

# WEST COAST



British North American Philatelic Society - Pacific Northwest Regional Group

Philately • Fellowship • Fun

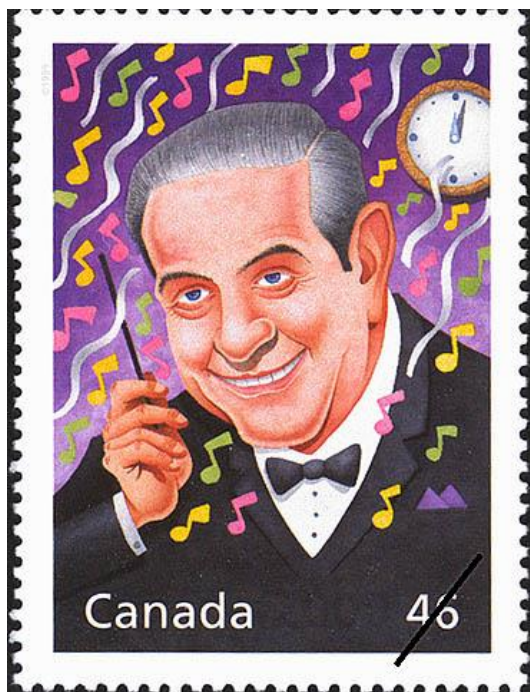
January 2021

Number 40

## HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021

**Guy Lombardo** was featured on a postage stamp issued on December 17, 1999, as part of Canada Post's Millennium Collection

In 2002, he was inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame and had a star on its Walk of Fame in Toronto.



The home where Guy Lombardo and his siblings grew up is still standing in London, Ontario, at 202 Simcoe Street.

In his later home of Freeport, New York, there is Guy Lombardo Avenue. There is a bridge named after Lombardo in London, Ontario near Wonderland Gardens, as well as Lombardo Avenue in north London near the University of Western Ontario.

The Guy Lombardo Society is dedicated to preserving the music and history of Guy Lombardo and His Royal Canadians.  
<http://www.guylombardomusic.com/guy.html>

Lombardo was born in London, Ontario, to Italian immigrants Gaetano Alberto and Angelina Lombardo. His father, who had worked as a tailor, was an amateur singer with a baritone voice and had four of his five sons learn to play instruments so they could accompany him. Lombardo and his brothers formed their first orchestra while still in grammar school and rehearsed in the back of their father's tailor shop.

Lombardo is remembered for almost a half-century of New Year's Eve big band remotes, first on radio, then on television. His orchestra played at the Roosevelt Grill in the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City from 1929 ("radio's first nationwide New Year's Eve broadcast" which popularized Auld

### Mr. New Year's Eve

Lang Syne) to 1959, and from then until 1976 at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. Live broadcasts (and later telecasts) of their performances were a large part of New Year's celebrations across North America; millions of people watched the show with friends at house parties. Because of this popularity, Lombardo was called "Mr. New Year's Eve".

The band's first New Year's Eve radio broadcast was in 1928; within a few years, they were heard live on the CBS Radio Network before midnight Eastern Time, then on the NBC Radio Network after midnight.

On December 31, 1956, the Lombardo band did their first New Year's TV special on CBS; the program (and Lombardo's 20 subsequent New Year's Eve TV shows) included a live segment from Times Square.

Guy Lombardo died November 5, 1977.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy\\_Lombardo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_Lombardo)



## A Letter from the Chair

**Happy New Year 2021**, members of BNAPS Pacific Northwest Regional Group.

What a year, One we will never forget. I think as we get older when the years ahead are fewer than those behind us the effects of isolation are more profound, Fortunately we have our hobbies to fall back upon. This distraction from the travails of the outside world is comforting. Regardless, I do miss the personal contact from our club meetings, auctions, bourses, etc. Although we spend solitary time on our hobby, it is not a solitary pursuit. The personal contacts we make with fellow philatelists, to me is as important as the hobby itself.

Technology has brought a "personal" touch to our meetings. Zoom has proved to be a beneficial platform to access meetings across the globe. For the first time we can attend meetings in Toronto, Calgary, Victoria and points beyond without the travel expense. And as nice as it is to see you all electronically, I do long to shake your hand. ( After hand sanitizing, a mask and staying a comfortable social distance apart outside in some windy venue!).

During the last months we have been honoured with some outstanding zoom presentations from Ed Kroft, Darin Cherniwchan and Gray Scrimgeour. **THANK YOU**, gentlemen. We will continue to solicit the membership for presenters in the coming months. Ken Pugh will be presenting on January 12 with an overview of sources of stamp authentication. Look forward to that.



The pundits pledge "there is light at the end of the tunnel". There is some vagueness on the length of the tunnel and when the train will stop in our

neighbourhood. Patience continues to be the watchword.

For the sake of our healthcare professionals, who have worked their a@@@es off for us, the sooner the better.

I don't think the general public really understood that prior to the pandemic that our hospitals were running at 105% capacity. That rubber band has been stretched to the max in the interests of cost and efficiency. Layer a global pandemic on top of it and it's a wonder that these folks have kept up.

Don't even get me started on long term care facilities. They have been squeezed for funding for so long that they squeak. The government officials who express surprise that conditions are so poor are the same ones who let the contracts setting the staffing ratios..

<https://www.health.gov.bc.ca/library/publications/year/2017/residential-care-staffing-review.pdf>



"Provincially, hours per resident day improved from a baseline of 2.88 in 2009 to 3.06 in 2011/12 and 3.11 3 as of January 2016. Although some facilities have achieved 3.36 hours per resident day, no health authority has achieved the desired average set by the province. "

What happens to those residents the other 20 hours a day. And that was in 2017. OK off my soapbox.

Based on estimates of late Fall for the vaccine to be generally available, it would seem unlikely that we will have our annual convention in 2021. I am planning for Spring 2022, Location has not been determined. Although Vernon is on the rotation, Spring is not as pretty here as late Summer or Fall. Your exec will put their thinking caps on and present you with our recommendations.

Enjoy the newsletter as we have had several interesting submissions from the group.

All the best for a safe, healthy and Happy New Year!



# ZOOM ZOOM

Time: **Jan 12, 2021** 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Research Sources for Stamp Authentication

Presenter: Ken Pugh

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99627598245>

Meeting ID: 996 2759 8245

Time: **Jan 13, 2021** 6:00 PM Pacific Standard Time

Topic: Calgary Regional Meeting/ Calgary Stampede

Presenter: Dave Freeman



No other presentations are set for the coming months as we search out for volunteers.  
Please consider sharing your topics with the membership.

I can provide you with any assistance you might need on constructing a PowerPoint presentation.

We would like to do one presentation a month. So February, March, April are wide open!!

Generally the presentations are 1/2 hour to 45 minutes in length, with a short Q & A following.

Drop me a note if you are interested in contributing.

# VIRTUAL SHOW AND EXHIBITION



The **Calgary Philatelic Society** is having virtual show called **CALVIRT 2021** with the display from 20 Jan to 10 Feb.

The deadline to submit entries is 20 Jan. Full information is on the CPS website at [www.calgaryphilatelicociety.com](http://www.calgaryphilatelicociety.com) and from the menu on the left, select Virtual Exhibition and click the down arrow to open the menu which has the rules and the entry form.

In a nutshell, anyone can exhibit, exhibits can be from 1 Page to Multi Frame. The exhibit is submitted as a PDF (make a PowerPoint file of exhibit pages, then save them as a PDF with reduced size for Online).

Send that file. **There is NO cost.** Exhibits will **ONLY** be **judged on Request**. We are trying to encourage NEW exhibitors, so there will be a varied mix of exhibits. It is a good place to practice if someone wants to go to the one-frame at CANPEX this spring.

## DETAILS

**What:** Exhibits of 1 to 15 pages, and 1 to 5 frame (16 standard pages) on any philatelic subject that is appropriate for general viewing. While it is important that exhibits be legible; they can be handwritten, typewritten or produced in any other format provided they can be converted to a .pdf file.

**Who:** This Show is being organized by the Calgary Philatelic Society but is open to anybody - from Juniors to Seniors, beginners to experts and wherever you live.

Virtual Show Chairman is Dave Russum.



**When:** 20th Jan to 10th Feb 2021.

**How:** Before the 20th January 2021, individuals submit electronic versions of exhibits in .pdf format attached to an email, to Dave Russum [russumd@telusplanet.net](mailto:russumd@telusplanet.net) or our webmaster Dave Bartlet. In the email please provide the following information:

1. Your name and any alias you wish to use in the public domain, please identify if you are a Junior (under 21), or first time exhibitor
2. # of pages submitting.
3. Title of exhibit.
4. Description of exhibit (maximum 100 words).

5. Is this a new exhibit?

**Judging:** There will not be a formal judging process however all exhibits will be open to a number of People's Choice Awards. In addition you may request feedback on your exhibit from members of the CAPE Group. Results will be announced at the 3rd February 2021 meeting and the exhibits will be available for viewing to at least 10th Feb 2021. Physical awards will only be made to members of the CPS.

**Other Activities:** While the focus is on virtual exhibits, it is hoped that our virtual meetings (CPS, CAPE, and BNAPS) during the show will have activities of interest to all members. Additionally, there are many other opportunities such as a show cover if there is sufficient interest.

**Questions and Help:** Feel free to get hold of Dave Russum at [russumd@telusplanet.net](mailto:russumd@telusplanet.net) with any unanswered questions or ideas you may have.





## C & V RPO

In our last newsletter, a member inquired on the RPO cancel shown above.

There are several sources for info on RPO's, which you can refer to including "The History of Canadian RPO's". <https://www.amazon.ca/history-Canadian-R-P-s/dp/0933580029>

The BNAPS book library also has several books on the topic. <https://bnaps.org/books/bookdetails.php?bookid=146>. And BNAPS has an RPO study group. <https://bnaps.org/studygroups/rpo/rpo1.htm>

An amazing topic of study for those interested in this area.

**Calgary & Vancouver RR**, part of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

"...according to the book The History of Canadian RPOs, The Calgary & Vancouver 'used seven different official postmarks...some of these...are notable for their identification marks which take the form of asterisks, dollar signs, crosses etc.. These were probably used by the mail clerks to help them identify their own hammers in large RPOs where numbers mail clerks were employed.'

[https://www.stampcommunity.org/topic.asp?TOPIC\\_ID=11251&whichpage=8](https://www.stampcommunity.org/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=11251&whichpage=8)

"This link, promised to B.C. as a condition for entering Confederation, caused the Post Office to adopt a new idea for handling the mail to the west. Mail cars and clerks were established. The postmarks resulting from this procedure are a different tale.

The Post Office established runs known as divisions, and western division ran from Calgary to Vancouver, and in postal jargon was called the Cal & Van R.P.O. The B.C. area is the part to be discussed here. It is at Stephen that the railway enters B.C." Lester Small, author

[http://www.vicstamps.com/displays/bc\\_postal\\_history\\_articles/bc\\_postal\\_history08.html](http://www.vicstamps.com/displays/bc_postal_history_articles/bc_postal_history08.html)



## Say Cheese!

**Upcoming Cheese and Canadian Philately. Who would have thought.**

### **BNAPS PNWRG Past Chair**

Bill Bailey 86-87

Ken Ellison 88-89

John White 90-91

John Keenlyside 92-97

Gray Scrimgeour 1998-2001

Barry Brown 2002-03,05

Jon Johnson 2004

Jim Davidson 2005-6

Pete Jacobi 2007-8

Gary Dickenson 2009

Peter Fralick 2010-2017

**Westcoast Express** is the official publication of the BNAPS Pacific Northwest Regional Group

Opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors and do not necessarily those of the Regional Group.

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The British North America Philatelic Society Ltd. - BNAPS - is an international organization (founded 1943) devoted to the collecting and study of the stamps, markings, and postal history of Canada and the pre-confederation colonies of British North America (British Columbia, Canada, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island).  
<http://www.bnaps.org/>

The objective of the BNAPS Regional Group is to promote philatelic study, sharing of knowledge and friendship with members and associates in a fun atmosphere.

Chair - Mark Oakley

Secretary - Carol Oakley

Treasurer - Bill Verbruggen

Annual Meeting Coordinators - Gary and Wanda Fisher

NWFSC Representative - Mark Oakley

Newsletter Editor - Mark Oakley (Acting)

BNAPS VP Regional Groups Dave Bartlet

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<http://www.bnaps.org/regional.php>

<https://www.facebook.com/>

**Submitted by: David Biltek  
Victoria, BC**

## **Royal Visit 1939 First Day Cover**

A First day Cover with stamps perforated O.H.M.S. postmarked May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1939, Ottawa

An unusual item and the question is: How could stamps be perforated before the first day of issue and provided to someone to mail?

The story is that the addressee would bring his own stamps and his friend in the Philatelic Bureau would provide access to the perforating machine and arrange for the postmarks.

Apparently, there are two more such covers.

On page eight of this exhibit there is another contrived cover addressed to the same person at a different address.



Three stamps issued to Commemorate the Visit of Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to Canada in 1939:

- 1 cent Princesses: Elizabeth and Margaret
- 2 cent World War I Memorial
- 3 cent King George VI and Queen Elizabeth



# An Elusive BC Logging Camp Cancel

submitted by Tim Woodland

Many of you know that I enjoy collecting postal history related to the BC forest industry. For many years, my key 'want' item was a cover from the Cowichan Lake area logging camp of GORDON RIVER.

With the recent passing of long-time Vancouver Island collector Ron Battersby, a cover has come to light.

The ROUNDS and HONEYMOON BAY covers shown on the attached page had been included in Bill Gibson's 2010 history "Rails To Roads And The Million Dollar Camp: The Story Of Gordon River", but with the notation that a GORDON RIVER example was not available.

The January 21, 1948 edition of the Lake Cowichan Bulletin reported: "Rounds gets new name. After January 23<sup>rd</sup> the Village of Rounds will officially be called Gordon River. In future all mail destined for Rounds should be addressed to the Gordon River Post Office." Gordon River is located by the green dot on the map.

I was thrilled to be able to fill the hole in this story.



Located on the Gordon River SW of Cowichan Lake, this office was open 23-1-1948 to 2-9-1948 only, with Western Forest Industries Ltd. as its postmaster. Gordon River was the new \$1 Million Dollar logging camp of Western Forest Industries, a company under the corporate umbrella of Alaska Pine and the Koerner brothers. The post office was relocated from the former logging camp at ROUNDS, and was succeeded after September 1948 by HONEYMOON BAY on Cowichan Lake, where the company's sawmill and employee housing was located.



# A Christmas Story

submitted by Tom Watkins, Victoria



This cover is paying the 25 cent airmail rate from Vancouver, BC to Christmas Island (Kiritimati) in the Central South Pacific. Dated November 4, 1957 it was mailed to an officer in the Royal Engineers and is backstamped November 7th, just three days later! The addressee would have been there as part of the contingent that were conducting H-bomb testing at that time as part of Operation Grapple (<https://pacificnukes.wordpress.com/uk-vets/> and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation\\_Grapple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Grapple)). Perhaps I should be reaching for a Geiger counter to check this cover for radiation considering that the British detonated a 1.8 megatonne device on the island the very month this cover was delivered...just kidding. I've also included a couple of photos that I found online of the British Engineers doing their work on the island that year.

Between May 1957 and September 1958, the British government tested nine thermonuclear weapons on Kiritimati for Operation Grapple. Then, in 1962, the UK cooperated with the US on Operation Dominic, undertaking a further 31 detonations on Kiritimati.

<https://theconversation.com/the-atomic-history-of-kiritimati-a-tiny-island-where-humanity-realised-its-most-lethal-potential-114870>

**Christmas Island**, officially known as the **Territory of Christmas Island**, is an Australian external territory comprising the island of the same name. It is located in the Indian Ocean, around 350 kilometres (220 mi) south of Java and Sumatra and around 1,550 km (960 mi) north-west of the closest point on the Australian mainland. It lies 2,600 km (1,600 mi) and 1,327 km (825 mi) northwest of Perth and southeast of Singapore respectively. It has an area of 135 square kilometres (52 sq mi).

Steep cliffs along much of the coast rise abruptly to a central plateau. Elevation ranges from sea level to 361 m (1,184 ft) at Murray Hill. The island is mainly tropical rainforest, 63% of which is national park-land. The narrow fringing reef surrounding the island poses a maritime hazard.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas\\_Island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_Island)





# My Favorite Cover

Submitted by Tom Watkins

There is also a 1964 25c airmail cover to Gabon (formerly French Equatorial Africa) in Central West Africa. It was addressed to Dr. Walter Munz who was working at the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Lambarene. After arriving in Gabon the cover was readdressed to Switzerland and Gabonese postage was added for the re-mailing. A quick google search of Dr. Munz reveals he was a Swiss physician who went to Gabon in 1961 to with Schweitzer, whom he apparently admired. There he met and married his wife and I found a photo of their wedding ceremony online as well as with a photo of just him.

Munz was a general surgeon and medical director of the Schweitzer Hospital who first arrived in Lambarene in 1961.



Walter Munz is the Young Swiss medical Doctor of 32 who followed the legendary Dr. Albert Schweitzer at the heat of his Hospital of Lambarene in Gabon (Equatorial Africa) in 1965. There he married his wife, Jo . Jo Munz was a mid-wife and nurse in Holland (her native country), in South Africa, and at the Schweitzer Hospital in Lambarene for seven years. After returning to Switzerland, she did volunteer work to benefit prisoners and also worked to help those struggling with substance abuse. As an art therapist, she founded the Atelier d'expression at the Schweitzer Hospital in 1999. This program has evolved into an important force in the fight against AIDS as well as a means for young patients to express

their creativity as part of their healing. Walter Munz is a retired doctor, general surgeon, and former medical director of the Schweitzer Hospital who first arrived in Lambarene in 1961. He was active on the hospital staff for 10 years, at first as a doctor-surgeon, and after Schweitzer's death as medical director beginning in 1965. Walter Munz is the author of Albert Schweitzer in the Memory of Africans (1991), which is available only in German and French. He has also written about his experience in "the human jungle" of a substance abuse clinic in Zurich, where he worked for the last seven years of his professional life.





Here are few of my favorite usages of the 25c Chemical stamp that I collect for fun. Two are registered letters to Africa and both are returned to sender with some terrific backstamps that record their journeys. The cover to Nyasaland went through four different dead or returned letter offices (Nyasaland, Rhodesia, South Africa and Canada) on its journey back.

Submitted by Tom Watkins



# My Favorite Cover (continued)

Submitted by Tom Watkins



From the Files of:

## Believe it or Not



Mailed from Romania December 5 arriving in Vernon, BC on December 29 th. In Romania  
“PRIORTY” apparently means something!



# My Favorite Cover

Submitted by Gary Fisher

When you start looking at the postage stamps prior to the 1950s, individually the engravings and detailing makes them very nice stamps. But as a set on paper such as an envelope as below





## My Favorite Cover

Submitted by Bill Aaroe, Maple Ridge

I recently had the good fortune to purchase a small but very old collection which had sat untouched since the late 1920's. While I have been fortunate over the years to acquire a few older collections I don't think I will ever again stumble across a time capsule such as this one. The cover featured was just one stray item in it. The owner had only one other Monaco; item a single Prince Albert I stamp of the same issue with a face value of 5 centimes.

What first caught my eye was the 25 1 centime stamps used to frank the cover. I have no idea what the postage rate for a standard letter from Monaco to England would have been in 1911, but some rough calculations I have made suggest it actually isn't much of an overpayment on what I would expect as needed. The 1 centime stamp is the smallest value in the Prince Albert I series released between 1891 & 1921. Thus the question is why 25 stamps were used? As no letter survived we have no clue from its contents, but it is possible that someone was simply trying to use up stamps on hand or that they wanted to create a 'showy' piece for Miss Elliott.



The letter was postmarked on February 4, 1911 in Monte Carlo and on the reverse has a receiving mark in Birkenhead on February 7th. Birkenhead is a few miles east of Hoylake on the Wirrill peninsula and in turn is across the Mersey from Liverpool.

The second eye catching aspect of this cover is the Grand Hotel Prince de Galles corner card in the upper left corner. Translating from French this becomes the Grand Hotel Prince of Wales so perhaps a British connection at the time. The hotel apparently was built in 1901 and still exists today although its current circumstances are perhaps not as 'Grand' as it was in 1911 as today it is a Best Western.

No sender's name exists on the envelope so we have no clue as to their relationship to Miss Elliott. The name Elliott is simply too common in the Birkenhead area to provide any clue as to who Miss R. Elliott may have been and the road's name no longer exists perhaps becoming a victim of WWI.

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