

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS STUDY
GROUP NEWSLETTER 33

Dave.Lacelle
Nov. 2003.

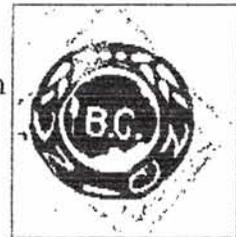
• **Group News**

We had a nice get-together meeting at the London BNAPS Convention. There were about ten people there and another four apologized the next day for missing it. I was especially pleased to see Mr. Brian Hargreaves from that other London. This amount of interest in our study area is very reassuring.

We have one new member, Mr. D. Beaumont, 22 Gregson St., Ajax, Ont., L1T 3Z9, and four other individuals who have expressed interest in the group. These people will receive this newsletter, and if they confirm their interest, will be listed as new members in the next newsletter.

It is again dues time, if you owe, there will be a small notice included with this newsletter. I have dropped the dues to \$6.00, for two reasons; a.) I have received a cheque for the dues paid by the members of the former "Miscellaneous Cancel S.G." (now part of our group) and b.) it appears that I will not be able to produce three newsletters this year. This last item could change - IF YOU SEND IN lots of material, then I shall try to cram it into a late December issue.

There is a possibility that one of the fancy cancels in our book may be resurrected as a modern commemorative cancel. The item is number 839, from Union B.C. (now Cumberland). I have suggested that if a replica is used, that a date should be added at the bottom so that it will be obvious that it is a modern replica. Perhaps the next newsletter will be sent with this cancel.



One of our members has sent in the cut below for an opinion of authenticity. Quite frankly, for various reasons I do not "like" it. I once examined a find of several thousand of these commercial postcards from the 1880's and 1890's, about 2/3 did not have any cancel on the stamp part. This is logical, as a postcard could not be reused, so why bother. However, I also realized that this was an excellent source of late 1800's material for any fakers to work with. I thus have a question to our members - **Has anyone noticed other 'unusual' cancels recently appearing on commercial post cards to Robinson Little and Company, London, Ontario?**



A small personal note here; I mentioned to some of you at the convention that I was on transcontinental "road trip", partly worked around the convention. (Specifically, Vancouver Island to Nova Scotia, with a few detours.) The trip went well, for those with a statistical bent, 19110 km, 42 days, avg. gas price, \$.78/litre, \$937 Cdn. total gas price (2001 KIA Rio). Was fun, and will do again...

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 1, Crown wax seals. (Example is in the cut) New listing, South Elmsley UC, May 1871, as cancel, type 2.

Minor revision (addition), 'Main River Newfoundland', now also known in Sept. '03.

Minor revision (addition), 'Toronto....sub office', now also known on Map stamp. This latter item is one that I have some suspicions about, it seems to appear on too wide a range of stamps. I suspect that it is an out of (Small Queen) period wax seal hammer (they were used up to the 1950's) unscrupulously (or playfully) used by someone in the 1980's. I have seen only photos or photocopies of this item, and would like to have an actual look at one in order to study ink type, ink penetration, perf. holes, etc. Can any of you send me an example? Don't worry, any tests will be non-destructive.



Newsletter 32, page 2. There is a somewhat misleading reference; "Apr. 1, 1868 when the new two ring hammer became available" should have read.... "Apr. 1, 1868 when the new two ring hammers were ordered, and then used in early 1869." While on this topic, I should also mention that sometimes CDS year errors occur, particularly with "6's" and "9's" which appear to the P.M. in mirror image. The cut shows an impossible use of a late one cent S.Q. due to a "97" CDS date error.



Newsletter 32, page 4. I have received reports of the "WAY LETTER" in circle (common type) used in the 1870's, earliest Dec. 1876.

Newsletter 32, Money Order Office (M.O.O.) and Money Office (M.O.) cancels. Doug Murray has forwarded a list of these cancels from the Small Queen era. There were 14 P.O.'s, with 20 subtypes, dates range from 1872 to 1899. If anyone wants a copy of this list I can send one.

CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

I have several findings to report. Firstly I have recently noted two examples of USA duplex numerals in ovals' cancelling Canada similar to our number 8. The first is an Albany NY Mar. 1887 cover to Philadelphia. USA stamps have been added, and both Canada and USA stamps are cancelled with a 1 duplex. There is a 'hold for postage' hand stamp, it appears that the item was mistakenly posted in the USA with Canadian postage. The other item is a Canada post card reply portion to Brockville Ont. Mar. 1897, with an Utica NY 3 duplex. There was no reason to cancel the post card. I do not know enough about these reply cards to be sure of the use. Was a 1cent reply accepted from USA as a favour?

Secondly Robert Lee's sale number 107 <www.stamp-bids.com> had some interesting Newfoundland fancy cancels (next page). The first one is probably foreign, can anyone identify the location (?Spain?). Lee suggests that the second one looks like a precancel. I agree, however



it would be part of the group of “unofficial” precancels, and I do not know of any from Newfoundland. Has anyone seen any other examples of this cancel, (on Sc.35 here), or similar precancels?. The third example (Sc.39) appears to be a rate mark as a cancel, while the fourth (Sc.40) is strange “FL” intaglio cork, which I have never seen before. (? Possibly NFL for New Found Land?) Any information on the previous items would be appreciated. I have not seen the actual items, so I cannot give any opinions on authenticity based upon ink types, penetration, perf holes, etc.



Thirdly, I have found several updates to the fancy cancel book. Most of these are from displays at the Convention, so I do not have direct scans. The first three are from Victoria, B.C. The first one, our 842 is now confirmed used at Victoria, B.C., Nov. and Dec. 1877. Another Victoria cancel, number 1407 is now known used as early as Jan. 1862, but as a frank not as a cancel. Finally, I shall have to delete number 1576 and D604 (which are the same item) from Victoria, Feb. 1884 as this has turned out to be a spurious fancy cancel. The cancel is just two circular rings, and what appeared to be a rather fuzzy triangle in the middle was a paper disturbance. This was probably a folded back corner of the letter inside, which resulted in an angular bump on the cover. I have now seen several examples without the bump/triangle and have closely examined the one used for the book illustration with the bump/triangle.

I have two other cancel revisions or comments. Firstly, I have recently seen another “Brownie” marking obviously from the same rubber stamp set as our 1454 (as in the cut above right). This was a different “Brownie” and was applied as a back stamp. The cover was from Toronto, Oct. 1896, which would be a reasonable date for number 1454 based both on the stamp printing, and the popularity of the Brownies. At their height of fame, there were about 40 “Brownie” characters, they were the “Mickey Mouse” of their day, and many Brownie trinkets etc., were produced. Our number 1454 “Brownie” actually has a name, “Patrolman Moveon”!

Secondly, Longley Auctions, <www.longleyauctions.com> Sale 6, had a wonderful example of number 1224. This is better than the illustration in the book, and confirms use at Victoria Road Ont. Oct. 1877.



Brian Hargreaves has sent in "a whole bunch of stuff". The first item (below) on Sc.82 makes me think of a "coat check token" the number "108" would not be in mirror image on the token. Any other ideas? His second item is a 'boxed 10' cancel, I have seen it before, attributed to France.



Brian's third item is our number 299, with his strike showing the details at top and left which were vague in the example used for the book illustration. The fourth item is a superb strike of our number 1039, the P.O., and date of use of this is still unknown (Jarrett stated 1880, but that was based upon the stamp shade - which to me looks earlier). Brian's fifth item is a broken star on 1 cent Jubilee, he also sent a 5 cent example. I wonder number 960 is from a poor example of this item. The sixth item D647, which I believe to be fake, but also have to consider might be a foreign or marine (paquetboat) marking. Has anyone ever seen this anywhere else?

Jon Cable has sent in the first item below, a blue 'flag' type cork which is similar to our 1399 except it is missing one cut line. The cancel and the CDS are in blue, on cover from Chipman NB Mar. 1876.

Mike Street sent some covers in, one has number 1238, a radial 'flower', with a new early date Sept. 1879. The odd thing about this cover is that it does not have a sending CDS, only an RPO, all other strikes of this have the St. Thomas CDS. The cut is from our book illustration.



Don Fraser has sent in several covers (at right), firstly a lopsided star (due to the angle of strike?) from Minniska Man. July 1888. I imagine Minniska was a very small P.O., there would probably not be much mail (or use of this cancel) from there. He has also sent in a Stonewall Man. Mar. 1895 geometric cancel somewhat similar to our 1681, but with the central cross positive instead of intaglio. Lastly, he sent in a nice strike of number 204, confirming use at Beaconsfield Man., July 1886.

Joe Smith noticed this item on eBay, and wondered what it was. It appears to be a "PAID" cancel, our 713. The design of this cancel makes me think that it was a modified grocery price punch, as on page 70 in our book.



Webpage for the study group?

While on the topic of eBay, it has recently been brought to my attention that there are some bogus and spurious "fancy cancels" being offered on eBay lately. The items are very imaginative, and include a ink blob described as a "rare songbird" fancy cancel, and a half strike of a dowel as a "fancy half moon". Both these are totally in the minds of the describers, and have no relation to listed Canadian fancy cancels as in our (or previous) books. EBay is of course "buyer beware" and these describers are not claiming that their imagined items are listed by us, however it seems to me that we need more visibility on the net. If this was so then people could at least get in touch with us regarding rare 'songbirds', etc. To this end I have asked for help setting up a webpage for the group. There is a new BNAPS study group devoted to this area (i.e.. net visibility for BNAPS), and I have approached them for help. We will need a sort of "mission statement", some basic definitions as well as a few scans for eye appeal. The proposed text below is just off the top of my head, and I invite improvements, deletions, or corrections.

The Canadian Fancy Cancel and Miscellaneous Markings Study Group is one of many philatelic study groups under the umbrella of the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS). <hotlink> The Study Group was founded in 1985 with a primary aim of updating an early BNAPS publication, "Fancy Cancellations of the Nineteenth Century" by K.M. Day and EA.. Smythies", first printed in 1962. This goal was accomplished in 2000 with the BNAPS publication "Fancy Cancels on Canadian Stamps 1855 to 1950" by D.M. Lacelle, which contains over 1700 fancy cancel illustrations. This book is available from Auxano Stamps. <hotlink> In 2002 the group joined with another smaller BNAPS study group so as to include "miscellaneous markings/cancels", in the study area. The group continues to study both fancy and miscellaneous cancels/markings, and produces up to three newsletters a year. <hotlink>

Study Area

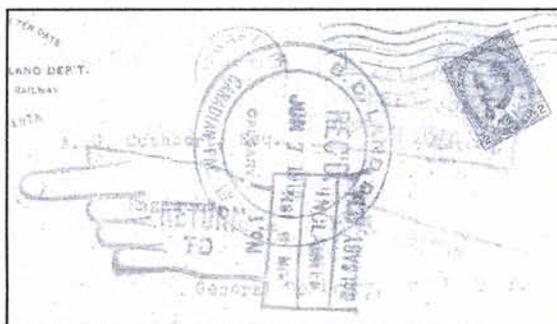
*A fancy cancel is a postage obliterating mark which expresses some degree of personal creativity on the part of the user". Many of these cancels represent the Postmaster's personal or town initials, his fraternal organization, special holidays, events, his religion etc. They are; "...thus something that exists between graffiti and folk art". **Miscellaneous markings** are harder to define, generally, "they are cancels or markings consisting of unusual or irregular postal usage, and which do not fall into other BNAPS study groups areas of interest"*

*Another reason for the preparation of the book on fancy cancels was to bench mark known items so as to provide good illustrations and prevent the production of spurious, bogus, or fake items. The book lists each cancel place and date of use (if known) and includes notes on each cancel. Another section of the book "Deletions and miscellaneous", shows a wide range of material such as; variations due to wear, fakes, spurious or bogus items, foreign items, possible duplicate items etc. There are several appendices including one listing the fancy cancels by Post Office/Town name. **Please consult the book before making any sizeable financial outlay for Canadian Fancy Cancels.***

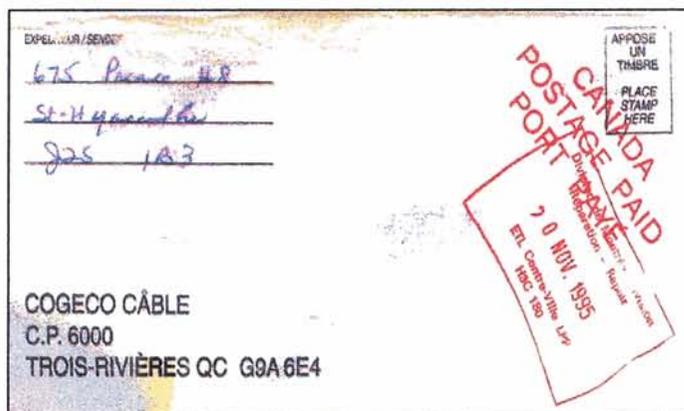
On this last page I have run another 14 unidentified (as to location and date of use) fancy initial cancels from my collection, as a last ditch effort to locate them. They are: L, Lacelle 567; L9, L577; M, L591; N, L629; P, L699; R, L743; S, L771; S, L777; T, L821; V, L846; W, L873; and X, L917. All are in black ink. L591, L777, L873, and L917 are printings from the 1880's or earlier. L771, and L821 may have traces of other cancels. Any information on these out there?



And finally, a few more of the Gus Quattrocchi's miscellaneous cancels. This first one has a Calgary Unclaimed 'pointing hand', and rectangular three line 'Calgary / May 21 1912 21 / General Delivery' mark. The large circle is a Gov't receipt/file mark. All are in purple.



This item (envelope in rough shape, and sealed with tape) has a "Division Montreal Division / Reparation - Repair/ 20 Nov. 1995 / ETL Centre-Ville LPP / H3C 1S0", as well as the "Canada Postage Paid, Port Paye" marking. Both are in red.



And, Good collecting,

Dave Lacelle.