

# THE FLAG POLE



Newsletter of the BNAPS Flag Cancel Study Group

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## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of the group a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I have to admit that I made a new year resolution for us all, to write to the editor of the Flag Pole at least once this year. Without support from each member this newsletter will not continue to flourish. You might wonder what you can submit that would be of interest to other members. Here are just a few suggestions:-

Want lists and/or offers for exchange.

Photocopies of interesting, rare or beautiful items. If you wish you need not be identified as the lucky owner.

Questions that might be resolved by information from other members.

Comments on articles that have been published in Flag Pole or any other publication.

Extensions to reported periods of use.

News of new finds:- inverts, unusual usage, unusual time marks etc.

Anything relating to Flag cancels or cancelling machines that is fit to print.

I can always make space for long or short articles.

I delayed preparation of this edition until the end of December in the hope that new material would come in, but I am afraid it did not. Consequently this issue is rather sparse. However the good news is that, during preparation, I received photocopies of some very interesting items from the collection of one of our members who wishes to remain incognito. This includes some fascinating Royal Train material and several other rare items. I will therefore be able to begin preparation of the March issue earlier than has been the case with my previous issues. However, more material is still needed.

This issue contains an article by Doug Lingard about an American purple proof cancellation for the 1939 Royal Tour and Fred Hollenbeck has raised an interesting query on the Type 8 Die V flags of Montreal.

Welcome to our two new members.

33. Thomas Washington, USAMEDDAC-J, APO San Francisco, 96343-0076, USA

34. Jerry H. Miller, PO Box 2142, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138, USA.

Thomas is interested in Royal Train Covers. Jerry is interested in the early flags and in particular, the Imperial German Flag Cancels

#### TREASURER'S MESSAGE

By Doug Lingard

As of December 31st. we have 31 paid up members and about \$200 in the bank. During the year we lost 3 members (Barlow, McCallum and Thorning) but gained 9 new members. (For a complete list see the last page of this newsletter. Ed.)

It seems that next September, a number of members are planning to be at BNAPEX '89 in Hamilton. If you can possibly make it please plan on participating as we should have one of the largest study group meetings in recent years. It would be nice to leave that meeting with a commitment and a plan to update Ed's fine handbook, as a great deal of new information has surfaced during the past 15 years.

Also, since most members are not receiving Dan Rosenblat's excellent Slogan Cancel Study Group Newsletter, I encourage you to consider joining that group. The **Slogan Box** is running at 30 to 40 pages per issue and is by far the best BNAPS newsletter that I have ever seen (I am sure that Tom would like to be able to produce a similar size publication if we would only send him the material). It is obvious that our fellow members Dan Rosenblat and Jeff Switt are putting a great deal of effort into their study group.

There will not be a meeting of our study group at ORAPEX '89 here in Ottawa on April 29th and 30th unless someone requests one. However the BNAPS Fancy Cancel, Squared Circle and Revenue Study Groups will be meeting. Also there will be a meeting of the Postal History Society of Canada, the PHSC Klussendorf Study Group and the Precancel Study Group. The RPSC will be organising ORAPEX as a national show, so that any medal awarded in the Masters Class will be a Royal national level medal. Arrangements have been made to deliver any exhibit to the Royal the following week at Hamilton, if so requested. If any member would like to exhibit at ORAPEX and see how his exhibit fares under two different teams of judges, please contact me for a prospectus.

#### 1939 ROYAL TRAIN PURPLE CANCELS

By Doug Lingard

Although several authors have documented the use of the purple Royal Train Flag cancels, no one seems to have mentioned the existence of a purple United States Machine cancel.

The Canadian Post Office installed a Perfect Cancelling Machine in the Royal Train Post Office car. Since this was a Canadian designed and built machine, the

Canadian Post Office arranged to supply the United States RPO cancelling dies as well. There are copies of these in the Canadian Post Office Proof Books.

Based on the trial impression in purple ink, which is shown below, it appears that the United States Post Office also planned to use the same purple ink that was used by the Canadian Post Office. However, the Canadian Post Office only cancelled a few covers with purple ink before changing to the normal black ink. It is almost certain that no United States covers were ever cancelled with the purple ink as only black ink was being used when the Royal Train crossed over to the United States in the evening of June 7th.



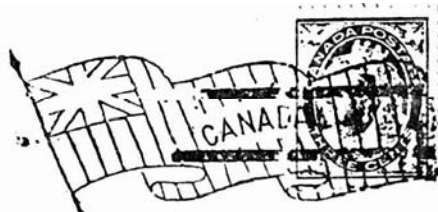
A trial impression in purple of the United States cancelling die.

Although several authors have described the different Canadian Royal Train Flag Cancel essays, none of them indicated the existence of this purple United States trial impression. Is it possible that this is the only example to survive?

#### DAMAGED FLAGS

Member Fred Hollenbeck has reported an interesting find involving the Montreal 8-11 and 8-12 flags. He has copies with the top bar of the canceller shortened, presumably as a result of a break in the die. He wonders when it might have happened. He suggests that this is surveyed through Flag Pole. I can report the break existing on December 16 1898, earlier reports are solicited.

If not delivered in five days  
RETURN TO  
**MERCHANTS' BANK OF HALIFAX**  
MONTREAL



TIME MARKS OF THE 1927 DIAMOND JUBILEE FLAGS

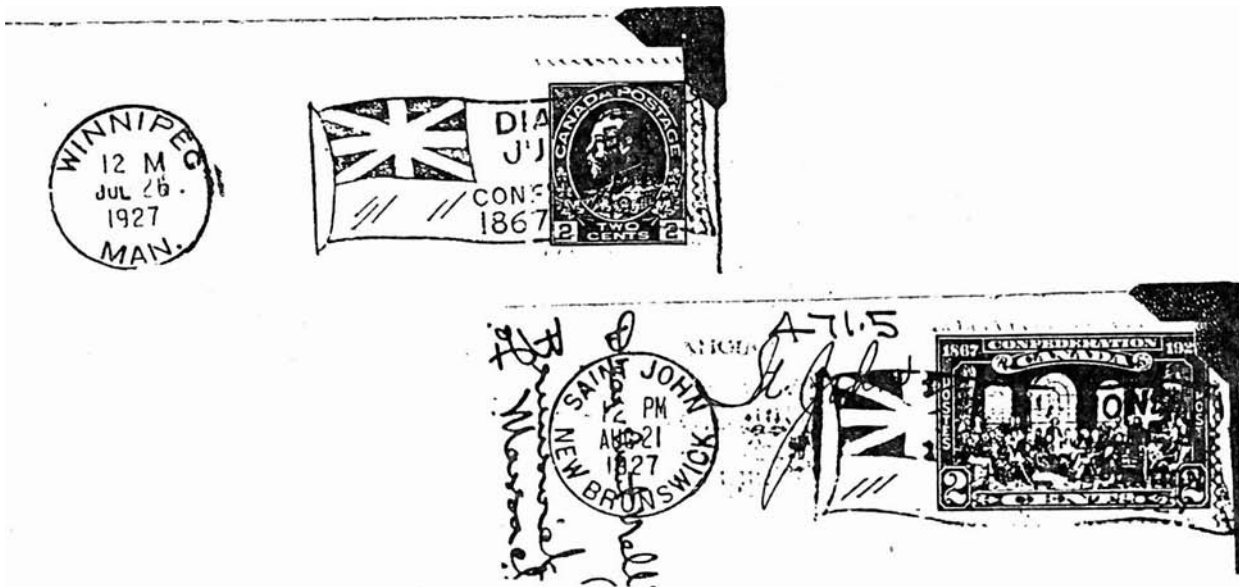
By Tom Almond

Recently I have been arranging my 1927 Diamond Jubilee Flag covers and two points of interest have arisen.

1. The July 4 cancellation below is on a cover to Halifax and the year in the date is inverted. I also have a copy of the normal strike for 1 PM July 15. Do any members have inverted copies or normal copies close to July 4 in their collection and if so, for what date and time?



2. The two strikes below show the time marks 12 M and 12 PM. John R. Reynolds discussed the meaning of these marks in his article "International Machine Cancellations - Some Observations on Time Marks" in the Postal History Society of Canada Journal 43. In the absence of any official documentation, he concluded that 12 - M or 12 M represented midday and that 12 PM represented midnight. The conclusive evidence for this being a post card of 1902 with two strikes of the same obliterator for 1130 AM and 12 - M. The conclusion was also supported by the relative frequencies of the (presumed) more common midday usage and the scarce midnight usage.



COMMENTS ON THE SASKATOON EXHIBITION FLAGS

By Tom Almond

In Volume 1, Number 2 of the Flag Pole Doug Lingard wrote about the dies of these scarce flag cancels, which were used for the years, 1917, 1918 and 1919. He concluded that there was only one die made in 1917 and that it was amended to produce the cancellers for the subsequent years. Doug showed three strikes with a constant break in the the first "I" of "INDUSTRIAL". All the other characteristics of his three strikes were the same and the constant break merely confirmed the fact that there was only one die.

The card below poses a problem, it shows all the characteristics of Doug's strikes, except for the "constant" broken "I". Does it demonstrate the problems caused by variations in the amount of inking and the cleanliness of the canceller? Is the very early date of May 2nd 1918 significant? Was the die mended poorly so that it broke again? Comments, suggestions, or examples to the editor please.

