

THE ICAO CORNER

by Albert Pelsser

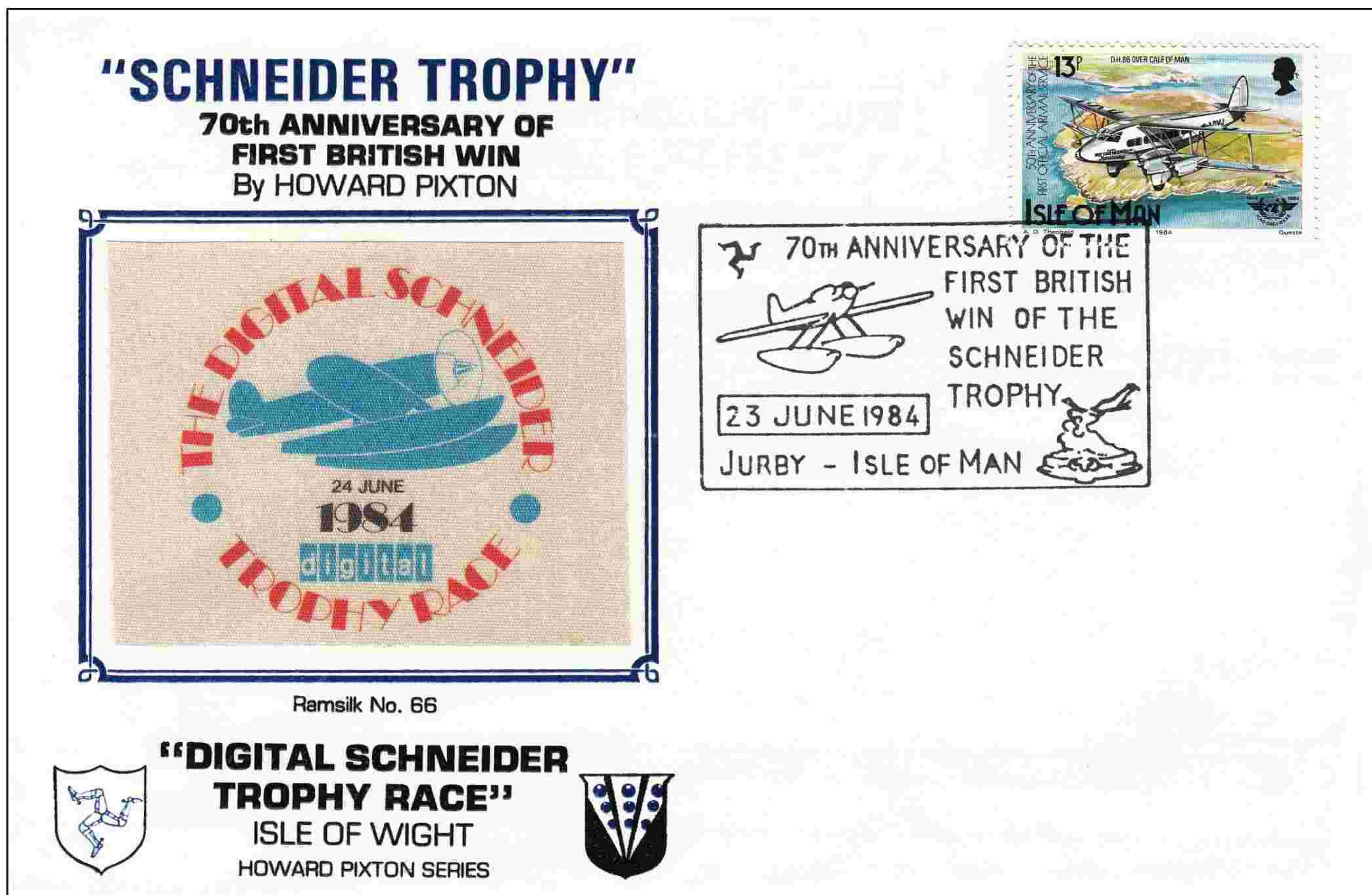


Figure 1

The first story of a new series of articles will be published in the December issue of *The Canadian Connection* based on the philatelic collection related to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which has its headquarters in Montreal, Canada, since 1945.

Not surprisingly, aircraft are the most commonly used features in the ICAO topical collection; however, although the collection comprises a limited number of stamps, the richness of the collection comes from the huge amount of covers bearing either the ICAO logo or the Organization's full name or its acronym or with an implied relation to ICAO such as an airplane within the United Nations family framework.

The stamps of the ICAO topical collection were all scanned and are described by the website at the following address: <http://legacy.icao.int/icao/en/hist/stamps/>. The stamp collection comprises 156 issues from 99 countries going from 1927 to 2010. With the great variety of stamps and covers, the collector will enjoy the pleasure of

collecting and the potential of mining into the history of aircraft and the commemorative events displayed by the items of the collection.

Each story within "The ICAO Corner" will focus on a specific subject which, on one hand, displays the ICAO connection, and, on the other hand, provides the story of the pictures or events found on the stamps or covers. This two-fold approach will expand the understanding of the Organization and report on the background of the issues.

The first story of "The ICAO Corner" will draw the reader's attention to the Schneider Trophy. The race for this Trophy was held 11 times between 1913 and 1931. In 1981, the race was revived by the Royal Aero Club of Great Britain to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Britain's ultimate retention of the Trophy. The U.K. subsidiary of U.S. computer company Digital Equipment Corporation independently decided to sponsor a long-term revival of the Schneider Trophy, with the first race held in 1984, the same year as the 40th anniversary of ICAO (see Figure 1). ❁