

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 83

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This year marks the 100th anniversary of letter carrier service in Calgary.

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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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A CENTURY OF LETTER CARRIERS IN CALGARY

by Dale Speirs

It was a century ago that letter carrier service began in Calgary, on June 11, 1907. The initial service was twice a day in the downtown business section, and daily in the afternoon out in what in those days were residential suburbs but are today the inner city. There were seven letter carrier routes at the beginning, and to pay the cost, the 1-cent drop letter rate in Calgary was replaced by a 2-cent rate which paid for delivery [1, 2].

The first hire of letter carriers posed for a group photo in front of the post office, and then inaugurated the service promptly at noon. Those pioneer posties were E. Labasse, W. Rigby, T.J. Pratt, William Pow, H. Rackham, C.W. Baker, and A. Reid. Their uniform was a blue tunic with blue trousers that had a red stripe down the side of the leg [3].

Calgary's inauguration of letter carrier service in 1907 was not done in isolation. At that same time, twelve other cities across Canada were also starting up letter carrier service. Also not done in isolation was a change to Special Delivery services for places with letter carriers. Instead of having to buy the Special Delivery stamp, ordinary stamps could be used to pay the 10 cents for the service, plus additional postage for the regular rate, as long as the envelope was marked "Special Delivery" [4].

A century later, the new suburbs built since 1986 have never had letter carrier service, and instead the denizens of those areas have to travel to a mailbox cluster. Twice-daily service ended in 1942 due to the wartime labour shortage [5]. Saturday service vanished in 1969 when escalating wages made the labour too expensive.

References.

1] Anonymous (1907-06-08) Deliver mail next week. CALGARY HERALD, page 1

2] Anonymous (1907-06-11) Deliver mail today. CALGARY HERALD, pages 1, 7

3] Anonymous (1907-06-12) Calgary mail delivery. CALGARY HERALD, page 12

4] Lemieux, Rodolphe (1909) Report of the Postmaster General for the year ended March 21, 1908. SESSIONAL PAPERS 24:xii-xiii

5] Anonymous (1942-08-29) Two-a-day mail soon to be one. CALGARY HERALD, page 12

The Philatelic Digital Library Project was conceived to work closely with Project Gutenberg to create, organize and preserve a philatelic literature collection. Like the rest of Project Gutenberg, the goal is for all of the books to become available, free of charge, for reading online and/or for download. To learn more about the project, visit www.tpdlp.net. A list sampling of English-language "Books in Process" on a recent visit included the following:

- 1] A hundred years by post by J. Wilson Hyde. London, 1891.
- 2] An Abstract of the Proceedings of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, Appointed Session, 1849, to Inquire Into the Contract Packet Service by Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company. London, 1849.
- 3] Bartels catalogue and reference list of the United States stamped envelopes by Victor M. Berthold. New York, 1911.
- 4] Canadian Postal Guide by John Dewé. Toronto, 1863.
- 5] A general plan for a mail communication by steam, between Great Britain and the eastern and western parts of the world by James MacQueen. London, 1838.
- 6] Canadian postage stamps and stationery by Clifton Armstrong Howes. Boston, 1911.
- 7] Gambia by Fred. J. Melville. London, 1909.
- 8] List of Post-offices in the United States, with the Names of the Post-masters, of the Counties and States, to which They Belong by United States Post Office Department. Washington, 1828.
- 9] List of Post Offices in Canada 1856 by Postmaster General, Canadian Post Office.
- 10] List of Post Offices in Canada 1867 by Postmaster General, Canadian Post Office.
- 11] Ocean steam navigation and the ocean post by Thomas Rainey. London, 1858.
- 12] Ten years among the mail bags by J. Holbrook. Philadelphia, 1855.
- 13] The Bristol Royal Mail by R. C. Tombs. Bristol, 1899.
- 14] The postage stamp in war by Fred. J. Melville. London, 1915.

Anyone who is interested is welcome to join in and make the project evolve faster! All that is required to become a proofreader is a computer and a very brief registration at www.pgdp.net

The Universal Postal Union is the international organization which standardizes the exchange of mails between countries. Among other things, it also collects statistics about the Papernet, which can be seen at its Website at www.upu.int. Because of the time needed to collect the data, they have only up to 2004, but the data are an interesting overview of the Papernet.

	Total number of permanent post offices worldwide	Domestic letters handled (in billions)	International letters handled (in billions)	Domestic parcels handled (in billions)	International parcels handled (in billions)
2000	672,279	434.8	7.39	4.78	0.041
2001	675,504	436.3	6.97	4.78	0.044
2002	665,116	426.4	6.34	4.62	0.048
2003	662,387	425.6	6.07	4.67	0.047
2004	663,045	429.9	5.82	5.4	0.049

The decline in the number of post offices does not appear to be related to the Internet but rather to rationalization by postal systems. Countries in Europe, particularly Britain, are thinning out a surplus of sub-post offices. Canada Post and the USPS are opening new urban retail postal outlets, but this is more than counterbalanced by the number of rural post offices closing because of dwindling volumes from rural de-population or inability to find new postmasters. It should be noted that in rural areas the general stores are fading away because farmers prefer to drive an extra half hour to a bigger town for better selection from bigger stores. It is the general store that is the traditional location of rural post offices.

That letter mail has been declining is no surprise, since e-mail is obviously replacing letters. What is interesting is that parcel volumes are increasing, because the Internet has increased the mail order business. In most countries, post offices have never had a monopoly on parcels and have always had to compete with private couriers, so the fact that they can hold their own against them is shown by these data.

PHILATELIC LITERATURE REVIEWS

by Leanteri Polvikoski

Postcards From The Boys by Ringo Starr (2004) is a coffee table book by Richard Starkey, drummer of a well-known band, who kept every postcard his mates sent him from their travels around the world. This book shows a selection from Ringo’s accumulation. Each postcard is shown with both the view side and the message side from John, Paul, or George. If Ringo’s postcard collection was auctioned off, it would fetch a fortune, not that he needs the money. What impressed me was that the postcards made it through without being stolen en route by adoring posties. All are addressed to Ringo’s street addresses. He moved house frequently, four times during one 18-month period. Some are addressed to his stage name Ringo Starr, and many are addressed to his real name Richard Starkey.

The boys often drew little bits of art on them, or made joking references. As Ringo remarks in his commentary, some of the jokes are so obscure that even he can’t remember what they were about. The postcards were often carefully selected. Paul sent one of a regimental drum major, with a message assuring Ringo that he was still the greatest drummer in the world. Another was sent during the sad days when the Beatles were breaking up, and John lamented the discord in his message. Some are written in German, the boys having learned the language during their Hamburg days.

For the longest time, and still today, the philatelic world has excluded postcards as legitimate postal history in the sense of the postcard per se, not its postmark. View or thematic postcards are lumped into the display class at exhibitions, and judges penalize an exhibit if it has too many view cards. During the first fifty years or so of philatelic history, the catchphrase was “The stamp’s the thing”. There may be a few snobs left who still chant it, but postal history has drowned them out in a tsunami of covers and postmarks. What is still to come is recognition that the view side of the postcard is in fact legitimate postal history. Countless millions of postcards have been sent through the postal system by people who chose them for the image, and sent them through the Papernet specifically to communicate that image to someone else. That is postal history as much as the only known usage of a Small Queen from Muskoka, Ontario, to South Africa via Finland. Messages on postcards on usually stereotypes such as “Having a wonderful time”, but many have substantiative content. When John Lennon mourned the death of the Beatles to Ringo, he did it with the message “Who’d have thought it would come to this” on a postcard (probable value \$50,000 to \$100,000 if Ringo decided to sell it). That is important music history, and it is also important postal history.

QUICK FINDER FOR TOPICALS ON CANADIAN STAMPS TO 2005:
PART SEVEN

compiled by Dale Speirs

Manning, Ernest	1998	45		
Manufacturing, iron foundries	1988	37	1999	2
, leather working	1999	25		
, woodworking	1999	10		
Maples	see under Biology, plants, trees, maple			
Maple Leaf (stylized or symbolic)	see under Biology, plants, trees, Maple Leaf			
Maps	see under Cartography			
Marquette, Jacques	1987	34		
Mason, Bill	1998	45		
Massey, Vincent	1969	6	1977	12
Matonabee	1989	38	2002	48
McClung, Nellie	1973	8		
McGee, D’Arcy	1927	5		
McKinney, Louise	1981	17		
McLuhan, Marshall	2000	46		
McNair, John	1998	45		
Meals on Wheels	see under Cooking, Meals on Wheels			
Medicine	see under Health			
Meighen, Arthur	1961	5		
Merchants	see under Retail			
Merritt, W.H.	1974	8		
Meteorology,				
general	1968	5	1990	39
aurora borealis	2002	125		
rainbow	1990	39		
snow	1971	6	1971	7
	1971	10	1971	15
	1976	20	1989	38
weathervanes	1982	10		
wind, Chinook	1991	40		
Michener, Roland	1992	42		
Microscope,				
electron	1988	37		
optical	1958	5		
Mikita, Stan	2003	48		
Military,				
academics	1976	8	2001	47
air force	1984	32	1989	38
	1993	43	1994	43
				1999 46
aircraft	see under Aviation			
army	1983	32	1989	38
	1992	42	2000	46
artillery	1994	43		
cadets	2004	49		
cannons	1942	50		
flags	see under Flags			
forts	1983	32		
Korean	2003	48		
land mines	2000	46		

3)

Mythology,			
ogopogo	1990 39		
sasquatch	1990 39		
vampire	1997 45		
werewolf	1990 39	1997 45	
National parks	see under the appropriate province or territory		
Neatby, Hilda	2000 46		
Needlepoint	see under Art, needlepoint		
New Brunswick,			
general	1982 30	1984 32	
anniversaries	1934 2	1984 32	
Acadia	1981 17	2004 49	2005 50
Bouctouche	2005 51		
Fort Beausejour	1983 32		
Fundy	1979 100		
Hartland Bridge	1995 45		
King's Landing	2002 65		
McAdam	1989 200		
Nelson-Miramichi	1987 36		
The Rocks Park	1993 43		
St. Andrews	1993 43		
St. John River	1993 43	2000 95	
Newfoundland,			
general	NL1908 2	NL1928 1	NL1933 10
	1982 30	1984 32	1993 43
explorers	1983 32		
L'Anse aux Meadows	2000 46		
Bay of Islands	NL1923 12		
Bell Island	NL1932 24	NL1937 24	
Cape Bonavista	NL1897 3		
Cape Race	NL1932 20	NL1937 20	
Cape St. Mary's	1993 43		
Corner Brook	NL1932 8	NL1937 8	
Cupids	NL1910 5		
Durrel	2004 50		
Fort Castle Hill	1985 34		
Gros Morne	2000 95		
Heart's Content	NL1928 8		
Labrador	NL1933 5	NL1933 10	NL1933 50
	NL1933 60	NL1933 75	
Main River	1991 40		
Mosquito	NL1910 8		
Placentia Bay	NL1923 20		
Quidi Vidi	NL1923 8		
St. John's	NL1933 9	NL1943 7	
	1988 37	1992 42	
Shell Bird Island	NL1923 11		
Signal Hill	2001 105		
Tor's Cove	NL1923 1		
Trinity Bay	NL1923 2	NL1923 5	

PHILATELY: THE NEXT GENERATION

by Penny Borrowman

Our 13-year-old granddaughter Keeana was visiting from Cairo for the 2006 Christmas holidays and our 7-year-old grandson Dagan stayed with us a few days while his mom was in hospital. They both pulled out their stamp collections, which reside at our house, and spent many happy hours together. This shows that youth collecting is alive and thriving, and they just need encouragement to continue their interest.



SPRING STAMP BOURSE

Don't forget about the annual Spring Stamp Bourse, on April 28 and 29 at the Kerby Centre, in the main floor gymnasium. The bourse is open 10h00 to 18h00 on Saturday and 10h00 to 16h00 on Sunday. Details from Dwayne Miner at 251-1769.

I have been unsuccessful in locating any single list of currently-operating Canadian post offices, but have found a work-around at the Canada Post Website. This site does not have a unified coherent list of open post offices, but does provide lists broken up by province, then subdivided as urban or rural. Each list has to be accessed separately. These lists are in the Householder Count section of the Website at the following URL:
<http://www.canadapost.ca/cpc2/addrm/hh/pending/indexp/tpALL-e.asp>

The awkward format is because the lists are formatted for direct mail businesses, and not intended for the general public. It is relatively easy to highlight and copy the rural lists into an MS Word or WordPerfect document. The urban lists, however, have the names of postal sub-stations intermixed with other data. You could, of course, save the entire Web page and do the tedious editing offline. The Householder Count lists show some post offices which are not actual post offices, but are only used for sorting. They do not have postmarks, and are basically just a cluster of supermailboxes.

I have been concentrating on rural postmarks, since Canada Post has 750 of them on a hit list, and many others are closing as elderly postmasters retire with no one willing to take over. The hit list of post offices is at:
http://www.nupge.ca/news_2005/n22my05a.htm
You have to scroll halfway down this very long Web page to get to the list.

If you collect postmarks by geography, these lists are not too difficult to use. If you collect by topical subject, then you will have to go through each list one at a time. Those looking for topicals should also learn the French words for those topicals, since there are many in that language in Québec and Acadia.

I have also been concentrating on Calgary retail postal outlets (RePOs), of which there are 75 listed in the telephone directory. New ones are constantly opening in new suburbs. Most are associated with convenience stores or drug stores. You may have some difficulty explaining to the clerks about why you want postmarks. RePO clerks are poorly trained, usually only know how to handle the common transactions, and are flummoxed by philatelists. I have had some think that I was trying to pull a fast one and refuse to do it. If you really want to have fun, ask them for a postal reply coupon. Always be polite no matter what. In such cases, I don't argue; I just come back later when there is a different clerk on duty.



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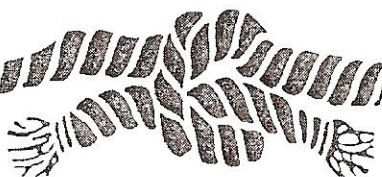
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SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

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.

WANTED: Any covers, wrappers, or postcards from Great Britain sent after May 31, 1951, bearing 1d postage. Excellent prices paid for good items. Contact Dave at 284-4775.

FOR SALE: Canadian annual collections from 1980 to 2001. Call Al at 282-1031.

WANTED: Used Machin stamps with selvage attached. Cash or trade. Call Georg at 547-0409.

FOR SALE: Selling estate of Philatelics Etc. Bring your want list to Sunday bourse or phone Bill at 337-3260.

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

FOR SALE: Canada Scott #365 to 368, as 1,742 stamps MVF, all in blocks and strips of 4 to 10 stamps. Catalogue \$1390, asking \$790 o.b.o.. Canada Millennium collection book, never opened; asking \$89. Canada used sets VF, call for details. Canada Scott MNH for \$65. Call Les Gordon at 278-3511.

FOR SALE: Israel collection 1950 to 1982 missing a few but 90% there. Many duplicates, different tab locations. Catalogue \$1520, asking \$850 o.b.o.. Mint with tabs 1984 to 1988, catalogue \$118, asking \$60. Call Les Gordon at 278-3511

WANTED: Canadian stamps, mint or very fine used. Call Arnie at 279-5957.

COMMITTEES

Archives	Dale Speirs	701-0174
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- silent	Jim Senecal	547-7681
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Programmes	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
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Webmaster	Jan van Staden	285-1874

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS FOR 2007

March	21	Auction
April	1	Sunday bourse
	4	General meeting
	18	Auction
	28 and 29	Spring Stamp Bourse
May	2	General meeting
	2	Deadline for June bulletin
	6	Sunday bourse
	16	Auction
June	3	Sunday bourse
	6	Election meeting
	20	Auction
August	1	Deadline for August bulletin
August 31 to September 2		BNAPEX 2007
September	5	General meeting

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 is at the Kerby Centre, main floor gymnasium, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW. Details from Dwayne Miner at 251-1769.

BNAPEX 2007 is at the Westin Hotel, 320 - 4 Avenue SW. Details from Jon Johnson at 253-8411.

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.