

BNAPS Fancy Cancel Study Group

Newsletter No. 18

August '97.

Dave Lacelle.

Finally another newsletter. I have been out of philatelic commission lately, not sick, rather a lot of travel, mostly enjoyable. I have managed to get some work done on the new book on fancy cancels; Fraternal Organizations (Masonic and Oddfellows), and Bogey Head sections have recently been completed. I am now working on some of the odd fancies (pointing hand, shields, etc.) and also on the flag cancels. I intend to include the primitive hand made flag cancels, and a small sample of the machine flag cancels. There is already another long standing study group, and handbook on these latter flag cancels. If space permits I will run the illustration page of the "Bogey Heads" at the end of this newsletter.

●Group News:

I have had many contributions to this newsletter. Thanks are due to Roger Fournelle, Peter Geoffroy, Wally Gutzman, Brian Hargraves, Horace Harrison, John Hillson, Ron Ribler, Ron Smith (x2) (Out of a membership of about 85, what are the chances of having two members named Ron Smith!), and Bill Wegman. As in previous issues, I have often used my illustrations instead of what exactly was sent in. We have four new members: Mr. R. Fournelle, P.O. Box 152, Snowdon P.O. Montreal Q.C., Mr. C. Marshall, 14045 Shirley St., Omaha NE 68144-1024, Mr. R. Sass, P.O. Box 31054 Walnut Creek CA, 94598 (This is a reciprocal arrangement between the F.C.S.G., and S.Q.S.G.), and Mr. R. Smith 780 Pepperloaf Cres., Winnipeg Man., R3R1G3.

I intend to be at the Convention this year, and would like to meet with some of you. It doesn't seem worthwhile to prepare a presentation, as the three times when I have had formal Study Group meetings a maximum of five people (most non-members) showed up. I'm in the midst of co-authoring a 70 page report at work, as well as a 10 pager for my first presentation to an international audience in Washington in September. There only are 25 hours in a day!

After the above "whinnings", I received my convention schedule, and found that I am to have a meeting and presentation (on Fancy Canals (sic)) on Thursday. So be it. I shall have a brief presentation on the meanings behind some fancy cancels, informal meeting/get together will follow. Anyone got any "show 'n tells"?

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS:

●NEWSLETTER 1,

Crown Wax Seals, new entry; Ashcroft B.C. Sept. '74, type 1.

●NEWSLETTER 3,

Victoria/Esquimalt Crown (D&S 230). I had referred to the possible existence of a kerchief with a variety of western Canada and U.S.A. cancels from around 1900 including an Esquimalt Crown. Mr. J.E. Gooch has informed me that this kerchief is still extant "...little worse for wear and age; but the cancels are still bright and sharp." What a neat collateral item!

●NEWSLETTER 3 (AND 17),

Victoria/Esquimalt Crowns, new date, Esquimalt Sept. 05, no change in conclusions.

-again the Victoria/Esquimalt crown. I had referred to a second, and defective strike in the P&A proof books. Here is a scan of that defective strike.



●NEWSLETTER 17,

I have examined the cover with D&S 229 (at side) In my opinion it is genuine (at least 9 on my 1-10 scale) identifies this as Fort Garry Man. Oc '71. Beautiful item!



●NEWSLETTER ?,

The Otterville Station "189" cancel has been reported on a shade of 8cent S.Q. from mid '90's. It is also known on cover from '86. This item has previously been erroneously reported (by me - sorry) as from Weedon Station Que.



CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

One of the fancy crown cancels, D&S 234, has caused me to ask several questions. Similar cancels were apparently used in Britain, by the British Mail Clerks on Mailboats, and, in Halifax. Known uses are:



1. G.P.O. (Britain) proofbook, May '43. As illustrated, and on same entry as "Canada & ART. 11". 'PD, P, PF". These all concerned mails passing between Britain. France & colonies.

This is known as a free strike (ie not on the stamp) on Canada-G.B. - France in Mar. '57. Probably applied in U.K., and correct usage. Note, this is 14 years after the proof date, other examples on Canada or BNA covers may exist.



2. D&S 234 used in Halifax, to several other N.S. towns (Aug. '62, Toronto to Glasgow Scotland, May '62, Halifax (usually poor strikes). Oct. '64, ? '65, ? '66, ? '66, and Mar. '69. Some are free strikes.

3. Indisinct strikes, possibly D&S 234. Sept. '76, Hamilton Ont. to London UK, July '77, Quebec to London UK. All are free strikes. Would these have gone via Halifax, or are they UK, or mailboat use?

4. As illustrated (from poor line drawings), Mar. '60, Grafton Ont., to UK., Nov. '65, Hamilton Ont. to UK. Free strikes. Stated to have been used on mailboats, however use in U.K. is also possible.



5. Jarrett #1458 (D&S 234) states use in '80. This is unconfirmed.

6. D&S 234 used in Halifax, to several other N.S. towns; May '85, Oct. '85, Nov. '85, Dec. '85, and Jan. '86.

7. Jarrett #1459 (D&S 235) states use in '90. This is unconfirmed. I have never seen this item, Smythies had doubts also; "Type 2 (D&S 235) may not exist." [M.L. June '65}. Has anyone seen this?



As can be seen above it would seem that D&S 234 had an unusual period of use, mid '60's, and mid '80's. PLEASE SEND ME ANY CONFIRMED DATES OF USE OF THIS CANCEL, so that this 20 year gap in use can be confirmed.

One other personal comment, Maple Leaves Jan '97 page 29 has a letter from S. Cohen referring to some illustrations in D&S as: "Our findings were blindly copied later by E.A. Smythies who with Dr. Day simply gave their own Type numbers to our originals..." This is a bit harsh. In the introduction to D&S, these illustrations are referred to as "Cohen and Harrison" on page vii, and on page viii "...have been prepared from tracings made by the two authors except for the five plates of fancy numerals which have been reprinted with kind permission from the Cohen/Harrison plates." In order to avoid this kind of animadversion, I have prepared new illustrations of all listed cancels. This is the main reason the book is taking so long.

I might also add that I have a set of the 500 photographs used for the original D&S publication, I have examined the Cohen numeral collection, and have many illustrations and references from before the Cohen and Harrison articles. Further to Mr. Cohens comments on the Paris "57" cancels, I have personally examined these items, there are no covers proving use in Paris, (2 ring numeral 57 was used in Paris) the items are crudely carved with carbonny questionable ink, and rate at best a "5" on my 1 to 10 scale of authenticity.



Now, to other peoples comments and queries. Ron W. Smith has sent in several pages of cancel photocopies, including a cover with this cancel which is somewhat similar to D&S 827. It is from St. Catherines Ont. Sept. '77, and I have seen another from Aug. '77. This type of cancel with the hollow centre was a patriotic gesture designed to cancel the stamp and not the Queen's face.



Roger Fournelle sends in several pages of Masonic cancel information. Two of the Kingston cancel series are included, D&S 868 (a second confirming cover) and D&S 256a. He also sends along a cover of D&S 400 from Blake Ont., May '83. This cancel is a problem child, there are references to it being from Beachville Ont. in '85, however despite years of looking I have never seen a confirming cover (or photocopy etc). I now believe this is in error, and Blake is correct. He also has cover examples of the modern Masonic cancel from Blenheim Ont. Sept. '31. This cancel is unfortunately (as illustrated) known as "favour strikes" on Small Queens. I shall include more from this material in the next newsletter. Thanks Roger.



Peter Geoffroy sent several items in some time ago, unfortunately I had reservations about authenticity. He is not "thin skinned", so I reproduce two below. Both the crown and "R" have traces of other cancels. He also sent in an example of a "VM" cancel, (the inverse of D&S 742. I have seen this VM before, and shall list it - location unknown. Peter also has a nice strike of one of the Simcoe Ont. Masonic cancels D&S 243.



Peter also raises the question of "revenue cancels on S.Q.'s". I am out of my area on this one, however I have seen a few examples of revenue cancels on S.Q.'s, a few manuscript revenue notations, and the occasional bank or commercial CDS. I do not know of any that could be called "fancy" cancels, however I have sent a copy of this newsletter to the Revenue S.G. seeking enlightenment.

Wally Gutzman has sent along some more modern cancels, the Blenheim "B" used in 1932, the 1918(?) Barryfield Military Camp "M" reused in 1932. He also sends this "5" cancel (fiscal?) as well as several other fiscal markings as cancels from the '30's and 40's. There are also several late corks, D&S 835 (type) on Sc.165, possible Masonic D&S 237 (type) on same, radial cork on Sc. 282, and a two ring 30? on Sc. 167.



Horace Harrison has sent along the cross cancel above right on a cross-border registered cover from Fredericton Sept. '81. I had noted this before, but the location of use was unknown.

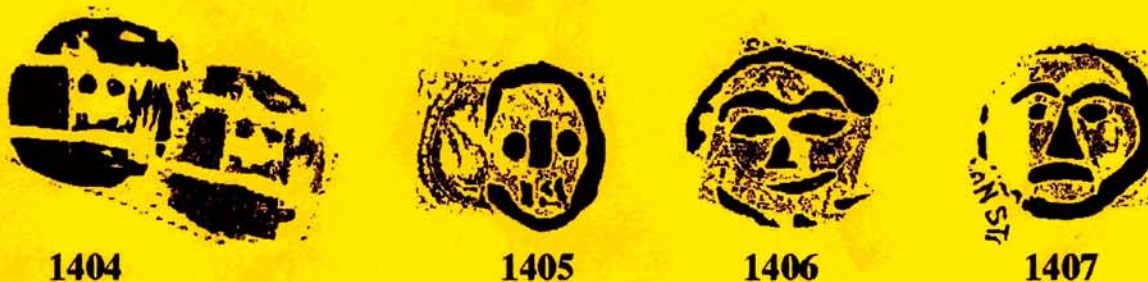
John Hillson sent in a bunch of goodies. He has also sent along a copy of the Kingston Masonic triangle (sometimes turned sideways and referred to as a bogey head) as illustrated on the previous page. Of the two "snowflake" designs below, the first was used in Brampton Ont in '81, the second, not known, although on a shade from about '80 (any information out there?) John has also included a fake Masonic which at first I thought was one of my cork examples featured in the previous newsletter. Unfortunately the arms on his are 4 mm shorter. He also sends this mystery cancel. I believe that it is a handcarved town-name type similar to those used at "Spence" D&S 349, Varna 349a, and Ottawa (illustrated). It is also possible that this is a USA cancel, many carved town name cancels were used there.



Brian Hargreaves has sent along several items. The first is a possible "N" cancel, I have seen this before but considered it to be just slashes on a cork. Has anyone seen this on cover. Brian also includes an unlisted W, which is in the new book from Waterloo Que. May '75. In a later mailing he includes this fancy "K" (D&S 554) which has been attributed (but not confirmed) as Kildonan Man. (date unknown). His cover is from (?Brant?)ford or (?Strat?)ford Ont. Nov '83. Stratford is confirmed Aug. and Nov. '83.



CHAPTER 4, FANCY CANCELS - BOGEY HEADS



Deletions and miscellaneous (1/2 scale)

