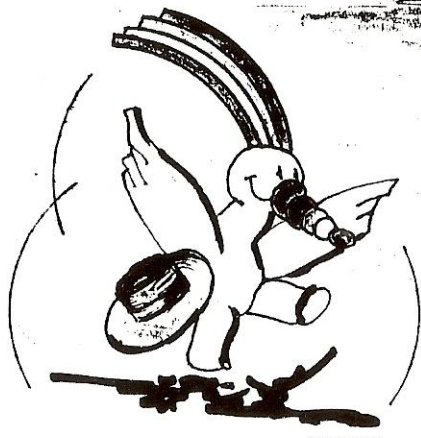
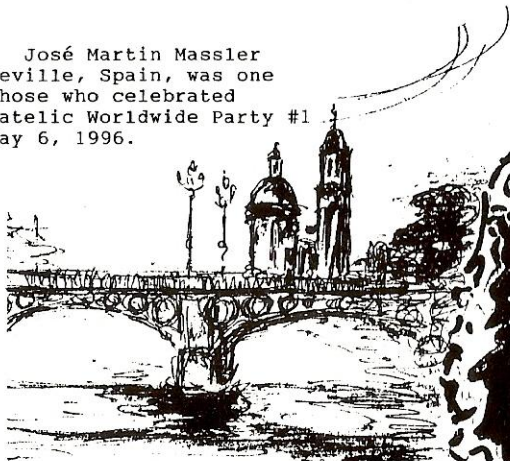


# CALGARY PHILATELIST

August 1996

Issue #19

Olé! José Martin Massler  
of Seville, Spain, was one  
of those who celebrated  
Philatelic Worldwide Party #1  
on May 6, 1996.





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Articles or advertisements should be submitted to the Editor, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7. Small ads are free to paidup members of the CPS. Display ads are \$10 per full page per issue, for camera-ready copy (photographs extra charge). No partial-page ads accepted.

The CPS was founded in 1922 by Dr. Edward George Mason. It is Chapter 66 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, and Chapter 1360 of the American Philatelic Society. The CPS may be contacted at Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6.

Membership dues for the 1996-97 season are \$12, plus a \$5 initiation fee for new members. Mail to Membership Chairman, Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6.

#### 1996-97 EXECUTIVE

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| Library           | Penny Borrowman | 247-1525 |
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#### DARTMOOR LETTERBOXES

by Pat Silver

In England, the word 'letterbox' usually conjures up a picture of a round, cast iron, red-painted box standing on the street corner, or a similar red box set into a wall. Far from this, the Dartmoor letterbox is a quite different thing. If ever you visit Dartmoor in the West of England you are liable to come across people wandering around looking under rocks and behind walls. What they are looking for is a 'letterbox', a tin or box containing a visitors' book into which they will write their name, and a rubber stamp which they will apply to their own book. Over the last 20 years the sport has grown enormously, and there are now hundreds of these boxes scattered about the Moor, and clue books published to help one find them. It might sound easy, but the Moor is 365 square miles of wild and often boggy moorland, and finding a small box hidden under one of thousands of rocks in an area is no easy task.

The first Dartmoor letterbox was merely a bottle stuck in the bank at Cranmere Pool in 1854. To call it a pool is something of a misnomer as there is no open water there; rather, it is an even wetter and boggy depression in one of the wettest parts of the Moor. Even today it is not an easy walk, and Victorian gentlemen (and the occasional lady) were justifiably proud of their achievement, and recorded the fact by leaving their calling cards in the bottle. By 1888 the bottle had been replaced by a tin box, then in 1905 a visitors' book was placed in the box. Before long it became fashionable to leave a stamped, self-addressed postcard in the box that the next person to visit would remove and put into a normal post-box when they returned from their expedition. The tradition grew that the card should be posted in the finder's home town.

This fashion still exists to some extent, particularly with the old boxes, but most boxes now contain only a visitors' book and a rubber stamp. I have received a card from Belgium, the finder having added Belgian stamps to cover the postage. The rubber stamps are often beautifully designed. Many have a Dartmoor connection. For example, that on Fox Tor is a picture of a fox, while that on Cuckoo Rock is predictably a cuckoo. Others bear pictures of Dartmoor ponies, Devon pixies, wildflowers, etc.

Even stranger are 'moving boxes' and 'travellers'. A moving box is exactly that. It resides alongside a fixed box with the instruction that the finder should pick it up and leave it with the next box she/he visits. A traveller is even stranger. It lives in the rucksack of an enthusiast who will produce it on request. This does sometimes result in non-letterboxers being confused by being asked "Do you have a traveller?", as the only way to find them is to ask everyone you pass. One of my favourites resides with the ice cream van that plies its wares in the tourist car parks.

-4-

Anyone may place a letterbox on the Moor. Clues to its existence may be spread via the clue books, by leaving clues in other boxes, or by leaving clues in the books held by village pubs on the edge of the Moor. Some boxes remain for years, the owner occasionally renewing the visitors' book. Others are there for only a few weeks. Still others are put out as memorials to Moor lovers who have died or are no longer able to visit.

Many regular letterboxers have their own personal stamps made and are known by their stamps or nicknames. Mine is of a little pig, and I am known as the Bristol Bog-trotter. Twice a year there is a gathering at Princetown, the little town in the middle of the Moor that is home to the notorious Dartmoor Prison, and one of the best microbreweries around. It is great fun to meet people whom you have only previously known as 'The Moor-ons', the 'Tor-Mentors' or similar.

For a while during the 1970s, local newspapers expressed disquiet, and the Dartmoor Park Authority became concerned that letterboxers might damage the area. Fortunately the vast majority of letterboxers are outdoor enthusiasts with a deep regard for the Moor, and most of the boxes require a certain amount of effort to reach. Overall, little harm has been done. Letterboxers often take it upon themselves to remove litter and report possible problems to the Park Rangers, the alliance proving beneficial to both parties. There are only three permanent boxes on the Moor, at Cranmere, Ducks Pool, and on Fur Tor. All the rest are simply reasonably watertight containers of some sort. By the agreed rules, boxes must not be placed in an ancient monument (Dartmoor is littered with stone circles, burial mounds, etc.) nor where damage might be caused to the environment by walkers looking for the box.

There is some competition as to who can find the most boxes, and badges are issued to anyone who can produce evidence of having found 100 boxes. Even with clue boxes this is not an easy task. There is no other reward; the whole thing is just for fun.

For more information or clue books, contact:  
 Godfrey Swinscow, Cross Farm, Diptford, Totnes, Devon TQ9 7NU, England  
 or  
 Tony Moore, 25 Sanderspool Cross, South Brent, Devon TQ10 9LR, England

[Editor's note: Pat Silver may be contacted at 111 Weston Road, Long Ashton, Bristol BS18 9AE, or via [psilver@cix.compulink.co.uk](mailto:psilver@cix.compulink.co.uk). I happened to see a letter by Pat in a science fiction fanzine which mentioned letterboxing in passing. This sounded so fascinating I wrote to Pat and asked if it might be written up for CALGARY PHILATELIST. Pat also designs cross-stitch pictures, some of which are of local letterboxes, in case some reader might be interested.]

# PHILATELIC WORLDWIDE PARTY #1 by Dale Speirs

In 1994, a science fiction fan named Benoit Girard (Cap Rouge, Québec) invented the Worldwide Party, repeated with further success in 1995, and helped along by the enthusiasm of Franz Miklis (Nussdorf, Austria). The Worldwide Party was held on June 21st, arbitrarily chosen because it is the summer solstice. The idea is that at 9 p.m. local time fans will raise a glass and toast their fellow hobbyists around the world. The idea is to get a wave circling the world, with fans toasting one another in the spirit of fellowship.

I wrote to a number of philatelic periodicals and suggested that stamp collectors adopt this idea. The obvious date for a Philatelic Worldwide Party is May 6, the anniversary of the first postage stamp in 1840. I therefore asked philatelists to take time on May 6 at 9 p.m. local time and celebrate. I was pleasantly surprised by the range of responses I got.

Firstly, for myself I celebrated quietly at home, since I had to be up early in the morning for work, thus no loud party to the small hours of the morning. As it was snowing at the time, my original plan of celebrating out in my yard was revised to standing in the kitchen with a glass of Coca-Cola (I am a teetotaler). At 9 p.m. Calgary time, I faced east and toasted philatelists ahead of me in the time zones and thanked them for celebrating Worldwide Party #1. Then I turned about and toasted those to the west who would be celebrating in an hour's time. Finally, in quick succession, I faced south and north and toasted those in my own time zone.

Over the next few days and weeks, I got letters from others who took part in the Philatelic Worldwide Party #1. I print them as follows.

FROM: Paul Schrader  
 1822 Mary Court  
 Placerville, California 95667-6036  
 1996-5-13

In response to Dale Speirs' call for a Worldwide Party on May 6, I raised my glass and toasted the hobby and my fellow collectors. Only my wife and I were present as I don't know any other collectors where I live. I would be interested to know how many collectors participated. Happy collecting!

FROM: George Wren  
 9421 Pancho Drive  
 Saint Louis, Missouri 63123  
 1996-5-7

As 9 p.m. approached last evening, Jeannine and I were seated before a gentle blaze in our fireplace room. I opened and poured our champagne and precisely at nine, we stood as I offered the toast "To stamp collectors of the world - past, present, and future". To which Jeannine responded "Hear, hear!".

Jeannine is not a stamp collector but she is a good listener, so she mostly listened as I reminisced through my 62 years of being a stamp collector. Ghostly figures from the past slipped in and joined us. The fellow high school student whose collection led me into the hobby, and all of my many stamp collector friends and colleagues, now gone, were there in our fireplace room. Old-time collectors and dealers and writers and judges and club secretaries. I offered a second toast. "To stamp club and society secretaries everywhere. God bless them all." "Hear, hear! God bless them".

I remembered and spoke of every stamp club and society to which I had ever belonged, fourteen in all. And of the shows I had attended, from small local events in a YMCA cafeteria to huge international exhibitions in splendid venues. And finally there came to my mind some other of my old stamp collecting friends. All of the stamp collections I had formed and owned. Where is my first small red cover Scott Worldwide album now? All but two of those collections are also ghosts now. The fire had dimmed to a few red embers. I sat there in silence. Dear Jeannine sat silently also. Only the ghosts talked.

FROM: Cheryl Ganz  
Box A3843  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-3843

1996-5-9

May 6 is a very special day each year for me, so it is no problem to add a toast at 9 p.m. to salute fellow stamp collectors around the world. I have met wonderful collectors worldwide, many of whom have become great lifelong friends, through my collecting and researching of Zeppelin posts.

May 6 is the anniversary of the LZ129 Hindenburg disaster. This great Zeppelin airship met its fate at Lakehurst, New Jersey, as it approached for landing during its first flight to North America in 1937. Weather delayed the landing and may have been a cause in the tragedy, which remains unsolved. 62 people on board survived the inferno, but 13 passengers, 22 crew members, and 1 ground crewman died. Of the 17,609 pieces of mail on board, only 357 philatelic items are believed to have survived. A Hindenburg crash cover is a prized item for Zeppelin collectors and aerophilatelists.

Frequently on May 6, I invite a few family or friends over. I prepare the dinner served on the final flight of the Hindenburg. It is my tribute to airship and Zeppelin history, the pathfinders of airmail routes, the crews, passengers, and those who perished. My version of the dinner includes a cream soup, asparagus wrapped in smoked ham brushed with a touch of melted butter, sauteed veal cutlet, boiled new potatoes, creamed cucumber salad, a fruit compote, wine, and coffee. My guests receive a Hindenburg reproduction ticket as an invitation, have a copy of the original menu at their place setting, and have their napkin folded inside a reproduction of a Hindenburg napkin holder. Henceforth, we will toast at 9 p.m..

FROM: José Martin Massler  
Apartado 545  
41080 Sevilla, Spain

1996-4-16

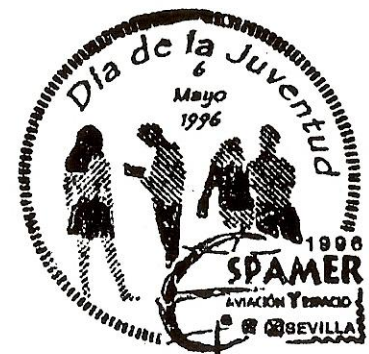
As the Philatelic Program Director for the CIC and since we have an international FIP sponsored exhibition here in Seville from 4-12 May, the night of 6 May, the CIC President and I have invited the head of the Argentine Postal Services, our local President of La Sociedad Filatelica Sevillana, and the President of the Argentine Philatelic Societies for an evening of flamenco. At 21h00 local time, I shall call for all present to raise their glasses.

[Editor: The card sent by Sr. Martin is shown on the cover. Below is an Espamer 96 commemorative postmark dated May 6, with part of the reverse side of the card also shown.]

¡SALUDOS! CHEERS!



de from



FROM: Sakari Turunen  
Tanhuankatu 5  
FIN-20540 Turku  
Finland

1996-7-1

It was a fine idea to support the idea of Benoit Girard of a worldwide party on the summer solstice. In Finland, it has been a centuries-old, pagan custom to celebrate the midnight sun with a bonfire on that very day. See the enclosed stamp below. So it was an easy thing to combine these two, to light the firewood in honour of both the sun and all philatelists in the world. Unfortunately our Midsummer, Juhannus in Finnish, was rainy this year and we had some difficulties with the fire. See the enclosed newspaper clipping. [Editor: This was too dark to reproduce but showed a bonfire with an umbrella held over it during pouring rain.] However all was OK in the end.

[This seems to be a mixup with the science fiction Worldwide Party on June 21st, the summer solstice, rather than the philatelic Worldwide Party on May 6, but no matter; the intent was honourable.]



1,50 Suomi Finland

1981

FROM: Wilfred Boddener  
Laubacher Str. 80  
34346 Hann. Münden, Germany

1996-7-7

I noticed your letter about the Worldwide Philatelic Party. I'm a member of the stamp club in Hofgeismar, which belongs to the BDPH in Germany. Hofgeismar is a small town near Kassel.

Exactly on May 6, we had our monthly meeting. I translated your letter to the other members. They agreed with me to raise our glass at exactly 9 p.m. local time to our philatelic friends worldwide. Since our monthly meetings are taking place in the local gasthaus, we raised a glass of beer.

Friendly greetings from Germany!



WORLDWIDE PHILATELIC PARTY #2 will be held on May 6, 1997, at 9 p.m. local time. Mark your calendars now!

ROYAL 97 ROYALE

Calgary hosts the national convention of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada from September 19 to 21, 1997, at the Coast Plaza Hotel (formerly Marlborough Inn), 1316 - 33 Street NE. Volunteers are needed; contact Hugh Delaney at 255-0422 or see him at meetings.

A POSTAL HISTORY VIGNETTE  
by Dale Speirs

I was driving down Deer Ridge Drive in southeast Calgary on July 18. As I approached Deermont Road, I noticed a green lettercarrier box with smoke fuming from around the edges of the door. This was rather surprising; I pulled over and got out to look. When I first saw it, I thought for a moment that it might be the morning dew steaming off the box in the morning sun. But steam drifts with the breeze, and this was smoke being pumped out under pressure. One sniff identified it as the smell of paper burning. I cautiously touched my hand to the box but it was cool to the touch.

A neighbour came out of his house from across the street. I told him he might as well dial 9-1-1, so he wandered back to his phone. He came back out a moment later and we stood on the opposite side of the street, watching the letter box pump out smoke. A few minutes later a fire truck came up the street. We made a vigorous show of pointing and the driver pulled over to the box.

The firefighters jumped down from the truck, one of them setting up a hose from the pumper, the other testing the temperature of the box with his hand. The latter then got a crowbar and pryed open the top edge of the box, while his partner sprayed a fine mist into the box. After a minute of this, they then popped the door completely open, and sprayed the mail sacks inside. There were about five bags of mail, ready to be picked up by a lettercarrier and delivered to surrounding homes. One bag, sitting on top of the others, had a hole burned right through, a couple were scorched, and the bottom one appeared intact. I don't know how waterproof the canvas bags are. If they aren't, then whatever mail was unscorched would certainly be soaked.

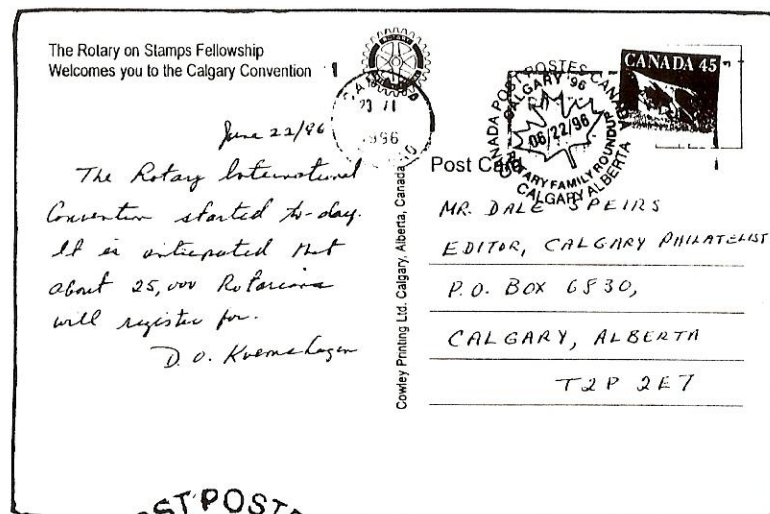
The fire captain came over to talk to us. He said that the unit would have to wait for the arson investigator. What was puzzling to both him and us was how the fire got started. If it were a red box that one mails letters in, then it obviously could be vandalism from someone opening the slot and tossing in a burning piece of paper. But this was a tightly sealed lettercarrier box, where the truck from the Mail Processing Plant drops off sacks of mail for the postie to deliver on his walk. This suggests that the sack might have contained some flammable substance that spontaneously ignited.

I left the scene, and drove by again about an hour later. The pumper truck had gone, but a Fire Marshal truck and a police car were parked there. The mail sacks were hung on the door of the box to dry. I came by again another hour later and all were gone, the door of the empty box swinging open in the wind, having been damaged by the crowbar such that it would not close.

If you live in Deer Ridge, this may be why you did not get any mail on July 18 and possibly 19. Were markings or plastic bags used for damaged mail? This would be an interesting bit of postal history.

CALGARY INTERNATIONAL ROTARY CONVENTION  
by Dale Speirs

Calgary was swamped by 26,000 Rotarians from around the world for their International Convention from June 23 to 26, 1996. CPS member Delbert Kvemshagen was kind enough to send along a commemorative postmark used at the gathering, done up on a special postcard. The postmark and reverse of the card are shown below. (Unfortunately the front of the postcard would not copy well enough. It depicts the Calgary skyline, the Rotary International logo, and the text "Rotary International Convention/ Hosted by District 5360 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada/June 23 to 26, 1996")





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TIME TO RENEW!

Send this form to the Membership Chairman, Box 1478, Calgary, T2P 2L6, or hand it to Al Gibbs at the meetings. Have your \$12 ready for the 1996-97 season.

Your name:

Address:

Postal code:

Telephone: home

work

SEPTEMBER MEETING

At the first meeting of the 1996-97 season, we'll be hearing about CAPEX and how it went. Penny Borrowman attended the show and will have an account of the event.

MORE ABOUT LETTERBOXES

Please note that Box 1478 is the CPS address for memberships and everything else except bulletin matters. Mailing label problems should be addressed to the Membership Chairman at Box 1478, not the Editor at Box 6830. The Editor has been receiving mail intended for other club officials; although he is willing to pass it on, you should be aware that it might be one or two months. As always, if you have any doubts, check the inside front cover of this bulletin for club addresses and phone numbers.

## CALTAPEX

Now is the time for all good collectors to come to the aid of their stamp club. With CALTAPEX looming on the horizon and closing in fast, it is time to see what each of us can do to promote our annual show. CALTAPEX 96 is October 18 to 20 at the Chinese Cultural Centre.

One of the easiest jobs going is to distribute posters at various locations. We have one member who can, with a little effort, distribute 32 posters. With this in mind, every member should be able to distribute 10 posters without any trouble. Here are some examples of locations: any place where you do business, garage sales, community centres, churches, fitness centres, clubs, sub post offices, and shopping malls. It is important to ask permission first. Another important area is if you have friends or relatives in the adjacent towns and cities within driving distance of Calgary.

If members make our annual show a huge success, then it will pave the way for a successful 1997 Royal show.

## AUCTIONS

Please note that the silent (wall) and regular auctions will now have a minimum lot value of \$3.

## MEETING MUNCHIES

To assist in defraying the cost of coffee and doughnuts after the meetings, a donation box will be set out. Your contribution will be appreciated.

## NAME TAGS

If you have a name tag, please wear it at club meetings and other functions. Lots of us know each other's face but can't remember the name that goes with it. A name tag will avoid embarrassing incidents.

## JANUARY 1997 MEETING

The regular monthly meeting in January 1997 falls on New Year's Day. In lieu of that date, the meeting will be on January 15 instead.

## SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

These ads are free to paidup CPS members. Mail your ads to Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7, or hand them to me at meetings. Next deadline is September 4 for the October issue.

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. 1870-1984, cat. value \$2450, sell at \$1200 o.b.o. Mint Canada 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 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 mint booklets/panes, face US\$42.52, sell for \$57 o.b.o. Phone Dave at 239-3886.

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

FOR SALE: Calgary Olympic cover (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, c/o Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7.

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

## STUDY GROUPS

The 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) off Crowchild Trail and Flanders Avenue. Details from Arno Kolster at 284-4239.

# MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

1996

|           |          |       |                                |
|-----------|----------|-------|--------------------------------|
| 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 December bulletin |
|           | 20       |       | Auction                        |
| December  | 4        | ..... | Christmas social               |

1997

|           |          |       |                                |
|-----------|----------|-------|--------------------------------|
| January   | 15       | ..... | General meeting                |
|           | 15       |       | Deadline for February bulletin |
| February  | 5        | ..... | General meeting                |
|           | 19       |       | Auction                        |
| March     | 5        | ..... | General meeting                |
|           | 5        |       | Deadline for April bulletin    |
|           | 19       |       | Auction                        |
| April     | 2        | ..... | General meeting                |
|           | 16       |       | Auction                        |
|           | 26       |       | BNAPS Spring Regional meeting  |
|           | 27       |       | Stamp Day                      |
| May       | 7        | ..... | General meeting                |
|           | 7        |       | Deadline for June bulletin     |
|           | 21       |       | Auction                        |
| June      | 4        | ..... | Election meeting               |
| September | 19 to 21 | ..... | Royal 97 Royale                |

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 viewing.

CALTAPEX is at Chinese Cultural Centre, 197 First Street SW.

ROYAL 97 ROYALE is at Coast Plaza Hotel, 1316 - 33 Street NE.