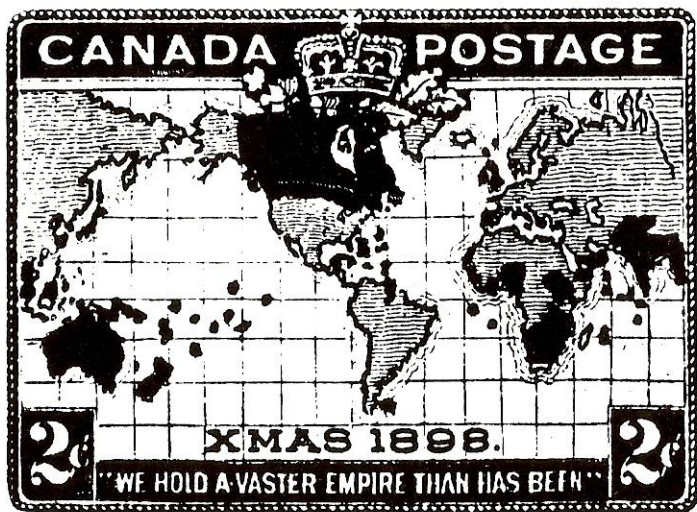


CALGARY PHILATELIST

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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.

Membership dues for the 1994-95 season are \$10, plus a \$5 initiation fee for new members.

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Private treaty books	Dave Voss	266-6013
Programs	Phil Wolf	259-8750
Sergeant-At-Arms	Hugh Delaney	255-0422
Sunday bourse	Walter Jackson	242-4128

CANADIAN HOSPITAL SHIP PRINCE GEORGE
by Jon Johnson

During WWI there were five hospital ships considered to be in Canadian service: ARAGUAYA, ESSEQUIBO, LLANDOVERY CASTLE, LETITIA, and NEURALIA. All of these hospital ships were used to transport sick and wounded from England to Canada. It has taken some time to gather the pieces of information on the sixth hospital ship in Canadian service, probably due to its short period of service and its being located on the west coast of Canada.

The SS PRINCE GEORGE, owned by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, was brought to the west coast in 1910. She served as a coastal passenger ship running from Vancouver, Victoria, and Seattle to the GTP terminus in Prince Rupert. The PRINCE GEORGE's length was 320 feet, beam 42 feet, gross tonnage 3,380, and service speed 16 knots. It was one of four GTP ships providing regular service out of Prince Rupert. In 1914, PRINCE GEORGE sailed south every Monday at 9 a.m. on its round-trip voyage. Its last sailing from Prince Rupert prior to the declaration of war was on Monday, August 3, 1914, with 17 passengers on board. Shortly after the declaration of war the bond holders of the PRINCE GEORGE and sister ship PRINCE RUPERT withdrew them from service pending the GTP carrying war risk insurance. A contributor to this decision may have been the knowledge that two German cruisers, LEIPZIG and NURNBERG, were known to be off California and reported travelling northward.

The PRINCE GEORGE was requisitioned by the British Admiralty (RNCVR) as a hospital ship and was quickly converted in Esquimalt. The conversion consisted of painting the hull white, with a green band around the main deck. The stacks were painted yellow, with a red cross inside a white circle on the centre stack. The carpets, curtains, and trimmings were removed, and cots were placed in the wide hallways. The elevator was adjusted to carry stretchers, and an operating room was built in the forward lower deck. Several doctors and a corps of nurses made up the medical staff. The ship remained under the command of its normal captain, Captain Donald, with much of the original crew.

On August 11, 1914, the hospital ship PRINCE GEORGE sailed to meet and accompany the Canadian cruiser RAINBOW, who was searching for the two German cruisers. On August 21, both the RAINBOW and PRINCE GEORGE arrived in Prince Rupert. On the morning of August 24, the PRINCE GEORGE sailed, independent of the RAINBOW, which had sailed earlier. As a result of concerns about the safety of Allied warships, after August 22 no reports of sightings of the ships were published in the Prince Rupert newspaper.

In the August 15th Prince Rupert Daily News, there is a report indicating that "Ottawa Authorities Think Hospital Ship Plan Not Good". A part of the argument was that a hospital ship in Canada may be impractical and considerably more expensive than the regular army hospital. This was partly in response to the Daughters of the Empire who nationally were raising funds for a hospital ship. The Prince Rupert and Port Essington chapters raised \$1,245.20 by

[continued next page]

August 13, 1914.

With the withdrawal of the PRINCE GEORGE and PRINCE RUPERT from passenger service, two smaller ships, PRINCE ALBERT and PRINCE JOHN, had been trying to carry on GTP steamer traffic. In late August, the PRINCE ALBERT struck a rock and was severely damaged, resulting in even greater loss of local passenger service. On September 18, it was reported that the government would permit the return of the PRINCE GEORGE to passenger service off the west coast of British Columbia. With the apparent departure of the German cruisers, there was no longer a government requirement for the ship. On October 9, 1914, the PRINCE GEORGE resumed its regular weekly passenger service, departing Prince Rupert each Friday at 8 a.m..

The PRINCE GEORGE appears on a postcard [not reproducible. Ed.]. This photo postcard is faded on the left and darkened on the right. It shows the ship at the Prince Rupert dock on August 22 or 23, 1914. [The ship is in its hospital colours and is flying the Red Cross flag.]

Bibliography

Newell, Gordon (1966) The H.W. McCurdy, Marine History of the Pacific Northwest.

MacPherson, W.G. (1923) History of the Great War, Medical Services General History Vol. 1

Tucker, G.N. (1952) The Naval History of Canada, Its Official History, Vol. 1

The Daily News newspaper, Prince Rupert, B.C., August 1 to October 9, 1914

Acknowledgements

To Colin Campbell, for assistance in recognizing the ship on the postcard and where to start tracking down the hospital service of the PRINCE GEORGE.

Maritime Museum of British Columbia Society, Victoria, B.C.

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CALTAPEX 94

The annual show of the CPS returned to its familiar location at the Chinese Cultural Centre downtown. A nice building to have the show in, albeit a problem with parking, what with the competition from Chinatown and Eau Claire Market visitors. The usual dealer bourse, exhibits, club activities table, and many other activities.

Each year the CPS has a commemorative cover. This year, the cachet of the cover featured Calgary's centennial as an incorporated city. Canada Post supplied a commemorative postmark, and also operated a table in the bourse.

Saturday morning there was a Judges' Breakfast at the International Hotel a block away. This was a free bonus for exhibitors. The Awards Banquet, of course; results are announced below. To keep the juniors interested the club activities table had a treasure hunt. Juniors were given a questionnaire about stamp collecting, which they dealt with by finding the appropriate stamp in the 2¢ table. Correctly answered entries were placed in the door prize draw.

PALMARES

Non-Competitive: Jim Taylor (St. Pierre & Miquelon)
CPS Archives (History of the CPS)

Special Awards: Grand - Joel Weiner
Sid Richardson Award - Ed Harris

Large Gold: Joel Weiner (Postal Markings of British Jerusalem)
Ed Harris (Pioneer Post Offices of the Prairies)

Small Gold: Mike Burrington (Channel Islands)
Keith Spencer (Alberta Ladies)
Ed Harris (Original Art Covers)

Large Silver: William Herd (New Zealand Semi-Postals)
Don Wilson (Australian States Cancellations)
Cindy-Anne Attrell (Girl Guides & Scouts)

Small Silver: Jim Karr (Alberta Oldies)
Don Wilson (Australian States EFOs)
William Herd (19th Century Netherlands)
Pat Bates (Serbia 1866 - 1943)

Bronze: Alex Malycky (Ukraine Postal Cards)
Wolfgang Bulau (Postal Stationery of Samoa)

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

These ads are free to paidup CPS members. Mail your ads to Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, T2P 2E7, or hand them to me before the meetings start. Next deadline is January 4 for the February bulletin.

WANTED: Haiti Olympic B1 and CB 1 - 2. To buy or will trade for Russian, German, or Canadian stamps or covers. Contact Ludwig Hein at 242-8199.

FOR SALE: Album pages as plain stock, holed, and/or printed with a grid and border, in multiples of 100 or 1000. Call John Van Staden Jr. at 285-1874 or see samples at club meetings.

FOR SALE: Worldwide stamps at reasonable prices or will trade for other material. Will trade or sell Brit. Commonwealth, USA, Canada, and UN. Have mint and used, plate blocks, town cancels, covers, Canada and USA. Call Mack at 640-2185.

FOR SALE: British Colonial Q.E. 1955-57 complete sets MNH of most colonies, mint Ireland and Ireland Minkus album with blank sheets to 1980, Used Canada blocks OF4. Phone Bob Perry at 282-4520 or see me at meetings.

FOR SALE: Canada mint disposal. 15% over face or 50% of Unitrade, whichever is higher. Singles, blocks, plate blocks. Nearly all stamps NH and well centered. Some varieties such as 600i, 600ii available. Period covered 1900-1988 (some prior). Very few single coil stamps available, however, have some paste-ups, jumps, wide spacing varieties, etc. on modern coils in strips of 4 or 5. See Gordon Hill or call 249-1094.

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: Calgary Olympic FDC with OLYMPLEX 88 catalogue (not sold by Canada Post). Articles on sports philately, Olympics, and Calgary postal history. Price is \$5 from Dale Speirs at meetings, or \$6 by post, payable to CPS, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7.

FOR SALE: "History of the Calgary Philatelic Society" book now available for \$2 each from Dale Speirs at meetings. Mail orders add \$2 extra for postage and remit to CPS, Box 6830, Calgary, T2P 2E7.

RENEWALS

It is time to renew for the current year. Dues remain at \$10. Please send dues to John Van Staden Jr., 4607 - 26 Avenue NE, Calgary, T1Y 2R9. If you are not sure about your membership, call John at 285-1874 or see me at meetings.

1994

December	4		Sunday bourse
	7		Wine and cheese party
	16 to 18		Stamp Fair

1995

January	4		General meeting
	4		Deadline for February bulletin
	8		Sunday bourse
	18		Auction
	25		Auction

February	1		General meeting
	5		Sunday bourse
	15		Auction
	22		Auction

March	1		General meeting
	1		Deadline for April bulletin
	5		Sunday bourse
	15		Auction
	22		Auction

April	2		Sunday bourse
	5		General meeting
	19		Auction
	26		Auction

May	3		General meeting
	3		Deadline for June bulletin
	7		Sunday bourse
	17		Auction
	24		Auction

June	7		Election meeting
	21		Auction
	28		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 viewing.

WINE AND CHEESE PARTY is at Kerby Centre but on the main floor.

SUNDAY BOURSE is at RossCarrock Community Hall, 4411 - 10 Avenue SW, from 10 am to 4 pm. Table bookings from Walter Jackson at 242-4128.

STAMP FAIR is a dealer bourse at Marlborough Inn, 1316 - 33 Street NE. Friday 2pm to 9 pm, Saturday 10 am to 6 pm, Sunday 10 am to 5 pm.

Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society meets second Wednesdays at the Museum of the Regiments, east side of Crowchild Trail off Flanders Avenue interchange. Details from Arno Kolster at 284-4239.

Australasian Study Group meets third Wednesdays. Call Don Fraser at 275-0809.