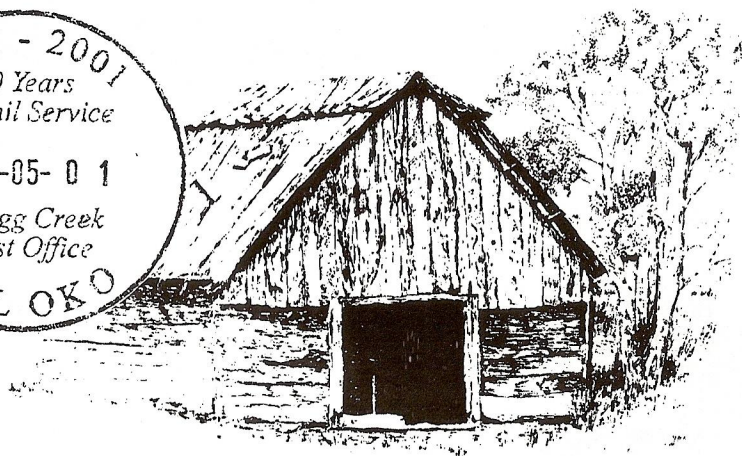


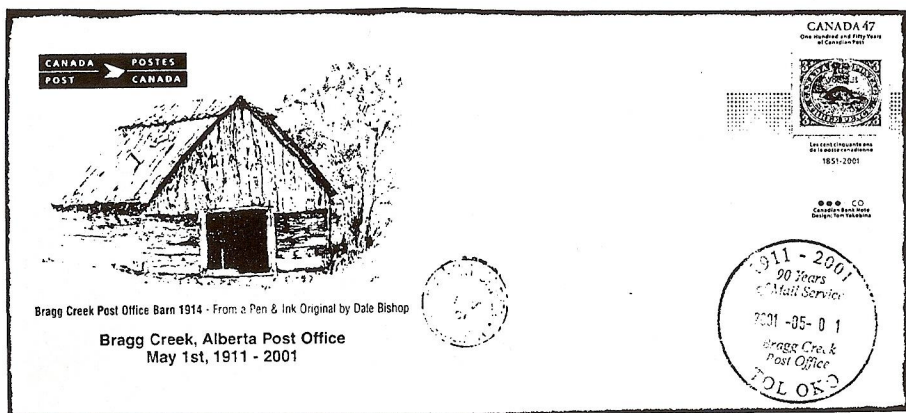
CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 48

June 2001



Bragg Creek Post Office Barn 1914 - From a Pen & Ink Original by Dale Bishop



Bragg Creek Post Office celebrated their 90th anniversary on May 1st with a commemorative postmark and cover. They also had a re-enactment of pioneer mail carried by horseback over the original postal route.

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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 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.

2000/2001 EXECUTIVE

Past President	Bruce Irvine	938-7027
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COMMITTEES

(see page 13 for list of committee chairpersons)

FUN WITH PARCELS

by Dale Speirs

Sometimes those urban legends are true. Stories have long circulated in the philatelic community about how construction supplies such as bricks were mailed as individual parcels because it was cheaper than shipping as regular freight. This anomaly arose many times in different postal systems because the mails were not simply a method of moving things from Point A to Point B, but often subsidized for political or cultural reasons. This is especially true for remote areas with no common carrier freight service but a post office.

Subsidized parcel post is intended to encourage commerce via catalogue companies, and help rural and remote areas receive goods at reasonable cost instead of being held for ransom by the village store. There were always hackers, even a century ago, who abused the system and used it to excess.

They Built Better Than They Knew.

The Americans started their parcel post system in 1912. Items not more than 50 pounds in weight could be mailed as parcels. Rural and remote residents immediately swamped the post offices of western USA with farm produce, shrubs and tree saplings, machine parts, furniture, and anything else that didn't weigh more than 50 pounds or which could be broken down into smaller parts under the limit. Crops were shipped to market via parcel post, and the post office found itself shipping thousands of 50-pound sacks of corn or wheat.

The most famous use of parcel post is undoubtedly the construction of a bank in the rural village of Vernal, Utah, in 1919. The bank president, William Colthart, wanted to use specially-textured bricks rather than the standard red brick available locally, but they had to be imported. Common-carrier freighters charged \$2.50 per hundred pounds to deliver to Vernal. The parcel post rate, however, was only \$1.50 per hundred pounds. The post office was promptly buried under countless packages of bricks, not exceeding the 50 pound limit for parcel post [7]. The postal officials then issued an order that not more than 20 pounds of parcels per day could be delivered to any Vernal citizen. This was bypassed when the bank began addressing packages to different citizens of the community. They were happy to assist since a bank would be a vital service in the village. Postal officials then issued another edict stating that deliveries could not be made to individual addresses if the parcels ultimately all ended up at the bank. This ultimately did stop

the flow of bricks, but by the time the postal bureaucracy had moved into action the bank was completed and the whole thing was moot. The bank is still there, now the Zion National Bank, on the southwest corner of Vernal Avenue and Main Street.

About 70 years later, in 1988, the town of Wainwright, Alaska, on the shore of the Arctic Ocean, decided to have a new boat dock built. The contractor calculated his low bid in part by having the USPS ship the construction materials. To be more specific, the manufacturer in Anchorage mailed north the concrete blocks at \$4.33 per block. The USPS actual shipping cost was \$50.94 per block, via a private air courier. The USPS did not, however, prohibit the shipment. Why not I don't know, but the contractor was able to build the boat dock as planned.

Not quite in the same category as shipping buildings by post, but close enough as made no difference to the post office, were shipments of individually wrapped bricks. With the advent of parcel post in the USA in January 1913 a brick manufacturer sent a wagonload of bricks, one at a time, as samples to sales agents. The U.S. Post Office charge was 18 cents postage per brick, whereas express companies charged 25 cents each. The postmaster at South River, New Jersey, was quoted as worrying that other brick manufacturers would follow suit [9].

A month later, Chicago was hosting the Clay Products Exposition, from February 26 to March 8, 1913. This was a trade association of brick manufacturers. As a publicity stunt, the Exposition officials solicited each of the 25,000 brick companies in the USA to mail one brick to them, out of which a house would be built on the fairgrounds. No big deal for the sending post offices, but the Chicago posties must have been hard pressed in more ways than one [10].

Bulk Goods.

So many bulk items were packaged individually and sent off farms that it isn't worth the trouble of documenting them. Grain, potatoes, baby chicks, and other items were, in fact, legitimate use of the parcel post system. Somewhat more abusive of the rules were the three Idaho mines which began shipping ore concentrates by parcel post in January 1914. It was cheaper to bundle up the ore in 50-pound parcels than send it in bulk by freighter [13].

The Canadian Post Office had its run-ins with postal hackers, especially in the Arctic. Originally, when Canada's parcel post began in 1914 (or 1859, depending on how you define 'Canada' and 'parcel'), the limit was 6 pounds (and 66 different rates), but this was later raised [14]. During the early 1930s, someone began shipping sugar airmail to Fort Vermilion, Alberta (in the extreme north of the

province) in 50-pound bags. The postal rate was 7 cents per pound but the cost of flying the shipment in was 50 cents per mile. Accordingly an order was issued from Ottawa banning airmail shipments of bulk sugar [1].

Moving House Made Cheap.

Circa 1915, Mrs. Annie Olsen moved from Seattle, Washington, to Quinault. She calculated that it was easier to move her furniture and household goods as parcels. She mailed altogether 337 pounds at a cost of \$4.62 in stamps. She said that a private contractor would have charged \$20. The kitchen stove went in a barrel, and items such as the dining room table and rocking chair apparently went as themselves alone [6].

70 years later, Richard Schill moved from Massachusetts to Hawaii, a long-distance move if there ever was one. He discovered that he could save \$6,000 by mailing his household goods. He did so in 131 parcels, averaging 64 pounds each [2]. The packages included a lawnmower and, like Mrs. Olsen all those decades before, a rocking chair.

Live Freight: Small Children And Other Animals.

Shipping people by post is a long, if not honourable tradition. In the 1600s and 1700s, when British Members of Parliament had free franking privileges, they didn't just use it for letters. That may have been the purpose of the free frank legislation, but it did not specify any limits. As a result, a pack of 30 hounds was shipped by post to the King of Rome, two laundresses to an ambassador, a doctor, a cow, and numerous other sundry items [19]. All went for free, so it is not surprising that the postal system of those years was costly, debt-ridden, and inefficient.

It didn't take long for Americans to exploit the loopholes in their new parcel post system. First off the mark was the rural letter carrier in Ohio who accepted a 10.75 pound baby boy for delivery on January 26, 1913. The parents mailed him one mile down the road to his grandmother, at a cost of 15 cents for postage, with \$50 insurance [11]. This seems to have been more a publicity stunt, in my opinion, as a 1-mile walk would be nothing to farm folk but 15 cents was more money in those days. I have my doubts about the veracity of this transaction.

More legitimate perhaps, was a year later on February 4, 1914, when a two-year-old boy went from Stratford, Oklahoma, to Wellington, Kansas, from his grandmother to his aunt [12]. He wore a tag about his neck with 18 cents postage paid, and rode on the train in the mail car with the postal clerks. It was said he

shared his lunch with the posties en route, which immediately leads one to ask if postage was paid on that as well.

5-year-old May Peirstorff was mailed on 1914-02-19 from Grangeville, Idaho to her grandmother in Lewiston, Idaho. The girl was classified at the 'baby chick' agricultural rate, which saved her impecunious parents the cost of a train fare. It helped that the railroad postal clerk was her cousin Leonard Mochel, who set up the deal and looked after her in the mail car. When word got out, postal officials threatened Mochel for having passengers in the mail car. The matter was quietly settled when the Peirstorffs agreed to retroactively buy a half-price ticket [5].

American postal officials subsequently announced that it was not legal to mail children [8]. Subsequently, however, meant June 1920, in a statement that children were not acceptable as parcels at the 'live animals' rate.

In Canada, the postal clerks at West Flamborough, Ontario, were presented in 1955 with a 6-year-old girl named Linda Doyle, who had labelled herself and added a 3-cent stamp, then asked to be mailed to her Aunt Maud in nearby Hamilton. She was persistent, and, so the story goes, was driven in to Hamilton with the afternoon mail to the main post office there [17]. Her aunt was telephoned to pick her up, and Linda went home via her uncle's car. I suspect that one of the posties involved must have known her and talked to her parents, as it is unlikely she would have been allowed to go on her own say-so. Again, I am suspicious of the veracity of this story.

The dawn of the air age meant parcels would be expedited by air, and inevitably someone would test the limits there. A Belgian journalist, M.G. Lantschere, saved 40% on air fare between Brussels and Croydon, England, by shipping himself as an air parcel. The catch was that he had to ride in the windowless mail compartment and saw nothing of the scenery below [16]. The fact that his occupation was given as journalist leads me to wonder if this too was a publicity stunt.

Another story of live freight dates to 1865 in Greenock, Scotland. I have reason to question its truth but it is too humorous to omit. A Highlander, under the influence of whiskey, was doubtful of his ability to walk home to his village. He staggered into the post office and asked the clerk how much it would cost to mail himself home. The clerk handled it with tact. Instead of arguing with the drunk and possibly winding up in a brawl, the clerk merely quoted him a price of 2p per ounce. The Highlander carefully digested this, and decided to try some cheaper method to get home [15].

Critters By Post.

Shipping animals by post is allowed under some circumstances. Baby chicks and packaged bees are perhaps the most common, but aquarists ship fish in the warm season quite commonly.

One of the more interesting stories about animals by mail took place in the late 1800s. In 1888, a stray dog wandered into an Albany, New York, post office, and was adopted as a mascot by the postal clerks. Owney, as he was named, one day was accidentally carried on board a mail train to New York City. After that, he became a wanderer on mail trains across the USA. He was fitted with a vest to which postal clerks along the way attached tags to track his travels. In 1895 he went on an around-the-world trip by ship and train. Owney died in 1897 when he was shot after biting a mail clerk [20].

Circa 1957, R.J. Roden, Headmaster of Maplewell Hall School in Leicester, England, bought a pony from a farmer in nearby Quorn. The cost to ship the animal home by truck was L2, more money then than now. He found a post office regulation that allowed any object within reason to be mailed at a shilling a mile, plus an extra shilling 'exceptional express delivery' charge. Roden saved L1 and 14 shillings by this method. It is recorded that he pasted the stamps to the pony's flank, then handed the reins to the postmaster. The postmaster then walked the animal 5 miles to its destination in about 1.5 hours. He was quoted as saying that: *"It was a lovely morning for a walk, but I hope nobody gets the idea to mail an elephant."* [3]. What baffles me at this distance in time was why Roden didn't just ride the pony home. The 5 miles was hardly an epic journey.

In 1979, someone managed to dump off a rooster in the Elora, Ontario, post office with a tag and stamps around its neck. There was no return address, so the post office delivered it anyway, even though against regulations [18].

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- 9] Anonymous (1913-01-12) Load of brick mailed. NEW YORK TIMES, Section 2, page 2
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CPS INTERNET DISCUSSION GROUP

The CPS now has a discussion group on the Internet at www.yahogroups.com, free to members. It is intended for chat about the club or philatelic collecting, and rapid announcements. To join, send an e-mail to Dale Speirs, the group moderator, at opuntia57@hotmail.com with the message "Subscribe CPS group" in the subject header. Once you are registered, you can post messages and read the archives. First-time users will have to go to yahoo groups and register a name and password; this is free and takes only a few minutes.

PHILATELIC BUSINESS CARDS

by Dale Speirs

During the 2001 Easter long weekend, the famous mail artist Anna Banana, of Vancouver Island, was in Calgary for an art show. On the evening of April 14, I had the pleasure of dining with her and other members of the local art community, such as mail artist Don Mabie and his wife Wendy Toogood.

At the end of the dinner, some of us exchanged business cards to keep in touch. You know how that goes; you hand yours over, and the one you get back you glance at for a moment before putting it in your pocket. With Anna's cards, however, she handed over a batch of them and told you to pick one you liked. Each of her cards was personalized with a different artistamp (cinderella).** On the righthand side of the card was the usual printed name and address, and on the left side was pasted one of the many artistamp designs she has produced.

A very unique style of business card indeed! Everyone crowded around to see the different stamp designs. Certainly a good conversation topic, they were.

This might be something that philatelists could copy. There are vast amounts of spacefillers and CTOs circulating through the hobby which could be stuck down on one side of a business card. You could use the type of stamp you collect, if inexpensive disposable copies are available, or just stick on something colourful such as Communist or sand dune wallpaper. Philatelic business cards would be an eye-catching way to get your name remembered. Stamp dealers in particular might like to note this idea, as they could use up all the leftovers that accumulate when buying job lots and collections.

Don Mabie is well known for his Artist Trading Cards, which are homemade, artistic trading cards in the same size as sports cards. Philatelists could do something like this as well, using up those old junk lots for stamp collages or designs. Canada Post is doing this with its hockey stamps, mounted on trading cards for the sports card collectors. Obviously you wouldn't mount mint Bluenoses on cards, but every stamp collector accumulates damaged or junk stamps that would suit the purpose. Instead of endlessly recycling them through junk lots at the club auction or at the 2-cent table at stamp shows, these worthless stamps could be taken out of circulation but still putting them to good use.

** Mail artists are those who post decorated envelopes, or unusual enclosures, or just plain weird stuff as is. First-day covers and event covers are a sub-category of mail art. What philatelists call 'cinderellas' are referred to by mail artists as 'artiststamps', a contraction of 'artist's stamps'.

SPRING STAMP SHOW 2001 REPORT: MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN by Jan Brookes

Well, one down, one to go, for 2001! Now that the Spring Stamp Show is over, I wonder if the club members realize the magnitude of putting on even this small show. The hundreds of hours, and I mean hundreds, a number of people have worked to do it.

My three VIP volunteers for this show are: Donna Trathen, Andy Puczko, and Penny Borrowman. I would certainly include Dale Speirs for our show programme. Without the help of Dwayne Miner with his computer savvy on Publisher (I'm a techno-idiot) we would not have the great posters, volunteer tags, signs, entry forms, and etcetera.

Without all these people and many more, our show won't happen. Looking to the future, we will need every volunteer we can get if we are to pull off a Royal or a PIPEX. Again, I cannot express my gratitude enough to everyone for our experimental show.

We may fail on some ideas and refine a few others, but we will continue to try to have something for everyone at our fall show CALTAPEX 2001 and into the future.

Have a great summer and I'll see everyone at the first meeting in September. Keep in mind that's only six weeks before CALTAPEX.

CALTAPEX 2001

Dates: Friday, October 12 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday, October 13 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday, October 14 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Free admission.

Place: Polish Canadian Cultural Centre
3015 - 15 Street NE, Calgary
Free parking.

For further information, phone (403)251-6475
Show Chairwoman: Janice Brookes Bourse Chairman: Dwayne Miner

SPRING STAMP SHOW 2001 EXHIBITS (NON-COMPETITIVE) by Don Wilson Exhibits Chairman

Mircea Ursac	Greece and the Olympic Games
Dale Speirs	Aquarium Fish
Jim Karr	Collecting Postmarks Can Be a Challenge
Jim Karr	Montreal Duplex Cancels
Don Thompson	Foreign Covers to and from Assiniboia
Bill Wilson	King Edward VII Rate Covers
Hugh Delaney	What Passes for Postage
Hugh Delaney	Only Her Hairdresser Knows for Sure!
Hugh Delaney	Western Railway Post Offices
Ed Harris	Original Art Covers
Ed Harris	The History of the Poste
Ed Harris	Assiniboia: Selected Pages
Ed Harris	Articulated Post Cards of Canada
Bill Pawluk	The Squared Circle Postmarks of Canada
Morten Theilgaard	Two Cent Small Queen
Earl Covert	Canadian Postal Stationery
Peter Smith	Vanuatu's Missing mail
Don Wilson	Travelling Post Offices of Victoria
Don Wilson	Cancellations of the Australian States
Don Wilson	Pioneers of Design 1840-1900
Jim Taylor	St. Pierre and Miquelon
Jan Brooks	Japan: Selected Pages
Jan Brooks	World Wildlife Fund
Donna Trathen	Horses on Stamps
Julius Szekrenyes	Ancient Egypt
Julius Szekrenyes	Hungary: Selected Pages
Dave Russum	Machin Heads 1967-2000

DON'T FORGET THE 50/50 DRAWS!

At each meeting, tickets will be sold for a 50/50 draw, with half the proceeds to the winner and the other half to defray the cost of the 3-pence Beaver stamp the CPS will be giving away at CALTAPEX 2001. All tickets, no matter when or where purchased, will be recycled into the big draw for the Beaver, so even if you don't win the 50/50, you're still in the running for the grand prize.

CPS ANNUALS AWARDS

The following three awards are administered by the Life Members Committee, and presented to the winners at the Society's annual Christmas party.

Founders' Award

Awarded annually to a member who has contributed the most for the hobby of stamp collecting and for their consistent support of the Calgary Philatelic Society.

Life Member Award

- Awarded to a member who, over a period of ten years:
- a) has promoted the hobby of stamp collecting
 - b) served on the Executive, directorship, or a committee
 - c) assisted in special functions and/or annual shows
 - d) continually supported the Society in all of its endeavours

The recipient is no longer required to submit annual dues.

Long Service Recognition Award

Named after an individual member who displayed long service and demonstrated exemplary conduct and activity on behalf of the Society and the hobby. The award is re-named every five years. It is awarded annually by the CALTAPEX show judges to the CPS member who has the best competitive exhibit at the show. This award is currently called the John Jarabek Award.

Initiated in 1986, the award has been named after the following people:

Norm Tunna	1987 to 1991
Sid Richardson	1992 to 1996
John Jarabek	1997 to 2001

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

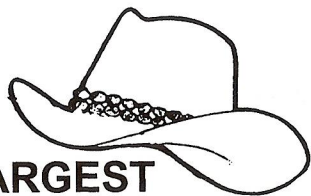
This is formal notice that a motion will be brought forward at the June 2001 meeting to amend the CPS constitution to allow those less than 18 years of age to be eligible to join the Society as junior members.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS
by Isobel Attrell

As of June 30, 2001, all memberships are due for renewal. Since I will be away for the May and June meetings, anyone wanting to renew for the 2001/2002 season may send a cheque to the CPS, Box 1478, Calgary, T2P 2L6. Note on the envelope "Attn. Membership Chairman", and I will send a receipt and new card on my return. Have a good summer of collecting!

COMMITTEES

Archives	Dale Speirs	243-1752
Auctions - regular	Doug Kollar	547-3838
- silent	Jim Senecal	547-7681
Bulletin - Editor	Dale Speirs	243-1752
- Advertising	Hugh Delaney	255-0422
Circuit books	Bob Hoffmann	274-2425
Library	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
Membership	Isobel Attrell	294-0935
Private Treaty books	Gerry Vader	293-0158
Programmes	Jim Taylor	238-3698
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Sergeant-At-Arms	Penny Borrowman	686-2662



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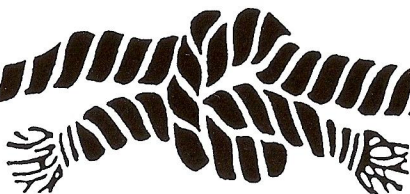
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SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

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. Any advertiser can be reached through the CPS e-mail at calphilso@home.com, but please allow time for forwarding to offline members.

WANTED: Stamp show catalogues, Canadian and international shows. The older the better. Please contact Ed at 274-0021 or harrise@cadvision.com

WANTED: Advanced collector of World Wildlife Fund (anything with the panda logo) stamps, postally-used covers, FDCs, postcards, maximum cards, even cookie cans. Top dollar paid! Phone Jan at 251-1769.

TRADE: Stamps from many countries, including new issues, to trade for same. Call Joe at 288-9402.

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

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.

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.

WANTED: Northern Rhodesia covers from 1925 to 1964. Will buy outright or trade for whatever. Call Walter Herdzik at 238-3171.

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 or harrise@cadvision.com

FOR SALE: Long-time collector selling complete collections in order to reduce workload and focus on a few specialty areas. Clean, organized, and unpicked. Catalogue values are Scott 2001. Norway used/covers \$2830. Australia mint \$4430, used/covers \$3230. GB mint \$960, used/covers \$4070. Bermuda mint/used/covers estimate \$400. Worldwide/Canada mint/used/covers including better singles, estimate \$5720. Details/offers to Rhys Harrison at 270-4007 or rhys@harrison@home.com

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2001

May	16	Auction
June	6	General meeting and election
	20	Auction
August	3	Deadline for September bulletin
September	5	General meeting
	5	Deadline for October bulletin
October	3	General meeting
	12 to 14	CALTAPEX 2001
November	7	General meeting
	7	Deadline for December bulletin
December	5	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

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 2001 is at the Polish Canadian Club, 3015 - 15 Street NE. Contact Jan Brookes at 251-1769 for details.

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.