

BNAPS Fancy Cancel Study Group Newsletter Number 22

**Dave Lacelle
Dec. '98**

Time for my end of the year newsletter. May I take this opportunity - although a bit late - to wish all of you the best of the holiday season.

●Group News.

We do not have any new members this time, hopefully this is an aberration, and does not reflect a lack of interest in our field. The prices asked for some recent auction material would seem to indicate a strong interest - or is there an inverse relationship here - high prices discourage new collectors? I am continuing work on the new book on fancy cancels. As mentioned in the last newsletter, all illustrations have been completed, and text for same has been prepared. I have recently completed a ten page "what, when, why,?" etc. introductory text, and shall "second draft" this after finishing this newsletter. My major project now is revising old illustrations and text from the past. My first pages of cancel illustrations were prepared in Oct. '89, there have been many revisions, better examples of strikes found, as well as the occasional new listing since then. As I get more up to date, of course the number of revisions decrease, and the job gets easier. I have now completely revised (to camera ready) text and illustrations for the first 24 pages of illustrations - there are about 65 in total. I have some extra time to work on the book now. I seem to have been caught up in one of the government's endless cut-backs, and shall probably be soon forced into early retirement. "Ask not for whom the bell tolls..."

On to more fun topics. Thanks to Roger Fournelle, Paul Hahn, Brian Hargreaves, Wally Gutzman, Graham Mc Cleave, Tracy Cooper, Horace Harrison, and Thomas Southey for sending in material. Roger Fournelle has been particularly helpful by sending in over 300 pages of photocopies, many of which revealed new dates or other new information.

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 1, Crown Wax Seals (Type 2 in cut)



Add; Providence Bay Ont., Type 2, as cancel on S.Q.'s, No CDS.

Another example from here was reported in Newsletter 15 on 2 cent King Edward.

Thornbury, Type 2, on stampless, but from Meaford Ont., Oct.'57.

Hickson Ont., Type 3, philatelic, on unused Jubilee P.C.

Como Que., Type 3 (?) on stampless, June '61.

Sheffield Ont., Type 2, philatelic, free strike on 1945cover.

Since Newsletter 1 was a long time ago, perhaps I should elaborate a bit on these "cancels". The Crown Wax Seals were issued to each P.O. upon it's opening. They were intended to officially seal (with wax) mailbags, official mailings, or letters which had accidentally come unsealed in transit. Sometimes they were inked and used as either cancels, or as official markings on "important" mailings. They do not ink well, most strikes are poor. The cut on the previous page was made from a special soft strike of this hammer (which I own), in order to show some of the crown details. The Head is made of brass, and is attached to an 11cm (4 1/2") handle. (There seems to be an unintended "hammer" theme in this newsletter.) If anyone would like a proof strike, feel free to contact me. While I am at it, I have recently purchased a wooden "travelling secretary" from about the 1860's. It came complete with original inkwells, sealing wax, travelling ink well etc. The black inkwell has a considerable amount of ink dust in it, probably very old. If any of you are interested in old inks for chemical analysis, I could probably provide some.

Newsletter 3, Ottawa crown (D&S 226) on Government cover June '84, which partly closes the gap in use after '82. This crown was used at the Ottawa Main P.O. (across from the Parliament Buildings) on mail which required special treatment, usually government mail which could not be "Free" franked if, for example it was going to a foreign destination.



Newsletter 18, the cut "..bertvill.." is a better illustration of the item next to the "Ottawa" cancel, page 5. Unfortunately, there does not seem to be any Canadian P.O.'s named Bertville, or Albertville.



Newsletter 20, "Crown over Registered" (Type 3 in cut.) Type 1, Mar. '58, Kirkwell U.C. to Scotland, stampless Type (New, or possibly a distorted type 2) Aug. '83 Parkdale Ont. to Hamburg Germany, free strike applied at London in transit.



Type 3, Dec. '62, London (U.K.) to St. John's Nfld.

Type 3, July '70, St. Catharines Ont., free strike to Scotland. Glasgow Packet marking also.

Type 3, Nov. '76, Galt Ont. to Scotland, free strike, no U.K. markings.

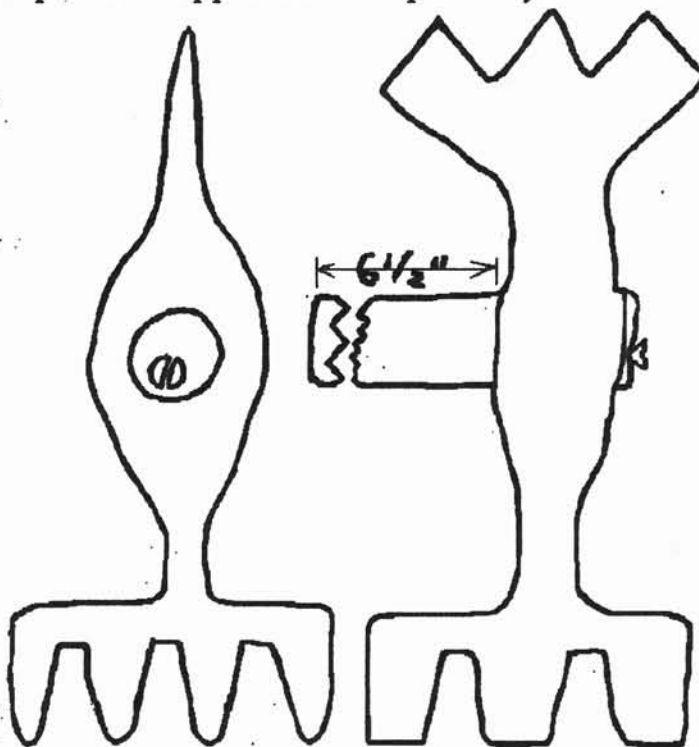
I have also noted an interesting H. Hechler registered cover from Halifax to China, Dec. '86, with his "service" overprint, many other markings, and no "crown registered". It seems odd that Hechler did not have this used if it was available in Halifax, as he made sure that other official Halifax cancels were used on his material. The hammer was probably withdrawn by then, our last confirmed date of use is May '85.

There are no major new conclusions from the above, Type B3 seems to be used on board in '70, this strike also narrows the '70 -'76 gap in use, but only by one month.

Newsletter 20, Miscellaneous Cancel Study Group. Most of you have probably already noted this; Mike Rixon (749 Agnes St., Montreal Que. H4C 2P9) has agreed to act as chair, chief scribe, and general factotum for this new group. I wish you well on this new endeavour Mike, and hope that our excellent liaison between groups will continue.

CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

I have a query, which despite first appearances is probably not philatelic. I bought the small hammer illustrated here (full size) at a junk shop and at first thought that it might be a cancel hammer. A few more details, the hammer is cast iron, no markings, the short handle is ash, and was painted, however almost all paint is worn off (indicating heavy use, or exposure to chemicals). The handle is repaired at the head with a screw. This screw was handmade, thus 1840 or earlier. The teeth are



so big, yet the handle so small that it must have been used to work some thing quite soft as there is very little leverage. Suggestions have been; meat tenderizer, (but teeth are wrong shape) paper pulper, flax or hemp preparation, or tanning hides. The real mystery is, what is the purpose of the three teeth at the top?

Paul Hahn (1350 Carr's Landing Road, Winfield B.C. V4V 1C7) has written, and is seeking information on who manufactured the four ring numeral hammers. I had assumed Berri of London, however I cannot find any definitive reference on this. Can any of you help? (I note that "Boggs" was also unsure; "Probably by Berri.")

Brian Hargreaves has sent in several items, four are illustrated below. The first one has been reported before, it is an extremely worn oval parcel hammer. (Continuing the "hammer" theme). The rubber coating wore off, and the end of the wooden handle appears as an "8", "B", "0" etc. There are two screws on each side also, which makes it more "fancy". On some strikes "Fredericton" can still be read at top. This is a spurious listing in D&S as numbers 424, 424a, and, 644a. The BSD item has some similarities to U.K. "NPB" (Newspaper Branch) or "FB" (Foreign Branch) cancels, and also to the bogus "B Day" marking. (There is also a weak "altcoa CDS [Saltcoats Assa.?]") Any opinions? His third item is an unusual "Toronto 2", used Sept. '69. The last item is probably a revenue use.



Wally Gutzman has written seeking opinions of the "modern" fancy initial cancels. I have seen various examples from about 1920 to 1955 of hand made (or privately prepared) initial cancels. The Post Office apparently discouraged this practice, however I have never seen any modern official directive to this effect. Many of these modern initial cancels are philatelic, and can best be considered as "favour" covers, accepted by some small P.O.'s on a "don't do it again" basis. The Merlin "M" addressed to Fred Jarrett in newsletter 21 is likely an example of this. At least two modern initial cancels were used extensively enough that copies can be found in bulk or dealer stocks. These are the Blenheim Ont. "B", and Kitchener "S" il-



illustrated here. Some of these modern initial (and other modern fancy cancels) are unfortunately bogus, created to amuse (children playing?), or to defraud. I have noted two airplane cancels on S.Q.'s, a "B Day" greeting on Jubilees, and an excellent rendering of a snowmobile on a 1935 Sc. 213.

Graham Mc Cleave has sent in an example of a stampless era "Paid



3 cents" hammer used as cancel on 2 cent L.Q., 1 cent S.Q. from Shanklin W.O. (Way Office) N.B. in Oct. '73. Several things make me think this is a legitimate usage. I intend to list the instructional "cancels" such as this in an appendix in the new book. They are not really fancy cancels, but may sometimes be mistaken for them, especially if part strikes.

Tracy Cooper has written regarding some B.C. fancies. The insert includes the Yale B.C. "D" (Jan. '82), and the BXR cancel of Bernards Express Route. The latter item is somewhat controversial, as several varieties (fakes) exist, and I have never seen a cover proving use by BXR. Any comments on this would be appreciated.

Horace Harrison has sent in an example of one of the Hagersville



"H's". These "H's" were used by two or three P.M.'s named Hager over at least a ten year period. I have identified four different H's, the hammers were soft, so there may appear to be others. Horace also includes this "HA" cancel on P.C. from Mr. H.A. West of Annapolis N.S., Nov. '85. I have some doubts about this cover, but can easily see why H.A. would only use it once as he carved the "A" upside down!

Thomas Southey sent along two items, the first is a Yarmouth CDS cork insert (illustrated next page). At least ten P.O.'s inserted corks into the middle of old CDS hammers. D&S lists two different Yarmouth hammers, one with "PAID", and the other without. All examples I have seen have been the "PAID" variety. His other item is interesting. A quartered cork has been applied over a London

Squared Circle cancel so as to "cancel" the date information. Sometimes corks were used to "cancel" other incorrect markings on covers. (In WWII, they were sometimes used to cover Hitler's image on any stamps from Germany or occupied countries). I am not a squared circle expert, and shall forward a copy of this newsletter to the appropriate group for comment. An excerpt from my letter to Thomas follows. Any other comments?



"Having said the above (re. my lack of expertise in squared circles), this appears to be the Type 1, state 2 hammer which was used concurrently (unusual) with the Type 2 hammer.

There was considerable unusual (philatelic?) use of the London squared circle hammers. The Type 2 was used in three different periods, the last in 1954. This example may thus just be someone "playing" at the London office, or with the old hammer.

Another possibility is that the cork was a receipt cancel applied by someone following the old rule (revoked around '93) that CDS hammers were not to be used as cancellers. This seems unlikely as, a. it is two years later, b. the squared circle hammers were designed to be canceller & CDS, and, c. the stamp seems well cancelled by the squared circle."

Now, Roger Fournelle's stuff. I of course cannot do justice to the three hundred or so pages of photocopies he sent in, in the little space here. The first three items are all new late dates. Details, Orillia "N", Oct. '75, Toronto Parcel "W", Sept. '92, and St. John's Nfld mutilated CDS July 73.



The other four items are either confirming strikes (ie previously reported, but not confirmed by me), or newly located items. Details, Pembroke "4" (confirming) Waterford "W" (confirming listing error as "Stratford" due to weak CDS on other cover), Barrie M.O. radial (now located) and New Liverpool L.C. "honey comb" (now located).

*I have run out of space.
As such - Good Collecting, Dave Lacelle*