

Hamilton
Flag 36-1July 27,
19172¢ Coil
of 1912
applied
over FPO
9.Pstory
belowJUST WHY the CANADIAN POSTAGE STAMP?

One of the commonest questions regarding the Flag cancels of 1917 has to do with why the stamps and cancels were used in the first place. After all the covers were supposedly "free franked soldiers mail" from overseas forces. (1917 Flag Cancels were of course also used on domestic mail).

When the mail arrived at the FPOs and APOs it was sorted and that destined for Canada was divided into bags, which were then sealed, tagged and transmitted finally to the following exchange offices:-

- | | | |
|------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| * Halifax, N.S. | * Kingston | * Winnipeg |
| * St. John, N.B. | * Toronto | Medicine Hat & Nelson RPO |
| * Quebec | * Hamilton | Calgary & Vancouver RPO |
| * Montreal | * London | * Vancouver |
| * Ottawa | | * Victoria |

(* indicates a 1917 Flag Cancel or Cancels are known)

Until July 28, 1917 it was necessary for these exchange offices to affix Canadian postage stamps to all stampless letters arriving from the overseas forces, and for these stamps to be cancelled. These stamps were not paid for by the sender or the addressee, they were freely applied by the Canadian P.O. Department, because of very confused circumstances.

1.) The Canadian Forces in Great Britain were treated the same as British members of the army, - they were "at home" and therefore had to either pay full postage, or it was taxed (under UPU regulations) at the other end. Since the Canadian Government considered its forces "overseas" and not at home, it decided to solve the problem by applying the postage at the exchange office.

2.) The Canadian Forces in France were still subject to British PO regulations, and since no arrangements had been made with G.B. - again the free postage was applied.

An agreement was reached with G.B. on July 20, 1917, and put into effect July 28, 1917, permitting free franking of soldier's mail. Note the cover illustrated here is dated July 27th!

So thanks to the confusing British-Canadian postal arrangements at the time, Flag Cancel collectors have a source of cancels that would not have otherwise been available!

A SOECIAL REPRINT ARTICLE

The following article is reprinted from June 1953 issue of POPULAR STAMPS, and is made available to our readers since the original is not available to most. Also see our notes at end.

Victoria's Mystery Cancellation



by

Reginald Nairne

The Victoria Post Office made use of a special cancellation in 1901 which today is among the rarest Canadian postal markings known to collectors.

This was a roller (1) type in the form of a flag, on which was superimposed a shield bearing the words "Provincial Exhibition, Victoria, Oct. 1 to 5". To the left was the regular circular dater. This cancel, along with the almost exactly similar one (2) which was being used concurrently in Toronto to publicize the fair they were holding there in August, happen to be Canada's first advertising type cancellations. (And strangely enough, Victoria was not to make use of another until nearly ten years (3) later).

It was obviously the intention, when the machine was first put into use during the early part of August, 1901, that it should continue to advertise the Exhibition right up to its closing date of Oct. 5th. Had this been done the cancellation would have been fairly common even today.

But for some mysterious reason, after being in operation for a little over a week (4) it was suddenly discontinued; and all the evidence points to its never having been put into service again. The result is that only about half a dozen examples of this cancellation are known to collectors today. (5). You will not even find it listed in Jarrett's - in fact Fred had not heard of it when the writer mentioned it to him a year or so ago.

It seems to have been first noted by Mr. Langford of Pasadena, Cal., who probably is the greatest collector of Flag Cancellations in the world, for he has over 6000 of them, though most of these are of course from U.S. towns. He states that most of the few known are on covers or 1897 Jubilee postcards addressed to the U.S., and are in the hands of American collectors. His own specimen is on one of these cards, (6)

During 25 years of trading in Victoria the writer has from time to time had the opportunity of going over several large accumulations of correspondence which included local letters with examples of postmarks for at least every week of the first decade of the century. Yet not one of these Flags showed up in any of them! It was after having given up all hope of making a find, that one beauty turned up last fall among a batch of rubbish that was brought in by an old time resident. It was a lovely clean little mourning cover, showing a superb strike dated Aug. 10 and is now in a well known local collection.

Once in awhile portions of the cancellation are found on loose stamps, though generally pairs are necessary to distinguish them. Even these are quite uncommon.

Various theories have been advanced to try to explain the sudden withdrawal of this cancellation (4). Just to make sure the Exhibition had not been called off for any reason, reference was made to newspaper files, but these show that, on the contrary, it was probably the most gala affair of its kind in Victoria's history, for it was opened by no less a personage

(Continued from page 19)

than the Duke of Cornwall and York who, along with the Duchess, was making a tour of Canada at the time, accompanied by Sir Wilfred Laurier and many other notables. (The Duke of course, afterward became King George V)

Another suggestion was that the cancellation may have been a local production, unauthorized by the P.M.G. and that it was quashed when brought to his attention. But it is practically certain that the roller (1) was made by the same firm that turned out the Toronto flag about the same time, for they are almost identical. (1&2) To bear this out, Mr. Goodale has lately made the remarkable discovery that the brass roller (1) is still in existence in the P.O. Archives at Ottawa! (7)

The most likely explanation is that the old timers on the postal staff here would look on the cumbersome roller, (which was of course hand operated), as a confounded nuisance, (1) as it would slow down handling of the mail to quite a noticeable degree. So perhaps after making a half-hearted attempt to use it for a week or so (4) it may have been conveniently put out of sight and forgotten. The only drawback to this explanation is that surely the Exhibition Committee, after paying their good money for the gadget, would naturally complain they didn't get their money's worth?

At this late date we can only make a guess, for it is unlikely we'll ever know for sure.

* * * * *

TYPE #5 on BLOCKS of JUBILEE Stamps

Following up the story started on Page 3 (January), - some early philatelist must have prepared a number of pieces for cancellation, all bearing blocks of four of the Diamond Jubilee. These were cancelled on JUL 13, 1897 with Montreal Type #5, and they bear the time marking of "15-0" indicating 3:00 PM. Those we have recorded to date now include:-

#1 Ed Richardson

#19 Bob Thomas

#35 L.D. Carns

2¢ Diamond Jubilee -

yes

-

yes

"

"

-

yes

3¢

"

"

-

yes

-

LOWE'S ENCYCLOPAEDIA of NORTH AMERICA

Generally speaking we find this two volume set very worthwhile, after a wait that even exceeded that of our Flag Handbook. It is comprehensive, well illustrated, on excellent paper, and truly tries to live up to its title of "Encyclopaedia!" It gives numerous references which are generally lacking in most philatelic works. However in it's treatment of Flag Cancels

left a lot to be desired. We would have gladly supplied them with some better drawings, and more accurate data, however brief.

There are actually over 50 types, not 30. "Popular with collectors but not rare"?? - what does it take to be RARE? If by that is meant that none are worth a \$1,000 perhaps they are right,

6. Flag Types

Two examples of over thirty known types are illustrated. Regular with collectors but not rare.

1897 June - [C28] Used at Montreal and Ottawa, date-stamp at left.

1897 July 98 [C29] Used at Montreal.



[C28]



[C29]

but if rarity means an extreme degree of scarcity, then there are at least 7 varieties of which less than 15 copies are known, some of which only 2 or 3 are known. All 7 varieties readily sell for above \$100, on cover or card.

A further note (C28) was used June thru August, and (C29) in July-Aug. But these two which they illustrate are neither the earliest, nor the most attractive, nor the rarest.

But again, the two-volume set is in my philatelic library, and I surely would not be without it. It is a MUST for any student of BNA Postal History.

ADDITIONS to OUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY (Continued from page 14)

- 33 965 SCOTT, Bernard P.O.Box 5145, Armdale, N.S. Can.,
B3L 4M7, Dealer in BNA Cover material, cancellations,
illustrated advertising, patriotics, etc.
- 1501 HARRISON, Horace W. P.O.Box 5780, Pikesville, Md.
21208, Specialty - Registration, Author "Canada's
Registry System - 1927-1911", also a specialist in
Postal Stationery and Cancellations, Large and Small
Queens issues. 1974 recipient APS Luff Award.
- 35 479 CARN, L. Dorland 138 Whitley Road, Eastbourne,
Sussex, G.B. BN22 8LT, interested in the wide scope
of Canada postage issues. A BNAPSer for 27 years!

NOW REFER BACK to Page 2 (January Issue)

Just when we seemed to have "buttoned up" the source of Day's fancy cancel #290A with Larry Paige's card, showing the "receiving" mark incorporating a small flag identical with #290A, now comes from overseas the photo report from Mathew Carstairs.



His card as shown here is much earlier than Paige's, - FE 19 1896. The cancel is almost exactly like Larry's in Flag features but otherwise is completely a different deal.

The card was posted - apparently posted at Toronto.

It bears

four strikes of this flag in violet running in a diagonal line across the upper right corner of the card. Carstairs points out "it appears to be a roller!" We know nothing further about it, and Carstairs has expressed some doubts about its genuineness. So any information which would shed some light would be helpful.

So which is the source-Paige's "Receiving" or Carstairs' "Roller" - or both?

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

Ed Richardson has enough letters to write, don't make him write any more than is necessary. (In one week in February alone he wrote 81). So don't wait for him to write to you, but send him a brief personal sketch to form a basis for a write-up in the BULLETIN. Your stamp collecting interests, philatelic offices held or honors, your other interests, anything that would help introduce you to the rest of the membership.

Also send him your Flag Cancel WANT LIST, using Handbook nos. - and you may list up to thirty (30) wants - free of charge.

NEW DATES (Continued from Page 11)

The following continues our revised listing of early and late dates with occasional other notes. New data is underlined.

1- 3	"B" Montreal	<u>June 4 '96</u>	July 9 '97
7-11	"B" Toronto	Aug 10 '97 (P)	<u>FEB 23 '98</u>
8-10	"D" Montreal	April 24 '01	<u>Feb 28 '02</u> Die IV
8-11	"-" Montreal	<u>April 27 '98</u>	Mar 19 '00(R) Die V
8-15	"G" Ottawa	April 15 '98	<u>Jan 14 '02</u>
21- 2	Regina	<u>Feb 16 '17</u>	Apr 11 '17(R)
21- 3	Halifax	Feb. 22 '17(R)	<u>Oct 5 '17</u>
23- 7	"D" Prince Rupert	Mar 31 '17(R)	<u>Sept 17 '17</u>
23- 8	"D" Regina	<u>May 15 '17</u>	<u>Oct 2 '17</u>
23-10	"D" Sydney	April 2 '17(R)	<u>Oct 9 '17</u>
23-12	"D" Toronto	March 8 '17	<u>May 31 '17</u>
23-14	"D" Windsor	<u>March 26 '17</u>	Sept 21 '17(R)
23-15	"D" Winnipeg	March 3 '17	<u>Aug. 22 '17</u>
26- 1	Edmonton	<u>April 9 '17</u>	<u>Oct. 4 '17</u>
30- 1	Fort William	Apr. 11 '17	<u>Aug. 15 '17</u>
35- 6	Nelson	April 13 '17(M)	<u>Oct. 5 '17</u>
37- 1	Charlottetown	Oct. 31 '18	<u>Nov. 4 '18</u>
37- 5	Ottawa	Oct. 22 '18(M)	<u>Nov. 8 '18</u>
37- 8	St. John	Oct. 29 '18	<u>Nov. 20 '18</u>
43- 1	Calgary	June 27 '27	<u>Aug. 30 '27</u>
43- 3	Halifax	June 29 '27(R)	<u>Aug. 16 '27</u>
43- 4	Ottawa	June 16 '27(M)	<u>Dec. 27 '27</u> UNUSUAL!!
43- 6	Toronto	June 28 '27	<u>July 2 '27</u>
44- 2	Quebec	<u>June 29 '27</u>	<u>Aug. 22 '27</u>
46- 1	Port Arthur	<u>March 2 '34</u>	June 27 '34(P)
50-16	Toronto Die I Missing Day reported	-	<u>May 11</u>
50-16A	Toronto Die II	" " "	- <u>May 14</u>
50-19	Windsor	" " "	- <u>May 11</u>
50-20	Winnipeg Die I	" " "	- <u>May 13</u>
50-12	Port Arthur	" " "	- <u>May 14</u>
50- 2	Charlottetown	" " "	- <u>May 13</u>
50- 6	Halifax	" " "	- <u>May 16</u> SUNDAY
50- 9	New Westminster	" " "	- <u>May 16</u> SUNDAY
51- 1	Montreal Die I	" " "	- <u>May 11, 14 & 15</u>
51- 1A	Montreal Die II	" " "	- <u>May 15</u>
52- 1	May 22nd Hybrid	- English Dater with MAI for MAY	
52- 2	May 22nd Hybrid	- French dater with May for MAI	

New Dates etc. (Cont. from page 22)

53- 1	Brandon	<u>Aug. 12 '41</u>	<u>May 6 1942</u>	
53- 2A	Calgary Hub II	<u>Aug. 20 '41(P)</u>	<u>July 6 '42</u>	
53- 4	Edmonton	<u>Aug. 14 '41(R)</u>	<u>Apr. 9 '42</u>	
53- 6	Hamilton Die I	<u>Broken Die Stage II - to Feb. 6 1942</u>		
53- 6A	Hamilton Die I	<u>Feb. 11 '42</u>		
	Hub II		<u>July 3 '42</u>	
53-13	North Battleford	<u>Oct. 6 '41(M)</u>	<u>Dec. 10 '41</u>	
53- 7	Kitchener Hub I	<u>Aug. 19 '41</u>	<u>Jan. 5 '42</u>	
7A	Kitchener Hub II	<u>March 23 '42</u>	<u>May 19 '42</u>	New Hub
53-20	Sydney	<u>Aug. 17 '41(R)</u>	<u>June 9 '42</u>	
53-21	Toronto Hub I	<u>Broken Die - Stage II - to July 1, 1942</u>		
53-21A	Toronto-Hub II	<u>Broken Die - Stage II - to November 2, 1941</u>		
53-22	Truro	<u>Aug. 21 '41</u>	<u>May 6 '42</u>	
53-23	Vancouver			
	Die I, Hub I	<u>Aug. 4 '41(R)</u>	<u>March 31 '42</u>	
53-23B	Die II Hub III	<u>June 24 '42</u>	<u>July 3 '42</u>	
53-25	Windsor	<u>Aug. 11 '41</u>	<u>July 4 '42</u>	
53-26	Winnipeg Hub I	<u>Aug. 5 '41(R)</u>	<u>July 5 '42</u>	
53-26A	Winnipeg Hub II	<u>Sept. 25 '41</u>	<u>July 3 '42(R)</u>	
54-1	Montreal Hub I	<u>Aug. 1 '41(R)</u>	<u>July 4 '42</u>	
54-1A	Montreal Hub II	<u>Sept. 9 '41</u>	<u>May 28 '42</u>	
54- 2	Quebec	<u>Aug. 12 '41</u>	<u>July 3 '42</u>	
62- 1	Smith Falls	<u>May 22 '50(R)</u>	<u>July 7 '50</u>	
71- 8	Moncton - Missing Day Reported -	<u>June 4th</u>		
71-14	Vancouver should read 71-15			

We will continue to make new date lists in future issues. Perhaps by September we can make one new master list of all the changes. So keep the reports coming in.

JUST WHICH IS THIS - the MAY or JUNE ISSUE?

When we started out we intended this to be the June Issue. Then it looked like we had material enough to go ahead and get the issue out a month earlier, so in reality it became a May issue, so we just ended up calling it the May June issue.

Our future schedule currently looks something like this:-

July - 9 pages	November - 4 pages
Sept - 9 pages	
Total issues for 1975 projected - 7	equal to 4 pages per month!
Total number of pages - 48	

A NEW 1975 FLAG CANCEL

The RA Stamp Club of Ottawa will again be offering a special Flag Cancellation in connection with its 14th annual exhibition which will be held at the RA Centre, May 3-4. Their special ORAPEX cachet covers cancelled these two days will be available at 35¢ each (3 for \$1). We suggest early order from Wendy Bromley, % ORAPEX '75 RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr., Ottawa, Ont., Canada, K1H 7X7.

SKETCHES of STUDY GROUP MEMBERS#2 Reimers (Ray) A. Peters

Just twenty-one years ago this month, Ray Peters, BNAPSer #1202, joined the Society. He has been a familiar figure at most BNAPEX conventions ever since, and served for a number of years as the Society's Permanent Convention Chairman. Some recent years Ray has had to forego the conventions for health reasons, but those who attended BNAPEX '74 at Williamsburgh, Va., and the Flag Cancel Seminar, will know that Ray was again present in '74.

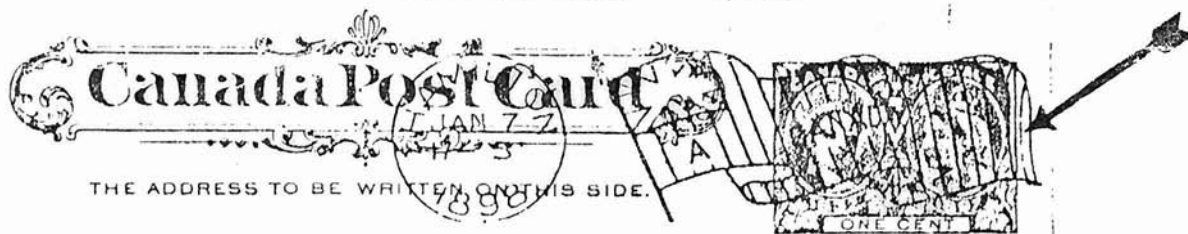
In his early collecting days, Ray was philatelically active in the Detroit, Mich. area, and it was there where he first became interested in Canadian Flag Cancellations. In early 1958 he took early "retirement" by selling out his wholesale meat business, and moved to Phoenix, Arizona. Not enjoying idleness, he soon organized, and currently owns and operates the Phoenix Stamp Co.

However Ray has always been first and foremost a collector. He has built a very fine collection of early Canada, has an outstanding collection of the Covers of the Vera Cruz occupation by the US during the Wilson administration, and has always had a great liking for illustrated advertising covers of Canada, including those Pictorial R.R. Cards. If it is attractive and unusual, you are apt to find it among Ray's cover collections.

Ray is best known to Flag Cancel Collectors as one of Ed Richardson's principal helpers with the Handbook, and owns an outstanding collection of these, perhaps one of the best, which includes the all too elusive #1-1 on full cover.

WHAT CAUSED IT?

We illustrate herewith an example of the Hamilton "A" #7-1 flag cancel, showing an extra vertical line between the two normal vertical lines at the right end of the Flag. Other than this we can find nothing



to indicate that this is a new die, - in fact the only other example we have seen, is dated Feb. 24, 1898 and the extra line is quite indistinct. The illustrated example is dated Jan. 7, 1898. We have seen examples of the normal #7-1 dated Jan. 5, 1898 and Jan. 21, 1898. We would like Study Group members to check their #7-1 examples and report if they have anything like the one shown above. We would like possible explanations.

BILL ROBINSON'S WANT LIST

5830 Cartier St., Vancouver, B.C. V6M 3A7

71-1	71-2	71-4	71-5	71-8	71-9	71-10	71-11	71-12
71-13	71-15	71-17	72-1	72-1A	72-2	81-1	82-1	82-2

OUR REPRINT FEATURE #2

We reprint below for the benefit of study group members, the pertinent portion of an article which appeared in the July-August issue of CANA TOPICS (1948). All appears here but the opening three, and closing three paragraphs which are irrelevant, or unnecessary for flag cancels.

THE ROYAL TRAIN POST OFFICE (May 15, 1939 to June 15, 1939)

by R. A. Jamieson

In Canada the Royal Train Post Office was a real Post Office with postmaster and all postal facilities, including two distinctive postmarks. When the train crossed at Niagara Falls to the United States, it assumed the status of an R.P.O. passing through three postal jurisdictions, from each of which different officials were in charge.

In both Canada and the United States two distinctive cancellations were used - hand and machine. The same machine was used with different slugs. In Canada, hour markings appear on all cancellations, but not so in the United States. The marking history of the Royal Train P.O. covers thirty-one days. In Canada the various hour marks make interesting varieties for both the hand and machine postmarks. (S.S. illus. on page 31)

The first goal of the collector is to get the thirty-one day markings. Then he may go into the hour marks; here the going really gets tough but not too tough as some days had only one hour mark. Other days, like the First Day, show markings for almost every hour. May 17th, the day of the actual arrival at Quebec City, has the minute markings as well (10:30 A.M.) This is, as far as I know the only instance of such a marking.

One one day only, June 11th, the Post Office operated in both Canada and U.S. Early in the morning of that day, the Royal Train crossed from the United States to Canada. Only thirty letters got the U.S. marking the day - so this is mighty rare material.

It was intended that all Canadian letters be cancelled with purple ink. At 3 A.M. on May 15th purple ink was used but it was found that the composition of this ink was not suitable for cancellations and was almost immediately abandoned. Ordinary letters so cancelled were replaced with others cancelled in black but it was deemed unwise, for obvious reasons, to replace registered letters cancelled in purple. How many of these registered letters exist I do not know, probably less than fifty. They are unique (sic) rarities. However I have a still greater rarity - an unregistered cover with purple ink marking which missed being replaced!

Special Royal Train stationery was designed for and used by those travelling on the Royal Train. These covers with Royal Train markings are desirable and scarce too. Covers with both hand and machine postmarks on the same cover are good property. In Canada, French markings were used for four days only. These are an added variety. Hand and machine, in French or English, on the same cover exist and are very scarce.

----all other dates are scarcer than "First Day". June 10th is the scarcest U.S. date except for the June 11th one mentioned previously.

* * * * *

Notes: -Jamieson says thirty-one days, the Handbook lists 32, not counting the two days to and at Newfoundland. Jamieson may be right, as May 16th MAY NOT EXIST! Recent studies of so-called 16th dates have proved to be poor strikes of the 15th!

-On June 11th, Jamieson says only 30 were cancelled US. But were any cancelled in Canada? We have not had any such reports. This seems odd.

-All numbers referred to by Jamieson are a total of both hand and machine cancelled. Only the machine cancelled were Flag Cancels,

-Jamieson says here that the French markings were used four days only, giving no dates. In an earlier article he listed five days



THEIR MAJESTIES' CANADIA
and Visit to United State
May 15 to June 15, 1939



The U.S.
ROYAL
TRAIN
Cancels

Upper -
Machine
June 8

Lower -
Hand-
stamp
June 9,
1939



- which agrees with the handbook, if we eliminate May 16th.
- In an earlier article Jamieson stated "the U.S. dates are June 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. None of these dates are really scarce except June 12. It was on this date that the Royal Train crossed from the United States into Canada very early in the morning so only a few letters received the US mark for that day."
 - Is he right here, or where he says they crossed on the 11th? Covers, Canadian exist for the 12th in both French and English versions, - but for the 12? If they crossed "early in the morning" of the 11th - there should be some Canadian for the 11th.

From the above it is quite apparant that a great deal more needs to be checked regarding these interesting Flag Cancels. A great many questions could be raised regarding the data presented here. We would welcome your contributions and comments.

LARRY PAIGE'S WANT LIST

1069 Shillelagh Rd., Chesapeake, Va. 23323

1-1	4-2	4-5	7-3A	7-6A	8-2A	8-6A	8-9A	8-11A	24-2
25-4	28-2	28-4	34-1	34-2	35-1	35-6	35-8	36-3	36-4
37-1	37-2	37-7	38-1	39-1	40-1	40-2	40-3	41-1	41-3

REFER back to PAGE 21

On page 21 we illustrate a post card having four strikes in violet. Posted at Toronto, received at Woodstock. Now comes Bill Robinson with this report:- "Fred Eaton had an unusual lot in his last sale here - an International Money Order Advice from Portland, Ore. to Ashcroft Station, B.C. with a 3¢ SQ cancelled by five strikes in purple of a Union Jack similar to Larry Paige's example on Page 2 of Bulletin No. 1 (but with no "received"). I put in a bid but when it went up to \$75 I let it go! Hum? As one might comment v-e-e-r-r-y in-n-ter-r-es-s-ting!"

MEMBERSHIP BOOM!

Since the appearance of the special feature article on Flag Cancels in A TOPICS - NINE more have joined our Study Group giving us a total of 44. Perhaps Larry was right when he predicted we'd reach 50 by convention time!

We give the names only of the nine new members and will list them in the next issue:-

V.R. Trimmer
Gene Frampton
Doris McKay

Lox DeMent
William Baker
Gordon Barron

Dale C. Walker
John Wilsdon
Allan W. Wolff