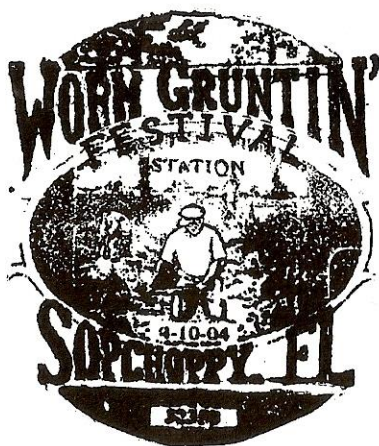


CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 67

September 2004



In this issue: The postmark above illustrates two articles herein, one on collecting USA, the other on the topic of worm grunting.

by Steve Davis

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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.

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COMMITTEES - see page 13 for list of committee chairpersons

Recent Issues.

The final design for the John Wayne "Legends of Hollywood" stamp pane was unveiled on April 3, 2004, in Los Angeles, California. The selvage art depicts Wayne starring as Ethan Edwards in the 1956 John Ford film THE SEARCHERS. This stamp is slated for September, although a final date of issue has not been decided. The format for this issue will be panes of twenty 37-cent stamps similar to the previous "Legends of Hollywood" issues. This will be the tenth in the series.

May 14, 2004, was the first day of issue for the much anticipated Lewis and Clark bicentennial issues. The USPS issued a Prestige Booklet containing two 37-cent stamps, one depicting Lewis and one for Clark. The booklet also contains lots of interesting information and extracts from their diaries. On the down side, this booklet carries a premium over face value and the stamps will likely not see much postal use by mailers. On the same day a 37-cent commemorative stamp was issued depicting Lewis and Clark on a bluff looking out over the unexplored territory. The design of all the stamps could be called retro in that they bring to mind the classic designs of 19th Century issues. First Day ceremonies were held at various historic locations related to the Lewis and Clark journey.

Revenues.

A controversy is now raging in the American philatelic world concerning a recent decision by the National Postal Museum to sell some of its large holdings of USA revenue stamps and then to destroy the rest. The NPM is a branch of the Smithsonian Musuem located in Washington, D.C.. These stamps were given to the museum years ago by the Internal Revenue Service on condition that they be preserved for study. On one side of the argument is the contention that the sale of these stamps gives collectors a chance to own some that have not been available until now in large numbers. On the other side this will likely have a negative impact on the value of those stamps already in collectors' hands by increasing the available number in circulation.

Another concern being raised is the question of a museum destroying stock that it was given to preserve. The museum has already had to compromise because of collector outrage by selling many more than it had planned and by destroying only a small portion. The proceeds from the sale are intended to assist the museum in obtaining other items for its collection. It will be interesting to see how this plays out. At the time of writing this column a date had not been set for the sale. More details should be appearing in the philatelic press in the near future.

U.S. Specialized Study Group Notes.

The U.S. Specialized Study Group is a Yahoo group that has been active since April 21, 2004. This Group can be viewed at: groups.yahoo.com/group/us_specialized

This is not a member-restricted group but is open to all collectors with an interest in USA philately. To date we have over 20 members from the USA, Canada, Cuba, Cyprus, India, and Australia. Members' expertise ranges from experienced to novice. Some examples of interests are: early classic issues, postal history, coils, precancels, EFOs, airmail, and revenues.

Postings to the Message area totaled close to 200 for both April and May. The Group has a Weekly Topic for discussion. This is a theme topic for the week to encourage research and discussion for learning purposes. Recent topics have included airmail, Greetings From America issues, Lewis and Clark new issues, Fourth Bureau definitives, Black Jacks, and non-denominated stamps.

Other topics can be posted and discussed at any time by the members. Scans have been posted by members relating to their personal collecting interests. The Photo section has been organized into Folders for ease of viewing these scans. Want/Trade lists have also been posted. A list of members' interests has been created for their use in setting up trades or just finding someone who has the same specialty as them. The Links area of the Group contains an extensive list of Websites related to USA philately.

Should you have questions concerning USA philately, I will try to answer them. Feel free to e-mail me at: sbdavis@shaw.ca
Please include "US Philately" in the subject line so I know what it concerns.

UKRAINIAN POSTAL CARDS: PART 2

by Alexander Malycky

Postal Cards Of Foreign Occupiers Which Were Valid In Ukraine Only.

These postal cards, which had franking validity in Ukraine only, were issued by the following postal administrations of foreign occupations of Ukraine.

Romanian Occupation of Pokuttya (Comandamentul Militar Teritorial):

This postal administration issued, in 1919, two postal cards with surcharges on Austrian cards (Figure 9). They were in postal use from June 14 to August 20, 1919.

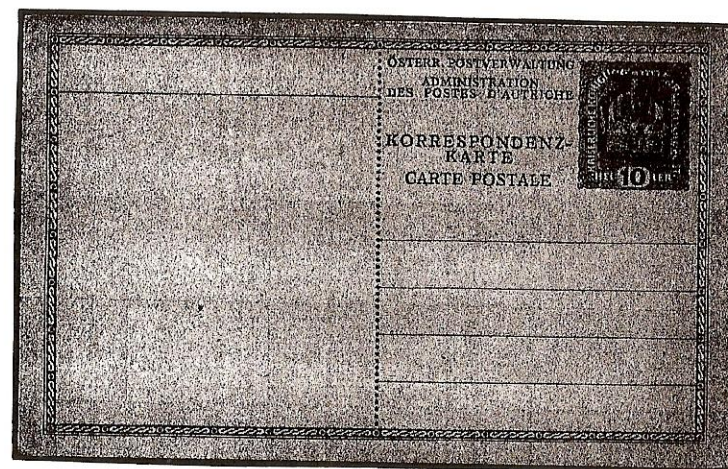


Figure 9: Postal card of Pokuttya.

German Occupation of Central Ukraine (Reichskommissariat Ukraine):

This postal administration issued, in 1941 and 1942, seven postal cards surcharged on German cards (Figure 10). They were in postal use from November 1941 to 1944.

Romanian Occupation of Odesa Land and a Part of Podillya (Transnistria):

This postal administration issued, in 1942 and 1943, two postal cards (Figure 11). They were in use from 1942 to 1944.

Postal Cards Of Foreign Occupiers Valid In Country Of Occupier But Issued Mainly Or In Part For Use In Ukraine.

These postal cards were issued by postal administrations of the following foreign countries occupying Ukraine.

Austria:

This postal administration issued, from 1871 to 1907, 45 of these bi- and tri-lingual postal cards (main types). Besides their German text, they had also on 24 of them (18 originals and 6 reprints), the Ukrainian text for Galicia and the Ukrainian part of Bukovyna. These were issued between 1871 and 1900. On thirteen of them were Ukrainian and Polish texts, for Galicia and Little Poland, and were issued between 1897 and 1907. On eight of them were the Ukrainian and Romanian texts, for the Ukrainian and Romanian parts of Bukovyna, issued between 1900 and 1907 (Figure 12).

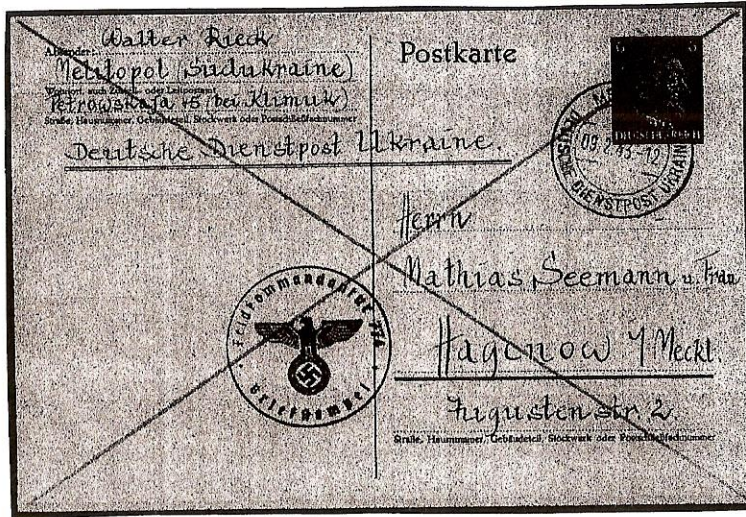


Figure 10: Postal card of Reichskommissariat Ukraine.



Figure 11: Postal card of Romanian occupation.



Figure 12: Postal card of Austria.

Soviet Union:

For the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, this postal administration issued from 1925 to 1932, 47 postal cards. Of these, eighteen postal cards had bi- and tri-lingual texts, one of them being in Ukrainian. Eight of them also had texts in French and Esperanto, and were issued in 1925, 1927-29, and 1931. Six of them had Russian and Esperanto, issued in 1928 and 1929, and four of them had Esperanto, issued in 1926 and 1927.

29 postal cards with advertising and promotional illustrations had their accompanying texts in Ukrainian only, while the remaining parts of these postal cards had bi-, tri-, and octo-lingual texts, one of them being Ukrainian. Four of them also had texts in French and Esperanto (issued 1930), and thirteen of them in Russian (issued 1930 and 1931). Eleven of them were in six other languages of the peoples of the Soviet Union: Armenian, Azerbaijani (in Latin script), Belorussian, Georgian, Russian, Tajik (in Arabic script), and in French (issued in 1931 and 1932) (Figure 13).

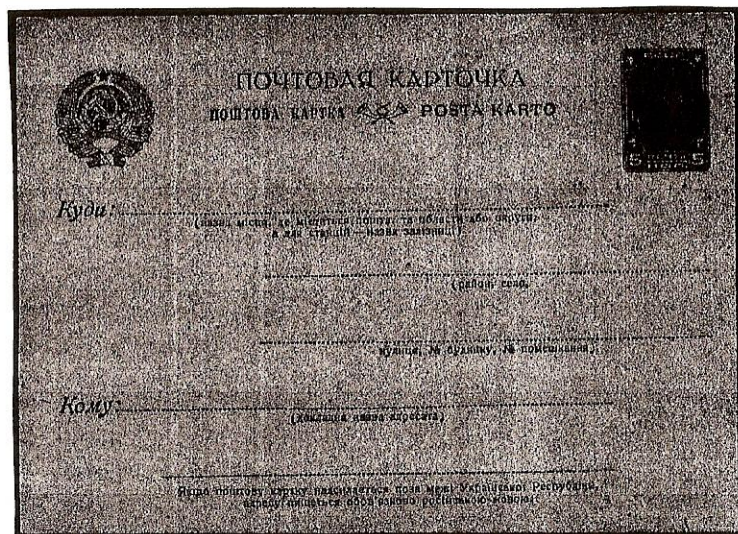


Figure 13: Postal card of Soviet Union.

Hungary:

For Transcarpathia, this postal administration issued from 1939 to 1943, four postal cards which, besides their Hungarian text, also had Ukrainian text (Figure 14).

Germany:

This postal administration issued in 1942 a trilingual reply postal card which, besides its German text, also had Ukrainian and Russian text. Its message portion was to be used by Ukrainians and other east Europeans deported to work in Germany for their mail home. Its reply portion was for the return mail from Ukraine and the rest of eastern Europe to Germany (Figure 15).

[to be continued]

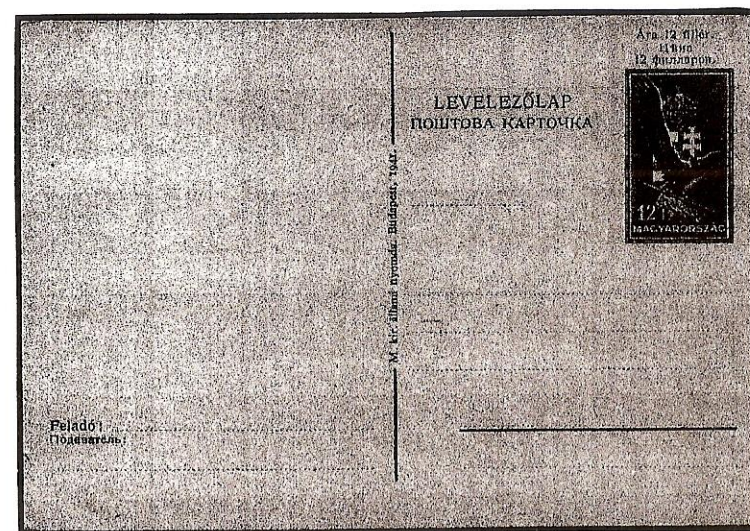


Figure 14: Hungarian postal card with Ukrainian text.

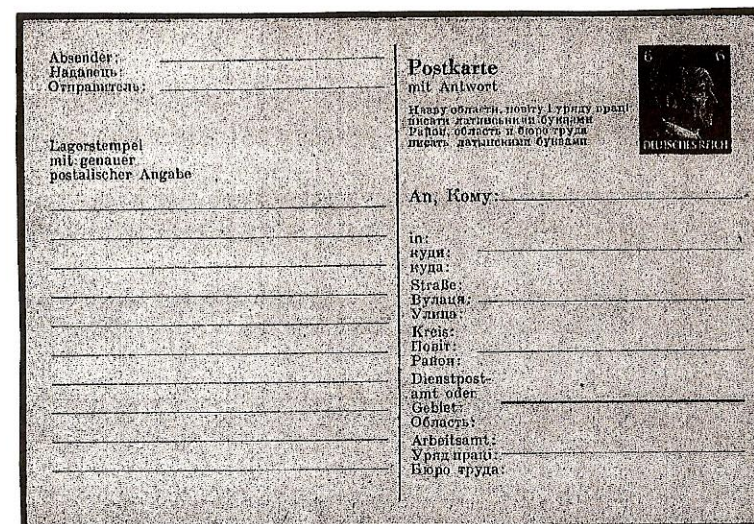


Figure 15: German postal card with Ukrainian text.

WORM GRUNTING

by Dale Speirs

As a postal historian, my interests do not always follow the learned paths of academe. Among other things, I collect oddball pictorial postmarks, one recent acquisition being a 2004 postmark from Sopchoppy, Florida, honouring their fourth annual Worm Gruntin' Festival (depicted on front cover).

As The Worm Turns.

Sopchoppy is a pretty funny name by itself (it is a corruption of the native name for a long, winding river), but that they celebrate worm grunting puts the cap on it. For those who are not anglers or vermiculturists, worm grunting is a method of gathering bait worms for fishing.

The traditional method is to pound a solid stake into the ground and then rub another stake across the end of it. This creates low frequency ground waves which irritate the worms and drives them to the surface. This is the method I learned when I was a university student taking a soil biology course. Modern procedure is to use two long poles hooked up to a battery to electroshock the worms to the surface. The Worm Gruntin' Festival postmark depicts a man kneeling on the turf and using stakes in the old way. They also choose a Worm Gruntin' Queen. The 2004 Queen was Lossie Mae Rosier, age 76, who started worm grunting in 1950 and raised eleven children on the money that the bait worms brought in [1].

Big Business In Bait.

Although it may seem funny, worm picking is serious business. It brings in \$60 million per year business in Ontario alone, much of which is exported to the USA. Professional pickers usually go out in the early hours of the morning when worms come to the surface to absorb dew. Worm grunting is too slow for mass marketing. Some producers pay landlords such as farmers or golf courses up to \$10,000 a year for picking rights. Other producers don't bother, and just poach. About 1 to 2 billion worms are picked annually in Ontario. Pickers get about \$14 to \$20 per thousand worms, Canadian wholesalers sell at \$25 to \$40, American importers ask \$50 to \$90, and the retailers get about \$170 per thousand worms [2].

The Ugly Side Of Worm Picking.

Professional worm pickers can average \$185 a night at a good location. Most pickers are illegal immigrants or welfare cheats, and few, if any, declare their income to Revenue Canada. On occasion, war breaks out between rival gangs of worm pickers over a choice piece of land. One such fight in early May, 1993, saw

more than 50 pickers brawling with steel pipes and 2x4s near Georgetown, Ontario. Four cars were wrecked and a van set on fire. The police investigation was hampered by uncooperative victims and witnesses [3].

The other hazard is what happens when a truckload of worms overturns on a highway and spills its load. As one Toronto constable commented at the scene of such a spill, "I've never seen so many worms in my life.". You can picture it in your mind's eye, I'm sure. The call goes in from a passerby that a truck has rolled on the highway. The police car comes charging up to the scene, ploughs into the worms making their bid for freedom, and does a loop-the-loop into the ditch.

The Funny Side Of Worm Picking.

The Miami, Florida, newspaper humourist Dave Barry found out about the wormdiggery in Canada and wrote a column about it [4]. He correctly noted the hazards of worm spills and wrote: "*Suppose a crowded tour bus is tooling along a Canadian highway at a metric speed of 130 hectares per centigram, the unsuspecting passengers chatting away happily in Canadian ("Eh?" "Eh?" "Eh?") when suddenly their laughter turns to screams ("EHHHHH!!!") as the bus encounters a giant worm slick and spins, out of control, off the road ...*". The fear of this happening on American roads led him to suggest a worm blockade at the border. As Barry noted, "*But this would only drive the worm traffic underground*". He goes on to remark: "*Oh, there would be Canadian objections (Eh!)*". But that is precisely why we have nuclear weapons."

References.

- 1] Hiss, Kim (2004 April) Three grunts for the Queen. FIELD AND STREAM 108(11):21
- 2] Lamberti, R., (1993-06-13) Thar's gold in worms. CALGARY SUN, page 28
- 3] Anonymous (1993-05-06) Worm brawl leaves 13 people hurt. CALGARY HERALD, page A2
- 4] Barry, Dave (1993-07-18) Blockade the border! Canadian worms are invading! CALGARY HERALD, page B4

PHILATELIC LITERATURE REVIEWS

by Leanteri Polvikoski

Lautens, Stephen (2004-05-07) **Stamp of approval.** CALGARY SUN, page 15. This is a humorous article proposing that Canada Post issue stamps honouring grocery clerks who double-bag without being asked, gas stations with discount prices, people who pay cash instead of by debit card, polite people, and those who secure their garbage cans. Lautens also proposes stamps to illustrate the three seasons of Canada: bitter cold, biting insects, and road repairs.

Mekeel's #5913 (US\$4 for sample copy from Philatelic Communications Corp., 175R Proctor Hill Road, Hollis, New Hampshire 03049-6427) Weekly philatelic newsmagazine with news and notes, list of new issues and pictorial postmarks, and articles on stamps and postal history.

PHSC Journal #117 (\$5 for sample copy from Postal History Society of Canada, c/o Norman Wagner, #207 - 525 - 11 Avenue SW, Calgary T2R 0C9) This nicely produced quarterly deals with Canadian postal history from pre-Confederation to modern times. This issue discusses fake postmarks of rare Canadian towns being sold on eBay, a railway post office in southern Ontario, Canadian Pacific steamship mail in the Atlantic, working in a Dead Letter Office, and invisible post offices. The latter are modern retail postal outlets, the kind you see in drugstores or 7-Eleven. They are called invisible because, believe it or not, there is no official listing of them by Canada Post. The only way you can locate them is by driving around town. Many of these RePOs change postmarks so often that the canceller might only be in use a few months. This emphasizes that postal history is not something that happened 50 or 100 years ago; it is ongoing.

Postal History Journal #128 (US\$35 per year from Postal History Society, 8207 Daren Court, Pikesville, Maryland 21208-2211) Professionally-printed journal appearing three times yearly, dealing with postal history from around the world. Articles in this issue include the early history of papermaking in the USA, mourning covers, an Ionian Islands cover, abuse of newspaper rates, wireless ship letters, Bulgarian postcards, Madagascar consular mail, and numerous reviews.

Topical Time #326 (Available from the CPS Librarian at general meetings.) For topical collectors, this illustrated quarterly offers a wealth of topical articles, and listings of topical postmarks and meters, as well as society news and notes.

MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE!

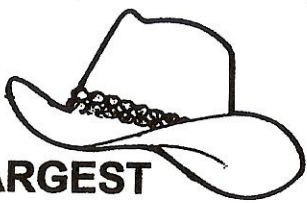
by Isobel Attrell

The current stamp season expires at the end of June, at which time membership dues become payable for the 2004/2005 season. Please help by paying dues before the September meeting, which will allow your new membership card to be ready for you ahead of time. Dues are \$15 for renewing members. New memberships are \$15 plus a one-time initiation fee of \$10. Mail dues to Membership Chairman, Box 1478, Calgary T2P 2L6.

[Note added by Editor in self-defense: Do NOT mail dues to the editorial address at Box 6830 (which is only for articles and advertisements) as this will only delay things since I then re-mail it to Box 1478. Thanks.]

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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 Time. Any advertiser can be reached through the CPS e-mail at calphilso@shaw.ca, but please allow time for forwarding to offline members.

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

TRADE: Asia: Japan, Singapore ... British: GB, Ascension to New Zealand, and South Africa ... Europe: Scandinavia, Germany, France, Switzerland ... to trade based on Scott catalogue. Call Joe at 277-7006

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2004

September	1	General meeting
	1	Deadline for October bulletin
	12	Sunday bourse
	15	Auction
October	3	Sunday bourse
	6	General meeting
	15 to 17	CALTAPEX
	20	Auction
November	3	General meeting
	3	Deadline for December bulletin
	7	Sunday bourse
	17	Auction
December	1	Christmas social
	5	Sunday bourse

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

SPRING BOURSE and 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.