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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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HISTORY OF THE CALGARY PHILATELIC SOCIETY: PART 2. THE EARLY YEARS.
By Dale Speirs

The first meeting of 1923 was held at Dr. Mason's house on February 6. In the business portion of the meeting it was decided to purchase some more philatelic literature for the club, specifically "Album Weeds" and "Postage Stamps of Canada" by Howe. Other titles were to be looked into for future consideration. Mr. D.C. Howland gave the program, dealing with the preparation of postage stamps.

By the March 6 general meeting, the CPS had become known in the philatelic press. As a result of this, the Society was receiving numerous letters from dealers and collectors offering stamps at various discounts. The Secretary was kept busy writing letters of regret expressing lack of interest by the club membership.

The program at the April 3 meeting was rather interesting, as F.W. Herring explained how he used his stamp collection to get to the Klondike gold rush. He had sold his collection in eastern Canada in 1898, and used the proceeds to go north, where he subsequently made good.

By now, the meetings of the CPS had settled into a routine, taking place on first Tuesdays at various locations such as the Lancaster Building or the McNeill Block (Dr. Mason's office). Programs consisted of someone reading a paper, and the business sessions often included constitutional amendments to finetune that document in minor ways. By the year's end, membership had totalled nineteen (Calgary's population at this time was approximately 64,000).

For the 1924 year, Mason was acclaimed President again. Howland was voted Vice-President, and M. Thomas continued on as Secretary. Elected to the Executive Committee were B. Horne, A. Harris, W.K. Hall, F.W. Herring, and G.A. Morrison. At the January 8 meeting, a Society logo was discussed for the first time. After a few more meetings, the logo was adopted on March 4, 1924. A rubber stamp was made up at a cost of \$5.

The interest of club members in recruiting young collectors continued. The April 1 general meeting was opened to junior collectors, and Dr. Mason gave a talk specifically aimed at them. Howland followed with a more advanced talk on stamps of historical interest. For this meeting, the club had made an effort to attract the attention of the newspapers and radio, and succeeded to some degree. This meeting was mentioned in both the Calgary Herald and the Calgary Albertan on the day of the meeting, and the Herald followed up with a report in its April 2 edition.

At the May 6 meeting, Thomas tendered his resignation as Secretary, owing to pressures of work. A. Harris was elected to replace him. Previous to this meeting, Dr. Mason had sponsored a contest for boys for the best essay on "Why I collect postage stamps". Mason read some of the entries at the meeting, for which packets of stamps had been offered as prizes. The membership enjoyed these essays so much that they agreed to donate additional stamps to the boys unsuccessful in winning.

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The first audited financial statement of the CPS was dated May 30, 1924, for the entire period since the club was founded. It showed a cash balance of \$20.94 on a total cash flow of \$85.00.

The October 7 meeting was interesting for a talk given by Col. J.L. Potter on "Gum". He pointed out that gum is acidic and will eventually damage the stamp; those who collect MNH today might well consider his advice. Later in the month, on October 24, another open meeting was held for juniors, and was well attended by collectors of all ages. A inter-team stamp guessing contest was held, and the prizes were packets of stamps.

It was about this time that the CPS received a letter from J.T. Percival of Coalhurst, Alberta, asking for advice on forming a philatelic society in Lethbridge. Interestingly enough, the CPS also had a member from Manyberries, Alberta, a Mr. E.C. Powell.

In the minutes of the final meeting of 1924, on December 2, it was agreed to list the first twenty members of the CPS as Charter Members. In order of their membership numbers, they were as follows.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Dr. E.G. Mason | 11. ? Harper |
| 2. F.W. Herring | 12. F. Palmer |
| 3. W.K. Hall | 13. J. Tattersall |
| 4. Dr. George R. Johnson | 14. Harlow M. Hartney |
| 5. W.E. Hives | 15. H. Biilmann |
| 6. Milton Thomas | 16. J. Stanley Horne |
| 7. A.B. Harris | 17. W.C. Black |
| 8. Col. J.L. Potter | 18. F.L. Shaw |
| 9. W.G. Simmons | 19. G.A. Morrison |
| 10. Douglas C. Howland | 20. E.C. Powell |

Total membership to the end of 1924 was twenty-eight. At the December meeting, the Officers of the CPS were returned to their positions, with H.M. Hartney to the position of Recorder. The new Executive Committee consisted of Col. J.L. Potter, W.C. Black, H. Biilmann, F.W. Herring, and W.K. Hall.

The new Executive Committee was soon in action, being called to a meeting on January 10, 1925, to discuss the possibility of having an Exchange Circuit for the club, now known as the circuit books. Since 1923 the CPS had been receiving monthly circuit books from the American Philatelic Society. It was now agreed to establish the position of Exchange Manager, and this was ratified at the January 13 general meeting.

The January 13 meeting was a milestone in the club history in another department as well. The first CPS auction was held, using packets of stamps which had been previously ordered from the London, England, firm of Wolfers & Co.. The club had purchased the stamps for \$6.90, and realized \$7.60 from the sale, for a net profit of 70¢. At the March 3 meeting, G. Ketcheson of Vancouver visited the CPS from the British Columbia Philatelic Society, and casually mentioned that their last auction had realized \$125, with a Society commission of 5%.

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This remark put the fat in the fire, and it was suggested by a club member that in future CPS auctions that members be allowed to enter lots on their own account. This is, indeed, the system used today by the CPS.

Attendance at the March 3 meeting, held in Dr. Mason's office, was eighteen. The meetings were becoming crowded enough that investigations were started to find a larger meeting place. Later that year, starting with the October meeting, the CPS moved to the Y.M.C.A. boardroom.

By April 7, the Exchange Manager, F.W. Herring, was able to report that the first circuit had been made, with about one-third of the stamps being sold. Not unnaturally, British North America books had the best sales, about 62%. Foreign stamps had 42% sales, General about 41%, and British Colonials about 27%. The first circuit was free, but it was decided by a vote that subsequent circuits would be charged a 5% commission by the CPS.

The CPS had joined the American Philatelic Society as a chapter, and was Chapter #64. In later years, the CPS dropped out for lack of interest, although it rejoined the A.P.S. in 1988 as Chapter #1360.

At the May 5, 1925, general meeting, Dr. Mason called attention to the fact that 1926 would be the seventy-fifth anniversary of the postage stamp in Canada. The meeting agreed to set up a committee to stage an exhibition on April 23, 1926. This exhibition eventually fell through, and the first public stamp show in Calgary was not held until October 1927.

In the absence of bulletins to keep members informed, the CPS had to resort to letter writing and telephone calls. This caused enough trouble that it was decided to have postcards printed up to notify members of meetings. The first batch of 500 was printed by the Albertan Job Press at a cost of \$3.68.

The second CPS auction took place at the June 2 meeting. Stamps purchased from L.H. Gilbert, London, England, for \$4.80 were sold for a total of \$6.60. It was considered by members that these stamps were not as good of a value as the Wolfers & Co. stamps sold in January at the first auction. Nonetheless, the CPS made a bigger profit, clearing \$1.80 on the stamps.

The final meeting for 1925 was held December 1 at Dr. Mason's office. He was once again acclaimed as President for the forthcoming year. G.A. Morrison was elected Vice-President, A.B. Harris to Secretary-Treasurer, H.M. Hartney to Recorder, and F.W. Herring to Exchange Manager. The Executive Committee consisted of J.S. Horne, E. Scruton, W.E. Hives, W.C. Black, and Ivan Linton. Hartney, Morrison, and Scruton were appointed to an Exhibition Committee. The year-end membership for the Society was 35, and the CPS had \$47.29 cash on hand from a total cash flow of \$103.03.

During the year 1925, the CPS had not forgotten its commitment to junior philatelists. H.M. Hartney in particular had been very active in working with the Calgary Y.M.C.A. Stamp Club.

The year 1926 started off with applications for membership from L. Petersen of Svebolle, Denmark, and Reginald Nairne of Victoria, B.C., so Calgary was certainly making a name for itself in the outer world.

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Club meetings had returned to Dr. Mason's office in the McNeill Block, but at the February 3, 1926, meeting, he advised that he would be vacating the premises at the end of the month. The March 2 meeting was held at Police Headquarters (!), and for the next few years the meeting site was variable, although most were held at 401 Lancaster Building.

A number of distinguished visitors passed through Calgary in 1926. A.H. Wilhelm of San Francisco, President of the American Philatelic Society, stopped in Calgary on September 22, on his way to the international show in New York City. An informal get-together was arranged with about a dozen or so members who were rounded up on short notice. During the summer, F. Hugh Vallancey, the publisher of the British periodical "Stamp Collecting" also passed through Calgary. No meeting was possible, but a member of the CPS, J.M. Moir, showed him the sights of Banff.

An Executive meeting was held on October 10, 1926, the main item of which was the Exchange Manager. Herring had been in poor health and had to give up his position. G.A. Morrison was named as the new Manager. At the same time, it was decided to change the accounting system of the circuit books. In the past, members settled up with each other for stamps purchased from the books, but a new and more convenient system was emplaced whereby a single payment would be made to the Manager, who would then redistribute the money as appropriate. This is the system still used today in the circuit books.

At the December 7 meeting, the year-end reports showed the CPS with 37 members, of whom four were out-of-towners, including one each from Jamaica and Denmark. It was at this meeting that the Society decided to change over to a new fiscal year ending on August 31, rather than December 31. Elected for 1927 were Mason (President), Morrison (Vice-President), Harris (Secretary-Treasurer), J.M. Moir (Recorder), and Morrison (Exchange Manager). The Executive Committee was comprised of S.J. Horne, W.C. Black, W.C. West, Ivan Linton, and H.M. Hartney.

1927 started off with complaints about members holding on to circuits too long before passing them on. It was decided at the January 18 Executive meeting to impose a fine of 5¢ per day per package on members who did not circulate the books to the next person within four days.

For many years the CPS had been pestered with letters from foreign dealers offering to send approvals. The club adopted the practice of replying with an invitation to join the CPS and put stamps in the club's own circuit books. This seems to have shut up the dealers!

The May 3 meeting was the new annual meeting due to the change in fiscal year. It was agreed that all Officers be re-elected until August 31, 1928.

The third CPS auction was held May 17, 1927, at the residence of Ivan Linton during the social meeting (third Tuesdays). This was the first auction at which members could consign lots of their own, a tradition that continues today.

(to be continued)

BEING A SPECIALIST: IS IT FOR YOU?

By Steve Davis

Once upon a time, before postal administrations realized collectors could be a lucrative source of cash, most countries had very conservative issuing policies. New stamps were actually only issued for rate changes, which happened infrequently. The few commemoratives there were actually depicted events and personages which were directly associated with that country's history or culture. Since overall there were very few new issues, it was comparatively easy to collect the world.

Even to this day most new collectors start out collecting everything. This is not inherently bad, since it exposes him or her to all areas of collecting. After a while though, due to cost and/or frustration, most collectors either give up the hobby or specialize to some extent.

Specialization scares some collectors since they often believe that to be a specialist one must have lots of money and be a Rhodes scholar. There are, of course, many levels or degrees of specialization. One can spend lots of cash, yes, but on the other hand there are many areas to collect which do not have to bankrupt the collector.

Several factors should be considered when deciding to specialize in an area. I believe that to obtain maximum enjoyment with a minimum outlay of cash, one should consider the following factors in selecting an area to collect.

1. Availability of material such as stamps and covers.
2. Interest that you have in the area, such as personal experience, relation to other hobbies or interests, etc..
3. Literature and other information available in the area.
4. Price range of material in your chosen area. This should be in line with your budget, otherwise frustration will quickly set in.
5. Study groups or societies in existence for your area. These are a most useful source of information and material, as well as lots of fun.

In conclusion, do not let specialization scare you. If you have a strong area of interest, go for it. Most of all, have fun!

WERE YOU AT CALPEX 63?

If so, perhaps you have a copy of a booklet that was issued by the show which contains engravings by Earle. Both the CPS Archives and a B.C. philatelist are looking for this booklet, the former for a club history and the latter for research on FDC cachets. If you are willing to sell the original, or provide photocopies, please contact the CPS Archives chairman Dale Speirs at 243-1752 or write him at Box 6830, Stn D, Calgary, T2P 2E7.

BNAPS REGIONAL MEETING A SUCCESS by Jim Karr

The Calgary chapter of the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) had a successful all-day meet at the Marlborough Inn on Saturday, April 22, 1989. Members began to arrive shortly after 9 am, and visited while enjoying a coffee and muffin or danish. At 10 am, the study sessions commenced with a very interesting slide show and talk by Bill Pawluk on the Queen Victoria Maple Leaf issue of 1898. This was followed by a slide show and narration by Gordon Hill on the Canadian aerogram.

After a no-host lunch, the afternoon session started with a talk and display of album pages by Ed Harris on the used 1935 definitives. Bob Lee, of Kelowna, B.C., followed with a talk and show of album pages on Canadian unofficial duplex postmarks, a talk which generated a number of questions and a discussion.

During the afternoon coffee break, a fair number of private treaty lots changed hands. Interest in the private treaty lots seems to be increasing each year. The final afternoon session was a slide show and enlightening talk by Bradley Harris on Canadian revenue stamps. His exhibit was on display for detailed study the following day at STAMP DAY 89.

At 630 pm, about thirty members and their spouses enjoyed cocktails and a tasty barbecued chicken dinner at Eddy's Nest Restaurant. The after-dinner speaker was Keith Spencer of Edmonton. His subject was "The Hudson's Bay Company boats on the Mackenzie River system". Keith's talk and slides were presented in his usual humorous fashion, intermingled with memories of firsthand experiences while working summer vacations on the HBC boats.

A "thank you" is extended to all who contributed to the program to make the day a success. A big "Thank You" is extended to Keith Brown of Clyde Vincett Stamps, who defrayed the cost of the room rent for the day, as well as the coffee and goodies. A number of out-of-town members attended, some for the third year in a row.

STAMP DAY 89 PALMARES by John Van Staden Jr.

Court of Honour: Bob Lee (John R. Thomson Collection of eastern Arctic mail)
Dwayne Miner (Freaks and Faults from Canada)
John Van Staden Jr. (XV Winter Olympic Games)
Best of Show: Bradley Harris (Canada Bill Stamps, Canadian Legal Documents)
Gold: Bradley Harris (Canada Bill Stamps)
Bradley Harris (Canadian Legal Documents and Related Stamps)
Bradley Harris (Nauru: From colony to independence)
Ed Harris (The used 1935 definitives)
Jim Karr (Transportation postmarks of the Inverness Railway, Nova Scotia)
Greg Sereda (Liberia: The 1909 definitive pictorial)

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Silver: Mike McPhail (Australian airmail)
Peter Smith (Vanuatu Post Office hand stamps and postal agencies)
Joseph E. Smith (Slocan region mining towns on Jubilees)
Bronze: Dale Speirs (Cichlids on stamps)
Dale Speirs (The Riel Rebellions)
John Van Staden Jr (Postal issues of the Western Canada Concept Party)
Junior: Silver - Jason Laderoute (Ships - Ocean ships and Air ships)
Bronze - Nicole Van Staden (Animals of the world)

STAMP DAY 89 was held on April 23 at the Marlborough Inn. STAMP DAY 90 is booked at the same venue for April 22, 1990.

THE TIMES THEY ARE A'CHANGING

If all goes according to plan, you will have received this issue of Calgary STAMPede sans envelope. There are two reasons for this policy. Firstly, although this bulletin is the proper size to mail by itself at the 38¢ rate, the manila envelopes we use are not. To mail the bulletin in the envelopes will cost 48¢. Many philatelic organizations, such as the APS and the RPSC, are mailing their bulletins in covers only to avoid the cost and labour of envelopes. Which brings us to the second point of doing away with envelopes.

Your editor, Dale Speirs, took over the job in 1983. He prepares the pages and takes them into the printers. The printed bulletins have up to now been picked up from the printer by John Jarabek, who then stuffed and sealed the envelopes with bulletins and mailed them out. This job is time-consuming and not at all glamorous.

John Jarabek has now retired from this job, and the Editor would like to thank him for the work he has done behind the scenes for the last few decades. The heavy workload is now too much for one person to do, and thus the bulletin will no longer be mailed in envelopes to save labour.

FACES AROUND THE CLUBROOM

Although John Jarabek's name has not appeared in the Executive listing since he retired as Treasurer a number of years ago, he has been very active behind the scenes. John brought all the good food to the annual wine-and-cheese party, and has looked after coffee and doughnuts at the monthly meetings. He now retires from that job, as well as the job of dispatching this bulletin.



THE LIFE AND TIMES OF DR. E.G. MASON

by Dale Speirs

Edward George Mason was the founder of the Calgary Philatelic Society. He first started action in the autumn of 1921 that led to the formation of the Society in 1922.

Mason was born in Hamilton, Ontario, in 1875. His medical training was taken in Montreal at Bishop's College, and later McGill University. He graduated in 1902 and came west to Calgary that same year. He had two daughters and a son by his wife Catherine.

Mason was active in many community organizations besides the CPS. In his younger days, he had played football in school and also for the Hamilton Tigers. On coming to Calgary, he helped establish the Calgary Tigers football club. He also involved himself in the Calgary Gun Club, the Victoria Curling Club, the Calgary Golf and Country Club, the Glencoe club, and the Calgary Medical Association.

When World War One broke out, he was a senior major in the 31 Battalion. He was made responsible for recruiting men into the 50 Battalion. Acting as commanding officer, with the rank of Lieut.-Colonel, he took the 50th overseas. Wounded in France, he was hospitalized for a time. Upon his release from hospital, he was sent into the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps; there was a shortage of medical officers at the time. He took over command of the Shorncliffe medical hospital in England, remaining there until June 1919, at which time he returned home to Canada.

In his medical career, he was a neuro-psychiatrist with the Department of Pensions and Health, later renamed the Department of Veterans Affairs. Mason was a charter member of the Eugenics Board of the Province of Alberta. The University of Alberta made him a doctor of psychiatric medicine in 1928. In 1946, a year before his death, he was given life membership in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and declared a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Mason was awarded the Jubilee medal at the Coronation, and was granted the Order of the British Empire.

He became ill in December 1946, and died on January 3, 1947, aged 72 years.

Mason was the first President of the CPS from its formation, and remained in that post until 1929. His seven-year term is the longest consecutive service as President, although Sid Richardson has served nine years with interruptions in between.

For many years, the CPS held its meetings in Mason's office in the McNeill Block or at his house. Mason had membership #1 in the Society, and was the first person elected as Honourary Life Member.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

These ads are free to paidup C.P.S. members. Mail your ads to the Editor, Box 6830, Stn D, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7, or hand them to Dale Speirs at the meetings. Next deadline is September 20 for the bulletin appearing in middle October.

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

FOR SALE: OLYMPEX 88 show catalogue. Illustrated, with articles on Olympic philately, winter sports philately, and Calgary postal history. Price is \$6 each anywhere in the world, postpaid from C.P.S., Box 1478, Stn M, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6.

FOR SALE: Q.V. and K.E. VII used Great Britain, mint NH U.N. collection, Canadian Jubilee #56 and 57, Churchill commemorative sets, mint British Colonials, and Canadian Admirals. Contact Bob Perry at 282-4520.

FOR SALE: 1979 to 1985 Canada souvenir books for face value of stamps. Call Brenda Rosvick at 274-4712 or see me at meetings.



1989 MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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
	4		If dues not paid by this meeting, then no bulletin will be mailed to you.
	6 to 8		CALTAPEX 89
	18		Auction
	25		Auction
Nov	1		General meeting
	1		Deadline for December bulletin
	15		Auction
	22		Auction
Dec	6		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 89 is at Marlborough Inn. Information from Jon Johnson at 282-9775.

AUSTRALASIAN STUDY GROUP meets third Wednesdays. Information from Leanna Johnson at 282-9775.

BNAPS CALGARY REGIONAL GROUP meets second Wednesdays. Information from Jim Karr at 287-0897.

IRELAND AND BRITISH EUROPE STUDY GROUP meets every second month. Information from Steve Davis (237-5806) or David Warren (253-7342).

ARTICLES and SMALL ADS should be mailed to the Editor, Box 6830, Stn D, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7, as far in advance of deadlines as possible.