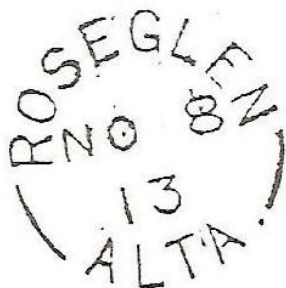
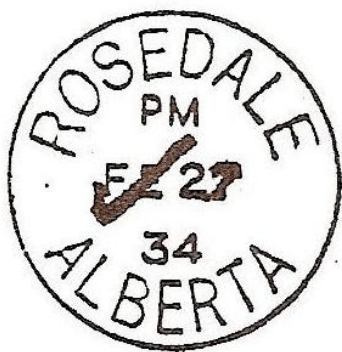
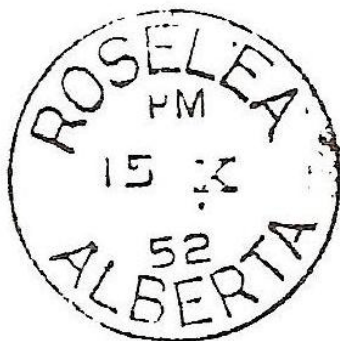


CALGARY PHILATELIST

March 2024

Issue 212



Alberta's floral emblem is the wild rose *Rosa acicularis*. As these proof strike postmarks show, many post offices were named after the rose. More inside on page 7.

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Membership dues for the season are \$25, plus an administrative fee of \$10 for new members. Send to the CPS, Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta T2P 2L6. Notice of address changes or enquiries about missing copies should be sent to the Membership Chairman, not the Editor.

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

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 \$15 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.

STAMP LINE

by Dave Russum

russumd@telusplanet.net or 403-284-4775

We are re-instating the Stamp Line and making it more accessible as a way to encourage stamp discussion at our general meetings. When we have a formal presentation the Stamp Line topic will be 'Miscellaneous'.

Where a topic is defined you are encouraged to bring a page(s). They could be covers, stamps, or ephemera that has some link to the topic from anywhere in the world. Use your imagination to put a spin on the item(s) with a brief write-up.

Put your pages in protective covers and bring them to the meeting so they can be hung on the Stamp Line. There will also be space each month for other miscellaneous items. Larger exhibits can be put in frames but need to be pre-arranged with myself. Contact me if you have questions. Thanks for your support.

The Stamp Line schedule for 2024:

April 3 - Eclipses, Sun, Moon, Space.

May 1 - Presentation by Jon Johnson "WW1 Canadian Army Nursing Sisters overseas",
Stamp Line topic Miscellaneous

June 5 - Stampede

CIRCUIT BOOKS REPORT

by Larry Tweedale

(403) 282-9726 (please leave message)

Greetings everyone, here we are in March already and spring is coming upon us fast! In my mind it can not come soon enough. Circuit book sales continue to be good, but there is a need to get new material in so that the momentum continues.

Please consider preparing a book in time for our Spring Bourse in April. Blank books are only \$1 each and provide an opportunity for you to sell some of your duplicates. Any and all countries, topics, and categories are welcome.

There is a continuing need for recent Canada, USA, Germany and Italy, plus all vintages of Great Britain, British Commonwealth and China. Arriving next month in time for the Spring Bourse are Hong Kong and India (photo below).



PHOTOGRAPHING STAMPS WITH A SMARTPHONE

by Arnie Janson

arnie.janson@gmail.com

If you want to take closeups of fine details on stamps using a smartphone, here is a method that can work well. It requires a 15x lighted magnifier from Lee Valley and two supports: 7.5 mm for the magnifier to hold it level and 38 mm to support smartphone.

In the photo below, the foam has been cut to the correct thickness but you can more easily support the magnifier with a Post-it pad that has pages removed so it is 7.5 mm high. The smartphone is positioned and supported at a height of about 38 mm above the table. In the photo, an OXO cube box works well but any 38 mm high support will work equally well.

Setup for taking closeup photos



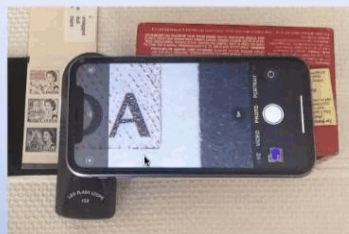
*15x lighted magnifier
from Lee Valley Tools*



*With foam spacer so
it sits level*



*Smartphone on box to hold it
level at correct height*



*Smartphone with 4-5x
magnification shooting
through magnifier*

There are three keys to taking a good photo:

Put the stamp in a clear plastic folder, ideally with a black background. Then, when you move the magnifier around to locate it properly over the detail you want to photograph, the stamp doesn't move. You don't have to put it under plastic, it just makes it easier.

Take closeups using natural light only; i.e. during the day. Use the light to get the magnifier centred but turn it off when taking the photo. The LED light can distort the colour of the stamp (certain colours are more affected than others).

Position the smartphone precisely over the centre of the magnifier. One will see distortion around the perimeter but zoom in at least 2.5x to eliminate the distortion.

If you want just a simple photo of a stamp with a smartphone, support the camera at a height of about 9” (23 cm). A Kleenex box on end works well. Use the 5x zoom feature on the phone. This ensures that distortion is minimized.



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.

MORE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON JESSIE MCVEIGH

by Ray Villeneuve

[See the February 2024 issue of CALGARY PHILATELIST for the previous article.]

Cora Mabel (aka Jessie) McVeigh was indeed a dedicated employee for the Canadian Post Office and a friend of Calgary stamp collectors. She had history in her background. Her brother John was a hotel keeper and, for our story, became the first postmaster of their local post office.

She was 28 when she moved out west with her parents and four siblings from rural eastern Ontario. The 1881 census recorded ten siblings, with Jessie being the third youngest daughter to Peter and Elizabeth McVeigh, all living in Veighton.

Her grandfather emigrated from Ireland in the 1840s and bought farm land in Russell County for himself and his sons. The twin counties of Prescott and Russell extended east of Bytown / Ottawa, along the Ottawa River.

The family was established as one of the early pioneers in that area and gave their small community its name: Veighton. Son John served as the first postmaster, from 1864 to 1868 and again between 1878 and 1882. That post office was closed for a few months and reopened under the name Dickenson. It eventually closed in 1898.

Russell County also happens to be where I grew up and where I spent the first 25 years of my life. It is obviously a subject of my postal history collection and I happened to have the earliest recorded cover from Veighton (top of next page). The handstamp was proofed in 1863 but this broken circle cancel (below), Veighton / CW, with manuscript 3 February/66 is the earliest recorded date so far.

References.

- 1] Glimpses of Cumberland Township, Burnstown Publishing, 2016
- 2] www.ancestry.ca



PAID 5

To the Commission of Crown Lands
Department of the Interior
City of Ottawa



MY WILD ALBERTA ROSE

by Dale Speirs

When I was a boy on a cattle ranch in rural west-central Alberta, my father would occasionally sing a song "My wild Alberta rose, the sweetest flower that grows". It wasn't until I was in my 20s that I learned the rose was Irish in the original lyrics. Nonetheless, Dad's adaptation parsed perfectly in the song. The bush in the back forty and all the fence lines of our ranch were lined with *Rosa acicularis*, the wild rose of Alberta.

Alberta has several climatic zones, from the semi-desert flatlands of the south, the parkland belt of the central province, and the boreal forest of the northern half. When it came time to choose the provincial floral emblem in 1930, the stipulation was that the chosen species had to be ubiquitous, although presumably not a weed like the dandelion.

Rosa acicularis is found throughout the province. In the south it does not grow on the dry grasslands proper but within that area is found along riverbanks, shaded coulees, and ditches where there is sufficient moisture. In the north it will not be found deep inside the spruce forest, but is frequent in clearings and the edges of forests. The flowers are mostly shades of pink but white and deep red varieties are not rare. It grows well in gardens. My yard has them as a hedge along the south side.

[continued next page]

The First Wild Rose Stamp.

In the run-up to Canada's Centennial, the Canadian Post Office (as Canada Post then was) issued a series of stamps between 1964 and 1966 depicting the floral emblems of the provinces and territories [1]. I discussed Newfoundland's floral emblem stamp, the pitcher plant, in the 2013 Jan/Feb issue of CANADIAN PHILATELIST [2]. Alberta's turn came on January 19, 1966 with a stamp depicting the wild rose [3].

As with the other floral emblem stamps, the use of multiple printing plants resulted in numerous colour shifts. The rose flowers can be found shifted over the white background, as seen below. The CPO was lenient about colour registration on the stamps and accepted them from the printers. Given that 16,160,000 stamps were printed on high-speed presses, there was no way every stamp could have been checked for tolerances [3]. As long as the stamps were usable, nobody fussed if the colours were slightly out of alignment.



First-Day Covers.

The floral emblem stamp was issued in the days before Canada Post got into the FDC business, which wiped out private producers. As a result, there is a wide selection of FDCs available. At the top of the next page is a rarer type, cancelled at the House of Commons post office in Ottawa. The green ink was the standard colour of the meter mark.

In the middle of the next page is a private cachet cancelled out of province in Saskatchewan. Their floral emblem is the tiger lily but since *Rosa acicularis* is widespread across all three prairie provinces, the cover is not too far off topic.

From an exhibition point of view, the better covers to display would be those postmarked in Alberta. At bottom of the next page is a cachet produced coincidentally by Rosecraft, which makes it an even better fit to the topic.



Mr. _____
Edmonton, Alta.

House of Commons
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Floral Emblems Series



First Day of Issue: January 19, 1966



REGINA SASK.

First Day of Issue



WILD ROSE
(ROSA ACICULARIS)

PROVINCIAL
Floral
Emblem
SERIES



ALBERTA



Miss Carol Green,

Calgary.

Other Covers.

I like to collect genuinely used covers used in period. Below is a particular rarity, that of a commercially used cover from Dinosaur Provincial Park in southeastern Alberta. Mail from the park officials is rare. The park itself has never had a post office.

Most of the mail from here was prosaic meter marks of the nearest sizeable town of Brooks, about a half-hour drive south of the park. This explained the Brooks machine cancel on the cover. There were a few closer hamlets that had post offices at the time (all but one since closed) but provincial government services for the district were and still are headquartered in Brooks, today a small city.



During 1967, countless events were staged across Canada to celebrate the Centennial. Below is a cover that can be considered as used-in-period since the floral emblem stamps were meant to celebrate the Centennial.



One that has personal connections for me is shown below, a mail art cover prepared by my mother Betty Speirs (1931-2002). She was actively involved with a group of mail artists called the Art Cover Exchange (www.artcoverexchange.org). This cover has a cachet made from pressed petals of a wild rose growing on our ranch. (The ACE 287 inscription was her membership number.)



References.

- 1] Chung, Andrew (2023 Nov/Dec) The floral emblems and coats of arms of the provinces and territories of Canada 1964 to 1966. *CANADIAN PHILATELIST* 74(6):258-279
- 2] Speirs, Dale (2013 Jan/Feb) Carnivorophyte philately: Part 1. *CANADIAN PHILATELIST* 64(1):24-27
- 3] Harris, Robin (editor) (2016) *UNITRADE CATALOGUE OF SPECIALIZED CANADIAN STAMPS*, published by Unitrade Press. Pages 152 to 153, 279 to 280

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB SPRING NATIONAL SHOW 2024

Many Calgarians attend this show, which is a national-level event sanctioned by the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. The venue is the Central Lion's Rec Centre, 113 Street and 111 Avenue, Edmonton. The event will be held March 23 and 24, from 10h00 to 17h00 on Saturday and 10h00 to 16h00 on Sunday. Dealers bourse and exhibits. More information from www.edmontonstampclub.ca

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Philip Wolf, proprietor, in his store

BNAPS

The Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society has monthly meetings on Zoom, hosted by Dave Bartlet. The February 14 meeting was unusual because it began while Dave was on a passenger jet bound for Montréal from Calgary.

There were 11 participants who followed him as he deplaned and went into the airport lounge. While he was riding to his destination after leaving the airport, Mark Oakley in the Okanagan district of British Columbia took over for the middle part of the meeting. Dave returned for the finish after reaching his hotel. Ain't technology wonderful?

There was a brief discussion of forthcoming stamp shows before the presentations began. The theme of this meeting was Valentine Day covers and stamps of Canada. Dale Speirs led off with mail art covers produced for Valentine's Day by his mother Betty between 1995 and her death in 2002.

Murray Bialek then showed leather Valentine postcards circa 1904-06. Dave Bartlet showed covers from Saint Valentin, Québec, with special postmarks from the 2020s, personalized Valentine stamps, and older postcards on the theme.

Doug Lingard had postcards from the 1910s, many of which were mailed on or after February 14, as was apparently the custom back then. Ray Villeneuve displayed Canada Post stationery and personalized stamps on the theme, plus postmarks from Newfoundland post offices such as Cupids and Hearts Content.

The programme concluded with Arnie Janson on an off-topic but interesting subject, the varieties of the Canadian Edible Berry stamps of 1992-98. There is a tremendous amount of research still to be done on modern issues, so if you have bags of Canadian kiloware laying about, why not check them for varieties?

CAPE

The Calgary Association of Philatelic Exhibitors held its regular meeting on February 28 via Zoom. Dave Russum was the moderator and there were 13 participants. Dave opened the meeting by summarizing a February 19 Zoom meeting of the RPSC which discussed innovations in exhibiting.

As an example, 11 x 17 pages are becoming popular because they allow the display of #10 or larger envelopes horizontally. Some shows have offered glass cases or glassed shelves for 3-D displays such as stamp cases or post office artifacts.

Then followed a discussion about the CPS clothesline exhibits and how to revive them. The possibilities include a stamp line, show frames (which would require three volunteers to carry them up from storage), or a table display. The exhibits would have two classes, topical and general.



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CLUB NEWS

The February bulletin was mailed on Monday, February 12, from the Crescent Heights Shoppers Drug Mart retail postal outlet at Centre Street and 13 Avenue NW. This is a new RePO which opened in 2023. Not until after the mailout was it noticed that the clerk forgot to change the postmark date and left it at February 11. The Mary Ann Shadd stamp was used for the mailing.

At the March 6 general meeting, the President’s Pot was presented to Weldon Vickers for his contributions as a behind-the-scenes volunteer. Dave Russum then gave a presentation on the newly revitalized Stamp Line, the theme of which was Leap Day covers.

PUBLICATIONS BY CPS MEMBERS

Bob Timberg published in the 2024 Q1 issue of BNA TOPICS (www.bnaps.org) an article on getting Freedom of Information requests from Canada Post about spray-on postmarks. He learned, among other things, that Canada Post refers to them as “cancellation messages”, not postmarks.

Tony Doughty continued his series on varieties of QE2 Canadian definitives in EDMONTON STAMP CLUB BULLETIN for 2024 February and March.

Jim Taylor began a column series “Stamp Apprentice” in the American Philatelic Society blog StampEd, which is also available in a pdf version. This is a digital-only publication which began publishing on February 19. Free from the APS at www.stamps.org

COMMITTEES

Archives	Dale Speirs	opuntia57@yahoo.ca
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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

CPS MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2024

March	13	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	20	Auction - Kerby Centre
	27	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
April	3	General meeting - Kerby Centre
	3	Deadline for April bulletin
	3	Stamp Line - Eclipses, the Sun, Moon, space
	10	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	17	Auction - Kerby Centre
	20 and 21	Spring Bourse - Kerby Centre gymnasium
	24	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
May	1	General meeting - Kerby Centre
	1	Deadline for May bulletin
	1	Stamp Line - Nursing or Miscellaneous
	8	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	15	Auction - Kerby Centre
	22	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
June	5	General meeting - Kerby Centre
	5	Deadline for June bulletin
	5	Stamp Line - Calgary Stampede
	12	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	19	Members' bourse - Kerby Centre
	26	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
July	3	Deadline for July bulletin - 18h00

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 547-7681.