

PHILATELIC LAXITY

by Albert Pelsser

BARBUDA COMMEMORATES ICAO'S 30th ANNIVERSARY



Figure 1

The first day cover (Figure 1) issued by Barbuda on 24 May 1979 was intended to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), whose headquarters have been in Montreal since 1945. The year 1949 does not correspond to any major reference date (such as 1944, 1945 or 1947) from which ICAO anniversaries could be (and were sometimes) counted. It should have more rightly commemorated the 35th anniversary (1944-1979), as indicated in major stamp catalogues.

It is however interesting to seek the reasons for which Barbuda wanted to commemorate this 30th anniversary. First of all, no regional air navigation meeting was held in 1949 in the Caribbean region. One indication,

however, could have been that Barbuda took, as reference date, the occupation of the first permanent accommodations (*International Aviation Building*) at 1080 University Street, Montreal, at the corner of Dorchester (now boulevard René-Lévesque) and University Street. These premises were ready for occupation by 15 July 1949.

Another more likely indication for this commemoration of a 30th anniversary could have been that Barbuda took into consideration the first official meeting of the Air Navigation Commission (ANC), which took place on 7 February 1949. Often referred to as the technical arm of ICAO, the ANC was created by the Convention on International Civil Aviation (also called the Chicago Convention)



Figure 2

signed by 52 states on 7 December 1944 in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A. The mandate of the Commission is to recommend to the ICAO Council the most appropriate course of action in the process of developing and amending the Standards and Recommended Practices contained in the Technical Annexes to the above-mentioned Convention.

These two events may have triggered the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of ICAO by Barbuda.

The first stamps of the independent country, bearing the name of *ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA*, appeared in 1981;

this state became a member of ICAO in the same year. However, stamp activities with the inscription *BARBUDA* already began in 1968. Thus, it is interesting to note that those islands were not Contracting States of ICAO when the set of stamps was issued in 1979.

The corner block Scott #393a in Figure 2 shows the three stamps of the issue and a label with a limited design of ICAO emblem (i.e. the central part of the United Nations logo is missing) with the text *INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION*.

CHECKLIST

Barbuda	391-393,393a	1979 May 24	International Civil Aviation Organization 
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