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THE FLAG POLE

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Newsletter of the BNAPS Flag Cancel Study Group

Interim Editor's Message

After attending CAPEX and hearing that there was a Flag Cancel Study Group Meeting planned for Charlottetown, I thought that it would be advisable to produce a newsletter before October, which was when the next Flag Pole was originally scheduled. Also, I must apologize for a few typing errors that crept into the last edition, as it came back from the wordprocessor on Thursday and there was no opportunity for corrections since I wanted to distribute some copies the following Monday at CAPEX. Hopefully this edition will have fewer errors and we will make sure that we don't call "elusive" cancels "exclusive" cancels as we did the last time.

This newsletter contains a report on CAPEX, some new information on the 1917-19 Western Exhibition Flag Cancels and an update of the 1927-34 Flag Cancels. My new plan is to update the WWII cancels in the December newsletter, the 1937 and Royal Train Cancels in a March 1988 newsletter, and then hopefully pass on the editorship to someone who can type.

The Joys and Disappointments of CAPEX '87

The Joys

After having a Toronto driver decide that he would try and drive through my trunk, I arrived at CAPEX a little shaken up. However, with some guidance, I soon found my way to the Heasman, Paige and Sessions exhibits. What a sight! This was probably the only time one will ever see three such exhibits, with all of their many great rarities, side by side at an international exhibition. The first person I met was Mr. Frederick Langford, who was going over the exhibits with a magnifying glass. Incidentally, this gentleman from California has been studying world wide flag cancels for over 50 years, and has probably forgotten more about flag cancels than most of us will ever know.

Shortly afterwards, David Sessions, Larry Paige and Bob Heasman wandered over and Geof Newman, one of our cousins specializing in machine cancels, also arrived on the scene. Needless to say, it was quite an experience meeting other individuals with a similar interest, as sometimes it is rather lonesome concentrating in such a specialized field as flag cancels. That evening, we all went to a dinner Geof Newman arranged, and were joined by Ray McLean, Wayne Curtis, Bruce McCallum, Bill Robinson and his charming and supportive wife Megan, Steve Thorning, and Wally Gutzman. Geof got so "carried away" that he left his

glasses and other things at the restaurant. When we returned his glasses the next day, he explained that they were only dime store glasses and we quickly pointed out that they were obviously the cause for the spelling errors in his recent book. Also, Bruce was kind enough to give us each a 1984 Hamilton-Buffalo Stamp Exhibition cover with a flag cancel hand stamp, to commemorate the event. Most of us were unaware that this cancel even existed. Probably one will never find so many serious Canadian flag cancel collectors dining together again, and it was an evening that those in attendance will certainly remember. The next day when I found out that Ed Richardson was also at CAPEX, I thought it would have been great if he had been at that dinner also, even though he is arranging to sell his collection in an upcoming Maresch auction.

It seems that we all acquired something from the dealers and yours truly found a Montreal 6-1 on piece, although he did not start looking until Tuesday. How the others, who had been there since Saturday, missed that one, I will never know. On Tuesday, a friend mentioned that he had purchased a Trois Rivieres 38-1 at the show. This cancel eventually found a home in my collection also. It's been a few years since this collector has been able to add two missing pieces to his collection over such a short period of time. Incidentally, your scribe is still missing a 1-1, 8-23, 40-1 and 40-3, although some of my better ones are only on piece. Even though no one can probably help, any assistance in finding the last four items would be greatly appreciated. Those that attended CAPEX will certainly agree that it was "some show"!

The Disappointments

Before the disappointments are discussed, one should mention the high caliber of BNA exhibits that were at the show. Most viewers never realized that there were so many lovely colonial period BC covers until they saw the Carr, Wellburn, and Wallace exhibits. My overall feeling was that the awards were appropriate-except for a few cases.

Three of the awards that, in my opinion, should have been higher were the Large Silver received by Bob Heasman and the Silvers received by Larry Paige and David Sessions. Based on the actual exhibits, one can see why Bob received the Large Silver as it was 8 frames, was neatly written up, had probably the most early and late dates and the most foreign destinations. Larry's exhibit had been reduced from 10 to 6 frames and lost some of its impact; however, it was loaded with choice material and had ALL of the early flag cancels. David could only display 5 frames, was missing a couple of key items, but had a unique 9-1 invert. Relatively speaking, the exhibits appeared fairly even; however, when compared to the awards received by other exhibits, they seemed under-rated.

For instance, one exhibit on Four Ring Numeral Cancels received a Gold and an American exhibit on the Waterbury Fancy Cork Cancels (it did not show them all) received a Gold as well. In view of this, I find it hard to understand how Larry's exhibit received only a Silver, which is four levels lower than either the

Waterbury or Four Ring awards. With regard to the Four Ring exhibit, the judges may have based the award on the lovely pence covers and not the cancellations themselves, while the Waterbury exhibit may have received its Gold based on the value of these attractive cancels. As I mentioned earlier, the Waterbury exhibit was missing some of the known cancels.

It seems that Larry received little or no recognition for having the only known 8-23 on cover, one of three known 1-1's on cover, etc. One cannot help wondering if the judges understood the rarity of some of the material in these three exhibits. Also, I wonder if the judges have ever formed a serious Flag, RPO, Squared Circle or other cancellation collection, if they have purchased any 9-1 inverted covers or 1-1 covers lately, or if they sought advice from known experts such as Alan Steinhart, Jim Hennok, or Geof Newman, in case they were not familiar with this field of specialization. Also, it should be pointed out that the two RPO exhibits fared even worse (Silver Bronze) than the Flag Cancel exhibits. These two exhibitors must be as disappointed as the Flag Cancel exhibitors. Who were the judges judging this part of the exhibition?

If you looked at the awards given to many of the Topicals, you would see that there was little relatively between different classes of exhibits, and even within the BNA classes. For example, both The War Issue of Canada and Canada Postage Dues 1906-1966: The First Sixty Years, received Large Silvers. These two exhibits certainly deserved their large silvers, however, in my opinion, Larry's deserved a higher award, or at least as high, as these two. Larry received a Gold at BNAPEX in 1983, and over the past 4 years has continued to improve his exhibit, yet he only received a Silver. How many of the other exhibits which have been awarded a Gold at BNAPS received only a silver at CAPEX? I wonder if the awards would have been higher if, like the four ring cancels, these exhibits had been entered in the BNA Class rather than the Postal History Class? Enough said!

Any views as to why the exhibits received what they were awarded would be most appreciated. Perhaps we need a new category of exhibit called postmarks/cancellations that would be judged on its own merits, just as the topicals and aerophilately are judged today.

BNAPEX 87

Don't forget Charlottetown. Bill Robinson has indicated that a meeting of the Flag Cancel Study Group is scheduled for 10:30 am - 12:00 pm Thursday. Hopefully, an editor will surface at the meeting. Larry, Bob and others will be there. However, since I made CAPEX, I will have to pass on Charlottetown. It would seem to me that the study group might need a Chairman (Bob?), an Editor and a Secretary/Treasurer to keep track of memberships, dues, etc. If the membership agrees, I will continue to serve as a depository for the 1917 and more modern information. Last year, Bob agreed to look after the 1896-1902 information.

Membership Dues

For the four issues that I will be editing the newsletter, typing and distribution costs will amount to about \$160. Unfortunately, I must pay to have the Flag Pole typed, as I can't type. Since at this time there are probably about 20 individuals who are prepared to pay membership dues, I would suggest that we charge a membership fee of \$10 for these first four publications, and apply any balance towards subsequent issues. Perhaps this could be discussed at Charlottetown and a dues notice will be published in the next edition. Perhaps Bob could also collect some dues at Charlottetown. Any premature payments can be credited against the membership dues when they are established. Your Chairman and Interim Editor have each contributed \$25 to get the group rolling. As well, Jeff Switt has sent in his \$10.

Other Exhibitions

If any member is aware of a Flag Cancel Exhibit receiving an award at a local, regional or national exhibition, the Flag Pole would be pleased to include the information. Incidentally, your interim editor finally got around to preparing a 9 frame exhibit of his 1896-1934 Flag Cancels, entered it in the Masters Class at ORAPEX 87 (judged on a national basis) and received a Vermeil with felicitations of the jury. As ORAPEX uses the Gold, Vermeil, Silver, Silver Bronze, Bronze award system, I was quite pleased with the result. Since I can do it and we have seen that Bob, Larry and David have done it, your scribe would like to encourage everyone to think about putting together an exhibit. It's very rewarding watching one's exhibit grow from a regional silver to a national silver, and then to a national vermeil over a 7 year period. I am sure that if others started to exhibit, they would enjoy the same experience. Also, through exhibiting, we may encourage others to take up flag cancel collecting.

If anyone is aware of an exhibition planning to use a flag cancel, please advise me and the information will be published in the Flag Pole. However, with the fee that Canada Post is now charging for slogan dies, there may not be any more slogan flag cancels, although there may be some hand cancels as Hamilton used in 1984.

Prairie Provinces Exhibitions 1917-1919

When examining copies of the Pritchard and Andrews Proof Books at the National Postal Museum here in Ottawa, I have often wondered why there was no Proof Book impression of the three 1917-1919 Saskatoon Industrial Exhibition Flag Cancels and no 1918 Proof Book impression of the Prince Albert Exhibition Flag Cancel. While writing up this section of my collection last winter, I stumbled onto the answer.

Saskatoon Industrial Exhibition Flag Cancels



As the three examples show, the die slug used at Saskatoon in 1918 and 1919 was the same one used in 1917, except that the dates for the exhibition were changed. All three have a constant break in the first "I" in industrial. It appears that when only minor die changes were required, the Post Office would have the old dies altered (if they were still on hand), and the sponsoring organization would pay only a fraction of the cost of a new die to have these modifications carried out. In the National Postal

Museum files on the more modern slogan cancels, there are a number of instances where the Post Office charged a sponsoring organization only a few dollars to modify the dates on an old die, rather than the full cost of a new die. However, in order to modify a die, the Post Office required the old die, which had to be in good condition, and the modifications had to be minor in nature. It's somewhat surprising that the same die was modified in 1918 as I recollect reading correspondence in the files on the more modern slogans indicating that existing dies could not be modified if the month required re-engraving also. It appears that both Pritchard and Andrews, and later the Post Office, made proof impressions of only new slogan dies and not altered dies. Accordingly, only one proof impression is missing as only one Saskatoon Industrial Exhibition Flag Cancel die was produced.

Prince Albert Exhibition Flag Cancels



The above examples show that the 1918 die is the same one that was used in 1917. Only the dates of the exhibition have been altered. Since there seemed to be a policy of not making Proof Book impressions when only modifications were made to a die, no 1918 Proof Book impression was made. In 1919, major changes to the date field were required, and perhaps the old die could not be modified to

accommodate the necessary changes. In any case, a new die slug was prepared and proofed as shown below.



All of these Western Exhibition Flag Cancels are very scarce indeed, and in the 14 years since Ed Richardson published his fine handbook, only a few more examples have appeared on the market.

Incidentally, there does not appear to be a Proof Book Impression of the 1917 Moose Jaw Flag Cancel either. Since the Post Office Proof Books (as opposed to the Pritchard and Andrews Proof Books, that contain the WWI and two Prince Albert Exhibition Flag Cancel Impressions) segregate some Universal slogans from the International and Perfect machine slogans, is it possible that the Post Office might have (or had) more pages of Universal Slogan Proof Impressions, including all of the Type 25 Flag Cancels, the Moose Jaw Flag Cancel, and the Saskatoon Industrial Exhibition Flag Cancel? Also, an interesting question is why are all of these Universal Flag Cancels missing from the Pritchard and Andrews Proof Books? Is it possible that the Universal Stamping Machine Company may have supplied these dies directly? Did they supply any slogan die slugs to the Canadian Post Office Department? Who produced the slogan dies used in the Universal Machines in the United States? Perhaps one of our machine cancel specialists, such as Geof Newman, can help us out?

1927 Diamond Jubilee Flag Cancels

No new information appears to have surfaced concerning these uncommon cancel since my article appeared in the March-April 1986 issue of TOPICS. That article contained some new information on the dates that the die slugs were sent out from Post Office Headquarters, and received back at Post Office Headquarters. In addition, it illustrated the proof book impressions of these cancels.

In general, it appears that these cancels were used in conjunction with other slogans at most of the locations. For example, the Ottawa cancel has a LKD of December 27th, but appears to have been used on only a limited basis between August and December. Don't let the apparent period of use fool you, as none of these cancels are common. Up until 1973, the Regina cancel had not even been reported to Ed Richardson.

The prices given are for covers or cards with full average to fine legible impressions, which is the state in which most examples are found, especially those cancelling the 2c green Fathers of Confederation stamp. For bold VF examples showing the flag and ALL of the letters in the cancel, a premium of 50% can be

added. Once again, we are indebted to David Sessions who has provided me with his early and late date information on these and the 1930-34 cancels.

Numbers are taken from The Canadian Flag Cancellation Handbook 1896-1973 by Ed Richardson, 1973.

1927 Diamond Jubilee Cancels

Location	Issue Date	Post Office Proof Book Date	EKD	LKD	Returned Date	Value
43-1 Calgary	June 21	June 25 am	June 27(L)	<u>Aug. 30</u>	Sept. 6	\$ 12
43-2 Charlottetown	June 23	June 27 ?	June 30(L)	<u>Aug. 11(L)</u>	Aug. 18	25
43-3 Halifax	June 22	June 29 am	June 29(S)	<u>Aug. 16(L)</u>	Aug. 20	8
43-4 Ottawa	June 27	June 28 am	<u>June 28(L)*</u>	<u>Dec. 27(L)</u>	Jan. 3	8
43-5 Saint John	June 27	June 29 pm	<u>June 29(S)</u>	<u>Oct. 22</u>	Oct. 26	8
43-6 Toronto	June 25	June 28 am	<u>June 27(L)</u>	<u>July 2(L)</u>	July 6	18
43-7 Vancouver	June 18	June 27 pm	June 27(L)	June 30(L)	Aug. 9	22
43-8 Winnipeg	June 22	June 27 pm	June 27(R)	Dec. 3(L)	Jan. 3	8
43-9 Regina	June 22	June 27 am	<u>June 27</u>	<u>July 4</u>	July 25	50
44-1 Montreal	June 25	June 27 am	June 27(L)	July 11(L)	July 13	15
44-2 Quebec	June 27	June 29 am	<u>June 29(L)</u>	<u>Aug. 22</u>	Sept. 26	8

Examples of any of the above cancels on illustrated Eppstadt First Day Covers are worth \$50-\$75, depending on the stamp and location. As with the 1917-19 Flag Cancels, an (L) signifies Lingard collection, an (S) is Sessions, and (R) is Richardson.

* Ed Richardson's EKD of June 16 was based on McReady's listing and is thought to be in error, as the die was not shipped until June 27.

The Manitoba Diamond Jubilee Flag Cancel

Other than a slight extension to the period of use, there is nothing new to report.

Location	Issue Date	Post Office Proof Book Date	EKD	LKD	Returned Date	Value
45-1 Winnipeg	June 18	June 21 pm	<u>June 21(L)</u>	<u>July 16(S)</u>	July 19	\$ 25

The 1934 Port Arthur Semi-Centennial Flag Cancel

Nothing new on this scarce flag either. However, correspondence from the Post Master to the sponsor has surfaced, along with a sample impression on a Post Office facing slip, which confirms that March 1st was the first day of use.

Location	Issue Date	Post Office Proof Book Date	EKD	LKD	Returned Date	Value
46-1 Port Arthur	Feb. 22	Mar. 1 pm	<u>Mar. 1(L)</u>	June 27	July 7	\$ 25

The cancel was probably used until the end of the celebrations, on July 4th.

Photocopies of any EKD or LKD cancels would be appreciated, and any line/slogan cancel used within a few days of EKD or LKD would also be useful. The survey form for these cancels will be in the next edition of the Flag Pole.

Feedback

Many thanks to those that sent notes with their survey returns. My main problem is that I haven't had time to reply to most of them. Jeff Switt asked if the prices were in Canadian or United States dollars. It was my intention that they be in Canadian dollars; which are worth about 75 cents US. However, please remember that the prices are only a guide as to what the cancel is worth. Other factors must be taken into consideration, such as the cover itself (is it an advertising cover?), the quality of the cover (is it torn or soiled?), the sharpness and completeness of the impression, and the rate or destination. It should also be mentioned that the prices will be reviewed after the Richardson Flag Cancel Collection is auctioned off, and adjusted where necessary.

Ken Barlow is wondering if we could perhaps update the "banner type" slogans, since they somewhat resemble the flag cancels. It sounds like a good idea to me. What about a listing of meter slogans using flags in their dies as well? Perhaps these could be included as an annex to any subsequent revision to the Richardson Handbook. However, since I don't have many "banner type" slogans or meters with flags, would someone like to co-ordinate these activities? I am sure that the study group members would be pleased to send that person a listing of their holdings, and we could publish the information next year. That's it for now. Try and make Charlottetown if you can!

WARNING!!

If I have not received your 1917-1919 Flag Cancel Survey by September 30th, (it was in Vol. 1, No. 1 of the Flag Pole) you WILL NOT be sent the next newsletter. That newsletter will have some interesting new information on the 1941-42 cancels, including an additional new flag die, that has not been reported before. Why wait for September? DO IT NOW!