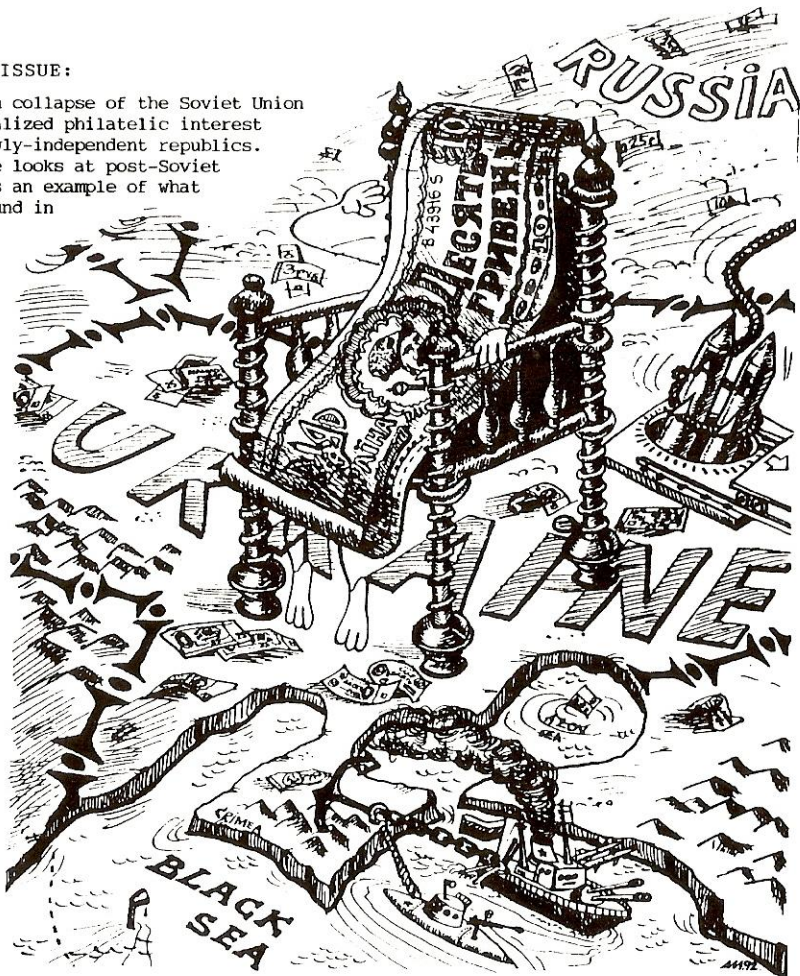


CALGARY PHILATELIST

JUNE 1993
ISSUE #3

IN THIS ISSUE:

The sudden collapse of the Soviet Union has revitalized philatelic interest in the newly-independent republics. This issue looks at post-Soviet Ukraine as an example of what can be found in postal history.





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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, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6.

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Sunday bourse	Walter Jackson	242-4128

POST-SOVIET UKRAINE
by Dale Speirs

My interest in the independent republics after the fall of the Soviet empire came about because I correspond with various people in Ukraine, Slovakia, and Estonia. They are all non-philatelists, so I know their mail reflects exactly what stamps were available at the post office, rather than being over-franked messes that bring frowns to the faces of stamp show judges. Since most of my mail from post-Soviet Europe comes from Ukraine, I decided to specialize in the postal changes of this country. When the envelopes were CCCP franked, I had no interest in the covers, and threw them into the junk box. But when my friends in Kiev suddenly started using all manner of overprints and handstamps on their letters, I realized I could get in on the ground floor. I am not of Ukrainian descent nor do I know the language (my correspondents write to me in English), but information is not too hard to come by for the anglophone. The only difficulty is that some of the data contradicts those supplied by others. The information supplied from my Kievan friends is different than what I read elsewhere. However there is a simple explanation.

Chaos. The sudden fall of the Soviet regime left post offices scrambling to overcome the chaos that resulted. First there was independence, then an economic crisis. Wages and prices are at odds with each other, and neither bear much connection with the true cost of living. Ukraine is currently undergoing hyper-inflation. One newspaper account says 2000% in the last year, but the data I have been able to find suggests 5000% is more accurate. Postal rates have changed frequently, but due to poor communications the clerks are not necessarily charging the correct amount on a letter. A rates-cover philatelist would get the hives trying to sort out the mess, as many covers do not bear the correct postage.

Ukrainian currency is 100 kopyok = 1 ruble (originally) = 1 karbovants. The karbovantsi are rapidly inflating, dragging postal rates along with them. Below is a table of rates I have constructed based on what my Kievan friends tell me.

Date	Domestic	International airmail (Canada)	International surface (Canada)
1991	7 kop	50 kop	30 kop
Jan 2/92	50 kop	5 karb	3.60 karb
May 18	1 karb	no change	no change
July 17	no change	25 karb	15 karb
Jan 1/93	3 karb	85 karb	70 karb

CCCP stamps were used as such in 1991, but beginning in 1992 the first overprints appeared, using the trident, the symbol of independent Ukraine. The first Trident appeared March 23, 1992, and trickled out over the next while at different rates and in different styles. Nor were they uniformly printed; different post offices got into the act. Needless to say, the forgers immediately jumped into the act as well. A 1-karb Trident is shown at right.

[continued next page]



The Trident overprints were applied to a series of CCCP definitives depicting ships. The cover below is backstamped in Kiev on March 30, 1992. Along the top are eight 45 kop overprints and there are four 35 kop along the bottom. These stamps add up to 500 kop, which is 5 karb, and pays the correct rate. That same day, 1 karb overprints had been produced, and a later cover shows five of them to make up the rate (bottom cover).

АВИА AIR MAIL PAR AVION

ВИБОРИ
ПЕРШОГО
ПРЕЗИДЕНТА
УКРАЇНИ

1 грудня 1991 рік

TO: **DALE SPEIRS**
BOX 6830
CALGARY ALBERTA
T2P 2E7

CANADA

Підпис підприємства, який в адрес отримувача

Alexander V. Vasilkovsky

Kiev

UKRAINE

АВИА AIR MAIL

ЦВЕТУЩИЕ КАКТУСЫ

NOTOCACTUS APRICUS
НОТОКАКТУС СОЛНЕЧНИЙ

3.00 ПОПТА СССР 3.00 ПОПТА СССР 3.00 ПОПТА СССР 3.00 ПОПТА СССР

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CANADA T2P 2E7

Підпис підприємства, який в адрес отримувача

Alexander V. Vasilkovsky

Kiev

UKRAINE

500

Пішіть індекс підприємства зв'язи міста назначення

Besides Trident overprints, the Ukraine post offices used a wide variety of handstamps in their scramble to keep up with escalating rates. Meter machines were also used. Three examples are shown below. Starting from the top down, there is a blank envelope meter-marked with 500 kop (= 5 karb) for a letter to Canada, a combination 50 kop CCCP stamp and 450 kop handstamp for another Canada letter, and a cover that was revalued twice. This last started out as a prestamped envelope with 7 kop. A small 43 kop handstamp (in purple) was added to bring it up to 50 kop. The cover was still sitting unsold in the post office when another increase in rates meant that an additional 50 kop had to be added to bring it up to the new 1 karb rate for domestic mail.

PAR AVION

ЦВЕТУЩИЕ КАКТУСЫ

ПОШТА 50 КОП.

АВИА PAR AVION

50 КОП. ПОПТА СССР

Dale Speirs

20607 ДНЕПРОПЕТРОВСЬК
МАЯКОВСКОГО
ОПЕРСКАТНИЙ ЗАВОД
ИМ. ЛЕНИНА

М.В. ЛИСЕНКО
ОСНОВНОПОЛОЖНИЙ УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ
КЛАСИЧНОЇ МУЗИКИ

Купити: **Денис Максимович Фудефорт**
Смариць

Підпис підприємства, який в адрес отримувача

1992

324095

Пішіть індекс підприємства зв'язи міста назначення

The internal cover below was revalued using the kind of rubber stamp normally used to sequentially number invoices or files. The added values (in kop) appear simply as '0043' and '0050'.



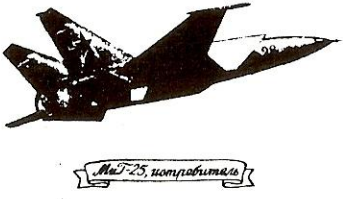
ОСНОВОПОЛОЖНИК УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ
КЛАСИЧНОЇ МУЗИКИ
М.В.ЛИСЕНКО

г. Київ, вул. 99
4-й поверху
"Дніпропром"
г. Львів

324099

Пишіть індекс підприємств зв'язи міста призначення

The cover below shows one of the new definitive stamps introduced in 1992, paying the 5 karb rate.



PAR AVION

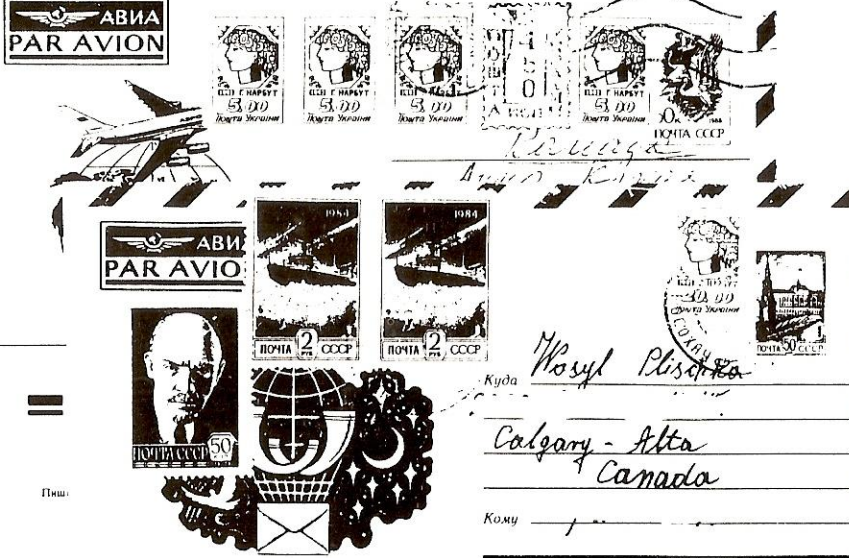
Куди Dale Speers
Box 6830
Calgary
Alberta
Т2Р 2Е7
Canada

Кому Борис Сидчук

Київ, Україна

Пишіть індекс підприємств зв'язи міста призначення

Even with the arrival of Ukrainian stamps, there was still a shortage, and the use of handstamps and meters continued. CCCP stamps and imprints were also used. Sometimes a clerk did not include the face value of a prestamped CCCP envelope but usually they did. Two covers mailed to Canada at the 25 karb rate are shown below. Both are a mixture of whatever was to hand at the post office, with Ukrainian definitives, CCCP commemoratives, etc.



Куда Wasył Bliszczyk

Calgary - Alta
Canada

Кому

Индекс предприятия связи и адрес отправителя 283610

Передатчик
Копирів Річ
С. Росовор
Борисов Роман С

Пишіть індекс підприємств зв'язи міста призначення

There is a society devoted to the interests of Ukraine philately, publishing bulletins that provide the latest news from inside that country. US\$17 payable to the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society, Box C, Southfields, New York 10975.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM: Betty Kennedy
101 - 1440 Beach Drive
Victoria, B.C. V8S 2N8

1993-2-7

I collect FDCs and have a long run in the 1970s (unaddressed) from Calgary, using what appears to be an Aircraft cachet, the one with the provincial crests but without the logo. Does anyone know anything about them?

FROM: Ron Tabbert
Box 959
Golden, B.C. VOA 1H0

1993-3-15

In reading the February 1993 CALGARY PHILATELIST, I see a mention about unfolded strips from commemorative stamp booklets, with uncertainty about the source. Since my 1992 annual hardcover book included unfolded strips of the Rivers and Winter Olympic sets, I suspect this is the source of the unfolded stamps. For some reason, Canada Post feels the margins are unimportant and removes them for annual book sets.

CALGARY ENAPSERS PLANNING BOOK

The Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society has taken on as a project an anthology of articles on the postal history of Calgary. Various ENAPsers will write articles on aspects of Calgary's post office, such as postmarks, lists of post offices, stamps honouring Calgary, airmail, and so forth. Some of the articles have already appeared individually (you saw one in the last issue of this bulletin). These articles will be collected into a book and published in a few years time.

ABOUT THE COVER

The artwork for the cover is by Alexander Marchenko. It originally appeared on the cover of the June 1992 issue of CHERNOBYLIZATION, published in Kiev by the Zoryany Shlyah Science Fiction Club and NPF Optel.

PHILATELICS ETC.

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WITH THIS COUPON

PHILATELICS ETC. 266-5030

COWTOWN ROUNDUP OF STAMP COLLECTORS

As usual, the last weekend in April was a busy time for philatelists in the Calgary area. On the Friday and Saturday (April 23 and 24), the Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society hosted their annual spring meeting, with visitors from across western Canada. Sunday was the CPS spring minishow, Stamp Day. All events took place at the Marlborough Inn.

Friday started off with the Calgary BNAPSers hosting a late afternoon reception in the hospitality room, the cost sponsored in part by Bow City Philatelics (#316, 605 - 1st Street SW) to whom many thanks. In the evening there was a no-host dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Saturday morning, we assembled in the Whitehorn Room to register for the BNAPS regional meeting and enjoy a continental breakfast. The cost of the room and refreshments were kindly defrayed by Keith Brown of Clyde Vincett Ltd. (2823 - 14 Street SW). The day began with a seminar by Bill Pawluk on Canadian rates and regulations during the expansion period of the post office between 1898 and 1911. He was followed by Brian Plain, who spoke about the Dead Letter Office.

After breaking for a no-host lunch, we resumed in the afternoon by viewing BNAPS circuit books and lots in a silent auction. Dave Piercey then spoke on Newfoundland Cents issues. Another break for bidder viewing came, then a clothesline exhibit, where members showed a page from their collections. The afternoon finished with a vigorous discussion about new policies and directions for BNAPS. In the evening, there was a cocktail party and a banquet, with Greg Brown from Canada Post as guest speaker.

The BNAPS meeting was chaired by Jim Taylor. Others on the committee were Hugh Delaney (Vice-Chairman), Ed Harris (Programs), Jim Karr (Registration), Arno Kolster (Audiovisuals, computer graphics), Bill Wilson (BNAPS circuit books), Mike Reid (silent auction), and Kay Harris (spouses' program).

Stamp Day on the Sunday was chaired by Jon Johnson. The one-frame exhibit competition was organized by Don Fraser. There were, besides the exhibits, a dealer bourse and club activities such as the 2¢ table, circuit books, and private treaty books.

The awards for Stamp Day were presented by Ed Harris to the winners at the May general meeting. They are as follow.

Gold - Alan Meech (Burma One-Anna stamped envelopes)

Silver - Jim Taylor (Stavanger, Norway)

Bronze - Bill Wilson (Edwardian domestic rates)

Honourable Mentions - Don Wilson (Travelling post of Victoria, Australia)

Brian Plain (Canadian service mail from India)

John Powell (Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force)

Ed Harris (Pioneer post offices of the prairies)

Bradley Harris (3rd Issue Canada Bill stamps)

Most Entertaining Exhibit - Tom Moore (Everything you wanted to know about stamp collecting but were afraid to ask.)

Don't forget: CALTAPEX 93 will take one-frame exhibits!

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

These ads are free to paidup members of CPS. Mail your ads to Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, T2P 2E7, or hand them to me at general meetings. Next deadline is September 1 for the October bulletin.

FOR SALE: Canada #56 (8¢ Jubilee MNH), Canada #57 (10¢ Jubilee MNH), United Nations collection mint, Poland used collection to 1979 (950 stamps), Minkus Ireland album (no stamps). Enquire from Bob Perry at 282-4520.

WANTED: Mint Canada #440 (Churchill) full sheet, Great Britain (mint hinged) Army Official 058, Aden mint #23A, Falkland Islands Dependencies mint #3L8, Tristan Da Cunha mint hinged #10. Call Walter at 286-5513 evenings and weekends.

FOR SALE OR TRADE: Canada, UN, USA mint, used, plate blocks. Also have British Commonwealth, foreign stamps. First-day covers, first flights, ship cancellations, some meters, town cancels on stamps, precancels, RPOs. Call Mack at 640-2185.

WANTED: Centennial issue covers addressed to foreign destinations; no USA or UK please. Price individually, as a batch, or ask for my offer. Will give generous trade of MNH Canada for items I need. Call Ed Harris at 274-0021 or see me at any meeting.

FOR SALE OR TRADE: Canadian FDC, United Nations, worldwide mint stamps. Call Fred Oelhaup at 289-0852.

WANTED: Plate block of six from #85 and #86, also miniature sheets of #443 and #443q W2 bars and #476 W2 bars. Phone Jan Grasmeyer at 249-2657 or see me at meetings.

WANTED: Sunny Alberta. Alberta town cancels, covers, postal history, Edmonton and Alberta postcard views. Write to Keith Spencer, 5005 Whitemud Road, Edmonton, T6H 5C2.

FOR SALE: "History of the Calgary Philatelic Society" for \$2 from Dale Speirs at meetings. By mail order, add extra \$2 for postage, and remit to CPS, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7.

TRADE: Will trade stamps for cards, cards for pins, pins for stamps, stamps for stamps ... Call Greg at 569-0854 (not long distance from Calgary).

FOR SALE: OLYMPLEX 88 show catalogue and FDC. Catalogue has articles on Calgary postal history, Olympic and sports philately. \$5 from Dale Speirs at meetings; mail orders add \$1 for postage and remit to CPS, Box 6830, Calgary, T2P 2E7.

FOR SALE: Canada mint VFNH matching plate block sets 656/7, 664/6, 681/3, B7/9, B4/6, B1/3. Face \$93.28 plus 5% plus postage, registration if desired. Write Bill Heather, 325 - 54th Street, Delta, B.C. V4M 3G6.

WANTED: Fine used copies of 1992 Canada Day, especially with tabs. Cash or exchange for used British Commonwealth or France. Bill Heather at address in the above ad or phone (604)943-5303.

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS IN 1993

June	2		Election meeting
	6		Sunday bourse
	16		Auction
	23		Auction
September	1		General meeting
	1		Deadline for October bulletin
	15		Auction
	22		Auction
October	6		General meeting
	20		Auction
	22 to 24		CALTAPEX 93
	27		Auction
November	3		General meeting
	3		Deadline for December bulletin
	17		Auction
	24		Auction
December	1		Wine and cheese party

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

SUNDAY BOURSE is at Rosscarrock Community Hall, 4411 - 10 Avenue SW, from 10 am to 4 pm. For details or table rental, call Walter Jackson at 242-4128.

CALTAPEX 93 is at Chinese Cultural Centre, 197 First Street SW. Details from Phil Wolf at 259-8750.

STUDY GROUPS

Calgary Regional Group of British North America Philatelic Society meets second Wednesdays. Details from Arno Kolster at 284-4239.

Australasian Study Group meets third Wednesdays. Call Jon Johnson at 282-9775.

Topical collectors interested in trading and talking stamps call Steve Davis at 288-0864 or see him at meetings.

Great Britain Study Group meets every second month. Call Bruce Irvine at 243-2999.