

Allan Steinhart's Exhibit CAPEX '96

This 8-frame exhibit summarized Allan's massive stampless collection. It contained the gems of his collection, but he told me that he felt that he could have mounted an equally strong 128-page exhibit using other stampless covers that he had at his home. Because of the many rare covers shown here, that was an exaggeration, but not by a lot.

Allan stopped exhibiting competitively at international philatelic shows about 1987. However, he continued to support the exhibits at Canadian shows and at BNAPEX. When he relented and decided to exhibit at the home-town CAPEX '96 in Toronto, Kimmo Salonen prepared Allan's exhibit pages, based on the writeups that Al supplied. The exhibit was marvellous—the best material he had ever assembled. It was not presented with the now-encouraged “story-telling” approach, but rather with classically brief descriptions on each page. I was present when Al learned that the exhibit had been awarded a Gold Medal (and a special prize), but not the Large Gold we all considered that it deserved. He was quiet, and very disappointed. By the time we were having dinner together that evening, he was resigned and laughing about the slight, and said, “If they'd given me the Large Gold then I wouldn't be able to complain about them for the next 10 years!”

I thank those who provided the material used in this presentation: Bill Longley for doing scans of the covers, Michael Rixon for scanning and preserving the text, and Mike Street and BNAPS for supplying the massive PDF that Mike Rixon had prepared. I have tried to keep the presentation as close as possible to the original exhibit, retaining all text (but correcting several typographical and spelling errors).

Please enjoy seeing and studying the earliest covers in private hands from each part of what is now Canada.

Gray Scrimgeour
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