

CALGARY PHILATELIST

June 1996

Issue #18



Stamp Day 96 was held at the Chinese Cultural Centre on April 28. These photos show the venue and a group of volunteers putting their backs into it as 102 frames go up. Details inside this issue.



It's not too late to start thinking about CALTAPEX 96. Get your exhibits ready, then get ready to volunteer and have some fun.



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 1995-96 season are \$12, plus a \$5 initiation fee for new members.

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Programs	vacant	
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- ROYAL 97	Hugh Delaney	255-0422
Sunday bourse	Walter Jackson	242-4128
Publicity	Peter Smith	284-4920

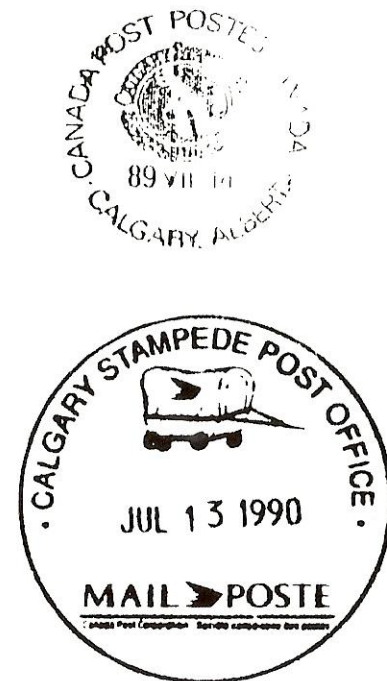
THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE STAMPEDE HANDSTAMP by Dale Speirs

People go to the world's largest rodeo each year for a variety of reasons. Some like the animals in the livestock display, others watch all the infield events, the kids roam the midway rides, and many never look at a cow or horse, preferring to spend their time in the casino. For a number of years my favourite Stampede sport was Spot-The-Post-Office, and victory was proven by actually getting a Stampede postmark.

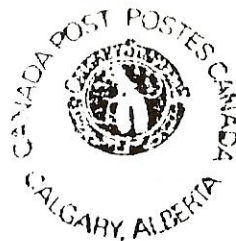
Many years ago, in fact within living memory of senior citizens, there was a post office on the grounds of the Calgary Stampede, where one could get a nice hand cancel. This was discontinued for a while, then later revived in much attenuated form. In 1989, Canada Post had a tent at the south end of the grounds, next to the pin-trading tent. If there was any publicity about it, I certainly missed it; I found it only because I happened to glance into the tent as I walked by to the pin traders. As I looked in, I saw two posties standing idly behind the counter waiting for customers. I went in on a chance and discovered that yes, there was a commemorative cancel for the Stampede. It was black ink and 31 mm diameter.

In 1990, the Canada Post tent was absent. After much searching, I discovered a souvenir outlet acting as a paler version of a Retail Postal Outlet, and asked for the commemorative cancel. The clerk, a teenaged sweet young thing, had no idea what I was talking about, but eventually communication was established, and I got the 1990 Stampede cancel. It was in black ink and 48 mm diameter.

Publicity for the 1991 Stampede mentioned that all the souvenir stands would have the commemorative cancels. On this basis, I proceeded to the same stand where I had gotten last year's cancel. There was a different sweet young thing there, and she knew what I was talking about when I asked for the cancel. Unfortunately, she didn't have one there. I was directed to the Roundup Centre, which



did have it. In fact, I saw the rubber handstamp sitting on a table behind the cash register. Having bought some postcards, I asked the clerk for cancels on them. She was confused (she might have been the sweet young thing from 1990; I don't remember faces well). However, her fellow sales clerk knew what I was on about, and obliged with the handstamp. The 1991 cancel was in red ink, undated (not even the year), and had shrunk to 30 mm diameter.



In 1992, I saw no sign of any cancel, nor did any of the clerks know about it, so I am surmising that 1991 was the last year of the handstamp.

POSTIE, GET YOUR GUN by Leanteri Polvikoski

Philatelists have found their way onto the Internet in increasing numbers, and if you run a search for the word 'philately', you will have no trouble finding sites. Organizations such as APS and BNAPS have pages, dealers have discovered it a great way to display material in colour for the price of a scanner, and some individual philatelists are putting up pages. Recently I stumbled across one Web page that your search engine won't find under 'philately'. "The Disgruntled Postal Worker Zone" comes from the United States at <http://www.well.com/user/ecp/index.html> and alternates between comedy and horror as it discusses staff problems at the USPS. The Web page starts off with a piece of fiction "Scrooged Again?" by Matthew Pitagora, which got him fired by the USPS on January 27, 1996. The story is about USPS managers and not at all kind to them.

The horrifying part is the section of true stories of posties killing each other. Not just one or twice a year, but monthly across the nation, posties with an attitude walk into their workplace with a gun and criminal intent. I wouldn't work in a USPS sorting plant on a bet. The list of murdered posties scrolls on and on.

In the That's-Not-Funny-That's-Sick category is a display of buttons such as the one that reads "Disgruntled? Ask Me About It!". Also, one postie complains about the stereotyped phrase "disgruntled postal worker", which has long since passed into the English language as a cliché. The postie wants to know why one never hears happy workers referred to as 'gruntled', and why the news media always use that phrase to describe the latest rampage.

"The Disgruntled Postal Worker Zone" may not be philatelic but it is postal history. Will we see a writeup in AMERICAN PHILATELIST someday the way they might run an article on WW2 postal history?

POSTAL HISTORY PORTRAYED ON STAMPS by Phyllis Weston

The event in the stamp world which seemed most appropriate for depiction on stamps was the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black. It was not surprising that when 1990 arrived the postal authorities of many countries gave themselves wholeheartedly to designing stamps to commemorate the day in 1840 when the first adhesive postage stamp made its debut.

In order to appreciate the stamp designs of 1990, one must know a little about the story behind the Penny Black. The first stamp design was chosen by competition, the winner using a medal designed by William Wyon. The stamp was issued on May 6, 1840.

The Isle of Man issued a commemorative strip of five including the medal itself, the Wyon design hand-drawn, an engine-turned essay by Perkins Bacon, the actual Penny Black, and the tuppence blue issued somewhat later than the first postage stamps.

Czechoslovakia also used the hand-drawn design, with an attractive portrait of Sir Rowland Hill as well as a Penny Black, all on a small souvenir sheet. It appealed to me particularly because when it comes to souvenir sheets "small is beautiful". Rowland Hill was the man behind the Penny Black. On his advice, the British Parliament passed a bill authorizing a half-ounce letter to be carried anywhere in England for one penny. It was the first event of the Industrial Revolution to benefit the poor, and enabled them for the first time to communicate with loved ones who lived at a distance.

Guyana, innovative when it came to this anniversary of the Penny Black, issued a sheet which also celebrated the 500th anniversary of postal delivery in the area of the Holy Roman Empire, first by the Taxis family and later by the House of Thurn and Taxis. The sheet goes beyond the designated area, showing postal delivery in Russia, Baden, Zurich, London to India, and finally including the American Pony Express and the desert postman on his camel.

To digress briefly, Rowland Hill was the subject of many stamp issues on the centenary of his death in 1979. Most of these show a rather dour gentleman with sideburns sitting at his desk. My favourite is the 25¢ Dominica stamp showing the head and shoulders of a cheerful man more like Mr. Fezziwig of Dickens' CHRISTMAS CAROL.

Back to the Penny Black, Great Britain issued a few definitives in 1990 showing the profiles of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II, one partly covering the other. The souvenir sheet was really splendid with Britannia, her trident and shield, and spirited horses plunging through the waves. There was a sheetlet of eight definitives with some of the new ones and one each of another innovation where the usual rates were replaced by '1st' and '2nd'. In the centre of the sheet is an advertising label of the logo for Stamp World '90, a world exhibition held in London.

[continued next page]

Another of my favourites was the Samoan souvenir sheet, showing the Penny Black and the Alexandra Palace, the site of Stamp World '90. The Tolelau Islands issued a souvenir sheet which could be regarded as a symbol of the old meeting the new. The sheet certainly belongs to stamps of today. It shows a Penny Black in a scene of tropical beauty with, in the foreground, a native standing beside his canoe. The sheet is modern, the transportation belongs to an early period, but is obviously part of today in those islands.

There are many more interesting examples of stamps commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black. You undoubtedly have some to which you return with pleasure as I do mine.

BNAPS CALGARY SPRING REGIONAL MEETING

As in past years, the Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society hosted its Spring Regional Meeting, drawing BNAPS members from throughout Alberta, British Columbia, and Washington. The event started Friday night (April 26) with a hospitality suite at the International Hotel, followed by a no-host dinner. Saturday was a full day beginning at 8 am. The seminars moved to a new venue, the Metropolitan Centre (the former Calgary Place theatre). With Ed Harris acting as M.C., we heard talks by Jim Karr (Postmarks of Alberta), Bob Lee (The Future of the Auction Business), Jack Wallace (B.C. express covers), Susan Sheffield (P.O. losses by fire), and Alec Unwin (trans-Pacific mails). Susan has broken new ground in postal history by looking at when post offices suddenly changed postmark hammers, then checking P.O. records to see why. She showed her preliminary results demonstrating that fires were strongly correlated to hammer changes and postmaster resignations. Most impressive, and it made the audience realize that there are lots of untrod fields in postal history. Alec Unwin's talk on the mails moving across the Pacific a century ago was livened up when he came to the podium dressed in a gentleman's outfit of that age, wearing a derby, cut-away jacket, and spats!

After the seminars, there was a show-and-tell session, with Jack Wallace, John Powell, and Joe Smith showing some interesting additions to their collections. During the day, in the intervals between the talks, attendees browsed through cover boxes and BNAPS circuit books. In the evening was a banquet, with John Arn as guest speaker.

Many thanks go to local dealers who helped defray the cost of the Spring Regional: Bow City Philatelics (Bruce Craw), Stamp Shop (Hans Steinbok), Clyde Vincett (Keith Brown), and Select Stamps & Covers (Phil Wolf). Organizing the event were Ed Harris, Hugh Delaney, Jim Karr, Arno Kolster, Jim Taylor, and Bill Wilson. Attendance at the seminars was 23 (most from outside Calgary) and 32 at the banquet. All told, one of the best Spring Regionals yet!

MESSAGE TO THE MEMBERSHIP by the CPS Executive

This is an open letter to all members of the CPS, asking you to all participate in a survey for the purpose of getting ideas and suggestions that will help your Executive improve and expand all of our club activities. As you are aware, we had to cancel one of our meeting nights, as our revenue was not keeping up with our expenditures. We would be like the ostrich with its head in the sand if in 1997 or '98 we would not be faced with a rent increase.

Every year we hold Stamp Day in April and CALTAPEX in the fall. We would like to see more members participating in these events and more assistance given to our regular volunteers. The CPS is making plans to host the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada national convention in 1997. We already have about 16 hardworking Committee heads, however each of these people need two or three assistants to help them. The main concerns are Security, the Junior Table, the Circuit Books, and the Private Treaty Books.

Bruce Craw of Bow City Philatelics Ltd. has suggested that all members who submit a survey report have their names put into a hat and drawn for prizes. Bruce will donate a couple of prizes for this event. Bob Monilaws has volunteered to keep track of the survey and to record the names for the prize draw. Bob also volunteered to donate a couple of prizes.

We do not want your names on the survey. Just put it along with your membership number on a separate piece of paper, and give it to Bob at one of the meetings or mail it to him at 1062 Regal Crescent NE, Calgary, T2E 5H1. A tentative date for the draw will be the first meeting in November so we ask you all to take a little time and fill out the survey in order to help us promote the advancement of our club.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Your opinion please, whether good, bad, or indifferent on:

BUSINESS MEETING

WALL AUCTION (SILENT AUCTION)

REGULAR AUCTION

PRIVATE TREATY BOOKS

CIRCUIT BOOKS

CHRISTMAS PARTY

STAMP DAY

ANY OTHER COMMENTS?

STAMP DAY 96

The annual spring show of the CPS is Stamp Day, this year on April 28. For once, the weather co-operated, and there was a good turnout. Minaz Ramji, Don Wilson, and numerous volunteers set up the dealer bourse and a record 102 frames in the exhibit area. Your editor neglected to get other names of volunteers who worked on the hospitality area, club table, and behind the scenes, but many thanks to them.

The exhibition was non-competitive this year. Displays were as follow.

Jim Karr (Railway postmarks of B.C.)
 Susan Sheffield (Muskoka postal history)
 Joe Smith (Prairie cancellations)
 John Powell (Charing Cross squared-circle postmarks)
 Mike Burrington (Occupied Channel Islands)
 Don Wilson (EPOs from Australian states)
 Ken Ellison (B.C. illustrated covers)
 John Arn (First Canadian UPU)
 Mitchell Ursac (Summer Olympics)
 Frans Rummens (Surinam overprints and provisionals)
 Ken Ellison (B.C. hotel covers)
 Bill Wilson (Edward VII rates)
 Mitchell Ursac (Textiles)
 Frans Rummens (Nederlands Child Welfare stamps)
 Ken Ellison (Canadian Army in Jamaica)
 Travis Haugen (Canada 1¢ Small Queen)
 Angie Andels (British Royal Family)
 Fitz Roett (Barbados)
 Don Wilson (Australia ship mail)
 Jack Wallace (B.C. express covers)
 Jim Taylor (St. Pierre & Miquelon)
 Don Wilson (Victoria travelling posts)
 John Arn (Elizabethan Study Group of BNPAS)
 Alec Unwin (Pacific mail - colour photocopies)
 Peter Smith (Diana and the dragons)
 Pat Bates (Madness and melancholy)
 Ed Harris (Prairie pioneer post offices)
 John Powell (What to do with Reader's Digest mail)
 Joe Smith (Jubilee postcards)
 Pat Bates (Serbia)
 David Piercey (North Atlantic fisheries)
 Hugh Delaney (43¢ Queen)
 Dale Speirs (Postal history of Calgary Olympics)

BNAPSERS IN COWTOWN

With barely time to recover from their Spring Regional Meeting, the Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society had their regular monthly meeting on May 8. Members viewed BNAPS circuit books before and after the meeting. If you are seriously interested in Canadian stamps and postal history, these circuit books may be of interest. They are not at every Calgary meeting but BNAPS members can get them on private account as well.

The May programme was by Bill Pawluk on covers. "What is a perfect cover?" was the question he dealt with. He talked about what to look for in a cover, reading between the lines of auction catalogues, and when to settle for less, if at all. Bill passed around covers illustrating points in his talk, such as obviously philatelic covers which nonetheless have interesting cancels, and registered covers with no receiving backstamps.

After the programme was the usual show-and-tell, going around the room as attendees showed some interesting stamp or cover. Most of the show-and-tell items are related to the evening's programme, but this is not an obligation, and members can bring along any BNA item. After the meeting is over, some members go out to a local coffee shop before finally wending their way homeward, so it can be quite a night of philatelic conversation and fellowship if you work at it.

The Calgary Regional Group meets second Wednesdays except July and August at the Museum of the Regiments. The Museum is off Crowchild Trail at Flanders Avenue; enter at the south end of the building. Meetings start at 730 pm.

BNA philately is often thought of as learned scholars droning on about stamps that cost \$1000 a copy, but in fact most BNAPSers collect less expensive stuff. Modern Canada is a popular subject for discussion; get in on the ground floor and specialize in what will be the rarities of the future. Popular topics at the moment are the Centennial definitives, spray-on slogan postmarks, and Retail Postal Outlets.

The Calgary Regional Group is always looking for new recruits, so come out to their meetings. If you're a bit shy of walking into a group of strangers, give Ed Harris a call at 274-0021 for details.

DUES ARE DUE!

Paid up for last year? Want to pay up for next year? See Al Gibbs at the meetings and make his life easier as Membership Chairman.

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 August 3 for the August bulletin.

WANTED: Postmarks of western Canada on cover, piece, or stamp. Phone Al at 282-1030.

FOR SALE: Selling off my Canadian and USA collections. Mint and used Can. Provinces, cat. value \$1100, sell for \$400 o.b.o. Mint and used Can. from 1870-1984, cat. value \$2450, sell at \$1200 o.b.o. Mint Canada from 1984-1991, cat. value \$264, face \$140, sell \$150 o.b.o. Recent Canada quarterly pre-packs, sell at face + GST. Recent Canada mint singles or blocks, sell at face + GST. Mint and used USA from 1851-1972, cat. value \$4630, sell at \$2400 o.b.o. Mint and used USA airmail and misc. 1918-1983, cat. value \$564, sell for \$250 o.b.o. Recent USA mint booklets/panes, face US\$42.52, sell for \$57 o.b.o. Phone Dave at 239-3886

WANTED: Centennial issue covers addressed to foreign destinations, no USA or UK please. Price individually, as a batch, or ask me 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: "History of the Calgary Philatelic Society" book for \$2 each, from Dale Speirs at the meetings. Mail orders add an extra \$2 for postage and remit to CPS, Box 6830, Calgary, T2P 2E7.

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

WANTED: Volunteers for CALTAPEX 96 and ROYAL 97. We are looking for new people who have not been actively involved before. Contact Hugh Delaney at 255-0422 or see him at meetings.

ELECTION MEETING

The June 5 meeting is the AGM of the club, at which time elections will take place. We are always looking for new recruits to help run the club. Why not start off as a Director or committee member and find out how much fun and friendliness is involved in running the club. We particularly need Show Committee people.

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

1996

June	5		Election meeting
	19		Auction
August	3		Deadline for August bulletin
September	4		General meeting
	4		Deadline for October bulletin
	18		Auction
October	2		General meeting
	16		Auction
	18 to 20		CALTAPEX 96
November	6		General meeting
	6		Deadline for January bulletin
	20		Auction
December	4		Christmas social

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.

MEMBERSHIP DUES can be mailed to the Membership Chairman, Box 1478, Calgary, T2P 2L6, or handed to Al Gibbs at the meetings. If you mail them to the editorial address at Box 6830, this will delay your mail as much as two months.

CALGARY REGIONAL GROUP of British North America Philatelic Society meets second Wednesdays at the Museum of the Regiments (enter at south end of building). Details from Arno Kolster at 284-4239.

WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC PARTY #1 was celebrated on May 6, 1996, at 9 pm local time. If you participated, send an account to the Editor.