

CALGARY PHILATELIST

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Dinu Matei discusses the stamps and the historical truth behind Dracula and Vlad the Impaler. The postmark at right commemorates the 550th anniversary of Vlad's successful campaign against the Sultan Mehmet II Fatih in 1462. The postmark below notes the 100th anniversary of Bram Stoker's novel *Dracula*, first published in 1897.



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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 PS, Box 1478, Calgary, T2P 2L6. Notice of address changes or enquiries about missing copies 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.

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(see page 15 for list of committee chairpersons)



DRACULA: BETWEEN FICTION AND HISTORY

by Dinu Matei

Vlad Tepes, pronounced 'tzepesh', or Vlad the Impaler, ruled the Principality of Wallachia (part of Romania) in 1448, 1456-1462, and 1476. Bram Stoker's novel *Dracula*, published in 1887, made this Romanian prince famous worldwide and attributed to him an exaggerated cruelty. In *Dracula*, Vlad Tepes was portrayed differently from the real Vlad of history.

Vlad Tepes was born in 1428 in Sighisoara, Transylvania. His father is known in history under the name Vlad Dracul. In Romanian, 'drac' means evil. However, there are no documents reporting how evil he was. The nickname 'Dracul' came from his membership in the Order of the Dragon. This was a military and religious brotherhood founded by the Sigismund of Luxembourg (King of Hungary) with the objective to protect the church against heresy and the Turks. In German the order is named Drachenorders, while in Latin Societates draconistarum. Members of this order wore a black cape and a medallion depicting a dragon. In the Middle Ages it was easy for ordinary people, extremely religious, to mistake the dragon with the evil, so from this confusion came the name Dracul. Vlad Tepes inherited this name from his father, and his descendants bear it as a family name. Real descendants of this family still exist today. The nickname 'the Impaler' came from the fact that Vlad Tepes used to impale his enemies. Reputed to be an evil and bloodthirsty man, he was just one of several more-or-less fierce leaders in a time when cruelty was the norm.

Figure 1: The house in Sighisoara, Transylvania, Romania, where Vlad the Impaler was born, depicted on a 1997 Romanian stamp.



Romanian principalities Wallachia and Moldova shared a border with the Ottoman Empire in the Middle Ages. This empire was one of the most powerful in the world and was trying to expand towards Europe. In order to gain trust from the Sultans, many children from the noble Romanian families were sent voluntarily to Istanbul as hostages. Vlad and one of his brothers were no exceptions. Vlad Tepes returned to Wallachia after his father was killed and another brother was blinded with a burning stake and buried alive. These two facts are said to be the origin of Vlad Tepes' cruelty. As mentioned earlier, torture and cruelty was normal in the whole Europe during the Middle Ages.

Figure 2: Two special postmarks commemorating 550 years since Vlad Tepes' father Vlad Dracul was killed.



Other cruelties attributed to Vlad Tepes were killing 'unchaste' women and 'bad' wives, killing entire families suspected of disloyalty, killing poor, blind, crippled, sick, vagabonds, and beggars, nailing hats to heads of disrespectful visitors, and cannibalism. This came from an intense propaganda campaign launched by Matei Corvin (King of Hungary at that time and one of his big enemies) due to envy of Vlad's successes against the Turks, and by German merchants from the city of Brasov (Kronstadt in German) who were opponents to Vlad Tepes' economic politics. Turk and Russian traditions also depict Vlad Tepes as a cruel and bloodthirsty man.

During Vlad Tepes' time, Wallachia was a crime-free country. The Turks wanted to invade the country but were defeated several times and kept at the south of the Danube River (in Bulgaria nowadays). For his successful military campaigns against the Turks, Vlad Tepes was named "magnifico Vlad voivoda" in an Italian document. He was not considered a vampire during his time, but a hero and strong ruler of his country. He is first mentioned as an extremely cruel man in a book published at Lubeck, Germany, in 1471.



Figure 3: First appearance of Vlad the Impaler on a stamp. A miniature sheet and this stamp from a set issued in 1959 in Romania commemorate the 500th anniversary of the city of Bucharest.

Bram Stoker never visited Romania. He was inspired by the evil deeds of Countess Elizabeth Bathory who lived in Transylvania about 150 years later than Vlad Tepes. She used to kill young girls and used their fresh blood to take baths, hoping this would help her to remain forever young. For these crimes she was sentenced to death and walled alive into a castle room in 1610. For similar accusations a French nobleman was beheaded in France during the same period.

Vlad Tepes' tumultuous life as well as the harshness of his punishments tempted many writers. A fashion of Dracula the Vampire Count was born with great success, and many books and more than 100 movies were done on the subject. We can assume that Count Dracula was created thanks to the inspiration provided by Transylvanian history, where very old castles such as the one attributed to Dracula set the mood for bloody ghosts and terrifying vampires. Bram Stoker possibly chose the name Dracula because it suggested the macabre. He needed a male hero for his novel, published at a time when the crimes committed by Jack the Ripper in London were on the front pages of British newspapers. The novel *Dracula* has very few historical truths in it. Bram Stoker himself knew very little about the real Vlad Tepes. The action of the book takes place in Transylvania, but he never ruled that province, just Wallachia. The title of Count did not exist for Romanian noblemen during the Middle Ages; Vlad Tepes was in fact a Royal Prince. However, Bram Stoker's descriptions of the Romanian localities and many geographical places are real.

Located on a cliff in the Carpathians, 'Dracula's Castle' is actually named Bran Castle, after a pass between Transylvania and Wallachia. It was built by the German merchants from Brasov in 1377 to keep under control the inland and outland commercial traffic. Restored several times, in this century the castle was the residence of Queen Maria of Romania in the 1920s, and is now converted into a museum.

Vlad Tepes was depicted on Romanian stamps on several occasions. First was in 1959 when Bucharest, the capital of Romania, celebrated 500 years since it was for the first time mentioned in a document, signed by Vlad Tepes himself. This document is kept in the National History Museum of Romania, in Bucharest. It, along with the portrait of Vlad, is depicted on a beautiful engraved miniature sheet issued by the Romanian Postal Administration. This portrait is the only known portrait of Vlad and is kept in an Austrian monastery in the Tirol. Based on the same painting, Vlad Tepes' figure appeared on a stamp issued by Romania in 1976, when 500 years since his death were commemorated. Two more stamps were issued in Romania in 1997, one depicting him as a Prince of Wallachia and another depicting him as Dracula. Bran Castle and Poenari Castle (one of the real residences of Vlad, now in ruins) are depicted on two labels that separate the stamps. Bran Castle was depicted also on a stamp issued in 1929, while images from Vlad Tepes' home town appear on a set issued in 1997. Several special postmarks, postal stationery, and postcards depicting him and/or Bran Castle were issued over the years. Matei Corvin, King of Hungary, who kept Vlad Tepes imprisoned for ten years and who finally executed him, is pictured on several stamps issued in Hungary. Vlad Tepes is buried at the Snagov Monastery, near Bucharest.

REVENUE COUNTERFEITS OF 1935 IN REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN

by Leanteri Polvikoski

In May 1935, the Regina courts heard a case against one Alex Conklin, operating under the alias of Ralph Baker, for forging travellers' cheques and revenues. At that time, cheques had to have a revenue stamp on them to pay the excise. Baker (I'll use the name the newspapers used in reporting the trial) cashed cheques totalling \$600 at three different Regina banks. The cheques themselves were as phony as the revenues on them.

The trial began May 22. Baker conceded the stamps were counterfeit, so as to avoid the trouble of bringing an expert witness from Ottawa to attest the fact. His defense on the witness stand was that while he knew the cheques were forged, he did not know the revenue stamp itself was a fake. Three bank employees who cashed the cheques testified that the revenues would be regarded as genuine by the average person. Genuine stamps were then introduced as evidence for comparison with the counterfeits. The genuine stamps were deeply embossed, whereas the fakes were only printed with no embossing.

Baker tried to shuffle off some of the blame to a mysterious Jack Ranley of Saskatoon. (Baker himself was from Arelee, WNW of Saskatoon.) Baker also said he was on a two-week drunk at the time. Unfortunately for him the magistrate knew him from a previous case, and didn't buy the story.

At the time of this trial, Baker was already serving 21 months for forgery of the cheques themselves. Upon conviction for forging the revenue stamps, he had another year added to his time.

I suspect that none of the forged stamps would have survived, since they would have been destroyed after being used as police evidence in court. What the newspaper reports didn't go into was the matter of who printed them. Was it Baker, the probably fictitious Ranley, or an unknown third party? Those who collect Canada revenues might examine their stock of anything dating circa 1935 to see if they have any fakes. The obvious clue is that the fakes had no embossing.

References.

Anonymous (1935-05-22) Expert not needed for Baker case. *REGINA LEADER POST*, page 3

Anonymous (1935-05-23) Another year added to term of Arelee man. *REGINA LEADER POST*, page 5

Calgary Philatelic Society Comparative Balance Sheet as at June 30, 1998
by Andy Puczko

ASSETS	1998	1997
Current: Bank	\$ 2,972	\$ 8,259
Floats	205	205
Investments	31,015	25,184
Accounts receivable	516	573
Inventories	<u>2,371</u>	<u>1,277</u>
	<u>37,079</u>	<u>35,498</u>
Fixed: Equipment (see Note 1)	19,243	19,242
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>5,772</u>	<u>3,848</u>
	<u>13,471</u>	<u>15,394</u>
Other: Deposits	500	--
Prepaid expenses	<u>50</u>	<u>1,926</u>
	<u>550</u>	<u>1,926</u>
Total Assets:	<u>\$51,100</u>	<u>\$52,818</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current: Accounts payable	\$ --	\$ 150
Due to circuit book holders	9,164	8,050
Due to Private Treaty holders	30	--
Deferred members' dues	585	365
Deferred income - Royal	<u>--</u>	<u>3,504</u>
	<u>9,779</u>	<u>12,069</u>
MEMBERS' EQUITY		
Balance - beginning of year	40,749	40,605
Prior year's adjustments	378	--
Net income - current year	<u>194</u>	<u>144</u>
	<u>41,321</u>	<u>40,749</u>
Total Liabilities:	<u>\$51,100</u>	<u>\$52,818</u>

Comparative Statement of Income for the Years Ended June 30

	1998	1997
Income from regular operations: Members' dues	\$2,133	\$1,617
Circuit book commissions	2,680	1,259
Private Treaty commissions	391	143
Auctions	997	823
Other income	<u>546</u>	<u>478</u>
	<u>6,747</u>	<u>4,320</u>
Expenses: Hall rent	1,350	1,500
Storage rent	200	200
Bulletins	1,071	1,372
Meeting expenses	476	438
Library	170	362
Teachers' convention booth	535	--
Awards	82	415
Christmas party	404	632
Office	393	559
Bank charges	126	41
Advertising	217	45
Dues	73	57
Bad debts	194	--
Miscellaneous	--	84
Depreciation	<u>1,924</u>	<u>1,924</u>
	<u>7,215</u>	<u>7,629</u>
Net Income (Loss) From Operations:	<u>(468)</u>	<u>(3,309)</u>
Other Income (Loss): CALTAPEX	--	2,986
Spring Show	(385)	(106)
Royal show	217	--
Interest from investments	<u>830</u>	<u>573</u>
	<u>662</u>	<u>3,453</u>
Net Income:	<u>\$194</u>	<u>\$ 144</u>

Note To Financial Statements, June 30, 1998

- Note 1: Assets comprise the following equipment:
- 1 Pantex 35mm camera and set of lenses
 - 1 photo copy stand
 - 1 dolly
 - 148 frames
 - 1 coffee urn
 - 1 silver tray
 - 1 10-cup coffee machine
 - 1 35mm Kodak carousel projector
 - 1 projector stand
 - 1 projector screen
 - 1 storage cabinet
 - 5 lamps

REVIEW: ART COVER EXCHANGE

by Dale Speirs

Some of the greatest fun in philately is had by collectors who make their own covers and mail art. They do not restrict themselves to FDCs, but go further into the realms of mail art and produce covers for any and all occasions, and often no occasion at all, just for the fun of it. One group of such people is the Art Cover Exchange (ACE), who publish a newsletter FROM COVER TO COVER.

ACEers trade covers between themselves using a variety of methods, from informal trades to round robins to birthday well-wishes checklists. Covers must be made up in batches, so anyone joining should be prepared to meet commitments to produce reliably, but the conditions are not onerous. If you can do a couple dozen handmade covers a month, you will get on quite well in this club. The ACE covers are quite impressive. The issue at hand of FROM COVER TO COVER (November 1998) illustrates some excellent work of hand-drawn all-over work. The newsletter is chatty and informal, with notes of events and what members are up to. There are practical notes on making art covers, and commentary on what makes a good cover.

Membership is US\$7 single/US\$10 family, from Joseph Doles (to whom cheques should be made payable), ACE Treasurer, 105 Lawson Road, Rochester, New York 14616-1444.



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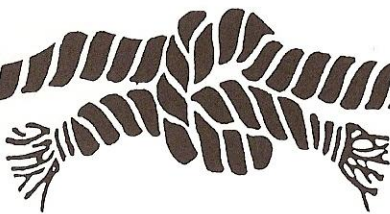
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BOOK REVIEW: "LONELY HEARTS", A PHILATELIC ROMANCE

by Denise Petty

There have been dozens of philatelic novels and hundreds of short stories involving stamps or some other aspect of philately. Almost always these are mystery stories, where stamps are a valuable item stolen or wanted, or where they provide an important clue because a postmark or stamp variety identifies a forgery or date of a crime. The stories could just as well have used jewellery or antiques in place of the stamps, therefore the stamps are not a vital element.

LONELY HEARTS is a different kind of philatelic novel. It is a romance in the usual mass-market paperback tradition (Love Spell Books 1998, ISBN 0-505-52256-X), written by Annie Kimberlin. The plot involves a young woman, Sylvie Taylor, who operates a home business as a rubber stamp artist, and as a hobby is involved in mail art. Her letter carrier Ray Novino is rather grumpy about this, as he has to deliver the weird stuff sent by mail artists to Sylvie. She falls for him not just figuratively, as her dog knocks over a ladder while she was up on the house roof, leaving her stranded up there. Ray happens to come along, delivering the latest batch of mail art for her, and helps her off the roof. Unfortunately she slips coming down, lands on top of Ray, and puts him on sick leave with a sprained ankle.

As he recuperates, she tries to make amends, starting with rubber stamp art and mail art, supplying home cooking and ankle remedies, and just being a nuisance. The course of true love never runs smooth, naturally. He likes plain white envelopes because the address is easy to read. She likes the unexpected and exotic, such as envelopes addressed with a rebus. Both have their own hurts from earlier life, which hold them back from commitment. His life is neat and orderly, everything sorted in order just like his daily load of letters. Her life is chaotic, and occasionally seems to have no logic to it, just like a batch of mail art.

The novel progresses over 300 pages before arriving at a satisfactory conclusion. Sylvie and Ray (and her poodle Jean-Luc) clash and separate, regret and reconcile, and finally reach togetherness. Ray always wanted to travel but could never afford it, being a foster child from the wrong side of the tracks. As a letter carrier he gets to see mail from around the world and experiences a vicarious form of travel. As a stamp collector, he can sort out stamps into his collection and muse on their points of origin. Sylvie has fun with her mail art, getting surprises from her friends around the world and expressing herself with rubber stamps. A fairly standard romance, but interesting for a stamp collector or mail artist to read because of the numerous postal references.

The CPS held its annual Christmas Social on December 2 in lieu of the regular monthly meeting. About 55 people turned out for the good food and drink, conversation (philatelic and otherwise), award presentations, and a fun quiz. Many thanks to those who helped put the event on.

The Founders' Award, for service to the CPS in the preceding season, went to Minaz Ramji. He has been very active in helping stage the CPS stamp shows, both in formal executive positions and behind the scenes. The award consists of a large silver tray (perpetual award) and a small silver tray (keeper), both suitably engraved.

Cumulative List For Founders' Award (given for service to the CPS)

1973 - Jim Sadler	1975 - Tom Lemon
1974 - Ken Ford	1976 - Walter Jackson
<i>1977 to 1979 - used as a show award</i>	
1980/81 - Don Fraser	1990/91 - Doug Kollar
1981/82 - Keith Brown	1991/92 - Perry Holinshead
1982/83 - Al Munro	1992/93 - no award
1983/84 - Leanne Johnson	1993/94 - Penny Borrowman
1984/85 - John Jarabek	1994/95 - Ernie Bell
1985/86 - Guy Boissonneault	1995/96 - Bob Hoffman
1986/87 - Dale Speirs	1996/97 - Isobel Atrell
1987/88 - no award	1997/98 - Minaz Ramji
1988/89 - Greg Lang	
1989/90 - Mike McPhail	

The 1998 Author of the Year went to John Grasmeyer for his article on the 1898-1998 Xmas stamp, which you read in the December issue. The Certificate of Award is provided by the American Philatelic Society, of which the CPS is a chapter.

Cumulative List For Author of the Year

1990 - Mirko Zatka	1995 - Ed Harris
1991 - Georg Gerlach	1996 - Phyllis Weston
1992 - Perry Holinshead	1997 - no award
1993 - Jim Karr	1998 - John Grasmeyer
1994 - Bob Monilaws	

BNAPSERS BUSY IN COWTOWN

After the summer break, the Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society began their new season by touring the Calgary Mail Processing Plant out at the airport. The tour was held on September 7 in lieu of the regular meeting that night. Since the last such tour several years ago, the floor space of the CMPP has been re-arranged and new types of machinery brought in to handle the more than 1,000,000 pieces of mail sorted each day.

For the October 14 meeting, Jim Karr spoke on 2- and 3-ring orb cancels. These Canadian postmarks were used in the late 1800s, and are only found from a few cities.

At the Remembrance Day meeting, Morten Theilgaard gave a slide show on Canada's history as depicted on stamps. He showed not only the stamp depicting a building or place, but also followed it with his photographs of the actual place as it exists today. There are some fascinating twists to this idea. The tables shown in the background of the 1927 Confederation commemorative are now in the Saskatchewan Legislature, and Morten had photos of the tables now used in a reading room.

The December 9 meeting programme was presented by Slavik Czarney, who showed his collection of Admirals, which he has in stockbook-fulls. One interesting specimen was a socked-on-the-nose Admiral stamp with a 1914 Peace Year cancel, dated a few weeks after World War One had begun. There was quite a discussion about collecting Admirals. The days of unpicked bundles of these stamps are long gone, but there is still much to collect.

Some grimmer news was that the Museum is no longer available as a meeting place, not through the fault of the Museum staff. A bureaucrat in Ottawa at the Ministry of Defence decreed that groups using the Museum meeting rooms must pay "market value charges". The Calgary Group will now meet in members' homes until something else can be arranged. The Group thanks the Museum for its assistance over the past few years. If you haven't seen the Museum, drop by and have a look; the displays are first-rate.

The Calgary BNAPSers are a group devoted to Canadian stamps and postal history. Not just old stuff from a century ago, but also modern material you might see on your incoming mail. The group meets second Wednesdays of the month. There is a short business session, a programme, then a show-and-tell session. Once the meeting is over, several night owls adjourn to a nearby coffee shop for further talk, philatelic or not. For further details, contact Ed Harris at 274-0021.

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, Alberta, T2P 2E7, or hand them to me at meetings. Next deadline is March 4 for the April bulletin.

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

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 meetings.

MEMBERSHIP BADGES: DO YOU HAVE YOURS?

Members who have recently joined the CPS can pick up their name tags from the membership committee. These tags are not mailable, so see Isobel Attrell or Robert Perry at the meetings. The badges are displayed on the front table in the meeting room.

COMMITTEES

Archives	Dale Speirs	243-1752
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Auction - silent	Ernie Bell	288-3042
Circuit books	Bob Hoffman	274-2425
Editor	Dale Speirs	243-1752
Library	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
Membership	Bob Perry	282-4520
Private Treaty books	Gerry Vader	293-0158
Programmes	Phil Wolf	259-8750
Sergeant-At-Arms	Andy Puczko	241-2593

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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
December	1	.....	Christmas social

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