

CALGARY PHILATELIST

JUNE 1995

Issue #13



"NOW THAT THE WAR IS OVER, WE'LL BE SOON LEAVING FOR
UNCLE HERBIE'S BIG RANCH IN TORONTO!"



CALGARY PHILATELIST

ISSN 1192-5043

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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.

1994-95 EXECUTIVE

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Past-President	Charles Dryden	276-9802
Vice-President	Hugh Delaney	255-0422
Treasurer	Bruce Irvine	938-7027
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Auction - silent	Greg Lang	282-1644
CALTAPEX	Phil Wolf	259-8750
Circuit books	Ernie Bell	288-3042
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Library	Penny Borrowman	247-1525
Membership	John Van Staden	285-1874
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

WAR ENDS FOR 127 WING NEAR SOLTAU IN GERMANY
by Gordon Hill

HEADQUARTERS - KENNEL - TANGAIRE - OLD S. H. H. - C. S. T.

THIS MADE IT OFFICIAL

FROM:- 83 GROUP MAIN H.Q.

TO:- 121, 122, 124, 125, 126, 127, 143, 39 WINGS, 83 GROUP REAR

AO.32 MAY 4TH. "PERSONAL FOR COMMANDERS FROM A.O.C.:-

ALL HOSTILITIES ON SECOND ARMY FRONT CEASE AT 0600 HOURS TO-MORROW

MAY 5TH -- WORK WILL CONTINUE AS USUAL UNTIL ORDERS ARE ISSUED TO THE

CONTRARY AND OPERATIONAL UNITS ARE TO OBSERVE STRICTLY THE STATES OF

AVAILABILITY ORDERED BY G.O.C."

TAKE THIS SOUVENIR COPY HOME BUT DON'T REPEAT DON'T MAIL IT.

WINGTIPS-XTRA

SOMEWHERE IN GERMANY.

SATURDAY, MAY 5TH, 1945.

THE BETTER WORLD

I don't remember what time it was,
exactly. It doesn't matter anyway.
At first I didn't think I could

A VICTORIOUS PEACE

The Nazi fighting machine, organized
to rule the world is now

Above is a copy of the official despatch received by all 83 Group airfields in Europe early on May 5, 1945. The above noted 126, 127, 143, and 39 Wings were all Canadian, that is, RCAF. Generally speaking, each Wing comprised four flying squadrons and the necessary personnel to maintain and support them. With the exception of the

[continued next page]

pilots, who were rotated back to England when injured or tour expired, most of the personnel had been on the continent since shortly after D-Day, June 6, 1944. At this time 127 Wing was located southwest of Hamburg, near Soltau in Germany.

I was a member of 416 Squadron, one of four Spitfire fighter squadrons making up 127 Wing. As far as pilots were concerned, we were on duty from noon one day to noon the next. We seldom flew at night but did frequently take off before daybreak.

On May 4, 1945, 416 Squadron "B" Flight completed its second sortie of the afternoon, a shipping strike near Lubbeck, and landed at approximately 4:20 pm. At that time, we were told that operations had ceased and that we were on standby. This was followed by the despatch above, received early on the morning of May 5. Later that morning we escorted 14 Dakotas (DC-3s) carrying the peace mission to Copenhagen, Denmark. Thus ended for us World War Two in Europe.

One of our great concerns during the period as we moved through France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany was, of course, the mail. The military upper echelon early on recognized that this was a morale builder. As such, it was generally given a high priority. For the most part right to the end of the war, there were regular mail deliveries once or twice a week. Outgoing mail was also handled with dispatch. During the entire period if stamps were required they were British, and all mail, even for some time after the end of the war, was handled by the postal corps. In our case I believe it was British personnel, rather than Canadian, who were responsible for the actual handling beyond each airfield.

V-E Day, Victory in Europe Day, May 8, 1945, was the official date of the surrender of all German forces on all fronts in World War Two.

DUES ARE DUE IN SEPTEMBER

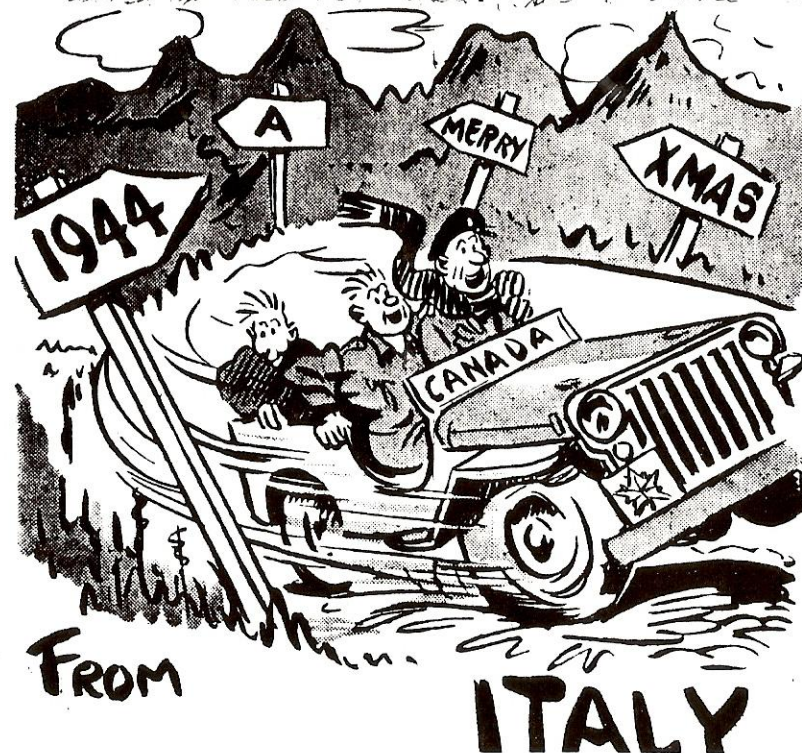
Make the Treasurer's life easier. On September 6, come out to the first meeting of the new season with a smile on your face and money in your pocket to pay your fee for the 1995/96 season.

AIR LETTER SHEETS

by Ed Harris

In 1944, special Christmas Letter Sheets were supplied to the Armed Forces for sending greetings back home. The sheets were to be valid for use from November 22 to December 5, 1944. For Canadians serving in Italy, a quantity of Air Letter forms CFQ11 were overprinted with a special Christmas greeting and picture. The copy below was written "Somewhere In Italy" and is dated Field Post Office 636, no 30, 1944. The item is prepaid by a 3d British adhesive.

Dear Mom; Somewhere In Italy
Nov 27 1944
I got the scraps of lead & hand paper.
They're really sweet. They're in a good place. I sent
Mr. Henderson a letter last night. Hope it's the right
address. I also sent you a note to let you know
and to let you know I'm still alive. I'll be home before



AIRGRAPH LETTERS by Ed Harris

Airgraph letters were photographed and reduced to a roll of film, saving space and weight for scarce wartime transport. The Airgraph below is dated November 17, 1941. The writer indicates the service is new and asks the addressee return the Airgraph "in whatever form it comes to you". Stephen lists August 6, 1942, as the date Airgraph service commenced to Canada from England. This date in November 1941 would seem to be quite early. [Editor's Note: Only the actual Airgraph letters are reproduced here. The envelopes they were delivered in were too dark to copy well.]

TO: NORMAN SMITH,
79 GREEN COURT ROAD
PETTS WICK
ORRINGTON,
TENT.

Write the message very plainly below this line.

WISHING
YOU
A
MERRY XMAS

GREETINGS FROM ITALY

THE STAMP SHOULD NOT BE LOST.
PLEASE SEND THAT THE ADDRESS IS WRITTEN IN LARGE BLOCK LETTERS IN THE SPACE ABOVE.

TO: LINDA F. H. WHITELOCK
190, GARDENIA DRIVE
ANNISTON, AL.
U.S.A.
BASE POST OFFICE
CANADA

Write address in large BLOCK letters in the space above. Nothing else should be written above this line.

The message should be written very clearly below.

Sender's Address:
400 DUNDAS ST. E.
TORONTO, ONT.
Nov. 17 1941.

Dear Frank:
Just a few lines by the new Air Mail service. U.S.A. collapsed in the office on the 3rd. He was in the hospital for a week but is home now. He was here about two minutes on Friday. He is going to have an X-ray to-morrow. He had a bad internal hemorrhage, they think it is stomach ulcers. Present treatment is no more, no fried food, no cigars etc and no Saturday night parties. Ray is life going to be dull for him from now on by the looks of things. One of the newer men Van Every by name called for the Air Force last week. Harry Francis got his trainee uniform last week. He has a new White Tractor for the London run. Your old pal Division is being sent closed up right now. Lost some equipment a couple of times for a while but I guess this is the end. The Great General went out last spring. George Rodman is back in the business he retired from the Direct Winters for 6 months then bought himself Brown, Francis and some other stuff. Business is levelling off as production of many things has been cut down such as cars, radios and other electrical goods and steel desks etc. I would appreciate if you would send this letter and envelope back to me in whatever form it comes to you. I will be writing again before the show is too deep back of me.
Yours sincerely
Edmund Spence

TO: NORMAN SMITH,
79 GREEN COURT ROAD
PETTS WICK
ORRINGTON,
TENT.

Write the message very plainly below this line.

WISHING
YOU
A
MERRY XMAS

GREETINGS FROM ITALY

THE STAMP SHOULD NOT BE LOST.
PLEASE SEND THAT THE ADDRESS IS WRITTEN IN LARGE BLOCK LETTERS IN THE SPACE ABOVE.

From a Canadian
in Italy.

TO: ROBERT L. GOSWELL
DRAKE STREET
ROCHDALE
LANCASHIRE
ENGLAND

Write the message very plainly below this line.

WISHING
YOU
A
MERRY XMAS

GREETINGS FROM ITALY

THE STAMP SHOULD NOT BE LOST.
PLEASE SEND THAT THE ADDRESS IS WRITTEN IN LARGE BLOCK LETTERS IN THE SPACE ABOVE.

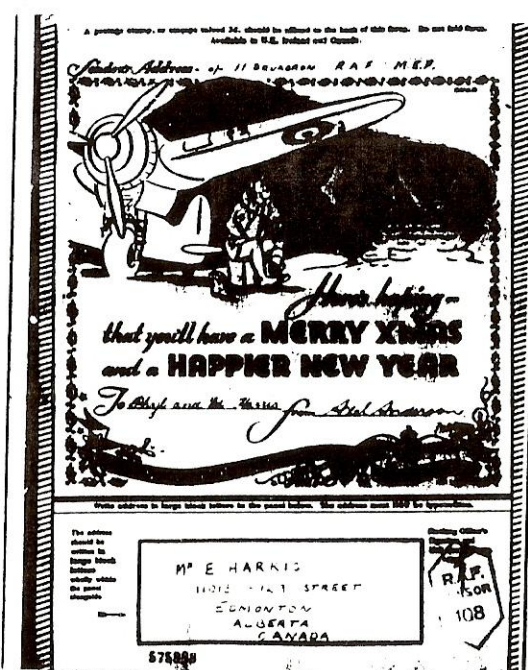
TO: ALL YOUR READERS.

ROYAL AIR FORCE
MIDDLE EAST
1943

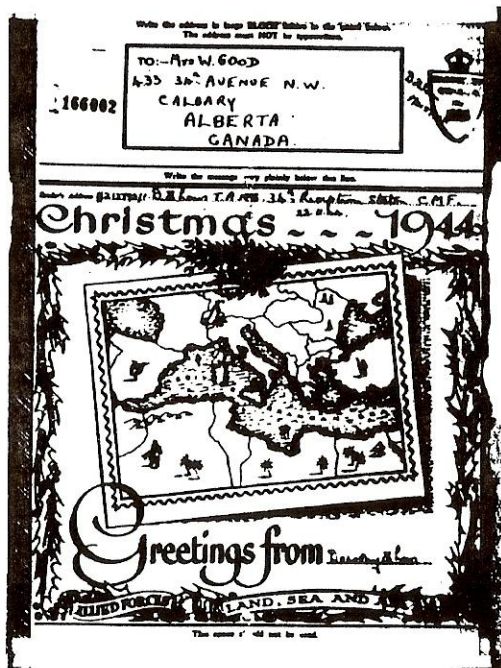
Royal Air Force
Middle East

[continued next page]

Addressed to E.A. Harris.
This one has been in my
possession for over fifty
years.



Christmas 1944



SOMETHING NEW! MA-ME-O VILLAGE / AB
by Jim Karr

The village of Ma-Me-O Beach is located at 15-46-28-W4 on the south shore of Pigeon Lake, about 40 km west of Wetaskiwin, along Highway 13. Ma-Me-O is a Cree word meaning "lots of birds".

A post office was established here on June 15, 1932. The first hammer, a steel split-ring type recorded in the Proof Books in Ottawa is dated MY 17/32. There is no record of a CDS (circular date stamp) nor a duplex canceller being issued to this post office. In the early 1950s, a five digit nonaccounting office number 93253 was issued. Later a four digit accounting office number 8663 dater was issued. I do not have examples from these two daters to show.



In 1973, the Post Office changed its accounting to the six digit POCON system (Post Office Computerized Office Number). Ma-Me-O Beach received number 576301. The POCON hard rubber dater saw heavy use in preference to the steel split-ring hammer during the late 1980s until the post office was changed to a franchised office.

On February 12, 1992, this post office became a Type B franchise located in the Ma-Me-O Beach General Store, and received a POCON dater numbered 074330. Effective April 1, 1995, this franchise was terminated and a new one established with the Ma-Me-O Beach Esso Service Station. Because of the change in ownership of the franchise, a new POCON was issued, number 171069. The old dater 074330 was used until AP 7/95. As with most of the recently issued POCON daters, it is noticeably larger in size, measuring 44 mm wide by 34 mm tall. Note the name change from 'Beach' to 'Village' with this change of franchise.



THE WATER CARD STORY

by Perry Holinshead

In 1908, Parliament appropriated \$10,000 for the purpose of gauging streams and determining the water supply of southern Alberta and Saskatchewan. Work began in 1909 under the direction of P.M. Sauder of the Department of the Interior, headquartered in Calgary.

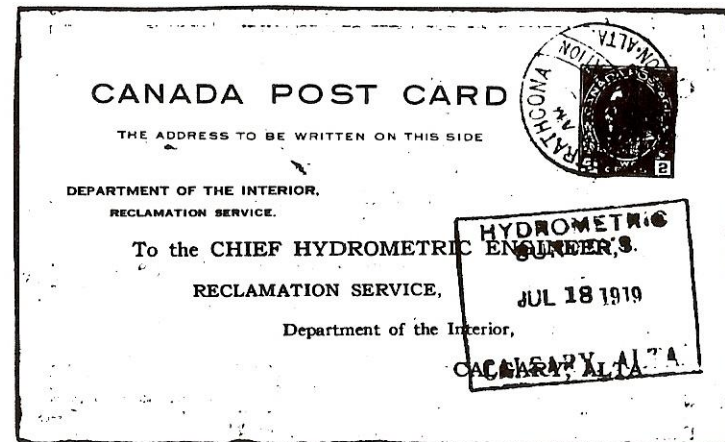
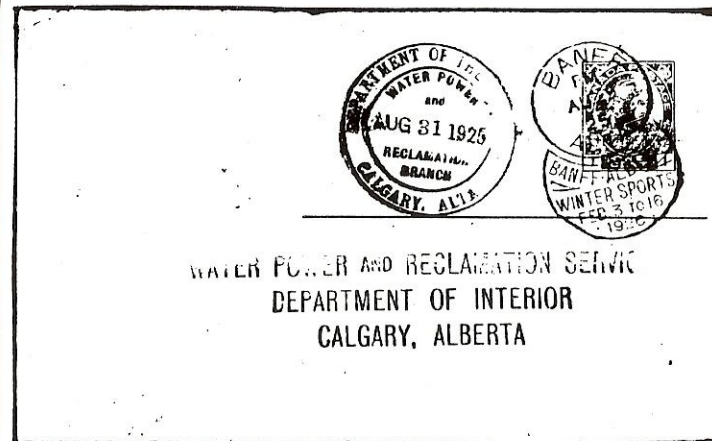
When a gauge was established it was a simple manually read type. Satisfactory continuous recorders were not readily available until about 1935. Of necessity, locations were chosen where local people could be employed to take readings once or twice a day. These observers were issued with cards and books with which to record their readings. The cards covered one week while the books covered three months. The books were to be the official record, while the cards were to be mailed in each week to provide an interim record to keep the Calgary office informed. When a season's record had been computed for publication, the cards could be destroyed as long as the books contained all pertinent information. However, the cards were not destroyed but instead were kept on file for many years. It was not until the late 1960s, when storage space became at a premium that it was decided to get rid of them. At this time several large garbage cans full of these cards went to the landfill. For some reason or other, three cartons were overlooked and remained in the office. It was early in 1976 that I was asked if I wanted to have them.

There were basically several areas of philatelic interest involved, namely postal stationery, Alberta post office cancels, RPOs, flag cancels and slogan cancels. The approximate time era involved was 1915 to 1965. About 30% or 40% of the cards were of little or no interest, being either too common, machine-cancelled, or damaged. I became particularly intrigued when cancels of Fareham, Pruden's Crossing, and Waterton Mills showed up. Where were these places which could not be found on any maps?

A glance at the back of the Pruden's Crossing card revealed that it had been from the observer of the station on the Smoky River at Prudent's Crossing. The name of that station is now Smoky River at Watino. A quick check in the Water Survey of Canada files revealed enough information to form the basis for a short article about this post office, which appeared in the September 1987 issue of Calgary STAMPede. Since then, more information has come to light. It may be interesting to rewrite this at a future date.

It will be very surprising if cancels of Pruden's Crossing, Fareham, and Waterton Mills show up on any items other than these water cards. On the next page are two interesting cards. One depicts a commemorative cancel for the 1926 Banff Winter Sports festival. The other is a nice Strathcona Edmonton cancel.

[continued next page]



STAMP DAY 95

Sunday, April 30, saw Stamp Day go at the Chinese Cultural Centre downtown. There were sixteen dealers in the bourse, a one-frame challenge exhibition (see below for results), and the club activities table. The activities table had the circuit books, private-treaty books, and 2¢/5¢ table, respectively operated by Ernie Bell, Dave Voss, and the Munros. The huge pile of stamps were 2¢ for juniors and 5¢ for adults, and were popular as they are every year.

Results of the One-Frame Challenge are as follow.

Grand: David Piercey (the Royal Family on Newfoundland stamps)

Gold: Chris Miller (Mohammad-ali issues of Iran)
John Taylor (New Zealand pigeon post)

Silver: Don Wilson (Australian ship mail)
Jack Wallace (Barnard expresses)
Gray Scrimgeour (Athabaska)
John Taylor (New Zealand 1909 - 1927)
Ed Harris (art covers)

Bronze: 'Feste' (satire)
Ursac Mircea (Commonwealth Games)
Joseph Smith (Jubilee postal cards)
Joseph Smith (Jubilee cancels)
Daniel Drewe (Churchill)
Hugh Delaney (QE2 Canada definitives)

Certificate: Chris Miller (evolution)
Leslie Clinton (Salvation Army)
Mike McPhail (Houses of Parliament)
Ursac Mircea (Barcelona Olympics)
Susan Sheffield (Muskoka)

Non-Competitive: Pat Bates (manic-depressives)
Ann McIntyre (A Philatelic Dilettante)
Alex Price (CPR)
Hugh Delaney (Canada rivers)
William Pawluk (Canada rates 1897-1911)
Gray Scrimgeour (Klondyke)

Behind the stage curtain at the show venue was a refreshment table for dealers and volunteers, courtesy, we are told, of Bob Monilaws. And a hearty handshake to Don Wilson, Hugh Delaney, Phil Wolf, and many others for their part in the show. Apologies to anyone not mentioned; we neglected to get a list.

Got your exhibits ready for CALTAPEX this October?

CALGARY BNAPSERS A BUSY BUNCH

The Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society meet second Wednesdays at the Museum of the Regiments. The March 8 meeting had a talk by Ed Harris on "Fifty Years in the Philatelic Zoo", a series of interesting anecdotes about his collections. The April 12 meeting programme was presented by Arno Kolster about his Centennial Definitives collection. There are a huge variety of items to collect in this field, something for everyone, and most of it still relatively cheap. After each programme there is a show-and-tell session, where members bring some interesting item to be explained and passed around the table. When the BNAPSers are done the formal part of the evening, many of them adjourn to a nearby café for late evening chat, some of it even on philately.

On Friday April 28 and Saturday the 29th, the Calgary BNAPSers held their annual spring meet at the International Hotel. Friday night was a get-acquainted session and registration in the hospitality suite. Refreshments were kindly sponsored by Bow City Philatelics. Later in the evening, groups of BNAPSers split off to various restaurants. The hotel is on the edge of Chinatown, so there was no lack of eating places.

Saturday was a day of seminars and various events, beginning with coffee and pastries. (Thanks to Keith Brown of Clyde Vincett Ltd. for defraying the cost.) Seminars were given by Joe Smith, Rocky Mountain House (Jubilee postal cards), Bill Pawluk, Calgary (Maple Leaf issues), Gray Scrimgeour, Victoria (Klondyke gold rush), Bob Bayes, Vancouver (Special Delivery), and Ron Leith, Abbotsford (blackout cancels). Keith Spencer also gave a progress report on BNAPEX 95, coming up on the Labour Day weekend in Edmonton.

The various events aforementioned were a silent auction, BNAPS circuit books, and a clothesline exhibit show-and-tell session. These were looked after by respectively Jim Taylor, Bill Wilson, and Mel Boone. Jim Karr was at the registration table, and Hugh Delaney and Bill Pawluk co-chaired. Arno Kolster organized the audiovisual equipment. The doyen of Calgary philately, Ed Harris, was as usual everywhere.

In the evening there was a banquet at the hotel, with after-dinner speaker Julius Szekrenyes. Thanks to the Calgary Stamp Shop for footing the wine bill.

Following on was the regular May meeting on the 10th. Jim Karr was the presenter, his programme being on railway post offices and stations. He illustrated his talk with sample postmarks and covers, as well as postcards depicting the many beautiful railway stations. Too many of them, alas, have been demolished and replaced by ugly concrete or glass-curtain buildings.

SUPER STAMP SHOW 1995

at

West Edmonton Mall

Convention Complex — Above Golf Course
Edmonton Alberta Canada

September 1, 2 & 3

- ▶ Dealers
- ▶ Exhibits
- ▶ Seminars
- ▶ Appraisals
- ▶ Youth Activities
- ▶ New Post Issues

Dealers, Collectors & Exhibitors
Enquiries Welcome!

Information



Super Stamp Show
Edmonton Stamp Club
Post Office Box 399
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 2J6
(403) 437-1787

Presented by BNAPS and the Edmonton Stamp Club

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 September 6 for the October bulletin.

SALE OR TRADE: I have Canada, USA, UN, mint and used plate blocks, FDCs, ship cancellations, town cancels. Some good foreign material. Call Mack at 640-2185.

FOR SALE: Worldwide stamp collection. 16,000 stamps in two albums. \$1200 or best offer. Single stamps 35 for \$1 and up. Call Lu at 242-8199.

WANTED, TRADE, OR SELL: Yukon and NWT covers. Interested in covers from the 1940s to the present. Phone Georg at 547-0409.

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 FDCs, mint stamps, and corner blocks. I need centre blocks and hologram stamps and sheets, also some better German and Chinese stamps. Phone 242-8199 and ask for Lu.

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

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

FOR TRADE: Canada, USA, UN, mint and/or used and plates. Also France, UK, and Vatican, to trade for some countries of western Europe. Call Jean Maltais at 541-1541.

FOR SALE: 900 envelopes all different town cancels, Alberta only from A to L towns and cities, 1960-70 years. British Colonial sets MLH from 1959 to 1979. Contact Bob Perry at auctions or meetings, or phone 282-4520.

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS IN 1995

June	7		Election meeting
	21		Auction
	28		Auction
September	6		General meeting
	6		Deadline for October bulletin
	20		Auction
	27		Auction
October	4		General meeting
	13 to 15		CALTAPEX
	18		Auction
	25		Auction
November	1		General meeting
	1		Deadline for December bulletin
	15		Auction
	22		Auction
December	6		Wine and cheese party

MEETINGS and AUCTIONS are at Kerby Centre, 2nd floor, 1133 - 7 Ave SW at 730 pm. Auction lots should be in before 730 pm to allow bidder viewing.

CALTAPEX is at the Chinese Cultural Centre, 197 First Street SW. Details from Don Wilson at 284-4479.

STUDY GROUPS

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

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

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