

**News release
from the
British Columbia Philatelic Society**

Release Date: ***Sept. 29, 2005***

For further information, contact:

**Bob Ingraham, telephone 604-694-0014 or e-mail
*b.ingraham@shaw.ca***

VANPEX 2005 takes shape

VANCOUVER, BC -- VANPEX 2005, Vancouver's national-level philatelic exhibition, is showing a more international face than in previous years. The show, scheduled for Nov. 11-13 in the Vancouver suburb of Richmond, has accepted exhibits from collectors in the U.S., Great Britain, the Peoples Republic of China, and India, as well as Canada.

VANPEX organizers are also pleased with the rate that exhibit applications have come in. Although the deadline for applications was set for October 5, all of the show's 185 frames had been reserved by mid-September, and applications are no longer being accepted. In the past, the VANPEX committee, like most show committees, has had to scramble to get enough frames by showtime.

VANPEX's theme this year -- "VANPEX 2005 Salutes the Year of the Veteran" -- will be reflected in several military- and war-themed exhibits, which will be eligible for the new *Lt. Col. William "Bill" Bailey Militaria Award*.

Mr. Bailey, who died in 2003, was a widely respected Vancouver philatelist who pioneered research in the field of Canadian

military history. He was co-author, with Rich Toop, of a three-volume work on Canadian military posts and a two-volume listing of Canadian military postal markings. The latter volume won large vermeil international awards at several world exhibitions, culminating at LONDON 2000.

The Bill Bailey award will be presented by his widow, Jane Bailey, at the show's awards banquet on Saturday, Nov. 12.

In addition to the military-themed exhibits, VANPEX will feature a wide variety of exhibits including classic and modern Canadian, Commonwealth and foreign stamps and postal history, aerophilately, topical, postal stationery, and, as an experiment, postcards. (Postcards have not traditionally been included in philatelic exhibitions, but are now allowed under guidelines established by the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.

Sixteen of this year's VANPEX exhibitors are coming as a group from West Bengal in India -- 13 as youth exhibitors who will show one-frame exhibits including topical, a royal wedding stamps, country collections, and omnibus issues. Several of the young collectors won silver medals at ARIPEX 2005, earlier this year.

Mohammed Mujibullah, the adult collector who is organizing the trip from India, says that he is trying to foster stamp collecting among Indian children, few of whom collect stamps. The trip is being underwritten in part by India Post.

This year's VANPEX judges' panel will be headed by Chief Judge Charles Verge, President of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, curator of Canada's National Stamp Collection, and a member of Canada Post's Stamp Advisory Committee.

The other judges are Sam Chiu, of Willowdale, Ontario, who served as a VANPEX judge in 2004; Rob McGuinness, of West Vancouver; Bill Pawluk, of Calgary, and Darrell Ertzberger, of Richmond, Virginia.

Two apprentice judges will serve on the judges' panel. They are Norman Sung, of Richmond, BC, and Brian Atkins, of Lake Cowichan, BC.

Several seminars and talks are scheduled during VANPEX:

- Sam Chiu will present a talk on Hong Kong wartime postal history, as well as a seminar on exhibit preparation for Vancouver's Chinese-Canadian collectors.
- Charles Verge will present an exhibiting seminar on behalf of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, and will lead a guided tour of the exhibition.
- Bob Rawlins will present an illustrated talk titled "Mail from Manila Bay, Dec 1941 to 3 May 1942," based on his exhibit of the same name which won the grand award at the APS winter show in Biloxi in 2003.

A Sunday-morning breakfast meeting of the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) will feature an illustrated talk by Bob Ingraham, titled "A Casualty of War: The Story of the *SS Eros*." The *Eros*, a British freighter, was torpedoed by a German submarine off the north coast of Ireland in 1940. Bob is president of the BC Philatelic Society.

The VANPEX bourse has attracted 20 dealers who will offer a wide range of stamps, postcards, covers, and collecting supplies. Canada Post will have a booth which will sell stamps and covers, and will service the cacheted VANPEX 2005 show covers, designed by Derren Carman, a member of the BC Philatelic Society.

In addition to the covers which can be serviced, three similar VANPEX commemorative covers will be sold at the BC Philatelic Society's table. One of them features not only a real Canadian "War Issue" definitive stamp with but two coins as well, a 1945 "Victory" nickel and the 2005 commemorative version of the same coin. The price for these covers is \$5 each. A version with

just the 2005 coin will sell for \$3, and a version with just the stamp will be \$2. Serviceable covers will sell for \$1 each. Supplies are limited, and sales will be limited to one cover of each type per person.

VANPEX visitors will be able to enjoy a new feature this year -- "Funstamps." Funstamps is the creation BC Philatelic Society member Ian Codling, who offers remainders from large auction lots that he buys for his own sorting pleasure. Ian will have a million stamps available -- the number is not exaggerated -- at 10 cents each, not to mention covers, sheets, packets and entire collections. He will donate part of his proceeds to the VANPEX operating fund.

VANPEX will be held at the Executive Airport Plaza Hotel and Convention Centre, 7311 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC. The hotel's toll-free reservation number is 1-800-663-2878. For a discount, mention VANPEX when you reserve your room.

VANPEX opens at noon on Nov. 11 to accommodate people who wish to attend Remembrance Day ceremonies, and will remain open until 8:00 p.m. on that day. Hours are 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$2 per day, or \$4 for a weekend pass. Tickets for the Saturday night awards banquet are \$30.

The web site of the BC Philatelic Society, at www.bcphilatelic.org, features additional information about VANPEX 2005.