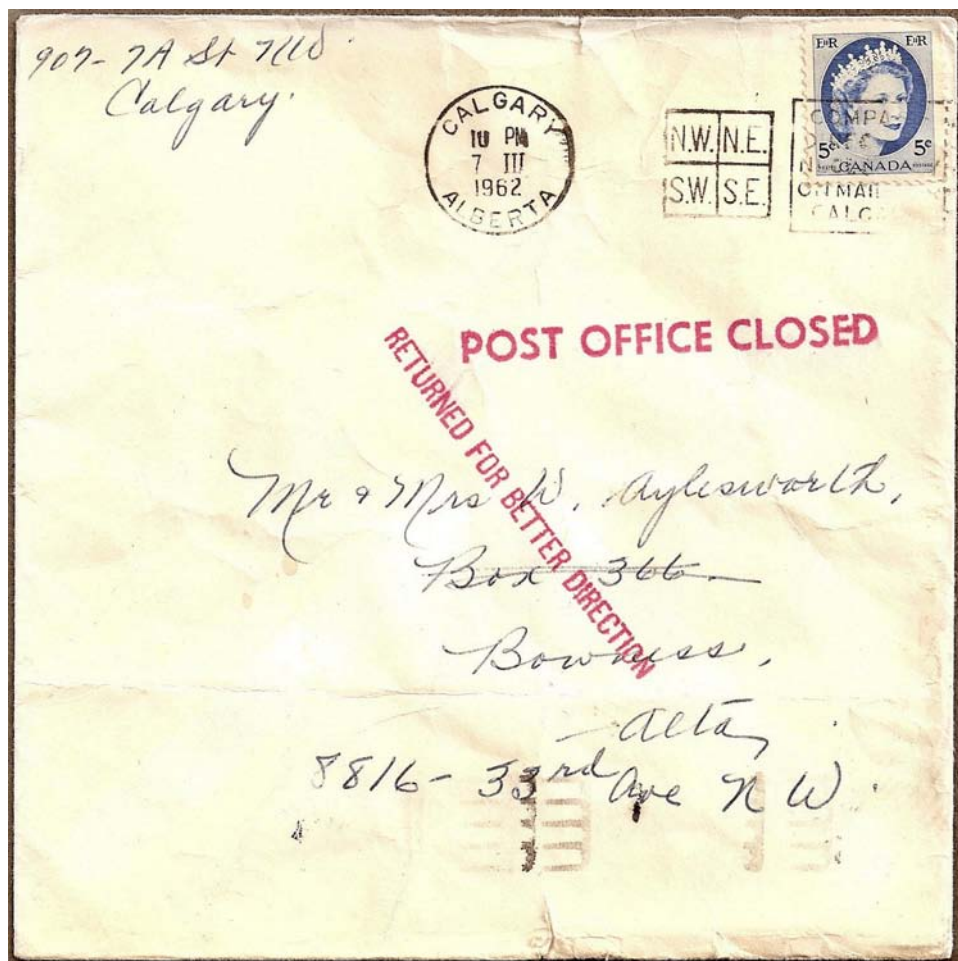


CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 107

April 2011



In this issue: Bowness celebrates its centennial this year (see page 3). The post office closed in 1961 when the town was annexed by Calgary, hence the cover shown above.

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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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ANNEXED POST OFFICES OF CALGARY: BOWNESS

by Dale Speirs

2011 is the centennial year of Bowness, at one time an independent town, but which was swallowed up by Calgary in 1961. The settlement of the area began in the 1890s as cattle ranches. The town was founded when John Hextall donated two islands in the Bow River (since merged into a single island) as Bowness Park, on condition that a bridge be built at Shouldice and a streetcar line run out from Calgary. The park was very popular and a village quickly grew up to service the day-trippers, as well as being a cheap place to live away from high property taxes of the big city. The village, however, was originally known as Critchley, after a ranch adjacent to Bowness Ranch. Oswald Asheton Critchley (1864-1935) was a pioneer rancher in the area of what is now eastern Bowness. Because the park was so prominent, the town name was changed to Bowness in 1942.

There is dispute over how Bowness got its name, whether from some town in England or Scotland, or because of the river (which is a translation of the Nakoda tribe name; the riverbank was a good source of wood for bows and arrows). The true answer will probably never be known. The earliest written reference is an 1896 land title for the sale of Bowness Ranch, which was that part of present-day western Bowness directly south of the park. The Wood's Christian Home just to the west of the park was the original ranch house. Hextall died a true Canadian death in 1914 from infection arising due to a frostbitten nose.

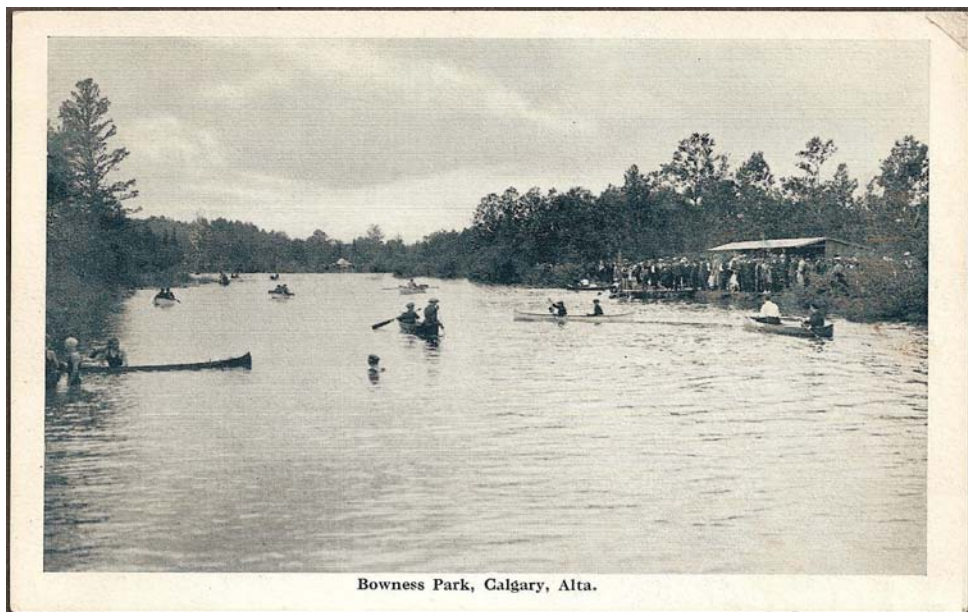


Figure 1: 1928 real-photo postcard showing Bowness Park lagoon.

The only postmaster for the area was Anthony P. (Tony) Schmaltz. He moved to the area from Beiseker in 1929 and opened a grocery store in 1932. He was a prominent citizen, active in both school board and town council politics, as well as numerous other activities for decades. Schmaltz became postmaster on 1934-07-09 and ran the post office out of a corner of his store. The post office name changed to Bowness on 1942-07-02. It got its own building in 1952 and closed on 1961-04-22 when Calgary annexed the town.

Schmaltz then retired and two sub-post offices of Calgary started up. T.J.Kenny operated Calgary Sub #58 at the Bowness Drug Store at 6403 Bowness Road NW. This store is still in existence but the retail postal outlet closed in early 2011. Another drugstore operated Sub #55 at 78 Street NW and Bowness Road, long since closed.

References.

- 1] Historical Committee of the Golden Jubilee (1961) BOWNESS GOLDEN JUBILEE 1911-1961. Published by Bowness Board of Trade. Pages 5 to 20.
- 2] Anonymous (1961-04-21) Post office closes. ALBERTAN, page unknown



Figure 2: The last retail postal outlet was in Bowness Drug Store from 1961 to 2011.

FINDING RETAIL POSTAL OUTLETS FOR POSTMARK HUNTERS

Canada Post has finally revised their Website to make it easier to browse for post offices instead of having to enter a specific address to locate the one nearest you. First go to: www.canadapost.ca/cpotools/apps/fpo/personal/findPostOffice

This brings you to a map of North America. On the upper left corner of the map is a +/- zoom control. Click on the + sign to zoom in. To centre the map where you want to zoom, hold the cursor over the part of the map you want, then hold the left clicker down. You will see the cursor change to a fist. While still holding the left-click down, drag the cursor to the centre of the screen, which will drag the map.

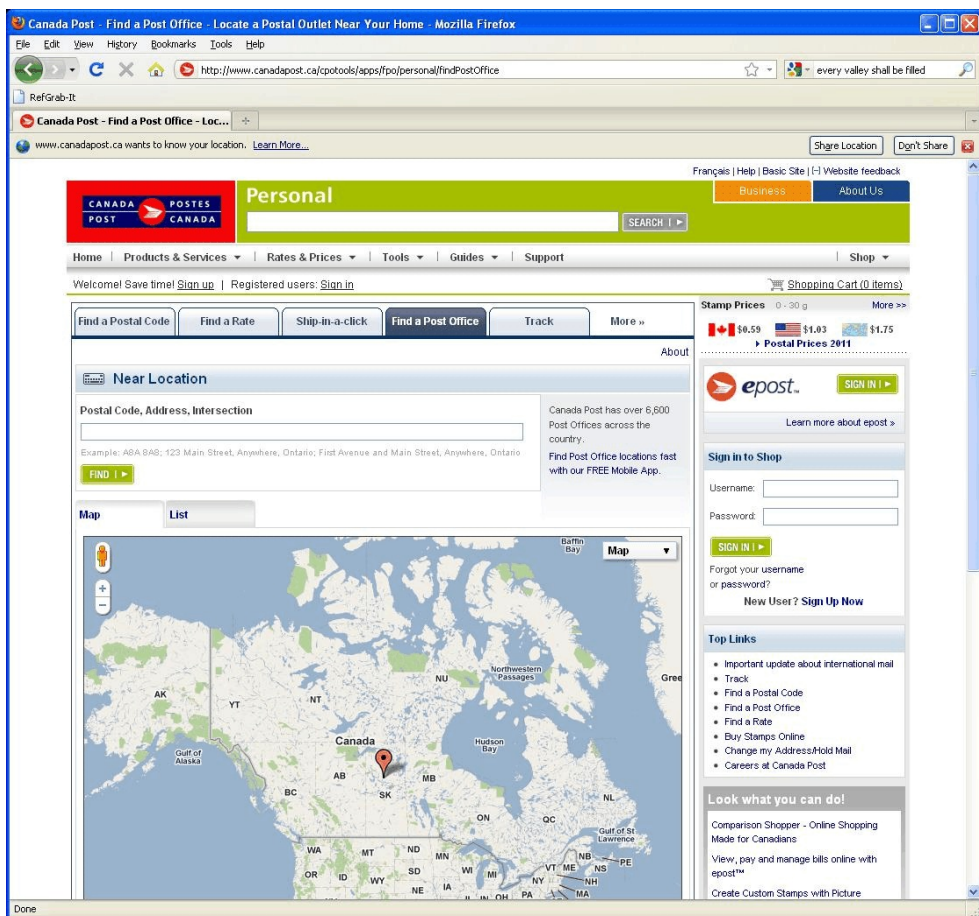


Figure 1: Opening page of Find A Post Office Website.

Then click on the + again, drag again if necessary to re-centre and repeat until you see some little Canada Post logo balloons in the area you want. They don't show up until you've zoomed in a few times.

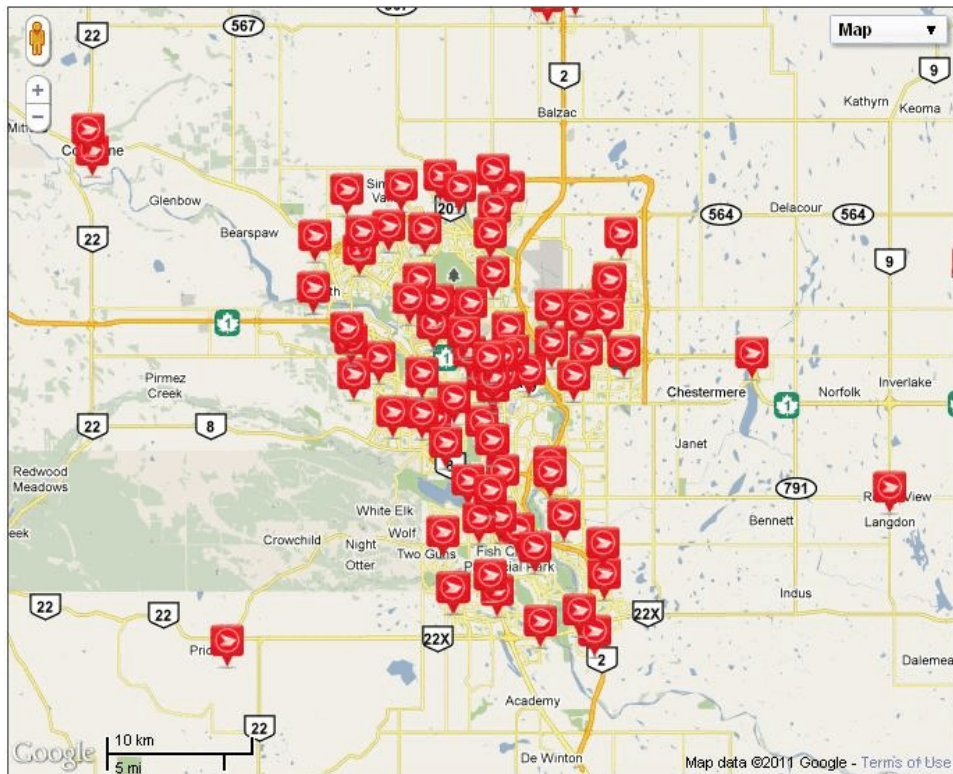


Figure 2: After dragging and zooming a few times, the map shows postal outlets in Calgary and surrounding villages. You can continue to repeat zooming and get the map down to the neighbourhood level.

Pick a logo balloon and click on it. This will cause a text bubble to spring open with the address and details of the postal outlet, as shown in Figure 3. If you keep zooming in, the map will enlarge to show you the neighbourhood streets by name. Some postal outlets are close to each other, such as in the downtown core, and if the scale is too large, then their logo balloons will pile up on top of each other, thus requiring another zoom to separate them.

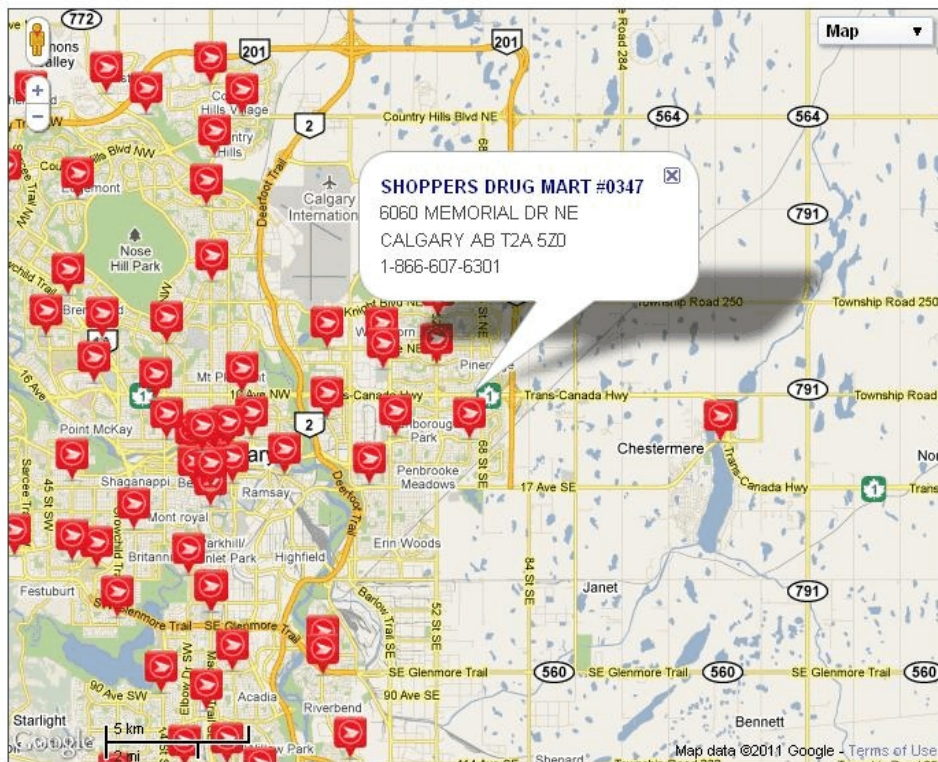


Figure 3: Clicking on the logo balloon brings up the details of that postal outlet.

SPRING STAMP BOURSE

The annual CPS stamp bourse will be held in the main floor gym of the Kerby Centre on the weekend of Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1, which is the weekend after Easter. There will be an auction as well as the club activity table, which includes the circuit books and private-treaty sales. Details from Janice Brookes at 251-1769.

THE MYSTERY OF THE RYUKYU CYCAD STAMPS OF 1948

by Dale Speirs

After World War Two ended, the Ryukyu Islands, of which Okinawa is the most famous, remained under American control for several decades before finally reverting back to Japan. The first issue of stamps for Ryukyu was commissioned in 1947 and the stamps delivered the following year. They were pictorial stamps but duplicated some vignettes for different values. This was not unusual in itself, as many countries have repeated designs within a single set of stamps. When they do so, the standard procedure is to use one die for the vignette and a separate die for each value. The Ryukyu stamps, however, had each common design re-engraved completely.



Two of the 1948 Ryukyu stamps depict a clump of *Cycas revoluta*. The 5-sen value is in reddish-purple and the 20-sen value in light green. At first glance they appear identical except for the frame containing the inscription and value tablets. Closer inspection reveals they have been re-drawn completely instead of using one die for the vignette and two different dies for the frames. This seems like a lot of extra work, even for the industrious Japanese.

The easiest method to tell the difference is to count the fronds in the tall centre plant. The 5-sen plant has six fronds while the 20-sen plant only has five. Another easy-to-spot difference is that the 5-sen has horizontal lines for the background, while the 20-sen has a speckled background.



NEW STYLE OF STREET LETTER BOXES APPEARS IN CANADA

By now, you will have noticed that most of the traditional red street letter boxes in Calgary have been replaced by the new style of boxes. Canada Post began deploying the new boxes country-wide in September 2010. The busy design of postal codes is intended to frustrate graffiti taggers, who like a plain surface to scribble on. For those taggers who are unstoppable, the new boxes also have a clear Teflon-like coating to make it easier to remove graffiti. One hidden aspect of the new boxes is that the postie clearing them doesn't have to scoop out the mail by hand. Each box has a large tray in it, so the postie only has to pull out the full one and slide in an empty tray, which should speed things up.



old style



new style

PHILATELIC LITERATURE REVIEWS

by Gordon Demke

Here is a look at two books by Stephen R. Datz. He is well-qualified to write about stamp collecting, having been in the stamp business for thirty-plus years. He is an authority on U.S. postage errors, and is also regarded as one of America's leading authorities on philately in general. His experience includes appraising and arranging for the sale of President Gerald R. Ford's stamp collection. The author's website is located at <http://stephenrdatz.com>

STAMP COLLECTING (fourth printing, revised and updated April 2009) Among the topics covered are philatelic vocabulary, essential tools, stamp catalogues, where to get stamps and other resources, getting started, methods of collecting, condition and grading, conservation, errors on stamps, fakes and forgeries, and the stamp market. The appendices include an extensive glossary of philatelic terms, a resource guide, and a bibliography (including internet sources). I found his discussion of stamp catalogues, market prices and auctions of particular interest. The section on condition and grading is also valuable and covers the elements of gum, hinging, centering, margins, color, freshness, perforations, cancellations and faults. The author states: "*Realtors are fond of saying that the three primary elements of property value are location, location, and location. In philately, rarity notwithstanding, the three main elements of value are condition, condition, and condition.*" [p. 81] Overall, I found the book to be well-written and an easy read. For the experienced collector it is a good refresher, and for the novice an excellent guide to building, enjoying, preserving and selling a stamp collection. A minor detraction is that all of the photos in this 160-page book are in black-and-white.

TOP DOLLAR PAID (fourth printing, revised and updated April 2009) The main subject of the book, as identified in the sub-title is "The Complete Guide to Selling Your Stamps." However, the content is in my view equally valuable to the collector wishing to purchase stamps for his/her collection. After all what you may someday choose to sell will be what you purchased and collected in previous years. As the adage goes, you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. Thus the reading of this book should make you a more informed and knowledgeable buyer and seller. In my own case, the book has caused me to rethink my collecting/purchasing strategy. Among the topics covered in this 162-page book are the role of stamp dealers, how to select a reliable dealer, methods of sale, stamp auctions, condition of stamps, how stamps are valued, appraisal and offer, selling by mail or phone, when a dealer will travel, getting the best price, selling error stamps, stamps as investments, and tactics to avoid. An appendix includes a glossary of philatelic terms. The author is an excellent writer making the book easy to read. For example, he illustrates selling points by drawing on anecdotes from his many years of experience as a dealer and provides insights into human nature and behaviour.

I found the summaries at the end of each chapter, and the concluding summary chapter very helpful, as they reinforce the main points of each topic. The chapters are written to be self-contained on a particular subject, so you have the option of reading only chapters which may be of particular interest to you. If you read the book cover-to-cover as I did, you will observe some repetition. Not surprisingly, the book is written from the perspective of a dealer and weighted towards his experience with American philately.

PHILATELIC LITERATURE REVIEWS

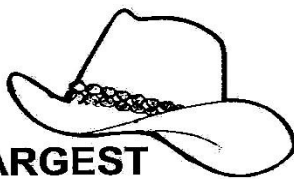
by Leanteri Polvikoski

The first postage stamp was issued on May 6, 1840, by Britain. The stamp was issued for a new era of cheap postage, and people were quick to take advantage. Hand-painted envelopes and postcards with trick addresses were often used to test the patience of posties during the 1800s. One of those early mail artists was the Englishman W. Reginald Bray (1879-1939). His life and mail art have been documented in the book **THE ENGLISHMAN WHO POSTED HIMSELF AND OTHER CURIOUS OBJECTS** (2010, hardcover) by John Tingey.

Bray purchased a copy of the **POST OFFICE GUIDE** in 1898 that laid out all the myriad rules of the Papernet, and decided to test them out. He began mailing all sorts of objects sans any packaging, from a shirt collar to a piece of seaweed to himself. The last was based on an unusual rule that said the British Post Office would conduct any person on foot to an address on payment of registered postage and a mileage charge. Bray therefore mailed himself to his father, who had to sign for him. He did it more than once, including a practical case when he could not find an address he was looking for, went to a nearby post office, and hired a postie to conduct him there for the cost of postage.

Bray was fond of mailing postcards with just a photo of the recipient and the town name. He also used postcards with rebus addresses or in rhyme. He mailed turnips and dog biscuits, although he later noted that he had no end of trouble trying to carve the address into them and making the stamp stick. (Using a tag was a cop-out.) His most famous mail art item was a rabbit's skull. He was so prolific that the Post Office eventually had to change some of the rules to keep him in check.

In later years, Bray became an autograph collector. He did so entirely by post and never in person. He sent self-addressed postcards not only to famous actors, politicians, and soldiers, but to people who were briefly notorious because of highly-publicized court trials. At his death, he had accumulated about 15,000 autographs, which his daughter later sold off in box lots during the 1950s. Because the collection was of interest to both autograph collectors and philatelists, his items have become widely dispersed.



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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: Four-volume collection of Canadian stamps in Unity albums. Price negotiable. Phone Al at 282-1030 or e-mail dorandal@shaw.ca

FOR SALE: Canada uncut press sheets. Extensive selection, discounted pricing, for complete list e-mail pcf1@telus.net or phone Peter at 590-1574

FOR SALE: USA mint sheets from 1967 to 1995 (Scott #1331 to 2979). Asking face value plus exchange rate and GST. Contact Peter at peterhay@shaw.ca

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 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

FOR SALE: Major collections of many countries at liquidation prices. 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: Newfoundland VF used singles, preferably dated. Need #107, 123, 140, 142, 266. Cash or Canadian coils in trade. Phone Gordon at 249-1094.

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

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 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: 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

2011

March	16	Auction
April	6	General meeting
	20	Auction
April 30 and May 1		Spring stamp bourse
May	4	General meeting
	4	deadline for June bulletin
	18	Auction
June	1	General meeting
	1	Elections
	15	Auction
August	1	deadline for September bulletin
September	7	General meeting
	7	deadline for October bulletin
	21	Auction
October	5	General meeting
	19	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.

SPRING STAMP BOURSE will be at the Kerby Centre, ground floor. Details from Janice Brookes at 251-1769.

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.