

PHILATELIC LAXITY

by Albert Pelsser

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ICAO

The anniversary dates of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), whose headquarters have been located in Montreal since its beginning, have always created difficulties in interpretation and have shown inconsistencies in their celebration.



(Figure 1)

On 7 December 1944, the International Civil Aviation Conference, held in Chicago, concluded with the signature of the final act, containing, *inter alia*, the following main instruments:

1. The **Convention on International Civil Aviation** was designed to provide a complete modernization of the basic public international law of the air. After

ratification by twenty-six states, it came into effect on 4 April 1947 with the constitution of the new permanent International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO.

2. The **Interim Agreement on International Civil Aviation** was designed to deal with the period intervening until the above permanent convention would be ratified. It came into effect on 6 June 1945, thereby constituting the Provisional International Civil Aviation Organization (PICAO).

From the above, several dates may be used to celebrate the anniversaries related to ICAO; the latter Organization left much confusion on its anniversary dates, as they were celebrated by ICAO as follows:

	Celebrated in
10th anniversary	June 1955
15th anniversary	April 1962
20th anniversary	December 1964
30th anniversary	April 1977
35th anniversary	April 1982
40th anniversary	December 1984
45th anniversary	December 1989
50th anniversary	December 1994.

It can be seen that, since its fortieth anniversary, ICAO has decided to use the ending date of the Chicago Conference, which created the permanent organization, for the celebration of its anniversaries, hence establishing a consistent pattern.

Notwithstanding the above confusion, several countries celebrated the 75th anniversary of ICAO, either in 1979 (Belize, Paraguay and Uruguay) or in 1980 (Paraguay).



(Figure 2)

Figure 1 shows Uruguay Michel #1539, the margin of which refers to the 75th anniversary of ICAO; Belize Scott #450 (see Figure 2) displays a souvenir sheet celebrating two events: the death centenary of Sir Rowland Hill, who introduced the first postage stamp, and the 75th anniversary of ICAO.

In December 1903, the dream of thousands of years came true: the Wright brothers made the first successful flight of a manned, heavier-than-air vehicle. The above-mentioned countries strangely associated the 75th

anniversary of the Wright brothers' triumph with ICAO, which has not reached yet its 75th milestone.

[Editor's Note: Readers are invited to submit their own candidates for this column. Any Canadiana errors not previously published in *The Canadian Connection* are welcome. Each story selected for publication will earn a Canadiana prize for the reader making the submission.

As his prize M. Pelsser receives the Swissair 50th anniversary flight cover illustrated on page 28 of this issue.]

CHECKLIST

Belize	440-448,449-450s/s	1979 Jul 30	Death centenary of Sir Rowland Hill and 75th anniversary of ICAO
Paraguay	Mi3153-3161	1979 Apr 24	History of aviation and 75th anniversary of ICAO
Paraguay	MiBL334	1979 Apr 24	History of aviation and 75th anniversary of ICAO
Paraguay	Mi3174-3182	1979 Jun 11	Death centenary of Sir Rowland Hill and 75th anniversary of ICAO
Paraguay	MiBL337	1979 Jun 11	Death centenary of Sir Rowland Hill and 75th anniversary of ICAO
Paraguay	Mi3259-3267	1980 Apr 8	Death centenary of Sir Rowland Hill and 75th anniversary of ICAO
Paraguay	MiBL348	1980 Apr 8	Death centenary of Sir Rowland Hill and 75th anniversary of ICAO
Uruguay	Mi1539	1979 Jun 18	75th anniversary of the first powered flight and of ICAO

