

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 117

December 2012

100th Grey Cup 2015 logo. The trophy is the Vince Lombardi Trophy. The stamps are from Canada. The CFL logo is at the bottom left. The LCF logo is at the bottom right. The barcode is at the bottom left.

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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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OIL STAMPS

by James R. (Jim) Taylor

Calgary is Canada's petroleum capital, so petroleum philately is an appropriate topical.

Azerbaijan, a country bordering the Caspian Sea in western Asia, was the first to show its prolific oil industry on postage stamps. In 1919, in the confusing aftermath of the Russian Revolution, the newly independent Republic of Azerbaijan issued the very first petroleum-related stamp. It shows oil wells topped by wooden derricks in the Bibi-Heybat oil fields near the capital city of Baku (Figure 1, Scott #9). (*Editor's note: Stamps are not shown at actual size.*)



Figure 1

The design pictures five oil wells that dot the field area on the horizon. In the design foreground, the Fire Worshippers' Temple is shown with the sacred and eternal fires which were fed from natural gas seeps, a by-product of the subsurface oil deposit. The temple was ingeniously built so that the natural gas is delivered to the four corners of the shrine's roof through natural gas pipelines. The temple, located 25 km from Baku, has been restored and its flaming tower can still be seen today. A scarcer, second printing of the stamp appeared on thin white paper. Scott lists the variety as a footnote. Because of out-of-control inflation the stamp was surcharged with new higher values in 1922. On the stamp the Azerbaijani language is in Arabic script, the country name in French and the bi-lingual face value of 25 rubles. The "Star and Crescent" symbol of the National Republic of Azerbaijan is in the upper right. The independent republic had a short life, 1919 through 1922, before being forcefully incorporated into Soviet Russia as the "People's Democratic Republic" of Azerbaijan.

The successor Soviet Republic issued stamps in 1922. Figure 2 on the next page (Scott #16) shows the 2-ruble value of the 1922 issue that depicts an oil well with an uncontrolled release of oil commonly called a gusher. Wild oil wells are dangerous as a single spark can cause an inferno. Thousands of barrels of crude are wasted in the gusher. The stamp is inscribed in the Azerbaijani language in the Arabic and Cyrillic or Russian alphabet. The face value is shown in both alphabets. Notice that the "Star and Crescent" symbol now contains the Soviet hammer and sickle.



Figure 2 (at left) and Figure 3 (above)

Figure 3 (Scott #17) shows a panoramic view of the Bibi-Heybat oil field on the outskirts of Baku. This 5-ruble face value stamp forms part of the 1922 set issued under the Soviet Republic. As with the previous stamp it has the Soviet Russian symbols and inscriptions. Both Sc. #16 and #17 were later surcharged with much higher face values because of rampant inflation in late 1922.

Figure 4 is a 25,000 rouble (note the amazing inflated face value) oilfield stamp from a set which was never issued to post offices. The set is not listed by Scott. It probably did not meet with Soviet approval as it lacked the Russian alphabet and the hammer and sickle.



Figure 4

Thousands of petroleum-related stamps have been issued since 1922. The rarest petroleum stamp remains unlisted in Scott's Catalogue. It was prepared by the German Nazi's General Government of occupied Poland. It was printed in 1945 just as the World War Two was ending and the Germans were surrounded. The 6-pfennig stamp along with two others in a set were never issued (Figure 5 on next page). A few stamps and some proof material for the oil stamp were looted by advancing Allied forces and a few have come onto the philatelic market. The unissued set of three, including the 6-pfennig oil field stamp, is priced at \$US 550 on a recent dealer's retail list.



The stamp portrays the Boryslaw oil field with a wood-enclosed derrick and its adjacent wooden shed which housed pumping machinery. Several simpler tripod frames for cable-tool drilling are also visible in both the foreground and background. Boryslaw oil field is today located in the western part of independent Ukraine.

Figure 5

Early oil fields were also discovered closer to home. The Canadian oil industry contributes enormously to Canada's balance of trade and prosperity. Canada is the world's third-largest producer of natural gas and sixth-largest producer of crude oil and growing.

The oil industry's current preeminence belies its humble roots in the oily swamplands of southwestern Ontario province. Rights to drill for oil were acquired from speculator Charles Tripp by a Hamilton, Ontario, carriage-maker named James Miller Williams. In 1858 Williams drilled Canada's first oil commercial well. Williams No.1 at Oil Springs, Ontario. This was a year before Edwin Drake drilled his famous wildcat in Pennsylvania in 1859. The ensuing boom transformed the region; the towns of Petrolia and Oil Springs were born. By 1861, 400 wells operated in the region producing 50 to 800 barrels a day. By the mid-1890s, the boom had run its course, although the region continues to produce small amounts of oil today.



Figure 6 (at left, Scott # 2268) shows Williams (foreground) and Tripp (middle ground) and the oil fields in the background. The 52-cent stamp was issued in 2008.



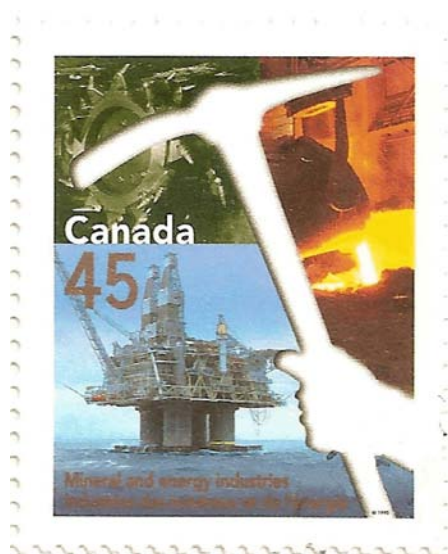
Figure 7

in Alberta recognizing the growth of the industry in western Canada. This stamp was also overprinted for official use.

Canada's oil sands production (Figure 8, Scott #765) with reserves that rival Saudi Arabia are ramping up from initial exploitation in the 1960s.



Figure 8.



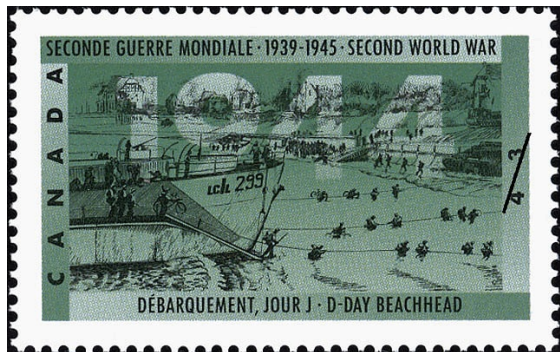
The Hibernia oil field off Newfoundland came on stream in 1970 (Figure 9).

Figure 9.

CANADIAN STAMPS OF REMEMBRANCE: PART 7

by Gordon Demke

Tribute is paid to Canada's war dead, veterans and Armed Forces personnel through postage stamps. "Stamps of Remembrance" are another reminder of the sacrifice by fellow-Canadians so that we may enjoy freedom and peace. The following are Canadian stamps which I have identified as having "Remembrance" as their theme. All of the italicized quotes are from the Canadian Postal Archives Database (historical notices) for the particular stamp or stamp series.



7 Nov. 1994. D-Day Beachhead (Sc 1537), Artillery-Normandy (Sc 1538), Tactical Air Forces (Sc 1539) & Walcheren and the Scheldt (Sc 1540), from the series The Second World War, 1944, Victory in Sight.

"On that single day [D-Day], Canadian casualties numbered 1,074 including 359 dead. D-Day was a triumph, but Canadians had paid for their success in blood."



With artillery support, the invading forces advanced inland. *"After the move inland Canadians participated in a series of desperate battles. Casualties at Caen were higher than on D-Day and except for Dieppe, July 25 was the bloodiest day's work for the Canadian army."*

About 450 men died and another 1,100 were wounded or captured."



“While the ground troops fired away, Tactical Air Force bombed and strafed from above. RCAF squadrons flying Typhoons, Spitfires, Mustangs and Mosquitos provided air support to Canadian Forces on Juno Beach and during the fighting around Caen.”



“After the successful battle for Normandy, the next step was to advance towards the German frontier.” The objectives included capture of the port of Antwerp (and waterway between the city and the sea known as the Scheldt) and Walcheren Island.

[to be continued]

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

The December 5 meeting will include a Stump The Experts event. Norma Nielson, who will emcee the contest, is organizing a series of digital images of stamps and other philatelic items to challenge our panel of experts. Contestants will receive points for correctly answering the questions posed about these items. Prizes will be awarded.

THE 100TH PLAYING OF THE GREY CUP

by Peter Fleck

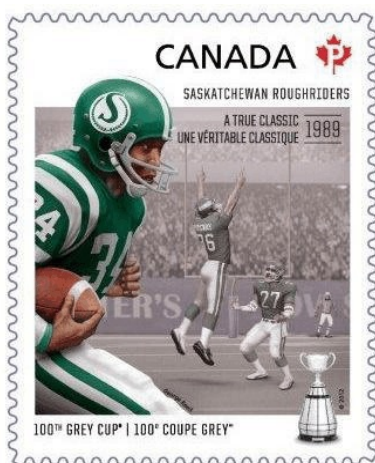
As the 100th playing of the Grey Cup kicks off in Toronto on November 25, 2012, Canada Post is setting new records. *[Note by the Editor: The centennial of the first Grey Cup game was in 2009, but because the game was not played during some war years, the actual 100th Grey Cup game is in 2012.]* Never before has a single-day sporting event spawned such a deluge of Canadian stamps and postal products. Released this summer were 17 different Canadian Football League/Grey Cup images. With each of these available on both water-activated and self-adhesive gum, the total is 34 new stamps. That's just one less than the Montreal Olympics which generated 35 stamps over four years and cost just \$11.15.

The most economical way to get all 34 CFL stamps is to purchase a Quarterly Collector Pack for \$26.23. Outside of that, to buy the various booklets, coil strips, souvenir sheet and special pane requires a minimum investment of \$84.79. And that's not including first-day covers, postcards, coil dispensers, and signed prints. The entire catalogue of material exceeds \$1,800.

Released in June were logo stamps for each of the eight current CFL teams available in coils and on a souvenir sheet. Other than hockey's Montreal Canadiens and Baseball's Toronto Blue Jays, these are the only other Canadian sports franchises to have their own stamps. Then in August, pictorial stamps were issued for each team. These feature a marquee player on the left chosen by the team with a legendary Grey Cup moment on the right. Rounding out the series is a stamp of the actual trophy. These were issued in booklets of 10 for each stamp and on a special pane featuring all nine stamps (shown on the front page of this bulletin).

All valued at the permanent rate of 61 cents, the stamps were designed by Bensimon Byrne, the CFL's official ad agency. When it comes to the first-day covers, Canada Post decided to issue 30,000 copies featuring the Saskatchewan Roughriders. All other teams had a run of 25,000. The move makes sense considering the huge popularity of the Riders. It's only ironic that with just three league championships, they're also the team with the fewest Grey Cup wins.

A big bonus is Canada Post's heavy ad campaign. With separate TV commercials for each team stamp and a strong presence on the cross-Canada CFL train (photo next page), it is greatly boosting the profile of stamp collecting.



The photo below shows the Grey Cup special train at Red Deer, with the Montreal stamp painted on one of the cars.



CURRENT POSTMARKS OF CALGARY: PART 24

by Dale Speirs

Closed RePOs.

Mount Royal University: This retail outlet closed in October 2011. I used this postmark to mail out the February 2011 bulletin, so if you kept the envelope, please mark the closing date on the back (not the front!) of the cover for the benefit of future collectors.

Relocated RePO.

Marlborough: The Shoppers Drug Mart formerly located at Memorial Drive and Madigan Drive NE recently moved westward ten blocks, still on Memorial Drive but now on the corner at 52 Street NE. The new location is shown below. The prominent cellphone tower behind it is an omen of what is killing the Papernet. Note the unusually large Canada Post sign on the righthand side of the building.



The postmarks were carried along to the new location, even though they retain the old name. The RePO number wouldn't change because the owners are still the same.



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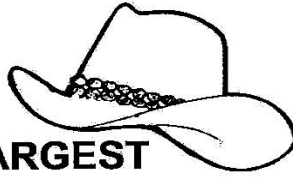
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SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

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: Recent Canadian stamps and miniature sheets, all very fine postally used. Stamps and miniature sheets from around 2003. Fine used stamps are very hard to come by these days. I use the Unitrade Canada specialist catalogue of 2010 numbers. I can send scans of material for clarity and postmarks. Please contact Michael Teekens by email at: michateekens@gmail.com or in writing at #1, 83 Headingley Road, Mt.Waverley, Victoria 3149, Australia.

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. 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.

WANTED: Owl stamps worldwide. Cash or trade. Call Pat at 238-3435.

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: 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.

CALGARY ASSOCIATION OF PHILATELIC EXHIBITORS

CAPE meets on fourth Wednesdays except June to August and December in the Boardroom of the Condon Building, second floor, 1609 - 14 Street SW (the blue building where Dwayne Miner's stamp shop is). The organization is a support group for Calgary stamp collectors who are serious about exhibiting. Members range from International Gold medal winners to beginners just starting out. It is a perfect opportunity for the beginning exhibitor.

Parking is free in the second lot west of the Condon Building off 16 Avenue SW (not the lot immediately adjacent to the building). Bus routes 2, 6, and 7 stop by the building. Enter from the rear (parking lot side) at 18h50 as doors open. Ring the Boardroom buzzer if you miss the open door. Meetings start at 19h00 sharp. For more information, contact Jim Taylor at (403)238-3698 or see him at the general meetings.

NOTICE TO AUCTION AND PRIVATE TREATY SELLERS

Blank forms for auction lots or private treaty books are available as free downloads in pdf format on the club Website. Go to www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com and click on the Forms link on the lefthand side of the screen. Once you download the pdf forms, you can keep them on your hard drive and print off copies as you need them.

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- silent	Jim Senecal	547-7681
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Library	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
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Membership	Julius Szekrenyes	282-7982
Private Treaty books	Gerry Vader	293-0158
Programmes	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
Sergeant-At-Arms	Dave Russum	284-4775
Webmaster	Jan van Staden	285-1874

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2012

November	21	Auction
December	5	Christmas social
	5	“Stump The Experts” panel

2013

January	2	General meeting
	2	Deadline for February bulletin
	16	Auction
February	6	General meeting
	20	Auction
March	6	General meeting
	6	Deadline for April bulletin
	20	Auction
April	3	General meeting
	17	Auction
May	1	General meeting
	1	Deadline for June bulletin
	15	Auction
June	5	Election meeting
	19	Auction
August	1	Deadline for September bulletin

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 the 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.