



The bearded man standing in the witness box is Louis Riel. He is telling the jury that he will not plead 'not guilty by reason of insanity' but expects to be remembered as a sane man. The jury found Riel guilty of treason. One hundred years ago, on November 16, 1885, Riel was hanged.





The Calgary Philatelic Society was founded in 1922 and is Chapter No. 66 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. The C.P.S. may be contacted at: Box 1641, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2L6.

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Articles or ads should be submitted to the Editor at: Box 6830, Stn D, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7.

DEADLINES for the next few bulletins are as below.
For the January issue, copy must be received by January 8.

March

March 5

May

May 7

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COMMITTEE HEADS

Archives
Auctions - Regular
Auctions - Silent
Bulletin Editor
Circuit Books
Librarian
Private Treaty Sales
Program Director
Sergeant-at-Arms
Sunday Bourse

Dale Speirs
Jack Cotton
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Dale Speirs
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MACOUN, MIDDLETON, AND RIEL

by D.C. Speirs

Among those involved in putting down the 1885 Riel Rebellion was General Middleton. The fighting being mostly in the area of Batoche, Middleton asked for advice on this region from the botanist John Macoun.

Macoun had been on many expeditions to what is now western Canada. He was indirectly responsible for the peculiar fact that Alberta has two large cities, instead of one large city such as Saskatchewan and

Manitoba have. This came about because of the periodic climatic changes which the Palliser Triangle is subject to. When Macoun went thru the southern prairies, the climate was moist and moderate. He concluded that the Palliser region was capable of being settled for farming. As a result, the railway

went thru Regina and Calgary, instead of going thru Saskatoon and Edmonton as it logically should have.

The Dirty Thirties revealed the true nature of the Palliser Triangle, but by then Calgary was a major city and well-established. The citizens of Cowtown should therefore be thankful to this botanist.



Meanwhile, back at the Rebellion, Macoun refused to give assistance to Middleton. The botanist was familiar with this area but declined to help out the government forces. This was not because of political beliefs. Macoun said, rather bluntly, "I refused to go, as Middleton was known to be obstinate, in fact, an old fool."

A stamp, illustrated herewith, was issued in honor of Macoun on 22 July 1981. He was an Irishman by birth but came to Canada as a young man. He is considered to be the giant among Canadian botanists.

His connection with the Riel Rebellions is not that well known. Anyone forming a topical collection on this subject will be wise to add his stamp as well.



AUSSIE COBBERS (PART FIVE)

by Don Fraser

One of the most satisfying pursuits of the stamp collector comes from the fun of learning. Stamps, especially some of the early ones, provide us with a natural stepping-stone back into the past. Often events surrounding the postal service give the studious collector a glimpse into the day-to-day lives of the people who used the mails. The following serves to illustrate the point.

Back in 1838, it would seem that the folks living in Melbourne Town, Victoria were as keen on speed and fast service as we are today. It was on New Year's Day that a plucky young Irish stockman by the name of John Conway Burke rode out of town in a northeasterly direction, on an 1760 km round trip journey from Melbourne to Yass, carrying the first overland mails.

Sending important letters from Melbourne to Sydney by ship was fairly reliable but very slow. In those days, there was no regular service, so the mails just had to wait until a cargo vessel arrived, discharged goods, arranged to get a return shipment, and picked up the mails for Sydney.

The plan was for Bourke to carry only the lightest and most essential mail in his saddlebags. He was instructed to seek the hospitality of settlers wherever he could, to feed himself and his horse. At that time, settlers were few and far between. With luck, he would be back in about two weeks.

Yass is approximately halfway between Melbourne and Sydney. It was there that he hoped to meet another mail stockman from Sydney, exchange mailbags, and then return. The project eventually proved hazardous, for several reasons. On December 2, 1840, the mailman of that day received the surprize of his life when two bushrangers sprang from behind a tree, seized his horse, and then threatened his life at gunpoint. Mail was scattered all over the ground, the robbers having first pocketed all cash and cheques. The thieves were so pleased with their ill-gotten gains that they insisted the poor mailman have a spot of 'billy tea' to calm his nerves, before sending him on his way, minus the mail.

Elsewhere, a local paper from a town in Victoria by the strange name of Koo Wee Rup reported on May 23, 1847; "All Sydney to Melbourne mail has been lost". It seems that the young postie and his steed drowned in the Koo Wee Rup swamp just out of town.

In spite of the numerous difficulties encountered by these early pioneers of the mail services, they kept the lines of communication open in many of the smaller communities long after the mail coach and the railways had taken over the bulk of the mails. The last Victorian mounted mailman was still working in the area of Talbotville in North Gippsland after the Second World War.

FROM THE ARCHIVES: (PART ONE) MINUTES OF THE MEETING

by Dale Speirs

In late 1921, a proposal was made in Calgary that a philatelic society be formed. Results were not long in coming. On April 12, 1922, the first meeting of the CPS was held.

The founder of this society can be fairly named as Dr. E.G. Mason, a neuropsychiatrist. He was member #1 and was the first President. He died in 1947.

The initial meeting dealt with the mechanics of forming a society and drawing up the necessary constitution and bylaws. The bylaws of the British Columbia Philatelic Society were used as a guide. Shown on the next page is an extract from the first meeting. The handwriting is that of Dr. Mason.

Reading thru the sixty-plus years of records in the archives is an interesting task. At intervals in the future, extracts from the archives will be published in this bulletin. It appears that the archives themselves were not formally constituted until the late 1960s, when the first mention of them was made in the records. Prior to that time, records were scattered about various places. A formal proposal to establish archives was made at the meeting of May 2, 1967, by then-President John Gareau. In recent years, the Archives Chairman has been Bob Monilaws. As of April 1985, Dale Speirs will be looking after these records.

Anyone who has old club records, even from a few months ago, is asked to send them on to the Archives. Particularly wanted are old bulletins, as the file is incomplete. Letters, minutes-of-the-last-meeting, and ephemera such as posters and announcements are wanted.

In the early 1960s, a history of the CPS was written using scattered records then available. As a result, for a number of years it was thought that the Society was formed in 1921. Consequently the CPS held a 40th Anniversary Dinner in 1961. A short while later, the original minutes were found in a member's basement and it was discovered that the Dinner was one year too early!

One anniversary which the CPS missed was just this spring. On March 3, 1925, the Exchange and Sales Committee came into existence, the forerunner of the present-day Circuit Books. Sixty years of circuit books in 1985!

1922 89

The Calgary Philatelic Society.

The meeting was called to order
at 8.30 Present at the meeting were
Mr. A. Hall, Dr. G. K. Johnson, Dr. E. G.
Mason, Mr. D. C. Appleton and Mr. M. Thomas.
Moved by G. K. Johnson, and seconded by
M. Thomas that a Committee consisting of
Mr. A. Hall
Dr. E. G. Mason
Mr. D. C. Appleton
be appointed to prepare a Constitution
and Bylaws for the Society.

E. G. Mason

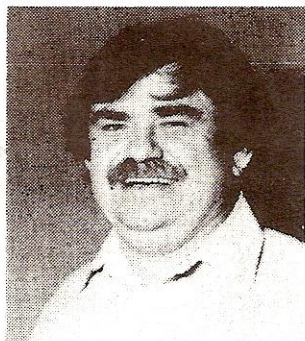
QUESTION-AND-ANSWER PROGRAM

Last year's Q & A program proved a success and will be repeated again. If you have a stamp or cover that is a puzzle to you, contact Greg Sereda before or at the February 5 general meeting. He will arrange to have your problem item photographed on slide film. It will then be shown as part of the program, where members of the audience will be invited to supply an answer. The knowledge of the members of the CPS as a whole is quite astounding!

FACES AROUND THE CLUBROOM (Part 2)

photos by Dale Speirs

Al Munro (private treaty sales)



PUBLICATION DATES OF CALGARY STAMPede, VOLUME 6

- Issue No. 1 - September 1983
- 2 - November 1983
- 3 - February 1984
- 4 - April 1984
- 5 - June 1984
- 6 - September 1984
- 7 - December 1984
- 8 - February 1985
- 9 - April 1985
- 10 - June 1985
- 11 - September 1985
- 12 - November 1985

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- ✓ Officially Sealed
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- ✓ Plate and Inscr. blocks
- ✓ Semi-Official Airmails
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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, Alberta, T2P 2E7. The next deadline is January 8 for the bulletin appearing in late January.

FOR SALE - Canadian stamps. Contact Phil Wolf at 251-4109.

AUSTRALASIAN STUDY GROUP - meets the third Wednesday of every month. For information, contact Leanna Johnson at 282-9775 or Don Fraser at 274-7411.

FOR SALE - Davo stamp albums from Holland, regular and hingeless. Canada \$39.95 (regular), Australia \$42.50 (regular). 15% discount for CPS members. Also, Holland and colonies new issues at face + 15%. Contact JP Boogard and Sons at 293-4114.

THE STAMP GALLERY - Private Treaty Sale No. 6 catalog now available at #409, 815 - 1 Street SW. Telephone 290-1020. Opening January 2, 1986 is The Stamp Gallery's Philatelic Bookstore. We feature philatelic literature from all over the world.

DUES PAID UP? - just a thought, anyway.

WANTED - interested, enthusiastic, honest individuals to make up stamp packets. Work at home, set your own hours, experience not necessary. Big discounts on any stamps purchased. Phone Jim Taylor at 238-3698.

WANTED - cheap packet material. Bundles of Canadian, USA, Australian, or British commemoratives, thematic or country packets, sets (mint or used) in quantity of minimum 100. Phone Jim Taylor at 238-3698.

ART CONTEST

If you are a paidup member of the CPS, you are eligible to enter artwork for a commemorative cover cachet, honoring the twin cities of Daqing, China, and Calgary. Deadline is January 8. Contact Phil Wolf with entries. The Editor, Dale Speirs, will also accept entries and pass them on to the judges.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The best CPS function in December will be the wine-and-cheese party on December 4, at the Kerby Center. Attendance is restricted to paid-up members and guests, with one guest per member.

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

1985

December 1 Sunday bourse
4 Christmas party

1986

January 8 General meeting
15 Auction
22 Auction
25 and 26 Stamp Fair (see ad)

February 2 Sunday bourse
5 General meeting
19 Auction
26 Auction

March 5 General meeting
19 Auction
26 Auction

April 2 General meeting
6 Sunday bourse
16 Auction
23 Auction

Meetings and auctions are held at the Kerby Center, at 1133 - 7 Ave SW, starting at 8 pm sharp. Auction lots should be placed before 730 pm to allow bidder viewing.

Sunday bourses are held at American Women's Club at 1010 - 14 Ave SW from 10 am to 430 pm. For further information, include table bookings, contact Perry Holinshead at 289-6280.

DISPLAY ADS

Display ads are accepted at the rates shown below. Camera-ready copy only, prepared on 8½ by 11 pages, with 2 cm margins on all sides of copy. Payment in advance by cheque or money order payable to Calgary Philatelic Society. Send ads to the Editor, Box 6830, Stn D, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7.

One issue - Full page \$10
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