

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 100

February 2010



In this issue:

Jon Johnson discusses privately printed airmail envelopes, such as this 1945 Winnipeg cover honouring Trans-Canada Airlines' first plane, a Lockheed Electra.

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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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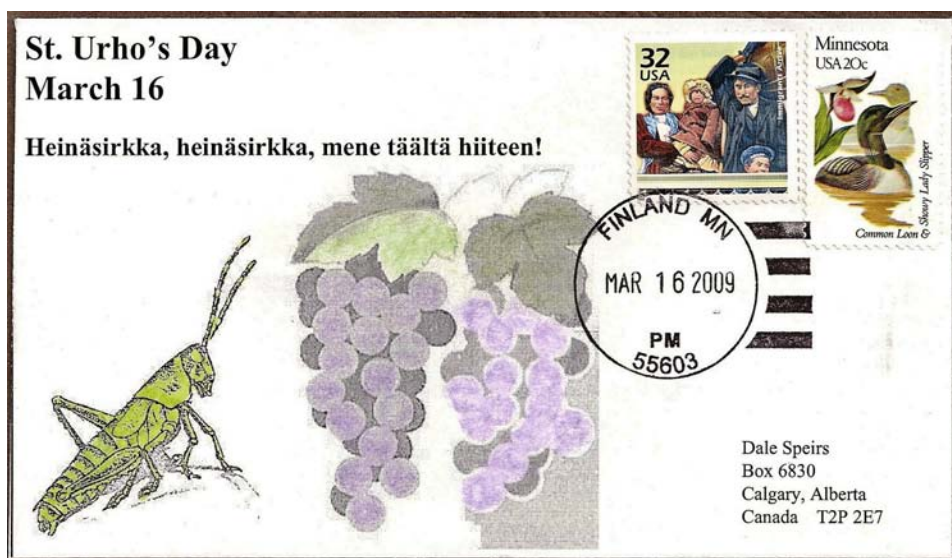
SAINT URHO'S DAY

by Dale Speirs

My mother's family was Finnish, and her side always celebrated St. Urho's Day on March 16, while everyone else was celebrating St. Patrick's Day on March 17. The Finnish holiday is relatively new, having been invented in 1956 by Richard Mattson, a Minnesota native of Finnish extraction. Finland is 81% Lutheran, and like most Protestant nations, does not have any sort of national day based on a saint as do the Irish. Mattson decided to remedy the situation in order to have an excuse to party, and invented St. Urho, the name coming from a Finnish word meaning hero or braveheart.

In the version accepted today, St. Urho banished a plague of grasshoppers from Finland who were destroying the grape crop. He shouted "*Heinäsirkka, heinäsirkka, mene täältä hiiteen!*", which translates as "Grasshopper, grasshopper, go from hence to Hell!", thus saving the crop. Wine, of course, is made from grapes, so one can guess how Finns celebrate the holiday.

My mother made St. Urho's Day cards to send to relatives, of which I still have some of the covers they were sent in. Since she sent them in advance of the holiday so they would get there on time, they are not postmarked March 16. I decided to remedy the situation and created covers for postmarking with the correct date. My mother's family homesteaded at Eckville, Alberta, which was colonized by Finns and Icelanders, but the town is named after its founder, an Irishman, Arthur Eckford, so the Finnish connection is not obvious. Instead I selected the town of Finland, Minnesota, appropriate for both the name and the origin of St. Urho's Day.



WHAT WILL THEY THINK OF NEXT?

by Ron Tabbert

In the 1880s, someone happened on the idea of commemorating national anniversaries, personages and events with stamps. In the 1950s, collectors gravitated to topics, and since then, it has grown exponentially. Consider Canada's bird and flower issues. Or the United States' recent 20 stamps a year on comics and cartoon characters.

Bhutan started the real craziness with three 1973 issues. The first was a stamp-size phonograph record that actually plays the national anthem, folk songs or recites Bhutanese history. The next was printed on gold foil, and the last showed mushrooms in 3-D.



There have been more reasonable, but nonetheless extreme ideas.

Holograms are at least a printed medium, and most major countries have at least tried them. Canada issued a hologram showing the space shuttle in 1992.

In 1976, ashes from an old Connecticut building were used in printing a USA Bicentennial envelope design. A British Battle of

Trafalgar set of stamps was printed with wood dust from Admiral Nelson's ship. Gibraltar embedded grit from "the Rock" in a 2002 stamp. 2008 saw a couple issues with the same concept. Aland included red granite dust in the ink of a stamp honouring a road. It was also the 300th anniversary of St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Since the granite was quarried on Guernsey, the stamp included powdered stone. Austria printed a stamp that actually contained Swarovsky crystals, a 2006 stamp actually contained meteorite dust, and in March 2008 a round, soccer-themed stamp was printed on the same polyurethane used to make soccer balls.

Switzerland has truly pushed the limits. In 2000 a factory was contracted to produce a six-by-five cm embroidered 5-franc self-adhesive stamp with typical soft blue flower and heart embroidery swirls. Austria copied the embroidery idea in 2008 with a 3.75 euro blue gentian flower stamp with only half the usual printing, 400,000. The Austrians out did themselves in 2004 with a 5-by-4 cm 5-franc wood stamp. The shaved pine has only a woodgrain design and value printed in white. On November 28, 2008, Portugal made a stamp from cork, highlighting that industry.

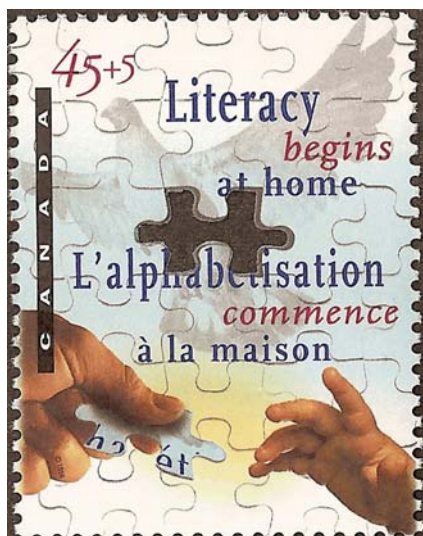
And when you think you've seen it all, last year the Netherlands issued a sheet of ten stamps embedded with flower seeds. Each stamp contained the seeds of the flower it depicted. So, plant with care.

2008 seems to have been a year of many printing innovations. On Nov. 6, Finland's snowflake Christmas stamp was printed on transparent film, so the background will be the colour of whatever envelope you use. Under ultraviolet light, Ukraine's dog set shows paw prints; and its clocks and Nature Reserve sets have clock faces and various flora and fauna that glow.

Bhutan's 2008 program included 2 CD-ROM stamps. They are a virtual visit to Bhutan, playing 8-minute documentaries, plus providing a hyperlink to www.BhutanToday.net One CD shows 5 kings, commemorate 100 yrs of monarchy history, and the other shows "In Harmony With Nature" sights and sounds of the natural environment.

On April 8, 2008, Singapore issued a \$5 pouch-shaped souvenir sheet with hand-applied beads distinctive to the Peranakan culture. It is part of a set featuring Peranakan decorative art in Singapore's Peranakan Museum that opened April 2007.

Canada has flirted with various shapes, personal postage and innovative printing, such as pearl and foil embossing, and metallic ink. A Literacy semi-postal had a puzzle-piece shaped hole punched in it. And with the latest Astronomy souvenir sheet, an overprint that glows under ultraviolet light.



PERSONALIZED AIRMAIL COVERS

by Jon Johnson

Creative stationers have come up with various styles of airmail envelopes for their clients. Below is one of the less obvious patriotic envelopes. The border is in Morse Code, alternating between red and blue. Dot dot dot dash is the letter V, frequently used as "V for Victory" during the war. Backward Vs are the letter B, so possibly the border means "Victory for Britain".



Trans-Canada Airlines was formed April 10, 1937, as a subsidiary of Canadian National Railways. The first new aircraft purchased by the airline was a Lockheed L-10a Electra, which was registered CF-TCA. Prior to going into service, TCA sent the new plane on a promotional tour across Canada. Although the head office was in Montreal, their training base where CF-TCA and four other Electras were based was Winnipeg. A Winnipeg stationer decided to use the image of CF-TCA on custom stationery for clients. On the front cover of this bulletin is one such illustrated envelope used in 1945 to Calgary.

CF-TCA was transferred to the RCAF in 1939 for use at Camp Borden Flying Instructors School. The plane was sold in 1941 and used by various owners. It made a belly landing once and had to be rebuilt. In 1967 it made a round-the-world trip to commemorate Amelia Earhart's failed attempt. In 1968, Air Canada purchased the plane and donated it to the Canadian Aviation Museum in Ottawa.

TOP TEN PEEVES OF A PHILATELIST

by Gordon Demke

Late night talk show hosts have popularized the “Top Ten Lists”, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation has its list of “Ten Most Wanted Fugitives”. Here is my list of ten pet peeves, in no particular order. Perhaps these are also among your minor annoyances.

1. The dealer’s stock is out of order because customers looking through it didn’t re-file the items in correct order. Of course you would never be guilty of this; it must be someone else.
2. The kiloware you have purchased contains stamps with the perforations trimmed off. The well-intentioned donor of the stamps has been too zealous in their attempt to reduce excessive paper, reduce weight and add value for the collector. It is always the high value definitives or those more difficult to find commemoratives that suffer this fate.
3. Self-adhesive postage stamps are not among my favorites. They are difficult to soak off envelopes and hard to handle; there always seems to be residue adhesive that sticks to everything.
4. New stamp hinges are just not like the old ones. The old green pre-folded hinges could be removed much more easily than some of the newer brands. A friend recently passed on to me his stamp collection consisting of an album, stock book and a box of odds and ends. The most valuable item was a package of “Dennison Prefolded Stamps Hinges” Pack #48-064. The price sticker reads “Woolco 47¢”. A package of these hinges is currently listed on e-Bay for a “buy it now price” of \$19.06. Need I say more?



5. Thins. Wouldn't you know it. That special stamp you have been seeking and just found has been thinned from an improperly removed hinge. It is even worse when you are the perpetrator of this vandalism. Why didn't I just leave the hinge on so that it will catch every time I handle the stamp?
6. Eraser bits in the 104 and 107 cards. I use these cards to sort my acquisitions and write the catalogue number and other pertinent information on the card in pencil. I erase the information when I wish to re-use the card. The eraser bits end up everywhere and it is a particular annoyance when they end up under the card window. Have you ever tried removing the eraser crumbs with tongs? I have found the Staedtler Mars Plastic latex free eraser to work well.
7. Information written in pencil on the reverse side of the stamp. Thankfully, sometimes the script is very small. Other times it literally covers the entire stamp area: large font, Scott Catalogue number, Michel Catalogue number, and catalogue value.
8. Stamps improperly soaked off paper or simply removed by a means unknown to me with much of the envelope's paper still adhered to the reverse side of the stamp. Maybe it has been steamed, removed to soon during soaking, or simply peeled off the envelope.
9. Inaccurate or incomplete descriptions of stamps. Fortunately this does not happen often. It is nice to know that the mint stamp you are viewing has no gum (NG).
10. Your spouse saying "Are you working on your stamps again?" This is a purely rhetorical question as it is quite obvious what you are doing!

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL AND ANNUAL AWARDS

December 2 was the annual Christmas party, with about 50 people turning out. Free food and wine, conversation, award presentations, and a fun quiz were the events of the evening. In short, a good time was had by all.

The awards presentation was compered by Jim Taylor. The Founders' Award for contributions to the club in the previous season was presented to Peter Fleck. The E.G. Mason Award for long service to the club was presented to Gordon Hill, who was first elected to a position in 1953 and many times since. The 2009 Author of the Year Award went to Jon Johnson. Congratulations to all ! (Photos on page 10.)

CUMULATIVE CPS AWARDS LIST

Author of the Year

This award is for the best article(s) published in the club bulletin during the given calendar year.

1990 - Mirko Zatka	1999 - Dinu Matei
1991 - Georg Gerlach	2000 - Hugh Delaney
1992 - Perry Holinshead	2001 - Penny Borrowman
1993 - Jim Karr	2002 - Patricia Prevey
1994 - Bob Monilaws	2003 - Jim Taylor
1995 - Ed Harris	2004 - Alexander Malychy
1996 - Phyllis Weston	2005 - Steve Davis
1997 - no award	2006 to 2008 - no award
1998 - Jan Grasmeyer	2009 - Jon Johnson

Founders' Award

Awarded annually to a member who has contributed the most during the preceding season to the Calgary Philatelic Society.

1973 - Jim Sadler	1975 - Tom Lemon
1974 - Ken Ford	1976 - Walter Jackson
1977 to 1980 - used as a show award	
1980/81 - Don Fraser	1995/96 - Bob Hoffmann
1981/82 - Keith Brown	1996/97 - Isobel Attrell
1982/83 - Al Munro	1997/98 - Minaz Ramji
1983/84 - Leanna Johnson	1998/99 - Andy Puczeko
1984/85 - John Jarabek	1999/2000 - Walter Herdzik
1985/86 - Guy Boissonneault	2000/01 - Janice Brookes
1986/87 - Dale Speirs	2001/02 - Gerry Vader
1987/88 - no award	2002/03 - Marg Hunt
1988/89 - Greg Lang	2003/04 - Jim Senecal
1989/90 - Mike McPhail	2004/05 - Dwayne Miner
1990/91 - Doug Kollar	2005/06 - Don Wilson
1991/92 - Perry Holinshead	2006/07 - Donna Trathen and Norma Nielson
1992/93 - no award	2007/08 - Dave Russum
1993/94 - Penny Borrowman	2008/09 - Peter Fleck
1994/95 - Ernie Bell	

Dr. Edward G. Mason Award

Given to an individual member who displayed long service and demonstrated exemplary conduct and activity on behalf of the Society and the hobby. Recipient cannot be a Life Member.

2005 - Julius Szekrenyes

2006 - Linda Kot

2007 - Gerry Vader

2008 - Dwayne Miner

2009 - Gordon Hill



Top left: Gordon Hill receives Mason Award from Jim Taylor.

Bottom left: Peter Fleck receives Founders' Award from Jim Taylor.

Bottom right: Jon Johnson with his Author of the Year Award.



HUTT RIVER, AUSTRALIA

by Patricia Prevey

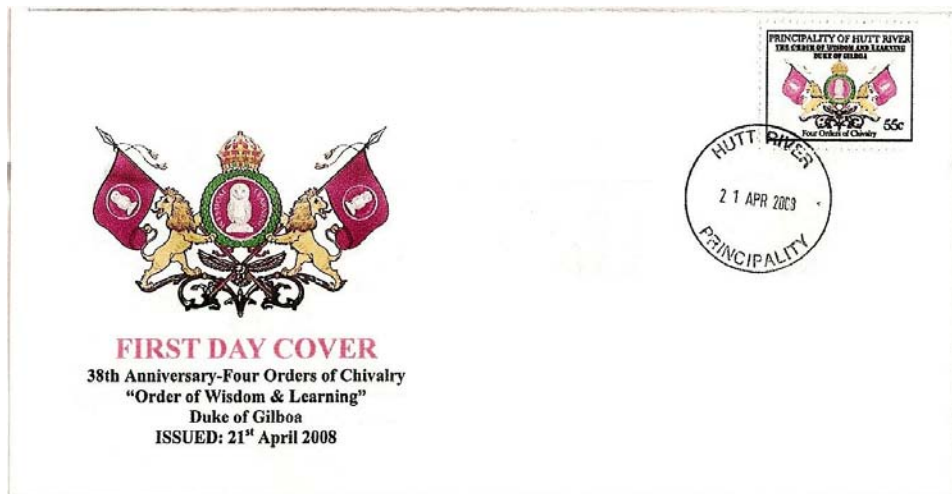
The history of Hutt River Province is the result of a quarrel with the Governor of Western Australia over wheat production quotas by Leonard Casley. He had purchased a large wheat farm near Geraldton, WA, in the 1960s. A former mathematician and physicist who worked for NASA in the 1950s, he has a star named in his honour. Known as a keen bush lawyer, he is also an advocate of hermeticism, on which he has published several papers. He is married and has seven adult children. Casley, together with five other large wheat growers in Hutt River, lodged a claim for \$52 million in lost revenue from wheat sales in the belief that the claim would force a revision of the quota. It did not.

Two weeks later, Casley and his associates resorted to a British law which they felt allowed them to secede and declare their independence from Australia. Threatened with prosecution, Casley styled himself “His Royal Highness Prince Leonard” to take advantage of a Commonwealth of Australia law which states that a monarch could not only not be charged but that anyone interfering with his duties could be charged with treason. Although this law has since been changed, back in 1969 the government had two years to respond and failed to do so. This failure gave Hutt River Province de facto legal status on April 21, 1972. In 1977, Australia demanded payment of taxes. Casley refused and on December 2, 1977, declared war on Australia. Knowing that he could never win, he ceased hostilities several days later and the matter remains at a standstill.

Hutt River is now the Principality of Hutt River. The first and current sovereign is HRH Prince Leonard. The population is approximately 20,000 inhabitants, mainly the aboriginal Nandha people, and includes citizens living abroad. Naturalization can be acquired on request, subject to the acceptance of Prince Leonard. Dual citizenship is recognized. Hereditary Prince is his oldest son, Prince Ian. Currently there is a Prime Minister (Prince Ian), Deputy P.M., Treasurer (Prince Richard), Minister of Foreign Affairs (Prince Wayne), Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, and a Secretary of State. It has its own Coat of Arms, National Anthem, and Defense Forces. It has its own currency, the Hutt River dollar (at parity with the Australian dollar), and its own tax system, passport, and consular services. The official languages are English, French, and Esperanto.

The Hutt River Postal Service was established to provide the necessary service of mail delivery within the Principality. Prince Ian is the Minister for Postal Services. The first stamps were issued November 15, 1973, showing five different wildflowers of the area. To date, stamp issues number in excess of fifty different sets, totalling more than 220 individual stamps.

In 1976, Australia Post refused to handle Hutt River mail, forcing it to be redirected via Canada. Today, Hutt River is still not recognized by Australia or any other country. However its stamps, once affixed to mail, go directly through international mail to any addressed destination. Further information is available at www.principality-hutt-river.org/gov/post, or by writing to Hutt River Postal Service, Principality of Hutt River, Via Northampton, Western Australia 6535.

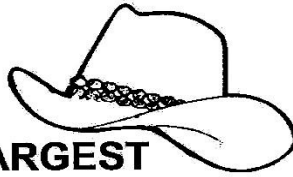


PHILATELIC BOOK AVAILABILITY

by Roy Hauer

BLUE MAURITIUS, by Helen Morgan, is a book about that famous stamp, published in Britain in 2006 (American edition in 2008). This is one of the best philatelic books I have read and I recommend it to anyone regardless of your level of philatelic expertise.

The Calgary Public Library now has available three copies for circulation. It is also available at Chapters.Indigo.ca or Amazon.ca, as either hardcover or paperback. As well, don't forget that the CPL has Scott, Gibbons, and Unitrade catalogues in circulation. The Central branch downtown has non-circulating copies of these catalogues in the Reference section on the ground floor.



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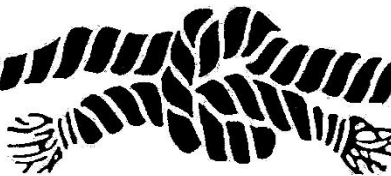
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NOTE TO INTERNET VIEWERS: Unless stated otherwise, telephone numbers are area code 403. Alberta is on Mountain Time. Any advertiser can be reached through the CPS e-mail at calphilso@shaw.ca, but please allow time for forwarding to offline members.

FOR SALE: Large accumulation used off-paper, mostly pre-1990s commemoratives. Canada, USA, GB, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and kiloware. Phone Roland 243-1637 or decaenr@shaw.ca

FOR SALE: Extensive collection of postmarks for British Columbia (five albums, about 1,000 covers) and Manitoba (four albums, about 600 covers). Phone Al at 282-1030 or e-mail dorandal@shaw.ca

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: 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.

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

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

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. Also Calgary Stampede philatelic memorabilia. 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. Phone Jan at 251-1769.

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

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.

FOR SALE: various QE2 Canada plate block sets between Scott #727 and #1070, various QV to KGV Canada VFNH singles and pairs between Scott #51 and #300. Contact Les at 278-3511.

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MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2010

January	20	Auction
February	3 17	General meeting Auction
March	3 3 17	General meeting deadline for April bulletin Auction
April	7 21 24 and 25	General meeting Auction Spring Stamp Show
May	5 5 19	General meeting deadline for June bulletin Auction
June	2 16	Election meeting Auction
August	1	deadline for September bulletin
September	1 15	General meeting Auction
October	6 15 to 17	General meeting CALTAPEX

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.

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.

SPRING STAMP SHOW and CALTAPEX are at the Kerby Centre, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW, in the ground floor gymnasium. Details from Janice Brookes at 251-1769.