

The Cover Story

A Find in the Weirdest Place by Mel Borofsky

During a recent trip through the Canadian Rockies we made a rest stop in a small town just north of the British Columbia/Alberta border. Occupying a corner in this town, name not remembered, was an odd shaped triangular building reminiscent of the Flat Iron building in New York's Times Square [Picture 1]. Not feeling the need to refresh and very curious about the building and its many wood carving on the exterior, I decided to make a short visit.



Picture 1

On entering I was greeted by a slight man, heavy long beard, hair to his shoulders and definitely in need of a change of clothing. His name was Rolf [Picture 2] and in any other circumstance I would have deemed him a hermit.

The inside of the building had many more of his wood carvings and a tremendous amount of clutter. The quality and variety of his carvings were excellent. It seems that he has been doing this for close to 40 years and his clientele are mostly tourists heading north to Banff. Some of the carvings have prices in the upper hundreds. He said, "I spend my spring, fall and summer months in Alberta but I head south to a Bahamas out island for the winter." Business must be good.



Picture 2

Towards the back of the room I spotted a glass counter/enclosure with some dusty books inside. Offhand I asked, "Would you have any stamps or old postcards?" He replied, "No postcards but I have some old stamps lying around." He took the books out of the glass enclosure and two glassine envelopes fell out. The stamps were obviously very old and the top, visible stamp was in pristine condition. Not being a collector of Canadian revenue stamps I was drawn to the quality of the engraving. The second packet looked like a bunch of Canadian "cinderellas."

My time was short so I asked, "How much?" He asked me what I would pay and I offered \$10.00. He chuckled and came back, "Thirty bucks and they are yours!" I said "Deal" and paid the man. I put the stamp packets in my camera bag and didn't think much more about them. A week or so after our return I finally took a look at what I purchased. Not only were there about fifteen early Canadian revenues, but the second packet, which I thought were "cinderellas" contained nine Canadian private air mail stamps from the early 1920's. [All images referenced in this article can be found on the front cover of this newsletter.]

To make a long story short, my thirty bucks brought me catalog value of \$285.00. I'm glad I didn't have to use the men's room!

The APS Summer Show

By James Pullin



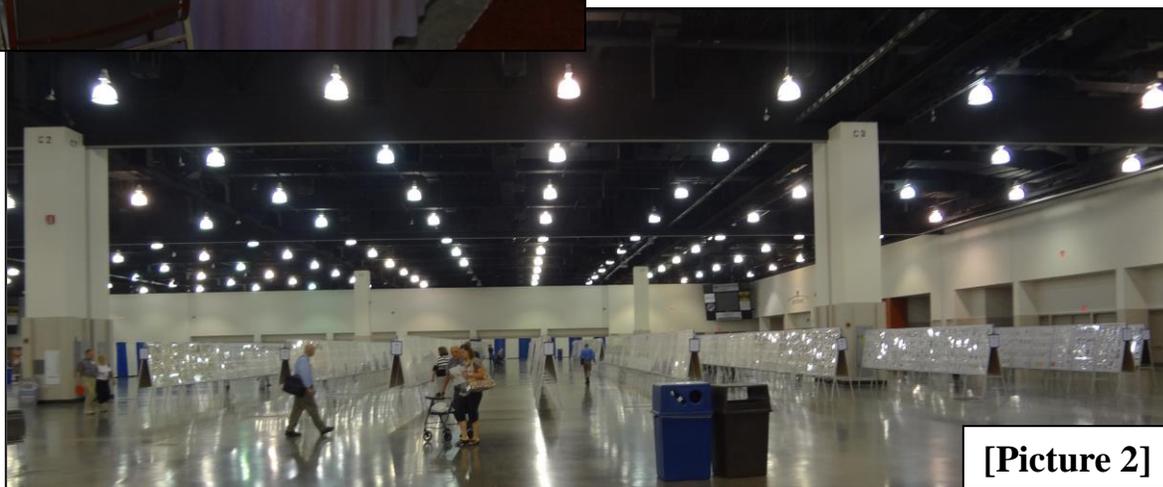
[Picture 1]

The four days from August 8-11 found members of American Philatelic Society gathered in Milwaukee for the annual summer show. The weather was fine and the comradely and stamping activities were enjoyed by all. The Stamps in Your Attic effort continued to draw a large crowd [Picture 1].

The dealers seemed happy, the society booths were busy, the exhibitors had no

complaints and Ken Martin and his staff did a remarkable job.

With almost 1000 frames [Picture 2] the jury and everybody else was busy viewing the material in the exhibits. The gold



[Picture 2]

medal count was 70+ of the 102 exhibits so the competition was at a high level. The Champion of Champions was won by James Gough's "The UPU and its Impact on Global Postal Services, 1875 – 1920." This was a truly outstanding exhibit and a candidate for the Court of Honor at FLOREX.

In the Open Competition, The Grand was awarded to Timothy Wait's "U. S. Civil War Documentary Stamp Taxes 1862 – 1872" the Single Frame Gold went to Kathryn Johnson's "The British Development of Mauritius" and the Literature Grand to Jerry Palazolo et al "Confederate States of America Catalog & Handbook."

There were numerous other "Best" awards and special awards and the whole ceremony took more than three hours.

On a local level Jim Pullin's "American Sailing Packets on the North Atlantic Arrival and Departures 1818 – 1840" received a gold medal and the Lighthouse award for the best maritime exhibit.