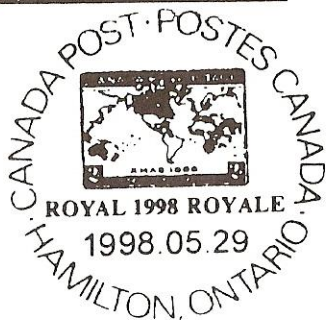
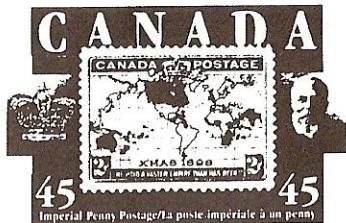
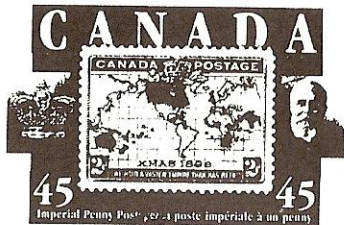


CALGARY PHILATELIST

December 1998

Issue #33

IN THIS ISSUE: An appropriate Christmas theme is made by John Grasmeyer as he discusses the 1898 - 1998 Map stamp commemorative. The stamp was issued in May; John reports on why this was not the best day of issue. Shown below are the handstamps used for the FDCs produced in Hamilton, Ontario, at the Royal 98 Royale stamp show.



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Membership dues for the 1998/99 season are \$12, plus an initiation fee of \$5 for new members. Send to the CPS, Box 1478, Calgary, T2P 2L6. Notice of address changes should be sent to the Membership Chairman, not the Editor.

The CPS was founded in April 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, T2P 2L6. The Web site is: <http://www.cal.shaw.wave.ca/~tpresber/cps.htm>

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IMPERIAL PENNY POSTAGE: DID CANADA POST ISSUE THE RIGHT STAMP ON THE WRONG DAY?
by John Grasmeyer

The idea of reducing postal rates to boost mail volumes was much debated by members of the Universal Postal Union during the 19th Century. It wasn't until Canada's Postmaster General, William Mulock, forced the issue to a head in 1898 that a scheme was adopted allowing mail to be sent between most parts of the British Empire for only one penny (2 cents Canadian). This Imperial penny stamp originally was intended to be issued on November 9, 1898, the birthday of the Prince of Wales. It is said that when a court official told Queen Victoria that the stamp was to be issued on the Prince's birthday, she suspiciously asked "Which prince?". The courtier saved the situation by replying, "Why Ma-am, the Prince of Peace". And so the issue was delayed until December 7, 1898, and "Xmas" was added, to be issued as a Christmas stamp, at first unintentionally. The new rate was not to come into operation until December 25, 1898, but the Post Office decided to put the stamps on sale as soon as they received supplies, to be used for Christmas 1898.

Was this not the 100th anniversary 1898-1998 of the world's first Christmas stamp? What were the reasons of the Stamp Advisory Committee to issue a stamp, with the words "Xmas 1898" to mark a different occasion? Could they not have issued a different stamp for that special event? Was this Christmas stamp not issued for the "Prince Of Peace" by Queen Victoria? Did not William Mulock make the decision to have Penny Postage come into operation for Canada on Christmas Day 1898? Can we celebrate this event, as a whole, as I look back at the date as it was launched at Royal 98 Royale in Hamilton, Ontario? I asked myself, "Is this a Christmas stamp, or more like an Easter stamp?"

I corresponded with Canada Post as follows.

To the Stamp Advisory Committee

December 23, 1996

I am a collector of stamps of various kinds (i.e., 4 corner blocks, first day covers, booklets, etc.), with a specialty in Christmas stamps of Canada. Every time I open my Christmas album, I see the world's first Christmas stamp from 1898, also called the Imperial Penny Postage or the Map stamp. I wonder if this stamp will be remembered by Canada Post in the year 1998 (1898 - 1998 one hundred years). Even if it was designed for other purposes at the time, Postmaster General William Mulock must have had some idea of the stamp's distinctiveness as he combined the world map and the word XMAS (Christmas) on the stamp.

This one stamp commemorates three significant events:

1. Imperial Penny Postage, a letter rate of one penny between all nations of the British Empire.
2. The drawing of the map of the world.
3. The word XMAS (Christmas)

Although the stamp was to be issued December 25, 1898, it was released early, December 7, 1898, when supply was received, so that it could be used as Christmas postage.

I ask, would it not be wonderful if Canada Post, and all of us in Canada and throughout the world, could celebrate the stamp's centennial, 1898 - 1998? It could be celebrated with a newly created Christmas issue utilizing our world's first Christmas stamp as it was originally issued in 1898. If this is possible, I suggest that the Imperial Penny Postage stamp, or the Map stamp, be reprinted on each value of the Christmas stamp in 1998. Each stamp could have a different colour of the sea, imitating the 1898 issue (one in lavender, one in pale or deep blue-green, and the third in bright blue-green). The first day cover could have a picture of Postmaster General William Mulock, along with the first day stamp of Ottawa on it.

I have enclosed three rough designs for the possible 1998 Christmas stamp celebrating the centennial. For each of the stamps, the lettering (i.e., 1898 Canada 1998, Christmas, Noel, and the stamp value) could be done using different Christmas colors (i.e., red, green, and blue). On the bottom of each denomination of stamp, different designs could be created adding to the celebration as follows:

45 cent stamp: On the left hand side, Christmas Bells or chimes for ringing in the old and the new 100 years of Canada and the world's first Christmas stamp. On the right hand side, a traditionally decorated Christmas tree, and in the center, a reprint of the first Christmas stamp, with the sea in lavender as it was issued on the 7th of December 1898.

52 cent stamp: On the left bottom, a church with a few trees or shrubs around it, covered with a little snow celebrating the Christmas season, and on the right Holly. This would be nice for decoration and color. In the center, a reprint of the first Christmas stamp with the sea in pale or deep blue-green as issued on 16th and 23rd of December 1898.

90 cent stamp: On the left bottom, a family sleigh ride pulled by two horses, to represent enjoyment and celebration of the Christmas holidays, and on the right side a mistletoe. This could also be changed to a Poirsettia, if more color is needed. Once again in the center; a reprint of the first Christmas stamp with the color of the sea in bright blue-green.

Enclosed is:

1. First page of my Christmas album (1 copy)
2. Rough designs of 45 cent, 52 cent, 90 cent stamp designs (3 copies)
3. Historical data (2 copies)

Thank you for reading and considering this. May I wish you a merry Christmas and the best wishes for a Happy New Year.

From: Honorable André Ouellet, P.C., Q.C.
Chairman of the Board
Canada Post Corporation
2701 Riverside Drive, Suite N1250
Ottawa K1A 0B1

Mar 04 1997

Thank you for your letter in which you suggest that we issue a stamp to mark the 100th anniversary of the world's first Christmas stamp.

As Chairman of the Stamp Advisory Committee, I would like to assure you that I will be pleased to bring your suggestion to the Committee for possible inclusion in the 1998 stamp program.

We do not commission designs until stamp subjects have been chosen. Consequently, when design submissions are received, they are considered as subject proposals, not as stamp designs. Nevertheless, we appreciated receiving your design suggestions and will keep them on file.

Again, thank you for writing and for your interest in our commemorative stamp program.

I sent another letter January 16, 1998, as follows.

To the Stamp Advisory Committee:

As I read the proposed 1998 Postage Stamp program schedule, in Canada Details, I was surprised and happy to see a new issue of Sir William Mulock's Map Stamp from 1898, but also shocked and disappointed that it was not included with the issue of Christmas 1998 stamps.

As a stamp collector, with a specialty in Canadian Christmas stamps, and the history thereof, I asked myself if I would add this stamp to my Christmas collection, even if it is not issued for Christmas. Yes, I would include it, but not as a Celebration stamp, rather because of the history of the stamp. Could we ask: Did Canada Post crucify one of its own by issuing the right stamp, but on the wrong day?

...

As we celebrate Christmas, we send our greeting cards, shake hands with each other, and celebratethat Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and who was then later crucified by his own people.

Did not the Postmaster General William Mulock conceive the idea of issuing this special stamp to commemorate the occasion? It would be wonderful if this stamp could be issued with the Christmas issue of the Angels. Then all of us from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, and as far north to the Arctic Ocean (the three colors of the sea, as the first Christmas stamp was printed in), and throughout the whole world, could celebrate the stamp's centennial (1898 - 1998).

I thank you for reading and considering this. Let us give honor when honor is due.

The final reply to me was as follows.

From: Micheline Montreuil
Director, Stamp Products
Canada Post Corporation
2701 Riverside Drive, Suite N0420
Ottawa K1A 0B1

Mar 03 1998

Thank you for your letter of January 16 to the Honourable André Ouellet, Chairman of the Stamp Advisory Committee, regarding the Sir William Mulock Map Stamp. Please excuse the delay in replying.

I can appreciate your interest in having this stamp released as part of our Christmas collection. However, we do plan to issue the stamp in conjunction with the annual convention of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, a group which would appreciate the philatelic history and postal history behind the stamp.

Again, thank you for writing and I regret that my reply cannot be more favourable.

The Dying Child Postcards

by Dale Speirs

A modern version of the chain letter, now propagated on the Internet as often as through the post office or company bulletin boards, is the appeal of a dying child who wants to break the world record for most postcards received. This chain letter is insidious and far more damaging than money chains because it does not burn itself out. As bad as money chain letters are in plugging up the mails, they have only a few weeks effect, since they overload quickly and people quit it or break it in disgust. The dying child appeal never stops. It mutates in spreading but the people who spread it don't mind the cost of a few postcards. The end result is that post offices are still being swamped with millions of pieces of mail.

On December 23, 1960, an appeal got started for Doris Ridgeway, a girl dying of bone cancer in Hardy, Virginia. It was transmitted through radio networks and via U.S. military bases and soon swamped the local post office with 600,000 Christmas cards, letters, and other items (ref. 3). That appeal eventually trickled off, partly, I suspect, because other appeals came along later and diverted the flow.

The next appeal was for 'Little Buddy' of Paisley, Scotland, just west of Glasgow. He was said to be dying of leukemia and had five months to live. He wanted to get into the GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS for receiving the most postcards. Newspapers spread the story worldwide. About 2 million cards were sent (ref. 5). This was about early 1983 and as late as 1987 was still having an effect. Some say he was a hoax started in fun by a Scottish radio club. In contradiction to this is a published report from the local postmaster (ref. 8) as follows: "The appeal is now closed and the organizers have placed adverts to this effect in CB magazines. ... The Post Office box was ceased on 22 June 1983. Items coming to hand receive normal returned letter branch treatment. To the best of our knowledge it was not a hoax."

In 1989, the dying child was David, either from Bedfordshire, England, or West Palm Beach, Florida, depending on which chain you believed (ref. 4).

The current dying child appeal is for Craig Shergold, a boy in Carshalton, England, who at the time was 7 years old and dying of a brain tumor. He asked for get-well cards through a chain letter, and got them, more than 16 million in a year. He also had an operation for his tumor in 1991 and has since recovered, but the cards still keep coming. The Children's Wish Foundation, which helped in that appeal, now has a warehouse full of mail it can't open and more still come. The Foundation has been wholesaling postcards to dealers, who in turn resell in bulk lots (ref. 7).

Worse yet, along the way, the appeal mutated into a business-card chain, not get-well cards, and the name variously mis-spelled as Schergold or Sherfold. The unrelated Make-A-Wish Foundation of America started getting them as well, and had to set up a special phone line to divert cards. It is estimated that 100 million letters have been received from this chain. Efforts to stop the chain via publicity in newspapers and television have been futile (ref. 1). In 1998, a business card version circulated in Calgary, Alberta, asking for 10 to 20 cards to be

**Celebrating the Centenary
of the 2c Map Stamp**



Important Map Stamp Dates
December 7, 1898
Earliest known use on cover
December 25, 1898
Introduction of Imperial Penny Postage
January 1, 1899
Domestic and U.S. rates dropped to 2c

Callapex '98
Calgary Philatelic Society

CALTAPEX Imperial Penny Postage
100th Anniversary



Oct. 16-18, 1998

CALTAPEX



Oct. 16-18, 1998

sent to a fictitious address in Atlanta, Georgia. Shergold, by now a young man and cured, had received 250 million cards, and had been on British television appealing for people to stop sending cards (ref. 9).

A Deliberate Post Card Chain.

Postcards for material gain may not seem a logical first choice for chain letters, but in February 1906, the British postcard manufacturer Raphael Tuck and Sons managed the trick. They sponsored a chain postcard competition, which had to use Tuck cards only, thus boosting sales (ref. 10). The rules were complicated, but simplified were that entrants chose a charity to send cards to and the charity receiving the most cards won prizes. Over 200 chains were going by September 1906, but since most of the charities were local ones, the chains did not propagate that well. Most of the postcard chains were in England, but some involved the USA. Funnily enough, almost seventy years later a descendent of the original family denounced chain letters in the British House of Commons (ref. 6). Raphael Tuck, Labour M.P. for Watford, urged the government to act against chain letters.

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- 9) Lunman, Kim (1998-07-16) Agencies battle Make-A-Wish hoax mail. *CALGARY HERALD*, page B6
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MAGAZINE REVIEW: ARTISTAMP NEWS by Dale Speirs

What philatelists refer to as cinderellas, mail art people know as artistamps. These are not issued to milk philatelists, but rather for propaganda purposes, expression of artistic ideas, and for just plain personal fun. An artistamp, in the strictest definition, must have an issuing authority name on it, a denomination, perforations, and of a specific size or scale similar to real postage stamps. The issuing authority may be a fictitious organization or a satire, such as Poste Bobart or Canadada. The denomination may be a simple currency amount such as 2£, year digits such as 95, or some other system.

ARTISTAMP NEWS is a well printed newsletter that catalogues newly issued artistamps in the same manner as a Scott catalogue, but with the additional bonus of including samples of the actual artistamps themselves. Issue #9 at hand, for example, includes two sheets of artistamps (one of which is a Canadada design as shown to the right) and a glassine envelope full of single artistamps from around the world.

This newsletter is produced from British Columbia, formerly by mail artist Anna Banana, and from this issue by Ed Varney. The lead article is an account of what it was like to produce artistamps in eastern Europe during the Communist times. We in Canada don't know how lucky we are sometimes; the mail artists suffered continual harassment by Stasi, KGB, and other secret police.



There is an interview with Jas Felter, who compiled a directory of mail artists producing artistamps, an account of an artistamp/rubber stamp show in Seattle, and discussion of the philosophy behind artistamps. The catalogue of new artistamps is illustrated with B&W photos. There are also various news and notes throughout of mail artists and goings-on.

A subscription to ARTISTAMP NEWS is \$12 from Ed Varney, Box 3655, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6B 3Y8.

Mail art has so far managed to avoid the art gallery affliction, not entirely so I grant, but better than the mainstream art world where a painting's value is based on artist reputation and politicking, not aesthetic quality. Many mail artists are leery of philatelists since they look at catalogue value so much, but one hopes that more stamp collectors would take up the fun of mail art. Most mail art is still available for exchange with like quality, and is far more liberated than philately.



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compiled by Dale Speirs

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 Pat Bates (Paul Gaugin)
 CPS Archives (History of the Calgary Philatelic Society)

Competitive Exhibits.

Grand Award: Earle Covert (Canadian Postal Notes and Money Orders)

John Jarabek Award: Dave Russum (The 1d Black)

Vermeil: Ken Ho (Error Messages From Worldwide Philatelic Components)

Silver: Dave Russum (The 1d Black)
 Jim Karr (Calgary Military Postal History)
 Earle Covert (Modern Canadian Postal Cards From The 1990s)
 Kelly Liusz (Bears)
 Jan Grasmeyer (Canadian Christmas Stamps)

Silver-Bronze: Alexander Malycky (Ukrainian Displaced Persons)

Bronze: Dale Speirs (Mail Art of the 1990s)
 Andrew Avromenko (Ukraine FDCs and Special Cancellations)
 Zoltan Tauber (Cosmos)
 Zoltan Tauber (Fruits and Vegetables)

CALGARY BNAPSERS UP AND DOING

The Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society meets second Wednesdays at the Museum of the Regiments. It is a specialist group interested in Canada and the pre-Confederation provinces. After a brief business session, there is a programme, followed by a show-and-tell session. After the meeting is over, a few night owls adjourn to a nearby café for philatelic fellowship and talk.

The June 10 meeting had Jim Karr giving a presentation on Calgary slogan cancels. Slogans were introduced on cancelling machines in Canada in 1912, and Calgary first used them in 1913. Jim showed a wide variety of slogans and demonstrated how they varied over the years from one type of machine canceller to the next. Initially Canadian slogans were used for horse shows and agricultural exhibitions. The Post Office didn't really catch on to the propaganda value of the slogans until 1918, when Victory Bonds were advertised.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

These ads are free to paid-up CPS members, and will also appear on the CPS Website at no additional cost. Mail your ads to Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, T2P 2E7, or hand them to me at meetings. Next deadline is January 6 for the February 1999 issue.

NOTE TO INTERNET VIEWERS: Unless stated otherwise, telephone numbers are area code 403. Alberta is on Mountain Standard Time.

FOR SALE: Mint USA at face value, many issues from 1964 to 1980, lightly hinged. Call Bob Perry at 282-4520.

FOR SALE: Very fine Australian recent issues, stamps and miniature sheets. Contact Michael at 286-7927.

WANTED: Used plate blocks, Centennial and before. 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.

BUY, SELL, OR TRADE: Canada, Ireland, UK, Australia, New Zealand and others. Used and mint, bulk and singles. Roland de Caen at 243-1637 or decaenr@cadvision.com

WANTED: Better India stamps, especially up to the Archaeological set. Contact Geoff Butt at 242-3260

WANTED: Calgary Go-card postcards. I will pay for those I don't have. Phone Julius at 282-7982.

WANTED: Would like to buy larger German, Canadian, or worldwide stamp collections. Phone Willi at 239-2273.

WANTED: Energy-related covers and stamps, especially covers from defunct Calgary oil companies. Call Dave Russum at 284-4775.

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

CALGARY REGIONAL GROUP OF THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY meets second Wednesdays of the month at the Museum of the Regiments (Crowchild Trail off Flanders Avenue). Call Ed Harris at 274-0021 for details.

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

1998

December	2		Christmas social
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1999

January	6		General meeting
	6		Deadline for February bulletin
	20		Auction
February	3		General meeting
	17		Auction
March	3		General meeting
	3		Deadline for April bulletin
	17		Auction
April	7		General meeting
	21		Auction
May	5		General meeting
	5		Deadline for June bulletin
	19		Auction
June	2		Election meeting
July	31		Deadline for August bulletin
September	1		General meeting
	1		Deadline for October bulletin
October	6		General meeting
	20		Auction
November	3		General meeting
	3		Deadline for December bulletin
	17		Auction

MEETINGS and AUCTIONS are at Kerby Centre, 2nd floor, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW, at 19h30. Auction lots should be in before 19h30 to allow bidder viewing.

Ads and articles for the bulletin should be handed to Dale Speirs at meetings or mailed to Box 6830, Calgary, T2P 2E7.