

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 75

December 2005



Steve Davis poses next to his Grand Award exhibit at CALTAPEX 2005. (Photo by Norma Nielson)

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The CPS mailing address is Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6. The Web site is: www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com 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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WHEN IT ALL BEGAN

by Patricia Prevey

As a collector of Christmas stamps, I find the number of countries issuing stamps for this holiday seems to change almost every year. I thought it might be of interest to know which countries were with us when the topic began, which ones came after, which ones have stayed the course, and which ones have fallen by the wayside. As we all know, Canada, more by accident than design, issued the first Christmas stamp in 1898. Designed to honour the Imperial Penny Postage rate, the included words "XMAS 1898" made it Number 1 in Christmas collecting.



Figure 1: First Xmas stamp.

In 1888, James E. Bie, an early member of the Christmas Philatelic Club (CPC), listed in his "First Christmas Stamps" an issue from Italy in 1889 and one from New South Wales in 1898. Catalogues consulted show neither as a Christmas issue. As his list gave no catalogue numbers, verification was not possible.

It was another thirty-nine years before Austria issued the second Christmas stamp in 1937, two more before Brazil issued the third, and two more before St. Pierre & Miquelon and Hungary issued the third and fourth (1941).



Figure 2: Austria (left), Hungary (centre), and Malta (right)

Another ten years would pass before other countries would begin to come into the fold with any kind of regularity. By the end of 1968, collectors would have had to check 71 countries if they wished to complete their collections. Seventeen countries issued Christmas stamps in 1969 (the year the CPC was established), the record number for any single year. As time went on, so did the number of issuing countries. The early 1970s saw the largest increase, followed by a second upsurge in the first part of the 1980s, and a third and fourth in 1991 and 1992.

In 2003, the latest year for which cataloging is almost complete, over 390 stamps were issued to celebrate the holiday. By the end of 2004, more than two hundred countries had or were issuing Christmas stamps. The countries which began issuing stamps in the last few years are more a result of changing governments

and/or names rather than completely new ones. This includes countries like Serbia and Montenegro rather than Yugoslavia, Carricou & Petit Martinique rather than Grenada-Grenadines, Congo Democratic Republic rather than Zaire, or the break away and then re-absorption of Katanga from Zaire (previously Belgian Congo).



Figure 3: Belgian Congo and Katanga

Other giving up on Christmas issues have often turned to issuing different New Years (Lunar, Jewish, etcetera) ones. To put this all into perspective, we have gone from a lonely stamp in 1898 to one of the largest topical fields of collecting. The following list is an update of Bie's original "First Christmas Stamps" and the year in which they were issued. Omissions from the original list are the result of not including New Year's stamps or others which have a Christmas-related design but were issued in mid-year and not specifically for the Christmas season.

Checklist Of First Christmas Issues.

1898 - Canada
1933 - Netherlands
1937 - Austria
1939 - Brazil
1941 - Hungary
St. Pierre & Miquelon
1951 - Cuba
1954 - Haiti
1955 - Luxembourg
Spain
1957 - Australia
Korea
Liechtenstein

1958 - Costa Rica
1959 - Belgian Congo
Vatican
1960 - Katanga
New Zealand
Norfolk Island
1961 - Argentina
Peru
1962 - USA
1963 - El Salvador
1964 - Malawi
Malta

1965 - Rwanda
Venezuela
1966 - Cook Islands
Dahomey
Great Britain
Jordan
Surinam
1967 - Belgium
Burundi
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt (UAR)
Gibraltar
Guyana
Niue
Philippines
St. Lucia
1968 - Ajman
Anguilla
Botswana
Cayman Islands
Dominica
Grenada
Manama
Montserrat
Paraguay
St. Kitts-Nevis
Samoa
San Marino
Togo
1969 - Antigua
Bahamas
Barbuda
Biafra
British Honduras
Christmas Island
Columbia
Congo Democratic Republic
Cyprus
Germany/Berlin
Gilbert and Ellice Islands
Jamaica
Romania

1969 - Solomon Islands
Sweden
Tokelau Islands
Turks and Caicos
Yemen
1970 - British New Hebrides
Chad
Congo People's Republic
French New Hebrides
Greece
Guernsey
Italy
Liberia
Mali
Nicaragua
St. Vincent
Trinidad & Tobago
Upper Volta
1971 - Cameroun
Equatorial Guinea
Ghana
Ireland
Monaco
Niger
Seychelles
Singapore
Zambia



Figure 4: Nevis Christmas stamp

1972 - Aitutaki	1980 - Uganda	1991 - Croatia	1994 - Bermuda
Central Africa	Vanuatu	Czechoslovakia	Faroe Islands
Gabon	1981 - Falkland Islands	French Polynesia	Kazakhstan
Gambia	Guinea-Bissau	Macau	Lithuania
Lesotho	Iceland	Niuafo'ou	Moldavia
Malagasy	Jersey	Poland	Zimbabwe
Papua New Guinea	Tonga	Russia	1995 - Bosnia-Herzegovina
Rhodesia	1982 - Ascension	Tanzania	Palestinian Authority
Senegal	Sierra Leone	1992 - British Indian Ocean Territory	1996 - Belarus
Spanish Andorra	1983 - Barbados	Estonia	1997 - Armenia
Uruguay	Caicos Islands	Greenland	British Antarctic Territory
1973 - Fiji	Palau	Japan	Namibia
Finland	St. Helena	Latvia	Ukraine
British Virgin Islands	1984 - Ivory Coast	Macedonia	1998 - no firsts
1974 - Grenadines of Grenada	Marshall Islands	Slovenia	1999 - French Andorra
Nauru	Micronesia	Switzerland	Carricou & Petit
Penrhyn Island	1985 - no firsts	1993 - Bosnia-Herzegovina	Martinique
Portugal	1986 - Kenya	(Croat)	2000 - Aland
Wallis & Fortuna	1987 - Aruba	New Caledonia	2001 - no firsts
1975 - Belize	East Germany	Slovakia	2002 - Liberia
Benin	1988 - Burkino Faso		2003 - Serbia
Isle of Man	Zil Elwagne Sesel		Montenegro
Norway	1989 - Cape Verde		2004 - Georgia
St. Vincent Grenadines	Kiribati		
1976 - Bolivia	Netherlands Antilles		
Gilbert Islands	1990 - Bulgaria		
Tuvalu	Honduras		
1977 - Chile	Hong Kong		
Guatemala	Yugoslavia		
Mexico			
St. Thomas & Prince Islands			
1978 - Swaziland			
1979 - Cocos (Keeling) Islands			
Pitcairn Island			
Redonda			
South Africa			
Zaire			
1980 - Nevis			
Panama			
St. Kitts			
Sri Lanka			
Tristan de Cunha			

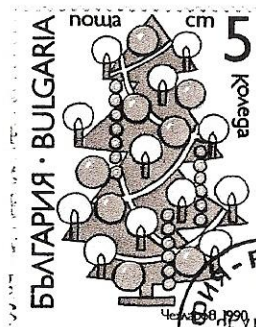


Figure 5: Bulgaria Christmas stamp

IMPORTANT CHANGE TO CPS CHRISTMAS PARTY

In the past, the Christmas social has been free to all, but due to rising catering expenses it is no longer possible to provide free food. We all know that Calgary is a boom town, and rising costs make it impossible for our caterer to hold prices down anymore. As a result, the Christmas party will now cost \$10 per person for a buffet meal served at 6 p.m., payable at the door. There will be a cash bar as usual.

The awards and other events will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be free to all, so if you don't want to cough up for the dinner, you can still come later in the evening and enjoy the show. The Christmas party will be in the same location, in the dining room of the Kerby Centre.

COMMEMORATIVE FLIGHT IN YUKON, JUNE 9 TO 11, 2001

by Hugh Delaney

In June 2001, the Yukon recaptured a sight from the 1930s era when a 1929 Fokker aircraft traversed the skies over a four-day period. It was piloted by Clark G. Seaborn, and carried some 200 covers on each of six different routes.

The Fokker originally flew in the Yukon and crashed. It was restored at the Calgary Aeronautical Museum and was used to recreate the 1930 airmail routes of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Northern Airways was the second group to fly routes in the Yukon and northern British Columbia, after the crash of The Queen of the Yukon for Yukon Airways in 1928.

The 2001 Yukon covers all bear a special cachet and cancel, with the cancel for departure on the front, and a receiver postmark on the back. The six sites were Dawson, Fort Selkirk, Whitehorse, Mayo, Carcross, all of the Yukon, and Atlin in British Columbia. While in Mayo, the pilot and crew were entertained by four dancers from a local Yukon follies celebration of the days of 1898. The dancers got up on the wing of the aircraft for a can-can!



Figure 1: Postmarks used for the commemorative flight.



Figure 2: Sample covers from the flights.

A MULTILINGUAL WW1 POSTCARD

by Alexander Malucky

The Danubian Empire was, since 1867, a dual monarchy of Austria and Hungary, whereby the emperor of Austria was at the same time the king of Hungary. Both countries were inhabited by many nationalities, being in this respect a precursor of the present European Union, albeit on a smaller scale. This fact was reflected in multilingual texts that appeared on the address side of the stampless field post card forms used by the armed forces of the Empire, free of charge, during WW1. In particular, the word for "Sender" appeared in German, Hungarian, Czech, Polish, Ukrainian, Italian, Slovenian, Croatian, and Romanian.

One of these forms differed, however, from the other ones in that it had, on its message side, no free space to be used by the sender individually, but the texts "I am in good health and everything is going well with me." and "No other information is permitted on this card". These texts were also given in the above nine languages and filled out the entire space of its message side. A copy of this form, sent by mail on October 18, 1917, is shown here.

Figure 2: Multi-lingual reverse of postal card.

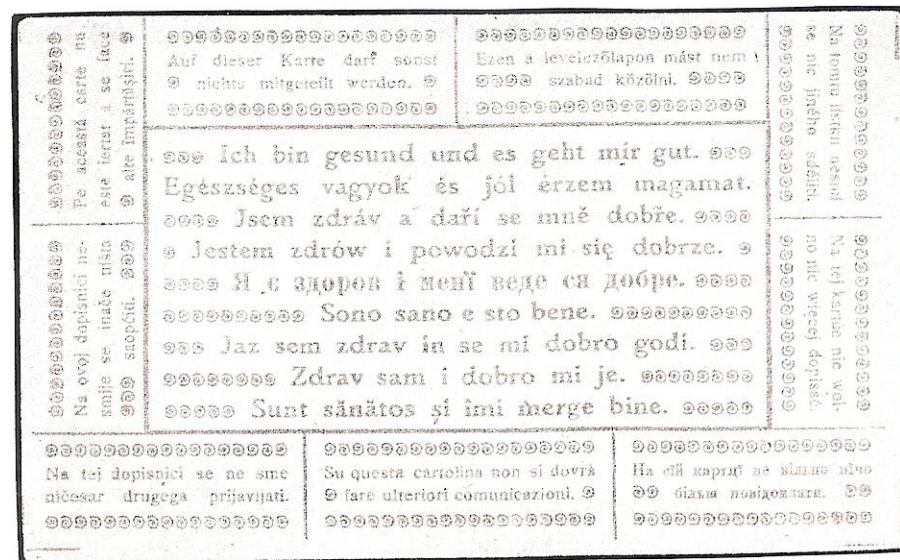


Figure 1: Front of postal card.

CALTAPEX 2005 PALMARES

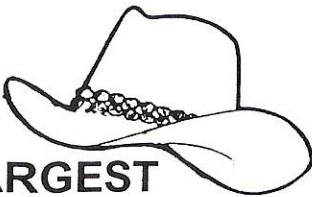
Non-competitive

Sandy Freeman
Sandy Freeman
Alex Malucky
Don Wilson
Marge Hunt

Bolivia
Katherine Stinson re-enactment flight
Meters of the world
Australian EFOs
Royal Visit 1939

Junior		Award
Orrin Esau	Canadian 5-cent stamps	Silver
Open Class		
Jon Johnson	South African military nursing service	Gold
Ed Harris	Original art covers	Silver
Don Wilson	Travelling post offices of Australia	Vermeil
Ed Harris	Used 1935 definitives of Canada	Silver
Norma Nielson	From coffee to commerce: Lloyd's	Vermeil
Pat Prevey	Celebrating Christmas	Silver
Dale Speirs	Post-Soviet Ukraine	Vermeil
Dale Speirs	The fall of the Twin Towers	Silver
Ursac Mircea	Olympic Games Athens 2004	Bronze
Walter Herdzik	Imperial Airways: England-Africa	Silver
Penny Borrowman	China's special places	Silver-Bronze
Jan Brookes	World Wildlife logo	Vermeil
Jim Taylor	St. Pierre & Miquelon 1938-45	Gold
Donna Trathen	Horse breeds of the continents	Silver
Steve Davis	American illustrated hotel covers	Bronze
Walter Herdzik	Northern Rhodesia 1963	Silver-Bronze
Bob Lane	Brandon, Manitoba, postmarks	Vermeil
Bob Lane	Manitoba/USA railway mail	Vermeil
Hugh Delaney	Varieties of the Canada Heritage stamps	Bronze
Steve Davis	USA airmail issue of 1941-44	Gold
Ross Innes	Postal history of Battleford, Sask.	Silver-Bronze
Special Awards		
Steve Davis	USA airmail issue of 1941-44	Grand
Jon Johnson	South African military nursing service	BNAPS
Jim Taylor	St. Pierre & Miquelon 1938-45	Monilaws
Norma Nielson and Donna Trathen	(tie)	People's Choice

The BNAPS Award is for best BNA exhibit. The Bob Monilaws Award is for best exhibit by a CPS member.



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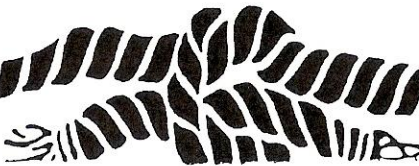
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NOTE TO INTERNET VIEWERS: Unless stated otherwise, telephone numbers are area code 403. Alberta is on Mountain Time. Any advertiser can be reached through the CPS e-mail at calphilso@shaw.ca, but please allow time for forwarding to offline members.

WANTED: used Greece 2003 and 2004 Olympic related stamps and covers (other than FDCs), CTO and special cancels considered. Cash or Canadian coils in trade. Phone Gordon at 249-1094.

WANTED: USA stamps, MNH, VF. Singles, sets, and sheets between 1980 and 2004. Paying face value plus exchange rate and GST. Call Bob at 257-1942 or email bob.dahl@shaw.ca

FOR SALE: Stamps of Australia, fine used. Up-to-date issues of the last couple of years, stamps and miniature sheets, good selection. Also have stamps and covers of Norfolk Island. Call Michael Teekens at 286-7927

WANTED: Collector of stamps, books, and history. Special interest in submarine material. Contact Wayne at 295-3275 or kingwi@shaw.ca

FOR SALE: Canadian plate blocks and mint stamps at face value. Call Henning at 271-2596.

WANTED: Canadian military covers and postcards with hospital ships (white with red crosses). Contact Jon Johnson at 253-8411 or jcjperfins@hotmail.com

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

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: Private collector pays cash for larger stamp collections. Phone Willi at 239-2273.

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, People's Republic of China, and Taiwan. Special interest in overprints and bulk lots. Prefer postally used. Call Penny at 686-2662 or pkborrowman@yahoo.ca.

FOR SALE OR TRADE: Worldwide collections (mounted) by country. 30 to 50 countries still available. Also lots of individual stamps catalogued per Scott for trade. Call Joe at 277-7006

WANTED: 1986 USA series of 35 Presidents (Scott #2216 to 2219), postally used. Call Milt at 243-0412.

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Webmaster	Jan van Staden	285-1874

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2005

December	4	Sunday bourse
	7	Christmas party - \$10 for supper at 6 p.m. Free for events after 7:30 p.m.

2006

January	4	General meeting
	4	Deadline for February bulletin
	18	Auction
February	1	General meeting
	15	Auction
March	1	General meeting
	1	Deadline for April bulletin
	15	Auction
April	5	General meeting
	19	Auction
September 29 to October 1		Royal 2006 Royale

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

ROYAL 2006 ROYALE is at the Coast Plaza Hotel, 1316 - 33 Street NE. 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 second Wednesdays. 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 238-3698.