

**BNAPS FANCY CANCEL AND MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS STUDY GROUP
NEWSLETTER 31**

Dave Lacelle
Nov. '02

- **Group News**

The two study groups have now amalgamated, and there were responses to 12 of my 17 questionnaires. The definition of a "miscellaneous cancel" as presented in the last newsletter was accepted by all; *"they are cancels or markings consisting of unusual or irregular postal usage, and do not fit into other BNAPS study group areas of interest."* As I expected, there was a great deal of variety of collecting interests within the former Miscellaneous Group. Firstly, four responses were, deceased, lost interest, or both (sorry - it is Halloween night when I am writing this). Two were "keeners", who had detailed comments, and sent in material. Thanks Dean and Gus. The term 'markings' is now in the group name as we do not study 'just' cancels. Two other members were interested in duplex cancels, three were interested in specific geographic areas, and two collect specific stamp issues. Other than that, there were no commonalties, and everybody "does their own thing". From the viewpoint of the editor this is great, maximum variety can be presented and hopefully we will all learn. (Some of these more modern items are new to me, so if I sometimes state the 'obvious' or overstate "old information" please bear with me - life is a learning thing.) Thanks to all for the feedback, please send more material.

We had a small meeting in Spokane with about 6 members present. There was a basic sort of roundtable discussion with some emphasis on how to detect fake cancels. Newsletter 28 had details on this topic, if anyone did not receive it, or wants a copy, please contact me.

It is again dues time, I will again use some of the wood blocks from my 1786 edition of "Little Goody Two Shoes" as an eye catching dues notice. Some wonderful social conscience concepts in this book, "commoners" children should be educated, the poor should be fed and clothed etc.

Our new members, all from the former Miscellaneous Group are: D. Fraser, 1183 Warsaw Ave., Winnipeg MB, R3M 1C5; J. Hillmer 135 Antibes Dr., Toronto ON, M2R 2Z1; H. Kellet 619 Blackshire Cres., Saskatoon SK, S7V 1B4; C. Livermore, 100 - 08 Ascan Ave., Forest Hills, NY, 11375; D. Mario, P.O. Box 342, Saskatoon SK, S7K 3L3, and; B. Spencer 4447 Cheviot Rd., North Vancouver BC, V5Z 1N8. Is there any interest in having a complete membership list published? Please advise if this would be desirable. Current membership is 74, dues collected last year (Convention '01 to '02) were \$375. There are about eight members whom are more than two years behind in dues, they will be dropped if they do not respond this time.

I have a few other items which may interest the group. I have recently reconstructed my spreadsheet which matches up Day and Smythies numbers with Lacelle numbers. If anyone wants a copy of this, please contact me at <<lacelle@mars.ark.com>>

Several of you use philatelic frankings when snail mailing to me. These are not wasted. I save them, and once a year Claudia and I take a trip to Denman Island. The P.O. there has provisions to collect bulk used postage, which is then given to Oxfam Canada, a worthwhile charity.

A few comments about "The Merville Boot" cancel are in order. This was created as a tribute to our rural (and sometimes) wet (or worse) area. I did not have anything to do with the creation of this cancel, but supported it when I found out. There was some local newspaper coverage before

it was used, and then, it was written up by The National Post. On "Issue Day", I put on my gum boots (rubber boots /Wellingtons), and went to the Store / P.O. / Cafe / Video centre / gas station / (Etc.), and ended up on a "good news" item on Vancouver TV as "that guy, slouched at the counter in the background with the 'boots". (Funny how you always look shorter, fatter, sloucheyer, and worse of hair, than you think you are, when you see yourself on TV). The item was then also picked up by a U.S. satellite net, again as a "good news item". Requests for the cancel have even been arriving from overseas, and even from someplace called 'Ottawa'. You now have your own copy, cherish it, or give to Oxfam... Enough said.

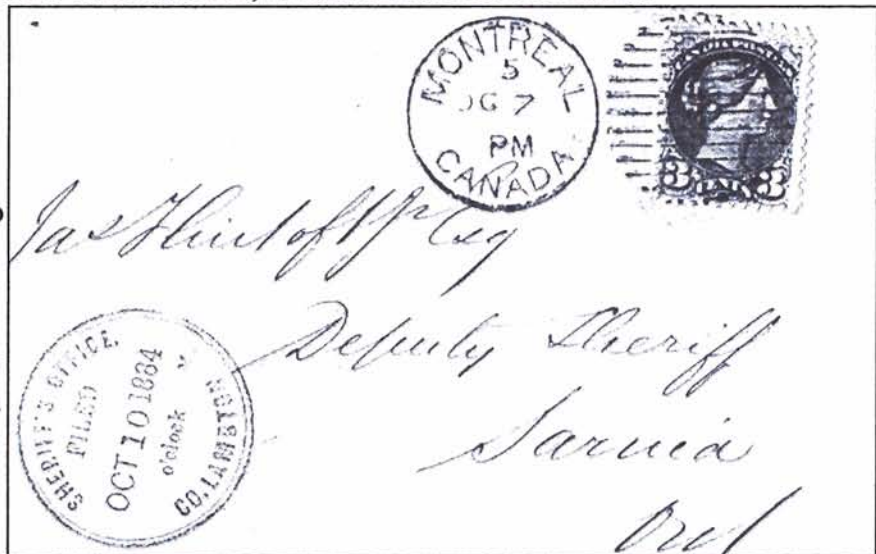
REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 28, 'Fake Fancy Cancels'; Don Fraser has sent in this selection of fake fancy cancels, all of which were sold as fakes. Only one of them bears any resemblance to a genuine item, the numeral "16" (compare with

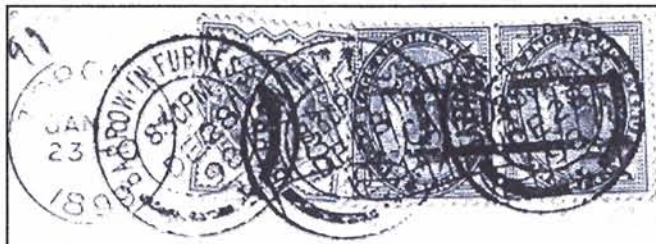


Lacelle 143). I have checked older illustrations (Jarrett, Robson Lowe, Canadian Philatelist (1934), Boggs, etc.) of this cancel, and the item here is as far away from them as if it is from the modern illustration. I have seen the originals, they are in a modern flat ink, note also other cancels etc. While these are rather obvious fakes, I list them here for the record.

Newsletter 29, 'Sheriff's Office' marking; Dean Mario sends along a similar example as a marking on cover. Note, this is not a revenue use, but a receivable file mark. It is from Lambton County, Ont., Oct. 1885.



Newsletter 30, pg. 3, reference to 'UK cancelled in Canada'; Dean has also sent in the example in the cut below. In this case it appears that the Toronto cancel was applied when the cover was redirected from Sarnia Ont. to Vanessa, and was thus cancelled when it re-entered the Canadian mail-stream. (Note, the Toronto flag may also have been a receiving mark, the back stamps might verify the routing). Any other examples of UK (or other foreign) cancelled in Canada? I forgot to mention that I also have a 1975 Japanese stamp with only a Canadian cancel. With machine cancelling devices in widespread use by then, this Japanese stamp could have been placed on any envelope, and in the absence of a cover is just a whimsy.



Newsletter 30, pg. 6, 'leaf cancel' from Peter Geoffrey. I missed the fact that this cancel is also similar to Lacelle 1219, which was used in 1875, at Ottawa. A scan from Peter's item is in the cut.



FANCY CANCEL BOOK REVISIONS

I have been asked by several people to reconsider the book listing of my D638, a flag cancel from Notre Dame Ouest (Montreal) July 1897. I have re-reviewed all my notes (back to hand written notes from the '80's), and have discovered a transcription error, specifically, an "a" was read as a "d" and entered incorrectly. This caused a collation error regarding this item. The reference to it on a 'Large Queen cover' is false, this text should have related to the fake flag cancel listed as D641. Given this information, the notes in the deletion section under D638 are excessively harsh. I am still not very happy with the cover example (rates a "5" on my 1 to 10 authenticity scale) but would now recommend listing this in the main body, with the following text. "Dubious item, inks and tying and poor on the cover example, but it is somewhat similar to other designs used at this P.O., compare with Lacelle 1390. Noted consistently on Jubilees and late Small Queens." Does anyone have another cover example?



Bill Clark has sent in this example (Middlemarch Ont., Jan., 1878) of a quartered cork which appears to have evolved (devolved?) as it aged into the "bird cancel", Lacelle 1436. Number 1436 should be moved to the "deletions" section, with text; "Spurious, described by Smythies as a 'bird', earlier strikes show it is a quartered cork similar to number 1129."



Ottawa Four Ring Numeral Cancels

I have been asked for some information on the late date use of the four ring numeral #27 issued to Ottawa. The "Four Rings" were officially issued March 1, 1857, and were superseded by "Two Ring" numerals officially issued April 1, 1868. (Two Ring numerals with February and March '68 CDS are known.) I suspect that since Ottawa was P.O. Headquarters, as well as being the capital of the new country, the old colonial 'Upper Canada' four ring hammer would have been replaced exactly on April 1, 1868. (This is nine months after Confederation!) Do any of you have four ring "27", or 2 ring "8" covers? If so, would you please send in the dates of use.

There was another four ring numeral "sort of" used in Ottawa, number "627". There were several other three digit numerals issued; 022 (Kingston or Montreal), 516 (Montreal, not confirmed), and, 807 (Unknown location but on Small Queens), a 918 has been reported but close examination reveals it is a weak strike of 516 upside down. The 627 was first reported as used at the Ottawa Senate, then as a 'special handling government mail mark, and finally as a special marking for government mail on the 'Ottawa and Prescott R.P.O. This last use was verified by checking my database, There are 6 covers between July 1868 and Aug. 1870 (note, this is later than might be expected), two from the House of Commons, and one each from Senate, Receiver General, Finance Department, and Privy Council. All have the R.P.O. and in at least one case the R.P.O., and the 627 are in the same ink, the other marks are in red. I also ran across a written reference (with no specifics) to this marking on non-government mail. Does anyone have any other info? Neither of these cancels are very rare, an inventory of 275 four ring numeral strikes in 1961 yielded 22 "27's", and 38 "627's".

CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

I have a miscellaneous cancel query. Can anyone shed any light on this unusual two ring CDS? Only ORD or (ORN) MILLS FEB 19 1894 is visible, there is room for about five more letters before the "O".



Peter Geoffrey sent in the odd triangle cancel below, which is very similar to Lacelle 1338. There is no CDS, but the cover has a back stamp, Windsor Ont. MR 67 (error for 97). This is probably the 'similar item from the 1890's' mentioned in the text with Lacelle 1338. Peter also sent in a cover with this Toronto leaf cancel, Jan. 1875, Lacelle 1185. This cancel is almost always poor, and is usually associated with the Toronto Night CDS. Item 3 is a fancy star, Lacelle 988, on cover in correct period and location, Collingwood Ont., Sept. 1871. The fourth item, was described as an "N" cancel, New Glasgow NS, April 1887, Peter is somewhat skeptical. I at first thought that this was just a slashed cork but... closer examination shows that the slash bar does not completely cut across, it is not that dissimilar from the listed Lacelle 629, an "N" would be an appropriate initial for this town and New Glasgow used another "N", Lacelle 648.



Dean Mario has also sent in the Toronto CDS machine cancel receiver on Newfoundland '82 above right. This is another example of a Canadian cancel on foreign. I am not familiar with machine cancels after about 1900. Is this not an unusual use? Does anyone have any comments on this usage? There is a Machine Cancel Study Group with the Postal History Society of Canada, and I have forwarded this to them for any comments. Charles Livermore (now a member of this group) is one of the Editors, he has mentioned to me how he would like more liason between various study groups. I agree 100%.

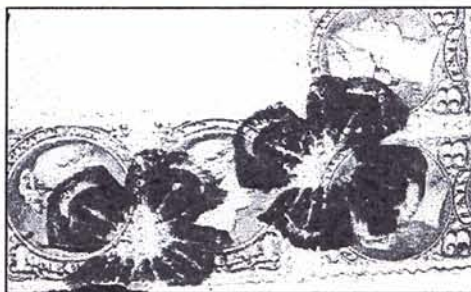
Harold Hurlbutt has sent in several items, the first two are on cover, both from Ottawa, Jan 1878, and Dec. 1872. I have seen both of them before, but have not seen confirming strikes. He also sends along this example of my D544. This was listed by Jarrett (#895), but I had never seen an actual strike, and believed that the Jarrett illustration was from a poor strike of Lacelle 1258. This may be wrong. Does anyone else have a strike of D544 (cut at right)? Note, I have only seen a photocopy of this, it might be a fake based in the Jarrett illustration.



1651?



1601



Harold's other two items (next page), are firstly, the odd cancel Lacelle 1452. This looks like some sort of tool, or a very cryptic signet seal. I recall once seeing a security wax seal with a thin

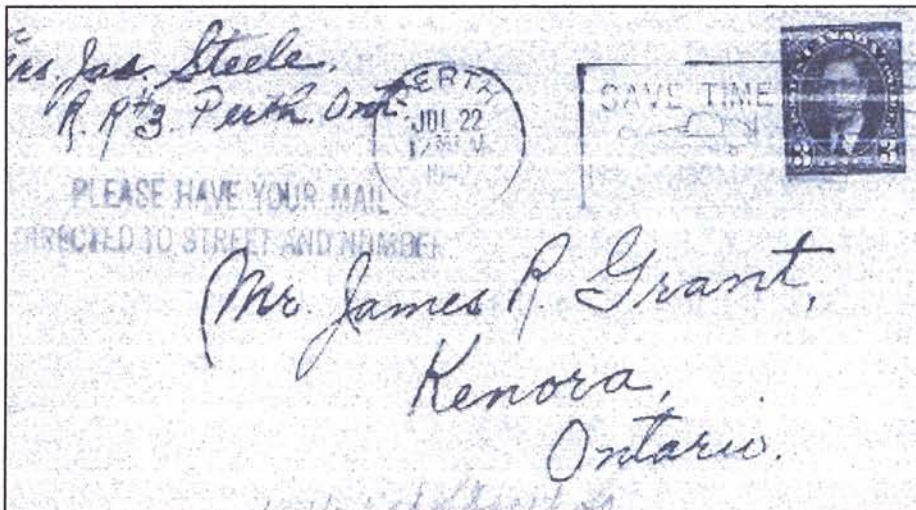
ribbon passed through it so the wax could not be 'accidentally' broken.

The ribbon was placed so that the centre was not in the wax. Is this an ink strike of the tool that did that? Any other ideas? The last item, Lacelle 1440, is listed in the new book as 'a problem child'. Dr. Day also agreed (see Topics Apr. and May '63). Harold reports that his example has water soluble ink, thus "painted on". The illustration in



the fancy cancel book is from the Day collection page. Harold's example is not very similar to the Day copy, however it is similar to the Jarrett (Jarrett 891) illustration.

Gus Quattrocchi has sent in a bunch of miscellaneous cancels and markings, several of which appear below. The first one; "Found in Damaged Condition at Toronto", used in 1975, is probably a modern example of someone using 'whatever hammer is handy' to cancel a stamp. Item two; "Please have your mail directed to street and number", is on a general delivery (type) item to Kenora Ont., July 1942. Similar markings were used in 1876 (Jarrett 831) and 1895 (Jarrett 827). A somewhat stranger example is the "Received Without Address" from Ottawa in 1965, it was returned to sender, and also charged 3 cents postage due! Gus's fourth item; a "return to hand" marking is from Ottawa, 1965, on a "moved address unknown" return cover, again with 3 cents due. The pointed hand marking has been reported in Jarrett (818) as early as 1888 from Toronto. There are also two hand made 'pointing hand' fancy cancels, one of them, Lacelle 1374 from Port Perry, Ont., June 1873 is illustrated. I shall run some more of Mr. Quattrocchi's material in the next newsletter.



Brian Hargreaves has sent in the items below. The "CC" item was one that did not make the final cut for the new book. I had seen it before in an auction photo, however I have never seen another strike. As this was; a partial strike, unconfirmed, not personally examined by me, previously undescribed, and with no further information, it was not included in the new book. There were about 200 items like this (most are geometrics) which were considered but did not make the team. Brian suggests the second item is a "T2", or an "N". Another possibility is that it is a very worn four ring numeral cancel, see Lacelle D73 for an example. Several of the Toronto 2 fancy cancels have vague circular surrounds, Lacelle 36 for example, however "T2" is unknown. Any ideas? Note, this is on a 1 cent deep orange L.Q. from about 1869. The third item is a nice miscellaneous cancel. The first line reads "xxx(?) OUT, 2nd line "SETN???" (the last two may be a number), and third line is a date, "?2 MY". The stamp also has a weak ?CDS? cancel. My guess is that it is some kind of "pacquet" boat cancel, possibly German. Brian has also sent along an example of a purple target cancel which appears to have been placed inside a metal collar, or stamped on top of a weak purple CDS. Target cancels were the first official cancel hammers (1851), hundreds were made, and some are still extant. There were many "cut up" variants to freshen up the cancel. Some of these from my collection are illustrated below.



John Burnett loaned me a cover with what at first looked like an "O" cancel similar to Lacelle 664 and 665. Closer examination (with a filter) indicates that it is most likely a late state of Lacelle 365, an intaglio "D". The cover is from Nanaimo B.C., Apr. 1887. The P.M. in '87 was William Earl, so this is not an initial type cancel. Nice to have it located now. Thanks John.



Thanks to all for sending in material, I have completely run out of space.
And, Good Collecting,


Dave.Lacelle.