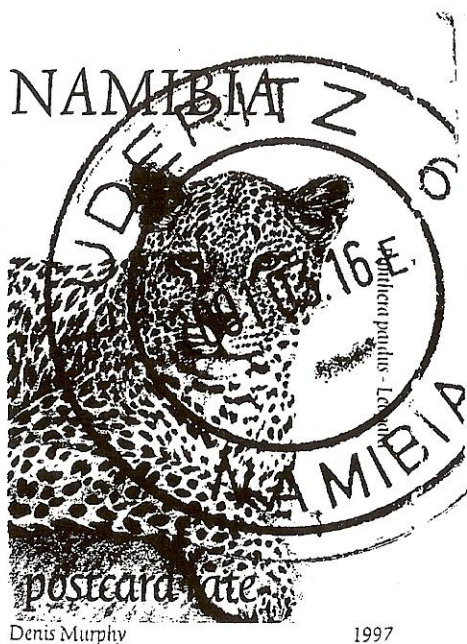


CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 60

June 2003



In this issue: Steve David looks at the philately of Namibia, and the BNAPSers start a series on the postal history of Cowtown.

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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.

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.

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NAMIBIA: A PHILATELIC GEM

by Steve Davis

Namibia is a relatively new nation located in the southwest corner of the African continent. It is emerging as a gem for stamp collectors. Although only recently independent, Namibia (formerly South West Africa) has a long and fascinating history both politically and philatelically. This article will attempt to summarize this history. I am sure that you will see many collecting possibilities, and will also note that this country has had and still does have very close ties to South Africa.

Overview.

South Africa occupied the German protectorate of South-West Africa during World War 1 and administered it as a mandate until after World War 2, when it annexed the territory. In 1966, the Marxist guerilla group South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) launched a war of independence for the area, but it was not until 1988 that South Africa agreed to end its administration in accordance with a U.N. peace plan for the entire region. Independence for Namibia came March 21, 1990.

Namibia is rich in natural resources such as diamonds, copper, uranium, gold, and lead. The area of the country is 825,418 sq. km, about half the size of Alaska. There is a 1,572 km coastline on the Atlantic. The landscape is primarily desert, with limited arable land of less than 1%. It has magnificent vistas and wildlife. This is the first country in the world to incorporate the protection of the environment into its constitution. Some 14% of the land is protected, including virtually the entire Namib Desert coastal strip. Tourism is rapidly becoming a major industry. The most famous national park is Etosha, which is rich with wild animals, especially elephants and lions.

Ethnic groups that make up the population are: black 87.5%, white 6%, mixed 6.5%. About half of the population belong to the Ovambo tribe and 9% to the Kavangos tribe. The population was 1,820,916 as of July 2002. English (7%) is the official language, with Afrikaans the common language of most of the population and about 60% of the white population. German is spoken by about 32% of the people. The literacy rate is 38% of the entire population.

The government is a democratically-elected republic. Currency is the Namibian dollar with an exchange rate of about 12 Namibian dollars to 1 U.S. dollar.

Philatelic History.

German South-West Africa (Deutsch Sudwestafrika)

First stamps issued: March 1897
Currency: German

The territory was proclaimed a German protectorate on April 24, 1884. It was overrun by South African troops in 1914/15 during World War 1. Mail is known to have been carried by casual ships between August 7, 1884, and July 6, 1888, when the first post offices opened. The protectorate joined the UPU in 1886 and the stamps of Germany were used from July 7, 1888. The post offices were closed as a result of capture by South Africa troops between August 1914 and July 1915.

South West Africa.

First stamps issued: January 1, 1923
Currency: Until 1961, British. From February 14, 1961, South African

The first stamp issues were bilingual in English and Afrikaans, but since 1970 have borne the abbreviation SWA. South African stamps overprinted SWA were also used during this period. The territory was an ex-German colony mandated by the League of Nations to South Africa after World War 1. Nazi activities by the German settlers in 1934/35 led South Africa to administer it as a province. Administration by South Africa ended in 1988 with independence as Namibia in 1990.

Namibia.

First stamps issued: March 21, 1990
Currency: At independence, South African. After October 1, 1993, the Namibian dollar (on par with South African rand)

The United Nations terminated the South African Trusteeship over South West Africa in 1967. An administrator was appointed in 1977 to govern the territory until independence. A transitional government was installed in 1985 with independence within the British Commonwealth on March 21, 1990.

The Namibian Post which runs postal services has a philatelic service. They appear to consider stamp collecting and collectors a very important component of their service. Their mission statement and information about issuing policy is posted on their Web site. Stamp issuing policy is quite conservative. Issues reflect the history, culture, and flora/fauna of the country. The number of issues is also

relatively low and all issues are distributed to all post offices countrywide. Definitives are issued about once every 4 to 5 years. Commemoratives are issued 8 to 10 times per year. Their issues have won several international philatelic design awards.

On-line ordering is available at the Web site with a minimum order of \$50 Namibian dollars, about US\$4. Information on all stamp issues is available with many images of the stamps also available for viewing.

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CIA Factbook 2002
www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos

Namibia Post Philatelic Services
Namibia Stamp Centre, Private Bag 13336, Windhoek, Namibia
www.nampost.com/na

Sandafayre Stamp Auctions, Stamp Atlas
www.sandafayre.com/atlas/safrica.htm

THE CPS ON-LINE DISCUSSION GROUP
by group moderator Dale Speirs

The CPS has an on-line discussion group where members can chat about philatelic matters, club business, or post news announcements. To join, send an e-mail to opuntia57@yahoo.ca with the subject heading "Subscribe CPS group". In the main body of the message, list your real name (no Internet alias, please) so I can verify your membership, and the e-mail address you want to subscribe under. If you are not a member of Yahoo Groups, you will have to register a name and password at their Website after I have signed you up, but this is free and only has to be done once. Thereafter, you can go directly to the www.yahogroups.com and read archived messages or post new ones. You will also receive a daily digest of messages from the CPS group. We are not a high-traffic group, so you won't get messages every day. I will pick out messages from time to time for the CALGARY PHILATELIST for the benefit of those not on-line and compile them here.

Peterborough Papers.

With the Canadian Infantry Regiments issue of September 1989 (#1249 and #1250), Canadian Bank Note Co. (CBN) introduced yet another new paper referred to as Peterborough. This paper is unlike others in that it is quite crisp and stiff, with a steel-blue to grey-blue gum. CBN must have had lots of production problems with it for this first run, as most plate sheets were returned to printers due to poor quality, hence the now scarce plate blocks of this issue. Much of the printing suffered with shifts in the intaglio-printed black colour. For essentially all of the issues to date, the paper used has a surface coating to assist in ink adherence, to create a smooth image, and, I suspect, gives the paper the stiffness feel. A few of the definitive issues and one commemorative issue, all using a one-colour intaglio printing process, used an uncoated version of the paper.

There appear to be two generations of coated Peterborough paper used by the printers. Printings until the November 1992 World War II issue (#1448 to #1451), but for two exceptions, were on a near-uniform NF paper which had no discernable fluorescent fibres. The two exceptions are shown in Table 8. Thereafter, use of this paper comes with a variety of fluorescence, covering a Dull to HF range. In addition, the paper on the gummed side shows very fine fluorescent fibres, giving it a somewhat mottled, less uniform in appearance, look under the UV lamp. The uncoated papers cover the widest range from NF to HB. All appear uniform on the gummed side under the UV lamp.

This paper has been used on selected issues, and I would say has never been the overall preferred paper of the printers. Despite this, its use continues today, most recently on the 95c Millennium issue engraved Dove stamp (#1814). To date, Peterborough paper has offered an unexpectedly exciting area of fluorescence study, with some surprising finds.

The fluorescence rating for the uncoated papers is quite different from the others, and one has to be careful with it. The NF paper is the same as on the coated paper stamps, but the F is actually almost an HF on the coated paper scale. The reason I labelled it like this (perhaps it is a bit misleading) is that several quite distinguishable degrees of relatively high fluorescence exist. All occur on the 45c and 46c Flag coil definitives (#1396 and #1703). Perhaps someone can suggest an alternate, more suitable scale for these.

Table 7: Peterborough paper standards	
Degree of fluorescence	Stamp (Scott #)
Coated: NF	1251
Dull	no specific issue
LF	1552
MF	1527
HF	1636
Uncoated: NF	1394
'F'	no specific issue
'MF'	no specific issue
'HF'	no specific issue
HB	1814

Most of the following paper fluorescence varieties have yet to be catalogued anywhere. 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.

Table 8: Coated Peterborough paper varieties			
Scott #	Description	Normal version	Variety
1259 var	33c Christmas 1989	NF	MF
1264 and 1265 var	39c Norman Bethune pair	NF	LF
1360xiv	45c Flag, from booklet of ten	LF?	Dull, HF
1371 var	71c Chestnut, CBN	LF	Dull, MF
1373 var	88c Apricot, square tag	MF	HF

Table 8: Coated Peterborough paper varieties (continued)

Scott #	Description	Normal version	Variety
1373i var	88c Apricot, 3-bar tag	MF	HF
1373a var	88c Apricot, 3-bar tag, from booklets	LF	HF
1374a	90c Peach, from booklets	LF	MF
1448 to 1451 var	42c WW II - 1942	MF	Dull
1509 var	43c Jeanne Sauve	LF	MF
1524 var	43c Canada Day miniature sheet - Trees	MF (field stock?)	LF (philatelic stock?)
1525 to 1526 var	43c Great Canadians	Dull	MF
1529 to 1532 var	43c Prehistoric animals	LF	HF(!)
1533 var	43c Christmas 1994	LF	MF
1533a var	43c Christmas 1994, from booklets	LF	MF
1534 var	50c Christmas 1994	LF	MF
1535 var	88c Christmas 1994	LF	MF
1537 to 1540 var	43c WW II - 1944	MF	HF
1541 to 1544 var	43c WW II - 1945	LF	HF
1546 var	(43c) Flag	MF	LF
1558 var	43c Lunenburg Academy	MF	HF
1591 to 1594 var	45c Birds I	LF	MF (uncut press sheets)

Table 8: Coated Peterborough paper varieties (continued)

Scott #	Description	Normal version	Variety
1630a var	45c Year of Ox souvenir sheet	Dull?	LF, MF
1630b var	45c Year of Ox souvenir sheet, Hong Kong '97 overprint	Dull?	MF
1638 var	45c Poppy	LF (philatelic stock)	HF (field stock)

On #1360xiv, I have panes with three different degrees of fluorescence, but have not confirmed which is the most common version. The degree of fluorescence on the variety version of #1558 is slightly less than normal HF. On #1630, I have not been able to confirm what the common version of the Year of the Ox souvenir sheets is. Three degrees of fluorescence exist on the normal souvenir sheet and possibly all three also on the Hong Kong '97 overprint version (despite only 150,000 being issued!).

Table 9: Uncoated Peterborough paper varieties

Scott #	Description	Normal version	Variety
1395 var	43c Flag coil	NF	HF, HB
1396ii var	45c Flag coil	HF	NF, F, MF, HB
1703 var	46c Flag coil	HF	F, MF

I would be unsurprised if even more varieties, not listed above, surface. Please let me know if you have a paper variety that needs to be added to the list. 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.]

The next paper that needs covering is Coated paper. This is the dominant paper in use today, a decade after it was introduced on the 1991 Art stamp (#1310). From a fluorescence standpoint it ranks right up there with Slater and Clark papers. Despite the many issues produced on this paper, it always comes up one way: Dull. I have never seen any fluorescence varieties on this paper.

[to be continued]

THE CALGARY COVER PAGE

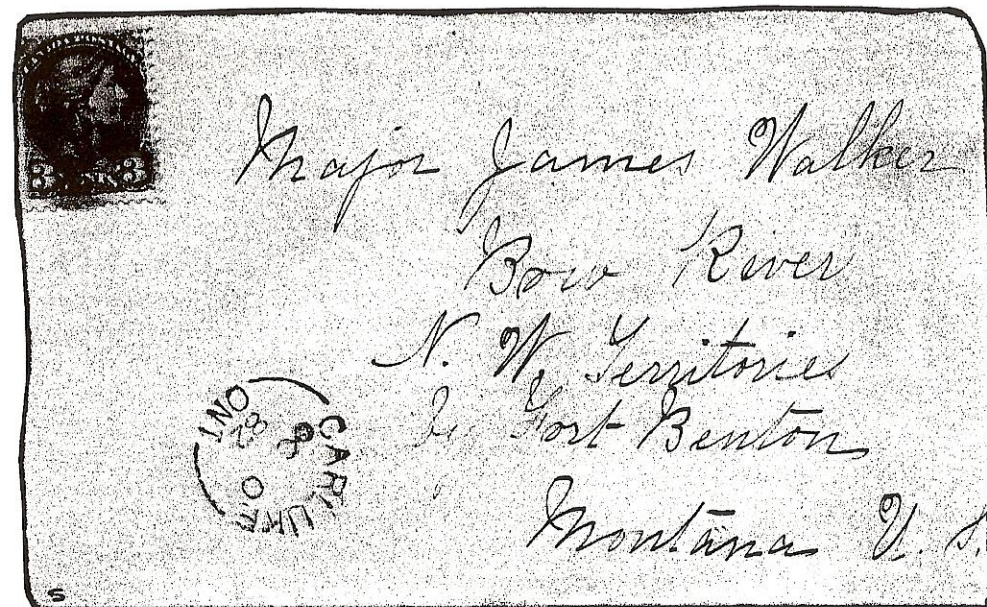
by Phil Seeker

Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society

This cover was mailed from Carluke, Ontario, on October 10, 1882. The cover is addressed to Major James Walker, Bow River, N.W. Territories by Fort Benton, Montana, U.S.. No receiving mark is on the cover as Calgary did not have a post office until 1883.

The North West Mounted Police established their first permanent post in the west at Fort Macleod in 1874. In the following year a post was established on the Bow River at what is now Calgary. No Canadian mail route existed into the territory up to the early 1880s, and mail was forwarded up the Missouri River to Fort Benton, Montana, and thence by bullock team north to Fort Macleod. This route continued to operate until the Canadian Pacific Railway pushed across the prairies.

Major Walker was a well-known member of the NWMP and served with distinction until 1881, at which time he left to become the manager of the Cochrane Rancho Company, one of the largest ranches in the territory. In 1975, he was named Calgary's "Citizen of the Century".



THE POSTAL HISTORY OF ILLEGIBLE POSTMARKS: PART 1

by Dale Speirs

It isn't just philatelists who complain about illegible or smeared postmarks. Second only to stamp collectors, judges have complained about unreadable dates that wrecked a court case. Nor is it the case that illegible postmarks are anything new, for complaints go back as far as postmarks themselves.

It should be noted that illegible postmarks are not to be confused with pen-marks and manuscript cancellations. Particularly in the 1800s, stamps were often neatly cancelled by a few strokes of a pen, or had a name and date written across the stamp. This was usually the case where post offices did not yet have proper postmark handstamps or wands. Pen-marks are a legitimate study [15], and not to be condemned as are illegible postmarks, where the postie could have neatly cancelled the stamp with a device but chose not to.

Not in the same category as messy postmarks either, even though they caused as much anguish to philatelists (neither judges or the general public noticed), was the British Post Office habit of marking registered letters with a blue cross on the face of the cover. This practice began in 1878 and, properly done, would quarter the envelope with the blue lines to make the covers recognizable as registered to the postie. Many covers were sloppily crossed with blue crayon by posties, ruining stamps and creating decades of philatelists' complaints [30].

Postmarks And Poison.

What must be one of the greatest instances of misplaced optimism was reported in England in December 1856. Lord Campbell, sitting as a judge in Court of Queen's Bench, had complained to the British Postmaster-General about smeared postmarks which resulted in dismissed cases of parties who otherwise might have been convicted. The PMG's exact reply was not given in the press [1], but Lord Campbell said it was " ... *highly satisfactory, and hereafter complaints against the Post Office in reference to the stamping of letters would be unnecessary.*" That statement is funny enough on its own, but outright astonishing when it was learned, even as Lord Campbell was sitting back in relief at a job well done, the single most famous court case in history involving postmarks was about to erupt.

Madeleine Smith was a young Scotswoman in Glasgow who had been carrying on a torrid love affair with a man not approved of by her parents. She eventually met another man to whom she became engaged, and broke off her relationship with the first man. He would not take a hint, however, nor would he return the hundreds of indiscreet letters she had written him. He died suddenly of agonizing stomach pains in early 1857, revealed at the post-mortem to be caused by arsenic.

She had given him a gift of chocolate about the time he died, at a rendezvous arranged by a letter received a few days previous.

The autopsy gave prosecutors reasonable cause to search the dead man's lodgings, where they found more than 500 letters written by Smith. It took them ten days to read through them all [2]. The case was to hinge on one particular letter in which she asked him to meet her. It was established that he had received from her a gift of chocolate at that meeting, and about the same time she had purchased arsenic at a druggist, ostensibly for rats. Anyone buying poisons had to sign the druggist's ledger book by law, so the date she bought the arsenic was known for certain.

The problem faced by the prosecutors was that the letter was undated. There was no way to prove if the tryst was arranged before or after she bought the arsenic [3]. Only two people knew the exact date they had corresponded: the dead man and Madeleine Smith. One couldn't talk and the other wasn't saying. Unfortunately the postmark was illegible. Had it been clear, and the date readable, it would have meant the difference between hanging and undisputed innocence. If it could be proved that Smith had bought the arsenic before sending the letter arranging the meeting, then it was premeditated murder. If, however, the postmark showed she bought the arsenic after the rendezvous, then she was innocent.

The case was a national sensation, and reported verbatim in many newspapers [4]. But due to that undeterminable date, the jury had to render a verdict of "Not Proven". The judge made a few nasty remarks about the Post Office in his summing-up. One consequence of the Smith trial verdict was that the Post Office sent up a Postal Surveyor named Anthony Trollope to re-organize the Glasgow post office [5]. Yes, that Trollope, the famous novelist, whose day job was with the GPO. The Glasgow postmark, with a killer numbered '159' and a rectangular date frame below it, has become a collector's item [35].

[to be continued]

References.

1] Anonymous (1856-12-20) Stamping letters. ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS 29:617
2] Anonymous (1857) The Glasgow poisoning case. ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS 31:10, 27, 55
3] Atlay, J.B. (1896) Famous trials: The Queen against Madeleine Smith. CORNHILL MAGAZINE 74:639-653

4] Anonymous (1857) The Glasgow poisoning case. THE TIMES (London) July 1, page 9, July 2, page 5, July 3, page 5, July 4, page 5, July 6, page 7, July 7, page 9, July 9, pages 7 and 8, July 10, page 12, July 11, page 10
5] Mackay, James (2000) A poisoned pen? STAMP MAGAZINE 66(9):128-129
15] Belfast, Peter (1954 May) Pen-marks are worth collecting. GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY 27:103
30] Hamilton, P. (1953-01-02) Blue pencil anniversary. STAMP COLLECTING 79:545
35] Patrick, D. (1976-12-27) Trial raises interest in cancel. CANADIAN STAMP NEWS 1(14):20

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WANTED: Used definitives from south African countries including Namibia, South Africa, Lesotho, Malawi, Botswana, and Swaziland. I will trade on a 1:1 basis commemoratives for these in good condition. Also want any interesting covers with these stamps; no FDCs please. Call Steve at 288-0864 or e-mail to: sbd549@hotmail.com

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

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

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2003

June	4	Election meeting
	18	Auction
August	1	Deadline for September bulletin
September	3	General meeting
	3	Deadline for October bulletin
	17	Auction
October	1	General meeting
	15	Auction
November	5	General meeting
	5	Deadline for December bulletin
	19	Auction
December	3	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.