

# BNAPS Fancy Cancel Study Group Newsletter No. 21

Dave Lacelle  
Oct. '98

## ● Group News;

I am pleased to be able to prepare another newsletter, and have a major announcement to make. My endless saga of "Working on the new book on fancy cancels" is drawing to a close. I finished a page of illustrations on the geometrics section, and for interests sake looked ahead to see how many remain. There are usually 24 illustrations to a page, I have completed 1722 primary illustrations, 701 deletions and miscellaneous illustrations, and now have only 18 to go! (For comparison, D&S has about 1350, and Jarrett has 350 fancy illustrations.) There are still corrections and revisions to the older work, however the end is near. There is another implication here; **"Gentlemen Last Call"** - if you have any material which you think should be in the new book, then please send it along. I do not list everything I receive, however your strike of some item might be a confirming strike to someone else's. (See the "W" on page 4 for example.)

At this time, I would like to thank the many of you whom have sent in pages of photocopies, actual items and other data. We will now have improved information on dates of usage, the new book lists months of use rather than just the year. As well as postal history interest, the more precise data allows forgeries to be detected.

A little story now. While many have sent in cancel illustrations, there have been a few curious exceptions. I have heard from two different sources about a gentleman in Western Canada who will not send me photocopies of his (supposedly) extensive cancel collection. His logic apparently is; 'that he will thus own scarce "unlisted" material. If it is not in the "new" book, and hasn't appeared in any of the previous books, then it must be rare and valuable!' In answer to this curious logic, may I suggest that if "it" has not appeared in previous books, did not appear in the 3500 pages of photocopies I have used for my work, nor in the many collections or auctions I have viewed, and cannot be confirmed by comparison with others, then there is a very good chance that "it" is a fake. After all, anyone can go home, carve up a potato, make a "previously unrecorded" fancy cancel, and sell "it" to the gullible.

Not much else to report this time, we have only one new member; Mr. B. Turkowski, 1128 Hearth Court, San Jose CA 95120 USA. I had intended to attend the Convention in Florida this year, but several things got in the way, not the least of which was the decline of the Canadian dollar. I recently took a \$10.00 U.S. cheque to the bank, and got \$15.00 Canadian back. I shall send out a dues notice with the next newsletter, and as the costs of the newsletter have not increased, I shall drop U.S. currency dues to \$5.00, and retain \$7.00 for Canadian.

The following members have sent in information for this newsletter. Thanks to: Tracy Cooper, Roger Fournelle, Wally Gutzman, Horace Harrison, Herman Jacobs, T. Morgan, Hugh Rathbun, Sue Sheffield, Joe Smith, Frank Waite, Dave Webber, and Bill Wegman.

### Revisions to Previous Newsletters.

Newsletter 6, The Triangle from Sherbrooke Quebec, illustration was very poor (my fault). A better one appears in the second cut below. Newsletter 11, "piano tuner" cancel (middle cut) reported with partial CDS "...RBURG (N)O. '75".

Newsletter 14, pg. 3 reference to Peter Geoffroy's item as the same as another cancel was incorrect, Peter's item is as appears in the cut at right. It was used at St. Marys Ont. Jan '88.



Newsletter 19, D&S 867(below) is now located as Streetsville Ont., Mar. and Apr. '97.

Newsletter 20, Pg. 8, Unknown cancel. Tracy Cooper reports that this cancel was used at 150 Mile House B.C.



Newsletter 20, Halifax Crown,

1. T.R. Morgan in response to S.Q. S.G. newsletter request reports use of "B3" (D&S 234) on 15 cent L.Q. from '70's. (This is the correct time frame.)



2. I have recently found an auction catalogue I had overlooked with much information on these "REGISTERED Crown"s. Add:

- '77 July, B2, Quebec to London UK. ,smeared.
- '64 Sept., B3, Dublin Ireland to Lower Horton N.S.. (Note, would have to be applied on board or at Halifax.)
- '58 July, B0, London (Lombard St.) to St. Catharines CW.
- '59 Aug., B1, Windsor CW to ? Macklebridge (?) UK.
- '59 Dec., B2, ? CW to London U.K.
- '61 Mar., B2, Lombard St. UK to West Farnham Que.
- '61 July, B2, Lombard St. UK to St. Catharines CW.
- '61 Sept., B2, Lombard St. UK to West Farnham CE.
- '69 Mar., B3, ? CE to WCDO London (may be type B2).

General conclusions from above, Types B0, B1, and B2 now have later uses. Use does not extend beyond '65, which is when mail was no longer sorted on board the mailboats. B3 is again confirmed as Halifax or on board in '64. The "gap" in use from '70-'76 is still not filled. All the above are "free strikes", ie not used as cancels.

*St. Louis Pass.*

*Loone Chapman.*

Newsletter 20, Star Card Co. Frank Waite has sent along the example of "Star Card" type used on children's letters at left above. I have found another example at right. In both cases they are "backstamps", either applied by the Company, or the children.

Newsletter 20, the Weymouth Bridge "H", (D&S 513), new late date; July '88 (the worn "drawbridge" version).

Newsletter 20, Quote from S. Sheffield re "BJH" should be "BHJ" (my mistake). Sue also mentions several reasons why the MS, or BHJ cancels might be legitimately used out of season.



Newsletter 17. The "ER" cancel has been sent to me with a group of other undoubted modern fakes. It is on a Sc. 191, and should not be listed. (Why ER on a G.R. era stamp!)



Newsletter 1 D&S 578, "LUL", spurious. I received a query about the status of this item. The new book will state: "D&S 578, spurious. The Smythies copy was just a segmented cork. No other example known" An unedited scan is at right. I must elaborate on the use of the word "spurious". A spurious cancel item was not presented in any hopes of deceiving anyone. Smythies was a primary researcher, the vast majority of his discoveries have been confirmed. I differentiate between spurious, bogus, and fake, in the new book. Spurious implies an "honest mistake".



BNAPS F.C.S.G.  
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### Correspondence and Queries.

Roger Fournelle has again sent in a large number of photocopies. His first item below confirms a written report that D&S 466a was used at Erin Ont. Mar. '93. The second item locates D&S 492 as Glenora Man. Aug. '87. The third item has been noted before, although not listed in D&S.- from Huntly Ont. Mar. '90. The fourth one is especially interesting, D&S 403 an elaborate "B" if turned upside down is an "L". Used Lucknow Ont., but cannot read the date. Fifth, he has a cover of this M, or W which I had listed as not located. Clandeboye Man., Apr. '99. Sixth, this "M" (Merlin Ont. Oct. '31) is philatelic (should I list it?), cover is addressed to some guy named Fred Jarrett in Toronto. Finally, if I have room, the last item is an unconfirmed J or T on 1 one cent S.Q., commercial rate, to ? Forthart (?). There are no other markings. Does anyone have a confirming strike?



Horace Harrison has also been busy, and has sent in the items below left. Firstly, the Barrie Ont. "B" used Mar. '72 to June '76, and the Streetsville Ont. star (D&S 96). This is a second (and thus confirming) location and date.

The item at right has been sent to me several times, usually suggested as a "W" cancel. I had thought it was a broken down partial cancel, but all strikes are similar. There seems to be a consistent period of use (early '70's), several copies, but no covers, so I shall probably list it. Any other information out there on it?



One of our members sent along a copy of a Post Card with what he thought was an unusual partial strike of a three or four letter initial cancel. Upon closer examination (it is on a dark background), it appears to be a "FREE" marking, similar to Jarrett 1505x. This is another example of how a spurious fancy cancel can occur. (Next question: Why "Free" on a postcard?)

**FREE**  
**FREE**

Joe Smith has sent in a bunch of modern fakes on issues from the '30's. They are rather poor attempts to reproduce items similar to cancels illustrated in Fred Jarrett's book published in 1929. The only dangerous one is the first, which is similar to D&S 190. These fakes are generally "sharper" than real cork cancels, and have bad ink penetration. It is not known if the faker also worked on earlier material, however another member has sent in a cover with an example of the third one. It is ostensibly from Hamilton Ont., May '33. Item six is in purple, all others are black. The "ER" example has already been mentioned on page 3. So, buyer beware.



Several members have in the past sent in this small signet "S" (or "F", or "5" etc.). Maresch's next sale has the best copy I have yet seen. It appears to be D&S 694, most examples are very hard to see, and even harder to see from photocopies.



Hugh Rathbun sent in the following:

"About a month ago, I saw the hammer that was supposedly used for the Weymouth Bridge "H". (Ed. D&S 513, see also page 3) Another collector acquired it a number of years ago from the man who was postmaster at Weymouth (formerly Weymouth Bridge) during the 1930's. However there are no identifying marks on the hammer.

The hammer is a wooden "T" mallet. The handle and the top are both wood. One end of the top has a cork insert, which is presently broken off, more or less level with the surface. The other end has a drilled hole into which, I was told, the split ring head was screwed. The Weymouth Bridge postmaster struck the "H" and then flipped the hammer and struck the dated impression from the split ring.

Unfortunately, the instrument's usage as the fancy "H" hammer cannot be verified beyond word of mouth."



I would like to add, that this type of double headed hammer was also extensively used in the United States. Sometimes a hole was drilled through the length of the head so that the used cork could be pushed out, and sometimes metal rims were used on the heads for strength and durability. (Sometimes when the strike is oblique, parts of these outer rims show creating a spurious "inside a circle" variety of cancel.)

I shall again run "proof strikes" of the two Masonic corks I own. The original source of these, where used (possibly U.S.A.), or time of use is unknown. The third cork in this group is just a quarterd cork, like D&S 848. I have never used it as a "proof" as I have wanted to preserve the original (?) ink on it. If the strikes in the cut are in green, you have a proof, if black, you are looking at a photocopy.

Bill Wegman has sent in a cover with this "W" cancel. This is a second confirming strike of this item, used at Waterford Ont. Nov. '88 to Aug. '90. It was listed as an "M" in D&S as number 598.



Dave Webber has sent several of his unidentified corks. Among these were D&S 798 (always with rounded ends, and these two fairly common, but unlisted geometrics, used Merrickville Ont. Nov. '77- Apr. '78, and Paris Ont. Nov. '91- Dec. '92.



That's all for now folks. I hope I will have time to produce another newsletter around the end of the year. Please keep sending in material.

I do not know if this will reach you in time to be any good, however;  
**MAJOR CANCEL SALES AT: R.Maresch & Son, Oct. 27,**  
([www.maresch.com](http://www.maresch.com)), and at R.A Lee, Oct. 31 ([lee@silk.net](mailto:lee@silk.net)).  
Good Collecting,

Dave Lacelle, 369 Fullerton Ave., Ottawa, K1K1J9, Canada .