

# THE FLAG POLE



Newsletter of the BNAPS Flag Cancel Study Group

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## EDITOR'S REMARKS. PART 1

This issue contains a message from our Chairman, John Robertson, and the first of a series of articles by Doug Lingard on the modern flags. In the next issue I hope to redress the balance and publish some material that I have to hand on the earlier flags. **Why not send me some material from this period to make it a bumper issue?**

You will see from John's message that progress on the catalogue is being made. At our meeting in Hamilton there was considerable discussion on the question of whether the catalogue should include valuations or not. David Sessions discusses this on page 8 of his book "The Rapid Early Cancelling Machines of Canada". In addition there is little doubt that publication of increased valuations will cause prices to rise. This is fine for a vendor but not so for a purchaser. I would be pleased to publish letters discussing this.

I was pleased to receive a long, newsy letter from Jim Felton. He pointed out that I had inadvertently published an incorrect Box Number. It should be 56371

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Attending my first BNAPS convention was a real thrill and meeting so many people with whom I had only corresponded now allows me to match faces with each letter.

Work is proceeding well with our new catalogue. Doug Lingard last week sent me a summary of his work on modern flags. I urge all of you to check your holdings and respond quickly to any any request for information from our consolidators. Despite all the work already done it surprises me how often we are finding new EKD's and LKD's. May this trend long continue.

For those of you in the Ontario area, a dinner meeting will be held on the evening of January 12th, during the Phil-Ex show at the Royal York Hotel.

## THE MODERN FLAG CANCELS 1973-1988

By  
Doug Lingard

### Introduction

At the Flag Cancel Study Group meeting in Hamilton, I was "encouraged" to update the modern Canadian Flag Canceles. Dan Rosenblat was even kind enough to offer to type up the listing if I would only provide him with the information. Although I initially accepted his kind offer, I subsequently decided to produce the update myself, since it is probably quicker than sending material back and forth to California.

It is anticipated that this listing will form part of the new handbook that we agreed to produce while meeting in Hamilton. Although my listing is fairly complete, it would be appreciated if all members would check their inventories to see if they have examples of earlier or later dates of use. I am listing only the different dater hubs and flag dies and have dropped the minor hub variations that Richardson identified in his handbook and in his update that appeared in the June 1978 edition of the *Canadian Flag Cancellation Bulletin*. However, should anyone feel that these should be listed separately in the new handbook please advise me. Also, those that have access to his revision will notice that his numbering system has been reorganized to put all of the "ORAPEX" listings together. Comments on this approach to listing these cancels along with the values that have been assigned to the modern cancels would be appreciated. An L next to an item indicates an example is in my collection.

## THE 1973-85 ORAPEX FLAG CANCELS

### Background Information

Over the years, the RA Stamp Club used a number of interesting Flag Canceles. During 1973, 1974 and 1975, the dies were used in a backup Pitney Bowes (Universal) machine at the main Alta Vista Postal Terminal. For some unknown reason in 1976, the post office decided (they claimed that the old Universal machine had been removed yet I have examples of its use until the early 1980's) that it would no longer cooperate with the club and for that year the club was forced to arrange for the ORAPEX Flag Cancel to be used in Hull (just across the river from Ottawa). I recollect that the post office offered to purchase a flag cancelling die for one of the high speed Toshiba cancellers in the Alta Vista Terminal, but the cost would have been about \$900. In 1977 and 1978, the club was able to use the Flag Cancel in an old Universal DDU first day cover cancelling machine that was in storage in a post office headquarters building. We all owe Rich Toop, who worked in the philatelic section at the time, a vote of thanks for arranging for the use of this machine. However, he was unable to do so in 1979 and the 1979, 1980 and 1981 ORAPEX covers were cancelled with a hand cancel. However, after the National Postal Museum opened in the fall of 1981, we were once again able to use the old DDU first day cover machine that had been moved to the museum and set up with the museum's Flag Cancel. The 1982 and 1983 ORAPEX cancels originated from this machine. Since the flag cancelling dies were now becoming expensive, the club opted for a hand cancel in 1984. However, in 1985, Canada Post became interested in philately

again and paid for the Klussendorf Flag Cancel die that was used on the museum's new cancelling machine. Hand cancels have been used since 1985.

TYPE 82 - ORAPEX 1973-1976 FLAG CANCELS

ORAPEX 1973 Flag Cancel

A few trial impressions on facing slips dated February 2 with an "AM" in the dater hub, were given to an ORAPEX committee person for approval purposes. This same person also had about 200 FDCs bearing the RCMP stamps cancelled with this cancel on March 9. Since at least one show cover is known dated April 13, it is possible the show covers were actually cancelled on that date. The official ORAPEX covers have a blank above the date and are dated May 5. No commercial usage of this cancel has been noted.



Hub I AM and narrow Ottawa



Hub II Blank and wide Ottawa



82-1 Hub I - on facing slips dated February 2, 1973 (L)	\$10.00
- on RCMP FDCs dated March 9, 1973 (L)	3.00
- on show covers dated April 13, 1973	5.00
82-1A Hub II - on show covers dated May 5, 1973 (L)	1.50

ORAPEX 1974 Flag Cancel

This die was used in the backup Universal cancelling machine between April 29 and May 15. Examples from this brief commercial period of use are desirable since the show cover has a different dater hub with "ONTARIO" at the bottom. Although a few philatelic covers were cancelled on April 29, 30, and May 1, most examples are found on odd size covers that may have had trouble passing through the high speed cancellers. The commercially used hub can be found with a blank, AM and hour time marking, but these are not listed separately.



Hub I



Hub II



Hub I - OTTAWA at top, ONTARIO at base, with hour, AM or blank time marking.

Hub II - OTTAWA upper left, ONTARIO upper right, CANADA at base and no time marking.

82-2 Hub I - April 29 (L) to May 15 (L), 1974	
- philatelic covers	\$3.00
- commercial covers	5.00
82-2A Hub II - on show covers dated May 11, 1974 (L)	2.00

### ORAPEX 1975 Flag Cancel

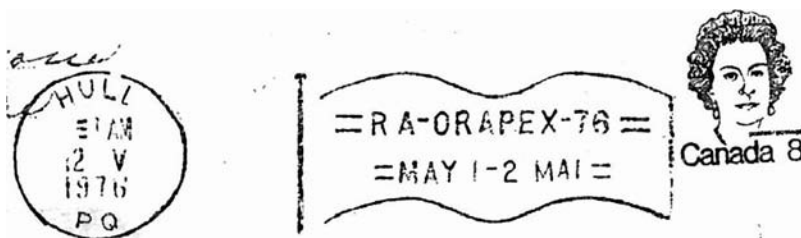
This cancel was tested in the old Universal machine on March 10 and according to George MacManus, the person who was responsible for the show cover, only one trial impression was saved. The 1975 cancel was not used commercially; however, a few philatelic covers were handed to post office officials at ORAPEX, received this cancel and were forwarded to the addressees through the normal mail system the following week. All of the philatelic covers received the May 3 ORAPEX show date, even though they were cancelled the following week. There were no dater hub variations in 1975.



82-3 - on testing card dated March 3, 1975 (L)	\$15.00
- on show covers dated May 3, 1975 (L)	1.50
- on postally used philatelic covers dated May 3, 1975 (L)	3.00

### ORAPEX 1976 Flag Cancel

The 1976 cancel was used in the cancelling machine in Hull during the month of May. Minor dater hub variations are known with AM, PM and hour time markings. I am unaware of any earlier trial impressions that may have survived.

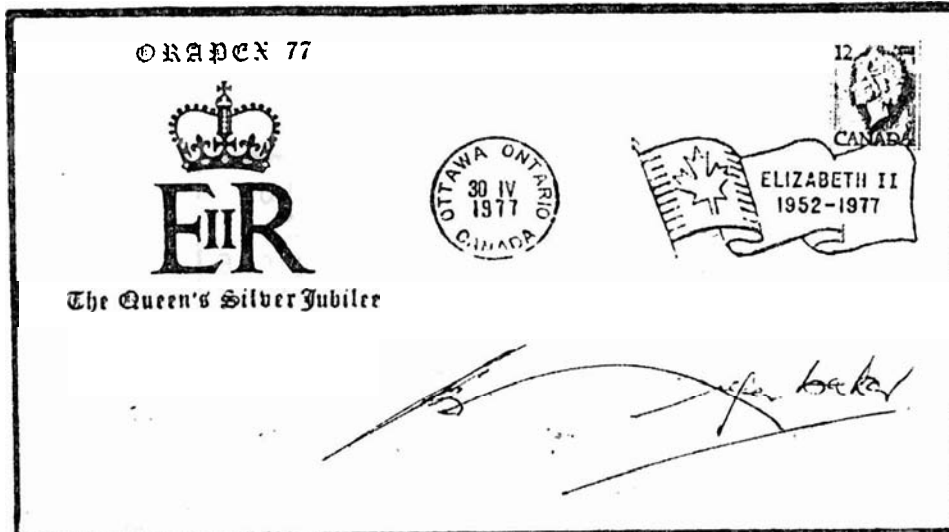


82-4 HULL - on show covers dated May 1, 1976 (L)	\$1.50
- on commercial covers dated May 1 (L) to May 31 (L), 1976	2.50

### TYPE 83 - ORAPEX 1977 SILVER JUBILEE FLAG CANCEL

In 1977, I was responsible for designing the Silver Jubilee Flag Cancel and for servicing the covers. The 950 show covers were actually cancelled on the Monday or Tuesday before the event, along with a small number of philatelic covers from collectors seeking this cancel. These philatelic covers were held

by the post office until April 30 and then returned to the addressees through the normal mail stream. Although I tried to ensure that only the April 30 date was used, even on the advertising covers that were sent out to the philatelic press in early April, it appears that someone sent in a few covers seeking this cancel after the initial lot of covers was serviced. A post office employee, who was unaware of the arrangement regarding the use of only the April 30 date, cancelled these covers with an April 28 date in the dater hub.



The 1977 Silver Jubilee Flag Cancel on a show cover and autographed by the Right Honourable John Diefenbaker, a Monarchist and former Prime Minister of Canada.

- 83-1 - on postally used philatelic covers dated April 28, 1977 (L) \$5.00
- on show covers dated April 30, 1977 (L) 2.50
- on postally used philatelic covers dated April 30, 1977 (L) 3.50

**TYPE 84 - ORAPEX 1978 UNITED CANADA FLAG CANCEL**

Since the theme of this year's event was a salute to Canadian unity, I designed the show cover and Flag Cancel to reflect this theme. Again this year, a small number of philatelic covers were cancelled with the show covers and returned to the addressees through the normal mails. However, only the May 6 dater was used, even on covers that were received and cancelled after May 6. In April, the post office did provide me with a few examples without a date that were sent to the philatelic press.



- 84-1 - on show covers dated May 6, 1978 (L) \$1.50
- on postally used philatelic covers dated May 6, 1978 (L) 3.00
- on plain advertising covers without date (L) 7.50

TYPE 85 - ORAPEX 1982 R.A. STAMP CLUB 1947-1982 FLAG CANCEL

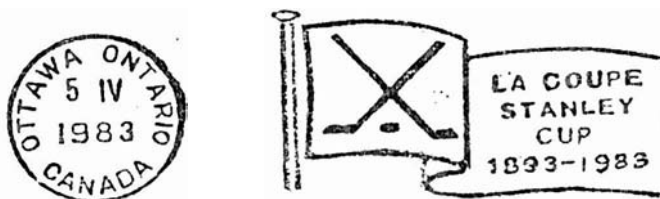
In 1982, ORAPEX used a Flag Cancel to celebrate the thirty fifth anniversary of the RA Stamp Club. The first die that the post office received had the dater hub incorporated in the flag die itself. However, it was returned and the correct die was received in time to cancel the club's covers. This was the first year that show covers were cancelled on two different date - May 8 and 9. A few philatelic covers were cancelled with a May 8 date and returned to the addressees through the normal mail stream. It is understood that the early post office trial impressions were dated May 8, so that any 1982 ORAPEX Flag Cancel should bear either a May 8 or May 9 date.



- 85-1 - on show covers dated May 8 (L) or May 9 (L), 1982 \$2.00
- on postally used philatelic covers dated May 8, 1982 (L) 3.00

TYPE 86 - ORAPEX 1983 STANLEY CUP 1893-1983 FLAG CANCEL

This attractive cancel, which was somewhat similar to the National Postal Museum Flag Cancel, was tested on April 5 and apparently 8 trial impressions were made. A few philatelic covers are known cancelled on May 7 and May 8. These were returned to the addressees through the normal mail system.

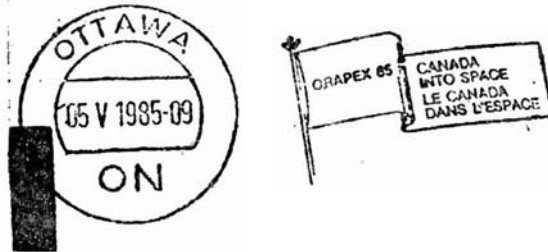


An example of the trial impression dated April 5, 1983

- 86-1 - on testing card or cover dated April 5, 1983 (L) \$10.00
- on show cover dated May 7 (L) or May 8 (L), 1983 1.50
- on postally used philatelic covers dated May 7 (L) or May 8(L), 1983 3.00

TYPE 87 - ORAPEX 1985 CANADA INTO SPACE FLAG CANCEL

This cancel is turning out to be the most popular ORAPEX Flag Cancel and is sought after by all of the Klussendorf collectors. It seems that only about 500 show covers were produced and most were purchased by local residents who had one of Canada's space astronauts autograph them. I am not aware of any philatelic covers being postally used, although at least one show cover was taken to the post office and registered on May 4.



87-1 - on show covers dated May 4 (L) or May 5 (L), 1985 \$5.00

To Be Continued

EDITOR'S MESSAGE. PART 2

An interruption in our period of fine weather gave me the opportunity to stay indoors and prepare this volume of Flag Pole. The United Kingdom is suffering from high winds (with more than 100mph recorded) and torrential rain. This is the result of a series of deep depressions sweeping across the Atlantic. You can see that not all North American gifts are welcome.

Despite this double-edged benefaction I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. I hope that you find large numbers of flags and that you decide to dispose of duplicates through Flag Pole.