

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue #39

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Membership dues for the 1999/2000 season are \$12, plus an initiation fee of \$5 for new members. Send to the CPS, Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta T2P 2L6. Notice of address changes or enquiries about missing copies should be sent to the Membership Chairman, not the Editor.

The CPS mailing address is Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6. The Web site is: <http://members.home.net/calphilso/cps.htm> All articles as hard copy only, mailed to Box 6830, Calgary, T2P 2E7, or handed to Dale Speirs at meetings.

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 14 for list of committee chairpersons)

AFTER THE SOVIET EMPIRE FELL: 1992-94 LOCAL PROVISIONAL POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE CHERNYHIV OBLAST' OF UKRAINE

by Andrew Avramenko

From August 24, 1991, the day when Ukraine declared its independence, to the end of that year, old Soviet postal rates remained in effect in Ukraine. During that time, the available supplies of old Soviet postage stamps were used for mailing, so that post-August 24, 1991 cancel dates alone determine that a given piece of mail went through the postal system of Ukraine.

Ukraine's monetary system at that time was one Karbovanets' (plural: Karbovansti) = 100 Kopyky (singular: Kopyka). From 1992 on, due to the rapidly progressing inflation of Ukraine's currency, postal rates of Ukraine kept rising in quick succession. As a result, most of the Soviet postage stamps were, due to their low denominations, either quickly used up or became practically useless for postage. The same can be said for the early postage stamps of Ukraine.

Due to this and a number of other reasons, postal conditions in Ukraine were characterized in 1992-95 by the inability of the Post of Ukraine to supply adequate quantities of its own postage stamps with denominations valid for the then current postal rates, mainly to most of the outlying areas of the country. This forced the Post of Ukraine to remedy this situation by allowing the emission of locally produced surcharges with new denominations on old Soviet postage stamps, by issuing locally printed original postage stamps, and by using stamp substitutes.

The postal authorities in Ukraine's north-central Oblast' (province) of Chernyiv made good use of this opportunity to remedy the dearth of regular Ukrainian stamps. The Oblast is named after its capital city whose original name, spelt with a 'y', has by now been russified in Ukraine by being spelt with an 'i', that is, Chernihiv.

The remedy was carried out by:

1) Surcharging old Soviet stamps.

This was done in Chernyiv, where, in September 1992, nine stamps were surcharged with the positive and negative image of the trident (the coat of arms of Ukraine) and a new denomination (50 kop, 1 krb, and 3 krb); see Figure 1.



Figure 1

Surcharging was done in Pryluky where, in June 1993, six stamps were surcharged by rubber stamps supplied from Chernyhiv, two different 24 and two different 50 krb (Figure 2). These stamps were then used in the localities that issued them and in their Rayons (counties).



Figure 2

2) **Issuing their own original postage stamps.** Initially, to prepare them, some of the rubber stamps were utilized which were provided by Chernyhiv to Rayon post offices already in January 1992. They were to be used there for surcharging old Soviet postal stationery which had low denominations with the new ones required for the increased postal rates. Stamps with the denominations of 43 and 45 kop were issued in Kulykivka (March 1992), Bakhmach and Shchors (April 1992), and Ichnya (May 1992). The remaining supplies of these stamps and the rubber stamps used to produce them were recalled to Chernyhiv in mid-March 1994.

Subsequent postal rate increases resulted in stamps with the denominations of 93 and 95 kop being produced in Shchors in June 1992 and in Kulykivka in September 1992, again by rubber stamps sent from Chernyhiv for the surcharging of postal stationery. The 1993 eventually saw the appearance of stamps with many new denominations (3, 9, 10, 15, 24, 30, 50, 100, and 250 krb) which were produced in Bakhmach, Ichnya, Koryukivka, Kulykivka, Mena, Semenivka, Novhorod-Sivers'kyi, and Shchors.

These stamps were printed, usually by hand, occasionally also by the rubber stamps being machine-fitted, either on sheets of various sorts of paper or on strips of paper, usually in black but sometimes in purple (Ichnya, Novhorod-Sivers'kyi, and Semenivka). From Rayon post offices which produced them, they were supplied to all other post offices of these Rayons. They were used for mail within Ukraine and to countries which constituted the Commonwealth of Independent Countries (formerly parts of USSR but excluding the Baltic countries). For mail to other countries, regular stamps of Ukraine had to be used.

Their basic patterns were single framed sextanglers or double framed octanglers. The karbovansti denominations were inscribed POSHTA ('The Post') at the top, the denomination placed in a rectangular frame in the middle, and KRB at bottom, as in Figure 3.



Figure 3

Exceptionally, the denomination had no frame around it, as in Figure 4. On stamps with the denomination in kopiyyky, POSHTA was repeated at the bottom, and 'K', for kopiyyky, was placed to the left and right of the denomination, as per Figure 5.



Figure 4



Figure 5

Stamps produced in different localities show a number of differences with respect to many other aspects. Different types of paper were used. Design sizes (Figure 6) and other design details differed. Different colours were used with their shades and saturation also noticeable.

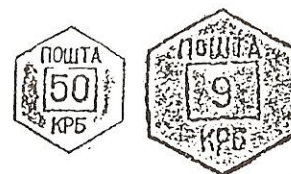


Figure 6

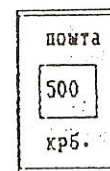


Figure 7

Two localities produced further stamps with different designs. Kulykivka had a set of 17 similarly inscribed rectangular stamps, issued between September 1993 and February 1994. Values issued were 10, 18, 20, 27, 40, 60, 80, 90, 100, 200, 250, 300, 400, 500, 600, 800, and 1000 krb, example shown in Figure 7. Chernyhiv had a set of 25 rectangular stamps inscribed POSHTA UKRAINY and issued between May and December 1993. Values were 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 35, 50, 73, 100, 200, 300, 500, and 900 krb, example in Figure 8.

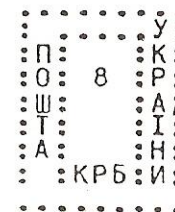


Figure 8.

[continued next page]

3) **Employing stamp substitutes.** In addition to the above emissions, post offices of some localities of this Oblast' used also, according to some vague references in the secondary literature, cash register receipts in lieu of postage stamps. These receipts are said to have been affixed only to pieces of mail brought by the public to these post offices, so no mint examples of these stamp substitutes exist. For details concerning these items, we must wait until the revised and updated edition of Mr. Hrykoryi Lobko's catalogue of Ukrainian local stamps appears in print.

UKRAINE POSTAGE RATES - HYPERINFLATION OF THE 1990s
compiled by Dale Speirs

All rates in karbovansti. For comparison, Canada's domestic postage rate during the same time period went from 40 cents to 43 cents. Had Canada experienced the same rate of hyperinflation, the rate would have gone from 40 cents to \$571.43.

Date of increase	Domestic rate	International rate - air	International rate - surface
1991-12-31	0.07	0.50	0.30
1992-01-02	0.50	5.00	3.60
1992-05-18	1.00	5.00	3.60
1992-07-17	1.00	25.00	15.00
1993-01-01	3.00	85.00	70.00
1993-08-30	27.00	300.00	250.00
1993-12-06*	100.00	2522.00	1892.00

*Actual rates in US\$, adjusted daily for hyperinflation. [1]

Reference.

1] Pateman, T. (1994 Jan/Feb) Ukraine's new postal rates? TRIDENT-VISNYK 60:9

COMMEMORATIVE CANCELS OF THE 13TH PAN AMERICAN GAMES IN WINNIPEG

by Georg Gerlach

1999 marked the second time that Winnipeg has hosted the Pan American Games. The first time was during Canada's centennial in 1967. The latest Games took place between July 23 and August 8, and brought together thousands of athletes from the Americas in 41 sporting competitions.

To commemorate the Games, Canada Post issued a set of four stamps on July 12, 1999. Each stamp depicted a primary sport as its main theme and pictured other sports in the background. In addition to these stamps, Canada Post also printed and sold a set of four postcards for mailing anywhere in the world. The postcards incorporated the stamp designs in the upper right corner on the reverse of the card, and showed various scenes plus the same stamp design on the front.

During the Pan American Games, Canada Post used two commemorative cancellations. One was used for the general public at the various Games post offices set up at a number of locations throughout Winnipeg. The cancel shows a view of the Winnipeg skyline with rippled lines representing the Red River as a base (front cover of this bulletin, at left). The second cancellation was a special Pan American Games Village cancel applied to mail leaving the athletes' village. The Games Village cancellation illustrated three athletes saluting the crowd after receiving their medals (front cover at right).

The Games were well attended, and the official post office at the main Games site at The Forks in downtown Winnipeg did quite a brisk business. However, a second Games post office at the Winnipeg airport was quite a bit less busy. Games-related postal material as well as other items did not sell that well.

Of interest to me was the fact Canada Post had not advertised the existence of the Pan American Games postcards for the general public until the Fall 1999 COLLECTIONS magazine was issued. I had the impression that many people at the post offices didn't know the postcards existed. These stamps and related postcards bearing one of the two official cancels of the Games will be an interesting item for both topical and cancellation collectors.

PHILATELIC LITERATURE REVIEWS

by Leanteri Polvikoski

Stamp Stories: The Boyhood Memories Of An Old Philatelist (US\$12 from Sheldon Lifter, 5008 Prentiss Drive, Troy, Michigan 48098) Trade paperback, 64 pages, self-published. Nicely produced overall but a few problems where some phrases in the text WERE RANDOMLY IN ALL CAPS but this minor distraction of poor proofreading did not seriously mar the stories. The author reminisces about his childhood during the Great Depression and his stamp accumulating. Stamp collecting was more popular then than since because there were fewer distractions such as television, science fiction, trading cards, or the multitude of activities kids have today.

Lifter's stories cover a remarkable range of people and places he met along the way. Remarkable especially for a young boy, but as he points out, his obsessive search for stamps anywhere he could find them led him into some strange places. He made friends with the son of a bordello madam, who, learning that her son needed more stamps, made her customers bring in 100 stamps in addition to the usual fee for services rendered. He soon had an ample supply for his project, which was to paper his bedroom wall with stamps.

Anecdotes abound. There was a neighbour down the street who insisted on being buried with his stamp album to prevent his faithless wife from giving the collection to her lover. There was a friend's Uncle Max, the local Communist, who fell afoul of the law when one of his Party flunkies tried to mail propaganda with Russian stamps. A bad moment in Lifter's life came when his mother had to sell his stamp collection to pay his doctor bill. Perhaps the most unusual stamp club he saw (one that he did not join) was a tontine called the Saxony Stamp Club. Membership was limited to twenty German immigrants, veterans of the Franco-Prussian wars. Each donated stamps or covers to a collection, of which the last survivor of the club would inherit.

The stories amuse and illuminate a time when philately was king and kings were philatelists. Today stamp collecting is one of hundreds of activities and not as popular as it used to be due to fragmentation of the collectibles field. Lifter shows us how it was when people made their own fun and did it inexpensively.

L'Arte Del Timbro / Rubber Stamp Art (US\$18.95 from Stampland, 450 Taraval Street #276, San Francisco, California 94116) Trade paperback, 176 pages, bilingual in English and Italian, published by AAA Editions, 1999. This is a history of rubber stamp art, from the Dadaists of the early 1900s up to the modern-day Mail Art network. The author is John Held Jr, who has previously

published on mail art. Assisting to produce the book were Picasso Gaglione, a rubber stamp retailer, and Vittore Baroni, who did the Italian translation. Illustrated throughout, with the Italian text on the lefthand page and the English text on the righthand page. The type is set in rainbow colours, not black ink. Beautiful and yet easy to read, unlike most typographical experiments. The colours do not detract from the text if you are reading for content, yet can be admired for their beauty.

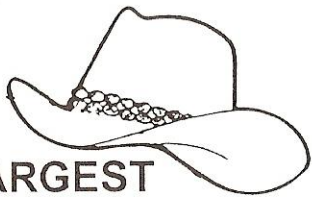
Held starts off with the origin of rubber stamps in the 1860s. The rapid and widespread growth of the rubber stamp industry bears remarkable similarity to the Internet boom. There were 400 manufacturers of rubber stamps by 1880, and 4,000 by 1892. Rubber stamps were first used for artistic purposes in 1912, but after an initial flurry it faded out until post-World War Two.

Popular with the original group of mail art practitioners, and too popular according to some after a 1974 book on mail art rubber stamping. The original artists retreated into their own little world in dismay at the flood of "kwick kopy krap". It was a proud and lonely thing to be a stamper. The first rubber stamp art exhibits appeared in the early 1970s. RUBBERSTAMPADNESS magazine began in 1980, brought together people who thought they were alone, and created an entire new industry of graphic arts stamp manufacturers. Now there are hundreds of companies, not a few of which specialize by topic. Rubber stamp conventions began in 1982, and the Rubber Amateur Press Society.

That was in North America though. In too many countries, and still so today, rubber stamps, like photocopiers and typewriters, were severely restricted if not banned. Many mail artists behind the Iron Curtain put themselves in harm's way when they were stamping. They handcarved their stamps from old shoe soles, while North Americans were squabbling about cute versus weird.

The field is still growing today and splintering, as philately did. Philatelists used to all be worldwide issue collectors, now most of them don't even collect all their own country. Rubber stamping went from Dada to young moms into scrapbooking and greeting cards, with no knowledge of what went on before. RUBBERSTAMPADNESS is now full colour, a thick, matronly magazine packed with ads.

But Held is more concerned with the mail art end of it. After his introductory history sets the stage, he discusses a number of mail artists, using them to illustrate the trends in rubber stamping in the avant garde. Samples of their works are abundant throughout the book. An excellent overview of rubber stamp art, and well recommended.



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BEGGING LETTERS (CONCLUSION)

by Dale Speirs

One organization that made a specialty of investigating beggars was the Society for Organizing Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity, commonly referred to as the London Mendicity Society. Their Secretary was kept busy writing letters to the editor warning of specific beggars and personally investigating the many cases in London, England, by going out to the addresses specified in the letters where the alms were to be sent [28]. In 1831, the Society investigated 3427 begging letters [34].

Criminal prosecutions were often used against begging-letter writers. Mendicity Society officers were empowered as prosecutors. They would watch known beggars from a distance, and if it appeared they were up to no good, move in and detain them. Any begging letters that were on their persons were seized and produced as evidence in London courts [56].

It was common for nobility to give alms without verifying references. Had they bothered to do so, in most cases they would have saved money. An example of one investigation in 1817 concerns Walter Towser, a beggar brought to justice in London, England. A newspaper report [52] of the trial went: "*The Bishop of Durham's porter stated, that a few days ago, the prisoner called at his master's house with a letter purporting to come from the Rector and Churchwardens of St. Clement Danes, stating that his name was Carter, and that he was foreman to Mr. Shepherd, who has the repairing of that church. This letter was directed to the opulent and benevolent, setting forth in the most piteous manner that an accident had happened to him by falling off a scaffold 40 feet high, which injured him dreadfully, and that his wife, who was in an advanced state of pregnancy, had miscarried through the fright. It was given at the vestry-room, under the hands of Mr. Moss, the minister, and Messrs. Young and Hutchings, the churchwardens. There was a list of subscribers on the back, in which the parish was reported to have given £4, the Countess of Harcourt £1, Lady Collingwood £1, with a great number of other names. Witness's master ordered him to give a £1 note also, but witness, suspecting he was an imposter, delayed giving it until some inquiry was made, and, to his great astonishment, he ascertained that no letter had been ever given from the vestry of that parish, the names in which were entirely fictitious. Witness then got a constable, and apprehended him in Lady Pembroke's house, where he was practising a similar imposition. The prisoner was committed for three months as a rogue and vagabond.*"

Modern Begging Letters.

In Victorian times, generally anyone was a target for the phony begging letter. This seems to have faded out as the modern welfare state developed and took over responsibility for life's losers. Today, however, celebrities and wealthy people in the news still get begging letters.

The radio comedian Jack Benny, famous for his miserly character on stage, was well known to be a generous man in private life. He averaged about 75 begging letters a month. He once received a begging letter asking for \$50,000 from an Iowa man who wanted to buy tractors for his farm. Enclosed with the letter were photos showing the man and his wife in dungarees, plus some sickly horses used for plowing. Benny happened to mention this letter to his neighbour and best friend George Burns, and discovered that Burns had also received the letter. Burns suggested that "... *we should send them pictures of two checks, one from me and one from you, each for \$50,000.*" [43].

References.

28] Loch, C.S. (1876-12-12) Begging letter imposters. THE TIMES (London), page 6

34] Anonymous (1832) Mendicity Society. BRITISH MAGAZINE 1:380-381

43] Benny, Jack, and Joan Benny (1990) SUNDAY NIGHTS AT SEVEN. Publ. by Warner Books, pp. 87-88

52] Anonymous (1817-04-25) [untitled] THE TIMES (London), page 3, column d

56] Anonymous (1836-02-20) Marlborough Street. THE TIMES (London), page 4

CALTAPEX '99 PALMARES

by Don Wilson

Special Awards

Grand Award:	Bob Bayes
John Jarabek Award:	Ed Harris
Best B.N.A. Exhibit:	Ed Harris

[continued next page]

Non-Competitive

C.P.S. Archivist	History of the Calgary Philatelic Society
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Gold

Bob Bayes	Freemasonry In Our World
Ed Harris	Pioneer Post Offices and Postal Markings of the Prairies

Vermeil

Ken W.K. Ho	Error Messages From Worldwide Philatelic Components
Kelly Liusz (Junior)	Guys To Never Marry
Kelsey Stephenson (Junior)	First Flights of the North
Kelly Liusz (Junior)	Bears, Bears, Bears
Joseph Smith	Jubilee Junque Jewels

Silver

Ursac Mircea	Olympic Games
Sameer Pruthee (Novice)	World of Water Birds
Dave Russum	The Machins of Great Britain 1967-1999
Kevin Kienlein	Commercial, Official, and Private Perfins in B.C.
Sid Kroker	George VI Issues of Aden
Kelly Liusz (Junior)	Geography of Canada

Silver-Bronze

Ursac Mircea	Mail Circulated on Romanian Territory 1870-1990
Jon Johnson	Mail From SAMNS

Bronze

Zoltan Tauber	Cosmos
Zoltan Tauber	The Arts
Julius Szekrenyes	Ancient Egypt on Stamps
Dale Speirs	Mail Art of the 1990s
Andrew Avromenko	Postage Stamps and Souvenir Sheets of Ukraine
Alexander Malychy	Ukraine: Mykolayiv Provisionals of 1992-94

IN MEMORIAM

Long-time CPS member Ned Burnyeat passed away on September 3, at the age of 87. He was Secretary of the CPS in 1986/87 and a Director from 1987 to 1988. He was a member of the OLYMPEX '88 committee during the Calgary Olympics. Ned also helped out behind the scenes in a variety of club and show activities. Our condolences to his family.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

by Robert Perry

There are a number of members who have not paid their dues for 1999/2000. Our expenses for operating the club are going up all the time, so please renew. We also need new members.

Members must be paid up to use circuit books, auctions, and participate in other club activities. As of January 1st, only paid-up members will receive the bulletin.

Dues are still only \$12 per year. See me at meetings or mail payment to: Robert Perry, 80 Edenvold Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta T3A 5R9.

COMMITTEES

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Auction - silent	Ernie Bell	288-3042
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Circuit books	Bob Hoffman	274-2425
Library	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
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Private Treaty books	Gerry Vader	293-0158
Programmes	Don Fraser	
Publicity	Hugh Delaney	255-0422
Sergeant-At-Arms	Andy Puczek	241-2593

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.

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

FOR SALE: Mint and used Canadian, also used New Zealand and Australia stamps, Calgary Olympics first-day covers. Call Craig Allison at 281-3852.

FOR SALE: British Oceanian souvenir sheets at 50% of Scott catalogue. Phone Robert Perry at 282-4520.

WANTED: Centennial issue covers addressed to foreign destinations. No USA or UK please. 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: "History Of The Calgary Philatelic Society" for \$2 each from Dale Speirs at meetings, or add an extra \$2 for postage and send to: CPS, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. T2P 2E7.

WANTED: Private collector pays cash for larger stamp collections. Phone Willi at 239-2273.

FOR SALE: Recent fine used stamps of Australia. Contact Michael Teekens at 286-7927.

TRADE: Worldwide stamps including many new issues. Some mint but mostly used. To trade for same, based on Scott catalogue. Call Joe at 269-4685.

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS**1999**

November	17	Auction
December	1	Christmas social

2000

January	5	General meeting
	5	Deadline for February bulletin
	19	Auction
February	2	General meeting
	16	Auction
March	1	General meeting
	1	Deadline for April bulletin
	15	Auction
April	5	General meeting
	15 to 16	Spring Stamp Show
	19	Auction
May	3	General meeting
	3	Deadline for June bulletin
	17	Auction

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.

SPRING STAMP SHOW and CALTAPEX are at the Coast Plaza Hotel (formerly Marlborough Inn). Details from Minaz Ramji at 280-0770.

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.