

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 123

October 2013



Come Hell Or High Water!

The theme for CALTAPEX 2013 was obvious, after the great flood of June 21 devastated our city. Now we are back on our feet, a little muddy and dishevelled perhaps, but ready to put on a good stamp show. We'll see you October 18 to 20 at the Kerby Centre, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW, at the west end of downtown Calgary.

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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 bulletin ads or articles as hardcopy, plain text file, WordPerfect, or MS Word format only, mailed to Box 6830, Calgary, T2P 2E7, handed to Dale Speirs at meetings, or emailed to opuntia57@yahoo.ca Please do not email club business to this address.

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

CANADA POST'S FUTURE: PART 1.

ADDRESSED LETTER MAIL VOLUMES IN FREE-FALL

by Gordon Demke

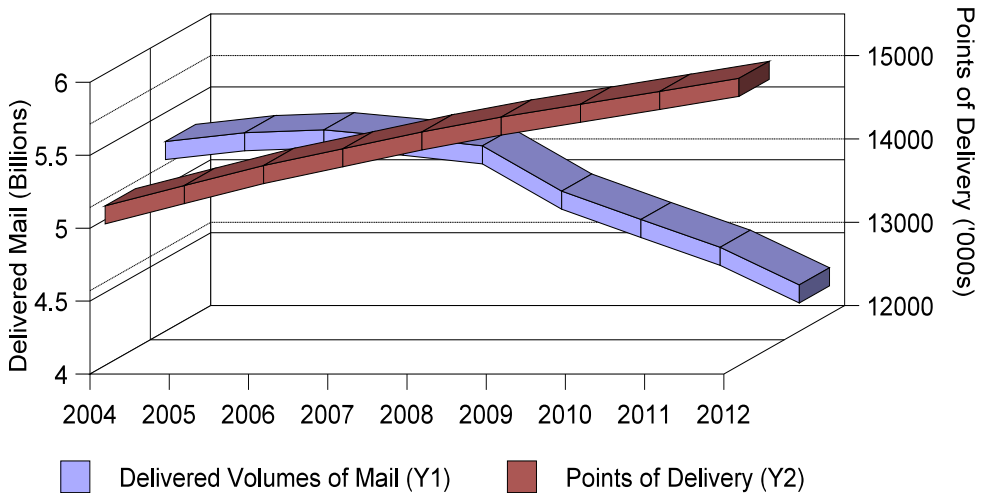
Canada Post's addressed letter mail volumes have declined substantially in the face of intense competition from electronic communications. Over the nine-year period from 2004 through 2012, delivered volumes of mail have dropped by about one billion pieces. The table below and the graph on the next page show declining letter mail volumes while the number of points of delivery is increasing.

Year	Delivered Volumes of Mail (billions)	Points of Delivery ('000's)
2004	5.24	13,808
2005	5.30	14,053
2006	5.32	14,293
2007	5.27	14,493
2008	5.21	14,696
2009	4.90	14,874
2010	4.71	15,028
2011	4.52	15,181
2012	4.26	15,338
Source: Canada Post Corporation, Annual Reports, 2008 to 2012, http://www.canadapost.ca/cpo/mc/aboutus/corporate/annualreport.jfs accessed May 13, 2013.		

Delivered volumes equals total volumes of transaction mail less outbound (international) mail. Volume data prior to 2009 reflect a somewhat different methodology and have not been re-based to be entirely consistent with data for 2009 through 2012.

The steady decline in transaction mail volumes and the growth in points of delivery over the same period means that the number of pieces per point of delivery is declining, contributing to a growing gap between costs and revenues at Canada's postal agency. Transaction mail has faced competition from facsimile technology, email, the Internet and text messaging. Additionally, mail volumes plunged in 2009 due to the economic downturn.

Canada Mail Volumes & Delivery Addresses



Transaction mail is one of three core Canada Post segment lines of business; the others are parcels and direct marketing. Canada Post also provides additional services through several subsidiaries: Purolator Courier Ltd., SCI Group Inc. and Innovapost Inc. Canada Post defines transaction mail as “*our portfolio of services for the creation, delivery and response to letters, bills, statements, invoices and other forms of communications. It is our line of business that generates the most revenue [51%] and includes three product categories, domestic Lettermail, outbound Letter-post and inbound Letter-post. . . .The majority of Transaction Mail revenue is derived from traditional physical-mail delivery services, with domestic Lettermail accounting for close to 90%. Customers includes businesses, governments and consumers, but the bulk of Lettermail is from businesses, and over half of overall revenue of Lettermail is derived from four industry segments: financial institutions, telecommunications, government, and utilities.*” (2012 Canada Post Annual Report, page 31). Transaction mail is covered by the Corporation’s “exclusive privilege” to collect, transport and deliver letters. However, the exclusive privilege does not protect Canada Post’s revenues from competition from electronic delivery channels.

Canada Post’s 2009 Annual Report (Page 31) referenced the declining mail volume trend as follows. “*The environment in which we operate continues to change and the recession of 2009 accelerated the pace. Market forces, influenced by the worst recession since the Second World War, have led to unprecedented declines in mail volumes over the past year. Unlike previous cyclical downturns, the consensus among Posts is that mail volumes will not return to their previous levels, and that physical mail markets are now fully mature and entering into a period of decline. Global postal industry trends include: electronic substitution of physical mail; consolidation of physical mail; liberalization of postal markets; modernization of postal operations and infrastructures.*”

The 2012 Annual Report conveys a heightened sense of urgency. The President's Message, from Deepak Chopra, states the following (pages 2 and 3): *"Canada Post finds itself at a pivotal moment in its storied history. After successfully adjusting to fax machines, email, and dial-up then broadband internet, the combination of fast Internet and smart tablets has shaken the mail business at its core. For the first time in modern history, paper-based communication has a credible alternative. This is a seismic change. Our Transaction Mail volumes have declined 23.6% per household since 2008 and this decline has accelerated in 2012. This is a new phase in our journey. The value of our exclusive privilege to deliver mail has essentially evaporated; it cannot give us stability or sustain us as it once did. Now we must manage our business as a true commercial enterprise that competes in every product line."* In response, Canada Post is restructuring its business into two distinct networks: a Physical Delivery Network (retail post offices and a home delivery network for packages, direct mail, and essential Transaction Mail), and a Digital Delivery Network (an online digital post office and e-bills and e-statements delivered to one epost box).

CALTAPEX 2013 SHOW SCHEDULE

Thursday, October 17:	Show setup at 17h00
Friday, October 18:	Show hours 13h00 to 18h00
Saturday, October 19:	Show hours 10h00 to 17h00
Sunday, October 20:	Show hours 10h00 to 16h00 Teardown begins at 16h00

"Meet the Judge" session will be held Friday evening. Small charge for food.

A called auction will be held on Saturday. Bring lots in at 10h00.

Awards banquet will be Saturday evening in the Kerby Centre Dining Room.

Exhibits should be brought in either late Thursday evening after setup is completed or Friday morning by 10h00.

Any questions can be directed to Show Chairman Walter Herdzik at 238-7845.

ONE METHOD TO STORE, CATALOGUE, AND ORGANIZE A STAMP COLLECTION

by Murray Bialek

Storage.

Over the years I have accumulated numerous boxes full of loose stamps, bags, kiloware, glassine envelopes, pages of stamps, stock books, remainders, albums, etc. Upon joining the CPS and returning to stamp collecting last year, I was faced with a major problem: how was I going to organize, store, and catalogue my stamps when I didn't even know what I owned, and I kept adding more material after each stamp club meeting and auction!

I did a lot of research before tackling this problem and compared many different methods, time requirements, and associated costs. I looked at glassine envelopes; hinges; stamp albums; creating my own pages using ordinary paper; cost of acid free paper; graph paper; the time required to create album pages; cost of printing cartridges; hingeless stamp albums; shoe boxes; and so on.

Although there were cheaper alternatives, after all was said and done, I decided to go with stock books, because they are extremely fast to use compared to nearly all other storage methods. Your stamps are beautifully displayed, each stamp is visible, and stock books are relatively cheap. A 32-page Lighthouse stock book, which can hold and display about 1,500 stamps, cost me \$12.00. If you buy them in bulk, all dealers will give you a discount. You can also purchase them via the internet, new or used. The next page shows an example of one of my stock book pages.

Catalogues.

There are numerous brands of catalogues on the market with many countries having their own national version, e.g. Scott's, Stanley Gibbons, Michel, etc. Purchasing a brand new set on a yearly basis is quite expensive. You can also purchase catalogues which are on computer disks, but you normally have to pay for upgrades every year. A much less expensive method is to buy a set of used catalogues or borrow them from the public library or from your stamp club.

Organization.

I created my own unique system for organizing my stamps. With my system I do not have to sort my stamps in any way in advance. I do not have to organize my stamps by country, or by catalogue number, or by year, or in any specific sequence or order and yet, I always know where each specific stamp is located in my stock book and can find each one immediately.

I did this by creating my own computer Excel spreadsheet to keep track of my collection. For those of you who may not be familiar with computers, a spreadsheet is really just a table with rows and columns. One spreadsheet will keep track of up to 1 million stamps and up to 250 different countries. You may use the “sheets” or “tabs” at the bottom of the spreadsheet to list your countries.

One advantage of this method is that you may carry all the information, with regard to a million stamps, or several million for that matter, on a flash drive, a laptop, an external hard drive, or even a smart phone. You can have a massive amount of information available to you at any bourse, stamp store, home, or anywhere. At any time, you will know what you own or what you are missing when you are buying stamps or checking your stamp collection.

To explain the specifics:

Step One.

Decide what you want to name each column at the top of your table. For example, I chose: Book # - Country - Catalogue # - Denomination - Cat. Value - MNH - Year - Colour - Comments. If you wish to include more data, you simply create more column headings, such as: Date Purchased - My Cost - Dealer - Condition - etc. You can even add photos of each of your stamps if you like.

Step Two.

Take any stamp, find the information about this stamp in a stamp catalogue, and fill in the table. Your table will begin to look something like the one shown below.

Book #	Country	Cat #	Denom	Value	MNH	Year	Cost	Colour	Comments
1.1.1.1	Newfoundland	131	0.01	\$1.90	MH	1923	\$1.00	gray green	
1.1.1.2	Malay	36	5.00	\$160.00	u	1906	\$3.00	green & ultra	wmk #3
1.1.1.3	Sweden	020	0.20	\$0.60	u	1891	\$0.38	blue dark	perf 13
1.1.1.4	Nyassa	38	300r	\$1.00	u	1901	\$0.12	black & yellow green	
1.1.1.5	Egypt	54	5m	\$24.00	u	1914	\$0.02	lake	wmk sideways star to right
2.9.6.4	Egypt	C7	2m	\$0.75	u	1938	\$0.02	orange red & black	
2.9.6.5	Hong Kong	223	10c	\$0.35	u	1965	\$0.01	blue green & claret	
2.9.6.6	Falkland Islands	232	5pi	\$0.40	MH	1974	\$0.01	multi	UPU
3.13.8.3	Bhutan	C30	10nu	\$5.75	MH	1974	\$0.01	lilac & multi	
3.13.8.4	Australia	392	2sh3p	\$3.00	u	1965	\$0.01	blue light & green	
12.30.9.5	Great Britain	390	1 1/2p	\$0.20	u	1963	\$0.01	pink & deep carmine	check for phosphorus
12.30.9.6	South Arabia	29	1.25f	\$4.00	MH	1966		multi	
12.30.9.7	Norway	370	1k	\$0.20	u	1959	\$0.01	green	
12.30.9.8	Norway	542	20k	\$0.20	u	1969	\$0.01	gray	supposed to be brown?

The key to this whole system is the first column above called Book #. To explain:

1.1.1.1 means a stamp is located in my first stock book, is on page 1 of the stock book, is in the first row, and is the first stamp in this row.

1.1.1.2 means a stamp is located in my first stock book, is on page 1 of the stock book, is in the first row, and is the second stamp in this row.

1.1.1.3 means a stamp is located in my first stock book, is on page 1 of the stock book, is in the first row, and is the third stamp in this row.

2.9.6.4 means a stamp is located in my second stock book, is on page 9 of the stock book, is in the sixth row, and is the fourth stamp in this row.

2.9.6.5 means a stamp is located in my second stock book, is on page 9 of the stock book, is in the sixth row, and is the fifth stamp in this row.

3.13.8.4 means a stamp is located in my third stock book, is on page 13 of the stock book, is in the eighth row, and is the fourth stamp in this row.

3.14.5.5 means a stamp is located in my third stock book, is on page 14 of the stock book, is in the fifth row, and is the fifth stamp in this row.

12.30.9.8 means a stamp is located in stock book number 12, is on page 30 of the stock book, is in the ninth row, and is the eighth stamp in this row. And so on.....

I am using Lighthouse stock books to store my stamps. My first stock book is labelled as #1. My second stock book is labelled stock book #2, etc.. These stock books contain 32 pages per book. Each page in the stock book contains nine rows in which to insert your stamps. My numbering system refers to specific books, pages, rows, and location of the stamps in each row. What I have done is to number each book chronologically starting with Book #1. You may write the number on the spine with a pen or marker or on the inside cover with a pencil and then keep your stock books in numerical sequence on your bookshelf.

What makes this storage method invaluable is the ability to instantly sort all your data with two to three key strokes and the numerous shortcuts one can employ using an Excel Spreadsheet. For example:

A running total of the number of stamps you have, a total value, and the total cost may be automatically displayed every time you add a new stamp to your spreadsheet. You may generate sequential line numbers automatically. For example, if you type in 1.1.1.1, you do not have to individually type the numbers that follow (1.1.1.2, 1.1.1.3, 1.1.1.4, etc.) into your table because Excel can do it automatically for you.

Copying, pasting, and sorting information is extremely easy using Excel. You do not have to type the name of an individual country each time you have a stamp from that country. For example, if you are cataloguing 50 stamps from Egypt you do not have to type in the word Egypt 50 times but only once.

Even though your spreadsheet contains stamps from numerous countries which are apparently not organized by country, with two or three clicks of your mouse, you can instantly sort your entire stamp collection into countries arranged from A to Z and can view what you own or do not own from each country. This is very helpful when you wish to purchase additional stamps from any specific country.

This spreadsheet creates the ultimate colour guide by instantly finding actual stamps for comparison purposes. For example, if you want to find a shade of red, you simply sort your column of colours with three clicks of your mouse and you can now look at actual “red” stamps in your stock books: red, red brick, red brown, red black, red dark, red lilac, red orange, red purple, red violet, red rose, etc. By sorting from A to Z, you can even organize your stamps by colour in your stock books and create the ultimate colour guide consisting of a rainbow of colours of 10,000 or more stamps!

In addition to stock books, you may also use 3-ring binders using the same numbering system for covers, sheets, blocks, or anything. You can even use shoe boxes with this method. For example, for storing covers in shoe boxes, 3.51 would mean Box #3 and the 51st cover from the front (simply insert tabs in the box after every 10-20 covers so you may easily locate the one you are looking for).

If you have a partner at home, I would recommend you initially record the data on paper and then have your partner just read the information out loud to you while you enter it into your computer spreadsheet. This method will make things go much faster BUT you might have to bribe your partner!

Of course, after the fact, if you want to extract all the stamps from one country and place them into one dedicated stock book, it's very easy to do so. An important advantage of this system is that when leaving your collection to your heirs, it's already organized, catalogued, and valued!

Finally, I would tell you to enjoy this process, read about each stamp, and learn what the stamp commemorates as you catalogue it. Avoid setting time deadlines and you may even work on your stamps while watching TV (with your partner if you wish), and remember to stay stress free!

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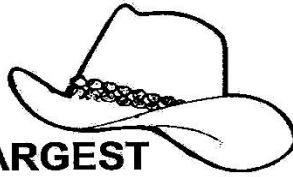
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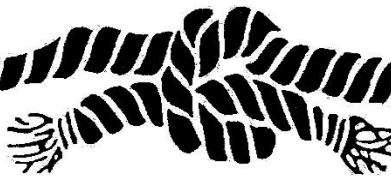
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SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

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: Fine used modern Canada and Australia. Please contact Michael Teekens at 805-4442 or michateekens@gmail.com

FOR SALE: Extensive collection of Alberta postmarks uniquely filed in 28 binders. Supplemented with historical data items of postal relevance. Contact Al at 282-1030 or dorandal@shaw.ca

WANTED: Used GB Machin Queen stamps with any selvage attached. Cash or trade (many countries). Call Georg at 547-0409.

WANTED: I volunteer at the Mennonite Community Centre store in Calgary. They raise money for worldwide disasters, and are looking for donations of old albums and pages, covers, and bulk stamps. To donate, please contact me, Greg Lang, at 282-1644.

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: 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: 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

SEPTEMBER MEETING ABOUT MELBOURNE

Four CPS members who attended the Australian international exhibition earlier this year in Melbourne talked about their experiences there at the September meeting. Jim Taylor, Norma Nielson, Janice Brookes, and Donna Trathen made the 12-hour flight Down Under. Janice showed off the medal she got for her exhibit, which used the same die of a kangaroo that was used to produce the famous Roo stamps. Several of the panelists remarked that attending a full-blown international stamp show is like going to the Olympics. It wasn't just stamps; they got to see a real live platypus and toured the area. A good time was definitely had by all!

DUES ARE DUE!

If you haven't already, please pay your dues for the 2013-14 season at the next meeting. Julius Szekrenyes is the man to see with your \$15.

YAHOO GROUP

Don't forget that the CPS has a discussion group on Yahoo restricted to paid-up members. To join it, see Dale Speirs at the meetings and give him your e-mail address. To ensure no spammers or other characters interfering, Dale has to see you face-to-face to verify your bona fides. The group is used for fast-breaking announcements about the club or philatelic events in Calgary that would otherwise miss the bulletin.

COMMITTEES

Archives	Dale Speirs	701-0174
Auctions - regular	Doug Kollar	547-3838
- silent	Jim Senecal	547-7681
Bulletin - Editor	Dale Speirs	701-0174
Circuit books	Larry Tweedale	282-9726
Library	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
Life Members	Jim Taylor	238-3698
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	Dave Bartlet	829-3580

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2013

September	18	Auction
October	2	General meeting
	16	Auction
	17	Show set-up begins 17h30
	18 to 20	CALTAPEX 2013
November	6	General meeting
	6	Deadline for December bulletin
	20	Auction
December	4	Christmas social

2014

January	8	General meeting (Provisional date: Because the first Wednesday is New Year's Day, the meeting will probably be postponed to the second Wednesday. Subject to change.)
	8	Deadline for February bulletin
	15	Auction
February	5	General meeting
	19	Auction

CALTAPEX 2013 will be held at the Kerby Centre, ground floor gymnasium. Details from Walter Herdzik at 238-7845.

MEETINGS and AUCTIONS are at the Kerby Centre, Room 205 (Lecture Room), 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.