

CALGARY PHILATELIST

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The CPS mailing address is Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6. The Web site is: <http://members.shaw.ca/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.

A cumulative subject index from issue #1 to date for the CALQUARIUM exists but because of its length, is too long to be published in this bulletin. A copy can be had for free from the editorial address at Box 6830.

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COMMITTEES - see page 13 for list of committee chairpersons

POSTAL HISTORY IN THE MAKING:
THE KANANASKIS G-8 SUMMIT
by Dale Speirs

The Prime Minister announced last year that Kananaskis Provincial Park would be the site of the G-8 Summit on June 26 and 27, 2002. This mountain valley is about an hour's drive west of Calgary on the Trans-Canada Highway. It is easy to see why he chose the site. Firstly, there are no Liberals sitting in southern Alberta ridings, so if protestors trash the place then he is no worse off for votes than before. Secondly, the only access into Kananaskis is via a single two-lane highway; a better choke point couldn't be made. Thirdly, if protestors tried to go into the valley overland via the mountains they will not only anger the environmentalists, they will run the risk of tangling with bears, cougars, and elk, none of which are particularly well tempered animals at the best of times. The obvious conclusion by all concerned on both sides was that since the G-8 delegates must come through Calgary International Airport, the demonstrations would probably be in the city or the Trans-Canada Highway. This went over like a lead balloon with the Calgary Police Service and the RCMP highway patrol. You know things are strange when the loudest voices against the G-8 are the police and city council, not the radicals.

Almost exactly two years prior, from June 11 to 15, 2000, Calgary hosted the World Petroleum Congress. The dire predictions of riots and mobs looting the downtown core failed to materialize. The protestors had trouble scraping up 2,000 people at best. Canada Post issued a warning notice to boxholders at the 9th Avenue SW post office downtown about possible disruptions to service.

I wasn't surprised when I found a similar notice in my box number on June 21 for the G-8 Summit. In fact, when I compared it to the WPC notice, it was obvious that the latter was used as a template. There were some differences so I quote the G-8 text below. The notice was bilingual, one column for each language, and on a single side of a 8.5 x 14 photocopied sheet. The Canada Post logo was at top left, and their new slogan was footnoted at the bottom "*From anywhere ... to anyone. De partout ... jusqu'a vous.*" The notice read as follows:

"IMPORTANT NOTICE TO POSTAL CUSTOMERS. The 2002 G8 Summit is meeting in Kananaskis from June 26 to June 28. This important event will bring world leaders, international media and protestors to Calgary."

"While we are hopeful that postal services will proceed as usual, we are aware that, for the days preceding the Summit and during the Summit itself, protest activities are being planned."

"The Calgary Central postal installation, which houses our employees and contractors who sort and deliver mail for customers in the T2C, T2G, T2P, T2R, T2S, T2T, T3C and T3Z postal code areas, is located in an area where protest activity is most likely to occur. If obstructive or non-peaceful protest activity does occur, we may be unable to provide "Business as usual" mail delivery and pick-up service to your area."

"We expect that normal delivery and pick-up service will resume on June 28."

"If you are unable to access to our Calgary Central Post Office at 207 9 Avenue S.W. as a consequence of protest activity, retail service is also available through our franchise network. Locations are listed in the white pages of your telephone book under "CANADA POST", or visit our website at www.canadapost.ca."

"Large volume mailers who normally deposit mail at the Calgary Central Post Office can use either of the following corporate facilities during this period:

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

"Additionally, street letterboxes will be temporarily removed from parts of the downtown and University areas. Customers who normally use this equipment can deposit mail at any postal location in our franchise network, or at one of the two corporate facilities listed above."

"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 the Monday of G-8 week, I stopped in at the downtown post office. The street letter box that normally stands outside the post office door for after-hours mailing had been brought inside, and was now in the lobby of the retail counter section.

That seemed to be the only visible sign to postal customers. Out on the Kananaskis highways, a busload of 50 postal workers tried to reach the Summit site on June 26, to deliver several hundred letters to the G-8 leaders. They were stopped at the RCMP blockade. Two posties went on foot to try to get around the police lines. One was arrested for obstruction of a police officer when he refused to turn back and got into a scuffle with the Mountie [1]. Returned to sender.

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A LOOK BACK
by Hugh Delaney

I grew up in small towns in Alberta. If you are a postmark collector, then you will recognize Derwent, Slawa, Myrnam, and St. Paul. My father was a grain buyer for the Searle Grain Co.

I started collecting stamps when I was around 11 or 12 with a box from the Garcelon Stamp Company. A friend of mine, an Oblate priest named Father henri Paul Morin, was a collector and helped me to understand some of the subtle nuances of stamp collecting.

In 1945 I read an ad by John P. Lundberg requesting boys and girls to collect Canadian stamps and he would pay for them. He sent me a mimeographed price list offering the following prices paid:

10 cents each for used \$1.00 stamps	1 cent each for used 8-cent stamps
5 cents each for used 50-cent stamps	1 cent per 12 for used 5-cent stamps
1 cent per 3 for used 20-cent stamps	1 cent per 30 for used 1, 2, 3, or 4 cents
10 cents each for used 17-cent stamps	1 cent per 4 for used 7-cent airmails
1 cent each for used 14-cent stamps	1 cent per 5 for used postage dues
1 cent per 8 for used 10-cent stamps	5 cents each for used Special Delivery

In addition, he offered one packet of stamps for every used \$1.00 or 17-cent airmail, or every two Special Delivery, or every ten 8-cent or 14-cent stamps.

In 1946, we moved to Edmonton where there was a stamp club meeting in the downtown library near the McDonald Hotel. I attended and the adults suggested that I get some other boys and form a junior stamp club. About five or six of us attended and became junior members. Auctions were held where we could bid for stamps, and there were books circulated to buy from.

I remember a visit to the Edmonton Stamp Club by a man who was then curator of H.M. King George VI's collection. He brought some of the King's collection with him. A disappointing moment for me came on my ride back home on the streetcar after one of the meetings. I had a small package of stamps that I had bought, and somehow left them on the street car.

Disease Transmission.

The fear of disease from stamps is as old as the Penny Black. In December 1840, Rowland Hill received a query from a Manchester pharmacist asking about the possibility that stamp gum might cause cancer [50]. Hill wrote back a reassuring reply that it was unlikely. This seems to be typical government obfuscation as it was impossible that Hill could have known one way or the other. Oncology was far too primitive then for anyone to know.

A more plausible concern is the transmission of disease by licking the stamp. This is a reasonable question to ask, especially in the spirit of the times when letters were routinely fumigated at ports of entry for control of cholera and other contagious or infectious diseases. Circa 1892 stamp collectors were warned about handling foreign stamps and to wash hands afterward [52]. However the hazard of disease transmission by licking stamps is very low, certainly far less than picking up pathogens from pressing an elevator button or pulling on a door knob in any public building. The vast majority of bacteria and viruses are non-pathogenic or can only become so under specialized conditions, otherwise the human race could never leave the sickbed. Take a deep breath and no matter where you are you will have breathed in hundreds or thousands of spores and particles. The danger of getting a disease from stamp gum is therefore not great. This has been confirmed by a variety of medical studies from 1946 to 1989, all of which came out about the same [54 to 57]. Those tests on used gum showed bacteria were present but only in low quantities and none worth being alarmed about. The general conclusion was that there is a low hazard to disease transmission from gum being licked by a sick person.

The paradox of apparently unsanitary handling of stamps and its potential for disease transmission is illustrated by a New Yorker's concern in 1932: "*In this overly sterilized, cellophaned, superhygienic civilization of ours, how is it that the postage stamps are handed out by the hundreds by the unsterilized, uncellophaned hands of the stamp clerks to an unprotected, helpless public left to the ingenuity of its wits to make the connection between the stamp and the envelope without 'licking' the dirt from the clerk's hands? Can some of our zealous cranks explain this anomaly? In most so-called civilized countries there is a wet sponge at hand; at least one has a choice.*" [53]. Actually many post offices do offer stamp wetting rollers; at least all the Canada Post outlets I patronise in Calgary do.

A stamp-affixing machine was patented in 1885 by Mlle. Victoria De Bunsen for the purpose of better sanitation [51]. Many other such devices followed over the years, although their other purpose was to speed up application of stamps.

The gum itself has been poisonous in a few cases, as opposed to merely carrying pathogens. The oldest case I have found occurred in the USA in 1879, when a man who spent the day applying green revenue stamps to cigar boxes wound up in bed seriously ill for a week from poisoning as he licked and applied the stamps [47]. In the newspaper report of that case it was said that revenue officers were troubled by skin problems from stamp poisoning, although it is not clear if it was the gum or the ink at fault. Another example is the forgery of the 150 lire Siracusana definitive of Italy. A 1978 police raid in Milan discovered 40,000 copies of the forgery, all of which had poisonous gum. The Ministry of Posts therefore invalidated the legitimate stamps to protect the public [45].

It is not always possible to determine if the gum or the ink of the stamp is at fault in poisonings. It may be that the gum is originally harmless but poisonous ingredients from the stamp migrated from the paper into the gum. Many early inks were poisonous, such as Scheeles Green, compounded from copper and arsenic and activated when moist [49]. Arsenic ink was used as recently as 1954 in Britain, whose 6d stamps had enough arsenic in the ink that the printers received milk before and after each shift to counteract it [48].

I found a report in the June 1885 issue of the TORONTO PHILATELIC JOURNAL which quoted the British medical journal LANCET about a story in which someone sealing an envelope became ill because the flap gum had been touched by a morphine addict [3]. Supposedly the addict contaminated the gum with enough morphine to sicken the next man, but this seems unlikely to me. I spent a considerable amount of time searching through back issues of LANCET from 1880 to 1885 for the supposed citation, but was unable to locate any such report. I therefore doubt the veracity of the story. I am not a medic so if anyone can verify this incident, please advise.

Self-Adhesives.

Stamp gum was always a problem in tropical countries because of the heat and humidity, and interleaving with wax paper did not help much. Self-adhesive labels were developed in 1935 by the Avery Corporation, but the first such style of stamp wasn't issued until 1964, when Sierra Leone produced a set. In 1969 Tonga became the second country to issue self-adhesives [19]. At the time they were much reviled by philatelists, but as self-adhesives became the standard in the 1990s, those originals are now dignified as forerunners.

That change came slowly, partly due to cost considerations, as for some time self-adhesives were more expensive than lick-and-stick stamps. In the early 1990s, Australia Post was selling 50% of its stamps as self-adhesives, and had sufficient volume of sales to reduce the cost below lick-and-stick stamps [24]. At about that same time, Canada Post was fumbling its introduction of self-adhesives by charging a premium price over the face value of the stamps [22]. Not surprisingly, Canadians declined to buy them in significant quantities, as the extra cost was not worth the convenience. Once Canadian self-adhesives came down to face value alone, they easily won out in preference.

The history of self-adhesives in Britain can be used as a case study of how slow their introduction was. The security printers Walsall produced self-adhesive labels in 1969 as a sample to show the British Post Office what could be done. The first British self-adhesives were privately ordered from H.M. Stationery Office in 1972. The first regular self-adhesives were regional trials in 1993 and 1997. It wasn't until 1999 that large-scale releases began [20]. The 2001 sheetlet "Cats and Dogs" was the first self-adhesive commemorative for Britain [21].

Philatelists are never happy unless they have something to complain about, and with the arrival of self-adhesives they switched from moaning about the gum to moaning about how difficult it was to peel the stamps off the backing, or, if applied to an envelope, how difficult to soak off. There was also the matter that in some early self-adhesive issues that the gum would migrate through the paper.

Some freaks of production have been reported. A Missouri man found a USA 34-cent Flag definitive with a moth squashed flat between the gummed stamp and the liner paper [68]. This could have been faked by peeling back a stamp, inserting a dead insect, and then re-laying the stamp. However, the freak in question seemed legitimate because the moth's body was trimmed at the perforations, which could only have happened in the printing shop. This particular stamp was used on a letter by a non-philatelist, who couldn't get it to stick to the envelope because the moth covered the gum. The user taped it to the envelope and mailed the letter. The USPS promptly returned it to sender because taped stamps of any kind are not permitted on the grounds that they might be fraudulently re-used.

Sheets in particular may be a problem, as while individual stamps may peel off easily, collectors wanting to put an entire sheetlet on a cover may have trouble getting the stamps and selvage off the backing in one piece [23]. The best method I have found is to lay the sheet upside-down on a flat surface and peel the backing sheet from the stamps, not the stamps from the backing sheet.

Unhinged Collectors.

If you wonder why the general public doesn't take philately seriously, consider the fact that many stamp collectors not only pay a premium for unhinged stamps, they are willing to admit it. Yet when those stamps are exhibited at a stamp show, which side is displayed? When they are written up for a philatelic magazine, which side is photographed? Which side is face out in their albums? Since the majority of early stamps were hinged, how is it that the majority of them today suddenly have undisturbed original gum?

The first acetate stamp mounts were developed prior to World War Two by Mortimer de Groot and sold as Visi-tray, starting the fad for never-hinged stamps [26]. Once enough collectors became willing to pay a premium for never-hinged, it did not take long for regummers to appear. Regumming stamps is legal as long as the stamps are not mis-represented, but when the stamps subsequently change hands it is a matter of buyer beware. In Europe there are expert regummers who can simulate any type of gum, right down to the crackling and direction of curl [31].

Some stamp issues have different varieties of gum due to the printer changing the type mid-stream. In most cases this can separate different printings of a stamp issue, but not always. Printers can be allowed a tolerance of plus or minus 10% on the gum, and for a long print run from one roll of paper the stamps may therefore have variable gum. This would produce variable stamps from one printing, so gum type alone is not always a reliable indicator to the philatelist that he has a different printing or variety of stamp [44].

The best anecdote I have found about the unhinged craze was told about the late Sam Nickle, the Calgary oilman who had one of the finest Canada Pence issues collections [32]. Visiting England for Philypia in 1970, he paused at a booth in the dealer bourse, where John Taylor had a pair of 1857 Canada 7½d deep yellow-green stamps, rare in any condition, displayed under the counter glass. Just as a joke, Nickle mused out loud "Say, is that unhinged?". Replied Taylor unperturbed, "I'm afraid Sir, that nothing is unhinged on this side of the counter.". After I read this anecdote, I asked Nickle the next time I saw him if it was true. He just smiled and said he didn't recall the incident.

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PHILATELIC LITERATURE REVIEWS

by Leanteri Polvikoski

La Catastrophe #29 (US\$20 per year from Wreck and Crash Mail Society, c/o Henry Berthelot, 132 Livingston Place West, Metairie, Louisiana 70005) This quarterly is devoted to examining mail from rail, ship, air, and road wrecks. The latest issue includes reports on Australian mail found in a Washington State train wreck, a mailbag that was kicked out of the train too early as it passed the station and spent the winter lost under the snow, and investigation of a mystery water-damaged cover that could have been an airplane crash or a shipwreck.

Topical Time (2002 May/June) (Available on loan from the CPS Librarian at club meetings) The issue at hand has articles on atomic bombs on stamps, Pompeii, and cave-dwelling beetles, as well as lots of reviews and checklists. An essential item for those who collect topicals.

PHSC Journal #110 (Sample copy \$5 from Postal History Society of Canada, c/o David Platt, 8 Maple Avenue, RR#2, Elgin, Ontario K0G 1E0) This issue starts off with the first installment of a general history of the Canadian postal system, then various articles on specific post offices of Ontario, Newfoundland, and Alberta. Also briefer notes on a variety of topics. A very useful periodical for anyone collecting Canadian covers or postmarks.

BNA Topics #490 (Membership details available from Peter Jacobi, 5295 Moncton Street, Richmond, British Columbia V7E 3B2, or visit www.bnaps.org) Digest-sized quarterly in card covers, illustrated throughout. Articles on both stamps and postal history, from Small Queens to recent QEII definitives. Something for everyone who is seriously interested in general Canadian philately.

Postal History Journal #122 (US\$35 for three issues from Postal History Society, 8207 Daren Court, Pikesville, Maryland 21208-2211) Professionally printed and illustrated throughout, this journal deals with international postal history and the broad trends of postal systems, not just catalogues of postmarks and rates. This issue has articles on the predecessors to postal systems in Italy of the 1400s, and how it eventually led to the idea of the government post office. It must be remembered that the postal reform which ultimately culminated in Rowland Hill circa 1840 was every bit as revolutionary and exciting as the Internet is in our time. Also articles on the history of mail bombs, the new order in the Baltics after the fall of the Soviet empire in the 1990s, and a continuing piece on the Pacific mails.

CALTAPEX has a new location, the main floor gymnasium of the Kerby Centre, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW. Free parking directly across the street on the north side of 7 Avenue. The LRT station is one block straight east, and there are numerous bus routes within a few blocks.

Show times are as follow:

Friday, October 18	1 pm to 8 pm
Saturday, October 19	10 am to 6 pm
Sunday, October 20	10 am to 4 pm

This year's show will have 21 dealer tables, as well as club tables with circuit books, private treaty books, and the ever-popular 2-cent table. There will be seminars and an auction.

For information on exhibiting, placing auction lots, or volunteering, please contact the Show Chairperson Jan Brookes. She can be reached at (403)251-1769 or via the club e-mail address at calphilso@shaw.ca

EDMONTON FALL STAMP FAIR

The Edmonton Stamp Club's shows are attended by a delegation of Calgary philatelists, so herewith are the details about their Fall Stamp fair on the weekend of September 14 and 15. Admission is free.

The show is at the West Edmonton Mall Conference Centre in Room #6 (third level, Europa Boulevard).

Show times are as follow:

Saturday, September 14	10 am to 6 pm
Sunday, September 15	10 am to 4 pm

This is not their big annual show but is a dealer bourse with 15 tables, circuit books, and a juniors' table. Further information can be had by calling (780)466-9967 evenings.

IN MEMORIAM: JIM KARR (1920 - 2002)

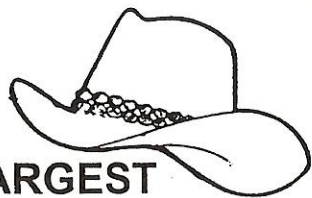
by Ed Harris

James Stuart (Jim) Karr passed away peacefully on June 23 at 81 years of age. He was born in Empress, Alberta, and spent his early years in that farming district. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in May 1941. He served as a flying instructor in England before being posted to active duty as a bomber pilot. He flew 33 operational missions, mostly over northwest Europe. Jim retired in 1983 after many years in the construction industry. He was predeceased by his wife Marie in 1995, and is survived by two sons in Calgary, a daughter in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, and five grandchildren.

A collector for most of his adult life, Jim specialized in postal markings of Canada. His exhibits won medals in several exhibitions. He belonged to BNAPS, RPSC, PHSC, CPS of GB, and the Edmonton Stamp Club. He was made an Honourary Life Member of the Calgary P.S. in 1994, and of the Calgary Regional Group of BNAPS in 1999. He was a member of the Pacific Northwest Regional Group of BNAPS. Jim joined the CPS in 1965 and served as Director in 1966-67. He was active for decades behind the scenes on the Show and Auction committees, and gave talks to various clubs at their meetings. Jim was an avid participant, both as exhibitor and committee member, in many local, regional, and national shows, and was always ready to help with his enthusiasm and organizational talents. He will be greatly missed by all his friends in Calgary and in Canada's philatelic circles.

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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@shaw.ca, but please allow time for forwarding to offline members.

FOR SALE: 1) Australian stamps, mostly used, all in a small album, \$300. 2) 450 Australian stamps, mostly 1936-1993, all good used. Call Desmond at 242-1044 or hollox@shaw.ca

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

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.

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

WANTED: Stamps and covers from China to 1949. Special interest in overprints. Prefer bulk lots. Call Penny at 686-2662.

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@shaw.ca

FOR SALE: Australian stamps, mostly VF postally used, recent years. Contact Michael Teekens at 286-7927.

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2002

September	4	General meeting
	8	Sunday bourse
	4	Deadline for October bulletin
	18	Auction
October	2	General meeting
	6	Sunday bourse
	16	Auction
	18 to 20	CALTAPEX 2002
November	3	Sunday bourse
	6	General meeting
	6	Deadline for December bulletin
	20	Auction
December	1	Sunday bourse
	4	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.

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.

CALTAPEX will be at the Kerby Centre, ground floor gymnasium (not the meeting room), 1133 - 7 Avenue SW. Contact Janice Brookes at 251-1769 for details.