

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 69

Sept. 2015

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Group News.

I must apologize for the delay of this newsletter, usually I send one just before the annual convention, however there has been a great deal going on in "the little life that is Dave" recently. It is terrible when real life gets in the way of our hobbies! I must also admit that I have lately been too involved in the somewhat addictive field of Sudokucology. I'm at the level 9 however! (Apologies to those of you who 'do not get the joke', my sympathies to those of you who do.)

At least 15 of you have sent in "stuff" for this newsletter. This is a GREAT input – even if the Editor is a bit tardy. I have two items to personally add at the end of this newsletter, space permitting. Firstly there are 56 fancy cancel illustrations in our book which are described as "Unconfirmed, I have never seen". I have listed these as previous publications have presented drawings of them as genuine fancy cancels. With rare exceptions, these illustrations in our book are from the sketches (or tracings) in the Day and Smythies publication. Many of these sketches were from random "blobs" of ink (some P.M.'s cancelled with a piece of rag on a stick!), deformed or part strikes of other cancels, "wishful thinkings" of unique or rare "findings", fakes of other cancels, or possibly foreign (or other) markings. Some of them may however be real, and just have not been reported (see page 2 "new" collection from 1960's) in the intervening 34 years. If you have any examples of these items, please **SEND 'EM IN**.

I will run some of these in this and the next newsletter as a sort of "last ditch attempt" to find out any information about them. In the absence of any forthcoming new information, these items should probably all be discarded in any future edition of our book. The second edition of D&S was 1981, all these "unconfirmed" items were queried in this newsletter before our first edition in 2000, and a few have been verified since then for our second edition in 2007.

The second item I would like to add is the 1892 list of Canadian Stamp Collectors as published in "Canada and her Stamp Collectors", first edition, 1892, by L.M. Staebler of London Ont. This was also presented in our newsletter 51 in 2009, and to my surprise there was no "feedback". Although 1892 was towards the end of the fancy cork era, some of these collectors, dealers, philatelic librarians, and even a "Counterfeit Detective" might have used (ie made) fancy cancels for use to each other (etc.) **Please do a quick check of any SQ 1890's fancy cancel covers** you may have and see if they are to/from these gents . There certainly were plenty of "philatelic" covers 25 years later. I note that the list is not complete, one major dealer name, Henry Hechler of Halifax (died 1928) is missing.

I am also pleased to announce that all our newsletters to date are now available on the BNAPS website. Previously there was a five year delay and this has now been lifted for our group. I doubt if this will affect any dues collection, and I would prefer to have current information requests etc. on line.

Finally, Alexander Globe is preparing a detailed study of the Toronto 2 fancy cancels, L 18 to L 54. At one time over 65 "different" Toronto 2 "types" were believed to exist. I cut this down to 37 as there seemed to be considerable duplication. There was some unhappiness about this. He has all my notes, and I can forward any other information .

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 68, pg.3. middle of page, ref. to L1179. A second copy has turned up, the PO should be Toronto, May 188?3.

Newsletter 68, pg.6. Bill Pekonen's NS CDS is Sherbrooke NS, NOT Shellbrooke. Does anyone else have examples of outdated duplex or CDS hammers used in this fashion?

Newsletter 68, pg.7. The first fake "heart" cancel. Here is a scan of the genuine example from the Day collection. I am now a bit curious as this "Day" example seems to be unique. Are there any other examples out there?



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Guy Jeffries discovered an old Canadian fancy cancel collection for sale at a Florida stamp dealer. The collection seemed to date from around the time of the first edition of Day and Smythies (1961) in that some of the items appeared as late listings (see BNA Topics, Feb. 1963, pg. 35 for a few.), yet D&S numbers were not used. With a bit of detective work, we were able to identify the European collector. As well as sending material to D&S in 1961, he also sent some material to our study group in 1992 (see N.L. # 9). The items which follow are all “new information” from this collection, just 54 years late. I might add that Guy sent in over 45 covers, many were “new” geometric cancels (especially “Ottawa Geometrics”), and are not illustrated now as any attempt to list all the geometric cancels used over 30+ years is way beyond my ability. I also regret that I have to cut down and or move the CDS on many of these. Thanks Guy, this is a valuable addition to our study area.

1. A lovely example of the Masonic triangle L1338 new early date used at Kingston Ont., Jan – Feb. 1872.
2. The homemade “R” L756 new early date used at St. Hyacinthe Que., Sept. 1876 – Nov. 1877. Most “R” cancels like this were homemade versions of the official Registration “R” see L745 – L761. This one has been reported in various uses however. It should also be noted that it is not a PM initial (PM E.L.R.C. Desprie), and there is no real reason to cancel the stamp part of a Post card. Curiousier ‘n curiousier...
3. A flower design L1248 new early date used on the Railway P.O. ” L & P.S. RR” July 1879 – Mar. 1880. As this was used on the train, several CDS “locations” have been noted, these are really receiving marks. I note also this early strike has one more ray (in oval) than appears in our illustration. It was already weak in 1879, and just a tiny “smudge” in 1880.



1



2



3



4.



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5 The Toronto "C" (previous page) parcel cancel L354 confirming use at Carleton St. PO. Used between 1889, and 1892 (here Sept. 1890). Parcel cancel hammers were short unlike the "hammers" used for CDS purposes, so that delicate parcels were not "clobbered". Parcel wrappers often do not survive so some of these are scarcer than one might think. Note also the odd use as a secondary cancel on the stamp, and the "second thoughts" registration stamp.

6. There were two examples of this unlisted oval geometric from Liverpool NS Feb. and Sept. 1878. Both (different handwriting) were addressed to Antoine Hechler, the brother of Halifax stamp dealer Henry Hechler at Henry's store 194 Argyle St. Halifax. Note also transposed numbers in one, but Postie got it right... lot's of mail to Henry Hechler.

7. This is the "tortoise?" D&S 308, L 1438 "... may be just a blob." Other than the D&S sketch, was that it was on a "late 3 cent S.Q. (Smythies, Covers magazine). The example here is on cover, Pointe au Pic, Que., Aug. 1897. The central hollow portion is probably a screw head. This is the only example, and I believe "just a blob" is correct.

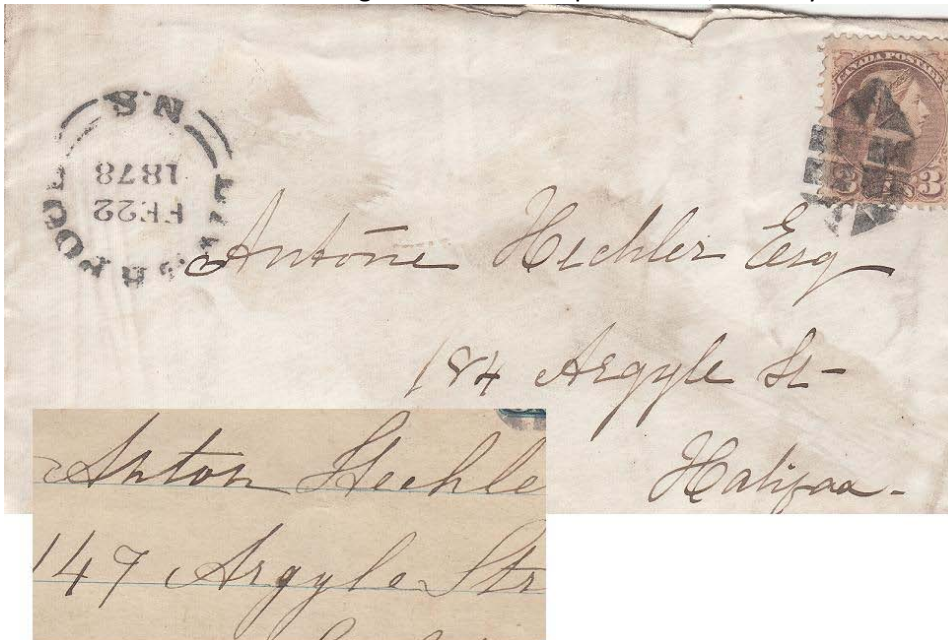
8. A drilled out CDS hammer with a cork inserted to act as a canceller, L 372, new late date, used Oct. 1882 – Jan. 1891, Dartmouth NS. The cork may have been changed over time, and a regular CDS was also used on the cover.

9. An unlisted Ottawa geometric, somewhat similar to L 1507, used May 1870. Note unusual nine rays.

10. Another unlisted Ottawa geometric, used Dec. 1877. Pretty.

11. A Toronto geometric, probably a late state of L 1257, Apr. 1872 – Dec. 1872

12. Another unlisted Ottawa geometric. Incomplete strike, but maybe intended as a star? Sorta like L1009?



7



8

6

10



9



11/12



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Guy also sent in the three items below which were not from the "54 year" material. The first one is on piece, and is probably a late state of L 1629, used Nov. 1871 to Mar. 1873. There is an ms note with his, Aug. 1873, and although this is a long use for a Toronto cork, an extra five months is possible. Some of the Toronto corks were cleaned and/or recut (which would just take seconds with a pocket knife) which makes for somewhat "difficult" listings. The next item looks like a fairly common design, a rayed cork similar to L 1524, but with the unusual feature of 17 rays rather than the easier to carve 8, or 16. Victoria Road Ont., Mar. 1886. The third item is a very early state of L 1479, and shows a small "cross" in the centre. I had speculated in our book that L 1230 (a "star" cancel was possibly the same as this, however Guy's strike appears to be from the mid to late 1880's, and L 1230 is known on cover (with wear) in 1883, so obviously I was wrong.



Yohan Tanguay sent in the items below for my perusal. They are both "Toronto 2's" L 23, used in Sept. 1869, and show that my illustration in the book seems to be distorted



John Burnett sent in two "On Her Majesty's Service" covers from Victoria BC with this simple bar design (above, right). BC would have been in Canada for just two years then, and there are few fancy cork cancels from BC.

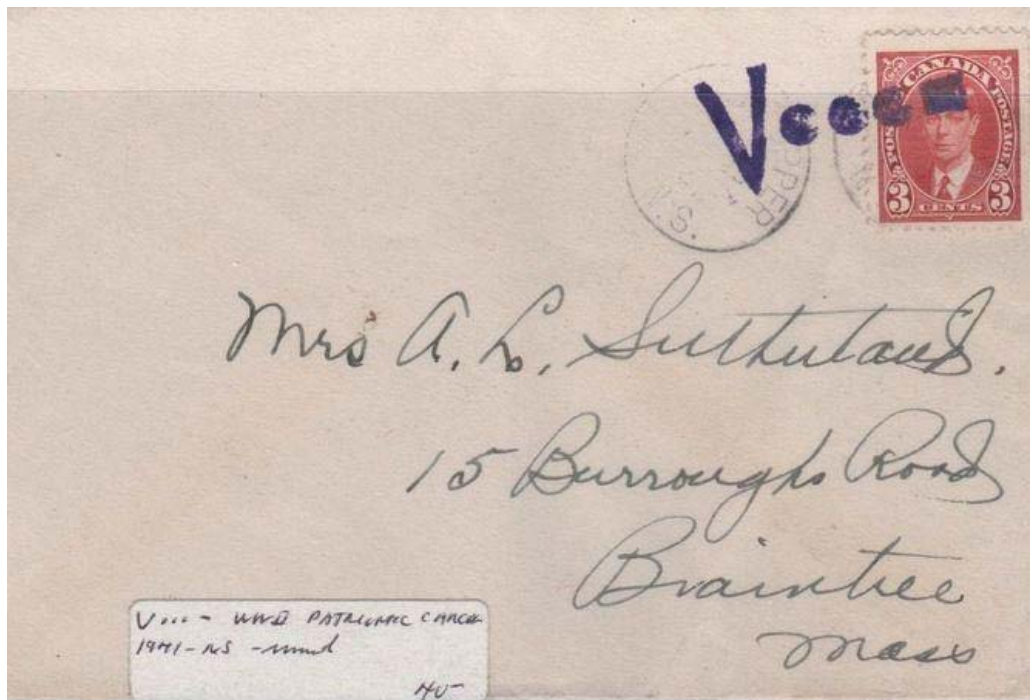
Ron Smith has sent in a whole bunch of stuff. His first item (below) is something he spotted on Hugo Deshayé's listings www.hdphilatelist.com and is very similar to L 1021, which has been confirmed (sorta) as from Windsor Ont. in Apr. 1888. This Windsor strike was in red on a red stamp, which explains why the D&S illustration was used in our book. I would be pleased to receive any other cover examples of this. The item here is from Montreal, Dec. 1891 to Germany, and would have not been near Windsor. As the D&S illustration is a sketch, and the Windsor cover is unprintable, any further cover examples would be appreciated. (I was unable to determine if the Apr. 1888 cover might have come through Montreal.) This brings up another concern. **As I no longer collect, I do not follow all of the various dealer/auction/online offerings. If you see anything in one of these sources, please send a reference to me. I will try to credit the original source, and am not a bidding competitor to you. Thanks.** Ron (& Guy Jeffries) has sent along this odd "grid" cancel from Charlottetown PEI, used Sept 1874, and Oct. 1874. The next item is an unlisted "WB" cancel. I have not examined the actual item, it appears to be an early '70's shade, and might be a partial "?WB". There may be ink from another cancel in the left arm "W", bottom of "B", and below the cancel. If so, this ink is very similar to the cancel ink. Any other examples out there? Ron suggests that item four is a better strike than the one in our book of L 1611. I agree, L 1611 now confirmed as Toronto, Dec. (25 !) 1871.



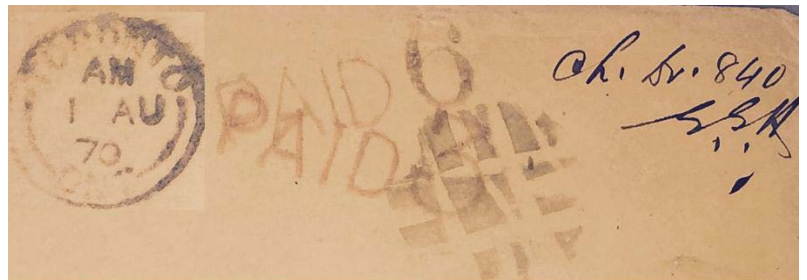
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Mike Halhed sent in this cover with a “new” homemade ‘V for Victory’ cancel. See L 864 for more info. I am still waiting for details on two of the other examples from Nipissing Junction Ont., and Bolney Sask.

This “V” is from Point Tupper NS, ? 1941. It could not be from before Winston Churchill’s speech July 19, 1941, and would not be a USA mark as they joined the war in Jan 1942.



Mike also sent in this piece (wrapper?) showing a cork used to “cancel” an incorrect ‘stampless’ rate. This is unusual, but I have also seen corks used to cancel “FREE” government mailings when they could not be free, The ms probably means “Charge (bulk mailer) Drawer 840 authorized GSH”



His other items at right are a new location for L 1399, Kleinberg Ont., May 1883, and also for L 1515, Ottawa July 1871.



Randy Evans sent in this item which he had received from Burwell Stamps. These “Town Name” handstamps are sometimes referred to as “bundle markings” They were most often prepared by P&A of Ottawa, and were solid metal hammers. Many were used on Railway Post Offices. A ‘bundle’ of mail to a specific town would be prepared, and the top (or wrapper) would be stamped with the appropriate name. They would also sometimes be used as cancels, and Appendix 1 lists about 140 examples of them used as cancels. This Pickering is a new listing, and i note that Pickering does not have any fancy cancels reported in our book. One other item, this appears to be hand set type rather than the more usual solid hammer – the letters move a bit.



Mark Berner sent in this misshapen segmented cork, somewhat similar to L 1531, but used in Levis Que., May 1889. The cover was the unusual 27 cent rate, made up of nine 3 cent SQ’s.



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Gary Steele would like to purchase any strikes (wax or ink) of Canadian "Crown Wax Seals" such as L 1270 to L 1272. These seals were issued to each P.O. as it opened, and were originally intended only to place an "official" wax seal on the closure of mail bags. They were also used for "important" P.O. sealed letters to Ottawa (?or London?). The first ones were manufactured by Berri of London. (I think they were issued to other colonial P.O.'s, think I saw one from ?Bermuda? once. Can anyone provide more info? A scan would be GREAT!) Occasionally they were used as cancel hammers, or to "officially" reseal damaged private correspondence. They were later made by Pritchard & Andrews of Ottawa, and were still being produced up to about 1946. The example below is a too perfect proof strike from the hammer I own. The hammer is 115 cm (4 5/8 inch) long. This was made by Berri of London, and would have been sent to Halls Harbour P.O. when it opened in 1869.

I would also like to know of any strikes (or actual hammers) so as to update Appendix 4 in our book – which has about 160 examples and over 20 new listings since the second edition. Gary's address is **83 Baker Drive, Middle Sackville, NS, B4E 1V2.** (email address available from me.)



George Power who collects postal history from Dufferin County Ont. has sent in two examples of this rather simple cork cancel from Amaranth Station Ont., Apr. and May 1875.



In several other newsletters I have commented on philatelic (or joke) Small Queen (used until 1897) AIRMAIL cancels. There were a great many fancy "First Flight" philatelic covers in the early days of aviation. Some of these were a bit "shady", or were just for fun. This 1933 Queen Vic. Jubilee on a first flight cover is an example of the latter.



FAKES, BOGUS AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

This item appears to be a rather elaborate exercise in graphic design, and is probably from the same source as the "Ottawa drafting" fakes described in Newsletter 65. The stamp has been added, and is not tied with the fake cancel. There is possible ink from another cancel at top, and traces of the perf hole stains from the removed stamp. I moved the CDS from elsewhere on the cover.



This item is one that I have some difficulty with. At first glance it appears to be the Toronto 2, L37. On closer examination I have some doubts however. This cancel was apparently recut or cleaned (which would have taken just seconds) during use, and I have also noted some fakes. It was listed as five different cancels in D&S, with the D&S number 63 probably being a fake. Given the above, I would give this at best a "5" on my 1-10 scale of authenticity



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This unlisted radial is another “Simpson Stuart” Hamilton doctored post card. The inks do not match, and there was no need to cancel the stamp part of a post card. These Simpson Stuart fake cancels on post cards have been mentioned in several previous newsletters. The source of them apparently was a small time stamp dealer in Southern Ontario during the late 1950’s. (Simpson Stuart was a wholesale grocer in Hamilton, it seems to have closed in the late 1920’s.)



Another Simpson Stuart post card with similar concerns as above. This is a bit more of a problem this time as it was listed in D&S as “802 ... A similar but larger wheel from St. Catherines, Ont., 1882” (Topics Feb. ’63, pg.35). This info was then carried over to our book as L 1154. This is the only known example, and L 1154 should be deleted.



From the same source as above, but the post card is addressed to R. Laidlaw in Milton Ont. Inks do not match, previously not reported, and unique etc.

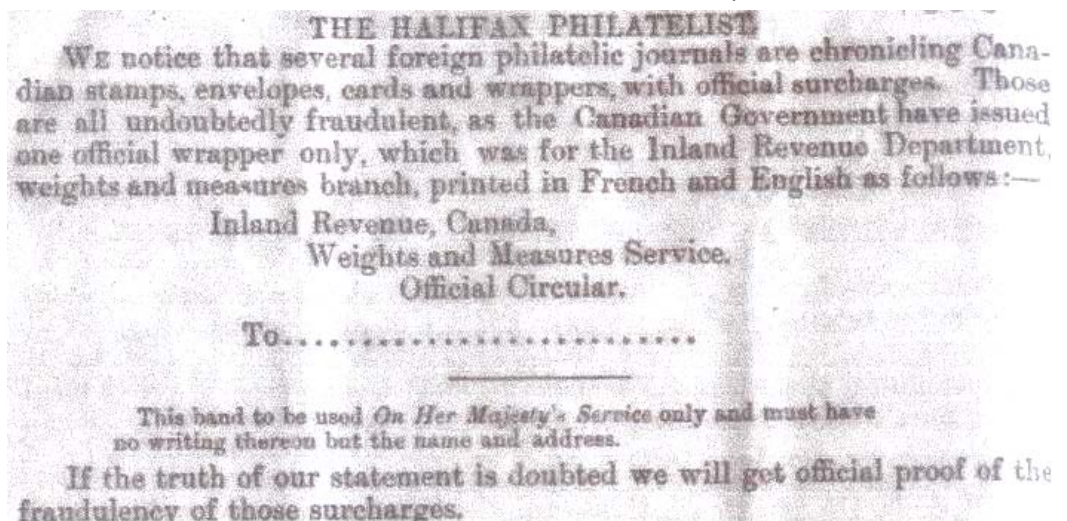


There were a series of emails regarding a bogus “High Street Toronto” CDS used on the 1897 Jubilee issue, mainly (?only?) on the higher values. The issue included \$1.00 to \$ 5.00 stamps. (Think about it, how much could you mail for \$ 5.00 in 1897!) There never was a High Street in Toronto, the closest name was “High Park” which opened in 1935. In the early 1900’s there were remainders of the high value Jubilees sold by the National Postal Department. I do not know if discounts were offered – probably not as they were still good for postage. Some stamp dealers thus had an odd situation; they had more mint than genuine used high value Jubilees. Further, genuine used high values usually had parcel roller or were really “clobbered” to prevent reuse. There were few genuine used CDS or other authentic light cancels. Light CDS cancels were more valuable (or more saleable) than mint, a ‘need was answered’ and someone made a “High Street” CDS. **Could someone please send in a scan of one of these for the next N.L. ?**

This little ‘beastie’, a fake star and moon cancel has appeared in several different versions. The first one was presented in the fakes section of our N.L. 61 in Dec. 2012. It was prepared by a collector “to show how easy it could be...”. The next one has recently been for sale by auction there appear to be traces of another cancel. The third was sent to me in 1991 (, and the last is our 2000 book illustration which I now believe is a smeared partial oval parcel cancel similar to L 14 or L 191, and shall delist. Item three may also be a fake of L 1376.



This item appeared in the “Halifax Philatelist, Apr. 1888”, and probably refers to Henry Hechler’s unofficial “SERVICE” over prints. It is interesting as he worked out of Halifax. The comment in NL 68, pg. 9 re.” Hechler on good terms with the boys at Halifax PO” & cancelled 2 cent bisected S.Q’s, see text for our D 234, re. official Halifax P.O. hammer.



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This geometric cancel – on cover – with different ink (slightly bluish) faint CDS Toronto, Dec 1874 has traces of another cancel, and an area under poor Queen Vic’s chin where ink eradicator has been used, etc. The second cancel, (an “N”?), Coldwater Ont., June 1886 also has ink problems, the stamp appears later than 1886, and the CDS may have been partly penned in. (Some collection exhibitors did this in the past for ‘clarity’.) A “4” on my 1-10 scale.



More information has been provided about this (cut down here) cover featured in our last newsletter, and described as “...just does not ‘work’ for me.” The letter inside is from Newmarket Ont., Sept. 1875, backstamps are Kensington square and Toronto. Modern “Wellington Square” is near downtown Toronto, Kensington Square (Condo Dev.) is close to it, the “WAY” part might work but... Wellington Square PO in 1875 was part of modern Burlington Ont., (became Burlington in 1876). There has never been a Kensington P.O. The “WAY” part does not work in 1875. Also, the ink on the “WAY” is from a dry ink pad, cancel is otherwise.

As mentioned on pg. 1, here is the 1892 list of “Canada and Her Stamp Collectors” by L.M. Staebler of London Ont. Do any of you have fancy (or otherwise) covers between these gents?

Name	City	Status	Notes
Sorted by name.			
Allen, CA	Winnipeg Man.	Collector	na
Beatty, WJ	Ottawa Ont.	Collector	"Old time" collector.
Bernstein, J	Montreal Que.	Collector	na
Clark, TS	Peterborough Ont.	Dealer	Teller with Bank of Montreal.
De Wolf, ABS	Halifax N.S.	Collector	na
Dickson, HS	London Ont.	Collector	Librarian, Phil. Soc.
Graves, SM	Summerside PEI	Collector	na
Grenny, FJ	Brantford	Dealer	P.M., Brantford, Morrisburg, St. George, Military
Hall, WK	Peterborough Ont.	Dealer	Also a law student.
Hannington, RW	Dorchester N.B.	Collector	na
Harding, F	Kamloops BC	Collector	na
Hooper, JR	Ottawa Ont.	Collector	Savings Bank Br. Of P.O. Dept., aka "Canadensis".
Jacques, EH	Montreal Que.	Collector	Librarian, Phil. Soc.
Ketcheson, HF	Belleville Ont.	Dealer	Railway P.O. Clerk, publisher
Liddencourt, WH	London Ont.	Collector	Principal "London West" schools.
Lowe, GA	Toronto Ont.	Dealer	Principal "Lowe's Commercial Academy".
McMahon, W	Toronto Ont.	Collector	Dry goods and gents finishing business.
McRae, RF	Montreal Que.	Collector	"Counterfeit Detective", Phil. Soc.
Miller, L.	Toronto Ont.	Collector	na
Milligan, AH	London Ont.	Dealer	A new dealer.
Mooers, HF	? Ottawa Ont.	Collector	na
Parker, EY	Toronto Ont.	Dealer	"Old time" collector.
Pauley, EJH	Halifax N.S.	Collector	na
Phillips, EJ	Toronto Ont.	Collector	na
Robertson, JS	St. Thomas Ont.	Collector	Lawyer, "McDougall & Robertson".
Staebler, JM	London Ont.	Dealer	Publisher.



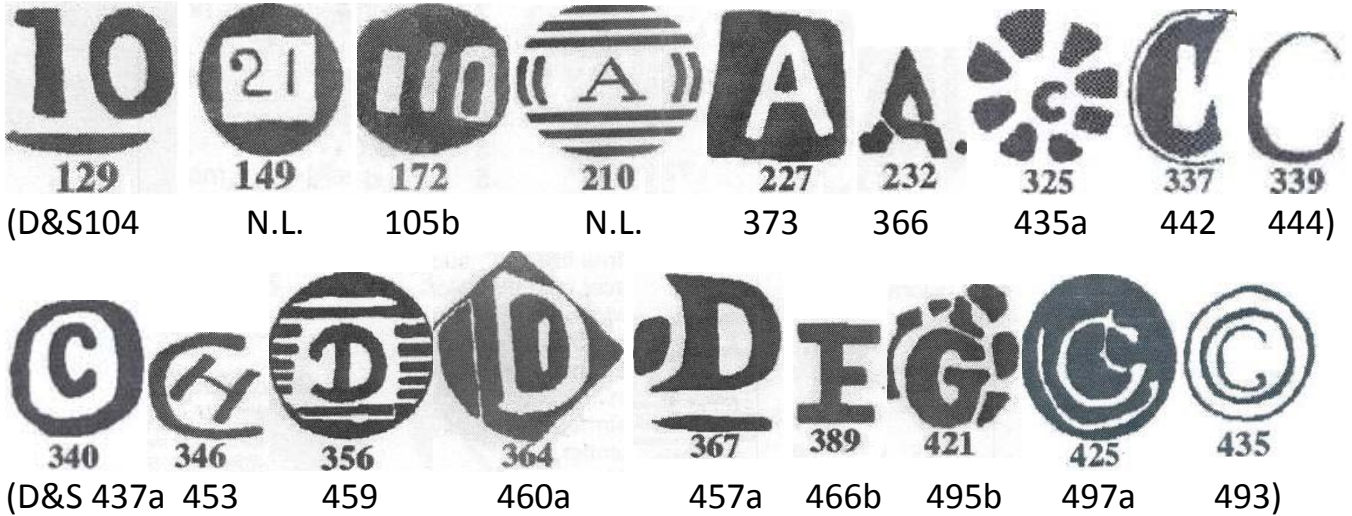
"On the labor front . . . postal workers became so irate today over contract negotiations, they resorted to stamping their feet in protest."

OK, so it is hard to read, but I did have a bit of extra space...

This has been a somewhat difficult newsletter to prepare in that it seems to go ‘all over the map’ so to speak. I have enjoyed preparing it when I have (finally) found the 25th hour in a few days. Hopefully there is something in it for all of you. Keep sending that material, and have a good Winter. Take care, Dave Lacelle

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'n almost forgot, here is the first batch of "Unconfirmed, I have never seen..." items Any info. would be GREAT.



And just after I was "going to press" in comes this EA catalogue Oct. 23 & 24 sale. Lots of neat stuff, just grabbed three of 'em FYI. Unfortunately the "paper copies" of this newsletter will not receive this info below – already printed, and at postal weight limit.



Eastern Auctions Ltd.
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514 © Collection of Fancy Cancels on Small Queen Issues An appealing lot of 176 stamps, mostly 3c stamps from copper red to second Ottawa printings, some other values and several multiples, plus 12 covers. Wide range of fancy stars, geometrics, numerals, letters, etc. The odd flaw, otherwise strikes are quite selected throughout and offering plenty of material for the fancy cancel specialist. Est. 750.00+

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The items below are also in the EA sale, previous page. The descriptions are too long for here, but I do have a bit to add about the first cover... This is a spectacular Hechler cover, the calligraphic writing style is one of his personal characteristics, as is the "SERVICE" overprint. (See page 7 also). Note, that while the "SERVICE" and red crest sorta imply military or Government use, in this example it does not claim to provide "free Government" postage as was the case with the much later government "OHMS", or "G" overprints. There was no reason to "free" mark a printed envelope in the 1880's, it is already paid for, and the other postage was added as appropriate. "Dr. Google" informed me that the I.M.C. existed from 1842 to 1950, employed up to 5,500 people (mostly Brits) and had a VERY wide range of functions including postal administration. The Engineering Office was in Shanghai, they repaired "engines". The cover appears to be genuine, and "very" fancy. Was it returned to Hechler?



Lovely cancel item below... L 1295. (OHMS appears genuine, postage added as required.) Note this was very late use of this hammer, damage to "R", and "D", it was first used in 1864, last date reported was Feb. 1886..

