

BNAPS Fancy Cancel Newsletter No. 7

Dave Lacelle

Apr. 91.

I hope everyone of you had a pleasant spring- even those of you fortunate enough to live in the pleasant climes of Spain or California. I am at my cabin as I write this, beautiful view of a sunset over an isolated lake, fireplace snapping away in the corner...

●Group News:

We have three new members; Mr. L. Porter, 381 Elm Road, Toronto M5M 3V7. (Nova Scotia items to 1868). Mr. J. Fretwell, RR#1, Callander ON. P0H 1H0. Mr. A.C. Powers, P.O. Box 539, New Windsor MD 21776.

I have received about six comments on whether or not to list a rate factor in the new book. The comments were evenly divided, however the "don't do it" side was more strongly expressed. I have concerns about "conflict of interest" if I list rate factors, and I have thus decided not to. My thanks to those who sent in dues after my comments in the last newsletter.

Work on the book continues when time permits. I am now crunching my way through the initial and letter cancels. This leads to some odd conversations at home: "I'm going up to paint my C's." "No D's yet?" "No, but only 25 D's, and only three of them are compound..."

There will be two topics in this newsletter, the Masonic cancels, and the C.D.S. cork insert cancels. I shall also include a section on correspondence, and would like to thank Les Porter, Jerry Carr, Elsie Meyersburg, Joe Smith, Peter Geoffrey, John Hannah, and Stanley Cohen for photocopies or information on specific items.

Revisions to Previous Newsletters:

●Newsletter 1.

Crown Wax Seals: Addition; The hammer for Alix Alberta has turned up, it is a type 3. Addition; Springdale Ont, Type 2, as backstamp.

●Newsletter 2

Town names: Addition; "Batiscan Station", type 2, on 7 cent Admiral.

●Newsletter 3.

Text; The origin of the "B Day January 1st" cancel has been determined. This was philatelically used by the President of the Toronto Stamp Collectors Club in the 1940's and 50's. For further details see Topics Dec. 50 pg. 236.

●Newsletter 4

●Toronto Two's; New date of use, my number 33 (D&S 24): 69-12-21.

●Newsletter 5.

Kingston 9, revision; type 102 (D&S 28), change "69-11-?" to "69-11-24".

●Newsletter 6.

Queries; The reference to the Toronto Two (My Type 22, D&S 16), with a 13 day crossing to London is valid. Crossings were usually 10-12 days at this time.

Correspondence; The "EWB" cancel needs further elaboration. The EWB is enclosed in brackets similar to a split ring CDS, and is on top of a scarifying cancel. The stamp is a very early shade of the 3 cent S.Q.

Queries; The Victoria / Esquimalt crown (D&S 230) query. Several of you have sent in dates of use, 12 covers are now recorded. So far Oct. '80 to Nov. '82 in Victoria, Feb. '03 to Jan '11 in Esquimalt. Any other information on dated covers would be appreciated. It appears the hammer was first used in Victoria in the '80's and then re-used in Esquimalt sometime after 1900.

Correspondence and Queries:

The B31 cancel used by the Allen Lines (from D. Marshall, List of 1859) was re-issued to Freetown, Sierra Leone in 1874. There are also poor (obvious) fakes of this cancel on PEI remainders. I have recently seen both genuine and fake examples of this item and would appreciate any further information on it. The illustration of the genuine item here is courtesy of Les Porter.



Joe Smith has sent along what looks like a 25 cent piece (old style) used as a cancel. I have also seen penny (large), and dime cancels. Coins usually make very poor cancels, and are rather indistinct. Does anyone have any other examples?

Masonic Cancels:

I was having considerable difficulty thinking of an appropriate main topic for this newsletter until I made a lucky purchase. A local firm had three "corks" for sale, and stated that they looked recently carved (source unknown). The price was right so I bought them sight unseen, and was pleasantly surprised when two were Masonic corks. The third cork was just a common quartered cork, strikes of which we have all seen many times. The corks are tapered, 1 1/4" to 1", and have the numbers 1, 2, and 4 on the tops in different inks. They have been somewhat used but are not especially worn, the ink type was a dull black variety. (I will not use the quartered cork so that the ink on it might be available for any analysis in the future). The corks are light coloured and appear reasonably fresh. There are three possible reasons for the existence of these corks:

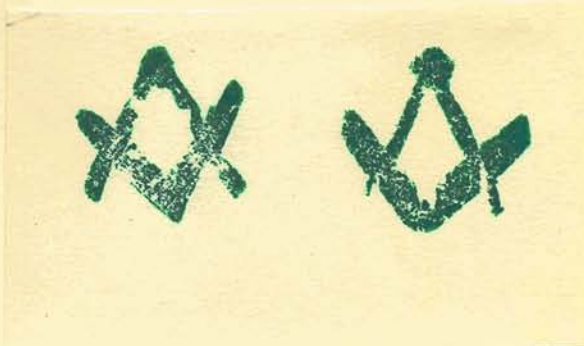
1. They may have been produced in recent times in order to fake Masonic Cancels. If this is so, then they are not very good fakes of any known Canadian Masonic cancels, and I have never seen them on stamp or cover. They may of course be American. If they are fake, why was the common

quartered cork carved? Finally, it seems odd that anyone would bother carving cork in this day and age when so many easier materials are available. The centre of the cancels is actually "pecked out" in little pieces - cork is not easy to carve.

2. They may be non-philatelic in origin, and related to some Masonic usage. I am not qualified to answer this, perhaps some of you Masons out there would like to comment. If they were used for Lodge purposes, then why was the quartered cork (which is common philately) prepared. (For non-Masonic correspondence perhaps?)

3. They may be genuine survivors from a hundred (or so) years ago. The evidence tends to point in this direction, however I suspect they are of American origin if genuine. The comparative "newness" of them may be from being locked away in a box or trunk for a long time, and never exposed to sunlight, weather, wear and tear etc.

What do you think? "Proof strikes" from the two Masonic corks are attached to this page. If they are in modern green ink, then you have a proof strike, if in black, then you are reading a photocopy with some loss of resolution. Has anyone seen these in use anywhere, any time?? I await your answers with great curiosity. If anyone should want a "proof strike" from these, please send a S.S.A.E., (or 50 cents if you cannot easily obtain Canadian postage), and I will be pleased to oblige.



This leads us to the topic of Masonic cancels in general. I am not a Mason, and am thus "leaping in where Angels fear to tread". The Masonic Stamp Club of New York (organized 1934) publishes a quarterly called "Masonic Philatelist". In the 1960's, the magazine included two articles on Canadian Masonic cancels. One of these articles was partially reprinted by Ed. Richardson in "Covers" magazine in Aug. '63. I have attempted to correspond with the Masonic Stamp Club of N.Y. in order to obtain photocopies of these articles however I have not had much success. They have however sent a 1985 partial reprint of these earlier issues, unfortunately several of the illustrations did not make it into the reprint, and my research is thus somewhat incomplete. Do any of you have these "early" articles on Canadian Masonic cancels, "Masonic Philatelist" April and May 1962 issues specifically. I can understand the reluctance of the organization to share details of their symbols with an outsider, and do not mean to animadvert. As Jung (I think it was Jung) said; "The primary purpose of jargon is to keep outsiders out" this applies equally well to an organizations symbols, for are they not just a physical form of jargon?

Having said the preceding, the main Masonic symbols used for cancels are the square and compass, and the keystone. Many "higher level" designs exist, however some of these when used as cancels are in dispute as genuine Masonic symbols. D&S 175, and 256a, are examples of these, I have not included them in this listing as I believe that sometimes fancy cancel items have been sold as "possibly Masonic" to make a quick buck from those who are not Masons.

Masonic cancels were much more popular in the U.S., than in Canada. This is partially due to the 10 times larger population (and thus number of Post Offices) as well as the fact that the Masonic Societies in the U.S. underwent a great expansion in the 1860's which was the peak time for U.S. fancy cancels. Canadian fancy cancels occurred later, the peak time appears to have been in the early 1880's. Several of the Canadian Masonic cancels are from the '70's however. "Skinner and Eno in "United States Cancellations 1845 - 1869" devotes 23 pages to illustrations of American Masonic cancels. Masonic cancels were so frequent in the United States that "Postal Markings" magazine in October '34 stated: "Readers will oblige by sending all cancellation memos on "M" -- such as Masks, Man's Head,..also M and MB, MK etc. Do not send any Masonic or Maltese Cross (sic)."

I have only been able to document 24 Canadian examples, six of which are from "Masonic Philatelist" and 18 from Day and Smythies. I have presented these in the same illustration format as the new book on Canadian Fancy Cancels and as usual I invite any comments on these items. This is an area I know little about and would appreciate correction and education before I go to press. The book will contain much more detail on these cancels, however some specific notes are included in footnote 2.

I have not listed these two items with the other Masonic cancels for a rather unusual reason. Research prepared for The Masonic Philatelist has indicated that this P.M., Mr. C. Mason was not a Mason, however he used the Masonic symbol as a play on his name. Both of these cancels have other unusual considerations. D&S 400 is usually in an odd dull greenish ink, and D&S 246 has a "bas relief" effect where the compass crosses the square.



D&S 246



D&S 400

Finally, two Masonic cancels which are somewhat questionable. The first item appears to be a fake of D&S 242, the ink is a strange carbonny type (it feels soft to the touch like an early Small Queen!) and the strike is too perfect! The second item may be weak strike of D&S 246 however the "bas relief" effect is missing.



CANADIAN MASONIC CANCELS



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CDS Cork Inserts.

This is the final part of the "Town Name types of cancels. It is rather strange to think that someone would mutilate a good CDS hammer, by drilling out the middle so that a cork could be inserted. The P.M.'s. of Dartmouth, Victoria, St. John's Nfld, Smiths Falls, Yarmouth, Perth (3), and Bothwell (illustrated) thought otherwise. Ottawa (illustrated) and Granby Que. (D&S 351i) used a somewhat similar design, a carved name around a cork. The Ottawa one has been described as a parcel cancel, I cannot verify this usage. Many of these cancels appear only as partial strikes as the letters of the CDS were below the surface of the cork. In some cases more than one cork was used.

With the exception of the St. Johns Nfld. "leaves", there were no attempts to carve designs into the corks.

Two items listed in D&S, Port Hood NS (351J) and St. John Suburb Que (351K), are in my opinion bogus (4).

I couldn't seem to find any interesting or funny newspaper clipping to include this time- this country has been far too "serious" lately with the threat of Quebec separating. So shall end as promised with part two of Mr. Seamans article from the 1930's.



Footnotes.

1. As an aside: All the letter and initial cancels which can be identified by P.O. have been checked in the P.O. lists at the Postal Museum. The P.M.'s names will appear in the new book.
2. Masonic cancels, specific details, most of these can be identified as to P.O., and date of use. Numbers 5, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 18, 21, & 24, are unidentified as to date or location. I have not personally seen numbers 3, 5, 6, 12, & 20, the illustrations are thus from D&S, Masonic Philatelist, or Covers Magazine. Number 2 has been reported in purple or blue ink, and number 13 in blue ink. Number 12 is on a Newfoundland stamp.
3. The Perth strikes may be accidental (or deliberate) cork cancels which just happen to fall inside the CDS.
4. This decision is based on design, usage, and ink type. One of them is on a "MacAuley" cover, and was probably produced by the same faker who made the S.S. River Denis items.

TWO CANCEL SALES GOING ON AS THIS GOES TO PRESS:
J. SHEFFIELD PHILATELIST LTD., BOX 2014 LAMBETH ON, N0L 1S0.
150 FANCIES IN A NET PRICE LIST PLUS OTHER CANCEL ITEMS.
OTTAWA STAMP AUCTIONS BOX 5083 STATION "F", OTTAWA, ON
K2C 3H3. 150 CANCEL LOTS IN AN AUCTION MAY 29 PLUS
OTHER POSTAL HISTORY ITEMS.

telic pulse correctly, or he would not have said "No serious collector, etc."—in fact we can prove it and we will adduce part of the evidence to close this article.

Let us take a stroll by way of a few pages in a "Canadian Postal Cancellation" collection. Cancellations being here arranged in alphabetical order.



Bull's Eye (Jarret's No. 31) two, three or four ring in various sizes of central ball as well as various thicknesses and sizes of the surrounding rings, at least 20 distinct dies represented in black. Those in color will come in under "Colors."

Canada. The word in full in at least fifteen different sizes of type and supporting framework embellishing it.

C.E., C.W., U.C., L.C., Alta., Assa., Sask., are all here, the latter three when these abbreviations represented "Territories" not "Provinces" and in addition "N.W.T.," which only about four towns ever used. Here is an interesting postmark (not on a stamp) Bytown Oct. 10, 1854, U.C. in Jarrett's No. 21. Jarrett's No. 133 and 151 as well as various similar cancellations include Halifax, Kingston, Montreal, Ottawa, Prescott, Quebec, St. Catherines and Toronto.

Colors are represented by blue, brown, crimson, green, magenta, purple (in brownish, reddish and purple black), red, scarlet and violet. These of course illustrate bull's eyes, targets, crosses, grids, stars, diamonds, triangles and pheons; four, six and eight fan windmills and town, city, railway, railway station and city sub-stations.

Metal Grids in great diversity by way of the number of and width of the lines. Metal crowns, four distinct varieties.

36 rays



Hand made Cork cancellations with positively no end to the objects that have been attempted by the imaginative postmaster or his perhaps more adventurous clerk. Here are windmills, crosses, stars, wheels, initial letters, Tudor crown (well executed), lily, shamrock leaves, at least eight representatives of natural history from the animal kingdom.

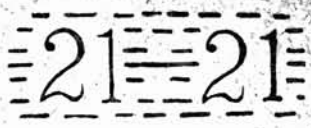
Postmarks of cities, towns, villages (what is the relative scarcity of a "Toronto" postmark 1869 on No. 34 and a postmark at the same date say of Johnstown or Markham?), mail cars, (over 275 railway sub-divisions were in operation in 1903), railway stations, city sub and rural stations, postmen's individual mallets, railway car numbers and direction of train travel.

Year Dates whether in full as 1869, 1882, or only 72, 79 or 97 as the case may be.

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Shades, Papers and Perforations—the former two have their place in all catalogues already, and when Scott's (they will eventually, why not now?) lists perforation 11½x12 there will be ample opportunity for the poor man in Canada to exercise his craving to his entire satisfaction in place of reaching his limit with 150 or so stamps which the ordinary catalogue lists, for at about this number the poor man has to pass up and at the same time limit his number of specimens on account of the price.



ex 150
- 28-29

Now for the evidence that "no serious collector" was written without due consideration of the exclusive "No" to say the least. This "No" excludes Mr. E. E. Goodchild who has for some years paid a good deal of attention to this feature and is recognized as a serious collector of sound judgment. "No" excludes R. D. E., a serious collector of Toronto, who wrote in rebuttal of this statement that it is "absolutely wrong." "No" excludes Mr. Fred Jarrett, the compiler of "Postage Stamps of Canada," which illustrates (1st Edition) over one hundred and sixty designs of cancellations on Canadian stamps. Mr. Jarrett is President of the Canadian Philatelic Association this year—possibly that would indicate one serious collector at least. The seven cuts embellishing this article are from Mr. Jarrett's catalogue and were kindly loaned by him. And in closing for good full measure one other Montreal collector, one of the most serious of collectors in the whole of Canada, for one single stamp (a stamp that had formerly come from Montreal to Winnipeg) paid the Winnipeg owner one hundred and fifty dollars more for it than the Winnipeg man originally paid the Montreal collector for it. Why? Because of the perfection of the stamp as a collection specimen? No, not at all. Because he did not have a stamp of that kind? No, again. But simply because it is the only known specimen of that particular stamp bearing a certain cancellation listed in Mr. Jarrett's book.

Serious collectors are paying attention and more than that, they are paying good big money for nice clean, clear specimens of Canadian Postal Cancellations.

7-8 PJ 4 7