

**BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS STUDY GROUP  
NEWSLETTER 39**

Dave Lacelle  
Aug. 2005

• **Group News**

I hope everyone is having a pleasant summer, and hope to see some of you at the Edmonton BNAPS Convention. We will be having a study group meeting, the topic will be a general discussion of what/when/where fancy cancels are/were/used. I prefer to prepare for general discussions in the hope that it will generate new interest, I can always switch to more specific topics if only specialists show up. The meeting is 2:00 pm., Room 14. I shall be driving in from Calgary that morning, and should not be too hurried/dazed/confused by 2:00! I usually have about six to eight attendees only, please feel free to surprise me in Edmonton!

I have almost finished preparing the last of my collection for sale by Mr. Lee in his last sale. He is tentatively planning it for October, see you there? I must say that I will miss Mr. Lee's sales, his company always seemed as a bridge between the large scale (and well heeled) buyers, and the little guy who is after specific items. This type of sale, with many small lots, encourages the hobby as anyone can bid on their specific areas of interest at realistic prices. Philately will be poorer from Mr. Lee's retirement, and I do not know who might possibly fill his shoes. I am not saying this because Mr. Lee is selling my material, I chose him because of the way he offered many small lots which I felt would best redistribute my collection. Bob, I think you have done a damn good job with your philatelic interests, and your business, congratulations, and enjoy your retirement.

Having said the above, I willingly now give a "free plug". I will be selling the leftovers and unsolds through a small nearby firm called "Nanaimo Stamps", address is: Rutherford Mall, 259 4750 Rutherford Rd., Nanaimo BC V9T 4K6. They run a weekly "post on the wall" auction, it is not quite like the fun "trade ya two red ones for yer green one" which we grew up with, but it is close. They do not currently have a website, but Email is <<nanaimostampcoin@hotmail.com>>. Some of your local guys might get some of my stuff at good prices!

This does not mean that I am quitting the field, I do not have to "possess" something in order to be interested in it. I intend to continue writing this newsletter, and I even retained a sub-collection "foreign cancels on Canada". This specific sub-collecting area not only keeps me involved with cancels, it also expands to the entire world! Another expansion is (to me any ways) the addition of the 'miscellaneous markings' aspect, this opens up whole new fields.

I am seeking feedback from our members regarding the feasibility of a second/revised edition of the fancy cancel book. One of the primary functions of this study group is to document better information (such as dates or P.O.'s of use) of fancy cancels. This has been very successful. I did a quick review of my text descriptions for the 1705 illustrations in the book, and found about 230 revisions, additions and/or corrections. This plus some improved illustrations, is probably enough to justify a second edition. Other concerns would be whether BNAPS would be willing to pay for the printing, how many remainder copies would exist, and even if there would be sufficient interest in this speciality in the future. What do our members think? Reply to; <<fancycancel@hotmail.com>>, or Dave Lacelle Box 233 Merville BC VOR 2MO Canada. If I receive enough positive feedback, I shall possibly "plant a seed" with the BNAPS directors.



We have two new members: Mr. G. Archer, 295 Sunnyside Ave., Toronto ON M6R 2R1 and Mr. V.R. Swedberg, 1003 - 9210 Salish Court, Burnaby BC V3J 7C4. We also have three former members who wish to be reinstated, welcome back Jim, Mike, and Barry. Dues collected last year (incl. a few donations) were \$342.00, Thank You.

### REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

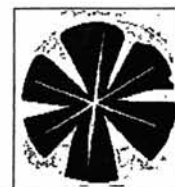
NEWSLETTER 34, Machine cancels. There is now PHSC Machine Cancel Study Group, contact is; Tony Shaman, Box 43103, Eastwood Square, Kitchener ON, N2H 6S9.

NEWSLETTER 38, Pg. 4. Joe Smith sent in a "dove" or some kind of bird cancel, and suggested that it came from a rubber toy printing set. I have recently discovered that I also have an example of this, I thought it was an anchor. It did not make the book as I only knew of the one example then. I would probably list it now. I might add that my example (in the cut) seems to be a worn or later state than Joe's, and that the "breaking up" in this later state is more characteristic of wood or cork than of rubber. Are there any other examples out there?



### CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

There is an excellent article; "The 19th Century Fancy Cancels of Collingwood" by J. Anders in PHSC Journal No 122, June '05. This article nicely shows the fancy cancel link between philately and postal history. I have taken some information from it to revise the fancy cancel book, such as his example of L930, new early date. Of the nine fancy cancels we listed for Collingwood, he has examples of eight, plus a few that 'didn't make the cut' when the book was prepared. (The missing cancel cover is L1511 (at right), similar used at Collingwood Ont., Clarence Ont., and Oshawa Ont. I am sure John would be interested in receiving any information on the Collingwood cover of L1511, does anyone out there have it?) Although not identified as such, he illustrates two covers of our L1100, previously not located, now known as Collingwood May 1884 to July 1884. I also note from his many cover examples how Collingwood cancels seem to be made from soft material, there is a very wide range of minor variety between strikes. Alternatively, perhaps the P.M.s', William B. Hamilton & Son William A. were great big strong guys, and really 'clobbered' their stamps.



George Power, (another geographic area collector), has sent in this example (about 1/2 scale here) of a crossroads cancel, (L1163) which has not previously been reported as used from Orangeville Ont., Jan. 1885.



PHSC Journal 121 (Mar. 2005) has a request for information from Charles Verge on an unusual Ottawa CDS similar to the cut. Jarrett lists this as J.318, used at Ottawa Jan. 1885, and it has also been written up in Canadian Philatelist, July 1970, pg. 181. Other references are Topics Jan. 1967, pg. 3, with follow up Apr. 1967, pg. 97. A similar cancel was used at Toronto Ont., in 1886. There are two interesting things which were not especially considered about this cancel in these references. Firstly, it was apparently in use for less than a week in Ottawa, and, secondly was probably an experimental "scarifying" design, in that the dotted circle was designed to cut into the stamps. Presumably the experiment failed, thus only five days use.





Scarifying cancels were written up in our Newsletters 10 and 30. Ottawa used several other experimental cancels, another scarifying cancel is listed as D163 in our book, and another interesting one, the squared circle precursor is well described (it was created from a pre-existing small CDS) in BNA Topics Mar. 1987. Ottawa would actually be a very interesting cancel area to specialize in. When I originally saw this PHSC request, I thought that there was not much information available, and I would include it here as an informational request, however my database had eight entries. My apologies to Charles for not answering directly to him.



Brian Hargreaves has sent in the items below. The first two “H’s” are not listed, has anyone else seen them? The “W” or “M” may be a heavy strike of a worn state of L875 in which case my illustration (in the cut) is poor at the bottom right part of the “W”. It is possible that a poorly inked strike, or that something interfered with the strike used for the illustration. His example also shows the two horizontal “break-up” lines, although they are partly filled with ink. The third item he sent in is a UK numeral 63 (or 53) used as a receipt cancel on poorly cancelled Canadian, probably the 6 cent “Allen Line rate. The similar design B.C. Numeral series only went up to number 36. Brian’s last item is an intaglio’ Toronto 2 cancel, L37. His example looks good to me, but the strike may be slightly distorted.



Glenn Archer has sent in three interesting items. Firstly, a previously unlisted greenish-blue “WAY LETTER” two line cancel, with no outer circle on a ½ cent large Queen. Unfortunately it will not reproduce well as both the cancel and stamp are dark. I checked my database, there are 20 references, the first use was in 1781, the last was a 1935 slogan cancel. (I have illustrated this latter item here, it seems a most strange use!)

Way cancels were applied by a mail carrier if they were outgoing mail picked up by him on his route or “way”. Another use of the term (in the Maritimes) was to designate small local P.O.’s where their mail was picked up on the “way” to larger urban centres. Glenn’s item looks “good “ to me (say 7 out of 10), does anyone else have other examples? Another question: Are “WAY LETTER” designations unique to Canada , or were they used in other countries as well?



Glenn’s second item concerns the fancy 14 (L141) used at Port Hope from (?) 1869 to May 1870, as in my illustration at right. He presents the following question; “Why was number 14 used at Port Hope? My database lists 17 references to this cancel, Jarrett stated that it was used at Guelph, which was a good guess as two ring 14 (2R14) was Guelph. There are covers with L141, Port Hope CDS, and with no reason to have been near Guelph. Guelph also used 2R14 up to about 1880, long past the period of use of L141. Port Hope had earlier been issued the four ring numeral 33, thus this makes its’ later choice of 14 odd. It was never issued a two ring number. Does anyone; a.) Have any comments on this use of 14?, and b.) Does anyone have late use examples - say on small queens - of four ring 33?





Glenns' third item appears to be a strike of the illusive two ring 20 on a pair of 15 cent L.Q.'s. The strike s are poor, but what is interesting is that there is also a Hamilton Ont. blue CDS Apr. 30 1869. 2R20 was used for only a short time, and its' place of use has never been confirmed. If this Hamilton cancel (Hamilton was 2R5) was applied as a transit mark, or as a secondary cancel to a poorly cancelled item, this might indicate that 2R20 is a smaller P.O. near Hamilton. The two rings were mainly issued in order of P.O. sales, 2R20 should be a P.O. between Peterborough (2R19) and Goderich (R21) in 1869 sales. I recall seeing some attempt to research this once, but I have lost the reference. Can anyone help?

Now, some (maybe) off topic items. Adam Williamson has sent me an example of a Hong Kong stamp issued August 1871, B62 obliterator (used 1872-1885, and 1890- 1893), and with a partial red "(?A?) NAFF" CDS. He wants to know if this could be a BANFF Alberta receiver CDS? After a bit of research, I concluded that it was not Banff Alta., the text below is from my reply to him. Can anyone help?



1. Banff P.O. has three listings in Archivanet for it's official opening date. It apparently opened as a P.O. in 1886 to 1888, in 1887 it was designated as "Park" P.O., and in 1888 as a 'Money Order Office', which is one step higher on the P.O. heir achy. It remains open today of course. (To further confuse the issue, the Parks Canada site states that the Banff hot springs were discovered by railway workers in 1883, and the park was opened in 1885.)....
2. I do not know how long the stamp was in use, however the P.O. opening is at least 16 years after the issue of the stamp.
3. This use of red ink, and size of CDS were not common in Canada in this era.
4. This gets a bit complicated, but I did a radial analysis of the letters, and made an assumption about the partial date/letter at the B.R. of the stamp. The best 90 degree intersection with this, and the letters showing would indicate a seven letter name, with at least three letters before the "A". I do not have the foggiest what this name might be.
5. If the P.O. opened in 1886, and the "B62" cancel was not used between 1885, and 1890, then the date of use of the cancel has to be pushed to 19 years after the issue of the stamp.

I shall present this to my Study Group as a puzzle, and will let you know if anything turns up; "What British Empire P.O. in the 1870's had a seven letter name ending in (?A)NAFF?"

### POINTING HAND, RETURN TO markings.

Two members have suggested that this would be a good main newsletter topic. The pointing hand was used as early as 1886 according to Jarrett (Jar. 818), he suggests that it was a copy of a USA mark. His example with "Returned to Writer" text was used in Toronto, and was similar to number 5 on page six. I suspect much earlier use. There are two fancy cancel pointing (or skeleton) hands, L1374, and L1375 used Port Perry Ont. June 1873, and Preston Ont. Sept. 1880. This last item needs some imagination. I have only seen these used as cancels, the "return to" meaning may have occurred later. I also include in the cut, another example in red on a small queen, however this is probably philatelic and/or used on an out of period stamp.





Mike Rixon has sent in the examples on the next page. I do not do justice to his material as I have 'cut 'n pasted' only the pointing hand parts of the covers, and thus do not show many other redirection, registration etc. markings.

I did not realize that there were so many locally (?) produced varieties of this marking. The variety of text messages also surprised me. Please send in any others you may have. A few general comments are in order. Firstly, many of these pointing hands are not very anatomically correct, there are missing thumbs, and several with fingers which are strangely bent. Three of the 12 are right handed which at first seems odd until you consider that return addresses are usually at top left. I have included details for each of the examples, but would like to state that most of the illustrations are about 10% reduced, and the stated ink colours may not be exact. This latter point occurs for two reasons, some of the strikes have dark ink tints from being used on both red and black (or blue) ink pads, and the colour balance on my computer may be different than Mikes. What I might have described as a "red" might better be described as a bright purple. Details from top left, then clockwise are:

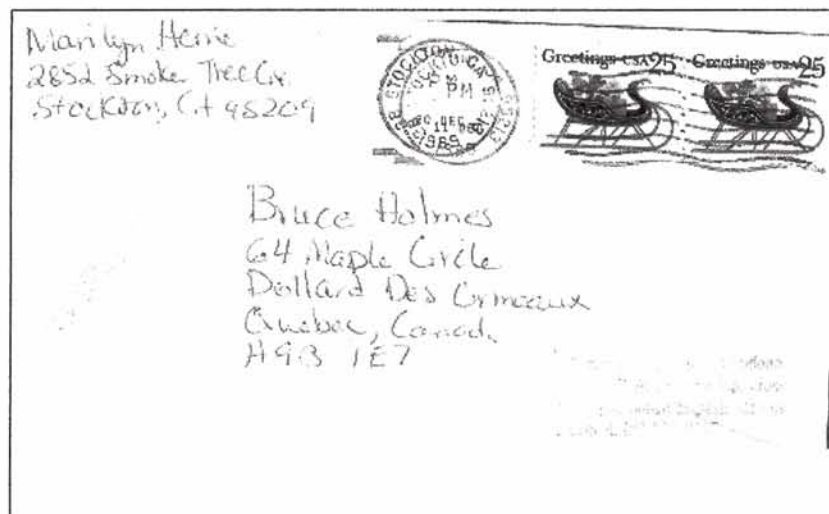
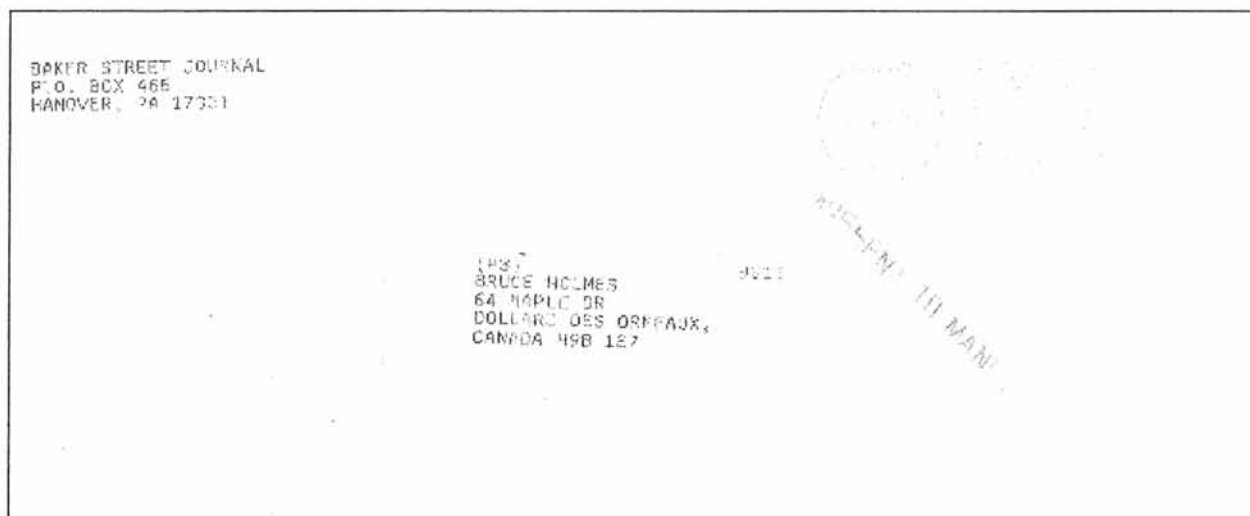
1. Used Greenwood BC, Oct. 1911, purple ink, "Not called for Return to writer".
2. Indian Head Sask., Mar. 1914, purple/black, "Return to Writer Not Called For".
3. Spruce Home Sask., Sept. 1911, purple, "RETURN TO WRITER, NOT CALLED FOR, SPRUCE HOME SASK., ADDRESS UNKNOWN OR REMOVED", and to be even more precise; "O.W.G. P.M. SPRUCE HOME SASK." in the cuff.
4. Montreal Que., July 1920 (?) purple/black, no text. Note, if this marking was on a stamp it would look like a much earlier type of fancy cancel!
5. Sarnia Ont., May 1938, purple, "RETURN TO WRITER". There are several pencil notations regarding a non-existent street number, and a CDS (in black) has been placed on the cuff of the hand two days after the attempted delivery. Compare this with number nine, an earlier example also from Sarnia, the CDS mimics the earlier design!
6. Sault Ste Marie Ont., Apr. 1916, purple, "RETURN TO" and "Unclaimed" in the cuff.
7. Vittoria Ont., Oct. 1903, red-purple, "Procure at STAMP COUNTER in Post Office, W. Hewitt". This is a back stamp, the finger points to a Toronto Ont. CDS transit mark, and may have been applied there. The P.M. of Vittoria was G.D. McCall from 1868 to 1929 (!). There was a 'W. J. Hewitt' working as PM in Toronto Sub. #103 in 1912, he may have been a clerk or assistant before that. There was also an Ontario P.O. 'Hewitt', 1884 to 1916, with several Hewitt P.M.'s.
8. Trail BC, 1941, dark purple, "RETURN TO WRITER" and "Not Called For" in a box.
9. Sarnia Ont., Aug. 1935, red, "Unclaimed, Return to Writer" There is a changeable date stamp in the cuff. Number five also mimics this with a CDS strike where the date stamp was in this earlier version.

10. Kamloops BC, May 1926, black, "RETURN TO" and "UNCLAIMED KAMLOOPS BC" with changeable date stamp.

11. Wynyard Sask., Feb. 1924, purple, "RETURN TO, Address Unknown."

12. Nelson BC, Sept. 1911, blue, "RETURN TO WRITER. UNCLAIMED".

Bruce Holmes has sent along the item below, partly in response to my "missed" items in Newsletter 38. Both have "MISSENT TO MANILA" (presumably Philippines). Although five years apart, the only similarity (other than his address) is that they are from the USA. Is there something in his address which causes a missend? I have mentioned before about my mail occasionally going to Melville Sask. instead of Merville BC, but this is a more obvious error.



In this rereading this, I find there was another unintentional theme in this newsletter- philatelic sleuthing! There were many little mystery questions. Hopefully some answers are forthcoming. Again have a good summer and hope to see some of you in Edmonton. Good collecting,

Dave Lacelle



