

BNAPS Fancy Cancel Study Group Newsletter 25

**May '00
D. Lacelle**

I am late preparing this first newsletter of this year. I cannot blame it on "millennium angst" at this late date, but offer as an excuse that I have been very busy preparing for my up-coming retirement. (A curious paradox - one works hard so that one won't have to work hard anymore!)

●Group News

The printing of the book was delayed by some technical problems, however the most recent information I have is that it is now printed, and merely awaits pricing, and some final administrative details. The cover includes a colour illustration of 25 typical fancy cancels. I know that when some of you see this cover, you will remark "What is that U.S.A. "Kicking Mule" cancel (on a 3 cent Small Queen) doing as part of the cover of a book of Canadian cancels?! The answer(s) are; 1. what is the U.S.A. cancel doing on a Canadian stamp? (proving that some previously listed Canadian fancies are really U.S.A.!), and, 2. it is such an interesting and unusual item, that I could not resist showing it. (As an aside, the provenance of this item is known back to 1932, and it was personally examined by the author of the book "The tale of the Kicking Mule" who pronounced it genuine.)



With regards to my query in the last newsletter as to whether the stamp "bits" should be left in the illustrations for the new book, the vote was six to three to retain the "bits". One of the three could have gone either way, and it does not contain my vote (retain). This by the way is the equivalent of a "raging controversy" for our group, I am lucky to get one or two of you to respond to other newsletter items, nine responses is unprecedented!

Thank you for sending in dues, total collected (to Convention '00) is \$368.00, this is \$30.00 more than last year - I must be doing something right.

We have two new members; Mr. J. Cable, 10 Bromwich Ave., Highgate, London, N6 6QH and Mr. S. Cloutier, 5048 County Road 10, Fournier, ON KOB 1G0

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

●Newsletter 1, Crown Wax Seals,

Two new entries, both are wax seals at back of registered envelopes.
(See also page 4 for more details on this type of cancel.)

- a. Carberry Manitoba, Type 3, Feb. '87, and,
- b. Corliss Quebec, Type 2, May '87.

●Newsletter 20, Crown over Registered.

One new cover, type B3, London (UK) (Lombard St.) July 60 to St. Catherines, Canada West, the 'cancel' just touches the stamp. This is a full two years earlier than previously listed, and overlaps with type B2, which is known used in Mar., July, and Sept. '61, all from Lombard St. I am not sure what to make of this, possibly the B3 was used on board the ship?



●Newsletter 23, Ottawa Crown cancellation.

John Hillson has pointed out to me that an Apr. 19 '80 cover of the thick crown was recently sold by auction. (I am unsure of the authenticity of this item.) See page 5 for illustrations of the three possible varieties of this cancel. This means that the thin crown could not be used before Apr. '80 if it was a recut version of the thick crown. This is not contradictory, the thin crown was only proofed in Apr. '80. Unfortunately the exact date is unknown, it appears on a page with Apr. '80 CDS hammers, but with no specific date for itself.

●Newsletter 23, "Kingston Crosses"

This item was not listed by me as it is a very common type of quartered cork. It could also be considered as part of the Kingston Cross series, used Nov. '74.



●Newsletter 9, "different fancy cancels used together".

To err is human... I illustrated this example of the "WU" and "G" cancels together. Closer examination, and comparison with other strikes would indicate that this item is a fake. Unfortunately I also used it in the new book. Apologies.



CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

Jack Forbes has sent along a query regarding the cancel in the cut. He has it on a block of three cent Small Queens. I have seen this before, have listed it and described it as on stamps from mid '90's. Does anyone else have more information (including whether Sc. 37 or



41?)? Jack would also be interested in hearing of any S.Q. multiples (IE blocks or more) with fancy cancels.

P.H.S.C. Journal 101 ran an interesting numeral in bars cancel similar to the cut. There was a suggestion that this might be a U.S.A. "Bickerdike" type machine cancel. I have noted numerals 2 (twice) and 5, the stamps are from the 90's and usually have other cancels (thus hinting at a receipt marking). The location of use is unknown but the numeral 5 one was on top of a weak Oct. '93 CDS. This latter point would also indicate that the cancel is not out of period on a late use (or philatelic) Small Queen.



Johnathan Cable has sent several items. The first is a rather common radial cancel used in at least 14 different P.O.'s, and over a 30 year range. His example is a new early date for Toronto Nov. 10 '70. He also includes this sectioned cork on P.C. May '83, Guelph to Hamilton. (plus two receiving marks). Although a simple design, is it possible that this was intended as an "H" for Hamilton. Does anyone else have Hamilton use of this?



The new "Miscellaneous Cancels and Markings Study Group" has produced its first newsletter, and includes an illustration of this "Ottawa 1" cancel in apparently broken or mutilated condition. The cancel is known later in un-mutilated condition, thus either repaired, re-issued, or possibly the result of uneven cancel inking. Any other mutilated examples out there?



Mr. Hess has sent in the example above right of a mutilated concentric ring cancel. The concentric ring cancels were the first officially produced Canadian cancelling devices. They were probably made by Berri of London, were first used in Apr. '53, and were still in use in some small P.O.'s in the 1930's. When worn, they were sometimes "freshened up" with radial cuts. Parallel lines, "tic tac" designs, and others are also known.

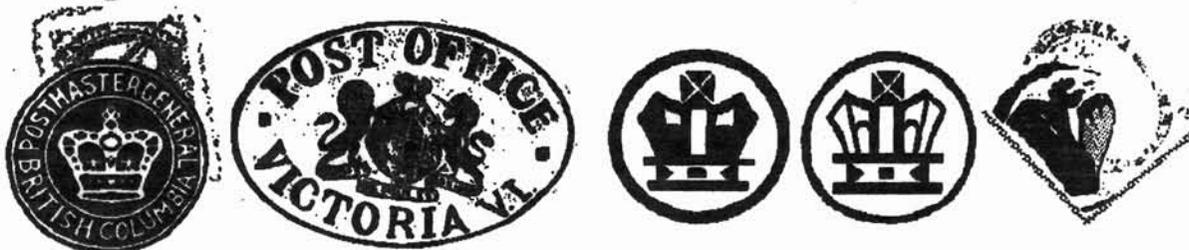
Legislative and Regulatory fancy cancels

Johnathan Cable gave me the idea for this topic, although I have mentioned in previous newsletters that some 'cancels' may have been applied by other (than the P.O.) government agencies, or may have other uses than to just cancel the stamps.

Crowns. A good example of the latter case are the crown wax seal cancels. These were issued to each P.O. upon it's opening, and were supposed to be used for official P.O. business such as sealing mail bags, official correspondence to Ottawa etc. Sometimes they were used to officially seal other mail which had become opened in transit and also were occasionally used as an impressive seal on the back of registered mail (See page 2.) All the above uses involved sealing wax (usually red, sometimes black [gold and silver sealing wax were also available, but not used by P.O.]). Other Government agencies also used sealing wax for "sealed tenders", confidential items (a thin ribbon was sometimes placed under the seal to make the "accidental" breaking of it impossible - thus one of the origins of the expression "red tape" of government) or to authenticate valuable papers. Some P.O.'s occasionally used their sealing wax hammers with ink as cancels or locational markings. Over 65 identifiable examples are known, and are listed in the new book as an Appendix. It is not certain when these wax seal hammers were discontinued, it appears to have been in the early 1940's.



Other Government crown markings may have been occasionally used as cancels. The two B.C. examples illustrated are known from single cancel strikes.



The Ottawa crown (presented here in it's three possible varieties) has been suggested as a legislative marking used in the House of Commons P.O. This was derived from a cover with Commons, (and other) markings. The cancel was actually used in the Ottawa Main P.O. (just across the street from Parliament) for items requiring special handling. This type of material included Government "free franked" registered items which also required stamps - such as registered items, over-seas mail etc.

Two later "Free Ottawa" markings are also illustrated below. The first is known as a cancel, and marking, used about '95 to '05. The other "Free Ottawa" is (so far) known only as a proof.



Two other government hand stamps at right above, included small crowns. The first is known as cancel use in only one case (possibly accidentally falling upon the stamp), and the second (House of Assembly, Toronto). is known many times as cancel use.

It has been suggested that the two crowns illustrated here are Government marks used (perhaps) by Postal Inspectors. Both are far more likely to be bogus items.



Other types of Regulatory fancy cancels Postal Inspection markings may have been the origin of the entire Toronto Two series (and possibly also the Ottawa Eights, and Kingston Nines, both of which had P.O.I. Offices). 'P.M. General Reports' indicate that payment for cutting these corks came from the Toronto P.O.I., not the Toronto Main P.O. As such, they verify firstly that the specific item has been inspected (to confirm appropriate postage), and then they function as a cancel. This rather limited usage probably also indicates why these are scarce.



It has been suggested that the "LA" cancel (above right) used at Toronto in 1879 may stand for "Legislative Assembly", this has not been confirmed. Other initials such as O.H.M.S. ("On Her Majesty's Service") and G (government) overprints were been used for a long time to indicate Government mailings. These are overprints, not cancels. I have seen two S.Q. examples with "On H.M.S" typeset "cancel", and O.H.M.S. pen cancel, both are rather suspect items. It is perhaps worthwhile to note however that authentic stampless covers are known back to the 1850's with variants of the "O.H.M.S. designation.

Another example of Legislative markings on Canada are the Foreign Branch "FB's", and Newspaper Branch "NPB's" occasionally found on Canadian (and other countries) stamps. These originated in London England, and although fancy initial cancels, are not Canadian.



Some of the marine markings may also be considered to be regulatory in that they indicate the type of mail, and approval of conveyance before they are used as a cancel. This is stretching the definition a bit, and I have probably stretched the patience of our members not interested in this particular sub-sub- field, so shall close.

And Good Collecting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Lacelle', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Dave Lacelle.