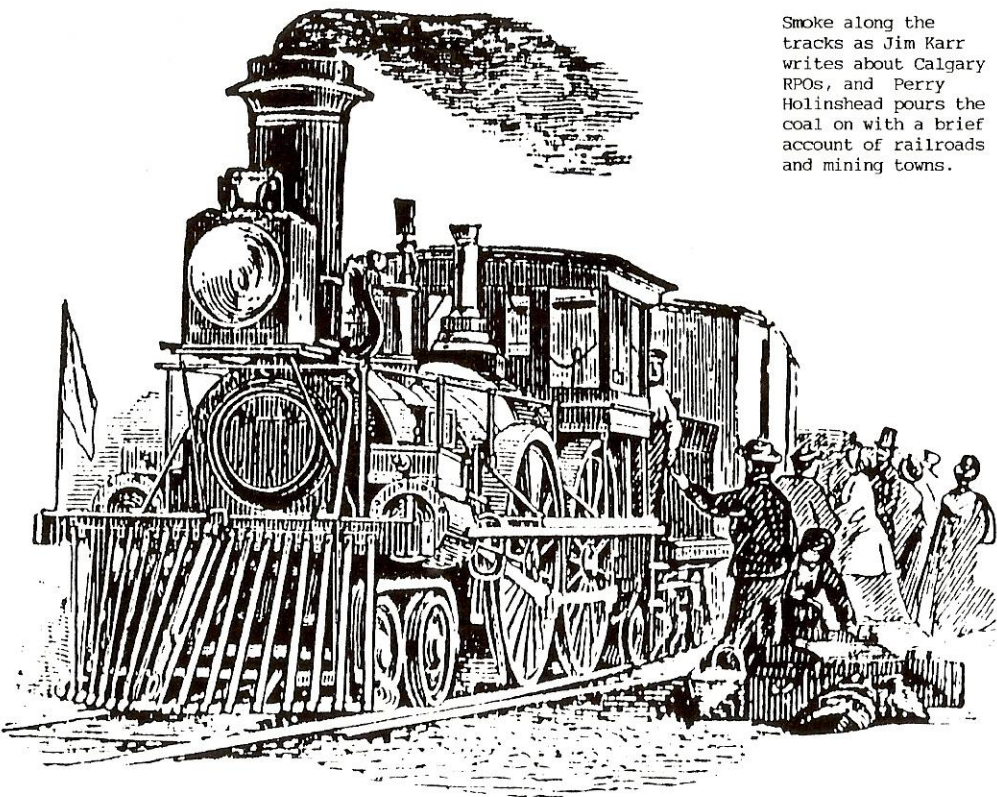


CALGARY PHILATELIST

DECEMBER 1993
Issue #5

IN THIS ISSUE ...

Smoke along the tracks as Jim Karr writes about Calgary RPOs, and Perry Holinshead pours the coal on with a brief account of railroads and mining towns.





CALGARY PHILATELIST

ISSN 1192-5043

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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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2nd year	Clive Brown	241-2267

COMMITTEES

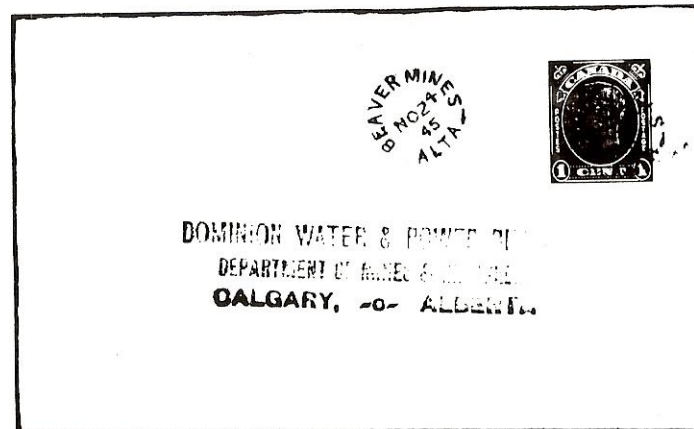
Archives	Dale Speirs	243-1752
Auction - regular	Doug Kollar	239-1965
Auction - silent	Greg Lang	282-1644
CALTAPEX	Phil Wolf	259-8750
Circuit books	Ernie Bell	288-3042
Editor	Dale Speirs	243-1752
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Membership	John Van Staden Jr.	285-1874
Private treaty	Vic and Ian Harwood	243-8172
Programs	vacant	
Sergeant-At-Arms	Don Wilson	284-4479
Sunday bourse	Walter Jackson	242-4128

COAL MINING AND ALBERTA POSTAL HISTORY

by Perry Holinshead

When the railroad came to Alberta in 1883, it brought with it a demand for coal. In the beginning, they needed coal for the locomotives but it was not long before it created freight revenue. As the country developed, branch lines were built and the demand increased, while at the same time new deposits were being found. Today the coal business depends on the export market but in the years of our country's development coal was especially necessary in our domestic economy. As mentioned, the locomotives required coal; this lasted until the conversion to oil in the post-war era. Natural gas and oil pipelines completed the transition.

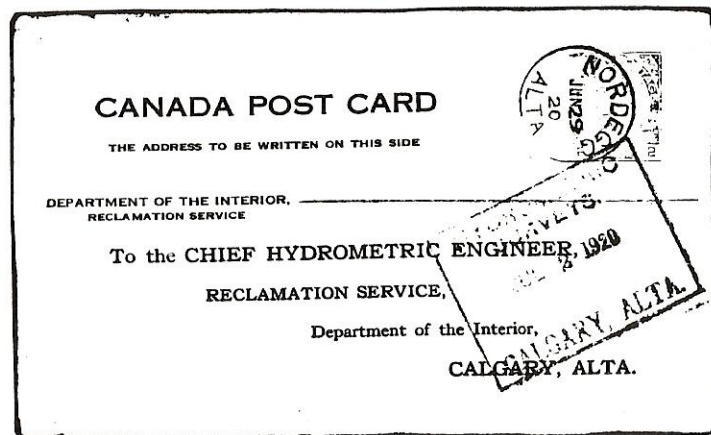
In the February 1989 issue of Calgary STAMPede, I wrote about the development of the Turkey Track railroad and the post offices along that line. In 1893 the C.P.R. bought this railroad. They extended it into the Crowsnest Pass in 1897, after widening it to standard gauge. The post office of Blairmore opened September 1, 1899, followed by Coleman, Hillcrest Mines, Bellevue, Burmis, and Frank from 1904 to 1910. Burmis and Frank are now closed. A branch line was built to Beaver Mines where the post office opened December 15, 1910, and closed August 1, 1962.



Drumheller post office was opened May 1, 1911, and the C.N.R. built the rail line from Saskatoon to Calgary in 1913. This opened up the valley for development of the coal deposits. Post offices opened in the mining hamlets of Rosedale, Wayne, Midlandvale, Nacmine, and Newcastle Mine. Rosedale, Midlandvale, and Newcastle Mine have been closed and the other towns are mostly ghost towns.

[continued next page]

When Martin Nordegg came from Germany and found coal west of Rocky Mountain House, he was told that geologically it was not possible. When the first train arrived at the town of Nordegg in 1914 there were 100,000 tons of coal ready to be loaded. Alexo and Saunders were two other coal mine towns on the Nordegg line which have since disappeared.



Another branch line built solely for the purpose of hauling coal was known as 'The Coal Branch'. This line built from Edson to Mountain Park had ten post offices opened from January 15, 1914, to April 1, 1923. Only two remain open today.

To return to the main line, the post office opened at Canmore October 1, 1884; many stories have been written about its coal mines. A post office at Anthracite opened June 1, 1887, and only lasted to March 7, 1905. Bankhead fared somewhat better because of higher quality coal. It opened August 1, 1904, and closed April 15, 1924.

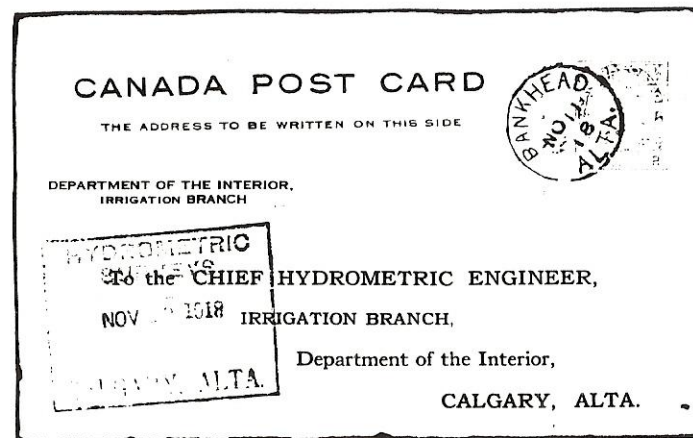
References

Fryer, Harold (1984) "Alberta: The Pioneer Years", publ. by Sunfire Publ., Langley, B.C.

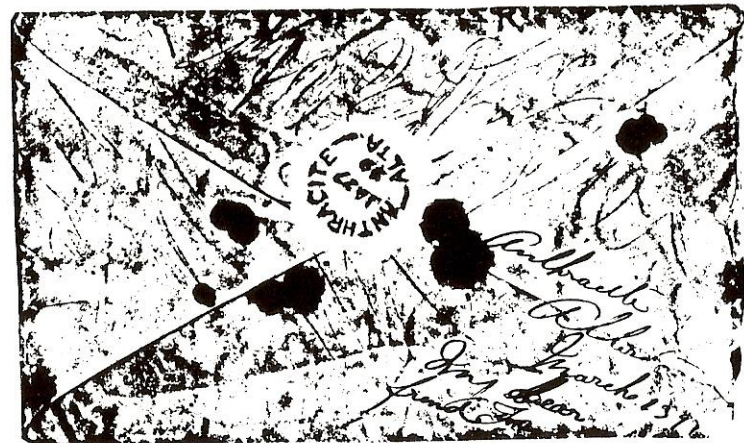
(1976) "Ghost Towns of Alberta", publ. by Stagecoach Publ., Langley, B.C.

"The Ghost Towns Journal", Volume Two

[continued next page]



Bankhead, Alberta



Anthracite, Alberta

CALGARY: A HUB OF RAILWAY POST OFFICE RUNS by Jim Karr

In 1881 construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway commenced west from Winnipeg toward the Pacific coast to fulfill a promise made to British Columbia on entering Confederation in 1871, that a railway would be built to that province to link it with eastern Canada. A second concern was to discourage railways in the western United States from expanding north into B.C. to service the mining and timber industries.

As construction progressed and facilities were completed, by February 1882 scheduled passenger trains with mail cars were operating between Winnipeg and Brandon. By September 1883 these facilities had reached Calgary. The Post Office lost no time in establishing the Railway Post Offices as this service was faster, cheaper, and more reliable than stagecoaches, horse and sleigh, and dog teams in the winter.

The first RPO postmark and variations used on this run was C.P.Ry. WEST OF WINNIPEG/ 1 & 2. (Shown at right, RR-28a). Proof date is January 2, 1882. Though Calgary is not named in the hammers, it is considered that the run did terminate at Calgary.

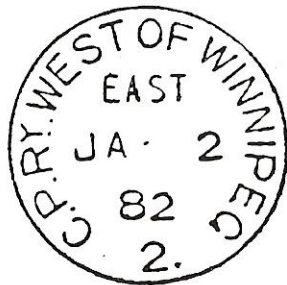
From Calgary to Port Moody, B.C., the first hammer used was C.P.Ry. M.C./ BRIT. COL. (shown below, RR-24). Proof date is August 2, 1886. Additional hammers with variations followed. Again Calgary is not named in the hammers, but it is considered that the run did commence at Calgary.



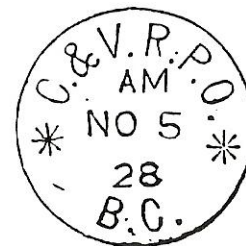
RR-24



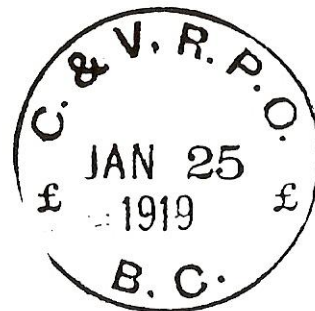
RR-28a Hr.I



RR-28a Hr.II



W-30v

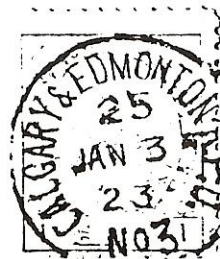


W-30A

Early in 1899 the RPO service between Winnipeg and Vancouver was reorganized into three runs: Winnipeg and Moose Jaw, Moose Jaw and Calgary, and Calgary and Vancouver. New hammers incorporating the names of these runs were issued. Over the years, many variations to the hammers were made. In 1965 these runs were terminated in favour of air and truck transportation.

The Calgary & Edmonton Railway was completed to Strathcona in 1891. The first RPO hammer (W-19), CALGARY & EDMONTON M.C./ NO 1 was proofed on April 9, 1894. Then by 1900, CALGARY & EDMONTON R.P.O./NO (shown at right, W-20) had hammers numbered 1 through 8, and were heavily used. All of them had replacements with the same number. An interesting study is possible of the original numbered hammers, and their replacements together with train directions and train numbers. This run ceased in 1954.

The Calgary and Vancouver run had many hammers and variations. The first hammers (shown below, W-30) C. & V. R.P.O./ B.C. were proofed and first used in 1899. They all had an ornament incorporated into the design, such as crosses, diamond shapes, dollar and cent symbols, pound sterling symbols, and sunbursts. Again, it is possible to form an interesting collection and study of these hammers with their periods of use, train directions, and train numbers. The Calgary to Vancouver RPO service ceased in 1965.



W-20 Tr25 Hr.3

The C.P.R. station located on 9th Avenue and Centre Street had a fully operational post office handling mostly outgoing mail dropped there, but also to expedite mail bags being transferred between trains. It operated only nine years from 1917 to 1926.

Most of the RPO postmarks of runs into and out of Calgary are quite common with the exception of:

W-24A CALGARY & STET. & VEGREVILLE R.P.O. / No
W-30A C. & V. R.P.O. / B.C. (with ornament)

Only a very few examples of the above two runs have survived.

There are a number of references for the study of Railway Post Offices and their postmarks.

- 1) Canadian Transportation Postmarks (1963) - T.P.G. Shaw
- 2) Catalogue of Canadian Railway Cancellations and Related Transportation Postmarks (1982) - Lewis M. Ludlow
- 3) Supplement #1 to the above - BNAPS RPO Study Group (1991)
- 4) A History of Canadian R.P.O.s (1967) - L.F. Gillam
- 5) the newsletters of the Canadian R.P.O. Study Group (BNAPS), commencing in 1973

[EDITOR'S NOTE: By incredible coincidence, while searching for something else at the University of Calgary Library the day after beginning to prepare this issue of the bulletin, I stumbled across the following reference: "The Calgary and Edmonton Railway and the Edmonton Bulletin" (1967) by R.A. Christensen. This is a Master's Thesis published by the Dept. of History, University of Alberta. This book is shelved on the 6th floor, U. of C. Library, call number FC3696.4C47. You can't check it out unless you are staff or student, but the Library is open to the general public for reading; photocopy machines are available.]



W-25B



W-24A Tr.6 Hr.2

LUDLOW CATALOGUE No.	NAME OF RUN	PERIOD OF USE
W-17	CAL. & CAMROSE R.P.O. / No.	1925 - 1958
W-19	CALGARY & EDMONTON M.C. / No.	1894 - 1906
W-20	CALGARY & EDMONTON R.P.O. / No.	1900 - 1954
W-21	CALGARY & EDMONTON R.P.O. No. / .	1908 - 1917
W-22	CALGARY & EDM. R.P.O. / No.4	1931 - 1954
W-23	CAL. & EDMONTON R.P.O. / No.1	1933 - 1954
W-24	CAL. MIRROR & ED. / R.P.O.	1948 - 1953
W-24A	CALGARY & STET. & VEGREVILLE R.P.O. / No.	1913 - 1916
W-25	CAL. & VAN. R.P.O. / .	1941 - 1964
W-25A	CAL. & VAN. R.P.O. / . (with ornaments)	1916 - 1928
W-25B	CAL. & VAN. R.P.O. / ***	1910 - 1940
W-26	CAL. & VAN. R.P.O. / B.C.	1913 - 1965
W-26A	CAL. & VAN. / R.P.O.	1940 - 1956
W-26B	CAL. & VAN. R.P.O. / B.C. (with ornaments)	1905 - 1965
W-28	C. & V. R.P.O. / B.C.	1926 - 1965
W-30	C. & V. R.P.O. / B.C. (with ornaments)	1899 - 1965
W-30A	C. & V. R.P.O. / B.C. (with ornaments)	1919 - 1943
W-66	LETH. & CAL. R.P.O. / .	1948 - 1955
W-68	MACLEOD & CALGARY R.P.O. / No.	1907 - 1948
W-69	MAC. & CAL. R.P.O. / No.	1918 - 1919
W-85	MOOSE JAW & CALGARY R.P.O. / No.7 (note engravers spelling error)	1921 - 1924
W-86	MOOSE JAW & CALGARY R.P.O. / No. (or letter)	1904 - 1963
W-87	M. JAW & CAL. R.P.O. / No.	1900 - 1964
W-87H	M. J. & CAL. R.P.O. / No.	1949 - 1964
W-136	SASK. & CAL. R.P.O. / No.	1915 - 1929
DD-6	CALGARY C.P.R. DEPOT / .	1917 - 1926

OOPS, OR, DESIGN ERRORS by Dale Speirs

A basic axiom of engineering or organizational management is that the more complicated things are, the greater the likelihood of something going wrong. If postage stamps consisted simply of a country name and the value, there would be few errors to collect. Fortunately for philatelists, stamp design involves numerous steps from initial idea to finished product. The more steps in the design process, then the more chances of a mistake being made.

Firstly, a distinction should be made between design errors and production errors. Mistakes in the plate preparation, printing of a stamp or perforation are not design errors. They occur after the design was finalized, during the physical production of the stamp. The stamp artist cannot be blamed for imperforate or misperforated stamps, albino prints, inverted centres, missing colours, or flyspecks. These are production errors, laid at the doorstep of the printer.

A design error is an evident mistake in the approved artwork of a stamp. The artist drew a human with three fingers per hand, put something in upside-down, used a flag that didn't exist at the time of the scene depicted on the stamp, and so forth. Spelling errors and mis-identifications of animals and plants are also design errors.

Sometimes a stamp is on the borderline between a design error and a production error. In 1911, Britain released a 1d definitive showing the King's portrait with a lion at bottom of the stamp. The lion was rather scrawny looking; its ribs stuck out noticeably and are a prominent and unintended conspicuous part of the stamp. The general public were outraged, and the following year a revised stamp was issued, showing a plumper and healthier-looking lion. The fault of the original stamp was poor engraving. What looked okay in the artwork came out poorly in the stamp. The basic design was okay, nor could the printer be blamed; the error was in the grey area where design meets production.

Errors of omission are perhaps the most common because those involved with the design and production see what they expect to see, and don't notice the absence of something. Fiji issued a 1½d stamp in 1938 showing an outrigger canoe under full sail off a beach. Trouble was, no one is in the canoe. A revised stamp was issued a while later, showing a man sitting in the canoe and steering it. Errors can occur because stamp people are not familiar with what is on the design. A 5½d Australia stamp (1947 Newcastle) shows loading cranes with no bracing struts on the rear of their booms. Without braces, the booms would collapse when the first load is lifted.

Anachronisms require a detailed knowledge of history in the small things of an historic event, not just the big picture. New Zealand issued a stamp in 1940 honouring its centennial; the design shows the settlers landing on the beach. In the background, out in the harbour, are the sailing ships. The ships are shown with full rigging and double top sails, fifteen years ahead of their time. A St. Kitts-Nevis one-shilling stamp depicts Columbus looking through a telescope at the New World. Alas, the telescope was not invented until two centuries later.

Incorrect quantities are another common type of design error. My absolute favourite stamp, and the one which started me collecting design errors, is the 25¢ New Hebrides Condominium stamp depicting a Concorde jet swooping overhead. Four engines on the Concorde, so why is it leaving six vapour trails? A very common mistake in real life as well as on stamps has to do with Rod of Aesculapius, the medical symbol of a winged rod with a snake curled round it. One snake though, not two snakes as many incorrect depictions show it. (Next time you're by a pharmacist or doctor office, keep an eye out for this symbol.) Australia issued a 7d stamp honouring the Royal Flying Doctor Service, but showed two snakes on the rod. This, incidentally, turns it into a different symbol, that of the Caduceus of Hermes, the symbol of commerce and trade. One snake, medicine; two snakes, business.

Inversions, transpositions, and mirror images are another category of design errors. Mirror images may often not actually be an error if the stamp designer flipped a photographic image over to have it face the opposite direction for better design. Sometimes it is hard to blame the designer, as in the case of the 25¢ Guyana stamp issued in 1972 showing orchid flowers. In 1973, a revised stamp was issued showing the flowers rightside-up. But to be fair, the stamp doesn't look any worse the other way due to the odd shape of the flowers.

Misidentifications can be a headache, especially for poorly-documented historical figures. A 1947 Australian stamp honours Lt. John Shortland, but the portrait is his father Capt. John Shortland. Easy to see how this mistake could have occurred. In 1957, Pitcairn Islands issued a stamp showing the Pitcairn School, but the wrong building was shown. It was cheaper to change the lettering than the artwork, so in 1958 the stamp was reissued with the same building but now labelled as the Schoolteacher's House. Misidentified plants, animals, aircraft, and motor vehicles are plentiful. If you have any expertise about any of these, you will quickly find them.

Sometimes errors are not evident at all except in very special circumstances. In 1960, Britain honoured World Refugee Year by using a slogan postmark that included an open hand. By itself there was nothing wrong with the postmark. But it was quickly noted that in conjunction with QE2 definitives the hand could be an embarrassment. Depending on the position of the stamp in relation to the hand on the postmark, it made it look as if the Queen was waving her hand, sucking her thumb, or thumbing her nose. The postmark was withdrawn, then re-issued without the hand. If thy hand offend thee, cut it off.

Some stamps only appear to be design errors. Sailing ships under full sail are always controversial. Stamps showing sails billowing backwards, or sails and flags in opposite directions may not be errors depending on the angle of the view. Many people do not realize that a sailing ship can sail to within six degrees of a headwind. By tacking with sails almost parallel to the wind, a ship can sail upwind at a slight angle. Another type of pseudo-error is a 1978 Zaire stamp depicting the catfish *Synodontis nigriventris*. It appears to be an error because the catfish is shown upside-down, but is not because that is the normal swimming position of the fish (it browses on the ceilings of underwater caves and the undersides of aquatic plant leaves).

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO AUCTION CONSIGNORS
by Greg Lang

We are now starting a new policy for the silent auction held at monthly meetings. Beginning with the January 5, 1994, meeting, every seller will be asked for \$1 as a fee to put lots in the silent auction. A commission of 10% will also be deducted on the lots that sell during the evening.

Starting in January 1994, both auctions (silent and regular) will no longer accept Canadian uncanceled stamps in bulk for consignment due to legal concerns. Consignors are reminded of legalities involved in selling or buying uncanceled used stamps for re-use as postage.

DUES ARE DUE
by John Van Staden Jr.

The December bulletin will be your last if your label shows you paid to June 30, 1993. To keep your membership current, please submit dues in the amount of \$10 to the CPS, care of John Van Staden Jr..

Make certain your address is current if you have moved since last you paid your dues.

CALTAPEX 93 PALMARES

Sid Richardson Award: Jim Taylor (St. Pierre & Miquelon 1883 - 1952)
Grand Award: Mike Burrington (Postal History of British Isles to 1840)

Large Gold: Mike Burrington (as above)
Jim Taylor (as above)
Angie Anders (The British Royal family)

Small gold: John Powell (Postal tax stamps of Iraq)

Gold rosette: Jim Taylor (Stavanger, Norway)

Large Silver: Ed Harris (Pioneer post offices of the Prairies)

Small silver: William Herd (Netherlands cancellations on 19th century stamps)
Don Wilson (Pioneers of design 1840 to 1900)
William Herd (New Zealand health stamps)
Ray Dixon (Jersey booklet panes)

Silver rosette: Dale Speirs (Post-Soviet Ukraine)
Jim Taylor (1926 stamp shortage in St. Pierre & Miquelon)

Bronze: William Herd (Lions International)
Joe Smith (Golden Prairie Diamonds)
Jan Grasmeyer (Christmas of Canada)

Bronze rosette: Joe Smith (Jubilee cancellations)

CALTAPEX 93 JUNIOR COMPETITION AND DOOR PRIZES
by Al Munro

The CPS held a Junior Exhibition Competition and a Treasure Hunt at CALTAPEX. The event was quite successful. Juniors were required to complete a one-page exhibit with a minimum of fifteen stamps and a story page indicating why they chose the stamps. Stamps had to be selected from the 2¢ table. Over the three-day period we had 48 junior exhibitors from the age of 4 to 16. At the end of the competition, contestants received their exhibit with the stamps and stock sheet, catalogues, and certificates.

Prizes and exhibition ribbons were awarded to five contestants. The exhibitions were judged by a panel of three judges on the basis of explanation of exhibit, neatness, condition of stamps, symmetry of display, and age of the contestant. The prizes were awarded as follows.

- 1st - Brian Lai, age 8 (Southeast Asia)
- 2nd - Michael Cameron, age 10 (Queens of Canada, Australia, and Britain)
- 3rd - Stephen Kung, age 12 (New Zealand)
- 4th - Paul Bechthold, age 6
- 5th - Nicole Au, age 14 (Christmas)

In addition to the exhibit, juniors had several chances to find a stamp of a series which had been salted in the 2¢ table. There was a different stamp series for each day of the exhibition. Prizes were awarded to those who found the selected stamps.

Thank you to the judges Jim Taylor, Don Wilson, Greg Sereda, and other members who kindly volunteered their services. Thank you to those who contributed stamps, catalogues, and other prizes: Keith Brown, Sandy Foss, Dwayne Miner, Bob Perry, and Thor Rudyk. Thanks also to Peter Smith who publicized the junior competition.

The following people were winners of the door prizes.

- Friday - Mel Boone (Duck stamp book)
- Saturday - Greg Sereda (Duck stamp book)
- Sunday - Ed Harris (album)
Margaret Nechka (album)
Garry James (album)

Thanks to Lighthouse Publications, Keith Brown of Clyde Vincett Stamps, Charles Dryden and Don King of Philatelics Inc., and all others who donated for the door prizes.

SUNDAY BOURSES

Dates for the next few Sunday bourses are January 9, February 6, March 6, April 10, and May 1. Held at Rosscarrock Community Hall, 4411 - 10 Avenue SW. There are good lights and plenty of parking. An excellent site; come out and have a look if you've never been there.

SUBJECT INDEX TO CALGARY PHILATELIST 1993

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Computers 2:10

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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. Contact Don Fraser at 275-0809.

Great Britain Study Group meets every second month. Call Bruce Irvine at 938-7027.

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 January 5 for the February 1994 bulletin.

FOR SALE OR TRADE: Canada mint and used, USA mint and used, worldwide many older stamps, covers, R.P.O.s, cancellations, etc.. Phone Mack at 640-2185.

WANTED: Gibraltar used collection, about 300 to 500 different. Advise price and condition please. Contact Bill Heather, 325 - 54 Street, Delta, B.C. V4M 3G6 or phone (604)943-5303.

FOR TRADE OR SALE: British Commonwealth including Canada (singles and plate blocks), Italy, Vatican, France, U.N., USA, and about a dozen other popular countries while they last. Call Jean at 244-4699.

FOR SALE: Canada 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: Booklet 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 Oelhauph at 289-0852.

WANTED: Pre-1992 Hong Kong souvenir sheets/FDCs. Will buy the following at a premium (between 54% and 260% depending on issues) over current 1994 catalogue. Souvenir sheets: Scott #438a, 446b, 464a, 485a, 502b, 502c, 502d, 518a, 526a, 530a, 537a, 559a, and 605. FDCs: # 438a, 446b, 502b, 502c, 518a, 526a, 530a, 537a, 559a, and 563a. Will also consider buying other Hong Kong issues and early postal history materials. Ask for my best offer or if you prefer, will give generous trade of Canadian mint stamps/postal history covers for your Hong Kong items. Call Knight at 255-4709 evenings.

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

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: "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, T2P 2E7.

FOR SALE: OLYMPEX 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, T2P 2E7.

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS IN 1994

January	5	.....	General meeting
	5		Deadline for February bulletin
	9		Sunday bourse
	19		Auction
	26		Auction
February	2	.....	General meeting
	6		Sunday bourse
	16		Auction
	23		Auction
March	2	.....	General meeting
	2		Deadline for April bulletin
	6		Sunday bourse
	16		Auction
	23		Auction
April	6	.....	General meeting
	10		Sunday bourse
	20		Auction
	27		Auction
May	1	.....	Sunday bourse
	4		General meeting
	4		Deadline for June bulletin
	18		Auction
	25		Auction
June	1	.....	Election meeting
	15		Auction
	22		Auction
September	7	.....	General meeting
	7		Deadline for October bulletin
	21		Auction
	28		Auction
October	5	.....	General meeting
	19		Auction
	26		Auction
November	2	.....	General meeting
	2		Deadline for December bulletin
	16		Auction
	23		Auction
December	7	.....	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 rentals, call Walter Jackson at 242-4128.