

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 172

October 2020

THE PENNY BLACK AGAINST COVID-19



Countries are churning out stamps for the hot new topical of COVID-19. Most are routine depictions of masked healthcare workers. Kudos to Sierra Leone for a clever twist using the Penny Black stamp.

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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.

LOOK AGAIN, LOOKING BACK: PART 2

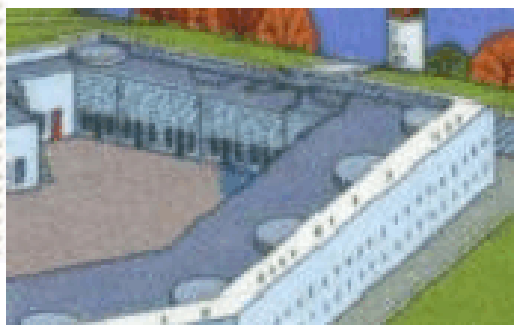
by Tony Doughty

[Part 1 appeared in CALGARY PHILATELIST #168.]

Puddle variety: Figure 1: Booklet 86, Canadian Forts 1, shows an inconsistent error on the Fort Henry, Ontario stamp (Unitrade #983) that I call the “Puddle in the Compound” EFO. Small and difficult to see the blue doughnut nestled in the rightmost corner of the complex gives the appearance of being a puddle. I have accumulated three of these EFO’s in my philatelic collection.



Figure 1: Puddle variety



UFO variety: Figure 2: Canadian Lighthouses 1 shows an inconsistent error on the Fisgard BC 1860 stamp (Unitrade 1033) that I call the “UFO - EFO” error. The pink cloud skulking onto the stamp from the top left corner resembles an unidentified flying object sneaking into Canada. I have accumulated four of these in my philatelic collection since 1984.

This “UFO – EFO” is difficult to see in the grayscale illustrations shown here, however, the pink UFO displays clearly on the original stamp. [Editor’s note: The pink cloud is easily seen in the colour version. I enlarged it hoping it will show up better in black-and-white.]



Figure 2: UFO variety

[to be continued]



FATHERS OF CONFEDERATION BY ROBERT HARRIS, PORTRAIT ARTIST

by Raymond Villeneuve

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Confederation in 1917, Canada's Post Office released a 3¢ stamp of the Fathers of Confederation, gathered at a meeting in Quebec City. The vignette was based on a painting by Robert Harris, one of the first examples of a Canadian artist's work illustrated on our Canadian Stamps.

In 1927, a set of 6 stamps was released to mark the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations commemorating events and statesmen related to Confederation. This second "Fathers of Confederation" stamp, now in green, showed an additional portion of the original painting by Harris, adding eight delegates to the group which had been cropped out in the 1917 issue. The figure of Sir John A. Macdonald again stands in the middle of the room. The face value of the second version was 2¢ given the drop of the 1¢ war tax in July 1926.



Robert Harris (1849-1919) was born in Wales and emigrated with his parents to Prince Edward Island. His talent as an artist quickly became apparent. He travelled extensively in Europe to work and study different styles. In Canada, he developed friendships with many other famed artists, namely Lucius O'Brien. He was invited to work at an engraving company in Toronto, called "The Grip" where a few of the Group of Seven members, J.E.H. McDonald, A. Lismer and L. Harris, also worked in designing book plates and posters.

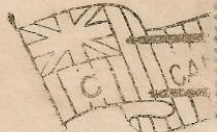
In the late 19th and early 20th century, he became one of the most renowned portrait painter in Canada. He served as President of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts from 1893 to 1906 and was forever promoting Canadian art and artists nationally and internationally. More than 300 of his portraits are known to exist in private and public collections.

His most important commission was his painting of the Fathers of Confederation for these Canadian stamps. He was able to acquire this commission through his contact with senator J.S. Carvell from Prince Edward Island. In preparation for it, he gathered photographs and information about the delegates' complexions and clothing. He also visited Quebec City to get an accurate background of the Parliament building and even views of the St. Lawrence River as seen from the Citadel.

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His work on a 61" x 141" canvas was completed in his Montreal studio and first shown in 1884 at a local Montreal exhibition. The painting was identified as "Meeting of the Delegates of British North America (to settle terms of confederation, Quebec, October 1864)". It then hung in the Centre Block of Parliament Buildings in Ottawa until it was destroyed in the 1916 fire.

References: www.stampofcanada.com and www.biographi.ca

NEW POSTMARK FOR CENTRAL POST OFFICE

by Dale Speirs



On September 17, I was in the Central Post Office mailing some items. The clerk told me they had just got a brand-new handstamp canceller that day.

She brought it out from the back room and I bought a pre-stamped envelope to get the first day of use postmark. What was unusual about it was that it was a wing cancel, which Central hadn't been using before.

PERFORATIONS AND POSITION DOTS FOUND ON CANADA 3¢ SMALL QUEEN STAMPS: PART 1

by Gordon Demke

Introduction.

Perforations and position dots are two elements of a study of Canada Small Queen stamps. Hillson, who was a prominent collector of Small Queens, stated that identification of Small Queen printings (First Ottawa, Montreal, Second Ottawa) depends upon the denomination, perforations, paper, position dots, cancellations, dated copies, and colour or shade.

Perforations (perfs) and Position Dots (PDs) are among the readily identifiable and objective criteria that can be used to assist identification. However, measuring perforations can be confusing as there exist multiple perforation gauges, including several with metric-based scales (and it is not always clear as to which is being used) and an imperial-based scale.

Analysis Of An Accumulation Of 3¢ Small Queen Stamps.

I have purchased several accumulations of the 3¢ Small Queen (700, 2,200 and 1,300 stamps) and a number of smaller lots. To date I have examined about 2,400 of the 3¢ Small Queens closely with respect to perfs and PDs.

I used the Kiusalas Canada Gauge to check perforations (Figure 1). This gauge measures thousandths of an inch. The following text is extracted from the information sheet which accompanies the gauge.

This gauge is designed to correctly measure ALL PERFORATIONS THAT OCCUR ON CANADIAN STAMPS. Perforations were first measured in Europe and the European method of using millimeters was, of course, utilized.

In the case of Canadian stamps, this is ABSOLUTELY INCORRECT. Every stamp made by, or used in, Canada has had both the design and the perforations basically made in inches or fractions of an inch. Every perforating machine used in this country has had the pins which do the perforating spaced in 1000's of an inch - NOT IN MILLIMETERS.

The number on the left represents the approximate number of perforations in a distance of 2 centimeters. The numbers on the right represent the ACTUAL distance between the center of the perforation holes in 1000's of an inch. As this was the basis on which perforation equipment was designed, it is the only true way that perforations can be measured and classified.

I like this gauge because it seems to work well and readily identifies minute distinctions in perfs, but it does have shortcomings. For example, because it is printed on aluminum it cannot be used to measure stamps on piece or on cover. Also, Hillson notes that the Kiusalas Gauge was designed for use on Large and Small Queens, but based on a false premise.

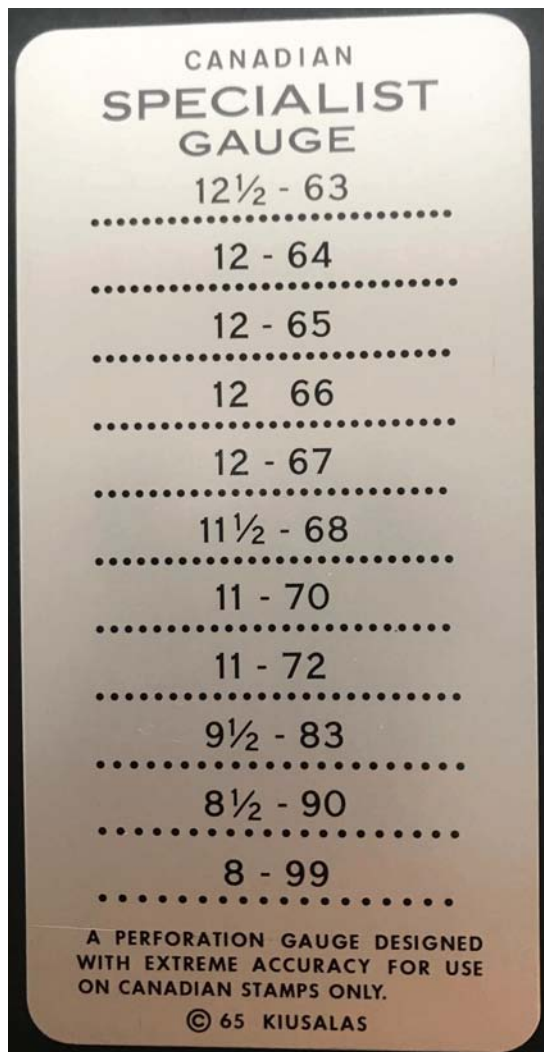


Figure 1

He notes that these scales are all linear and measure the linear result of a process (perforating) based on angular units. Based on his experience in measuring perforations of stamps in the early Canada era, he found there to be a 'natural fit' using the Kiusalas Gauge, probably attributable to the extra sensitivity of the Kiusalas Gauge over the Standard Gauge.

I agree that the Kiusalas Gauge just seems to work better in measuring Small Queens. Furthermore, it seems counterproductive to get very precise perf measurements and then round them to the perfs identified in the standard stamp catalogues.

[to be continued]

Specifically, standard perforation gauges like Instanta are based on the number of holes per two centimeters and it was thought that metric-based gauges would be misleading when applied to early Canadian stamps since perforating machines being used were designed using imperial measurements and therefore so many pins to the inch.

This premise was apparently incorrect in that the line perforating machines employed by British American Bank Note Company were based on pins to 2 cm. Hillson concludes: *"My own view is that the only use of the Kiusalas is to check the accuracy of ones Instanta."* This is not exactly a glowing endorsement.

Johnson observes that when perforations are irregular, gauges may produce misleading results. He confirms that Kiusalas' rationale for development of this Specialist Gauge is not supported. In his view none of the gauges (Standard Gauge, Instanta Gauge or Kiusalas Gauge) have a scale that relates in any more fundamental a way to the specifications of rotary perforating machines.

GREAT BRITAIN TO CANADA POSTAL RATES

by Dave Russum

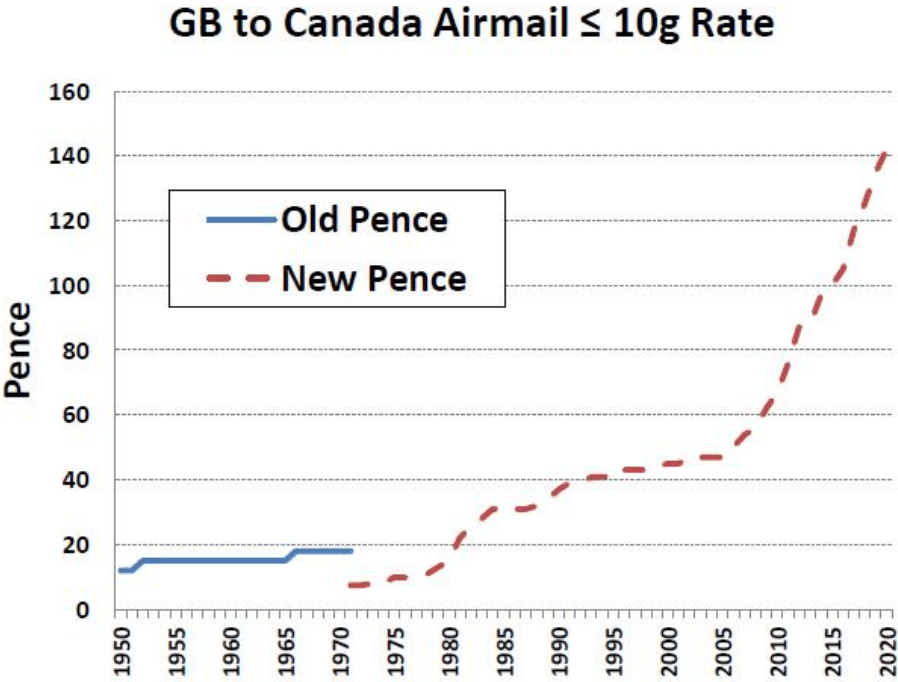
A previous article attempted to measure the efficiency of postal service between Great Britain and Canada [1]. This article looks at the cost to send mail from GB to Canada.

International postal rates were extremely complex until 1875 when a fore-runner of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) created a framework of consistent postal rates between member countries (2½d for a regular letter between GB and Canada).

Under pressure from Canada, countries of the British Empire introduced the Imperial Penny Post (1d for <½oz) in 1898. Two increases at the end of WW1 resulted in a doubling of postage to 2d for <1oz in 1920. A rare rate reduction in 1922 brought the empire surface rate down to 1½d for <1oz in 1922 where it remained until 1940 [2].

The inter-war years also brought the introduction of the Air Mail option for international mail services. Air mail rates in the 1930's fluctuated considerably before settling at 1/3d (15d) per ½oz during WW2 before dropping to 1/- (12d) per ½oz in 1947. This rate applied until 1950.

Weight (in ½oz increments), speed of service (surface, air, express) and special services (printed matter, proof of posting, proof of receipt, registration etc.) significantly impact postage rates. The following graph illustrates the lowest weight increment air mail rate from 1950 to 2020 [3].



Switch to Decimal Currency and Metric Weights.

The switch to decimal currency on 1971-02-15, saw a change from pounds, shillings and pence (d) to pounds and New Pence (P). There were 240d in a pound prior to the change and 100P in a pound afterwards. At the change, a New Penny was therefore worth 2.4 times the value of an old penny. While domestic rates increased by 44% at the change, International rates were unchanged with a direct conversion from 1/6d to 7½P.

15 grams is fractionally more than ½oz so there was no real impact with the weight change on 1975-09-29. However, on 1977-06-13, the postal rate was unchanged but the weight limit was changed from ≤15 grams to ≤10 grams moving a considerable amount of mail to a significantly higher postal rate.

Graph shows postal rates were hit by considerable inflation in the late 1970s to early 1990s when the curve flattened through to 2006. Since 2006, annual postal rate increases have occurred. 2020-03-23 saw the minimum airmail rate at £1.42 such that the rate had increased by 1,893% since the conversion to decimal currency.

References.

- 1] D. Russum (2020 June) GB to Canada Postal Service. CALGARY PHILATELIST 169:6-7
- 2] A.S.Wawrukiewicz (2000 May) GREAT BRITAIN DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL POSTAL RATES AND FEES 1971-1999
- 3] British Postal Rates (2020) Great Britain Philatelic Society, www.gbps.org.uk

CANADA POST STAMP DISTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN

by Dale Speirs

On August 24, while I was picking up my mail from my box number at the Central Post Office, a clerk asked me if I wanted to order any stamps between then and December. Because I buy large quantities to mail out the CALGARY PHILATELIST, as well as other items, she knew me as a regular customer.

She said that stamp supplies were no longer automatically shipped from the head office. Accordingly we went over the stamp issue schedule and I booked my orders with her for the rest of 2020. The schedule she had was a computer screen printout from an internal source, not the publicly released information. Canada Post's public announcements were months behind.

Since the lockdown, I had been stockpiling commemoratives because they disappeared after a couple of weeks. Yes, they could still be ordered online, but that was a cumbersome process and not very convenient. The difficulties of stamp supplies were part of the invisible postal history of the pandemic as supply lines broke down.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Erika Peter

Due to the present COVID-19 situation, CPS general meetings will be held virtually via Zoom, not in-person. The following details describe the agenda, time, and login details. This begins with the October 7 meeting and will continue with all future meetings until further notice.

An email will be sent to paid-up CPS members with a link in the message. Click on the link and you will automatically be connected to the meeting. Upon connection, you will get a message to wait until the host adds you to the meeting. This may take a minute or two if several users are all booking in at the exact same moment. Please be patient and do not re-click or re-load.

If you have not received such an email by midday October 7, please contact Murray Bialek at mbialek@shaw.ca to verify you are paid up and that he has your correct email address.

Agenda of the Zoom meeting will be:

- a) Meeting portion (similar format as previous meetings)
- b) Presentation
- c) Question-and-answer for the presentation

Starting time: 19h00 on Wednesday, October 7. However, everyone should login earlier between 18h30 to 19h00 to ensure that the video and audio connection works correctly on their side. For those who might be using Zoom for the first time, there are different ways to login.

- a) On Apple products such as iPad, iPhone, or even computers, download a free Zoom app. Smartphones or tablets running on Android software should go to Google Play Store to download a free Zoom app.
- b) Another way to try is to go the Zoom website (<https://zoom.us>) with a computer browser and join the meeting by entering the meeting ID from the email you were sent.
- c) Zoom can work on phones, either through the apps or browsers.

[Note added by Editor: I tracked data usage for Zoom sessions. They average about 200 megabytes per half hour. If you are on a large data allowance as I am, this should not be a problem if you connect directly through your telephone service provider. I have watched a half-dozen Zoom meetings on my Android smartphone and it works quite well. However, if you have wifi at home, use it in preference.]

JUNIOR CLUBS

The Junior's programme at the Edgemont Community Centre has been suspended until January 2021. At the Woodcreek Community Centre, a meeting was held on September 19 and another is scheduled for October 17 at 10h30.

CALTAPEX 2020 CANCELLED

by Walter Herdzik, Show Chairman

At the Calgary Philatelic Society board meeting on August 22, it was voted to cancel this year's CALTAPEX show due to COVID-19. It was originally scheduled for October 17 and 18 at the Kerby Centre. Thus, there will be no physical show this year. At this time, the 2021 Spring Bourse is not yet confirmed and the Board will await COVID-19 updates before a decision is made. Please keep safe and enjoy your philatelic material and interests.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

by Murray Bialek

This is the third notice that your 2020-2021 membership renewal is now due. If you want our club to survive, I ask you to be generous and pay your dues immediately. Your membership card will be included with the next or subsequent issue of the CALGARY PHILATELIST once payment has been received.

You may pay \$25.00 via cheque payable to Calgary Philatelic Society and mailed to:
CPS, c/o Murray Bialek
Box 71126, RPO Silver Springs
Calgary, AB T3B 5K2

or through an e-transfer directly from your bank account to the CPS Membership Director, Murray Bialek, at mbialek@shaw.ca

You must be a current member if you wish to sell material in our auction. The CPS is still providing services such as the CALGARY PHILATELIST, circuit books, and Zoom meetings. Your support is essential more than ever.

EXTRA BULLETIN FOR 2020

The CPS Executive has approved an extra issue of CALGARY PHILATELIST as a free bonus to paid-up members. This will be a one-time situation due to the pandemic. New deadlines are as follow: October 21 for the November issue and November 18 for the December issue.

CIRCUIT BOOKS

Larry Tweedale will be bringing the circuit books to each of our future auctions and in addition he will welcome members at his home on the 1st Saturday after what would have been our monthly meeting (on the first Wednesday of the month). The next occasion will be on October 10 between 13h00 and 15h00. To ensure there isn't any crowding please call Larry at 403-282-9726 to reserve a slot within that window. Larry has indicated he has a lot of new books so there should be some good bargains to be had.

MONTHLY AUCTION

by Jim Senecal

jsenecal@telusplanet.net

On Wednesday, September 16, the CPS held its first auction night at the Kerby Centre in six months. Things were very different with everyone in masks, lots of hand sanitizer, all signed in, and social distancing was applied. It was enjoyed by 25 members (plus 2 prospective members) who not only provided an active auction but also appreciated seeing friends after the suspension of activities.

A survey of those attending was unanimous in endorsing future auctions in October and November. The next auction will be held October 21 with the doors opening at 18h30. This assumes there are no new restrictions on events from Alberta Health Services. Many thanks to Mike McPhail, Gerry Vader and Doug Kollar for working on the auction. Larry Tweedale for providing the circuit books and Penny Borrowman and Linda Connolly for opening the library.

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 Dave Bartlett hosted the meetings on Zoom. The software was supplied courtesy of the BNAPS head office (www.bnaps.org).

The September 9 Zoom meeting had two presenters. Ingo Nessel spoke about the 50-cent Parliament booklets of 1985-89. Kristen Jakobson discussed the U.S. Post Office Acts of 1791 to date. She mentioned the 2020 sabotage of the USPS by the White House, which may affect mail crossing between Canada and the USA.

CAPE (Calgary Association Of Philatelic Exhibitors) meets fourth Wednesdays except June to August and December. For details about Zoom meetings, contact Jim Taylor at miquelon@shaw.ca.

The September 23 Zoom meeting was a discussion of thematic exhibiting, using the war hero Félix Éboué as the topic, presented by Jim Taylor. Afterwards there was a round table of those viewing the meeting. Everyone was keeping busy philatelically during the pandemic by upgrading or creating exhibits and/or writing articles for publication.

Both Calgary BNAPS and CAPE will continue the Zoom meetings until further notice.

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

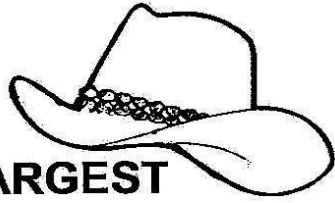
BUY, SELL, OR TRADE: Great Britain and colonies, Canada and provinces, many other countries. Let me know interest. Robin Mitchell at (250)346-3275, mitchellcb39@gmail.com, or Box 56, Brisco, British Columbia V0A 1B0.

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 August bulletin was mailed with the VE Day stamps from Okotoks, at the Cornerstone Plaza Sobeys RePO on August 17. Your editor wore a bandana for his part in COVID-19 protection. Selfie taken outside the Okotoks RePO.



BNAPEX 2020 was cancelled for the obvious reason, but the British North America Philatelic Society have announced awards that otherwise would have been presented at that convention.

CPS member Jon Johnson received the Rich Toop Memorial Award for 2019 for the best article or book on military postal history. This was for his book WW I CANADIAN ARMY NURSING SISTERS SERVING OVERSEAS, published in the BNAPS Exhibits Series.

Dave Bartlet was extensively quoted by CANADIAN STAMP NEWS in their 3-part series in late August and September about the Canada Post kiosk stamps of the 2000s.

Jim Taylor had an article “Reginald Fessenden: Pioneer Of Radio And Electromagnetic Telephony” published in the 2020 Sep/Oct issue of TOPICAL TIME. He also had an article about Saint Pierre et Miquelon mail to foreign countries via Nova Scotia, published in the 2020 September issue of LONDON PHILATELIST. In the 2020 Sep/Oct issue of CANADIAN PHILATELIST he had an article “The Royal Bank Of Canada Bahamas”.

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
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	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 Bartlet	dave.bartlet@shaw.ca

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2020

All events are conditional due to the pandemic. Please note cancellations, or alternatively, meetings that will be held online via Zoom. If you are unfamiliar with Zoom software, advice can be had from Dave Bartlet at dave.bartlet@shaw.ca

October	7	General meeting - via Zoom
	14	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	17 and 18	CALTAPEX 2020 - CANCELLED
	21	Auction - Mandatory masks and social distancing required. Don't forget to register your vehicle licence plate if you use the Kerby parking lots.
	21	Deadline for November bulletin
	28	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
November	4	General meeting - via Zoom
	11	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	18	Auction - Mandatory masks and social distancing required. Don't forget to register your vehicle licence plate if you use the Kerby parking lots.
	18	Deadline for December bulletin
	25	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
December	2	Christmas Social - probably cancelled, check Website
	9	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom

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. **In-person meetings cancelled until further notice but Zoom meetings will be held.** For details, contact Dave Bartlet at dave.bartlet@shaw.ca.

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). **North side meetings cancelled until further notice. South side meeting scheduled for October 17 at 10h30.** 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. **In-person meetings cancelled until further notice but Zoom meetings will be held.** For details, contact Jim Taylor at miquelon@shaw.ca.