

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 66

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Group News.

I apologize for not getting this newsletter out before the BNAPS convention, the “little life which is Dave” is very busy. Also, it appears that I will not be able to produce the third edition of our fancy cancel book before the end of the year.

A minor note regarding what is included (and is not) in our book is in order. I tried to firstly show cancels which showed personal creativity, or special meanings. There are thousands of chopped up corks, grid designs, radial cut corks, blobs etc. which (to mix meanings) “just did not make the cut”. In some cases representative illustrations are used for broader groupings with a “similar used at” notation in the book. Unfortunately, some of the cancel examples I have been sent in the last year (or so) are neither original nor creative enough designs to be listed. (Don’t hear me wrong, please continue to send in “stuff”, however not everything will appear in the book.) I realize that this will leave out some ‘unique’ blobs, cancels on rare stamps, and some spectacular covers with precise bold strikes of common cancels. Another ‘mixed meaning’, I had to “draw the line somewhere”.

There were three other lesser concerns regarding cancel selection. If the cancel had been referenced elsewhere it would be included. If there were several strikes (thus showing wear, deformation, ink variations etc.) the cancel was more likely to be listed. Finally, if the P.O. using the cancel was known, then this postal history aspect required the cancel to be listed.

We have two new members, Peter Wood from the small town of Toronto, and Bev. Hills from Campbell River BC, which is just north of the thriving megatropolis of Merville where I am writing from.



REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 65, “Fakes, Bogus & Spurious Items”. There were two omissions on this page – I guess I was in a bit too much hurry to finish... The fake Victoria BC Crown (L 1291) should have had an illustration next to it which was taken from the proof books of the actual manufacturer of this cancel, Pritchard & Andrews of Ottawa. (Note, 36 rays in the fake, 40 in the genuine. The faker used a protractor.)



The fake “Quyón” (sorta L 736) cancel illustration was missing text. “The letters do not compare with other strikes, the inking is odd in that the top should be lighter if this is an oblique strike, no other strikes show a bottom “blob”, and there appear be traces of a weak CDS under the “UY”, and possibly a letter “O” in the blob.”



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Newsletter 65, pg. 2, the reference to River John should be N.S., not N.B.

CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

Mike Halhead sent in the items below. The first is L 1524 (the Ottawa variant July 1871) used one month earlier than previously reported. Second, L 1173, Guelph On, Dec. 1873 in correct period of use and indicating that the book illustration is deformed. Third is L 1163 (similar), also Guelph Nov. 1873, compare with L 1164, L1165 also from Guelph. Fourth is a lovely star from Collingwood ON, Aug. 1871 in the correct period of use. Fifth is somewhat similar to L1114, but with much wider “cuts”. In all these illustrations I have ‘cheated’ and moved the CDS to beside the cancels.



Jim Mc Cormick sent in the item right above, with the suggestion that it is an “M” with a thick grid around it. It looks vaguely familiar to me, but I cannot quite ‘place’ it.

Paul Varty sent in this set of postcards, all with the same receiver cancel from Cobourg ON in Aug. 1877. The originating P.O.’s are Toronto, Guelph, and Oshawa. The PM at Cobourg was obviously a ‘keener’ as there was no reason to cancel a printed Post Card. Note, in the case of receiver cancels, if only one of these was known, then the originating PO would be assumed to be the user of the cancel. (I’m a bit off topic, but an even more difficult situation arises with Railway Post Office fancy cancels. In



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these cases the cancel was not applied at either the originating nor receiving P.O.'s. This is why it is better to have more than just one cover for the correct identification of a cancel's origin.

Roger Squires sent in this item, and suggests that it is similar to the "Toronto lace - like designs" shown in Newsletter 44. I also recall seeing a similar foreign scarifying cancel at one time. Any comments on this item?.



Jack Forbes sent in this example below of a UK receiver cancel number "984" from Mere UK. The cover was posted from Alliston ON, Sept. ? 1872 (weak CDS), and somehow got all the way to Mere uncanceled. Presumably when Mere PO redirected it to London it was then cancelled even if in the wrong country!



Ron Smith sent in another UK on Canada cancel below. At first glance, this cover from Victoria BC, Mar. 73 seems to have a very strange cancel indeed! His black and white scan indicates that it is a variant of the UK Maltese Cross cancels (see next page), partly double struck, and possibly on top of a weak Canada cancel. Neat item!



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G.B. Maltese Cross Cancels. From Vallancey 1935, approx ¾ scale



Larry Margetish sent in the following Miscellaneous Markings query, illustrated at top right.”I have an interesting cover with a Ludlow E-73 strike of an Emergency hammer. That is, Timbre Temporaire Quebec Ovest, dated 27 Feb. 1975. I know that this is no longer being covered by the RPO Study Group. Is there anyone else I can direct my questions? Such as, is this the only recorded date, and about how many strikes are known?
Can anyone help with this?

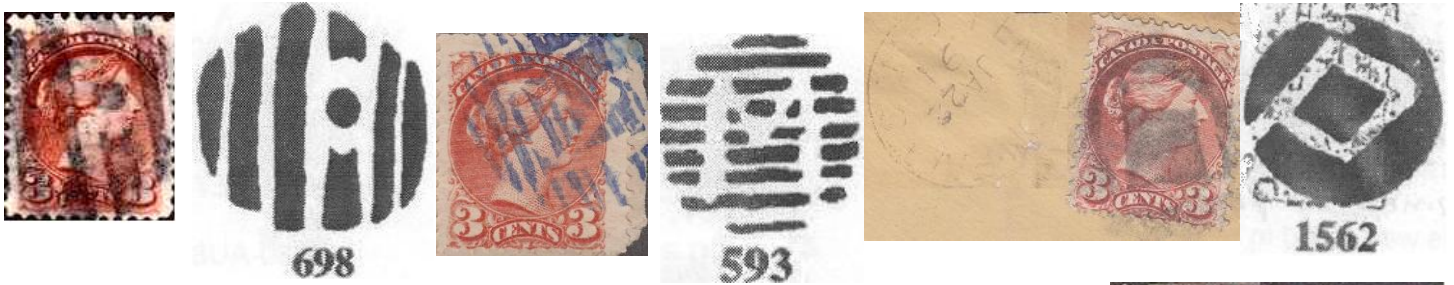
Gary Steele Sent in the rather perfect strike of a Dead Letter Office oval cancel (above). The cancel is so precisely struck and centred (although upside down) that it indicates a certain amount of “keenness” and precision in this office. Gary’s book “Dead Letter Handstamps 1874 to 1954” is available through BNAPS.

Garfield Portch sent in these items. The first is a new late date (very worn) for L 655, St. Catherines West, July 1880. His second item is also a new late date, L 1334, Prescott ON., July 1877. The bottom items are all “similar to” cancels, L1504, Lynedoch ON, Feb. 1883 (in blue), L1505, Embro ON, Mar., 1879 and L 1511 Leamington ON, Nov 1871.



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Guy Jaffries sent in the items below. The first one is L 698, which should probably be listed in our book as a “problem child”. I have now seen this twice on S.Q.’s, late 37’s (ie around 1885- 1889). It is listed in D&S, Plate K as 663”b”, Penobscuis N.B. 1902. I have never seen the cover, and suspect some sort of compilation error in D&S. There had been an earlier D&S 663”b” (an initial “PH”) on plate E. This first 663b has since been located as Peninsular Harbour Ont., 1893. I have seen a photocopy of the cover. To further confuse the issue, at least one of the other strikes of this “P” is on top of another cancel, which can indicate a fake. **Does anyone out there have the 1902 cover reported in Smythies**, or other examples? (I played with the contrast of Guy’s copy, it is a darker ‘rose’ than it appears here.) His second item is also a bit of a dilemma, it is probably L 593 from Minasville NS Jan. 1893. Two other possibilities are L 209, and L 613, both of which would be on earlier printings. None of the possibilities have been reported in blue (as Guy’s is), and all appear to have somewhat different design features, so this may also be just a cut up cork which I am ‘over interpreting’. Guy’s third item is another “similar to item” in this case to L 1562. His example is from Fenlon Falls Ont., Jan 1894.



Guy also sent in two examples of this new cancel.



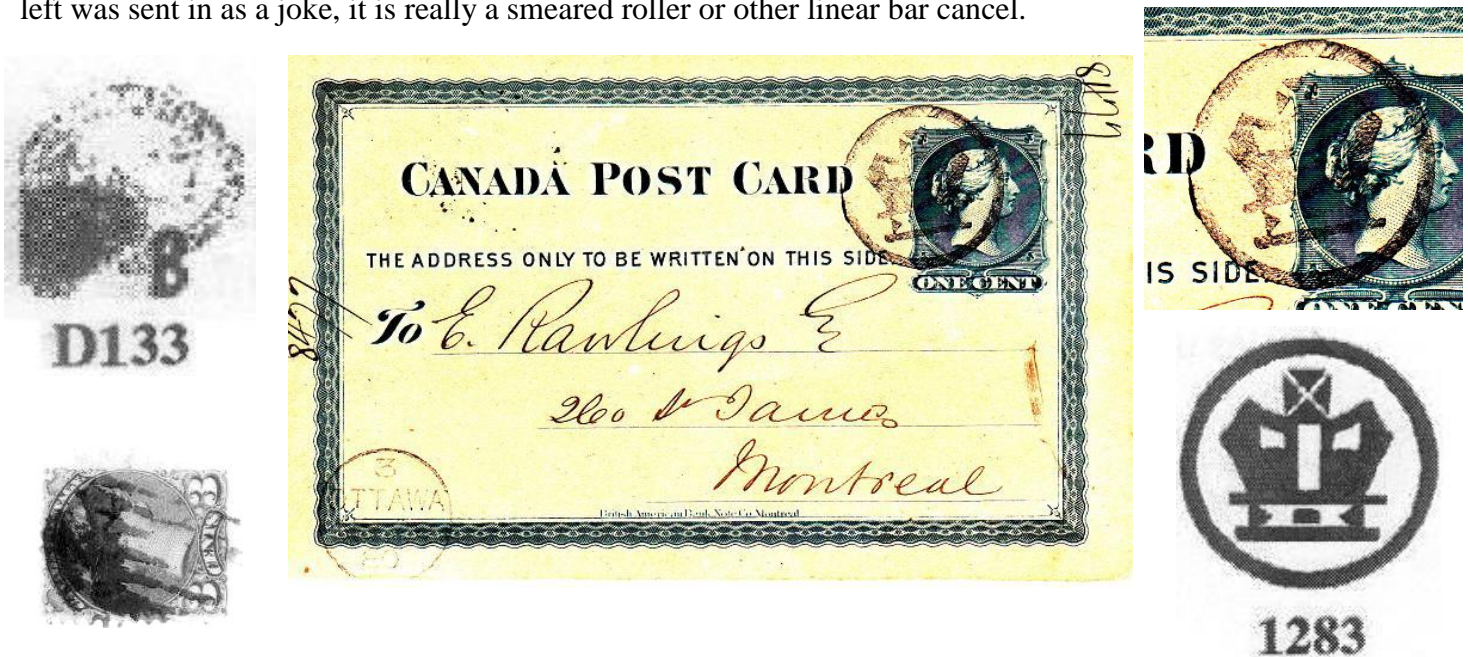
Ian Hallum sent in the items below. His first is L1404, now confirmed as Toronto Jan 1880 based on backstamp carrier mark and local rate and address. His second item is L 1484, Owen Sound ON, Feb. 1873. I was going to delist this cancel as I had never seen an example, and (until now) believed it was mixed up with L1545. The third item is an unlisted, and late use fancy, a tiny “4” from Galt ON, Sept. 1900. He also sent along a single (same issue), and I seem to recall seeing this somewhere before. So, a new listing! His next item (second row) is Jarrett 1207, an Ottawa geometric used in may 1872, which is not listed in our book. It is interesting that if you look at this a “second time” it takes on some of the features of a six point star similar to L1012. Lastly, Iain has sent this example of a cancel very similar to L 1627, but used at St. Leon Que., Aug. 1874.



BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 66 FAKES, BOGUS AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

Please note the two fake items mentioned on page 1 from our previous newsletter. Further to the “odd” Hagersville cover in the last newsletter, it has been pointed out a) why would the added “H” not be put over the glue trace, b.) why is it in such an odd place (extra postage to USA, some stamps missing?) and who would fake a 1 cent rate to USA? Curiouser and curiouser....

The Post Card with the bogus “B” has resurfaced. This is listed as D133 ““Fake, on a post card to St. Joseph Lauzon Que. from possibly Quebec City? (Indistinct CDS), Sept. '87. both cancels are completely unnecessary, and ink types do not match.” In hindsight, I would add that the “smudge” cancel is possibly a well called thumb print! (Or a bit of rag on a stick.) Another Post Card with a strike of the solid Ottawa Crown L 1283 has appeared. This cancel is a problem in that I have never seen a genuine strike although it was listed in Jarrett, and D&S. The L1283 cut is from the official manufacturers (Pritchard and Andrews of Ottawa) April 1880 proof strike book. The diadem is wrong on the post card example, and the date is a month earlier than P&A proofed the cancel. The fake appears based on the Smythies illustration. (The other fake cover of this item is much cruder, wrong in several other ways, and is an unlikely five years later.) Finally, the “Flying Goblin” at bottom left was sent in as a joke, it is really a smeared roller or other linear bar cancel.



Since I have a bit of extra space... Peter Wood sent in this cartoon on the “Evolution of the Hand Stamp”. It is from Postmark Magazine, Nov. 1955. Given the reduction in real stamped items today, I “cheated” and added the last panel ...



Thanks to the 11 (or so) of you whom have contributed to this newsletter, I again apologize for not being able to attend the convention, but am just too busy. (‘N I retired 14 years ago !) Good collecting.