

BNAPS Fancy Cancel Study Group Newsletter No. 4

Dave Lacelle. ≅ Jan 90

●Group News:

Now 46 members, a larger group (and more work) than I had thought. I still haven't completed that list of members and specific interests - next time I hope. The meeting at the Convention was fairly small with only about 15 members present. The scanning, magnifying, and editing capabilities of the microcomputer seemed to be well received however. With this newsletter I continue my journey into the strange and complex world of "desk top publishing". I have started work on the book, the "Toronto Two" information in this newsletter is partially "borrowed" from the book.

It was nice to meet with those of you at the convention. I apologize for some confusion at the meeting, some dummy (yours truly) had set the computer up in the wrong room. All of the newer members have requested back issues of the newsletters, you should have all received them by now. If not, I still have a few left.

I owe several people special thanks. Joanne Fraser has volunteered to act as an assistant with the distribution etc. of this newsletter. Clinton Phillips allowed himself to be "Shanghaied" into chairing the meeting at the next convention. Jim Hennok of J. Hennok Ltd. is to be thanked for 14 old photo plates of fancy cancels from collections in the 1960's. I was able to obtain at least 15 new dates of usage from this material, as well as some other information. R. Maresch and Co. are to be thanked for "putting up with me" for a day while I had an advance research-peek at the Siverts cancel material. Finally, and not least, the following have sent me photocopies of large portions of their collections (287 pages in total!): Clint Phillips, Vic Willson, Frank Waite, Mr. D. Kolfage, and Wayne Smith. So much material has arrived that I have had to modify one of my databases so that it can be sorted.

Total dues collected (\$5.00 each) for the year from '89 Convention to '90 Convention is \$75.00, surplus last year was \$20.00. Cost per unit (Newsletter 3) printing \$0.59, envelope \$0.10, postage \$38.48, total \$66.24.

I would like to include some material from your letters in this newsletter.

1. Comparisons between covers owned by John Hannah in Aberdeen Scotland, and Tracy Cooper in Quesnel B.C. has proven that there are two almost identical cancels listed as D&S 829, one used in Pembroke Ont. in 1870 and the other in Cowichan B.C. in 1873.

2. Richard Creighton asks about details of D&S illustrations which were deliberately made inexact so as to foil forgers. I was able to provide examples of a few of these.

3. Stanley Cohen has provided a useful tip to determine authenticity of Two ring numeral cancels. All the numerals in this series are exactly the same height, the fakes may not be.

4. Two interesting covers showing late use of fancy corks from Alameda Assa. in 1901, and St. Jean Baptiste Man. in 1904 were sent by John Jamieson, and Don Fraser.

5. Ron Leith is preparing tables of cork cancel usage for Toronto, 1870-1880. I have included a sample page of his work at the end of this newsletter. He would greatly appreciate any photocopies that could be provided to assist this work.

6. Don Fraser would like to know of any information regarding the Fort Gary Star Cancel (D&S 124), or the Kildonan "K" cancel (D&S 554).

7. I will probably ring up quite a postage bill this time, however I could not resist including the front page of "Postal Markings, Oct. 34" at the back.

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS:

I have always hoped that the study group would respond to these newsletters with plenty of comments, suggestions, and corrections. It is distressing to publish, and then be criticized for omissions known by other collectors. The sharing of specialized knowledge within a study group is the primary aim of the group in my opinion. The response (as measured by the revisions below) from the group has been GREAT, and I thank all of you. Foreexample, three members have taken time to advise me not to de-list the crown cancel D&S 236. I regret that I cannot find time to write back to all of you for every revision sent to me. Hopefully this collective "Thank You" will suffice.

●NEWSLETTER 1.

Crown Wax Seals.

1. Main River Nfld. change to: "cover", " ? 1903", and note: "as a free strike, not a cancel".

2. St. James Park Ont. add: "also Apr. '80 (!)" (1).

3. New Listing: "Murrays River PEI", "stamp", "1 cent SQ", and type "3".

4. New listing: "St. Isidore de Prescott Ont.", "stamp", "F1", and type "2".

5. New Listing: "Vershovle Ont.", "cover", "MY '97", and type "3".

6. New Listing: "(Big Tracadie NS)", "seal, BS", "SE. '89", and type "2 ?".

7. New Listing: "(Tusket Wedge NS)", "wax proof", "on cardboard", and type "2".

Non-verified Initial Cancels:

1. 435 now verified on a 3 cent LQ.

2. 476 now verified on a 2 cent LQ.

3. 644 I have seen an illustration from; "The W. Carter Collection, April 1961" indicating usage at "St. Catherines Ont., JY '82." In the absence of the actual cover or any strike, we must still consider it as "non-verified".

4. 719 now verified, on 3 cent SQ, 2nd Ottawa printing

5. 728 now verified, two reports of this. One was a partial of D&S 781 an "Y", the other may be a partial of some other square type cancel (see illustration).



●NEWSLETTER 2.

Non- verified D&S Numeral Cancels:

1. 43 a partial strike on a 1 cent SQ has turned up, see illustration.

2. 95 should be de-listed, as it appears to be a poor illustration of either D&S 94, another "1", or D&S 712, a "T".



Simple Town Name Cancels:

1. CHARLOTTETOWN, D&S 336 etc., add note: "On 1 cent SQ's."

2. Harwich, type 2, D&S 330 etc., change to: "Harwich'Ont NOV-3,90" type 2, etc. unchanged, used; "67-'90", and add note: "Date portion not always present."

3. SHANKLIN, add note: "On 1 cent SQ."

4. ST CATHERINES, change dates of use to: "AP.'80- ? '98".

5. St. Mois.. change to: "St. Moise" (Complete strike now known.)

6. ST THOMAS, add to note: "...& 1 cent Numeral Issue."

7. ...STDALE, add note: "With Jan. '94 pen cancel."

8. New listing: "Aber..., 2, 6mm, ?, On 1 cent SQ, blue ink."

9. New listing: "FREDERICTON, 2, 5mm, '08, On 1 cent Cartier & 7 cent Edward, purple ink."

10. New listing: "GEORGEVILLE, 2, 3mm, JY '92, Part RPO ticket stamp?"

11. New listing: "NEWMARKET, 1, 3mm, OC '89, On P.C. to Newmarket from Barrie, thus a "bundle marking".

12. New listing: "QUEBEC, 2, 3mm, ?, On Map stamp, blue ink."

13. New listing: "ST. AIME, 2, 5mm, ?, On 2 cent Edward."

14. New listing: "SUSSEX NB, 2, 4mm, ?, On 2 cent Leaf."

15. New listing: "WELLAND, 1, 8mm, ?, On F1."

16. New listing: "WYLIE, 2, 4mm, ?, On 3 cent SQ ('90's shade), with part Montreal CDS. (Possibly a clerk's name?)."

17. New listing: "...AMST..UNCTION, 2, 4mm, ?, On 3 cent SQ, Very elaborate serifs, possibly part of an RPO ticket stamp?"

●NEWSLETTER 3.

Non- verified Crown Cancels:

1. 229a has now been verified.

De- listed Crown Cancels:

1. Revision, 236 is NOT a blurred strike of D&S 230, and should NOT be delisted.

Non- verified Fancy Town Name Cancels:

1. 352 ("VIC") is now verified on 6 cent yellow -brown SQ.

2. 338a ("P.O.BROWN'S NURSERIES ONT.") is now verified on late SQ's, or Jubilees, purple or black ink. (2).

3. 326a (Oval CDS types), have now seen "Fitch Bay Quebec, ? '82, on 3 cent SQ", "Louisville Quebec, no CDS, on F2, purple ink", and "East Broughton Quebec, Oct. '97, on 3 cent Jubilee".



Fancy Town Name Cancels:

1. New listing: "Longford" in cork squares, see illustration.

I have two more general revisions. Firstly, in Newsletter 2. I commented on RPO straight line route markings, which while similar to the town name cancels, were not usually used as cancels. I have since seen "NORTHERN RAILWAY" used as a cancel several times, another incomplete example was; "...&Ham. Ry. W". Second revision, in Newsletter 1. I mentioned that; "Type 4 Crown Wax Seals appeared in the 1930's.", this is NOT correct, they first appeared in 1908. It is very unlikely that they would be found on the Small Queens however.

THE TORONTO TWO SERIES.

The major new topic of this newsletter will be the Toronto Two series of cancels. The numbers in Table 1 and in the illustrations are tentative and are from my book. The book will have a bit more detailed explanation of each cancel, however some notes on specific items are included at the end of this newsletter.

The "Toronto Twos" series of cancels were used between Aug. 16 '69 to Oct. 29 '72 (3). They evolved directly from the two ring numeral series (4), where Toronto was assigned number two as the second largest Post Office in the country. No-one knows why this hammer wore out so fast, when some others remained in use for years. About 70 Toronto Two covers exist, I have personally examined about 50 of them. 55 of these covers were reported in Topics July '79, page 23, in 10 years I have been able to add only 15 new dates to this listing, and some of these may be duplicates. 15 (10 by my count) Toronto Two's have never been confirmed on cover. I have been able to come to some interesting conclusions from these 70 covers primarily; there were only about 35 types (5), some were cleaned or partly re-cut and "shade into" other types, and the pattern of use would seem to indicate that two, or more likely, three clerks were simultaneously using them.

These cancels were carved from corks with a diameter slightly less than 1 inch, and were fitted into a slightly over 1 inch diameter metal collar. The outer edge of this collar is often visible on oblique or very worn strikes. Many of the designs with circles around the outside may have resulted from the need to expand the cork slightly by putting screws (later removed) into it so that it would firmly fit the collar. A surprising amount of documentation of these cancels still exists. The Post Master General's report for year ending June '69 indicates that J. Foster received the sum of \$3.00 for "Rings for P.O. stamps, for P.O.I. Toronto" (6), which if I am interpreting correctly is the order for the collars. No other office received these rings. At the same time there is the rather large amount

of \$11.50 paid to C. Potter for "Repairing Stamps" for P.O.I. Toronto. Two other offices (Grenville and Montreal) each reported that they needed a stamp repaired at this time for the sums of \$0.75, and \$0.60. If this repair cost of \$0.67 per stamp is typical, then Toronto managed to wear out 17 stamps in the year, the rest of the country only 2. It would thus not be surprising if some cost conscious Ottawa bureaucratic type said: "Its about time you guys in Toronto started using cheap corks." The purchase of the corks was recorded in the 1870 P.M.G's reports as a payment of \$7.50 to Mr. M. Morison (7). Finally as the Duckworth's have shown in Topics May '80 pg. 42 Mr. D. P. Ross (8) was paid \$10.00 for "cutting cork obliterations for P.O.I. Toronto" during the period of the Toronto Two's usage.

A final Toronto Two comment; why have so many different types (up to 75) of these cancels been recorded? The first reason is that when these illustrations for D&S were first prepared (in 1960), material was collected from a variety of sources. Photo-copying equipment (Verifax) then in use was not too accurate, and many items were traced by hand, sometimes from photographs. The preceding is not intended to denigrate, cast aspersions or animadvert the great deal of very exacting effort that went into preparing these illustrations - I am sure that my efforts with the scanner will all too soon be technically obsolete, and probably (if truth be known) amusingly primitive in five years time. Secondly, some of these cancels were cleaned, accumulated ink was either cut or gouged out with a knife on a few of the corks. Thirdly, the corks wore quite quickly (few of these cancels lasted more then a month), and the raised "2's", appear to deform under pressure or if struck on an uneven surface. Fourth, there is always a desire on the part of collectors to have a unique item, and thus to sometimes see something that is not really there. Finally, some of the Toronto Twos have been faked, which can lead to "new varieties". Some of these variations in the cancels are mentioned in Table 1, and Footnotes 9, and 10.

Just when you think that you have "got it all figured out" something unexpected inevitably comes along. I have discovered a third reason why identical cancels may appear to come from several different P.O.'s. The first reason for this type of confusion is; the cancels may have a common manufacturer, and thus are identical (D&S 103 -star cancel for example was made by P.&A. in Ottawa and used in several P.O.'s). Secondly; some of the fancies were used as receival cancels, and thus appear to originate from several other offices. I have a suspicion that D&S 2 and 3 (leaf cancels) were really a receival mark used at Oshawa Ontario. Now the third, and unexpected reason. Some fancies were used by RPO's on envelopes which already had origin cancels. Thus D&S 102 (star cancel) which has been identified as originating at both London and Paris Ontario., really was used by the B & L.H. RPO. Both covers have the same R.P.O. and, the R.P.O. has also been otherwise associated with this cancel. Does anyone know of any other examples of this? The preceding is an example of an obseravtion I have heard before: "The most interesting aspect of stamp collecting is its endless ability to surprise."

TABLE 1. TORONTO TWOS, KNOWN DATES.

New #'s	D&S	DATE	NOTES	New #'s	D&S	DATE	NOTES
	TYPE				TYPE		
17	1	69-08-16		32	12	69-12-02	
18	45	69-08-17		33	24	69-12-04	
19	60	69-08-23		33	24	69-12-05	
19	60	69-08-23		33	24	69-12-09	
19	60	69-08-23		34	11	69-12-10	Dubious item.
17	1	69-08-26		35	23	69-12-29	
17	1	69-08-27		36	63	70-01-10	Early state.
20	30	69-08-30		36	63	70-01-10	
18	3	69-09-03		36	17	70-01-10	Cleaned state.
18	62	69-09-03		36	17	70-01-19	
18	3	69-09-04		37	38	70-09-01	8 month gap.
17	1	69-09-06		37	38	70-09-07	
21	32	69-09-10		37	14	70-09-20	Late state.
22	50	69-09-14		37	38	70-10-10	
22	16	69-09-14		37	14	70-10-10	
22	50	69-09-15		37	14	70-10-10	
23	73	69-09-20		38	65	70-10-10	
23	73	69-09-22		37	14	70-10-20	Worn/recut.
22	50	69-09-23		37	38	70-11-02	
23	73	69-09-25		38	65	70-11-02	
24	20	69-10-09		38	65	70-11-07	
24	20	69-10-11		39	55	72-10-21	23 month gap.
25	36	69-10-12		39	55	72-10-22	
26	5	69-10-13		39	55	72-10-23	
27	27	69-10-14		39	55	72-10-29	
28	41	69-10-17		40	4	UNKNOWN	Non-verified.
29	10	69-10-18		40	6	UNKNOWN	"
28	19	69-10-18		40	28	UNKNOWN	"
27	27	69-10-19		41	9	UNKNOWN	"
25	36	69-10-19		41	70	UNKNOWN	"
26	5	69-10-20		42	22	UNKNOWN	"
30	26	69-10-21		43	25	UNKNOWN	"
27	27	69-10-21		43	64	UNKNOWN	"
28	41	69-10-21		43	66	UNKNOWN	"
27	27	69-10-29		44	29	UNKNOWN	"
28	41	69-11-02		45	34	UNKNOWN	"
31	2	69-11-17		46	9	UNKNOWN	"
31	2	69-11-19		46	35	UNKNOWN	"
26	5	69-11-22		46	70	UNKNOWN	"
32	12	69-11-26		47	44	UNKNOWN	"
32	12	69-11-30		48	48	UNKNOWN	"
32	12	69-12-01		49	69	UNKNOWN	"

TORONTO TWO'S



17, D&S 1-1d.



18, D&S 3, 45, 53, 62.



19, D&S 60.



20, D&S 30.



21, D&S 32.



22, D&S 16, 50, 50a, 51.



23, not listed in D&S.



24, D&S 20, 20a.



25, D&S 36.



26, D&S 5, 8.



27, D&S 27



28, D&S 18, 19, 41, 42, 58, 61.



29, D&S 10.



30, D&S 26.



31, D&S 2.



32, D&S 12, 31, 33.



33, D&S 21, 24 59.



34, D&S 11.



35, D&S 23, 46.



36, D&S 7, 13, 17, 52, 63, 71.



37, D&S 14, 38.



38, D&S 65.



39, D&S 55, 56.



40, D&S 4, 6, 28.



41, D&S 9, 70.



42, D&S 22.



43, D&S 25, 64, 66.



44, D&S 29.



45, D&S 34.



46, D&S 35.



47, D&S 44.



48, D&S 48.



49, D&S 69.

DELETIONS



D6, D&S 15, 40.



D7, D&S 37.



D8, D&S 39.



D9, D&S 43.



D10, D&S 47, 49, 54.



D11, D&S 57.



D12, D&S 67.



D13, D&S 68.



D14, D&S 72.



D15, D&S, 74.



Forgery.



Forgery.

Footnotes:

1/ A type 3 crown hammer could have been used in 1880, as Pritchard & Andrews were in business then. However, I find this 16 year gap somewhat suspicious.

2/ I was concerned that this "P.O. Browns Nurseries" cancel was perhaps just a return address stamp for a private business. There really was a Post Office of this name, it opened in '97, Lincoln & Niagara County, with Mr. C. Fisher as P.M.

3/ There are actually three distinct periods of use, all but three types fall between Aug. 16 '69 to Jan. 19 '70, two revivals which "shade into" each other were used Sept. 1 '70 to Nov. 7 '70, and a very different revival was used in Oct. '72.

4/ I have a strike of Toronto Two number 17 (D&S 1) in a very early state on top of a worn two ring numeral cancel; I cannot read the numeral, however it is only 1 digit.

5/ "Mr. Mc Murrich tells me he has 25 to 30 different Toronto Fancy 2 corks" Smythies in "Maple Leaves", Oct. 58... note on Mc Murrich collection.

6/ It is interesting to note that all the references in the 1869, and 1870 P.M.G.'s Reports that can be related to the Toronto Twos were instigated by the "Toronto Post Office Inspectors Office", and not by the "Toronto Post Office" which is listed separately. The P.O.I. in 1869 had a total staff of 11, Toronto P.O. had 43 (including 24 clerks). Mr. D. P. Ross was paid by the P.O.I. for cutting the obliterators, however he worked for the Toronto P.O.

7/ Later P.M.G.'s Reports indicated that even these "regional" corks were officially purchased by Ottawa. For example 1888; "\$42.30 for cancelling corks for use in Ontario region" -a huge supply of corks.

8/ There were three other employees named Ross in the Toronto P.O. in 1869.

9/ Some specific notes are in order: Type 36 shows the "cleaned" version, the very thin straight lines resulted from a knife edge during re-cutting and cleaning. Type 37 "grades into" type 38, it may have been cleaned several times. Types 40 to 49 have never been confirmed on cover.

10/ Notes on the deletions: D6 is almost always a forgery based on a poor illustration prepared in the 1960's. D7, 9, 11, and 13 are taken from the Mc Murrich collection, and were the original source of the illustrations in D. & S. D10 (etc.) are normal 2 ring cancels where the "2" has been distorted by uneven paper. D12 is a "blocked up" 4 ring cancel. D14 and D15 are both "suspicious" cancels in my opinion, and it is very unlikely they originated from Toronto.

Finally, just room enough for one query, and two illustrations.



? EMPERESS OF CHINA SEP - 4 1905 ? D&S 435

D&S 338a

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C R O W N S



R A I L R O A D S



Palmer Cox Brownie



Purple

M A P L E L E A V E S

DOMINION OF CANADA

Postmarks and Cancellations on the "Small Cents" The Three-Cent Stamp, Scott 34, 34a, 42, 42a.

Mr. Arthur E. Rankin and Mr. P. L. D. Rankin traced these from their collections. All are in black unless otherwise noted.

This magazine reaches ACTUAL BUYERS -- YOUR ad. in it will give you large coverage for little outlay. See page 57