

BNAPS Fancy Cancel Study Group Newsletter No. 3

Dave Lacelle.

Group News:

≅ Nov. 89

We now have 40 members, which makes us a mid-sized BNAPS group. In the next newsletter (unless there are any objections) I intend to publish the list of members and our special interest(s) [1]. If you have not told me of your sub-specialities please drop me a line. If anyone wishes to have anything included in the newsletter please let me know. I believe Richard Creighton, Frank Waite, Don Fraser, Tracy Cooper, or John Hannah, will not mind if I include some excerpts from their letters in my next newsletter. (Ok Guys?). I thank all members for your letters and information. Several of you have sent in cancel classification systems, most are based on broadly named categories such as; "stars", "crowns", "initials", etc... These systems (I use this type also) have the inherent flaw in that they do not handle duplication. Is D&S 415 (a "B" inside a "star"), a "B", or a "star"?

I owe special thanks to four individuals for specific items. Ray Horning generously provided me with a large accumulation of old Auction Catalogues, I was able to cut them up, and thus gain much new information as well as photos. Hank Narbonne of Greenwood Stamps is to be thanked for the photocopies of about 200 fake cancels produced by some scoundrel in Winnipeg about 15 years ago. Fortunately the faker was convicted (see Pughs book), and not many of the fakes were sold. George LeMesurier of Ottawa Stamps is to be thanked for giving me the opportunity to lot a 26 lb. box of Small Queen remnant collections. There were between 18,000 to 20,000 Small Queens in the box. Finally, Art Legget of Arthill Enterprises sent along several proof strikes from crown wax sealing hammers.

We had an interesting, but small meeting at ORAPEX in April, and I was pleased to get a few new members. The next meeting will be at the Hamilton Convention, probably on the Sunday. I intend to bring my micro-computer along and show some of the tricks that can be performed with the scanner and "paint" programs. Some of these "tricks" can also be applied to re-entires, perfin, classification and storage work, etc... Anyone with any cancel "traders" might want to bring them along, and we can have an informal get together after the meeting - remember the: "I'll trade ya two a dese green ones for dat red one?" days? See you there.

Total 1988-89 dues collected: \$102.00, cost per unit (Newsletter 2) printing, \$.50, envelope \$.10, postage (roughly) \$60.00, total: \$82.00, surplus \$20.00.

Revisions to previous newsletters:

Newsletter 1. Crown Wax Seals.

Revisions: -Emersley should be: "Eversley".

-Berkley UC should have: "COVER, Fe. '75, Type 2.

-Elm Tree (1st entry) should have "Ju. '95".

- " " (2nd entry) " " "Mr. '94".

-Main River Nfld. should be "COVER, ? '03".

Additions: -(W.O. Au Lac NB), Hammer, NA, Type 2.

-(Rollo Bay Cross PEI), Hammer, NA, Type 3.

Non Verified Initial Cancels.

Revisions: -D&S 510 is mentioned in the March '61 Topics as ; Hagersville, Aug. '82; although I have never personally seen this item.

- D&S 591 was possibly derived from this item, if this is so, it is not an "M" and should be either de-listed, or listed as a "star".



Newsletter 2. Numeral Cancels.

Non Verified Numeral Cancels.

Revision: -D&S 8 is now verified as a "cut-down" variety of D&S 6.

Town Name Cancels.

Revisions: -Cobourg, add; "No. '98".

-Glencairn, add: "in blue on 3 cent S.Q.".

-Harwich... Jar. 329A, change to: "Type 1, ?, Jar. 329A, on F1".

-Ottawa...1, 5, 339, change Au. '80? to: "My. '80".

-Perth, add: "n 3 cent S.Q.".

-Toronto...1, 8, Jar. 338, change '79 to: "'97".

[typo. in Jarrett]. (also, add: "on Map stamp").

Additions: -Winchester Ont., 1, ? ?.. on 3 cent Jubilee.

-Midway BC, 2, 3, ?... on 2 cent Edward.

-Charlesbourg Que., 2, 4, on 3 cent SQ.

Revisions cont.

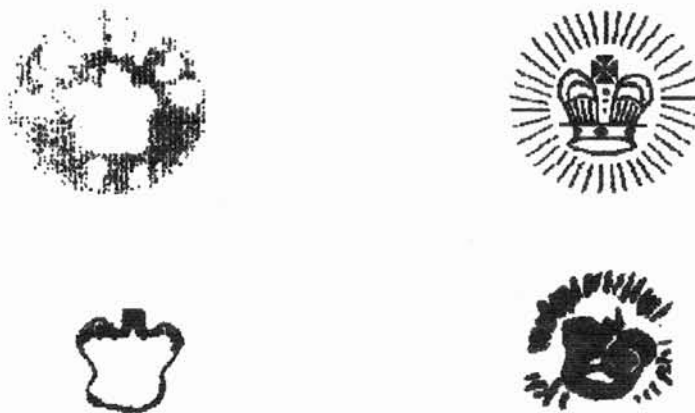
-Ottawa, the illustration below is from the Fe. '81 P&A proof books, it usually appears with thinner bars in actual usage. It would appear that the proof strike was over -inked, and darker strikes are not a different hammer.



For the first new item in this newsletter, I would like to write about the fancy crown cancels, Day and Smythies 219 to 236. I will present these in the same fashion as the other groups were in the previous newsletters. Firstly, the non-verified crowns. If anyone has seen these, any details would be greatly appreciated.



Non Verified Crown Cancels: 220, 228b, 229a.



De- listings: 220a is the centre of a Crown Wax Seal, and, 236 is probably a blurred strike of 230.

A few special notes are in order on this much collected and studied group. D&S 219, 224, and 231 are known only from single strikes, 219 and 231 are from cover examples, however partial strikes of these might be hard to recognize. D&S 224 is known as a double strike on an '80's printing 3 cent S.Q. The ink is somewhat "carbonny", and I suspect this item was prepared by someone inking a military button. D&S 225, 227, 229, and 221a are all "suspicious" cancels, several authorities have stated that all strikes of these are fake.

D&S 226 (Ottawa Crown) and D&S 230 (Victoria Crown) are definitely two of the most popular Canadian fancies, I have provided the scanner illustrations of these from the proof book strikes [2] as the D&S illustrations are poor.



Both of these cancels have been faked several times, despite the fact that genuine strikes are certainly not rare. Smythies wrote detailed articles on these fakes in "Maple Leaves", Apr. and Oct. '63. I have a photocopy of his actual notes for these articles - if anyone should want a copy just holler.

D&S 234, and 235 (crown over REGISTERED) are a standard design issued from Great Britain. At least a dozen different hammers were used in Britain, and three different types are known as cancels on Canadian issues. D&S 234 appears to be a genuine Canadian usage (Halifax No., Dec. '85), [3] although it does not appear in the Canadian proof books. Other examples are either British, or possibly mailboat, or navy usages.

A few unlisted crown cancel items deserve some mention. The "Free Ottawa" crown illustrated is similar to many other Government franks in that a crown is incorporated into the design. [4] This item has been reported used as a cancel from about 1900 to 1906, and is a genuine usage in my opinion. [5] The other tiny crown illustrated is definitely fake, and was a rubber stamp production by the same clown that gave us D&S 290a. Strikes are usually in modern purple stamp pad



ink, and are perfectly centered. The range of issues is from 1881 to about 1930 (!). To end this discussion of crowns on a nicer note; D&S figure 9 (page 16), can be considered as an "Ottawa 8" with a crown. A similar patriotic gesture is incorporated into figure 10 with V.R. (Victoria Regina) below the 8.

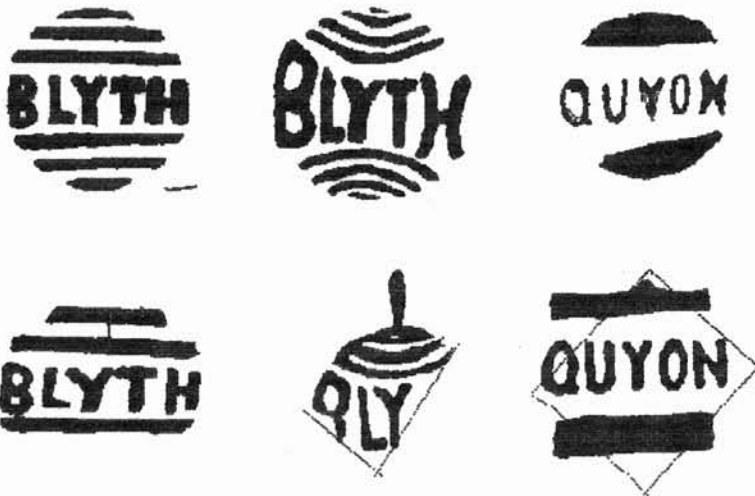
Now, a few words on a group of cancels that I touched upon in the last newsletter; the fancy town name cancels: D&S 317 to 352 excluding the simple bar and straight line types mentioned in Newsletter 2. There are also two somewhat related cancel types which I shall cover in a future newsletter: the fancy and/or mutilated circular date stamps such as D&S 351a to 351h. The following five items are non-verified:



P.O BROWN'S NURSERIES ONT

Ross' Corner, P. E. I.

Non -verified fancy town names: 325, 342, 352, 338a, & 347.



De- listings: 322 is late state of 321, 323, is a partial of 324, &, 343 is a distorted strike of 344.

A few specific notes on this group are in order. The rather interesting spelling of Quebec in D&S 331 is quite in character with its non-mirror image companion D&S 332. D&S 326a (illustrated) is somewhat problematic. The note in Plate L, pg. 148 of D&S states that: "A number of small P.O.'s used this type." If this statement is correct, I certainly have never seen them, at least not during the 1800's. Possibly these markings were not cancels, and were used for fiscal, legal, or municipal business. Anyone have any examples of these, or know of any usages? D&S 326 may be a "modern" cancel, the stamp may have been used out of period. I have seen strikes that show that: 348a is (A)urora, 348b (Nor)wood, and , 338d is ___calf(e).



I would have two more illustrations to add to this group - both of which I have seen used several times. Hopefully I am not indicating personal bias to Ottawa here - it is not a sub-speciality of mine.



As a conclusion, I would like to raise a small philosophical-point: 'Why were fancy cancels created in the first place?' The simple answer to this is; that up to 1894 P.M.'s were instructed to not use the circular date stamp as a cancel. The rationale was that if the CDS information was on the stamp and the stamp fell off the envelope than this important information might be lost, disputes could not be resolved etc... There were already about 5,700 post offices by 1880, the Canadian Government of the day could see no advantage in preparing so many cancel hammers, so corks (and other devices) were used. P.M. General Reports indicate considerable expenditures for corks, although many were no doubt obtained "on the spot". These corks and/or local devices (usually made of softwood) were carved into the various designs we collect.

The concept of fancy cancels probably spread into Canada from the United States where they were common in the 1860's. The numeral types were generally descended from the assigned numbers which were used in Britain, the British have almost no "fancy" cancels. The idea for initial cancels may have been imported from the United States where initial cancels were used on registered mail. Many of the fancies had specific (and sometimes secret) meanings to the originators and receivers. Some were prepared for fun; P. M. Deacon used crosses, P. M. Mason used a Masonic symbol, etc... I have basically run this topic to ground, and apologize to the advanced collectors reading this - it is useful however sometimes to get back to basics.

So shall close. If anyone has any cancel queries, please feel free to write, I have two databases on cancellations, and can answer (or at least will attempt to answer) most questions. One question I would like to ask the group is: Has anyone seen the "B Day Jan. 1st" cancel (?) below, or know of its' history? I recall seeing some reference to it (on Jubilees I think) in the past. I believe it is a fairly modern philatelic production, however, I cannot find any references to it in my notes.



I went to see our new National Museum of Civilization, an extremely impressive building, needs more of the exhibits set up however. The fancy cancel above was (as usual) a well kept secret by Canada Post. I only found out about it by accident, and it was only used for three days. Will try to get these newsletters mailed out from somewhere with a fancy cancel. See you in Hamilton.

Dave Lacelle.

Footnotes:

[1] Some people are very sensitive about the contents of their collections, I will not attribute anything without specific permission.

[2] If anyone wants a photocopy of the proof strikes, just send me a note.

[3] To further confuse the issue, a very similar postal marking was used at Halifax in the mid 1860's. This was not a cancel usage as far as I can tell.

[4] The Ontario House of Assembly duplex (Lee Dun 19) also has a tiny crown in its' design. This was used many times as a cancel.

[5] Government "Free" franking privileges did not extend to foreign mail, or Special Delivery, (? or Registered?). In these cases the Government Department had to use stamps, which they sometimes cancelled with their "Free" hammers.

...and some crown examples to use up the page.

D&S 221 , 222 , 224 , 227, 229, & 235.

