

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 63

December 2003



Steve Davis
1203-840 9th St. S. W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 2T1



RETURN TO SENDER

- ☐ Unable to Identify an Addressee
- ☒ Return Number and Call Number Required
- ☐ Undeliverable to Addressee
- ☐ Not at California News Colony
- ☐ Forwarded/Released, No Forwarding Address
- ☐ Out to Court

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Articles or advertisements for Calgary Philatelist should be sent to the Editor, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. Small ads are free to paid-up CPS members. Display ads are \$10 per full page per issue for camera-ready copy (photographs extra). No partial-page ads accepted.

Membership dues for the 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.

2003/2004 EXECUTIVE

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COMMITTEES - see page 13 for list of committee chairpersons

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF ILLEGIBLE POSTMARKS: PART 3

by Dale Speirs

The Grass Is Always Greener In The Other Country.

Those complaining about illegible postmarks often hold up other national post offices as paragons of virtue, or at least neater workmanship. As, for example, the complaining Englishman writing: *"Compare the smudges that emanate from England with the cancellations of Canada, Switzerland, France or any other important country!"* [13]. (Pause for the sound of loud laughter from Canadian philatelists.)

Henniker Heaton was a British M.P. in the late 1800s, best remembered by postal historians for his long struggle to get the Ocean Penny Postage. He also interested himself in other aspects of postal operations. On August 16, 1895, he had the following exchange [36] in the House of Commons:

"Mr. Henniker Heaton (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Representative of the Postmaster General (1) whether he has observed that the postmarks on letters, &c., are frequently so smudged and indistinct as to be illegible and useless; (2) whether this is due to the imperfections of the machines employed; (3) whether he has noticed that the American postmarks are invariably clear and distinct; and (4) whether he will order that the American machines shall be adopted in the British Postal Service?"

"Mr. Hanbury: The matters mentioned in the first three paragraphs are already engaging the attention of the Postmaster General. American stamping machines have been tried, but it has been found that they are by no means free from objection."

Why Machine Cancellers Were Invented.

Many philatelists believe that machine cancellers were introduced to speed up postmarking of mail. In fact, their main purpose was to produce legible postmarks [6]. The British Post Office first began using machine cancellers in 1857, partly in response to the Madeleine Smith trial, although their use was not widespread until 1860.

As proof that you can never please everybody, philatelists desire that their stamps receive a nice date cancel, but the general public prefer the date away from the stamp so it can be read clearly in case of legal concerns. In 1903, a British M.P. raised this issue in the House of Commons, asking the Postmaster General to

ensure that postal clerks did not use the date stamp as an obliterator [40]. The reply to the House was that the Post Office was working to solve this problem by increasing the use of machine cancels.

While machines reduce the number of smeared postmarks, they are only as good as the people who maintain them, and smeared machine cancels are not unheard of. Machine cancels have not only the date, but usually a slogan. Complaints about smeared slogans are nothing new. In 1931, Lady Cust was writing an indignant letter about this to the editor of THE TIMES [7]. In 1948, one report said that as many as 60% of first-day covers for the British Olympics that went through one slogan canceller machine had stamps stripped off the cover or scraped by the postmarker [16].

As late as the 1960s, some businesses and banks were in the habit of dating their correspondence as “Date of Despatch as Postmark”, which of course had no value if the postmark was illegible [8]. Probably though, the main thing that killed that bad habit was a few adverse court decisions against companies who didn’t put the date on the letter itself.

The advent of spray-on or ink jet machine cancels in the 1990s have not always shown an improvement. Spray-on cancellers must be properly adjusted to form the letters at the correct size and from the proper distance to the letter. If the ink jet is too far away from the letter, the ink has more time to spread, and produces large numerals with some blurriness. Too close and the numerals are small and blobby. In a case from Britain in 2002, improper adjustment produced missing words from the middle of the spray-on slogan [44].

Ink Problems.

A prime example of over-inking was a 1982 Australian cancel where the ink soaked right through the letter inside and came out onto the back of the envelope [18]. This may have been due to excess ink on the canceller, or it may have the wrong ink was used.

An example of the wrong-ink problem is the case of the Porelon ink introduced by Canada Post in 1993 for use in inkjet postmarks. It was later decided to use this ink for handstamping as well, and in late 1995 ink pads were distributed to postal outlets. Complaints soon arose that the ink smeared easily, took too long to dry, was sticky and got on posties’ clothing and skin, and, worst of all, would penetrate through the envelope and spoil the contents. Over time, the ink would spread along the paper fibres, and what might have been a readable postmark at time of

cancelling later became an illegible blob. Replacement inks were authorized November 15, 1995, and the Porelon withdrawn [39].

[to be continued]

References.

6] Layne, H. (2000 April) Early machine trials and cancellations with notes on general usage. Part 1. GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY 30(11):49-52

7] Lady Cust (1931-11-21) Postal admonition. THE TIMES (London), page 8

8] Stewart, O. (1965-09-25) Date as postmark. THE TIMES (London), page 9

13] Gibbons, R.K. (1965-08-20) Smudged British mail. PHILATELIC MAGAZINE 73:552

16] Anonymous (1948 September) Olympic covers damaged. GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY 22:4

18] Anonymous (1988 March) A case of overkill. STAMP NEWS 36(3):14

36] Heaton, Henniker (1895-08-16) Postmarks on letters. PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES HOUSE OF COMMONS (GREAT BRITAIN) 4th series 36:151-152

39] Robertson, Ian (1996-02-06) Smear campaign. CANADIAN STAMP NEWS 20(19):12

40] Talbot, J.G. (1903-04-02) Postmarks. PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES HOUSE OF COMMONS (GREAT BRITAIN) 4th series 120:895

44] Lake, Kenneth (2003 January) Modern technology isn’t all that reliable. GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY 33(8):103

IN MEMORIAM: PHYLLIS WESTON (1907-2003)

Long-time CPS member Phyllis Weston passed away on September 10 at the age of 96. She had joined the club in 1972 along with her sister Stella McArthur, and both were familiar sights at club meetings, sitting in the front row. Phyllis received the 1996 Author of the Year Award for her writings in this bulletin. Donations in her memory may be made to the Calgary Foundation - Phyllis Weston Scholarship Fund, #700 - 999 - 8 Street SW, Calgary, T2R 1J5.

FORT VERMILION COMMEMORATIVE FLIGHT

by Gord Mallett

Western Chapter, Canadian Aerophilatelic Society

The Commemorative Flight.

On January 2, 2004, a special flight will head north from Edmonton to Fort Vermilion via McLennan (Donnelly Crossing airstrip) and Peace River. Sponsored by the Western Chapter of the Canadian Aerophilatelic Society (CAS), the commemorative flight coincides with the 75th anniversary of the famous diphtheria antitoxin flight to Fort Vermilion made by Wop May and Vic Horner in 1929. Among those aboard the flight will be Wop's son Denny May, Vic's son Robert Horner, and their spouses. The plane, a Pilatus PC-12, is provided courtesy of the RCMP.

The CAS has designed a matched pair of postal envelopes to commemorate the re-enactment. A limited run of 300 sets has been produced. These will be carried on the outbound flight to Fort Vermilion and the return to Edmonton the next day. They will be postmarked and backstamped to indicate points of departure and destination, and will be signed by Denny May, Robert Horner, and the pilot. The stamp will be the 49-cent flag definitive showing Edmonton's skyline. Sets of envelopes are priced at \$21 inclusive of First Class postage and handling; registration is extra. Limit of two sets per customer. Order via Nino Chiovelli at (780)475-9665 or nchiiovelli@telusplanet.net

The 1929 Flight.

Late in 1928, Dr. Harold Hamman discovered the outbreak of diphtheria at the settlement of Little Red River, 80 km east of Fort Vermilion. He arranged for a message to be taken to the nearest radio transmitter in Peace River. The trip by horse and wagon took twelve days. Dr. Malcolm Bow, who was Alberta's Deputy Minister of Health, immediately called Wop May (who was in Calgary for the Christmas/New Year holiday) and asked him if he could fly to Fort Vermilion. Wop called his friend Vic Horner in Edmonton, asked him to find a plane, and then headed by train to Edmonton. January 1 was spent preparing for the flight the next day. The aircraft was an Avro Avian, a two-place open cockpit on wheels.

On January 2, the plane embarked on its journey north. The flight path was along the newly constructed Northern Alberta Railway north from Edmonton to Smith and west along the south shore of Lesser Slave Lake to McLennan where they stayed overnight. They flew into Peace River on January 3 for fuel, then headed further north along the Peace River to the settlement of Fort Vermilion. Problems included weather with temperatures down to -36°C and automobile fuel that caused

engine problems. But they were successful, and the antitoxin arrived safely on January 3. When they heard the sound of the aircraft passing over their community, telegraph operators as far north as Peace River would send messages to the police, newspapers, and radio station CFRN. In this manner the local population and the international community were able to follow details of the flight. The pilots returned to Edmonton on January 6 to a crowd of 10,000 cheering people. The heroic flight, accomplished under the most extreme of possible conditions, cast the duo of May and Horner front and centre on the world stage.

RETURN TO SENDER: CELL NUMBER REQUIRED FOR DELIVERY

by Steve Davis, CPS

One of the areas that I collect is misdirected or redirected mail. This includes "return to sender" and forwarded mail. There is an interesting story behind the cover that got me interested in this type of mail.

Several years ago I was exchanging stamps with an individual in California named Ray Weeks. We completed three or four excellent trades. The last time I tried to send stamps to this person, the mail was returned. The message on the envelope said "Return to sender" and "Prison number and cell number required" (see front cover). Imagine my surprise that the person I had been corresponding and trading stamps with was apparently a prisoner in the California State Correctional system!

An Internet search of the prisons in California turned up a California Men's penal Colony in San Luis Obispo with the exact mailing address on the envelope. The address has been obscured on my cover by the return label. Further research told me that this institution is a medium to maximum security prison.

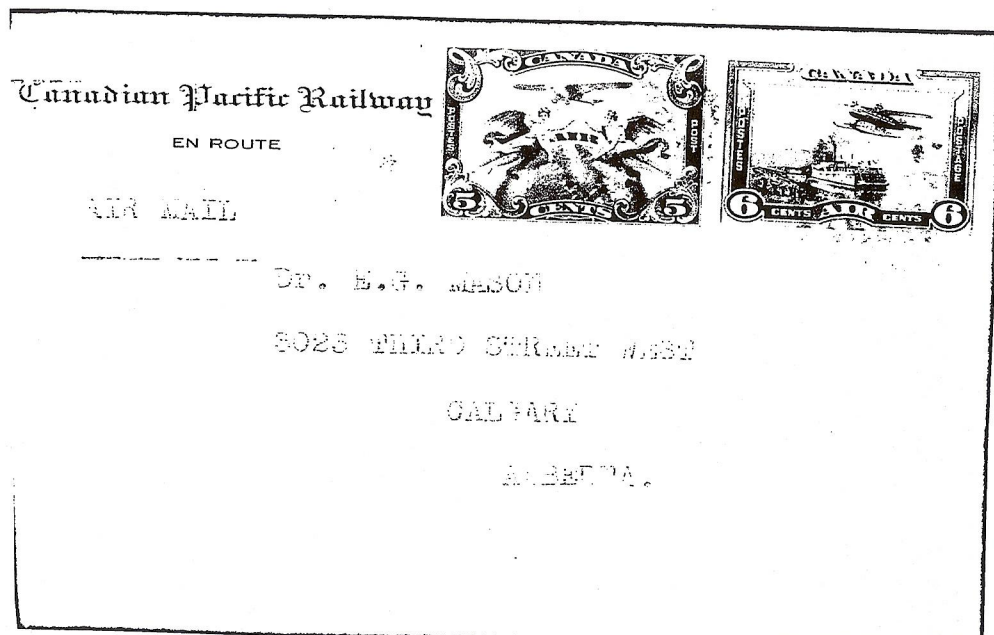
In the end, I was unable to contact this individual again, but I have always wondered if the hobby of stamp collecting might have helped make this man a better person.

DR. E.G. MASON
by Hugh Delaney

As a Past-president of the CPS, I am aware of its history, and so when I was going through some covers at Bow City Philatelics, I came across one bearing the name of the very first President and Founding Member #1 and the first person elected as Honourary Life Member.

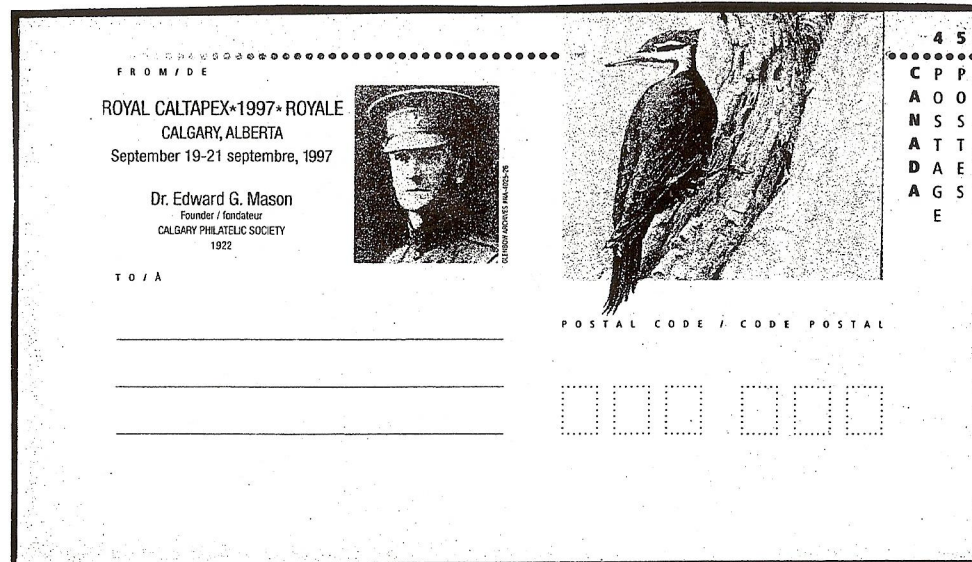
The cover was sent to Dr. Edward George Mason in Calgary on July 17, 1940 via airmail. It bore two airmail stamps, Unitrade C1 issued September 21, 1928, and C6 issued June 1, 1935. It was cancelled in Como, Québec, and used a Canadian Pacific Railway envelope.

In 1997, the CPS hosted the Royal 97 Royale show. Cacheted envelopes were issued depicting Dr. Mason and he was written up in the show programme. To quote Dale Speirs: *"Mason was active in many community associations besides the CPS. He helped establish the Calgary Tigers Football Club, the Calgary Gun Club, the Victoria Curling Club, the Calgary Golf and Country Club, the Glencoe Club, and the Calgary Medical Association."* He served in World War One as a Lieutenant-Colonel and was wounded in France. Following recovery, he took over command of the Shorncliffe Medical Hospital in England until he mustered out in 1919.

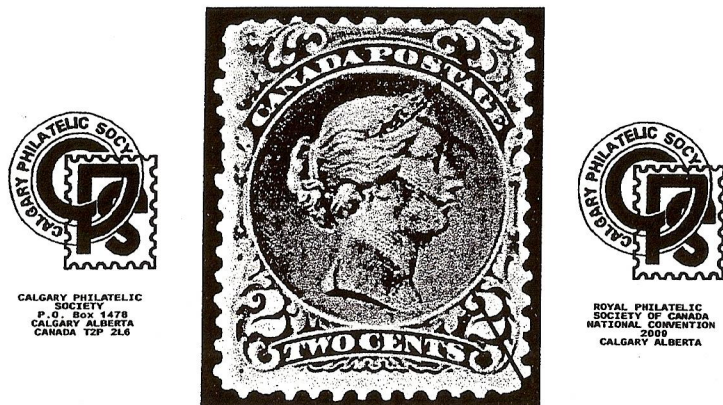


Dr. Mason returned to Canada and was neuropsychiatrist with the Department of Veteran Affairs. He was made a Doctor of Psychiatric Medicine in 1928. The Jubilee Medal was awarded to him at the Coronation of King George VI, and was also awarded the Order of the British Empire. Mason became ill in December 1946, and passed away January 3, 1947, at the age of 72.

Mason had chaired the first founding meeting of the CPS on April 22, 1922, and served as President from 1922 to 1929.



Instead of the usual cacheted cover, the show this year was commemorated by a souvenir sheet prepared by Jim Taylor and passed out at the show banquet.

CALTAPEX'03 CALGARY STAMP SHOW OCTOBER 17-18-19, 2003


CANADA'S RAREST POSTAGE STAMP
THE 2C GREEN LARGE QUEEN ON LAID PAPER
 The finer of the 2 known copies. Can the third be hidden in your collection?

SOUVENIR SHEET NUMBER ONE

\$1.00

PHILATELIC LITERATURE REVIEWS

by Leanteri Polvikoski

Topical Time (2003 Jul/Aug) (Available from the club librarian at general meetings) Illustrated digest-size bimonthly with lots of articles, checklists, and reviews of philatelic literature. Articles in this issue include the topics of DNA, veterinary medicine, Jacques Cartier, castles, birds, and many more. Lots of ads from dealers specializing in topicals (including a well-known Calgary dealer).

Mourning Covers: The Cultural And Postal History Of Letters Edged In Black. (US\$ 53.95 for hardcover or US\$43.95 softcover, plus US\$15 for shipping, from Ernest Mosher, 1939 SW Oakley Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66604) 352 pages, profusely illustrated, covering the history and usage of mourning covers from an international thematic perspective as social philately. Chapters include the social history of the covers, basic description and classification of the types, covers by country of event, and numerous appendices. This will be the definitive reference work.

Court of Honour:	Ron Brigham	2-cent Large Queen on laid paper
Non-Competitive:	Charles Verge Charles Verge	Irish postal strike Teeth and dentistry
Grand Award:	Jim Taylor	St. Pierre & Miquelon airmails
Bob Monilaws Award:	Mike McPhail	Heads or 'roos, mate?
Gold:	Don Wilson Alan Meech Jim Taylor Dave Russum Mike McPhail	Australia travelling post offices Burma one-anna stamped envelope St. Pierre & Miquelon airmails GB one-penny postage Heads or 'roos, mate?
Vermeil:	Kelly Liusz Christopher Miller Gordon Mallett Don Wilson	Christmas in Canada Classification of life Canada 1928 experimental airmails Australia errors and oddities
Silver:	Nino Chiovelli Jim Measures Orrin Esau Don Wilson Dave Russum Donna Trathen	Canada balloon post New Zealand 'Zealandia' issue Track and field Pioneers of design British stamp fun Horse breeds of the world
Silver-bronze:	Ursac Mircea Virgil Baintan Dale Speirs Hugh Delaney	Olympic stamps Fishing Nigerian scam letters Canada incorrect postage
Bronze:	Dale Speirs	The Twin Towers

AUCTION RULES

by Doug Kollar

We are addressing some aspects to make the sales more enjoyable for all. First and foremost we are here to have fun and enjoy each other's company in pursuing our hobby, right? So here are the rules for both the silent (first Wednesday) and regular (third Wednesday) auctions.

1. You must be a member to sell material.
2. We have new sales sheets, which must be used by January 2004.
3. The article for sale must be described properly, with the catalogue number(s) and condition. Exceptions to this are bulk lots and collections.
4. Catalogue value, catalogue and year used must also be completed on the sale sheet. If you do not have a recent catalogue, go to the Public Library or use the club's copy. If converting to Canadian dollars you must indicate so under the catalogue value (ex. US\$10, SCOTT'S 2003).
5. Assign your reserve value, the minimum you will sell your lot for. Must be at least \$3.
6. Make sure you put your membership number on the sheet so we can pay you.
7. Attach your article to the sales sheet securely. Attach the sales sheet securely to the article on larger items.

Currently the CPS takes a 15% sales commission and does not have a lot charge for unsold lots. We allow 20 lots per consignor per sale but that number varies depending on how many people enter lots. Bring extras and do not be disappointed if it drops to 15 lots if more members start selling.

The auctions are a great way to get cash to buy more stamps! See me at the meetings or auction nights to get your new Sales Sheets. If you have any questions or need some information on how to start selling your material, please come talk to me. I am looking forward to seeing more of you sell your material.

CALTAPEX 2003

by Penny Borrowman

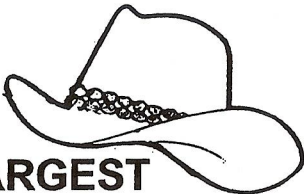
Wasn't that a great show! Jan, Dwayne, Jim, Ron, Don, Marge and all others involved in planning and execution are to be heartily congratulated. The dealers were pleased, the exhibits were great, and the room hummed with activity for three days. We ran out of Dale's excellent show programmes on Sunday morning. The banquet was a real treat and I'm sorry for those who missed it. You may never know where Curacao is, or how delicious was our dinner, or how entertaining our speaker.

JUNIOR CLUB REPORT

The members of the Junior Stamp Club, sponsored by the CPS, wish to acknowledge the many donations of stamps, stock books, glassines, books, and materials that have been contributed by club members. The materials are being put to good use by all of the youth members attending the meetings. We also thank the many club members who come out to our meetings and assist in the Junior programme. The interest you have shown helps us to learn many things about the great hobby of stamp collecting.

COMMITTEES

Archives	Dale Speirs	701-0174
Auctions - regular	Doug Kollar	547-3838
- silent	Jim Senecal	547-7681
Bulletin - Editor	Dale Speirs	701-0174
Circuit books	Mike McPhail	239-9730
Library	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
Life Members	John Van Staden Jr	285-1874
Membership	Isobel Attrell	294-0935
Private Treaty books	Gerry Vader	293-0158
Programmes	Marge Hunt	274-2259
Publicity	Ron Robertson	229-4207
Sergeant-At-Arms	Walter Herdzik	238-3171



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SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

These ads are free to paid-up CPS members, and will also appear on the CPS Website at no additional cost. Mail your ads to Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7, or hand them to me at meetings.

NOTE TO INTERNET VIEWERS: Unless stated otherwise, telephone numbers are area code 403. Alberta is on Mountain 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: Scott catalogues: 1997 Vol. 3 (D-I) \$4, Vol. 5 (R-Z) \$4, 1999 Vol. 2 (C-F) \$5, 2000 Vol. 1(A-B) \$5, 2001 Vol. 3 (G-I) \$6 or all for \$20. Call Julius at 282-7982.

FREE: 3-ring binders of various sizes. Call Julius at 282-7982.

WANTED: Tanna Tuva, especially covers. I used to have a few and now starting over. Phone Keith at (780)437-1787 (Edmonton)

COLLECT Christmas or owls? I have just completed updated checklists for both topics. Willing to share for just the cost of photocopying and postage. Contact Pat at 238-3435.

WANTED: Owl stamps worldwide. Cash or trade. Call Pat at 238-3435.

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

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2003

November	19	Auction
December	3	Christmas social
	7	Sunday bourse

2004

January	4	Sunday bourse
	7	General meeting
	7	Deadline for February bulletin
	21	Auction
February	1	Sunday bourse
	4	General meeting
	18	Auction
March	3	General meeting
	3	Deadline for April bulletin
	7	Sunday bourse
	17	Auction
April	4	Sunday bourse
	7	General meeting
	21	Auction

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

CALTAPEX will be held at the Kerby Centre, main floor, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW. Details from Janice Brookes at 251-1769.

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.