



CALGARY STAMPede

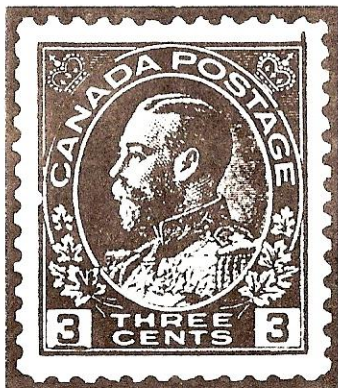
CALGARY PHILATELIC SOCIETY — ESTABLISHED 1922

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**Can you
spot the
re-touches?**

or . . .



**Admiral varieties
(Part 247)**

Since every other Canadian philatelic periodical has an apparently endless series on invisible Admiral retouches, why should this rag be different?

DETECTING REPAIRED FAULTS IN STAMPS

by David Warren

In the March general meeting of the Calgary Philatelic Society, great concern was expressed about an Ontario business firm which specializes in repairing faults in stamps. This is an intolerable state of affairs for the serious philatelist who is fully aware of the price differentials that exist depending on the condition of the stamp. In this article I would like to give some useful tips which will enable any collector to detect repaired faults in stamps.

A fault is a flaw in the paper. There are three main types: thins, creases, and tears.

1) Thins - are areas of the paper that have been scraped away. These usually occur on the back of the stamp. When they occur on the front, they are called "face scrapes". Thins can occur for a variety of reasons. Most predominant is a stamp being stuck down and then torn away, leaving some paper on the surface that the stamp was stuck to.

2) Creases - are bends in the paper which break the fibers of the paper. Often creases are caused by careless handling, such as getting caught in a closing album. Many creases were caused by the original postal users. Some creases were a result of postal laws that existed in many countries. In earlier times, these laws rated letters by the number of sheets of paper used, not by weight, and for this reason people used folded letter sheets. When a business got a letter like this, it was convenient to refold the letter for filing, and often the stamp was creased in the process.

3) Tears - are a most serious fault which can mean anything from a millimeter or two to an entire portion of the stamp missing. Significant tears such as an entire corner missing are generally considered as a fault of such magnitude as to make the stamp worthless.

Small thins, small creases, and tears of one millimeter or less can decrease the value of an otherwise perfect stamp by about one-half. More significant faults generally reduce the value of the stamp according to the significance of the fault. It is no wonder then that a business which fixes faults is doing well in today's stamp market, at a time when so many stamps are worth hundreds or thousands of dollars.

(continued next page)

How then, can a collector check stamps, both those already in a collection and those being considered for purchase, for faults of any kind?

Many faults can be spotted by the use of a good strong light. Thins will show up as areas that are lighter than the rest of the stamp when held up to the light. A crease shows up as a light line and a tear as a break in the paper. Perhaps a better way to determine faults is with the use of a watermark tray. The tray is a small black plastic or glass dish, into which watermark fluid (commercially-prepared) is poured. To determine the watermark of a stamp, the collector places the stamp face down in the fluid-filled tray. The pattern of the watermark will show up darkly because the paper is thinner where the watermark is. Thins will show up as dark patches which are not part of any watermark. Creases appear as thin dark lines, and tears show up as somewhat thicker dark lines.

The watermark fluid will not damage the gum of an unused stamp. Collectors should not place photoengraved stamps or stamps printed on chalky paper into the watermark fluid. A special watermark fluid is made for these stamps. Repairs to stamps may be difficult to spot under a bright light or even under magnification but will show up quite readily in the tray.

One of the ways a stamp can be repaired is by what is called 'filling a thin'. This repair will make a stamp held up to the light appear as if it had not been thinned. Although the filled spot is the same thickness as the paper around it, it is not the same consistency. It shows up in the watermark tray as much denser and therefore whiter against the black background of the tray.

Creases can be repaired by ironing them out, but they will appear in the tray as a thick dull line. Tears can be closed using liquid cement and margins can be added. In fact, the number of repairs and alterations possible to a stamp are myriad.

Reputable dealers will allow the use of the tray at their offices or will allow return of anything that does not meet the grade it was sold as having. Be aware though, that virtually no items costing less than \$10 have been repaired. Requesting a tray to view such items is the surest way of branding yourself as a nuisance.

ALL STRAY IN TO AUSTRALIASIAN GROUP

The Australiasian Study Group meets the third Wednesday of every month. All collectors are welcome to attend the informal meetings. For location of next meeting, phone Leanna Johnson at 282-9775 or Don Fraser at 274-7411.

BACK ISSUES WANTED

If you have unneeded copies of the Calgary STAMPede, the Editor would appreciate receiving them. The back issues are used for publicity purposes and as giveaways to new or interested members. The Editor will accept them at meetings or auctions.

AUCTIONS

SPECIALIZED AUCTIONS OF CANADA, Nfld AND PROVINCES PHILATELIC MATERIAL. WITH HINT, MNH, USED, POSTAL HISTORY, INCLUDED MANY CHOICE ITEMS.

WRITE OR CALL FOR FREE CATALOGUE

SELLING?

WE SPECIALIZE IN CANADA, Nfld AND PROVINCES CONSIGNMENTS OF BETTER PHILATELIC MATERIAL WANTED FOR OUR FUTURE AUCTIONS. OUR COMPERATIVE RATES AND NO 10% BUYER'S PREMIUM ENSURE HIGHER PRICES REALIZED. WE PRINT QUALITY, CAREFULLY PREPARED AND PROFESSIONALLY ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUES WITH 40-50% OF LOTS PHOTOGRAPHED SO YOUR STAMPS GET THE BEST DISPOSAL. PLEASE WRITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS OR SEND MATERIAL TO US DIRECTLY.

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

MATERIAL REQUIRED BY:

SEPTEMBER 28th 1985
NOVEMBER 23rd 1985

JULY 15th 1985
SEPTEMBER 15th 1985



C. RAFTOPOULOS STAMPS

P.O. Box 117 Penticton, B.C. V2A 6J9

Phone (604) 493-4560

APPROVALS

NEVER HINGED - AN UNNECESSARY REFINEMENT

by Phyllis Weston

I have long felt that this classification of never hinged stamps is an unnecessary refinement of our hobby. I should like to attempt an explanation for the never hinged category. As everyone knows, stamp collecting has become Big Business. Those who are in on the ground floor of any Big Business soon look for and find ways to make their enterprise still bigger business that will make more and more money for them. Hence the 'never hinged'. Others share in the bonanza, such as those who make and sell mounts of all sorts, as well as sheets and stockbooks which do not require hinges.

I do not expect these words to have any effect on the 'never hinged' stamp collecting. But the people who actually collect never hinged stamps, I do expect to become unhinged myself.

AUSSIE COBBERS (PART TWO)

by Don Fraser

Members of the local Australiasian Study Group met in my home on February 20 last. Mike McPhail gave a most interesting talk on the King George V Sideface issues of Australia. Stamps in this series require more than a casual glance if one is to sort out the issues in some logical order. There are several watermarked papers and different perforations, not to mention color changes for the same denominations.

Mike managed to untangle the confusion with a rather ingenious chart which traced the genesis of each denomination in date order. As was pointed out, the K.G.V Sideface has much in common with the Canadian Admirals. Many factors such as war and changing U.P.U. regulations affected both issues in somewhat the same way, both issues being introduced at about the same time.

Collectors of Australian material never seem to tire of the Sideface issues. If you have a few in your collection, try analyzing them for shade, perforation, and watermark, just for the fun of it. They are well worth the time taken to correctly identify each stamp. A good Aussie catalog is valuable for this exercise.

(continued next page)

Most readers will know that the present Commonwealth of Australia comprises six states and the Northern Territory (rather like the Canadian provinces). The six states are Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, and Western Australia. Before the commonwealth was formed on January 1, 1901, these six geographical areas were referred to as colonies. Each managed their own affairs independently, including stamp production.

The Commonwealth of Australia was proclaimed on January 1, 1901, yet no commonwealth stamp was issued until 1913. What was the reason for the twelve year delay? To understand this transitional period, one must consider the political as well as the legal entity of the states in relation to the new commonwealth.

On March 1, 1901, all stamps were issued under the authority of the federal government. The stamps issued between January 1 and February 28 of that year are rather like orphans. The colonies had no legal status and the states had no jurisdiction in postal affairs. These stamps are an oddity, being in the strictest sense neither colonial, state, or commonwealth stamps.

During colonial days, stamps served a multiple purpose. They could be used to pay either postage or duty charges. All revenue went to the colonial administration. After the commonwealth was proclaimed, postage stamps could not be used to pay stamp duty. Each state phased this practise out on an independent timetable.

Under the terms to establish the commonwealth, it was agreed that each state would retain the income from the sale of postage stamps, since this was an important consideration for their budget requirements. Stamps were produced for each state by the commonwealth printers situated in Melbourne. It was not practical to have stamps of one state valid in another, for accounting reasons and for lack of uniform postage rates.

Originally this condition was to last for five years, but for a number of reasons this time limit was extended on more than one occasion. The people of Victoria enjoyed the cheapest postal rates; at the time it was 1d flat. On October 13, 1910, following changes in the postal act, it was agreed to set a uniform postal rate for all of Australia. This paved the way for interstate use of stamps in any part of Australia.

The first kangaroo and map stamps were issued on January 2, 1913, and represented a uniform design. Postage stamps produced thru the colonial and transitional period from 1901 to 1912 remained valid for postal use until February 1966, when the currency changed from sterling to decimal.

WHAT IS AN EXPERT?

We have all met, at one time or another, stamp collectors who make no secret of the fact that they are God's gift to the universe, and are 'experts'.

What does the word 'expert' mean?

'Ex' = has-been

'spurt' = a drip under pressure

THE ADVERTISEMENTS WE NEVER SEE ANYMORE

The British dealer A. Constantine ran the best ad I have yet seen, it appearing on the back cover of Philatelic Magazine for August 29, 1952.

"Before sending me your collection for sale, I would draw attention to the following points:

1. I have not £100,000 waiting for your stamps, and I don't suppose I will ever have, as the first prize in the Pools has now been reduced to only £75,000. Occasionally I have bought collections to £500, and I may still be able to raise this sum.
2. I am in no haste or panic to buy stamps, as fortunately my stocks are not depleted, and neither have I noticed a queue of buyers at my door.
3. I absolutely refuse to pay the highest prices and sell at the lowest. The fact that I have made a fair living in this trade for the last 25 years should amply illustrate this point.

.....

5. I will not bore you with details of my world-wide connections, as I feel sure you have yourself visited Southend, Bournemouth and Ilfracombe.
6. ... Please do not think that you can put together a few remainders and a mass of throw-outs, and pass it on to me as a genuine collection that your grandfather made whilst he was P.M.G. in Waikiki.

POLITICAL PHILATELY (PART 3): LONG LIVE THE REVOLUTION!

by D.C. Speirs

Zanzibar was a British protectorate governed by a Sultan. In December 1963, the country received its independence. A month later, in January 1964, a revolution took place and a republic was established. The sultanate government became an item of history.

The cover shown below was mailed in March 1964. No new envelopes were available, so this old-style cover was 'overprinted', if such a word might be used, by an ordinary typewriter. Above the phrase 'ON HIS HIGHNESS'S' was the new order of 'PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ZANZIBAR'.

Lead handwriting on the part of the original writer, Mr. Philip Wely, resulted in this letter being addressed to Calgary, Sebeila. The letter was delivered without problem.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ZANZIBAR

==ON HIS HIGHNESS'S GOVERNMENT SERVICE

AIR MAIL

On Postal Service

MR. PHILIP WELY,
3202 26 AVE S.W.,
CALGARY, SEBEILA,
CANADA.



BROWSING THRU THE BACK ISSUES

"I can never think of the post without recalling that message of the New York Herald reporter on the morning when earthquake deprived San Francisco of any letters for a good many days to come. They engaged to keep the wire open for him for one minute, during which time he had to tell the world of the immensity of the catastrophe that staggered it the next morning. He did it in the following brilliant message: 'Earthquake hit us at dawn. City burning, buildings falling. It's me for the simple life.'"

(From Philatelic Magazine, December 7, 1951, page 974)

An article on the Australian post office quotes the following regulation directed to letter carriers. "You must not walk with your hands in your pockets, but walk with an alert and business-like air, as if you had some business to do and meant to get it done promptly."

(From ibid, page 981)

Apparently Australian actors and actresses visiting England are not always fortunate in striking it rich. One of Australia's leading actresses recently returned to Sydney where she commented: "Those who got a break all did well, but we still met most of our friends in the sorting department of the post office. That is the easiest place to find unskilled work."

(From ibid, June 20, 1952, page 489)

(Discussing a meeting of philatelists) ... Put to the vote, the proposition is accepted unanimously except for one vote.

(From ibid, February 10, 1961, page 86)

The Philatelic Office, Cairo, sends the following official description of the Egyptian 50 mills value in the Olympic Games set: "The 50 mills explains fishing by showing Amun in his vehicle throwing arrows towards a collection of lions."

(From ibid, November 13, 1964)

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 June 5 for the June issue.

WANTED - Postal stationery, post card unused and used Canada. Must be fair shape. Phone Mike at 280-3621 between 0900 to 1400 hrs.

WANTED - Used singles and blocks of current Canadian stamps. Also need Canadian coils on cover for the period 1948 to 1962. Phone Gordon Hill at 228-3621.

WANTED - \$100 catalog value of your surplus stamps in exchange for a new, handmade, cedar patio chair. I have 2 left. Contact Jack Henderson at 242-5039.

FOR SALE - Modern mint Canada, including plate blocks and sheets at face plus 20%. Call Jack Cotton at 249-1058.

WANTED - Hong Kong postal history, postcards, and fine used stamps. All periods Q.V. to Q. E2. Phone Guy Boissonneault at 228-2929 days or 274-4607 evenings.

FOR SALE - Stamps of Canada and western European countries, mint, used, and covers. Phone Willi at 239-2273.

PRIVATE TREATY SALE - No. 4 now on, featuring a worldwide assortment. Contact the Stamp Gallery, 409 Grain Exchange Building, 815-1 St SW, Calgary, or phone 290-1020.

WANTED - Interested, enthusiastic, honest individuals to make up stamp packets. Work at home, set your own hours, pleasant, non-strenuous. Experience not necessary, big discount on any stamps purchased, a fun way to make some extra money. Phone Jim Taylor at 238-3698.

WANTED - Cheap packet material. Bundles of U.S., Canadian, Australian, or British commemoratives. Thematic or country packets (mu or nmu), sets (mint or used) in quantity, minimum 100. Phone Jim Taylor at 238-3698.

WANTED - Clean unmarked copies of the following back issues, phone Dale Speirs at 243-1752.

SPA Journal - all issues 1978 and earlier

Philatelic Literature Review - most issues

BNA Topics - Whole numbers 139, 136, 135, 134, 111, 103

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

April	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 placed before 730 pm to allow bidder viewing.

STAMP DAY will be held at the Marlborough Inn.

BNAPEX 85 will be held at the Westin Hotel (4 Ave SW and 3 Street).

DISPLAY ADS

Display ads are accepted at the rates shown below. Camera-ready copy only, based on 8½ by 11 pages. Payment in advance by cheque or money order payable to Calgary Philatelic Society.

One issue - Full page \$10

Half page (no vertical columns) \$5

Five or more consecutive issues reserved in advance - take 10% discount.

When preparing camera-ready copy, please allow for a two-centimeter margin on all sides.

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

Memberships run from September to June. Dues are
\$7.50 for renewing members. New members pay \$7.50 plus a
one-time initiation fee of \$5.00.

BULLETIN DEADLINES

For the June issue, copy must be in by June 5.
For the September issue, copy must be received by September 4.

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.