

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 68

October 2004



In this issue: The USA Beacon stamp was issued in 1928, at a time when air travel was as daring and exciting as space travel is today. Steve Davis introduces us to that era of pioneer aviation.

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 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.

2004/2005 EXECUTIVE

Past President	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
President	Walter Herdzik	238-3171
Vice President	Dave Russum	284-4775
Secretary	Donna Trathen	272-0804
Treasurer	Hans Jensen	252-7909

Directors - ex officio	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
- 1st year	Jan Brookes	251-1769
- 1st year	Julius Szekrenyes	282-7982
- 2nd year	Marg Hunt	274-2259
- 2nd year	Linda Kot	547-0014

COMMITTEES - see page 13 for list of committee chairpersons

UNITED STATES PHILATELY:

THE FIVE-CENT BEACON AIRMAIL STAMP OF 1928

by Steve Davis, CPS

On July 1, 1924, the first night flights of the mail officially began in the USA. A transcontinental airway from New York to San Francisco had been lighted and marked with a series of beacons. These beacons enabled the pilots to fly at night and in bad weather. They were spaced 15 to 25 miles apart. Each had enough power to be seen for 40 miles in clear weather. By 1933, 18,000 miles of airway consisting of 1,500 beacons were operational. The Sherman Hill beacon depicted on the stamp was at an elevation of more than 8,000 feet above sea level, located in Wyoming between Cheyenne and Laramie. It was not only the highest navigational beacon on the transcontinental route, but also the highest in the world. The beacon emitted 5 million candlepower of light and rotated to guide the pilots. Although the illustration on the stamp is based on photographs taken at several locations in the western USA, it most closely resembles the Sherman Hill beacon.

The domestic airmail rate for the first half ounce was 10 cents in 1928. In order to kick-start the relatively new airmail service, the USPO reduced the rate from 10 cents to 5 cents for the first ounce effective August 1, 1928. This was a substantial decrease in those days. In effect, the Post Office began offering more for less, something I dare say would be highly unlikely to occur today. First day of issue covers required that two stamps be affixed to cover the 10 cent rate, which was still in effect on the day of issue. These covers are relatively uncommon and command a premium. The first day of usage covers cancelled August 1, 1928, are much more common and relatively inexpensive.

A brand new 5-cent airmail stamp was issued July 25, 1928, to service the new rate (Figure 1, shown on front cover). This stamp is known today as the Beacon stamp. More than 106 million of these stamps were printed, with the frames in carmine and the centre vignettes in blue. An airmail plane in flight is depicted to the side of the beacon. The stamp was expensive to produce because it was bi-coloured and of non-standard size. These factors eventually contributed to its demise along with rate changes. This will be discussed further later on in this article.

What is it about this stamp that so attracts collectors? I believe there are several key reasons. It was a bi-coloured stamp. The size was non-standard. Large quantities of the stamp were issued and used, so it is inexpensive to collect. Collectors consider the stamp one of the more beautiful USA stamp issues. The Beacon stamp can be collected in several ways. Some collectors seek out printing and colour varieties. These resulted from plate wear and ink shifting due to the large volume of stamps printed. Others collect plate blocks, essays, or proofs.

Beacon Stamp Facts.

July 25, 1928	Beacon issued in Washington, D.C.
August 1, 1928	Airmail rate reduced to 5 cents for the first ounce
February 10, 1930	Beacon replaced with 5-cent Winged Globe
July 6, 1932	Airmail rate increased to 8 cents for the first ounce

The stamp was designed by A.R. Meissner of the U.S. Bureau of Printing and Engraving. It was printed by the Bureau in flat plate printing of 100 subject panes and perforated 11. It is listed in the Scott catalogue as #C11.

Covers.

Cover collectors are able to collect the first day of issue, first day of usage, first flight, "National Airmail Week" cachets, or commercial (correct rate) usage. It is also possible to collect domestic rate covers or international rate covers.

The international covers will either be found with multiples or singles used in combination with other stamps because the rates were higher. Airmail to various geographical areas of the world from the USA required different rates of airmail postage, thus the collector can also find examples of these various rates. The Beacon stamp was usually used to pay for the airmail service within the USA, with the additional stamps making up the cost of airmail to the foreign destination. The complexity of the international rates makes for lots of collecting opportunities but also makes discussion in this article impossible.

Domestic Airmail Rates In The Time Of The Beacon.

The 10-cent rate was effective from February 1, 1927, to July 31, 1928 per half-ounce. The rate dropped to 5 cents for the first ounce effective August 1, 1928, through July 5, 1932, with each additional ounce at 10 cents. The rate rose to 8 cents for the first ounce effective July 6, 1932, and each additional ounce at 13 cents.

The cover shown in Figure 2 is from the 1930 Pittsburgh Aircraft Show, held from March 6 to 15. The interesting thing about this cover is the auxiliary marking which appears below the stamp and reads "AIR MAIL, Dispatched by train to avoid delay." It appears that the train was still faster than the plane, at least in this instance.

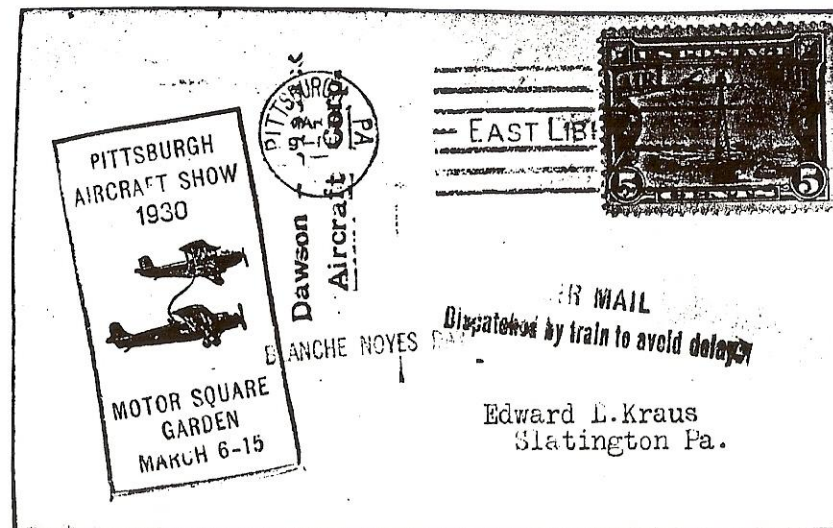


Figure 2: Air show cover.

The last two covers illustrated, Figures 3 and 4, show the stamp used in combination with other stamps to pay the extra cost of Special Delivery service. In both cases the 5-cent Beacon paid the airmail service with the extra 10 cents for the Special Delivery fee.

The Demise Of The Beacon Stamp.

Airmail service had become so popular by late 1929 that the Bureau could not produce the stamp fast enough. It was proposed to print the stamp in one colour only, the blue of all 5-cent stamps of the era, but then it was pointed out that the non-standard size was also a factor that slowed production. The size meant that there were only 100 stamps per sheet. Earlier airmail stamps, particularly the narrow "Map" stamps, were printed in sheets of 200. The new design chosen was the "Winged Globe" (Scott #C12) and was printed in sheets of 200 and in one colour, purple.

As for the airmail beacons themselves, they eventually became obsolete with the advent of radio and more technologically advanced navigational aids. The last lighted beacon from the transcontinental system begun in the 1920s was dismantled in 1973.

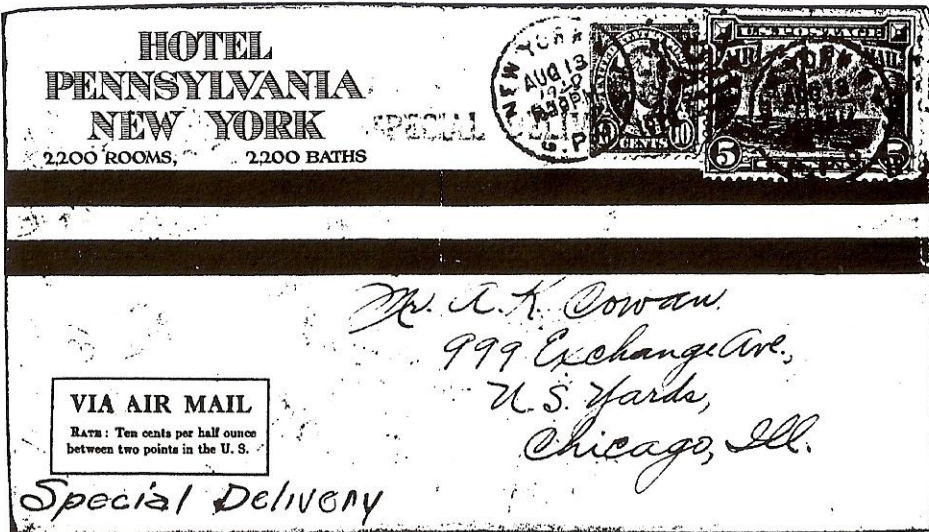


Figure 3: Front and back of commercially used cover.

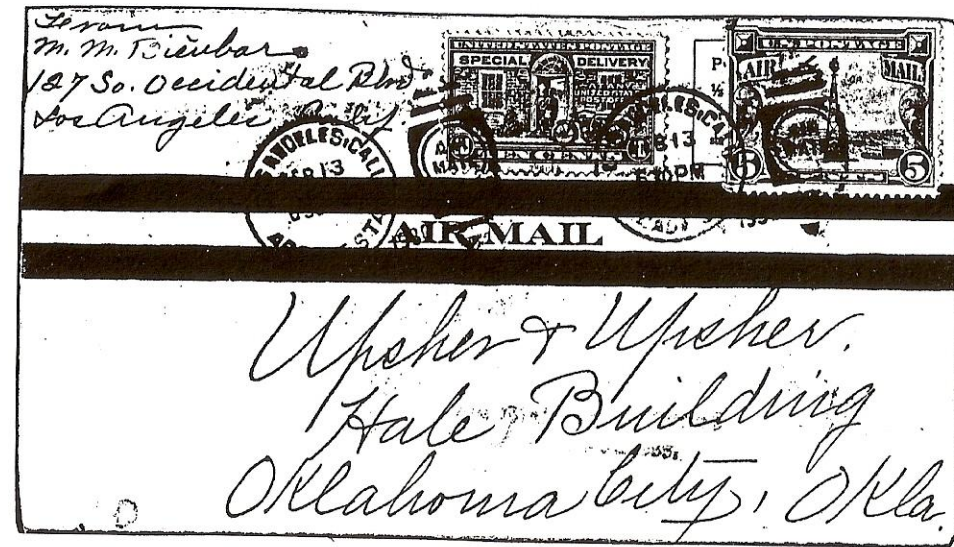


Figure 4: Cover with Beacon and Special Delivery stamps.

References.

- Goodkind, Henry M. (1958) THE FIVE CENT BEACON AIRMAIL STAMP OF 1928. Published by Collectors Club of New York.
- Kobersteen, Kent J. (1989) THE BEACON AIR MAIL STAMP OF 1928: PRODUCTION AND USAGE.
- Kobersteen, Kent J. (1992) BEACON AIRMAIL RATES TO FOREIGN DESTINATIONS VIA AIRMAIL.
- McFarlane, Andrew (2003) USAGE OF THE 1928 U.S. BEACON AIRMAIL. Exhibit at StampShow 2003, Columbus, Ohio, August 7 to 10.
- Silver, Philip (1983 May) The United States Beacon Air Mail Stamp of 1928. AMERICAN PHILATELIST Vol. 97, No. 5

Postal Cards Of Foreign Occupiers Thematically Linked And Visually Discernable To Ukraine.

These postal cards, on their illustrations and/or stamps, featured or referred to localities and events in Ukraine, Ukrainian motifs, minimal Ukrainian texts, and/or Ukrainians or part-Ukrainians (one parent a Ukrainian). The cards were issued by postal administrations of the following foreign countries occupying Ukraine. They had franking validity throughout the entire country of the occupier.

Poland:
This postal administration issued 174 of these postal cards, in 1918, 1931, 1935 to 1939, 1944, 1961, 1970, 1974, 1977, and 1980 to 1982 (Figure 16).



Figure 16: Polish postal card with Ukrainian theme.

Soviet Union:
This postal administration issued, at least in 1931/32 and 1971 to 1990, no fewer than 151 of these postal cards. These were non-illustrated postal cards with octolingual texts, one of them being in Ukrainian and the other ones in six other

languages of the Soviet Union, and in French. There were identical postal cards, but with advertising and promotional illustrations whose accompanying texts were in languages other than Ukrainian, and thematic Ukraine cards. Due to the lack of data on other postal cards, the above sum of them is incomplete. One can only risk a guess that the complete figure would be no less than 200 (Figure 17).

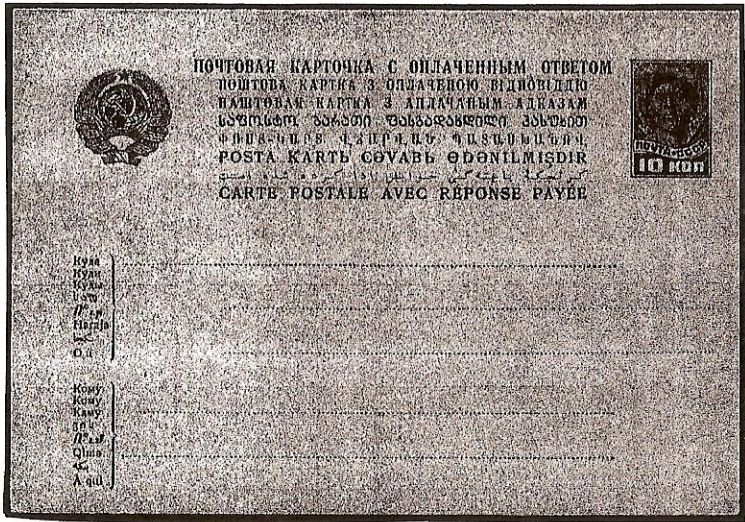


Figure 17: Multilingual Soviet postal card with Ukrainian text.

Czechoslovakia:
This postal administration issued 28 postal cards in 1927, 1931, 1933 to 1937, 1944, and 1948. Eight of them showed the territorial coat of arms of Transcarpathia, besides the coats of arms of other territories comprising Czechoslovakia and the coat of arms of this country. 17 featured, on their illustrations, localities in Ukraine and Ukrainians, with Russian text on 12 of them. One referred to an event in Ukraine. Two had Czech and Ukrainian texts, which were surcharges of the Hungarian field post cards. In addition, a local postal card was issued circa 1944 in Rimavska Sobota (surcharge on the German one from 1942 with Ukrainian text) (Figure 18).



Figure 18: Czechoslovakian postal card with Ukrainian theme.

Romania:

This postal administration issued in 1941 one of these postal cards. It can, however, be assumed that in each of the 1928, 1931, 1934, and 1942 series of illustrated postal cards issued by Romania (71 in total) there would also be at least one of the cards which featured or referred to localities in the Ukrainian Bukovyna and Bessarabia. Data to ascertain this were inaccessible (Figure 19).



Figure 19: Romanian postal card with Ukrainian theme.

Moldova:

This postal administration issued in 1996 a postal card commemorating Petro Mohyla, a native of Moldavia and a Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. He is now canonized as a saint of that Church (Figure 20).

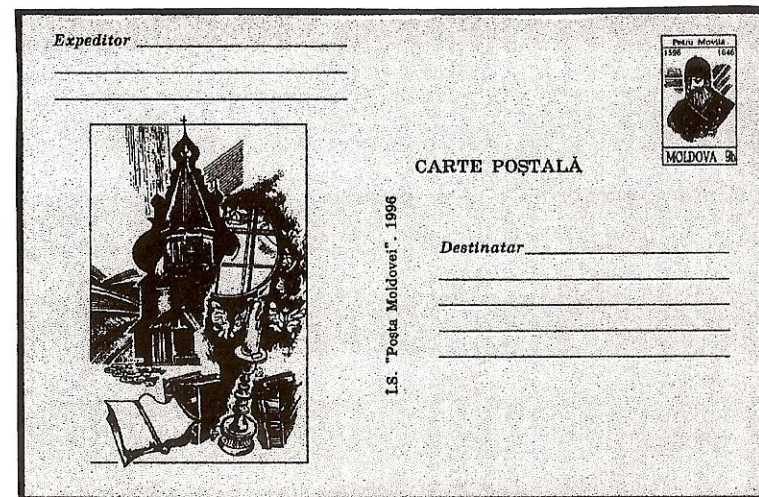


Figure 20: Moldovan postal card depicting Ukrainian saint.

Belarus:

This postal administration issued in 2000 a postal card showing a building in Berestya, a locality in the part of Ukraine occupied by Belarus (Figure 21).

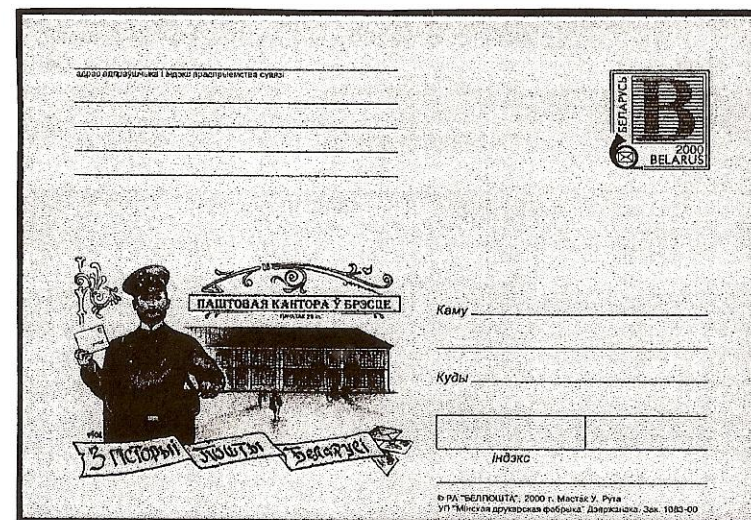


Figure 21: Belarus postal card with Ukrainian theme.

Slovakia:
 This postal administration issued in 2001 and 2003, two postal cards. One of them commemorates Pavlo Goydych, now made blessed of the Catholic Church. He was a Bishop-Martyr of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the part of Ukraine occupied by Slovakia (Figure 22). The other one was issued to mark the 75th anniversary of the birth of Andy Warhol, an American artist of Ukrainian (Rusyn) origin.



Figure 22: Slovakian postal card honouring Ukrainian bishop.

[to be continued]

A CHAT WITH YOUR SHOW CHAIRWOMAN!
 by Jan Brookes

I would like to thank you all for your vote of confidence in me. I feel honoured and privileged to be the Show Chairwoman for Royal/Royale 2006. This is the national show of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. The last time Calgary hosted it was in 1997. This event will be from Thursday, September 28, to Sunday, October 1, 2006. We have confirmed that the show will be at the Coast Plaza Hotel in northeast Calgary. There are a number of major events being planned, with a massive exhibit and bourse.

CALTAPEX will be upon us soon and with it, several surprises. We are looking at a one-of-a-kind philatelic item, exhibits, and a packed dealer bourse. Further information about the Saturday auction is available from Doug Kollar. Call me for any further information you may need at (403)251-1769.

The British North America Philatelic Society, an international group devoted to Canada and pre-Confederation philately, is holding a regional meeting at the same time as us this year. We will look forward to seeing some out-of-towners at our banquet. The show closes for the day on Saturday at 5 pm so we can all meet at the Danish Canadian Club starting at 6 pm, with cocktails and CPS reception, with dinner at 7 pm. The price is very reasonable at \$25 per person.

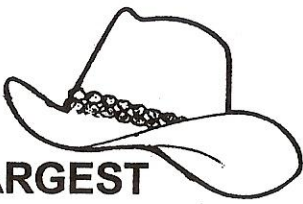
As always, we will need volunteers for Thursday night setup and Sunday evening takedown. Some help is needed for the reception and youth tables during the weekend. Just an hour helps a lot.

CALTAPEX is:	Friday, October 15	1 pm to 6 pm
	Saturday, October 16	10 am to 5 pm
	Sunday, October 17	10 am to 4 pm

Address is main floor at west end of the Kerby Centre, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW.

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	Bob Hoffmann	274-2425
Membership	Isobel Attrell	294-0935
Private Treaty books	Gerry Vader	293-0158
Programmes	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
Publicity	Marge Hunt	274-2259
Sergeant-At-Arms	Dave Russum	284-4775



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: Large accumulation of worldwide stamps in albums, retired circuit books, envelopes, loose, etcetera. Call Jack at 249-1058.

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

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

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.

CALGARY ASSOCIATION OF PHILATELIC EXHIBITORS meets fourth Wednesdays. For details, contact Jim Taylor at 292-8049.

ROYAL/ROYALE 2006 will be at Coast Plaza Hotel (formerly Marlborough Inn). Details from Janice Brookes at 251-1769.