

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 145

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DESIGN - JOSEPH GAGLE, ART DUNKELMAN & NIX DESIGN GROUP



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE HOCKEY HALL OF FAME / AVEC LA PERMISSION DU TEMPLE DE LA RENOMMÉE DU HOCKEY

If it's winter, it must be time for the regular NHL stamps. The set released this year on September 23 honours forwards. This bulletin was mailed with these stamps.

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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, or hand to Dale Speirs at meetings, or email 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 pdf copy can be had for free at www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com.

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- 2nd year	Mike McPhail	239-9730
- 2nd year	Doug Kollar	547-3838
- 1st year	Erika Peter	257-7673

COMMITTEES - see page 15 for list of committee chairpersons.

BARREL MAIL IN THE GALAPAGOS

by Danny Chow

During the CPS summer break, I went through some of my old stamp collections and came across the covers shown on Figures 1 and 2. The “barrel mailbox” postmarks on the covers caught my attention so I decided to do some research on it. I have never been to the Galapagos Islands.

Barrel Mail in the Galapagos originated in 1793. It served as a means for British whalers to send letters back home. A 300-years-old whisky barrel was placed on Floreana Island, at a location which is now known as Postal Office Bay. Over the years, the barrel had been replaced a few times. Today’s version is just a wooden barrel on a stick, as depicted on one of the postmarks shown on Figure 2.

The Barrel Mail concept is relatively simple. The sailors put their letters in the barrel mailbox, hoping that they would get picked up and delivered by ships returning home. Then they would sort through the letters in the barrel and take with them letters destined to where they are heading. They would then hand-deliver the letters upon arrival to their destination.

Today, the tradition of Barrel Mail continues, but rather as a tourist attraction. Visitors write letters or postcards, sometimes even to themselves, and put them in the barrel without postage. Then they wait and wonder if their letter would ever get delivered. Next they sort through the letters or postcards in the barrel for an address where they can deliver by hand, either somewhere close to home or somewhere they will be in the near future.



Figure 1

Sometimes visitors who want to take part in this unique tradition take letters with them, affix stamps on them, and mail them. This kind of defeats the modern-day tradition of Barrel Mail. The idea is to have the letter hand delivered by a stranger who visited the Post Office Bay, and not be delivered by postal service. This is a way for strangers to meet and share their experience (trip) to Galapagos and tell the story on how the letter got to the recipient. For this reason, letters could sometimes take days or even years to get delivered, or sometimes not at all.

The covers shown on Figures 1 and 2 were mailed rather than hand delivered. Apparently someone picked up the Figure 1 cover, hopped on the Schooner Migrant to Hilo, affixed the stamp and popped it in the mailbox. The Post Office Galapagos postmark was probably applied before the postcard was put into the Barrel Mailbox. The story on Figure 2 cover is somewhat different. It looks like the mailer acquired some Ecuador stamps on location, affixed them on the envelope and put it into a postal box (not Barrel Mailbox), with "Air mail" written on the cover suggested that it was to be mailed. This was supported by the dotted circular postmark which included the mailing date. So it would seem that the cancel was made by the Ecuador postal service.

On the cover shown in Figure 1, the person who wrote the postcard commented on having lunch with Mrs. (Margret) Wittmer. She happened to be the oldest settler in the Galapagos and was the designer of the four postmarks shown on the cover in Figure 2. The design of the rectangle postmark has been changed over time.



Figure 2

While researching on the Internet, I came across a February 27, 1941, cover bearing the original rectangle Galapagos Post Office postmark (not shown here). Since Margret Wittmer moved to the Galapagos in 1932, that puts the design date of the original postmark between 1932 and 1941. The rectangle postmark shown on the two covers here are all different, indicating that they were designed at different dates. As for the other three postmarks, based on these two covers shown, I am guessing that they were designed between 1971 and 1987, as they were shown on the 1987 but not the 1971 cover.

Another interesting thing about these two covers is that Rae McIntyre was the sender of the postcard, mailed in 1971. She was the recipient of the letter, mailed after 1986, some fifteen years later.

Do not confuse Galapagos Barrel Mail with the Tin Can Mail in Niuafo'ou, Tonga. Tin Can Mail is where mail to the island was put into the Tin Can by Tonga post office and delivered by merchant ship. As the ship passed through the island, the captain would throw the tin can into the sea where an islander would swim out and fetch the tin can and hand the outgoing mail to the captain. Postage is required for the mail. This method of delivery was used until 1983 when an airstrip was constructed on the island.

Cocos Islands used the similar method of mail delivery as the Tin Can Mail from 1909 to 1954. However, instead of swimming out into the sea to fetch the mail, two jukongs were used, one to retrieve the mail in a barrel and the other to deliver the mail in a sealed tin can. Hence, incoming mail is known as Barrel Mail and outgoing mail as Tin Can Mail. Australian, and sometimes Ceylonese, postage were used on these mail, depending on the ships that picked up the mail.

Related Links.

www.philatelicedatabase.com/pacific-islands/galapagos-post-office/

Video of the tour guide explaining Barrel Mailbox at Post Office Bay (Floreana Island).

www.galapagos.to/POSTAL/WITTMER.HTM

Images of Margret Wittmer's postmarks.

www.bbc.com/travel/story/20150409-the-worlds-most-charming-mailbox

Touching story on a couple's trip to Galapagos and the emotional response of the recipient when they delivered the Barrel Mail postcard.

www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/28/AR2010012803677.html

Story on one person's trip to the Galapagos and how he delivered the "barrel mail" to its destination faster than the postal services.

www.galapagos.to/TEXTS/POBARREL.HTM

Historical account on the origin of Barrel Mailbox.

www.bettybillingham.co.uk/TCM.html

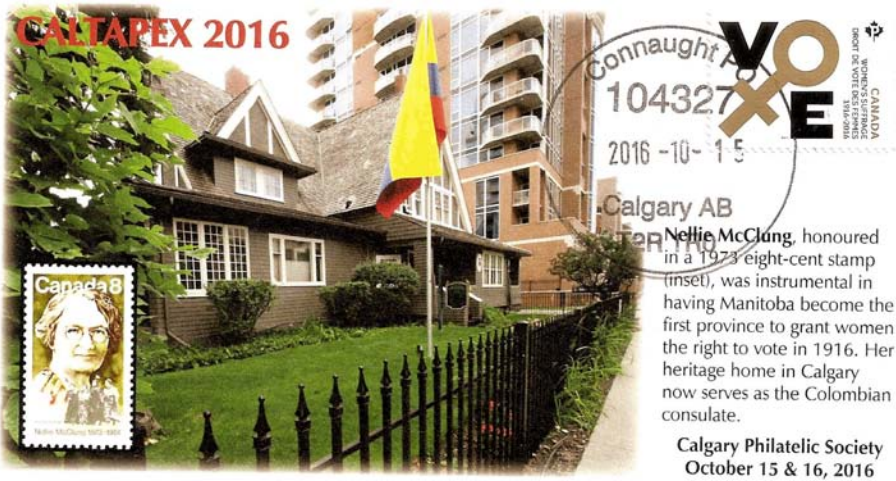
Article on the history of Tin Can mail in Niuafo'ou, Tonga.

<http://atlantic-cable.com/stamps/Other/index8.htm>

Article on the history of Tin Can mail in the Cocos Islands.

CALTAPEX 2016

The annual show of the CPS went on the weekend of October 15 and 16 at the Kerby Centre. The theme of this year's show was the centennial of women's suffrage in Canada. Peter Fleck prepared a full-colour cover depicting Nellie McClung's house in Calgary. Dale Speirs had them postmarked on the first day of the show at the London Drugs retail postal outlet in Connaught, at the other end of the block from the McClung House.

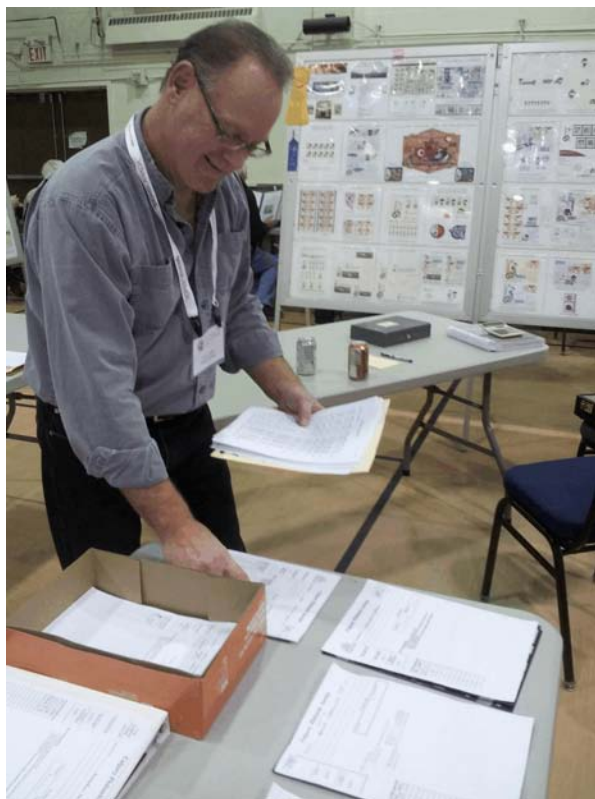


Here is a view of the club activities table. On the left side of the table are Jim Senecal (closest to the camera) and Larry Tweedale (far end of table).



Scenes from CALTAPEX 2016: the dealer bourse, and the exhibits.

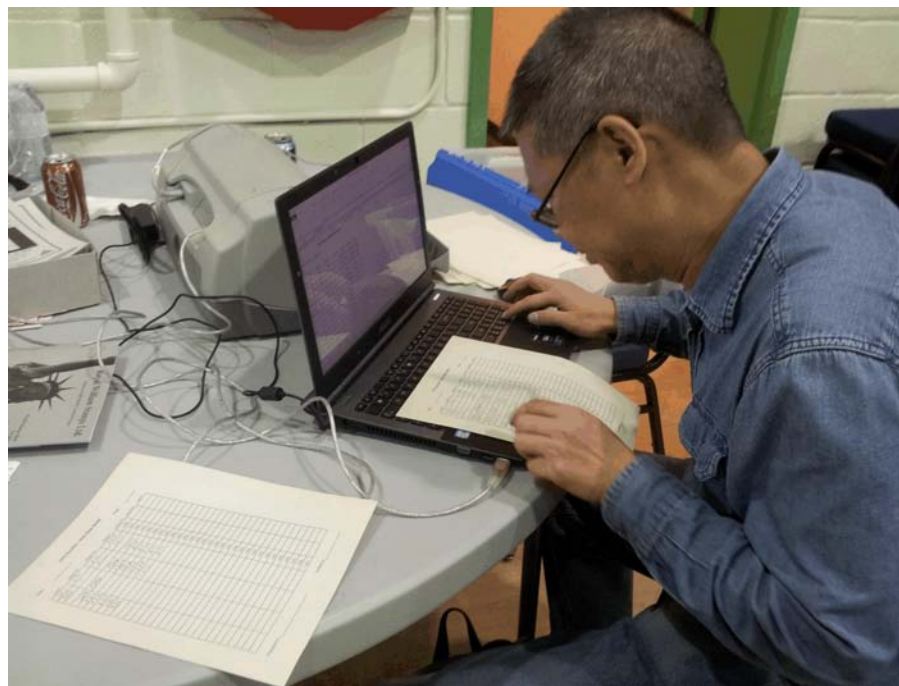




The big event on Sunday was the auction, with just over 300 lots. At left, the Auction Chairman Doug Kollar checks the paperwork.

Below, Danny Chow runs sale prices of the lots through his laptop.

Next page, top: The aisles were crowded for the viewing.





EDMONTON 2017 SPRING NATIONAL STAMP SHOW

With CALTAPEX over, the next big philatelic event in Alberta will be in early 2017 up north. The Edmonton Stamp Club will have its annual show on the weekend of March 25 to 26, next year. This is a national-level WSP event, so any Calgary exhibitors wanting to compete at that level should take the opportunity. The theme of the show will be Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation.

The show will be at the Central Lion's Recreational Centre, 113 Street and 111 Avenue, in Edmonton. Hours are Saturday 10h00 to 17h00 and Sunday 10h00 to 16h00. Free admission. The dealer bourse will offer free stamp evaluations. Stamp circuit books will be available, as well as door prizes and a juniors' table.

Exhibiting information from liuszmoser@gmail.com. Information on the show in general from eddykstra@shaw.ca or visit www.edmontonstampclub.com.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Instead of the regular programme at the December 7 meeting, there will be a Christmas Social with a potluck supper. A sign-up sheet was circulated for food items, but we could still use small sandwiches, 2-litre bottles of fruit juice or pop, and a tray of cold cuts.

One of the activities will be a clothesline exhibit contest for one-page entries in the following categories:

- 1) Ugliest, messiest, worst, abused cover
- 2) Nicest, prettiest, most attractive cover
- 3) Most colourful cover

Mount a cover on a page, put it in a plastic protector, and bring it to the Social. Prizes will be awarded.

CPS YAHOO DISCUSSION GROUP

If you are a paid-up member of the CPS, one of the benefits of joining is a private discussion group on Yahoo restricted to within the club. The group is used for breaking news that would miss the bulletin, and for any general philatelic discussion that you may have. It is not a heavy-traffic site, so your email inbox won't be swamped. The day's postings by group members are compiled into a daily digest and automatically transmitted to members by Yahoo the following morning.

To join, see Dale Speirs in person at the meetings and give him a slip of paper with your name and email address. He will then send you an email invitation containing a link that you click on to join the group. Yahoo may require that you register but this is free and is not intrusive. No online or telephone registrations can be accepted, in order to reduce problems with spammers.

STUDY GROUP NEWS

The Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society had its first monthly meeting of the new season on September 14. Jim Taylor presented a discussion of the Brigham Collection of Canada as it appeared in international stamp shows. At the October 12 meeting, special guest speaker Bruce Craw spoke about the Carlton Trail that went from Winnipeg to Edmonton, a major freight route before the railroad came through.

The Calgary Association of Philatelic Exhibitors met on September 28. A non-CAPE member from the CPS brought along two exhibits for critiquing and received some useful tips for improving them. This is a free service of CAPE, which caters to all levels of exhibiting from novice to international winners. If you are working on an exhibit and would like a critique, contact Jim Taylor or Donna Trathen at the general meetings. At the October 26 meeting, new changes in national judging rules were discussed.

BNAPEX 2017

Planning for BNAPEX 2017 continues apace. The show will be held in downtown Calgary at the Hyatt Regency Hotel at Centre Street and 7 Avenue SE from September 1 to 3 on the Labour Day weekend. Details will follow in early 2017 as they become available.

As he did for BNAPEX 2012, the last time we hosted the show, Dave Bartlet has prepared souvenir overprints. The cover at bottom was sold at BNAPEX 2016 in Fredericton, New Brunswick, to publicize our show.



**BNAPEX-2017, September 1-3, 2017
Calgary, AB**



**Celebrating 150 Years of Confederation
1867-2017**



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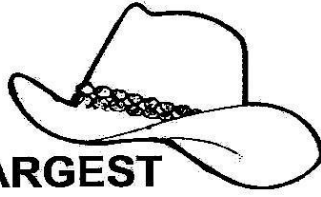
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Phil Wolf, proprietor, in the store



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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.

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: Five Unity albums with Canada stamps complete to 2012, and pages to 2015. Contact Al at 282-1030 or dorandal@telus.net

FOR SALE: Ex library 2003 Scott Catalogue Volumes 1 to 6 and Unitrade Specialized Canadian Catalogue 2005. \$5 for both. Phone Milton at 243-0412.

WANTED: Canadian perfin covers and Canadian military covers and postcards. Contact Jon Johnson at 253-8411 or jcjperfins@hotmail.com

BUY, SELL, OR TRADE: Great Britain and colonies, Canada and provinces, many other countries. Let me know interest. Robin Mitchell at (250)346-3275, mitchellcb39@gmail.com, or Box 56, Brisco, British Columbia V0A 1B0.

FOR SALE: Queen Elizabeth Machins, stamps and strips of four VFNH, about \$100 face value. WANTED TO BUY: Early German and British Colonies stamps to George VI. Call Godfrey at 464-3252.

WANTED: Pilot-signed First Flight covers and also any signed material by Canadian notables. Contact Glenn at pgdaze@gmail.com

FOR SALE: Current Canadian stamps, very fine used. Contact Michael Teekens, 83 Headingley Road #1, Mount Waverley, Victoria 3149, Australia, or michateekens@gmail.com

WANTED: We volunteer at the MCC thrift store in Calgary. They raise money for worldwide disaster relief and are looking for donations of old albums and pages, covers, and bulk stamps. Contact Greg Lang at 282-1644 or Gerry Vader at 293-0158.

WANTED AND FOR SALE: Wanted: stamps of India. For sale: Stamps of Egypt, Ceylon, and Burma (advanced collection). Contact jay_chahal@shaw.ca

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

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

CLUB NEWS

The October issue of this bulletin was mailed from the Calgary Tuscany RePO (Rexall Drugs), using the 2016 Haunted Canada stamps.

Cecil Coutts had his book INTERNATIONAL RAPID CANCELLING MACHINES: VOLUME 1. WESTERN CANADA published in August by BNAPS. Dale Speirs had his postal history of the Glenwood-Hill Spring district in southwestern Alberta published in the 2016 October issue of POSTAL HISTORY JOURNAL (USA).

At the October 5 general meeting, the President's Pot went to a random pick from the list of volunteers for CALTAPEX 2016. Donna Trathen was the lucky winner. For the November 2 meeting, it went to Walter Herdzik and Dave Freeman for their work on the show.

Many thanks to Keith Brown for donating a set of Scott catalogues to the CPS Library.

Calgarians who won awards at BNAPEX 2016 at Fredericton, New Brunswick, September 30 to October 3 were: Earle Covert, who won two Gold medals, one for Registered Mail of the Elizabethan Era, and the other for Wilding portrait postal stationery. Dave Bartlet won a Silver-Bronze for his exhibit on the 1913 Winnipeg Stampede.

Murray Bialek reported that the new CPS Website design should be finalized by the end of November, tested in December, and will go live in January. It will have a public page and a members-only section with bonus material.

Advance notice was given that the April 2017 meeting will be the 95th birthday of the CPS. There will be a birthday party instead of the regular programme. More details later.

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
Juniors	Jim Senecal	547-7681
Library	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
Life Members	Gerry Vader	293-0158
Membership	Julius Szekrenyes	282-7982
Programmes	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
Webmaster	Dave Bartlet	829-3580

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2016

NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW!

Vehicles in both Kerby lots must have licence plate numbers registered inside the building at the computer terminals. This is a 24/7 policy and the CPS is not exempt. Otherwise your vehicle will be towed or clamped.

November	16	Auction
	23	CAPE meeting
December	7	Christmas social
	14	BNAPS Regional Group

2017

January	4	General meeting
	4	Deadline for February bulletin
	11	BNAPS Regional Group
	18	Auction
	25	CAPE meeting
February	1	General meeting
	8	BNAPS Regional Group
	15	Auction
	22	CAPE meeting
March	1	General meeting
	1	Deadline for April bulletin
	8	BNAPS Regional Group
	15	Auction
	22	CAPE meeting

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 viewing. If you park in either of the two Kerby lots, don't forget to register your vehicle's licence plate at the computer terminals in the building.

BNAPS (Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society) meets second Wednesdays. For details, 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.