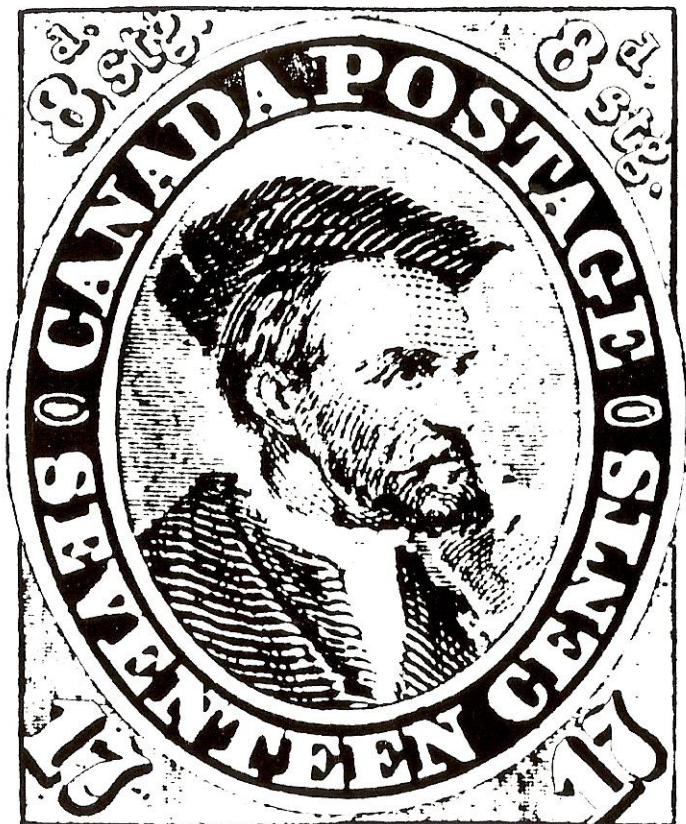


CALGARY PHILATELIST

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CALGARY PHILATELIST

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Articles or advertisements should be submitted to the Editor, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. Small ads are free to paidup members of the C.P.S.. Display ads are \$10 per full page per issue, for camera-ready copy (photographs extra charge). 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, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6.

Membership dues for the 1993-94 season are \$10, plus a \$5 initiation fee for new members.

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Auction - silent	Greg Lang	282-1644
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Circuit books	Ernie Bell	288-3042
Editor	Dale Speirs	243-1752
Library	Penny Borrowman	247-1525
Membership	John Van Staden Jr.	285-1874
Private treaty	Vic and Ian Harwood	243-8172
Programs	vacant	
Sergeant-At-Arms	Don Wilson	284-4479
Sunday bourse	Walter Jackson	242-4128

MODERN CANADA REVIEW (10)

by Mirko Zatka

The number of new issues: While I don't really mind when Canada Post issues new stamps, I really do wonder if they are keeping track of just how many stamps they put out each year. I am specifically thinking back to this summer (what little there was of it), and the fact that we saw 17 new stamps issued in June, and 29 in total between June and August. I grant you that not all months see this kind of outpouring from the Post Office, but are really so many stamps needed? At least for the diehard plateblock collectors, the price tag associated with new issues has fallen somewhat due to the more diversified formats of the new issues such as booklets and souvenir sheets.

Several of the new issues so far this year, I believe, show some promise for the future. One is the Canada Day miniature sheet issued on June 30, and containing 12 different Canada parks theme stamps. These issues are always tough to find used due to their new issue format and the fact that they represent 12 different stamps. It may not be a bad idea to either put aside a few mint sheets or, better yet, try to find one used.

The other item I believe will be worth putting aside is the Historic Cars souvenir sheet issued on August 23. The s/s contains six different stamps that only come in this format and have not been issued in regular sheets as previous s/s stamps typically were. As a philatelic item, its sale has been restricted to philatelic counters only, so most of the smaller post offices will have never received it. The issued quantity of 550,000 copies (including presumably those used for FDCs and annual collections), makes this the smallest printing of any recent Canadian stamp (not considering the 40¢ basketball stamp from the s/s, which was also issued in a slightly altered format in regular sheets of 50). Stamps from the s/s will be very hard to find used in any manner, so you may be well advised to pick up a few mint or used sets before they go off sale or perhaps are sold out. From the numbering of this s/s at #1, it appears more are in store for next year.

New perforation variety: A new perforation variety on the 1¢ Flying Squirrel definitive of 1989 is shown listed in the current issue of Unitrade's "Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps". While several stamps of this issue had been re-printed during their period of use and issued with a different perforation gauge, this one seems to have been found just near the end of its use in 1992. While the regular perforations on this stamp measure 13 x 13.5, the new gauge is 13 x 12.75. I am aware of only field stock existing (no plate blocks), and have seen used copies with cancels from the Maritimes. There do not appear to be many around, especially mint, as most collectors were not aware of them prior to replacement with the current Blueberry 1¢ definitive stamp, and those distributed as regular field stock would have been used up. My attempts earlier this year to find mint copies in residual stock at post offices in Alberta and Ontario failed. I would appreciate hearing from anyone with more information on this stamp.

Use of commemorative stamps on mail: Several issues ago in Canadian Philatelist, I noticed an interesting article that echoed some of my own thinking about the usage of current commemorative stamps on mail [J.J. MacDonald (Jan/Feb 1993) "Where Have All The Commemoratives Gone?"]. In the article, MacDonald notes that his study of recent commercial (non-philatelic) mail in Atlantic Canada has shown a very low usage of commemorative stamps in the more than 6000 covers examined. His findings indicate that only 10% of the letters bore a commemorative stamp, while almost one-third bore postage meters. The rest were definitives.

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It is an interesting study that my own observations fully support, as I have also found recent unsorted Canadian stamp mixtures to be very low on commemorative stamps. Of these, only a very small amount are typically hand-cancelled, ie., CDS. In some ways this does not come as a surprise, since many retail outlets now offer booklets of definitive stamps for the convenience of customers, alleviating the need for a special trip to a post office where other types of stamps could be available instead. Furthermore, the retail post offices do not get large stocks of commemorative stamps, and seem to prefer to rely on the more readily available definitives. It does, in the end, make it more challenging for those looking for quality used new issues. I welcome your findings in this regard; perhaps write them up as an article in the next issue of the Calgary Philatelist.

SPEAKER OF THE YEAR

At the June 2, 1993, meeting, CPS members voted for the best program presented during the season just concluded. The winner was Ghazi Karim, for his March 1993 talk on cancellations of the Ottoman Empire. Congratulations Ghazi!

Programs Chairman Ed Harris also paid tribute to Julius Szekrenyes, who photographed the material used by the speakers in their programs.

NOT SURE HOW THE CLUB OPERATES?

This is the time of year we pick up new members for the new season. It may be rather confusing to walk into a noisy crowded room and see all the activity going on. Don't be afraid to ask someone wearing a name badge what is going on. And be sure to keep this bulletin for future reference. On the inside front cover is a list of all the executive and committee members and their telephone numbers. If you want to know how to enter lots in an auction or circuit books, how to check out books from the library, or how to write for this bulletin, please phone the appropriate committee member. On the back cover is the list of meetings and special events; mark them down on your calendar.

CALTAPEX 93

Don't forget our big event of the year, moved to the Chinese Cultural Centre, 197 First Street SW. No free parking alas, but there is a loonie lot nearby, \$1 for a day's parking, as well as other carparks and meters. All the usual club activities will be there, along with the exhibits and dealer bourse. Call Phil Wolf at 259-8750.

BNAPSERS VISIT MAIL PROCESSING PLANT by Dale Speirs

The Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society meets monthly. Normally the meetings are in a member's home, but the May 12, 1993, meeting was a tour of the Calgary Mail Processing Plant. Jim Karr arranged the tour.

It started off with a look at a very interesting display of mailbags from around the world. Years ago, a postie decided to start saving a mailbag from each country that had mail through the Calgary plant. There were about fifty or so bags, some from defunct countries. Nowadays mailbags are used mainly for airmail or small towns, and not always then either. They are being replaced by trays made of corrugated vinylboard, which is lighter and stronger than bags. The advantage of trays is that the letters can be sorted directly into them, whereas letters in a mailbag are jumbled up and must be sorted upon opening. There is also less damage to letters neatly stacked in a tray instead of dumped into a bag. Mailbags are seldom if ever washed and can become filthy; we saw one that hadn't been washed since it was made in 1962.

The CMPP is six football fields in area and packed with automated cancellers and sorters. It has a huge airconditioning plant to cool the building but even so it was quite warm. There is no dress code for the posties; many were in shorts and sleeveless T-shirts because of the heat generated by the machines.

The trip was a real eye-opener as far as seeing the misfortunes that can befall a letter or parcel. We saw an automated roller cancel that missed about as many as it did. I always had the impression that rollers were applied by hand, but in fact the letters are tossed up onto a conveyor belt and pass under the roller. The Culler-Facer-Canceller machine rejected quite a few letters that were crumpled or had bent corners. Everywhere one looked there were letters lying on the floor or in a crevice of the machine; they were swept up two or three times per shift. And pack your parcels strongly because they will be dropped several metres down chutes. Your parcel may survive the fall but there will be other parcels continually landing on top of it.

Of great interest to the BNAPSers were the Toshiba cancelling machines. There are two machines, numbered '1' and '2' on the die hubs, but many Calgary philatelists may not be aware that each machine has two postmarkers. There are thus four dies to collect in Calgary machine cancels.

Postcode bars are applied to letters by Optical Character Reader (orange, sprayed on) or Group Desk System operators (yellow, typed on). 'Ghost codes' are used to shunt foreign mail out of the domestic mail stream. These and other machines are very complicated to maintain, with masses of belts and gates. CMPP uses up bearings by the thousands; we saw boxes of bearings sitting about.

Most of the mail is sorted by machine but much must still be done the old-fashioned way by hand. Racks of mailbags are used for small Alberta towns, one bag for each location. We saw a young woman standing in the midst of these racks, about the area of an average living room. She received bundled mail for towns from a cart and tossed the bundles into the appropriate bag. She had to throw them a considerable distance to reach some bags, but her skill was impressive. Each bundle was thrown into a bag with pinpoint accuracy, dropping neatly into the bag with no bounces or rim shots. Several of us remarked between ourselves that she could be a pro basketball player; certainly none of us could aim as fast and accurate.

by Perry Holinshead

Following the arrival of the railroad, the post office of Calgary was opened October 1, 1883. One split ring cancelling hammer was proofed August 1, 1883 (Figure 1-1). Two hammers were apparently repaired and are shown in the proof books as 're-cuts' dated November 8, 1888 (Figures 1-2 and 1-3).



If two hammers were repaired and reproofed on the same date, then how many hammers existed? At least one hammer would have to be in use. The first Calgary full circle hammer was proofed October 26, 1888. Was this the only hammer in use while the split ring hammers were being repaired? This is not too likely. We believe there were at least three, probably four, and possibly five split ring hammers existing.

The original hammer proofed AU 2 83 is obviously the same hammer proofed as the recut in Figure 1-2. We have examined cancels on three covers and found each to be from distinctly different hammers.



The earliest cancel JY 11 85 (Figure 2) closely resembles the original proof in Figure 1-1 but we believe there is no dot after ALTA as in the original. The next cancel of JU 18 86 (Figure 3) is definitely a different hammer as shown by the location of the Y being at the midpoint of the 8 in the date.



The third cancel of FE 22 87 (Figure 4) is from another hammer, again proven by the location of the Y being at the bottom of the 2 in the date.



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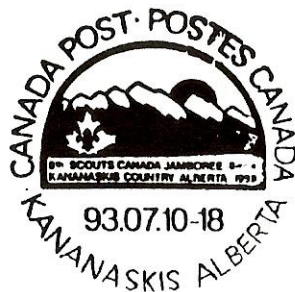
The size of the letters in all proof copies and cover cancels has been carefully measured. We found all of the letters in the proof copy (Figure 1-3) to be larger than any of the letters in any of the other samples.

It is reasonable to assume that several hammers should have existed. The post offices of Midnapore, Okotoks, and High River in the south and Red Deer in the north all opened in 1884. All mail for these points as well as Edmonton and other northern points came to Calgary by rail for forwarding. What does not seem reasonable is that few Calgary cancels seem to be appearing as back stamps on mail for these other points.

SCOUTS COMMEMORATIVE CANCEL

From July 10 to 18, 1993, there was a National Scouts Jamboree out at Kananaskis, west of Calgary, with about 10,000 Scouts attending. Tent cities housed the people. It was, however, quite rainy.

A commemorative postmark was used by the Kananaskis post office. Jim Karr was kind enough to send along a copy of the cancel, shown below. The slogan reads "8th Scouts Canada Jamboree 8eme/Kananaskis Country Alberta 1993". A Scouts emblem is shown against a background of the Rocky Mountains.



HIGH RIVER POSTMARK FOR R.P.O. by Dale Speirs

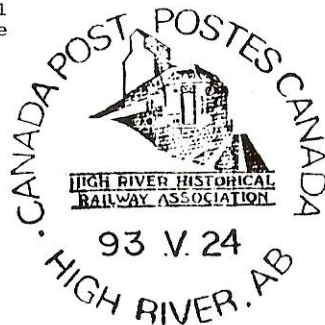
On Victoria Day, a number of Calgary philatelists drove south to High River for the official opening of a railway mail car at the Museum of the Highwood. This took place at noon, but some of us arrived early and watched the Little Britches Rodeo parade. It was a beautiful sunny day.

The ceremony was a bit late getting started because the dignitaries were being photographed in the mail car by a photographer who apparently got paid by the photo. There was a barbershop quartet, then the usual speeches and presentations. After a brief tour of the mail car, the philatelists and townies jammed up in the Museum building to get the commemorative handstamp.

The High River Historical Railway has a number of old engines and cars, some restored, some not. The dining car is fully functional and doing good business. Mail Express Car #3622 is the only fully restored mail car in Canada. It was built for the CPR in 1949 and ran on the High River route until the mid-1950s. Other than counter service, it operated as a functional post office, sorting the mail, picking up and dropping along the way, and even with a letter slot on the side of the car.

High River postmaster Ross Williams applied the postmarks, using the usual type of self-inking handstamp. The covers were numbered and signed by Lynn Cartwright, who is with the Museum of the Highwood. If, years from now, you should see such a cover with "#65, Lynn" written on it, then you'll know why. I think they were both taken aback a bit by the quantity of items to be cancelled and the sometimes weird instructions from Calgary philatelists. All in all, it was a pleasant day out of Calgary and into the countryside. I counted about a dozen CPS members out there and I'm sure there were others I missed in the crowd.

The commemorative postmark was applied with a self-inking handstamp of the kind used in many post offices. The design depicted a streamlined diesel engine and train passing by a grain elevator, with a skewed perspective for the railroad tracks. Below the design was the phrase "High River Historical Railway Association" in two horizontal lines. Around the rim of the postmark was the usual "Canada Post Postes Canada" at top, with "High River, AB" curving around the bottom.



DUES ARE DUE! (AND WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T PAY UP)

Yes, it's that time of year when John Van Staden Jr. is collecting \$10 from anyone walking by. If you want the next bulletin, pay up a.s.a.p. or be deleted from the mailing list.

Dues must be paid prior to putting stamps in circuit books, private treaty, or auctions. The committee heads will be asking to see your current membership card when you submit material.

Non-payment of dues for one year by any member shall be considered a resignation of the member. Should such person wish to rejoin the Society, that person must reapply for membership and, if accepted, shall be assigned a new membership number. The old membership number will only be reassigned on payment of all back dues at current rates, including the application fee.

CIRCUIT BOOKS

The CPS's liability for the contents of each circuit book will be limited to the lesser of the actual value of the book, or \$300. The Society recommends that stamp owners limit the value of each book for security reasons.

The CPS makes circuit books available to members only. Any member taking circuit books home must return the circuit books for the next monthly meeting (held first Wednesday of each month). Each member taking any circuit books home is entirely responsible for the circuit books until returned to the Society. Any loss or theft will be charged to that member.

Anyone found guilty by the Society executive of stealing or changing stamps from circuit books, private treaty books, or auction lots will be expelled from the Society, their name publicized, and charges may be laid.

DIDN'T GET THE CLUB BULLETIN?

If so, please check first with John Van Staden Jr. to verify your dues are paid up and the correct mailing address is on file. Do not ask the Editor, as he gets the mailing labels from the Membership chairman. If you just paid up a week or two before the bulletin is made available, your name may not be on the mailing labels. If so, have your membership card with you to show you are paid up.

The CALGARY PHILATELIST deadlines are announced at meetings and shown on the back cover of each issue. Out-of-town members have their issues mailed to them as soon as the bulletin is picked up from the printer. In-town members should pick up their bulletin at the next general meeting after the deadline. Any remaining copies are mailed out later, so if you want your bulletin fast, be certain to attend the general meetings.

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 November 3 for the December bulletin.

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

FOR TRADE OR SALE: Canada and foreign including British Commonwealth and colonies (by country, set, or stamps) to trade for equivalent value. Call Jean at 244-4699.

WANTED: Recent Canadian stamps on paper in the form of unsorted charity mix or commemoratives only, any amount, best price paid, steady supplier preferred. Call Mirko Zatka at 547-1435 evenings with description.

FOR SALE: Mint VFNH matching plate block sets of four, #574 to 885 and some single corners. Also semi-postal and postage dues J28i to J40. Telephone Ned Burnyeat at 279-5205 or see me at meetings.

WANTED: Will buy or trade for (have mint Canada and some mint plate blocks back to 1930) a) modern used Canada singles and multiples from 1985 to date, VF only, b) mint Switzerland singles (VF) prior to 1941, c) used Newfoundland, VF singles only, d) Greece cancellations on stamp or cover prior to 1900, mint prior to 1944, e) 1945 Stampede cover, prefer #8 envelope size but certainly will look at larger, f) #279 coil 2¢ brown perf 9½ vert. on cover, would prefer overseas destination but will look at combination anywhere, single or pair used in time. Call Gordon Hill at 249-1094.

FOR SALE OR TRADE: 1) Canadian precancel collection (600+ items, 2) small Canadian military collection, over 120 covers and in excess of 60 cancels on stamp or piece, mainly WW2, 3) used Canadian Admiral reference collection of over 2000 single and multiple stamps of all denominations including 40 of #122, 180 each of #119 and 120, 34 of #115, 330 of #111, etc.. Call Gordon Hill at 249-1094.

FOR SALE: "American Philatelist" complete years from 1980. Call Don Fraser at 275-0809.

WANTED: Coil singles or multiples used on cover, any era. 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 Oelhaupf at 289-0852.

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

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

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

1993

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

1994

January	5		General meeting
	5		Deadline for February bulletin
	19		Auction
	26		Auction
February	2		General meeting
	16		Auction
	23		Auction
March	2		General meeting
	2		Deadline for April bulletin
	16		Auction
	23		Auction
April	6		General meeting
	20		Auction
	27		Auction

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.

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 Don Fraser at 275-0809.

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