

THE FLAG POLE



The Newsletter of the BNAPS Flag Cancel Study Group

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EDITOR'S REMARKS

I'm new to the job and have never been an editor of anything in my life. Help will be needed from each and every member of the group to keep the Flag Pole an interesting and informative publication.

How come I took the job you ask since I have no experience? Well, being in the Toronto area with a number of larger shows with BNAPS members attending, I am accessible to our members and our chairman John who is only a phone call away. I have always wanted to write something so this seemed like a good place to start since I was very encouraged by the response to my preliminary listing of modern flags.

I attended BNAPS convention in St. Charles and met many of the members and participated in the discussions about the revised handbook and will do whatever I can to get the new handbook published. Doug Lingard is writing up the WW I listing and has re-written WW II, Larry Paige along with David Sessions is preparing the early flag section, John Robertson has the results of the survey on the 1937 Coronation that Fred Hollenbeck did and I start the Modern Flags in detail this issue with the Joseph Howe Cancellations.

To repeat Tom Almond's last message, please send anything that can be included in the Flag Pole to the editor to make my job easier. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

First of all I would like to introduce our new editor - Bob Thorne - my good friend and co-philatelic researcher. Bob's talents are many, his knowledge of flags excellent, all his collection is stored in his computer, which of course makes his job as editor a little easier.

Please support him with input, at least once a year we want something from all of you, even if it is just a question or photostat.

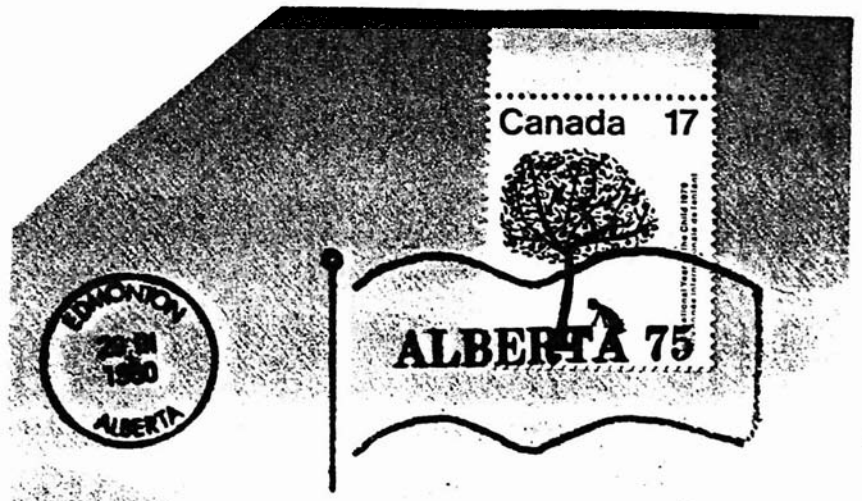
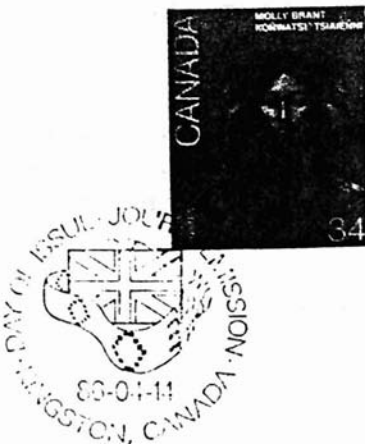
I live close by and will of course assist him whenever possible.

Tom Almond raised one major point in the last bulletin, don't hold back an article for our book - we want them in the Flag Pole first so that members have an opportunity to make corrections before the book comes out. Already Bob has a minor correction to type 7-1A presented last March in the excellent article by David Sessions.

I attended BNAPS '92 in St. Charles and it was good to meet some members for the first time.

Our meeting on Sept. 12th at 11am was attended by members Jim Felton, Doug Lingard, Larry Paige, John Robertson, Wilmer Rockett, Jeff Switt, Bob Thorne and BNAPS President Bill Robinson. Our Book was discussed and I am delighted to report progress is being made and there is talk of having a mock up for discussion at Philex '93 in January. (Toronto Convention Centre Jan. 8,9,10 ed.)

Finally your Chairman is attempting to have a Flag Cancel produced by the post office to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Flag Cancels in March 1996, more on this later as I expect a fight to get a freebee.



JOSEPH HOWE OBSERVANCE

This flag cancellation started in 1973 and continued to 1978 missed 1979 and concluded with use in 1980. It has two basic formats in 1973 and 1974 the dates of the event are included in the text and after 1974 only the year appears in the text.

There are major varieties of "line omitted" in both 1973 and 1974.

Richardson's notes in the handbook indicate two dies were requested in 1973, one a flag, by the Nova Scotia Stamp Club and the other a slogan by the Joseph Howe Committee and the line was removed to make the cancellations different for the two groups. This makes sense except that there is a slogan cancellation for 1973. It is possible that the Flag die arrived at Halifax before the Slogan die and was put in use on the assumption that only one die would be issued. Then withdrawn when the Slogan die arrived. To make the Flag die different for the Nova Scotia Stamp Club's promotion the line was then removed.

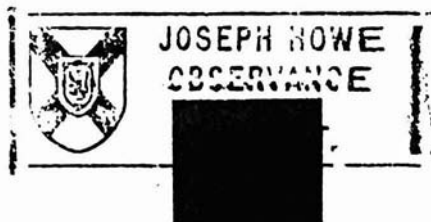
A new style of die with wavy lines rather than a rectangular box was used in 1974 but the actual text is of the same format as 1973 showing the event dates. Regarding 1974 use Richardson writes in Canadian Flag Cancellation Bulletin #10 that the Die arrived 2 days before it was supposed to be used and altered by removing the line for the intended period of use.

1975 to 1978 use is from a third die with a smaller shield and wavy lines both commercial and show use with no varieties noted. The die appears to be re-issued each year with the date altered.

For 1979 the Proulx 1991 Slogan Catalogue lists use of the Flag die but Correspondence with Doug Lingard indicates use of a normal slogan die was used so we assume no flag use in 1979.

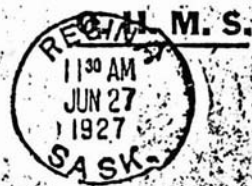
In 1980 the 75-78 Flag die is re-issued with the year changed. This may be the most difficult year to find since 1979 did not have a flag many flag collectors may not have known of the 1980 Flag.

Numbers are a continuation of Richardson's listing in the 1978 Canadian Flag Cancellation Bulletin Vol.2 No.4. The Checklist in Flag Pole Vol.6 No.1 shows numbers 100-1 to 101-5 for these. Both have merit but only one system will be used in the new Handbook. If we change Type 4-6 from Ottawa to Montreal as proposed in Flag Pole Vol.5 No.2 then 100-1 to 101-5 should be used. Which do you prefer?





NUMBER	YEAR	DIE	EARLY DATE	LATE DATE	VALUE
84-1	1973	1 WITH LINE	SEPT. 5	SEPT. 6	5.00
84-2		1 NO LINE	SEPT. 27	OCT. 9	1.50
85-1	1974	2 WITH LINE	OCT. 1	OCT. 2	5.00
85-2		2 NO LINE	OCT. 3	OCT. 13	1.50
86-1	1975	3	AUG. 19	OCT 11	1.50
86-2	1976	3	SEPT. 30	OCT. 9	1.50
86-3	1977	3	SEPT. 29	OCT. 8	1.50
86-4	1978	3	SEPT. 22	SEPT. 30	1.50
86-5	1980	3	SEPT. 21	SEPT. 29	2.00



FLAG TYPE 43

DIAMOND JUBILEE OF CONFEDERATION

Dan Rosenblat

In the flag Handbook, Richardson has a short introduction to Types 43 and 44, which reads in part "Only ten major cities received the slugs for the 1927 Jubilee Flag cancels. One province was not represented at all--Saskatchewan."

The writer does not really know if this statement has long ago been corrected so that all collectors are well aware that it is an error. Actually, eight English Universal dies were issued to the eight offices that Richardson lists, but a ninth was issued to Regina, Saskatchewan. If this is general knowledge, this article is of little value, but on the premise that Regina strikes must be rare, the Regina use in the form of its receipt strike from the Proof Book is illustrated below.

Editors Note: Although not illustrated previously, Flag Pole Vol. 1 No. 2. lists Regina type 43-9 with a value of \$ 50.00.

CORONATION HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

FLAGS 71 AND 72
Dan Rosenblat

Ed Richardson was always careful to designate in the Handbook any differences in the machine type dies used in the earlier flag cancels and in the case of ENLIST NOW, but he made no mention of them in regard to either the George VI or Elizabeth II Coronation flags.

In the case of the George VI Coronation flags, there was really no need, since by 1937 every major Canadian office had been using Perfect machines for several years. The first Pitney-Bowes machines were introduced as early as late 1936, but only at a very few small offices, so they had no impact on the use of Perfect dies by all the offices involved, whether English or bilingual.

However, this was not the situation sixteen years later in 1953, when the Elizabeth II Coronation dies were issued. By then, most of the major English offices had adopted Pitney-Bowes machines, but MONTREAL and QUEBEC and a few of the English offices still retained Perfect machines, so the dies for this event had to be issued in two different types. This is of sufficient importance that a listing of the two usage types should be available.

Of the nineteen English dies issued to eighteen offices, including a second die for Toronto, fourteen were Pitney-Bowes dies issued to the following:

CHARLOTTETOWN	EDMONTON	HAMILTON	LONDON	OTTAWA
REGINA	ST. JOHN'S	SASKATOON	TORONTO (2 DIES)	
VANCOUVER	VICTORIA	WINDSOR	WINNIPEG	

The other five were Perfect dies issued to the following:

CALGARY	FREDERICTON	HALIFAX	MONCTON	ST. JOHN
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Additionally, all three issued bilingual dies were Perfects, two issued to MONTREAL and one to QUEBEC.



MONTREAL - AUGUST 1897
David Sessions

The piece on Montreal flag usage during August 1897, by Jo Smith, was most interesting and goes to show that one should never study one's chosen field to the total exclusion of all others.

I have no example of Montreal Type 7 used in the critical period (11th to 15th) but I do have one photostat of apparently commercial use of Die 1 on 14 August, timed at 16-0 hrs.

What is particularly interesting about the timespan is that it overlaps the period of the "B.Baker" philatelic covers featuring the Type 5 Jubilee flag. Is this mere coincidence?

While commercial use of the Type 5 flag seems confined to 10-15 July and 17 July, all the "baker" covers known to me are confined to the period 14-18 August, 1897. I have examples dated 14 and 16 August, both timed at 15.0. I also have photostats of five others on 14th and four on 16th, all timed at 15.0; three on 17th are also logged - two timed at 14-0 and one not known. The lone 18 August example is, I believe; from the Jarrett sale (25.3.60) but I have no illustration. It is just possible this is a mis-read '16'; does anyone out there have a clear 18th? Absence of activity on 15 August is explained by this date being a Sunday.

No one knows how many covers Baker prepared, or why he did batches on at least three separate days, but without them the Type 5 flag would be a lot scarcer than it is! Is it possible that the machines were indeed out of commission for a few days and that Baker got to hear about it and managed to obtain some 'souvenir' covers using the obsolescent Type 5 die, thinking the machines may be withdrawn? The dater on examples dated 14 August differs from that seen on 16 and 17 August, which suggests two different machines were used.

The machines had only been installed a month earlier so a 3/4 day servicing seems unlikely; however, Toronto was having trouble with its new machines and, by September 1897, was talking of their withdrawal (Ref. 1), so maybe Montreal had problems too and virtually stopped using the machines while problems were investigated. As an aside, if there was a power failure the machines could be worked by foot power, according to the company's advertising brochure.

One further thought, if there was a power failure lasting several days then it might have been reported in the Montreal press, it may be worthwhile somebody checking. There are presumably either actual papers or microfiches in a Montreal reference library.

Reference 1. Letter from Harrison Young of Canadian Postal Supply Company to Hon. William Mulock, PMG, Ottawa - 2 September, 1897:

'Re Mail Marking Machines in Toronto Post Office"

We received a letter today from Mr Carruthers in which he informs us that he was directed by you to notify us that the rental will not begin until the Machines now in that office are in perfect working order, and if they cannot be put in that condition without delay, they are to be removed.

Mr Carruthers also wrote to us last week to the effect that the machines were giving trouble, and asked us when we intended making alterations on the Receiving Table, to which we replied that we were in correspondence with Mr Sweetnam (Ref. 2) in regard to the require alterations, and hoped to be able to attend to the same in due course.

Since my departure from Toronto, the care of the Machines has been in the hands of an expert machinist, who has reported to us that they have given him very little trouble, and has also sent us samples of the work as passed through each machine daily. We are therefore in a quandary to know what is really wrong, as we have again heard from him by letter in which he states the machines are running nicely. We enclose this letter, together with some of the samples of machine stamping, dated August, 14th., 24th., and 30th.- We also enclose samples of hand stamping from Toronto.

We presume it is really the present positions of the machines in the office there that is the cause of dissatisfaction rather than their mechanical working, and as our Company is desirous that you should be thoroughly satisfied with the machines, we are willing to alter their position as the Department may desire, and would like to have this point definitely determined before we begin work, so that it may be done perfectly satisfactory, (sic) and in this way avoid if possible any further trouble to the Officials, and unnecessary expense for us. The writer leaves by night train for Toronto, and will call at the Post Office there tomorrow, where we trust you will kindly forward instructions as to the alterations desired.....

Reference 2. N. Sweetnam was the Chief Post Office Inspector at the time.

MORE MODERN QUESTIONS

Since my listing of modern flags appeared it has created quite a bit of dialogue among the membership. Tom Almond questioned the 1977 "Guelphex 77" hand stamp and David Sessions asked about the 1980 "ALBERTA 75" handstamps. Both of these are handstamps prepared for a particular philatelic event. As handstamps they were not included in the machine checklist. It has been suggested a listing of flag handstamps and banner types be prepared and I hope to do this.

David also questioned a Hamilton handstamp used during the Hamilton-Buffalo show on November 10, 1984. He sent me a photocopy (reproduced here). I was exhibiting at the show and did not get an example as I did not collect flags at the time. To attempt to obtain an example I visited the Hamilton show on November 7, 1992 and this created a bigger question with modern flags. Looking through dealers stocks for this 1984 cancellation I found a first day cover of the 'Loyalist' stamp with a flag cancellation similar to the Hamilton. Continuing my investigation, several similar flag cancels were uncovered.

Discussions with group John Robertson and Allan Steinhart indicate with the volume, repeatability of location and clarity of the first day cancellations use of a machine is probable.

