

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 125

February 2014



Canada Post pulled a fast one in early December 2013 when they quietly withdrew all Permanent rate stamps from all post offices and replaced them with 63-cent stamps. With no announcement, the flag booklet was re-issued with a numerical value. See page 11 for the reason why.

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The CPS mailing address is Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6. The Web site is: www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com

Articles or advertisements for Calgary Philatelist should be sent to the Editor, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. Small ads are free to paid-up CPS members. Display ads are \$10 per full page per issue for hardcopy, jpeg, or pdf format only. Small ads and articles as hardcopy, plain text file, WordPerfect, or MS Word 1997 format only. Mail 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

A PHILATELIST’S JOURNEY IN THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN SUDAN: PART 1

by Donald Wilson

I began my philatelic career at age six as the child of missionary parents doing language study at Khartoum in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. As there was nothing else to capture the imaginations of a young, curious child in 1952, a huge bag of stamps on paper was ordered through Sear’s catalogue as a Christmas present. We soaked and soaked the massive amount of low value British and French definitives and put them in my father’s Greek Bible texts, many never to be seen again. I became an enthusiast, and when some fellow missionaries were bemoaning the expulsion of missionaries from Mao’s China, I declared, “That is simply awful!” Such a caring and devoted child! Then I announced “How will I ever get any stamps from China!”

My family moved into the remote Southern Sudan, where my father printed magazines and textbooks in English, Arabic, and tribal languages. My career in collecting proceeded gradually until at the age of thirteen I began a project to print a stamp album of all the Sudanese issues on fine heavy paper using hand-set type and movable brass rules. I made a fair sum (I don’t think I reimbursed the mission board for the paper), which went into buying a good deal of the early Sudanese and Egyptian issues. I also assembled a cancellation collection from 100 post offices from subscription letters for our mission’s Christian magazine. In 1961 my family and other missionaries were forced to leave at the onset of hostilities in the 61-year civil war between the Christian and animist South and the Arab and Moslem north.



From 1867 to 1885 Egyptian stamps were used in the Sudan, the southern provinces of Egypt conquered in 1821 from Arabized Moslem tribes and kingdoms. Figure 1 shows an Egyptian pyramid and Sphinx issue used in the coastal port of Suakin in 1874.

Figure 1

Figure 2 is a mail seal of Wadi Halfa used in place of wax seals on the reverse of registered letters.



Figure 2



Figure 3 shows a 1927 commemorative of British general Charles Gordon. He had been appointed governor of the Sudan in the 1873 by the Egyptians, who admired his military role in putting down a major Chinese rebellion in the 1860s. Gordon hated slavery, which was a major pillar of the Sudanese economy, drawing slaves from as far as Nigeria and exporting them to Arabia. For a while things went well, and Gordon went back to London. He was a bit of an eccentric, and a great example of what was then considered “muscular Christianity”.

Figure 3

A depressed economy in the Sudan and abusive taxation by the Egyptian rulers led to a religious and nationalist uprising by a Taliban-like religious fanatic, believed to be a reincarnated Imam and Moslem messiah of the end days, the Mahdi (Figure 4). The photo (Figure 5) is his tomb in Omdurman.

Figure 4



Figure 5



Gordon was sent by Britain in 1884 to see if Khartoum could be held, and to evacuate the Europeans and Egyptians in the capital. He took it upon himself to fortify Khartoum, and appeal to be rescued. The Liberal Prime Minister Gladstone in London sympathized with the native rebellion, and kept putting off an expedition. Finally Queen Victoria had to send him a public telegram shaming him into sending an expeditionary force, in which Canadian and Australian forces had their first overseas military mail. The effort was so delayed that Khartoum was over-run after a siege of 313 days and Gordon lost his head, only two days before the arrival of the relief forces. He became a military and colonial martyr for the British.



Figure 6

By late 1898 the Anglo-Egyptian forces reached Omdurman, the rebel capital, and slaughtered their troops with the aid of modern machine guns. Egyptian stamps and dues were overprinted for use in the Sudan. (Figure 6).

In 1898 a new bi-coloured design by De La Rue was introduced, showing mail delivery by a camel postman (Figure 7). The Sudanese government used this design over and over again, with different watermarks, in different sizes, and with differing script, and overprints and surcharges. Suffice to say, there were a lot of camels, and the Sudanese philatelist has a veritable Camelot of camel lots!



Figure 7

[to be continued]

CURRENT POSTMARKS OF CALGARY: PART 29

by Dale Speirs

Changed RePOs.

Every time a retail postal outlet (RePO) changes hands, a new number is assigned to it, thus a new postmark.

Crowfoot: Shoppers Drug Mart, Crowfoot Terrace NW. This was a Paragon Pharmacy which was bought out by Shoppers. Thanks to Sandy Freeman for letting me know about this one.



Downtown: Exchange Gift and Convenience, Calgary Place, 5 Avenue SW. This was formerly Sprague's Drugs and was bought out by Exchange Gift (so-called because the Calgary Stock Exchange used to be in this skyscraper). The pharmacy has been replaced by racks of greeting cards and novelties, but the RePO is physically unchanged. However, a new owner means a new outlet number and postmark.

Re-Opened RePO.

Mission: Shoppers Drug Mart, 4 Street SW and 24 Avenue. This RePO is called the Elbow River outlet, and never anywhere in Canada was a RePO better named. The store is located where 4 Street SW dips down a couple of metres into an old river channel that had been dry for centuries until the Elbow River decided to re-use it during the great flood of June 21.

The store and postal outlet were destroyed and did not re-open until November 30 after being completely gutted and refitted. The RePO was previously in the southeast corner of the store but was rebuilt in the northeast corner. The manager told me nothing survived from the old RePO and all the mail was lost.

I was the first customer there, but the RePO had not yet received its new Elbow River canceller despite it being on order. The manager offered to cancel my cover with his personal postmark. The address on it was the Calgary Mail Processing Plant (CMPP) at the airport. I went back several times over the next few weeks but the new canceller still hadn't arrived and the clerks were using the Retail Business postmark. I re-visited the RePO on December 31 but they still did not have their new canceller.





The manager told me he had phoned Canada Post the previous day to find out why it was taking so long, but all they told him was that it would arrive sometime in January. On January 7, I checked back again and the new canceller had arrived that day. Unfortunately it wasn't until I got home that I discovered the postmark had the wrong date. The wheels hadn't been rotated far enough on the date dials. The postmark is an impossible date because the RePO was still under re-construction on November 7 and was not open. Postmark collecting is not easy!

Discontinued RePOs.

Cougar Ridge: Cougar Ridge Drive SW, Mac's Convenience Store. The store dropped its RePO sometime in 2013. Can anyone advise more exactly when it closed?

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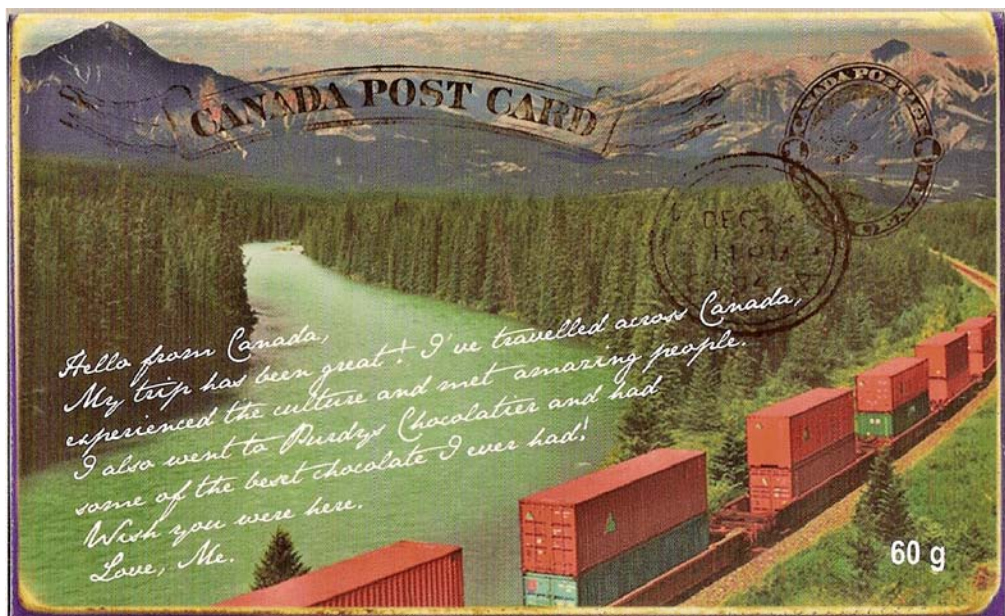
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POSTCARDS AND CHOCOLATES

by Elizabeth Saunaranta

One sideline collection of mine is the use of philatelic themes for non-philatelic products. In the April 2010 issue of CALGARY PHILATELIST, I showed examples of American chocolate bars with wrappers made up to look like covers franked with stamps from exotic places. This summer I was in a Calgary shopping mall and at a Purdy's chocolate store found them selling chocolate bars with Canadian-themed postcards. The chocolates were in a small box about the size of a cigarette pack. The lid of the chocolate box was made to resemble a postal card but is obviously not a genuine article. The postcard inscription, Queen Victoria postage imprint, and 1894 Toronto postmark were printed overtop a colour photo, which of course would never exist for the real postal cards, which were just plain cardboard. When the lid is opened, the underside has a pseudo-postcard split back, with room for names or an inscription. On the postcard front is a handwritten inscription gushing about the wonderful scenery and the equally wonderful chocolates from Purdy's.

The lid of the milk chocolate box showed a scene from Banff National Park, at the famous Morant's Curve viewpoint on the Bow Valley Parkway (the old Trans-Canada Highway). This spot overlooks the CPR mainline where it and the Bow River gently curve against a backdrop of mountains. It is named after a photographer who popularized the location with his many photos of trains rounding the curve. The pseudo-postcard is made to look like an old-time chrome postcard, but the giveaway is that the photo shows a freight train hauling containers, which didn't come into common use until the 1960s.





The image of the pseudo-postcard for the box of white chocolate shows an image of a seashore lighthouse, probably Nova Scotia. Being a flatlander born and raised, I don't recognize the location. Again, it is overprinted with the 1894 Victorian markings and the same gushing message. Because the background is lighter, the faux postal card and postmark imprints show up better.

The packages are well done and a lot of thought obviously went into it, albeit by non-philatelists. The chocolate contained within is good too!



CHRISTMAS SOCIAL WAS A SUCCESS!

The December 4 social had a full room despite a two-day blizzard, and all those present had a good time. The potluck supper filled two long tables with food. Doris and Peter Fleck provided a flag bingo game as an icebreaker, and the CPS presented its annual awards.

The Founders' Award for service to the club over the past season went to Larry Tweedale. In addition to running the circuit books, a major task in itself, Larry was also the Volunteers chairman on the Show Committee.

The Dr. E.G. Mason Award, named after the founder of the CPS, is given for long service over several years, and went to Norma Nielson. Besides her work as Treasurer, she has been active on the Show Committee for many years.

The 2013 Author of the Year Award went to Murray Bialek for his article about his unusual system of filing stamps and keeping track of his collection.

Congratulations to all the winners!

In the photo below, CPS President Peter Fleck can be seen standing at the head of the tables at the start of the social.



WHISTLING PAST THE GRAVEYARD

by Leanteri Polvikoski

On December 11, Canada Post announced that as of March 31, 2014, postage rates will soar to punitive levels as it tries to convert to the Internet world where the coming generation has never mailed a letter with a stamp on it. The domestic rate will go from 63 cents to \$1. If you buy booklets or coils, the \$1 stamps will be discounted to 85 cents, but individual stamps will cost \$1. Prior to the announcement, Canada Post quietly withdrew Permanent stamps from all its post offices and replaced them with numeric-value stamps to prevent customers from stocking up on P stamps. All P stamps previously issued are still good for postage. If you have old numerical-value stamps, you will have to use \$1 worth of them.

USA and international rates have not yet been announced but they will be proportionately higher. Canada Post is desperately racing to convert to a parcel service and courier company, where the future is. The Internet may be killing the Papernet, but goods ordered online have to be delivered physically. 3-D printers will eventually displace some of those parcel orders as well, but that is another decade down the line.

Other changes by Canada Post include the end of door-to-door service in urban areas. Since only one-third of Canadians get mail to their door, the rest of Canada won't give them much sympathy, especially those of us who grew up in rural areas. There is already indignation about how seniors and the disabled will manage, but manage they will and must. After all, they don't get milk and groceries delivered anymore.

Canada Post staff will be reduced by 8,000 over five years, obviously mostly letter carriers, but normal attrition will take care of most of this and the rest can probably get work in the sorting plants. What is interesting is that Canada Post has stated that it wants to increase the number of retail postal outlets (RePOs). Currently it has 6,600 RePOs and post offices, which makes it the largest point-of-presence retailer in Canada. Even Tim Horton's doesn't have that many stores. This means that postmark collectors will be busier than ever. RePOs are constantly opening and closing, so that will keep up the philatelic interest.

The generation now under 18 years of age will probably never send a stamped letter. Does this mean the end of stamp collecting? Organized philately such as local clubs and stamp shows will likely dwindle away as the Boomers die off. That doesn't mean an end to the hobby though. The next generation of philatelists, already here, is online. They get their information from Websites and pdf magazines. They socialize with other stamp collectors on blogs, not face to face at club meetings. They buy and sell on eBay, not dealer bourses. An analogy is numismatics. The vast majority of financial transactions today are electronic or carded, but coin collecting is still around.

The World Wide Web was invented in 1991 by Dr. Tim Berners-Lee as a method for scientists to publish papers online. He never foresaw what would happen and neither did anyone else. Now mighty business empires are being consigned to the dustbin of history, and newspapers are dying off like flies. Others, such as Canada Post, are forced to re-invent themselves as a matter of sheer survival.

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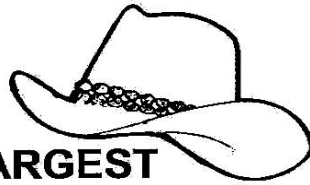
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These ads are free to paid-up CPS members, and will also appear on the CPS Website at no additional cost. Mail your ads to Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7, or hand them to me at meetings.

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: Remnants of collections, used and mint. Newfoundland - approximately 145 different stamps, est. catalogue \$3,065. Canadian - 220 stamps, est. catalogue \$14,400, USA - 95 stamps, est. \$2,400, all arranged in lots. Fiume - mounted on quadrille pages, 94 stamps from 1918, est. \$475. Yugoslavia collection from 1918, 1315 used stamps, plus Serbia 110 stamps, Bosnia 195 stamps, Croatia 85 stamps, Montenegro 135 stamps, Slovenia 125 stamps, est. for group \$700. Call Andy at 241-2593. Will sell in bulk or individually, prices negotiable.

FOR SALE: Used catalogues: 2011 Scott, 2012 Gibbons Stamps of the World Simplified, and 2012 Gibbons British Commonwealth and Empire. Call Danny at 237-5923.

FOR SALE: Fleetwood FDC binder with slipcase, designed for standard 3-ring 10"x10" pages. Five binders at \$5 each or all five for \$20. Call Danny at 237-5923.

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: 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: Canadian military covers and postcards with hospital ships (white with red crosses). Contact Jon Johnson at 253-8411 or jcperfins@hotmail.com

CLUB NEWS

Congratulations to CPS members who exhibited at the Brasiliana 2013 international show in November 2013. Fitz Roett won a Large Gold for Barbados stampless covers and Britannia issues. Sandra Freeman won a Vermeil for Bolivian airmails 1925-1945.

The Nov/Dec 2013 issue of CANADIAN PHILATELIST had two articles by Calgary philatelists. Fitz Roett authored "Barbados Mail To Canada 1857 To 1878", while Bill Pawluk was a co-author of "The Dollar Value Jubilees". Dale Speirs had a postal history of Priddis, Millarville, and Kew in the 2013 Q4 issue of BNA TOPICS, and a history of the Airdrie, Crossfield and adjacent foothills post offices in the Autumn 2013 issue of PHSC JOURNAL.

The December 2013 issue was mailed with the Calgary Flames jersey booklet stamp and postmarked Seton from the new RePO at Shoppers Drug Mart on Seton Crescent SE. This issue (February) will be mailed from the Shoppers Elbow River RePO using the unannounced 63-cent flag stamp.

At the January 8 general meeting, there were two main items in the programme. Peter Fleck moderated a vigorous audience discussion about the impending postal rate hikes. Jim Taylor then presented a slide show about his recent trip to the Institute For Analytical Philately to use their superscience machines on the Wings Over Norway stamps. He was trying to determine if there was a method to separate Plate 1 (printed 1942) from Plate 2 (1946) stamps if examining only single stamps. The imprint blocks, of course, identify the plates, but a casual visual inspection of single stamps doesn't show any differences. Jim showed the devices he used and the results obtained therefrom.

COMMITTEES

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Auctions - regular	Doug Kollar	547-3838
- silent	Jim Senecal	547-7681
Bulletin - Editor	Dale Speirs	701-0174
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Webmaster	Dave Bartlet	829-3580

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2014

January	15	Auction
February	5	General meeting
	19	Auction
March	5	General meeting
	5	Deadline for April bulletin
	19	Auction
April	2	General meeting
	16	Auction
May	7	General meeting
	7	Deadline for June bulletin
	21	Auction
June	4	General meeting
	18	Auction
	18	Deadline for July bulletin
August	6	Deadline for August bulletin
September	3	General meeting
	3	Deadline for October bulletin
	17	Auction
October	1	General meeting
	15	Auction
	17 to 19	CALTAPEX 2014

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.