

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 58

February 2003



IN THIS ISSUE: Steve Davis, an Albertan, writes about USA philately, so what better way to illustrate it than with American postmarks for the towns of Alberta in Minnesota and Alabama.

Calgary Philatelist is published by the Calgary Philatelic Society. It is copyright by the CPS, except signed articles, which are copyright by the authors. Written permission is required to reprint articles.

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 2002/2003 season are \$15, plus an initiation fee of \$10 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.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 CALGARY PHILATELIST 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.

2002/2003 EXECUTIVE

Past President	Andy Puczko	241-2593
President	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
Vice President	Walter Herdzik	238-3171
Secretary	Donna Trathen	272-0804
Treasurer	Hans Jensen	252-7909
Directors - ex officio	Andy Puczko	241-2593
- 1st year	Jim Senecal	547-7681
- 1st year	Jan Brookes	251-1769
- 2nd year	Marge Hunt	274-2259
- 2nd year	Keith Brown	248-0688

COMMITTEES - see page 13 for list of committee chairpersons

COLLECTING STAMPS OF THE USA

by Steve Davis

I collect the stamps and covers of that big brash neighbour of ours to the south. When I first started collecting back in my childhood, my family lived in the St. Lawrence River valley of Ontario, right on the USA/Canada border. This probably accounts for my early exposure to and fascination with American stamps. My love of their stamps continues to this day.

The USA is the world's only remaining superpower, and has a long and fascinating history. It gained its independence from Great Britain in 1776. Originally consisting of 13 states, it now has 50 states and several territories such as Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The Americans are Canada's next door neighbour and our primary trading partner. The issues of the USA reflect not only their own culture but world events. This rich history includes such events as wars, westward expansion, space exploration, world fairs, and summer and winter Olympics.

The USA is a republic with the President as Head of State. There have been many fascinating presidents in the history of the USA that are depicted on stamps. The U.S. Postal Service has a rule that for a person to be on a postage stamp they have to have been dead for ten years. This is waived in most cases for Presidents.

There are many different areas that a collector can get involved in. These include commemoratives, definitives, airmails, special delivery, express mail, revenues (federal and state), perfins, and precancels. This, plus the many rate changes, make this a very interesting country to collect. A common complaint of collectors is that the USPS issues too many stamps. Admittedly this has been true in the last few years but the issues do reflect the culture of the country and also the many postal rate changes. This can be a problem for those who collect mint because of the cost. However, collecting used can lower that cost dramatically and also brings the thrill of the hunt into play.

Because of the large well-educated population (280,000,000 as of August 2002), there are untold numbers of stamp collectors, dealers, and stamp clubs. Stamp collecting as a hobby is huge in the USA. This means that the postage stamps are used on mail routinely and that many people are saving them. It is true that e-mail and postage meters have cut into the use of stamps, but stamps are still heavily used. There are postage stamp vending machines almost everywhere that dispense booklets. In addition, it is now possible to purchase stamps at automated banking machines. This means stamps are readily accessible for use by mailers.

The USPS sells stamps on-line at its Website (www.usps.gov) and also publishes a colourful catalogue that is sent to regular purchasers. Although I don't collect mint, I usually purchase some of the nicer issues to use as traders. This way, I get the catalogue on a regular basis. They only require that you buy \$5 of items once a year to get the catalogue.

My personal method of collecting USA is to use preprinted pages in three-ring binders for the commemoratives. I get them from Stamp Albums Web (www.stampalbums.com), where you can download pages that you can then print and use. The cost is US\$25 per year, and because of my varied collecting interests I find that I more than cover my cost. I find this the easiest way to keep track of the new issues. I have also limited my collection of commemoratives to the years 1960 to present. For the definitives, revenues, and others, I use looseleaf stock books with clear pockets so that I can move the stamps around as I get more of the set or particular varieties of a particular definitive.

If there are others out there who collect USA, I would love to hear from you. Perhaps we can trade for those elusive issues or just chat about the fascinating postal history of our southern neighbour.

FIGHTING WORDS

“Philately, by and large, may be defined as a form of introspective Valium.”

Alastair Sampson, 1984, in PUNCH magazine. In the following issue, he mentioned numerous angry letters to the editor, and he half-heartedly apologized. There is joy in Heaven over one sinner who repents, etcetera.

MODERN CANADIAN PAPER VARIETIES: PART 1

by Mirko Zatka

Paper Fluorescence Varieties.

I have always maintained that stamp collecting is not just having a copy of each stamp displayed in an album or stockbook; it goes much deeper than that. The number of collectible varieties that exist in modern Canada issues is high, yet the knowledge about these seems to remain the domain of the few people who know about them. Catalogues, even though they purport to be ‘specialized’, show little interest in them so far.

I am trying to share the knowledge of some of these and thereby broaden general awareness. Through this series of articles I would like to share with you some of my finds, observations, and discoveries, and invite you to do the same for the benefit of others. These are the paper varieties I am aware of. Others likely exist. Please let me know of any other findings as I am building a reference collection of these to document their existence. You can contact me directly by e-mailing: mjzatka@bak.rr.com [Editor’s note: For those without e-mail, Mirko can be contacted through the Papernet via the Editor at Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7. If it is a short letter I will e-mail it through my account, otherwise I will forward it by real mail.]

Let’s start with observations on some of the papers used by Canada Post and its contracted printers in producing stamps over the past twenty years or so. It should be noted that as listed in catalogues, fluorescence listed as “HB” with one manufacturer may not represent the same degree of fluorescence as HB paper from a second supplier. Also, not all UV lamps provide the same degree of light intensity or fluorescence indication. I use an LS-4 Raychem lamp. To this end I try to provide ratings of fluorescence that reasonably compare between each paper supplier. As references, I use stamps known only on one paper so far, an example as per Table 1.

Abitibi-Price Papers.

Abitibi-Price and perhaps some other suppliers provided the security printers with various paper stocks through to the early 1980s. This paper was of various qualities, coated and uncoated, and sometimes of differing brightness under the ultraviolet (UV) lamp. Most of the commemorative issue print runs were printed on paper of similar fluorescence, with some notable exceptions listed in Table 2.

Most of the paper fluorescence varieties in Table 2 have not been listed anywhere yet, which I am working on changing with the next issue of Unitrade's Specialized Catalogue of Canadian stamps. Decision on what is the normal version versus the variety was based on examination of considerable quantities of mint stamps over the past years, and the breakdown of which version was more common than the other. Unless specifically noted, the brightness levels refer to the gum (back) side of the stamps. The Abitibi paper varieties already listed in the Unitrade or Darnell catalogues are not duplicated herein, except if the listing is not correct in my opinion. Except for the \$2 Kluane stamp, definitive paper fluorescence varieties are not listed here.

Table 1: Abitibi-Price paper standards

Degree of fluorescence	Stamp (Scott #)
Dull	896
LF	726
F	608 (face)
HF	611 (face)
HB	640

Table 2: Abitibi-Price paper varieties

Scott #	Description	Normal version	Variety
606 var	6c Christmas candles	front HB	front F
606p var	6c Christmas candles, W2B	front F	front HB
606i var	6c Christmas candles, GT2	front HB	front F
607 var	8c Christmas candles	front HB	front F
607p var	8c Christmas candles, W2B	front F	front HB
607i var	8c Christmas candles, GT2	front HB	front F
620 var	8c Royal visit	Dull	F to MF

Table 2: Abitibi-Price paper varieties (continued)

Scott #	Description	Normal version	Variety
655 var	8c Merritt	Dull	F
661 var	8c Desjardins	Dull	F
663a var	8c Chown/Cook pair	Dull	F
668 var	8c IWY	F	Dull
696a var	8c Canadian authors pair	Dull	F
727 var	\$2 Kluane	LF	LF, large F fibres
727 var	\$2 Kluane	LF	NF
737 var	12c Peace Bridge	Dull	F
737 var	12c Peace Bridge	Dull	MF
887 var	17c Baie St. Paul	F	Dull
888 var	17c Varley	F	Dull
889 var	35c Untitled	F	Dull
B1 var	8c+2c Olympic	F front	LF front
B2 var	10c+5c Olympic	F	HF
B3 var	15c+5c Olympic	HF	F
B4 var	8c+2c Swimming	HF	LF
B5 var	10c+5c Rowing	HF	LF
B6 var	15c+5c Sailing	HB	LF
B10 var	8c+2c Basketball	HF front	F front
B11 var	10c+5c Gymnastics	LF	HF
B12 var	20c+5c Soccer	HF	LF

[to be continued]

In 1971, when Canada converted from Imperial to metric measurements, there was a considerable moaning from those who didn't like change. It wasn't because they were opposed to the metric system per se, since Canada has had metric currency since Confederation and even the harshest opponents did not suggest going back to pounds sterling. But it could have been a lot worse, such as what happened with pre-Confederation Nova Scotia when there were multiple currencies and buying a postage stamp was like buying derivatives on today's stock market.

The trouble started with the Act to Establish the Decimal System of Accounting, which was passed into law on April, 15, 1859, and set to come into force on January 1 of the following year. The problem was that there was no clean-cut transition from one currency to another; both continued to circulate. Paragraph 2 of the Act read as follows: "2. *All accounts to be rendered to the Provincial Government, or to any public officer or department by any officer or functionary, or by any party receiving aid from this province or otherwise accountable to the government or legislature thereof, shall be so rendered in dollars and cents; but any such accounts may have a second column containing sums in pounds, shillings, and pence, equivalent to the sums so stated in dollars and cents, if the accountant shall prefer to render his account in that form.*"

Paragraph 3 set out conversion rates as follow:

Gold sovereign = \$5	Silver shilling = 25 cents
Silver crown = \$1.25	Silver sixpence = 12.5 cents
Silver half-crown = 62.5 cents	Copper penny = 2 cents
Silver florin = 50 cents	Halfpenny = 1 cent

Complaints soon appeared about the post offices playing loose and fancy with the conversion rates. A March 8, 1860 newspaper article in the YARMOUTH HERALD complained that: "*A postage stamp is supposed to represent three pence, but according to our Decimal Currency Act, five cents (half-pence) will purchase one. If, however, one hands a seven pence halfpenny (6d sterling) in payment for a stamp, he receives in return with the stamp but seven cents (3 ½ d), by which means he pays fourpence instead of three pence, the true value. If, however, he presents a fifteen pence (1s sterling) he receives but twenty cents (10d), consequently he pays five pence for what is valued at five cents or 2 ½ d.*"

Clear as mud, isn't it? Think about that the next time you buy stamps from Canada Post!

U.S. Consular Mail From St. Helena Relating To The Wreck Of The Schooner Emily At Tristan Da Cunha In 1836 And The Mysterious Behavior Of Captain Benjamin F. Ash by Michael Mueller (US\$12.95 from Moosehead Communications, 719 Moosehead Lake Road, Greenville, Maine 04441-9727) One of the major fascinations of postal history is not in the artefacts themselves, the postmarks, covers, and route markings, but in the story behind them. This interesting book starts off with what seems at first a straightforward summary of consular mail from St. Helena. but upon investigation proves to be a story of theft, sharp practice, and the revenge of a captain against his shipwrecked crew. When the Emily sank off Tristan da Cunha in 1836, Capt. Ash seemed singularly uninterested in the safety of his crew and trying to rescue them. The U.S. Consul's letters back to Washington, D.C., reflect this concern. Mueller has done detective work which suggests that Ash's behavior was because he and his crew were trying to loot a cache of oil and sealskins belonging to the islanders when they were wrecked. A good read even if you are not a South Atlantic islands collector.

BNA Topics (2002 Q2) (\$25 per year plus initiation fee of \$5, from British North America Philatelic Society, c/o Peter Jacobi, 5295 Moncton Street, Richmond, British Columbia V7E 3B2) Illustrated quarterly for Canada and provinces philately. This issue has articles on the history of British Columbia's postal system, the town of Aweme, Manitoba (whose address was forever being mis-written as Avenue), Newfoundland to Norway mail, law stamps, and the Magdalens barrel mail (it wasn't just the Pacific islands that had it).

Mekeel's (2002 Nov 15) (US\$4 for a sample copy, from Philatelic Communications Corp., 175R Proctor Hill Road, Hollis, New Hampshire 03049-6427) Weekly philatelic newsmagazine with news and notes, commentaries, and articles on worldwide philately. The magazine format is much more convenient to shelve and use as a reference than the tabloid philatelic weeklies such as LINN'S or SCOTT STAMP MONTHLY.

Topical Time (2002 Sep/Oct) (Available from the CPS Librarian at general meetings) The CPS is a chapter of the American Topical Association, and one of the benefits is this illustrated bimonthly. Articles in this issue include a history of the calendar, a memorial to Princess Margaret, and a collection of stamps by size and shape of the stamp (and some very bizarrely shaped ones indeed). Regular columns include literature reviews, checklists, and lists of recent topical postmarks.

Early each year, the articles that appeared in this bulletin in the previous calendar year are considered for the Author of the Year. The honour for 2002 goes to Patricia Prevey, for her article on Christmas philately. The presentation of an award certificate, duly decorated with Christmas stamps, was made to her at the January 8, 2003, general meeting. Congratulations Patricia!

FOUNDERS' AWARD

This award is given officially for service to the CPS during the previous season but unofficially also takes into account other years and services. For the 2001/2002 season, it goes to Gerry Vader, best known for his work on the Private Treaty books. He has been operating them since 1997. For the two years previous to that, Gerry had run the silent auction. Congratulations Gerry!

CALGARY SPRING SHOW

The 2003 Spring Show will be held on its usual time of the last weekend in April, which this year would be April 26 and 27. Details are still being finalized as we go to press, but the show may be at the Kerby Centre. Janice Brookes is again in charge, and can be contacted at 251-1769.

EDMONTON SPRING SHOW

Each year many Calgary philatelists make the long and arduous trek north to the frozen wastelands of Edmonton and take in the Edmonton Stamp Club's Spring Stamp Show. Dog teams optional. This year the show will be held March 28 to 30 at the Europa Conference Centre in the West Edmonton Mall. There are lots of free hitching posts for your dogs. Rooms have been blocked out at the Fantasyland Hotel. There will also be the famous Sunday breakfast, sponsored by the local chapter of the British North America Philatelic Society. Edmontonians are a friendly bunch and Cowtowners always enjoy themselves each year. If you ask around at the club meetings, you may be able to find other members who are interested in carpooling, which not only saves money on gas but makes the trip go faster in the company of like-minded philatelists.

Deadline for exhibit entries is March 1, and forms can be had from the Exhibits Chairman, Box 399, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2J6. Calgarians generally do well in the exhibition, so don't be shy about entering.

CPS FINANCIAL STATEMENT ENDING JUNE 30, 2002 by Walter Herdzik

Comparative Balance Sheet As At June 30, 2002 and 2001

		2001	2002
Current Assets:	Bank	1,506.34	2,374.69
	Floats	260.00	260.00
	Investments	21,000.00	21,646.54
	Accounts receivable	342.80	20.55
	Total current assets	<u>23,109.14</u>	<u>24,301.78</u>
Fixed Assets:	Equipment	19,242.73	19,242.73
	less accumulated depreciation	(11,544.00)	(13,468.00)
	Total fixed assets	<u>7,698.73</u>	<u>5,774.73</u>
Other:	Prepaid expenses	250.00	0.00
	Total other assets	<u>250.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Assets:		<u>31,057.87</u>	<u>30,076.51</u>
Current Liabilities:			
	Accounts payable	213.41	32.10
	Due to circuit book holders	2,598.40	3,119.68
	Due to Private Treaty holders	0.00	0.00
	Deferred members' fees	468.00	110.00
	50-50 draw	377.00	0.00
	Total current liabilities	<u>3,656.81</u>	<u>3,261.78</u>
Members' Equity:			
	Capital account - July 1	32,822.15	27,401.06
	Current surplus (deficit)	(5,421.09)	(586.33)
	Total members' equity	<u>27,401.06</u>	<u>26,814.73</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity:		<u>31,057.87</u>	<u>30,076.51</u>

**Comparative Statement Of Revenue And Expenditures
For The Year Ended June 30, 2001 and 2000**

	2001	2002
Revenues:		
Membership fees	2,269.00	2,337.50
Circuit book commissions	957.26	819.68
CALTAPEX	0.00	793.07
Spring Show	304.35	617.84
Auctions (net)	740.50	779.05
Interest from investments	972.00	646.54
Private Treaty commissions	296.41	312.11
50-50 draw	0.00	89.69
Miscellaneous income	0.00	25.68
Adjust receivables from June 30, 2001	0.00	23.95
Total revenues	<u>5,539.52</u>	<u>6,445.11</u>
Expenditures:		
Meeting expenses	2,902.08	2,478.96
Depreciation	1,924.00	1,924.00
Bulletins	1,445.06	1,270.73
CALTAPEX (net loss)	1,755.80	0.00
Frame storage	400.00	400.00
Miscellaneous	383.41	50.00
Club mailbox rental	190.46	190.46
Bank charges	108.18	225.70
Insurance	69.55	69.55
Library	756.35	90.04
Christmas party	953.97	297.00
Club memberships	71.75	35.00
Total expenditures	<u>10,960.61</u>	<u>7,031.44</u>
Net surplus (deficit)	<u>(5,421.09)</u>	<u>(586.33)</u>

HONOURARY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS AWARDED

At the Christmas social on December 4, two new Honourary Life Members were named. This award is only given for long service to the CPS; it cannot be had just by paying a large lump sum or being an ordinary member for 25 years. In the 80 years of this club, only thirty Honourary Life Members have been named, so it is a rare honour indeed.

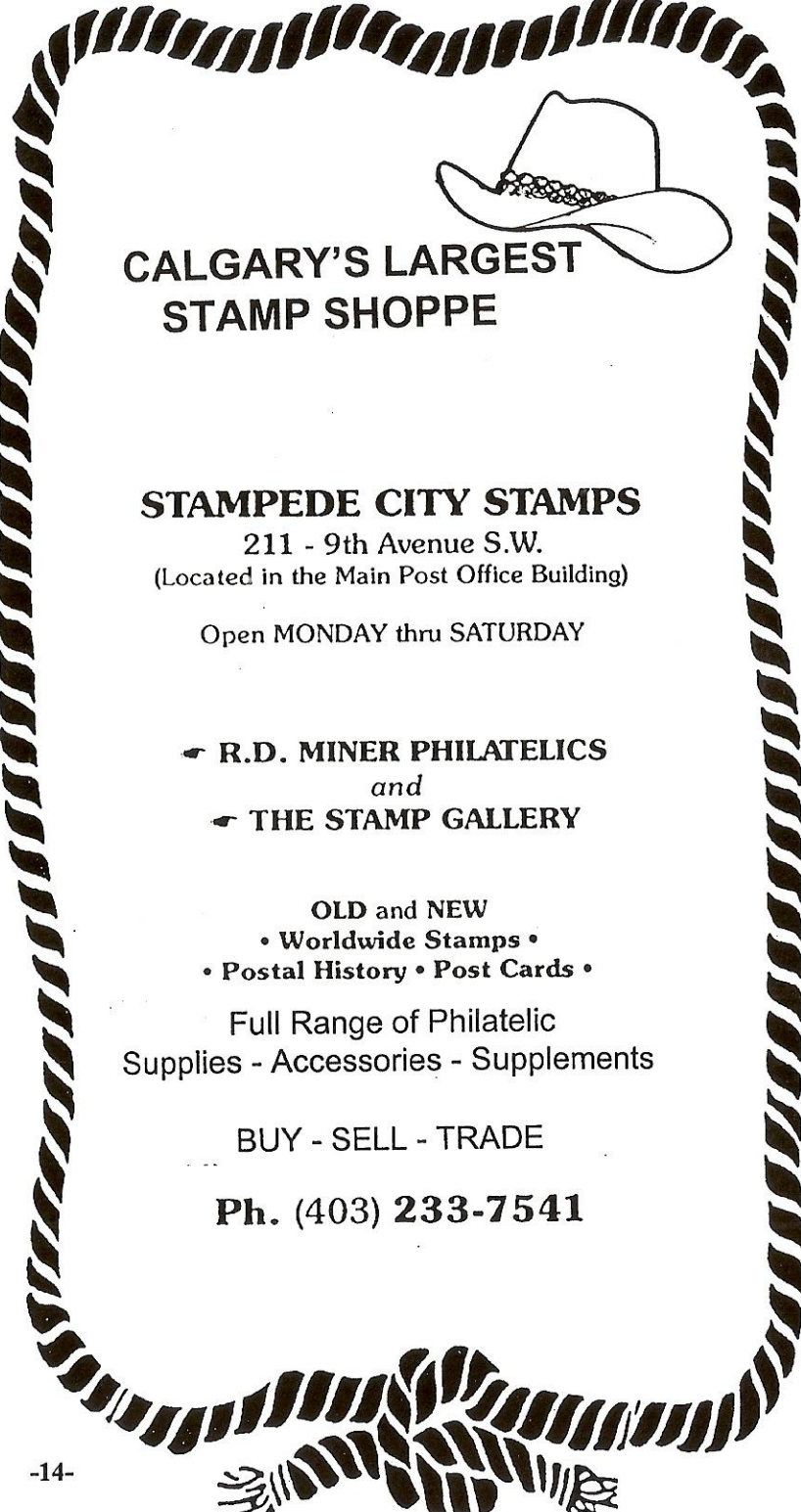
Penny Borrowman becomes Life Member #31. Currently the President of the CPS, she is best known for reactivating the club library in September 1992 and making it a well-used on-site facility of the club for the next ten years. She was Secretary in 1991/92, Director from 1998 to 2000, and Vice President from 2001 to 2002. She won the Founders' Award in 1993/94, and Author of the Year in 2001. She has also assisted behind the scenes for various activities of the club and the shows.

Isobel Attrell is now Life Member #32. She was Vice-President in 1995/96, President in 1996/97, Secretary in 1999/2000, and Membership Chairwoman since late 2000. She won the Founders' Award for 1996/97. She has worked for the Show Committee as a volunteer in many capacities, and also assists in mailing out the club bulletins. She has also assisted in other behind-the-scenes activities.

Congratulations Penny and Isobel!

COMMITTEES

Archives	Dale Speirs	701-0174
Auctions - regular	Doug Kollar	547-3838
- silent	Jim Senecal	547-7681
Bulletin - Editor	Dale Speirs	701-0174
- 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	Marge Hunt	274-2259
Publicity	Hugh Delaney	255-0422
Sergeant-At-Arms	Walter Herdzik	238-3171



CALGARY'S LARGEST STAMP SHOPPE

STAMPEDE CITY STAMPS

211 - 9th Avenue S.W.

(Located in the Main Post Office Building)

Open MONDAY thru SATURDAY

← **R.D. MINER PHILATELICS**
and
← **THE STAMP GALLERY**

OLD and NEW

- Worldwide Stamps •
- Postal History • Post Cards •

Full Range of Philatelic
Supplies - Accessories - Supplements

BUY - SELL - TRADE

Ph. (403) 233-7541

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 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 OR TRADE: Worldwide stamps, old and new issues, dozens of countries to trade for same, based on Scott catalogues. Call Joe at 288-1267.

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. 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: 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

2003

February	2	Sunday bourse
	5	General meeting
	19	Auction
March	2	Sunday bourse
	5	General meeting
	5	Deadline for April bulletin
	19	Auction
April	2	General meeting
	6	Sunday bourse
	16	Auction
	26 to 27	Spring Stamp Show
May	4	Sunday bourse
	7	General meeting
	7	Deadline for June bulletin
	21	Auction
June	4	Election meeting
	18	Auction
August	1	Deadline for September bulletin

SPRING STAMP SHOW details are available from Janice Brookes at 251-1769.

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.