

AIR MAIL

Embarras Portage
Fort McMurray



Mr
Charlie Panhofer
Kitchener
Box 38

This issue of Calgary STAMPede includes a look at some Alberta postmarks, as written up by Perry Holinshead. See page 105 for more on the subject.



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 1478, 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.

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE KEY-PLATE SYSTEM (1840-1956)

by David J.N. Warren

The Key-Plate system was an ingenious method of permitting one frame incorporating an engraving of the head, the most expensive part to engrave, to be used for the stamps of different denominations of a series and, eventually for the stamps of many different colonies.

From a 'key' die with tablets left blank, a key plate was constructed and from 'duty' dies for a number of different denominations duty plates were prepared, permitting the printing in two operations of any number of different stamps, in two colours if required.

Following the introduction of the Penny Black stamp of GB it soon became necessary to start printing stamps for the Colonies. To produce these stamps efficiently and affordably was the challenge that faced Perkins & Bacon the printers of the early colonial stamps. Their answer was the introduction of the common design known as 'Britannia on Sugar Bags' which was used for the stamps of Barbados, Trinidad, and Mauritius.

Around 1854 De La Rue won the contract from Perkins and Bacon to print stamps by the surface printing method for all values over 2d., while Perkins & Bacon continued to produce the line-engraved 1/2d to 2d. issues up until 1880.

In the early 1860's D.L.R. introduced the idea of a 'stock die' for the Queen's head which meant that the same head die was used for each colony only the frame was different.

The first two colonies to have stamps produced using this method were Vancouver Island (5c Rose and 10c Blue) and Bermuda (1d Rose-Red, 6d. Dull Purple, and 1sh. Green), both colonies issuing the stamps in September 1865.

The cost of the stock die was 50 pounds and a plate for 240 stamps was 85 pounds, or for 120 stamps was 50 pounds.

The cost of 135 pounds for the first 240 stamps was still more than some of the smaller colonies could afford and as early as 1868 De La Rue proposed a method of reducing the cost by preparing a die and plate without duty, the value to be inserted by an 'overprint'.

The first use of this system was for the 1870 St. Christopher 1d magenta and 6d green. De La Rue printed 13,400 of each value at a total cost of 64 pounds 12

101 - 1440 Beach Drive Victoria B.C. V8S 2N8.

April 4, 1987. 1987.

shillings for a small key plate (everything except the countries name and the value) of 20 units and two duty plates (one 1d and one 6d) also of 20 units.

Two other colonies were using the same key plate design for their stamps, namely Dominica (1874) and Tobago (1879, fiscal, 1880, postage).

In response to a proposal from the Leeward Islands De La Rue submitted an estimate for a die, key plate and overprint forme for the Island's name and value for each duty required. Before the end of 1879 Antigua and Nevis were issued stamps from those plates which became known as the First Victorian Key Plate.

By 1887 nine different colonies had stamps printed using the First Victorian Key Plate.

From discussions with Ceylon came two proposed designs which were submitted on December 1st 1887 and on August 31st 1888 De La Rue had ready for use the Unified Key Plate (for postage and revenue stamps) and the Universal Postage Stamp Key Plate.

The Universal Postage Stamp Key Plate or Postage-Postage key plate, was used to produce the stamps of seven colonies: St Helena(1890), Seychelles(1890), British Honduras(1891), Straits Settlements(1892), Turks Islands(1894), Gambia(1898) and the Cayman Islands(1900).

This single usage stamp was not very popular with the colonies and by 1912 only three colonies (Gambia, St Helena and Seychelles) were still using the design all the others had switched to the Unified (postage-revenue) key plate.

In 1908 De La Rue introduced the Nyasaland Key Plate which was designed to replace the unpopular Universal Key Plate. The term Nyasaland Key Plate comes from the fact that the first country to have stamps printed from these plates was indeed Nyasaland.

There were type two types of Nyasaland Key Plates, the small type was used for the low values of Nyasaland, Straits Settlements, Jamaica, St Lucia, British Honduras, Ceylon, and Tanganyika; and the large type, used for the high values of Nyasaland, Straits Settlements, Leeward Islands, Malta, Bermuda, and Tanganyika.

The Universal Unified Key Plate, mentioned earlier, was first used in 1890 to produce the stamps of the Gold Coast and Leeward Islands, and by 1917 had been used to print the stamps of 19 colonies.

This Unified Key Plate proved to be very popular with the colonies and continued in use in the Leeward Islands until 1956 when the Leeward Islands became separate colonies.

Calgary Philatelic Society

P O Box 1478

Calgary AB T2P 2L6.

Dear Club Members re cacheted FDCs, Canada, and
cachets by "Universal Engravers Limited, Calgary".

In our collecting of the different cachets prepared for Canadian FDCs, my wife and I have been very interested in the cachets prepared by U.E.L., Calgary. They were one of only three cachet makers so far known to us in Alberta and British Columbia. They are beautifully executed and they offer some interesting varieties. We would like to learn more about them and fill in missing covers.

We have tried a number of dealers in Alberta for UEL cachets -- unsuccessfully..

We now write to you in the hope that one or more of your members has studied them, or simply has some about which we could correspond. We would like to know what cachets exist and if possible buy any we do not have. We have UEL FDCs from 1950 to 1958, with gaps. A separate list is enclosed because of variations. It may even be that the company or a successor still exists and that an employee knows something of this very interesting venture. Two engravers were "H.Earle" and "S M".

May we hear from you. Thanks.

Yours truly

Gilbert D. Kennedy
Gilbert D. Kennedy.

[I am a life member of RPSC, and a member of VIPS. GDK]

UEL engraved cachets in Kennedy collection.

- # Marking or identification
- 294 "HE".
- 301 (1) Bay Company store; "HE";
(2) Beaver and trees; "H.Earle".
- 303 Borden cachet: (1) "HE"; (2) "HE" & UEL.
- 304 King cachet: (1) "HE"; (2) "HE" & UEL.
- 311 "SM" & "Universal Engravers Limited, Calgary, Alta."
312 "HE".
- 313 Similar markings as #311.
- 314 [(1) Sir Sanford Fleming: do not have];
(2) Fleming's office.
- 315 "H.Earle".
- 317 No ident other than typical UEL engraving.
- 318 "HE" & "Produced by ..."
- 319 "HE" & "Enraved & produced by ...".
- 320 Same marking as #319 except "and" for "&".
- 321 "U.E.L. Calgary"
- 322/3 No ident; separate cachets.
- 324 "SM".
- 325/9 No ident; each cachet in colour of the stamp.
- 330 No ident -- a very beautiful cachet in royal purple.
- 335/6 "HE"; separate cachets.
- 341 No ident; same cachet as 329. [Have seen 337/40.]
- 343 "HE".
- 349/50; 352/3 No ident; 4 separate cachets.
- 354 "HE" & UEL Calgary.
- 355 UEL Calgary.
- 356 (1) "HE"; (2) UEL Calgary;
[(3) Have seen with both "HE" and UEL Calgary].
- 381 "HE". [Cachet somewhat similar to that for #294.]

Note: Distinctions in the form of UEL's name not made; it comes in full, with "Alta." dropped, or just initials as on #321. Have not seen two forms of the name for the same cachet. GDK April 5/87.

JKL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM: Roger D. Skinner
Western Philatelic Library
Sunnyvale, California, USA
1987-8-8

Please pass on our compliments to Emma Benning for her articles on the philatelic books in the Calgary Public Library. That is the way we started our library, and it is a great way to build philately in any city. She is doing a good job. If the list is being kept separately, it would make an ideal small pamphlet to publish for the club and library use when the list is complete.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

These advertisements are free to paidup C.P.S. members; maximum is ten lines, including name and address. Mail ads to the Editor, Box 6830, Stn D, Calgary, T2P 2E7. Next deadline is October 21 for the bulletin appearing in late November.

FOR SALE: Eastern Europe (DDR, USSR, Poland, Romania) 1980 to date, MNH at 40% face value, blocks and S/S at 50% face value. All the years, cancelled or MNH, at 50% Scott (Canadian dollars). Contact Jacob Renert at the club or call 278-0309. Want lists welcomed.

TRADE, SELL, OR BUY: Canadian and British Commonwealth unexploded booklets. Call Philip at 251-4109.

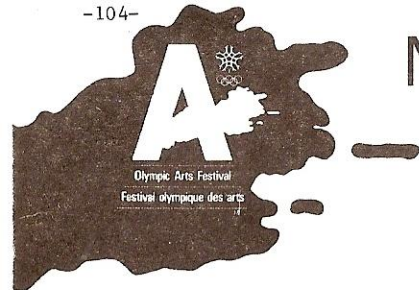
JACK COTTON RETIRES

After many, many years as chairman of the auction committee, Jack Cotton is stepping down to take a well-earned rest. With two regular auctions per month, ten months of the year, this was no sinecure. Thousands of auction lots pass thru each year, and the commission from them provides this society with the funds to conduct its activities. At the September 1987 meeting, members gave Jack a hearty round of applause for his hard work on behalf of the C.P.S..

FOUNDERS' AWARD

This award is given to the member who, in the opinion of the committee, made the best contribution to the C.P.S. in the previous club season. The award is in the form of an engraved silver tray. For the 1986/87 season, it was given to Guy Boissonneault. Guy is best known for the work he has put into our two annual philatelic shows, Stamp Day and Caltapex. He is active in the C.P.S. executive, and has held various duties, official and unofficial.

Congratulations Guy!



NEWS COMMUNIQUÉ

XV Olympic Winter Games
Organizing Committee

P.O. Box 1988, Station C
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
T2T 5R4

Tel. (403) 262-1988
Telex 03-821057

19 May 1987

OLYMPLEX'88 IS PHILATELIC HIGHLIGHT OF OLYMPIC ARTS FESTIVAL

OLYMPLEX'88, The International Olympic Philatelic Exhibition, will be held February 13-28, 1988 in the Calgary Convention Centre Exhibition Hall. The stamp exhibition will coincide with the XV Olympic Winter Games in Calgary, Canada and will be a major component of the visual arts program of the Olympic Arts Festival.

A competitive exhibit will consist of three classes: Class 1, Winter Olympic Stamp Issues; Class 2, Winter Sports Stamp Issues; Class 3, Winter Sports Stamp Issues of One Sport or One Country. A collector may enter more than one exhibit providing that a separate entry form is submitted for each. The deadline for receipt of entry forms is September 30, 1987.

Special court of honor exhibits by Dr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee and the archives of Canada Post Corporation will be additional features of the exhibition.

Requests for application forms and enquiries about exhibits, bourse and souvenir items should be addressed to The Chairman, Olymplex'88 Stamp Exhibition, Olympic Arts Festival, XV Olympic Winter Games Organizing Committee, Box 1988, Station C, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2T 5R4.

SPEAKERS' PROGRAM 1986/1987 by Ed Harris

The program of speakers and activities over the past year has been very entertaining and informative. I want to thank all who participated, and especially those who did all of the research and preparation of slides to make these programs successful. A very special thank you to Dr. Julius Szekrenyes, who prepared several of the slide programs for other speakers. Members are reminded that the club will pay for one 36-exposure roll of slides. With Julius doing the work, how can you resist preparing a program for the 1987/1988 season?

SOME ALBERTA POSTMARKS by Perry Holinshead

Pruden's Crossing - In the early days, the wagon trails had to cross rivers at a suitable ford. Often an enterprising homesteader would locate at the crossing, and possibly start a trading and supply business. When the traffic warranted, the government might install a ferry service, and a town might develop. If and when a railroad came thru, the town could be bypassed; then either they moved the town and retained the name, or the town would fade out.

Pruden's Crossing seems to have been just such a place, located where the Spirit River Trail crossed the Smoky River. In 1915, the Department of Interior Irrigation Surveys located a stream gauging station in S.W.-10.78.24W5, "on the left bank of the river 200 feet above the ferry crossing between Prudent's Crossing and J.D. McArthur's Cache No. 19". This has also been referred to as Prudent's Ranch. J.D. or F.D. McArthur is believed to have been a contractor involved in the construction of the Edmonton, Dunvegan, and British Columbia Railroad. The observers at the station were ferryman P. McCallum from June 2 to November 28, 1915, and A. Rainville from November 28, 1915 to May 31, 1916. In June 1916, the station was moved upstream to the railroad bridge when the ferry was discontinued, a distance of 3.2 km.

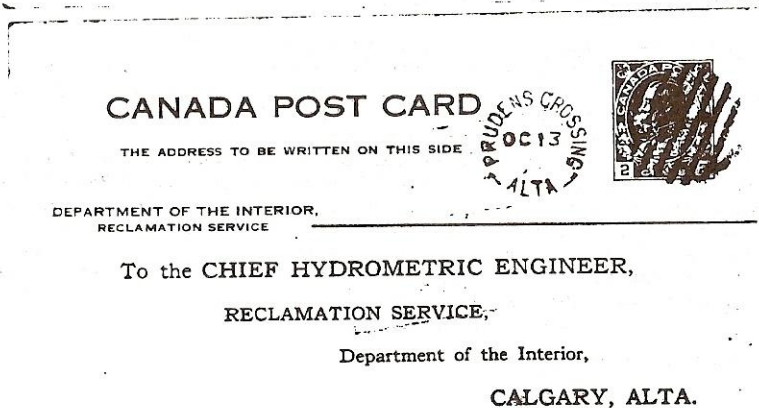
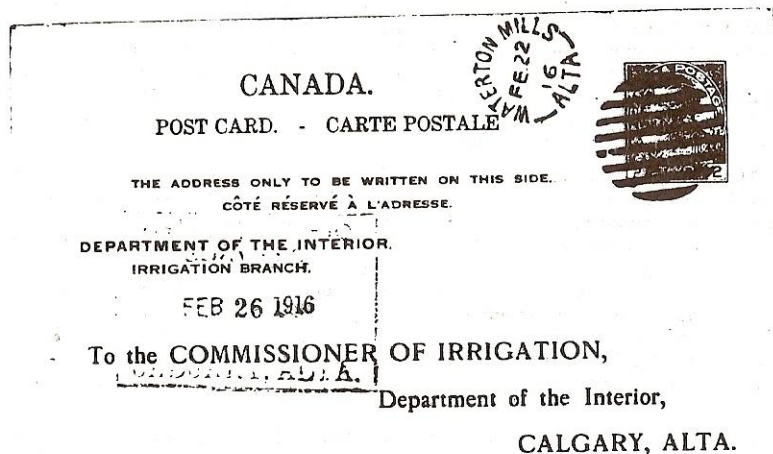
The railroad construction probably reached the river early in 1915, and took some time to build the necessary bridge. 1915 was a wet year thruout the province, and considerable difficulty was encountered at this location due to high water. In the files of the Water Survey of Canada, there is a very fine picture of the temporary construction town which existed in 1916. Due to the need to maintain a constant maximum grade for railroads, the line appears to have followed the Spirit River Trail until it reached the steep drop to the river, whereupon it turned to make the crossing 3.2 km upstream. The construction town was known as Smoky, and moved across the river to subsequently become the present town of Watino.

Observer cards exist postmarked Pruden's Crossing from October 1917 to October 1922, when the station was discontinued. Cards exist with Edmn and Spirit Riv. R.P.O. No. 21922.

Embarrass Portage - This was a trading post established on the canoe route between Fort McMurray and Fort Chipewyan by a fur trader named Reed. At the point where the Athabasca River turns east before dividing into the delta channels, a short portage over low ground existed to the Embarrass River. Most canoe traffic used this route because it cut some distance off the trip and reduced the distance on the open lake to Fort Chipewyan. In addition, it gave access to the rich trapping grounds of Mamawi Lake. Flooding was an annual problem. In 1924, Reed moved upstream about 8 km to what is now Pelton's Landing, the site of an earlier fur trade fort. On December 17, 1931, airmail service was inaugurated to Fort Chipewyan, with the return to Fort McMurray the following day, stopping at Embarrass Portage each way. This is still the only supply point in 270 km of river. All resupply is by river barge in the summer months.

(continued next page)

Waterton Mills - The story of this little hamlet is similar to many other places in Alberta. The Hanson brothers had a timber berth adjacent to Waterton Park, and built a mill on the right bank of Waterton River a short distance below Maskinonge Lake. With industry thriving, it was the logical place for a post office. Based on a 1916 letterhead, the Dominion Parks Branch Superintendents office for Waterton Lakes Park was also located here. If the mill had remained, a large community might have sprung up. Unfortunately the timber burned; the Hansons moved their mill or possibly it was also victim of the fire. By May 6, 1916, the post office had been removed to the present town of Waterton Park. A few of the original buildings remained at the site until some time about 1950.



AUSSIE COBBERS: PART 14. AUSTRALIAN TERRITORIES

by Jon Johnson

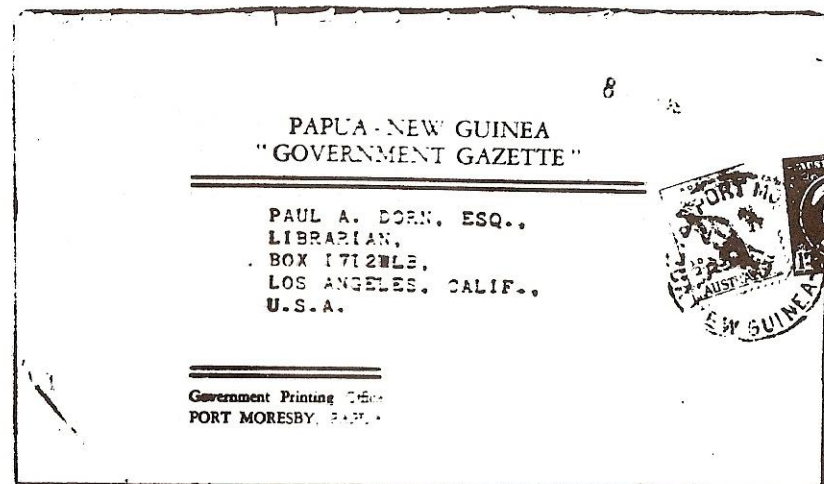
Over the years, Australia has administered many territories, some of which have now developed into independent nations. One of these is Papua New Guinea, which was two Australian Territories simultaneously at a point in history.

The island of New Guinea is located about 160 km north of Queensland, Australia. At the turn of the century, it was divided into three portions. The Dutch had annexed the western end of the island, Germany annexed the north-eastern portion, and the British had taken the south east. The Dutch portion was taken over by Indonesia in 1963 and renamed West Irian.

The German portion of the island was occupied by Australian forces in 1914. At the end of World War One, the administration of this territory was given to Australia by the League of Nations. This territory was named New Guinea. Initially the German territorial stamps were overprinted. Later, in 1915, Australian stamps overprinted 'N.W. Pacific Islands' were used until 1925, when the Australian territory began to print its own postage stamps. Territory of New Guinea stamps were used until New Guinea was invaded by the Japanese in 1942. Australian postage was used in the territory after it was recaptured in 1944. This continued until 1952, when stamps were issued jointly for the territories of Papua and New Guinea. These territorial stamps were used up to the independence of Papua New Guinea in 1975.

The British portion of the island was administered by the Colony of Queensland. Queensland stamps were used until 1901, and after that, Papua had its own stamps. In 1906, the administration of Papua (British New Guinea) was transferred to the Commonwealth of Australia. The Papua stamps were used up to the invasion of the Japanese in 1942. From recapture in 1944, the postal usage was identical to the neighbouring territory of New Guinea.

Below is a newspaper wrapper mailed from Port Moresby, Papua, in 1949, using Australian postage.



MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

October	21		Bulletin deadline
	21		Auction
	28		Auction
November	1		Sunday bourse
	4		General meeting
	18		Auction
	25		Auction
December	2		Wine and cheese party
	6		Sunday bourse
January	6		General meeting
	20		Auction
	27		Auction
February	3		General meeting
	7		Sunday bourse
	13 to 28		OLYMPLEX 88
	17		Auction
	24		Auction
March	2		General meeting
	6		Sunday bourse
	16		Auction
	23		Auction
April	3		Sunday bourse
	6		General meeting
	20		Auction
	27		Auction

MEETINGS AND AUCTIONS are at Kerby Centre, 1133 - 7 Ave SW, at 730 pm. Auction lots should be in before 730 pm to allow bidder viewing.

SUNDAY BOURSES are at American Women's Club, 1010 - 14 Ave SW, from 10 am to 430 pm. To book a table, telephone Tim Presber at 280-9739.

AUSTRALIASIAN STUDY GROUP meets third Wednesdays. For info, telephone Leanna Johnson at 282-9775.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY Calgary Chapter meets second Wednesdays. For info, telephone Phil Wolf at 251-4109.

OLYMPLEX 88 will run for the duration of the 1988 Olympic Winter Games. To be held at the Calgary Convention Centre, 9 Ave and 1 St SE. For further information, write to OLYMPLEX 88, Box 1988, Stn C, Calgary, T2T 5R4.