

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 101

April 2010



In this issue: Gordon Demke looks at the Bauhaus movement of architecture and crafts. Every one of us has been inside a Bauhaus-style building at one time or another, and it has been an international standard for decades. The East German stamps shown above, released in May 1980, depict examples of Bauhaus architecture.

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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

BAUHAUS STAMPS OF GERMANY

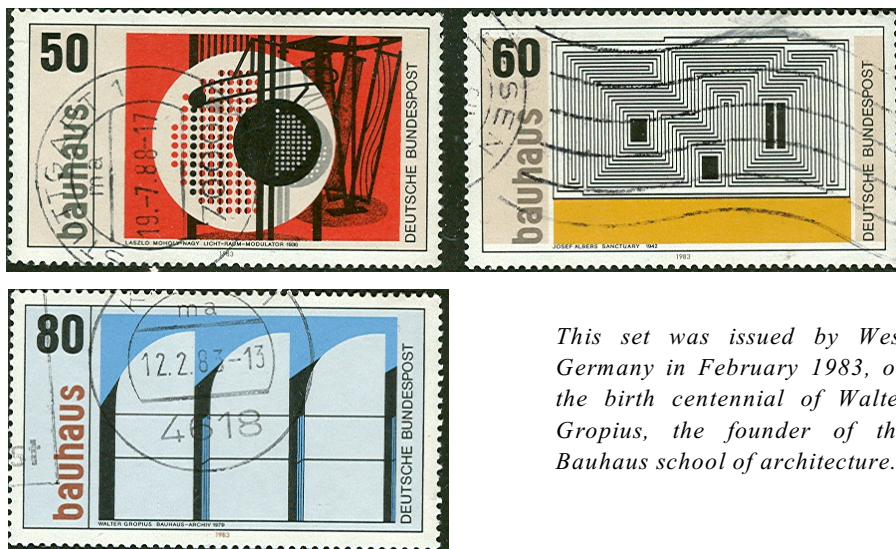
by Gordon Demke

It is interesting how seemingly diverse experiences can be linked by a postage stamp. A number of years ago I was editing an art history term paper for my daughter. The theme of her paper was the controversy in the visual arts between the fine arts such as

painting and the crafts such as ceramics. There are opposing schools of thought as to whether crafts should be included in the arts. Several years later while visiting Europe, I had the opportunity to see the Bauhaus (pronounced “bou hous”) in Dessau, Germany (shown in photo at left).



Bauhaus, literally means “house for building” and was a school made famous by its approach to design. The Bauhaus was originally founded in 1919 in the city of Weimar by the architect Walter Gropius. The school existed in Weimar from 1919 to 1925, in Dessau from 1925 to 1932, and in Berlin from 1932 to 1933, after which it ceased under pressure from the Nazi regime. Recently, I came across a number of very striking German postage stamps commemorating Bauhaus design. The radically simplified forms of the buildings and objects depicted by the stamps immediately grab one’s attention. The stamps aroused my interest in the subject of Bauhaus, and led to the following findings.



This set was issued by West Germany in February 1983, on the birth centennial of Walter Gropius, the founder of the Bauhaus school of architecture.

Firstly, Bauhaus was a school of design that combined crafts and the fine arts. *“It was founded with the idea of creating a ‘total’ work of art in which all arts, including architecture would eventually be brought together.”* [1] Its leaders believed that industry, everyday life, and abstract art could be merged in architecture and design. Thus, architects, craftsmen and artists were assembled to teach design, train artists to work with industry, and to create industrial products and buildings. The goal of Bauhaus was the creation of a collective world of art in which no barriers existed between the structural and the decorative arts. Artists and architects would work together towards the great goal of the building of the future. [2] In the Bauhaus school’s first manifesto, Gropius wrote: *“Today the arts exist in isolation . . . Let us then create a new guild of craftsmen, without the class distinctions that raise an arrogant barrier between craftsman and artist. Together let us desire, conceive and create the new structure of the future, which will embrace architecture and sculpture and painting in one unity . . .”* [3]. The concept reportedly drew upon the lodges of the Middle Ages, in which stone masons and designers resided together as they worked on mediaeval cathedrals.

Secondly, Bauhaus design is described by terms such as austere, purposeful, stark cubic simplicity, rationality and functionality. *“Bauhaus has been synonymous with rationalized, sharp-edge, machine-based style.”* [3], p.192. These characteristics are in keeping with the view held by Bauhaus leaders that art should meet the needs of society and there should be no distinction between form and function. Also known as International Style, Bauhaus is characterized by the absence of ornamentation and by harmony between the function of an object or building and its design. [1] The Bauhaus in Dessau exemplifies the ideals of Bauhaus design. The steel, concrete and glass structure with a flat roof “was designed as a polemical metaphor of collaboration with industry”. [3], p. 195. The school’s mandate was to focus on practical issues: mass housing, industrial design, typography, layout, photography and the development of prototypes suitable for the mass production of things in daily use. [3]



Above: Germany, 1997

At left: Germany, 2002

Thirdly, “*the Bauhaus style became one of the most influential currents in Modernist architecture and modern design. The Bauhaus had a profound influence upon subsequent developments in art, architecture, graphic design, interior design, industrial design, and typography.*” [1] It is ironic that opposition to Bauhaus by the Nazi regime led to its proliferation in other parts of the world, notably Western Europe, the United States, Canada and Israel. Hughes states that no other art or design school in our century exerted a comparable influence on European thought. [3] It is noteworthy that when the new autobahn opened in Germany in 1935 after the demise of the Bauhaus, many of its bridges and service stations offered examples of modernism. [1]

References.

- [1] Anonymous (2009) Bauhaus. WIKIPEDIA, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bauhaus>
- [2] Honour, Hugh, and John Fleming (2002) THE VISUAL ARTS: A HISTORY, Published by Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. Sixth edition, pages 831-833, 835, 842.
- [3] Hughes, Robert (1991) THE SHOCK OF THE NEW: ART AND THE CENTURY OF CHANGE, Published by Thames & Hudson Ltd., London. Pages 192-200.

SPRING STAMP BOURSE

The Spring Stamp Bourse will be held on the weekend of April 24 and 25, in the Kerby Centre on the ground floor. The show is open Saturday 10h00 to 17h00 and Sunday 10h00 to 16h00. There will be an auction on the Saturday. Details from Janice Brookes at 251-1769.

CAPE SCHEDULE FOR 2010

The Calgary Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (CAPE) 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; for details, contact Jim Taylor at 238-3698. Their 2010 schedule is as below.

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	Jim Taylor

MILITARY HOSPITALS IN CALGARY

by Jon Johnson

Calgary has had three military hospitals. The best known, and recently demolished, was the Col. Belcher hospital at 1213 - 4 Street SW. Lesser known is the Ogden Military Convalescent Hospital. The building at 6808 Ogden Road SE was built by the Calgary Brewing and Malting Co. in 1913 as the Ogden Hotel. It was donated to the Canadian Red Cross Society in 1915 as a temporary military convalescent hospital. The hospital closed in 1919 and the building reverted to a hotel. In 1935, the hotel was sold and it became a single men's hostel. In 1970, it was converted to retail and apartments, called the Alyth Lodge.

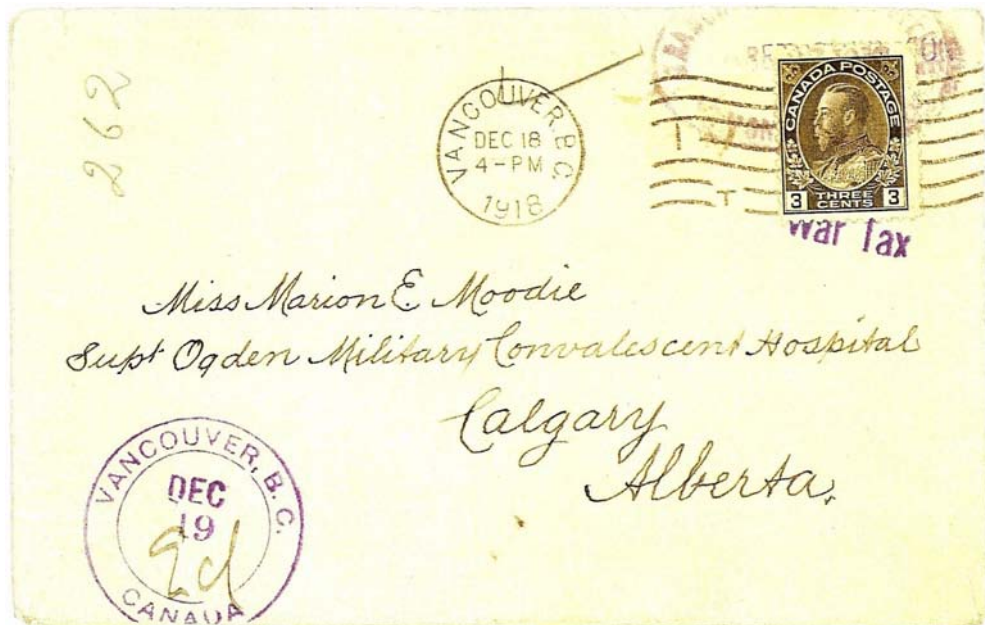


Figure 1: A letter to the Ogden Hotel qua Military Convalescent Hospital.

The cover in Figure 1 is addressed to Miss Marion Moodie, Superintendent, Ogden Military Convalescent Hospital. It was mailed at Vancouver without postage on December 18, 1918. The letter was stopped in Vancouver the following day, and forwarded to the Vancouver Dead Letter Office the same day, per cachet on back and where "Returned for Postage" and "War Tax" were added. The writer could not be traced so the envelope was sent to the Edmonton Dead Letter Office, arriving on December 24. A notice would have been sent to Miss Moodie for the 3 cents unpaid. With receipt of the 3 cents, the postage was added overtop the markings, cancelled with the Edmonton DLO cachet on December 27, and forwarded to Calgary.

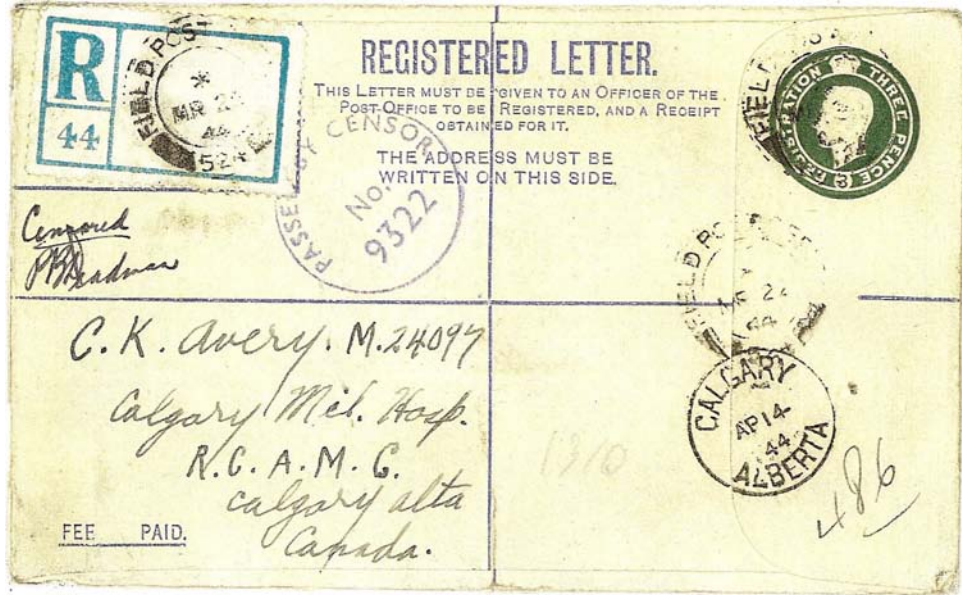


Figure 2: Cover sent Calgary Military Hospital.

In July 1941, the federal government purchased the Patrick Burns manor house at 510 - 13 Avenue SW for the Calgary Military Hospital. In 1943, the Col. Belcher Hospital was completed across the street. The mansion was demolished in 1956 to provide access to a new entrance at the hospital. Figure 2 shows a registered cover from Field Post Office 524 to Calgary Military Hospital, posted on March 22, 1944. At that time, FPO 524 was in Ortona, Italy, and closed five days later for a move to France. The envelope was censored twice, signed by a Unit officer and with a Passed by Censor 9322. Two days later, on the back, a Base Army Post Office 6 cachet was applied. The envelope passed through Ottawa on April 11, 1944, and arrived in Calgary on April 15.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Isobel Attrell, knowing that her time was coming, stepped down as Membership Chairwoman a month before her death. Her place was taken by Julius Szekrenyes, who can be reached at 282-7982 or via e-mail at: juliusz@shaw.ca
Please keep Julius informed of any address changes.

WHY IS A HOBBY?

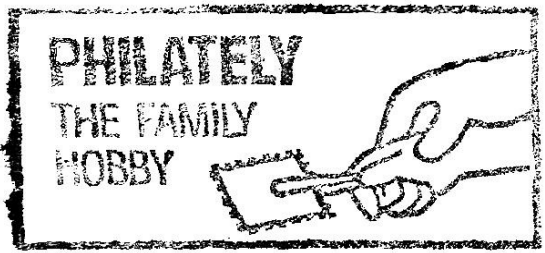
by Ron Tabbert

Being a bit of a philosopher, probably a requirement as well as hazard of my preaching profession, I can't help but marvel at the different perspectives, the enthusiasm and the varied interests of the folks at our stamp club meetings. The hobby provides a needed element to their life, expressing many of its frustrations and aspirations. I suspect the same is evident at any gathering of enthusiasts in our community: car buffs, quilters, fishermen, hang gliders, painters, snowboarders, collectors of rocks, salt shakers, barbed wire and more.

Non-collectors sometimes portray those with an interest in stamps as a bit eccentric. If movies want to portray someone as a bit "off," they'll list stamp collecting as one of his interests. Thriller author Lawrence Sanders, in his best-seller *MCNALLY'S SECRET*, has his private detective hero telling a female stamp dealer, "*I have known several stamp dealers..., and without exception they have been old crotchety gentlemen.*" Yet, there is a hidden truth in why people treasure their hobbies, and almost everyone gets in the act, whether it's tools, model trains, china cups or shopping channel trinkets. (We're not descended from monkeys; we're descended from packrats.) With all my stamp albums, files and books, someone will have a great wiener roast after my funeral.

But they serve a purpose for now. Is the thrill of opening a new box of stamps to paw through any different than curiously lifting the hood of a new roadster or creating a new cross stitch pattern? Among the odds and sods in my files is a quote by Anatole France who compared collectors to children building sand castles which will be washed away with the next tide. The sea carries off the heaps of sand, and the auctioneers disperse the collections; and yet there are no better pleasures than the building of heaps of sand at ten years of age and collections at sixty. Nothing of all we erect will remain, in the end; and a love for collecting is no more vain and useless than other passions are. I'm not sure Sigmund Freud, the famous psychoanalyst, was thinking about collectors particularly, but, in his rough, too-heavy style, he says "*we all need a break from life*". Life as we find it is too hard for us, it entails too much pain, too many disappointments, impossible tasks. We cannot do without palliative remedies, powerful diversions of interest which lead us to care little about misery.

R. Sherwood Carlson put it more briefly, "*Remember, it's always better to have perforated stamps than perforated ulcers.*" One of the most famous stamp collectors, author Ayn Rand, compares collecting to a career: A collector is not a passive spectator, but an active, personal agent in a cumulative drive. He cannot stand still: an album page without fresh additions becomes a reproach, an almost irresistible call to embark on a new quest. It is not the place for whims, it is not a world for those who like the chaos of undeniable, shifting, whirling, drippy emotions. It is a world for orderly, rational minds.



A quote by E. G. Cauble, Jr. written in his homemade beginner's stamp album in 1934, is the frontispiece in my Canada album. The wisdom of his words seem to suggest he was not a young man when he started collecting. He wrote: "*A stamp album, truly judged, is but a book of windows through which the owner looks upon the universe and all its works, the Creator and his creations, men and their aspirations. Year by year, the pages fill, the windows are multiplied and the vision widened. And when at last the final specimen is entered, a stranger, coming upon the uncompleted volume, may say, 'here labored a brother who found the universe fascinating, who had pleasure in studying life and kept his heart open to beauty and to truth in all their lovely and gracious forms. Patient and studious was his mind, placid and orderly his temperament, ardent and enthusiastic his soul. He was not merely an animated clog empty of dreams. He was indeed, a man who was touched with the clarity of God, and looking on life, found it good.'*"

OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY GATHERING

When the Olympic torch was relayed through Calgary on January 18, en route to the 2010 Vancouver Winter Games, part of the route went past the front door of Dwayne Miner's stamp shop in the Condon Building on the corner of 14 Street SW and 17 Avenue. The Condon family are of Greek descent and for such an auspicious occasion they hosted a party in the building for their tenants and sundry others. At a prior CPS club meeting, Dwayne invited CPS members to attend as part of the sundry others, and about twenty did so. After everyone was sated on souvlaki, we went outside to watch the relay runner carry the torch past. We got a bonus; the torch bearer for our segment of the route was none other than Bearcat Murray, the well-remembered and now retired trainer for the Calgary Flames hockey team. There was a good crowd of spectators lining the sidewalks all the way along the route, and philatelists who came out for the party had a wonderful time. Many thanks to the Condon family and Dwayne Miner for what proved to be a memorable evening.

CURRENT POSTMARKS OF CALGARY: PART 14

by Dale Speirs

I drive all over the city in my day job and constantly keep my eyes open along the way to see if there are any changes to Retail Postal Outlets (RePOs). However, I can't go up every suburban road, so I appreciate the help of other philatelists who have been letting me know of new, closed, or changed RePOs. Thanks to each of you who have kept me informed.

New RePOs.



University Heights: Uxbridge Drive and Unwin Road NW. This is a Paragon Pharmacy, previously a Shoppers Drug Mart that did not have a RePO. The West Hillhurst RePO at the bottom of the hill formerly served this area but closed a week earlier. The clerk at this new RePO was very inexperienced. I visited this site on November 5 but it wasn't until I got back to the car that I noticed he had cancelled it December 5. The postmark gets its name because the RePO is two blocks west of McMahon Stadium.

Cranston: Cranberry Road SE and Cranston Avenue, Sobeys.
Not to be confused with a another RePO at the north end of the suburb in a Mac's Convenience Store, called Cranston.



Another inexperienced clerk; I had to explain to her what a hand cancel was.

Closed RePOs.

Bankview: 14 Street NW and 26 Avenue. This was formerly a 7-Eleven, which closed for major renovations. It has now re-opened but as an Esso station with no 7-Eleven or RePO, so this is a permanent closure.

New Postmarks.

Bowness: Bowness Road and 63 Street NW, Bowness Drug. They have finally got a new round self-inker cancel, and the old rectangle has been retired.



Willow Park: Southcentre Mall, Shoppers Drug Mart. This was previously a round postmark with no outlet name in it. The new one does have a name but instead of the logical Southcentre name, it uses the name South Central. This is technically correct since the mall fronts onto Macleod Trail which divides the southeast and southwest quadrants of Calgary, but it is not an obvious name to the general public.

IN MEMORIAM: ISOBEL ATTRELL

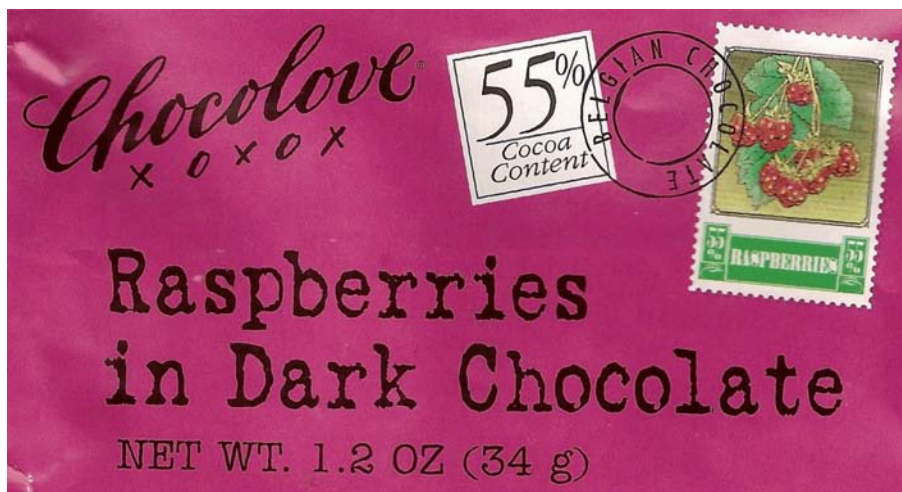
Isobel died on February 19, 2010, after a long battle with cancer. She was predeceased by her husband Ken nine years ago, and is survived by her five children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Our condolences to her family. At the CPS March general meeting, those present observed one minute's silence in her memory.

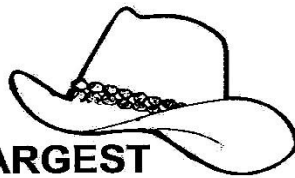
Isobel was the first female CPS President, serving 1996 to 1997. Other positions she held were Vice-President 1995 to 1996, Secretary 1999 to 2000, and had been Membership Chairwoman for many years up to her death. She also served behind the scenes in many capacities, such as auction assistant and looking after the reception table at shows. Isobel was awarded an Honourary Life Membership in 2002, and won the Founders' Award for the 1996/97 season.

CHOCOLATE CINDERELLAS

by Elizabeth Saunaranta

Chapters/Indigo keep small racks of premium chocolate bars next to the cash registers, as an impulse buy for book lovers who want something to munch on while reading. Recently they had Chocolove bars, small bite-sized (but over-priced) chocolate bars produced by a Colorado company. The wrappers were made up to look like exotic covers with faux stamps.





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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: 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.

FOR SALE: Large collection Ontario postal history in two binders plus books and maps, two albums of Ontario postcards, five binders B.C. postmarks plus four books, four binders of Manitoba postmarks plus two books, set of PHSC Journals 1999-2008, Newfoundland Specialized catalogue, album of Canadian postcards, and four volume Canadian stamp collection. Contact Al at 282-1030 or dorandal@shaw.ca

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: 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.

COMMITTEES

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MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2010

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

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 BOURSE and CALTAPEX will be held at the Kerby Centre, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW, in the ground floor gymnasium.