

Squared Circle Postmarks of Nova Scotia

The purpose of this exhibit is to display the Squared Circle Postmarks and their usage in the Province of Nova Scotia. The “Squared Circle” cancelling devices were first used in 1893 when these hammers were brought into use in over 300 towns and cities in Canada and extended to the early 1900s. There are 33 different NS hammers and states, including the 2 Halifax Hammers and 2 Yarmouth States. (31 towns).

The plan includes strikes of all known Squared Circle hammers used in NS (Type I and Type II) displayed on both stamp and cover with dates of use, rates and usages, and time-marks, illustrated covers and usage on special stamps like the Jubilees and “The Map Stamp”. The exhibit also includes the Halifax 1992 Barred Circle (precursor).



Type I



Type II

This is the **most** comprehensive and thorough display/collection of this material in existence, including several unique examples (combinations of known strikes on certain stamps or covers), and numerous items known in **10 or fewer examples**. Significant use through Small Queen, Leaf, Numeral, Jubilee, Map, Edwards, and occasional Admirals.

***Diagram and Picture**
from “The Squared Circle
Postmarks of Canada”
– Moffett and Hansen 1981.



The Squared Circle Hammer

The acronyms “ERD” and “LRD” are used to signify “**Earliest recorded date**” and “**Latest recorded date**”. Also, each Hammer has been assigned a “**Rarity Factor**” or “**RF**” to indicate relative known scarcity based on recorded historical counts.

Our own research or findings are designated with:



Sources: Wikipedia, Squared Circles Postmarks of Canada – 6th Edition. (Illustrations of proof strikes for each town, ERD and LRD, quantities, time-marks, RF, etc.)



Location Map

Items of significance and/or rarity are shown outlined in red.