

STAMPS / By Charles Verge

'96 Canadian stamps salute cinema, gold rush, literacy

In the last column I wrote about some Canadian stamp issues for 1996. After writing it, I realized that there is so much information to share with you in this column and so little time and space. I am going to have to be more concise with my writing or we'll never get it all in. So let's get on with the second part of the 1996 issues.

June will see two issues at CAPEX '96 in Toronto. The fourth and final vehicles souvenir sheet picturing historic Canadian industrial and commercial vehicles will be unveiled during opening ceremonies June 8. On June 13, a booklet of stamps of five different designs will mark the centennial of the Yukon Gold Rush. These issues will anchor two of the theme days at CAPEX '96.

The second part of the year will see a single stamp in August saluting heraldry to coincide with the Heraldry Congress being held in Ottawa. One wonders if the design will show the "new" controversial Canadian Coat of Arms with an additional ribbon of the Order of Canada. I have tried to get an official "camera ready" photograph of the new Coat of Arms and discovered it isn't easy. The federal government still uses the old one.

This year there will also be two souvenir sheets depicting great moments in Canadian cinema to commemorate Canada's centennial of motion pictures. I'm told the design will be quite original.

Lately, Canada Post and its design teams and artists have come up with some really different and attractive stamp formats. Although I don't like all the new designs, I recognize that our stamps have become more eye appealing and innovative over the last few years. It's too bad that Dean Karakasis, the creative force behind this design rejuvenation, left Canada Post last fall. We wish him well in his new career. Hopefully, his replacement will continue to show creative leadership.

The second literacy stamp in six years will find its way in to our albums. Canada Post, like many private corporations, has elected to support a "cause of choice." In their case it is literacy, an appropriate theme for a corporation whose mandate is the delivery of written messages. Readers will recall that Canada Post, when it adopt-

ed this cause, issued a very attractive 39 cent stamp in 1990 to commemorate International Literacy Year. This year's Masterpiece of Canadian Art will represent Bill Reid's *The Spirit of Haida Gwaii*. Canada Post's press release also says it will issue "an exciting new set of stamps" featuring ocean fish.

Some of Canada's best known authors will receive a tribute with a set of stamps, probably during stamp collecting month.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). One of UNICEF's main fund raising activities is the sale of Christmas cards. Canada Post has had the bright idea to combine the stamp issue commemorating UNICEF with its annual Christmas stamp issue. It commissioned three artists to produce the stamps and the stamps' booklet covers.

One of these artists is Irish-born Joan Bacquie, an Ottawa artist with at least six UNICEF card designs to her credit.

She comes from a long line of talented individuals. Her grandparents carved some of the more elaborate Irish headstones at the turn of the century, her father and uncle studied art and sculpting all over Europe, and her sister is one of Ireland's well known sculptors. Bacquie's art can be seen at the Ottawa Gallery in the Byward Market. I'll have more about Bacquie and the Christmas stamp she designed in a subsequent column.

In my last column I wondered what the shape would be of the uncut press sheets for the Jan. 9 bird issue. I speculated a long strip of five streets. I haven't seen one, but *Linn's Stamp News* reports that it is in the shape of an X. I also described the regular bird sheet as diamond-shaped. Readers buying the stamps at their local post office may be given a very plain rectangular sheet of 12 stamps. The diamond-shaped sheet is only available in philatelic stock. Some retail outlets have them. Just ask.

Charles Verge is vice-president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and an international philatelic judge. For questions and comments, write to him at Stamps, c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. He can also be reached on Internet at vergecc@tc.gc.ca

STAMPS / By Charles Verge**SLOGAN CANCEL: Akron honors Resnik**

Stamps mirror history

On Jan. 28, 1986, seven astronauts, including Judith Resnik and Christa McAuliffe, were set to go into space from NASA Space Centre in Florida. This was to be the 25th launch of what had been, up until then, a very successful space shuttle program.

Thousands of spectators on the ground, including school teacher McAuliffe's family and students, and many millions more watching television saw the horrific explosion of the space shuttle *Challenger* 73 seconds after it took off at 11:38 a.m.

Resnik, the first American Jewish astronaut, hailed from Akron, Ohio. City council was very proud of her achievements and wanted to have her contribution postally noted. And what better opportunity than the upcoming early 1986 *Challenger* flight. As the flight date could not be guaranteed, a slogan cancellation was requested from the Akron postmaster that could be put into use for a month around the proposed date of the *Challenger* flight.

A die for the slogan was prepared and announced in the Dec. 2, 1985 edition of *Linn's Stamp News*. The slogan reads "Judy Resnik/Astronaut in space/Spartan-Halley flight" in three lines in a box.

This machine cancel was installed in a Mark II cancelling machine at the Akron, Ohio post office and first used on Jan. 22, 1986. It was to be continued until Feb. 22, 1986. The illustration above shows a usage of the cancel on the day of the *Challenger* explosion.

According to Ann Frank, who was then acting manager of the retail sales division of the Akron post office, no consideration was ever given to removing the cancellation from daily use after the accident. Frank indicated that the slogan die was used again for one other day — Jan. 28, 1987 — to honor Resnik, her contributions to the city of Akron and to the space program on the first anniversary of the tragedy.

The Resnik cancel is a classic example of postal history reflecting the histo-

ry of our time. Modern postal history, with all its variants in slogan cancels, makes for fascinating history lessons and can be the source of hours of enjoyment and research.

If you have an intriguing slogan cancel, share it with me and, if you wish, I can try to research it and it might be the subject of a column.

1996 commemoratives

On Feb. 15, Canada Post will be issuing the second set of commemoratives for 1996. Four stamps in panes of 12 will recognize the biotechnology, aerospace, information and ocean high-technology industries. These are areas where Canadian companies play a leading role.

The biotechnology stamp shows canola, which in 1994 became the first genetically engineered plant approved for commercial planting in Canada, a 3D model of DNA, and an artistic rendering of the transfer of a gene to a chromosome within a plant cell. Aerospace technology is represented by three major industries, propulsion systems, aircraft design and manufacturing and avionics.

The third stamp represents information technology and is depicted by binary codes, a personal computer, the information highway, and an eye that symbolizes the importance of video in the information management world.

The ocean technology stamp is depicted by computer-aided navigation aids, a 3D version of the floor of Halifax Harbor, and the Canadian Steamship Lines' *Louis R. Desmarais*.

The Official First Day covers for this issue will bear a Kanata postmark; this is appropriate as the city is well known as Silicon Valley North and is home to many of Canada's leading high-technology industries.

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NEXT WEEK: Coins

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Entry from Carp just super

Last October, during Stamp Collecting Month, Canada Post, in conjunction with YTV, sponsored a Super Hero Search Contest.

Young people were invited to draw their own super hero. About 23,000 entries were submitted and the winners were announced in early February on YTV's *The Breakfast Zone*. Richard Lee of Mississauga, with a super hero called Gauge, was declared the winner.

Among three runners-up is The Great Canadian Beaver (TGCB), a super hero drawn by Chris Damian of Carp.

TGCB is all-Canadian: a buck-tooth, muscled and long-clawed beaver surrounded by snowcapped mountains with a Canadian flag flying in a night sky. Damian is a Grade 10 student at West Carleton Secondary School who only started taking formal drawing lessons two years ago. He is 16 and tells me that his friends, who must have recognized his talent, brought him the entry form and suggested he enter. If his winning drawing is any indication, his goal of becoming a cartoonist or comic-book illustrator is well under way.

Now that the embargo has been lifted by the United Nations, stamps of the former Yugoslavia are again available from your favorite new issues dealer or directly from the Yugoslavia Stamp Agency in North America, One Unicorn Centre, Cheyenne, Wyoming, 82008-0004. If you're interested, call 1-800-443-4225.

Canada Post will be issuing at least 26 additional stamps this year.

It recently announced a single stamp for Canada Day showing the maple leaf (once again!). The counter mats it distributes to its retail postal outlets depict a second souvenir sheet of 25 stamps to be released at CAPEX '96.

These mats are made available so that customers have a look at stamps to be issued in the first part of the year. A second counter mat is distributed in July to cover the stamps to be issued in the last part of the year. Unfortunately, most of the stamp designs shown on the mats have yet to be unveiled officially by Canada Post's philatelic marketing team and some stamps are still unannounced when the mat comes out. This is the case with the new 25 stamp CAPEX '96 souvenir sheet. Canada Post already had announced the issuance of the fourth souvenir sheet in

its Historic Land Vehicles series. The souvenir sheet will incorporate six stamps from each of the four souvenir sheets with one additional stamp to round out the number.

The amazing thing is that the sheet, which is huge and will not fit in an album without being folded, will sell for only \$3.75. This means, if you extrapolate that the additional stamp is to be a 45-cent letter-rate single, the remaining 24 stamps have to be of lower value. The illustration on the counter mat shows a five-cent stamp on the cover of the folder housing the sheet. It is logical that some of the others are also five cents. Others could be 10-cent and 20-cent denominations. They will become new collectibles.

As a matter of policy, people still alive, except members of the Royal Family, do not appear on Canadian stamps.

One has to wait 10 years before becoming eligible to have a stamp issued in one's honor. The exception to this rule is former governors general and prime ministers who are usually commemorated in the year after their death. From time to time, somebody still alive manages to figure on a stamp. This is the case with Robert Engel, a Holocaust survivor.

A passport photo of Engel appears on the Nov. 9, 1995 Canadian stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust. His passport was among the photos and artifacts selected by the stamp designer from the collection of the Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre of Toronto. Engel, now 71, was 15 when he fled Germany and when the passport was made. He worked for the Dutch underground, was arrested by the Gestapo, sent to a Dutch transit camp and liberated by Canadian troops in 1945.

On the stamp, the passport picture is dead centre at the bottom. It probably is coincidental that Engel works as a volunteer at the centre.

March 7, the Armed Forces Stamp Club, will play host to Mini-Ex. This annual Ottawa-Outaouais inter-club meeting and competition has been held for many years. It's at the RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa.

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Art series spotlights Spirit of Haida Gwaii

April 30 will see the issue of the ninth stamp in the Masterpiece of Canadian Art series. This year's subject is Haida artist Bill Reid's *The Spirit of Haida Gwaii*.

The idea for the sculpture, which will be represented on the 90 cent international rate stamp, was born from a request by famed Canadian architect Arthur Erickson in 1985. Erickson wanted Reid to create a sculpture for the entry court of the Canadian Embassy in Washington which he was designing. I have seen the results of their discussions and Reid's creativity. If you have the opportunity, go and see it in Washington.

The 4,900-kilogram sculpture, a replica of which has been commissioned for Vancouver International Airport, is a canoe which holds 13 travellers, suggesting an image that could serve as a symbolic bridge between cultures. The passengers appear in the shape of humans, bears, rodents, birds, a wolf and an amphibian. On closer inspection, you notice that each character bears both human and animal likeness.

Reid, born in Victoria in 1920, was a student at a school run by Alice Carr — artist Emily Carr's sister. He was the son of a Haida mother and a naturalized Canadian father. His grandfather's uncle, Charles Edenshaw, was known as the grandmaster of Haida argillite carving. The stamp is available in a 16-stamp pane layout.

When I wrote my last column, I had never visited the World Wide Web sites. Two weeks ago, thanks to my brother-in-law in Toronto, I was able to visit several sites including Joe Luft's home page. Here are some additional addresses:

<http://www.usps.gov> is for the home page of the United States Post Office;

<http://www.esil.univmrs.fr/elevés/p98/lucio/web.html> will access French Postal History and;

<http://www2.interpath.net/devcomp/auctions.htm> is for the central stamp auction clearing house page.

It is the season for stamp shows. Today is the second day of the Lakeshore

Stamp Club's annual show in Montreal. It ranks among the best organized and attended regional shows in Canada. It is being held in Dorval Community Centre on Lakeshore Boulevard in Dorval.

April 19-21 will see spring's second Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association show, to be held in Toronto at the Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place. The hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

ORAPEX '96, Ottawa's National Stamp Exhibition, will be held May 4-5. After two years at the RA Centre curling rink, the show is returning to the RA Centre's hockey arena. Due to CAPEX '96 in Toronto in June, ORAPEX and the Edmonton Spring National are the only national level shows scheduled this year. Toronto's annual June STAMPEX has been cancelled and the Convention of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada is being held during CAPEX without its exhibition component. ORAPEX '96 will be at the RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr., from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 4 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 5. There will be free admission and parking.

Another local event is planned for April 18 at 7 p.m. The Amicale des philatélistes de l'Outaouais will hold an auction at its new meeting place, the mezzanine floor of Tétréau Community Centre, Moussette Park in Hull.

Canada Post Corporation's only integrated philatelic venue, Maison de la poste in Montreal has moved to 1250 University at the corner of Cathcart near the McGill Metro station. This change will surely add to its customer base. Its return from exile, back into the main downtown shopping district after being hidden on boulevard René-Lévesque for the last four or five years, bodes well philately.

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NEXT WEEK: Coins

Correction

The Lakeshore Stamp Show takes place April 19-21 at the Sarto Desnoyers Community Centre in Dorval, Quebec, near Montreal. For information call 514-697-5281. The incorrect date and location appeared in Saturday's Stamp column.

HOBBIES / PUZZLES

STAMPS / By Charles Verge

AIDS, breast cancer awareness get philatelic support

"... tie a yellow ribbon 'round the old oak tree."

Whoopi Goldberg's introductory monologue at this year's Academy Awards ceremony was on the subject of wearing ribbons to support causes. Canada Post is getting in on the act and, for the second time in three years, so is the United States Postal Service.

I am particularly pleased with Canada Post's support of AIDS awareness. Besides being very colorful and attractive, the stamp that they are issuing May 8 should enhance Canadians' awareness of a terrifying disease.

It is also good to see that the stamp's issue date is two months before the event it supports; this should give the Eleventh International Conference on AIDS in Vancouver from July 7-12 some additional publicity.

The 45-cent stamp incorporates an oil painting by Vancouver artist Joe Average. Conference organizers commissioned and reproduced the painting as the poster for the conference; and its title, *One World, One Hope*, serves as the theme for the event.

Canada Post will hold first day of issue ceremonies in Vancouver and the stamp will be available in sheets of 20.

Blair Henshaw, of Vancouver, believed so strongly in the message of the postage stamp that he founded an association to support it. The A.I.D.S. on Stamps Project is an independent,



MESSAGES:
U.S. stamp, left, backs breast cancer awareness.
Canadian stamp, right, supports AIDS awareness.



nonprofit AIDS awareness initiative to "create awareness, education and support through a universal medium — the postage stamp."

Some readers may remember that Henshaw visited ORAPEX '95 and received a Vermeil medal for his exhibit on AIDS.

The exhibit, much improved since then, will be in competition in the MOPHILA class at CAPEX '96 in Toronto June 8-16. MOPHILA, which stands for Modern Philately, is a class of competition at the international level that requires material in the exhibit not be more than 10 years old.

Four years ago, Henshaw started a newsletter to support his cause. *The A.I.D.S. on Stamps Newsletter* is not only the vehicle for Henshaw's campaign for an AIDS stamp, but also a philatelic newsletter for those people interested in collecting stamps, covers, meters and cancellations related to the subject.

If you are interested in finding out what Henshaw went through to get "his" stamp on Canada Post's 1996 program, you should read the recent newsletter issue. He has started a mini-series entitled *A Stamp is Born* on how he did it.

Henshaw can be contacted at Box 1652, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2P7. Membership/subscription is \$10, some of which Henshaw donates to AIDS charities in B.C.

It's too bad Canada Post didn't see fit to incorporate the red ribbon in the stamp design. However, officials say the ribbon will appear on the first day cover.

The ribbon, which is symbolic of survival and AIDS awareness, was the central motif of the U.S. AIDS stamp in 1993. On June 15, people attending CAPEX '96 can purchase the U.S. Postal Service's second ribbon when they issue a breast cancer awareness stamp.

The design will show a stylized female form with a pink ribbon on her right shoulder.

Tom Mann, who designed the stamp, also illustrated the AIDS stamp. Mann says that in designing the stamp, he "wanted to emphasize the personal, emotional side of the disease and to make it distinctive from the AIDS awareness stamp." Normally, the U.S. Postal Service charges a fee to people or organizations that wish to reproduce their stamps. This time, they are waiving the fee.

I appreciate seeing North American post offices supporting worthwhile social causes. Hopefully, more of them will get postal recognition.

NOTE: ORAPEX '96, Ottawa's National Stamp Exhibition, is on today and Sunday at the RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr.

A special feature at this year's exhibition, which is open today from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., is a youth booth with free stamps. The theme of this 35th annual RA Stamp Club Exhibition and Bourse is the 50th anniversary of UNICEF and the 50th anniversary of the mechanization of Canada Post. There will be displays, dealers and lectures. Parking and admission is free.

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NEXT WEEK: Coins

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Unique material to be found at once-in-a-decade show

The Canadian Philatelic Exhibition (CAPEX), the once-in-a-decade philatelic show, is just around the corner.

Organizers of CAPEX '96, to be held June 8-16 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, promise many varied and spectacular exhibits, activities and displays. Hosted by the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada under the patronage of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie, CAPEX '96 is supported by Canada Post Corporation.

The many displays and attractions, some never shown before, proposed for CAPEX '96 should make it the best international exhibition ever held in North America. Special exhibits will include some very important pieces of British North America philately from The Queen's Collection including one of the six known 12 penny black covers. Overall, four of the six known 12 penny black covers will be on display.

Besides displaying unique material at its booth, Christie's New York, the world famous auction house, has arranged for the Mitzuhara Collection, the world's finest gathering of early Chinese philately and postal history.

Derrick Page, from the National Postal Museum in London, is bringing Freddie Mercury's collection. Mercury, the lead singer of the British rock group Queen, was an avid stamp collector. Collecting and arranging stamps was an art form for Mercury. Page will give presentations about Mercury's childhood collection and the original mirror-image way he arranged it.

A Canada-France gallery will chronicle the 300-year-old postal relationship between Canada and France. The Musée de la poste de Paris has assembled it in co-operation with institutional and private collectors.

A Jewels of the World gallery will include some of the rarest stamps from around the world on loan from private collectors, institutions and postal administrations. Included are Sweden's Treskilling yellow that recently sold at auction for \$2.041 million, and the late Ralph Mitchener's unique discovery copy of the Paris 1855 Exhibition cancel used for outgoing mail. Mitchener was the *Citizen's* stamp columnist for 13 years.

The same gallery will also house some of the key pieces from the Canadian Postal Archives. The archives will display full sheets of Canada's first stamps. For enthusiasts of more modern stamps, the archives' frames will also show the only existing full sheet of the famous 1959 inverted Seaway.

The National Postal Museum from the Museum of Civilization in Hull will bring its popular Collecting Passions exhibit back to the international show after a four-year absence. The exhibit on the art of collecting, which premièred at CANADA '92, the World Philatelic Youth Show in Montreal, has been touring the country since then.

Also on view at CAPEX '96 will be three of the four known Sandford Fleming essays of the three penny beaver stamp issued in 1851. Two of these come from the Canadian Postal Archives.

Plan to attend CAPEX '96. It is worth it. There is something for everybody.

The show will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 8-12 and June 14. On June 13, it will run from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; June 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and June 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$8 per day for adults and \$4 per day for children and seniors. A \$21 three-day ticket is available until May 31 by writing to CAPEX '96, P.O. Box 204, Station Q, Toronto, Ont. M4T 2M1 or by calling (416) 482-1996. A \$100 Beaver Club membership is also available until the show opens. This membership, besides providing priority entry for the duration of the show (a value of \$72), includes other benefits such as a private lounge for the ticket holder and one guest; free philatelic souvenirs (guaranteed to be at least \$50 in value); the show catalogue; a personal membership card; and a die struck CAPEX '96 pin.

Don't forget you can find CAPEX '96 on the World Wide Web at <http://www.interlog.com/~parrasoc/capex.html> or through e-mail at capex'96@parrasoc.com where questions will be answered.

Next week, I will have a second column on CAPEX '96.

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CAPEX '96 exhibition entertaining, educational

Last week, I wrote about the many displays and stamp exhibits at the once-in-a-decade Canadian Philatelic Exhibition (CAPEX '96) in Toronto from June 8-16. This week I'll single out two other areas.

The Stamp Zone features entertaining and educational activities for children and school groups. The zone builds upon the successful Youth Animation program of CANADA '92. The Fédération québécoise de philatélie is again lending its expertise to this project.

Get Rolling with Stamps features a step-by-step learning environment in the way stamps are made using the Historic Canadian Land Vehicles stamp series as a model. The vehicle stamps, which were first issued in 1993, will conclude when Canada Post unveils the fourth series on June 8 during CAPEX '96 opening ceremonies.

In a souvenir sheet format of six stamps, this year's set will feature industry and commerce vehicles. Visitors at the stamps' introduction can view several of the vehicles depicted on the souvenir sheets including the McLaughlin Buick and the Labatt's Streamliner, which is rarely displayed in public.

Besides the souvenir sheet, a souvenir pane of 25 stamps will combine the six new stamps and the 18 previously issued with a "mystery vehicle" to be unveiled at CAPEX '96. The mystery stamp will be a 45-cent denomination; all others will be re-denominated at lower values (5 cent, 10 cent and 20 cent).

Transportation and the 100th anniversary of the Klondike Gold Rush are themes of this year's show.

June 13, Canada Post will issue a booklet of 10 stamps to celebrate the centennial. The five domestic rate stamps will each focus on a different aspect of life in the Klondike. CAPEX '96 will also feature two new publications celebrating the centennial.

The Postal History Society of Canada's editor, Robert Smith of Ottawa, has sent the society's special CAPEX '96 issue of the *PHSC Journal* to all its members. It is a compendium of seven scholarly articles on fascinating aspects of the Klondike, Yukon and Alaska philately. It is available for \$15 at the society's table at CAPEX '96 or by mail from C. David Platt, RR1, Elgin, Ont.

K0G IE0.

The other publication is *Klondike Gold*, a well-written 268-page book by Saskatchewan-born author Kenneth J. Kutz. This is Kutz's sixth book. Four others in the series tell stories of specific mining subjects such as the Australian gold rush or the discovery and exploitation of petroleum. Kutz will launch his new book at the same time as the stamps, June 13. The book is available for \$45 U.S. through Gold Fever Publishing, 7 Whaling Road, Darien, CT 06820, and at CAPEX '96.

At least 15 commemorative cancels will be available at CAPEX '96. One of these should be popular with collectors of Olympic material and especially with Americans. Difficulties between the Atlanta Olympic Games Organizing Committee and the United States Post Office have made it impossible for the post office to allow the use of any of the Atlanta Games logos or pictograms on any U.S. cancel this year. Such restrictions do not apply to Canada and, therefore, on Olympic Day June 9 the daily CAPEX '96 cancel will feature the Atlanta Olympic Torch logo. This is the only time this logo will be illustrated on a cancel in North America.

Many members of the Ottawa-Hull philatelic community are involved in the organizing or running of CAPEX '96. Dick Malott is the Canadian commissioner to CAPEX '96 and has gathered the largest and most impressive number of Canadian collections ever displayed at an international show.

CAPEX '96 accepted 100 competitive Canadian exhibits, including 19 from the Ottawa area. Jim Kraemer, a former president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, Cimon Morin, chief of the Canadian Postal Archives, and myself will be on the 58-member international jury evaluating 3,600 frames of exhibits and 191 philatelic literature entries. Two local dealers will have booths: Hank Narbonne of Greenwood Stamps and Ian Kimmerly Stamps.

The exhibition is being held in the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

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NEXT WEEK: Coins

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Rift over Olympic designs doesn't help collector

In my June 1 column, I suggested difficulties have arisen between the Atlanta Olympic Games Organizing Committee and the United States Post Office (USPS) concerning the use of Olympic designs on USPS products. The battle goes on.

The latest tiff is over T-shirts. It began when the committee found out that the USPS planned to sell one million T-shirts and other souvenir items based on the design of the Olympic stamps. USPS had changed the stamp designs on the T-shirts to reflect the letter of the philatelic licensing agreement worked out between USPS and the committee, but that wasn't good enough for the committee. Then the USPS moved its date and venue for the first day ceremony of the Olympic stamps from Atlanta to Washington and committee officials boycotted the ceremony. Stay tuned for other details as the saga unfolds.

The rift between the two doesn't help the collector (the last minute change of the first day ceremony) or the altruistic perception some of us still have of the Olympic movement. Still, one has to remember that the Olympics are big business and millions of dollars are involved in potential sales of stamp-related products.

Some recent and future U.S. stamp issues are worth noting. I find the production and design of most recent U.S. stamps leave a lot to be desired. However, I have just seen one very beautiful pane of 15 U.S. stamps showing painter Georgia O'Keefe's *Red Poppy, 1927*.

This 32-cent letter-mail rate stamp was issued on May 23 in recognition of O'Keefe's illustrious career. She was born on Nov. 15, 1887, and died on March 6, 1986. Most of her 200 flower paintings were completed between 1918 and 1932. The spectacular size of many of her flower paintings, their sensual shapes and vivid colors made them subject to controversy, but also cemented their popularity.

Two U.S. issues were scheduled for CAPEX '96, the World Philatelic Exhibition now on in Toronto. On opening day, June 8, the USPS had for sale four 32-cent stamps representing prehistoric animals. On June 13, the USPS issued its second stamp in *The Legends of Hollywood* series of mega movie stars. Last year, they commemorated

Marilyn Monroe. This year, it is James Dean. The same format, a pane of 20, and the same design type is being followed. As well, the USPS will repeat the Monroe issue's popular uncut sheet sales for this stamp. Dean was only 24 when he died in 1955, having completed only three movies.

Canadian stamps after CAPEX '96 include those celebrating Canada Day (June 30 issue), the Olympic Games Centennial (July 8) and the 100th Anniversary of Cinema in Canada (Aug. 22). The first and the third issues will introduce self-adhesive stamps to commemoratives for the first time. All previous self-adhesives were either definitives or the greeting stamps and were sold at a premium, which is not so with the commemorative stamps.

I have little good to say of the single Canada Day stamp being issued in a sheet of 12 stamps with a maple leaf design on each and laid out to form a patchwork quilt. It is based on a computer generated image and is supposed to symbolize the many threads of our nation. I don't know about you but I, for one, am tired of the maple leaf on our stamps.

The two other issues, however, should be winners. The five stamps being issued for the centennial of the Olympic Games are well designed, simple and attractive. Shades of gold color give additional meaning to the outstanding Canadian athletes portrayed. They all won gold medals at Olympic Games: Etienne Desmarteau (1904), Percy Williams (two in 1928), Ethel Catherwood (1928), Fanny 'Bobbie' Rosenfeld (1928), and Gerald Ouellette (1956).

I will have more about the *Motion Pictures, 1896-1996* set in a future column. The issue will be 10 different self-adhesive stamps in two souvenir sheets with clever designs that incorporate frames of the 10 movies depicted.

Today and tomorrow are the last two days of CAPEX '96. If you are in Toronto, drop in and join us at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on Front Street. The show has been great so far.

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Regional exhibitors do well at once-in-a-decade show

As a principal organizer of CAPEX '96, it is a little difficult for me to be completely impartial in evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of this once-in-a-decade show, which was held in Toronto from June 6-18.

Although I will make a few comments, I will leave it to the philatelic press to report on the show's success.

From the dealers, exhibitors and large contingent of delegates from the international philatelic community in attendance came many words of praise. From their perspective, it was well organized, well attended and sufficient amounts of money changed hands to ensure that dealers had a tidy return on their investment.

The organizers are less than enthusiastic by the public's lack of response. Some 36,000 people attended the show, two-thirds of whom paid an entry fee. This is far below the expected 30,000 paid entries, which was a reduced projection from a hopeful 80,000 at the start of planning some years ago.

It's difficult to explain the reason behind the lack of attendance. I feel the promotion and marketing strategies were more than adequate, the displays were chosen to target the general collector or specific communities around Toronto.

It is more than evident that the international philatelic community and the world's postal administrations will have to come up with some major changes to the way international shows are organized. They must find ways to attract more people and reduce the costs associated with exhibitors and judges.

Koh Seow-Chuan of Singapore won the show's Grand Prix National with a display of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia first issues. Ad Indusophon of Thailand took the Grand Prix International with the *Cape of Good Hope Classic Triangulars*. Mattheos Constantin of Greece won the Grand Prix d' Honneur for a collection of *Large Hermes Heads of Greece*.

Canada's medal count was one Large Gold, three Gold, 14 Large Vermeil, 13 Vermeil, 28 Large Silver, 26 Silver, nine Silver Bronze, five Bronze and a certificate of participation.

The jury awarded the Large Gold Medal to a Toronto collector who ex-

hibits under the pseudonym, The Lindemann Collection. His exhibit, *The Canadas, 1851-1867*, was the only other contender for the Grand Prix National.

In only his second international exhibition, Guillaume Vadeboncoeur of Gloucester was awarded a Youth Large Vermeil medal with felicitations and the best in class youth award for his *Small Queens of Canada*.

Other area winners include (philatelic literature entries indicated by an L) Michael Shand, *Airmails of New Zealand, 1919-1940*; Joseph Monteiro, *Definitives of Canada: The Last Quarter Century (1967-1994)* (L); and Michel Forand, *The Congress Book 1995* (L). They all received Large Vermeil medals.

A Vermeil medal was awarded to Eric Manchee for *Bytown/Ottawa: Postal History up to Confederation (1829-1867)*. David Handelman won a Large Silver medal for his *Canadian Registration Since Joining the UPU*. Maureen Toop accepted two Large Silver medals for her late husband, Ritch, for *Prisoner of War Mail-World War II* and *The Canadian Military Posts Vol. 3* (L).

Two Large Silver medals went to Michel Forand for *Bermuda Mails to 1885* (L) and the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal* (L). Doug Lingard's *Canadian Flag Cancels 1896-1919* (L) was also awarded a Large Silver medal. Silver medals were received by Hank Narbonne for *MOOD - Money Order Office Datestamp*; Thomas Hillman for *The Post Office Department and the Parliamentary Records in Canada* (L) and for the *RPSC Philatelic Research Foundation, OPUSCULUM, I* (L).

Joseph Monteiro received two Silver medals for *A Bibliography on Canadian Definitive Postage Stamps of The Queen Elizabeth II Era* (L) and for *Major Canadian Postage Stamp Errors of The Queen Elizabeth II Era* (L).

Hank Narbonne and his co-editor, Andrew Chung of Hamilton, received a Silver Bronze medal for *The New Specialized Catalogue of Canada Post Official First Day Covers*.

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NEXT WEEK: Coins

STAMPS / By Charles Verge

Local men honored, appointed to halls of fame

During the World Philatelic Exhibition in June in Toronto, there were two appointments to halls of fame of interest to the Ottawa area.

For Arthur L. (Mac) McCready (1892-1967), who lived in Cobden, the honor comes almost 30 years after his death. For Dick Malott, a local resident, the honor comes after 45 years of work in the field of aerophilately.

Author, editor, publisher, collector, songwriter and musician are some of the words that describe McCready. He was born in 1892 in Chatham, Ontario, and was raised near Sarnia. In 1928, he became editor and publisher of the *Cobden Sun*.

In 1939, he purchased the periodical that was to make him famous in the philatelic world: *Popular Stamps*. He wrote, edited and published it until stopped by ill health in 1958. At his death in 1967, the publication was the longest running Canadian philatelic magazine. Today, a complete run of 204 issues is a very valuable reference of Canadian philately.

McCready also wrote and published other well known Canadian philatelic publications and handbooks that were pioneer landmarks in the development of unique facets of Canadian philatelic research.

His most important works are *Canadian Philatelic Literature*, *Canadian Flag Cancellations* (two editions) and *Dinky Damus Varieties*. He wrote articles on Canadian philatelic literature for other publications and was a prolific researcher and collector in the Ottawa area.

When McCready bought the publishing rights of *Popular Stamps* in 1940, it was just stamp dealer E. C. Werner's trade and price lists. In February 1941, McCready produced the periodical as an independent stamp publication.

In February 1942, this first-class publication attracted the Canadian Philatelic Society (CPS), the precursor to the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. The CPS subscribed for its complete membership and used *Popular Stamps* for official notices. The partnership was profitable to both. The CPS membership grew by 900 per cent during the period of an agreement that ended when CPS started publishing its own journal in 1947.

For his unflagging service to Canadian philatelic literature, to his worldwide subscribers and to Canadian philatelists today, the Writers Unit 30 of the American Philatelic Society has placed McCready in its hall of fame.

Airmail collecting

Malott, who is president of the Canadian Aerophilatelic Society, was appointed to the American Air Mail Society's Aerophilatelic Hall of Fame.

Since 1950, Malott has been at the forefront of airmail collecting in Canada. He has researched and written extensively on Canadian and Newfoundland airmail development and is the co-ordinating editor of a 500-page catalogue on *The Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland* to be published this fall.

An international judge and commissioner, he is an avid exhibitor at all levels. His collections of Canadian and Newfoundland airmail flight covers have been awarded several dozen medals. From 1986 to 1991, his exhibit of Canadian pioneer and semi-official airmail flown covers was in the Fédération internationale de Philatélie's championship class. Very few Canadian exhibitors have reached this level.

McCready's and Malott's names will be inscribed on the Writers Unit Hall of Fame and the Aerophilately Hall of Fame plaques that hang at American Philatelic Society headquarters in State College, Pennsylvania.

Monday sees the issuance of a 45 cent stamp commemorating heraldry and the 22nd international Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences being held in Ottawa Aug. 18-23. On Aug. 22, two souvenir sheets each containing five self-adhesive stamps for the 100th anniversary of the first motion picture showing in Canada will be issued. The image for each stamp is taken from a strip of Canadian film depicting one frame as well as other characteristics of the film's production.

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NEXT WEEK: Coins

STAMPS / By Charles Verge

Adhesive postage stamp remains a sticking point

May 6, 1840, is recognized throughout the world as the birthday of the adhesive postage stamp as we know it. Sir Rowland Hill, a British postal reformer, is credited with its invention. Like many other inventions that revolutionized our lives, the question of who thought of it first is as complex as the resulting adhesive label is simple. What is amazing is that it was so long in coming and that there is so much controversy on the subject, both then and now.

There was nothing novel in the 1830s about prepaying letters by stamps or the use of adhesive labels to prepay taxes. However, the prepayment of letters with adhesive labels was. As early as 1680, hand-struck postage stamps were being used throughout the British Isles. They resembled the hand cancellation devices now seen in our smaller post offices.

The British Board of Customs and Excise started using adhesive labels in 1802 to prepay taxes on patent medicines and other dutiable articles. The Kingdom of Sardinia used letter sheets with printed or embossed stamps in denominations of 15, 25 or 50 centesimi. And we shouldn't overlook the embossed wrappers and letters used for prepaid correspondence in Sydney, New South Wales, from 1838 onward. In fact, Charles Whiting had suggested stamped wrappers for newspapers transmitted by post. Nothing came of it.

James Chalmers, a Scottish bookseller, came closest to wresting away Hill's laurels. Chalmers took a keen interest in the problems of the post. He proposed a scheme which, when implemented, greatly accelerated the coach service between Dundee, his home town, and London. Chalmers studied the problem of postal reform following the agitation in Parliament of Robert Wallace, a Scottish MP. He, interestingly enough, was also Hill's inspiration.

A competition was held in 1839 by the British Treasury Department to solicit essays for the new penny postage. Chalmers' essays were turned down as being unsuitable. He then wrote to Hill on Oct. 1, 1839: "If slips (stamps) are to be used I flatter myself that I have a claim to priority in the suggestion, it being nearly two years that I first made it public and submitted it in a commu-

nication to Mr. Wallace."

This is confirmed in other correspondence where Chalmers gives the date of the communication as November 1837. On Feb. 22, 1837, Hill had published a pamphlet that read in part: "Perhaps the difficulty ... might be obviated by using a bit of paper just large enough to bear a stamp and covered at the back with glutinous wash..."

Thus Hill had published his concept and plan some nine months prior to Chalmers. They more than likely came to their conclusions independently.

It wasn't really until Hill's death in 1879 that the controversy of who was first flared up. Chalmers' son, Patrick, dared to challenge Hill's claim. The pamphlet vendetta between the younger Chalmers and Pearson Hill, Rowland's son, lasted for almost 20 years.

Patrick wrote more than 35 pamphlets and Pearson, who was a chip off the old block, gave as good as he got. The issue was never resolved and I leave it to you to decide.

The Ottawa Philatelic Society has scheduled its first meeting of the year on Thursday, Sept. 12, in the Laroche Room of the Hintonburg Community Centre. The Lakeshore Stamp Club in Dorval, Que., has changed the date and location for its meetings. The club will now meet at Karnak Hall, 3350 Sources Blvd., in Dollard-des-Ormeaux every second and fourth Monday of the month. Their first meeting is Sept. 9.

That's also the night that the RA Stamp Club of Ottawa will hold its first meeting for the 1996-97 year. The club meets in the Rendez-vous room of the RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr.

Sept. 26 will see the issuance of a single 45-cent stamp honoring Canadian scholar Édouard Montpetit (1881-1954).

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NEXT WEEK: Coins

STAMPS / By Charles Verge

Philatelists will miss two knowledgeable men

Our hobby has been hit hard by the deaths this summer of two Toronto men: Allan E. Steinhart and Ian R. Bett.

Steinhart, who was well known locally, nationally and internationally, was an extremely knowledgeable postal historian, a world class exhibitor and a prolific writer.

This gruff and opinionated man was not only generous with information, but he frequently helped people find hard to locate items.

Steinhart's knowledge of Canadian postal history was encyclopedic and he constantly was discovering new material and information to enhance our collections or our knowledge of the ins and outs of the Canadian postal service.

Crowning glories

Among his many crowning glories was his Large Gold medal collection on transatlantic mail to, from and through British North America (BNA) from 1685 to 1865.

Like some of the Crown jewels, the collection was so vast and extensive it could be broken down into many smaller but still important exhibits.

For example, his 200 pages of mail from and to France and BNA is the only Canadian collection being displayed at the Musée de la Poste in Paris as part of the France-Canada Postal Relations exhibit that opened Sept. 23.

Steinhart was a prime supporter of ORAPEX and BYPEX, Ottawa's two major stamp shows. He not only attended as a dealer, but was always willing to provide parts of his collections for exhibits at ORAPEX.

We certainly will miss the man, his knowledge and his support to Canadian philately.

The night before his Sept. 6 death from a heart attack, Steinhart and I were speaking about Bett, who had died in July. Steinhart said of Bett that "when he started collecting over 20 years ago he was a collector with money. When he passed away, he was a philatelist with knowledge."

That is probably the greatest compliment one could pay Bett.

He was passionate about his stamps and essays and disliked "dirty brown covers" as he called postal history.

He was as opinionated about things and people, and particularly about government, as Steinhart was, but he never considered himself a philatelist.

Three years ago, under the urging of John Jamieson, of the Saskatoon Stamp Centre, Bett decided to show his collection of Pence and Cents issues of Canada, called the Lindemann Collection.

It won the Reserve Grand Award at the Convention of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada held here (1993); the Grand Award at Toronto's STAMPEX (1994); a Gold at the international SINGAPORE '95; and a Large Gold and a candidate for the Grand Prix National at the CAPEX '96 show in Toronto — a remarkable track record for a remarkable collection and a remarkable man.

Bett realized that if he wanted to succeed in exhibiting, he had to overcome his dislike of "dirty brown covers." He did and he learned all about Canadian postal history in the last few years of his life.

Shared treasure trove

Bett was an example of many of our collectors who never exhibit and they purchase spectacular Canadian material and withdraw it from our view.

It is to Bett's credit that he agreed, with many personal reservations about his abilities, to exhibit and to share with us his treasure trove that included the only Sandford Fleming essay of Canada's first stamp in philatelic hands.

Bett was 62 and Steinhart 56. They will be missed.

Canada Post will be issuing two new sets of stamps during stamp collecting month in October. Four stamps on Winnie-the-Pooh and his Canadian origins will be issued Oct. 1, and a booklet of 10 stamps (five different designs) featuring Canadian authors will be issued Oct. 10.

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NEXT WEEK: Coins

STAMPS / By Charles Verge

Making the case for seven-cent stamp

I send a lot of mail to the United States. The rate for a basic letter to the U.S. is 52 cents. That's seven cents more than a letter sent within Canada. There is no seven-cent stamp currently available to make the difference, although the rate differential has been in existence since March 1, 1994.

From April 1, 1987 to Feb. 28, 1994, six cents was the difference between Canadian and U.S. rates and three six-cent stamps were issued during that time: The Red Fox (Oct. 10, 1988); a dark purple booklet stamp showing the East Block of Parliament (Jan. 18, 1989); and a black raspberry stamp in the edible berries definitive series (May 5, 1992).

There is a business case for a seven-cent stamp, so why isn't there one? I would suggest to Canada Post that the cranberry, found in many places in Canada, or Newfoundland's partridge berry might be suitable for a seven cent addition to the edible berries series.

Alternatively, Canada Post could start using low value stamps as commemoratives. It did so with the CAPEX '96 stamp show's massive 25-stamp souvenir sheet. Not wanting to make it pricey, Canada Post denominated the historic land vehicle stamps at five, 10 and 20 cents with one 45-cent stamp. As you can see, the lower value stamps could be combined to make the 45-cent rate. If a few seven cent stamps had been added to the sheet, our American visitors to the show could have made up a 52-cent U.S. rate.

This idea could also be carried over for the different weight steps for mail within Canada. At the moment, it costs 71 cents to mail a letter that weighs between 30 and 50 grams. If you don't have a 71-cent stamp, you need to make up the rate with a combination of stamps such as 45 cents plus 25 cents plus one cent or 45 cents plus 10 cents plus 10 cents plus six cents. Wouldn't it be easier to lick only a 26-cent stamp?

There is another benefit to this approach. Canada Post wants to keep its stamp production at a respectable level mindful of the total face value of the stamps to collectors. At the same time, it is pressured to honor more people or events. Perhaps the use of low value stamps to do so would please both collectors and lobbyists.

Innovation in stamp design seems to be the key word these days at Canada Post. Recent issues have been quite in-

teresting. The die cut puzzle piece in the literacy semi-postal stamp issued Sept. 9 was quite original. The inside back cover of the booklet on which the pane of 10 stamps rested was a hue of color. Seen through the die cut, the various colors made the stamps, at first glance, look different. Depending on the color of the envelope they were used on, that difference was repeated.

The Winnie the Pooh stamps, issued Oct. 1 for Stamp Collecting Month, stretched design and presentation further than we have ever seen in Canada. Not only were the four stamps issued as a bright and colorful souvenir sheet to attract youngsters (\$1.80), they were also issued in sheetlets of 16 stamps (\$7.20). Sheetlets are not original in themselves. This one, however, can only be bought as a dust jacket to a tumbled bilingual booklet of 16 pages that explains the Canadian connection to Winnie the Pooh.

For collectors the sheetlet has two other important and collectable features. The sheetlet is divided into two panes of eight stamps separated by a strip of paper celebrating the 25th anniversary of Walt Disney World. In stamp-collecting terms, the strip is called a gutter and two stamps separated by such a gutter are called gutter pairs. Because of the tumbled nature of the booklet it houses, the sheetlet's panes are also tumbled. Therefore, the gutter pair is now philatelically known as a *tête bêche* pair. As far as I know, these are Canada's first regularly issued gutter pairs and *tête bêche* pairs.

L'amicale des philatélistes de l'Outaouais is holding its annual stamp show, AMPHILEX '96, Oct. 25-27 at Tétreau Community Centre, 95 Prévost St., in Hull. The hours Friday are noon to 8 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The show will host the annual meetings of the Fédération québécoise de philatélie, Académie québécoise d'études philatéliques and Société d'histoire postale du Québec. Another annual show, BYPEX '96, will be Nov. 9-10 at the Talisman Hotel, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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NEXT WEEK: Coins

STAMPS/By Charles Verge

Holiday gift basket full of philatelic goodies

It is that time of year again when non-philatelic spouses and children seek the right something for the stamp collector's stocking. This year's cornucopia holds stamps for the collector and for the bear lover or youngster in the family.

The 1996 annual Collection of Canada's Stamps was issued by Canada Post on Nov. 1. It follows the same color format and is the same high quality as last year's edition. Supported by beautiful photographs and additional text, it allows for the proper display of all stamps as they were issued. It is a coffee table book well worth \$39.95, particularly since it contains 79 stamps valued at \$34.16. Canada Post is offering the 1995 Year Book from Great Britain (\$49.95) and Ireland (\$56.99). They rival the Canada Collection in quality and beauty.

Postal image phone cards featuring Vehicles of Canada and Yukon Gold Discovery stamps issued during CAPEX '96 are still available. A set of five cards of your choice (vehicles or Yukon) are available for \$29.95; they have a total \$25 value. Individual \$10 value cards are available for \$10 each.

For the young and not-so-young in the family, Canada Post offers bears this season. You can purchase a Winnie-the-Pooh plush bear (\$16.99) or the Klondike Ike polar bear at \$24.95. For the younger set, Winnie-the-Pooh is available as a backpack (\$18.99). These products are available through the National Philatelic Centre, 75 Ninian St., Antigonish, N.S. B2G 2R8. You can also call toll free at 1-800-565-4362.

Quite a lot of good philatelic literature was published this year. Both Darnell and Unitrade issued new updated 1997 specialized catalogues of Canadian stamps. They are available in French or English from either publisher. Darnell is \$22.95 from Darnell, P.O. Box 1104, Station B, Montreal, Que. H3B 3K9. Unitrade's catalogue is \$25.95. Unitrade also published *The Canada Post Official First Day Covers* catalogue (\$12.95) covering 25 years of official FDCs issued by Canada Post. It is written by Andrew Chung and R.F. (Hank) Narbonne, a local postal historian and dealer. Unitrade publications are available through The Unitrade Press, 99 Floral Parkway, Toronto, Ont. M6L 2C4.

Kids Can Press Ltd. (29 Birch Ave., Toronto, Ont. M4V 1E2) published *Get Started Stamp Collecting for Canadian Kids* (\$6.95 English or French) for CAPEX '96. It is a great companion to the Stamp Travellers' Club starter kit (\$14.95). The kit includes a subscription to the Stamp Travellers' Club newsletter. The starter kit, as well as the literature above, is available through the National Philatelic Centre.

Chuck Firby and Victor Willson, both stalwarts of the British North America Philatelic Society, collaborated on *The Canadian Posted Letter Guide: The Classic Period, 1851-1902*. This is Vol. 1 of a proposed series of catalogues and evaluation guides for Canadian postal history. A must for all serious or interested collectors of the period. It is available for \$22.95 Cdn through Charles G. Firby — Publications, Suite 107, 6695 Highland Rd., Waukegan, Michigan 48327-1967, U.S.

The last publication is the fourth edition of Kenneth Rowe's *The Postal History and Markings of the Forwarding Agents*. The new edition contains more than 400 changes and corrections from the previous one and more than 1,200 names of forwarding agents have been added. The book can be purchased for \$47.50 U.S. from the publisher, Leonard H. Hartmann, Box 36006, Louisville, Kentucky 40233, U.S. For another \$5 U.S., Hartmann has made available a search file on a 3.5 inch computer disk. Corrections and changes to the forwarding agents' lists will appear on their web site (<http://pbbooks.com>).

Don't forget BYPEX today and tomorrow (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) at the Talisman Hotel, 1376 Carling Ave. The Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association's fall shows will be held in Toronto at the CNE's Queen Elizabeth Building, Nov. 15 (10 a.m. to 7 p.m.), Nov. 16 (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Nov. 17 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.); and in Montreal at Place Bonaventure, Nov. 29 (11 a.m. to 8 p.m.), Nov. 30 (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Dec. 1 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

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