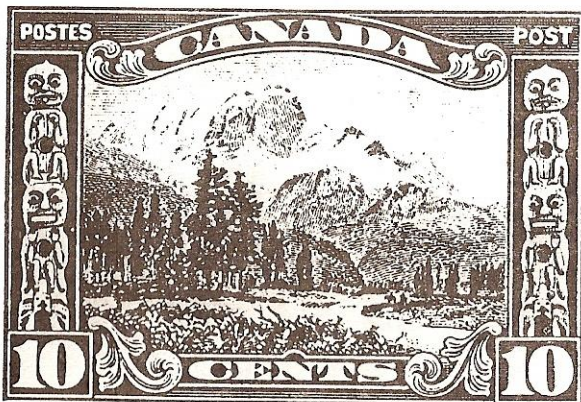


Calgary STAMPede

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February 1989

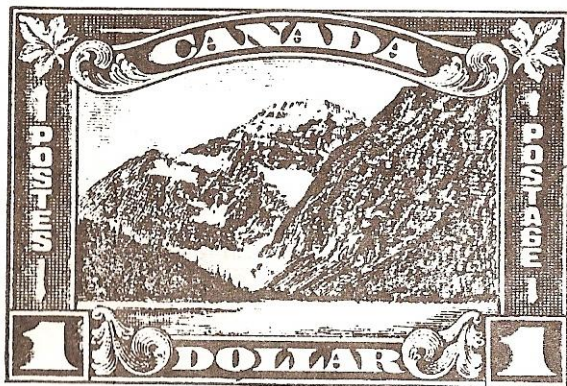


IN THIS ISSUE ...

One nice thing about living in Calgary is the spectacular view of the Rocky Mountains. These stamps shown at left depict two views of philatelic alpine art.

In this issue, you will find Perry Holinshead writing on some post offices of southern Alberta.

Also to be found is C.P.S. news and ads, while Dale Speirs concludes that we have nothing to fear from the free trade deal as long as the Americans cannot figure out their own postage rates, much less the fine print of a trade deal.





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Articles or ads should be submitted to the Editor, Box 6830, Stn D, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7. Small ads are free to paid-up members of the C.P.S.; maximum ten lines including name and address. Display ads are \$10 per full page per issue, for camera-ready copy. No partial-page display ads accepted.

The Calgary Philatelic Society was founded in 1922. It is Chapter 66 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, and Chapter 1360 of the American Philatelic Society. The C.P.S. may be contacted at Box 1478, Stn M, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6.

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Past-President	Al Munro	273-6133
President	Mike Reid	281-6062
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Secretary	Phil Wolf	251-4109
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2nd year	Bob Waters	
ex officio	Al Munro	273-6133

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Auction - Regular	Doug Kollar	239-1965
Auction - Silent	Greg Lang	282-1644
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Circuit Books	Mike McPhail	288-3142
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Private Treaty	Bob Hoffman	
Programs	David Warren	267-0959
Sergeant-At-Arms (ex officio)	John Van Staden Jr.	285-1874
Sunday Bourse	Walter Jackson	242-4128

THE TURKEY TRACK

by Perry Holinshead

In 1872, Nick Sheran discovered coal on the banks of the Belly River (now known as the Oldman River) at what is now Lethbridge. Fort Macleod was established in 1874. By 1877, Sheran was supplying Fort Macleod, Fort Benton, and the police post at Cypress Hills. A wagon trail existed from Fort Macleod to Medicine Hat, but small coal deposits in that area were probably sufficient for local use before gas was discovered. (Gas was found by water drillers at Medicine Hat in 1883). The Galt family acquired the coal mine when Sheran was drowned in 1882.

With the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway (C.P.R.) at Medicine Hat, a post office was opened June 1, 1883. The Fort Macleod office opened on October 1. Stage coaches ran from each point, meeting at Grassy Lake to exchange mail, freight, and passengers.

Alexander Galt realized that the C.P.R. locomotives would provide a fine market for his coal. The first intention was to move it down to Medicine Hat by river barge, but it was only possible to make a couple of trips before the water receded and return was impossible. A narrow-gauge railway was completed from Dunmore Junction to Lethbridge in forty-three days, with the first through train arriving in Lethbridge on August 28, 1885. The official name was the Alberta Railway and Coal Company, but the nickname was "The Turkey Track".

The C.P.R. resented this upstart line, particularly since Galt interests were also linked to the Grand Trunk, a rival American line. Since they needed coal, a takeover was negotiated in 1893, and the line was subsequently upgraded and incorporated into the Crownsnest Pass line.

Only four stops are known to have existed in the beginning, namely Chin, Woodpecker, Purple Springs, and Grassy Lake. None of these had post offices until Grassy Lake opened one in 1902. A map of 1906 shows the following additional stations: Coaldale, Wetmore, Burdett, Bow Island, Whitla, Winnifred, Seven Persons, and Bulls Head. Of these, Wetmore and Woodpecker never had post offices.

A post office opened at Seven Persons in 1903, followed by Bow Island in 1905, Coaldale in 1907, Burdett in 1909, all of which are still open. Whitla and Winnifred opened in 1909, and closed in 1962 and 1970 respectively. Bulls Head was only open from 1910 to 1912. Chin was open from 1910 to 1960.

Bibliography

The Ghost Towns Journal, Volume Two, by Frontier Publishing Ltd.

Mitchner (1973) Western Water.

Hamilton (1906) Survey of western part of Dominion of Canada. Scarborough Co.

Robinson, WG (1985) Post offices of Alberta.

-4-

SIXTY YEARS A MEMBER!

Congratulations go to Sid Richardson, who will have been a member of the Calgary Philatelic Society for sixty years as of 1989. The C.P.S. Archives contain the club membership lists back to its founding in 1922. Mr. Richardson became member #67 on March 12, 1929. He was later made a Life Member for his services to the C.P.S..

His first position on the club executive was that of Vice-President in 1941 and 1942. He was President in 1943, then became Secretary-Treasurer in 1944 and 1945. He returned to the President's position in 1946, 1947, 1950 to 1954, and 1956. After this long service, he became a director from 1956 to 1958, before finally retiring from the executive. He was still active in the club thereafter and his name is frequently mentioned in minutes-of-the-meetings. He was involved in the club auctions and helped put through rule changes on the matter.

THIRTY YEARS A CHAPTER!

The C.P.S. is Chapter 66 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. While going through the Archives looking for material on Sid Richardson, your Editor discovered that the C.P.S. joined up as a chapter in 1958, so the year just concluded was our thirtieth anniversary of association with the R.P.S.C..

WINE AND CHEESE

Following popular tradition, the December meeting of the C.P.S. was a wine and cheese party, with members bringing their spouses along for some good fun. Once again the Jarabeks prepared numerous and excellent trays of food; wine and non-alcoholic drinks kept throats wet. The traditional rows of chairs all lined up in order were quickly rearranged by the crowd to form groups of friends chatting with each other in circles. David Warren, the Program Chairman, provided the entertainment of the evening, which was a crossword puzzle with two sets of clues, one for philatelists, and another for those who knew little about stamps. Books were awarded as prizes to those who got the fewest errors; Greg Sereda was the winner of the book Jenny!, generously donated by Bruce Crow of Bow City Philatelics. Kay Harris took second place. President Mike Reid called Sid Richardson to the front of the room, and proposed a toast congratulating him on his sixty years with the C.P.S..

WHINE AND PLEAD

The Editor would like to make the traditional plea for original articles for this bulletin. There is no backlog at present. If you are uncertain of your writing skills, then arrange your material in point form, and the Editor will ghostwrite the article for you under your name.

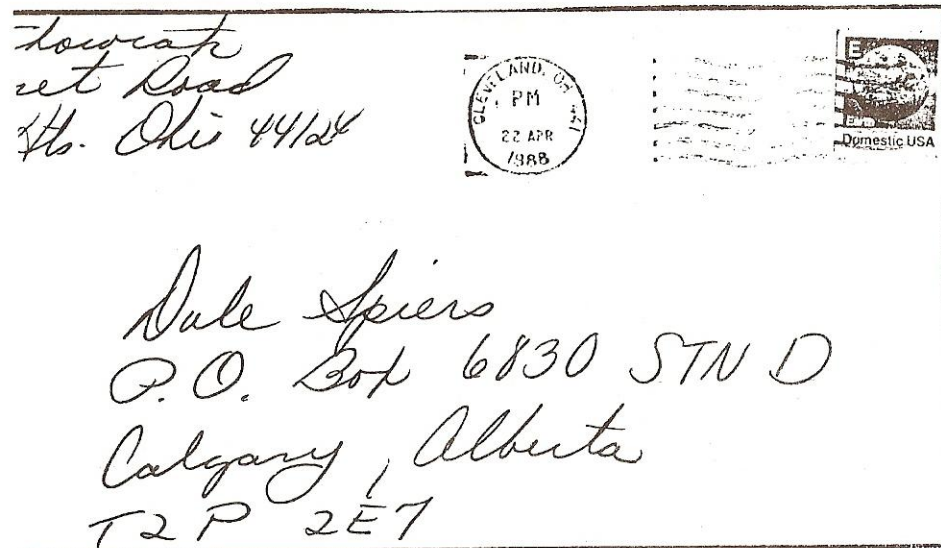
AMERICAN-CANADIAN MAILS: CONFUSION IN EARLY 1988
by Dale Speirs

On March 22, 1988, a new non-denominated postage stamp was issued by the U.S.P.S. in preparation for postal rate changes on April 3. The stamp was the 'E' stamp, face value 25¢ but marked only with an 'E' and the inscription 'Domestic'. The inscription was required because of a change in the postal rates; mail to Canada had previously travelled at the same rate as internal U.S. mail, but was now 5¢ more.

Old habits are hard to change however. Many Americans who frequently sent letters to Canada continued to mail at the old rate, and to use the E stamp, which was only to be used inside the U.S.A.. The rules of the U.P.U. require that all stamps have numerical values on them, but most countries such as Canada do not worry about it; as long as the apparent postage is correct, then it will be passed.

The cover shown below was mailed April 22, 1988. The only stamp used was an E stamp. The cover is therefore underpaid by 5¢, and has an invalid stamp on it. The American post office did not catch it and assess 60¢ postage due.

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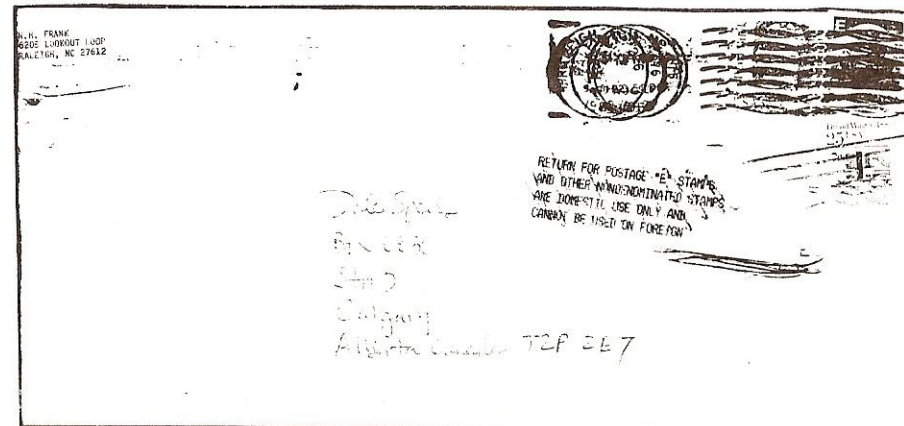


This cover was mailed April 13 with the correct rate but with the wrong stamp. This cover should have been returned to sender for the 25¢ deficiency.

Dale C. Speirs
Box 6830 Station D
Calgary, Alberta
Canada
T2P 2E7



Eventually some of the American post offices started to catch on. The cover shown below was franked by an E stamp and a 5¢ definitive, and mailed to Calgary from Raleigh, North Carolina. A postal employee caught it and sent it back for 25¢ postage. A yellow, computer-printed label was placed on the cover. It read "RETURN FOR POSTAGE 'E' STAMPS/AND OTHER NONDENOMINATED STAMPS/ARE DOMESTIC USE ONLY AND/CANNOT BE USED ON FOREIGN". The sender added a 25¢ definitive and re-mailed the cover, which passed through the mail the second time.



Because of the large volumes of mail handled by the post office, and because the two covers shown were machine cancelled, it is understandable that such errors would be overlooked. This is especially true because the covers were mailed just after the new rates came into effect, and many postal employees were not aware or did not remember the new rates and rules.

Shown below is a cut piece from a magazine mailed with an E stamp and a 22¢ Flag stamp paying the rate. This was hand-cancelled but no note taken of the incorrect stamp.

N. J. A. S.
555 Route 440
Jersey City, NJ 07305



MAIL TO

CALGARY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
POST OFFICE BOX 6116
POSTAL STATION D
CALGARY, ALBERTA T2P 2C7

DATED MATERIALFIRST CLASS MAIL

The illustration below is of a magazine cover mailed with an E stamp and a 20¢ definitive. It was returned because it was short 7¢ on the rate, but no comment was made about the E stamp. The mailer added a 7¢ stamp and successfully remailed the magazine (June 1988) despite the fact that it was still technically short of postage.

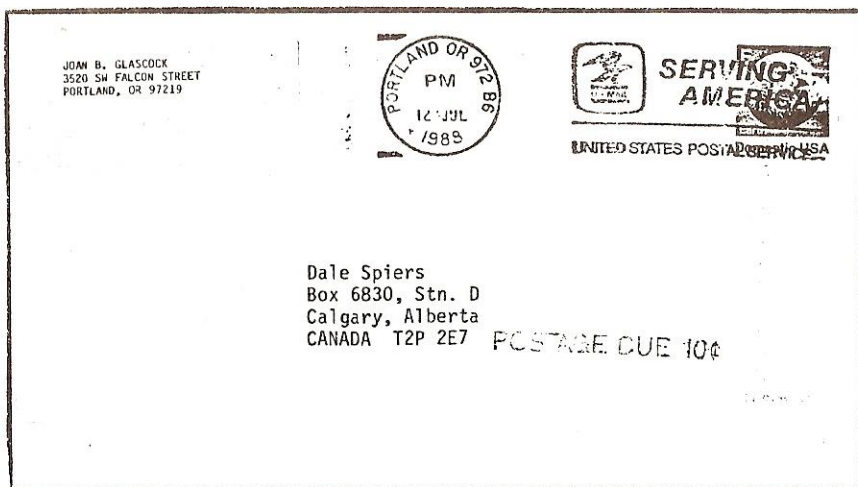
PCCA
P.O. BOX 28145
SAN JOSE CA 95128



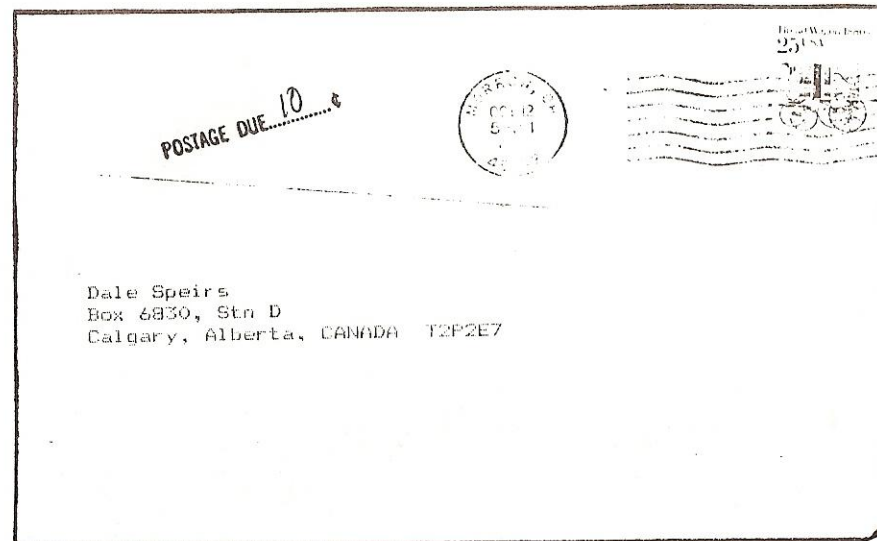
Artwork: *Microgobius ramirezi* by Judith Finn

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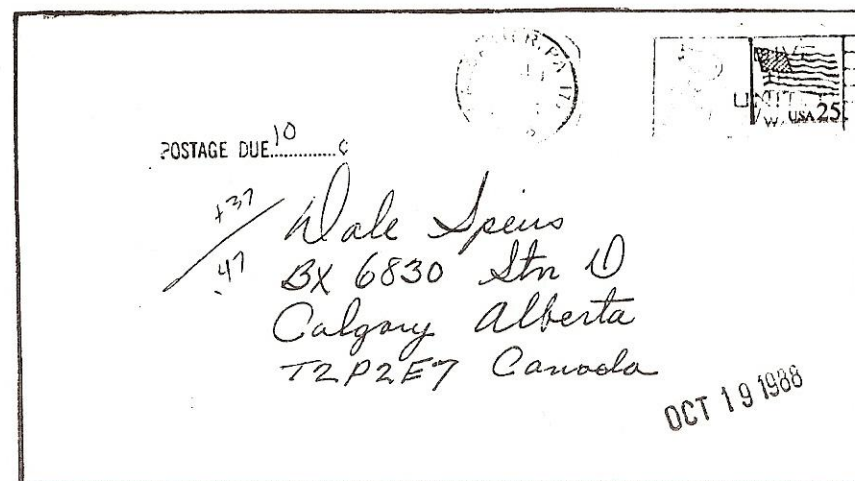
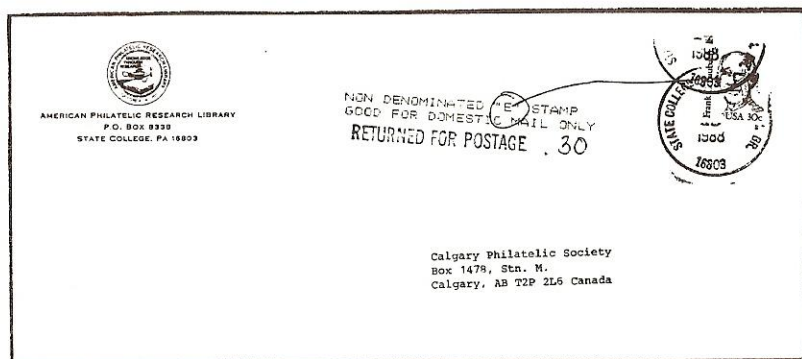
Another example of catching the rate but missing the E stamp is shown below. This cover was mailed with a single E stamp, and was therefore short both 5¢ on the rate and 25¢ because of an invalid stamp. It was marked "POSTAGE DUE 10¢" and sent on to Calgary. It should have been marked either 60¢ postage due, or returned to sender for 30¢ proper postage.



The two covers below were mailed from Ohio and Pennsylvania with numerically-denominated stamps, but were paid at the 25¢ rate. The deficiency was 5¢, so therefore 10¢ postage due was assessed. These covers were both mailed in October 1988.



Another cover, mailed by people who should have known better, came from the American Philatelic Society. The E stamp was detected and the cover returned with a yellow computer label reading "NON DENOMINATED 'E' STAMP/GOOD FOR DOMESTIC MAIL ONLY". Below the label was a rubber stamp "RETURNED FOR POSTAGE .30".

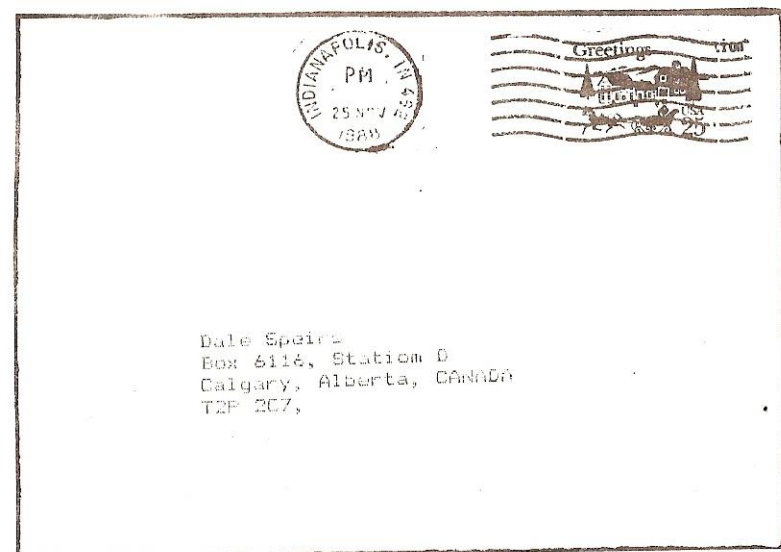


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Nonetheless, shortpaid covers still continue to come through to Canada from the U.S.A., particularly if machine cancelled and processed. The cover shown below was mailed in November 1988 from Indiana with a 25¢ numerical stamp paying its way. The 5¢ deficiency was not noted by the American post office.



I suspect that shortpaid covers will continue to come from the U.S.A.. The best odds for such covers escaping detection will be those from cities with high volumes of mail processed mostly by machine and hurried clerks.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

These ads are free to paidup C.P.S. members. Mail your ads to the Editor, Box 6830, Stn D, Calgary, T2P 2E7, or hand them to Dale Speirs at the meetings. Next deadline is March 15, for the bulletin appearing in early April.

TRADE: Who collects any of the following? Argentina, Belgium, China, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Yugoslavia, Monaco, Phillipines, Poland, Romania. I have reasonable quantities, mint and used, old and new, from each of them. Does anyone wish to trade? I collect U.S. airmails and special deliveries, Germany up to 1945, G.B. and Channel Islands, and British Empire/Commonwealth up to about 1950/55. Telephone Harry Bantock at 281-1373.

BUY/SELL/TRADE Canadian and British Commonwealth complete booklets. Call Philip Wolf at 251-4109.

FOR SALE: OLYMPLEX 88 show catalogue. 52 pp, illustrated, professionally-printed. Contains articles on Olympic philately and Calgary postal history. Winner of silver and vermeil at various American shows. Price is \$6 ppd, from C.P.S., Box 1478, Stn M, Calgary, AB, T2P 2L6.

WANTED: Canadian military mail. Call Philip Wolf at 251-4109.

WANTED: Worldwide bicycle stamps, single mint or used. Any depiction of bicycles, riders, wheels, etc. Call Denis Hoddinott at 288-4557.

WANTED: Soccer or ice hockey stamps, mint or used, plus covers. Contact G. Bakehouse at 248-4696.

TRADE: We now know who collects bicycle, hockey, and soccer stamps. But does anyone collect trains, ships, birds, fish, winter sports, or any other theme? I have many theme stamps to trade. I collect British Commonwealth, Germany, U.S. airmails, and G.B. generally. Call Harry Bantock at 281-1373 or see me at the meetings.

WANTED: Ukrainian stamps, postcards, envelopes, or any thematic of the Ukraine. Phone Andrew Avramenko after 4 pm at 236-2037, or see me at meetings.

BUY/SELL/TRADE Canada CDS and split-ring 'socked on the nose' cancels. Contact Mike Reid at 281-6062.

WANTED: Surely someone out there must have Liberian stamps and/or covers to get rid of! Anything 1962 or older is useful to me; maybe I've got something you want. Call Greg at 285-0239 evenings or weekends.

BUY/TRADE: Calgary Olympics stamps, meters, envelopes, cancels, slogans, mail to and from OCO and CODA. Write John Van Staden Jr., Box 604, Stn J, Calgary, or telephone 285-1874.

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

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

1989 MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Feb	15		Auction
	22		Auction
Mar	1		General meeting
	15		Deadline for April bulletin
	15		Auction
	22		Auction
Apr	5		General meeting
	19		Auction
	26		Auction
May	3		General meeting
	17		Deadline for June bulletin
	17		Auction
	24		Auction
Jun	7		Election meeting
	21		Auction
	28		Auction
Sep	6		General meeting
	6		Membership dues are due!
	20		Deadline for October bulletin
	20		Auction
	27		Auction
Oct	4		General meeting
	6		CALTAPEX 89
	7		CALTAPEX 89
	8		CALTAPEX 89
	18		Auction
	25		Auction
Nov	1		General meeting
	1		Deadline for December bulletin

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.

AUSTRALASIAN STUDY GROUP meets third Wednesdays. For information, call Leanna Johnson at 282-9775.

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

CALGARY CHAPTER OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY meets second Wednesdays. Contact Phil Wolf at 251-4109 for information.