

Rare philatelic record acquired

The National Postal Museum in Ottawa recently acquired a copy of the first philatelic paper published in Canada. The small four-page leaflet, *The Stamp Collector's Record*, was published in Montreal in February 1864 by Samuel Allan Taylor, a well-known stamp dealer of the nineteenth century.

Taylor who was born in Scotland in 1838, became famous during his lifetime by creating hundreds of philatelic fakes and forgeries. He travelled to North America at the age of 12 and lived in New York for some time, holding a variety of jobs. In the early 1860s he came to Montreal.

It was not until 1861 that the first stamp catalogues appeared, listing all the known stamps of the time.

Taylor did not conduct his business like other stamp dealers — he not only sold and exchanged genuine postage stamps but also created some of his own. Well-known examples of his creations are the *Bell's Dispatch* and the *Ker's City Post*. On the latter issue he used his own portrait on the stamp.

Later, Taylor returned to the United States where he became better known, and where his production of fakes and forgeries expanded greatly. He was well known as the chief of the "Boston Gang" of philatelic forgers. Legal action against him and illness finally led him to abandon his career at the end of the century. Taylor died at the age of 74, leaving behind him controversies in the philatelic press and questionable stamps in the albums of many collectors.

In addition to the copy of *The Stamp Collector's Record* held by the National Museum, there are only three other known copies of this rare publication in existence. One is in the library of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, England; another, known as the "Crawford" copy, is in the British Museum in London, England; and the third copy is held by a private collector in the United States. Of the four copies, the one in the National Postal Museum is the finest.

Since Taylor's pamphlet was printed in 1864, more than 350 Canadian philatelic periodicals have appeared. Many of the early periodicals were merely one page; others contained up to four pages. Although designed for publication at stated intervals, they were only leaflets.

Retirement eased for university employees

The University of Waterloo in Kitchener, Ontario, has started a new policy to help senior employees ease into early retirement.

Reduced workloads, approved recently by the university board of governors, will allow senior faculty and staff to work part-time but still be eligible for full-time pension and other benefits.

The policy, aimed at saving money and making room for young faculty members, has been approved by the Federal Government for a five-year trial.

University officials say it is the first of its kind.

The average salary this year for a full professor at the university is \$39,792 and the average for all faculty members is \$32,000.

The normal retirement age is 65 but under the policy, employees who are at least 55 and have at least ten years at the university will be able to work part-time without being penalized in their pensions. A 56-year-old professor making \$40,000 a year could enter the program, work part-time and have his salary drop to \$20,000. But his pension plan and other benefit contributions would be based on a full year's salary.

Colorado Springs holds "Canada Appreciation Day"

The city of Colorado Springs, Colorado recognized the "civic contributions" of Canadians in the area when it held a "Canada Appreciation Day", September 22.

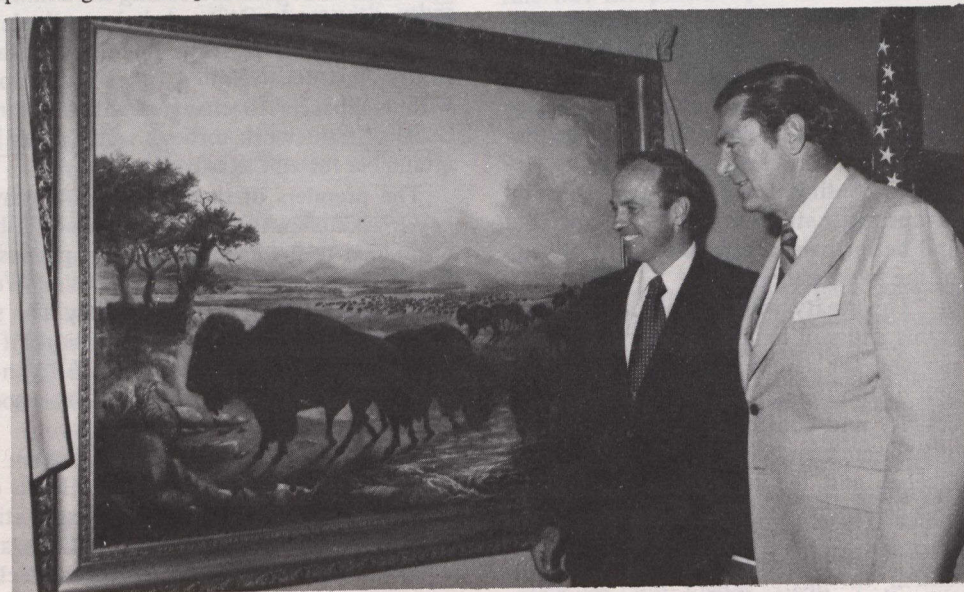
One of the events marking the special day was the presentation of an historic painting to Pikes Peak Arts Center in Colorado Springs. The painting, depicting a Bison herd grazing in front of Pikes Peak, was based on sketches by American artist Titian Ramsay Peale.

Canadian Forces officers serving with North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) headquarters considered the painting to be of particular significance in

the Pikes Peak area and arranged through Alberta's Glenbow Institute in Calgary to loan it to the arts centre.

Calgary Mayor Ross Alger, who presented the painting to Vice Mayor Mike Bird of Colorado Springs, was one of 20 civic, cultural and industrial guests from Calgary invited to participate in the activities.

As part of the day's events, the Canadian Forces Snowbirds air display team and the Air Command Pipes and Drums of Ottawa attracted residents to local displays on behalf of the Canadian Forces contingent serving at NORAD.



Calgary Mayor Ross Alger (right) presents the painting entitled, *Bison Herd with Pikes Peak in Background*, to Colorado Springs vice-mayor Mike Bird. The painting, is on loan to the Western Art Gallery of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Museum for one year.