

SYNOPSIS : Centenary of Trans-Canada Air Flight 7-17 October 1920

Purpose:

On October 7, 1920 through 17 October, the first Trans-Canada flight was performed by two branches of the Canadian government and Air Force. The project was deemed successful, but experienced much in the way of weather problems which added 5 days to the elapse time of the flight. In this exhibit I intend to show earlier philatelic elements (primarily covers) that were made on the original flight and 50th anniversaries of the flight culminating with the work that was done by the CAS, and Shearwater Museum to celebrate this centenary. The CAS work was primarily done by Dave Bartlet who designed the who designed the stamps and covers and coordinated the actual transportation of the covers from Halifax to Vancouver between 7-17 October 2020. Halifax coordination was assisted by Hugh Rathbun, and by John Orr of the Shearwater Museum. This display shows the material created by Dave, Hugh and John in this commemoration. The decision to commemorate this event was only made in late August 2020. There is no other material created for this flight that is not shown in this exhibit. Due to the pandemic, it was not feasible to attempt to retrace all the steps of the original flight due to the Atlantic bubble and the movement of covers had to use courier services.

This exhibit has only been shown as a virtual exhibit and has been totally rewritten with this version never shown previously.

Challenge Factor:

Since this was not an official airmail letter carrying flight, most mail from the flight was from dignitaries in Halifax with greetings to officials (such as mayors), so very little mail pieces are in public hands from 1920. Most material is in the Vancouver Archives. Among the few public covers from the flight, the title page cover was flown from Regina to Calgary.

What is Presented:

Starting sequentially the original flight cover from 1920 is on the title page, followed by special material from the 50th Anniversary, and followed by the commemorative material created for the 2020 centenary.

Organization:

Sequentially by anniversary.

Bibliography/References:

Skies Magazine: <https://skiesmag.com/news/first-trans-canada-flight/>

Kenora Muse - <https://themusekenora.ca/the-first-trans-canada-flight-1920/>

History Museum - <https://www.historymuseum.ca/blog/first-trans-canada-flight-49-hours-of-flight-time/>

The Canadian Aerophilatelist Journal Sept 2020,#124 Page 11-16 Chris Hargreaves
Information for the Centenary is obtained mainly by personal experience.

BNA Topics, Vol 27, Nov 1970

<https://bnaps.org/hhl/Topics/BNA%20Topics,%20Vol.%2027,%20No.%2010,%20November%201970,%20Whole%20No.%20295.pdf>

Maple Leaves, August 1970 - <http://www.canadianpsgb.org.uk/mpl/mpl-1970-08-v013n06-w126.pdf>