

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS STUDY
GROUP NEWSLETTER 34

Dave.Lacelle
Dec. '03

• **Group News**

Well, I stated that if I received enough new material, I would try to cram another newsletter in this year. This has obviously happened, thank you very much to the many contributors. Keep this up please.

Apologies for the confusion with the dues notice, I recycled the old dues notice form, corrected the value to \$6.00 from \$7.00, but forgot there were eight printed per page not six. Thus 25% of you received \$7.00 notices! Does this printing error make them valuable? Not all dues have been received yet (20 members outstanding), but \$297.00 received, including some donations and carryovers. It costs me about \$110.00 per newsletter (major expense is postage) so the appropriate "break-even" point is being reached. Another reason for hurrying up this newsletter is that there is a major increase in postal rates to the USA and foreign January first.

We do not have any new members, however it is only a month since the last newsletter. There has been one resignation due to age (85), and another gentleman (also 85) has mentioned that this will probably be his last year of membership. I wish to thank both you gents for years of membership and contributions. It is always dangerous to quote poetry, as personal interpretation is integral to the art form but...

"I grow old... I grow old
I shall wear the bottom of my trousers rolled
Shall I part my hair behind? Do I dare to eat a peach?
I shall wear white flannel trousers and walk upon the beach"
T. S. Elliot

I have also had to drop ten people for non-payment of dues over two years. I am awaiting information from several potential members, and our membership is now in the 60-70 range.

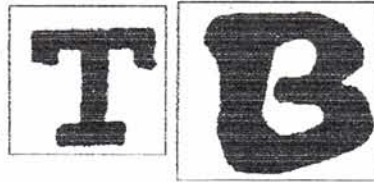
There have not been any negative comments on my proposed text for a study group Web page, so I assume everyone is happy. I have not heard back from the new BNAPS study group however it has only been a month.

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 27, the book revisions page includes a new listing, Lacelle 301, a "BL" cancel. I have since been shown two other examples of this spacing, ink stamp issue, etc. are consistent which adds extra confirmation to the new listing. I try to be very picky about "new listings", so far in about three years there have been only five new listings (there are over 1700 listed) to the main text, there have also been three deletions.



Newsletter 33, page 3, top illustration 4 “NFL” Dean Mario has sent in a page from the “Newfie Newsletter” BNAPS Study Group. In it David Piercy confirms “NFL” for New Found Land, noted on 2 cents 1870, and 3 cents of 1877, and 1880. I also include at right, a Newfoundland “T” (on 1 Cent of 1880) and, a “B” (on 5 cent of 1876) from this Newfie Newsletter. The P.O.’s are not known. Any comments? I have also forwarded this, and the previous newsletter to the Newfie Study Group.



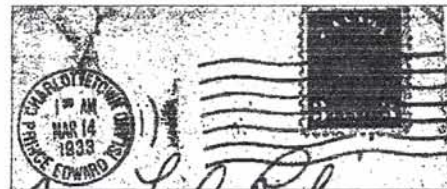
I am trying to provide more contact between the Study Groups, our “Miscellaneous Markings” cut across quite a few boundaries, and will help that. I would also encourage any Newsletter Editors to freely borrow anything from our newsletter. The Society can only benefit if collecting areas are expanded as a result. In this Newsletter, there is input from BNAPS Newfie Newsletter, The Bull.Moose (Money Order Office etc.), Post Card Matters, and PHSC Machine Cancel, Study Groups. Thanks too all.

Newsletter 33, page 4, top illustration 5 “star”. Joe Smith reports that he has seen this on p-16 card from Barkerville BC. (Year unknown, but ‘97-’98 is a good guess). He also states that earlier strikes are complete. I am now more convinced that my L960 is an intermediate (partly broken) example of this, but would really like to see that Barkerville card. Do any of you own it? A scan or photocopy would be appreciated.



CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

I have received a request for information on a Charlottetown machine cancel. This is an area we are not involved in, as the Postal History Society of Canada has a Machine Cancel study group. I thus referred our correspondent there. Contact person for machine cancels is; Tony Shaman, Box 43101 Eastwood Square, Kitchener ON, N2H 6S9. or, <<Shaman@smokesignal.net>>. After a quick referral, Tony was able to smoke out the information that this cancel was used 11:00 am 1931 05 11 to 1934, 07 28, preceded by a Universal type, which it overlapped by a few hours. Amazing detail, and the system worked!



Brian Hargreaves has been busy again sending me a bunch of stuff. He describes his first item is as an “OS”, although to my eyes it looks more like “3/2” in mirror image. It is on a 10 cent S.Q. which appears to be a dull rose shade from the 1870’s. An “OS” abbreviation was used by Henry Hechler (See L686 or D342) as one of his philatelic unofficial “Official (military) Service” markings. I have never seen a Hechler “OS” in any decorative surround. (Hechler was an early stamp dealer from Halifax, he created a considerable variety of ‘exotic’ postal items, including many “SERVICE” overprints, and bisects.) The Brits had an official “OS” marking for “Old Stamp” (i.e. reused) however, I do not believe this was ever used in Canada. Brian’s second and third items (next page) are examples of strikes which





are better than the illustrations in the fancy cancel book. These are; L727, a "PR" showing top details, and L59, a "2" showing distortion in the book illustration. I tried to present the cancel illustrations in "partly worn" condition, as the perfect proof strike is rarely seen, and the extreme worn state may not be recognizable. Also, the presence of cracks, chips, and wear marks when in partly worn condition may help verify authenticity. Both the examples above however are better examples than in the book. The fourth item, a "W" (or "M") in bars is one I am suspicious about. (It is probable that this will not print well, the "W" is somewhat misshapen, and the bars (6) are cut into a circular cork.) Has anyone else seen it? Possibly a USA cancel? The fifth item is a shield, similar to L 1384. Any comments? Brian's last item is the intaglio "M", which I listed as L 880, from Clandeboye Manitoba, Apr. 1899, a "W". Clandeboye used another initial "M" (P.M. was Mr. A. Muckle), in 1884 so I do not know why I did not also list this as an "M". The P.M. in 1899 was Mr. A. Mc Bain, so initial "M" was still possible (but unlikely). Please see the cartoon at the end for a comment on mixed up "M's" and "W's".

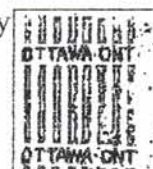
Bill Wegman has sent in this Masonic cancel which appears to be a fake of L1304. He includes an enlargement of the back, showing inappropriate ink penetration (perf holes, and a crease), as well as carbonny ink which I suspect would dissolve if soaked. He bought it on eBay so once again, "buyer beware". Unlike the spurious/bogus items described in Newsletter 33 (imaginary fancy bird, and half-moon cancels) this item is a fake of a listed cancel. Thanks Bill, we are all better off for this kind of information.



I have received a query about "roller cancels". Unlike the machine cancels request referred to earlier, there is no current study group, and it is an area which was studied, and then seemingly abandoned. I searched my database and came up with the information below.

General information: Roller cancels were first regularly used in the 1890's, by 1930, there were about 2400 of them from more than 1000 P.O.'s. There were some "precursors" such as L 147, a numeral "21" used as a cancel 1855 to 1868, then as a precancel 1880 to 1897. Smythies identifies nine basic types, three of the earlier types are at right.

Roller cancels were intended a a 'kinder gentler way' of cancelling parcels or other irregular surfaces, then by clobbering them with a hammer type cancel. Dark (good) strikes were probably often discarded in the past because if they worked well, they messed up the stamps. There is probably a disproportionate use of them on higher value stamps due to parcel use. The early rollers were used by practical P.M.'s to precancel sheets of stamps for firms requiring bulk mailings. As this use would have allowed reuse, 'P.O. headquarters types' did not approve!



The collecting of roller cancels was somewhat popular in the late 1960's to mid 1970's, my database shows 25 entries in this range, and only 3 in the entire 1980's. A handbook was produced in 1967, "Canadian Roller Cancels" by Smythies and Hollingsworth, pub. (at least originally) by The Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain (CPSGB), there are two editions, first ed. about June '67. Some other general references are; Topics, Sept. '65, pg. 199, and Maple Leaves, Aug. '64, pg. 144, and Dec. '66, pg. 225. It seems to have become a somewhat forgotten collecting area.

Two further items while on this topic of roller cancels, firstly when I surveyed the former miscellaneous markings group, no-one indicated they were collecting in this area. Is anyone collecting in it now? (This is somewhat like my little sub-sub speciality, "foreign cancels on Canada", a lonely little specialist group of one!) The second item is in the cut. This is an example of a spurious fancy cancel, as it was incorrectly described as an unlisted "14 in bars". It is of course a very partial roller cancel.



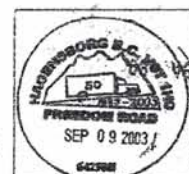
Garvin Lohman sends in this new "DPO" initial fancy cancel, it was used in Dunbarton UC 12 Sept. 1865. As far as I can tell, it looks authentic, initials would stand for Dunbarton Post Office, the P.M. was J. Parker 1852 to 1895. Before I can list however I would like to see another example. Do any of you have this? Please advise if so.



While browsing, I came across this item on Jim Miller's web page <<www.canadacovers.ca/>> or <<jmillerltd@shaw.ca>> . It is a new early date July 1877, Jordan station Ont., for L 1098.



I recently received a copy of the Bull.MOOSE Newsletter of the PHSC MOON (etc.) study group. Contact person is <<doug@spicemERCHANTS.ca>> or Doug Murray, Box 693 Charlottetown PE CIA 7L3. I found the example of the Hagensbourg BC modern cancel interesting (here at about 1/2 scale), as it seems to have a rather old design - or maybe it is just that truck?



I have received a query regarding an oval "Enquiry Office / Post Office Toronto / July 1 1896" cancellation. I too have seen this cancel, always in purple, sometimes on multiples, and often on the higher values such as 20 or 50 cent Widow Weeds. The example is from my collection, and is obviously neither a good nor complete strike. It appears to have been used in '1896, and '1897 only. I searched my cancellation database, and to my surprise came up with nothing for this marking! I then went to Jarrett, Boggs, Archivianet, Post Office Lists, and again nothing! I also checked in Frank Campbell's book/list of Canadian P.O.'s, and finally went deep into the obscuratia to check Olsen's (pamphlet) book on "oval cancels". Nothing... A few observations are below;



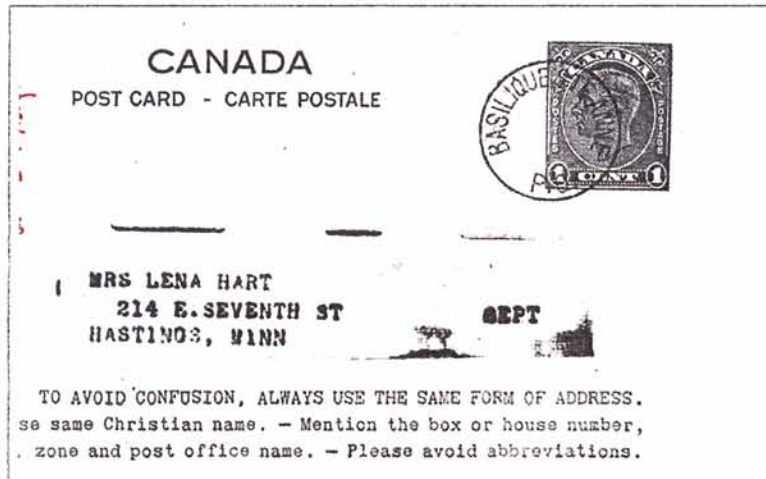
1. The time span of this cancel is just before a major reorganization in the Toronto post offices. In 1898, the three P.O. Depots were created, and were to take over cancel duties (except Registration) from several smaller "street" P.O.s. This was a time of change, and the Enquiry Office seems to have disappeared.

2. Toronto had a 'Post Office Inspectors Branch' in the 1870's, so that items with disputed rates, contents, routings etc. could be considered locally, rather than referring everything to Ottawa Headquarters. I am not sure if this office continued until the 1890's, but the Enquiry Office may have been a similar arrangement.

3. The prevalence of this marking on higher values, and large multiples (I have seen a large multiple of 15 L.Q.'s - still in use until about '98) would tend to indicate parcels, or other expensive mailings, such as might be seen at an "Inspector's Office".

4. I have never seen this on cover, and this plus the above makes me suspect that this marking was used on receipts for unstamped bulk mailings. The purchaser paid for 10,000 (say) one sheet (junk) mail, the stamps (high values) were sold to him and cancelled at the Enquiry Office on some form of receipt. This practice was common later on, but I am not sure if it was occurring in 1896. Perhaps the someone in the study group knows more?

One thing leads to another... As a result of the machine cancel enquiry, Colin Campbell has sent in this example of a nude CDS (ie no dater), with a glued on advisory from somewhere in the postal system "TO AVOID CONFUSION..." This is probably s USA notation as it is destination oriented, there are no indications of return to sender, and there is a reference to postal "zone", which were not used in Canada in 1943. (?) Ironically, the reverse is a subscription due notice, and also asks verification of address! Colin also enquires if these people actually had a post office?" A search of Archivanet indicates that this was a Monastery at Ste. Anne de Beaupre, had its own P.O. , with several reverend P.M.s from 1943 to 1977.

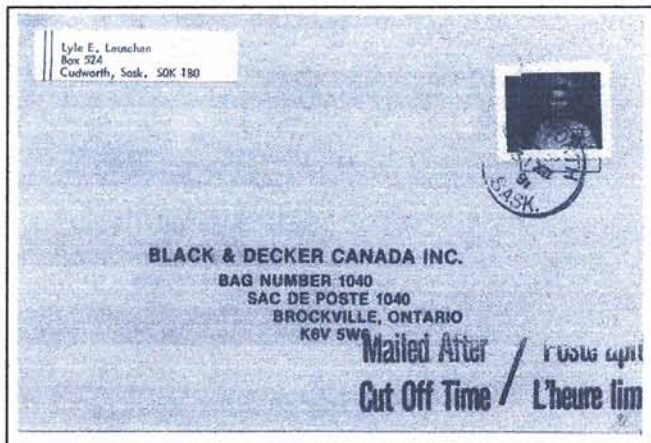
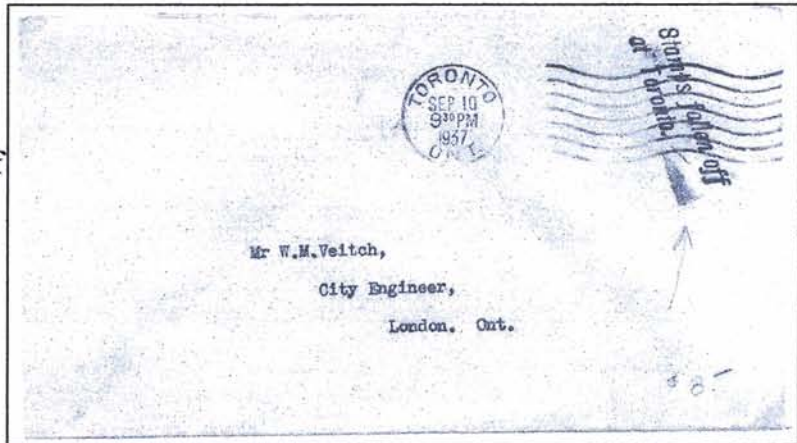


One thing leads to another!! Further to the roller cancel items, Bob Lane has forwarded a rather "over cancelled" post card. At first glance, one would think that the CDS (Brandon Man. Mar. 2 '07) was redundant, however it was probably used to provide routing information, and it is thus (almost) a free strike.



Finally, two more items from Gus Quattarochi's miscellaneous markings collection, and an appropriate cartoon considering our frequent problems with upside down 'M's' or "W's".

A rather strange "Stamps fallen off at Toronto" marking. Was this a common enough occurrence to justify a rubber stamp! Toronto Sept. 12 1937.



And, a "Mailed After Cut Off Time", from Cudworth, Sask. 31 XII / 91. This is presumably equivalent to the earlier "Too Late" markings.



I wish to extend Holiday Best Wishes, and the Best of the Season to all of you. 'Til next year, Good Collecting,