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CALGARY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

PRESENTS THE SECOND ANNUAL

CALGARY SPRING STAMPSHOW '99

APRIL 24th, 1999 SATURDAY: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

APRIL 25th, 1999 SUNDAY: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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

Membership dues for the 1998/99 season are \$12, plus an initiation fee of \$5 for new members. Send to 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.

The CPS mailing address is Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6. The Web site is: <http://www.cal.shaw.wave.ca/~tpresber/cps.htm>

1998/99 EXECUTIVE

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COMMITTEES

(see page 14 for list of committee chairpersons)

by Dale Speirs

Commemoratives are often not easily available from branch post offices, as philatelists discover who buy them for first-day covers or ordinary mail. Postal clerks generally don't like the extra paperwork involved in ordering them, or may suffer a boss who can't be bothered by them. One Canadian postie, writing anonymously for obvious reasons, told of how he was disciplined by his supervisor for ordering a selection of commemoratives instead of the usual definitives [1].

Even the use of definitives is declining. Businesses use meter mail as this allows better cost tracking and reduced employee theft. Meter use exceeded postage stamp use in Canada in 1962 [6]. A compilation of articles on meter use is shown below.

Meter use on letter mail.				
Period of study	Geographic source of mail	Volume of mail studied	% of mail using meters	Literature reference
1949	San Gabriel, California	3,600	52	7
1977 October	pan-USA	1,357	3	3
1979 June	Calgary, Alberta, credit card company	7,801	14.4	15
1988	Vancouver, B.C.	27,445	57	11
1988	Ohio	171	2.3	4
1981 to 1991 all mail	New Jersey	20,000	72.5	13
1981 to 1991 non-philatelic	New Jersey	20,000	88.8	13

Meter use on letter mail.				
Period of study	Geographic source of mail	Volume of mail studied	% of mail using meters	Literature reference
1989	New Jersey	20,000	66.9	13
1990	New Jersey	20,000	67.8	13
1992 March 1 to May 8	St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia	3,109	34	8
1993 March 15 to April 30	Simcoe County, Ontario (court house)	4,556	55.2	10
1993 April 5 to April 30	Simcoe County, Ontario (school board)	1,699	76.3	10
1993 August	New Brunswick Telephone Company	2,762	17.5	2

At first glance, the figures do not appear to show any trend. However, this is due to the varying types of sources of mail in the study. Where mail is sent mostly by individuals, such as utility bill payments, the use of meters is low. Business-to-business mail has a greater percentage of metered mail. Interestingly enough, it appears that the major victim of the Internet will not be postage stamps but rather metered mail. Numerous companies now provide businesses with services that allow the latter to download postage over the Internet, rather than have to lug a meter machine down to the post office for refilling. Meter mail has already had any effect it will ever have on postage stamps. The latter lost that battle several decades ago. Therefore the bulk of the effect of the Internet will fall on metered mail.

That commemorative stamps are not used by the majority of people mailing stamps is a truism in the philatelic hobby, as anyone who has access to bulk incoming mail knows. There have been laments over the years that stamp use is dying or almost dead, but most complaints I have seen on this have been short on factual details or were only a snapshot of the given day. A compilation of the factual philatelic literature on the use of commemoratives is shown below.

Commemorative use on letter mail.				
Period of study	Geographic source of mail	Volume of mail studied	% of mail using commems	Literature reference
1947 November 15 to 1948 March 6	Kansas utility	5,100	5.3	5
1949	San Gabriel, California	3,600	4	7
1953	France	not stated	less than 5% (no commems at local rates)	12
1953	Italy	not stated	18	12
1953	West Germany and Berlin	not stated	40	12
1953	Belgium	not stated	0 (only commems were surtaxes)	12
1953	Sweden	not stated	30	12
1972	Britain	27,013 (stamped mail only)	11.2	14
1977 October	pan-USA	1,357	11.6	3
1979 June	Calgary, Alberta, credit card company	7,801	25.7	15
1988	Ohio	171	9.4	4

Commemorative use on letter mail.

Period of study	Geographic source of mail	Volume of mail studied	% of mail using commems	Literature reference
1992 March 1 to May 8	St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia	3,109	10	8
1993 April to July	St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia	1,012	6.1	9
1994 February to August	St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia	1,389	5.9	9
1993 March 15 to April 30	Simcoe County, Ontario (court house)	4,556	1.9	10
1993 April 5 to April 30	Simcoe County, Ontario (school board)	1,699	0.8	10
1993 August	New Brunswick Telephone Company	2,762	6.3	2
1998 Sept. 19 to Oct. 29	Arizona payments processing office	2,091	17.22	16
1998 Oct. 24 to Dec. 7	Arizona payments processing office	2,192	17.88	16

Again, there is considerable variability in use of commemoratives, but roughly it seems that about a bit under 10% of postage used by the general public is commemorative. As with the meter use variance, the amount of business mail influences the mix, for if businesses use stamps they are more likely to prefer coils or sheet definitives.

The Future Of Commemoratives.

Will the use of commemoratives decline in the future? This depends entirely on how post offices push stamp sales to the general public. Philatelists don't enter into it, since they are a small proportion of those who buy commemoratives. For every collector who indignantly writes to *LINN'S* or *CANADIAN STAMP NEWS* announcing he is quitting buying new issues, the post office picks up thousands of new collectors who have no interest in boring engraved stamps but do like the colourful topical issues such as Disney, dinosaurs, or Christmas stamps. That is why the market is being flooded with such stamps; people are buying them.

But will they actually use them for postage or as collectibles? I suspect that postally used commemoratives will continue to decline. E-mail is a popular villain but there is a more important trend, that of electronic funds transfer. Letter writing among the general public has mostly died out. People prefer to telephone instead. The major use of postage stamps among the public is to pay utility and credit card bills. Indeed, most of the above listed censuses were of these types of mail. In the last decade, automatic funds transfers have become widespread. Pension cheques and paycheques are deposited electronically in one direction. In the other direction, utility and credit card bills are paid by automatic debit directly from one's account, or indirectly by going to one's bank branch and using their bill-paying service.

Just as television never killed radio, or radio never killed stage theatre, so it is that e-commerce will not kill the postal system. But just as television dramatically changed radio from programmed schedules to disc jockeys, and radio killed vaudeville but left Shakespeare untouched, so it is that e-commerce will change the postal system. Letter writing will undoubtedly dwindle and be replaced by e-mail, but parcels can never be stuffed down an electrical wire. Commemoratives will be rarely seen on the mails but will become a collectible in the same category as hockey trading cards or lapel pins. Commemorative stamps do not need to serve an actual postal purpose to be valid collectibles. After all, neither trading cards or lapel pins have any valid use other than as collectibles designed to soak up discretionary spending to the benefit of the manufacturer.

References.

- 1] Anonymous (1979) Where have all the commemoratives gone? *CANADIAN PHILATELIST* 30:147-148
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- 3] Cross, James (1978) Study validates earlier discussion. *AMERICAN PHILATELIST* 92:320
- 4] Fisher, H.H. (1989) Tabulation of covers. *AMERICAN PHILATELIST* 103:14
- 5] Graves, J.W. (1948) Useage of U.S. commemoratives. *AMERICAN PHILATELIST* 62:222
- 6] Irwin, R.W. (1967) Postage rates in Canada. *CANADIAN PHILATELIST* 18:203-211
- 7] King, I.G. (1949) More on useage of U.S. commemoratives. *AMERICAN PHILATELIST* 62:471
- 8] MacDonald, J.J. (1993) Where have all the commemoratives gone? *CANADIAN PHILATELIST* 44:70-71
- 9] MacDonald, J.J. (1995) More words on fewer commemoratives. *CANADIAN PHILATELIST* 46:99-100
- 10] Millar, M. (1993) Where, indeed, have all the commemoratives gone? *CANADIAN PHILATELIST* 44:323-325
- 11] Painter, M. (1989) Surviving the mails. *BNA TOPICS* 46(1):7
- 12] Roe, A.V. (1953-12-18) Commemoratives they use on the continent. *STAMP COLLECTING* 81:485
- 13] Schumacher, P. (1991) Philatelic census. *TOPICAL TIME* 42(3):76
- 14] Spencer, C.C. (1972) Charity begins in the office. *STAMP COLLECTING* 119:257,259

15] Wilsey, R.H. (1979) Commemorative stamps. *CANADIAN PHILATELIST* 30:279

16] Gerlach, V.S. (199-01-25) Data doesn't jibe. *LINN'S STAMP NEWS* 71(3665):4

YEAR OF THE RABBIT FIRST-DAY CEREMONIES

Members of the Calgary Philatelic Society received an invitation to attend the unveiling of the Year of the Rabbit postage stamp, held 1999-01-08 at the Chinese Cultural Centre in downtown Calgary. Many members of the CPS attended. Also seen were a number of Edmonton Stamp Club members as well who made the 4-hour drive down from the north on icy highways.

There was a full crowd for the ceremonies. The curtain rose on a traditional Chinese dance by one woman, very colourful in both costume and scenery. She danced through the dry-ice fog swirling along the stage and flowing down over the footlights, a flurry of fans and long scarves.

The dance was followed by a Cultural Centre official dressed in mandarin robes, who acted as the master of ceremonies. In the absence of Andre Ouellet, the Minister for Canada Post, the feds were represented by Senator Joyce Fairbairn. The ceremony was bilingual in English and Cantonese. Next up on the stage was an actor dressed in scarlet robes as the God of Wealth. If you can imagine Santa Claus as a mandarin, then you have the picture. The God came down into the audience and handed out FDCs with the stamp and postmark (trilingual) and a wish form. The idea of the wish form is that you put your name and telephone number down, then complete the sentence: "My wish for the God of Wealth to relay back to Heaven is: ". The Cultural Centre staff will sort through the forms in time for the Chinese New Year and select winning entries.

Then came the dragon dancers, always a favourite. Noisy drums and cymbals, and every colour of the rainbow. The dignitaries unveiled the stamp design, presentations were made, and the M.C. announced the end of the ceremonies.

Half the audience rushed the Canada Post sales booths for Rabbit stamps and press sheets, and the other half rushed the steam tables for shrimp toast and pork dumplings. Those who attended enjoyed a great time, with splendid dances, good food, and freebies.

VIVE LE (INSERT NAME OF GOVERNMENT HERE)

by Dale Speirs

Review of *FREE FRENCH INVASION: THE ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON AFFAIRE OF 1941* by Douglas Anglin (US\$25 or C\$32 from Penny Black Publishing, Box 21132, 665 - 8 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta T2P 4H5) Trade paperback, reprint of the definitive 1966 text from the University of Toronto Press edition.

If you want to have fun with a trivia question at some party game or for a tavern bet, pose the following question: "How many sovereign nations are there in North America north of Mexico?". The average person will respond that there are only two, Canada and the USA. Some people will note that Kalaallit Nunaat is part of the continent, and therefore is either Inuit or Danish, depending on your political sympathies towards what the People From The South refer to as Greenland. Very few non-philatelists know that France is a North American nation, or even believe it when you tell them.

John Cabot discovered the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon in 1497. They were settled originally because of the excellent fishing and because the ice-free harbour was used to provision the sailing ships that came from Europe to fish the nearby Grand Banks. Over the next few centuries the islands changed hands numerous times between England and France, and not until 1816 did they become a permanent part of France. The advent of the steamship crippled the economy of the islands, since fishing ships could go straight to the Grand Banks from Europe and did not need to stop at a harbour. The subsequent decline in the fishing industry finished off any hope that St. Pierre and Miquelon would ever be self-sufficient, and since that time they have relied on government subsidy.

Fast-forward to 1941. The war in Europe is not going well. Canada and Newfoundland had been in the war since 1939. The USA was neutral, and inclined to be sympathetic to the Vichy government while at the same time leaning to Britain in support against the Germans. In St. Pierre and Miquelon, there was political strife. The government administrators, businessmen, and clergy were Vichyards, while the majority of the population supported the Free French under Charles de Gaulle. Both sides conducted political campaigns that might have exploded into open violence anyplace else, but in the closely intermarried colony had to be kept at just below the boiling point. The Vichyards arrested a few agitators or fired them from government jobs. The Resistance published underground papers and posters that stung the Vichyards. And watching them carefully, sometimes almost hysterical with nerves, were the Free French, Canadian, American, Newfoundland, and British governments.

On the one hand, the islands were too insignificant to start a full scale clash over. On the other hand, the Vichyards had a shortwave transmitter that was of use to the German U-boats raiding the North Atlantic. The Newfoundland government was foaming at the mouth to annex the islands but none of the other powers would allow that. The Canadians were too cautious to touch off a diplomatic incident by invading the islands and offending both Vichy and Free French. The Americans wanted to forget the whole thing but couldn't.

De Gaulle solved the whole matter, to his satisfaction at least, by sending Free French destroyers to St. Pierre and Miquelon in December 1941 and evicting the Vichyards. From a practical military point of view, the islands then became a backwater for the rest of the war. With the radio transmitter under Free French control, there was no more value in the islands, especially once the USA finally entered the war after Pearl Harbour.

Whenever any government is overthrown, the first thing the new regime does is issue postage stamps. The Free French occupation was no exception to this rule. The stamps were issued under circumstances for which the phrase 'sharp practice' was too mild. Many found their way to the philatelic market under suspicious circumstances, and the money flowed like water everywhere except in the riverbed it was supposed to go in. It was no surprise that one of the principals in the stamp affair subsequently served a prison term and was sent into exile.

The diplomatic repercussions continued however. The USA was divided between Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, who wanted the Free French evicted and everything put back the way it was, and President Roosevelt, who preferred to ignore Foggy Bottom and treat the St. Pierre and Miquelon incident as the minor sideshow it was, in the hope that it would soon be forgotten. Churchill, who had to deal with de Gaulle, once remarked that the heaviest cross he had to bear was the Cross of Lorraine. Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King had been in power for decades and always worked on the principle that doing nothing about anything was the best policy. He was harassed by his cabinet ministers, who wanted him to Do Something Fer Crying Out Loud Willya, while simultaneously he had to remind the Americans that Canada was not their errand boy.

Douglas Anglin writes well about all the diplomatic to-ing and fro-ing. The book has a bad case of footnote-itis, but is quite readable. The cast of characters and their activities is easy to follow. The emphasis is on the diplomatic politics, not the infamous Free French stamps, but this will serve as an excellent background briefing on how the stamps came to be. Jim Taylor, the owner of Penny Black Publishing, has done a valuable service by reprinting this book. I enjoyed reading it even though I do not collect St. Pierre and Miquelon.

FALLEN ARROW

by Leanteri Polvikoski

Forty years ago, the Avro Arrow fighter plane was cancelled by Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, touching off a firestorm of controversy that has not yet subsided fully. The Canadian Post Office was caught in the eddies of this controversy, for three days after the cancellation, they issued a postage stamp commemorating fifty years of aviation in Canada. Unfortunately the stamp depicted delta-wing fighters, and since the Avro Arrow was the only such Canadian plane, official denials that they were not it did not ring true.

Diefenbaker rose before the House of Commons on February 20, 1959. In his speech, he gave as the primary reason for cancelling the CF-105 Avro Arrow the fact that the bomber threat they were to have repelled no longer existed. Intercontinental ballistic missiles were the new threat, against which a fighter plane could do nothing. Having spent \$400,000,000 on the prototype development, he saw no point in throwing good money after bad, and cancelled the project.

The A.V. Roe company, prime contractor to the Arrow, immediately laid off 13,800 workers. About 650 sub-contractors supplying parts and services brought the layoff totals up to 30,000 people. Diefenbaker was stunned by these layoffs, and accused the companies of trying to make him look bad by the sudden impact of the cancellation. Many commentators feel Diefenbaker never appreciated what his decision would do to the Canadian aerospace industry. The cancellation has produced one of Canada's few homegrown conspiracy theories. Some say it was a plot by the American aerospace industry to eliminate the competition, as the Arrow was considered the finest fighter plane in the world at the time.

The sudden decision caught other people off guard. February 23, 1959, was the 50th anniversary of the first aircraft flight in Canada. The aircraft engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney took out an ad in that day's *OTTAWA JOURNAL* newspaper (page 16). It was too late to cancel the display ad depicting its part in the Arrow project and honouring itself for its role in aviation history. The Canadian post office that day issued a stamp for the anniversary, showing the Silver Dart, the primitive biplane flown by J.A.D. McCurdy. In the background were three Arrows climbing vertically under full throttle. Caught short by the sudden cancellation, the Post Office could do nothing but deny that the planes were Arrows.

To this day, books are still being written about the Arrow. An organization has been founded to build a 2/3 replica of the doomed plane. The Arrow 2000 Project can be reached at 6808 Ogden Road SE, Calgary, T2C 1B4.



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C.P.S. CONSTITUTION CHANGES

by Bruce Irvine

At the C.P.S. Executive meeting of 1999-02-22, it was proposed that the following changes be made to the Society's constitution for the reasons indicated. A review of the constitution reveals several inconsistencies with our present practice.

5a. states: "The fiscal year will be from September 1 to August 31." As our fiscal year starts July 1 and runs to June 30, we recommend this be amended to read: "The fiscal year will be from July 1 to June 30."

6a. referring to the Executive states: "Terms of office will be from September 1 to August 31." In order to coincide with our fiscal year, we recommend this be amended to reflect the above change.

In addition, in order to provide for continuity in handling the affairs of the Society, we feel that the Executive should be appointed for a two-year term as we do for the Directors. This will give the new Executive the opportunity to become familiar with our procedures and enhance their performance. Therefore we recommend that terms of office be amended to read: "Terms of office will be from July 1 to June 30 and that the Executive be elected for a two year term."

3e. states: "Non-payment of dues for one year by any member will be considered a resignation." We recommend that this be amended to read: "Non payment of dues by Dec. 31 of the current year will be considered a resignation."

COMMITTEES

Archives	Dale Speirs	243-1752
Auction - regular	Doug Kollar	547-3838
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 Puczek	241-2593

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 May 5 for the June bulletin.

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

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 meetings.

FOR SALE: Very fine Australia used, mainly of past few years. Contact Michael at 286-7927 (h) or 245-2282(w).

FOR SALE: Ukrainian and Russian stamps new and used. Also Ukrainian FDCs and special cancels from 1991 to date. Call Andy at 236-2037.

TRADE WANTED: I will trade a strip of 13 Canada #468B 6-cent black double-perf coil for the same strip imperf in a similar strip. Other trades considered. Contact Gordon Hill at 249-1094.

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

WANTED: Canadian registered covers, any era, using coil stamps or coils with regular stamps to pay proper postage rates. I also need a nice pair of the 45-cent coil on cover (preferably #8 size commercially used), also a pair of the 36-cent red coil used in proper time. Needed as well are several VF used strips of the 45-cent coil off cover. Mint stamps to trade or will buy. Call Gordon Hill at 249-1094.

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB SPRING SHOW

No posters have made their way to the Editor in time for this issue, but we see in the E.S.C. BULLETIN that their Spring Show will be at the West Edmonton Mall Conference Centre, 3rd Floor, above Europa Boulevard. Calgarians usually do well in the exhibits, and of course there are always things to buy in the bourse.

Friday, March 26 - 13h00 to 20h00

Saturday, March 27 - 10h00 to 17h00

Sunday, March 28 - 10h00 to 16h00

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS FOR 1999

April	4	Sunday bourse.
	7	General meeting
	21	Auction
	24 and 25	Spring Stampshow
May	2	Sunday bourse
	5	General meeting
	5	Deadline for June bulletin
	19	Auction
June	2	Election meeting
	6	Sunday bourse
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

SPRING STAMPSHOW is at Chinese Cultural Centre, 197 - First Street SW.
Contact Bruce Irvine (938-7027) or Minaz Ramji (280-0770) for details.

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

CALGARY REGIONAL GROUP OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA
PHILATELIC SOCIETY meets on the second Wednesday of the month except
July and August. For details about meeting places and times, contact Ed Harris at
274-0021.

SUNDAY BOURSE is at Rosscarrock Community Hall, 4410 - 10 Avenue SW,
from 10h00 to 16h00. For details and table rentals, call Phil Wolf at 259-8750.