

OTTAWA, ONT.
OCT 19
10-PM
1918

BUY VICTOR
BONDS
TO THE LIMIT
OF YOUR ABILITY

CANADA POSTAGE
3 CENTS

Volume 9 Number 2, December 1995

Chairman: John Robertson, 10 Pergola Road, Rexdale, Ont. M9W 5K5

Having just read the BNAPEX '95 report kindly sent in by Doug Lingard, it seems I missed quite a show, just reading the names of people who attended our study group meeting makes me feel sorry that I missed it.

It appears that at CAPEX '96 we will have a flag cancel. I am just waiting for final approval now.

A Merry Christmas -- may you all receive rare Flag Cancells -- to all our members.

It is tough to put all I want to mention on the front page so I will take some space later to welcome the **SIX (6) NEW MEMBERS** of our study group who have joined since the September issue. I guess that Doug, Larry, Bob etc., were doing a lot of talking about flags in Edmonton (see Doug's report). They even got Chuck to join the group. I wonder, if McCarthy got off the free list would he Join our group? Really sorry I missed Edmonton.

Once again I did not get the correction notice regarding David Session's article I will get it done soon. Upcoming in 1996 will be a revised checklist, an improved 'BOOK' of Doug's exhibit and the 1996 FLAG CANCELLATION.

Ohio **March 22-24**
106th Annual March Party, Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, Masonic Auditorium, 3615 Euclid Ave., Cleveland. Open exhibits, open junior exhibits, and bourse. Data from Anthony M. Smith, P.O. Box 102, Avon Lake, OH 44012. *WSP*

MATCHED SET OF 1901 TORONTO EXHIBITION FLAGS
 FROM LEIGH HOGG'S COLLECTION
 LEIGH OBTAINED THESE AT THE HENNOCK SALE AND THESE ARE EX STULBERG



Post Office Box 2562,

THE QUEEN CITY OIL CO., LIMITED,

SPECIAL.

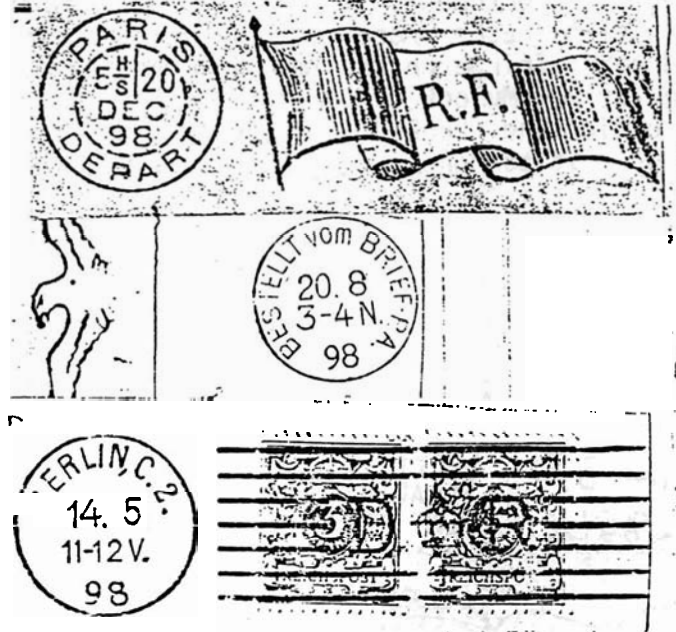
TORONTO. ONT.

THE BICKERDIKE MACHINE PAPERS REVISITED

by Geoff Newman

With the publication of the Bickerdike Machine Papers (BMP) in 1986, many collectors have assumed I was an expert on the Bickerdikes. The truth is that over the last ten years I have been made aware of just how much I do not know about the subject. This article is meant to discuss some of the questions, speculations and embarrassments of the last ten years.

The first embarrassment is on the cover of the book!!



The book's cover shows a PARIS DEPART¹ and a BERLIN C2.² BICKERDIKE cancellation which are discussed within the book. However the BESTELLT vom BRIEF - P.A. /98 hub shown is never mentioned, simply because I did not know what it was. It is a Bickerdike Machine Berlin Receiving Mark (not some Pennsylvania town as I had guessed!)



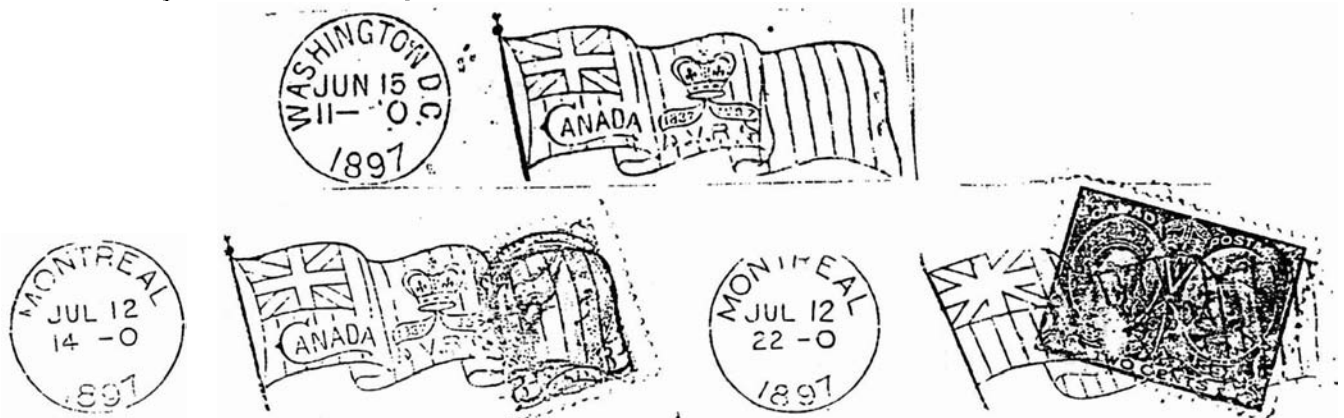
The second embarrassment was not knowing that the F1-K was the first Bickerdike cancellation. Doug Lingard's excellent exhibit "Canadian Flag Cancels 1896-1919", now available in book form from Doug, presents a convincing argument that the flag type 1 die K was indeed a Bickerdike test done between 3 and 9 September 1896.³ On page 21 of the BMP is mention of the Postmaster General's 1896 Register which contains the entry "6 Aug: R. Bickerdick (sic) Montreal; on the subject of a stamping machine which he wishes to have tested at the Montreal P.O." I was so pleased to be able to at long last provide a link between the machine and Mr. Bickerdike that I overlooked the obvious implication that a prototype probably existed in August '96.

Testing of this prototype machine in early September appears to be a logical response to Bickerdike's letter. The use of an F1 Killer with the "K" die letter would provide distinguishable cancellations during the test. Was the F1 killer used a previously used killer with only the die letter changed, or was it a completely new killer? I leave the answer to this question to the Imperial specialists. A note of caution, there was an F1 killer in Ottawa, so that one should also be checked.

Assuming the F1-K is the first Bickerdike, we present the following, albeit somewhat speculative interpretation of subsequent events.

The prototype machine was tested in early September and removed from the Montreal P.O. The patent was granted on 26 October⁴, the same day as a Montreal "Solicitor of Patents and Expert in Patent cases" received a letter advising him that the "Young and Ethridge machine" did not infringe on the Imperial machine patents. Young got Mr. Bickerdike to arrange for PMG Mulock to see the machine in operation. The machine is returned to the post office and checked out between 2 and 8 December 1896, with a new killer (F3). Mulock's visit to Montreal in late December is certainly the main, and maybe the only reason, for the cancellations of 28 December 1896 to 4 January 1897.

When Young learned that Mulock had instructed Sweetnam to call for tenders the machine acquired the name Bickerdike. I leave it to your imagination as to what deals, political or otherwise, may have transpired between August 1896 and March 1897, when a leasing agreement was negotiated.



The machine is removed from the Montreal post office in January '97 and taken to Washington for the UPU Congress where the Washington hub and the F4 killer are used for demonstrations in June 1897. And so another question, between 10 July and 13 July when the machines were installed in Montreal, seven different killer slugs were used. Were there seven different hubs as well? Were 5 newly manufactured machines and the test machine delivered to the Montreal office on or after 10 July, or were 6 newly manufactured machines delivered as well as the prototype, the later being removed about 15 July?

Should any study group member have any answers, comments or other questions pertaining to the above I would certainly appreciate seeing them in future issues of the newsletter. I am working on an exhibit of the Bickerdike cancellations (world wide) and can already see some more questions about both the Montreal and Toronto cancellations, which I will write about later.

- References:
1. Geoffrey R. Newman, The Bickerdike Machine Papers pp35.
 2. Op. cit. Note 1 pp82-3
 3. Doug Lingard, Canadian Flag Cancels 1896-1919 pp
 4. Op. cit Note 1 pp 11...
 5. Op. cit. Note 1 pp 21-3.

BNAPEX '95 REPORT

By

Doug Lingard

WOW! What a show! For starters, the very fine one frame exhibit that John and Bob put together was the most popular of all the study group exhibits.

This was probably the largest concentration of serious Canadian flag cancel collectors since CAPEX '87. In fact, we had what was surely the best turnout ever for a flag cancel study group meeting. The following 17 individuals all signed the study group attendance sheet: Tom Almond, our UK representative, Larry Paige, Bob Heasman, Geof Newman, Fred Goodhelpsen, Ken Ellison, Steve Friedenthal, Gus Quattrocchi, Bill Rockett, Elwood Poore, Cecil Coutts, Floyd McNey, Taras Cheberiak, Dick Staecker, Robert Lemaire, Bill Topping and Doug Lingard. A couple of others also wandered in and out during the course of the meeting.

We picked up four new members at the show; namely, Charles Firby, Steve Friedenthal (who incidently won a well deserved Vermeil for an superb Western Canada slogan cancel exhibit which even had a nice 1917 Prince Albert Exhibition flag cancel on piece and a large part of a 1918 one on piece as well), Taras Cheberiak, and Don Fraser.

The talk amongst the senior members at the show was on who was going after the better items in the upcoming Ron Leith auction and how much they would be going for. Incidently, this turned out to be an incredible event with a number of record realizations. It seems that there was so much excitement on the floor that one individual purchased a cancel on piece thinking it was on cover. Our very own Bob Heasman was there and has promised to do a report as to just what did happen. I understand that just about all of the good material went south of the border to those who collect world wide flag and machine cancels and that members of our study group got only a couple of the better items.

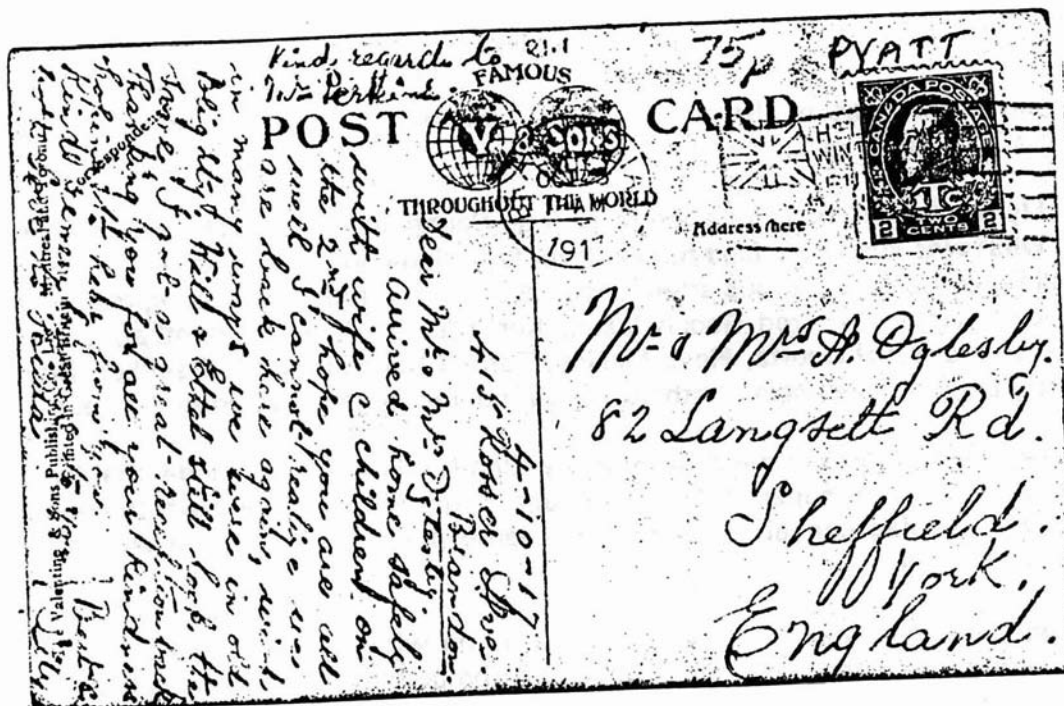
We all had fun and about 17 of us went out for dinner on "Bourbon Street" in the West Edmonton Mall. But before dinner, we watched Bill Longly and Larry Paige ride the roller coaster in the amusement park while us "chickens" crashed into one another in the bumper cars. As one member stated, it was just like the old times that members used to have at BNAPEX conventions where every one had a lot of fun. If you have never attended a BNAPEX, I encourage you to try and make Texas next year as you surely will enjoy yourself and meet some interesting people.

At the study group meeting Fred Goodhelpsen showed us three lovely rare 1917 Saskatoon exhibition flag cancels of varying sizes. Many members do not own even one of these elusive items. Geof Newman, who finally seems to have come out of retirement, talked about world wide Bickerdike cancels, and promised to do an article on them for the Flag Pole. The key note speakers were Bob Heasman and Bill Topping who discussed the 1901 Victoria Exhibition Flag Cancel. Bill wrote an interesting article on this cancel in Maple Leaves whereby he tried to explain why it was a Bickerdike cancel. Bill now agrees that it is not a Bickerdike flag cancel, but feels that it was applied by some sort of mechanical cancelling device and will be looking through the exhibition archives to see if there is any information as to what it might be. Hopefully, we will hear more from Bill on this subject.

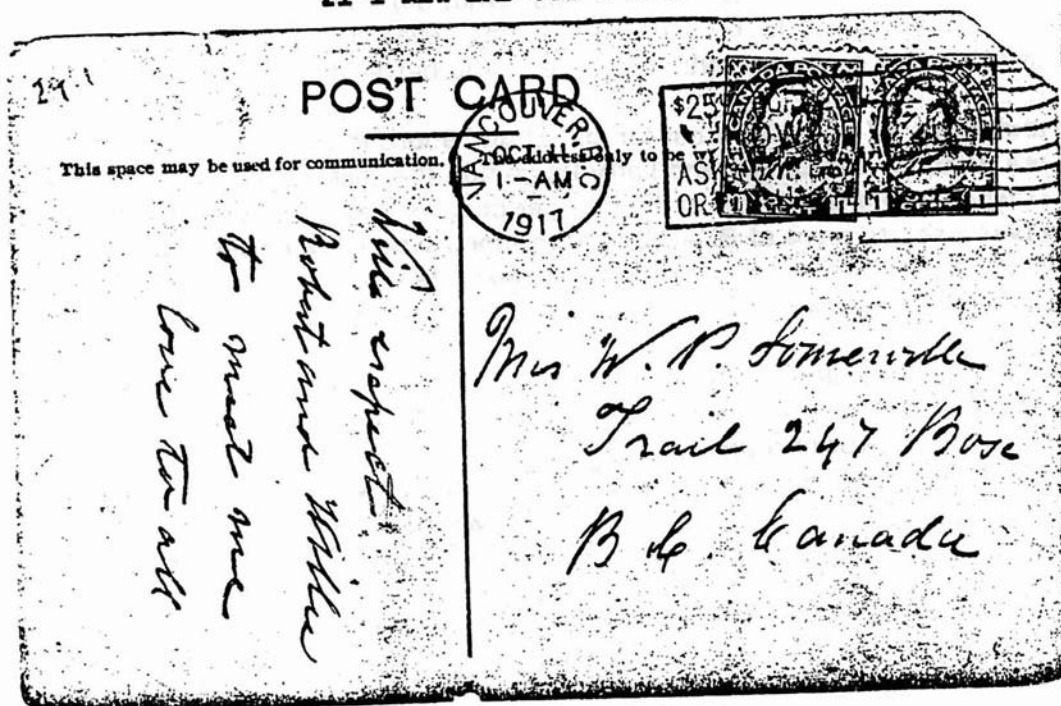
The Treasurer, ie. me, indicated that membership dues would not be assessed again until 1996 since we have adequate funds to pay for the newsletter. He also gave out copies of correspondence that he had with the Chief Judge at Burlington on judging the exhibits at that show. Should any member who was not at the study group meeting like a copy of this correspondence, just drop me a note. I also mentioned that the Machine Cancel Society had invited our group to merge with them. This offer was declined but we did agree to offer to work closer together and publish dates and locations of our respective conventions in both study group publications so that members from both organizations could attend if they wished.

Finally, it was agreed that there would be a get together of study group members during the first weekend of CAPEX '97. A dinner will be arranged as we did at CAPEX '86. Details to follow in the March Flag Pole.

As one member said, "It was a heck of a show and they just keep on getting better".



21-1 NEW LKD OCT 5 1917



29-1 NEW LKD OCT 11 1917
MASTHEAD 37-5 NEW EKD OCT 19 1918

The first two items submitted by Tom Almond on behalf of Len Harris the well-known Slogan Collector. The other item was picked up by the editor at a local Post Card show. Finds are being made. Keep your eyes open.

FOR SALE

From: David Sessions
31 Eastergate Green
Rustington, Littlehampton
W. Sussex BN16 3EN

Assume Canadian Funds Postage extra.

Lot 1 - 15 Covers \$25.00

Includes 81-1, 82-1(2), 81-1A, 82-2(2), 82-2A, 82-3, 82-4, 83-1(2), 84-2, 85-1, 86-1, 87-1.

Lot 2 - 5 Covers \$5.00

Includes 90-1, 91-1(2), 92-1, 93-1.

Lot 3 - 6 Covers \$10.00

Includes 100-3, 100-4, 101-1, 101-2, 100-2 and 1973 Howe slogan Richardson indicated not used but it was.

Lot 4 - 2 Covers one Piece \$8.00

Includes 1980-1 'PROOF STRIKE' on piece, 1980-1A, 1980-1B.

Lot 5 - 4 Covers \$25.00

Includes 110-1, 111-1(2 EKD & LKD) 111-1a (INVERT).

Lot 6 - 5 Covers \$7.00

Includes 112-1, 113-1, 114-1(2), 116-1.

Lot 7 - 7 Covers \$8.00

Includes 123-1(4), 123-2(3) both EKDs and all different dates.

Lot 8 - 2 Covers \$4.00

Includes 1977-2, 1984-3.

From: John Robertson
10 Pergola Rd.
Rexdale, Ontario
M9W 5K5

Canadian Funds Postage Paid.

23-13 Vancouver	Jun 6 1917 Postcard	\$6.00
	Aug 18 1917 Postcard	\$6.00
23-14 Windsor	Aug 16 1917 Postcard	\$10.00
24-1 Hamilton	Apr 15 1917 Postcard	\$10.00
34-3 Guelph	Oct 2 1917 Postcard	\$10.00
35-9 Winnipeg	Jul 14 1919 Postcard	\$4.00
36-1 Hamilton	Sep 26 1917 Cover	\$4.00
37-3 Halifax	Nov 4 1918 Piece	\$20.00
	(2 stamps rather faint impression)	

THE LAST PAGE

OUR NEW MEMBERS:

69. Steve Friedenthal	3 Lindberg Cres.	St Albert, Alta T8N 2S8
70. Taras Cheberiak	61 Haultain Cres.	Regina, Sask S4S 4B4
71. Don Fraser	1183 Warsaw Ave.	Winnipeg, Man R3M 1C5
72. Chuck Firby	6695 Highland Rd.	Waterford, MI 48327-1967
73. Barry D. Bonner	3306 Carnaby Creek Dr.	San Antonio, TX 78247
74. Henry Gardiner	914 Wolfpack Ct.	Virginia Beach, VA 23462-7327

New members are invited to send anything of interest for inclusion in the Flag Pole. I may not get it into the next issue but it will appear (Leigh; I bet you thought I had lost your note.)

Doug Lingard sends in an illustration of a new discovery:

A second Halifax dater hub for the 1937 Coronation Flag. There are other discoveries to be made within this period.



53-1



53-6A



Tom Almond responds to John Robertson:

"I am not sure that John Robertson's beautiful new strike 'confirms the theory that the cancel was used throughout the entire month of March'. The small number of reported dates in March and April are separated by up to 5 days, therefore it is possible that other slogans or wavy line cancels were used in the period.

"It would be interesting to find out more about machine usage during the month in question. Would any Study Group Member who has a 53-14 strike with a date that is not in the following list please write to me; March 1/2, 4, 6, 8/11, 15, 19/20, 26/7, April 1/2. I would like to hear about strikes of other cancellations used in North Bay during the period in question."

Slogan Collectors may be able to surround the Flag -- ed.

Replies to:

Tom Almond 2 Filbert Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks, RG31 5DZ England

Fred Langford requests a photocopy of any 13-1 Victoria Exhibition in member's possession. Fred is trying to complete a census of this elusive cancellation. He has about a dozen strikes recorded and feels there are a lot more than generally agreed (David Sessions now reports total of 24).

Replies to:

Frederick Langford PO Box 802 Pasadena, CA 91102 USA

If you are in the Toronto area for the January show we will be discussing our plans for CAPEX.