

YEAR OF THE SNAKE

BY ALF BROOKS ©

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\$1⁰⁰



Members of the Winnipeg Philatelic Society were privileged to join with members of Winnipeg's Chinese community on January 5 to attend the launch of another Chinese/Lunar New Year stamp, the Year of the Snake. We were well-entertained

and well-fed at the Winnipeg Chinese Cultural Centre in an event organized by the Centre and Canada Post. Festivities began with the entrance of the traditional Chinese dragon, and continued with three items of entertainment - flute playing, vocal and dance. Eva Luk chaired the event, welcoming all to the Centre and introducing the speakers and entertainment. Dr. Joseph Du, president of the Chinese Cultural Society, brought greetings from the Society and the community. Vivian Albo, chair of the Board of Canada Post, spoke on behalf of Canada Post.

Canada Post, in addition to giving each person attending a souvenir cover, also had a booth where they sold various items - the 47¢ stamp, the \$1.05 souvenir sheet, press sheets and souvenir covers. Many who purchased items had them autographed by the designer of the stamp, Marlene Wu.

According to one website, the snake symbolizes cunning, evil, and supernatural power. Are you a "snake?" Subtract multiples of twelve from 2001, and if one of the results corresponds to the year of your birth, you must be the following:

People born in the Year of the Snake are

endowed with tremendous wisdom. Profound thinkers, they prefer to rely on their own intellect rather than trust the judgment of others. Fired with intense determination, they hate to fail at anything. They are determined to achieve their goals. They seldom have to worry about money — they're usually rich! Yet they can be stingy, and hate to make loans. Snake men are handsome. Snake women are beautiful and both are often vain. They are sometimes tempted into extra marriages. Snake men and women have an annoying habit of overdoing whatever they do, including helping others. (from www.MaCyber.com)



Clockwise from top: Chop Stick Dancers; Vivian Albo, Chairperson, Canada Post Board of Directors; Souvenir Sheet display; Ceremonial Dragon.

EXHIBITING WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 17
from 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Deaf Centre Manitoba

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The Buffalo

PUBLICATION OF THE
WINNIPEG PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Western Canada's Oldest Stamp Club
Website: <http://www.wps.mb.ca>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Year of the Snake	1
Exhibiting Workshop	1
Member's Adlets	2,6
Editor Notes...	3
Buffalo Chips	3
Web World	4
Insects on Stamps Pt. 3	5
Dear Phil	6
Auction Prices Realized	6
Hong Kong Duty Overprint	7
New Members	7
Meeting Minutes	8

THE WINNIPEG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Box 1425, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2Z1
R.P.S.C. Chapter 86 A.P.S. Chapter 813

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Annual Dues Payable July 1st Each Year:

Regular-	\$20.00	Senior-	\$15.00
Spouse†-	\$15.00	Junior-	\$15.00

† A spouse of a member may become a member with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities of membership, but does not receive *The Buffalo*.

Application filed July to April

Admission

	Fee	Dues	Total
Regular	\$2.00	\$20.00	\$22.00
Others	\$2.00	\$15.00	\$17.00

Application filed April, May, June

Regular	\$2.00	\$25.00	\$27.00*
Others	\$2.00	\$18.50	\$20.50*

* includes dues for following year

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS \$200.00

RENEWALS

Lapsed memberships or late renewals (paid after September 30th of each year) are charged a \$1.00 reinstatement fee.

All new applicants must undergo a 60-day orientation before receiving full membership privileges.

The Buffalo is published monthly except in July and December. Deadline for article submissions and advertising copy is the 15th of each month preceding the month of issue.

WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.WPS.MB.CA](http://www.wps.mb.ca)

COMING EVENTS

7:00 p.m. 1st & 3rd Thursdays
(except Jul. & Aug.). Visitors always welcome.
Main Floor, Deaf Centre Manitoba, located
at the corner of 285 Pembina Hwy. & Nassau St.

2001

- Feb. 1 - Business Meeting
- Auction
- Feb. 15 - Business Meeting
- Presentation - "What Judges look for and Why" - Clark Grierson

- March 1 - Business Meeting
- Auction

- March 15 - Business Meeting
- "Stamp Quiz"

The first meetings of each month reserved for Auctions.

The second meetings of each month reserved for formal programs.

THE W.P.S. IS ONLINE

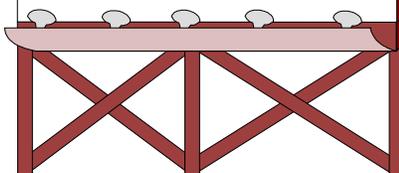
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MEMBERS' ADLETS

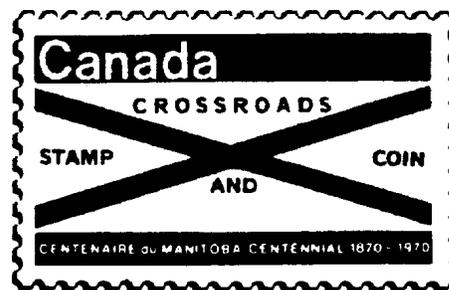
**Red River Stamp Bourse
Charterhouse Hotel**

**February 11
10:00am - 4:30pm**

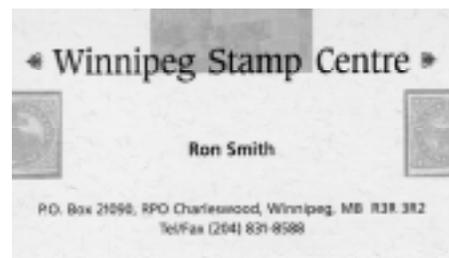


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Buffalo Advertising Rates

-1/10 page
[approximately 2 1/4" x 2 3/4"]
at \$30 per year [10 issues].

Member's Adlet

-up to 30 words
[counting an average of 5 characters per word]:

1 issue -	\$1.00
5 issues -	\$2.00
10 issues -	\$3.00

Terms of Payment

-payable to Winnipeg Philatelic Society
in one sum at time of agreement.

EDITOR NOTES...

Well done, fellow collectors. As President Bev reported, our Christmas Charity Auction brought in \$370.00, which was divided equally between Christmas Cheer and the Salvation Army. Thanks to us all as we donated and bid. My one disappointment was the slim pickings when it came to home-produced baking and preserves.

• • • • •

President Bev announced at our last meeting that Gloria Pappin has resigned as vice president. Gloria has recently moved from Winnipeg to Ile des Chênes, and cannot make it out to as many WPS meetings as before. And as one duty of the vice president is to chair the committee for our annual show, the resignation created another vacancy. Des Connor has volunteered to co-chair the committee, so it appears that with the experienced people on the committee our show will be in good hands. Gloria has worked hard for WPS in the past: her work that helped make Royal 2000 Royale a success is only one of her contributions to the life of the WPS. We hope that Gloria will be able to attend meetings, but, as they say... what one does for love.

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We collect to please ourselves, to meet challenges of acquiring philatelic items related to our interests, to learn all we can about a stamp, a series of stamps, an era, a country - and you can name other topics. And when we learn all that is possible (if that is ever possible), we have a great feeling of satisfaction.

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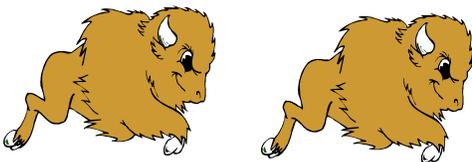
On May 4 -6 we hold our annual show at the Ramada Marlborough. Last year we hosted a very successful national show. Our own local show is not on the same scale, and may even be viewed as small potatoes after last year's show. But it is up to us to make it a good show, and many of us can do that by mounting an exhibit, by sharing our philatelic interests and knowledge with others.

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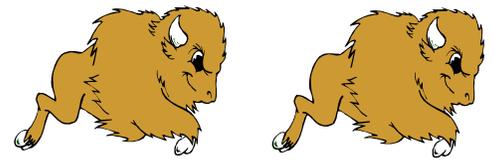
Do you feel intimidated by the idea of exhibiting? One solution is to attend a workshop, as announced by Robert Z. An exhibiting workshop will take place on Saturday, February 17, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. It will be held in the Affleck Room at the Deaf Centre. If you need help with your exhibit, or are thinking about putting one in, help is available at the workshop. Please bring the material you plan to exhibit, vario pages, and stamp tongs. You will benefit from the advice offered by members who have exhibited and judged at previous shows, you will be encouraged to mount an exhibit that will interest other members and the public that attends the show. And you may win a medal for you efforts.

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Thanks to Robert Z. and all the others that contributed in many ways, our January auction was a great success. So we will have another one: reserve Sunday, March 25. The auction will be held in the Affleck Room at the Deaf Centre. Viewing will be from 1:30 to 2:00, and the auction take place from 2:00 to 5:00. There will be a maximum of 300 lots in total. If you are interested in putting items into the auction, please give them to Robert by March 1. The limit is 20 lots per person. A list of lots will be available at the March 15 meeting.



BUFFALO CHIPS



After every Olympic games we count our medals, compare the take to what our athletes achieved in previous years, and then usually ask why we did not win more, and what are we going to do about it (likely appoint a royal commission).

Add one more gold to our total from Sydney. *L'Écho de la Timbrologie*, in its December 2000 issue, wrote about the stamps produced by Australia Post to recognize

that country's gold medal winners. As mentioned in a previous edition, these were available at noon the day after the medal was awarded. According to *L'Écho*, the accompanying stamp illustration shows "L'équipe équestre canadienne." They also credited "...la Poste canadienne..." with photographing the winners and producing the instantaneous stamps.





GIBBON'S

WWW.ALLWORLDSTAMPS.COM

The very first Stanley Gibbons Catalogue was a 16 page booklet published in 1865. The current print edition is split into 22 parts and runs to over 10,000 pages. When fully completed, All World

Stamps will present the most authoritative single source of information about stamps - with over 370,000 stamps listed and valued!

The All World Stamps online Catalogue will document in a digital format every stamp ever produced - assigning to each the globally-recognised SG reference number. All World Stamps is not just a work of outstanding philatelic scholarship. Using our resources you will be able to see what each stamp is currently valued at on today's collectors market! Instead of relying on catalogues which may have been printed a year or two earlier, All World Stamp prices will be constantly reviewed and updated in order to reflect changing market conditions and subtle fluctuations in price.

So how do Stanley Gibbons currently arrive at their prices? The prices quoted in this Catalogue are, unless it is specifically stated otherwise, the full retail price Stanley Gibbons would charge their customers for a fine copy of a particular stamp. Not the price for a good or merely acceptable copy - but the price quoted for a stamp in fine condition. Superb examples are worth more and those of a lower quality considerably less.

Quotation of prices. The prices in the left-hand column of the catalogue are for unused stamps and those in the right-hand column are for used. A dagger (†) denotes that the item listed does not exist in that condition and a blank, or dash, that it exists, or may exist, but no market price is known.

Depending upon your preference, you can price your stamps in UK pounds sterling, US dollars or in Euros [also French francs and Japanese yen].

Unused Stamps. In the case of stamps from 'Great Britain and the Commonwealth', prices for unused stamps of Queen Victoria to King George V are for lightly hinged examples; unused prices of King Edward VIII to Queen Elizabeth II issues are for unmounted mint. The prices of unused 'Foreign' stamps are for lightly hinged examples for those issued before 1946, thereafter for examples unmounted mint.

Repricing. Collectors will be aware that the market factors of supply and demand directly influence the prices quoted in this Catalogue. Whatever the scarcity of a particular stamp, if there is no one in the market who wishes to buy it, it cannot be expected to achieve a high price. Conversely, the same item actively sought by numerous potential buyers may cause the price to rise.

All the prices in our Catalogue are examined by the expert staff at Stanley Gibbons and repriced as necessary. Many factors are taken into account, including supply and demand, and we are in close touch with the international stamp market and the auction world.

A General Word about Prices (extracted from the Preface to the 'British Commonwealth 2001' print edition): "During periods of low inflation it is unusual to find stamp prices rising or falling across the board. In such circumstances they will more accurately reflect perceived changes in true scarcity, uncomplicated by wider economic factors."

The initial phase of site development will see the British Commonwealth Catalogue appearing online first. The remainder of this project will be completed over the next 12 months. A full schedule will appear shortly. (from Gibbon's website)

By joining All World Stamps you become immediately eligible for a wide range of advantages and additional site benefits, which include:

Create your own Virtual Collection

Registered members can build a secure online version of their own stamp collections. Your collection can then be accessed by you whenever you need to check for information or add a fresh acquisition.

Compile Wants Lists

Members can compile useful Wants lists for easy reference at a later date.

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With our easy to use software you can work out the value of your entire collection at the click of a button. You can also see what separate parts of your collection are worth as well. All World Stamps are also able to update their prices far quicker than any printed catalogue - so your collection will always have the most up to date valuation possible. You can even value your collection in five different currencies!

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Members can make and store useful notes on any or all stamps in their collection.

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Is it free to search for stamps at All World Stamps? It is completely free to search for information on any stamp at All World Stamps. However, registered users enjoy additional benefits and greater access to site facilities.

What advantages do registered members of All World Stamps enjoy? The major advantage of joining All World Stamps is being able to manage an online version of your own stamp collection. Members can also receive instant valuations of their virtual collections and can compile 'wants lists' of stamps they may wish to acquire. Other membership benefits include newsletters, exclusive special offers and regular updates on new developments at All World Stamps.



INSECTS ON STAMPS - GOOD GUYS AND BAD GUYS PART 3

BY DARREN POLLOCK

(Darren is a member of WPS; he now works as an entomologist in Amarillo, Texas). Once again, our apologies: the ladybird beetles illustrations that should accompany this section were published last month; the illustrations you see here should have been with last month's section on Pests.

Part III (continued from last month)

The second most popular group of beneficial insects on stamps are the ladybird beetles (Coccinellidae). These beetles are acknowledged as very important predators of various pest insects and mites, and are even the subject of various nursery rhymes and folklore. Of course, they are a good topic for stamps even if only for their dramatic orange and black colouration. Ladybird beetles have been used extensively in biological control efforts throughout the world, as is evident from the stamps I choose to illustrate here. Three of the ladybirds are *Coccinella septempunctata* Linnaeus, which has been introduced to many different areas; among other countries, this species has been portrayed on stamps of Denmark, China, and Republic of Congo. The issue from Argentina

is part of a series of five values devoted to beneficial insects, two of which are ladybirds, with a stink bug, and damsel bug, and a ground beetle. The *Anatis mali* (Say) depicted on the United States issue is part of a fantastic series of 20 stamps showing various insects and spiders. These stamps are unique (at least among world insect stamps) in that each stamp has a small description of the insect on the reverse, so that licking the adhesive can be a learning experience!

Stamps have been issued to celebrate useful insect species, alert us to the battles against the harmful ones, draw

attention to the need to conserve endangered species, or simply to portray the varied and wondrous shapes and colours of insects. I have found the collection of entomologically-related stamps to be a very satisfying hobby, and I continue to be amazed at the numbers and variety of these "buggy" stamps. The task of collecting even most of these issues is not easy, but there are several important sources of information that can help. There are several different world stamp catalogues, the most popular of which are Michel, Scott, Stanley Gibbons, and Yvert and Tellier; these are definitely a place to start, and while usually quite



expensive, they usually can be found at the local library.

There exist several more specific stamp catalogues for insect issues, including: Domfil Thematic Stamp Catalogue. 1996. Butterflies and Other Insects (24th Edition), Sabadell, Spain; Hamel, D.R. 1991. Atlas of Insects on Stamps of the World. Tico Press, Falls Church, VA, USA; Wright, D.P., Jr. 1993. Insects on Stamps of the World. American Topical Association Handbook No. 123 (and other references therein). Of course, there are hundreds of pages on the Internet devoted to philately in general, but for a site devoted specifically to insect stamps, try the following WWW site: <http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/insectsonstamps>.



Dear Phil,
I recently decided look at the topic of "perforations" as something in collecting to study and learn more about. To a non-collector this is purely trivial, but we collectors know that a difference in perforation makes a difference in the stamps. Others may say that

we deal in minutia, but we know different! Give us a good perforation gauge, a magnifying glass, hundreds of similar-appearing stamps, and look out - an evening's entertainment! Now what? Canada Post has issued a stamp with curved horizontal sides, The Year of the Snake. Yes, I hear someone

say, a variation in perforation is highly unlikely, given that the stamp is a commemorative with a limited printing. But you never know, and how will we know if we can't measure the perfs? What am I to do?

Born in 1929

Dear Mr. 1929,

Yes, I can see the problem, but I suspect that we will soon see a solution. I can imagine that, even at this very minute, Canada Post has a committee studying the possibility of producing an all-purpose perforation gauge that will measure various curvatures on recent stamps; another that comes to mind is the France circular stamps for the recent World Cup.

Likely \$9.95 plus GST.

WPS NOVEMBER AUCTION, PRICES REALIZED

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Lot 15	\$4.50	Lot 65	\$15.00	Lot 115	\$1.25	Lot 165	N/S	Lot 215	\$30.00	Lot 265	\$20.00
Lot 16	N/S	Lot 66	N/S	Lot 116	N/S	Lot 166	\$2.50	Lot 216	\$1.50	Lot 266	\$3.25
Lot 17	\$17.00	Lot 67	N/S	Lot 117	N/S	Lot 167	\$20.00	Lot 217	\$1.00	Lot 267	\$3.25
Lot 18	\$17.00	Lot 68	N/S	Lot 118	\$10.00	Lot 168	\$9.50	Lot 218	N/S	Lot 268	N/S
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Lot 32	N/S	Lot 82	N/S	Lot 132	N/S	Lot 182	\$3.00	Lot 232	N/S	Lot 282	\$5.50
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Lot 34	\$6.00	Lot 84	N/S	Lot 134	\$8.00	Lot 184	\$10.00	Lot 234	\$3.00	Lot 284	N/S
Lot 35	N/S	Lot 85	\$22.00	Lot 135	N/S	Lot 185	\$20.00	Lot 235	\$8.00	Lot 285	N/S
Lot 36	\$3.50	Lot 86	N/S	Lot 136	\$7.00	Lot 186	N/S	Lot 236	\$7.00	Lot 286	N/S
Lot 37	N/S	Lot 87	\$12.00	Lot 137	N/S	Lot 187	\$22.00	Lot 237	N/S	Lot 287	N/S
Lot 38	\$5.00	Lot 88	N/S	Lot 138	\$5.00	Lot 188	\$3.00	Lot 238	\$5.50	Lot 288	N/S
Lot 39	\$5.00	Lot 89	N/S	Lot 139	\$7.00	Lot 189	\$15.00	Lot 239	\$5.00	Lot 289	N/S
Lot 40	N/S	Lot 90	N/S	Lot 140	N/S	Lot 190	\$2.00	Lot 240	\$5.00	Lot 290	\$15.00
Lot 41	N/S	Lot 91	N/S	Lot 141	N/S	Lot 191	\$5.00	Lot 241	\$6.00	Lot 291	N/S
Lot 42	\$4.50	Lot 92	N/S	Lot 142	N/S	Lot 192	N/S	Lot 242	\$5.00	Lot 292	N/S
Lot 43	\$2.50	Lot 93	\$20.00	Lot 143	N/S	Lot 193	\$2.00	Lot 243	\$5.00	Lot 293	N/S
Lot 44	N/S	Lot 94	N/S	Lot 144	N/S	Lot 194	\$5.00	Lot 244	\$5.00	Lot 294	N/S
Lot 45	\$3.00	Lot 95	N/S	Lot 145	N/S	Lot 195	N/S	Lot 245	N/S	Lot 295	N/S
Lot 46	\$3.50	Lot 96	\$7.00	Lot 146	N/S	Lot 196	\$1.00	Lot 246	N/S	Lot 296	N/S
Lot 47	\$8.00	Lot 97	N/S	Lot 147	\$3.50	Lot 197	N/S	Lot 247	N/S	Lot 297	N/S
Lot 48	\$4.50	Lot 98	N/S	Lot 148	\$5.00	Lot 198	\$12.00	Lot 248	\$5.00	Lot 298	\$5.00
Lot 49	\$20.00	Lot 99	N/S	Lot 149	N/S	Lot 199	\$6.00	Lot 249	\$5.00	Lot 299	N/S
Lot 50	\$3.00	Lot 100	N/S	Lot 150	\$11.00	Lot 200	\$2.50	Lot 250	\$5.50	Lot 300	\$21.00

THE HONG KONG 1956 PROVISIONAL STAMP DUTY OVERPRINT ON THE QUEEN ELIZABETH 15c WILDING PORTRAIT REGULAR ISSUE

BY AXEL OLSSON

Of the total six sets of regular issues Hong Kong issued between 1954 and 1997, I think most collectors of the area will agree the first series is by far the best.

Issued on January 5th 1954, it consists of 14 values (including the 1960 issue of the 65c & \$1.30), featuring Her Majesty the Queen's portrait by Wilding. It served the British colony well until replaced in 1962.

The prevailing ad valorem stamp duty on business receipts and bank cheques was 15c, and a green numeral design revenue stamp had been in service since the end of 1949. (See Fig. 1)

There must have been a shortage of supplies of the heavily-used revenue stamps for the HK Government to authorize the overprinting of the regular 15c QEII stamp with "STAMP DUTY" in black immediately under the Queen's head. (Fig. 2). No more than 2500 sheets of 100 stamps were overprinted (250,000 individual stamps) on Plate 1 Control Nos. A 00001 - A02500. More significant was the short period these provisionals were placed on sale:

from October 24 - 30, 1956 only, and there is no information whether all were sold.

Since these were intended for revenue purposes and not postage, publicity must have been limited so that stamp collectors were either unaware or perhaps they chose to ignore them completely. As a result few were saved, they are missing from most collections.

If you are lucky you may come across a few among dealer's duplicates of the normal un-overprinted 15c. Mint examples are very scarce, as are multiples. I know of the existence of one complete sheet of 100 and a top corner block of 8 sold at auction a few years ago in Hong Kong.

With the current great interest shown on Hong Kong revenue stamps the demand for this elusive QE provisional can only go skywards. See if you can find an example properly used on a receipt or invoice as it was intended. Although there are examples of Hong Kong stamps like this from other reigns, this is the only one of its kind involving an Elizabethan postage stamp.



RECENT NEW MEMBERS

Since we began meeting in September we have welcomed a number of new members. Here are their names and collecting interests:

Karl Bachmann

- Great Britain, Germany, Poland, Canada post 1945

Wendy Smith

- General

Zbigniew Izydorzyc

- Poland, Vatican City, early Great Britain

George Green

- Canadian Law, Newfoundland

Raymond Guenette

- Canada

Emil Orobko

- Canada mint singles and plate blocks, Ukraine

Donald Watson

- Cyprus, Gibraltar, Malta, Great Britain aerogrammes

Russ Thompson

- Postal history of Western Europe and North America

Peter Hellsten

- Denmark, Canada Centennials, Large & 3¢ Small Queens

Colin Ivory

- Canada

Bob Kenol

- Japan, Austria, Russia, USA

Pat McDonald

- Canada

MEETING MINUTES OF JAN. 4/01

BY JUDY LIPSEY

- Meeting called to order by Beverley Barr at 8:00 pm

Guests and Visitors:

- Pat McDonald, just joined tonight, collects Canada primarily.

Correspondence:

- The Ramada/Marlborough Inn sent a letter, explaining that in lieu of sending gifts and cards to its clientele, they are sending money to Gifts for Kids.
- The Lakeshore Stamp Club sent us a prospectus on the 2001 show. It contains an application form for any one who wishes to show.
- The Edmonton Stamp Club sent their newsletter.
- Journals and stamp bulletins in German, French and one Australia have been received.

Announcements:

- The Christmas charity auction netted \$370.00, a check for \$185.00 was sent to the Christmas Cheer Board and another for \$185.00 was sent to the Salvation Army.
 - The Buffalo was available.
 - Beverley talked about the invitation, sent to many members of the club, to the unveiling of the Chinese snake design at the Chinese Cultural Centre tomorrow night.
 - Sid Kroker reminded all members about the Red River Bourse, which will be on Sunday, January 14, 2001 at the Charter House Hotel.
 - Robert reminded us that the next auction will be held March 18, 2001, and all material must be in by March 1, 2001 so that a list can be made.
 - Rick reported that he read in the Canadian Stamp News that the Petro Canada stamp has a variety. The issues from the booklets and the quarterly packs are different, the angles on the sides are different.
 - Beverley announced that a traders table will be set up each meeting by the trophy case. Members can sit there and trade.
- Meeting adjourned at 8.13.

Draw Winners:

Ron DeWitt, Gord Turnbull, Sam Singer, Ian Guttormson.

MEETING MINUTES OF JAN. 18/01

BY JUDY LIPSEY

- Meeting called to order by Beverley Barr at 8:00 pm

Guests and Visitors:

- Sergei Nikolsky.

Announcements:

- Gloria Pappin has sent a letter announcing that she is resigning as First Vice President, her term would have been complete in June 2001. According to the Constitution, the Board of Directors must appoint officers. The duty of the First Vice President is as Chair of the annual exhibition and show. Des Connor has volunteered to co-chair the show. Elections are held during the 2nd meeting of May. Nominations and volunteers are being sought.
 - On January 5th, the Chinese Cultural Centre held the unveiling of the Year of the Snake stamp. A thank you letter is being sent to Vivian Albo and Joseph Do for the invitations to members of the WPS.
 - A get well card has been sent to Ken Kristjanson, who is home and recovering from surgery.
 - The Regina Philatelic Club has sent fliers advertising their sale and show at the Regina Best Western Seven Oaks Inn, Feb. 17-18. Admission is \$2.00.
 - Michael Zacharias reported that \$190.00 worth of merchandise was sold at the last auction, netting the club \$19.00.
 - Robert Zacharias announced that there will be an exhibition workshop, Feb. 17, Saturday, at the Deaf Centre, from 1.00-3.00.
 - Robert reminded us that the next auction will be held March 18, 2001, and all material must be in by March 1, 2001 so that a list can be made.
 - It is on a sad note that it was announced that a member since 1989, Henry Dyck, passed away January 17, 2001. He was 87 years old.
- Tonight's presentation was given by Alf Brooks, on stamp collecting and computers.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8.15.

Draw Winners:

Heinz Rummel, Clark Grierson, Bob Brakefield-Moore, Rick Penko.



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