

# THE FLAG POLE



Newsletter of the BNAPS Flag Cancel Study Group

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## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

This edition is unfortunately very much delayed as a result of a combination of circumstances. As you may know the United Kingdom suffered a postal strike during the late summer, I decided to delay the production of Flag Pole until the last possible moment to allow the maximum amount of material to be submitted and in addition I have been working overseas for many weeks. However I can assure you that, given the material, I will publish on time in future.

This edition features contributions from three study group members.

Doug Lingard has submitted an interesting article showing that postmarks have been collected and studied for rather longer than many of us would think. He has also prepared a revised listing of the World War I flags, this results from his analysis of members returns. There are some surprises to be found in this listing

Dan Rosenblat, who is also editor of the Slogan Study Group Newsletter, Slogan Box, has submitted a chronology of the use of the B, K and L Enlist Now dies in various locations. There is great scope here for members to report their findings in order that the dates of transfers between towns can be established.

John Robertson has answered David Session's request for information on purple Royal Train flags with details of some examples from his own collection.

Finally, I must mention the fact that Doug Lingard is still awaiting survey returns for the Enlist Now and the 1939 Royal Train Flags, he has only received 12 so far. Please keep him supplied with information.

## FLAGS AT THE CPSGB CONVENTION

The annual convention of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Britain was held in Southampton, England from 5th.-9th. October. Three members of the Flag Cancel Study Group were in attendance:- David Sessions, Jim McLaren and the editor. David presented a superb display of flags which contained many beautiful covers and rarities. His display of inverted flags was particularly impressive.

## THE ROYAL PURPLE

Member 24, John G. Robertson, has sent in reports of purple Royal Train cancellations on cards to Ontario postmasters.

John has a card addressed to The Postmaster, New Germany, Ont. and another addressed to The Postmaster, Rydal Bank, Ont. Each bears the French Train Royal Flag cancel Mai 15, 3AM in purple on the front and on the back. The card to Rydal Bank also bears the English Royal Train Flag cancel May 21, 5PM, in black.



In addition John has an unaddressed card with the black Royal Train Flag for May 21, 5PM with a purple smudge on the back!



Does any other member have any similar cards? Is it possible that purple cancellations were used on the 21st. May?

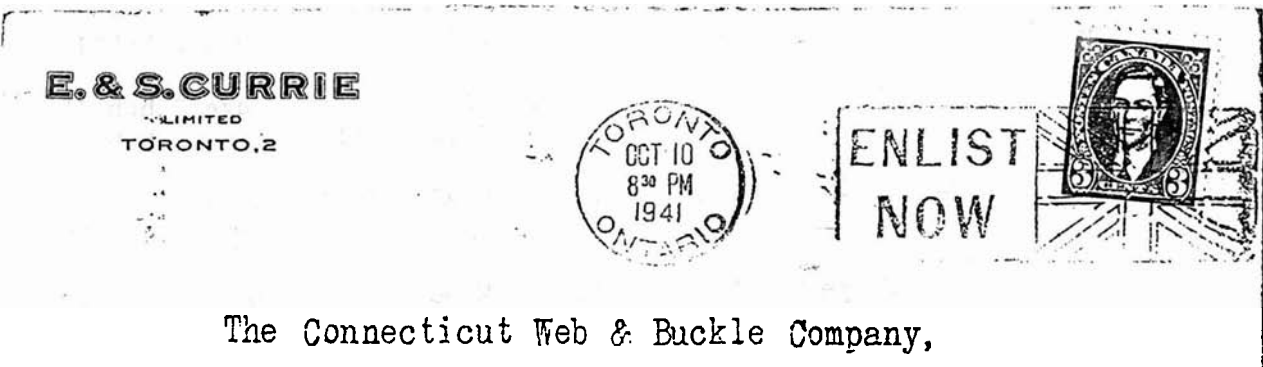
CROSS REFERENCED USAGES OF ENLIST NOW FLAGS B,K AND L.

DANIEL G. ROSENBLAT

The Volume 1 No. 3 issue of the Flag Pole gives a very comprehensive review of the Enlist Now Flag cancellations. This clearly indicates that in most cases each of the flag dies was used in two or more adjacent offices on a rotational basis. The periods of use can be arranged in groups in such a way that the transfers between offices can be identified.

At present there is not enough recorded use for all of the dies to make publishing as a group of interest. However in the case of dies B, K, and L, the sequences that that can be established or estimated are rather fascinating. Using them material can be arranged by dies in each of the identified short time periods, rather than in sequence for each office over the entire period of use in an particular office. Thus establishing the interesting interchanges of the same die between adjacent offices.

The dates overleaf are those provided by Dan with the exception of those marked "\*" which are in the editor's collection.



The Connecticut Web & Buckle Company,

Bridgeport, Conn.,

U. S. A.

Die B, Toronto 10th. October 1941, EKD of seventh period of usage. See overleaf for details.

### Die B Universal Machine

The recorded usage suggests a frequent, though possibly irregular, pattern of short period rotational exchange of this die between Toronto and Hamilton during the period between July 30 1941 to July 6 1942. Recorded usage is sufficient to identify 27 probable interchanges at regular intervals. Both offices used two hubs and the die suffered two successive stages of a break.

TORONTO USAGE			HAMILTON USAGE		
1st.	JY30 - AU12	Unbroken hub I	2nd.	AU14 - AU20	Unbroken hub I
3rd.	AU22 - AU25 AU26 - SP04	Unbroken hub II Stage 1 hub II	4th.	SP06 - SP12	Stage 1 hub I
5th.	SP15 - SP27	Stage 1 hub II	6th.	OC01 - OC09	Stage 1 hub I
7th.	OC10* - OC16 OC18 - OC24	Stage 1 hub II Stage 2 hub II	8th.	OC28 - NO04	Stage 2 hub I
9th.	NO06 - NO20	Stage 2 hub II	10th.	NO21 - NO28	Stage 2 hub I
11th.	NO29* - DE09	Stage 2 hub II	12th.	DE15 - DE22	Stage 2 hub I
13th.	DE27 - JA10	Stage 2 hub I	14th.	JA13 JA14 - JA19	Stage 2 hub II Stage 2 hub I
15th.	JA21 - FE04	Stage 2 hub I	16th.	FE05 - FE06 FE10	Stage 2 hub I Stage 2 hub II
17th.	FE13 - FE25	Stage 2 hub I	18th.	MR06	Stage 2 hub I
19th.	MR08 - MR23	Stage 2 hub II	20th.	MR25 - AP01	Stage 2 hub II
21st.	AP02 - AP16	Stage 2 hub I	22nd.	AP18 - AP24	Stage 2 hub II
23rd.	AP27 - MY07	Stage 2 hub II	24th.	MY14 - MY20	Stage 2 hub II
25th.	MY22 - JU04	Stage 2 hub I	26th.	JU06 - JU12	Stage 2 hub II
27th.	JU15 - JY02 JY04 - JY06	Stage 2 hub I Stage 2 hub II			

### Die K Perfect Machine

The recorded usage suggests a frequent, though possibly irregular, pattern of short period rotational exchange of this die between Vancouver, Victoria and New Westminster during the period between August 4 1941 to July 6 1942. The recorded use in New Westminster is considerably less than that of the other two offices, so as to preclude an attempt to number the usages, but the pattern identifies possible inclusions or omissions.

Victoria and New Westminster used only one hub, but Vancouver used four hubs with Die K.

VANCOUVER		VICTORIA	NEW WESTMINSTER
AU04 - AU16	Hub I	AU18 - AU21	AU25 - AU28
AU31 - SP04	Hub I		
SP06	Hub II	SP08 - SP11	SP15 - SP18
SP21 - SP27	Hub II	OC07 - OC11	OC16 - OC18
OC21 - OC24	Hub III	OC25 - OC29	Omitted between Victoria late Oct and Vancouver early Nov use?
NO05	Hub I	Omitted between Vancouver Nov 5 and N. Westminster Nov 7 use?	NO07 - NO10
NO13 - NO17	Hub II	NO25*- NO29	Unrecorded early Dec use?
DE11	Hub I	DE16 - DE17	Unrecorded late Dec use?
Unrecorded late Dec, early Jan use?		JA05 - JA11	Unrecorded mid Jan use?
JA21 - FE02	Hub IV	FE06	FE09
FE05, reported, unconfirmed			
FE16 - FE22	Hub IV	MR09 - MR13	MR20
MR28*- AP01	Hub II	AP09*- AP22	AP28 - AP29
MY04 - MY11	Hub I	JU03 - JU08	JU11 - JU16
Probably no late June use		JU22 - JY06	Probably last use.

Die O reported with Hub V from June 22.

### Die L Perfect Machine

The recorded usage suggests a frequent, though possibly irregular, pattern of short period rotational interchange of this die between Montreal, Quebec and Trois Rivieres during the period August 4 1941 to July 4 1942. The recorded use of all offices is sufficient to attempt a numbered listing of probable interchanges at relatively regular intervals during the period.

MONTREAL.	QUEBEC	TROIS RIVIERES
1st. AU01 - AU08 Hub I	2nd. AU12 - AU16 Hub I	3rd. AU20 - AU21
4th. SP02 - SP10 Hub II	5th. SP13 - SP18 Hub I	6th. SP22 - SP26
7th. OC02*- OC13 Hub III	8th. OC17 - OC23 Hub I	9th. OC28 - OC31
10th. NO07 - NO17 Hub I NO17 is 1230 PM	11th. NO17 - NO29 Hub I NO17 is unconfirmed, late evening use?	12th. DE03 - DE05
13th. DE15 - DE19 Hub I	14th. DE27 - DE29 Hub II	15th. DE31 - JA07
16th. JA12 - JA15 Hub IV JA13 - JA20 Hub II	17th. JA23 - FE02 Hub I	18th. MR09 - MR16
19th. MR17 - MR27 Hub V	20th. AP02 - AP08 Hub I	21st. AP11 - AP14
22nd. AP21 - AP27 Hub VI	23rd. MY02 - MY09 Hub I	24th. MY11 - MY18
25th. MY20 - MY28 Hub II	26th. JU02 - JU04 Hub I	27th. JU11 - JU17
28th. JU22 - JU26 Hub VII JU29 - JY04 Hub III		

Note that with the exception of the exception of the gap in February and early March, between stages 17 and 18, the recorded dates are very symmetrical and consistent with a regularly scheduled interchange at standard intervals.

#### NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome 3 new members to the group:-

- 30 Dick Lamb, Box 573, Kitchener, ON N2G 4A2.
- 31 John Talman, Box 70 Adelaide St. P.O., Toronto, ON M5C 2H8.
- 32 Jim McLaren, 15 Murray Place, Viewlands, Perth, Scotland, PH1 1BP.

## THANK YOU MR. PIKE!

By Doug Lingard

### Introduction

Most of you may find this a rather strange heading for an article on the World War I Flag Cancels. However, as you read the article, you should find the title very appropriate.

In 1920, A. E. Pike of Buffalo, N.Y., was the president of the International Postmark Society. On February 23rd, 1920, he wrote to the Postmaster General seeking a listing of the advertising postmarks that had been used up to that time in Canada. His closing paragraph reads as follows:

"We especially want a list of the cities, the slogans used, and the name of the cancelling machine. All of this may seem trivial to you but we assure you that the collecting of these has a very large following among intelligent people."

In response to this request, the purchasing agent for the post office wrote Mr. Pike on March 2nd and provided him with a 5 page list of slogan cancels that had been used up to that time. These were mostly exhibition slogans but included the Buy War Savings Stamps and Victory Bond slogans that were issued in 1919. The reply did not mention either the 1917 or 1918 Flag Cancels. However, there was another 3 page listing of 50 1917 War Savings Certificates Flag Cancel dies in the same box as the Pike correspondence. This typed listing had been prepared by the Office of the Purchasing Agent on September 19th, 1918 and had hand written notes indicating the dates that these dies had been sent out and returned to Ottawa. This listing was probably given to Mr. Pike also, as these flag cancels were included in his 20 page listing of early slogan cancels that appeared in the October 1922 edition of the *Collectors' Digest*. Ron Kitchen was kind enough to provide me with a copy of this listing which must surely be the first listing of Canadian slogan cancels. Incidentally, all of the information on the other slogan cancels has been sent off to Jeff Switt, the Chairman of the Slogan Cancel Study Group.

As a result of Mr. Pike's request, we now have information as to when most of the 1917 flag cancel dies were sent out and returned to Ottawa. Even though the information appears to be fairly accurate regarding the issue and return dates, it does not indicate the dates that some of these dies were transferred from one office to another. Although the Canadian Postal Archives has some files on the slogans that were used from about 1929 to 1940 and 1950 until 1973, the staff can not locate the files covering the 1917, 1918, 1927 and 1941 periods when flag cancels were used. It would appear that these files may have been destroyed. However, thanks to Mr. Pike we now have information on when most of the 1917 dies were issued and returned to Ottawa which narrows the potential period of use at the various sites.

It should also be noted that these 1917 flag cancels were one of the contributing factors that eventually lead to the development of the Canadian designed and manufactured Perfect Cancelling Machine. However, that is a story for another day.

## Revised World War I Flag Cancel Listing

You will notice three additional columns compared to the listing published in the June 1987 edition of the *Flag Pole*.

### Issue and Return Dates

The Issue and Returned Dates are taken from the hand written notes on the listing of these cancels that was in the box with the Pike correspondence. Although they generally seem accurate, I have put a question mark next to some dates that may be incorrect or were difficult to read. A question mark by itself indicates that no date was shown. A dash indicates that the die was sent to or received from another location and may not have been distributed from Ottawa. I had to reassign some of the Montreal issue dates as based on the recorded usage, it appears that there was a mix-up in assigning issue dates to the different dies. For instance, the hand written notes show the 22-1 as being issued on March 30th and the 28-1 as being issued on February 14th. Also, I suspect that the date shown for the Renfrew 36-4 is actually the date that the 24-2 was sent there. Since most of the dies were returned between the 9th and 17th of October, it would appear that most locations used their cancels until Saturday, October 6th. It is also interesting to see that some of the Toronto and Montreal dies were returned in October, even though they were not used after late spring or early summer. Perhaps these dies were damaged but not returned to Ottawa. Also, one must wonder if the first Charlottetown die might have been sent back to Ottawa for repairs and then transferred to Sherbrooke?

### Reports/Inventory Column

The Rep/Inv column indicates the number of collections that contain an example of the cancel and the total number of examples reported. The information is based on 18 study group reports, the Larry Walker collection which I recently purchased, the Victor Hayton collection which appeared in Bob Lee's Sale #48 and the Steinhart and Narabonne stock. Accordingly, the Rep column indicates the number of collections (maximum number 22) that contained an example of the item either on cover or piece. The Inv column shows the total number of covers and pieces reported. It should be mentioned that Ed Richardson's collection is not included so there are obviously some scarce items not included in the inventory count. In case you are interested in the number of different cancels in the better collections, I have 75 of the 76 different cancels, and some other members have reported 69, 65, 51 and 49(2) different cancels respectively.

### Valuations

You may find some of the price changes startling. Although Ed Richardson valued some of the cancels such as the 23-15, 28-1, and 28-4 at \$5.00 or less, they actually appear to be very scarce items. The prices have been revised to reflect the holdings reported since the 22 reports should provide a good indication of the relative supply of these cancels. However, other factors were also considered such as the period of use, the number of collections containing an example and the original values assigned by Ed Richardson. You will notice that some cancels are valued differently even though similar inventories are reported. This is generally due to the fact that a greater portion of the total inventory is on piece. For instance, Type 31-1 had 12



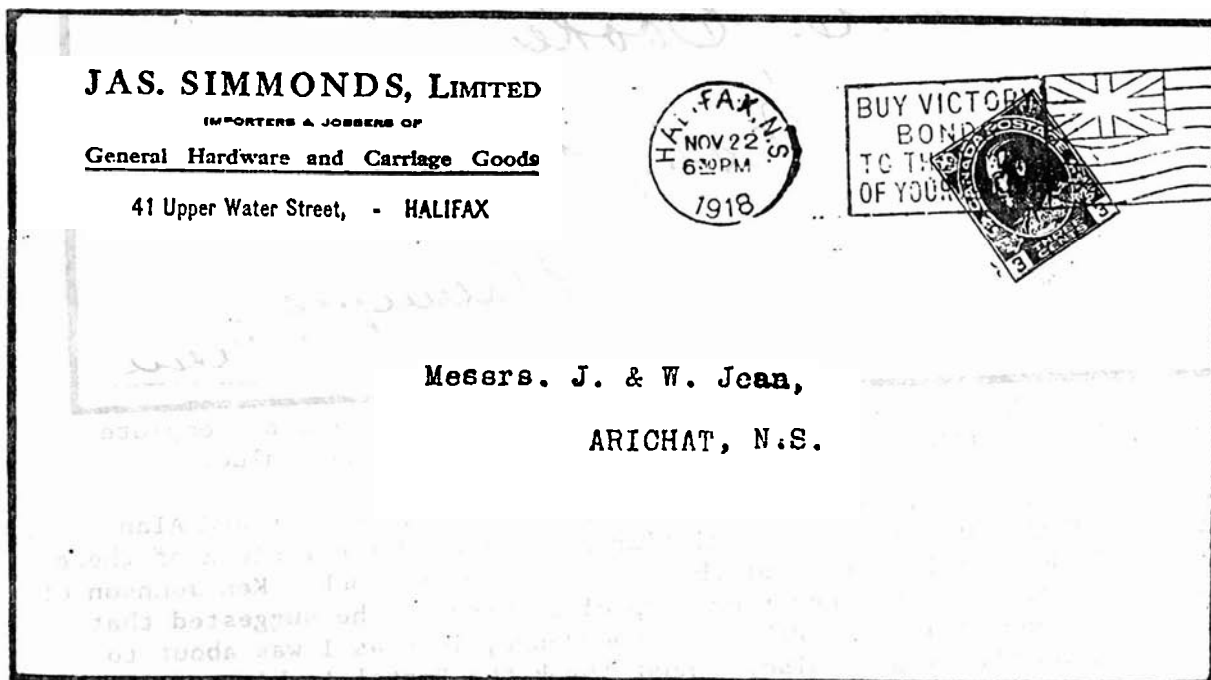
covers and 7 pieces reported, while the Type 23-6 had 18 covers and 1 piece reported. Consequently, a higher value was placed on the 31-1 than the 23-6 even though the same inventory is shown. Also, the Edmonton cancels are valued lower than the other cancels as there is apparently a large holding (including all 3 Edmonton Flag Cancels) that is held by an Edmonton collector who is not a member of the study group. If this holding is ever sold, it would certainly lower the values of these cancels (including to some extent, the values shown in this issue of the *Flag Pole*).

#### Valuations of WWI Flag Cancels On Piece

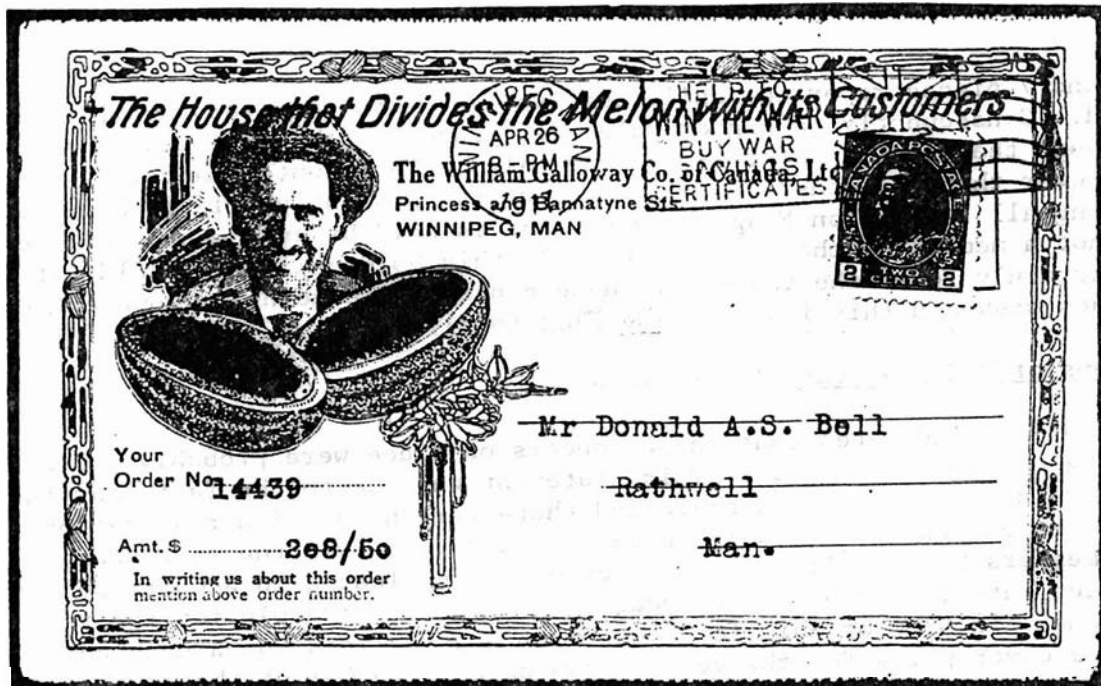
In June 1987, I indicated that these cancels on piece were probably worth from 10% to 30% of the cover price. This statement was due to the fact that these cancels are seldom offered on piece and there were no auction realizations available to use for establishing a value. However, over the past year, several members have indicated that they would be pleased to acquire some of the scarcer material on piece in order to just get an example for their collections. In view of this feedback, I am now inclined to value pieces from 10% of the cover price for the very common cancels to 60% of the cover prices for the scarcer items (those valued over \$50). Although I always felt that some of these WWI cancels were very scarce, I never expected that so many of them (27 to be precise) would have fewer than 10 reported examples.

#### Condition

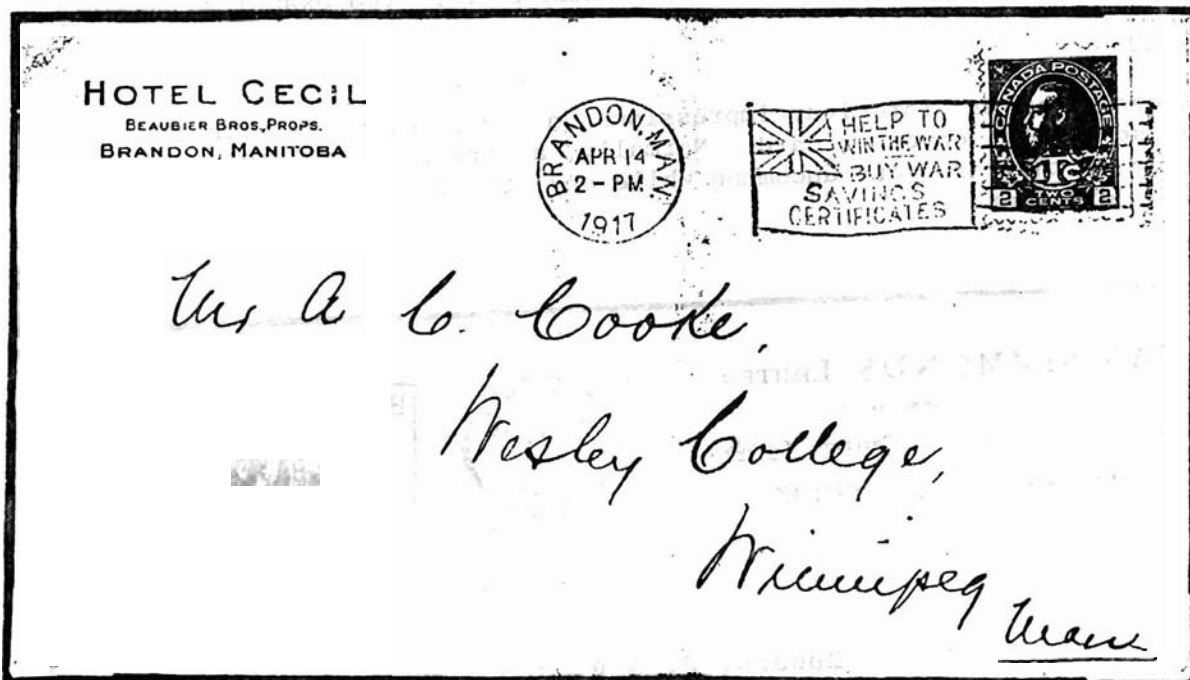
The values given are for clear impressions on covers or cards with the last 5 mm or so off the cover or card. Normally, a very fine full impression rates a premium as they are very uncommon while any item missing more than 5 mm should be discounted.



The values shown in the listing are for cancels of this quality. However, this particular item would be worth a small premium since it is also the LKD.



A very fine example of the scarce Winnipeg 23-15 cancel. This item would probably sell at a substantial premium over the value shown for the 23-15.



The EKD for the Type 21 Brandon Flag Cancel. Since it is also a complete impression, it is worth a substantial premium over the listed value.

I would like to thank the 18 members who submitted their reports and Alan Steinhart and Hank Narabonne for permitting me to record their stock of these cancels. Both dealers have some of the scarcer ones in stock. Ken Johnson of the Canadian Postal Archives deserves a special thanks as he suggested that I look in the box containing the Pike correspondence, just as I was about to pack it in for another year. Also, I must thank the Postal Archives for giving me access to these files and to Rich Toop for mentioning they existed.

REVISED LISTING OF 1917-1919 FLAG CANCELS

1917 WWI FLAG CANCELS

	<u>Location</u>	<u>Issued</u>	<u>EKD</u>	<u>LKD</u>	<u>Returned</u>	<u>Rep/Inv</u>	<u>Value</u>
21-1	Brandon	-	<u>04-14</u> (L)	09-27	10-15	5/8	\$ <u>60</u>
-2	Regina	02-12	02-16	04-11	-	7/9	<u>60</u>
-3	Halifax	02-07	02-20 (L)	10-08	10-12	20/68	5
22-1	Montreal	02-03	02-05 (L)	07-06	10-10?	16/29	<u>12</u>
23-1	Calgary	02-24	02-28 (L)	04-09 (S)	10-13	7/12	<u>40</u>
-2	Charlottetown I	02-09	02-15	03-09 (R)	-	3/4	100
-3	Charlottetown II	?	04-14	10-05 (L)	10-13	6/12	<u>50</u>
-4	Gananoque	-	05-05*(L)	09-28 (R)	10-09	7/11	40
-5	Lethbridge	03-12	<del>04-05</del> 03-10 (L)	10-03	10-13	4/8	<u>60</u>
-6	London	02-20	02-22	<u>04-23</u> (L)	-	11/19	<u>20</u>
-7	Prince Rupert	03-06	03-21	10-07	10-19	8/13	<u>35</u>
-8	Regina	?	04-13	10-02	?	11/22	<u>20</u>
-9	Sherbrooke	03-30	04-03 (L)	<u>10-02</u>	10-11	8/15	<u>30</u>
-10	Sydney	03-21	04-02	10-09	10-13	10/14	35
-11	Toronto I	02-22	<u>02-23</u> (L)	10-06 (L)	10-10	22/129	3
-12	Toronto II	?	03-08 (L)	05-31 (L)	10-10?	13/23	<u>12</u>
-13	Vancouver	03-26	04-04	09-24	10-17	15/54	<u>7</u>
-14	Windsor	03-16	03-20 <sup>10-06</sup>	<del>10-01</del> (L) <sup>W Pr</sup>	10-11	14/31	12
-15	Winnipeg	02-23	02-26 (S)	09-11 (S)	10-12	7/11	<u>35</u>

\* Sessions early date of April 5 is an error, as die used in London until at least April 23. Reports of use earlier than May 5 required.

24-1	Hamilton	02-19	02-20 (L)	<u>04-18</u>	-	15/37	12
-2	Renfrew	-	04-21	09-22	10-09	7/12	40
25-1	Brantford	01-31?	02-09 (L)	<u>10-08</u> (L)	10-10	12/28	<u>15</u>
-2	Kingston	01-31?	02-16 (L)	05-15	?	14/30	<u>12</u>
-3	Ottawa	01-31?	02-08 (S)	05-18 (L)	?	15/40	<u>10</u>
-4	Port Arthur	07-27	08-03	10-02	10-17	5/6	65
26-1	Edmonton	-	04-09	<u>10-05</u> (L)	10-16	15/24	<u>15</u>
-2	Victoria	02-13	02-19 (L)	<u>04-03</u> (L)	-	12/22	<u>20</u>
27-1	Saint John	02-08	02-13	10-06 (R)	10-09	17/55	<u>7</u>
-2	Toronto	02-05	02-06 (L)	05-31 (L)	10-10?	20/92	<u>4</u>
28-1	Montreal	03-30	04-04	06-22	10-10?	8/12	<u>30</u>
-2	Orillia	03-29	04-02	<u>05-30</u>	?	2/3	<u>100</u>
-3	Sault Ste Marie	03-17	03-24	10-01 (L)	10-09	8/10	50
-4	Toronto	03-26	04-04	09-28 (R)	10-10	7/9	<u>35</u>
29-1	Vancouver	-	04-23 (R)	10-10 (S)	10-15	13/30	12
-2	Gananoque (error)	02-15	02-23	?		0/0	250
-3	Gananoque		02-28 (L)	04-04		2/2	125
30-1	Fort William	03-26	04-03	<u>09-04</u>	10-10	7/7	<u>60</u>
-2	Kitchener	03-26	03-28 (L)	09-24	10-09	16/34	<u>12</u>
-3	New Westminster	03-26	04-02	10-06	10-15	5/7	<u>65</u>
31-1	Montreal	02-14	02-17 (L)	<u>03-27</u>	10-10?	11/19	<u>25</u>

	Location	Issued	EKD	LKD	Returned	Rep/Inv	Value
32-1	Quebec	02-14	02-16 (L)	10-07 (L)	10-10	19/60	\$ <u>7</u>
-2	St. Hyacinthe	02-17	02-22 (L)	10-02 (L)	10-09	9/14	30
-3	Trois Rivieres	02-16	02-20	09-25 (L)	10-10	6/8	<u>50</u>
33-1	Vancouver	02-05	02-10	04-04	-	9/22	20
-2	Victoria	-	04-05	10-10	?	14/34	<u>12</u>
34-1	Edmonton	02-10	02-15	04-07	-	4/5	<u>40</u>
-2	Calgary	-	04-10 <sup>wa 6-10</sup>	<del>05-02 (L)</del>	10-15?	7/9	<u>50</u>
-3	Guelph	03-26	<u>03-29</u> (L)	10-06 (L)	10-09	15/35	12
-4	Montreal	03-26	03-28 (R)	10-06 (L)	10-10	17/57	<u>7</u>
-5	Toronto	03-27?	<del>03-31</del> <sup>6-24(L)</sup>	10-06 (L)	10-10	14/34	10
35-1	Saskatoon	03-02*	<u>03-06</u>	<u>10-08</u> (L)	10-13	8/13	<u>30</u>
-2	Brockville	04-04	04-19(L)	10-01	10-09	9/12	<u>35</u>
-3	Fredericton	02-28	03-01	10-08	10-11	9/19	25
-4	Medicine Hat	03-08	03-26	09-17 (L)	10-15	4/6	<u>65</u>
-5	Moncton	03-19	04-06 (L)	<u>07-25</u>	?	9/16	<u>30</u>
-6	Nelson	03-27	04-04	10-05	10-15	5/7	<u>55</u>
-7	North Bay	03-22	03-27	09-27	10-09	7/10	<u>40</u>
-8	Stratford	?	<u>03-14</u> (L)	<u>04-06</u>	-	4/7	<u>75</u>
-9	Winnipeg	-	04-16	<u>10-08</u>	10-11	18/74	<u>5</u>
-10	Brandon	02-27	03-04	04-02 (L)	-	2/2	<u>125</u>

\* PO records show an Int'l Type 23 die rather than an Universal Type 35 die was sent to Saskatoon. If correct, die may have been forwarded to Regina as there is no record of Ottawa sending a second "HELP TO..." die to Regina.

36-1	Hamilton	-	04-20	10-06 (L)	10-12	8/63	<u>5</u>
-2	Winnipeg	02-06	02-09	04-14 (L)	-	16/30	15
-3	London	-	04-25	10-05 (L)	10-09	12/32	<u>12</u>
-4	Renfrew	04-14?	02-19	04-16	-	2/3	<u>85</u>

#### 1918 WWI FLAG CANCELS

	Location	Issued	EKD	LKD	Returned	Rep/Inv	Value
37-1	Charlottetown	?	10-31	11-20 (L)	?	1/1	\$ <u>150</u>
-2	Edmonton	?	10-29	11-23	?	2/3	<u>60</u>
-3	Halifax	?	10-22 (R)	11-22 (L)	?	9/16	<u>25</u>
-4	Montreal	?	<u>10-30</u>	11-20 (R)	?	3/5	<u>70</u>
-5	Ottawa	?	<u>10-20</u> (L)	11-08	?	4/7	<u>55</u>
-6	Quebec	?	10-23 (L)	11-16	?	6/8	<u>50</u>
-7	Regina	?	10-22	11-14	?	3/3	<u>75</u>
-8	Saint John	?	10-26 (L)	11-22 (L)	?	5/11	<u>40</u>
-9	Toronto	?	10-19	11-20	?	11/29	<u>12</u>
-10	Vancouver	?	10-24 (R)	11-19	?	6/7	<u>50</u>
-11	Winnipeg	?	10-22 (L)	11-23 (L)	?	6/14	<u>30</u>
38-1	Trois Rivieres	?	10-25 (R)	11-18 (L)	?	3/3	200*

\* For a legible impression cancelling a stamp on the picture side of a post card.

The author would appreciate receiving comments on the above listing and reports of any new purchases of flag cancels with an inventory of less than 20 items.