use it will get. Who wants to search endlessly for one tidbit? A referenced article can cut down the search to the time it takes to pull out the desired issue.

If you should be writing an article on some item of serious philatelic research, by all means list every reference you used. A century from now someone may praise your name for doing so!



COLOR SHADE DISCOVERED IN CALGARY

After years of buying sheets of stamps at the Post Office in the forlorn hope of finding errors, the Editor has finally lucked out, although not at the Post Office.

While driving south on 14 Street SW, an important discovery was made at the intersection with Anderson Road. A major factor in this find was the fact that it was night and the traffic lights were easily visible. The green traffic lights come in TWO shades. One is the usual sea-green, while the other is a distinct bluish-green.

The Editor suspects that this new shade is not too common in this city, but due to a flat tire could not continue his research. Philatelists interested in owning this color shade are advised to contact the City Engineer, Streets & Roads Dept., Box 2100, Calgary.

A STAMP IS EXPENSIVE ...

... when the auction catalog refers to a pair as the largest known multiple.

... if the advertisement says price on request.

... if all the previous owners were lords or counts.

... if Stanley Gibbons was an unsuccessful bidder.

... when articles are published on that stamp, listing all the known copies and their present whereabouts

... when the stamp was plated about the time your grandfather was born.

DOWN UNDER UP OVER

The Australasian Study Group meets the third Wednesday of every month, and all collectors are welcome to attend the informal meetings. For location of next meeting, phone Leanna Johnson at 242-2864 or Don Fraser at 274-7411.

CPS MEMBERSHIP

Dues for renewing members are \$7.50, and new members pay \$7.50 plus a one-time initiation fee of \$5.00. The dues are accepted by John Jarabek at meetings and auctions

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

These ads are free to CPS members wanting to buy, sell, or trade philatelic material. Limit is ten lines, including name and address. Submit ads to the Editor at meetings or mail to: Box 6830, Stn "D", Calgary, T2P 2E7. Next deadline is April 3 for the April issue.

WANTED - starter collection or stamps in these topicals: Europa, World Cup, Olympics, Christmas. All sets must be complete. all stamps mint never hinged. Phone Franco at 288-2817. Member #768.

WANTED - Canadian, British Commonwealth and foreign military mail. Call Philip Wolf at 251-4109.

WANTED TO BUY - Montreal Numeral and Letter Duplex cancellations on cover or card, only on the Admiral issue of Canada. Write to: Bob Bayes, Box 86456, North Vancouver, B.C., V7L 4L1.

PRIVATE TREATY - Ed's List is a periodic private treaty offering of stamps and covers. Many specialized and sideline collecting items included. Phone 274-0021

WANTED - Canada used plateblocks with circle-dated dated cancels. Phone Ed at 274-0021

PRIVATE TREATY SALE number 3 now on until March 30. Catalogs available from The Stamp Gallery, 409 Grain Exchange Building, 815 - 1 Street SW, telephone 290-1020.

WANTED - Clean unmarked copies of these philatelic periodicals. Contact Dale Speirs at 243-1752.

BNL Topics - whole numbers 83, 103, 111, 134 to 136, 139.
American Philatelist - 1962 to 1977 all issues
1978 Feb, March, April 1980 August 1981 Jan
1982 Nov 1983 April, May, June, November
Philatelic Literature Review - Vol. 27 and earlier all issues
Vol. 28 no. 1, Vol. 30, no. 1,2,4
Gibbons Stamp Monthly - 1984 March, August to December
1982 Nov, Dec 1981 and earlier - most issues

WANTED - St. Pierre and Miquelon covers or unusual items. Phone Jim Faylor at 238-3698.

MEETING DATES FOR 1985

February	27		Auction
March	6		General meeting
	24		Sunday bourse
	27		Auction
April	3		General meeting
	13		Stamp Day
	24		Auction
May	1		General meeting
	22		Auction
June	5		Election meeting
	26		Auction
September	12 to 14		BNAPEX 85

MEETINGS AND AUCTIONS are held at CUPE Hall (corner of Center Street and 13 Ave SE), starting at 8 pm sharp. Auction lots should be in before 730 pm to allow bidder viewing.

SUNDAY BOURSES are held at the American Women's Club (1010 - 14 Ave SW) from 10 am to 430 pm. For further details, including table bookings, phone Walter Jackson at 242-4128.

BNAPEX 85 will be held at the Westin Hotel.

STAMP DAY will be held at the Marlborough Inn. Contact Guy Boissonneault at 274-4607 for futher information.

DISPLAY ADS

Display ads are accepted at the following rates for camera-ready copy only.

One issue - Full page \$10.00

Half page (no vertical columns) \$5.00

Five or more issues - 10% discount.

Payment in advance. Cheques or money orders should be made out to Calgary Philatelic Society.