

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 181

August 2021

La course au vaccin contre le coronavirus



REPUBLIQUE TOGOLAISE 2020

Mass vaccination in Canada means that herd immunity is within sight. The CPS will resume live meetings within a month. More details inside.

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The CPS mailing address is Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6. The Web site is: www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com

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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.

FLIPPIN' FENESTRATIONS: PART 3

by Tony Doughty

Booklet #706 of 10 stamps consisting of five different designs honoring Emergency Responders was printed by Colour Innovations and released by Canada Post on 2018-09-14. It is an interesting example of rouletting variances. During the COVID-19 isolation period, I acquired a sufficient quantity of these Emergency Responders stamps (Unitrade #3124 to #3128) to research and confirm a suspicion I had that the rouletting on both the top and bottom of the 10 stamps was variable. Here is an abbreviated account of my research.

First, I desk checked each of the five stamps one against the other, comparing each stamp's top roulettings with its four counterparts bottom roulettings. One example is shown in Figure 1, comparing the top of Unitrade #3127 with the bottom of Unitrade #3128.



Above: Figure 1

Below: Figure 2

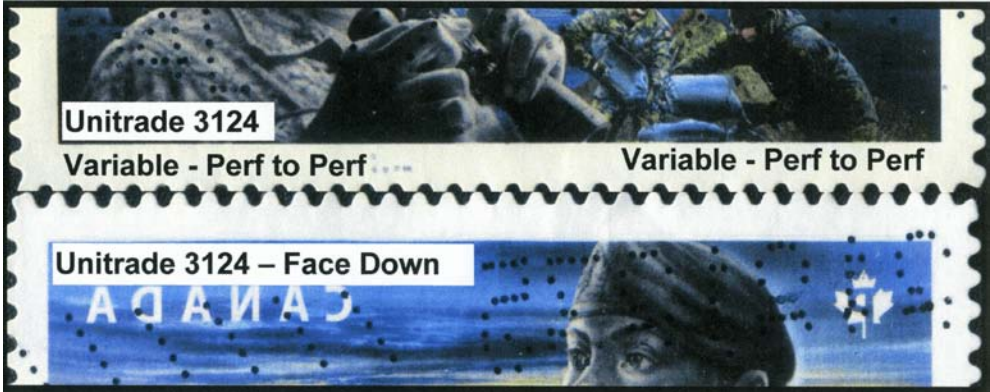


As would be expected all rouletting matches display what appears to be a uniform gauge and prove that the five rows of stamps in the booklet are rouletted with a similar rouletting that, at first observation, would appear to be uniform. Without further and careful research this would lead to the incorrect belief that the roulettings across the top and bottom edges are the same.

I next desk checked and compared the bottom edge roulettings of all of the stamps with the bottom edge of each companion by rotating one stamp 180°. The result of this second comparison clearly indicates that the roulettings are not uniform across the stamps. The comparison of Unitrade #3128 with Unitrade #3127 rotated 180° is indicated in Figure 2.

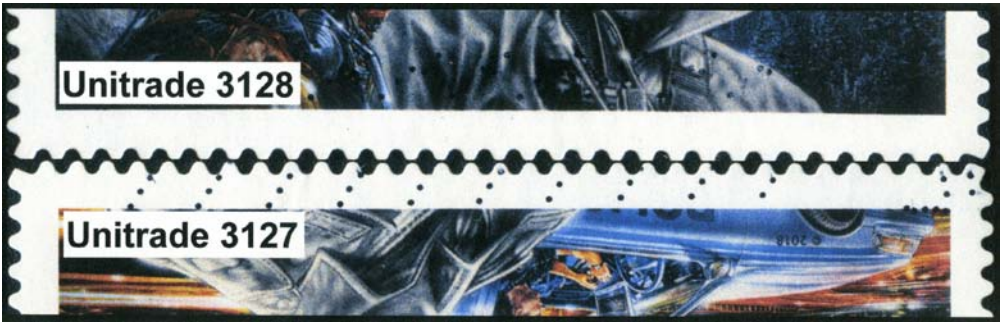
Out of dogged determination I repeated the analysis by flipping the image of a single stamp (Unitrade #3124) in the comparison horizontally so that the image appeared face down compared to the upper stamp , face up, as shown in Figure 3.

Careful examination of the comparisons of the images in Figures 2 and 3 suggested that there are possibly three rouletting gauges on the Emergency Responders stamps. The first and last 11 fenestrations appear to be variable in their gauge. The central 9 fenestrations appear to be of a uniform gauge. To affirm this hypothesis I slid the rotated lower image left and vertically aligned the central roulettings as indicated in Figure 4.



Above: Figure 3

Below: Figure 4



Notice from Figures 2, 3 and 4 that, working away from the central uniform roulettings, the rightmost 11 fenestrations and the leftmost 11 fenestrations do not match. The fenestrations on one stamp appear to increase or decrease in gauge, while the fenestrations on the other stamp appear to decrease or increase in gauge relative one to the other.

This apparent inconsistency led to one more analysis as shown in Figure 5. By cropping the lower image, either from the left or from the right then sliding the cropped images left or right I am then able to compare the left and right rotated corners of the stamp with the original above.

Image A: Unitrade #3127 cropped from the left and slid left to match the 11 rightmost roulettings of the rotated stamp image with the 11 leftmost roulettings on the upper stamp. Actually image A represents the bottom left corner of all stamps rotated 180°.

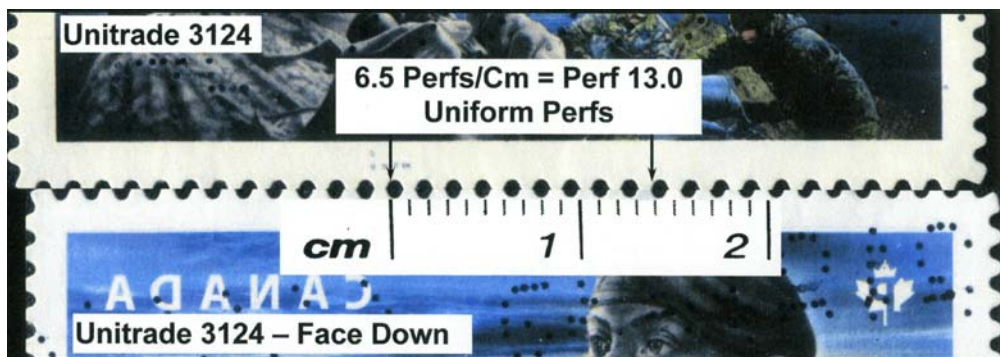
Image B: Unitrade #3127 cropped from the right and slid right to match the 11 leftmost roulettings of the rotated stamp image with the 11 rightmost roulettings on the upper Stamp. Actually image B represents the bottom right corner of all stamps rotated 180°.

Interesting! What once appeared to be variable fenestrations (Figure 4) now appear to be matching uniform fenestrations (Figure 5). This research demonstrates that the first and last 11 roulettings are uniform in pitch but differ in gauge from the left corner of the stamps to the right corner of the stamps. The central roulettings appear to be uniform in pitch and gauge, but differing from both the rightmost and leftmost 11 roulettings. The stamps are tri-gauge rouletted horizontally.



Above: Figure 5

Below: Figure 6



Perverse as I am I attempted to measure the gauge of the three different fenestrations. As best as I can determine, with the limited resources at my disposal, the fenestration gauge on the top and bottom of the Emergency Responders stamps is approximately 12.8 on the leftmost 11 roulettes, 13.0 on the centre 9 roulettes and 12.6 on the rightmost 11 roulettes. I repeated the analysis of the left and right vertical perforations, and confirmed that the gauge is approximately 13.40.

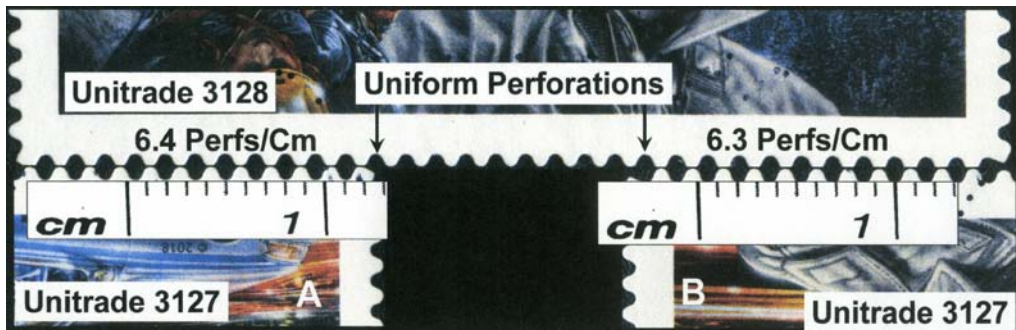


Figure 7: Attempting to measure the perforations (lower stamp rotated 180°)

To avoid confusion enumerating modern fenestrations on Canadian stamps I posited in Part 1 of this series that an expanded cataloguing paradigm is necessary. I now employ the following strategy: where there are multiple gauges along any edge of a stamp, that edge is designated as: (Gauge [Position/Count] and Gauge [Position/Count]. and....)

Thus, based on my measurements and counting left to right, the Emergency Responders stamp would be designated: (12.8[11] and 13.0 [9] and 12.6 [11] x 13.4

Canada Post's DETAILS magazine (September 2018) does not list the perforations gauge for these stamps. The UNITRADE CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN STAMPS (2020 edition, page 565) lists the perforations as being a uniform 13.8 x 13.4. Uniform horizontal perforations? I don't think so.

Incidentally, using this method of designating variable gauge fenestrations on Canadian stamps can also be applied to the coils of stamps with variable fenestrations, depending upon the horizontal or vertical orientation of the stamps as they pass through the printing process.

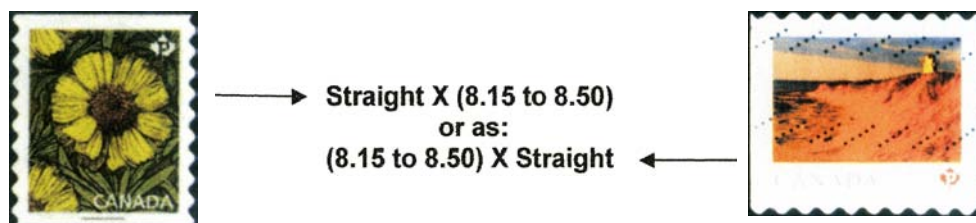


Figure 8

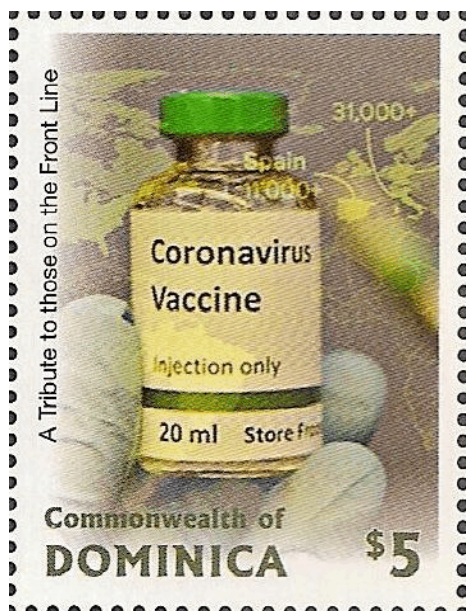
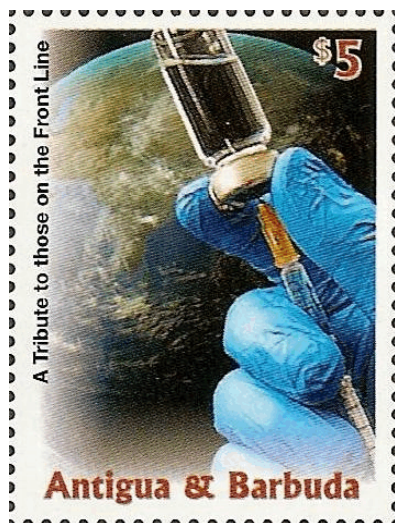
What do you think? As always I welcome your replication of my research and any constructive comments you may have. Particularly I would welcome your report or confirmation of my fenestration gauge findings, or possibly a more accurate measurement of the roulettings on these stamps.

[to be continued]

COLLECTING COVID-19 STAMPS: VACCINES

by Dale Speirs

Most of the COVID-19 topical stamps depicting vaccines used a generic design since they were issued in 2020 while pharmaceutical companies were still racing for the prize. Togo managed to name some of the vaccine manufacturers, although most were not seen in Canada. The front of this bulletin shows a souvenir sheet depicting the Moderna vaccine. There was an accompanying sheet, one stamp of which was for Pfizer. I haven't yet seen stamps for AstraZeneca or Johnson & Johnson. (Stamps not to same scale.)



PHILATELIC FICTION

by Dale Speirs

“Too Many Clients” by D.B. McCandless (1937-03-27, DETECTIVE FICTION WEEKLY, available as a free pdf from www.archive.org) was about a loudmouthed private detective named Sarah Watson. She barged into the theft of a rare stamp worth \$30,000 (call it \$300,000 in today’s depreciated currency).

The owner of the stamp Theodore Barnes feuded with his brother Sylvester, also a philatelist, over the stamp. He cheated his stepsister out of money in order to buy the stamp. He mortgaged the family mansion for stamps. In short, a genuine stamp collector.

It wasn’t him that was murdered though, although the victim left for the next world in his mansion with a knife. Watson barged around investigating. The police? What of them? She was hoping for a commission from the insurance company to recover the stamp, plus reward money from others.

Theodore had to sell the stamp to Sylvester or be financially ruined. He did not want to part with the stamp so he hired a burglar to steal it, then silenced him with a knife. The idea was that Theodore would have both the stamp and the insurance money.

Using flimsy evidence, none of which would hold up in court, Watson solved the case. She stole evidence from the corpse, which would be obstruction of justice against her. Theodore was tripped up in a remark based on her withholding of evidence, so that would have the case thrown out of court.

MURDER AT THE RACETRACK (2006), was a themed anthology edited by Otto Penzler. Most of the stories were routine mysteries, readable once. There was one that stuck out though.

“Keller By A Nose” by Lawrence Sanders was a short story in his series about a hitman named Keller who only worked at his job when he needed money for his stamp collection. During a spell of unemployment (hitmen don’t work every day) he wanted to bid at a stamp auction on a couple of rare stamps for his collection.

While at an off-track betting parlour, he saw a horse named Going Postal in the fourth race at 18 to 1 odds, so he put \$2 on it to win. Alas, it finished seventh in a field of nine. Keller found out hunches didn’t pay. He later bet Happy Trigger and Hit The Boss on long odds for the exacta (predicting first and second place horses). They finished in the last two places.

Keller’s broker, the one who arranged the hit jobs for him, had a client who fixed horse races. In an upcoming race, the client wanted his horse to win against long odds, so he bribed all the other jockeys to slow down their horses. Keller’s job was to eliminate any jockey who beat the designated horse, as a lesson to the others to stay bought when they’re bought. One of them didn’t understand the principle, as a result of which Keller earned enough on the hit to buy those two rare stamps he wanted.

The 1960s television series BATMAN was played as a mixture of melodrama, comedy, and slapstick, basically the only way that superheroes can be played. The idea of masked vigilantes barging into police or military work is risible, much less that they would long remain anonymous or their secret headquarters unknown. Available on DVD.

“A Piece Of The Action” and “Batman’s Satisfaction” were a two-part episode aired in 1967 March, written by Charles Hoffman. The supervillain was Colonel Gumm, working undercover as the foreman of a trading stamps print shop. Gumm was played by Roger C. Carmel, best remembered as Harry Mudd in the original Star Trek series.

The episode began not with Batman and Robin but the Green Hornet and Kato. This was a crossover from the latter’s television series, produced by the same studio. The green duo were out of their territory, as they did not live in Gotham City.

The venue was the Pink Chips Stamp Factory, where trading stamps were produced. Col. Gumm and his henchmen Reprint, Cancelled, and Block clashed with the Green Hornet and Kato. The encounter was indecisive. The next morning the factory owner Miss Pinky Pinkston called the police about the intrusion. She knew nothing about what Gumm was doing on the side, using the factory printing press and perforator to create forgeries of rare stamps.

Jump cut to the stately manor of Bruce Wayne, the man behind the mask of Batman, where he and his youthful ward Dick Grayson were examining their stamp collection. Wayne had just purchased a rare stamp called the Blue Boar of Russian Samara, but was having second thoughts about it. He wondered if it might be a forgery.

Britt Reid, the man behind the Green Hornet mask, was in town for a convention. He looked up Wayne, an old schoolboy friend, and the two met on a dinner date with Pinkston. Neither man knew about the other’s secret identity. Both were competing for Pinkston, who was not only a fair maiden but rich.

En route through the episode there were assorted alarms and many excursions across Gotham City. Gumm managed to capture all four crime fighters. Instead of first ripping their masks off and learning their identities, he tried feeding them into a perforating machine. Didn’t work. Pinkston discovered Gumm’s plan, for which he took her hostage and squirrelled her away in a back room of the factory. In the meantime, he had other problems.

Gumm had an alternate identity as a stamp dealer named Boris Sevaroff, through which he sold his forged stamps. When Wayne visited his stamp shop to question the authenticity of the Blue Boar stamp, Sevaroff had to do some fast talking.

Gumm’s ultimate plan was to heist the International Stamps Exhibition. Obviously the scriptwriter had never been to a stamp show, much less an international. This so-called international was in one small hotel function room.

Gotham City was an alternative New York City. The last international stamp exhibition in NYC, held in 2016, took up the entire Jacob K. Javits Convention Center. In the episode, the exhibits consisted of 8.5 x 11 picture frames set out on a few tables, with a few stamps mounted in each.

Further, the judging consisted of picking out the most valuable stamp, a complete violation of standard stamp show rules. Philatelic exhibits are judged on how well they tell a story about a stamp's history or its use in the postal system. The rules everywhere forbid mentioning the price of a stamp.

That was all moot anyway. A grand battle developed between the Gumm gang and the four masked crime fighters. Guess who won? The two pairs of heroes never learned who the others were.

"The Twenty-First Century Limited" by Paul Slachta (1929 December, AMAZING STORIES, available as a free pdf from www.archive.org) is an example of a science fiction writer who basically transplanted a mundane story into the future. This was about the struggles in 2028 of a transport company on the Earth to Venus run who would go bankrupt if they didn't win a mail contract from the post office.

It was mentioned on the first page that they had large-screen technology to bring up information by twiddling a pair of dials, in other words a prediction of the World Wide Web. Yet the mail had to go through despite comets, fuel losses, and other hazards of space. They won the contract in a twist ending. The mail did go through.

"Not Snow Nor Rain" by Miriam Allen DeFord (1959 November, WORLDS OF IF, available as a free pdf from www.archive.org) chronicled a letter carrier's last day of work. Much to his annoyance his last bag of letters included a batch addressed to a seventh-floor office in a building with only six floors.

In his retirement, the thought of those letters annoyed him, so he did some investigating. The letters were questionnaires from a company offering a prize to those who completed the forms. The information requested was how the person would respond to a group of aliens landing, whether to fight them or greet them as friends.

The aliens were collecting data to judge response of the general public to a planned invasion. They were going to conquer Earth and figured an understanding of how humans thought would be useful.

"The Episode Of The Sinister Inventor" by C. Daly King (1946 December, ELLERY QUEEN'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE, available as a free pdf from www.archive.org) was about two bitter rival inventors. One of them was found dead in the home of the other. It didn't look good but the accused had a Special Delivery letter from the deceased that would acquit him if the postmark and letter date held up. The problem was an overly elaborate plot that relied on the letter having a cancel dated exactly one year prior to the murder. The year date was washed out and the police assumed it was the current year. That a murderer would wait a full year to do his deed is taking the crime of premeditated murder too far. The story was too clever by half and not believable.

LIVE CPS MEETINGS AND AUCTIONS WILL RESUME

by Jim Senecal

(403)547-7681 or jsenecal@telusplanet.net

Bookings at the Kerby Centre have been made for the following CPS activities for 2021:

August Auction: Saturday, August 28 from 09h30 to 12h30 hours (meeting room)

Monthly meetings begin on September 1, October 6, November 3 and December 1, with the usual hours of 19h00 to 21h30. [Editor: The September meeting may still be via Zoom. Check the CPS Website in August.]

Monthly auctions begin on September 15, October 20 and November 17, with the usual hours of 19h00 to 21h00.

CALTAPEX will be held October 16 and 17, 10h00 to 17h00, with setup on October 15 from 17h00 to 19h00.

These activities and mask policies will be discussed at the CPS Board meeting on July 26 and email confirmation will be sent to all members shortly after the meeting.

[Note added by the editor] Don't forget that the Kerby Centre parking lots require vehicle licence plates to be registered on the computer pads inside the building.

ZOOM MEETINGS

All Zoom meetings are free to paid-up CPS members. They can be viewed on laptops, smartphones, or tablets. For technical assistance, contact Dave Bartlet at dave.bartlet@shaw.ca

CPS 2022 BNAPEX: Preparations for the big show celebrating the CPS centennial next year have been carried forward despite the pandemic. A planning meeting was held on June 23 with 19 participants and Murray Bialek in the chair. Arrangements are set for the convention in 2022 September at the Hyatt Regency hotel downtown. The committee discussed the general budget of the convention. From there, the committee heads reported on the myriad of details that must be considered in putting on a national philatelic event.

BNAPS: The Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society met on July 14 with Dave Bartlet presiding and 16 participants from across Canada. The main presentation was by Dave Freeman on the postal history of the Calgary Stampede between 1937 and 1952.

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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: Banff Springs Hotel, Chateau Lake Louise, Laggan, Indian Days, early covers, postcards, postmarks and related material. Contact Raymond Villeneuve 403-714-0038 or hrrvilleneuve@gmail.com

FOR SALE: The Commonwealth Collection 14th March 1983 limited edition issued by the Commonwealth Secretariat. Certificate of authenticity and a letter from Queen Elizabeth. Hard cover book in a sleeve, mint condition. Souvenir Collection of postage Stamps of Canada from year 1979 to 1991. Books are in mint condition, most unopened. Prices vary depending on the year. Call Willi at 519-381-9203

PRICES REDUCED! FOR SALE: Contact Penny Borrowman at 403-667-1543 or pkborrowman@yahoo.ca Price reduced for multiple item purchase.

1) Set of CHINA PHILATELY magazines. Complete run of 1983 to 1998. 96 items, 6 issues per year. All in English, all in excellent condition. \$5 if you can pick up, postage added if they must be mailed.

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4) NOTES ON THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF CHINA, 1878-97 \$5.

5) MONOGRAPHIE DES GRANDS DRAGONS DE CHANGHAI 2nd ed. Updated and expanded \$5.

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

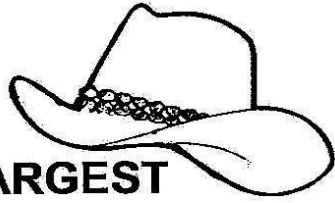
WANTED: Italian or French colonies pre-independence, Western Europe pre-1940, British colonies pre-QE2, Australian States. Call Jim Senecal at 547-7681.

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

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



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COVER SALE!



CLUB NEWS

The July issue of this bulletin was mailed on June 21 from the Black Diamond post office, using the Medical Groundbreakers stamps.

Publications by CPS members:

Dale Speirs had an article in the 2021 June issue of CANADIAN REVENUE NEWSLETTER about a tax-paid Lethbridge document with 109 excise stamps.

CIRCUIT BOOKS

by Larry Tweedale

Circuit books that were retired have all been returned to their owners and cheques have been mailed out. All other books have been retained for the coming year to give them a better chance to sell at a spring bourse or show. Thanks again to everyone who has prepared new books or are about to. Also those who have made purchases, thank you for our continuing success!

Blank books can still be picked up as new material is required. Please call me at 403-282-9726 to arrange a pick-up time. Blank books are \$1 each and easy to prepare. Just follow the instructions on the back cover. Be sure to clearly write the net price (selling price) below each stamp. To be most successful, set the selling price close to 1/3 of catalogue value and avoid the most common stamps.

All countries and topics are welcome. The most popular countries are Canada (especially recent issues), Great Britain, USA, Germany, and British Commonwealth (especially Newfoundland). Hopefully everyone is enjoying their summer. I am looking forward to the time when we can once again have in-person meetings and auctions.

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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Programmes	vacant	
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. Watch the CPS Website for breaking announcements (www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com).

WARNING!

WARNING!

WARNING!

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.

2021

August	18	Deadline for September bulletin, no later than 18h00
	28	Auction at Kerby Centre, Saturday, from 09h30 to 12h30 hours (meeting room)
September	1	Annual general meeting - probably Zoom, possibly Kerby Centre. Check CPS Website closer to the day.
	8	BNAPS Regional Group meeting
	15	Auction - Kerby Centre
	15	Deadline for October bulletin
	22	CAPE meeting
October	6	General meeting - Kerby Centre
	13	BNAPS Regional Group meeting
	15	CALTAPEX show setup - 17h00 hours
	16 and 17	CALTAPEX 2021 - Kerby Centre gymnasium
	20	Auction - Kerby Centre
	20	Deadline for November bulletin
	27	CAPE meeting
November	3	General meeting - Kerby Centre
	10	BNAPS Regional Group meeting
	17	Auction - Kerby Centre
	17	Deadline for December bulletin, no later than 18h00
	24	CAPE meeting

MEETINGS and AUCTIONS are at the Kerby Centre, Room 205 (Lecture Room), 1133 - 7 Avenue SW, at 19h30. Auction lots should be in before 19h30 to allow viewing.

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

CAPE (Calgary Association Of Philatelic Exhibitors) meets fourth Wednesdays. For details, contact Dave Russum at russumd@telusplanet.net