

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 98

October 2009



In this issue: Jon Johnson discusses commercial SASEs, including this delightful example from a poultry hatchery. This cover would be a prize for topical collectors and postal historians alike. See page 4.

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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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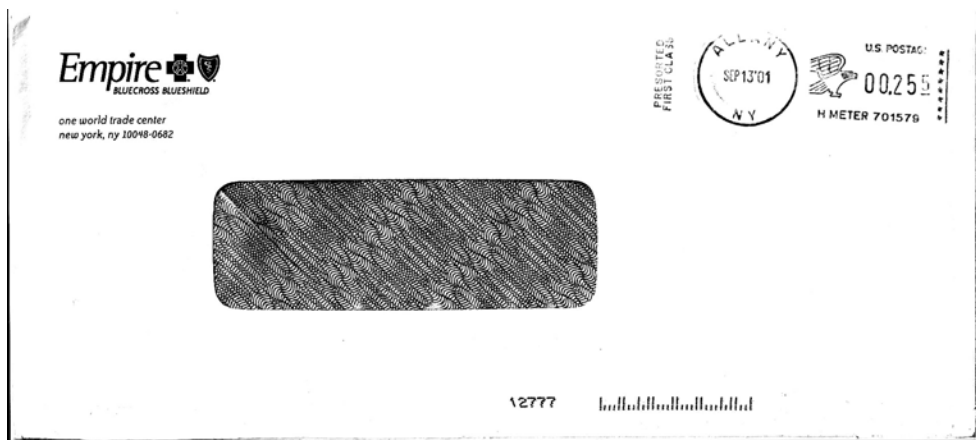
COMMITTEES - see page 15 for list of committee chairpersons

THE REST OF THE STORY

by Ron Tabbert

Chicago newscaster Paul Harvey used to have a segment of his broadcast dedicated to telling “the rest of the story” on various events. Stamp collecting has its share of such tales, but often they are only heard by collectors because of their interest. For instance, you may have heard about US Vice-President Dick Cheney accidentally hurting a friend when he thought he was shooting a quail. As a result of the incident, it was found he had failed to purchase the \$7 stamp that’s required to hunt quail. He assumed his general hunting license covered it, but as most hunters know, you often must also buy a stamp to hunt a specific species.

As odd as it may seem, the post office of the New York World Trade Center is still open. Years after the terrorist attack, mail still arrives addressed to people who worked there or companies that had offices there. The postmaster simply forwards some items, others are returned to the sender.



Commercial cover with return address of One World Trade Center and meter mark dated September 13, 2001, two days after the fall of the Twin Towers. The explanation is that the cover was mailed from a back-up site and the insurance company hadn't yet received new letterhead.

Sometimes circumstances get ahead of postal administrations and they have to change plans. A series of stamps was begun by the United Nations to honour past Secretaries General. But about the same time, Austrian Kurt Waldheim was accused of having worked with the Nazis in World War Two. So the series was cut short after the first issue.

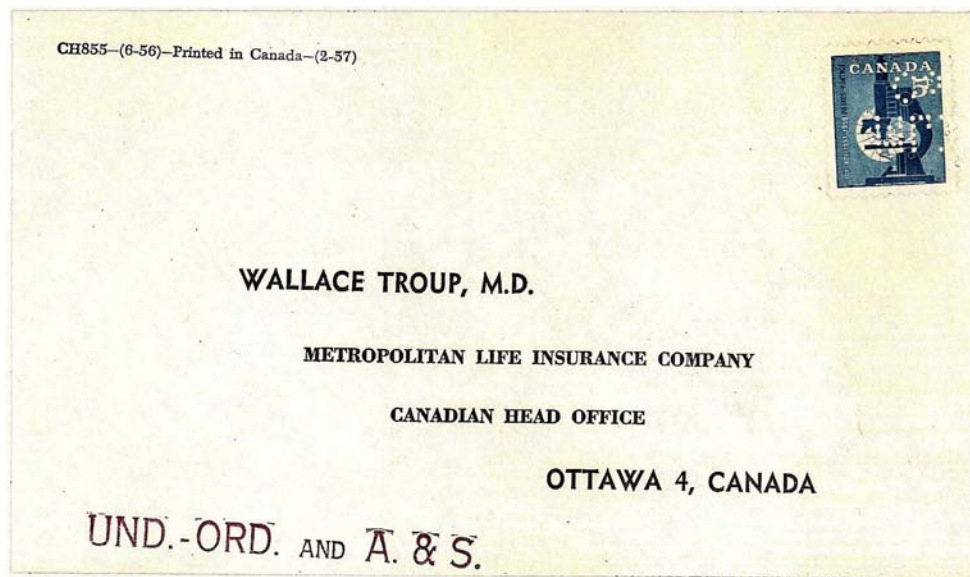
COMMERCIAL SASE

by Jon Johnson

The commercial self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) is a philatelic subject that I think has been sadly neglected. I do not know of a single collector who admits to collecting them. Surprisingly, for as scarce as they are, most are inexpensive. Naturally one could limit one's interest to a city, province, or country, depending on how far afield one wishes to go.

One of my favourite SASEs is the Fred W. Bray Limited illustrated business-reply envelope, shown on the front cover of this issue. The company promised to pay the return postage, in this case 7 cents, when the envelope was returned. The sender wished to have the envelope registered, so they paid the registration fee with postage stamps. Fred Bray was a hatchery supplying chicks to growers.

The cover shown below is an unused SASE for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. The stamp is perforated MLI/Co, as seen in the enlargement at right. In this case, the client did not return the requested documentation. The perforation of the stamp was to reduce improper use of company postage stamps.



CURRENT POSTMARKS OF CALGARY: PART 12

by Dale Speirs

Ownership Changes.



When a store with a retail postal outlet (RePO) changes hands, and it continues the RePO, the outlet number also changes. The Calgary chain of Super Drug Mart sold out a couple of years ago, and many of them were converted to Rexall stores, which I have previously documented. Some Super Drug Marts stayed as they were, but recently they began converting to the Paragon Pharmacy chain. The stores that had RePOs have therefore changed their postmarks.

Lakeview: shopping plaza at Crowchild Trail and 63 Avenue SW. As a Super Drug Mart RePO, the outlet number was #100447. As a new Paragon Pharmacy outlet, the number has been changed to #102011.



SPEIRS WINS GELDERT MEDAL FOR 2008

Rick Penko, President of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada has announced that Dale Speirs has been awarded the Geldert Medal for 2008. It is given annually for the best article in the CANADIAN PHILATELIST, journal of the society. Speirs was chosen the Geldert winner by the judges for a two-part article, "Secret Messages on Postcards."



CALTAPEX 2009

by Janice Brookes

Our show this year is focussing around our judge Tim Bartshe. He has offered to do a number of extras during his stay here in Calgary. Tim is providing our Court of Honour with a number of his award-winning exhibits, including his international award winner from Washington 2006. He has helped us to plan a Friday evening of collecting and exhibiting, combining several of his seminars into a fun evening for everyone, not just the exhibitors. Saturday evening he will be the main speaker at our banquet, and Sunday he will do the usual judge's critique.

Our cover for this year's show is of Lord Earl Grey and a personalized stamp of a football, honouring the centennial of the Grey Cup and of Calgary hosting the game here this year. The dealer bourse is lining up to be our biggest since the Royal, with a full room of dealers. All our regular activities are available, such as the youth table, private-treaty books, circuit books, and door prizes. There will be an auction on Saturday in the second-floor meeting room, starting at noon, with viewing until 14h00 and the auction to be called at 14h30. Payout will follow. The auction is open to the general public. We are using the rules of the auction as at our general meetings. One written bid buys the lot, and two written bids sends the lot to the called auction.

POSTCARDS WITH MICROWRITING

by Dale Speirs

Introduction.

The first postal card was issued by Austria in 1869, and other countries quickly followed. It wasn't long before users began gaming the system, and issues arose with messages that were libelous, written in secret code, obscene, and so forth. One sport was trying to jam as many words as possible on a postcard, and this article looks at reports of such cards.

The major difficulty in determining who produced the most densely written postcard lies with the failure of newspapers to cite what type and size of postcard was used. Obviously a larger postcard could hold more words. One has to assume that such newspaper references refer to writing on one side of the postcard only. Some reports state the number of letters or characters used rather than the number of words. Then too, someone who used short words could crowd more in than someone writing in the Johnsonian style with lots of latinate words. There were also people trying this with stamps; as an example, a university student in 1925 managed to get 600 words of Abraham Lincoln onto the back of a stamp, presumably a definitive [1].

Shorthand.

In the late 1800s, shorthand was cutting-edge technology (along with typewriters, carbon paper, and index cards). There were many enthusiasts who wanted to demonstrate their abilities at shorthand, and used postcards to do so. When the U.S. Post Office issued its first postal card in 1873, a Washington, D.C., man mailed to a New York publisher a postal card with 1,500 words written in shorthand [2]. In 1880, a German postcard was exhibited with 33,000 words of text on it in shorthand [3]. This was a publicity demonstration by the Rhenish and Westphalian Stenographic Society.

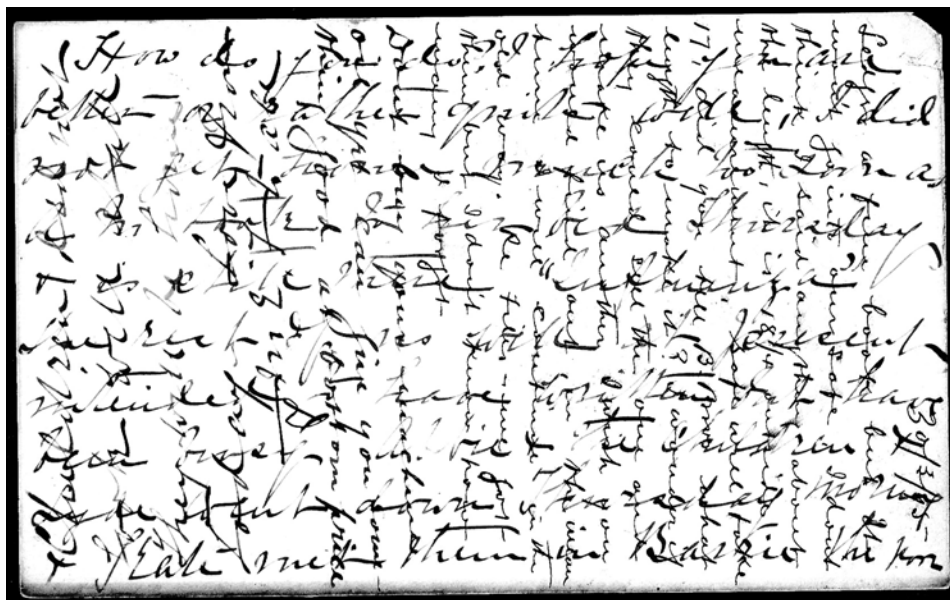
Regular Writing.

For regular text, the oldest reference I have found for postcards dates from 1890. An Augusta, Maine, man took twenty days to get 10,000 words on a postal card, using ordinary spectacles and pen [4]. The newspaper editor made it clear where he stood on such matters by heading the article "A great waste of energy", which I suppose could be applied to any aspect of postal history or philately. But that didn't stop anyone. In late 1924, an Italian professor sent to Queen Elena (a Montenegro ethnic who married the Italian king) a postcard with New Year's greetings in the form of an essay on the history and culture of Montenegro. The postcard had 11,000 words comprising 54,230 letters, making each word an average of five letters [5].

In 1930, a Moroccan mistakenly claimed a world record for fitting 5,151 words about the geography of Africa onto a postcard [6]. He wasn't even close to a record. It was said that he took two years to complete the task. At the same time he was making his claim, a Jewish man in Warsaw, Poland, put 11,367 words in Hebrew onto a postcard, which was presented to the library of Jerusalem University [7]. The record breaking continued the following year in 1931. A 70-year-old Geneva artist wrote 18,000 words on the history of Switzerland on a postcard. This was said to be about 100,000 letters, readable to the naked eye, making each word an average of five or six letters [8]. In Bhopal, India, a man wrote 61,800 characters (language not specified) on three-quarters of a postcard side [9].

Cross-Writing.

Cross-writing, where the message was written horizontally, then vertically, is not unknown but difficult to read, even when the two texts are in different colours of ink. I always wonder how the recipients ever managed to puzzle their way through such messages.



Message side of a cross-written 1895 postcard mailed in Ontario. Good luck in reading it.

References.

- 1] Anonymous (1925-01-06) Writes 600 words on postage stamp. NEW YORK TIMES, page 13
- 2] Anonymous (1873-05-02) The first postal card. NEW YORK TIMES, page 4
- 3] Anonymous (1880-04-13) An extraordinary postcard. THE TIMES (London), page 11
- 4] Anonymous (1890-07-13) A great waste of energy. NEW YORK TIMES, page 20
- 5] Anonymous (1925-01-03) 11,000 words on postcard. NEW YORK TIMES, page 16
- 6] Anonymous (1930-04-27) Wrote 5,151 words on postal card. NEW YORK TIMES, section 2, page 1
- 7] Anonymous (1930-04-12) Telegrams in brief. THE TIMES (London), page 11
- 8] Anonymous (1931-09-12) Swiss, 70, writes 18,000 words on postcard, setting a record. NEW YORK TIMES, page 4
- 9] Lal, Vinay (2002) OF CRICKET, GANDHI, AND GUINNESS. Published by Seagull Books, Calcutta.

GOLD IN THEM THAR HILLS

by Elizabeth Saunaranta



The gold rush up in the Yukon was based on alluvial gold, that is, gold that had been ground out of the bedrock by glaciers during the Ice Ages and buried in gravel deposits. Surprisingly, no one had been able to find the mother lode, the hard rock deposit from which the gold originated. Many companies have been searching over the past century. During this summer, it was announced by one mining company that they believed they had found the source. This will be a boon to the economy of Yukon.

Dawson City has never been shy in using postmarks to promote its history, and the postmark shown here is one of many it has issued over the

years. My copy is in blue ink.

CAPE SCHEDULE FOR 2009/2010

The Calgary Association of Philatelic Exhibitors is a support group for stamp collectors who are serious about exhibiting. Members range from international-gold winners to beginners just starting out. CAPE meets fourth Wednesdays at 19h00; for details, contact Jim Taylor at 238-3698. Their schedule for the next season is as below.

2009

September 23	Getting started with exhibiting. - time and concentration -telling a story - tentative title and plan - where to get more information - just do it!	Norma Nielson
October 16	CALTAPEX seminar Walkthrough at the frames	Walter Herdzig Tim Bartsche
October 28	Types of material to collect - what you own and what you want - where to get material - networking - arranging material	Janice Brookes
November 25	Classes for exhibiting, philatelic elements	Donna Trathen

2010

January 27	Organization - telling a story - chapters, headings, subheadings	Dave Russum
February 24	Presentation - paper types - mats and mounts - layout by frame - computer tips (fonts, etcetera)	Pat Prevey
March 24	Using a computer for design and layout	Dave Bartlet

April 28	Finalizing the title page and plan page	Jon Johnson
May 26	Entering a show - competitive or not? - entry form and fees - the synopsis - judges' critique - shipping and delivery	Jim Taylor

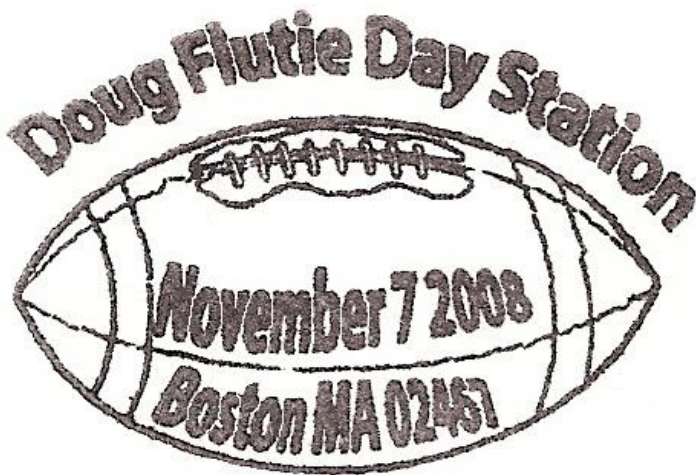
Starting in September, CAPE is changing locations to the boardroom upstairs at the Condon Building, 1609 - 14 Street SW, above Stampede City Stamps. Parking is free, in the second lot west of the building, off 16 Avenue (not the lot immediately adjacent to the building). Bus routes 2, 6, and 7 stop by the building.

CAPE is the perfect opportunity for the beginning exhibitor. Each new exhibitor will have a mentor and a plan for each meeting through the year. CAPE will also have a get-together with our judge Tim Bartshe at CALTAPEX on the Friday evening 18h00 after the show closes. We are planning to bring in Chinese food for the evening.

FOOTBALL POSTMARK

by Neil Maki

The theme for this year's CALTAPEX is the centennial of the Grey Cup. Long-time Calgary Stampeder fans will recall Doug Flutie, who played for the Stampeders a number of years. Last year he got a pictorial postmark from the USPS as below.



CALTAPEX 2009

October 16 to 18, 2009

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

Friday 13h00 to 18h00

Saturday 10h00 to 17h00

Sunday 10h00 to 16h00

Lecture Friday evening, by Chief Judge

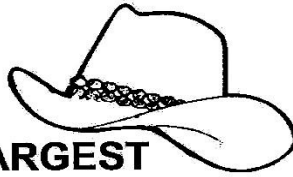
Banquet Saturday evening

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.

Court of Honour exhibits.

Club circuit books and private-treaty sales

Show set-up is 17h30 Thursday evening. The more people on hand for the set-up, the faster it goes. Please help out!



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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 many countries at liquidation prices while they last. Call John at 474-1212.

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

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

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

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

WANTED: Stamp show catalogues, Canadian and international shows. The older the better. Please contact 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: 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

COMMITTEES

Archives	Dale Speirs	701-0174
Auctions - regular	Doug Kollar	547-3838
- silent	Jim Senecal	547-7681
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MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2009

September	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

2010

January	6	General meeting
	6	deadline for February bulletin
	20	Auction
February	3	General meeting
	17	Auction

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 Jim Taylor at 238-3698.

CALGARY ASSOCIATION OF PHILATELIC EXHIBITORS meets fourth Wednesdays. For details, contact Jim Taylor at 238-3698.