

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER 40.

Dave Lacelle
Dec. 2005

- Group news;

May I wish the best of the holiday season, and a prosperous new year to all of you.

It is dues time again, I have increased it slightly to \$7.00 per year. This should provide sufficient funds to reach the break-even point for the three annual newsletters. If you owe dues a small insert will be attached to this page. I note that there are three long standing members whom are two years in arrears, and will have to be cut from the mailing list. If this newsletter is not meeting your interests please let me know.

I enjoyed the Edmonton Convention, we had a study group meeting with about a dozen present and a general presentation by yours truly.

In the last newsletter I have suggested that a second edition of our fancy cancel book should be prepared. This has been agreed by BNAPS and I shall start soon. There are two technical problems. First, the bulk of the text (the cancel descriptions) were prepared in an archaic word processing tabular format (.VW3) during a 15 year period (1985 - 2000) and will have to be retyped. This is actually a benefit as the font can be improved, and changes and revisions will be easier. The second problem is that I still lack MS word and will have to use another software (same as I use for this newsletter) unless some kind "Internet fairy" (similar to the tooth fairy?) drops it into my computer.

I would ask if any members have suggestions for style or content in the second edition? One suggestion I would make is to add a general "rarity factor" to the second edition. This would consist of (say) a 1 to 6 scale, with 1 being "common" and 6 being "I hope my spouse never finds out how much I paid for a cancel on a stamp worth 50 cents". To this end I have recently analysed 3,000 individual fancy cancel prices. The book would be perhaps a bit more useful to those in the buying/selling areas of stamp collecting if it had such a pricing guide. I listed reasons for not doing this on page 9 and 10 of the "old" book, at least conflict of interest is no longer a concern as I have now disposed of my collection.

One last item, **I need a proof reader**. It is difficult to proof read your own work, especially when the work is in tabular format. Can anyone help?

We have one new member; Mr. G. Pond, 411 Queensway W., Simcoe ON, N3Y 2N4.

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 33, pg. 2, second revision "Toronto...sub office No 4". I mentioned that this crown wax seal seemed to frequently appear on too wide a range of stamps (incl. various small queens, and the map stamp), and appeared to be a newer type of wax seal then the period of these stamps.

It was thus probably a philatelic, or bogus (non-genuine) use. It has been brought to my attention that it is on the 1907 Pritchard and Andrews proof page, which thus confirms bogus use when on significantly earlier stamps.



CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

Brian Hargreaves has sent in a bunch of nice material. Firstly, the star below, L 1018. This strip appears to show use at Brussels, Ont. in July 1886 (or 1888?). There is a possibility that the CDS was a receiving cancel on a poorly cancelled item, however this is unlikely as the star is reasonably dark. I also note the "100" ms, which was usually placed on top of each bundle of 100 by the early stamp dealers / bundlers (sp?). This is a new fancy cancel location, the book suggested mid 1880's, so I got that right. Please keep this new information coming folks.



Brian's second item is this Newfoundland Sc. 60 (thus about 1890) fancy star, which is similar (but not identical) to our L 1010. There are not many Newfoundland fancy cancels, and most are cork inserts into old Saint John's CDS hammers. Note, I have not examined this item for ink penetration etc., and am reporting this only from a computer scan.



There is something else I would like to mention while on the topic of Newfoundland fancy cancels. "Masonic Philatelist" magazine in 1985 (see also "Covers" magazine, Aug. 1963) listed one Masonic Newfoundland cancel, a signet ring type cancel, which I listed as L 1314, on Sc. 30, 1865-1894. The details are very sketchy, have any of our members ever seen this item?



Brian's third item is L 1086, which I have listed as a cross. The example used for the book illustration was in red ink, his is in black with a tiny bit of red cancel (CDS?) at the bottom left. Again, I have not personally examined this item, the stamp may be considerably earlier than the 1895 date suggested by the example used for the book. Are there any other examples out there?



I recently purchased these carved wood block letters, they were probably used by some printing/publishing firm prior to 1860. They are carved from a hard dense wood (oak?), the "B" and "R" have been frequently inked, with some minor wear, ink accumulation, and damage to the "B". The pound Sterling symbol appears to have been rarely (if ever) used. Please note these are not known as cancels, I present them here to show what kind of strikes might occur from "professionally" made wood block letters. I also note that they do not take ink well, and would require either, manual inking, a great deal of pressure, and / or soft paper for good quality strikes. The examples here are from a freshly inked pad, and were hard strikes on tissue paper.



John Anders (see also Newsletter 39, pg. 2) has sent in some examples of what Smythies called "the primitive numeral cancels". Among these items are L 89 (an "8"), D 27 (a "3" or an "8"), and L 123, (a reversed "9") all used at Simcoe Ontario. I have used my stock illustrations (as they appear in the book) of these cancels, L 89, and D 27 are also referred to in the second paragraph below.



George Pond has also had considerable correspondence with me, including his sending a very detailed write up on the P.M. of Simcoe, Ont., Harry Mulkins, 1856 to 1908 (52 years!). The first item (at right) is L 13, now located on cover as Simcoe, Ont. Jan. 1893. (Again, please keep this new information coming...)



His second item is of a new early date for this reversed "S", L 780, Mar. 1877. He also has examples of L 89, and D 27, a "3" or "8" as in the cuts above. I had believed that the "3" was merely a worn, breaking up state of the "8", however I am having second thoughts. The "3" is somewhat bigger in some strikes, and has a side bar which is sometimes missing in the "8". Could the "8" have been re-cut (and / or filed down), and thus become the "3"? Should I list the "3" as a separate cancel? Opinions please. Unfortunately only one cover is known, May 1892 of the "8", there are no covers of the "3".



I would like to point out two odd things about these Simcoe numerals. Firstly, why were numerals used at all at such a relatively small P.O.? Simcoe was number 43 in the four ring numeral cancel series (1860's), and number 48 in the 1870's two ring numeral series. This latter series was issued by P.O. value of sales, thus 48th in P.O. Importance in 1870. The numbers; 1, 3 (?), 8, and 9 (or 6) must have meant something to the P.M. Secondly, both the accidental reversed "S", and "9" (mirror image) cancels continued in use, usually when the P.M. made such an obvious mistake he (...probably muttering "golly gosh do I look stupid" ... or similar comment) quickly stopped using the obvious error.

And now for something completely different, "bee cancels". I have received a request for information on the modern fancy "bee" cancels used at Falher Alberta, and Guy Alberta, I was unable to help, but could direct her to other sources. This request is for a display at the Lakeshore Stamp Club, Dorval, Quebec. I was able to send her a scan of our "bug" cancels, L 1440 to L 1442, as well as the (dubious) fancy bee cancel in a recent auction catalogue. Does anyone know of any other "bees"?

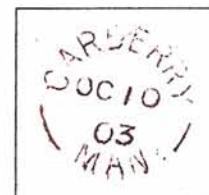
Glen Archer has sent in some material. His first item is a roman numeral "II", part of the 'Toronto Fancy Two' cancel series. This is L 24, I have recorded three covers, all from about September 22, 1869. When Smythies first described this cancel in 1956, he had a worn partial strike which he described as a pair of "Wellingtons" (rubber boots). Some of you may remember the modern fancy rubber boot cancel from the metropolis I live in, the "Merville BC boot".



Glen has also sent in the rather indescribable radial cancel in the cut. It may not reproduce well as it is not a very dark strike, and on a dark stamp. Originally I thought it was broken or smeared but closer examination reveals this is not the case. He suggests that it is a worn "Catherine wheel", it would thus be similar to L 1553 (far right), used at Toronto, Nov. 1871.



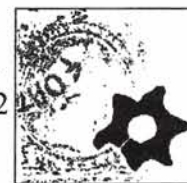
This is a little out of our field, but has anyone else seen this slightly lopsided Carberry Manitoba broken circle (20 mm diameter) CDS? I thought this would be a simple request, however from my own reference books I have already seen four other strikes (or illustrations) of Carberry broken circle CDS's, none of which matched.



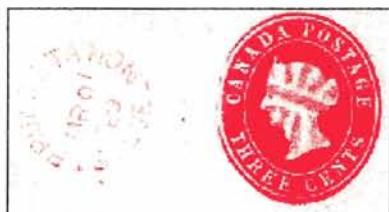
Don Fraser has sent along several Manitoba fancy cancel items. His first is a new late date for L 1625 an odd geometric cancel used at Stonewall Man., March 1896. This is a rather extreme worn example, over a year after the previously known date. I have used my standard illustration at right as Don's example is on an 8 cent small queen, and will not reproduce well. I checked and found three other covers, all were registered.



Don also has sent in a nice three cover series showing a range of wear on L 944, a six pointed hollow star from Fort Garry, Man. This covers the period Feb. 28 1872 to June 5 1872.



Wally Gutzman has sent in the two items below. The first one appears to be a nice early strike of L 1442, an insect (?). The strike and CDS are in violet, from St. Bruno Station, Que., Mar. 1889. Several years ago, Wally had sent in the other item at right, and I am using it as an excuse to wander back into the "pointing hand" areas of the last newsletter.

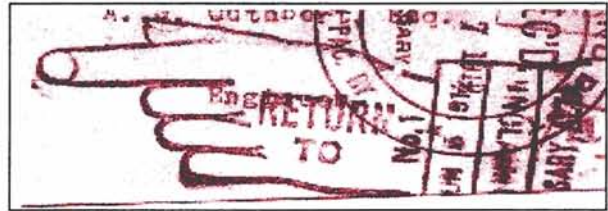


Gus Quattrocchi sent in the four "pointing hands" below, unfortunately his description does not always include ink colour.

1. Used Odessa Sask., Sept. 1965, red ink, no text. Note this is very similar to the one illustrated as number 4 (Montreal) in the last newsletter, however the Montreal strike was used 45 years earlier.

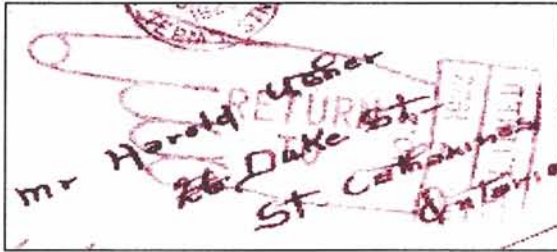


2. Calgary Alta., May 1912. "RETURN TO" date with "UNCLAIMED" (upside down) and CALGARY ALTA (right side up to date) in cuff.

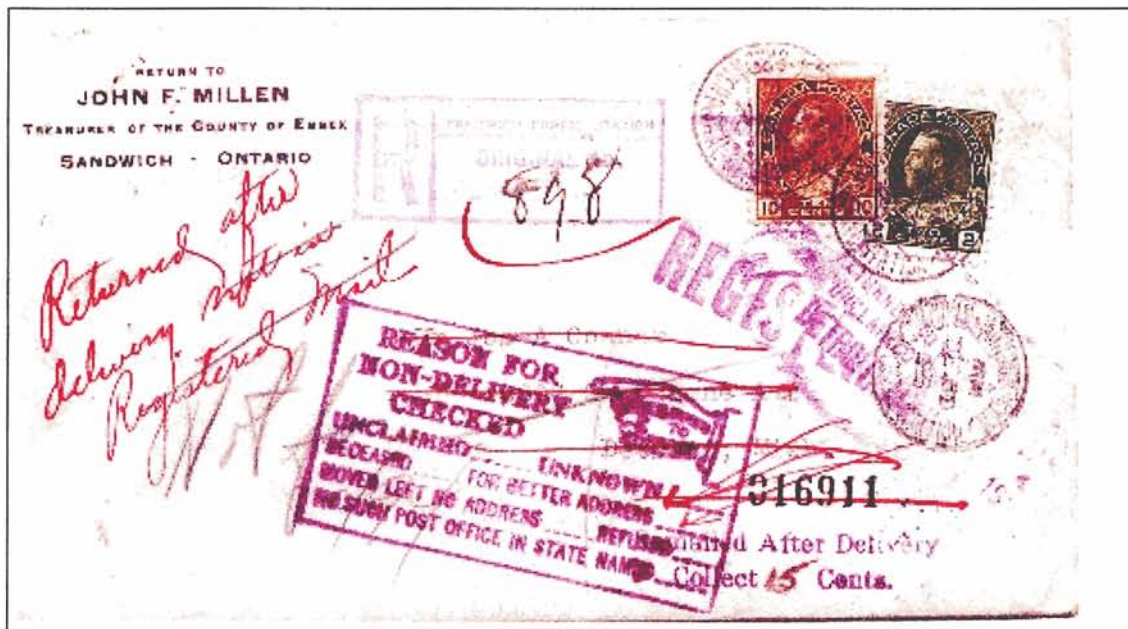


3. St. Catherines Ont., Apr. 1923, RETURN TO" and "No.2" sideways above cuff (Clerk number?), dater, "UNCLAIMED" and "St. Catherines Ont." in the cuff. Note, this must have been an official issue, several P.O.'s used very similar markings in the period 1915 to 1930.

And, 4. Vancouver (?) Date unknown (stamp from 1965), "RETURN TO RETOURNEZ A".

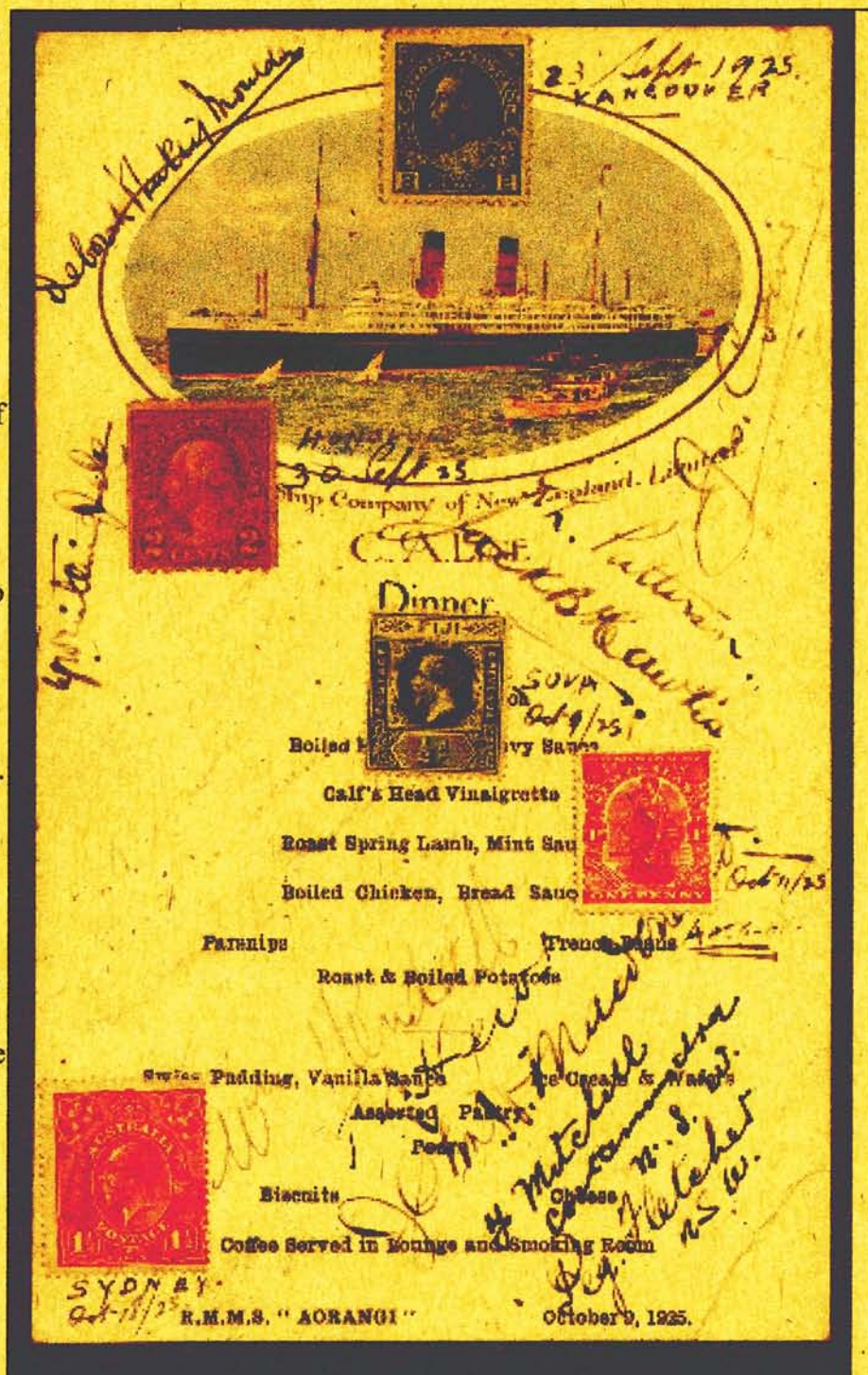


Finally, the "pointing hand" rises again, so to speak. I bought the item below at the BNAPS convention as an example of my speciality, foreign cancels on Canada. It is a Detroit USA pointing hand "cancelling" the stamps with a second "Non Delivery" smaller hand side box. Details; used Detroit Mich. Dec. 1926, purple ink, "RETURNED TO WRITER UNCLAIMED AT DETROIT MICH.", date stamp in the cuff.. There is CDS error in the back stamp (there are eight other back stamps) "Detroit Registered", which indicates it was received Dec. 29, one day before it was mailed Dec. 30 in Windsor. This may perhaps have something to do with New Years partying?



I have an extra back page, so I shall run this very 'miscellaneous' item. It is an interesting example of non-postal, nonrevenue use of several stamps. I know that the signing of a menu is a fairly common custom, however the affixing of stamps to prove the cruise seems unusual! I am reminded of a quote from Joseph Conrad, regarding the some of the tourists he came across during his nautical life. Something to the effect of; "... Many traveller's steamer trunks with their many labels have actually 'seen' more travel than their owners..".

Can anyone recall seeing any other "stamped" example?. (The stamps were added after the cruise, however the whole had been professionally framed, so I do not believe it has been 'fiddled with.)



And, as an "endnote", I have just found out that many of my small multiple lots (i.e. "5 dif. Fancy star cancels..") did not sell in Lee's final sale. I think this was probably due to there being a great deal of similar individual material in the sale. If any of you would want to see these as approvals, I can either scan or send snail mail; <<fancycancel@hotmail.com>>, or Box 233, Merville BC, V0R 2M0.

And a Merry Xmas, and New Years to all.

Dave.Lacelle