



Bringing stamp and postal-history

collectors together since 1919

BC Philatelic Society NEWSLETTER

The BC Philatelic Society's Annual General Meeting was held March 11, 2009. Thank you to Mike Strachan, who volunteered to chair the meeting, and to the 18 or so members who attended. The following were highlights:

Revisions to our Constitution & Bylaws, suggested at a special meeting in 2008, were approved unanimously. Copies of the new documents can be obtained from any member of the executive. President Duff Malkin, Vice-President Trevor Larden, and Treasurer Derren Carman -- were elected by acclamation. All three officers volunteered to serve for another year. No member stood for election as Secretary.

Yichuan Sang, better known to the BC PHIL members as Mulberry Sang (SAM), volunteered to take over as newsletter editor from Keith Lowe, who has resigned. Mulberry's email is pandastamps@hotmail.com. He would of course appreciate any support you can give him with articles, images, etc. Several members expressed appreciation of Keith's excellent newsletters. Derren Carman expressed the view that Keith has left some big boots to fill. We wish both Keith and Sam good fortune in their new endeavors.

--- Bob Inghram

The B.C. Philatelic Society Newsletter is printed three times a year and is free to all members of the Society.

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Renew your membership today!

ALSO Inside this very intriguing edition:



The Postal History and Stamps of Tibet _____ page 2,3,4
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NEWSLETTER

Tibetan Stamps, A Modern Classic in the Puzzle



By Dr. Mulberry Sang

pandastamps@hotmail.com



Tibet, for many collectors an unknown area, has a very comprehensive postal history to offer. It is no doubt one of the most exciting 20th century areas to collect. For many the stamps and postal history relating to Tibet formed the basis of their collections, but this is only one piece in the puzzle. Other parts of the puzzle include: the British-Indian postal connection with Tibet; the Chinese Imperial Post; the modern Chinese interaction of Tibet and the postal history relating to the expeditions to Everest and the Himalayas. In this issue Part One of the postal history of Tibet is offered and the rest will be in a serial.

The Tibetan Frontier Commission set up temporary POs in 1903 using Indian stamps from Khamba Jong and elsewhere, and passing mail over their supply lines via Gangtok (in Sikkim). The Younghusband Expedition set up FPOs on its 1904 mission to Lhasa, passing their mail over a 16,000 ft pass via Gyantse to Siliguri, their Indian base. Indian PAs were later set up in Gantok, Gyantse, Pharijong (reputedly the highest permanent PO in the world) and Yatung. These have functioned until recent times. Various special cachets have been used on mail from Mount Everest expeditions (1924, 1933, etc). Some Chinese POs were opened in 1909.

The first set of Tibetan stamps is believed to be issued in Lhasa in December 1912. At the time, 12 stamps of each nomination were carved into a wooden block and formed the "Printing Plate". Since the Printing Plate was carved by hand, each stamps, even formed the same nomination is slightly different from the other, thus making them palatable. The stamps were printed on demand formed the initial stage of Tibetan POs, therefore, every printing has a different shade. Below samples show how many color shades exit from the different nominations.

The stamp with the nomination of 1 Sang was merely discovered in 1950. The status of this stamp is not yet clear as such a high nomination 1 Sang) = 6 2/3 Trangka was not needed for postal purpose. But latest research shows that this stamp has, along with other Tibetan stamps, been used for telegraphic purpose.



From 1909 to late 1911 Chinese Imperial again began to impose its influence on Tibet. For approximately two years, five Chinese POs operated in Tibet and one Chinese PO at Chambo (Eastern Tibet) was open in 1913 and 1914. Initially the PO used regular Chinese Imperial stamps, but in 1911 a set of eleven stamps (surcharged in three languages) was introduced for Tibet.



Samples of the Elevens

The British-India postal connection to Tibet lasted from 1888 until the mid-1950s. The military mails associated with the Sikkim Field Force and Younghusband's Expedition of 1903-4 are prized by Tibet collectors and those interested in India used abroad. The treaty signed in Lhasa in 1904 allowed for British-Indian POs to operate in Tibet and they handled almost all Tibet's International mail until the mid-1950s.



The Tibetan local government introduced its own postal system in 1912 and initially produced five values. This First Series was used for more than twenty years and a number of distinctive printings of each value are known. (An additional value as well as several late printings date from 1949-50.) The Second Issue of Tibet dates from 1914-15, but was not "discovered" by the philatelic world until 1942. The issue 1914 contains only 2 stamps, which have been printed in sheet of six stamps. Also these printing blocks have been carved by hand into wooden blocks as the former issue. They have been printed on demand, therefore, below listed color shades existed from these stamps.

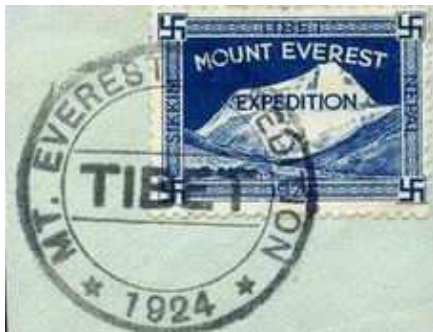


The 1933 issue is probably the most interesting series of Tibet. The plate for each of the five values consisted of twelve individual carved blocks tied together in a frame. This design was used for more than 25 years and a number of different settings exist for each value. The printing block for these stamps has had now 12 separate clichés, bound together to make one printing plate. After a certain number of printings, the clichés were filled with old ink, so the printing plate have been separated the clichés cleaned and again bound together to make one printing late. But since the separate clichés have been carved by hand, they were slightly different form each other and several different Settings could be identified, numbered with Arabic numbers from 1 to 4.

With the time, the strings tiding the 12 separate clichés together got loose and sometimes a cliché got crocked. These States as we call them are identified with figures A-E. The stamps have been printed by demand and therefore also from this issue exists a large number of different shades. Perforated stamps exist from this issue but only the very first printing are perforated officially, however, privately perforated stamps exists also from the later issues.



Since the 1920s the climbing of Mount Everest has fascinated people all over the world. Covers from the early Himalayan Expeditions and flights over Everest are prized by both Tibet and Nepal collectors as are covers relating to the more modern climbing expeditions to the "Roof of the World". Below is a canceled stamp of EVEREST: 1924 Deep Blue Everest Expedition Label tied to piece by MT. EVEREST EXPEDITION / TIBET / 1924 cancel (Waterfall Type IIb (Hel. Type E1). This scarce cancel was used on mail sent from Tibet. VF Condition.



(→ to be continued in the next issue)

Editor's Note — In Parts 1-3 of "Triumph & Tragedy", published in the three previous issues of this newsletter, Bob Ingraham described the development of the DC-2 airliner, the triumphal 1934 flight of the KLM DC-2 *Uiver* in the MacRobertson International Air Race from London to Melbourne, and the tragic crash of the *Uiver* in on its first commercial flight. In this final installment, Bob describes how aviation enthusiasts around the world have refused to let the *Uiver* die in their hearts.

Triumph & Tragedy, Part 3

The Brief Glory, Violent Crash, and Reincarnation of the DC-2 *Uiver*

By Bob Ingraham

In 1934, the KLM DC-2 *Uiver* thrilled people around the world with its exploits in the MacRobertson race, and then plunged them into grief with its sudden, fiery end in the Syrian Desert. The *Uiver*, however, did not disappear from memory, and, like the Phoenix, has risen several times from its ashes.



The *Uiver's* first-place finish in the handicap portion of the MacRobertson race led not only to fame for the aircraft and its crew, but also spawned a flood of commemorative plates, spoons, penants, wall hangings, and other collectibles. Then the unexpected and tragic end of the *Uiver* in Iraq stopped the production of such items sold.

Further commemoration of the *Uiver's* short life was no doubt delayed by Adolph Hitler's assumption of power in Germany and the resulting political instability throughout Europe. Then, less than five years after the MacRobertson race, on

September 1, 1939, Germany attacked Poland in the opening round of the Second World War. By May 17, 1940, Germany had occupied the Netherlands, and for the next five years the survival the Western democracies was in doubt. The Netherlands, of course, survived, even though thousands of Dutch citizens literally starved to death, and most of its Jewish citizens met their fate in German death camps.

By the end of the 1950s, enough order had been restored in the Netherlands for its people to begin to look back fondly on the *Uiver* and its exploits, if not its fiery ending. In October, 1959 the *Nederlands Instituut Voor Nijverheid en Techniek* (Dutch institute for Industry and Technique) issued a first-day cover for a stamp recognizing the 50th anniversary of the founding of KLM Airlines, and the 25th anniversary of the *Uiver's* role in the MacRobertson race. The Dutch word *Uiver herdenking*, in both the cachet and the special postmark, means "Uiver commemoration".



In October, 1959, the Nederlands Instituut Voor Nijverheid en Techniek (Dutch institute for Industry and Technique) issued this first-day cover celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the *Uiver's* role in the MacRobertson air race and 50th anniversary of the founding of KLM Airlines. The Dutch word *Uiverherdenking* in the cachet and the postmark means "Uiver commemoration".

Readers of this series will remember the excitement at Albury, New South Wales when

the *Uiver* flew out of a stormy night to land on the city's muddy race track. The *Uiver's* landing and take-off the next morning became and remain a part of Albury's story.

In 1979, on the 45th anniversary of Albury's rescue of the *Uiver*, a vintage Lockheed 12 airliner recreated the *Uiver's* landing on the race track. And, like the *Uiver*, it too got stuck in the mud and had to be hauled free.



Numerous postcards were produced for the 50th anniversary of the *Uiver's* participation in the MacRobertson Race. Among them was the postcard shown above, flown on the *Uiver* look-alike DC-2 that recreated the 1934 flight from London to Melbourne. The 25-cent stamp was issued in 1966 for use on special flights; the 1 guilder airmail stamp was issued in 1980. Note the reproduction of an actual MacRobertson Race flight cover and the special event cancellation.

The 50th anniversary of the Albury landing brought yet another "*Uiver*" to the city. Members of *De*

Uiver Foundation purchased and restored a DC-2, painted it in the *Uiver's* livery, and presented it to the City of Albury. The aircraft was mounted on a pedestal at the Albury Airport, complementing a small *Uiver*-related museum in the airport terminal building.

Over time, weather and roosting birds took their toll, and the Albury "*Uiver*" was taken down from its pedestal; it is currently in storage — and the subject of an acrimonious debate. Some Alburyans see it as a symbol of the most exciting thing that ever happened in their city, and want to preserve it; their opponents see it as an expensive eyesore and want to sell it or send it to the boneyard. In July, 2008 a candidate for city council suggested turning it into a café. City council is currently investigating other ways to preserve the aircraft.

In 1983, a DC-2 in flying condition was painted to resemble the *Uiver* and recreated the *Uiver's* flight from London to Melbourne; a documentary film about the race was shown on Dutch television in 1984 in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the race. Several postcards and covers were produced in connection with this anniversary.



The "Albury Uiver" first flew for Eastern Airlines and eventually was purchased by the Royal Australian Air Force, has since been removed from its pedestal because of deterioration; the Albury city council is currently considering ways to preserve it.

In 1999, a former U.S. Navy DC-2, refurbished to resemble the original *Uiver*, right down to its reading lamps, luxurious upholstery, and curtained windows, was flown from the United States to Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam where it landed to the cheers of thousands of *Uiver* enthusiasts.

Colgate W. Darden, the heir to the Colgate fortune, sponsored the refurbishing of the aircraft, named the *Uiver II*, and he himself flew the aircraft to Schiphol, where it was turned over to Aviodome, the Dutch Aviation museum.



The *Uiver II* arrives to a tumultuous welcome at the Aviodome air museum, Amsterdam, in 1999. Today it tours air shows in Europe and is the only DC-2 currently flying anywhere in the world.

— Photo by Rob de Jager

Darden didn't give *Uiver II* away: he sold it for the equivalent of US \$1 million, which was raised by Dutch school children. It was a bargain-basement price for the world's only DC-2 in flying condition: you can spend even more on a much-more common DC-3.

Following its arrival in Netherlands, the *Uiver II* started flying the air show circuit in Europe, thrilling thousands of spectators. It was temporarily grounded in July, 2005, when it suffered a landing gear collapse, not on landing but when it was parked. (The DC-1 prototype of the DC-2 suffered the same indignity when it was parked at the Douglas plant in California.)

For the 75th anniversary of the Albury landing, in October 2007, the Australian Broadcasting

Corporation commissioned a radio play, "Flight of the *Uiver*". Citizens of Albury took the parts of townspeople and wore contemporary costumes in an amusing "historicomic" public performance that faithfully recreated the incident.

The *Uiver* and its famous flights are available in a virtual sense, as well. Using recent versions of Microsoft's flight simulators, anyone can become a virtual *Uiver* pilot and fly anywhere in the world. You can "sit" in the left hand seat in the cockpit and see photo-realistic views of the instrument panel and controls, as well as the terrain that you "fly" over.



The *Uiver* continues to fly in the digital age. This screen shot was taken during by a digital *Uiver* using a Microsoft's flight simulator during a flight..

If you have the time, you can retrace the *Uiver's* route in the MacRobertson Race, including the stormy landing in Albury.

The real *Uiver* flew but briefly in the skies over Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Australia. It carried only a handful of people and airmen, seven of them to their deaths in a violent storm. Over the years since then, thousands of airliners have crashed. Among all of those doomed aircraft, only the *Uiver* seems to live on, and on, and on in the memories and imaginations of aviation enthusiasts around the world.

NEWSLETTER

Postal History Society of Canada



By Doug Murray (PHSC President)

Originally founded in 1972 as the Postal History Society of Ontario, our name was changed to the current one in June 1977. This reflects the expanded nature and scope of the Society, which promotes the study of the postal history of Canada and its provinces. It is a non-profit society whose members are students of postal history at all levels of experience, and it promotes communication among members.

Currently, the Society publishes a quarterly, the PHSC Journal, whose contents vary from fully-researched feature articles to items of current interest. Articles cover the full spectrum of BNA postal history---from the pre-stamp era through the various postmark specialties, meters, local and regional histories, to modern postal coding. Each issue carries a balance of material of interest to members. Since 1982, the Society has offered two annual awards to writers on postal history: the Stan Shantz Award is presented annually to the author of the article deemed most worthy in the PHSC Journal, and the Frank W. Campbell Award for major contributions to the study of BNA postal history in other publications.

Every year, the Society holds meetings at stamp shows across Canada. The Annual Meeting is held in the summer, and is supplemented by Regional Meetings, usually accomplished by

postal history seminars given by a prominent member of the Society.

No.1 Rare Stamp in China

This tiny piece is philately ranked as No.1 rare stamp in the postal history of China ever since 1840s. It is coined as Red Revenue stamp because it was once used by customs during the late 18th century of the Qing Dynasty. At present its market price around the world is always much higher than that marked in Catalogues of either Scott or Stanley Gibbons, approximately approaching over two millions of Chinese Dollars (Renmin bi Yuan), equivalent to over half a million of Canadian Dollars. The price for purchasing this stamp is still going up every year.



It is assumed that merely 22-24 stamps intact of such a kind are in existence. Of them, roughly 2/3 is collected by the public museums of Taiwan, mainland, and overseas, and 1/3 by individual collectors.

----- By Mulberry Sang



NEWSLETTER

Cont. from p.8

VANPEX2009, 25&26 SEPTEMBER 2009

Honouring Aerophilately on the 100th Anniversary
of powered flight in Canada

West Burnaby United Church
6050 Sussex Avenue, Burnaby BC

PRESS RELEASE

The British Columbia Philately Society is pleased to
announce that its annual stamps exhibition:

VANPEX2009, honouring the field of Aerophilately on
the occasion of the 100th anniversary of powered flight
in Canada, will be held on the 25&26 of September this
Year.

Over 70 16 page exhibit frames and 10 dealer tables will
be at the admission free show venue, open 10AM to 6PM
on Friday the 25 September and from 10AM to 4PM on
Saturday the 26 September, in the Community Room of
the West Burnaby United Church at 6050 Sussex Avenue,
Burnaby, British Columbia.

Applications for exhibiting are now available. The fee is
\$5.00 per 16 page frame with each exhibitor permitted to
submit up to 3 different exhibits to a combined total of 4
16 page frames.

Aerophilately themed exhibits are encouraged, but any
topics or themes exhibitors prefer are welcome.

A souvenir show cover honouring the 100th anniversary of
the first flight of "Silver Dart" as well as a sub theme cover
memorialising the 50th anniversary of the "Death of a
Dream", the cancellation of the Avro Arrow project, will be
available for \$2.00 each.

Exhibit and bourse application as well as copies of the
show poster/handbill will be available at British Columbia
Philately Society meeting from Derren.

For further information please contact Derren Carman at:
verdraco@uniserve.com or write to:
VANPEX2009 c/o Box40, Grosvenor Building, 1040 West
Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C V6E 4H1

NEWSLETTER

Roger M Packer, Member of BC Phil Society

Roger's Helpful Hints

Enjoy salads? Save the brine from sweet pickles,
strain and mix with prepared mustard, seasonings and
plain low fat yoghurt. Voila dressing. When finishing a
jar of sweet pickles, don't throw out the brine. Add one
or two sliced onions to the brine, put on the lid, put in
the refrigerator for four to five days and you have
delicious pickled onions for very little cost.

How to whiten linens with lemons

Damask napkins, linens, even white socks can be
whitened on the stove: Fill a pot with water and a few
slices of fresh lemon, and bring to a boil. Turn off
heat, add linens, and let soak for up to an hour;
launder as usual. For extra brightening, spread them
out in the sunlight to dry.

Picture Postcard Delivered 47 Years After being Mailed

A woman's postcard bearing greetings from Montana
has finally arrived in North Ohio-----47 years later.

Insurance agent Dave Conn opened his post
office box in Hudson last week and found the mailing
sent from Helena, Mont., in 1962. It was sent to
Marion White, the previous renter of the box, who died
in 1988.

The writer signed the postcard "Fran" and
mentioned having "had a marvellous time in
Montana."

After asking around, Conn says he determined
the card must have come from White's well traveled
friend Frances Murphey, a longtime reporter at the
Journal Newspaper who died in 1998 at age 75.

U.S. Postal Service spokesman Victor Dubina
says the postcard may have been stuck in equipment
or lost behind a mail chute.

-----The Associated Press

NEWSLETTER

BC Philatelic Society Program Schedule May - July 2009

BC Philatelic Society meetings feature a rotating schedule of speaker nights, special presentations, Shop & Swap Socials, and club auctions.

Stamps and covers are always available from members, dealers, and (at Swap & Shop meetings) from Royal Philatelic Society of Canada circuit books.

Auction sellers (including guests) can bring up to six lots and any number of donation lots. Please describe lots thoroughly and indicate minimum acceptable bid. Auction committee reserves the right to reject lots.

May

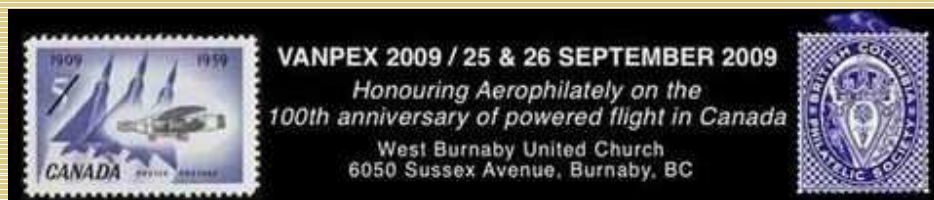
- Monday morning, May 4, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Swap & Shop Social
- Wednesday evening, May 13, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. - Speaker Night: Roger Packer presents postcards showing:
 - the P&O ocean liners Himalaya and Chusan, on which his stepfather was chief steward;
 - 1950s U.S. and Canadian airliners, including the interiors, and, if time permits...
 - Hollywood homes of 1930s and 1940s movie stars
- Wednesday evening, May 20, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. - Monthly auction
- Wednesday evening, May 27, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. - Swap & Shop Social

June

- Monday morning, June 1, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. - Swap & Shop Social
- Wednesday evening, June 10, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. - Speaker Night: A European Pilgrimage: We accompany Mike Strachan as he follows in the footsteps of his uncle and his father, both of whom landed on Juno Beach in Normandy on D-Day and fought their way across Europe to Germany. Illustrated with photographs and images of collateral stamps and covers.
- Wednesday evening, June 17, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. - Monthly Auction
- Wednesday evening, June 24, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. - Swap & Shop Social*
- Monday morning, June 29, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Swap & Shop Social (last regular meeting before September, 2009)*

July

- Wednesday evening, July 15, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - Our Summer Auction, the one chance between June & September to get together with your BC Phil friends and perhaps win (or sell) some worthwhile lots. Six lots per person, 10% hammer fee to the club, donations welcome.



Please Note: The Swap & Shop activity planned for either Wednesday, June 24, or Monday, June 29 may be replaced by a special guest speaker. We are trying to arrange a presentation by Michael Sefi, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection.