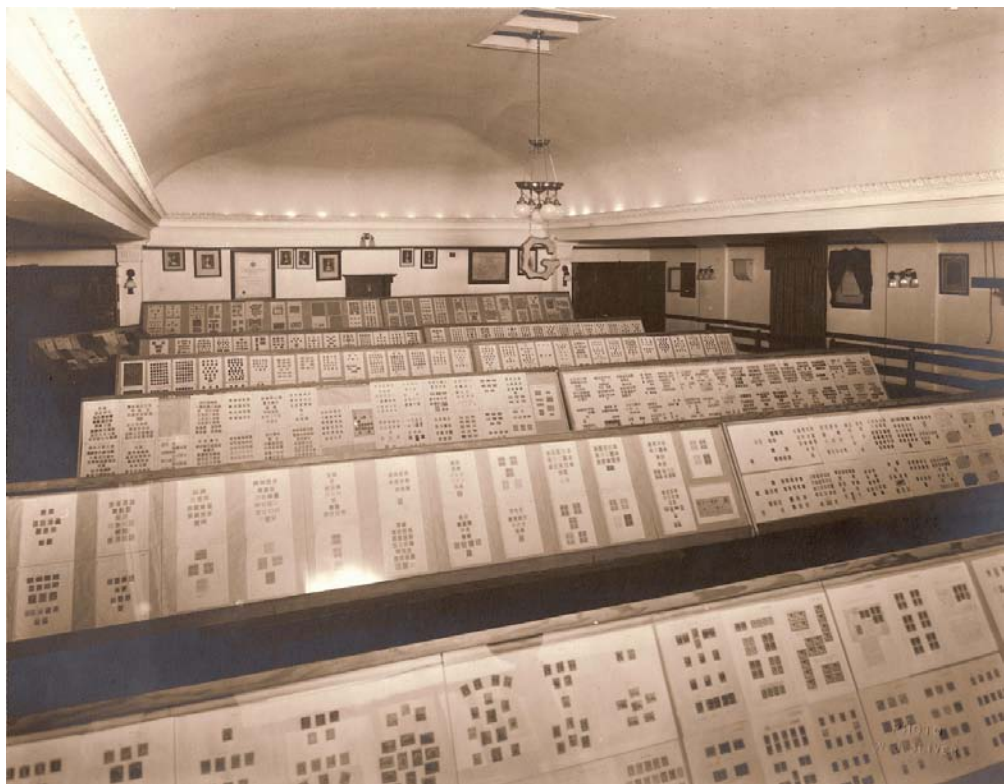


CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 146

February 2017



90 years ago, in 1927, the first public stamp show was held in Calgary, hosted by the CPS, which itself is celebrating its 95th birthday this coming April. That pioneer show was held in the Masonic Hall on Kensington Road NW, a photograph of which is in the CPS Archives. Notice the difference in exhibits. Back then, the stamp was the thing, and very few covers were shown. Nowadays it is the other way around.

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, 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.

2016-2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Past President	Larry Tweedale	282-9726
President	Murray Bialek	241-2006
Vice President	Jim Senecal	547-7681
Secretary	Donna Trathen	272-0804
Treasurer	Norma Nielson	547-6197
Directors - ex officio, Past President	Larry Tweedale	282-9726
- ex officio, Life Members	Gerry Vader	293-0158
- 2nd year	Martha Dunsmore	282-0353
- 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.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL 2016



As per tradition, the December meeting was Christmas potluck social event. The photo at left was taken just before the ravenous horde descended upon the food. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who brought food and beverages!

There was a clothesline contest for one-page cover exhibits (bottom photos). The three category winners were:

- 1) Ugliest or most abused cover:
Walter Herdzik
- 2) Nicest cover:
Penny Borrowman
- 3) Most colourful cover:
Dale Speirs





The Christmas Social is also the occasion for announcing the annual awards of the CPS. The decisions, other than Author of the Year, are made by the Life Members Committee.

Julius Szekrenyes was elected to Honourary Life Membership for many years of service to the club. Unlike other clubs or societies, life memberships cannot be purchased. Julius becomes only the 40th Life Member since the CPS was founded in 1922.

The Founders' Award is given for outstanding service to the CPS during the previous season. For the 2015/16 season, it went to Dave Freeman, for his work on the Show Committee and as a member of the Website Committee.

The CALTAPEX trophy for best exhibit by a member is renamed every five years in honour of a living member who is active in Show Committee work and exhibiting. For the next five years beginning in 2017, it will be the Jon Johnson Award.



Gerry Vader (left), Chairman of the Life Members Committee, presented the Dr E.G. Mason Award for long service to Peter Fleck.

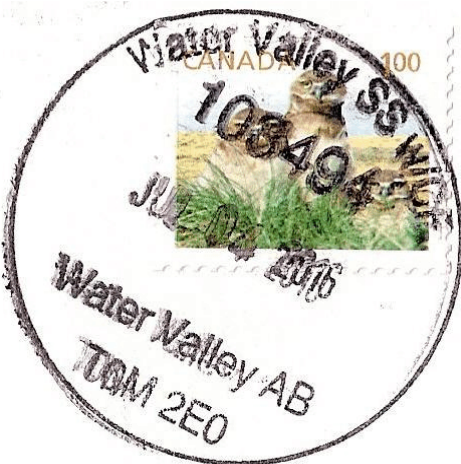
In the photo below, Dale Speirs (right), Editor, presents the Author of the Year Award to Danny Chow.



POSTMARKS AROUND ALBERTA

by Dale Speirs

The December issue of this bulletin was mailed with the 2016 NHL Forwards stamps from the Thorncliffe Shoppers Drug Mart at 4 Street NW and Northmount Drive. The first canceller the postie used ran out of ink halfway through, so she switched to a different postmark that had a spelling error (“Thorncliff”, missing the final “e”). Half of you got lucky and received the issue with the error postmark. I always bring along a #8 envelope to add the postmark to my collection (since I don’t mail a bulletin to myself) and got both postmarks on one cover.



Water Valley is a hamlet about an hour’s drive northwest of Calgary. Its postal outlet closed after 2008. Mail service is a set of supermailboxes serviced via the Cremona post office. It was therefore surprising to come across the postmark at left.

What it turns out to be is from a Stamp Shop. These are located in businesses which sell stamps and hold parcels for pickup by local residents but do not provide any other regular postal services.

Canada Post does not list them on its Website. The postmarks are exceedingly rare since Stamp Shops are not supposed to accept mail and cancel it. Notice that on this one there are the letters SS W/CF, which stand for “Stamp Shop Will Call For”.

PHILATELIC REVIEWS

by Leanteri Polvikoski

NASSAU STREET (1960) is an autobiography by American stamp dealer Herman Herst Jr. He was a prolific writer in philatelic journals and wrote with a chatty and humorous approach. Occasionally he didn't let the facts interfere with a good story.

Herst came from Portland, Oregon, graduating with a journalism degree just as the economy was descending into the depths of the Great Depression. There being no work of any kind out west, he rode the boxcars to New York City. After working a variety of jobs, he found himself as a bond runner on Wall Street.

Each delivery of bonds to a broker was worth tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars, for which he received \$15 per week, a good wage for a single man. Because of the value of the bonds, they were delivered directly to Mr Big at each brokerage. This put Herst into contact with many great names on Wall Street.

Some of the brokers were stamp collectors like Herst, and from them he learned. The Great Depression was the height of stamp collecting popularity because stamps held their values better than many investments. In large cities it was possible to attend a different stamp club meeting every night of the month. Stamps were mostly inexpensive enough that average collectors could supplement their income by wheeling and dealing. Hearst became one of them.

He became a full-time stamp dealer when his sideline income from stamps began to surpass his wages at the brokerage. He rented an office on Nassau Street, where the vast majority of stamp dealers were concentrated. He prospered and soon learned the best strategies for doing business.

Capital costs were always a concern. A stamp dealer can't tie up money in cheap common stuff that won't sell, which is why if you take Grandpa's stamp album to a dealer you will get little for it or even a refusal. Nor can a dealer put too much money into fabulous rarities with poor liquidity. This is why the million-dollar stamps are only sold by auction on behalf of the consignor, so that the dealer doesn't have to lock up his funds. Herst learned to concentrate on the mid-range stock and to aim for fast turnover, not maximum profits.

In 1937, Herst and his mother crossed the Atlantic by steamship and landed in England. Then and now, stamps usually bring the best price in their country of origin and, conversely, lower prices elsewhere. Arbitrage is buying low in one place and selling high in another, and Herst became adept at it. He used his American dollars to buy mid-range USA stamps, ship them back to New York City where he had a partner running his Nassau Street shop, and sell them there at a profit.

Having scoured London stamp shops for several months, he and his mother then moved to France and repeated the process. His mother did some dealing on her own account. Herst was trading in a particular variety of American stamp sheets at 6 francs each, about 18 cents US at the exchange rate.

Unbeknownst to him, his mother had unloaded a pad of 100 sheets of the same stamp at \$1 per sheet to the same dealer, who was unaware of their relationship. Years later, Herst revisited the dealer, who still had 98 sheets unsold. *"... in French he made a rather impolite reference to the legitimacy of an American lady which I might have taken as a personal affront as well, but I remained silent."*

From there, Herst and his mother went through Belgium and Luxembourg before arriving in Germany. The Nazis caused no problems for the Hersts because they were traveling on American passports and had American birthplaces. But Herst had eyes and ears, and saw what was happening to his fellow Jews. He could do nothing while in Germany. Back in the USA, no one would believe what he told them.

Taking the train from Berlin to Dresden, their compartment door was suddenly yanked open by the Gestapo. *"Juden?"*, barked an officer. One man instinctively shrank back. He was grabbed by the knot of his tie, yanked out of his seat, and hauled away. Everyone else had their passports examined. *"... on seeing that we were Americans, the police bowed deeply and apologized for the annoyance. "Wir suchen Juden, das ist alles", he explained nonchalantly."*

After Germany, Herst and his mother went to Czechoslovakia. For the first time, he learned about the hazards of currency exchange. He bought huge quantities of stamps for US dollars, then multiplied his profits many times over re-selling them in Czechoslovakian kronen. Only after he accumulated a briefcase full of kronen did he find out that it was a blocked currency, meaning that it couldn't be taken out of the country. Nor could it be exchanged for other currencies, except to a limit of \$10 per person.

The Hersts were then incredibly wealthy by Czechoslovakian standards. In an effort to use up some of the kronen, they bought fancy new clothes, moved into the most expensive hotel in Prague, and still couldn't reduce their stash. Herst finally worked out a plan with a local dealer to buy a large stock of stamps and have them shipped to New York City.

Travels through the rest of Europe weren't as satisfactory, since most good stamps were gone. Refugees fleeing the impending war bought stamps because they could be smuggled out in the lining of a coat or mailed out in the folds of a letter. On arrival in America, they could be sold for cash, if not the full purchase price, then at least something to help the refugees begin a new life.

The Hersts returned to England. He met a young lady, courted her, and they were married a fortnight later. His mother returned to the USA but the happy couple was delayed by American bureaucracy, which refused to give her an American passport unless Herst could document that he could support her. Since he dealt in cash sales, this was beyond him. After months of wrangling, he finally got a work-around.

Herst notes that if he had married an American woman abroad or any woman within the USA, he would not have been asked if he could support a wife. Finally, back to New York City, where the couple settled in a few months before the war began.

World War Two triggered another boom in philately. The Allies had numerous price controls but exempted stamps because it was impractical to establish ceiling prices on a million different varieties. Citizens had cash piling up but no place to spend it due to rationing and artificial scarcities. Once again, stamps showed their value. Putting spare cash into stamps paid better than war bonds.

Refugees brought a flood of philatelic material into American stamp stores, but so did soldiers serving overseas, who were always looking for opportunities to supplement their meager pay. No village post office in a battle field was overlooked for pads of stamps to loot. Herst writes of one customer who supplied him with material: *“As he entered each Belgian village, walking down the street looking for snipers, he kept one eye peeled for the post office. Apparently he did not find it difficult to fight his way across Belgium with a stack of mint sheets under one arm.”*

Many dealers had trouble getting help during the war. They couldn't just hire anyone off the street but needed skilled staff who knew stamps, something that takes years of training. Numerous stamp stores, both great and small, simply went to mail order only, which was a more efficient way to operate. (And still is. Think about it: Amazon is the world's largest mail order company.) Auction houses dwindled down for lack of consignments and customers who had the time to come out to a sale.

After the war, Herst's business steadily grew. The remaining half of this book is a collection of humorous anecdotes about collectors and dealers, and Herst's own adventures as he chased about bidding on estates and digging through old mansions in search of material. Difficult to summarize in a review but a good read.

PRIDDIS POST OFFICE NEWS

by Mike Braconnier

I went to the Priddis post office on November 17, 2016. Priddis is about a half-hour drive southwest of Calgary. The lady thinks the post office will move on December 1 into a temporary location in a strip mall to the south of the current location. It is difficult to say how long they will be at this location until a new building is built.

Their canceller is the same as it was in 2015, seen here. She said it will remain the same at the temporary location.



[continued next page]

[Mike enclosed a newspaper clipping from the 2016-11-16 issue of OKOTOKS WESTERN WHEEL, pages 16 and 22, about the post office. Extracts are as below.]

“Residents have raised almost \$12,000 to allow the post office to relocate into the hamlet’s strip mall so it will continue to serve the community.”

“The Priddis Post Office, which has been housed in the village’s old schoolhouse for decades, was in danger of being closed down or moving out of the hamlet when Canada Post deemed it insufficient for postal operations earlier this year.”

“There were proposals in the community to replace it with a larger multi-purpose building. The new building would become home to the post office and library, and include programming space and room for hockey players and skaters to suit up.”

“The Priddis Community Association has subsidized the post office for decades by paying its utilities and maintaining the building ...”

[This photo was taken by Dale Speirs in 2011 and shows the Priddis post office in the old schoolhouse.]



STUDY GROUP NEWS

The Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society held its monthly meeting on November 9. Eldon Godfrey gave a presentation about suspended mail during World War Two. As different countries were invaded by the Axis, mail service to them was suspended one by one at different dates.

For the December 14 meeting, the subject was a Christmas show-and-tell. Members brought along covers related to the season, such as mail art and slogan cancels. Two days later, BNAPSers socialized at the Silver Springs Golf and Country Club, where they and spouses enjoyed a Christmas dinner.

EDMONTON 2017 SPRING NATIONAL STAMP SHOW

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.

BNAPEX 2017

Planning continues apace for the big show in Calgary this year, BNAPEX 2017, from September 1 to 3. It will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Calgary, on Centre Street at 7 Avenue SE.

Because it is a national-level show, BNAPEX 2017 will have more dealers than usual, especially from the east. Exhibits will be in the 150-frame area. Seminars and tours are also being planned. The tours this time around will go south to Head-Smashed-In and Fort Macleod. More show details later at www.bnaps.org

BUT BEFORE THAT, THIS

Mark your calendars for the annual Spring Bourse on the weekend of April 29 and 30, in the usual location at the Kerby Centre main gymnasium. Doug Kollar will be bringing in estate lots for the big auction with material not previously seen. There will also be the club activity tables.

SELECT STAMPS AND COVERS

#901 Westview Heights,
825 - 8 Avenue SW
(403)264-1551 or selstamp@telus.net

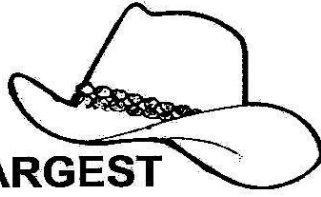
Canada and Worldwide
Stamps and Covers
20% discount on foreign stamps and collections for
CPS members

NEW !!!

CPS members can take collections home on approval.



Phil Wolf, proprietor, in the store



CALGARY'S LARGEST STAMP SHOPPE

R.D. MINER PHILATELICS

STAMPEDE CITY STAMPS

(403) 233-7541
rdminer@telus.net

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.

WANTED TO BUY!

**Looking for good
quality material.**

**Bring it into our shop
and we'll make an offer.**



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

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

Publications by CPS members: Dale Speirs appeared in the 2016 Spring issue of POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF CANADA JOURNAL, writing on the Turkey Track post offices between Medicine Hat and Bow Island. Dale also had a note in the 2016 September issue of CANADIAN REVENUE NEWSLETTER about the use of an airmail stamp to pay the excise tax on a cheque. His postal history of the Twin Butte district was published in the 2016 Q4 issue of BNA TOPICS.

At the January 4 general meeting, the President's Pot was awarded to Doug Kollar for his auction and committee work. Jim Taylor then presented a slide show about his attendance at the 2016 New York international stamp show.

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.

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

WARNING!

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 clamped or towed.

WARNING!

WARNING!

WARNING!

2017

January	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
April	5	95 th birthday party for the CPS
	12	BNAPS Regional Group
	19	Auction
	26	CAPE meeting
	29 and 30	Spring Bourse
May	3	General meeting
	3	Deadline for June bulletin

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.

SPRING BOURSE will be in the main gymnasium of the Kerby Centre, opening at 10h00.

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.