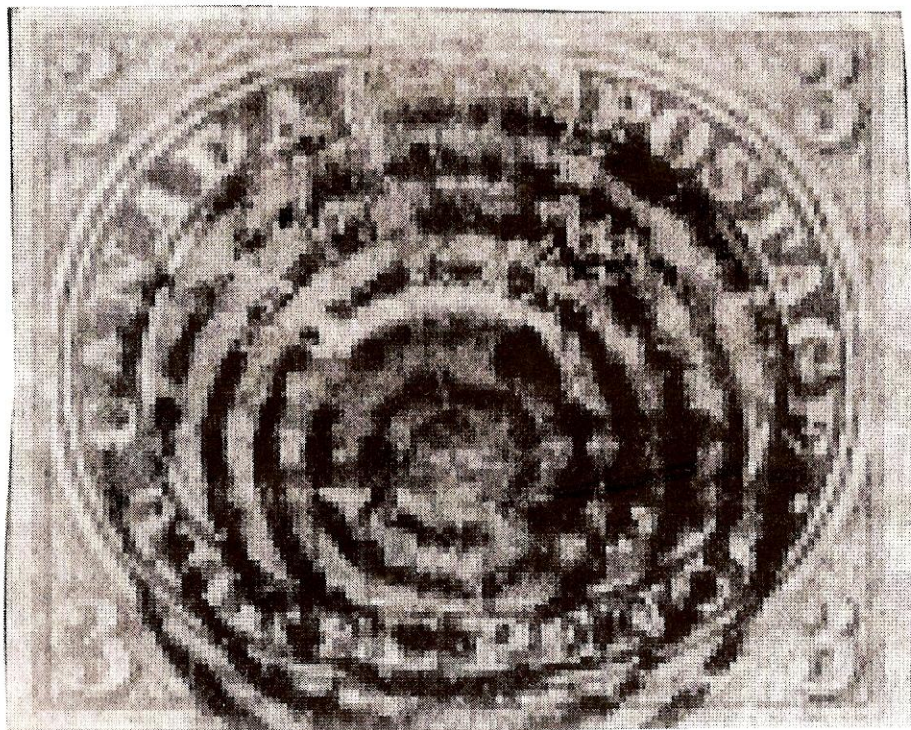


CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 50

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This is the stamp that is being raffled at CALTAPEX 2001.

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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 13 for list of committee chairpersons)

THE BIRTH STRUGGLES OF THE FIRST REPUBLIC IN ASIA: PART 2.

by Penny Borrowman

Through all the civil strife, a young military officer named Chiang Kai-shek began to emerge as a leader. He was sent to Moscow for military and political training. He returned to establish the Whampoa Military Academy, just outside Guangzhou. Here promising officers were trained for the Kuomintang. Scott ROC 1582 shows Chiang Kai-shek proudly displaying the entrance gate to the Academy.

Unfortunately Sun Yat-sen died of liver cancer in 1925, leaving his party and China's political future in serious doubt. Scott 284, issued in 1929, shows the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum in Nanjing. Notice how proudly prominent are the words 'Republic of China'. This is the second stamp to bear that inscription. There is also an airpost stamp from 1946, Scott C53, showing a Douglas DC4 flying over the Mausoleum, giving you some idea of its vast expanse.

By mid-1928, Chiang Kai-shek seemed to be winning the battle for China. The Nanjing government received international recognition as the sole legitimate government in China, quite an accomplishment. Chiang announced the Kuomintang would consolidate China, and for a while they almost did.

Any confrontation of this sort, and indeed of this magnitude, has its share of martyrs. In 1932-34 the Nationalist government issued a set of stamps commemorating six martyrs to its cause. There are twelve denominations, so each martyr appears twice in the set. Their names are given in Scott's catalogue, so you can look them up if you want to. Scott PROC 1719, issued on October 10, 1981, the 70th anniversary of the 1911 revolution, shows the 72 martyrs' grave at Huang Hua Gang.

During the decade of 1928 to 1937, the Kuomintang did a lot of good for China. They stabilized prices, built roads and railways, improved public health, penal and justice systems, and developed education and language improvements. The written Chinese language can be read by all educated Chinese, no matter what dialect they speak.

There were two main impediments to peace and prosperity. First of all, the Communists, who had begun their existence in northern China, were gaining ground. Mao was busy working among the peasants, promoting the socialist values Sun Yat-sen had written about. Chiang Kai-shek sent troops to rout the Communists, which resulted in the Long March, from south to north, heading back to safer territory. The Long March was a terrible time, and meant the death of

many thousands. It was a wonderful thing, as followers joined in along the way. And it consolidated the popularity of the Communists and Mao Zedong as nothing else could.

The second impediment was the conflict with Japan, which lasted until the end of WW2. Since Japan, seeing a weakened foe, had invaded China in 1931, the Nationalists had been more focussed on eliminating the threat of the Communists than enemies from outside. Things came to such a pass that two of Chiang Kai-shek's top military commanders kidnapped him and forced him to form a pact with the Communists, united against the Japanese. The civil war was crippling the country and leaving it easy prey to foreign invaders.

In 1941 the USA became an ally of the Nationalists. Scott 364, issued in 1939 to commemorate '150th Anniversary of the American Constitution', shows the Chinese and American flags flying beside a map of China. No doubt a broad hint that aid would be welcome. The Americans sent troops to China to help repel the Japanese, and tried to reconcile the Nationalist and Communist forces. They withdrew in 1947, leaving behind, despite their best efforts, worse chaos than when they went in.

By the end of the Second World War, the Nationalists had pretty well burned their cookies. The country was totally prostrate. Belatedly the Nationalists tried to elicit popular support. There wasn't any. The military demands of foreign and civil war, spiraling inflation, and Nationalist profiteering, speculation, and hoarding had taken their toll. They were totally unable to help the common people who were suffering starvation, homelessness, flooding, and unstable conditions throughout. Just as an example, to repel the Japanese army in 1938 Chiang Kai-shek ordered the bombing of the dikes along the Yellow River. This did work as intended, but the flooding killed a million Chinese people and left another 10 million homeless and without the means to raise food. The river flooded again and again until American forces helped rebuild the dikes in 1947.

There are not many pictures of Sun Yat-sen and only a few portraits were used on his postage stamps of 1931 to 1949. During that time the Nationalist government issued no less than 13, only slightly different, postage stamps honouring Sun Yat-sen.

They offer us an opportunity to examine the problem of spiraling inflation. The first of this series (A37), issued in 1931, begins innocently enough with a 1-cent value. In 1944, A63 was issued, starting with a 40-cent value and going up to \$70. There were three Sun Yat-sen issues in 1945, each beginning with a \$2 value. A72 tops out at \$200. By 1947, A77's lowest value was \$500. A82, issued in 1947-48,

started at \$150 and topped out at \$5,000,000. Used copies of \$1, \$2, and \$3 million are quite common. Unable to keep up with the demands of spiraling inflation, the government turned to revenue stamps, and overprinted them with current postal rates. The revenue stamps come in a variety of colours and are overprinted in various colours, so if you have enough of them, they make a very pretty album page.

In May 1949, they gave up on the overprinted revenues and created four different stamps, called 'unit' stamps, with no denomination at all. They were used for ordinary mail, airmail, special delivery, and registered mail. They show a locomotive and ship, a Douglas DC4 and an arrow, a mountain scene, and a motorcycle messenger. The April 2001 issue of AMERICAN PHILATELIST (available from the CPS Library) has a fascinating article about another non-denominated stamp, showing geese flying over the globe. However, the only geese stamps in my collection have a value and an overprint. The going rate, in gold yuan, was stamped on as needed. Postal workers could, and often did, adjust the postal rate several times a day. How did they know?



By 1948 the Nationalists were no match for the Communists. The Treaty of Yalta allowed Soviet troops to enter China to hasten the end of the war with Japan. In January 1949, Beijing was taken by the Communists without a fight. Between April and November, many cities passed from Nationalist to Communist hands with minimal resistance. Mao's groundwork had been thorough and the people were already won over. Chiang Kai-shek and his supporters fled to Taiwan, where they declared Taipei the temporary capital of China.

On October 1, 1949, the People's Republic of China was formally established, with the national capital at Beijing. The PRC now had the unenviable task of economic reconstruction, and the re-establishment of political and social stability. That's not the end of the story; it's more a shared beginning to two stories, and we haven't heard the end of either of them.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF ENVELOPES: PART 1

by Dale Speirs

In The Beginning.

Envelopes were invented thousands of years ago, but inexpensive, mass-produced envelopes date only from Rowland Hill's postal reforms of 1840. Philatelists tend to fixate on the Penny Black as Hill's major accomplishment in life, but in fact the postage stamp was only a minor part of his reforms. His greatest effect on the postal system was to prove that postal rates depend on how many times a letter is handled en route, not the distance. Hill showed that counting sheets of paper to calculate postage was inefficient, and weight was the better method of charging fees.

Envelopes were invented not long after clay tablets. Such tablets were baked inside a clay wrapper and the wrapper inscribed on the surface as to the contents. A rather bulky method of record keeping, and not exactly conducive to displaying them in standard exhibition frames at a stamp show. Paper was very expensive and difficult to come by until a few centuries ago, and combined with widespread illiteracy, was in little demand. Communications were almost entirely restricted to government officials and nobility. Paper envelopes were therefore rare. As long as letters were assessed on the number of sheets of paper, envelopes were seldom used, as the envelope constituted a sheet in its own right and therefore bumped up the postage required.

Before The Envelope There Was Sealing Wax.

Sealing wax is known at least as far back as ancient Egypt [13]. Although wax was the most common method of sealing a letter sheet, other alternatives were occasionally used. The Chinese used rice paste, for example [14]. Sealing wax was usually red, but other colours are known. Black wax dates from as early as 1556 for use as mourning [15].

Just why sealing wax was needed was illustrated by a famous painting of a maidservant peeking into a folded letter [17]. For this reason, anyone writing a folded letter sans envelope would first fold in the vertical edges to cover the text, then fold it horizontally to produce the cover [16].

The advent of mass-produced envelopes after 1840 quickly finished off the sealing wax industry, which dwindled to no more than a minor specialty. By 1872, a correspondent was lamenting: "*Can anyone inform me why no good sealing wax is to be had anywhere nowadays for love or money, with the exception perhaps of*

what is called 'India sealing wax'? I say perhaps, because even that is not easily worked. ... I have letters of the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries with bright red wax seals, the coats of arms on which have maintained to this day as sharp edges as though the impression had only just been taken, whereas now, after enclosing a letter but a short time in a portfolio or autograph book, the seal will soon get obliterated. Fifty years ago good solid sealing wax could still be procured." [18].

By 1930, an editorial in THE TIMES was reduced to grumbling that, much to the Editor's regret, use of sealing wax had died out [19]. But never entirely so, for in 1916 a New York City woman died of sealing wax. Miss Mabel Elliott died of blood poisoning ten days after burning her index finger with hot sealing wax [20]. I have not found any statistics comparing sealing wax burns versus envelope paper cuts. One would expect that out of all the millions of paper cuts sustained since 1840 from opening an envelope by running the finger under the flap, there would have been at least one septic case. But this takes us into realms of invisible postal history that are essentially unresearchable.

The Mulready Disaster.

In our time we had the Ford Edsel and New Coke, ideas that seemed good at the time but subsequently were laughed or shouted out of the marketplace. The story of the Mulready prepaid envelopes, issued at the same time as the Penny Blacks, has been well told elsewhere [3].

The reception of the British public was not favourable. An editorial in THE TIMES commented on May 2, 1840, that: "*We have been favoured with a sight of one of the new stamp covers, and we must say we never beheld anything more ludicrous than the figures or allegorical device by which it is marked with its official character. ... Britannia is seated in the centre, with the lion couchant (Whigish) at her feet. Her arms are distended, scattering little flying children to some elephants on the left, and on the right to a group of gentlemen, some of whom at all events are not enclosed in envelopes, writing on their knees, evidently on account of a paucity of tables. There are, besides sundry figures who, if they were to appear in the streets of London or any of our highways, would be liable to the penalties of the Vagrant Act for indecent exposure ...*" [2].

The Mulready envelope wasn't universally panned however. THE MIRROR commented favourably on the design [32]. An editorial published just before the release of the envelope said: "*As a work of art it reflects the highest credit on the British school.*"

Matters were not helped by a monopoly dispute involving John Dickinson & Co., which had an exclusive patent on thread paper. Coloured threads were embedded in straight lines in the paper used to make the Mulreadys, as an anti-forgery measure. It was effective but expensive, and Dickinson lost the paper supply contract for postal stationery by 1859. De La Rue took over as the new monopoly, using ordinary paper for postal stationery [31]. Another difficulty that the British Post Office experienced was the preference of the general public for privately made envelopes, rather than stamped envelopes. From 1846 to the middle of 1849, sales of unstamped envelopes more than doubled, while the volume stamped envelopes declined by about 20%. The reason was that unstamped envelopes were made of better paper and had gummed flaps. The Post Office finally took note of this and in 1850 introduced the new style envelopes [33].

By Gum, What'll They Think Of Next?

We take pre-gummed flaps on envelopes for granted, but it was not an obvious thing back when. As with all successes, there are several claimants to paternity. Henry Dobb of England was named as one father of mass-produced envelopes with gummed flaps. But then again, so was a J. Smith, who sold the Smith's Patent Adhesive Envelopes, "*requiring neither wax nor wafer*" circa May 1847. Just as the first postage stamps included instructions on how to use them, so it was that Smith had to instruct his customers: "*These Envelopes are made perfectly safe in an instant; the flap of the Envelope being prepared with a strong cement renders it more secure than those which are fastened in the usual manner, the cement only requiring to be damped and the flap pressed down, after which it becomes dry and firm in seconds.*" [1].

The original mass-produced envelopes had ungummed flaps, since people still used sealing wax. An intermediate step to the gummed flap was to seal the flap with gummed labels, cut off from sheets with scissors as required. The labels could be privately produced, such as Isaac Pitman's labels with shorthand mottos on them [10]. A more obvious method was to put the postage stamp on the flap to seal the envelope, with the address obviously being written on the flap side as well [11]. Actually even today that makes more sense, as it would provide a better method of tamper-proofing a letter, but of course the universal practice is to keep the flap on the reverse side.

One bit of envelope silliness was recorded in the British postal system in the 1930s when a Scotsman sent a letter to his young lady and sealed the flap with the stamp. Next to the stamp he wrote "*Hi diddle diddle, the stamp's in the middle.*". This was a mistake, as it attracted the attention of a postal official who noticed the letter

was shortpaid and therefore assessed postage due with the equally cheerful "*Hi diddle day, there's twopence to pay.*" [12].

Gumming envelope flaps was an inconsistent operation at first, leading an 1871 writer to complain: "*Who has not been annoyed again and again at the difficulty of opening letters with envelopes gummed up all along the top, as if they were never to be opened.*". One method of obviating this problem was for the manufacturer to run a thread inside the flap and leave one end dangling outside the envelope [21]. The recipient then took hold of the thread end and pulled on it to neatly tear open the envelope. Although this type of envelope is still available today, its additional manufacturing cost has always kept it a specialty item. Tear strips, however, are more common on express document packages.

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[to be continued]

TIME FOR CALTAPEX!

by Janice Brookes

First, thanks again to all the volunteers. Without you, the show cannot go on, so keep up the great work. Our theme is the 150th anniversary of Canadian postage stamps. A schedule of events follows below. Good luck to all the 50/50 participants. The stamp is a beauty, and the draw for it is Sunday at 3:30 pm.

Please have fun attending all the activities such as our two seminars, looking at the exhibits, visiting the dealers, and our auction. The auction rules in the last bulletin were incorrect. My mistake; sorry about that! The correct ones are published in this issue and in the show programme.

Each of us comes to the show for a different reason. Hopefully everyone here will find an activity and a few new stamps for their collection that they will enjoy. Remember the Internet is not a substitute for personally meeting and interacting with collectors, or the knowledge they possess. Seminars and exhibits haven't made it there yet either.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR CALTAPEX 2001**Thursday, October 11:**

6:30 pm: Set up frames and tables. Followed by pizza and beer for the volunteers.

Friday, October 12:

10:00 am: Exhibitors can put up their exhibits.

1:00 pm: Show opens.

7:00 pm: 50/50 draw.

8:00 pm: Show closes.

Saturday, October 13:

10:00 am: Show opens.

10:30 am until noon: Computer seminar.

1:00 pm: First round of silent auction closes.

2:00 pm: Judges' critique.

3:30 pm: Second round of silent auction closes.

5:00 pm: 50/50 draw.

6:00 pm: Show closes.

Sunday, October 14:

10:00 am: Show opens.

12 noon: Seminar by Alan Hanks on exhibiting.

3:30 pm: Grand prize draw.

4:00 pm: Show closes. Takedown begins of exhibits and frames.

CALTAPEX SILENT AUCTION RULES

Sellers: Maximum of 10 lots per person until maximum number of lots has been reached. If maximum number of lots is not reached, then the maximum lots per person can be increased. All lots are subject to the approval of the auction volunteer. All lots should be in ahead of time to allow for ample viewing and bidding time.

A minimum reserve will be allowed to protect the seller, down to \$5. We are looking for better material. All lots must be accompanied by a Calgary Philatelic Society bid sheet, which will be provided for you. Required information should be filled out with the bid sheet and attached firmly to the lot.

You must register with the Auction Volunteer to obtain seller ID number. You must be present to pick up your unsold lots at 3:30 pm, and your cash payout shortly after all the lots have been picked up by the buyers. A 15% commission will be paid to the Calgary Philatelic Society and will be deducted from monies due to you.

Buyers: All buyers must register with the Auction Volunteer to obtain a bidder ID number. The auction will close Saturday at 1:00 pm, and a second round, if needed, at 3:30 pm. You must pick up and pay for your lots after the final tally has been made (approximately 1:45 pm and 4:15 pm). Terms of sale are CASH, unless you are a paid-up member of the Calgary Philatelic Society who can then use a cheque to make payment.

When the auction is called, high bid gets the lot. We will have security in place so that no late bids or bid changes take place. Security will also be present at the reconciliation of bids to determine the winners. All lots are sold 'as is', so please check the description and condition of the material before you make your payment.

OFF THE SHELVES (2)

by Penny Borrowman, CPS Librarian

Our club library has some very good resources and interesting reference works. Some club members may be unaware of the wealth of information available to them at every general meeting. This series of articles is intended to introduce you to some of our materials and encourage you to seek out the information that will support and enhance your collection.

We have recently acquired **The Large Queen Stamps Of Canada And Their Use 1868-1872** by H.E. and H.W. Duckworth. This fine volume gives the definitive description of these stamps and is a companion volume to **Small Queens 1870-1897**, edited by Michael Milos.

In case you are unfamiliar with these stamps, and think there were two queens of varying sizes here, or the same queen before and after she went on a diet, let me explain. All these stamps have the same portrait of Queen Victoria, taken from an engraving by Charles Henry Jeens. The first postage stamp issue of the Dominion of Canada, the Large Queens were first released April 1, 1868, in seven different denominations. When Canada joined the Universal Postal Union on July 1, 1878, and experienced a postal rate change, the stamps had to be re-issued. The new stamps, or Small Queens, measured only 17 x 21 mm. This change was to save money on materials and time. Sound familiar? They also came in slightly different denominations. This may have been the longest run of a Canadian postage stamp, as it was the only stamp issued for 25 years, until the Jubilee issue of 1897.

Topical collecting is always very popular, particularly among the younger set, and we try to keep many topics on hand. Stanley Gibbons' **Collect Railways On Stamps** is another recent acquisition. This large, well-illustrated catalogue covers stamps up to 1999. It includes stamps issued by all the countries of the world, showing not only trains, but rail lines, bridges, maps, personnel, construction activities, and related subjects. The railway item may not always be the main focus of the stamp, and may be tricky to find. Your club library also has ATA Handbooks #102, **Railway Stamps**, and #102-1, **Supplement To Railway Stamps**, by Howard J. Burkhalter. If you collect railways on stamps, now is the time to find out what you've been missing.

Be sure to stop by the library cabinet at the next general meeting. We are usually there by 7 pm. All you need is a paid-up membership to borrow good reading until the next general meeting.

CLUB MEETING REPORT

The first meeting of the new 2001/2002 season was held September 5, 2001, at the usual place in the Kerby Centre. There was a vigorous discussion about how to improve the auction meetings on third Wednesdays, and many useful suggestions made. The general consensus seemed to be to balance out club activities between the general meetings on first Wednesdays and the auction meetings, instead of piling so many activities onto the general meetings. For more details, or to make suggestions, contact Doug Kollar (547-3838) or Andy Puczek (241-2593) as soon as possible.

At the meeting, the proposed constitutional amendment was ratified, allowing for junior memberships.

The 50/50 draw in aid of CALTAPEX 2001 was won by Michael Morrison, who took home \$60 cash. Who says it doesn't pay to belong to a stamp club?

COMMITTEES

Archives	Dale Speirs	243-1752
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- silent	Jim Senecal	547-7681
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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.

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.

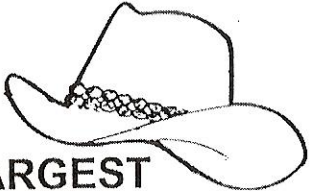
TRADE: Worldwide stamps including Commonwealth and North America. Many new issues, most used. To trade for UNO used and mint, and used Canada, USA, Britain, as per Scott catalogue value. Call Joe at 228-3167.

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



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MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2001

September	19	Auction
	30	Sunday bourse
October	3	General meeting
	12 to 14	CALTAPEX 2001
	17	Auction
November	4	Sunday bourse
	7	General meeting
	7	Deadline for December bulletin
	21	Auction
December	2	Sunday bourse
	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 and SPRING STAMP SHOW are 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.