

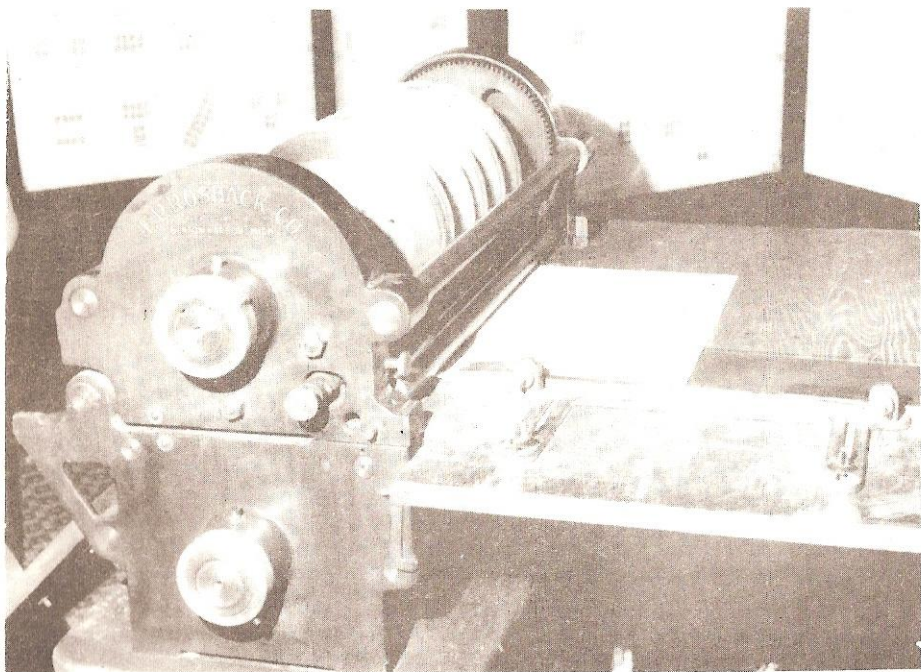
CALGARY

ISSN 0828-8755

STAMPede

Volume 7
Number 10

November 1987



This perforating machine was on view at CALTAPEX 87, held on the Thanksgiving weekend from October 9 to 11.



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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SLOW START FOR OLYMPIC PHILATELY by Dave Ball

The revival of the Olympic Games at Athens in 1896 was not without its political and economic travails, a fact of life for each Olympiad since. One of the biggest opponents to a major athletic festival, for economic reasons, was the head of the Greek government. Without the support of Prince Constantine, heir to the throne, the government would likely have prevailed, and the Games never have occurred.

In July 1895, thanks to the idea of two stamp-collecting brothers, the Greek parliament authorized the issuance of a set of twelve stamps, stipulating that "... 50% of the sum obtained from the sale of commemorative stamps would go towards the organization of the Olympic Games ...". There was a ceiling on this grant; clearly the Greek government had a shortage of cash, and the Olympic Games were not a top priority.

This official Olympic issue marked the first stamps directed to sports as a theme. The idea of commemorative Olympic stamps, and especially the revenue they generate, lay dormant until 1920, when Belgium issued a set of three stamps to celebrate the Games at Antwerp. Greece had issued a second set of Olympic stamps for the tenth anniversary Games in Athens in 1906, but neither the philatelic concept nor the recurring Athens-based sport festival caught on. After the Antwerp Games, postal offerings began to include issues from other than the host country. The first two Winter Games went totally unnoticed in the philatelic world.

Winter recognition finally came in 1932. The United States hosted the 1932 Games at Lake Placid, and issued a stamp featuring skiing to commemorate the event. This was the first U.S. stamp to honour sports of any kind. Thereafter, postal praise of the Games brought solid revenue to the issuers of scores of items.

Because most of the early Games took place in conjunction with a major exposition, the early postmarks, postal stationery, and vignettes tend to refer to the more-publicized exposition, without any Olympic allusion. Special postmarks mentioning the Olympics began at the 1912 Games in Stockholm, as did a series of vignettes printed in at least sixteen languages. There was even an Olympic postcard issued.

As with the stamps, Olympic theme vignettes did occur at other times than in conjunction with an Olympiad. The first was round, with the date '1894', framed by two laurel branches and surrounded by the words 'COMITE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIQUE'. The designer was none other than the Baron Pierre de Coubertin. However, these were not for sale, just an early case of something special for Olympic insiders.

Today, the philatelic material begins a year before each Olympiad, and pours forth all around the globe. Nearly 200 countries have issued Olympic commemoratives over the years; some material comes from countries that have never had athletes actually competing in those games. Perhaps a slow start, but Olympic philately is up to full speed and showing no signs of tiring. Citius, altius, fortius.

CALTAPEX 87 SHOW RESULTS

Grand Award: Stu Kenyon (Pioneer mail in western Canada)

N. Tunna Award (Best novice): D. Wilson (Cancels & postal useage Australia)

Postal History Society Canada Award: Stu Kenyon (Pioneer mail)

Gold: Robert Bayes (Admirals)
 Stu Kenyon (Pioneer mail)
 Mike Burrington (Channel Island postal history)
 D. Wilson (Cancels & postal useage of Australian States)

Small gold: Kim Frandsen (Biplanes)

Silver: Ray Skrepnek (George VI officials)
 Phil Wolf (Canada in Boer War)
 Guy Boissonneault (Hong Kong)
 M. Zatka (GB decimal booklets)
 Dale Speirs (BNA damaged, delayed, returned mail)
 John Van Staden Jr. (UN peacekeeping)
 David Warren (Key plate system)
 Ian Foss (Olympics)

Small silver: John Boogerd (Philippines)
 Dale Speirs (Postal codes)
 Nicole Van Staden (Butterflies and moths)

Bronze: Dale Speirs (Cichlids)
 Joseph Miller (Hawaii)
 Keith Spenser (Aden)
 Dale Speirs (BNA design errors)

Court of Honour: Stu Kenyon (Patriotics of Queen Victoria)
 Sam Nickle (Pence issues)

Judges: Bill Bailey
 Fitz Roett
 Keith Spenser

DICK WILSEY (1912 - 1987)

A longtime member of the C.P.S. recently passed away on October 8, 1987. Dick Wilsey had resided in Edmonton at the time of his death, but was a Calgarian for many years, and a familiar face at the stamp meetings. He was also involved with the Edmonton stamp club.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

These advertisements are free to paidup members of the C.P.S., with a limit of ten lines (including name and address) per issue. If you wish to run an ad, mail to the Editor, Box 6830, Stn D, Calgary, T2P 2E7. Next deadline is January 6 for the bulletin appearing just before the Winter Olympics.

WANTED: Ukrainian stamps, envelopes, postcards, and any other Ukrainian philatelic material. Contact Andrew Avramenko at the meetings or telephone 236-2037 after 4 pm.

FOR TRADE: Canadian plate blocks. Contact Andrew Avramenko at the meetings or telephone 236-2037 after 4 pm.

WANTED: Nauru covers and stamps - mint, used, blocks, and what-have-you, also North West Pacific Islands and German Marshall Islands items relating to Nauru. Also wanted are Canada Federal Bill Stamps, especially on document. See Bradley Harris at the meetings, or mail photocopies and prices to #100, 5940 Macleod Trail South, Calgary, T2H 2G4.

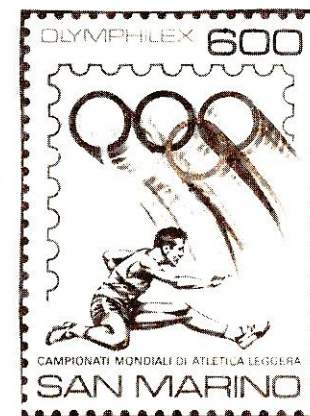
FOR SALE: World stamps, Canadian, and British colonial mint, at Beddington Flea Market, Sundays 12 noon to 5 pm. Contact Bob Perry.

OLYMPIC STAMP SHOWS

Every four years, a tremendous event occurs, namely a huge stamp show. Besides the stamp exhibition itself, there are sideshows put on, such as various sporting events.

OLYMPEX 88 is the stamp show being held in Calgary this coming February. There will be ski races and other events to commemorate OLYMPEX 88.

The other major stamp show is OLYMPHILEX. This is the summer show, and is honoured by foot races and other displays.



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BACK ISSUES OF CALGARY STAMPede WANTED

The C.P.S. has a continual demand for back issues of its publications, which are used as giveaways for prospective and new members. If you do not keep your copies of Calgary STAMPede, the Editor, Dale Speirs, will be pleased to accept them. See him at the meetings.

HOW TO BECOME A FAMOUS AUTHOR

At least in the Calgary area, although you should bear in mind that this bulletin is deposited in libraries across North America. The Editor, when not accepting back issues of Calgary STAMPede, is usually found creating new ones. This of course requires raw material, such as articles. Why not put something together, and become famous in places as far afield as Airdrie, Cochrane, and Okotoks. See Dale Speirs at the meetings; he is the one with the armload of back issues.



MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

November	18		Auction
	25		Auction
December	2		Wine and cheese party
	6		Sunday bourse

1988

January	6		General meeting
	6		Bulletin deadline
	20		Auction
	27		Auction
February	3		General meeting
	7		Sunday bourse
	13 to 28		OLYMPLEX 88
March	2		General meeting
	6		Sunday bourse
	16		Auction
	23		Auction
April	3		Sunday bourse
	6		General meeting
	6		Bulletin deadline
	20		Auction
	24		Stamp Day
	27		Auction

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

STAMP DAY will be held at the Marlborough Inn. For details, contact John Van Staden at 285-1874.

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

AUSTRALIASIAN STUDY GROUP meets third Wednesdays. For information, contact Leanna Johnson at 282-9775.

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