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THE FLAG POLE

June 1987

Newsletter of the BNAPS Flag Cancel Study Group

Interim Editor's Message

After thinking about an opening message for a few evenings, I am still not sure what should be said. As all of you know, our study group has been relatively inactive since Ed Richardson ceased publishing the old Canadian Flag Cancellation Bulletin in 1978. This was an excellent publication that was produced every few months, and I remember anxiously awaiting each issue to read of new discoveries and other information that was included in each edition. Larry Paige issued three issues in 1980/81, and a few years ago published a fine series of articles on the early flag cancels in Topics. However, since 1978, the study group has pretty much existed in name only, with no one willing to assume the editor's responsibilities. As we have seen, if the newsletter does not appear, study group members lose the ability to maintain contact and report on new findings, research projects, etc.

In order to try and re-establish the study group, I have agreed to issue three editions of the Flag Pole. If anyone would like to propose a better name for this publication, please feel free to do so. Why a commitment for only three issues? Quite frankly, I can't type and therefore must be the first editor without any typing skills. Obviously, the editor of a publication such as this should be able to master both a typewriter and a flag pole. Based on the information that has surfaced since 1978, there will be enough reports and articles to fill many issues of this newsletter. Accordingly, any person volunteering for the editor's position should not have to worry about searching for material to include in each issue.

Purpose of the BNAPS Flag Cancel Study Group and Newsletter

It would seem that the BNAPS Flag Study Group and the Flag Pole should be the means for sharing new information with the view of helping one another and also updating Ed Richardson's fine handbook. The information in our bible, The Canadian Flag Cancellation Handbook 1896-1973, is almost 15 years old, and many important discoveries have been made since 1973. In addition, many of the prices are way out of date. If the handbook is to be updated, the updating process will be a very long and drawn out task which will require input from all members and take several years to complete. As with other study group publications, we will have to make a number of decisions on content, format, etc. I'm hoping that Ed will allow us to use his numbering system, as it would be unfortunate if we had to develop a new one. In order to help members obtain some of their missing flag cancels, perhaps a buy, sell or exchange column or a mail bid column could also be included. Any volunteers? However, don't expect to find any 1-1's or 8-23's being offered for sale.

In the three editions of the newsletter that I will be producing, I plan on updating the 1917-1919 cancels (this edition), the World War II cancels (probably an October newsletter), and the 1927-39 cancels (probably a January 1988 newsletter). My information on the more modern flag cancels is fairly complete and will be given to the new editor for publication in 1988. Bob Heasman has already updated the 1896-1902 flag cancels as to early and late dates, and has agreed to act as a depository for any new information on the classics. Any new information on 1917 to 1987 flag cancels should be sent to me along with photocopies of any new early or late dates. If you would like a copy of Bob's revised listing, please contact him directly.

In order to determine if realistic valuations have been assigned to the 1917-1919 cancels, would you please take an hour or so and complete the attached survey. I would like ALL members to complete this survey and return it to me, along with photocopies of any new or existing early or late dates. If you do not return your survey form, you may not receive the October newsletter. The new information that I hope to publish on the Enlist Now Flag Cancels in that newsletter will surprise most readers. The Perfin Study Group used the same approach, whereby only those who contributed received the newsletter, and it worked quite well. Survey results will be published next year and prices will be revised where necessary.

Membership Dues

Until we are certain that the newsletter will continue, no membership fees are being assessed. However, if anyone would like to make a contribution, it would be greatly appreciated. Even some unused or mint stamps would help. Until a secretary/treasurer is found, please send any donations me.

Other Business

If anyone has information on the use of new flag cancels, has any **constructive criticism for the interim editor or would like to help in re-activating the study group**, please contact either me or Bob Heasman. Especially if someone has typing skills, please step forward to be our new editor. It is very important for our study group to have several active players so that all of the responsibilities do not rest on one person's shoulders. We all know what happened to our group when Ed Richardson could no longer continue to publish the Canadian Flag Cancellation Bulletin. Let's make sure that this does not happen again.

Before you begin to read the next article on the 1917-19 Flag Cancels, it should be mentioned that it was originally written under the assumption that Bob Heasman was going to be our new editor. However, yours truly ended up assuming the role. In order to speed up the publication of this newsletter, I did not rewrite the article, so you will find a little duplication in it in view of what has already been said.

1987 UPDATE LISTING OF THE 1917-1919 FLAG CANCELS
(By Doug Lingard with the help of David Sessions)

This is an attempt to update the information on flag cancellations that is provided in The Canadian Flag Cancellation Handbook 1896-1973 by Ed Richardson and The Early Rapid Cancellling Machines of Canada by David Sessions. David has been kind enough to provide me with all of the early and late date information that he has accumulated since the publication of his fine handbook in 1982, and has helped me with the proposed pricing. Hopefully the information contained in this and other editions of the newsletter will be incorporated into a supplement to the Richardson handbook, as a considerable amount of additional information has been discovered since the original handbook was published in 1973.

Since it is the intention of the new study group to create a photocopy depository of the earliest known and latest known dates for each cancel, I have agreed to maintain this material for the 1917 and later cancels. Accordingly, I would appreciate members sending me a photocopy of any early or late dates that they may have in their collections if an (L) is not indicated next to the date. This request also extends to the more modern cancels, which will be updated later, and particularly to any examples outside the reported period of use. Since a number of cities are now known to have used their 1917 cancels up until October 6th to 10th, it is possible that the war savings certificate campaign ended about that time. The other locations that have recorded use into September and early October may have used their flag cancels until about October 6th also. Perhaps some of these later usage examples will eventually surface, if this was indeed the situation.

An attempt has been made to assign more realistic prices to these cancels. These revisions have been based on recent auction realizations, dealers' retail prices, size of town or city and the frequency that the item has been seen during the past 13 years. Although I realize that some of the rare WWI and Western Exhibition flag cancels have realized significantly more in recent auctions, I am also aware that immediately before the sales I was high bidder on some of these lots at half the realized prices. Consequently, I suspect that only a couple of collectors would pay the higher realizations, while the majority of collectors would be prepared to pay those prices that have been assigned to the different items. However, if any member can help in establishing more meaningful prices, that assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Although the more serious collectors may have preferred a rarity factor designation, I have opted to assign prices for the following reasons:

- a) Ed Richardson originally assigned prices which I found quite helpful when I was a novice flag collector in 1974;
- b) Since many non-flag cancel collectors occasionally find post cards and covers with flag cancels, a published price will at least give them an indication of the cancel's approximate value; and

c) As a result of viewing dealers' stock and some auction lot descriptions, it is obvious that some dealers cannot convert rarity factors eg. RPO and Squared Circle, into realistic prices.

In view of these reasons, it is probably preferable to continue with Ed Richardson's system of assigning prices to provide a guide as to what each item is worth. Also, the serious collector will undoubtedly pay whatever he wishes to pay for the last few items that he is missing, while the values that have been assigned are what the average flag cancel collector could be expected to pay to acquire an item.

The prices that are given would apply to clean, undamaged covers or cards with a clear 75-80% impression of the cancel, which is the way most of these cancels are found. Very fine complete cancels, cancels on advertising covers or cancels on unusual covers or cards should sell at a premium, while lesser quality impressions or impressions on faulty covers would sell at a discount. Examples on 2" x 4" pieces would be worth from 10% of the cover priced for the more common cancels, to around 30% of the cover price for the more exclusive cancels. However, since there is not a great deal of interest in flag cancels on pieces, they are not priced separately.

Photocopies of early or late dates and the survey form can be sent to me at the address shown on the header.

In the following listings, underlined dates indicate an expansion of the periods of use for Session's International Flag Cancels and Richardson's Universal Flag Cancels. Numbers are taken from The Canadian Flag Cancellation Handbook 1896-1973 by Ed Richardson, 1973.

Revised Listing of 1917-1919 Flag Cancels

(June 1987)

(S) Formerly in D Sessions Collection (L) In D Lingard Collection
 (R) In E Richardson Collection

1917 WWI FLAG CANCELS

Location	EKD	LKD	Price
21-1 Brandon	17-04 (S)	<u>27-09</u>	\$ 50
-2 Regina	16-02	11-04	65
-3 Halifax	<u>20-02</u> (L)	08-10	5
22-1 Montreal	05-02 (L)	06-07	10
23-1 Calgary	28-02	09-04 (S)	30
-2 Charlottetown I	<u>15-02</u>	09-03 (R)	100
-3 Charlottetown II	<u>14-04</u>	05-10	60
-4 Gananoque	05-05 (L)*	28-09 (R)	40
-5 Lethbridge	05-04	03-10	35
-6 London	22-02	22-04	15
-7 Prince Rupert	<u>21-03</u>	07-10	40
-8 Regina	13-04	02-10	25
-9 Sherbrooke	03-04 (S)	<u>21-09</u>	35
-10 Sydney	02-04	09-10	35
-11 Toronto I	21-02	06-10 (L)	3
-12 Toronto II	08-03	31-05 (L)	7
-13 Vancouver	04-04	24-09	10
-14 Windsor	<u>20-03</u>	24-09	12
-15 Winnipeg	26-02 (S)	11-09 (S)	8
(* Sessions early date of 5 April is an error, as die used in London until 22 April. Reports of use earlier than 5 May required.)			
24-1 Hamilton	20-02 (L)	17-04	12
Renfrew	21-04	22-09	40
25-1 Brantford	<u>09-02</u> (L)	<u>06-10</u>	12
-2 Kingston	<u>15-02</u> (L)	14-05 (L)	15
-3 Ottawa	08-02 (S)	<u>18-05</u> (L)	7
-4 Port Arthur	03-08	02-10	65
26-1 Edmonton	09-04	04-10	12
-2 Victoria	<u>19-02</u> (L)	<u>02-04</u>	25
27-1 St. John	<u>13-02</u>	06-10 (R)	8
-2 Toronto	06-02 (S)	31-05 (L)	5
28-1 Montreal	04-04	22-06	20
-2 Orillia	02-04	19-05 (R)	75
-3 Sault Ste. Marie	24-03	<u>01-10</u> (L)	50
-4 Toronto	04-04	28-09 (R)	20
29-1 Vancouver	23-04 (R)	10-10 (S)	12
-2 Gananoque	<u>23-02</u>	?	250
-3 Gananoque	<u>28-02</u> (L)	04-04	125
30-1 Fort William	03-04	<u>01-09</u> (L)	50
-2 Kitchener	<u>28-03</u> (L)	<u>24-09</u>	25
-3 New Westminster	02-04	06-10	50
31-1 Montreal	<u>17-02</u> (L)	24-03	20

	<u>Location</u>	<u>EKD</u>	<u>LKD</u>	<u>Price</u>
32-1	Quebec	<u>16-02</u> (L)	<u>07-10</u> (L)	12
-2	St. Hyacinthe	<u>22-02</u> (L)	<u>02-10</u> (L)	30
-3	Trois Rivieres	20-02	<u>25-09</u> (L)	30
33-1	Vancouver	<u>10-02</u>	<u>04-04</u>	20
-2	Victoria	05-04	10-10	10
34-1	Edmonton	15-02	07-04	35
-2	Calgary	10-04	<u>02-05</u> (L)	35
-3	Guelph	<u>31-03</u>	<u>06-10</u> (L)	12
-4	Montreal	28-03 (R)	06-10 (L)	10
-5	Toronto	31-03	<u>06-10</u> (L)	10
35-1	Saskatoon	20-03	11-09	20
-2	Brockville	19-04	01-10	25
-3	Fredericton	01-03	08-10	25
-4	Medicine Hat	26-03	<u>17-09</u> (L)	60
-5	Moncton	<u>06-04</u> (L)	<u>06-07</u>	40
-6	Nelson	04-04	05-10	50
-7	North Bay	27-03	27-09	25
-8	Stratford	<u>20-03</u> (L)	02-04	100
-9	Winnipeg	16-04	06-10 (S)	7
-10	Brandon	04-03	02-04 (L)	100
36-1	Hamilton	20-04	06-10 (L)	7
-2	Winnipeg	09-02	14-04 (L)	15
-3	London	25-04	<u>05-10</u> (L)	10
-4	Renfrew	19-02	16-04	60

1918 WWI FLAG CANCELS

	<u>Location</u>	<u>EKD</u>	<u>LKD</u>	<u>Price</u>
37-1	Charlottetown	31-10	<u>20-11</u> (L)	75
-2	Edmonton	29-10	23-11	40
-3	Halifax	22-10 (R)	22-11 (L)	20
-4	Montreal	04-11	20-11 (R)	35
-5	Ottawa	22-10	08-11	35
-6	Quebec	<u>23-10</u> (L)	16-11	25
-7	Regina	22-10	14-11	35
-8	St. John	<u>26-10</u> (L)	<u>22-11</u> (L)	30
-9	Toronto	19-10	20-11	8
-10	Vancouver	24-10 (R)	19-11	25
-11	Winnipeg	<u>22-10</u> (L)	<u>23-11</u> (L)	20
38-1	Trois Rivieres	25-10 (R)	07-11 (R)	200

WESTERN EXHIBITIONS

	<u>Location</u>	<u>EKD</u>	<u>LKD</u>	<u>Price</u>
39-1	Moose Jaw (1917)	05-06 (L)	<u>14-07</u>	350
40-1	Prince Albert (1917)	05-07 (R)	¹¹⁻⁰⁸ 23-07 (S)	250
-2	Prince Albert (1918)	01-07 (L) ²⁵⁻⁰⁷	10-07 (L)	350
-3	Prince Albert (1918)	04-06	<u>28-06</u>	250
41-1	Saskatoon (1917)	24-06	09-07 ²⁵⁻⁰⁷ (L)	150
-2	Saskatoon (1918)	08-05 (R)	<u>19-07</u> (L)	80
-3	Saskatoon (1919)	¹⁰⁻⁰⁵ <u>13-05</u>	29-06	150

Steve Fildes

Vol. 1 - No. 1 Distribution

Volume 1 No. 1 of the Flag Pole is being sent to the following individuals, in the hope that they will want to re-activate the study group.

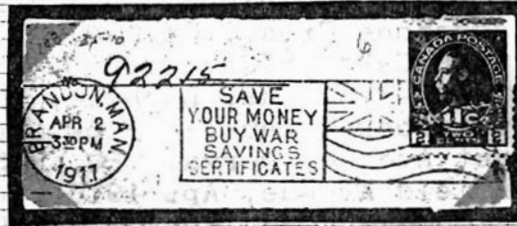
- 1 Ed Richardson, PO Box 939 League City, TX, 77573
- 2 Larry Paige, 1069 Shillelagh Road, Chesapeake, VA, 23323
- 3 David Sessions, 36 The Chimes, Nailsea, Bristol BS19 2NH, England
- 4 Robert Heasman, 2401-Toronto Dominion Tower, Edmonton, Alta, T5J 2Z1
- 5 Doug Lingard, 2425 Blackstone Cres., Ottawa, ON, K1B 4H3
- 6 William G. Robinson, 5830 Cartier St., Vancouver, BC, V8M 3A7
- 7 Geoffrey R. Newman, 825 50th Avenue, Lachine, PQ, H8T 2V2
- 8 Wilmer Rockett, 2030 Overlook Avenue, Willow Grove, PA, 19090
- 9 Wally Gutzman, 372 Vinet Avenue, Dorval, PQ, H9S 2M6
- 10 Alan Steinhart, 45 Dunfield Avenue, Apt 1910, Toronto, ON, M4S 2H3
- 11 Raymond McLean, 1285 Richmond Road, Apt. 1204, Ottawa, ON, K2B 7Z4
- 12 C.R. McGuire, 24 Parkside Cres., Nepean, ON, K2G 3B5
- 13 Ken Barlow, 1055 Ottawa Avenue, West Vancouver, BC, V7J 2J2
- 14 Tom Almond, 2 Filbert Drive, Tilehurst, Reading RG3 5D2, England
- 15 J.C. Campbell, 1450 Ross Road, Kelowna, BC, V1Z 1L6
- 16 Ron Kitchen, 1387 Pearl Street, Ottawa, ON, K1T 1C6

Others Receiving The Flag Pole

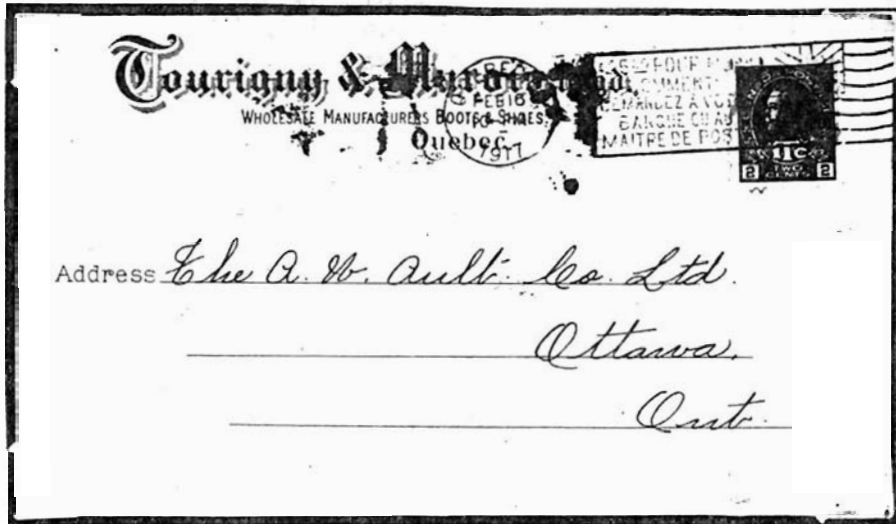
Frank Waite, 110 E McMillan Street, Newberry, MI, 49868
John Burnett, 757 Parkwood Street, Sidney, OH 45365
Clinton A. Phillips, 1704 Glade Street, College Station, TX, 77840
Librarian, National Postal Museum, Journal Towers, Laurier Avenue West,
Ottawa, ON K1A 0S1
Bart Billings, 90 Le Sabre Way, Zephyrhills, FL, 34248

Since we have a blank page, here are examples of a few World War 1 Flag Cancels that you may find interesting.

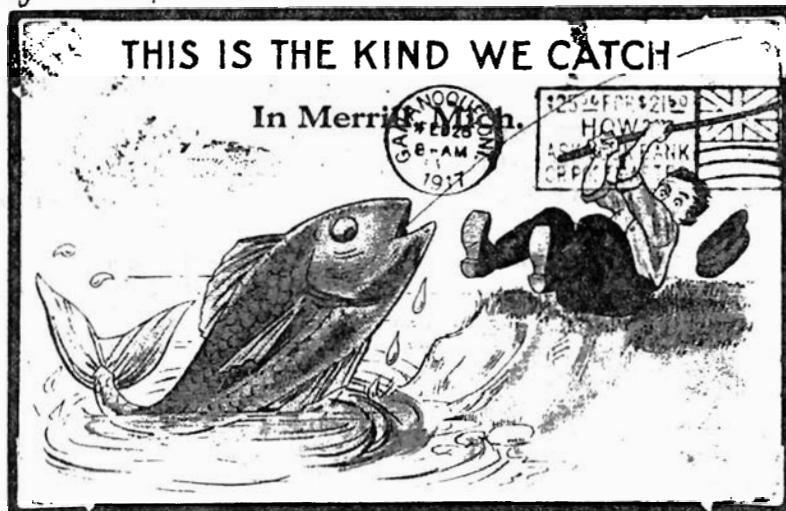
The Unlisted Brandon Type 35 Flag Cancel



A fine example of the uncommon Brandon Type 35 Flag Cancel that was questioned by McCreedy but unrecorded by Richardson, April 2nd is Sessions latest recorded use at Brandon



The earliest known example of any French Slogan Flag Cancel used in Canada dated 10 days before Sessions earliest known date.



This cancel, dated Feb. 28, is the earliest known example with the correct Gananogue spelling. One earlier example dated Feb 23rd is known, but has the town incorrectly spelled as Gananogue. Only about 5 of these cancels are known.