

ICAO TIE-INS

By Albert Pelsser

ICAO 1955 Covers - The Canadian Patriotic Effort

Some of the Canadian private first day covers issued in 1955 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) provide remarkable material on the evolution of the Coat of Arms used in Canada over the past one hundred years. The coat of arms is a unique heraldic design on a shield, which forms the central element of the full heraldic achievement consisting of shield, supporters, crest, and motto. The design is a symbol unique to an individual person or family, corporation, or state.

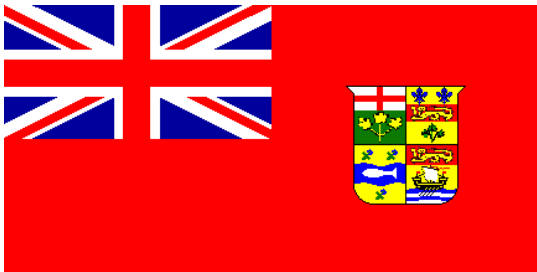


Figure 1: First Canadian flag after Confederation

Since 1921, the official coat of arms of the Canadian monarch and thus also of Canada is known as the Royal Coat of Arms of Canada. It is closely modelled after the royal coat of arms of the United Kingdom with French and distinctive Canadian elements replacing or added to those derived from the British version.

Prior to Confederation, no armorial bearings had been assigned to the various colonies in British North America, with the exception of the seventeenth-century grants to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Nevertheless, each colony possessed a great seal

which contained distinctive emblematic devices. The Confederation of Canada was created in 1867 by an Act of the British Parliament and given Royal Assent by Queen Victoria. Former flag of Canada used by the federal government (though it was never officially adopted by the Parliament of Canada), the Red Ensign bearing some sort of a Canadian emblem was used by Canadians both on land and at sea beginning as early as 1868, as it was informally adopted following Canadian Confederation. Although without standard design, the original Canadian Red Ensign (see at Figure 1) had the arms of the four founding provinces on its shield, i.e. Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

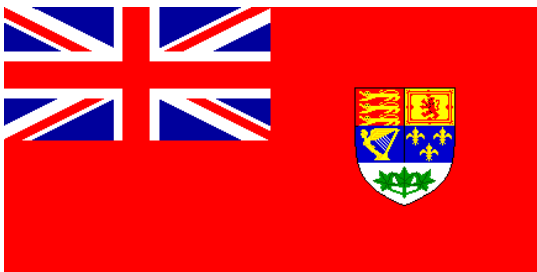


Figure 2: The Red Ensign as of 1922 until 1957

When other provinces joined Confederation, the attempt to add the arms of the new provinces to this federal composite design resulted in a crowded and confused appearance; this eventually resulted in a shield with nine quarterings, an arrangement that had never been approved by the monarch. For this reason, the Canadian Government submitted a request to the Sovereign for a grant of arms; the drawing of the arms was prepared by Alexander Scott Carter, one of Canada's pre-eminent heraldic artists. This request was approved and the arms assigned to Canada were appointed and declared in the proclamation of His Majesty King George V dated

21 November 1921; the proclamation also established red and white as the national colors of Canada. The new shield, shown on the cover at Figure 4, was displayed on the Red Ensign, thus producing a new version the Canadian Red Ensign in 1922 (see at Figure 2). The design of the arms of Canada reflects the royal symbols of Great Britain and France (the three royal lions of England, the royal lion of Scotland, the royal fleurs-de-lis of France and the royal Irish harp of Tara). On the bottom portion of the shield is a branch of three Canadian maple leaves in green representative of Canadians of all origins.

The motto *A Mari Usque ad Mare* means *From sea to sea* and is taken from the Bible's Psalm 72:8: "He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth." (King James Version).

The 1923 version of the coat of arms was prepared under the supervision of Ambrose Lee, Norroy King of

Arms, at the request of Thomas Mulvey, Under-secretary of State for Canada.

By 1957, the arms were redrawn by Alan Brookman Beddoe, the Founder of the Heraldry Society of Canada, so as to change the royal crown from one of a Tudor design to one more resembling St. Edward's Crown, as preferred by Queen Elizabeth II. Originally green, the leaves officially became red at that time, a common autumnal color, and thus in accord with Canada's national colors, red and white. The Red Ensign served as Canada's national flag until 1965 when, after considerable debate, it was replaced by today's Maple Leaf Flag.

The 1957 design of the arms of Canada was redrawn by Cathy Bursey-Sabourin, Fraser Herald at the Canadian Heraldic Authority, and was approved by H.M. the Queen, on the advice of the Prime Minister of Canada, on 12 July 1994. It includes a new element: an annulus behind the shield bearing the motto of the Order of Canada: *Desiderantes Meliorem Patriam* meaning *Desiring a better country*.



1921



1923



1957



1994

Figure 3: Evolution of the Canadian Coat of Arms from 1921.

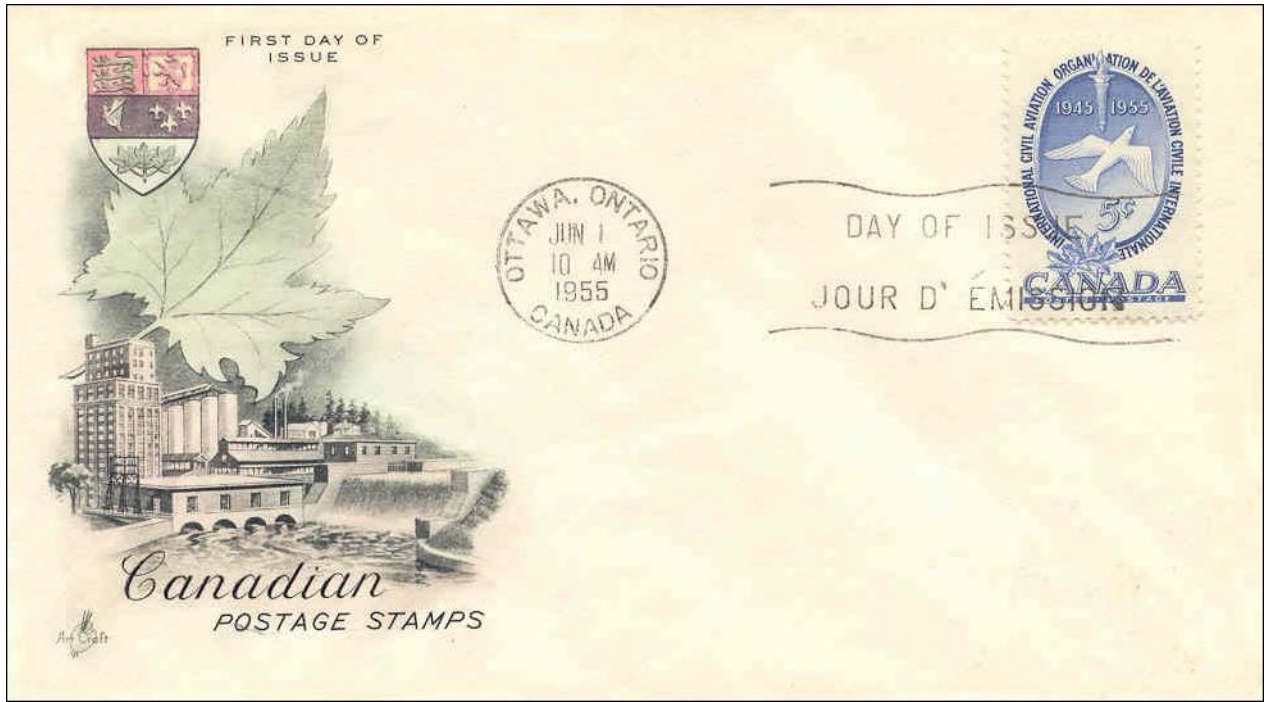


Figure 4: First day cover showing the quartered shield with the arms of the four founding provinces, as approved in 1921 for the coat of arms. The Art Craft General Purpose cachet also shows an industrial view of Canada.

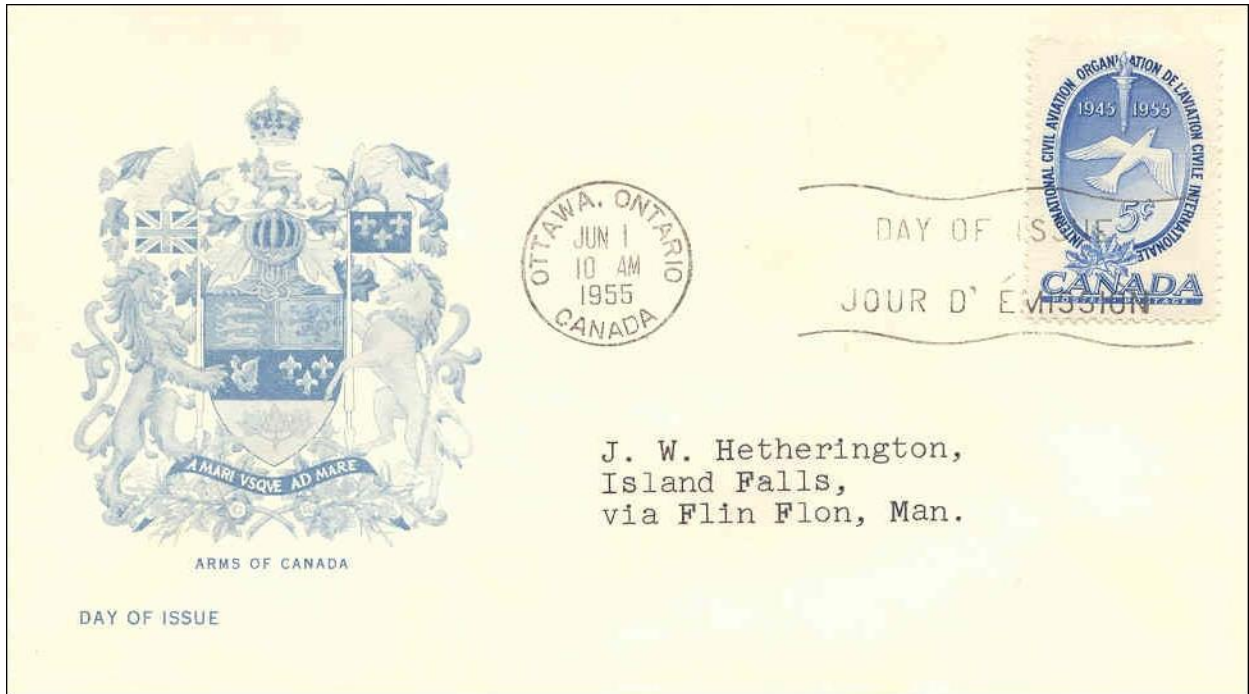




Figure 5: First day covers (with blue and light-brown cachets) showing the coat of arms as approved in 1921. Stanley Stamp Co. General Purpose cachet.



Figure 6: First day cover showing the coat of arms as approved in 1921, although with some latitude in the design taken by the Cachet maker.



Figure 7: First day cover showing the coat of arms, the map of Canada and the Peace Tower in Ottawa. Middlesex Stamp Circle cachet.

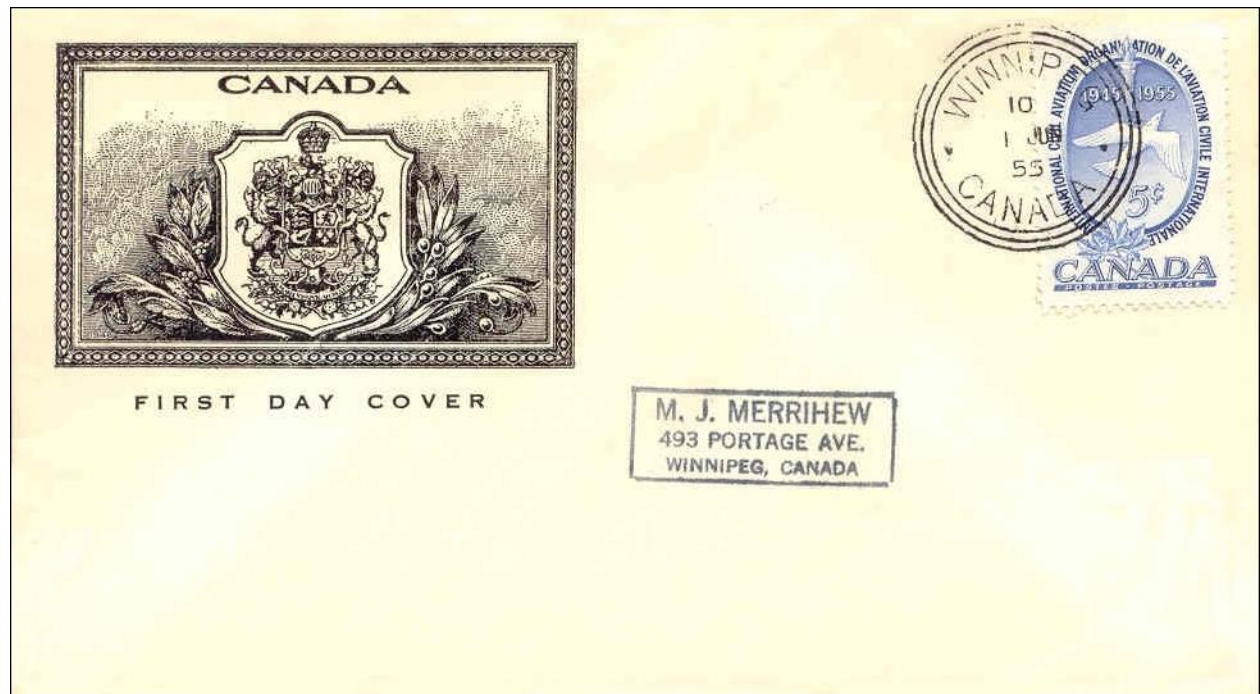


Figure 8: First day cover showing the coat of arms as approved in 1923; design as per Special Delivery-Exprès Stamp (Scott catalogue #E11) issued on 16 September 1946. Roessler General Purpose cachet.



The cachet shown at Figure 8 illustrates the coat of arms of Canada, as per stamp Special Delivery stamp (10-cent green, Scott catalogue #E11) issued on 16 September 1946 and shown here at the left side. The laurel and olive branches symbolize Victory and Peace.

During the late 1930's, in response to Nazi Germany's aggression almost halfway around the world, a strong sense of patriotism was arising in Canada and a new series of **Special Delivery-Expres** stamps would proudly portray it.

In the 1938 20-cent special delivery stamp (Scott #E8, dark carmine), the coat of arms as per 1921 design was shown.

On 1 March 1939, the special delivery rate was reduced to 10-cent; existing stock of the 20-cent stamp was overprinted with striker bars added to reflect the new rate (Scott #E9). On 1 April 1939, Scott #E7 in green was created to fulfill the new 10-cent rate.

On 1 July 1942, along with the stamp issue of the highly patriotic WWII Effort series (Scott #249-262, Canada's contribution to the war effort of the Allied Nations), Canada also issued a special delivery stamp (Scott #E10) with a new design, which still featured the coat of arms of Canada, but this time surrounded by the Naval ensign at left, a Royal Canadian Air Force flag at right, and two Union Jacks representing the Army, partially hidden at each side.

With the war ending in Europe on 8 May 1945, Canada issued on 16 September 1946 a new Peace series stamps (Scott #268-273) and a new special delivery stamp (Scott #E11, reproduced on the cover at Figure 8), with a design featuring once again the coat of arms of Canada, but this time surrounded by laurel and olive branches. The date 1946 is hidden inside the frame in the lower left corner.

Another aspect of Canada special delivery stamps, along with their use by the public, is the government use for special delivery of official mail, by punching O.H.M.S. from 29 June 1939 (Scott #OE11, perfin punch).

Later in September 1949, Canada Post reduced the high cost of manually perforating stamps used for government mail by simply overprinting them with the initials O.H.M.S. (Scott #EO1); on 6 September 1950, these initials were changed to a simple G (for Government) overprinted (Scott #EO2).

In 1950, the Canadian post office discontinued the release of special delivery stamps, but continued the service through the use of *Special Delivery* stickers applied along with the prepaid postage affixed to letters and parcels.



Scott #E8



Scott #E9



Scott #E7



Scott #E10



Scott #E11



Scott #OE11



Scott #EO1



Scott #EO2

Figure 9: Set of Special Delivery stamps, issued by Canada from 1938 to 1950.

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