

BNAPS Fancy Cancel Newsletter No. 6

Dec. '90, Dave Lacelle

I find that when I have to write something, the first dozen or so words are the hardest, after that it tends to flow. Again, I apologize for the late newsletter - wish I was retired and thus had more time, however that is still 14 years away.

- Group News:

Membership at the end of '90, is about 56. I regret that I wasn't at the Texas Convention, however I have talked to Clint Phillips who chaired our study group meeting, and he thinks all was fine. The major topic was Ron Leiths' study of Toronto cancels. About 15 people attended. A suggestion was raised that different people might like to "adopt" specific towns or cities, and attempt to list all the corks used by these areas. Does anyone have any feedback on this? Thank you Clint and Ron.

I have not received any comments on the proposed descriptive style for the new book, so I shall assume that all are happy. I intend to make one style change; all the "deletions and miscellaneous" items will be illustrated on the relevant pages, and the text associated with them will be moved to the back of the chapter. This should be more useful, visually pleasing, and will give the text a less cluttered appearance. Several dealers have suggested that a "rate factor" or pricing system should be incorporated, however I believe this would be very difficult. Even after 15 years involvement with fancy cancels, I am still finding surprises. How about a simple "scarce / occasional / frequent usage", or a 1 to 10 scale? Any comments?

The descriptions and illustrations of all the numeral cancels for the new book are now complete. There are 180 listed items, and a little over 80 "deletions or miscellaneous" items. The latter category includes: cancels listed elsewhere, known fakes or bogus items, foreign cancels on Canada, and incorrectly identified (ie. partial rate mark, or worn 2 or 4 ring numerals, etc.).

A word or two on dues. Our next membership count will fall as I shall have to cut out those who have not paid dues since Newsletter 3. Dues (\$5.00) are due from the date of the convention (August usually), and apply for the year up to the next convention. Received for convention year '90-'91, \$102.00. Thank you. (New members to BNAPS are not required to pay dues for their first year). Thanks to Joannes' use of some donated materials, each newsletter costs less than \$ 50.00 for production and mail-out. The accounts to date roughly even out. I do not like to send out a dues notice, as it seems officious and somewhat greedy. Enough said.

This newsletter will have only one major topic, the "Calendar - Year" cancels, D&S 78 to 84, and 87 to 93. I also intend to throw out several small research oriented questions, hopefully some of you know the answers. I have suggested since Newsletter 1 that I would publish a list of members, interests, and addresses unless anyone has any problems with this. I have not received any negative feedback on this therefore the list is attached at the end of this newsletter. If your collecting interests are missing, not correct, or not specific enough, please drop me a line.

I have recently received notice that Frank Waite will no longer be preparing the "Centreline Column". Frank wishes to remain a member of our group, indeed he sent me some material just a few days ago. I have noticed that in the "Centreline Column" Frank omits his own name from the list of contributors to the various newsletters. Such modesty! Frank deserves commendation for the great job he has done with this column, and for his contributions to this (and I am sure many other) study groups.

Above and beyond the contributions mentioned above, I must also thank Norm Brassler, Joe Smith, Elsie Meyersburg, John Hannah, Jerry Carr, and Paul Hahn, all of whom have sent in photocopies of specific items.

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS.

●NEWSLETTER 1.

Crown Wax Seals.

1. New listing "Acton Ont.", "stamp", "3 cent S.Q.", type 2.

Foreign Cancels on Canada.

1. I have come across a few references to a "Boston B" on Small Queens. The date of use was Dec. '79. Does anyone have a clear strike of this? A photocopy would be much appreciated.

●NEWSLETTERS 2 AND 3.

No Revisions.

●NEWSLETTER 4.

Revisions to Previous Newsletters.

1. Item 17 has now been confirmed as "Stansted Junction" P.Q. in purple ink, and a rectangle 44mm X 29 mm. Date of use is Apr. 26 '95.

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS (CONT.)

● NEWSLETTER 4 (CONT.)

Toronto Two's.

1. A cover to England has turned up with D&S type 16, my number 22 with receival mark London Sept. 30 '69, and what may be a ? Sept. ? 17 '69 Toronto CDS. Is 13 days reasonable for a crossing in 1869?

● NEWSLETTER 5.

Revisions.

1. Two photocopies of the Toronto Two "large 2 in cut rings" have been sent to me, and a new illustration has been prepared. Thank you.

Miscellaneous.

1. John Hannah has sent along another example of the EM signet cancel of P.M. Emile Mouchet (D&S 475) on a post card signed by Emile himself.

CORRESPONDENCE

I would like to share a bit of information from some of your letters. If anyone has any comments on these items, I would be pleased to pass them on.

John Hannah sent in a photocopy of the "anchor" or "T" cancel illustrated here. It appears to be an example of a fancy RPO cork, H. & T. R.- West- No. 2 (Shaw R68), Apr. 22 '79, on a post card.

Frank Waite sends along the "EWB inside a field of dots" item, on a 3 cent S.Q. Montreal printing. The dots remind me of some of the experimental scarifying hammers, they were small points designed to cut into the stamp so that the cancel ink would penetrate and thus prevent reuse. Who was EWB?

Paul Hahn sends along the lattice type cancel. The P.M. obviously believed in doing his job well. This pattern could be produced by tying string around a block of wood, as was likely the case with the cross cancel D&S 162a (Plate J).

One of our newest members, Elsie Meyersburg has sent along a tracing of a "cat" cancel on Sc 83 (10 cent numeral issue). This is somewhat newer than my usual collecting range, has anyone else seen one?

Finally, Jerry Carr sent a confirming example of the Sherbrooke Quebec triangle Fe 13 '78. The other cover example is Jan. 2(4?) '78. Both strikes are in blue or greenish-blue ink, and both are on registered items. This may be another example where the fancy cork is used only on registered items.



THE CALENDAR YEAR CANCELS

There are about 20 of these, with two main types; two digit such as D&S 79, and four digit such as D&S 92. It is possible that some of these may not represent year dates, but could represent clerk numbers, route numbers, or some obscure meaning known only to the P.M. It has been suggested that D&S 78 a "76 in circle" is a patriotic U.S. cancel commemorating 1776 (1). Some of these cancels have accidentally reversed numerals, which may account for their scarcity. (The P.M. feels like a fool because he forgot to carve the cancel in mirror image, and after a few uses, and probably a few choice words, he throws it away.) Almost all of these cancels are scarce, several are known only as single strikes. I have seen all of these cancels except for the two "unconfirmed" Eugenia items on page 5. In my opinion, there is one definite fake, (fortunately not listed in D&S) and four suspicious items; D&S 78, 81, 90, and Jarrett 190. These four are found on printings which are probably more recent than the date of the cancel. However in other ways most of them appear "good".

Questionable Date Cancels.



D & S 78



D & S 81



D & S 90



Jarrett 190.

A few detailed notes on some of these are in order. D&S 84 is known in red or blue ink, but not in black. D&S 82 is only known from a single strike, however is on the distinctive rose-carmine shade of '89. I have moved D&S 228a (Plate A) to the "calendar date" section rather than the "crowns", as it seems more logical. Jarrett states that this commemorates Queen Victoria's 20th Jubilee in 1857, however the only confirmed dates of use are in '58 and '59 (long party?). D&S 89 is more elaborate than the D&S illustration would indicate, there is a neat five-pointed star in the middle. I have seen two examples of D&S 91, both were partial strikes. Finally the P.M. at Eugenia (see also D&S 327) hand carved year date inserts into his C.D.S. (2).



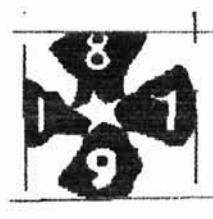
D & S 84



D&S 82



D&S 228a



D&S 89



D&S 91



Eugenia "Cork" date inserts.

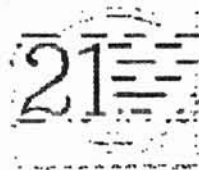
Queries:

I would like to raise the following three queries and would greatly appreciate any information from our membership.

1. The "Victoria Crown" cancel (D&S 230) was in use from Oct. '80 to July '11. It has been written up in several articles, with various dates and locations of use. Some forgeries exist (3) however, I am convinced that this 31 year usage is genuine, although some of the late uses may be philatelic. D&S states that this cancel was used in "Various P.O.'s in B.C.", I have only seen it used from Victoria and Esquimalt (4). Esquimalt as well as being an important navy base is a suburb of Victoria. The 1880 Pritchard and Andrews proof book has two side by side strikes, one of them is faulty due to a crease in the paper. I have always assumed that there were thus two B.C. crown hammers, however I have recently noticed a pattern. The hammer appears to be used up to about 1895 in Victoria (only), and then used in Esquimalt (only) from about 1900 on. Was there really only one hammer? Was the second proof strike necessary as the first strike was defective? The only way to tell is to check for any overlap in usage. (Finally the query!) Could you please send me any details of dates of usage of the Victoria - Esquimalt cancel, and indicate where it was used?



2. The Montreal roller 21 cancel (D&S 67) was first used as a cancel from 1855 to 1868, then was re-used as a precancel from 1880 to 1897. (I suspect this last date is incorrect, 1890 might be more accurate, but I cannot prove it.) It has thus been reported on 1, 2, 3, 6, and 10 cent Small Queens. Does anyone know of any usage on 1/2, 5, or 8 cent Small Queens or other stamps of this period?



3. The "Newfie Newsletter" March / April 1990 has a fine article on the intaglio "N" cancels of Newfoundland. David Piercy has identified three distinct types (I agree), and mentions that he has heard of but not seen an intaglio "W" cancel (for Coastal West Steamer). Have any of our members ever seen an intaglio "W" on Newfoundland?

Finally, I am enclosing part one of an early 1930's article by Mr. H. S. Seaman of Winnipeg lamenting a perceived insult (contained in a philatelic magazine) to the field of cancellation collecting. He believes the field of cancellation collecting has a great future. I found this article in the Postal Archives, and reproduce it here as it has been virtually forgotten. Part two will appear in the next newsletter.

Hopefully this newsletter will get to you before Christmas. May I wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Footnotes:

1. With regards to U.S. patriotic "76" cancels, a few designs are known, these are usually inside some kind of shield. There is nothing similar to D&S 78 in Zareski, Herst-Zareski, or Skinner and Eno.
2. These Eugenia cancels are referred to in; Topics, Sept. '61, and Jarrett 313.
3. Many of the fakes were based on the illustrations provided by Jarrett. These illustrations were prepared with a protractor, and thus have 36 rays. The proof book strikes have 40 rays, all 36 ray examples are fake.
4. Several other articles confirm this dual usage, other P. O.'s may have been transit or receipt markings.
5. It is interesting to note that this is a rather poor strike, fake cancels are often much better quality strikes.



Hand - held Scanner, Model: A1, Serial #0000003.

I shall (as usual) end this newsletter with a few oddities. Firstly, a newspaper clipping on our first "female" Member of Parliament. (I might mention that, The Ottawa Citizen is not a "scandal sheet", it is the major daily in Ottawa).

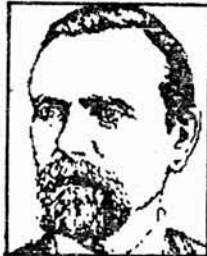
Ottawa Citizen Oct 11

Macphail stamp commemorates Canada's first woman MP

Citizen staff

It's taken almost 70 years for Canada Post to deliver a stamp honoring our first female MP. It may be arriving too soon.

A stamp featuring suffragette Agnes Campbell Macphail is to be unveiled Thursday. Macphail was elected in 1921.



But a Queen's University historian's new book says

Eliza White
Used trickery

Canada's first female parliamentarian was actually a transvestite who liked to trick young girls into dating her, worked as a prostitute and held federal office from 1871 to 1887.

Tory backbencher John White was really Eliza White, according to Don Akenson. But Canada Post officials don't think the book, entitled *At Face Value*, diminishes the face value of the 39-cent Macphail stamp.

Canada Post official Ida Irwin said, "Agnes Macphail was the first (MP) that didn't have to trick the electorate to get elected."



Palmer Cox Brownie

In the last newsletter I facetiously referred to a "Doonsbury" cartoon strip cancel as the next logical Post Office innovation. A cartoon cancel may have actually been used 100 years ago. This was the "Palmer Cox Brownie" cancel mentioned in Boggs; "The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada", (page 749 of the Quarterman Edition). Boggs believed that this is a fake, the result of playfulness. Palmer Cox was a soap company which sponsored a "Brownies" comic strip that ran during the 1890's to early 1900's (? Can anyone confirm these dates?). Rubber stamps of the "Brownies" were sold to children as toys through magazine advertisements. The usage of one of these "Brownie" stamps as a postal cancel could however be genuine. The Nicaraguan Shield (D&S 316) which is known postally used was also apparently from a toy stamp set. I illustrate above the only strike (5) of the "Palmer Cox Brownie" I have seen, and also Boggs illustration for comparison.

I recently saw my second example of "Victorian Airmail". An old Queen Vic. postcard supplemented with extra postage in 1920, and cancelled with "Airplane Mail". Definitely a rather limited collecting area.

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Canadian Postal Cancellations

BY H. S. SEAMAN, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

From early 1930's

What, up again, after being banished to the deep recesses of oblivion (by the Editor of a well-known and highly respected Stamp Magazine published in Canada), by the phrase "no serious collector pays much attention to cancellations—precancels—dobs—double strikes or over-prints." Yes, Cancellations are up again—that is, they are not quiet "dead and buried" so to speak.

But, all the same, the wonder is that they are up again, for all the help they get from the many "serious collectors" who are quietly, one could almost say stealthily gathering them in, storing them away and preparing, as many another phase of stamp collecting has been handled for the "psychological moment." We believe the psychological moment is upon us, we believe that Canadian Postal Cancellations are beginning to reflect in the demand as well as in the prices asked (for of course one of these is the cause and the other the effect), the emergence of a well rounded, permanent place and demand for clear, clean, and distinct postal authentication that the service paid for has been delivered by the postal department of our authorized government.



And why in all reasonableness should not Canadian Postal Cancellations receive serious consideration? Edition after edition of British "Cancellation" Catalogues are exhausted, so that you can hardly buy one today—from publisher, collector or second-hand dealer—they are not only out of print but off the market, while Stanley Gibbons' general catalogue gives some information on this line, it is only enough to whet the appetite of the real collector.

The United States specialists' priced catalogue, of which, I believe only two editions have appeared, gives a place to and sets prices for the cancellations on the stamps of that country that makes the prices of the ordinary "collection specimen,"—be it ever so fine—look pale at the mouth.

To cite a few instances—here is a stamp priced at 3 cents as a normal collection specimen with ordinary black obliteration without any particular significance attached to it. This stamp with the same ordinary insignificant cancellation, or the town postmark in blue is priced here at three times the price of the black, viz. 10 cents. Other postal markings make this ordinary 3 cent stamp worth 50 cents if cancelled in purple or magenta, 75 cents if the word "paid," happened to land upon it from the postal clerk's gavel or hammer. If this same stamp had been fortunate enough to have been hit after the cancelling weapon had come in contact with a pad of red or brown ink, its price by this catalogue is \$1. If the letter bearing this particular stamp had been, by any mishap, delayed in posting until the mail was closed at the Post Office for the city to which it was addressed, and the writer had the energy to take time by the forelock and hie himself to the railway station, where after being posted on the train, it was hit by the railway representative of the postal department, the value of that stamp is advanced to the price—note carefully—\$2.50. But this is not the limit, if the postman in the town office happened to have a green ink pad with which to regale his cancelling device the price of this same stamp so hit is \$3, according to the decision of the compilers of this catalogue—and they are given credit by those who deal with them for knowing values in stamp cancellations. Not to repeat, but to add a few details, a stamp priced in ordinary condition at 6 cents jumps to \$9 if mailed on a train, or \$12.50 if mailed at sea and cancelled "Packet" or equivalent in any other language.

PAID

**LATE
FEE**

One other instance—here is a stamp priced at 60 cents—kinsman of No. 14 Canada, 1 cent rose, 1859, priced as follows: if cancelled in black 60 cents, blue \$1, red \$1.50, brown \$2, ultramarine \$3, green \$7.50, Paid \$1, Way Letter \$2.50, Railway \$4, Packet \$12.50.

**WAY
LETTER**

If these prices indicate the stage that has been arrived at on the other side of that imaginary line, that we who live close to hear so much about—it appears to this writer that it is good evidence that the Editor has not felt the philatelist's pulse.

*\$0.90
Jarrett
1929*

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