

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 175

February 2021



Your editor saw this Canada Post van in downtown Calgary on December 24. The Peter Max style art is in bright colours. The design was similar to special sets of stamps given to posties for their work during the pandemic.

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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.

HONOURED ON A POSTAGE STAMP: CANADIAN ARTIST RENÉ RICHARD

by Marc H. Charest

Celebrating Canada Through Its Paintings.



On Canada Day 1982, Canada Post honoured 12 Canadian artists with the issue of a miniature sheet showing 12 paintings, each representing a province or territory (Nunavut Territory was not created until 1999).

René Richard (Figure 1) was one of these artists as well as a trapper. He is probably best known in his adoptive province of Québec, where he spent the latter half of his long life (86 years).

Figure 1: Painter and trapper René Richard in 1969. Source: Esther Pelletier

Ironically, his painting titled: “Along Great Slave Lake” (Figure 2 below) represents the Northwest Territories (Canada Day commemorative, issued 1982-06-30; Scott #958).



The painting shows hardworking men and their sled dogs on the trap line, possibly in a valley, perhaps seeking a protective refuge for the night.

The party seems to be amongst a clump of mature dead trees, which might provide a wind break.

In that valley, there is also an abundance of water and vegetation which, in turn, attracts a plethora of animals for trapping.

The style of the painting is considered by scholars to be Expressionist. Many of Richard's paintings and drawings are not documented as to location, let alone a title, or date; this appears to be the case for the large painting purchased by my parents in the 1950s (Figure 3, shown below).



My mother recalled that in the 1960s, a friend and neighbour, himself a painter, and René Richard were strolling in the then sparsely populated semi-rural Saint-Bruno area near Montréal, where we lived.

That day, my 15- or 16-years old self, a budding artist, was selling his paintings from a small stand by the roadside. Mom remembered that Richard asked me how much for one of my paintings and I said 10 cents, regardless of size, to which Richard, laughing, said that I

would not make any money that way. My first piece of business advice from someone who should know.

By this time, the artist was living comfortably from his art. Awards and recognition were bestowed later in life: Order of Canada (1973), member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts - RCA (1980). The 19th century house in Baie Saint-Paul (on map, Figure 4) occupied by Richard and his wife, was open to the public in 1990 and is reportedly in urgent need of renovation (2019-2020).

Yours truly never pursued a career as a painter but instead trekked in the northern Canadian wilderness for many seasons as a student of geology. In the summer of 1973, I performed geoscientific field work in the Mistassini region of northern Québec. A lake in the Mistassini Hills of Québec's Precambrian Shield was named after René Richard. That lake is in the same major geological trend (the Grenville Front) where I worked 300 km to the southwest in 1973 (Figure 4).

Early Life: A Special Attraction To The Wilderness Of Canada.

René Richard was born in Switzerland. He emigrated to Canada with his parents during his adolescence. The Richard family first called Montréal home, then moved to Cold Lake, in northern Alberta, where they initially "worked the land". This proved too much of a hardship.

Young René, tall and thin (Figure 1), was smitten by the wild beauty of the Far North. He became a "coureur des bois (or "de" bois)", an independent contractor of sorts (often French Canadian or Métis), whose principal task was to trap certain wild animals, and harvest their fur for the European and Asian markets. In his trapping job, Richard travelled extensively from the Mackenzie Delta to James Bay and the north of Québec, notably Ungava (Figure 4). As well, the artist drew and painted prolifically further south and closer to home in and around Charlevoix county.

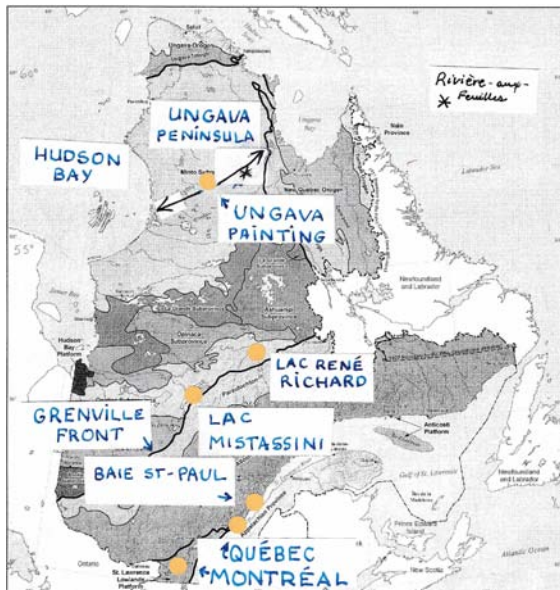


Figure 4: Map of Québec Geological Domains, modified with highlights of key locations and features. Source: Ressources naturelles Québec

Between setting traps and harvesting furs, the artist drew and painted the men and their animals of burden, the horses and the sled dogs, whenever he could.

Initially so poor he could not afford oil paints, Richard drew and sketched using felt pens and Prismacolor pencils, often on plain brown paper.

The artist produced an enormous body of work; whenever he had a pile of drawings/paintings he did not consider worth keeping, he would leave the pile under a rock and walk away. Or burn them! In the latter part of his life, the artist went back to pens, pencils and paper, to create more affordable pieces for a broader public, but also as an opportunity to explore new avenues of colour and graphics.

In 1926, Richard studied drawing and painting in Edmonton. Starting in 1927, the artist spent three years in Paris. Back in Canada, with no money, he went back to trapping. Following a trip in the scenic Charlevoix region of Québec at the end of the 1930s, the artist moved to Baie Saint-Paul, a small picturesque village on the St. Lawrence River northern shore, which became a Mecca for artists and writers and where Richard died at 86 in 1982. A large donation of paintings, drawings and funds was made to Laval University in Québec at that time.

References..

- 1] Family oral history
- 2] (1993 June) REVUE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ D'HISTOIRE DE CHARLESVOIX #16 Numéro spécial consacré à René Richard, 35 pages. (Special Issue honouring René Richard)
- 3] (1986) R. RICHARD Hardcover book in French on the painter, 75 pages
- 4] 1970s-1990s various magazine and newspaper clippings
- 5] Internet: various key terms and events online

CANADA PRECANCELS: PART 2

by Gordon Demke

[Part 1 appeared in CALGARY PHILATELIST #174.]

There are two broad categories or types of precancels: Bar Type (in various styles) and Town and City Type. The latter consists of two sub-types: the town or city name and the Money Order Office Number.

There are also Combination Type Precancels where one stamp differs from the other in a pair of precancel stamps. For both Bar Types and Town and City Types there are also constant varieties that have been identified in the Precancel Catalogue [2].

There are a total of 22 Bar Styles denoted by the letters A to Y as follows (year of issue in brackets): Styles A to D (1889), E to J (1890), K to N (1891), R (1892), S (1894), T and U (1895), V (1922), W (1928), X (1935), and Y (1973).

Walburn lists Post Offices authorized to use postage stamps precancelled with bars [1]. Among those in Alberta are Camrose, Innisfail, Lethbridge, Mayerthorpe, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Rocky Mountain House, Three Hills, Viking, Wainwright and Wetaskiwin.

There are 59 Town/City names and 48 Money Order Office Numbers listed. Alberta towns listed include Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Red Deer. Alberta Money Order Office Numbers include 8160 (Calgary), 8360 (Edmonton), 8605 (Lethbridge) and 8802 (Red Deer).

The numbering system used in the Precancel Catalogue is based on Scott as used in the Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian stamps. The catalogue number is preceded by a style letter or number and where applicable followed by an alphabetic code denoting a particular distinguishing characteristic such as “D” (for double), “I” (for Inverted), “V” (for Vertical), “U” (for Coloured Ink), and so on.

Unlike other catalogues which provide “catalogue values” more indicative of relative prices than “market value”, the Precancel Catalogue purports to show current market value or prices for used stamps (without gum) in fine condition with no faults such as short perforations, thins or poor centering nor additional markings or cancellations.

Very Fine “A” quality specimens that are fresh and well-centered carry a 25% premium, while “B” quality specimens that have one or more straight edges, are discoloured or have additional markings carry discounts of 25-50% off the listed prices. Mint precancels (with gum) also carry a premium over the catalogue price.

Early Bar Precancels are difficult to identify with certainty. The following lists the overall characteristics of the various straight-line bar issues:

Style.

A	2 wide bars
B	Usually 4 bars, sometimes 3 or 5 (a thin bar between thick bars)
C	Usually 5 or 6 bars, not evenly spaced
D	Usually 4 or 5 thick bars
E	Usually 4 or 5 bars, including 1 thin bar
F	Usually 5 bars, including 1 thick bar
G	Usually 6 bars., evenly spaced
H	8 bars, sometimes 7
I	8 bars, sometimes 7 or 9
J	Usually 11 bars, sometimes 8 to 10

Some noteworthy highlights of the precancel issues follow below:

Small Queen: Almost all precancel styles from A to T can be found in Montreal and Ottawa printings. Ottawa printings are more plentiful. During the SQ period remainders of the 15¢ Large Queens were precancelled (Style J, R, S & T). Some of the Small Queen 1¢ and 3¢ are on horizontal wove paper.

Queen Victoria Jubilee stamps: They are the first commemorative stamps of Canada to be precanceled. Due to their large size difficulties arose in the precancel process resulting in many doubles, inverts and triples.

Map Stamp: Precancels include Styles T and U. Again, their large size resulted in many varieties such as doubles, inverts, vertical and horizontal overprints.

Queen Victoria Maple Leaf and Numeral Issues: These were used extensively for the bar precancels. Some are on horizontal wove paper.

King Edward VII: Except for the Widow Weeds issues (#46, 47), the Edward issue was the first to be overprinted with City Names. Some precancels exist on horizontal wove paper.

King George V Arch or Leaf Issue: was used extensively for city and numeral precancels.

King George V Medallion Issue: both dies of the 3¢ carmine exist precancelled.

King George V Admiral period: Admiral stamps were first issued in 1911 and the last plate approved in 1927. Their long usage means that most of the precancels were used on this issue, and offer good study matter for specialists. Some printed on horizontal wove paper instead of the usual vertical wove paper (so-called squat sized) were also precancelled.

King George VI issues: On October 6, 1941 approval was given for the printing of a warning legend in English on the margins of sheets of the 1942 issue.

[to be continued in next issue]

ZOOM MEETINGS

All Zoom meetings are free to paid-up CPS members. You will receive an email which contains a link to the meeting. About 15 minutes before the meeting, click on the link and Zoom will automatically connect you to the meeting. There will be a moment's delay until Dave Bartlet, the CPS Webmaster, verifies your identity and that you are not a hacker, after which you will be passed into the meeting. If you are a new user, you can get help at dave.bartlet@shaw.ca

Zoom meetings can be viewed on smartphones and tablets as well as laptops. For handheld devices, download the free app from Google Play Store for Android devices or Apple for iPhone or iPad. Once installed on your device, all you need to do is click on the email link when the time comes and you will be connected. You don't need to open up the app itself as it will work automatically in the background. Your editor, for example, views the Zoom meetings on his Samsung Galaxy 7 smartphone running Android 8.

CAPE: The Calgary Association of Philatelic Exhibitors met via Zoom on November 25 with 14 participants. Jim Taylor began with an example of a one-frame exhibit of Saint Pierre et Miquelon's stamp shortage of 1926. This was an example of a limited subject not suitable for multi-frames but which could be displayed in one frame. Ray Villeneuve then showed brief examples of the philatelic exhibits he worked on during the summer.

The major part of the meeting was a discussion of CalVirt Stamp Show 2021. Chairman Dave Russum began with updates on what had been done so far. Dave Bartlet then showed new pages on the CPS Website at www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com which had been set up for the virtual stamp show. There followed an extended discussion about how to judge a virtual show. For more information about CalVirt 2021, visit the CPS Website and look down the lefthand side of the screen for a tab that says "Virtual Exhibition".

CPS: The first CPS general meeting of 2021 was held online January 6, with 24 participants. After the usual business session, Walter Herdzik displayed a slide show on the stamps and covers of East Africa, which comprised Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. CPS President Erika Peter presented the President's Pot to Dave Russum for his work on the CalVirt show.

BNAPS: The Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society meets monthly. These meetings are free to CPS members. For more information and an email link to the next meeting, contact Dave Bartlet at dave.bartlet@shaw.ca. There was a monthly meeting via Zoom on December 9, with 28 participants from across Canada. Jim Taylor presented on the Lady Boat postcards and mail of the Canadian National Steamships, who operated two lines between Halifax and the Carribean in the 1930s.

Next up was Ken Pugh, who talked about the stamp forger Andre Frodel and the dealer Fred Eaton who peddled his fakes out of a Vancouver shop. Frodel was active in Canada during the 1950s and produced many dangerous forgeries, many still circulating today. He manufactured mainly fake imperforate stamps of modern issues from the 1940s and 1950s, but also altered older stamps.

The BNAPS meeting of January 13 had 17 participants. Mike Street began with a preview of the forthcoming issue of BNA TOPICS, which has articles on the 5-cent Whooping Crane stamp and how COVID-19 is affecting incoming international mail. He also mentioned forthcoming books from BNAPS. More information can be had at www.bnaps.org

Next up was Dave Freeman, who has been utilizing his pandemic leisure to study Calgary Stampede postal history. He presented a slide show about the many different types of covers available. He has prepared an Excel spreadsheet suitable for using as an inventory of Stampede covers, with all the types listed. If you'd like a copy, email him at dfreeman@latitude.ca [Cover below prepared by Dale Speirs. One of six.]

Calgary Stampede 2020, July 3 to 12,
cancelled due to COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.

No horses, no cowboy hats, no yeehawing.



CIRCUIT BOOKS

by Larry Tweedale

Circuit book exchanges will continue as long as pandemic rules permit. To participate, you can contact me at 403-282-9726 and let me know what your wants and interests are. We can then arrange for a pick-up time from my front door mailbox. When you are ready to return the books, we will follow the same process; set up a drop-off time and use my mailbox. A cheque or money would be included with the returned books. Up to this time the procedure has worked well.

New books continue to be needed. There is a high demand for recent Canada used. Requests for used Canada art stamps and the Historic Land Vehicles (1993-96) have been made. Sales in used Great Britain and Germany have been steady. All countries are welcome as they will be popular when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and we can have meetings again. I look forward to hearing from our members! Remember to stay safe and keep on stamping.

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

On December 2, in lieu of the traditional Christmas Social, a Zoom party was held with 24 participants. Many attendees wore their Christmas gear. Don't tell the kids but there were four Santas present, with Murray Bialek winning the straw vote for best Santa lookalike and Wayne Dwyer receiving honourable mention.

The Social was traditionally when annual awards were handed out, although most were cancelled or postponed. Dale Speirs did so virtually, giving Author of the Year 2020 to Dave Freeman for his research into Calgary Stampede postal markings. Dale later drove to Dave's house and made a curbside delivery of the actual certificate.

Dave Russum presented a slide show on his experiences of exhibiting for 20 years and what he learned along the way. He segued into a second talk about the forthcoming CalVirt Stamp Show 2021. Dave Bartlet next took over to demonstrate how the CPS Website was set up for the show, and walked everyone through the tabs.

Following on was a virtual social, as everyone enjoyed their drink and food in front of their computers. Hopefully no one spilled drinks on their keyboard. Everyone chatted, exchanged jokes and anecdotes, and discussed further online ideas for the membership. Russum and Bartlet both had Corona, not the virus but the beer.



The meeting wrapped up with the traditional quiz, this year prepared by Russum.

The quiz was won by Janice Brookes on a tie breaker with the answer to the main advantage of virtual shows being "not having to put up frames". Her prize for this success is to organise the Christmas quiz for next year.

Screenshots from the party:

Above left:
Dave Russum

Lower left:
Dave Bartlet



AUTHOR OF THE YEAR 2020

Each year an Author of the Year is selected on the basis of original articles published in the CALGARY PHILATELIST.

For the 2020 calendar year, the decision was a tough one and could have gone several ways but the award went to Dave Freeman for his research on Calgary Stampede postal history. Normally the award would have been presented at the Christmas Social, but the pandemic interfered, so it was delivered to him at his home, where this photo was taken curbside. Congratulations Dave!



CALVIRT STAMP SHOW 2021

by Dave Russum

russumd@telusplanet.net

I have attempted to create a show that will be constructive and enjoyable for all exhibitors, from novice to international exhibitor. We have a fascinating range of exhibits submitted, from Victorian to COVID-19, studious to humourous, one page to multiple frames.

We have secured the services of Norma Nielson to act as judge for the show. This will enable keen exhibitors to get feedback on their exhibits before submitting to the more formal shows planned for 2021 or 2022. You may submit a synopsis with your entry if you wish, which will be available on the show Website. Norma will choose formal winners for the show based on current judging rules. Since there are no entry fees, these will not include any monetary prizes or ribbons. Norma will also provide general observations on the exhibits and provide feedback to those who have requested such on their entry form.

Awards will be by People's Choice in a number of categories (such as Best Novice Exhibit). The actual award categories will be announced when show opens. Every visitor to the Website will be able to vote on the People's Choice Awards which will be done by a link on the site. The voting rules will be available on the Website. Positive feedback is really appreciated and will help you to select your favourite exhibits.

Current timetable is as follows:

January 20 - CalVirt Stamp Show 2021 and People's Choice voting open on Website.

January 27 - CAPE Zoom meeting open to all interested parties. Norma Nielson will provide feedback on exhibits and reveal her selections of formal winners.

February 3 - Update at CPS monthly Zoom meeting

February 10 - Update at BNAPS Calgary Zoom meeting. People's Choice voting ends at 22h00 MST. Exhibits will continue to be available until at least February 17.

February 17 - Zoom wrap-up social, People's Choice results announced, general discussion on show, should there be another show etc

SELECT STAMPS AND COVERS

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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.

FOR SALE: Three collections of Poland mint or MUH and a few mostly early Polish stamps. Price by negotiations that would suit the collector. Contact Michael Teekens at 830-9368 or michateekens@gmail.com

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.

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

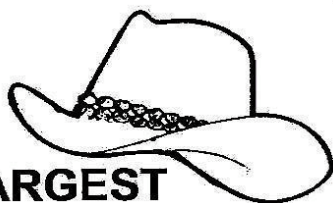
BUY, SELL, OR TRADE: Great Britain and colonies, Canada and provinces, many other countries. Let me know interest. Robin Mitchell at (250)346-3275, mitchellcb39@gmail.com, or Box 56, Brisco, British Columbia V0A 1B0.

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 December bulletin was mailed from Luke’s Drug Mart (1 Avenue NE and Edmonton Trail) in Bridgeland, using the secular Christmas stamp.

That RePO was chosen because the stamp had a covered bridge in the artwork, so the Bridgeland postmark fit nicely.

Jim Taylor won an Award of Merit at the New York Collectors Club 2020 Virtual 1-Frame Competition. His exhibit was about French 1934 anti-tuberculosis campaign labels.

Publications by CPS members:

Jim Taylor had an article about French postcards depicting war monuments in the 2021 Jan/Feb CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

Dale Speirs had a letter to the editor in the 2021 Jan/Feb TOPICAL TIME about rats as a topical.

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	Peter Fleck	pcf1@telus.net
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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	237-5923
Show Committee	Walter Herdzik	herdzikw@shaw.ca
Webmaster	Dave Bartlet	dave.bartlet@shaw.ca

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

All events are conditional due to the pandemic. If you are unfamiliar with Zoom software, advice can be had from Dave Bartlet at dave.bartlet@shaw.ca

2021

January	20	Auction - CANCELLED
	27	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
January 20 to February 10		CalVirt Stamp Show 2021 View at www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com
February	3	General meeting - via Zoom
	10	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	17	Deadline for March bulletin
	17	Auction - CANCELLED
	17	CalVirt wrap-up meeting - via Zoom
	24	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
March	3	General meeting - via Zoom
	10	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	17	Auction - CANCELLED
	17	Deadline for April bulletin
	24	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
April	7	General meeting - via Zoom
	14	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	21	Deadline for May bulletin
	28	CAPE meeting - via Zoom

CALVIRT information available from Dave Russum at russumd@telusplanet.net

GENERAL MEETINGS are by Zoom until further notice. Paid-up CPS members will receive emails with meeting links.

BNAPS (Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society) meets second Wednesdays via Zoom. For details, contact Dave Bartlet at dave.bartlet@shaw.ca

JUNIOR CLUB meetings cancelled until further notice. 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 via Zoom. For details, contact Jim Taylor at miquelon@shaw.ca