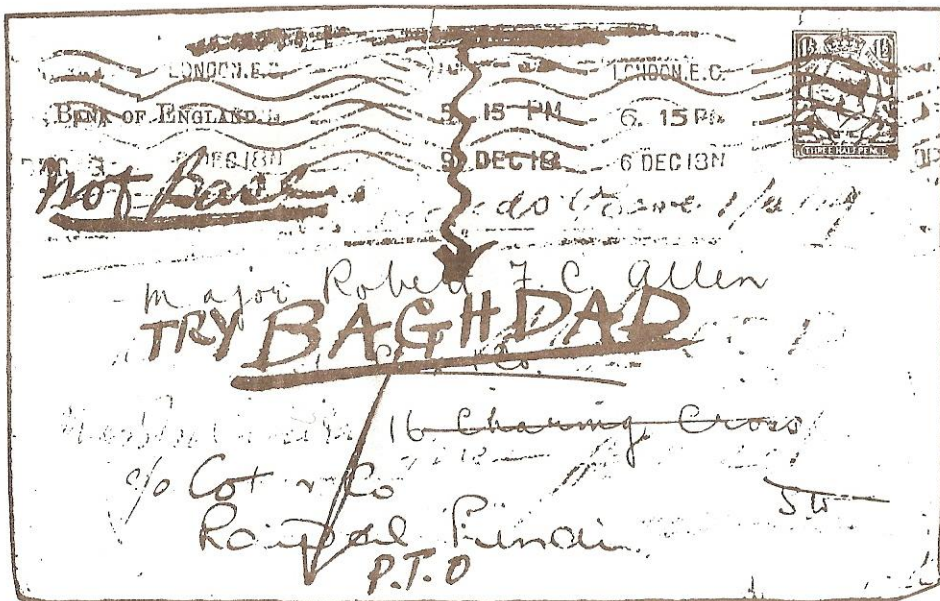


Calgary STAMPede

Volume 8, Number 3

June 1988



This much-travelled cover is the subject of an article by Perry Holinshead. See page 31 for further details.



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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A MESOPOTAMIA COVER by Perry Holinshead

The Man: Robert F.C. Allan, a Captain in the Royal Field Artillery serving in India, was assigned to the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force in August 1916. He was promoted to Major and served with distinction, being awarded the Military Cross and the Croix de Guerre. The campaign was fought along the Tigris River, from Amara to Baghdad and Istabulat.

His diary for November 10, 1917, reads "On arrival at Daur camp Jones refused to play any more and sent me to Samarra in an ambulance on account of my legs". From Samarra, he was sent to Officers Hospital in Baghdad, where on November 18 he states "It doesn't look as if I shall be out of bed for another 4 or 5 days Damn!! However, was put back on to whiskey to-day". Entry for November 28 "Have measles". November 29: "Moved to Isolation Hospital", and subsequently "Left Isolation Hospital on 13th Dec.". In June 1918, Major Allen was reassigned to the campaign in Palestine. He was therefore in Palestine before this cover started on its way.



The Cover: Letter from Bank of England, addressed c/o Cox & Co., 16 Charing Cross S.W.. First postmarked London EC 6.15 pm, 6 Dec. 18N. Forwarded and postmarked as follows: c/o Cox & Co., Rawal Pindi

London EC 5.15 pm 9 Dec. 18
Rawal Pindi 7 Jan. 19

Mesopotamia Ex Force

F.P.O. No 11 Basrah 25 Jan. 19
No Instructions at P.O. Base
Base P.O. M.E.F. 28 Jan. 19

C/O Records Base 1/2/19

Base P.I.O. M.E.F. 4 Feb. 19
Base Office S.O.R.M.E.F. 6 Feb. 19
Base Office S.O.R.M.E.F. 7 Feb. 19

Not Base

Base P.I.O. M.E.F. 8 Feb. 19

Returned Letter Office "A"

Basrah 10/2/19
 Isolation Hospital 21/2/19
 Try Baghdad Sent Same
 Baghdad Base Post Office M.E.F.
 21/2/19
 Officers Corp Baghdad
 Base P.I.O. M.E.F. 24 Feb. 19
 No instructions at P.O. Base
 Transferred to O.C.D. from Isol. Hos.
 13/12/1917
 Lost Trace.

BACK-TO-BACK IS HOW THEY DO IT IN CALGARY
 by Colin Bolvikoski

Stamp shows, that is. The British North America Philatelic Society, Calgary Chapter, had its annual regional meeting on April 23, 1988, a Saturday. The following day, at the same hotel, the C.P.S. held its STAMP DAY spring minishow.

The B.N.A.P.S. regional meeting was organized by Bill Pawluk, who is to be congratulated for a fine job. The event ran the full day in the Falconridge Room of the Marlborough Inn. The cost of the room rental was generously met by Keith Brown, of Clyde Vincett Ltd., 2823 - 14 Street SW. The morning session began with a get-acquainted coffeeklatsch. Jim Karr spoke on roller cancellations, followed by Alex Palin on hidden marks on Canadian stamps. Bill Pawluk then ran a B.N.A. philatelic quiz. It was a tough one; despite the stellar names in the audience, the best score was 23 out of 50 points!

After a break for lunch, the B.N.A.P.S. circuit books were brought out for a couple of hours. This was followed by two more presentations; Joseph Smith spoke on the Jubilee issue, and Jack Wallace discussed the mails of colonial British Columbia. The day then concluded with a Chinese dinner at a local restaurant, where the speaker was Jim Haskett of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, the editor of Canadian Philatelist.

The guest book recorded signatures from Ottawa, Prince George, Red Deer, Victoria, Olds, Lethbridge, Edmonton, and of course, Calgary.

The following day, on Sunday, April 24, the C.P.S. STAMP DAY was held, organized by John Van Staden Jr.. There was the usual dealer bourse, circuit books, private-treaty books, club sales table, the 2¢ table, and exhibits. The exhibits were judged as follows.

- Best of Show and Gold: Bradley Harris (Canada Bill stamps)
- Gold: Jim Brown (Early Montreal '21' cancels)
 Tom Moore (Everything you wanted to know about stamps)
- Silver: Mike McPhail (Canadian Houses of Parliament)
 Jon Johnson (Roller cancels)
 Charles Shoemaker (Greenland)
 Jim Karr (Alberta town postmarks: closed P.O.s)
 David Warren (19th century Britain)
 John Van Staden Jr. (Calgary Olympics)
- Bronze: Leanna Johnson (Olympics Canada)
 Dale Speirs (B.N.A. damaged, delayed, returned mail)
 Ian Foss (Olympics of the modern era)
 Don Wilson (Canadian R.P.O.s)

Honourable Mention: Jon Johnson (Papua New Guinea)
 Norm Elphinstone (Halley's Comet gutter stamps)
 Dale Speirs (Australasian design errors)
 Bob Simpson (Vote here for Canada's ugliest stamp)

Reverse side of cover. The front side is shown on the cover page of this issue.

(continued next page)

The Australasian Study Group and the Calgary Chapter of B.N.A.P.S. have traditionally held a challenge competition at STAMP DAY. This year's contest was to have each side exhibit a frame or two of the other side's subject. As it turned out, there are a lot more Australasian specialists who collect B.N.A. than there are B.N.A.P.S.ers who have Australasian material. A gold was worth three points, silver was two, bronze was one; Australasia Study group beat B.N.A.P.S. by a score of six to zero.

Perhaps the most interesting exhibit was an audience participation ballot to select the worst Canada stamp design of the past twenty-five years. The exhibit, "Vote here for Canada's ugliest stamp", was staged by Bob Simpson.

According to his tally, the winner, if such an expression is applicable, was the 1972 World Health Day issue. The Women's Suffrage issue of 1967 finished second, just edging out the notorious green-faced Marconi stamp. The Calgary Olympic series came in next; this may or may not have been local favouritism.

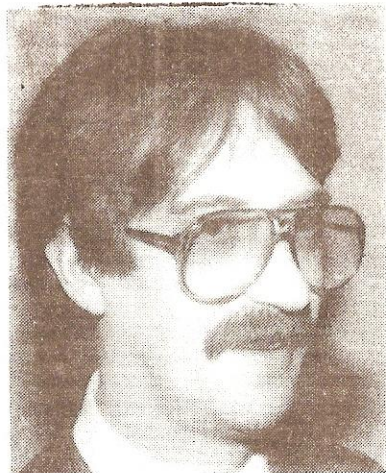
IBE STUDY GROUP by David Warren

What is IBE, you ask? Well, it stands for Ireland and British Europe, and includes the following areas: Ireland, Great Britain, Malta, Gibraltar, Channel Islands, Cyprus.

At CALTAPEX 87, a small group of collectors decided to start a study group (very informal) to promote the collecting of these areas.

Presently we have a small core group which meets on an informal basis every second month at the home of one of the members. Activities include trading, exchange of ideas, and discussion of issues.

So far we have met five or six times and have had a lot of fun. We need more members though, so if you are interested in this group, see Steve Davis or David Warren at the general meetings, or call Steve at 237-5806.



SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

These ads are free to paid-up C.P.S. members, with a maximum of ten lines, including name and address. Mail ads to the Editor, Box 6830, Stn D, Calgary, T2P 2E7. Next deadline is September 7, for the bulletin appearing in early October.

FOR SALE: OLYMPEX 88 show catalogue. Professionally printed on slick paper, illustrated with numerous photographs. Contains articles on Olympic philately and Calgary postal history. Price is \$6 each from the C.P.S., Box 1478, Stn M, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6.

WANTED: Town-dated singles, blocks, and plate blocks of Canada, especially pre-WW2. Phone Ed Harris at 274-0021.

WANTED: Clean, unmarked copies of the following; no cut-outs, underlining, or scribbling within. Write first to Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Stn D, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7, or see him at meetings. Maple Leaves - 1958 Dec, 1957 Jan to Oct, 1956 Dec, 1955 Dec, 1954 and earlier need all issues. BNA Topics - whole numbers 1 to 31, 33 to 79, 83, 85 to 99, 103. American Philatelist - 1963 Aug, 1956 Feb, 1955 Sept to Dec, 1953 Jan to March, 1952 Oct to Dec, 1949 July, 1946 Dec, 1945 and earlier need most issues. Canadian Philatelist - 1959 Jan, Feb, 1958 Jan, Feb, July, 1957 Jan to Aug, 1956 and earlier need most issues.

WANTED TO BUY OR TRADE: Philatelic items pertaining to Calgary Olympic Winter Games. Stamps, meters, envelopes, cancels, slogans, mail to and from OCO and CODA. Write John Van Staden, Box 604, Stn J, Calgary, or telephone 285-1874.

WANTED: Worldwide stamps picturing owls. Single mint or used stamps required. Call 239-7774 and ask for Clive or Kathryn.

PUTTING IN AUCTION LOTS? by Johan Saunaranta

One sees them at every auction. Packets of cancelled-to-order communist wallpaper which the consignor declares as 'used stamps'. Album pages of remainders, heavily overpriced. Junk envelopes with town cancels so faint that one has to look closely indeed. Is it any wonder that so many auction lots are unsold? Some of these lots have been re-entered in the auctions for months, each time with a slightly lower reserve bid.

It is interesting to note that collectors who talk about how dealers are crooks, and how it is better to trade, are the same ones who overprice their own material. These characters enter wallpaper junk into auctions that should be used to start fireplaces; as it is, they almost invariably label such trash as 'good starter collection' and expect others to believe it. Perhaps the club should charge \$1 per lot entered as a starter collection, and thereby eliminate the useless material that wastes everyone's time.

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS IN 1988

June	15		Auction
	22		Auction
Sept	7		General meeting
	7		Deadline for October STAMPede
	21		Auction
	28		Auction
Oct	5		General meeting
	14 to 16		CALTAPEX 88
	19		Auction
	26		Auction
	26		Deadline for November STAMPede
Nov	2		General meeting
	16		Auction
	23		Auction
Dec	7		Wine and cheese party

MEETINGS and AUCTIONS are at the Kerby Centre, second floor, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW, at 730 pm. Auction lots should be in before 730 pm to allow bidder viewing.

CALTAPEX 88 is at the Marlborough Inn; for details, contact Steve Davis at 237-5806.

AUSTRALASIAN 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.

IRELAND AND BRITISH EUROPE STUDY GROUP meets every second month. For information, contact Steve Davis at 237-5806 or David Warren at 253-7342.