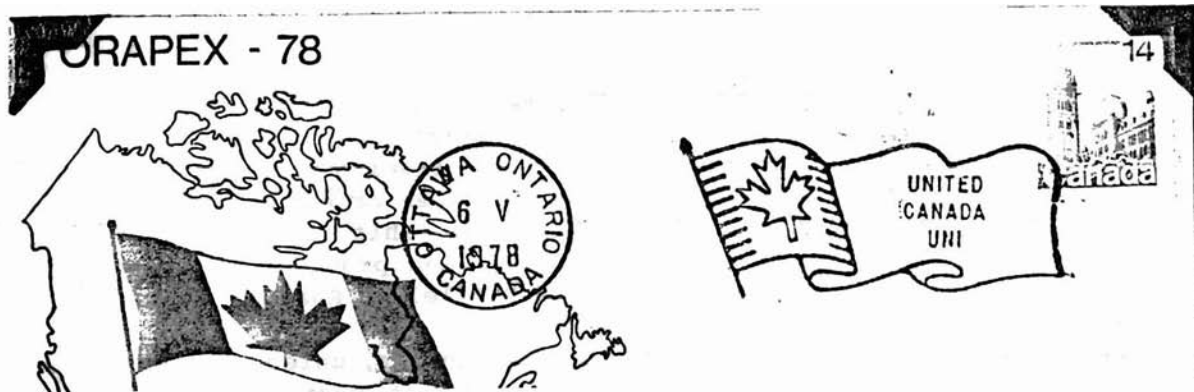


THE FLAG POLE



Newsletter of the BNAPS Flag Cancel Study Group

Volume 4 Number 2, September 1990

Editor Tom Almond, 2 Filbert Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, RG3 5DZ, England.
Chairman John Robertson, 10 Pergola Road, Rexdale, ON, M9W 5K5.

EDITOR'S REMARKS

Work pressures and a lack of articles to print mean that this is one of the shortest newsletters for some time. However, in many respects this is one of the most important. This edition contains a set of revisions to the Canadian Flag Cancellation Handbook. It therefore gives members an opportunity to check their material and ensure that the information in the new handbook reflects current knowledge.

Doug reports that we have had no new members join since the last Flag Pole was issued. No doubt this is due to a long hot summer. But, as our fashion correspondent says, "Winter draw(er)s on" and philatelic activity is starting again. When you persuade collectors to join BNAPS, remind them that their first year's study group membership is free, courtesy of the society. Obviously, they should sign up for the Flag Study Group, which consists of all the best people and gives the best value of all!

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Galveston is a-coming, October 18-20, and, because of a work commitment, I regret that I cannot attend. However, Larry Paige has agreed to chair our Flag Circle Study Meeting and Fred Hollenbeck will be our guest speaker. Both Larry and Fred will be in a position to give you the latest updates on their portions of the Flag Book.

In this newsletter Tom will advise you on the response to our appeal for articles that he can publish (Not a lot! Ed.). I would like to see people send in lists of Flag Trades. This is free advertising for you, and can only better our collections.

Make a list today and send it to Tom.

**REVISIONS
to the
CANADIAN FLAG CANCELLATION HANDBOOK
by
Larry Paige and Doug Lingard**

Those members who attended the study group meeting last year at Hamilton are aware that several members volunteered to update different sections of Ed Richardson's handbook, which is now out of print. Before updating the complete handbook, we agreed to publish the different listings in the *Flag Pole* so that any member could report new early and late dates or comment on the values that are being proposed for the different cancels. This is the first part of these instalments. Most of this information has been provided by Larry and any new information should be sent to him at 1145 Shillelagh Road, Chesapeake, VA 23323.

The values given for the early period cancels, unless indicated otherwise, are for complete clear impressions on government post cards (GPC) or covers. Early and late dates, overseas destinations and advertising covers command a premium. EKD means earliest known date and LKD means latest known date.

THE FIRST FLAGS 1896-97

Type 1 - ENSIGN FLAG - Montreal and Ottawa only



Different dater hubs were used with the different Ensign dies. However, these combinations interest mainly the real specialists and are not listed here.

MONTREAL

<u>No.</u>	<u>Indicia</u>	<u>EKD</u>	<u>LKD</u>	<u>Valuation</u>	
				<u>GPC</u>	<u>Cover</u>
1-1	"-"	1896-03-21	1896-03-23	\$1200	\$1500
1-2	"A"	1896-06-06	1897-06-19	8	15
1-3	"B"	1896-06-09*	1897-07-09	8	15
1-4	"C"	1896-06-06	1897-07-09	8	15
1-5	"D"	1896-06-06	1897-07-08	8	15
1-6	"E"	1896-06-06	1897-06-21	8	15
1-7	"F"	1896-06-06	1897-06-18	8	15
1-8	"K"	1896-09-03 April 31, 1896 favour cover	1897-09-09	500	700 500

* Richardson's early date of June 4 is probably incorrect as the "B" dater dial was still in use with a wavy line cancel on the morning of June 6.

The 1897 year slugs were late arriving at Montreal and from the evening of December 31 until January 9 the dater hubs do not show any year date. Examples found used during this brief period without the year date are valued at \$50 on GPC and \$75 on cover. GPC and covers showing the yearless dater hub as a receiving mark are valued at about \$20.

OTTAWA (no indicia)



Dater Hub "X"



Dater Hub "Z"

Between October 1896 and January 1897, the dater hub can be found with a blank after the hour rather than the "0".

<u>No.</u>	<u>Hub</u>	<u>EKD</u>	<u>LKD</u>	<u>Valuation</u>	
				<u>GPC</u>	<u>Cover</u>
1-9	"X"	1896-04-01	1897-06-19	\$20	\$25
1-10	"Z"	1897-08-09	1897-10-28	25	35

Type 2 - STRAIGHT JACK - Montreal only



MONTREAL

2-1		1896-04-11	1897-04-22	\$250	\$300
-----	--	------------	------------	-------	-------

Type 3 - BICKERDIKE EXPERIMENTAL - Montreal only



At the request of Robert Bickerdike, a new cancelling machine with the Type 3 Flag Cancel, was tested in the Montreal post office from December 2-8 and again from December 28 to January 3, 1897. The test was successful and Bickerdike machines eventually replaced the Imperial machines in Montreal and Ottawa.

Since the Ensign "K" hub is found used with the Bickerdike cancels during the December 2-8 period and the January 1897 period, it is possible that the "K" Ensign Flag Cancel may have been used on a Bickerdike machine during an earlier trial at the Montreal post office. The circumstantial evidence supporting this theory is as follows:

- a) Geoff Newman states Bickerdike wrote the Postmaster General on August 6 asking to have a cancelling machine tested at the Montreal post office. Why would the PMG make his friend wait until December to test his machine? The period from September 3-9 would seem more probable for the first test.
- b) The "K" flag cancel is very scarce for a cancel that appears to have been used for 7 days indicating that there might have been problems with the machine or that it was not used continuously during these 7 days. These are characteristics of an experimental usage.
- c) All of these test periods are about 7 days in length.
- d) If the "K" dater hub would fit an Imperial cancelling machine, why did the post office not employ it in one of the Imperial machines during the early January 1897 period when there were no 1897 year dates? Also, it would appear unlikely that the post office would loan Bickerdike an Imperial dater hub for his machine, especially when they did not have any 1897 year dates for their own Imperial machines.
- e) There were the six spare wavy line and the single spare straight line machine cancelling dies that were used before the Ensign dies were introduced. It would seem unlikely that the post office would purchase a spare Ensign die just in case one of these dies became damaged when these other spare dies were already available.
- f) If the "K" die was an Imperial die, why was it not lettered "G" which would have been the next letter in sequence. Since there are two Ks in Bickerdike, perhaps it was lettered "K" to indicate that it was a Bickerdike so as not to confuse the cancels with the Imperial markings.

All of these factors point to the "K" Ensign cancel as being the first Bickerdike cancel. Would any member like to challenge this supposition? Since Tom is in need of articles, why not send your comments to him along with a copy to me (Doug Lingard) so that he can publish them in the next *Flag Pole*.

MONTREAL



Dater Hub "A"



Dater Hub "B"

No.	Hub	EKD	LKD	Valuation	
				GPC	Cover
3-1	"A"	1896-12-02	1896-12-08	\$250	\$300
		?	1897-01-03	-	400
3-1a	"B"	1896-12-28	1896-12-31?	250	300