

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 68

April 2015

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Group News.

I must thank MANY of you for your contributions to this newsletter. I have never before had so much material to work from. As well as the many single items sent in, three of you sent in over 20 covers each. This will be a big newsletter. I must also thank several of you for both cash donations, and the donations of unused postage stamps. About 35 of our 80 members want snail mailed newsletters (some others also want both) so the postage comes in handy. (Denise our Merville P.M. also enjoys looking at the range of stamps on my “stuff”.) I must also thank several of you for your kind words, and positive encouraging comments. There seems to be far too much negativity in the world now (especially on line), and it is a pleasure to work with a group such as YOU. Gentle hint... this is your newsletter, please send in more “stuff”.

Having said the above ... I regret that I cannot illustrate everything for a variety of reasons. The primary reason is that there are thousands of cork cancels from our collecting era, and I have to draw the line (so to speak) as to what is a “fancy” cancel, and what is just a cut cork. The primary criteria are that the cancel must show some degree of personal creativity, or meaning. Thus randomly slashed, hatched, barred, or sectioned corks such as could be prepared in a few seconds with “no thinking required” are generally not included. When I refer to “meaning” above, this is where the cancel is designed to represent something, perhaps a leaf, flag, Post Masters initial, Society symbol etc. I digress a bit, but the preceding Society reference is significant as there were many private Societies in existence in the 1870 to 1890 era. There were few Governmental social programs, and your Society could function as a bit of a “safety net”, personal insurance etc. Many of these Societies had (for example) secret handshakes, symbols etc. A fancy cancel may be a long lost Society symbol, and for this reason many regular shape (can’t think of a better expression) cancels have been included in our listings. Other criteria for listing included items which have been listed by previous authors, have historical significance, and/or can be repetitively observed on cover.

Gary Steele reports “I am half way through research for a new book on Internal Handstamps of the Canadian Post Office. (These would be) similar to that Equipment & Supply Branch hand stamp (Ed. In newsletter 67, pg.3). I may need your help from members to send me examples and dimensions when I get the listing done. I will have a better idea as there are over 4000 just before 1975.”

Another member has suggested that Bill Topping may have many examples of these markings. I will leave you gents to get in touch with other. OK?

Gary also reports that he has “been trying to collect the Wax Seal handstamps, slow process for sure. Did you want copies of them from various post offices?” (Ed. Ans. Yes, these are our numbers L 1270 to L 1272, and Appendix 4a.)

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 66 & 67, the solid Ottawa Crown cancel L 1283 reported in the “Fakes” etc. section. I have re-reviewed this strike, and still do not “like” the width of the intaglio lines in the diadem on this strike as compared to the P&A (cancel manufacturer) proof strike. These were metal hammers, so the variation could not be due to wear, or strength of strike. I am also still seeking any information on a reported “other five cover strikes of this cancel”. Please advise if you have any.



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Newsletter 67, pg. 3, My speculation about the ms reference to “Mr. Holmberg” being the PM is not correct. The PM of Minnedosa was R. Harrison, appointed in 1936.

Newsletter 67, pg. 5. The reference to the “London and Parry Sound” RPO is wrong, this should be “London and **Port Stanley**”. My bad.

And... the “Bogusman” items in many of the previous newsletters. I have done a through review of ALL 35 of these with special emphasis on any commonalities they may have. There were about 130 references to review. The results are on the last page of this newsletter. Spoiler ... 25 of the 35 fancy cancels from this source were unique strikes, (after more than 50 years since their “birth”) and most were on cover.

CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

Guillaume Vadeboncoeur sent in about 20 items, mostly on cover. Two of his off cover items (several others were in newsletters 64 and 58.) are the lovely strike of L 1234, a flower design used at Blyth Ont., Dec. 1881 to Jan. 1882, and this bold unlisted circular design (a “Society” symbol?) It must be noted that the latter item has tiny traces of another cancel. I would appreciate any information on other strikes of this cancel. His next item clears up a question as to who (or what) the fancy “JR” cancel L 521 related to. I had thought it might be a form of initial precancel, however it appears that PM J.R. Lapointe of Mile End L.C. hand applied this as a cancel in May 1871. (I ‘cheated’ and moved the CDS, the year is based on the stamp shade.) His next three items extend the ranges of use of L 563 an “L”, (London East Ont., Sept. 1882 – Apr. 1883), L860, a “VR”, (Shelburne Ont., Nov. 1875 –July 1876), L 948, a “star” (Chippawa Ont. Oct. 1875 – Dec. 1875).



His next item (2nd from right above) is a fancy B which I think is L 292, now located, Barnstom Que., Apr. 188?8. The cover also has an unusual USA style CDS with the PM’s name included “C Remick”, PM 1877 to 1897. The last item may be a fancy “H”, from Dunnville Ont., Sept. 1890. Does anyone have any other examples of this cancel?

The odd little item at right was sent in by Roger Squires, and is a purple stamp “RP.C.” backstamp. Or possibly RP.O. or G? It bleeds through to the front, and would probably not have bled through if the stamp had glue. It would be in reverse if picked up from an inked surface. The front CDS is Pembroke Ont. May ? 1897. I have seen back stamps applied by early stamp dealers showing the dealers name, and sometimes as bundle counts i.e. “100”. Did Mr. RPO



prepare the bundle” Is it from some firm RPC (say Regina Philatelic Co. – just to make up a name), or is it just some incomplete Railway Post Office mark – but why on back if so? Any comments would be appreciated.

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Mike Halhed (apologies for spelling his name wrong beforr) sent in the material below. These are all covers, and in I will have to “cheat” and move the CDS’s to save space. The first item, L 1535 looks like an ordinary segmented cork, however seven segments is unusual. The P.O. for this is thus now known, Woodstock Ont., Jan 1876. The next one is L1071, and appears to be a second strike from Guelph Ont. Jan. 1887. This cancel has been confirmed from Huntsville Ont., Sept. 1884, and this second Guelph example seems more worn (!) than the first Guelph strike in Apr. 1888. To further confuse the issue, there is an unconfirmed (i.e. I have never seen it) D&S report of Hamilton Ont. Dec. 1872. These are probably all similar appearance cancels, however our book should probably be changed to reflect the two uses in Guelph. (Does anyone out there have other strikes? The 1872 one?) The third item is L 1519, which has “unconfirmed use at the ‘House of Assembly’ (Provincial Parliament) Toronto Ont. ? 1875.” Mike’s cover is also an Ontario government use with a blue Treasury Department marking July 1875?. The Toronto PO CDS and the cancel are both black ink, which would indicate use of the cancel by the PO. There are many old covers with governmental marks as “old” government



files were often the source for postal history ‘finds’ in the recent past. The next illustration (below left) also explains another unconfirmed item, L 1687, and provides a better illustration. The envelopes contents indicate use at Toronto, Sept. 1872. The next item is (L 1687), which was supposed to be revised in the second edition to a new listing at L 1179 as a fancy ‘cross’. It was used at Waterford Ont., the CDS is too faint to determine when. The item at right below is a transit cancel, the cover started at Cedar Grove Ont. where it received a poor pen cancel. This was corrected with L 1522 used Toronto Ont. Nov.- Dec. 1875, then on to Armadale N.S.



The next two items below are part of what should be called the “Pembroke Ont. fancy 4’s” series. Pembroke used a variety of roughly made intaglio 4’s between 1883, and 1893, see L 72 to L 79. Some were recut or cleaned, and there are also some dating overlaps. The first one is the same size cork as L 73, but does not match it nor the other “4” L 74 also in use in 1886. The second one, Oct. 1889, is probably a late state of L 74. The last three items are common designs but all now have additional PO’s. The first is L 1486 (similar) St. Mary’s Ont., Sept. 1881, second L 1519, Collingwood Ont., July 1874, and L 1163, Sydney Mines N.S. Apr. 1882.



Mike also forwarded the item at right from a friend. I am quite sure it is a revenue or bank cancel.

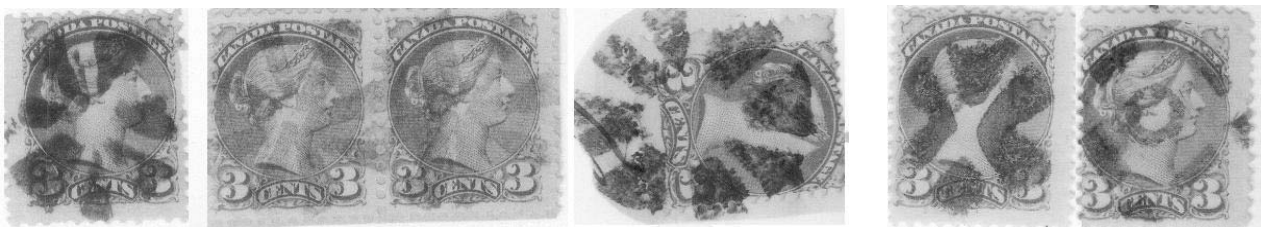


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Roger Squires sent these in, the first is a cover with a “flower” cancel somewhat similar to L 1248. His example was sent from Montreal (to Moncton NB), there is no CDS, but the stamp would indicate use in the 1890’s. His next cover shows the unusual “YARMOUTH-NS-DOMN OF CANADA –PAID-“ CDS with a cork insert. There is also a “normal” Yarmouth CDS, Aug. 1891. This is probably a late state of L 926 used between Jan 1885 and Apr. 1890. The next item is L 1241, used at Notre Dame St. West PO (Montreal) Que., in July 1896. The last cancel at right below is L 1539, used at New Liverpool Que., in Apr. 1873. The first four cancels in the



second row are basically variations on a theme, L1486 to L 1489. The first one (seven rays) is probably an early example of L1487, Kazubazua Que., June 1891. The last two are unlisted, comments on these are welcomed.

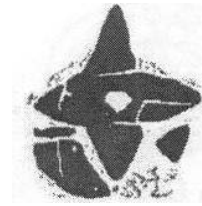
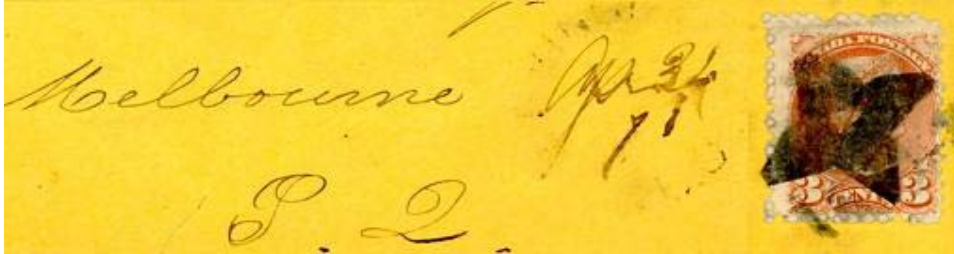


The fancels (a newword, please see Newsletter 67, pg. 4, para 3.) below are from Brian Hargreaves, and are a continuation of the “Toronto 2” items which first ran in newsletter 67, followed by the “Ottawa 8’s”.

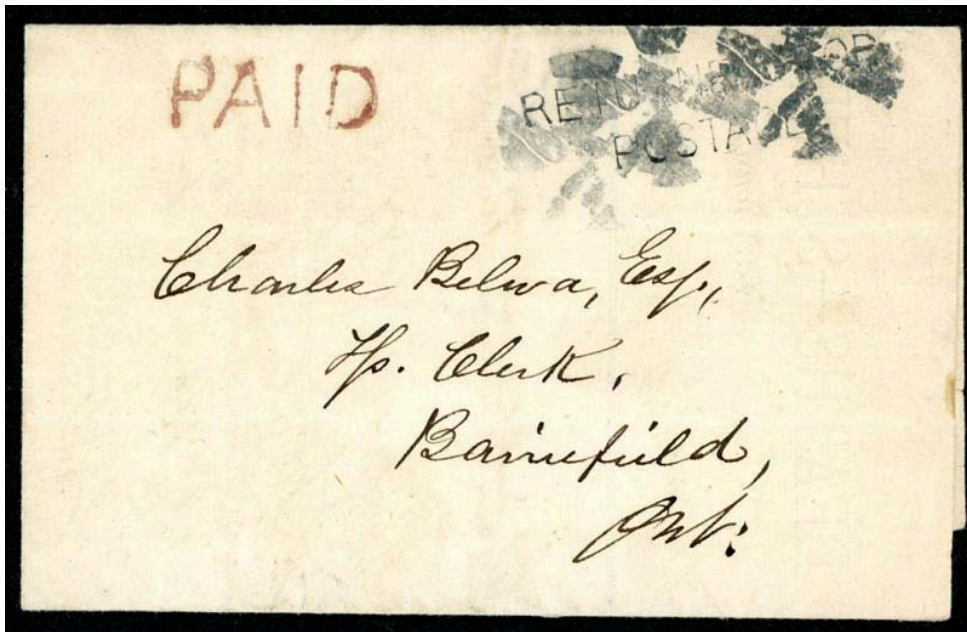


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Bob Stock sent in this somewhat enigmatic cover (I moved the CDS and address). The cancel is very similar to L 933 (in the cut in worn state) used in Toronto Ont. May 1871 to Jan. 1875. It has been noted as a receiver or a transit cancel on poorly cancelled items. Bob says the cover is from Bermingham Ont., (near Joyceville), and routing through Toronto would be somewhat backwards. The CDS is very poor, so other PO's are possible. The ms April 31 date works as there are only 30 days in April, and the cancel has been reported in May. This is also a very sharp dark strike as would be expected if brand new, and used by a keener.



Bob also sent in this unusual use of fancy cancels to cancel an instructional marking, and thus resend the cover. Bob...“The cover is a Death Certificate signed by a clergyman in Pittsburg Twp., Frontenac County. Date is April 24 1877. Unfortunately, there is no sending postmark, so we cannot be sure where the fancies were applied. It was an unsealed form, so the postmaster could easily have opened it to see who had sent it.” I have seen a similar case where a Federal “FREE” marking was cork obliterated (?in Ottawa PO?) as the cover was going over seas, and “Free” could not apply. Please send in any other examples.



Ron Smith has sent in this unusual, and unlisted “JG” or “DP” initial in blue, no other cancel, and on 6 cent SQ, yellow-brown shade. It may also be part of some instructional marking, as the bottom edge of the marking seems to extend at the left. Word test, ???DP.

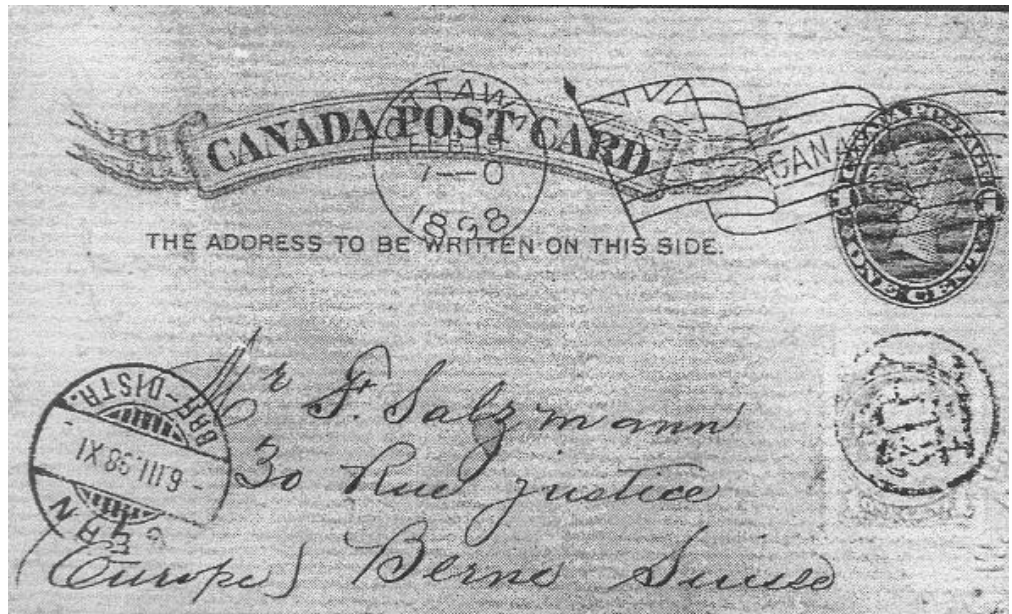


Ron also sent in the this new early date for L 1129, the St. Catherines usage, Apr. 1878.

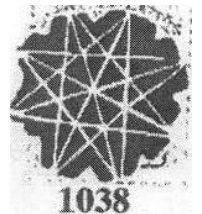


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Doug Lingard sent in this late use of the Ottawa crown. I had seen other possible uses of this crown in the late 1890, however the strikes were always very poor. I thus listed it as L 1297, which should now be delisted. The cancel was (re?) used in the period of 1897 to 1899 again for items needing special handling. It appears the cancel was not used between 1889 and about Jan. 1897.



Ron Leith's March 20 auction had a strike of L 1038, a fancy geometric cancel. This was reported in our book as "Toronto Ont., ? 68 Unconfirmed place and date." I cannot find the reference to this location, and suspect it was a coding error in my database. Ron's example clearly indicates use from Montreal Que. in July 1872.



Bill Pekonen has sent this 18 Aug. 1982 P.C. with Shellbrook NS (indices removed) # DNS 338 used out of period. The old hammer was probably reused for third class (printed matter) mail. He has the following question.



“Has anyone else seen this or any other duplex hammer that has been converted for the purpose of cancelling third class mail? What about regular CDS hammers?”

Keith Mackay sent in this unusual CDS, and asked what “NPB” stood for. The answer is that it is a U.K. marking “News Paper Branch”. I believe that this was a part of the “Foreign Branch” of the UK government. Perhaps some of our UK members can add some info? An odd thing about the NPB (& FB) is that they used some rather primitive hand carved cancels – at least before Keith's example. Also, when did ‘newspaper’ stop being two words?

Curiouser & curioser...



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George Dresser sent in this 2 cent Edward booklet pane with a Registration “R” cancel. He has concerns that the cancel may not be genuine, or may not be contemporary. There are many locally made registration “R”s”, our book shows some representative types L 744 to L 761, there are many more. I do not know what the ink penetration looks like, and perf hole staining might be useful as well, but my ‘gut’ reaction is that this is a “good” cancel, and on my one to ten scale (if ink penetration & perf holes are OK) this is a “9”. My thinking is... “The top R seems extra, but judging by the inking it was the last strike (fakers sometimes forget this and make all strikes equally dark and centered.) Also, it shows a right handed striker, second strike (left) is also misplaced as if done in the same hurried hand. Fakers often miss this too and have upright strikes with no angles. Any comments?”



FAKES, BOGUS AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

These three items were purchased as part of a mixed Small Queen cancel lot a few years ago. They are rather crude fakes as they are very rough approximations of genuine cancels, two are “hearts”, and one is a “pointing hand”. There was a faker who ‘worked’ the Ottawa/Montreal area in the 1960’s. He would prepare “unsorted” S.Q. pages and put some very rough fancy cancel fakes in. He would claim no knowledge of fancy cancels, and the gullible would purchase the page at a ‘sorta bargain’ price. He did not bother with details. I would also add that the fakes do pass ink penetration and perf hole tests, and only one has another cancel.



This cover was recently offered for sale on line by a dealer in Spain. It is a “Bogusman” (Littlefield) item previously described here as fake, and in our book as L1159 “dubious item”. Close examination reveals perf hole staining within the added oval where two of the original stamps were removed. See also the last page in this newsletter.



This item could best be described as “spurious”. It was described for sale as “akin to Lacelle 1493, it is really the reasonably common “mutilated 5” killer from Hamilton Ont., L 81, used Oct 1875 to May 1877. This is spurious as I don’t believe there was intent to defraud.



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This cover was reported as fake in our newsletter in 2006. At that time the “MF” was much more pronounced, the added ink has either faded in the “long” time of nine years, or has been tested (and failed) for water solubility. The CDS may have been ‘improved’ by the PM, but why not “just hit it again?” Nuff said.



The inks, usage, tying, under cancel (?) etc. on this cover just do not “work” for me. I have not examined the actual cover, but would at best give it a “4” on my one to ten scale of authenticity.



This cover with the Yarmouth “Y” insert, our D 424 “spurious” is another “Bogusman” (Littlefield) production, please see the last page. This is the only recorded strike. Although Yarmouth used several other fancy “Y” cancels as well as an unusual CDS with “DOMN. OF CANADA” text, this is ten years earlier than the others, The PM, AJ Hood was the same from 1870 to 1907. There is apparently a reference to use of the 2 Ring 18 (in cut) after June 1873, can anyone confirm this? These numeral hammers were solid brass, the centre of the hammer would have to be drilled out for the “Y” to be inserted, and it could not be resurrected as an “18” later...



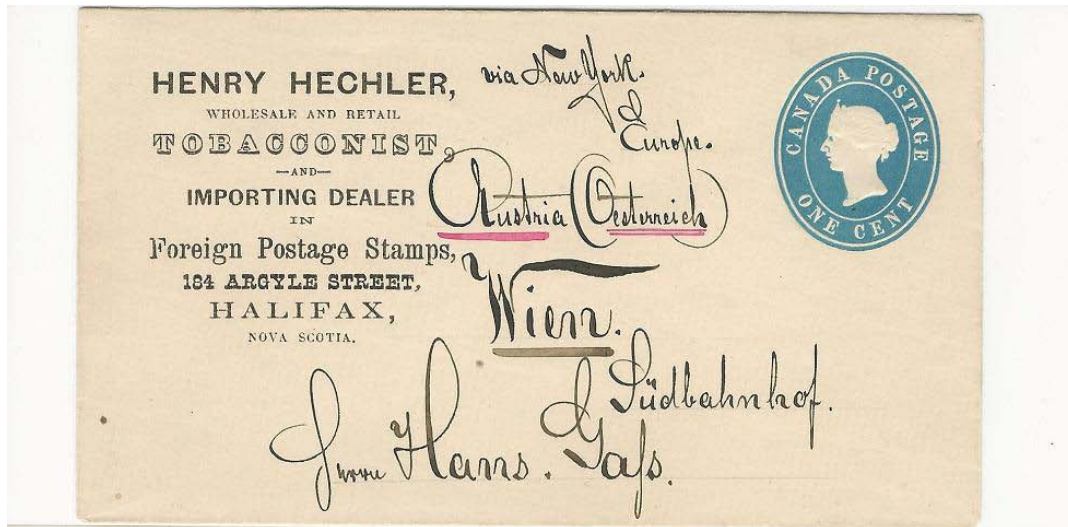
The inks within this fancy do not agree, and it appears to be ‘painted’ over an existing cancel. I have not seen the original, but would give it a “2” on my one to ten scale of authenticity.



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The item below was sent in by Keith Mackay, and was in some material he bought a year ago. It appears to come from some annotated collection or display. Fred Jarrett wrote articles in Topics Sept. '63, and May 72, which included some of this information. Whoever wrote this must have gotten such exact information as "42,000 1 cent" from Doc Day as the exact numbers are not in the articles above.

Personally, I think that the text below is a little 'hard' on Hechler, times were different then, and we should perhaps not judge him by modern standards of 'perfection'.



Originally a tobacconist, with a shop on the waterfront in Halifax, Henry Hechler encouraged his sailor customers to bring in stamps, and he developed a lucrative business first in stamps, and later to art treasures.

When the North-West Rebellion of 1885 broke out, Hechler, a Major in the 67th Battalion of Halifax, availed himself of the opportunity to exploit collectors. Whether or not he accompanied the troops to the prairies is not known, but covers with the battalion imprint started coming through the mails.

Hechler was on good terms with the 'boys' at the post office in Halifax, who obliged him by cancelling bisected 2¢ Small Queens on piece. When Hechler died in 1928, he left the greatest accumulation of 19th century B.N.A. ever gotten together. Dr. Day obtained one lot that contained 42,000 1¢, 30,000 2¢ and 350,000 3¢, as well as other values, of the Small Queens, all in bundles of 100, and all UNPICKED. Basis for Dr. Day's Fancy Cancel Collection.

Henry Hechler was a master penman, addressed many covers to himself. Above cover is in Hechler's handwriting.

The material on the last page is from a study of the "Bogusman" material as presented in this newsletter over the last few years. In the late 1950's when fancy cancel material for the Day and Smythies book was being prepared one member of the S.Q. SG was suspicious that too much unique and dramatic material was appearing from just one source – L.L. Littlefield aka "Bogusman". He visited LL, and prepared quick sketches (with CDS info.) of the 35 items in LL's possession at that time. These sketches correspond to items which later appeared on the market, and were bought by Doc Day and others in the early 1960's. Most of them have been described as "dubious" in our book. I have the original sketches, and have personally examined all the cancel items. There are about 130 references in the literature. A bit of background on "LL". He was born about 1900, and was a US military trained draftsman – thus very familiar with inks, papers etc. He was a member of BNAPS (and study groups) from the 1950's to the late 1970's. I searched for commonalities within these cancels, details next page. I do not know if LL also "did" USA fancy cancels, but would not be surprised if so.

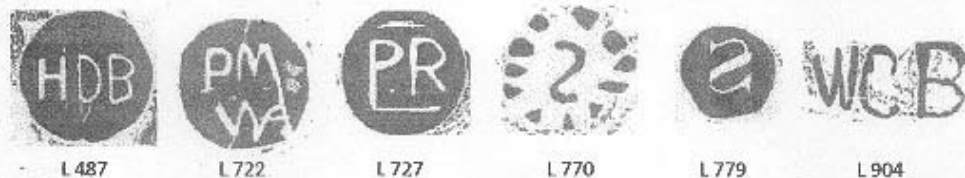
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1. Of the 35 fancy cancels (mostly PM or PO initials) 25 (!) **are unique**, and usually on cover. No other strikes have appeared in over 50 years despite requests for further example via our book, newsletters etc.
2. He had a flair for dramatic high visual (thus valuable) appearance items.
3. The covers are genuine postal items, stamps have often been changed, and cancels added. They are often in a dull writing ink. They were sold individually there never was a "Littlefield fancy collection" sale.
4. He also faked (sometimes on cover) the six items at bottom. Comparison with other (genuine) strikes indicates several differences. There may also be fakes of LL's fakes out there...

L. Littlefield (aka "Bogusman") fancy cancels. Source, series of rough file card sketches from about 1960. The first 25 items here are all unique (i.e. only known examples), and most are covers. All of the file card items are shown here.



The six items below are sometimes genuine cancels, and sometimes Littlefield fakes. The fakes are usually covers.



Erratum, The following item, L 910 should have been illustrated after L 909 above. All at about ¾ scale.

