

## THE FLAG POLE



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### The Newsletter of the BNAPS Flag Cancel Study Group

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Volume 6 Number 2, September 1992

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#### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As this is being written we are 2½ weeks away from BNAPS 92 in Chicago, so whatever I write now will be history by the time you receive it! Tom Almond has informed me that, because of other philatelic commitments, this bulletin will be his last, I do hope that the problem of an editor will be resolved in Chicago.

We all owe Tom a great vote of thanks for what he has done over the past few years. Producing a bulletin and working 5 days a week (8 days! Ed) takes a lot of your free time away from other interests (Gardening, DIY, sleeping etc. Ed).

Whoever our new editor is, he will need more input from our members, as once again we are running out of articles to publish. Even if you do not like writing a full article, a photostat of an unlisted or interesting article will suffice.

#### EDITOR'S FINAL REMARKS

On my appointment as editor of The Flag Pole I expected to fill the post for about 3 years as by then a change would be beneficial. This would take advantage of the enthusiasm and ideas of a new editor. In fact, it is 4½ years since I began and 18 issues have been produced.

I would like to thank those who have submitted material for publication, either on a regular basis or on an occasional basis. Without you, there would be no Flag Pole.

This is my final opportunity to mention some issues that must be resolved in the near future. I am sure that the new editor will welcome your comments on them.

## 1 Material for the Flag Pole

If the Flag Pole is to continue, we must all produce more for the editor to publish. I believe that it is important that wherever possible, new finds and new theories should be published in Flag Pole. This will enable information to be validated and corrected before it is published in the proposed handbook. Any temptation to hold information back for publication in the handbook should be resisted.

## 2 Pricing in the Handbook

The question of including valuations in handbooks is a difficult one - there are strong arguments for and against it. An attempt to determine members' views on this via Flag Pole brought no response. However, this is a serious matter, as there is a danger that the publication of prices rather than, say, rarity factors, will cause increases in the prices that collectors are expected to pay.

## 3 Reference Numbers in the Handbook

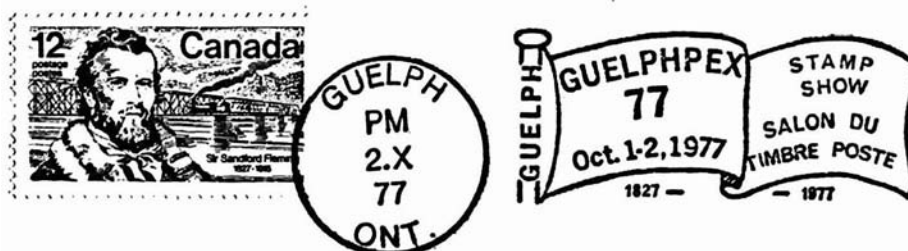
All flag collectors, dealers and auctioneers use Richardson's numbering system. However, in certain instances, eg the type 4 flags, the numbering appears illogical in the light of current knowledge. Attempts have been made to re-allocate the old numbers in a more logical fashion. If this is adopted in the proposed handbook, it will lead to unnecessary confusion.

This issue contains an article based upon observations made by Joe Smith, a BNAPS member whose major interest is cancellations on Jubilees, together with new and updated reports.

### Recent Flag Updates

John Robertson has reported a new late date for type 23-8, October 5th. Unfortunately his photocopy will not reproduce. He has also pointed out that the EKD for type 5-1a was incorrectly reported in Flag Pole 5/4. It should be 17.07.97 not 17.08.97.

I illustrate a modern flag for GUELPH, October 2nd 1977, that was not mentioned in Bob Thorne's excellent article. David Sessions also has a copy dated October 1st. This cancellation appears to be a handstamp.



**Interruption of Montreal Flag Usage During August 1897**  
**Jo Smith**

Recently I have been spending some time reorganising my Jubilees and in doing so I noted an anomaly that may be of interest to the Flag Study Group. I put all my Montreal CDS/Duplex strikes in calendar order and I noticed that for the most part one finds between 1 and 4 examples on any given date. These I suspect were special purpose hammers (eg for mail that could not be cancelled by machine) or were used to relieve excess load on the machine cancellers. On August 12-14 there is a very big increase in the number of strikes to be found and a duplex device that does not seem to be used much outside this period, appears for these 3 days. (See the chart below for breakdown of cds and duplex usage in this period.)

Being curious, I thought that I would crosscheck these dates with the machine dater hubs that I had on stamps. Lo and behold, there is a break of 5 days (11-15) on which I do not have any machine strikes. The only flags that could be in use would appear to be 5-1 and 7-3 to 7-8.

On the face of it, there does not seem to be any changeover of consequence in the period. My admittedly limited data, appears to be too coincidental for there not to be a good reason for the anomaly. My guess, if strikes cannot be found, is that a power cut, or some other failure, shut down the machines.

The observations above prompt me to ask the following questions.

Does any member own Montreal Flag cancellations dated between August 11-15 1897?

If the answer to the first question is no, can any Study Group member suggest a reason why the machines were not used during the period in question?

**TABLES OF OCCURRENCES**

**Duplexes and CDS**

	August 12	August 13	August 14
Duplex	14 copies, TM 18,19,20,22.	8 copies, TM 18,19,20,22.	4 copies, TM 14,15,18.
CDS	5 copies, TM 14,16.	6 copies, TM 12,16,19,20.	8 copies, TM 12,14,15

**Flag Dater Hubs**

One or more occurrences of the hubs have been noted on the following dates: August 2,5,6,7,10,16,17,19,20 etc.

BNAPS Flag Cancel Study Group  
Statement of Revenue and Expenses  
For the 14 Months Ending July 31, 1992

Revenues

Prepaid 1991-92/1992-93 Membership Dues	\$ 77.41
Current Membership Dues received after May 31, 1991	76.17
BNAPS Subsidy for the <i>Flag Pole</i>	72.00
Bank Interest	15.56
Contribution from Bob Heasman	<u>65.00</u>
 Total Revenues	 306.14

Expenses

<i>Flag Pole</i> - North American distribution costs - 5 issues	123.58
Transfer of funds to the Editor for publishing and U.K. distribution costs	82.50
Chairman's expenses	13.20
Treasurer's office expenses	13.36
Bank service charges	<u>2.91</u>
 Total Expenses	 <u>235.55</u>

Net Surplus 70.59

Add:

Deferred membership due payments to be used for 1993-94 membership fees	45.34
Surplus from prior years	<u>411.48</u>
 Total Funds on Hand as of July 31, 1992	 <u>527.41</u>

Funds on Hand Consist of:

Cash on Hand (Tom Almond)	\$ 33.60*
Cash on Hand (Doug Lingard)	16.00
Bank Balance	<u>477.81</u>
Total	<u>\$527.41</u>

\* Expenses do not include those incurred by Tom Almond and it has been assumed that he has the same cash on hand as last year. His expenses will be included in the next financial statement.

In an effort to move towards a December 31 year end, this financial report has been prepared for a 14 month period from June 1, 1991 to July 31, 1992.



Prepared by  
Doug Lingard (Treasurer)  
August 3, 1992