

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 128

July 2014



Early trans-Atlantic flights were as dangerous if not more so than space travel. In this issue, Duncan Murray looks at a 1930 flight that finally made it across the water to England on October 9 (note the intended date on the cover above). What sets Duncan's cover apart is that the letter enclosed in the cover was not the usual congratulations but a letter of complaint which is hilarious when read eight decades later. See page 8 for the full story.

Calgary Philatelist is published by the Calgary Philatelic Society. It is copyright by the CPS, except signed articles, which are copyright by the authors. Written permission is required to reprint articles.

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

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.

2014-2015 EXECUTIVE

Past President	Peter Fleck	590-1574
President	Larry Tweedale	282-9726
Vice President	Murray Bialek	241-2006
Secretary	Donna Trathen	272-0804
Treasurer	Norma Nielson	547-6197
Directors - ex officio	Peter Fleck	590-1574
- 1st year	Erica Peters	
- 2nd year	Dave Freeman	815-7085
- 2nd year	Mike McPhail	239-9730
- 2nd year	Doug Kollar	547-3838

COMMITTEES - see page 15 for list of committee chairpersons

POSTAL HISTORY OF CALGARY: GROSS REVENUES

by Dale Speirs

The Main Post Office.

Between 1868 and 1952, the annual reports of the Postmaster-General (PMG) of the Canadian Post Office listed all the post offices in Canada with their gross revenues. The gross revenue of a post office tells how big the post office was. A century ago in Alberta, ranch house post offices would have \$50 to \$100 in annual revenue, village post offices had \$500 to \$1,000, and big cities had five-figure revenues. Calgary was a hamlet until the railroad came through in 1883, at which time its post office opened. The post office opened on October 1 that year, with William Bannerman as first postmaster. He skipped town in early 1885 when he failed an audit by the postal inspector, and spent his remaining years in California. Calgary opened its first Sub Post Office in 1906, and their revenues were also listed in the PMG reports, as well as the main post office.

Although many researchers have used the annual PMG reports, no one to my knowledge has compiled post office revenues into a spreadsheet so that one can see the growth (or death) of a post office over time. I have been doing it with Alberta post offices but my spreadsheets are nowhere complete. I used the University of Calgary Law Library and Calgary Public Library collections of PMG reports but they are missing Fiscal Year 1931. The year dates are for fiscal years ending in March, which is what the federal government used. The year 1911, for example, is the gross revenue from April 1, 1910 to March 31, 1911. What is important is not the absolute amount but the trend over the years and the comparison between post offices within a year. The purpose of this article is to make these data more widely available, particularly if you collect Calgary postmarks and Sub Post Office marks.

Calgary Main Post Office Gross Revenues (fiscal years, not calendar years)				
1884	1885	1886	1887	1888
\$1,200.48	\$3,966.83	\$3,503.02	\$5,829.44	\$6,777.38
1889	1890	1891	1892	1893
\$7,820.03	\$7,576.10	\$9,103.71	\$9,964.93	\$10,512.53
1894	1895	1896	1897	1898
\$10,893.04	\$10,749.84	\$10,082.65	\$10,184.26	\$12,359.13

1899	1900	1901	1902	1903
\$11,705.47	\$11,611.45	\$13,974.40	\$16,447.07	\$20,976.40
1904	1905	1906	Beginning Fiscal 1907, the following totals are the Main Post Office only, no Subs.	
\$28,636.46	\$39,781.03	\$53,408.73		
1907	1908	1909	1910	1911
\$52,312.82	\$89,259.05	\$97,200.84	\$123,232.80	\$154,693.00
1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
\$219,949.05	\$280,156.99	\$269,777.60	\$236,065.91	\$269,779.36
1917	1918	1919	1920	1921
\$288,617.07	\$303,619.97	\$315,601.33	\$391,282.52	\$455,217.72
1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
\$431,643.81	\$419,058.87	\$406,729.08	\$425,151.86	\$439,435.94
1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
\$435,338.84	\$465,724.63	\$528,726.68	\$548,911.61	not available
1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
\$439,883.54	\$357,739.00	\$314,459.81	\$307,944.99	\$328,956.95
1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
\$323,376.52	\$332,859.11	\$361,799.72	\$367,746.12	\$409,822.39

1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
\$497,521.22	\$566,918.72	\$701,798.64	\$718,288.93	\$762,624.51
1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
\$813,596.15	\$914,490.18	\$970,496.56	\$1,020,420.35	\$1,085,526.13
1952	Annual PMG reports did not list post offices or their revenues after 1952.			
\$1,291,624.31				

In 1912, a huge building boom occurred in Alberta, and Calgary postal revenue almost doubled in one year. There was a brief recession in 1922-23. Note the decline in revenues during the Great Depression. After 1932, revenues fell by about one-quarter and didn’t recover to their previous level until the early years of World War Two. In 1952, the total gross revenue of the Calgary post office, including 25 Sub post offices, was \$1,896,796.86, which indicates that the Subs were servicing about one-third of postal customers.

Sub Post Offices.

The first Calgary Sub Post Office opened on 1906-08-01 in the Black & Shaw grocery store in Inglewood. Unlike many Subs that subsequently opened and closed, this one has been in continuous existence ever since, although it has changed locations and owners many times. Today it is in the Marshall Drugs store at 9 Avenue SE and 12 Street, still in Inglewood. The Sub-Post Office numbering scheme originally began in logical order by geography. They were initially opened in batches, the first group being in 1906.

When some Sub-Post Offices closed, they were later re-opened under the same number in another part of the city. As an example, Sub 12 was opened in the Bridgeland district in northeast Calgary. It closed for seven years, then re-opened in the Mission district of southwest Calgary. Some numbers were never assigned, such as 27 and 33. Beginning over the 1989 to 1991 period, Sub Post Offices were converted to Retail Postal Outlets (RePOs). Canada Post began abandoning offices run directly by it and also re-organized its letter carrier depots. As of 2014, Canada Post only runs two post offices in Calgary directly, while there are about 80 RePOs around the city. RePOs are constantly opening and closing, so the list will never be completely finished.

I have been compiling a list of all the Subs and RePOs of Calgary, now numbering in the hundreds. It would take twenty years worth of this bulletin to serialize all the Subs and RePOs with their addresses, managers, and dates operating. If anyone is seriously interested in a copy of this list, see me at the meetings and I can email you a pdf of the latest version. The list is far too long to print out.

The next table is a sample of the gross revenue data I have compiled from the annual reports of the Canadian Post Office. (Remember that these are fiscal years, not calendar years.) To print all the Sub gross revenues would also take many issues of this bulletin.

Sub Post Offices were opened at a steady pace until Sub 26 in 1915. By then labour shortages caused by World War One were felt, and no more Subs were opened for decades. It wasn't until 1950 that Sub 28 opened in what is now the Chinook Shopping Centre but at that time was a loose collection of shopping plazas. Interestingly enough, the new Sub 28 was in Marshall Drugs, the druggists who now have the RePO successor to Sub 1. That Sub was still in Inglewood, in the City Meat Market, and it wasn't until 1975 that the drugstore moved to Inglewood and took over it from a florist. When Sub 28 opened, it had been so long since the last Sub opened that the post office staff lost track of the numbering system. As a result, there has never been a Sub 27 in Calgary.

	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911
Sub 1	\$329.00	\$660.00	\$733.00	\$1,240.00	\$1,558.00
Sub 2	\$80.06	\$50.00	closed		
Sub 3	\$389.00	\$609.00	\$614.00	\$310.00	\$289.00
Sub 4	\$236.00	\$363.00	\$386.00	\$600.24	\$584.00
Sub 5			\$127.00	\$229.00	\$240.00
Sub 6			\$10.00	\$137.00	\$433.00
Sub 7					\$716.00

Sub 1 - Black & Shaw grocery store from 1906-08-01 until 1913-07-07 at 1208 - 9 Avenue East (today Southeast, in the Inglewood district)

Sub 2 - W.S. Cooper was postmaster but his type of business and address was not found in city directories. He had the position from 1906-08-01 to 1907-08-01, when the Sub closed. It didn't re-open until 1911-09-16 under a different owner.

Sub 3 - Great West Trading Store in Hillhurst, street address not listed in directories. In those days, Calgary was so small that outlying suburbs didn't bother with street addresses. Nowadays Hillhurst is an inner-city neighbourhood but in those days it was out in the boondocks.

Sub 4 - Grocery store at 503 - 14 Avenue West, which would be Southwest today. This would have been a corner lot on the west side of 4 Street SW in the Beltline district, a block south of Central Memorial Park.

- Sub 5 - Grocery store in Bankview in the inner-city southwest. No street address given in the directories.
- Sub 6 - Several stores and owners in the first few years, all in the vicinity of Centre Street and 16 Avenue NW, which was the northern edge of the city at the time.
- Sub 7 - Unknown type of store operated by J.W. Chittick at 1405 - 11 Street West (today Southwest) in the Connaught district.

WORLD WAR ONE CENTENNIAL AND CALGARY PHILATELY



The founder of the Calgary Philatelic Society in 1922 was Dr. Edward George Mason. He was also Lt. Col. Mason and served in WW1. He was made responsible for recruiting men into the 50th Battalion in Calgary. As commanding officer, he took the 50th overseas. Many of the charter members of the CPS served under him and were fellow philatelists.

Wounded in France, Mason was hospitalized for a time. Upon his release from hospital, he was sent into the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps because there was a shortage of medical officers. He took over command of the Shorncliffe Medical Hospital in England, remaining there until June 1919, at which time he returned home to Canada.



The 50th Battalion was headquartered at Sarcee Camp, where today is the suburb of Signal Hill. The photo shows the camp at its peak. It had its own post office, in one of the large tents.

A 1930 NEWFOUNDLAND TRANS-ATLANTIC FLIGHT

by Duncan Murray

The advent of the aeroplane provided another tool to deliver mail great distances. First between cities, then between coasts, and finally across oceans. It is a well-known fact that the Zeppelin made more revenue carrying mail than passengers. So naturally pioneer aviators would offset their costs using this method. The public relished it by sending letters on these historic and dangerous flights. This is a story of two letter and two flights that had its share of shaky starts and exciting endings.

The first flight was to take place in the summer of 1930. Captain Erroll Boyd carefully planned every detail. He and his manager promoted this flight as the first trans-Atlantic solo crossing by a Canadian. His plan was to fly from Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, to Croydon, England. First he flew the "Columbia", a Wright-Bellanca WB-2, an aircraft he was extremely familiar with, to Toronto. He had re-christened it "The Maple Leaf". He then flew it to Montreal but as soon as he landed it was seized by the RCMP. There had been a lien placed on the aircraft by a former pilot, Roger Q. Williams, against the plane's owner Levine. This had to be resolved by lawyers and the courts. As the legal proceeding dragged on for three weeks, summer quickly passed. So did the dreams of Captain Boyd, who with his business manager were holed up in a Montreal hotel waiting their fate by the courts.

A friend and former navigator of Boyd's had been petitioning him to allow him to be his navigator on his flight. Boyd had refused. Finally common sense overcame pride and dreams. He had his friend join him, thus ending the first flight that crashed even before it took flight. The plane finally made it to England on October 9.



As the men hurriedly planned their flight, the Postmaster-General of Newfoundland had three overprinted sheets of the 1919 Trail of the Caribou 36-cent stamp overprinted with "Trans-Atlantic Air Mail By BM Columbia September 1930 Fifty Cents", in total 300 stamps. 100 of these would be carried on the plane, as well as regular mail without the overprinted stamps.

The Letters.

As word spread, Mr. D.S. Bell, the manager of Imperial Oil in Montreal, wanted a letter from this flight. His plan was simple. He wrote two letters to Mr. Holliday, the manager of Vacuum Oil, one of their subsidiaries in London, offering him one letter and in return the other letter would be sent back to him in Montreal.

This letter was written on 1930-09-25 and was discovered in the cover by me. The letter explains the flight and asks the recipient to return a copy. The front side is shown on the front cover of this bulletin and the reverse side is below. As I read the letter, I found one paragraph of particular interest:

"It is regretted that Vacuum Oils or products of our own Manufacture are not beng used in this flight. We understand the supply of Gasoline and Motor Oil was arranged for by the Shell Company, prior to the "Columbia" leaving London, Ontario, Canada."

It is interesting to get a personal glimpse into a little known fact about the flight and to learn the history of two of the covers. Unfortunately the whereabouts of the second cover is not known but hopefully someday it will surface.





IMPERIAL OIL LIMITED

SALES DEPARTMENT

D.S.BELL
MANAGER

ST. JOHN'S, NFLD. September 25/30.

SUBJECT

W. Holliday



Manager,
Vacuum Oil Company,
London, England.

Dear Sir:

Greetings from England's Oldest Colony.

This letter leaves by the plane "Columbia" from Harbor Grace, Newfoundland, piloted by Captain Errol Boyd, and Lieutenant Connor, Navigator.

Doubtless you are aware this plane previously made a successful Trans-Atlantic flight from United States with Chamberlain and Devine, and it is hoped that this flight will be equally successful.

It is regretted that Vacuum Oils or products of our own Manufacture are not being used in this flight. We understand the supply of Gasoline and Motor Oil was arranged for by the Shell Company, prior to the "Columbia" leaving London, Ontario, Canada.

Will you be good enough to return the writer one of the two envelopes we are forwarding by this Air Mail.

With kind personal regards,

Very truly yours,
Imperial Oil, Ltd.,

Manager.

ALL QUOTATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

CALGARY GROUP EXHIBIT

At the instigation of the Calgary Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, a one-frame group exhibit was prepared titled “Calgary: Heart of the New West”. The exhibit was shown at the Edmonton show in March 2014 and will be appearing again at this year’s CALTAPEX. Those who contributed pages to the exhibit were Dale Speirs, Janice Brookes, Jim Taylor, Donna Trathen, Dave Bartlet, and Don Wilson.



CANADA COVERS AND STAMPS



HAROLD KELLETT



EMAIL: leanne@myaccess.ca

WEB SITE: www.canadacoversandstamps.ca



PO BOX 8 DELISLE SK S0L 0P0 306-493-2981

MJR POSTCARDS & COVERS LTD



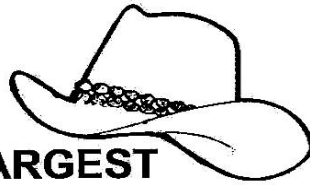
JOHN BUCCI

EBAY ID: [mjrpcc](#)

EMAIL: mjrcards@telusplanet.net

WEB SITE: www.mjrpstcardsandcovers.ca

PO BOX 36027 NW EDMONTON AB T5X 5V9
780-456-7095 TOLL FREE 1-877-456-7095 CELL 780-996-7095



CALGARY'S LARGEST STAMP SHOPPE

R.D. MINER PHILATELICS

STAMPEDE CITY STAMPS

1613 - 14 Street SW, ground floor
Parking at rear, off 16 Avenue.
Bus routes 2, 6, and 7 stop by the building.

Open Monday thru Saturday.

**OLD and NEW
• Worldwide Stamps •**

Full Range of Philatelic
Supplies - Accessories - Supplements

BUY - SELL - TRADE

(403) 233-7541
rdminer@telus.net



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: 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: 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.

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

CLUB NEWS

Ron Tabbert published an article “What Colour Is The Sky?”, which dealt with background art on stamps, in the May/June 2014 issue of CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

The June bulletin was mailed from the Marlborough Mall post office (run directly by Canada Post), which is scheduled to close sometime later this year and will be replaced by the Shoppers Drug Mart postal outlet at the other end of the mall.

Peter Fleck, the outgoing CPS President, awarded the monthly President’s Pot at the June meeting to incoming President Larry Tweedale.

Jim Taylor, the RPSC International Liaison, was in Cuba in early June for their stamp exhibition. He will be a judge at the forthcoming show in St. Pierre et Miquelon this September. Both shows are sanctioned by the Inter-American Federation of Philately.

The national stamp show of Canada, Royal 2014 Royale, was in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and several CPS members won medals. Gold was taken by Dave Bartlet (Newfoundland booklets). Vermeil medals were awarded to Janice Brookes (World Wildlife Fund) and Dave Bartlet (Canada computer-vended postage). Dave Bartlet also won the One-Frame Grand Award.

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	Gerry Vader	293-0158
Membership	Julius Szekrenyes	282-7982
Private Treaty books	Gerry Vader	293-0158
Programmes	vacant	
Webmaster	Dave Bartlet	829-3580

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2014

July	11	Stampede breakfast sponsored by the Kerby Centre in their gymnasium from 08h30. CPS members who have the time are asked to attend as an informal summer get-together. Dress Western and leave your stamps at home; this is just for eating hearty and socializing.
August	6	Deadline for August bulletin
September	3	General meeting
	3	Deadline for October bulletin
	10	BNAPS Regional Group meeting
	13	Junior Club meeting
	17	Auction
	24	CAPE meeting
October	1	General meeting
	8	BNAPS Regional Group meeting
	15	Auction
	17 to 19	CALTAPEX 2014
	22	CAPE meeting
November	5	General meeting
	5	Deadline for December bulletin
	12	BNAPS Regional group meeting
	19	Auction
	26	CAPE meeting
December	3	Christmas social

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.

CALTAPEX 2014 is at the Kerby Centre. Information from Walter Herdzik at 238-7845.

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.

JUNIOR CLUB meets monthly on Saturdays. Information from Jim Senecal at 547-7681.

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