

CALGARY PHILATELIST

May 2023

Issue 202



In this issue Tony Doughty begins a new series on the selvedge of modern Canada stamps. His first topic is the 1981 Canada Day set showing the political evolution of Canada. Here is shown a plate block postmarked at the House of Commons post office.

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Articles or advertisements should be sent to the Editor, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, 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 only. Small ads and articles as hardcopy, plain text file, WordPerfect, or MS Word format only. No Apple formats such as .page can be used. 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.

THE DEVIL AND THE DETAILS: PART 1

by Tony Doughty

Once upon a time long, long ago, in a healthier land of Canada, there lived a Devil in the guise of a stamper. That stamper decided to collect stamps with selvages attached! A few fellow stampers assisted the Devil by providing such stamps, but the majority of stampers derided the activity and much disdain was uttered out of that worricow's earshot.

That Devil was I! The multiplicity of COVID-19 pandemic lock-downs and self isolations, has provide me with time to reflect and reveal some of the finding my selvages collection has exposed. These have been previously either unobserved, missed or sadly neglected by the editors, dealers and other leaders of the philatelic community. I will present only a few of my findings in this short series.

First consider the Canada Day 1981 panes of 16 stamps as a unique example of why collecting stamps with selvages is important, at least to this Devil of a philatelist. The pane(s) consist of 16 stamps with four different designs representing the changing map of Canada over time. There are six different overall pane designs. A full upper left philatelic pane is shown in Figure 1.

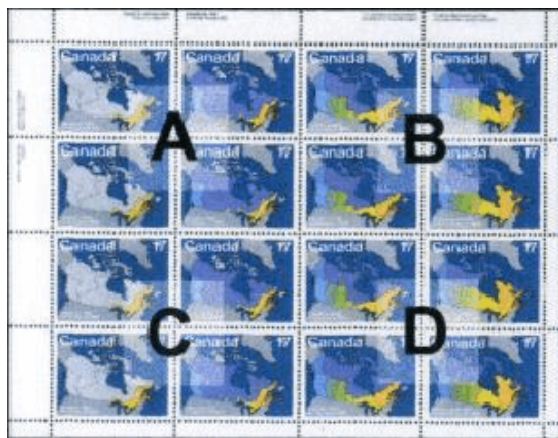


Figure 1

In the left selvage, the Printer's Inscription reads: "BRITISH AMERICA BANK NOTE OTTATWA / Design: Raymond Bellemare" on two centred lines across two vertical stamps.

On the top selvage, two different messages are shown. Above stamps 1 and 2, the message reads: "Issued to commemorate Canada day 1981 / Emission celebrant la Fete du Canada 1981". On the right; above stamps 3 and 4 the message reads: "The evolution of Canada from Confederation to present day / L'évolution du Canada depuis le Confederation jusqu'à nos jours".

The four individual corner panes (UL, UR, LL and LR panes) from the printed sheet represent the plate block corners of four stamps collected by plate block aficionados. However, there are also three adjacent corner blocks of four subjects on each pane but not containing the Printer's Inscription's (B, C and D in Figure 1) above that can also be collected.

Furthermore, in my collection of six full panes of 16 stamps of this series, I have an upper centre (UC) and a lower centre (LC) pane with the Printer's Inscription's completely omitted.

In the past, I have been informed that the upper (UC) and lower (LC) panes are simply one of the right or left panes with the printers inscriptions selvages trimmed off - reduced! If such is the case, the question remains: Why would the printer deliberately remove part of a selvedge edge, either from the right or left of individual panes, to create a miss-sized pane compared to the other four panes with Printer's Inscription's?

It is my belief the stamp sheets were printed with three panes wide, omitting the Printer's Inscription from the upper and lower centre panes, and giving serious philatelist six different stamp panes to collect. The upper or lower two rows of stamps representative of each of the six panes are illustrated in Figure 2 below.

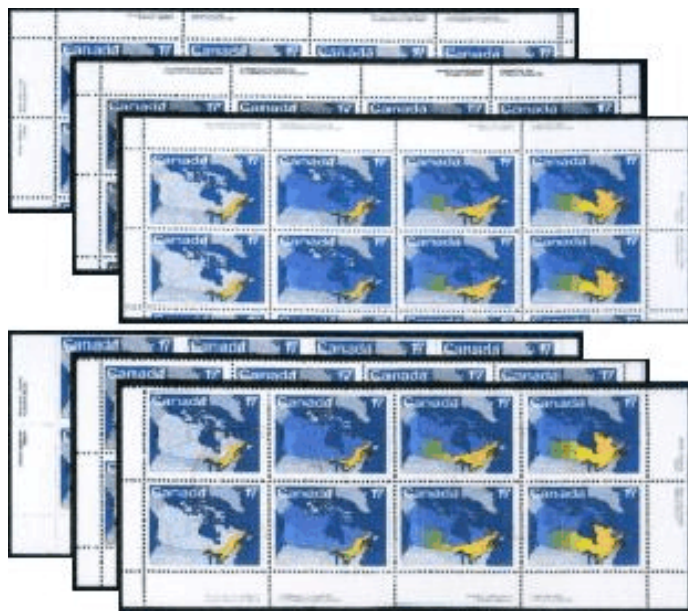


Figure 2

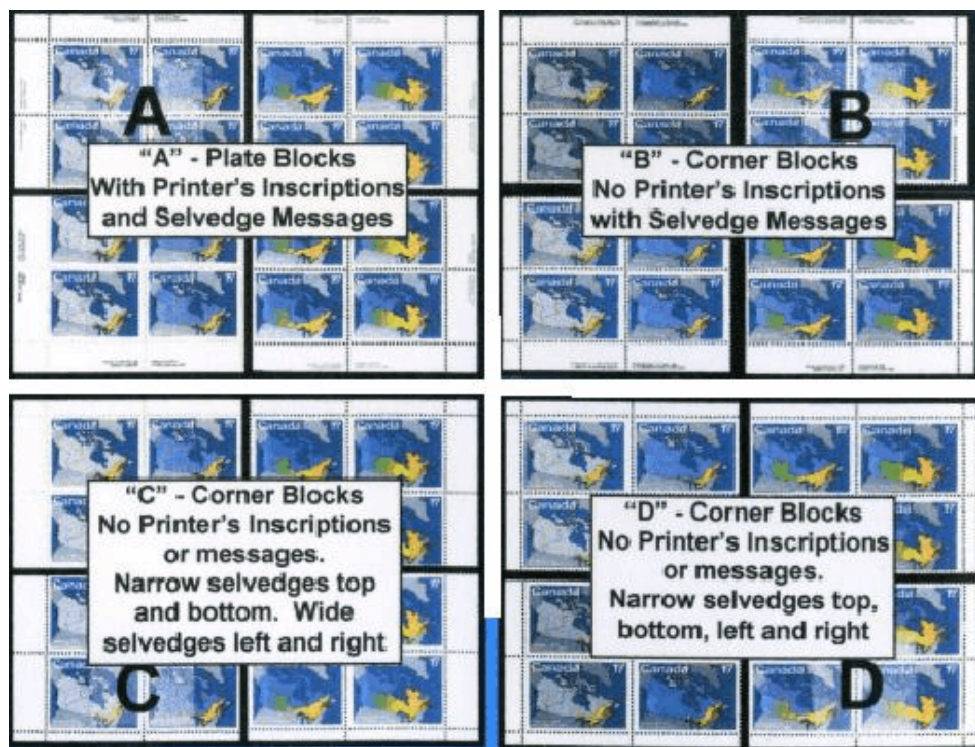
This analysis also gives rise to four different collectable blocks of four stamps with differing arrangements of the printer's inscriptions, selvedge message and selvedge sizes. These blocks are shown in Figure 3.

With few exceptions, this analysis and interpretation can be applied to all stamp sheets displaying the Printer's Inscriptions that are printed with four or more stamp panes to the printed sheet.

Selvages can be very revealing. By collecting single stamps, with selvages still attached, there are at least 10 different single stamps to be acquired from each of the six panes. From the figures shown here, can you identify all the different collectable individual stamps with the selvages still attached?

[to be continued]

Figure 3



ZOOM MEETINGS

Zoom software is free and can be viewed on laptops, smartphones, or tablets, regardless of operating system. It is best to view the meeting on Wifi. If you use your data allowance, a typical meeting consumes about 200 megabytes per half-hour. For technical assistance, please contact Dave Bartlet at dave.bartlet@shaw.ca

If you have not been taking part in Zoom meetings, email Dave so that he can put you on the mailing list. A day or two before the meeting, you will receive an email containing a link to the meeting. About five minutes before the meeting, click on the link and Zoom will automatically connect you.



The Spring Bourse was held at the Kerby Centre gymnasium on the weekend of April 15 and 16.

In addition to the dealers, club table, and circuit books, there was a small informal exhibition.

This consisted of 1-frame and 1-page exhibits, judged by People's Choice.



Shown on this page was part of the dealer bourse and the auction viewing.

For the People's Choice, the 1-frame award went to Duncan Murray for his display on the Apollo space programme. The 1-page award went to Dave Freeman for re-entries on Canadian stamps.



YET MORE PHILATELIC FICTION

by Dale Speirs

Short Stories.

WYNGRAF #1, subtitled “The Magazine Of Cozy Fantasy” (2022 Summer, from Amazon print-on-demand) was a magazine of fantasy stories. From it came “Vigil” by Nathaniel Webb. This story was about something that I don’t recall many sword-and-sorcery authors ever mentioned.

Mail delivery would be just as important to elves and witches as any suburbanite in our world. The story covered the saga of a Cadet Messenger on her first delivery. Over cliffs and into magical forests, on she went. She finally reached the terminus, a hamlet so unimportant that the government never bothered to build a road to it. The mail must go through.

The Stamp Of Death.

THE CHINESE ORANGE MYSTERY was a 1934 novel by Ellery Queen (pseudonym of cousins Frederic Dannay and Manfred B. Lee) reprinted in 2018 by Otto Penzler. The pseudonym and the protagonist were both Ellery Queen.

The plot began with a man visiting the office of Donald Kirk, publisher and stamp collector. The secretary James Osborne told him Kirk wasn’t in at the moment, and asked him to be seated in a waiting room. Several other visitors came and went but none chose to wait for Kirk’s return.

Later that day, Kirk arrived with Ellery Queen. Walking into the waiting room, they found the body of the unknown man. His clothes had been turned inside out or put on backward. The floor lamps and rugs had been turned upside-down, and the paintings and clock turned around to face the wall. There was no identification on the victim.

Osborne was the last person to see the man alive. In addition to being confidential secretary, Osborne also curated Kirk’s stamp collection, mostly early Chinese rarities. Foochow error stamps became the MacGuffins of the plot. Assorted alarums and excursions followed, interspersed with infodumps about stamp collecting.

Everything led to a J’accuse! meeting staged like a play to catch the conscience of the killer. Queen constructed an elaborate re-enactment of the murder. Too, too unbelievable but that is how mysteries were plotted back in the 1930s.

The dead man had come to sell a rare stamp, the Chinese Orange. Osborne couldn’t resist the opportunity to steal it, killing the man in the process. Since it was an unscripted spur-of-the-moment murder, the reader will find difficulty in believing in the aftermath of turned clothing.

Letters.

“The Three Cent Stamp” aired on 1951-01-14 on THE RED SKELTON SHOW. Available as a free mp3 from www.otrr.org/OTRRLibrary Three cents was indeed the cost for Americans to mail a first-class letter when this episode first aired.

Red Skelton was one of the greatest comedians of stage, radio, and television. He was an excellent ad-libber, and if a joke went flat he could snap out a one-liner to quickly recover. The scripts, such as this episode, were often buried by off-track quips with his cast.

The premise of this radio episode was simple. Skelton needed a 3-cent stamp to mail an important letter but couldn't find one at home. He checked his wife's purse, to the sound effects of clattering and clanking as everything fell out when he upended the purse.

The narrative paused for a song, since the show was a variety programme, not a sitcom. Returning to the plot after a commercial, a friend dropped by. Skelton asked for a ride to the post office, where they met in the lobby an acquaintance who was a boxer with a glass jaw and more than a little punch drunk (Skelton doing a weird voice).

Eventually the plot got back on track and Skelton stood in line to buy a stamp. Just as he got to the window, the postie shut down because it was closing time. Skelton went to a drugstore nearby to buy a stamp.

The clerk there spoke with a Noo Yawk gangster accent. He grumbled that he was fed up with people spending trivial amounts such as buying a 5-cent package of chewing gum. That put Skelton in a quandary.

Bravely Skelton ordered a variety of items to bring the order up to a reasonable amount of dollars, then asked for a 3-cent stamp. The order was filled for everything but the stamp. The clerk apologized and said he had just sold his last stamp to the woman now leaving the store, the one with a rotten little kid handcuffed to her.

Skelton rushed after her but she had driven off. He chased her. The dialogue switched to her and her son Junior. The latter was voiced by Skelton as Junior, one of his stock characters, a mean little kid always causing trouble.

Mother saw Skelton following her and assumed the worst. When he pulled up in front of their house, they feared an attack. But first more diversions before the misunderstanding was cleared away.

Mother was aghast when Junior told her he had used all the stamps to mail his frog to a friend in New York City. “The post office is going to be hopping tomorrow!”, he said.

Suddenly there was a cutaway to an instrumental by the orchestra, followed by a commercial. Once back in the story, Skelton emphasized to his friend the importance of getting his letter mailed. The missive contained a patent for a machine that did the work of 10,000 men but required 10,000 men to operate it.

They saw a man standing at a street letter box. Thinking he might have a stamp, they went over and asked if he was mailing a letter. He was so drunk he couldn't get his letter through the slot because the box kept swaying back and forth (another Skelton voice).

The drunk opened the letter, from his wife to her mother, and read that she was inviting Mama to come stay with them. That was enough to decide him not to mail the letter, so he gave Skelton the stamp. Skelton triumphantly mailed his letter. Just as he dropped it into the box he realized he had forgotten to address it.

MURDER THROUGH THE ENGLISH POST (2022) by Jessica Ellicott (pseudonym of Jessie Crockett) was a novel in a series set in rural England circa the 1930s. Two Miss Marples, named Beryl Helliwell and Edwina (surname not given) had done so well that they opened a private enquiries bureau.

There was trouble in the village of Walmsley Parva. Someone was sending anonymous poison pen letters to villagers. The letters were composed of words cut out from newspapers and mailed through a street letter box.

The accusations were fake but had enough plausibility to start fistfights and produce a murder. In every village the postmistress is the centre of gossip, so she briefly came under suspicion. Since most of the villagers received the poison pen letters, attention shifted to someone else who knew their secrets, the local doctor.

He was indeed the self-righteous culprit, determined to purge the villagers of their sins. In the denouement, Beryl and Edwina confronted him about the letters. He confessed, blabbed all, then smoked a poisoned cigarette he had prepared for such an eventuality. Justice was served, if not in the courts.

DARK FANTASY was an old-time radio anthology series with 31 episodes aired from 1941 to 1942. Unusual for the times, it was a national show on the NBC network aired out of Oklahoma City. All the episodes were written by Scott Bishop. They were a mixture of science fiction, fantasy, weird, and twist mysteries. Available as free mp3s from www.otrr.org/OTRRLibrary

“The Letter From Yesterday” aired on 1942-05-01. The episode opened in a library where Adam Chase fell in love with the librarian Cicely. The courtship was interrupted when he failed to return from a business trip.

His letter was never received because of a mail robbery. He thought she had forsaken him. All worked out in the end, the misunderstanding was resolved, and they were married.

One day while working in the attic, Adam found a mail bag full of unopened letters from 50 years ago. One of them was from Cicely's father to Adam's mother. The text of the letter paralleled their lives exactly. That mail had also been stolen, but the result had been different. They had never married.

TOPIC FOR JUNE 7 MEETING

by Dave Russum

russumd@telusplanet.net or (403) 284-4775

The subject for the next general meeting will be “What I Collect And Why”. Wanted are mini-presentations of maximum 5 minutes. Format can be either oral with actual examples in transparent sheet protectors, or forward a maximum of 5 slides to me for inclusion in a digital slideshow. If we have enough presenters we will continue this topic in the fall.

JUNE 21 MEMBERS’ BOURSE

by Jim Senecal

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

The third Wednesday in June will be another Members’ Bourse. Tables are available for \$5 for CPS members wanting to sell bulk or album items. Contact me for bookings.

BNAPS

The Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society held its monthly meeting on April 12 via Zoom. Dave Bartlet was the host and there were 18 participants. The featured speaker was Courtney Hirota from Canada Post. She spoke on the Santa Letter Writing Program, which began locally in Montréal in the mid-1970s and went national in 1982. By 2022, there were 1.4 million letters received in 40 languages, answered by tens of thousands of volunteer Canada Post employees and retirees. The program operates year-round, with set-up and planning in spring, production of materials in summer, distribution of materials and recruitment of volunteers in autumn, and responses in winter. In the early new year, reviews and wrap-ups conclude the current year’s work.

Following on was the show-and-tell part of the meeting. Dale Speirs showed the Canada Post free postal cards issued in 2021. Doug Lingard then showed a 1945 Calgary Stampede cover with a 4-digit registration number, peculiar since the Stampede post office seldom handled more than a few hundred registered covers.

CAPE

The Calgary Association of Philatelic Exhibitors held its monthly meeting on April 26 via Zoom. Dave Russum was the moderator and there were 9 participants. Dave reviewed the new King Charles 3rd stamps and covers. There followed a discussion on recent and future stamp shows. Dale Speirs then presented a talk on the history of the Red Deer Stamp Club (1964 to 1999) which he is researching. Although he has some documents, the main proof that the club existed is the show covers. Dale has an incomplete collection of show covers and is looking to fill in the gaps. He brought up the point that show covers are often the only remaining physical evidence that a club existed.

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WANTED: Red Deer Stamp Club show covers for the following years: 1965 to 1978, 1984 to 1989, 1993 to 1999. Contact Dale Speirs at opuntia57@yahoo.ca or see him at general meetings.

WANTED: I am using Peter Spencer's books concerning the 5-cent Numeral issue. I would like to purchase used copies of the 5-cent Numeral issue. Send me an email with what you have to offer and an asking price. Alain Gauthier at ag250649@yahoo.ca

FOR SALE: Australia used. Jim Heather 430 Centre Street, Vulcan, Alberta T0L 2B0 or jheath01@telus.net

FOR SALE: Danish West Indies. Call Henning at 271-2596

WANTED: Helper to prepare eBay listings for stamp store. Contact Philip Wolf at 264-1551 or selstamp@telus.net

WANTED: "A Beginner's Stamp Album" with letters in a black frame on a blue background. Produced by Hilroy 1960s. Call Milton at 403-797-6644.

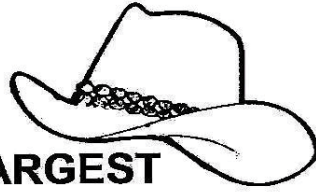
FOR SALE: The Commonwealth Collection 14th March 1983 limited edition issued by the Commonwealth Secretariat. Certificate of authenticity and a letter from Queen Elizabeth. Hard cover book in a sleeve, mint condition. Souvenir Collection of postage Stamps of Canada from year 1979 to 1991. Books are in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

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

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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CLUB NEWS

The April bulletin was mailed on April 11 from the Village Square Dry Cleaners RePO at 52 Street NE and 26 Avenue. The Ranunculus coil stamps were used.

Publications by CPS members:

Jim Taylor's article "British Royals' 1938 Visit To France Offers Wealth Of Collectibles" received a two-page spread in the April 11 issue of CANADIAN STAMP NEWS.

At the May 3 general meeting, Danny Chow presented a talk on different types of topical collecting. The President's Pot was awarded to Dave Bartlet for his work as dealer liaison at the stamp shows.

CIRCUIT BOOKS REPORT

by Larry Tweedale

ltweed@telus.net or (403) 282-9726

Circuit book sales continue to be steady as we approach the June sales report and summer. New material is needed for the fall, especially recent Canada used. All countries are accepted. Requests include Austria, Italy, China, and Newfoundland.

Blank books are \$1 each and can be a means to sell your duplicates. I look forward to seeing you at the May auction and the June meeting!

COMMITTEES

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- 3 rd Wednesday	Jim Senecal	547-7681
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Membership	Murray Bialek	241-2006
Programmes	Dave Russum	284-4775
Show Committee	Walter Herdzik	238-7845
Webmaster	Dave Bartlet	dave.bartlet@shaw.ca

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2023

May	10	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	17	Auction - Kerby Centre
	24	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
June	7	General meeting - Kerby Centre
	7	Deadline for June bulletin
	14	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	21	Members' bourse - Kerby Centre
	28	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
July	5	Deadline for July bulletin
August	2	Deadline for August bulletin
September	6	General meeting - Kerby Centre
	6	Deadline for September bulletin
	13	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	20	Auction - Kerby Centre
	27	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
	27	Deadline for October bulletin
October	4	General meeting - Kerby Centre
	11	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	14 and 15	CALTAPEX 2023 - Kerby Centre
	18	Auction - Kerby Centre
	25	CAPE meeting - via Zoom

Vehicles in both Kerby parking 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.

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

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

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

Junior Club meetings information from Jim Senecal at 403-547-7681.