

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 43

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70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
PRAIRIE AIR - MAIL SERVICE
STARTING MARCH 3, 1930

PAR AVION

COMMEMORATIVE FLIGHT CALGARY - MEDICINE HAT MAY, 2000
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VIA AIR MAIL

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*Happy Landings
Club Perch*

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Membership dues for the 2000/2001 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> 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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- 1st year	Bill Pawluk	225-0095
- 1st year	Ghazi Karim	289-8720

COMMITTEES

(see page 15 for list of committee chairpersons)

POSTAL HISTORY OF THE WORLD PETROLEUM CONGRESS

by Dale Speirs

When the World Trade Organization meeting turned into The Battle In Seattle, Calgarians read with complacency the newspaper stories about anarchists trashing Seattle. When the process was repeated in Washington, D.C., a while later at the International Monetary Fund meeting, it was just one of those American things. Then the anarchists announced they were targeting the World Petroleum Congress in Calgary the week of June 11 to 15, 2000, as Seattle Three. Cowtown instantly went into collective fantods.

Compared to the WPC, Y2K was nothing in Calgary. Local newspapers and broadcasters adopted saturation coverage of what happened in Seattle, Washington, D.C., and, the week before WPC, the Organization of American States meeting in Windsor, Ontario. The latter would actually make Calgary as Seattle Four. The news media were little short of open hysteria in their coverage.

On my way home from work, I stop off at the post office on 9 Avenue SW downtown to get my mail. On the Friday before the WPC, there was a letter in my box number from the Postmaster: *"IMPORTANT NOTICE TO POSTAL CUSTOMERS. The World Petroleum Congress is meeting in Calgary, from June 11 to June 15, 2000 (inclusive), at the Calgary Convention Centre. This important event will bring close to 3,500 delegates to our city."*

"While we are hopeful that postal delivery and pick-up service will proceed as usual during this period, we are also aware that demonstrations are being planned against the Congress participants."

"Should such demonstrations occur, mail service to your area may be affected, and we may be unable to provide "business as usual" service during all or part of this period. We do anticipate that normal delivery and pick-up service will resume on June 16, 2000."

"Additionally, street letter boxes will be temporarily removed from the downtown core near the Convention Centre. Customers who normally use this equipment can deposit their mail at any Post Office. Large volume mailers who normally deposit mail at our Calgary Central facility at 207 - 9 Avenue S.W. are asked to use either of the following corporate facilities during this period:

- 1100 - 49 Avenue NE (Calgary Mail Processing Plant)*
- 6100 Macleod Trail SW (Calgary South Post Office)"*

"If access to our Calgary Central Post Office at 207 - 9 Avenue S.W. is obstructed during this period, retail service is also available through our franchise network, at locations that are listed under "CANADA POST" in the white pages of your telephone book."

"Canada Post apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause. Your co-operation and understanding is appreciated. If you have any questions please call our Customer Service Line at 1-800-267-1177."

On Monday, June 12, the post office was open and operating normally. Just past it, 9 Avenue SW was fenced off with 3-metre chain link set up by the police. Four CPS constables checked cars passing through the barricades to the hotels and convention centre on the other side. Above, a police helicopter fluttered about. No sign of noisy mobs, but the traffic was at a near standstill, and I was glad to be walking. The next day, 9 Avenue SW was open to traffic, although there were still some barricades further down by the Convention Centre.

If there were any mail delays at the main Post Office, I did not notice them. I seemed to get the usual amount of mail. As any Calgarian who was downtown during the WPC knows, every skyscraper had security guards standing out front, many doors were locked, and constables were everywhere. The 9 Avenue SW Post Office had a security guard at the parking lot entrance and another inside by the elevators. Anytime I saw them, they were reading a paperback or making idle conversation with passersby.

Other than the form letter dropped into mailboxes, it doesn't appear as if there will be any physical record of the WPC crisis that philatelists can collect. The failure of the protests (they could only scrape together 200 marchers on Monday) means that we will not see any "Mail damaged or delayed by riot" postal markings. Any mail delays would actually have been due to police barricades, not the protestors, although Calgarians won't complain, as that was better than the alternative. It would be interesting to know if there were any postal markings from Seattle, Washington, D.C., or Windsor, relating to the riots there. There are lots of postal markings for mail delayed or damaged by wars, but the only reference I have in my files for riots is a Special Delivery letter delayed in 1968 in Germany [1] by a student riot.

References.

1] Robinow, W.F. (1987 July) Danger: Delivering the mail can be dangerous. AMERICAN PHILATELIST 101:654-655

THE ROYAL MAIL VERSUS ANIMALS

by Dale Speirs

Wreck mail hasn't just been something that happened to ships, trains, and aircraft. The early mail coaches had their share of catastrophes. This article looks at the ones the British Royal Mail suffered from animals.

Perhaps the most spectacular incident happened on October 20, 1816. The Exeter mail coach was inbound to London when it ran into trouble at Winterslowhut near Salisbury. The November 1816 issue of GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE tells the story [1].

"At the moment when the coachman pulled up to deliver his bags, one of the leaders [front coach horse] was suddenly seized by a ferocious animal, which was perceived by the coachman and the guard, by the light of the lamps, to be a huge lioness. The horses kicked and plunged violently, and it was with difficulty the coachman could prevent the carriage from being overturned. A large mastiff dog came up, and attacked her fiercely, on which she quitted the horse, and turned upon him. The dog fled, but was pursued and killed by the lioness within about 40 yards of the place."

"It appears that the beast had escaped from a caravan that was standing on the road side, belonging to the proprietors of a menagerie, on their way to Salisbury Fair. An alarm being given, the keepers pursued and hunted the lioness into a hovel under a granary; and secured her so effectively, by baricading the place, as to prevent her escape. The horse, when first attacked, fought with great spirit, and, if at liberty, would probably have beaten down his antagonist with his fore feet, but in plunging he embarrassed himself in the harness."

"The lioness had attacked him in front, and springing at his throat, had fastened the talons of her fore feet on each side of his neck, close to the head, while the talons of her hind feet were forced into his chest. In this situation she hung, while the blood was seen flying, as if a vein had been opened by a lancet."

"The expression of agony in the tears and moans of the horse was most piteous and affecting. He was the off leader, and as the mail drew up, stood exactly abreast of the caravan from which the lioness made the assault. Had the carriage been a little more advanced, she would probably have darted upon the coachman or guard. The coachman at first proposed to alight and stab the lioness with a knife, but was prevented by the remonstrance of the guard, who observed that he would expose himself to certain destruction, as the animal, feeling herself attacked, would

turn upon him and tear him to pieces. The prudence of the advice has been clearly proved in the fate of the dog. It was the engagement between him and the lioness that offered time for the keepers to rally. But for that interference, the mischief at the mail would have been more considerable."

Mischief to the mails from man's best friend occurred a few years later in February 1820 when the London-bound mails from Portsmouth were attacked by dogs [2]. The coach was travelling along the edge of a cliff known as the Devil's Punch Bowl, between Petersfield and Mousehill when the leading horses were: "*... suddenly seized by three bulldogs belonging to two men with a fish cart. The leaders, by their violent struggles, broke their harness, and disengaged themselves from the coach; one of them fell over the bank, and the ferocious dogs with him. One of the men succeeded in getting the horse up. The horses are both very much injured; one of them so much that it is feared he cannot recover; and the harness is broken all to pieces. The guard was obliged to drive the coach, with a pair only, to Mousehill, and the coachman to walk with the injured leaders."*

A more common disruption to the mails was runaway horses, a hazard to those days as fender-benders are to our modern automobile traffic. An example was an 1842 incident in London, where the southbound mails were about to depart Queen's Head Inn [3]. One of the horses was rubbing its head against the pole when it caught the harness in it, tightened the reins, and caused the entire team to take off at full speed, as if it were an automobile with a jammed accelerator.

"The coachman, with the reins in hand, was just about to mount, and one of the stable boys had hold of the leaders. The latter was dragged a short distance, but succeeded in extricating himself; but the coachman hung on by the reins, and succeeded in keeping pace with, and directing the course of the horses down Pilgrim Street, thus avoiding Mosley Street, and the precipitous hill of Dean Street. When opposite the Fox and Lamb, the mail came in contact with an unyoked cart, which it threw over, but immediately afterwards its career was fortunately stopped by a large waggon, which was completely whirled about by the force of the concussion. ... The passengers then alighted, and another coach having been procured, the luggage was transferred, and the mail proceeded."

References.

- 1] Anonymous (1816) Country news. GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE 86(2):455-456
- 2] Anonymous (1820-02-14) Extraordinary attack. THE TIMES (London), page 2
- 3] Anonymous (1842) Accident to the Royal Mail. ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS 1:202

PHILATELIC LITERATURE REVIEWS

by Leanteri Polvikoski

La Catastrophe #21 (US\$20 per year from The Wreck and Crash Mail Society, c/o Henry Berthelot, 132 Livingston Place West, Metairie, Louisiana 70005). This is a nicely-produced quarterly journal in card covers with illustrations. It contains various articles on the mis-fortunes that mail can suffer in transit, with particular emphasis on railroad, aircraft, and ship disasters. There are also news and notes relating to the society and wreck cover price realizations. The issue at hand, for January-March 2000, has accounts on such things as a 1949 South African train fire, and a B-52 nuclear bomber crash in 1965 in Greenland. One article discusses covers salvaged from the 1988 Pan Am Lockerbie crash, which mail was delayed not only in the first instance by the crash but then subsequently was held for months during the police investigation of the bombing.

From Cover To Cover V15#5 (Membership details from Art Cover Exchange, c/o Rudy Viol, 15550 Paulding Boulevard, Brook Park, Ohio 44142-2932) Newsletter of the A.C.E., a group of philatelists who exchange event and first-day covers each month. This club requires a commitment to be active; each month you would prepare 15 covers on suggested themes to trade with other club members. The newsletter illustrates a selection of members' covers in colour, and very nicely produced some of them are.

Old Letter Boxes by Martin Robinson (L4.50 from Shire Publications, Cromwell House, Church Street, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire HP27 9AA, England. Visa/Mastercard accepted.) Colour illustrated throughout, 40 pages, digest size, in card covers. This is a review of British letter boxes from the first ones of 1852 through to modern date. You don't have to be a GB specialist to appreciate this book. The person responsible for initiating the use of letter boxes in Britain was none other than the famous novelist Anthony Trollope, whose day job was Post Office Surveyor. This history shows the variations used over the past 150 years, such as the insignia of the reigning monarchs and the on-going attempts to make a rainproof letter slot. Canadians who remember when the FLQ bombed letter boxes will be interested to know the Scots also attacked them when our current Queen came to the throne. She is Elizabeth II to England, but only Elizabeth I to Scotland (and Canada, for that matter). Extreme nationalists were upset at letter boxes with EII on them, and the British Post Office ended up having to create a separate design for Scotland that would not offend. All sorts of letter boxes are illustrated, including one from Cambridge with spikes on its top. It was originally located next to a college wall, and the spikes were there to prevent truant students from using it as a boost to get over the wall after lights out.

Canada Inkjet (Jet Spray) Cancels 1992-1999 by Joel Weiner (\$18.95 from Saskatoon Stamp Centre, Box 1870, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 3S2. Visa/Mastercard accepted.). Spiral-bound, 115 pages, 8.5 x 11. When Canada Post began using spray-on cancels in 1992, there was whining from a number of stamp collectors about how it was a disaster and ruined the stamps (as if squared circles didn't do the same), but the more wide-awake philatelists realized that here was a chance to get in on the ground floor of a new collectible in postal history. Make no mistake about it; just as the squared circles and machine slogans of yesteryear are now venerated, just as the 1897 Jubilees were condemned then as philatelically inspired but are now considered classics, so it is that a few years from now, collectors will be studying inkjet cancels every bit as seriously as squared circles today.

Weiner has prepared the first draft of a catalogue of postal slogans used on OCR inkjet cancellers, with a checklist of known machines, then a catalogue of the postmarks, illustrated throughout with facsimiles. Most are those boring Code Postal/Postal Code markings, but there are numerous event slogans, holiday greetings, and charity slogans. The most famous, and scarcest, is the notorious Montreal spray-on of 1994-06-24 (St. Jean Baptiste Day) "Vive Le Quebec Libre". The fun of collecting these cancels is that they are mostly common and cheap, and provide lots of variety. I must confess a bias here; I like to collect them genuinely used with an appropriately related stamp or return address, such as the Literacy slogan on a commercial cover from the National Library of Canada, or a Happy Holidays slogan with a Christmas stamp. Because the field is so young, there is still lots to discover.

Postal History Journal #114 (US\$35 per year from Postal History Society, 8207 Daren Court, Pikesville, Maryland 21208-2211) Issued three times per year, illustrated throughout. There is more to postal history than just postmarks and rate or directional markings on cover. This issue, for October 1999, does have some of the traditional sort of postal history articles, such as an account of gunboat flotillas in the Pinsk marshes of the Prypyat River, where the Russian and German/Austrian armies faced off during World War One. Another article looks at routes the European mails used in the middle 1700s. But there are also some interesting by-ways in postal history, such as shipping gold coins through the mails from the Americas to Europe in the 1800s, the dominance of newspapers in the mails (70% of the bulk but only 10% of the postal revenue), why the telephone killed personal correspondence in the 1920s, and the development of cover collecting in philately.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEERFUL NEWS

On June 30, 2000, Canada Post announced the domestic letter rate would increase by one cent on January 1, 2001. They were quick to point out that even at the 47-cent rate, Canada would still have the second-lowest domestic rate in the developed countries.

The rate increase is equivalent to 2.2%, or 1.1% annually given that the last increase was two years ago, and certainly well below the inflation rate. Postage increases are now governed by a formula established by the federal cabinet in December 1998. Increases can only happen once a year, on January 1, and must be announced six months in advance, hence the June 30 dateline. The rate of increase can only be a maximum of 66.67% of the Consumer Price Index inflation, which is obviously a decimalized way to say two-thirds of the CPI increase.

What will be interesting is whether or not with six months warning people will stock up on 1-cent definitives to use up their old stamps (probably not) and whether the retail postal outlets will carry sufficient stock of 1-cent sheets (some will, many won't, given past performance).

As we go to press, details about the other letter rates were not available, but it seems safe to assume that USA and international rates will also increase.

DUES ARE DUE

by Bob Perry

To speed up the task of membership renewals for the 2000/2001 season, please send your \$12 dues to the Membership Chairman, Box 1478, Calgary, T2P 2L6. Do NOT remit dues to the Editor at his personal Box 6830 address, which will delay your payment until the September meeting, as he does not see the Membership Chairman until then.

**CALGARY PHILATELIC SOCIETY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1999**

Comparative Balance Sheet as at June 30 1998 and 1999

		1998	1999
Current Assets	Bank	\$2972	\$4165
	Floats	205	260
	Investments	31015	26171
	Accounts receivable	516	0
	Inventories	2371	2371
	Total current assets	\$37079	\$32968
Fixed Assets	Equipment (see note 1)	19243	19243
	less accumulated depreciation	5772	7696
	Total fixed assets	\$13471	\$11547
Other	Deposits	500	0
	Prepaid expenses	50	1350
	Total other assets	\$550	\$1350
TOTAL ASSETS		\$51100	\$45864
Current Liabilities	Accounts payable	0	0
	Due to circuit book holders	9164	4721
	Due to private treaty holders	30	38
	Deferred members' dues	585	320
	Accounts payable - CALTAPEX	0	1335
	Current liabilities	\$9779	\$6414
Members' Equity	Capital account - July 1	40749	41322
	Prior year's adjustments - CALTAPEX	378	275
	Prior year's adjustments - circuits	0	-1264
	Current surplus/deficit	194	-882
	Total members' equity	\$41321	\$39450
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		\$51100	\$45864

**Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
For the Year Ended June 30 1998 and 1999**

		1998	1999
Revenues	Membership fees	\$2133	\$2499
	Circuit book commissions	2680*	1281
	CALTAPEX (net gain)	217	1275
	Auctions (net)	997	1117
	Interest from investments	830	957
	Private treaty commissions	391	240
	Other income	546	0
	Total revenues	\$7794	\$7370
Expenditures	Meeting expenses	2447	2475
	Depreciation	1924	1924
	Bulletins	1071	1834
	Spring Show (net loss)	385	1015
	Frame storage	200	400
	Miscellaneous	155	219
	Club mail box rent	0	190
	Bank charges	126	104
	Insurance	0	70
	Library	170	21
	Bad debts	194	0
	Teachers' Convention booth	535	0
	Office	393	0
	Total expenditures	\$7600	\$8252
NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT		\$ 194	-\$882

* Restated in 1999

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

Auditor's Report

To the members of the Calgary Philatelic Society:

I have audited the Balance Sheet of the Calgary Philatelic Society as at June 30, 1999, and the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for the twelve months then ended.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material mis-statement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Calgary Philatelic Society as at June 30, 1999, and the results of its operations for the twelve months then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

[signed] Hans Jensen

VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS QUIZ

by Bob Monilaws

I am still looking for a volunteer to take over the presentation of our quiz at our annual Christmas Social. I have been doing it for seven years and would like to pass it on to some other responsible person.

The work has all been done as I have four sets of quizzes finished. Each set consists of about 80 copies of the quiz and ten sets of answers. I also have enough material arranged for another ten quizzes, that is, one sheet of questions and one sheet of answers for ten different quizzes. All that has to be done is print enough copies for a quiz. As for prizes, you have to call upon the members to donate different items. As this is our Christmas Social, the prizes need not be associated with the hobby of stamp collecting. Anyone interested please see me at the meetings or phone me at home at 277-5128.

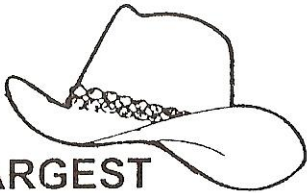
CPS HOSTS SPECIAL GUEST

by Penny Borrowman

On September 13, 2000, our club will hold an extraordinary general meeting in conjunction with the BNAPS group. The meeting will be held in our usual room at the Kerby Centre, beginning at 19h00. The reason is a visit to Calgary by a special person. Hans Karman was born in the Netherlands, but has lived since 1956 in Australia. This fall he and his wife Dorothy will fly to Los Angeles, there to rent a car and tour North America. They will be in Calgary September 12 to 14. Hans is a philatelist, an exhibitor, a national judge, and for many years the circuit book chairman for his club.

We are so far the only stamp club he plans to visit on his four-month tour, and will bring two of his exhibits to share with us. His exhibit "Australian Privileged Mails 1830s to 1920s" has won many top international prizes, including gold at FIP World Exhibitions in Toronto, Singapore, Taipei, and Paris. This exhibit will be at the FIAP Exhibition in Jakarta when Hans is here, but he will bring colour photocopies. He will also bring his exhibit "Australian Electoral Business", which competes in the Social Philately class, which we don't have here, so we can learn about that too. This exhibit won a large vermeil at the 1999 World Exhibition in Melbourne.

The meeting will be a reception, with a short presentation by Hans, a chance to look at his exhibits and talk to him, and refreshments.



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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 Daylight Time.

TRADE: Need automotive work done on your car? Let's trade my labour for your stamps that I need. I am a licenced mechanic with 20+ years experience (just ask Penny). Phone Doug Kollar at 547-3838.

WANTED: Calgary Stampede philatelic memorabilia. I collect all phases of this fascinating field. You may have just the cover or cancel I need. Cash or generous exchange. Call Ed at 274-0021.

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

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

TRADE: Stamps from many countries, including new issues, to trade for same. Call Joe at 284-3907.

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

COMMITTEES

Archives	Dale Speirs	243-1752
Auction - regular	Doug Kollar	547-3838
Auction - silent	Ernie Bell	288-3042
Bulletin - Editor	Dale Speirs	243-1752
- Advertising	Hugh Delaney	255-0422
Circuit books	Bob Hoffman	274-2425
Library	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
Membership	Bob Perry	282-4520
Private Treaty books	Gerry Vader	293-0158
Programmes	Don Fraser	
Publicity	Hugh Delaney	255-0422
Sergeant-At-Arms	Andy Puczko	241-2593

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2000

September	6	General meeting
	6	Deadline for October bulletin
	10	Sunday bourse
	13	Special meeting at 19h00
	20	Auction
October	1	Sunday bourse
	4	General meeting
	13 to 15	CALTAPEX
	18	Auction
November	1	General meeting
	1	Deadline for November bulletin
	5	Sunday bourse
	15	Auction
December	3	Sunday bourse
	6	Christmas social

2001

April	28 to 29	Spring Stamp Show
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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 Palliser Community Centre, 2323 Palliser Drive SW, from 10h00 to 16h00. Details and table rentals from Bill Szaroz at 337-3260 or Phil Wolf at 259-8750.

CALTAPEX is at the Polish Canadian Club, 3015 - 15 Street NE.

SPRING STAMP SHOW is at the Polish Canadian Club, 3015 - 15 Street NE.