

BNAPS Fancy Cancel Study Group Newsletter No. 9.

Dave Lacelle.

May 92.

It is late in the year for this newsletter, however I have to squeeze this type of work in when I can. Many of you have read my plaintive comment before in letters; "silly job, house, etc. keep getting in the way of my hobby"! I am writing this at my cabin (in late April), beautiful view of the sun setting over an ice filled lake, no phone, no electricity (propane lights), and five miles from the nearest person. I should not be interrupted. Somewhat like Thoreau's experiment except he was less than three miles from his neighbour, and I am sure he would have liked propane lights! I wish my words could be as profound as Thoreau's. Wherever you are when you read this, please consider for a few moments that there still are many beautiful, peaceful, and quiet places in this country. Now back to our hobby - supposedly another source of relaxation.

●Group News:

We have four new members this time: Mr. W. F. Fisher, 3415 Parkway Terrace, Bryon TX 77802; Mr. M. J. Rixon, 749 Agnes Montreal, Quebec H4C 2P4; Mr. B. H. Saunders, 81 Calder Ave, Brookmans Park, Hatfield, Herts AL9 7AJ; and Mr. T. W. Southey, 34456 Ascott Ave, Abbotsford BC. V2S 4V5. Welcome aboard. I have reviewed the membership list, and have dropped about 12 members, none of whom were in their first year of membership, and all of whom had not paid any dues nor contributed in any way since 1990. Our membership total is now 51. Unfortunately, Joanne Fraser can no longer look after the printing, and distribution of the newsletter, my wife Claudia will take over this job for the time being. One final item of group news, five members have asked for reprints of newsletters one to eight, I have checked my files, and I can do this with some small flaws such as a few missing cartoons, or illustrations. There will be quite a bit of work involved "re-assembling" some of the earlier ones, and I guess I shall have to charge \$10.00 for the set. Please indicate if you would like to receive these reprints.

The new book on fancy cancels is progressing slowly - so what else is new? I am still in the "letters and initials" section, and will soon be "watching my P's and Q's". The numeral cancels were completed some time ago, and many of the illustrations prepared for these newsletters can be imported directly to the book. In the last newsletter I published sample pages from the new book, I have not received any negative comments on format or style, so I shall assume

all are happy. There were three comments on the items I have listed as "Deletions and Miscellaneous". I have written to the concerned members about these "problems", one item has been "undeleted", a bit more explanation was required for the other two.

I have received a considerable amount of correspondence as a result of my query in the last newsletter concerning fancy cancels on Registration stamps. Thanks are extended to Wally Gutzman, Jerry Carr, Barry Dales and, John Fretwell for photocopies of specific registration items. I would wish to thank Ross Walker, Wayne Smith, Don Kolfage, John Hannah, and Frank Waite all of whom have sent in other material. Mr. B. Noble (11 Trailsmoke Cr. Etobicoke ON M9C 1L9) has mentioned that he would like to trade the "Vernon V" cancel on cover (as illustrated in Topics Nov.-Dec. 1991, pg. 10) "for equivalent value item or items of Nfld. postal history" which is his collecting area. If anyone has such material, they may wish to get in touch with him directly. Finally I owe a thank you (in advance) to Norm Brassler, who will be sending me a set of the photos used for the original D&S book. This will be very useful for among other things, confirming some of the D&S items which did not appear in the Cohen sales. There were nine members in the 1960 group, fancy cancel collections from three of these members (including Doc. Day, and E.A. Smythies) were in these sales.

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS:

NEWSLETTER 4:

1. Addition; a new Toronto Two date has been reported, this is the new number 31, D&S Type 2; Nov. 22 '69.

NEWSLETTER 7:

1. My "Masonic Corks", one person who has seen these is of the opinion that one of the numbers marked on top of the cork is in modern ballpoint ink. I am not so sure, the others are different inks. Very similar cancels to one of my "Masonic corks" have turned up on a three cent S.Q., and a Post Card in the "Greenbaum" Masonic cancel sale. (This is the cork with the 'ball' at the top). The item from the Greenbaum sale was apparently used at Embro Ont. in '71 (Thanks Jerry). Masonic illustration # 19 was incorrectly printed. The correct scale appears here.

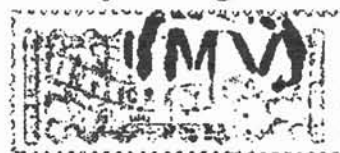
2. CDS cork inserts, one variety that I had failed to mention was used at Halifax. A bar killer was drilled and two inserts were used.



NEWSLETTER 9:

1. Correction; item 5, Correspondence, The Toronto "T" has now been reported on a post card, it was thus not used only for registration.

2. Addition; item 3, Correspondence, I have recently seen an "MV" cancel which is very similar to the "VM" item in Newsletter 9.



CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES.

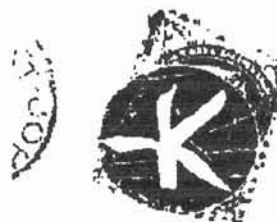
Ross Walker has sent in a photocopy of what I believe to be D&S 555. The D&S illustration is rather poor if this is so. This is the earliest strike I have seen (AU 78 vs OC 78), and makes me wonder if this St. John NB "K" is really a "K" or just a segmented cork? Has anyone else seen anything else that looks like D&S 555?

Barry Dales has sent in a cover from Chevalier Ont. AP. '80, which appears to be D&S 437. I had never seen this cancel before (all examples noted were either D&S 477 or 488), and I had "delisted" it from the new book. Back it comes...

Wayne Smith sent me a (the?) example of the "CH in a circle" cancel, which is not illustrated in D&S, but was reported elsewhere as "possibly a French marking". I had only seen a poor tracing of this item, and now have a good scan.

Frank Waite sent in two examples of this curious little "T" cancel. I have a suspicion that this is some utilitarian device "pressed" into cancel usage, but what would it be, and what would cause the tiny "tails" on the bottom of the "T"?

Two members have in the past sent in another example of a common device used as a cancel, in this case, a square with a small circle in the middle. While looking through my F1's, I discovered that I also owned one. The cancel device is a nut on the end of a bolt. I have enclosed a modern "proof" strike here. Anyone know where this was used? My strike is on a pale rose carmine shade - thus about '88.



Three queries to our group:

Firstly, I have seen two very different illustrations of D&S 516, an intaglio "H", yet I can only find one record of this cover (Port Hope Ont., May '76). This record does not include a photo. Does anyone out there have this cover, and if so could I have a photo copy of it? I can thus prepare a better illustration.



Secondly, has anyone seen any examples of multiple fancy cancels such as the three examples below? Item one is the early state of the first Toronto Two cancel, it is on top of a weak 2 ring numeral cancel which can not be read. It is possible that this was one of the last uses of the 2 ring "2", the P.M. being unhappy with the strike re-cancelled with the Toronto Two. Item two is two different numeral "14" cancels, one is D&S 52. Roman numeral XIII rather than XIV is somewhat archaic, and was not used after about 1880 (check out an antique clock if you wish to confirm this). Finally, I have no explanation for the "WU" and "G" cancels used on item three. The "WU" is D&S 755, not located, and the "G" is D&S 487, Georgetown Ont. used in Aug. to Nov. '75. The stamps are appropriate printings, the cancel inks match perfectly, and the "tying" to piece is good. The Georgetown P.M. in '75 was Mr. L. Goodenow. Does anyone know of any other examples of such multiple fancy cancels?



The known information on one cancel can sometimes be used to identify the other. This type of "detective work", as well as indications of "the human touch" are the most fascinating aspects of fancy cancel collecting in my opinion. All of the fancy cancels meant something to their creators, some were a quick simple designs, others expressed much more complex concepts - some of which can be guessed at by us over a hundred years later. Is not one of the characteristics of "art" the attempt to freeze a concept in time?

Thirdly, Ray Horning has sent in several pages of fancy (and other) cancels on Map Stamps. He (and I) would be interested in knowing if there are others. If you have any "pet" map stamp cancels in your collection, I would appreciate receiving a photocopy.

FANCY CANCELS ON REGISTERED STAMPS, PART 1.

The list on page 6 is a compilation of initial cancels on Registration stamps (F1 to F3 used 1875-1894). In the United States there was a requirement for P.M.'s to initial registered mail, and I have wondered if a similar rule existed in Canada. Such a rule might have led to the creation of initial cancels as a time saving device. The only official rule concerning P.M.'s initials is a P.O. Savings Bank instruction regarding illiterate customers, where the P.M. must witness "their mark" with his initials.

This list may slightly over-count some cancels as it was compiled from various sources including both auction catalogues and collections. The presence of initial cancels on registration items does not prove that there was an special significance to the cancels, as the P.M. no doubt used the same device for the regular stamp as for the registration stamp (1). On the other hand, registered letters are often important letters to the sender. If this importance was conveyed to the P.M. then extra special handling would probably result. This would include careful selection of an appropriate cancellation device, and careful use of same. What could be more officious than the P.M.'s own initials in his official role as a representative of the Crown?

There seem to be quite a few initial, and town name type cancels on registered stamps. There are very few fancy numeral cancels on registered, although in many cases they are pen cancelled with registration numbers. Two ring numerals; 2, 3, 5, 11, 22, 27, 36, 37, 40, 41, 52, and 58 have been reported. A single example of a N.B. grid "8" (poor strike) is known, as are numeral portions of oval parcel cancels. One rather interesting "77" cancel is illustrated here - I had at first thought it was a pen cancel, however I have now seen three identical examples. CDS cancels are not common, and squared circles on F2 are scarce as F2 was more or less obsolete in 1894 when these cancels came into use. Some of the more impressive fancy cancels on the registered stamps are illustrated at the end of this newsletter, others will appear in the next newsletter.



I would like to raise two other topics, fancy ship cancels, and the use of the scanner of preparing illustrations in these newsletters.

TABLE 1. INITIAL & TOWN NAME CANCELS ON REGISTRATION STAMPS.

D&S #	DETAIL 1	DETAIL 2 #	STRIKES	F1/F2	LOCATION	PROV.	DATE	USE	NOTES
355	A	P.M. INIT.		F2	ASHDOWN	D	88-91		P.M. F.W. ASHDOWN.ALSO TOWN INIT.
358	A			F1	GRAVENHURST	D	85-86		
363c (#)	A			F1	UNK.	UNK.	UNK.		
377	A			F1	ST. HYACINTHE	Q	79-80		
378a	A	TOWN INIT.		F1	ALMONTE	D	76		QUESTIONABLE USE,F1 ONLY ON COVER
317	ACTON	TOWN NAME		F1	ACTON	D	80		DATE UNCONFIRMED.
319	AYLMER	TOWN NAME		F1	AYLMER	Q	83-85		
396	B	TOWN INIT.		F1	BREADALBANE	PEI	88		
400	B	TOWN INIT.		F1	BEACHVILLE	D	85		P.M. WAS A MR. C. "MASON".
406b (#)	B	TOWN INIT.		F1	BERLIN	D	UNK.		
411	B	P.M. INIT.		F1	WELLAND	D	78		P.M. G.H. BURGER.
422	BHJ	P.M. INIT.	3	F1	PORT CARLING	D	76-79		P.M. B.H. JOHNSTON.
321	BLYTH	TOWN NAME		F1	BLYTH	D	80-81		
324	BLYTH	TOWN NAME	2	F1	BLYTH	D	81-82		
426	BR	TOWN INIT.		F2	BURNT RIVER	D	91-93		
458	D	TOWN INIT.		F1	DANVILLE	Q	77-78		
478	EP	P.M. INIT.	3	F1	GRENVILLE	Q	82-87		P.M. E. PRIDHAM.
509	H	P.M. INIT.		F1	HAGERSVILLE	D	82-91		P.M. J.H. HAGER. ALSO TOWN INIT.
511	H	P.M. INIT.		F1	HAGERSVILLE	D	84-94		P.M. J.H. HAGER. ALSO TOWN INIT.
513	H	P.M. INIT.		F1	WEYMOUTH BRIDGE	NS	82-85		P.M. E.J. HOYT.
513	H	P.M. INIT.		F1	WEYMOUTH BRIDGE	NS	82-85		P.M. E.J. HOYT.
514B	H	RPD INIT.		F1	HALIFAX & ANNAP.	NS	84-85		D&S LOCATION IS WRONG.
521a (#)	H			F1	UNK.	UNK.	UNK.		
337b (#)	HARRY AHERN	?		F1	UNK.	UNK.	UNK.		P.M. M.J. AHERN IN NEWPORT Q.
330x (#)	HARWICH	TOWN NAME		F2	HARWICH	UNK.	UNK.		SIMILAR D&S 330, BUT IN CAPS.
536x (#)	J			F1	UNK.	UNK.	UNK.		UNCONF. HAVE ONLY SEEN A TRACING.
319f (#)	KINGSTON	TOWN NAME		F1	KINGSTON	D	80		DATE IS POSSIBLY '90.
346x	LONGFORD	TOWN NAME		F1	LONGFORD	D	UNK.		QUESTIONABLE ITEM.
592	M	TOWN INIT.		F1	MITCHELL	D	88		
594	M			F1	UNK.	UNK.	UNK.		
351m (#)	MATTAWA	TOWN NAME	2	F1	MATTAWA	D	UNK.		CDS CORK INSERT TYPE.
335	MILTON	TOWN NAME		F2	MILTON	D	92		
335	MILTON	TOWN NAME		F2	MILTON	D	92		
603b (#)	MV			F1	UNK.	UNK.	UNK.		
606	N	TOWN INIT.		F1	NEWMARKET	D	80-81		
615	N		2	F1	WELLAND	D	82-85		
620	N	RPD INIT.	2	F1	TOR. & NIP. RR	D	76		SIMILAR: NIXON D. '81.
634	NFB			F1	BROCKVILLE	D	82		
643	D			F1	UNK.	UNK.			SEVERAL LOCATIONS, A BOTTLE TOP?
654	D		2	F1	NAPANEE	D	76-80		
339	OTTAWA	TOWN NAME		F1	OTTAWA	D	80-81		
341	PRESCOTT	TOWN NAME		F1	PRESCOTT	D	82-88		
343	QUYON	TOWN NAME	4	F2	QUYON	Q	80		DATE IS UNCONFIRMED.
679	R	REGISTERED	5	F1	ST. HYACINTHE	Q	76-77		HOMEMADE REGISTRATION MARK.
690	S	TOWN INIT.		F1	SCOTIA	D	88-90		
703	SP	TOWN INIT.		F1	SAND POINT	D	76		UNCONF. HAVE ONLY SEEN A TRACING.
711	T	TOWN INIT.	5	F1	TORONTO	D	79-81		
721	TD			F1	BELLEVILLE	D	90-91		UNCONF. HAVE ONLY WRITTEN REPORT
729	V		2	F1	UNK.	UNK.	UNK.		
730	V		2	F1	NORTHWOOD	D	91		
730	V			F2	NORTHWOOD	D	91		
738	VR			F1	SHELBURNE	D	74-76		PROBABLY "VICTORIA REGINA".
743	W		2	F1	GRAVENHURST	D	77		SIMILAR: WAKEFIELD Q. UNK. DATE.
743	W			F2	GRAVENHURST	D	77		SIMILAR: WAKEFIELD Q. UNK. DATE.
744	W			F1	NORMANTON	D	73-83		QUESTIONABLE, PORT ELGIN IN '74.
751a	W	TOWN INIT.		F1	WAKEFIELD	Q	90		DATE & LOCATION ARE UNCONFIRMED.
767	WBS			F1	UNK.	UNK.	UNK.		
338x (#)	WELLAND	TOWN NAME		F2	WELLAND	D	UNK.		
770b (#)	WM			F1	UNK.	UNK.	UNK.		
762	WW	TOWN INIT.	2	F1	WEST WINCHESTER	D	85-90		
781	Y	TOWN INIT.		F1	YALE	BC	75-80		

(#) Provisional numbers, these do not appear in D&S.

SAILING SHIP CANCELS.

I have seen four examples of fancy cancels (each from different sources) which are claimed to represent sailing ships. My first reaction was to think "overactive imagination", however on second thought, why not? There is no reason why a sailing ship would not be carved as a fancy cancel, other nautical cancels, such as anchors are known. I have seen two examples of item 1, and only one of the others. Item 2 was used at Port Perry Ont. in '76, (3) item 3 at Toronto in '72, and item 4 is a proven fake. Some of the members might have a comment or two on this "new" class of fancy cancels?



SCANNER DETAILS

Secondly, I am occasionally asked how these illustrations are prepared. The scanner used is a hand-held "Skyscan" scanner with B/W or Halftone selections (B/W works best for cancel illustrations) and variable contrast dial. The scanned image can be 4.25" wide, and a continuous image 4.25 by about 14" uses about 400 kilobytes. I use the scanner at 200 dots per inch, it can work at 300 d.p.i., however my monitor and printer cannot handle this resolution. The scanner is most sensitive in the red end of the spectrum, and thus the contrast can be adjusted to "wash out" a 3 cent S.Q. (or other red stamp), and leave the cancel behind. The scanner is its own red-filter in other words. The image(s) is/are then cleaned up (and slightly highlighted) in a paint program, printed and scaled (in a desk-top publishing program) before a final printing. I used the plural in the preceding as some of the final illustrations are made from two scans of different partial strikes which can be put together in the paint program to form a somewhat idealistic perfect strike. Other tricks are possible, compare the two illustrations of the "Hamilton 5" cancel on page 6 of the last newsletter, the second one was mutilated in the computer!

As usual, I shall end with an old-time clipping. The rubber stamp advertisement is from "The Montreal Philatelist" Vol. 1, No. 1 Apr. 1898. The fancy cancels on F1 are: Acton Ont, D&S 317; St. Brigets Man. crown wax seal (D&S 218 type); a square wheel (unlist.); a somewhat questionable (blurred double strike) crown cancel, D&S 227; a "WM" (unlist.); a "WBS", D&S 767; a Masonic triangle, D&S 255; Edwin Pridham's initials, Grenville Que., D&S 478; and, bottom left Mr. Mason's "Masonic B" of Beechville Ont., D&S 400.

FOOTNOTES

Footnote 1. The faking of cancels and covers is a topic I do not like to dwell on, however one easy way for a faker to enhance the value of a Small Queen cover is to stick on a registration stamp and pen in a few supposed registration numbers. Usually the cancel on the registration stamp will not be the same as the cancel on the genuine stamps when this fakery is performed. (There is an exception to this; registration stamps are often pen cancelled with a registration number. The early essays for these stamps had a space in the middle for the number, and were thus somewhat similar in design to USA registration labels.) Fancy initial covers with D&S 421 (BHJ), 538 (J), 662 (PAID), and 697 (S) have all been observed with other cancels on their registration stamps. These covers and cancels are not proven fake by this, however a certain suspicion should be raised.

Footnote 2. Some "initial" cancels were created to designate registration. Among these are; "AR" (Acknowledge Receipt), "RL" (Registered Letter), the "R" in an oval or circle (used all over the British Empire), and various home-made "R's". Most of these were used after 1894, (exception "R in oval", and D&S 679 an "R") and thus do not appear on registration stamps.

Footnote 3. The name Port Perry is a bit of a misnomer. "Port" Perry is on Lake Scugog which is about 15 KM. by 20 KM. in size. It is located north of Oshawa, and is not directly connected to any other large body of water. I may receive correction from some Port Perrian, however I doubt if any major sailing ships have docked there.

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