

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 109

August 2011



Postal workers began rotating strikes on June 3 and were locked out Canada-wide on June 12 by Canada Post. The House of Commons passed back-to-work legislation June 25, which received Royal Assent the following day. Posties returned to work on Tuesday, June 28. A month later, mail is still backlogged.

The photo above shows a sealed letter box at the Kananaskis post office out in the mountains. What is also interesting is that they are still using the old-style letter boxes.

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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

SEMI-POSTALS SUPPORT GOOD CAUSES

by Ron Tabbert

It's hard to imagine that people would pay more than they have to when they buy a stamp, but it's been happening for nearly a century. And it's proven to be popular. The concept is this: we'll add a tax to the price of a stamp and the extra goes to a good cause. Part of the cost is postage and part is not, so they are called "semi-postals." Germany may have been one of the first, with a five pfennig surcharge in 1919, just after World War One. The money raised supported emergency aid for the war wounded. Semi-postals have raised money for sports, especially Olympic Games; culture; youth; welfare aid; museums; nationally-sponsored stamp shows; environmental protection and literacy. Germany even issued stamps in 1941 with the tax supporting a horse race.

European countries have regular semi-postal sets in their scheduled programs. Germany and Switzerland produce many beautiful topical stamps for youth and sports. Several countries raise money with semi-postals to subsidize an annual stamp show. After the Estonia ferry disaster in the Baltic Sea, Estonia overprinted a stamp with \$1.50 going to survivors. France issues booklets every Christmas with proceeds designated for the Red Cross. Since these usually show paintings or sculptures they are popular and sell easily, even with the surcharge.

The United Kingdom and countries on this side of the Atlantic have been very conservative on this aspect of stamp production. The UK has only issued two sets, the first in 1975 with proceeds designated for handicapped charities. A Christmas issue in 1989 was their last effort.

Now, you might ask, how can you raise money if people refuse to buy the stamps? And in most cases you can. Some have called them an unfair grab at stamp collectors' wallets because they buy the stamps regardless. But, it seems the stamps are popular. Those interested in sports buy the stamps even with the premium. True, we may pay a bit more to fill those album spaces, but let's also take a bow for the contribution we've also made to a good cause.

The USPS shunned semi-postals until 1998 when Congress passed a bill forcing them to issue a stamp with profits going to breast cancer research. It had an expiration date. The stamp was priced at 40 cents, with 32 cents for postage and 8 cents for breast cancer research. The stamps proved so popular that the expiration date was extended several times. When US postage rates changed, the stamp sold for 55 cents. 42 cents for postage, with 13 cents going to research. The present expiration date is December 31, 2011. By December 2007, \$50.5 million had been raised with this stamp.

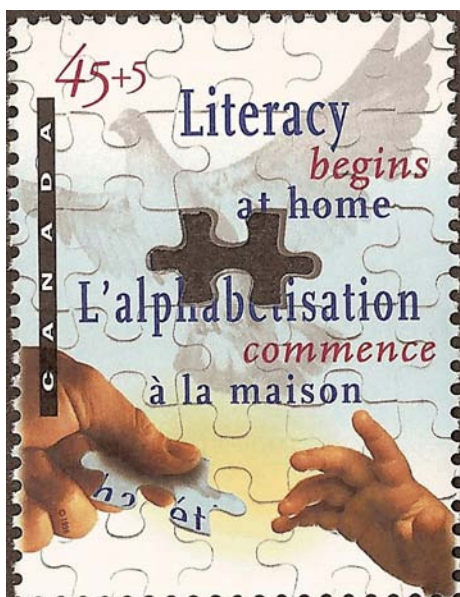


After 9/11, the USPS issued a 45-cent semi-postal showing three New York firemen raising the flag. 11 cents went to a fund for families who lost loved ones in the disaster. Its only other example was a 2003 37-cent stamp against family violence with an additional 8 cent surcharge. These last two have not been as popular as the first.

Canada Post's big foray into semi-postals was the 1976 Olympics. Twelve stamps in all were issued, with surcharges ranging from 2 cents to 5 cents on each stamp.

You'd think the extra money would have helped Montrealers a little on their famous stadium, but apparently not. Canada Post gets more creative with each stamp issue, and the 1996 contribution for Literacy was a prime example. It showed a puzzle with an adult handing a child the missing piece. The missing piece fits an actual puzzle-shaped hole cut into the centre of the stamp.

The 45-cent stamp cost 50 cents with the difference going to the literacy programs of ABC Canada. The latest issue to bear a surcharge was the Mental Health "P" stamp issued in September 2010. It sold for 57 cents plus 10 cents for the Canada Post Foundation for Mental Health. This was the third annual stamp to bring attention to mental health and a competition has been announced to design another Mental Health stamp for 2011. So far, Canada Post reports these stamps have raised \$600,000.



ANNEXED POST OFFICES OF CALGARY: WENO

by Dale Speirs

A lot of the villages swallowed up by Calgary still exist as neighbourhoods under their original names, such as Hubalta, Albert Park, Bowness, Midnapore, Forest Lawn, and Montgomery. It takes a real historian of Calgary to recognize the name of Weno, long since vanished in both name and physical structure from the city. Weno was one of a string of failed subdivisions east of pioneer Calgary, plotted out in the decade before World War One. Most of them reverted to farmland until the city expanded over them in the building boom of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Victoria Square
PAY ROLLS BUILD CITIES

The Model Town is a Certainty
EVERY PROMISE MADE IS BEING PERFORMED

Building is Progressing

A Step Into the Future

Don't Delay Another Day

THE PIONEER TRACTOR CO.

Lots Purchased now should double in Value Within a Few Months

LAVENDER & HORNER
127a EIGHTH AVENUE EAST OWNERS 127a EIGHTH AVENUE EAST

Figure 1: Display ad, 1912-05-04, CALGARY HERALD.

Calgary's first indoor carpark. The area began depopulating as World War One drew to a close [1]. It never succeeded and changed hands to Alberta Financial Brokers, whose slogan was "We Know". The name Weno comes from that slogan.

Weno began as a real estate speculation by Lavender & Horner in 1910, and was located east of Hubalta along the railroad tracks. It was originally called Victoria Square. Today's geographical reference would be east of 60 Street SE and south of 17 Avenue SE. It had a brief existence as a railway repair shop and, during World War One, was a site for munitions factories. A large factory building was erected for the Pioneer Tractor Company, but no assembly line ever started up and it later became a dance hall, with what was to be

Today the area is a warehouse district where the old Corral drive-in theatre used to be, and what is now Elliston Park. The drive-in theatre was damaged beyond economical repair on 1999-08-09 when the adjacent Hub Oil refinery blew up. The park is built on recycled land of the East Calgary solid waste landfill, and is named after the Ellis family, who homesteaded in the area and one of whom was a postmaster of Weno. All of the original buildings of Weno are gone, either moved elsewhere, dismantled for building materials, or burned down. Nothing beside remains.

The Post Office.

Weno was very short-lived as a post office and a coherent community. The post office opened on 1914-05-01 and closed on 1926-12-20. Since Hubalta was directly across the railroad tracks to the west, it is a wonder that the post office was ever opened in the first instance. The Hubalta post office was only a short walk from Weno and had already been open for two years. There were great plans for Victoria Square/Weno during the real estate boom. Like every other flatland village on the prairies that was anywhere near a railroad siding, it was touted as a new metropolis being born.



The first postmaster of Weno was William M. Case, but he lasted only a few months. Peter B. Mather took over on 1914-08-20 and continued until the post office closed, except for a brief period from 1920-05-29 to 1921-09-17, when Samuel S. Ellis was postmaster [2]. Why this was so I haven't been able to find out.

Figure 2: Proof strike of Weno postmark.

References.

- 1] Chestermere Historical Society (1971) SADDLES, SLEIGHS, AND SADIRONS. Pages 400 to 406
- 2] Library and Archives Canada (downloaded 2011-02-18) Post offices and postmasters. <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/post-offices>

CIRCUIT BOOKS

by Mike McPhail

Larry Tweedale has kindly agreed to take over circuit books from me effective September 1. He has helped at the Spring Bourse and will be participating in the year-end report for June. Thank you Larry, and good luck! Larry can be reached at 282-9726 or ltweed@telus.net.

CURRENT POSTMARKS OF CALGARY: PART 21

by Dale Speirs

New Postmarks.

Inglewood: 12 Street SE and 9 Avenue, Marshall Drugs. The Retail Postal Outlet (RePO) has a new office number on its postmark. Incidentally, Marshall Drugs has been a sub-office since 1906.



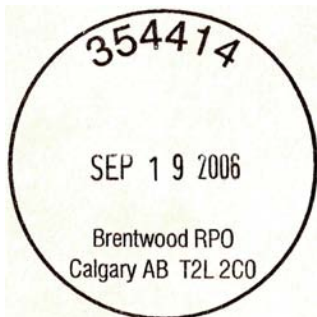
old postmark



new postmark



Brentwood: Crowchild Trail and Charleswood Drive NW, Brentwood shopping plaza,
Hallmark Cards. New office number.



old postmark



new postmark

Downtown: Calgary Place, second floor, Sprague Drugs. New office number.



old postmark



new postmark

Pineridge: Village Square Dry Cleaners, 52 Street NE and 26 Avenue



old postmark



new postmark

MORE ROYAL POSTMARKS

Canada Post never ceases to surprise. For the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton, they not only issued a stamp but an unusual Royal Wedding postmark in blue ink and a non-standard vertical rectangle format. About 100 post offices across Canada had the postmarks. With the happy couple visiting Canada in early July, Canada Post again issued commemorative postmarks, in red ink this time, available only at places on the Royal Tour, Calgary being one of them.

Calgary's postmark was only available at the Central post office downtown, on the corner of 6 Street SW and 5 Avenue. The royal couple were in Cowtown from July 6 to 8, but the postmark was available after their departure until July 29th as a handback cancel only. The complete set from across Canada is shown below. The Calgary Tower is shown on our postmark.



MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

by Penny Borrowman

Our member presentations programme for 2010-11 went really well, with 7 members sharing one of their collecting interests (one of them came all the way from England to do so!); one visitor presenting other collecting avenues; and only one evening without a presentation, which made lots of time for socializing and enjoying those brightly decorated and delicious looking doughnuts!

We have now begun to develop the 2011-12 programme, with Dale Speirs leading off in September remembering The Fall of the Twin Towers, with much interesting philatelic material. In October Julius Szekrenes will give us a closer look at Slogan Cancels, and in November Dave Freeman will share his interest in re-entries. This will include a demonstration of a special tool for really seeing those little tiny lines. In December we'll have our Christmas party, which usually does not include a member presentation.

Then it'll be 2012 and time to start over again. That will be your opportunity to share with the rest of us your special interest, or maybe something you've been working on and just beginning to appreciate. The presenter does not need to be an expert in his/her presented subject, just interested in it and knowledgeable enough to be able to share some information. If not postal material, you might want to share information about your field of activity within the Society, your philatelic experiences with other organizations, or share material you have had published or have presented to other groups.

So don't be shy! To book a spot for a 2012 presentation see Penny at any meeting or auction night, or email pkborrowman@yahoo.ca. There are club members who can and will help you photograph your material and make slides, or make a computer slide programme. Remember, everyone's looking forward to your presentation.

DUES ARE DUE!

Membership dues for the 2011-2012 season will be payable at the September meeting. Please help out Membership Chairman Julius Szekrenyes by having your money ready at the meeting. You can also mail a cheque to him, payable to the Calgary Philatelic Society, at the club's address of Box 1478, Calgary, T2P 2L6. Please do not mail dues to the editorial address.

PHILATELIC LITERATURE REVIEWS

by Gordon Demke

Stephen R. Datz, STAMP INVESTING, General Trade Corporation: Loveland, Colorado, 1997 (fourth printing, revised and updated June 2009) The book is 156 pages and lists at US\$14.95. The author is well-qualified to write about stamp investing, having been in the stamp business for thirty-plus years. He was a full-time stamp dealer from the early 1970s until his retirement in 2004. He is an authority on U.S. postage errors (CATALOGUE OF ERRORS ON US POSTAGE STAMPS), and is also regarded as one of America's leading authorities on philately in general. In this book, his formal training in economics is evident in his thorough discussion of the stamp market.

The purpose of the book is to objectively inform, not to tout or promote investing in stamps. Success, the author states, requires knowledge and experience. *"Your success will be proportional to the amount of time you spend becoming knowledgeable about stamps and the stamp market."* [p. 2] Many of us probably engage in philately for the enjoyment that we receive from the hobby, with possible financial success being an added secondary benefit. For others financial success may be the primary motivator. Irrespective of what camp you find yourself in, this book will be of interest to you. The author starts out by looking at the big picture. He reviews the great boom in tangible assets of the 1970s including investment in stamps. This period was a classic bubble fueled by a mania for tangible assets, a ten-year run up in prices, and a bust in the market. According to Datz, by the mid-1980s, the stamp market had collapsed and lost 60 to 70% of its value.

His analysis of how the stamp market differs from financial markets is interesting. Many collectors buy stamps for enjoyment rather than for profit. Financial securities are fungible, stamps are not. (Fungible goods are goods which are standardized, one unit like the other, for example, a share certificate or a gold bar.) Financial markets are highly centralized with instantaneous price transparency while stamp markets are decentralized with information on prices available from informal means like dealer price lists, realized prices reported for auctions, retail ads, and buying ads in stamp periodicals. Financial markets trade huge volumes and institutional investors play a big role. Stamp markets by contrast are small in size and institutional investors play no role. Financial markets are highly volatile compared to the stamp market. Financial markets use sophisticated analytical tools and mathematical models for trading while there are no similar analytical tools and models in the stamp market. And financial markets are characterized by very small transaction costs (commissions, loads or bid/ask spreads) whereas transaction costs (markups) on collectibles are relatively large. Datz concludes that the stamp market is not a financial market, nor are stamps financial assets.

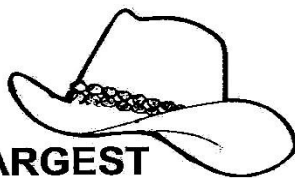
With this background, the author then addresses the keys to profiting from stamp investments. *“The key to profit in any investment is the difference between the cost of acquisition and proceeds of sale. So the idea is to buy right, to buy for less than retail, to buy as close to ‘wholesale’ as possible. . . .Buying right is the key to profit in stamp investing”* [pp. 32-33]. The author expands on this by looking at basic economics, condition and grade, where to buy from, and when to sell and to whom.

Another key to profiting from stamps is to learn to recognize potentially profitable situations. *“The key to success in investment is to anticipate demand, take a position, then sell into a rising market. In order to do that, develop an eye for quality and a nose for opportunity, whether a broad bull market, an emerging trend, or a single item.”* [p. 73] The author expands on this by suggesting a number of possibilities (without making specific recommendations). He also addresses speculating on new stamp issues; other opportunities for a large, quick profit; information sources for making good investment decisions; conservation, handling and storing of stamps; and fakes and forgeries. Like many of his other books the author provides an excellent summary chapter, a comprehensive glossary, and a good resource guide. Overall, I found the book to be well-written and easy to read. It provides a wealth of information which should assist in making stamp investing more profitable if that is your objective. If you collect stamps solely for enjoyment, it will help stretch the budget that you allocate to your hobby.

CALGARY ROYAL TOUR

The Central P.O. in downtown Calgary hosted a tea party in honour of William and Kate’s visit to Cowtown. The event was held on July 8th, just after the Stampede Parade ended.





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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: Lightly used Lighthouse album binders with protective slipcases. \$20 for one, \$36 for two, five or more for \$15 each. Contact Peter Fleck at 590-1574 or peterfleck@telus.net

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: 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 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: 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 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: 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.

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Sergeant-At-Arms	Dave Russum	284-4775
Webmaster	Jan van Staden	285-1874

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2011

September	7	General meeting
	7	deadline for October bulletin
	21	Auction
October	5	General meeting
	14 to 16	CALTAPEX 2011
	19	Auction
November	2	General meeting
	2	deadline for December bulletin
	16	Auction
December	7	Christmas social

2012

January	4	General meeting
	4	deadline for February bulletin
	18	Auction
February	1	General meeting
	15	Auction
March	7	General meeting
	7	deadline for April bulletin
	21	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 2011 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 Dave Bartlet at 829-3580.

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