

BNAPS Fancy Cancel Study Group Newsletter No. 11

Dave Lacelle.
August '93

● Group News:

Finally I can find time to prepare another newsletter. My apologies for the delay. There will be a study group meeting at the Toronto convention Sunday Sept. 5, Meeting room "A", yours truly will talk awhile on; "Meanings behind some fancy cancels". I hope to see you there. We have seven new members; Mr. R. S. Hyodo, 1217 - 10020 103 Ave Edmonton T5J 0G8, Mrs. A. M. McDougall, 1702 -33 Elmhurst Ave, Willowdale ON M2N 6G8, Mr. B. M. Craw, P.O. Box 6444, Central P.O., Calgary AB T2P 2E1, Mr. E. M. Cachia RR #5, Georgetown ON L7G 4S8, Mr. Ben-Zvis Cohen, 1001 77 Edmonton St., Winnipeg MB R3L 4H8, Mr. S. A. Weinstock, 8016 Middlebelt Road, Westland MI, 48185, and Mr. C.D. Carrier, 3333 W. Broad St. Apt. 8, Columbus OH 43204. This brings our membership to 58. I would like to extend a welcome on behalf of the group, and at the same time make a request: Please write to me if you have any questions about fancy cancels, I shall try to include them in the newsletter, and we all may benefit from your question(s).

I would also like to mention that a rather grievous error occurred in the most recent Topics (pg. 55); the Late Norman Brassler is not. Welcome back Norm. I would like to thank Wally Gutzman, Wayne Smith, Mike Sendbuchler, and Brian Noble for photocopies of specific items used in this newsletter, and an extra special thanks to Mr. B. Craw (Bow City Philatelics, Calgary) for the photocopy of the D&S material in the UK Cohen sale in Oct. 1986.

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS:

●NEWSLETTER 1

Crown Wax Seals.

1. Addition: Primrose ON, Cover, 3 cent S.Q., Mr. '72, Type 3.
2. Addition: New Dundee UC, as seal, Dec. '94, Type 2.

●NEWSLETTER 5

Bogey Head Cancels:

One bogey head which was not mentioned in this newsletter is D&S 276b. I was originally skeptical about this cancel, however I have now seen five examples, all consistently in the same time frame ('97-



'98) to have become a believer. One of these strikes also has a faint Chatham Ont. July 2, '97 CDS.

● NEWSLETTER 8

Non Verified cancels.

D&S 394, 456, 482, and several others, appeared in the J. Henok sale March '93. They had been in the Stuart Johnstone collection.



● NEWSLETTER 10

1. Fancy Cancels on Registration Stamps.

I referred to an item with the "provisional number" of 98d, this is rather meaningless without an illustration. The cancel is similar to Jarrett 982, and is illustrated here. Anyone have any other information about it?



2. Fancy Cancels on Map Stamps.

The description of the "N" cancel was inadvertently omitted - it is D&S 612, used as a town initial type of cancel, (P.M. was Mr. J. Fish) in Newcastle NB between Oct. '98 and Apr. '99.

PROGRESS OF THE NEW FANCY CANCEL BOOK

The alphabet (and town names) portion of the book is now complete. For those who are statistically minded, in this part there are 690 entries, 100 of which are new, and there are another 300 entries in the "Miscellaneous & Deletions" section. The Day and Smythies publication had 1070 entries. The difference between the two totals is mainly due to the many duplicate entries in D&S - one cancel (D&S 570, 571, 613, 614, 615) is listed five times in D&S. The numeral cancels portion of the book was completed some time ago. My next area will be "crosses and stars" which I anticipate will be easier than either of the preceding.

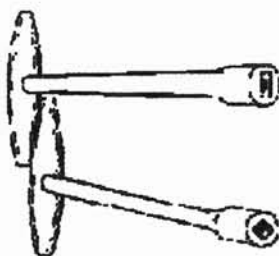
NEWSLETTER TOPICS.

In the last newsletter, I had asked if anyone had any ideas for newsletter topics. One suggestion was that I could run a "best of" example each time. Members could send in their "best cancel cover", and I could illustrate it. There are two problems with this, firstly most people do not like to mail their best material, and much detail is lost when dealing with photocopies of photocopies. Secondly, I am in a real quandary when someone sends in an item I believe to be fake. As I have said before; "You don't make friends by telling them

that their "gems" are fake, and like most people, I like to have friends." How about a variation on this theme? Since so many of these cancels are to say the least "of curious design with (possibly) obscure meanings", may I ask if you would send me your weirdest fancy cancels. These could include inexplicable designs, and/or strange uses. Any other suggestions for newsletter topics?

CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES.

1. One more example of a utilitarian item (such as a tool, bottle top, coin etc.) being pressed into use as a cancel has turned up. I am quite sure that this item was produced from the impression of a piano tuning key.



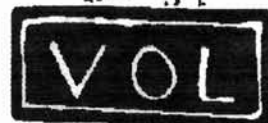
2. Wally Gutzman sends in this unusual cancel (a good candidate for a "weird item") on a registered cover from Eastman Quebec Feb. '88. Any ideas what this design might mean?



3. Brian Noble sends in the following late fancy on Newfoundland. The cancel appears to be hand carved from rubber, and was used at St. John's Sept. '42 on an OHMS cover to Calgary. Perhaps it is some variant of the W.W. II black-out cancels.



4. I would like to know if anyone has any information on the "VOL" cancel used in Newfoundland around 1887. Do any covers exist? Anyone know what "VOL" might mean?



5. I would also like any information on a supposed Toronto "W" cancel used in 1897, or 1898. I have seen a very poor photocopy of this, however it was too poor to make an illustration from.

6. Mr. A.R. Walker would like to purchase D&S 34 (Fredericton fancy 11 cancel) on either the 2 or 10 cent S.Q. Anyone got one?

7. Peter Geoffroy is looking for a two ring 9 cancel. This may be tougher than it first appears- the two ring 9 was cut down soon after delivery to become a D&S 30 and 16. I would also be interested in knowing when this happened. A cover of the first cut down version (D&S 30) is known from Sept. 10 '69.

8. Mr. J. Hooghe is seeking information on the Bickerdike machine cancels. He would like to know if anyone specializes in this type of cancel. If so, please contact him at 3723 Wilmington Pike, Kettering OH 45429 USA.

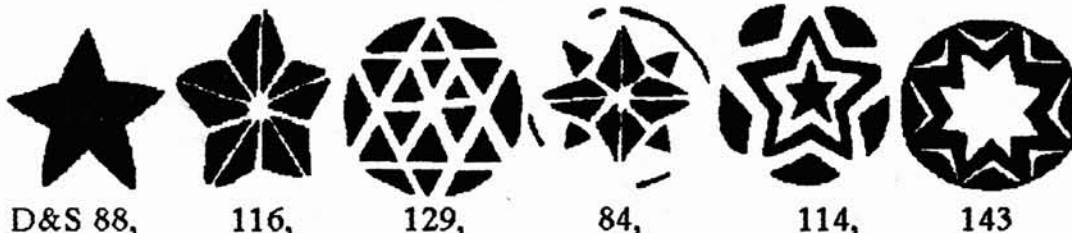
9. Peter Geoffroy poses an interesting question; "Why did Canada have so many fancy cancels? Wouldn't the circumstances have been the same for say Australia, New Zealand, and other growing colonies?" I have always thought that Canada just copied the idea of fancy cancels from the United States where they were in considerable use in the 1860's. Any other ideas?

10. Bill Wegman has purchased this fascinating little sealing wax hammer. It is made of steel, 16mm (-5/8") hammer diameter, the handle is turned wood painted jet black, a small "J" is stamped on top of the handle. Total hammer length is 65mm (2 3/4"), which makes it small for my hand. The metal letter "J" is engraved (not punched) into the business end, and traces of red sealing wax remain in the grooves. This device is extremely similar to D&S 718a on Plate G (listed as a "T"), except for the centre small bar. I have included a proof strike here in green ink.



STAR AND CROSS CANCELS

These are probably some of the easier cork cancels to prepare, and thus several nearly identical types may exist from different post offices. Some of the star cancels were produced in multiples by Pritchard and Andrews of Ottawa, D&S 103, 107, and 110 are in the proofbooks (see page 5). D&S 88, 116, and possibly 129 may also have been produced by Pritchard and Andrews as they appear in several P.O.'s. Some of the stars may have been borrowed from school teachers, many teachers used rubber star markings to indicate excellent work. The New York Foreign Mail Office produced a series of very elaborate stars, D&S 84, 114, and 143, are probably examples from this Office.



D&S 88,

116,

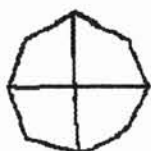
129,

84,

114,

143

Cross cancels as well as having the obvious religious significance, can be further sub divided into such types as "Maltese, Celtic, St. Andrews, etc.", some of which have special meanings within Masonic, Oddfellows, or other fraternal societies. A few crosses may be strictly utilitarian, postmasters in the 1850's were told that in the absence of a cancelling device, they were to boldly mark the stamp with an "X". D&S 167 may be an example of this. D&S 162a is probably two crossed pieces of string on a cork or block of wood. One example of playfulness is known; I had always wondered why so many cross cancels originated from Kingston Ontario. A possible word play on "Kingston Cross" (major railway station in London England) seemed possible, but unlikely. I considered that the P.M. must have been a very religious man, then I found out that his name was Mr. Deacon....



D&S 167,



162a,



Kingston Cross,



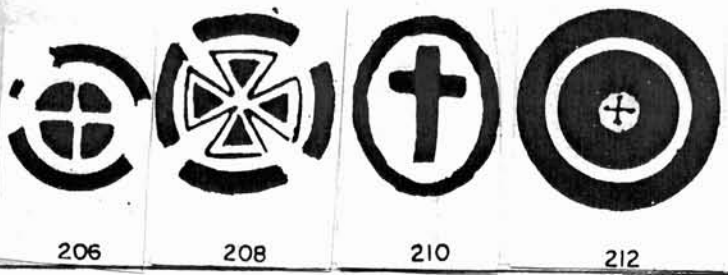
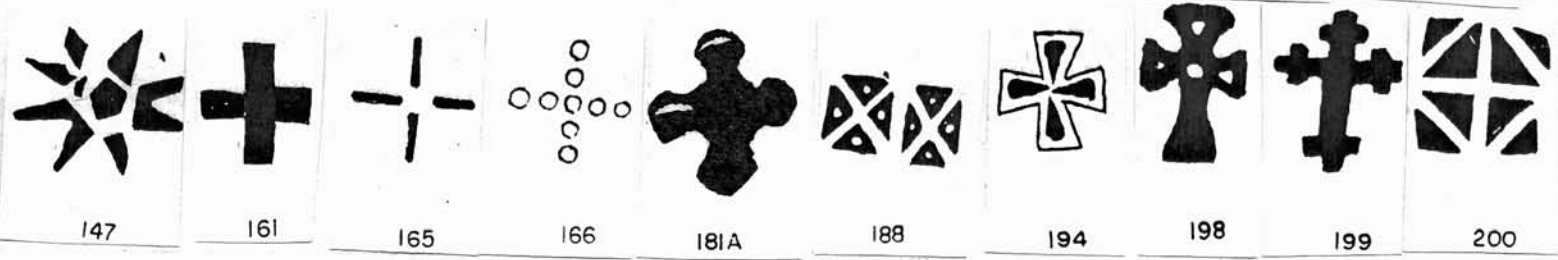
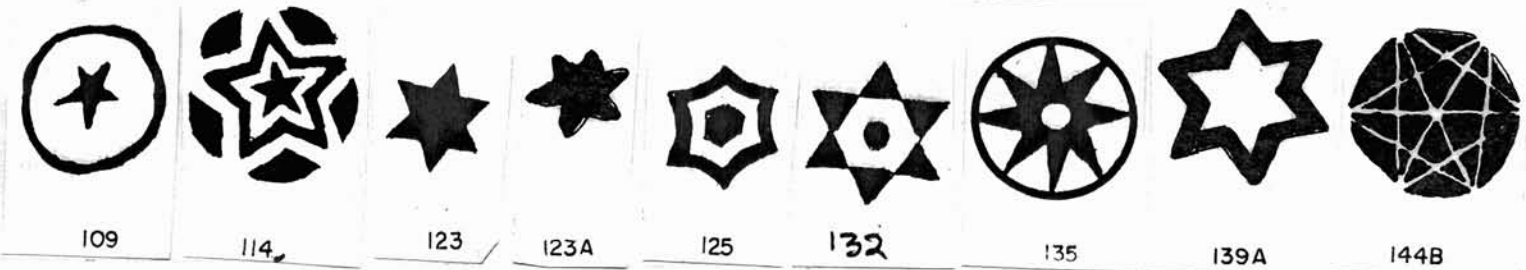
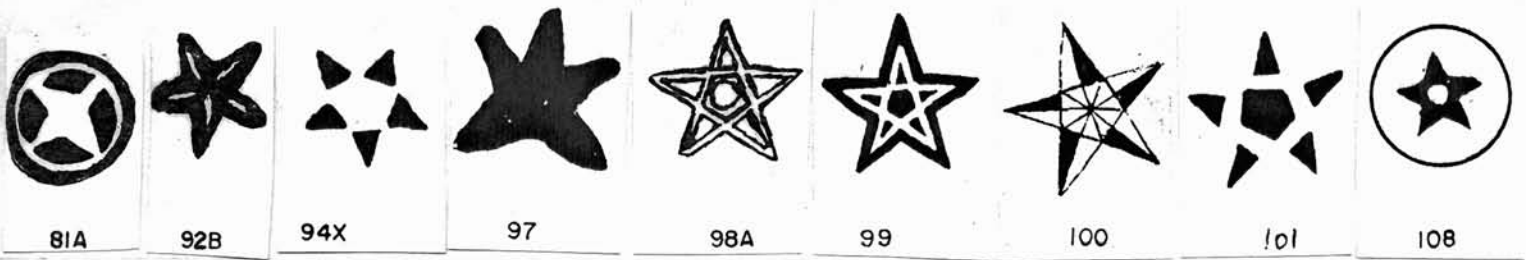
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The next page is self explanatory, I need help with these stars and crosses. Any other information not already in D&S (cover dates for example) on any other stars or crosses would also be appreciated. After preparing this page. I was sent a copy of a cover with D&S 77, it can thus be removed from the list.

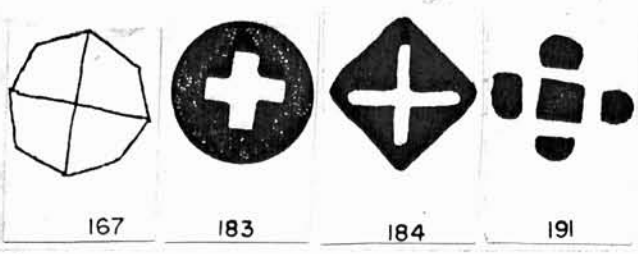
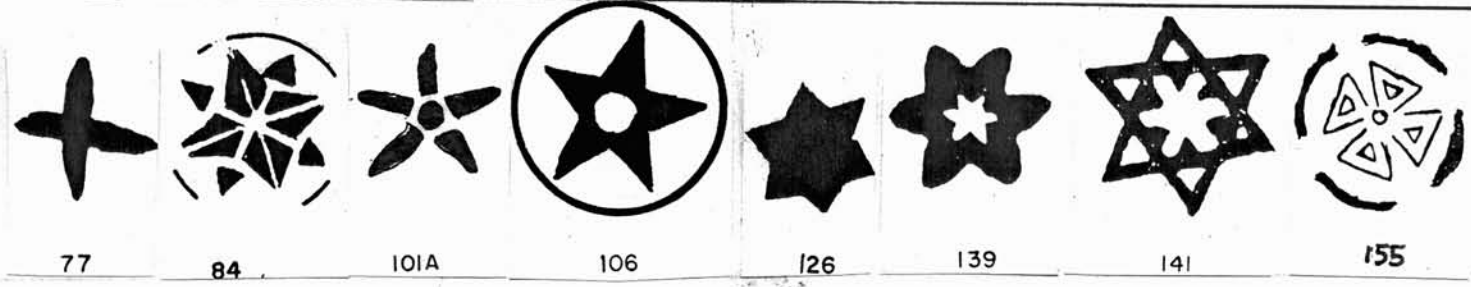
The last ~~three~~^{two} pages are firstly; another page from Frank Campbell's publication on CDS hammers, and secondly from a set of cancel illustrations prepared by a U.K. firm in the 1950's, which were "... printed on gummed paper for mounting in and illustrating the collection.". I have a full set, with full original gum...



From P+A Proofbook Apr. '80



The 32 items above have not been identified as to post office. Do any covers for these exist?



I have never seen these twelve items. Does anyone have any information?

METHODS of metal working in manufacturing postmarking instruments interested me 7 but accurate data in some details could not be located. Recently a friend gave me the "key" I had long sought--this being that at present the letters are impressed lightly in relief by a die to make a pattern. The area around this faint pattern is then deepened by hand gouging, filing, and use of power tools that rout out the larger areas of the background. Then the finished product is hardened.

My informant said soft steel rod was machined to the right diameter, then cut to instrument size. Both ends were cut out as a hollow core, and the slots for the dating type were formed.

In early years slots for dating type to be inserted into were difficult to form. First a series of holes were drilled as a preliminary opening, then hand filing was performed to make the rectangular slot. The slots were about 1/4 inch deep.

About 1840 the serif type style of letter (as Pugwash #127) was replaced by gothic (non-serif) letters, in most English factories. The plain letter die was more readily pressed onto the steel in making the pattern. **HH**

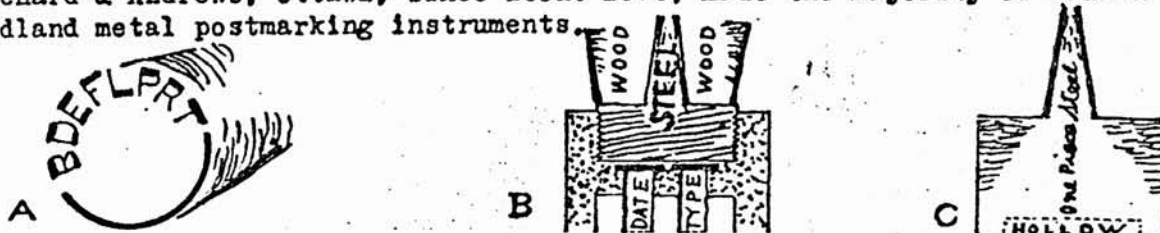
In earlier methods no spinning power-tool marks are evident, even on brass bases, this being a modern development in removing background metal.

Instruments with no full outer circle line used the edges of both sides of the rim automatically as part of the design, as sketched at (A).

Metal threads in the screw-in part next the handle in older instruments were spaced 1/20 to the inch, as (B). This unscrewing of the bottom section was necessary when inserting the type dating changes. The steel type units had a spreading flange to retain the inserts solidly. **SP** **SP**

The write-in, or manuscript dated, instruments had the bottom center sunk about 1/8 to 1/4 inch as sketch (C).

Pritchard & Andrews, Ottawa, since about 1870, made the majority of Canada and Newfoundland metal postmarking instruments.

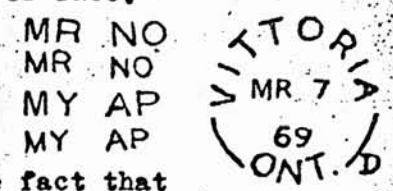


DATING TYPE was found in two nicely made circular wooden boxes with threaded turn around tops, the boxes being about two inches across.

On one box top was pasted a paper with VICTORIA ONT 1869 postmark as (D).

P.E.I. dating characters were among the 30 or more steel type, and these were cast three letters on one body as MAR AUG in ordinary printers type. The lead printers type was .918 inch high, the steel characters varied from .50 to .60 inch high, and the steel type had two sizes of face.

On the inside of one box top was this neat label :
 D. C. Berri, Engraver, 36 High Holborn, London, W.C.
 stamp makers to Her Majesty's post office
 sole patentee of the hinged date stamp
 dies, seals, stamps, etc. Type 6d each.



A reason for undated instruments for small offices was the fact that in early years at least, type-dated instruments cost 20 times as much as undated instruments--according to 1840/1860 era old records of purchases.

HANDLES were wood, about 4 inches above the metal base, often of apple or some hard tropical timber. One Sackville handle was oak. Many were ink caked.

Most "Paid's" were a cheaper soft wood, probably made in the same factory, as all seemed identical in the pattern of the wood turning.

SEALS were commonly ordered when a new office was opened. I have copies of many of these old requisitions, to England in all instances.

Most seals were brass, 1/8 inch thick, made by forcing in a set of die letters. The center crown seemed forced in, not individually hand carved.

Seals were largely used in closing mail bags. In old official letters complaints of "broken seals" are noted. Wood handles were slightly concave at top to assist in pressing down the strike--and possibly the sunken top distinguished them from the ordinary turntable instrument.





From a 1950's auction.