

CALGARY PHILATELIST

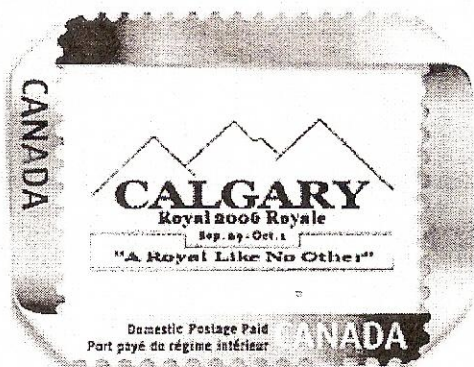
Issue 77

April 2006

PICTURE POSTAGE



10012971



This is the personalized stamp that will be used by the Royal 2006 Royale show committee to produce limited-edition show covers. Registrants to the show will get one free, so hustle in your registration form now!

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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: 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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COMMITTEES - see page 15 for list of committee chairpersons

by Dale Speirs

Drift Mail: Letters For The Postal System.

Aircraft have dropped mail bags at various locations as a convenience rather than come down for a landing. This does not constitute scattered mail, but there have been incidents where individual letters were dropped without an intended target. In World War One, the British War Office advised people to keep an eye out for such mail from military aircraft, usually with streamers attached, and to forward it immediately to the addressee [32]. The Zeppelins dropped mail bags as part of official mail, but individual passengers on board occasionally scattered postcards over the countryside as a fun thing to do [31].

Drift Mail: Miscellaneous.

In 1557, at the French siege of Calais, English troops sent letters across enemy lines into the town by crossbow arrow [33]. During the period 1850 to 1854, searchers in the Canadian Arctic looking for the lost Franklin expedition scattered leaflets by balloons [34].

Lost Letters: Introduction.

A popular method of testing public opinion is the lost letter technique. It is intended as a way to verify opinion polls or sociological behaviour without any bias from the observer effect, where people give false answers to an interviewer because they don't want to admit the truth to her. The lost letter method is widely used by sociologists and psychologists in numerous variations. The technique is also simple to perform and inexpensive to replicate.

It is easier to explain the lost letter technique by example than by theory. Suppose that an election was impending and one wanted to determine public support for the Conservative, Liberal, Socialist, and National Front parties. 1,000 stamped envelopes are prepared, addressed to the Committee To Elect (name of party) but no return address. 250 envelopes would be addressed to each party. The envelopes would be carefully dropped one by one in various public places, along sidewalks, in parking lots, and any other place where it would look like someone accidentally lost a letter they were going to mail. Letters are often placed under car windshield wipers with a handwritten note "Found this near your car" [47]. The hypothesis is that passersby who find the envelopes are more likely to drop it in a street letterbox if the letter is addressed to a party they support.

Thus, in a right-of-centre country, one might expect to get back 150 Committee To Elect Conservatives envelopes, 50 Committee To Elect Liberals envelopes, 25 Committee To Elect Socialists envelopes, and 10 Committee To Elect National Fronters envelopes. The same technique can be used to judge sociological trends by addressing envelopes to Friends of the Gay Liberation Movement, Friends of the Crusade for Christian Ethics, Vegetarians For Organic Farming, and so forth.

Although the lost letter technique dates back to 1948, it was most widely popularized by Connecticut researcher Dr. Stanley Milgram, who began using it in 1965 and triggered a flood of experiments with them. His 1965 test found that 72% of lost letters addressed to a fictitious Medical Research Associates were returned, 71% for a personal name, 25% for Friends of the Communist Party, and 25% for Friends of the Nazi Party [48].

The conclusions of other types of studies is that the difference in return rates of lost letters will always be weaker than the actual public opinion. This is because some people opposed to an addressee will nonetheless still be kind enough to return the letter as a matter of honesty [35]. Greatest letter returns were observed if they were dropped near a street letter box, then shops, then cars [47]. In a Florida study, 85 lost letters were distributed and observed to see who picked them up. All were picked up but only 23 were returned. Race and gender did not correlate with the letter retrievers but affiliation of the letters did [43]. This suggests that in lost letter studies, the failure of letters to be returned is not a matter that they were never picked up, or the wind blew them away, but due to the addresses used. This therefore validates such studies as indicators of public opinion.

Because of concern about the accuracy of lost letters, a number of studies have been done to test this methodology. Generally, all else being equal, fewer lost letters are returned in urban areas than the suburbs, which in turn have a poorer response than small towns [40]. Rural areas have a greater return than cities [60]. However this is not a universal rule; a study in Florida showed no difference in return rates for the size of the community [38]. Researchers have been testing every possible variation. One study showed rates of return for lost letters to gay groups was not affected by the colour of the ink, whether black or pink [37]. Lost letters marked or not marked 'Confidential' had similar rates of return [36].

Some lost letter studies have shown that return of letters addressed to election committees did not correlate with the actual election results [46]. It appears that lost letter returns are only useful for the major candidates, and unreliable for fringe parties [47]. The latter often have higher returns than their actual votes would justify. Another study concluded that while the lost letter technique is useful in general for political polling, it fails for subtle issues or where preferences are

evenly distributed [49]. Generally, if the issue being polled has fine distinctions, such as a multi-party election, the results are not as accurate as for issues such as gay marriage, which do not have fine distinctions (people are for or against it, with no middle ground) [61].

One variation of the lost letter technique is the misdirected letter. This is a letter with an actual address but a fictitious name, and an actual return address. Misdirected mail is useful for measuring racial and religious prejudice by choosing stereotyped names that indicate race or religion. This variation was originally developed for use in Ulster [41]. Dropping letters is too dangerous for researchers there because of the sectarian violence, which heightens the vigilance of the populace and British military against outlanders and suspicious behaviour.

Although it is unlikely that any post office would agree to it due to modern privacy laws, there could be a good study at the Dead Letter Office analysing percentages of dead letters by type of address. Attempts to use the Internet in establishing a lost e-mail technique have failed because it is impossible to send an e-mail without a return address. A 1997 study showed that recipients of a mis-guided e-mail never forwarded it but always bounced it back to the sender [63].

[to be continued]

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AUTHOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Each year, your humble Editor presents the Author of the Year award for the best article or group of articles published in the CALGARY PHILATELIST during the preceding calendar year. This year I was fortunate enough to have enough good authors that choosing a winner was difficult. I have settled on Steve Davis for his series on American airmail stamps. Well done, Steve! The cumulative list of winners is as follows.

1990 - Mirko Zatka	1998 - Jan Grasmeyer
1991 - Georg Gerlach	1999 - Dinu Matei
1992 - Perry Holinshead	2000 - Hugh Delaney
1993 - Jim Karr	2001 - Penny Borrowman
1994 - Bob Monilaws	2002 - Patricia Prevey
1995 - Ed Harris	2003 - Jim Taylor
1996 - Phyllis Weston	2004 - Alexander Malycky
1997 - no award	2005 - Steve Davis

**QUICK FINDER FOR TOPICALS ON CANADIAN STAMPS TO 2005:
PART ONE**
compiled by Dale Speirs

Introduction.

This subject index is intended as a quick finder, not a detailed list with catalogue numbers or varieties. Catalogue numbers are not used because it is too much work to cross-reference Darnell (the best catalogue for Canada stamps) with Scott or Gibbons. This quick-finder can be used regardless of what catalogue you favour. This index will be printed on the four centre pages of each issue of CALGARY PHILATELIST so that you can remove the index without losing the rest of the bulletin, and file the index as a single volume.

Trivial appearances of a topic are not indexed. Some stamps, such as the 1875 Registereds or 1898 Special Delivery, are not listed because they are stylized designs with no topical subject. Individuals honoured on stamps are listed by surname, except for the category of Royalty. Some individuals may be additionally listed under an occupation. Articles such as “a”, “the”, or “la” are ignored. Cities are listed by province or territory. Natural features are listed under categories such as Rivers or Lakes. Themes such as airmail, special delivery, or semi-postals are not indexed, only topics.

The year of first issue is given, so it shouldn't be difficult for anyone to quickly narrow it down in their favourite catalogue. If a stamp was reprinted over several years, it is listed by year of first printing. Varieties, overprints, and colour changes are not included because they can be found near the basic stamp, which is listed. The only exception is overprints which are topical, such as the 1933 World Grain Exhibition.

Stamps are listed by year and face value, in the format yyyy vvv, where v is the face value in cents. The \$2 polar bear stamp, for example, is listed as 1998 200. Half-cent stamps are converted to decimal as 0.5. Semi-postals are shown with the added tax as vvv+vv. If there were several stamps issued in the same year and value for the same topic, then it will be listed only once, so check the entire year for that value.

Province of Canada and Dominion of Canada stamps are listed without any letter prefixes. Year dates beginning with NL are Newfoundland stamps, NB for New Brunswick, NS for Nova Scotia, PE for Prince Edward Island, BC for British Columbia, and VN for Vancouver Island.

Subject Index.

Abbott, John	1952	3
Abbott, Maude	2000	46
Aboriginal peoples,	see also under individual's names	
general or not specified	1950	10
	1986	34
	1987	34
	1989	38
	1990	39
	1993	43
	1998	45
	2000	46
	2002	48
battles with	1961	5
Algonkian	1973	8
Blackfoot	see under Siksika	
buffalo jumps	2002	125
Haida	1996	90
Huron	1971	7
Inuit	1955	10
	1967	1
	1968	5
	1968	6
	1977	12
	1978	14
	1979	17
	1980	17
	1980	35
	1991	40
	1993	43
	1995	45
	1999	46
	2000	46
Iroquois	1976	10
	1986	34
	2001	47
Micmac	1973	8
Mohawk	1961	5
	1981	17
	1993	43
Pacific	1974	8
	1989	38
	1999	46
	2003	125
Plains	1972	8
Siksika	1986	34
sub-arctic	1975	8
thunderbird	1972	8
	1973	8
	1974	8
	1975	8
	1976	10
teepee	see under Buildings, aboriginal	
totem pole	1953	100
treaties	1967	2
	2001	47
Agriculture,		
general	1955	5
4-H	1988	37
cattle	see under Biology, animals, cattle	
combine	see under Vehicles, farm equipment	
dairy	1987	25
education	1974	8
eggs	2000	46
fairs	1997	45
grain	1933	20 (overprint)
	1942	4
	1962	5
	1967	50
	1978	50
	1988	37
	1991	40
	2000	46

Agriculture,		
harvest	1928	20
	1946	20
	1967	3
	1969	50
	1990	39
horses	see under Biology, horses	
horticulture, botanic gardens	1991	40
, Les Floralties	1980	17
plough	1946	8
	1979	17
	1983	37
	1998	45
	1999	46
potatoes	2000	46
prairies	1972	20
	1980	17
	1992	42
	1993	43
	1997	45
	1999	46
tractors	see under Vehicles, tractor	
vineyards	1997	45
Albani, Emma	1980	17
Alberta,		
general	1982	30
anniversaries	1955	5
	1980	17
	2005	50
Athabasca River	1991	40
badlands	1998	45
Banff	1993	43
Calgary	see also under Sports, events, Olympics, Calgary	
	1975	8
	1986	34
	1999	46
	2004	49
	2005	50
Edmonton	1978	30
Fort Whoop-up	1985	34
fossil beds	1989	38
Head Smashed In	2002	125
Jasper National Park	2002	48
Pincher Creek	2005	51
Waterton National Park	1982	150
Writing-On-Stone Park	1993	43
2000	55	
Alcoholic beverages	see under Beverages, alcoholic	
Allan, Hugh	2004	49
Angels	see under Religion	
Animals	see under Agriculture or Biology	
Apps, Syl	2001	47
Arctic	see under Northwest Territories and Nunavut	
Art,		
general	1976	20
abstract	1981	35
	1998	45
basket weaving	2002	77
dancing, general	2001	47
, aboriginal	1975	8
, ballet	1989	38
, Scottish	1997	45
jewellery	2002	65
needlepoint	1997	45

Art,	paintings	1917 3	1927 2
		1928 10	1967 20
		1967 25	1967 50
		1967 100	1970 6
		1971 6	1971 7
		1972 8	1973 15
		1974 6	1974 8
		1974 10	1974 15
		1977 12	1979 17
		1980 17	1980 35
		1980 15	1981 17
		1981 35	1982 30
		1983 32	1984 32
		1984 37	1984 64
		1985 34	1988 50
		1988 37	1989 50
		1989 38	1989 44
		1989 76	1989 33
		1990 50	1991 50
		1991 40	1992 50
		1993 86	1994 88
		1995 88	1995 43
		1996 90	1997 90
		1998 45	1998 90
		1999 95	2000 90
		2001 90	2002 125
		2003 48	2004 49
		2004 80	2004 140
		2005 50	2005 85
	sculpture	1980 17	1980 35
		2002 125	2002 48
	societies	1999 46	
	theatre	1999 46	2000 46
		2001 47	
Ashoon, Pitseolak		1993 43	
Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation		1997 45	
Astronomy	see under Space exploration		
Atomic energy	see under Energy, electricity		
Aurora borealis	see under Meteorology, aurora borealis		
Authors	see under their individual names		
Aviation,			
	airlines	1987 36	1994 43
	balloons	2001 47	
	biplanes	NL1928 15	NL1931 15
		NL1931 50	NL1933 5
		NL1933 10	NL1933 30
		1927 20	1959 5
		1969 15	1980 35
		1994 43	1999 46
		2000 46	
	crash	2005 50	
	flight suit	1986 34	
	float/ski planes	1938 6	1982 30
		1982 60	1995 45
		1999 46	

SPRING BOURSE - APRIL 29 AND 30

by Jan Brookes

This year the CAPE group (Calgary Association of Philatelic Exhibitors) is going to get together a number of one-page exhibits on "What do you collect?" or a page of topicals. Anything you think might be of interest to get someone started in stamps. The full frames will also be shown by the registration desk at Royal 2006 Royale in September. You do not need to include anything expensive, just interesting. Please put your name and phone number on the back so we can return them. Dave Russum is looking after this project.

Jon Johnson is also looking for anyone who would like to put up their first exhibit or a new exhibit for non-competitive fun. Just call him and he will reserve and bring a frame for you.

Most of our regular dealers will be present. One exception will be Hans and Ingrid Steinbok, who will be away on their 50th anniversary trip. Congratulations!

Setup is the usual time on Friday night at the Kerby Centre. We will need volunteers for the reception desk and youth table over the weekend. Please let Marge Hunt know if you can help.

PHILATELIC LITERATURE REVIEWS

by Leanteri Polvikoski

Topical Time (Jan/Feb 2006) (Available for loan from the CPS Librarian at general meetings.) This issue has articles on topicals such as owls, female Nobel laureates, grass, and chemists, as well as numerous listings and reviews.

Letters From The Far West (Available for \$35 from Hugh Delaney at general meetings) Published 2005, spiral-bound, 264 pages; this is a centennial project of the Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society. This anthology of 31 illustrated articles covers not only the postal history of Alberta but also some of the history of philatelic organizations and stamp collectors. Something for everyone in this book, from postal history to precancels, from postmarks to perfins, and lots more.

ROYAL 2006 ROYALE UPDATE

by Janice Brookes

I thought I would fill you in on the massive philatelic options for September 2006. VANPEX has been moved to September 8 to 10 at Coquitlam, British Columbia. Edmonton has a bourse only on the weekend of September 23 to 24. And to top it off, Royal 2006 Royale in Calgary goes September 29 to October 1.

Please look at your schedule and see if you can manage a day off or even just a few hours to help set up on September 28, the day before Royal 2006 Royale begins. We will be hiring an outside crew to help set up the frames, but they will need supervision. For security, we do not want outsiders to handle the exhibits themselves, so we need your help. We will also need help after 4:00 p.m. on Sunday to take everything down. Please let Marge Hunt know if you can help.

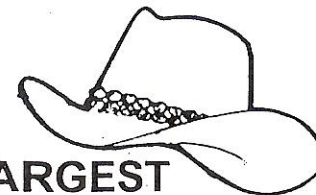
I would like to thank several committee members for their financial contributions to the Royal. The pancake breakfast Saturday morning will be sponsored by Talisman Energy, thanks to Jon Johnson. Dale Speirs has paid for the beautiful Picture Postage personalized postage stamps for our special show covers. Everyone at the banquet will receive a beautiful commemorative cover with this stamp. The cover is being designed by Ed Harris, based on the theme of the Queen's 80th birthday.

The stamp launch on Friday is sponsored by Canada Post with a continental breakfast prior. This is by invitation only and we expect about 300 people for it. We are working on having the CPS membership and Royal registrants added to the Canada Post mailing list.

Steve Davis has been lining up so many seminars that he has requested a second room to hold some more. There will be something for everyone from beginner to advanced.

EDMONTON SPRING NATIONAL STAMP SHOW

The Edmonton Spring Show will be held March 24 to 26 at the West Edmonton Mall, 3rd Level, Europa Boulevard, in the Fantasyland Hotel Conference Centre. There will be exhibits, a dealer bourse, juniors' room, sales books, banquet, and seminars. Free admission. Details at www.edmontonstampclub.com



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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: 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: 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.

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

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.

COMMITTEES

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Programmes	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
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MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS FOR 2006

March	15	Auction
April	2	Sunday bourse
	5	General meeting
	19	Auction
	29 and 30	Spring Stamp Bourse
May	3	General meeting
	3	Deadline for June bulletin
	7	Sunday bourse
	17	Auction
June	4	Sunday bourse
	7	Election meeting
	21	Auction
August	4	Deadline for September bulletin
September	6	General meeting
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

SPRING STAMP BOURSE is at the Kerby Centre, main floor, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW. Details from Janice Brookes at 251-1769.

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.