

BNAPS Fancy Cancel Study Group Newsletter No. 17

Rec.

Nov. 96

Dave Lacelle

I am pleased to again prepare another newsletter and must send thanks to the many of you (11!) who have sent in items this time. The newsletter is much easier to produce when there is something to work from. Of course information sent to me is usually also incorporated into my research for the new book. The book continues, I have finished the "crown" cancels pages, and am moving on to the fraternal organizations (Masonic and Oddfellows). To this end I have included a page from one of the earlier newsletters on Masonic cancels. Any further information will be appreciated. Does anyone know of any other fraternal (or religious?) societies which may have used Canadian fancy cancels? (At least two P.M.'s used "word plays" on their names, Mr. Mason of Beechville Ont. made his own "Masonic" cancel, and Mr. Deacon of Kingston showed a decided religious bent with many elaborate crosses.)



For the statistically minded, the new book so far (numeral, letter, town name, star, cross, leaf and crown cancels) has 1333 illustrations, and 552 "deletion or miscellaneous" illustrations. Deletions are usually; spurious, bogus, or fake items, miscellaneous are items such as; possible duplications in other areas (ie. 6/9, M/W etc.), examples of poor illustrations from other publications, foreign cancels etc.

The Small Queen's study group has been having difficulty publishing newsletters the last few years. I understand that Mr. R. Sass, P.O. Box 31054, Walnut Creek, CA 94598 has volunteered to be the Editor of a new "Large and Small Queen" group This is good news as this group was the original source of our group, and shares many common interests. I would urge all our members to join, and in any ways possible support this new group. (Thanks to Jon Johnson for this info.)

●Group News.

We now have over 85 members, I have had to drop only four for non-payment of dues (for two years); total dues collected from '95 to

Convention '96 were \$229. This is just enough to produce two newsletters a year. Thank you. Some of you may wonder about the strange envelopes I use, these were destined for the garbage (recycling) bin (due to outdated addresses etc.) at the Government Department I work at. I 'intercepted' them, which in turn helps keep my costs down.

Thanks are due to; Hugh Rathbun, Sue Sheffield, Les Porter, Paul Prevost, John Hannah, Ron Smith, Mike Rixon, Peter Geoffroy, and Wally Gutzman for sending information for this newsletter. Special thanks are due to Dr. Michael Russell who sent in photocopies and information on 346 fancy cancel covers. (I have not yet completely reviewed these - there are many new early/late dates of use, and few new locations of use - a valuable contribution).

Included in this newsletter are two contributions from the late Allan Steinhart. Allan, as those of you who knew him, was noted for his "unusual" sense of humour. It is sometimes said "that someone has left this world a better place than when they came into it". Allan not only did that, the world he left behind will also be a "duller" place.

We have 12 new members. New members usually join by indicating what study group(s) they would be interested in to a BNAPS director, or the study group co-ordinator. He periodically sends me a list of people interested in joining our group. I then send these people a "welcome to the group" letter, dues information and the most recent newsletter. If they then indicate that they wish to join, I list them in the newsletter. This takes quite some time and is probably counter-productive. Consequently I will cut out the last two stages in the future, list everyone in the current newsletter, and include my "welcome" note with the current newsletter. This will speed things up.

New members are: L.W. Backus, 6 Hyde Park Ave., Belleville ON K8N 2J9; B.D. Bonner, 3306 Carnaby Creek Drive, San Antonio TX 78247-4432; K.R. Coe, 191 Overlea Drive, Kitchener ON N2M 1T4; B.L. Douglas 3790 Brughs Mill Rd., Fincastle VA 24090; R.E. Green, 7 Ashgrove Crescent, Nepean ON K2G 0S1; W.R. Hees, 7118 Cathedral Drive, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301-3730; D.H. Naas, 61 Edgevalley Way, NW, Calgary, AB T3A 4X7; J.D. O'Reilly, 9 Appledore Place, St. John's NF, A1B 2W8; L.S. Pinkney, 1695 Lincolnshire Blvd., Mississauga ON L5E 2T2; S. Reddington, Suite 100, 53 Village Centre Place, Mississauga ON L4Z 1V9; E.R. Squires, 58 Ashford Rd., Mount Pearl, NF A1N 2Z4; and, D.S Webber 7210 Hagan Road, Brentwood Bay, BC V8M 1H9. Welcome to all of you.

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

NEWSLETTER 3, Victoria Crown Cancel (D&S 230). Analysis of 47 (!) covers indicates three periods of use with no overlap; Victoria '80 - '82 (19 covers), Victoria '91 - '93 (3 covers), and Esquimalt '03 - '14 (25 covers). Some of the later covers are philatelically inspired.



NEWSLETTER 14, leaf cancels, D&S 37, I have now seen a cover with this on top of a Spadina Toronto (Apr. '94) CDS cancel. It has also been noted on top of a Montreal oval parcel cancel from '94. There appears to be no reason to re-cancel these items, yet the periods of use on all copies seems consistent.



NEWSLETTER 15, further confirmation of the Orono Ont. "M" cancel in the form of two more covers, July '85 and Aug. '86. The "dots" (and to a lesser degree the "M") deform easily, indicating a very soft cancel surface.



NEWSLETTER 3, Crown cancels. A cover of D&S 229 has been reported, the photocopy is poor, and I have asked for more information. Details in the next newsletter.



NEWSLETTER 4, Toronto Two's, my number 3, (D&S 26) has a new date of use '69-10-20.

CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

Peter Geoffroy has sent in several items. This tiny star (probably D&S 86) ironically is on a "Star Card Co". envelope. I was fortunate to be able to buy some of this "Star Card Co." find some years ago with original correspondence. They produced calling cards which were sold door to door by children. The children could then order various prizes, toys, decorations etc. from the company in lieu of commission. The 1880's letters from the children are fascinating. Peter also sends in an example of this 'triangle in a circle'. I have heard different opinions as to whether or not there is Masonic significance to this cancel.



I have included a few items from Dr. Russell's mailing. This curious little star (not in D&S) is now located (I have seen it several times off cover) as Cannonville N.S. Mar. '76. The "Free Ottawa" crown was used as a Federal Government franking from the "Experimental Farm" Ottawa from '00 - '04. Prior to that it was occasionally used as a cancel on the Numeral and Leaf issues. (Another strike of this was recently poorly written up in one of the philatelic journals as "not located, extremely rare", this was an exaggeration. Why don't people attempt to contact a relevant study group before they publish?) The odd cross has some similarity to New York Foreign Mail, the cancel is problematic on a Canadian Cover (Cathcart Ont. to Saint John N.B. in Sept. '71), U.S.A. routing (accidental) is possible. There are other examples of N.Y.F.M. cancels on Canadian stamps.



John Hillson has sent in these two items, the first, D&S 620 is an example of R.P.O. fancy cancel ("N"ippising R.R.). The cancel appears on several covers from different towns, the only common feature is the R.P.O. CDS. (Note if only one cover example was known, the cancel would logically be assigned to the sending town.) John's second example is a "problem" child. There are two covers known of this "thistle", Uffington Ont. Feb. '78, and Londesborough Ont. Sept. '84. This date and location range is unlikely.



Ron Smith has sent in several items, including a new late date for D&S 34, the Fredericton "11". There are also two nice Fort Garry Man. covers, one with the star (D&S 124), and the other with what appears to be D&S 229, a crown.

Wally Gutzman sends along two "modern" fancies (next page). The first is an odd design that I have seen before, and believe this is another example of a common device "pressed" into use as a cancel,



but what would the device be? Any ideas? The other item "ER" (unfortunately not tied) is on cover; Eastmain P.Q. Oct. '31.



Allan Steinhart sent along two covers of D&S 867 (above), proving its use at Streetsville Ont. Apr. '97. This cancel has occasionally been described as a "4" or an "A". It may also (although unlikely) have some Masonic significance.

Mike Rixon sent along 32 pages of photocopies of geometric cancels on cover. Included in this was a new late date (Dec. '74) for this leaf from Preston Ont. This cancel is always in blue, and has been noted on covers from the neighbouring communities of Galt, and Blair. This implies a local collection of mail from the general area (an R.P.O. pickup?) in Preston. Mike's stuff also includes a worn state of one of the more elaborate Kingston crosses (see page 1), D&S 175.



Paul Prevost has sent along an example of the Halifax oval parcel cancel. I have included illustrations of some of these oval parcel cancels in the new book as part strikes could be mixed up with 'numeral', or 'town name' types. It had never occurred to me that some of them also contain small 'stars' which should be mentioned in the new book.

Les Porter has sent along this interesting item "2CTS" on Nova Scotia (Sc. 9). It is not strictly speaking a fancy cancel, however showing it here may smoke out some information. Has anyone seen this before? Could it be U.S.A., or possibly related to the supposed Baddeck rate "surcharges" (illustrated below)?



The first, a "5" in barred oval is merely a standard Nova Scotia barred oval with a "5" applied (probably) later. This illustration is from Argenti, 1962. The "5's" are centered differently on different copies. The other illustrations, "5c" in oval, are from Jephcott, Greene & Young, 1964, and from a Baddeck cover. I am venturing into an area outside of my interests, however, some old references to these "surcharges" follow:

"As the then postmaster at Baddeck was still living, I wrote to him enclosing the (3 pence) covers (each with a 5C oval) and he informed me that this overprint was used as a canceller..." [Donald King in "The Postage Stamps Of Nova Scotia", 1914, reported by Argenti, 1962.]

and;

"... one time considered these (3 pence surcharged 5 cents) were a provisional issue..." discovered by a Mr. Hechler, a stamp dealer of Halifax (who made several other bogus "service" etc. overprints)... all existing specimens were traced back to Mr. Hechler..." [B. Poole in "Booklet No. 34", as reported by Argenti, 1962].

It would be probably be safe to say that some Baddeck N.S. stamps were cancelled with an oval "5C" cancel, which may have been intended as an unofficial surcharge. Fakes exist. Some Nova Scotia grid cancels (possibly from Baddeck) had a "5" placed in the centre of the grid, these latter items are of dubious origin. It is possible that Les's item (previous page) is a Hechler production.

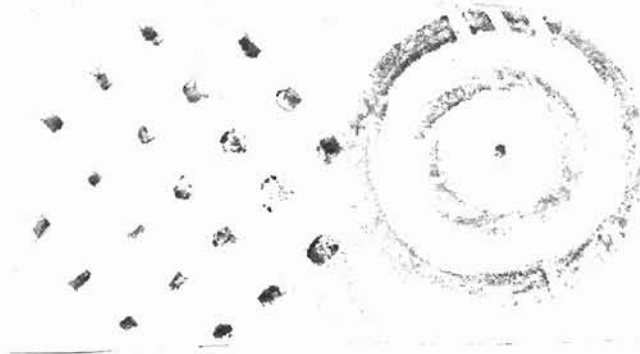
A last little interesting item here from David Sessions, is an example of the fairly common Prescott barred circle (D&S 341) but with the "R" reversed used in Aug. '84. (The illustration here is a "cheat", and was modified from my "stock" illustration, the "R" of David's example is not so distinct.) This cancel was an imitation of some of the big city barred types, and was in use for a fairly long time, Nov. '82 - Aug. '88. I have noticed other variations in this cancel, the top bars are sometimes weak, and an irregular "blob" appears at the bottom. It is quite possible that the type was removable as it was definitely of local manufacture. The "R" may have been reversed during cleaning. Does anyone else have examples?



Finally, two informational items. Hugh Rathbun has sent along a copy of the July '96 "Nova Scotia Postal Historian" with an extensive article of his on "Rubber Pictorial and Special Event Postmarks".

Hugh illustrates 81 of these modern fancy cancels. If anyone is interested Hugh's address is Box 7, Site 9, RR1, Waverly NS. B0N 2S0. (This issue also has a write up of the restoration of the historic Post Office at Baddeck!) Secondly, Sue Sheffield has completed her publication "Canada Post Office Losses Destroyed by Fire, 1889-1917" copies are available from Keyboard House Publishing, C.P. 67039, Edmonton AB, T5R 5Y3.

The item below is included as a curiosity. It is an example of how a common item might be used as a cancel. The hammer is designed for meat tenderizing, is made of wood, about 25cm (10") long, and has a grid on one side, and target on the other. I bought it at a junk sale several years ago, there is no evidence of if used as a cancel. (It may have been used to crush berries), and unfortunately no way to date it. Proof strikes are below. (After writing this, I discovered that it is really too light to give a good cancel impression, thus the tissue paper strikes below - prepared by my poor long suffering wife.)



The last page is borrowed from one of the earlier newsletters, and shows most of the Masonic cancel used in Canada. I will soon be working on this section of the book, and would appreciate any new information.

I have a little extra space here, so I shall include proof strikes of the two Masonic corks which I purchased several years ago. The origin and age of these is unknown. There is a distinctive break in the left side of the compass of one, and a notch in the centre of the divider of the other. Someone went to some trouble to carve these, has anyone seen them used as cancels?



CANADIAN MASONIC CANCELS



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New Email Dave.lacelle@EC.GC.CA

Good collecting -
Lacelle