

THE FLAG POLE



Newsletter of the BNAPS Flag Cancel Study Group

Volume 2 Number 4. MARCH 1989

Editor T.E. Almond, 2 Filbert Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, RG3 5DZ, England.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to report that this volume contains information submitted by several members. The next volume will contain material on the later flags, Fredericton Centennial etc. Please send me any particularly interesting material. PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE QUALITY OF YOUR PHOTOCOPIES IS AS GOOD AS POSSIBLE. I CANNOT IMPROVE THEM HOWEVER HARD I TRY.

Our Study Group will meet on Friday September 22nd at 3.30pm at BNAPEX in Hamilton. Do try and attend.

In order to maintain a recognised BNAPS Study Group in good standing we are required by the society to comply with certain conditions. In particular we must elect two or more officers and elections must be held annually or biennially. The election may either be by a majority of the group membership, or by a majority of the members present at the annual BNAPS show. In order to comply with these requirements we propose to hold elections during BNAPEX in Hamilton, for the posts of Chairman, Treasurer and Editor. Doug Lingard would welcome proposals, or news of volunteers, for these posts. Both Doug and I are prepared to continue to serve as Treasurer/North American Distributor and Editor respectively.

Now for some good news and bad news. The bad news is that Doug is able to set the North American subscriptions at \$5 (Can or US) for the coming year. The bad news is that 1988/89 dues for Canadian members are now outstanding and that dues for US members will fall due on receipt of the June Flag Pole. Please send your payment to Doug and feel free to pay for two years.

I am pleased to welcome two new members:-

35. William Angley, P.O. Box 194 Station A, Toronto, M5W 1B2.

36. Charles King, 10 St. Leonards Road, Claygate, Esher, Surrey, KT10 0SL, England.

ITEMS FOR TRADE

I would like to make this a regular column. Let me know if you have particular wants, items for sale or items for trade and I will publish your list.

1. JOHN ROBERTSON offers the following items for trade.

- 1-4.
- 23-11 - June, July, August and September.
- 27-2 - March and April.
- 34-4 - July.
- 36-1 - September.
- 50-7 #10 cover, 50-20A, 51-1, 51-2.
- 53 -Halifax, Hamilton, London and Toronto.
- 71-3, 71-7, 71-14.

John is looking for similar material, different months etc.

2. TOM ALMOND wants to buy covers with the following cancels. Please send details/photocopies and price required.

- 43-01, 1927 Diamond Jubilee Calgary
- 43-09, 1927 Diamond Jubilee Regina
- 50-10, 1937 Coronation North Battleford
- 71-09A, 1953 Coronation Ottawa Inverted
- 71-11 , 1953 Coronation Saint John NB
- 1939 Royal Train purple flags and flags for the following dates:-
May 16, 17, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 30. June 1, 4, 5. Mai 16, 17, 18.

UPDATES TO PERIOD OF USE

John Robertson reports Toronto 34-5 with a new EKD March 29th. Bill Angley reports LKD's for Windsor 23-14 - October 6th and Calgary 34-2 - May 6th. Bill also reports a new time of 8pm for 52-1



1927 DIAMOND JUBILEE CANCELS

The article in the previous volume of Flag Pole on the inverted year in Quebec 44-2 provoked replies from members Angley, Hollenbeck, Lingard, Robertson, Rosenblat and Sessions. Most sent photocopies of cancels. As a result of these responses we have the following dates established.

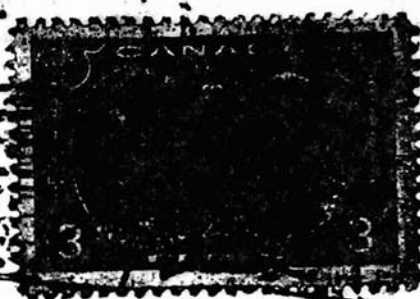
Latest normal	July 3rd. 1030am
Earliest invert	July 4th. 700am
Latest invert	July 7th. 430pm
Earliest normal	July 7th. 1030pm.

Can anybody improve on these dates?

ROYAL TRAIN FRENCH LETTERS

By David Sessions

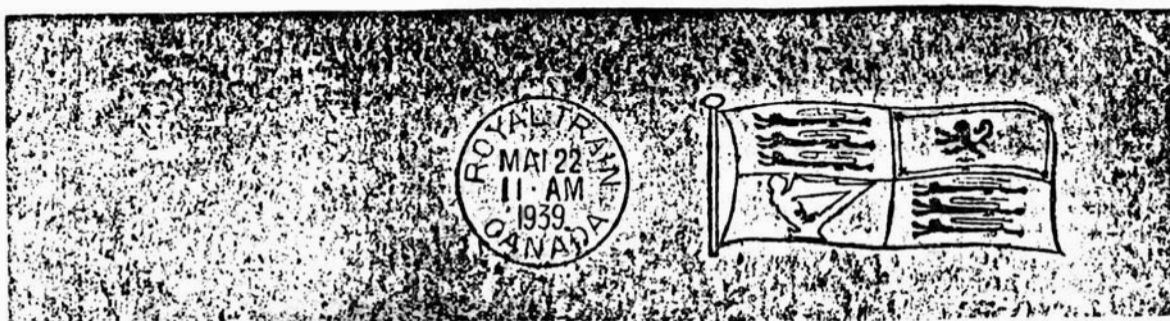
As a result of my note in the June Flag Pole, I have been inundated with two replies! Doug Lingard sent a copy of the MAI 22 date in the English dater, timed at 3pm, and an odd cover showing what appears to be MAY 22 in the English dater, timed at 10am. The 22 however is shallower than it should be and appears to be superimposed upon another date (possibly 23) which has been partially erased.



Then along comes along another reporter with a few gems from his collection, including both varieties of the dater error ONE IN PURPLE THE OTHER IN BLACK on blank cards, both timed at 11am. This really puts the cat amongst the pigeons! Purple ink having been rejected in the early hours of May 15th, why was it being used on May 22nd. unless someone was playing games? The French dater should not have been used as the train was in English speaking territory on May 22nd. It is unlikely that Major Ross (the RT postmaster) was party to any unofficial manufacture of philatelic mail or that unauthorised persons would have been allowed into the stamping area. Perhaps one of Major Ross' assistants, Pasco or Gignac, had philatelic connections but, even so, I find it hard to believe that they would switch the day and month between the daters just to create what, to all but few, is a very minor variety.



Black Cancellation



Purple Cancellation

Doug Lingard's cover of 10am on May 22nd. does give rise to the suggestion that there was some problem and the switch may have been made to overcome the problem. I could have lived happily with that conjecture if it had not been for those wretched purple cancels on blank cards. (Note: on p2 of the September 'Flag Pole' the Editor asks whether any purple cancels are known for May 21st; the answer is 'No, not yet anyway', but we do now have evidence of use on May 22nd! Of course, purple ink pads would have been available for registration marks).

The example that I illustrated in the June 'Flag Pole' has every indication of being normal commercial mail from the Royal Train. It is (presumably) from Michael Adeane, who was Equerry and Assistant Private Secretary to the King at the time, and is addressed to his wife. They were married shortly before the start of the tour. Doug's 3pm cover is a Royal York Hotel cover and appears to be commercial, the only philatelic indication being the retention of selvage on the 3c Royal Train stamp, bearing plate no. 4.

The 'Mai 22' error is quite scarce but I am surprised that, apart from the two purple examples, only one other has been reported within the group to supplement the one illustrated. Surely there are a few more about? I know that it is somewhat trivial but I should dearly love to know just what happened, one or two more reports might shed some light. Don't forget, reports of 'normal' markings on May 22nd. are just as important in piecing together the story.

THE ROYAL PURPLE

David Sessions

This article is based on a series of items from one reporter, the relevant photocopies are presented as figures at the end of this article.

A purple flag dated 'Mai 15' was reported (fig. 1), this is similar to that illustrated in the June Flag Pole. The only difference being that it had the flag on one side and the address on the other. The format is similar to the cards reported by John Robertson, suggestive of the use of an addressograph machine. One or two others have been seen in auction catalogues. It must be assumed that these were samples prepared for postmasters, but whether by request, or for all postmasters is not known to me. I suspect the latter.

It is interesting to note the trial card (fig. 2) with two impressions on either side of the French version of the flag cancel and dater, in black, and dated/timed 'MAI 15 3AM'. The card is annotated "This is an advance sample of how they will look. Got this from a friend of mine who thought up the whole thing". Against one of the flags is the note "will be in purple colour". The implication is that this sample was prepared before May 15th. and leads to the question, were the postmasters' samples also run off prior to that date.

Figure 3 shows a purple flag on registered cover (MAI 15 3AM). The interesting point is that the registration number is 1376. This seems to be a high number in view of the early decision to abandon the use of purple ink for the flag cancel (but not necessarily for the registration mark). However a look at the few registered covers in my records indicates that the early ones were all cancelled by handstamps. As a matter of interest one would not normally expect registered covers to be machine cancelled as they would often be bulky and only suitable for hand stamping, however, many of the registered covers emanating from the Royal Train were of a philatelic nature and would pass readily through the machine. I have a note of registration mark 1374 with a purple flag. Figure 4 shows a very early registered cover (no. 4), accompanied by a purple handstamp, but oddly enough, figure 5 shows a registration mark with black handstamp. All these examples carry the '3' time mark and, when considered alongside all the non-registered FDC's timed at 3am, lead to the question - were a good proportion cancelled prior to May 15th. or was the time mark not changed for a substantial period? I have a record of registration mark 1447 with handstamps in black and time mark '9.

As mentioned in the previous paragraph, registered cover 1190 carries black handstamps while registered covers 1374 and 1376 carry purple flags. Does this mean that the handstamps were switched from purple to black before the flags or had the flags not been used up to that point?

One other thing to look for: figure 6 illustrates an example of a purple flag on cover to New York, cancelling the \$1 Chateau de Ramezay stamp, WHICH IS NOT REGISTERED. I have not seen another. Writing in the 1940's, R.A. Jamieson indicated that he had one but it was not illustrated so I cannot say whether it is the same cover or whether there are at least two.

It will be recalled that all the non registered covers were supposed to have been destroyed. In doing so, the Royal Train FO would presumably have had to prepare new covers and transfer any contents from existing envelopes. Graham Noble

wonders whether any were, in fact, destroyed and suggested that the registered may have been serviced first, I am inclined to that view. (Ed. Figure 7 shows another cover which supports this view. It is neither registered nor special delivery yet it has a purple strike of the French CDS.)

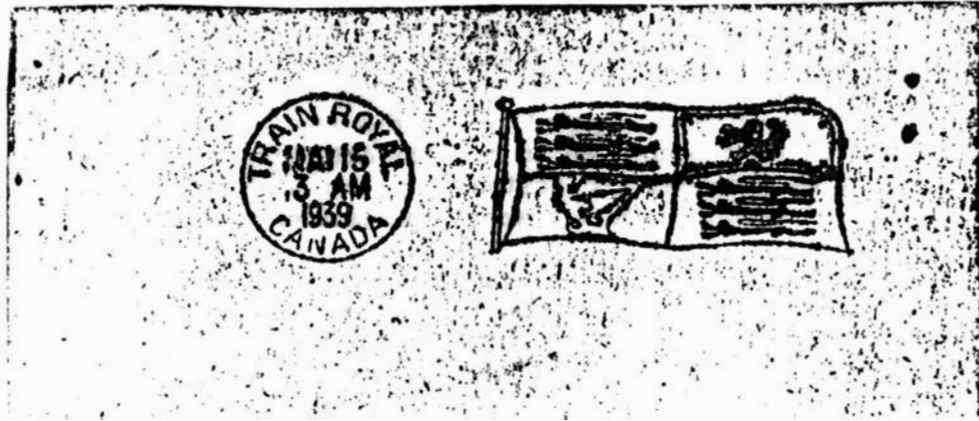


Fig 1

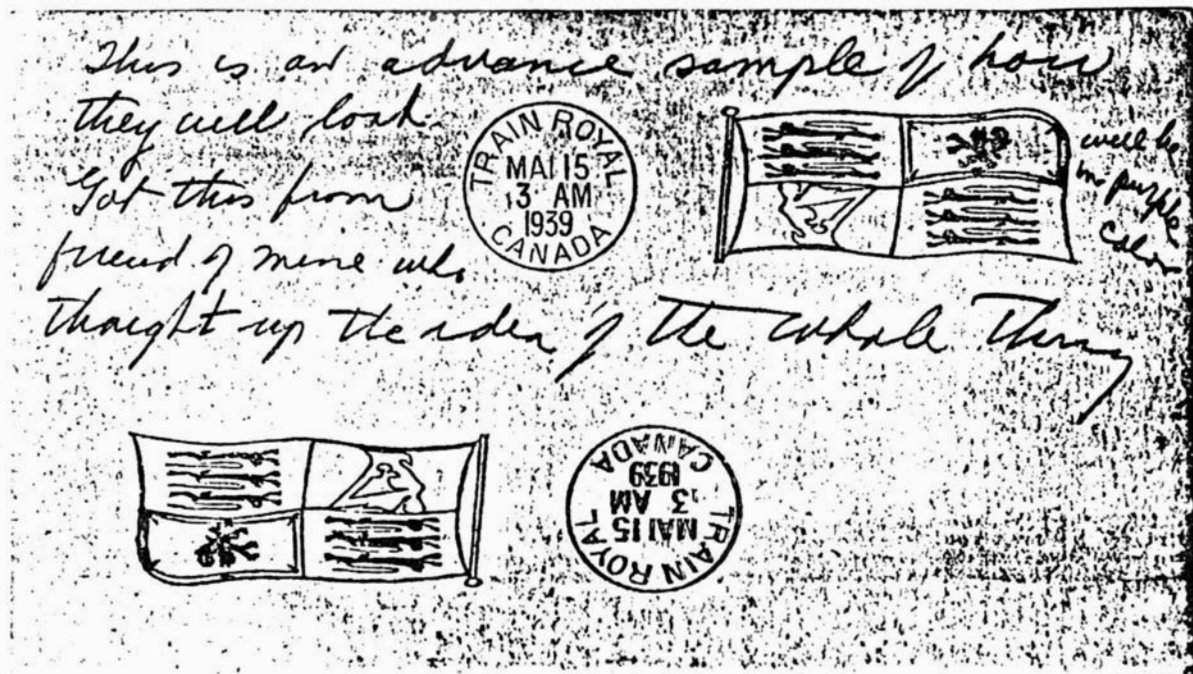


Fig 2

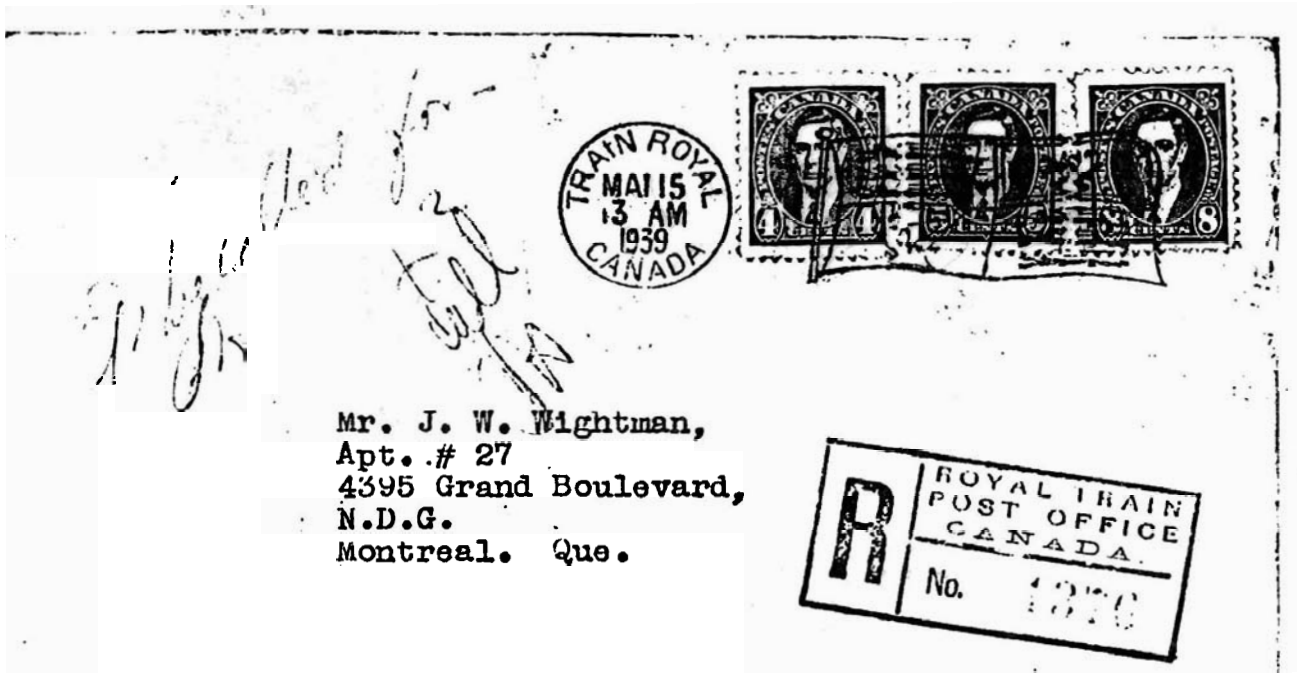


Fig 3

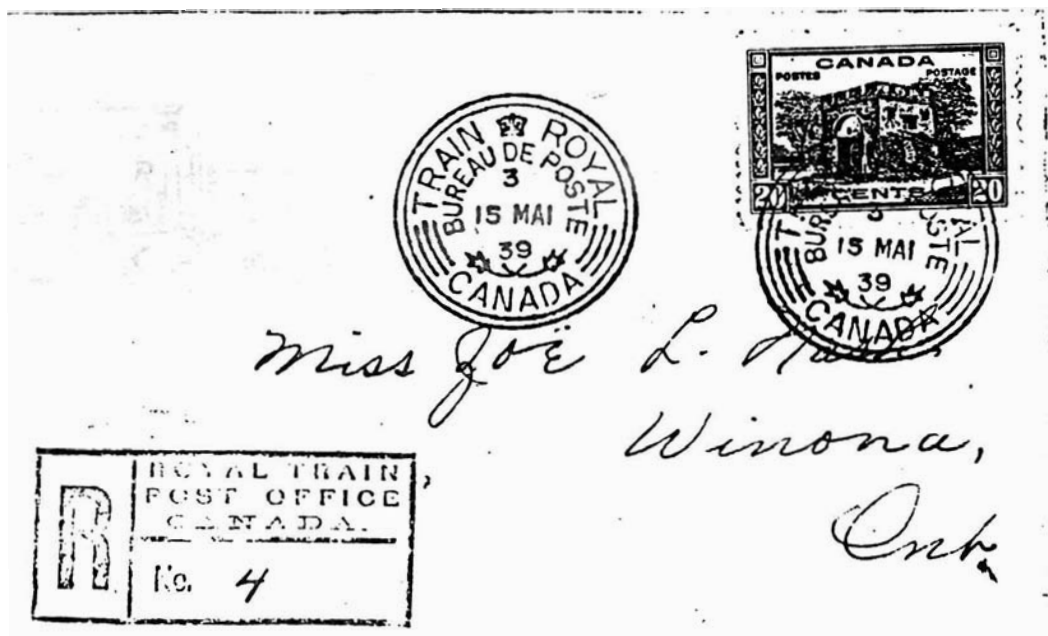
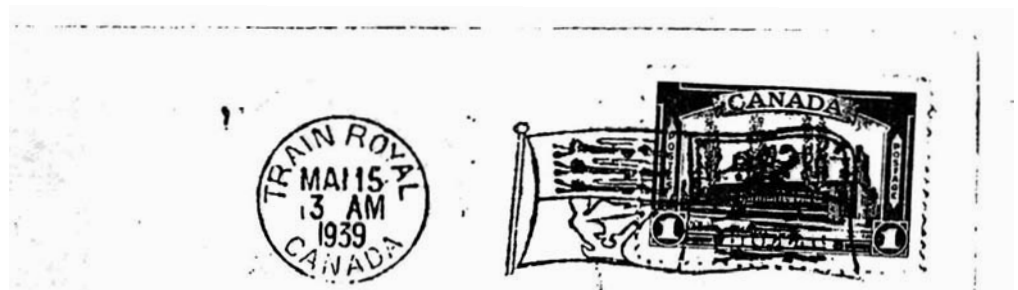


Fig 4



FIG 5



Charles H. Chippendale
415 Second Street
Troy, New York (U. S. A.)

Wm Strickler
5 Cherry St
Gloversville,
Y.Y.



Fig 7

Tom Almond
March 1989