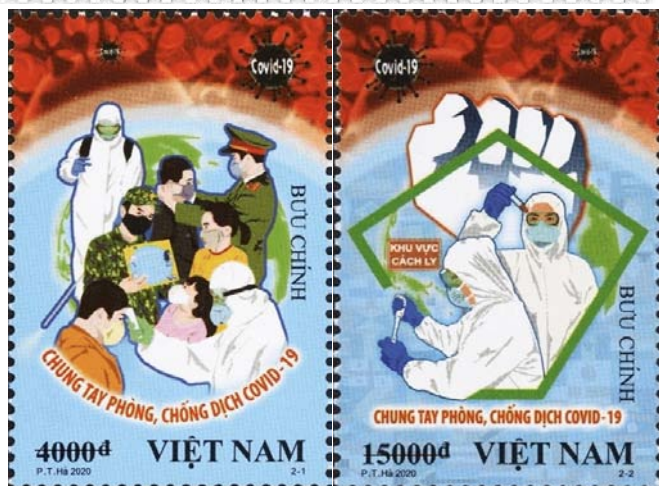


CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 169

June 2020



Iran issued what is believed to be the first topical stamp on coronavirus on March 17. It was quickly followed by Vietnam and Switzerland.

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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 other 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 can be downloaded as a free pdf from www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com

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COMMITTEES - see page 15 for list of committee chairpersons.

LET’S GO SKIING

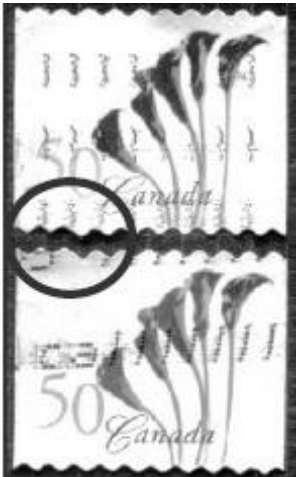
by Tony Doughty

Here are a couple of “Ski Slope” varieties occurring on the Spotted Coral Root stamps that are not listed in the Unitrade catalogue (Unitrade #2187 – 2020, page 423), although these varieties have been around since 2006. When I first observed these varieties, I made a comparison with the known “Ski Slope” variety on the 2004 Calla Lily stamp (Unitrade #2072 – 2020, page 401).

I was intrigued. Many questions presented themselves to me, and considerable mental gymnastics were called upon to resolve the issues. First: the Type 1 Spotted Coral Root ski slopes appeared to be the same as the Calla Lily ski slopes (Figures 1 and 2), but are they really?



Type 1
Figure 1 – Spotted Coral Root



Type 2
Figure 2 – Calla Lily

A comparison of the ski slope serpentine ranges revealed that the serpentine ranges are different. Four ‘nibs’ are contained in the Type 1 Spotted Coral Root serpentine, but there are no equivalent ‘nibs’ on the Calla Lily stamps. The serpentine appear flatter on the Calla Lily stamps (Figure 3).

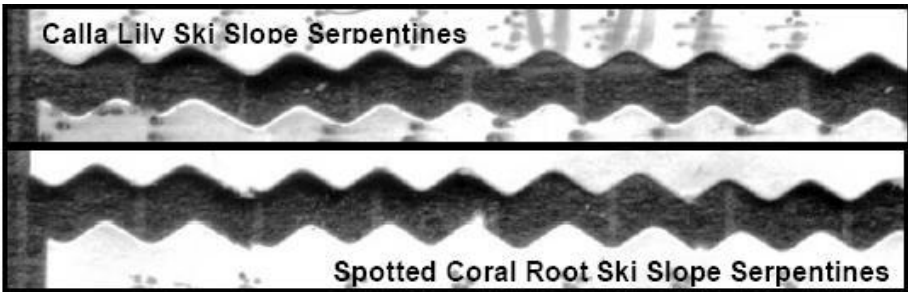


Figure 3

Similar comparison on the two top Serpentine show distinct differences on both issues (Figure 4). Thus, I am confident in stating that the serpentine die-cutting mats used on both stamp issues are not the same mat.

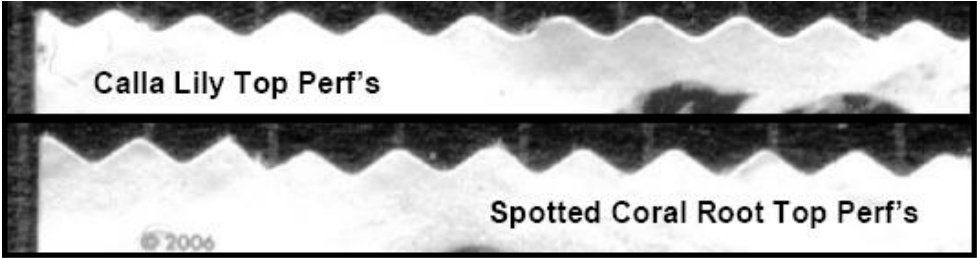


Figure 4

Second: is the Type 2 ski slope variation an invert or rotation of the Type 1 ski slope? To test this second conjecture I inverted the Type 2 ski slope vertically (top to bottom) so that the stamp's face would be oriented down, as if viewing the stamp from the gum side. The Type 2 ski slope now appears to match the Type 1 ski slope (Figure 5). Interesting. The two ski slope varieties now appear to be the same! Or are they?



Type 1

**Type 2
Inverted – T to B**

Figure 5 – Spotted Coral Root Orientations

To confirm this hypothesis I compared the serpentine of the inverted Type 2 ski slope with that of Type 1 serpentine orientation as shown in Figure 6. The same four 'nibs' are clearly shown on the Type 1 stamp serpentines as indicated in Figure 3, but the 'nibs' do not match with the three 'nibs' indicated on the Type 2 inverted serpentines. Clearly the Type 1 and Type 2 ski slope anomalies have not been produced from the same die-cutting mat simply inverted. Two completely different die-cutting mats have been employed.

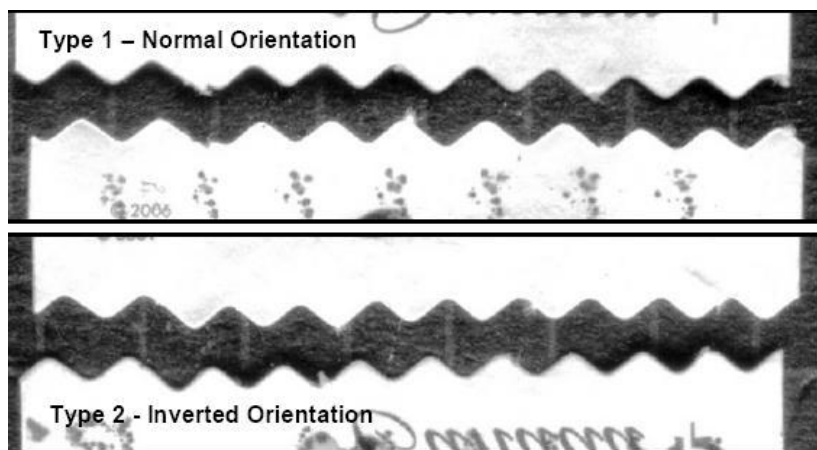


Figure 6- Spotted Coral Root ski slope comparisons

The Unitrade 2020 catalogue identifies four different die-cutting mats having been used in the production of the Spotted Coral Root coil stamps. Unitrade 2187 was die-cut 7.20 to 9.30 and displays 3 nibs in the serpentines between adjacent stamps (is this the source of the Type 2 ski slope?). Unitrade 2187iv displays four nibs in the serpentines between stamps, it was perforated 7.80 to 8.75 (is this the source of the Type 1 ski slope?).

The third and fourth die-cutting mats are not identified pertaining to their nib configurations. Because these two ski slope anomalies are neither identical nor identified or listed in the 2020 Unitrade catalogue, I would encourage you to examine your hoard of Spotted Coral Root stamps that you may discover additional copies of these variants.

My own collection consisted of five matching pairs and one lower single of the Type 1 ski slope, and one matching pair plus one lower single of the Type 2 ski slope culled from a hoard of several thousand used stamps. That is, these ski slope varieties are quite rare and should be commanding premium catalogue values.

Lowe-Martin has been known to use the same die-cutting mat on different denominations of stamps in the same issue; the Calla Lily ski slope occurs on the Red Calla Lily, the Yellow Calla Lily and the Blue Iris stamps of the 2004-2005 Flower definitives. The Spotted Coral Root stamp was issued simultaneously with the Flat-leaved Bladderwort, the March Skullcaps and the Little Larkspur stamps.

I do not have a sufficiently large quantity of these latter stamps to examine, and I have not discovered a single ski slope variety among those that I do have. Maybe you have a spurious copy in your hoard? Happy hunting and please let me know of your findings.

GREAT BRITAIN TO CANADA POSTAL SERVICE

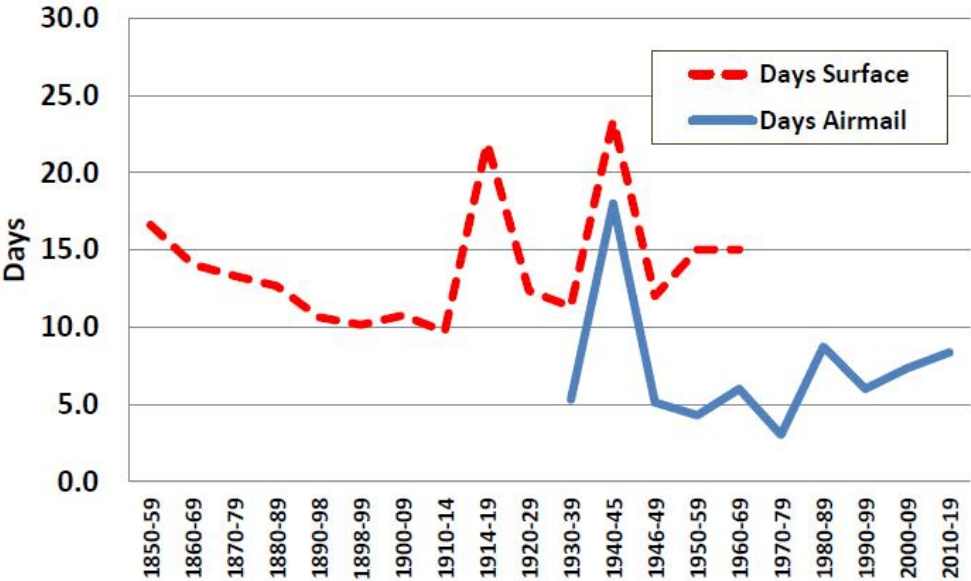
by Dave Russum

The efficiency and cost of the postal service from Great Britain to Canada has been a matter of interest to me for many years. I have collected over 400 examples from the 1850s to present where the date of posting and date of delivery for a specific item can be determined.

Much of the mail from the 1860s to WW1 had clearly dated cancellations on posting and a receiver stamp on arrival at their destination. During the two World Wars it was quite common for recipients to record arrival dates of mail from loved ones, and, over the much of the 20th Century the mail room would often stamp commercial mail with a date of receipt.

Registered mail would typically have a trail of receiver marks to track their progress. This is in complete contrast to modern day mail where very few examples have a legible cancellation and even fewer have an indication of arrival. Fortunately, through the diligence and generosity of fellow philatelists I have been able to get people to add delivery dates to their GB mail so that I actually have a good numbers of items for the last four years where the efficiency of the service can be determined.

GB to Canada Days to Delivery



Surface Mail.

On the graph (dashed line), the surface mail days to delivery reflect primarily Maritimes and Eastern Canada data. I have detail for Western Canada as well but this is beyond the scope of this brief summary. Notice how efficiency steadily improved from 17 days in the 1850s to 10 days at the start of WWI as faster ships, more efficient rail service and improvements to sorting accelerated the process.

Mail service was greatly impacted by the two World Wars. However pre-1914 service for surface mail has never been rivalled since.

Airmail.

Airmail (solid line) to Canada in the 1930s when five days to delivery was a reasonable expectation. During WWII airmail was only marginally faster than the surface routes despite costing much more. Post WWII Air mail was at the peak of efficiency for a number of decades but has shown a clear deterioration of performance since the 1970s.

I note that the last five pieces of mail I have received (late 2019 to early 2020) have averaged 12 days for delivery, two days slower than the surface mail performance 110 years ago, so it is hardly surprising that mail service is struggling to compete with modern communication!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jim Senecal

As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, the CPS Board cancelled the Spring Bourse and suspended normal CPS meetings and auctions. There was some hope that these would be able to restart before June but that has been undercut by subsequent events.

Our intention is to resume our meetings in September and hold CALTAPEX in October if circumstances are favourable. That decision will very much depend on Provincial and Municipal distancing policies. As of now the Kerby Centre remains closed until July.

The CPS Board will monitor the situation and an update will be sent out to the membership in August once plans for September become definite. The CALGARY PHILATELIST will continue to be published on its normal schedule. Until we meet again on our regular schedule, keep yourselves safe and take advantage of the unexpected discretionary time to enjoy the hobby.

You should be aware that the Edmonton Stamp Club has rescheduled their National show to September 18 to 20, 2020.

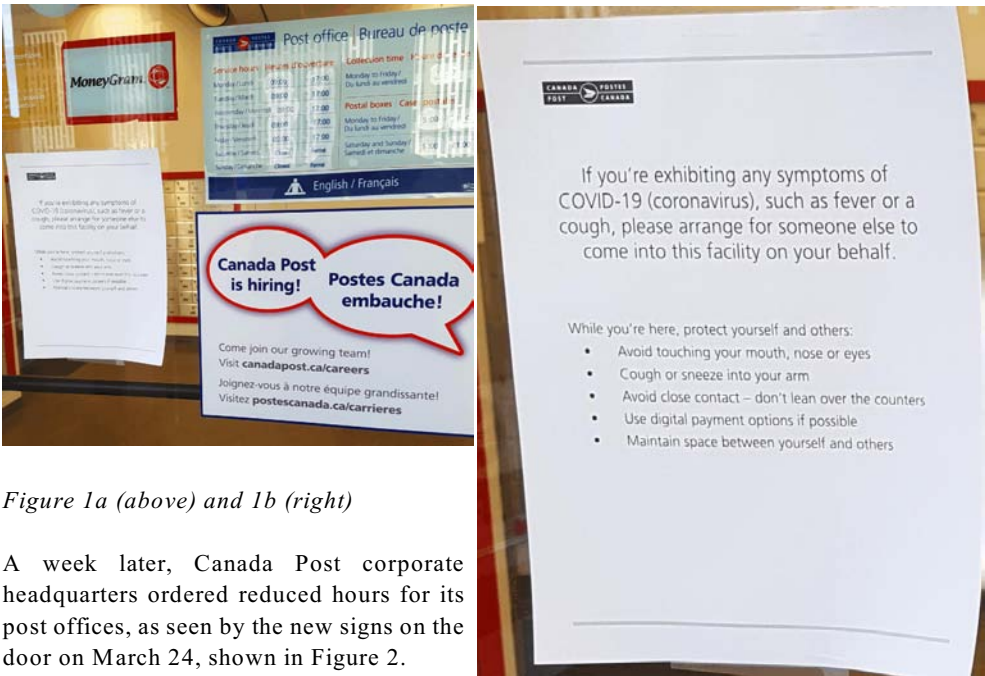
POSTAL HISTORY OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

by Dale Speirs

Stamp collectors think of postal history as something that happened a century or fifty years ago, represented by yellowing covers in dealer boxes. It is always happening around us though. In the last two decades the Internet has caused major changes in how the postal system works. When the Great Flood of 2013 devastated Calgary, that made postal history (see CALGARY PHILATELIST #122, August 2013).

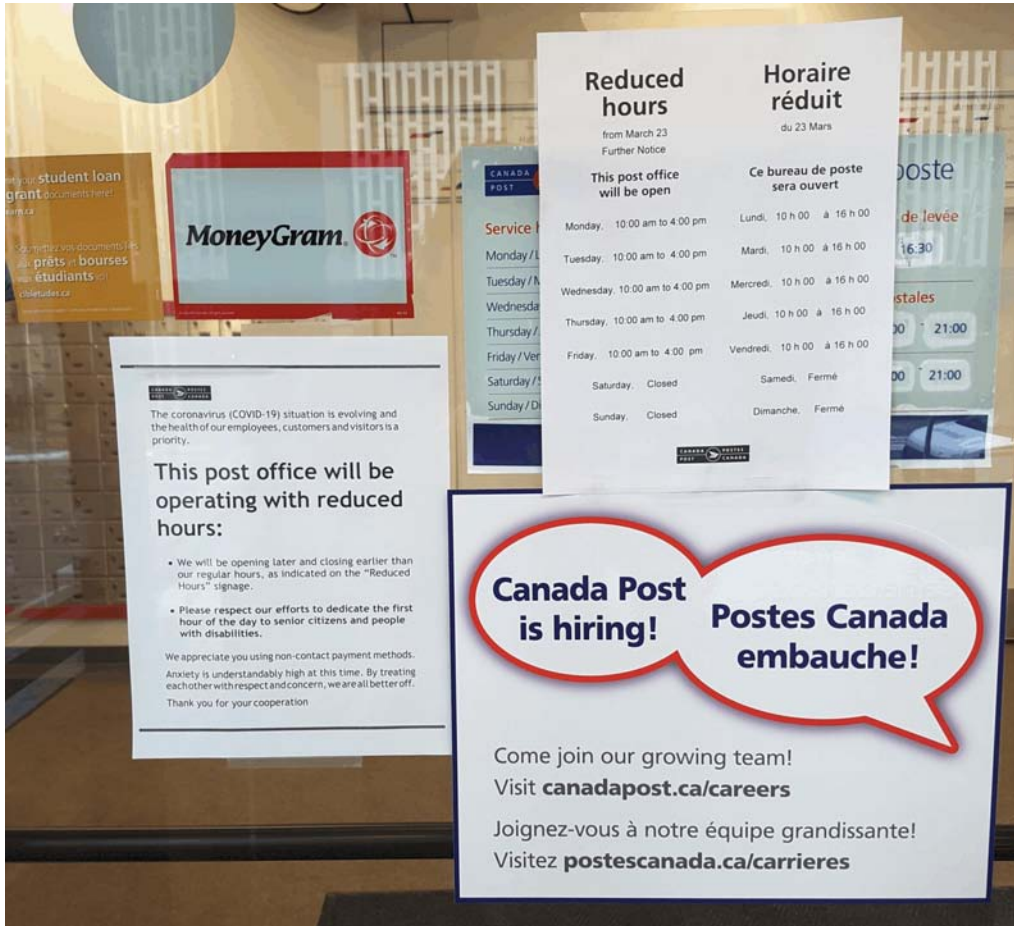
The post office is an essential service even in today’s online world. After the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic reached Alberta in early March 2020, Canada Post had to make changes to its operations. This was more postal history in the making. I get my mail at the Central Post Office downtown at 6 Street SW and 5 Avenue.

Initially, like most businesses and government agencies, jury-rig signs were put up. Figure 1a shows the front door to the CPO on March 17, and Figure 1b is a closeup of a sign someone ran off on their computer.



The following day I saw a clever use of mail bins to ensure social distancing by placing them across the front of the counters, shown in Figures 3 and 4. Customers had to reach across to do their business.

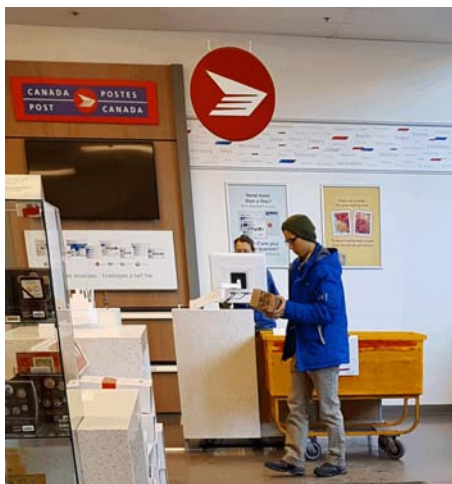
I never went into any retail postal outlets in stores so I don’t know what was done there. Because of the shutdown of commerce, many stores closed, so one would expect their retail postal outlets also did.



Above: Figure 2

Below left: Figure 3

Below right: Figure 4



DISRUPTIONS IN THE PHILATELIC WORLD

The COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic shut down countless conventions and meetings. Philately was not immune, if you'll pardon the expression. The City of Calgary declared a local state of emergency, closing public libraries, sports facilities, and all public gathering places until June 30. That caused the *force majeure* cancellations in Calgary philately.

The Alberta-Wide Stamp Gathering on May 30 in Red Deer has been cancelled.

CPS members who had their email addresses on file with the Membership Chairman would have received notice of the sudden changes in Calgary events. If you didn't, please contact Murray Bialek and make certain he has your correct email address for any email blasts. Contact Murray at mbialek@shaw.ca

There are very few members left who do not have computers or smartphones. If you don't have Internet access at home, please talk to a fellow CPS member who does and would be willing to telephone you about emergency situations.

DONATIONS FOR THE JUNIOR STAMP CLUB

by Jim Senecal

Due to the suspension of meetings, packages of stamps and exhibit information were prepared and delivered to several juniors who expressed an interest in preparing exhibits. If you have extra stamp material you'd be willing to donate to assist these individuals please contact me at 403-547-7681. I can arrange to pick up.

They are interested in any topicals, especially dinosaurs, aerospace, hockey and stamps with different shapes as well as stamps from Ireland. Postal stationary and miniature sheets focussed on the above are especially needed for the exhibits.

TRENTON OR RENTON, THAT IS THE QUESTION!

by Tony Doughty

I am in full agreement with Gordon Demke's underlying suggestion that using technology can be of tremendous assistance in philately and philatelic research, although I seldom find using either the technology, or philately, associated with tedium. Allow me to add my technological two-penny worth to Gordon's TRENTON RENTON article in the previous issue of this bulletin.

First: no matter how long the town name is in a circular cancellation die, the name always appears centred around a 12:00 o'clock vertical axis (Figure 1).

Second: although the TRENTON-RENTON stamp image has now been through several reduplications of degradation, it appears to me that the N of whatever the town name is appears centred on the 12.00 o'clock position. There must therefore be three letters to the left of the vertical axis to balance the design (Figure 2).

Third: A full TRENTON cancellation shows the town name centred on the N, giving 3.5 letters each side of the vertical axis (Figure 3).

Fourth: if the T is removed from the town name, then the resulting RENTON centred on the N is unbalanced around the 12:00 o'clock vertical axis. RENTON would then need to be rotated counter-clockwise by about 5 degrees to balance the design, and would therefore be centred on the space between the N and T giving three letters each side of the 12:00 o'clock axis (Figure 3).

Last: You can draw a horizontal line from the bottom left corner of the T slug in TRENTON, and from the bottom left corner of the R to the bottom right corner of the last N in RENTON. In TRENTON. The line bisects the time, but in RENTON the line is clearly above the time element. In the Map stamps the line would bisect the 28 component if the cancellation.

My technologically assisted conclusion would be that the cancellation is from TRENTON not RENTON. Although the cancellation dates shown in my scans are more modern than the cancellation date shown on the Map stamp, I believe the methodology I have used is transferable to the earlier era. Maybe a similar analysis can resolve the ARTON dichotomy.

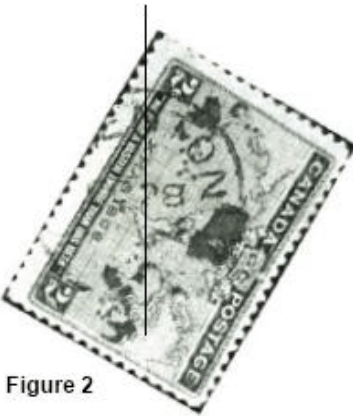
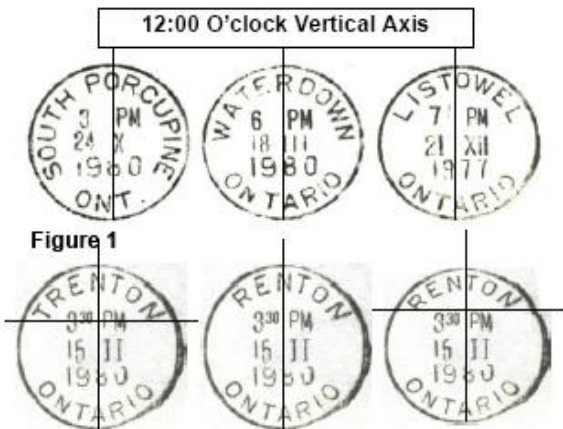


Figure 3

Figure 2

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Phil Wolf, proprietor, in the store

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

These ads are free to paid-up CPS members. 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.

WANTED: Calgary Stampede covers, letterhead and collections. Please contact Dave Freeman at 403-281-0500 or email at dfreeman@latitude.ca

WANTED: Italian or French colonies pre-independence, Western Europe pre-1940, British colonies pre-QE2, Australian States. Call Jim Senecal at 547-7681.

FOR SALE: Zillions of Stamps is a Website organized by country and catalogue number using Scott, Michel, Stanley Gibbons, or Yvert, as well as by topics such as birds, trains, Scouts, or famous people. I am one of the contributors and have listed over 35,000 worldwide items under I. Rudyk. Contact Ihor Rudyk at ivrudyk@shaw.ca or visit www.zillionsofstamps.com

FOR SALE: Stamp collector's storage cabinet; white, six drawers and six mail boxes. Drawers are divided for storing various sized covers and loose items. \$100 May be viewed on Kijiji under Hobbies. Contact Al at 282-1030 or dorandal@telus.net

FOR SALE: Seven Unity Canada stamp albums in a case. Annual pages to end of 2016. About 65% of stamp slots filled. Initial years mostly used. Recent years almost 100% mint. Price to be negotiated. 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

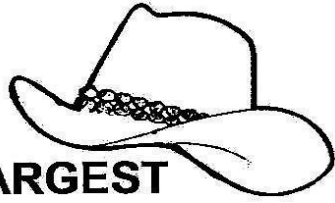
BUY, SELL, OR TRADE: Great Britain and colonies, Canada and provinces, many other countries. Let me know interest. Robin Mitchell at (250)346-3275, mitchellcb39@gmail.com, or Box 56, Brisco, British Columbia V0A 1B0.

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, 912 Olympia Crescent SE, Calgary, T2C 1G7, 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.



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COVER SALE!



CLUB NEWS

The April bulletin was mailed from the Evergreen Shoppers Drug Mart, 162 Avenue SW, using the Coloured Hockey Championship stamp.

Publications by CPS members:

Dale Speirs had an article in the 2020 Mar/Apr issue of TOPICAL TIME on calendar date collecting.

STUDY GROUPS

The Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society meets monthly except July and August. This is a group of philatelists specializing in Canada and provinces, not just the old stuff but modern material as well. Details from Dave Bartlett at dave.bartlett@shaw.ca

The March 11 meeting had three mini-talks. Jon Johnson began with consignee paquebot covers, which were ship letters containing bills of lading that were sent ahead of the arrival of the cargo. Jim Taylor spoke on St Pierre et Miquelon and its connection with Dr Albert Calmette, the inventor of the TB vaccine. Dave Bartlett showed pages from an extensive collection of Customs Duty stamps applied to advertising matter incoming to Canada.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, there have been no meetings since.

COMMITTEES

Archives	Dale Speirs	opuntia57@yahoo.ca
Auctions - regular	Doug Kollar	547-3838
- silent	Mike McPhail	239-9730
Bulletin - Editor	Dale Speirs	opuntia57@yahoo.ca
Circuit books	Larry Tweedale	282-9726
Communications	Doug Kollar	547-3838
Juniors	Jim Senecal (north side of city)	547-7681
	Pat Prevey (south side of city)	238-3435
Library	Linda Connolly	547-0014
Life Members	Janice Brookes	251-1769
Membership	Murray Bialek	241-2006
Programmes	Danny Chow	
Webmaster	Dave Bartlett	829-3580

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2020

All CPS events are cancelled until September due to the coronavirus pandemic. This includes all meetings, auctions, study groups, and Junior clubs. The bulletin will continue to publish but some deadlines have changed.

Alberta-Wide Stamp Gathering in Red Deer has been cancelled due to the pandemic.

June	17	Deadline for July bulletin
August	12	Deadline for August bulletin

All events in the autumn are conditional on the ban of public gatherings being lifted.

September	2	General meeting
	2	Deadline for October bulletin
	9	BNAPS Regional Group meeting
	16	Auction
	23	CAPE meeting
October	7	General meeting
	14	BNAPS Regional Group meeting
	17 and 18	CALTAPEX 2020 (Kerby Centre gymnasium)
	21	Auction
	28	CAPE meeting
November	4	General meeting
	4	Deadline for December bulletin.
	18	Auction
	25	CAPE meeting
December	2	Christmas social
	9	BNAPS Regional Group 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.

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 September to November and January to May on second Saturdays (north side of city) and third Saturdays (south side of city). Information from Jim Senecal at 547-7681 (north side) or Pat Prevey at 238-3435 (south side).

CAPE (Calgary Association Of Philatelic Exhibitors) meets fourth Wednesdays except June to August and December. For details, contact Jim Taylor at 238-3698.