

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 96

June 2009



In this issue, Jon Johnson discusses cover collecting. An example from his collection is shown above, a letter mailed by the CPR Superintendent to the Lower Mainland, which was not called for. It then made the scenic trip over the Rockies a second time back to Lethbridge. The stamps have CPR perfins. More inside.

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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

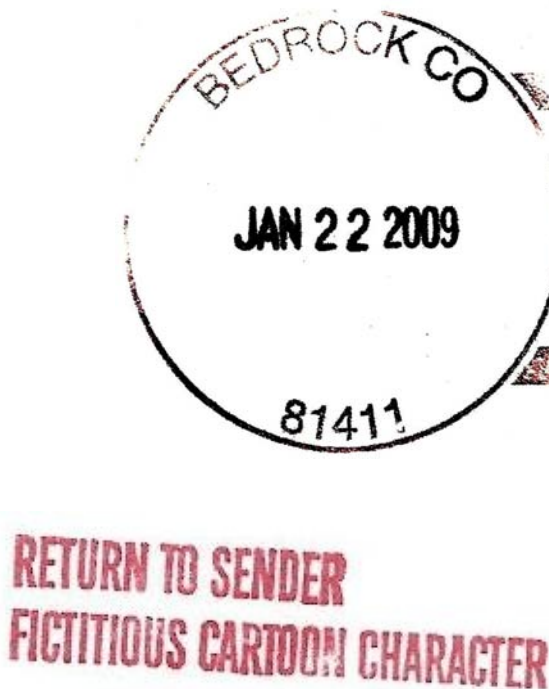
WILMA DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE

by Dale Speirs

For a number of years I have been sending off to post offices in Canada and the USA for their postmarks, mostly the topical ones. One of my sideline topical collections is geology, and I have been compiling geological postmarks in general and petroleum in particular.

Recently I sent off for the postmark of Bedrock, Colorado. The postmistress, Ruth Swain, returned the postmarks to me, including some extra postal markings, and added a friendly note as follows. *"I hope this is done to your satisfaction. Just as a side note, this is the only Bedrock in the world. When I receive mail for the Flintstones or Rubbles, I use this stamp when returning mail to sender."*

The stamp she is referring to is a red two-line handstamp "RETURN TO SENDER / FICTITIOUS CARTOON CHARACTER", which she applied to the bottom of her letter (see below). This certainly is one of the most unusual auxiliary markings in the postal world.



HOBBIES CREATE MEMORIES

by Ron Tabbert

I suspect most of us would love to mix our holiday with one or more of our other interests. Many stamp collectors have found a unique way to combine their hobby and their travels. But anyone can do it. You can even involve the kids and some of your other hobbies.

For instance, when I first came through the Canadian Rockies on my way to Alaska in 1975, I designed and drew envelopes with themes relating to each state or province I'd visit. I found stamps relating to those places. When the train arrived in Calgary, I headed to the post office and when I got home, there in my mail was my envelope with matching cachet (coloured design), stamps and cancel. Not just a souvenir, but also an item for my collection. On occasion, I do the same with postcards and I write my impressions of the place, the event or the scene on the card. Later, at home, I can relive the visit, as well as save the card. Way back in 1970, I sent myself a black and white card from Cotapoxi, Colorado. What memories of lunch by roadside streams, bumpy gravel roads to mining towns, and a friend adjusting to the altitude? And that little town with the odd name from the Old West days. Some tourist venues have a fancy cachet canceller you can use to print a design on whatever you like. I've seen them in a few American parks. But my favourite is from Osaka castle in Japan. Postcard, stamp, castle-cachet I stamped myself and mailed home. My 1984 Monaco Olympics stamps were bought in Monaco. You can imagine my fun when a stamp show or a "first day of issue" for a particular stamp is part of my journey. New stamps, special cancels, souvenir envelopes all make it a thrilling adventure.

Recently Switzerland has issued tourism postcards with a fine photograph on the back and a printed stamp depicting something significant about the place: cycling, vineyards, cheese. And, like every country, they issue stamps showing various historic and scenic places. So, with an eye to a future trip there, I've bought each of these and will plan my train trip through Switzerland around these stamps and cards. Each will be written with a note about what I saw, how I felt, a person I met, an event I attended, and mail it to myself. You can't buy a less expensive or more meaningful souvenir. It will bring back memories many times.

Canada Post has issued picture cards with pre-paid postage good to any address in the world. Cards have been produced for every area of the country. You'll see scenes and wildlife of the Rockies. I've sent some to family from Banff, Lake Louise, Vancouver, Jasper, Winnipeg when I've had to make trips there. Often I'll describe the weather, the sounds and experiences of the day. Check the post office wherever you go and send yourself a souvenir.

SO CLOSE AND YET SO FAR: A TALE OF TWO CITIES

by Peter Fleck

We are both benefactors of the Alberta Advantage and only three hours apart along Highway 2. So how can two stamp clubs that are so close together be so different? That is the question that was burning within me after venturing into a junior high school auditorium for a meeting of the Edmonton Stamp Club on February 2, 2009. Yet I also envisioned a great opportunity. Surely as we compare notes, we can learn from each other and move towards improving both of our organizations. Perhaps because they are more blue collar in Edmonton, they tend to be less formal. That's why they're just called the Edmonton Stamp Club, whereas we have a decidedly more prestigious moniker as the Calgary Philatelic Society.



The differences I noticed were immediate. Walking into the room, members have to first sign in and then receive a raffle ticket for the free draw. As a guest, I had to sign a different book which took a few minutes to locate. It had been several meetings since a non-member had entered. Being one, I was not rewarded with a raffle ticket. Rather, by showing up, the club had successfully secured an impartial bystander to pull out the winning number for them. My presence also gave President Keith

Spencer the rare opportunity to pull out his best Calgary jokes and heap scorn on us. He took such delight in it that a member sheepishly came up to me afterwards to offer his apologies.

It was a good thing that I came with a friend that was also a member, because only members can sell or buy at the auction. It was through my friend's membership that I was able to do both. I managed to buy a lot of 18 postcards issued by the National Postal Museum in London, England, for just 50 cents. Six of the cards have cancelled stamps on the back and the remaining dozen are in mint condition. The reason I was able to acquire the lot for just 50 cents is that in Edmonton there is no \$3 minimum bid on lots. All lots are unreserved. You might think that this would leave sellers exposed to having expensive lots go for fire sale prices, but to protect their investment, sellers can bid on their own lots. So if you're trying to sell an album for \$100 and the most anyone else is willing to bid is \$10, you can up the bid to \$11. All you end up losing is the \$1.10 commission. *[Editor's note: the Calgary club allows reserves and there is no commission on unsold lots.]*

The Edmonton club only withholds 10% of the purchase price, whereas the commission in Calgary is 15%. That makes selling more attractive. And it was selling that I was primarily interested in. Through conversations that I had with my friend over the years, I had come to the conclusion that Edmonton was more of a seller's market and Calgary more of a buyer's market. Finally being able to put this theory to the test, I was not disappointed. With the five lots that I sold, I averaged just over 37% of the catalogue price, with the most expensive lot going for 56% of catalogue. Perhaps even more encouraging is that I had originally purchased all of the stamps in Toronto for less than face value and yet ended up selling them for almost 2.5 times face.

What I did find a little cumbersome, however, is that in Edmonton every single one of the 100-plus lots put out actually went up for live sale, and the auction is the last item on the agenda. So the room thins out noticeably before the last lot is called. Whenever you're done buying, you have the option of cashing out. But unlike Calgary, sellers have to wait until the subsequent meeting before they are able to pick up the proceeds from their sales. The Edmonton club also recently added a section exclusively reserved for silent auction. This is primarily intended for lower cost items.

Edmonton did have a stamp line, although they called it a clothes line. I know the Calgary president, Dave Russum, recoils whenever that term is used. I'm wondering if Dave also calls the wooden pegs that we use "stamp pins". Each person who puts something up on the clothes line shares a few words about it. Or in the case of Pres. Spencer, his contribution to the line became the major presentation of the evening.

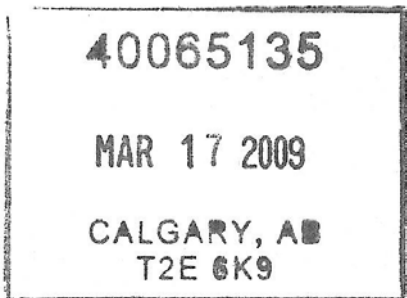
One thing I did come to appreciate even more about Calgary is how blessed we are to be able to meet at the Kerby Centre. Being able to have a permanent storage locker allows us to maintain a library. Not having this luxury, Edmonton members found the prospect of carting huge volumes of books back and forth each night to be far too arduous and so disbanded their library entirely. The school where they meet can't even guarantee that they can get the room on a regular basis. While they always meet on Monday nights, the meetings can occur at divergent times of the month. Earlier this year, they met for three weeks in a row and then had a huge gap without any meetings.

I would like to especially thank my friend Norm Selman for affording me the opportunity to experience the Edmonton club firsthand. Having done so, I would encourage anyone to check out other clubs when they are out of town. You never know the ideas that you may pick up, or, if nothing else, glean a greater appreciation for the club you are currently a part of. You just can't lose.

CURRENT POSTMARKS OF CALGARY: PART 10

by Dale Speirs

Lettershops.



Michael Teekens passed this one on to me, an unusual postmark with an eight-digit number, not from an ordinary Retail Postal Outlet (RePO) which have six digit numbers, but a lettershop. These are mass-mailing businesses that specialize in bulk quantities of direct mail advertising and product shipping for retail companies. This particular one originates from a

lettershop called Signed Sealed Delivered Mailing Ltd, at 4404 - 12 Street NE, in the McCall Industrial subdivision. Lettershops are not listed on canadapost.ca in the Householder Counts section, where RePOs are listed. I haven't found any listings for them; they are probably scattered under their individual names.



Changes.

Varsity: Marketmall, Shoppers
Drug Mart. Previous
round cancel was nameless.
This one has the name of
the RePO.
Thanks to Michael Teekens
for passing this one on to me.



Rectangular To Round.

RePOs using rectangular postmarks, which require a separate ink pad, are gradually switching to the self-inking round cancellers, much preferred by posties.



Willow Park: Southcentre Mall,
Shoppers Drug Mart

Marlborough: 60 Street NE and
Memorial Drive,
Shoppers Drug Mart

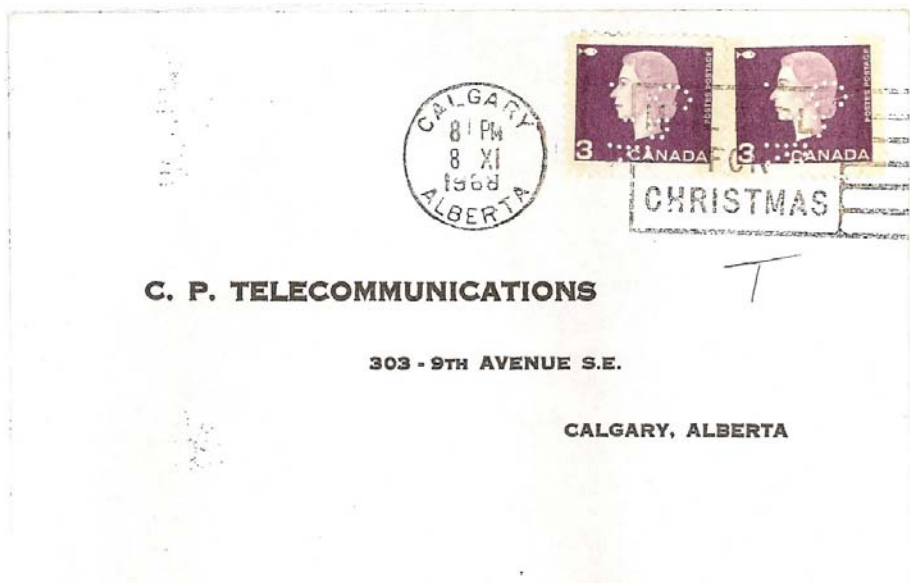


WHY COVERS?

by Jon Johnson

Collecting covers is basically the collecting of some aspect of postage stamps in use. They can be collected to show the use of a particular stamp, postal rate, postal cancel, postal cachet, addressee, return address, routing or transit, stationery, or a combination of the preceding. Primarily I find the story behind the covers interesting.

As with stamps, condition and scarcity are a factor in the pricing. On both the plus and minus side, there are few catalogues that give usable prices for covers. Covers are therefore priced by the dealer as to the value they think reasonable in order to sell the cover. If you are collecting some obscure postal cachet, it is possible to purchase a cover without the rarity of the desired marking pushing up the price. Once you have documented the cover's history, then there is the potential to obtain the increased value oneself, should one be willing to part with the item.

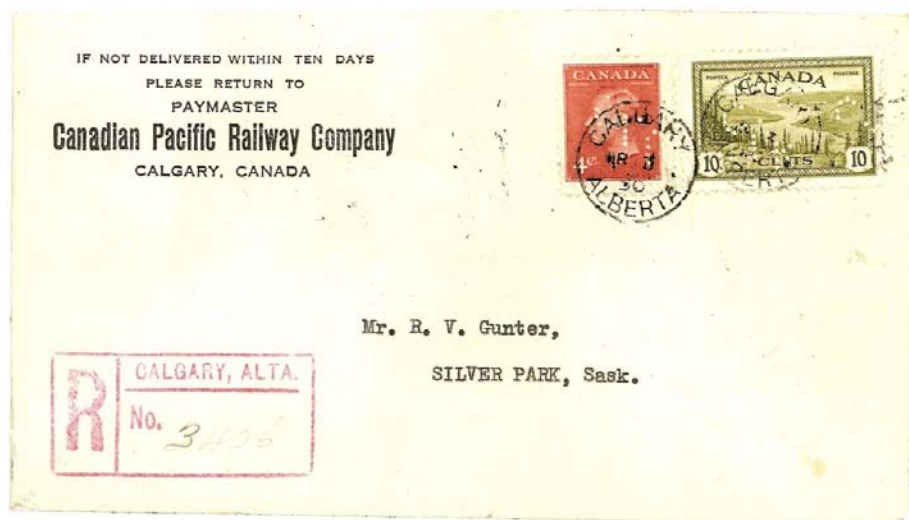


As an example of what I collect, the cover shown above is a preprinted SAE used by CP Telecommunications, probably for RSVP purposes. The stamps have the CPR Prairie Region perfin (perforated initials applied by the user), with Winnipeg tagging.



The enlargement at left gives a better view of the CPR perfin, with a code hole just below the Queen's eye.

The Winnipeg tagging was an experimental form of marking the stamp with fluorescent ink so that machines could spot them and sort the letter.



This cover is a 1950 registered envelope from the CPR paymaster in Calgary to Silver Park, Saskatchewan. It headed east on CPR train #13, was then transferred to train #3, and arrived the day after being posted. The stamps have the CPR perfins.

MEETING PROGRAMMES REPORT

by Penny Borrowman

Many thanks to all the members who enlivened our March general meeting with their presentations. This was the third multi-member presentation night, and all have been very well presented and received. Each presenter has brought some aspect of their collection or collecting for our interest and enjoyment. To thank these members for their time and effort, each has been presented with a coupon for \$10.00 off any purchase at the next Calgary stamp show. Any dealer or club table will accept these coupons at face value. This time, our special thanks to Mike, Nita, Norma, Pat, Peter, Penny, and Ray for showing us some of the many different items and ways there are to collect, and for sharing their stories of what made these things special.

Our next multi-member presentation night will be in the early fall, at our October meeting. This time we invite all members whose first names begin with the letters S through Z to bring an item or an aspect of their collection to share with the rest. Each person should expect to speak for 3 or 4 minutes, and be prepared later to answer questions and chat with interested collectors.

BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE

Paid-up CPS members who want to fill out their collection of CALGARY PHILATELIST can get back issues for free, subject to availability. We are out of most of the early issues, but you never know. If you are looking for back issues, drop a postcard or letter to the Editor at Box 6830, Calgary, T2P 2E7, stating which issues you need by whole number.

AS OTHERS SEE US

"I collected seals, franks, coins, minerals, shells, insects, and God knows what else. But by Jove, I can hardly stomach a grown man collecting stamps!"

Charles Darwin. Yes, that one!

CALTAPEX 2009

October 16 to 18, 2009

Kerby Centre, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW
ground floor, gymnasium

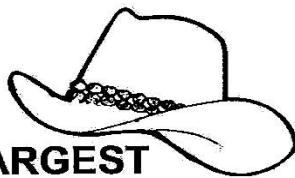
Friday	13h00 to 18h00 (note: afternoon opening!)
Saturday	10h00 to 17h00
Sunday	10h00 to 16h00

Lecture	Friday evening, by Chief Judge
Banquet	Saturday evening, details t.b.a.

Limited-edition show cover and personalized stamp celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Grey Cup in 2009 and Calgary's hosting of the game this year.

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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.

FOR SALE: Used Australian stamps. I have tens of thousands of them. 100 different only \$2, 200 different \$4, and I will pay the postage. Contact Jim at 485-6622 or jheath01@telus.net

WANTED: Russia used stamps prior to 1960 for exchange or ????. Phone John at 252-5230.

FOR SALE: Major collections of Australia, BNA, New Zealand, Britain, Scandinavia, Commonwealth, USA, and 5 or 6 other countries, at liquidation prices while they last. Call Joe at 277-7006.

FOR SALE: British colonies KGV to QEII, New Zealand and Australia, very reasonable. All mint, LH or NH. Phone Felix at 464-3252.

FOR SALE: USA mint stamp collection 1973-1994 Face value \$432.57; virtually complete. \$400.00 or best offer. Call Doug at 547-3838.

FOR SALE: Used stamps of Australia and New Zealand. Also have Canada mint both singles and plate blocks. Call Craig Allison at 281-3852.

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 jcjperfin@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: 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

WANTED: Owl stamps worldwide. Cash or trade. Call Pat at 238-3435.

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.

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.

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

COMMITTEES

Archives	Dale Speirs	701-0174
Auctions - regular	Doug Kollar	547-3838
- silent	Jim Senecal	547-7681
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Private Treaty books	Gerry Vader	293-0158
Programmes	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
Sergeant-At-Arms	Dave Russum	284-4775
Webmaster	Jan van Staden	285-1874

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2009

May	20	Auction
June	3	General meeting
	17	Auction
August	1	deadline for August bulletin
September	2	General meeting
	2	deadline for October bulletin
	16	Auction
October	7	General meeting
	16 to 18	CALTAPEX 2009
	21	Auction
November	4	General meeting
	4	deadline for December bulletin
	18	Auction
December	2	Christmas social

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 is at the Kerby Centre, ground floor, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW. Details from Jan Brookes at 251-1769.

SUNDAY BOURSE is at Palliser Community Centre, 2323 Palliser Drive SW, first Sundays 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.