

## Synopsis

### Title of Exhibit

Fancy Cancels during the Small Queen Period:1870-1897.

### Purpose of Exhibit

The purpose of this exhibit is to display the variety of domestic fancy cancels that can be found on Canadian stamps, covers and postal cards during the Small Queen Period: 1870-1897.

### Scope of Exhibit

The exhibit provides information on the period of use, the post office of origin when known, and in some instances, describes what the cancels represent, such as for postmaster initials. Most of the cancels in this exhibit have been listed in one or more fancy cancel handbooks (Day & Smythies 1961; and Lacelle 2018) and some of the classic Canadian philatelic publications (cf. Jarrett 1975).

The exhibit is organized into ten Sections based on cancel designs. Details on sub-classes of cancels are provided on the first page of each Section.

Letters, Initials, and Place Names	Geometric Shapes and Patterns
Stars	Leaves and Flowers
Crosses	Faces, Bogey Heads and Masks
Crowns, Flags, and Crests	Miscellaneous Pictorials
Masonic Symbols	Numerals

Within the Geometric Shapes and Patterns section, representative examples of basic patterns such as segmented and hatched corks, and concentric rings are included. The variety of patterns of these ‘more common’ killers is shown to illustrate that collectively, they are an important sub-class within fancy cancels and warrant inclusion in this exhibit.

Some examples of partial or worn strikes are shown to illustrate how they appear to be and have erroneously been reported as ‘different’ cancels. However, fake and forged fancy cancels and the techniques for distinguishing them from legitimate cancels are not included in this exhibit.

### Significance (Rarity)

Most fancy cancels were in use for a short period of time, and many were used in small post offices with relatively low letter volumes. Unlike cancels such as squared circles and duplexes that have been studied and for which censuses exist, no such comprehensive database has been published for fancy cancels. However, this author is one of the significant contributors to a shared Google Drive containing scans of fancy cancel covers for select cities such as Ottawa, ON and Saint John, NB (see Halhed 2023). The rarity factor given in Lacelle 2018 is subjective and not quantitative. For stamps or covers being the ‘only reported’ and / or being the ‘discovery’ copy, have captions with **bold text**.

Significant items are denoted with a **red border**.

February 26, 2023

## Research

This exhibit represents over 30 years of collecting and research related to Canadian fancy cancels. The third edition of the 'Handbook of Fancy Cancels on Canadian Stamps 1855 to 1950' (Lacelle 2018) cites over 350 revisions to the second edition. Material in this exhibit comprises over 75 of those 350 revisions including new early- and late-use dates, previously unreported cancels, and identifying the post offices of origin for cancels. This original research has been reported by this author in the BNAPS Fancy Cancel & Miscellaneous Markings Newsletters from 1996 (no. 17) to 2022 (no. 93) inclusive.

The originating post office for many fancy cancels is still unknown. Two examples in this exhibit showing research linking cancels to specific post offices are:

1. The 'Alexandria' Ontario cancel under 'A' in the Letters, Initials and Place Names Section.
2. The '236' cancel in the Numerals Sections.

Cancels for which the post office is still unknown are mounted on a **gray background**.

Several cancels that were 'delisted' in the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Lacelle (2018) are included in this exhibit. New research by the author points to their legitimacy. The rationale for including them is explained in the supporting text.

Original research not included in the third edition of Lacelle is denoted with a



## Philatelic References

BNAPS Fancy Cancel & Miscellaneous Markings Newsletters 1996 (no 17) to 2022 (no. 93).

Day, K.M. and E.E. Smythies, 1981. Canadian Fancy Cancellations of the Nineteenth Century, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. British North American Philatelic Society Handbook, 156p.

Jarrett, F. 1975. Stamps of British North America. Quartermain reprint, 595p.

Lacelle, D. 2018. Handbook of Fancy Cancels on Canadian Stamps 1855 to 1950, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. British North American Philatelic Society (BNAPS) Ltd. 240p.

Halhed, M(ike). 2023. Fancy cancels on cover – shared google drive. Permission granted for judges to call: 613 867-7221 or email him at [mikehalhed@gmail.com](mailto:mikehalhed@gmail.com) to obtain access to the drive. (February 26, 2023).