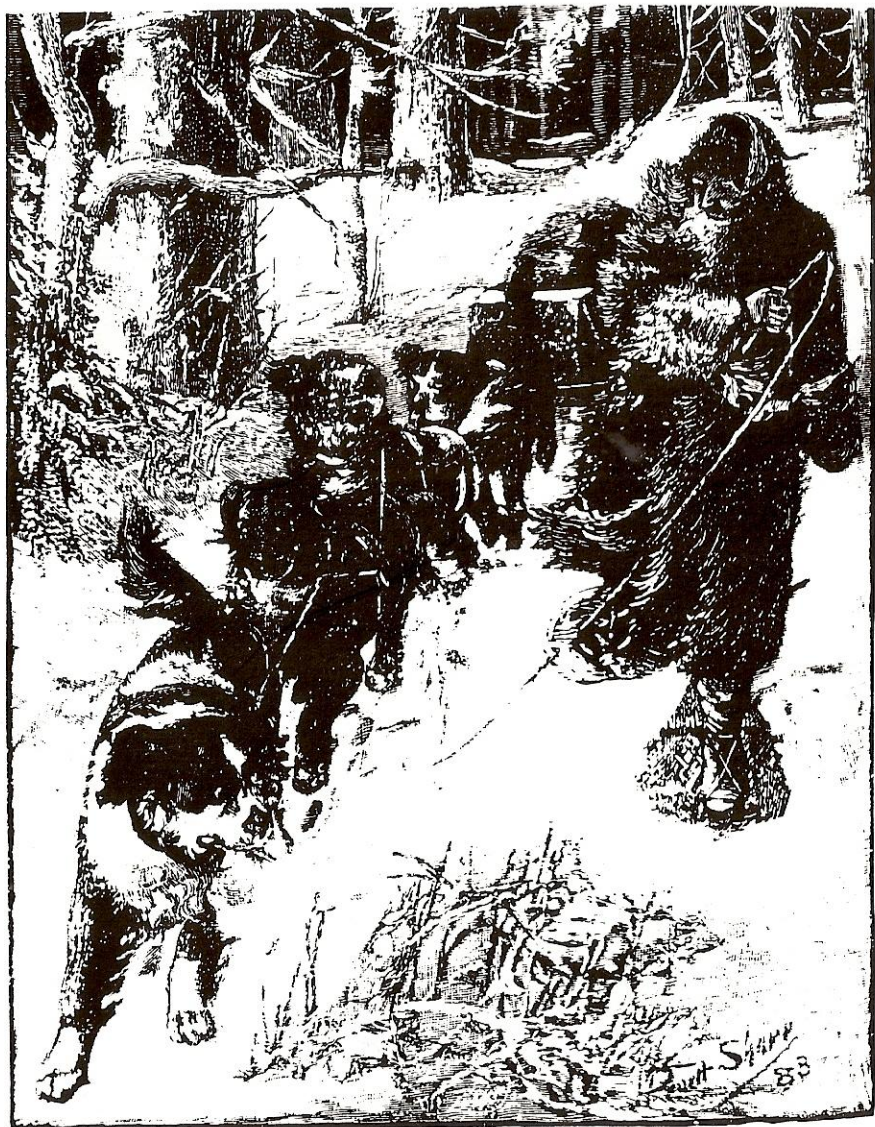


CALGARY PHILATELIST

January 1997

Issue #21





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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, Chapter 1360 of the American Philatelic Society, and Chapter 91 of the American Topical Association. The CPS address is Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, 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.

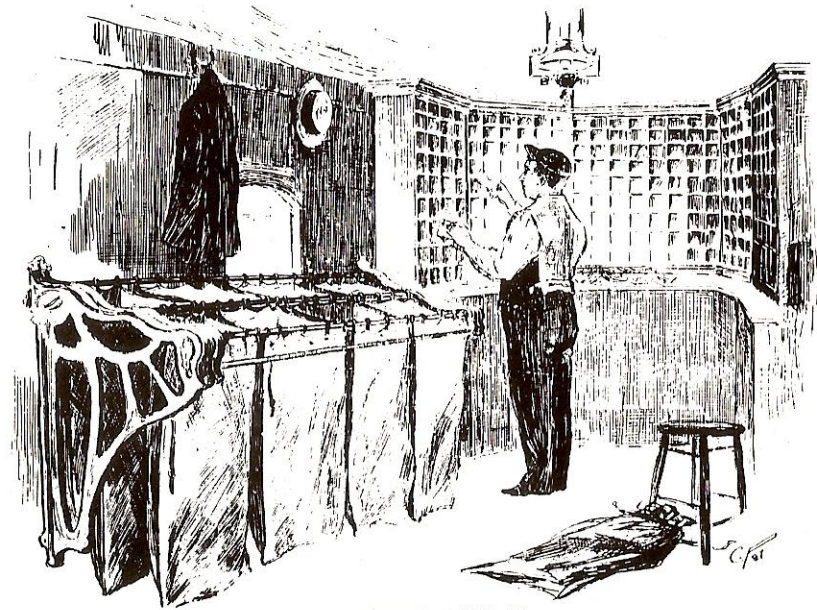
1996-97 EXECUTIVE

Past President	Hugh Delaney	255-0422
President	Isobell Attrell	294-0935
Vice-President	Tim Presber	241-1010
Secretary	Jason Ness	283-5367
Treasurer	Andy Puczko	241-2593

Directors - ex officio	Hugh Delaney	255-0422
- 1st year	Bruce Irvine	938-7027
- 1st year	Bob Monilaws	277-5128
- 2nd year	Bob Perry	282-4520
- 2nd year	John Van Staden Jr	285-1874

COMMITTEES

Archives	Dale Speirs	243-1752
Auction - regular	Doug Kollar	547-3838
Auction - silent	Gerry Vader	293-0158
Circuit books	Bob Hoffmann	274-2425
Editor	Dale Speirs	243-1752
Library	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
Membership	Al Gibbs	279-9508
Private Treaty books	Dave Voss	247-2670
Programmes	vacant	
Sergeant-At-Arms	Tim Presber	241-1010
Show Chairman	Hugh Delaney	255-0422
Sunday bourse	Walter Jackson	242-4128
Publicity	Peter Smith	284-4920



SORTING LETTERS IN A MAIL CAR

CANADIAN RPO CLERKS by Dale Speirs

Review of "The Railway Mail Clerks of Canada" by C.M. Sinclair, published in DOMINION ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY, January 1893, Volume 1, pages 760-770. Photocopies deposited in CPS Library and APRL.

The University of Calgary Library is a resource that Calgary philatelists doing research work should use. You can only check out books if you are student or staff, however the Library is open to the general public (good luck finding a parking space) and photocopyers are abundant. Recently I was doing some non-philatelic research there when I came across by chance an excellent illustrated article on railway mail clerks as cited above. Most philatelic writings about RPOs concentrate on the postmarks and routes, some speculate about the job procedures, and almost none, if any, flesh out what it was actually like to be a mail clerk. This article tells about the clerks and shows a few names and faces.

-4-

The article begins by dispelling the popular notion that railway mail clerks had a soft life. If anything, they worked harder than an ordinary postal clerk, swaying in a rattling train, under time pressure that meant sorting by hand up to 4000 letters per hour, and required to maintain absolute accuracy.

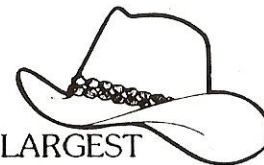
Writes Sinclair: "Suppose, for example, your registered letter list does not balance when near the end of your trip ... You cannot, like a bookkeeper, sit down and calmly review the transactions, item by item, until you reach the mistake, simply because there is no time. In ten minutes the train will be drawn up at the station and the mail carrier will be rapping on the car door ... Should the missing registered letter fail to reach the person to whom it is addressed, the mail clerk at fault is required to make it good, and the uncertainty of the amount about which, of course, he knows absolutely nothing, does not by any means add to his comfort. ... [Sinclair tells of a clerk he saw in this situation] ... I could not understand the distress of this strong man; the perspiration stood in great beads on his forehead, though it was midwinter, and his agitation was so great that he could not add the columns correctly, though the total was trifling, whilst the roar and rush of the train bringing us nearer our destination added momentarily to his distress. The error was fortunately discovered just as the engine was sounding for the station and the recoil from the mental strain almost unmanned him again."

One potential problem that railway posties did not have to worry too much about was bad handwriting. They only had to make out the province or town; the rest was for the local postmaster to deal with. Kidney problems from the constant shaking of the train were frequent, and the job was considered hazardous because of train wreck or amputation. Thursdays were dreaded by the clerks because most weekly newspapers publish on Wednesday, and the flow of mail would become a flood of tons of newspapers.

Sinclair's article has photos of a number of clerks with their biographies. An example is W.T. Cox, of the Vancouver-Calgary run, which took four days for the round trip. Cox travelled with his fox-terrier Tootsie on the run. Earlier in his career he had other runs, which included the excitement of the second Riel Rebellion and being stranded in a blizzard.

The workload of the clerks can be judged by statistics Sinclair gives for the Toronto-Montreal run. On a round trip in 1893, they had to mark off 800 registered letters, sort 25,000 ordinary letters, sort newspapers in the tons, and deliver/receive local mails en route. The minimum standard was 95% accuracy. Sinclair mentions that the first railway clerk in Canada, P. Purdon, was still on the job in 1893; he started when the first mail train ran in 1854.

Sinclair was a railway mail clerk himself, and this article is an excellent look at a vanished part of postal history.



CALGARY'S LARGEST STAMP SHOPPE

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ABOUT THE COVER

The illustration on the front cover of this issue is entitled "The Mail carrier", and appeared in the May 1884 issue of CENTURY MAGAZINE (volume 28, page 111). It illustrated an article on Newfoundland. We trust that province has since received more modern methods of delivering the mail, but we are not entirely certain this may be the case.

CALTAPEX 96 PALMARES

Gold:	
Earle Covert	Special Order Postal Stationery
T. Goss	Newfoundland - George VI
Ed Harris	Pioneer Post Offices of the Prairies
D. Piercey	Fisheries of the North Atlantic
John Powell	Postal Tax Stamps of Iraq - Errors and Usage
K. Liusz	Christmas in Canada

Silver:	
Earle Covert	Canada Priority Post 1984-1988
Earle Covert	Commercial Expedited Parcel Mail
Jim Karr	Postmarks of the Inverness Railway P.O.
Susan Sheffield	Muskoka
Don Wilson	Ship Mail To And From Early Australia
Don Wilson	Travelling Posts of Victoria
Don Wilson	EFOs from the Australian States
André Chaplain	Joint Issues
John Powell	Charing Cross Squared Circles
R. Gombo	Horses
M. Gombo	Birds
Coralee de Waal	Cats

Bronze:	
Alex Malycky	Odesas Cancellations
Andrew Avromenko	Postal Stationery of Ukraine 1992-1996

Non-Competitive:	
Michael Teekens	Canada Definitives 1967-1980
Jim Taylor	Autogiro Airmail
CPS Archivist	History of the Calgary Philatelic Society

IN MEMORIAM: TED CHISWELL

At the October 2, 1996, meeting, a moment of silence was observed in memory of Ted Chiswell. He was President of the CPS from 1973 to 1975, Secretary from 1972 to 1973, Director from 1958 to 1959, and was Honourary Life Member #9.

BNAPSERS BOOZE IT UP AT THE MUSEUM

Every second Wednesday the Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society meets at the Museum of the Regiments, off Crowchild and Flanders. There is the usual business session, the programme, then a show-and-tell, and finally, for the philatelic night owls, adjournment to a local coffee shop for talk of all kind.

The October 9, 1996, meeting was the most successful yet. Not a seat was left as a record turnout heard Harry Sanders talk mostly on Prohibition and somewhat on Alberta hotels. After growing up in a Drumheller hotel where his family were innkeepers, Harry made his way as an historian. He is best known to the general public for his column in the CALGARY SUN and for his famous Graveyard Tours.

Harry spoke on the forgotten Prohibition, not the one from 1916 to 1924 that we think of, but the one from 1875 to 1892. The first Prohibition began the same year Calgary was founded. Liquor was banned except for sacramental rites, medicinal purposes, or by permit from the Lieutenant Governor. Harry showed examples of the permits, which touched off an extended discussion about revenues on this first Prohibition. As any Canadian knows, hotels and booze go together. Harry mentioned how hotels kept a backroom for drinkers. One well-known visitor to the Grand Central Hotel was the Sundance Kid.

For the show-and-tell, members brought hotel corner cards and postcards and passed them around for others to see. In other business, Ed Harris reported on the 1996 CPSofGB convention in Scotland which he attended, and also the Pacific Northwest Regional Group meeting of BNAPS in B.C.. He also mentioned a point that had almost passed by unnoticed, that the Calgary BNPAS group was founded in 1956 and this year is therefore the 40th anniversary of the club. The Calgary group is the oldest regional group of BNAPS continuously in existence.

The November 13 meeting had a talk by Gordon Hill on the Azerbaijan mails. He was visiting his son in the capital city of Baku and wanted to get Azerbaijan stamps genuinely used to Canada. So a driver took him to the main post office, where Gordon managed to get a couple of letters registered. No stamps unfortunately, as the postie only handstamped the covers. The receipt she gave Gordon was a piece of scrap paper torn out of a notebook, with the registry numbers and her signature scribbled on them. The letters did make it to Calgary but were delivered as ordinary mail, not registered.

This illustrates one aspect of the BNAPSers that people may not be aware of; modern Canada is part of BNA philately. If you've held off joining the group because you feel you'll be competing against philatelists who buy pence issues like candy, then you should be aware that they're average wage earners like everyone else. One BNAPSer collects modern meter imprints showing discount postage rates (did you know you can mail a letter for 24¢ under certain rules?). Another looks for ink-jet slogan cancellations. So don't be shy!

CPS FINANCIAL REPORT

Condensed Balance Sheet as at June 30

<u>Assets</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>
Current:		
Cash	\$ 8,133	\$17,868
Accounts Receivable	180	193
Investments	18,516	-
Inventories	750	-
	<u>27,579</u>	<u>18,061</u>
Fixed:		
Equipment - net of depreciation	<u>17,317</u>	<u>18,568</u>
Other:		
Deposits	500	500
Prepaid	571	-
	<u>1,071</u>	<u>500</u>
	<u>\$45,967</u>	<u>\$37,129</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Current:		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,255	\$ -
Deferred income	12	-
Circuit books	4,096	1,892
	<u>5,363</u>	<u>1,892</u>
Members' Equity:		
Balance - beginning of year	35,237	31,989
Prior year adjustment	(275)	2,128
Net receipts	5,642	1,120
Balance - end of year	<u>40,604</u>	<u>35,237</u>
	<u>\$45,967</u>	<u>\$37,129</u>

[continued next page]

Condensed Statements of Receipts and Disbursements
For The Year Ended June 30

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>
<u>Receipts</u>		
Members' fees	\$ 2,192	\$ 1,942
Auctions	1,086	1,453
Circuit books and Private Treaty	1,452	1,379
Stamp Day - net	(257)	(5)
CALTAPEX - net	2,697	1,164
Interest	715	764
All other miscellaneous	37	251
	<u>7,922</u>	<u>6,948</u>
<u>Disbursements</u>		
Rent	1,425	2,025
Printing	1,501	1,332
Library	469	558
Christmas party	447	558
Office and postage	360	595
Awards	279	159
Refreshments	215	212
Advertising	160	193
Depreciation	1,924	-
All other miscellaneous	500	79
Net receipts from operations	642	1,120
Anonymous donation	5,000	-
Net receipts	<u>\$ 5,642</u>	<u>\$ 1,120</u>

To Whom It May Concern

The attached Balance Sheet and Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the year ended June 30, 1996, have been prepared by me after a review of the books and records of the Society.

In common with many non-profit organizations, the Calgary Philatelic Society derives its receipts from auctions, membership dues, and other sources, and as such is not susceptible to a complete review of these operations.

In my opinion, except for adjustments that may be necessary resulting from cash operations as noted above, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Society as at June 30, 1996, and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceeding year.

[signed]
E.C. Kraft
September 30, 1996

AUCTION RULES (EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1997)

The Wall Sale (silent auction) takes place on the first Wednesday of the month, and the Floor Sale (regular auction) on the third Wednesday, or as published in this bulletin. A maximum of 150 lots will be accepted for each sale.

1) Only Life members and paid-up members may submit material for sale, and must be present during and at the end of the sale to collect monies and unsold lots. CPS will not be responsible for any money or lots not collected. Uncollected lots will become the property of CPS.

2) A maximum of 10 lots may be submitted by any member. The bid sheet must be firmly attached to the lot with room on the left side for bids. Extra lots may be entered if the Sales Manager calls for them to make up the 150 lot total.

3) Floor Sale lots are to be submitted to the Sales Manager for numbering. There is a \$3 minimum reserve bid on each lot. A 15% commission will be collected on all sales, and 25¢ on each unsold lot.

4) Wall Sale lots are placed on the tables, and must have a minimum reserve bid of \$3. A 15% commission is collected on all sales, and each unsold lot is subject to a 25¢ charge.

5) Lots must be properly described (mint, used, full set, broken set, etc.) and must show catalogue name and year used. Any defects must be indicated.

6) Lots may only be returned by the purchaser on the night of the sale and only if they are not as described.

7) No used uncanceled Canadian stamps accepted for sale.

8) Pay-out to sellers will commence when the Sales Committee has balanced cash received against cash payable.

9) While buyers do not have to be members, they are encouraged to become members.

10) Buyers must remain until the end of the sale to pay for their purchases.

11) The Sales Committee will maintain proper records of each evening's transactions, and will turn in a full report to the Treasurer prior to the next sale.

ARE YOU PAID UP?

Membership renewals after December 31 will be \$15. Proof of membership must be shown when putting any materials in for sale.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

These ads are free to paid-up CPS members. Mail your ads to Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7, or hand them to me at meetings. Next deadline is January 15 for the February bulletin.

BUY,SELL,TRADE: British Commonwealth and worldwide topicals. Please write to George Tsang, Box 20229, Calgary, T2P 4L2.

WANTED: Would be interested in older Scott Specialty Series albums in used, decent condition. Phone Ron at 251-7460.

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: "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, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7.

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

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

WANTED: Postal history of the following Alberta towns: Eckville pre-WW2 postmarks and postcards, Hespero and Pitcox any era, Evarts and Leslieville pre-WW1. Postmarks must be good strikes; no fragments or weak strikes please. See Dale Speirs at meetings.

FOR SALE: British Oceania mint sets LH. Also new circuit books of country collections via our circuit book managers. Call Bob Perry at 282-4520.

FOR SALE: Fine used Australian stamps 1980-1996, fine postally used Canadian stamps, miniature sheets, and booklets from $\pm$ 1992. Contact Michael at 286-7927.

ROYAL 97 ROYALE will be held September 19 to 21, 1997, at the Coast Plaza Hotel (formerly Marlborough Inn). Volunteers need to assist; please contact Hugh Delaney at 255-0422.

JANUARY MEETING CHANGE

Because the first Wednesday of January is New Years Day, the general meeting will be held instead on January 15. Please mark your calendar now.

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS IN 1997

January	5	.....	Sunday bourse
	15		General meeting
	15		Deadline for February bulletin
February	2	.....	Sunday bourse
	5		General meeting
	19		Auction
March	2	.....	Sunday bourse
	5		General meeting
	19		Auction
April	2	.....	General meeting
	6		Sunday bourse
	16		Auction
	26		BNAPS Spring Regional Meeting
	27		Stamp Day
May	4	.....	Sunday bourse
	6		Worldwide Philatelic Party #2
	7		General meeting
	7		Deadline for June bulletin
	21		Auction
June	4	.....	Election meeting
	18		Auction
August	2	.....	Deadline for August bulletin
September	3	.....	General meeting
	3		Deadline for October bulletin
	19 to 21		ROYAL 97 ROYALE
October	1	.....	General meeting
	15		Auction
November	5	.....	General meeting
	5		Deadline for January bulletin
	19		Auction
December	3	.....	Christmas party

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

SUNDAY BOURSE is at Rosscarrock Community Hall, 4411 - 10 Avenue SW, from 10 am to 4 pm. Details from Mirko Zatka at 547-1435.

ROYAL 97 ROYALE is at the Coast Plaza Hotel (formerly Marlborough Inn), 1317 - 33 Street NE.