

**BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS STUDY GROUP
NEWSLETTER 36**

Dave.Lacelle
July 2004

• Group News,

There is not much news this time. I am still seeking any information on bisected Small Queens, there was no response to the request in the previous newsletter. This newsletter will be somewhat shorter than usual, and will also be atypical as it will tend to concentrate on one topic, Newfoundland cancels. This newsletter is also somewhat hurried, as I am going to mail it from Union Bay on the day of issue of their newest commemorative cancel. I have not seen this cancel, however it was originally to have been based upon our L839 used in the 1890's as in the cut. I initially had some concerns that a too exact replica could be a problem - especially if anyone used it on old stamps. I have been assured that the design has been worked, reworked etc., with the resulting cancel being somewhat "unusual". We shall see...



We have one potential new member, I am waiting for confirmation from him before listing his address.

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 33, Newfoundland "2"; (rate mark?) Dean Mario has sent in photocopies from an old auction catalogue of four strikes of this "2" as a cancel. I have recently examined another strike of this, it looked 'good', at least a "six" on my one to ten authenticity scale. The P.O. location is still unknown, however most strikes are on the Rouletted Issue of 1876 to 1879, one is on a possibly earlier stamp. I also note that this cancel was not listed in David Piercy's article from 1994 (see page 4).



Newsletter 35, Montreal dotted rim CDS; The BNA Topics reference was from a small article by Max Rosenthal, Sept. 1971, pg. 226 & 246. His example was on a seven cent Edward (issued in 1903) and he speculates that it was a special cancel reserved for Registered items. This is not the case, as the 1911 cover example is a back stamp on letter from India, and the 1934 example is a normal front cancel. We are thus no further ahead regarding use of this cancel.



Newsletter 35, Bisected Small Queens; It occurred to me to test a random selection of S.Q.'s in order to see how many used stamps could be reused as bisects due to partial or poor cancels. I considered only vertical or diagonal bisects as I have never seen a horizontal bisect - one half would have both values. The results were; out of 100 used S.Q.'s nine could be bisected, four were diagonal, two were vertical, the remaining three could be both. There were three other stamps which almost "made the cut" (so to speak) but closer examination revealed weak or tiny cancels. I also did not consider cases where pen cancels could possibly be removed by ink irradiator. Presumably another one or two percent would not have been cancelled, and were immediately reused or disappeared to a stamp collection. Does anyone out there have any postally used covers with uncancelled S.Q.'s? (See also Pg. 3, with possibly reused S.Q.'s with fancy crown cancel.) The regulation against bisects thus prevented reuse of about 10 % of the stamp sales of lower values. If anyone wants to repeat this experiment please send your results.

Newsletter 35, pg. 5, The "turtle shell"; cancel on Jubilee. Joe Smith reports two other strikes, also on Jubilees. The P.O., and date of use still unknown, but the use on Jubilee's is consistent.



Newsletter 35, "V" for "Victory" cancels; I do not have any further information on the unofficial "V's", however I do have a part strike of this official Newfoundland "V", on Sc. 256, Princess Elizabeth, issued 1941-1944.

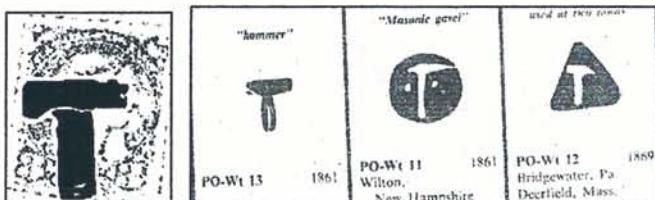


CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

Jon Cable has sent in the geometric in the cut. Although of rather simple design, it is similar to a larger version of L1098 a "cross". This was used at Clinton Ont., Nov. 1880.



John Hillson sent in an interesting idea regarding L821, listed as a "T", as in the cut bottob left.. He suggests that it could be a Masonic "hammer". I checked some of my reference material, there were several "Masonic trowel" cancels as "Higher Order Symbols" used in the USA as fancy cancels, two "gavels" and one "hammer", these latter three items are illustrated in the cut (reduced scale), source; "Skinner and Eno, pages 181, and 242". The "hammer" is from the same source, but is not considered as Masonic. If I may make a further suggestion, it may be both a "T", and "Masonic", a "Tau". The text below is from Richard Carlile "Manual of Freemasonry", about 1840.



THE TAU AND THE CROSS.

The Tau is a figure constructed of five lines, thus , and is considered an important emblem or badge in Royal Arch-Masonry. It is also styled a Triple Tau, or Triple Cross; the Tau of the Greek being like the of the Egyptian, Roman, or English Alphabet. There were other forms of the Cross. One was the Crux Ansata, thus ; another tripled, thus . In some, there were circles attached to each end thus and thus . The Roman .

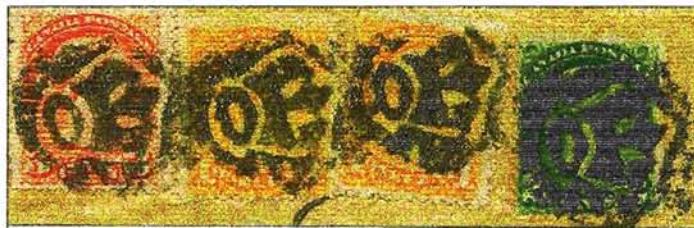
Mr. B. Girard sent in 4 or 5 scans of the cancel at right. All are on one cent S.Q.'s, apparently second Ottawa printings (although this is hard to verify from the scans), and do not appear to have been joined together. The cancels vary in darkness, and some are partials. He suggests that they are "butterfly's". If so, they do not resemble any listed cancels. They however do have symmetry, and do indeed look like butterfly's, at least as much as L1442 does! There is a saying; "That if it looks like a duck, quacks like a duck, and walks like a duck, then it IS a duck!" Unless I actually saw the stamps I cannot really give an opinion on authenticity, however most of the criteria look good. Does anyone else have any examples?



As many of you know, I have a sub-sub interest, 'foreign cancels on Canada'. This item is a variant of that theme, L334 (at far right), a Canadian fancy "C" cancel, on Newfoundland! This cancel was used at the Ottawa Main P.O., Oct. 1896 to June 1903. The stamps are thus in period. The cancel was usually applied to government mail which required special handling. Halifax "H" cancels (L462) were also used on poorl cancelled Newfoundland stamps.

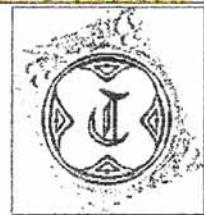
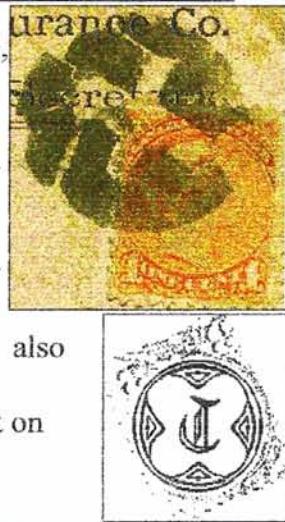


Brian Hargreaves has sent in the items below. The first is a cover to London England with two strikes of L576, the "LWL" (or "WL") cancel used at Elora Ont. Apr. 1871. I have noticed that most strikes of this cancel are S.O.N., the cover is thus typical. The second item, L1281, a crown is one I have seen before. I would have to examine the actual item to confirm authenticity, however it basically looks good. I had a reservation over the odd value selection, why not two, two cent stamps, or two threes and a one? Close examination indicates that there is glue residue by all of the, this is usually not a good sign. Both the odd values, and the glue may be explained if someone was reusing uncancelled stamps, and thus could only use the values they had on hand. (Usually when this kind of thing is faked, some other postal markings are included, and the re-glueing is less obvious!)

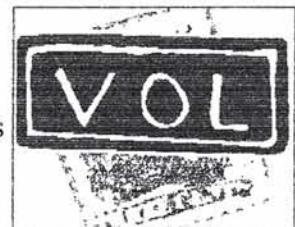


The third item is an intaglio cross, I suspect that it is a late state of L1090, if so, it is now located as Picton Ont., (based on the return address) most likely in the 1870's.

Brians' last item is the fourth reported cover of L803, the Wellington Ont. signet ring "T" used in 1869 and 1870. I reviewed my notes, and was unable to find the photocopy for one of these covers, however the three others have strong similarities. All have Wellington Ont. CDS's very near the stamp, and are cancelled with the seal so that it just ties the stamp. All are to different places. This is a very peculiar cancel, the Wellington P.M. also used it extensively on poorly cancelled incoming mail. It is almost always S.O.N., he is "a Keener" and is going to do a good cancel! He also used it on foreign - stamps of St. Helena , and Chile issued around 1867.



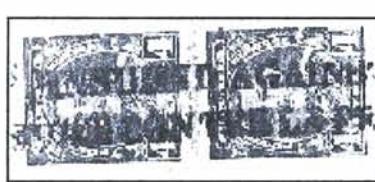
Dean Mario has sent in this example of 'USA cancelled in Canada' by a "keener" at a local P.O.. Dean has also sent in photocopies of several Newfoundland cancel items from an old auction catalogue. The "2" (rate mark?) has already been mentioned on page 1, there were also two strikes of the enigmatic "VOL" cancel, Lacelle 858. I have little information on this cancel other than the fact that it was used around 1887. It has (logically) been suggested that it stands for "Volunteers", however, volunteers to what I do not know. Any comments from our members on this? (Later... Royal Newfoundland Regiment traces its history back to "Pringle's Volunteers of 1778", many name changes, and was absorbed into a standing garrison from 1862 to 1870. At about this time the "Newfoundland Constabulary" was created (mostly) from this unit. The regiment was not re-established until 1914. There were two other military units in the 1870's incorporating the word "volunteer", but both were disbanded in 1874 namely; St. John's Volunteer Rifle Battalion 1860- 1874, and Harbour Grace Volunteer Corps (Rifles) 1861- 1874. The Boer War was in 1899, so not applicable. There were other military units using the word "Volunteers", however these existed in the 1700's. (I do not claim to be a military historian, I am sure every military man knows the history of his unit, and that it is different than what anyone else would say, this is especially true when the grog is flowing. Any corrections on the above are appreciated.)



Garfield Porch has sent in this cross cork, very similar to L1163 used in Ayr Ont., Oct. 1895.



I have been reviewing the 2,000 or so pages of photocopies which were sent to me as part of the research for our book on fancy cancels. Some of our members sent in cancels that were not really "fancy" but could now fall into our expanded area of interest, the "miscellaneous" category. The items below were sent by Wally Gutzman in 1997, and consist of: an instructional marking (he had two examples) "Insured against loss / insure contre la perte" used as a cancel; a "two ring Numeral 50" (from 1870) on 1930 stamp, a philatelic or bogus reuse of the old hammer; a "(return to) pointing hand" (see also Lacelle D264); and a fine (philatelic?) late use of a radial sectioned cork.



ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND CORK INSERT CANCELS

I have been somewhat concerned that some of the Newfoundland cancel illustrations in the fancy cancel book, were not as good as they could have been. Specifically the illustrations for L798, 799, 1209, and 1210 could probably be improved. These cancels consist of carved corks inserted into the centres (where the date would otherwise have been) of CDS hammers, and were used at St. John's Nfld. from about 1867 to 1881. The hammers were manufactured by Berri of London England, and are sometimes called "G.P.O." hammers. The corks protruded from the hammer, thus the CDS wording is always poor and partial. The difficulties preparing the illustrations from these cancels are:

1. Many of the stamps for this period were dark coloured, thus cancel details are difficult to determine;
2. Many illustrations from articles, auction catalogues, or photocopies were even poorer;
3. The cancels were often blurred/heavy struck and seemed to show change over time;
4. There was a lack of comparable material on hand, and;
5. Some of the line drawings of these by other people were of questionable quality.

I have been busy recently lotting a major Newfoundland collection for sale by R.A. Lee Ltd., <<www.robertaleeauctions.com>> and have used the availability of these hundreds of cancels to remedy the problems above. The new illustrations appear on page 5, with some detailed text below. David Piercy prepared a very detailed article on Newfoundland corks for the BNAPS Newbie Newsletter in May 1994. While my study of these cancels was independent of his, we agree on almost all items. I have included his numbers, and dates of use in the detailed notes.

As well as prepare improved illustrations, I was able to answer the following questions:

1. Are the illustrations in the Fancy Cancel book for these Nfld. cancels accurate? Ans. No.
2. Are there many other types? Ans. Yes.
3. Is there much variation due to wear/density of strike? Ans. Yes.
4. Are there two hammers used, one with the word PAID? Ans. Yes. See below.
5. Do the corks move relative to the CDS lettering? Ans. Sometimes.

- General notes,

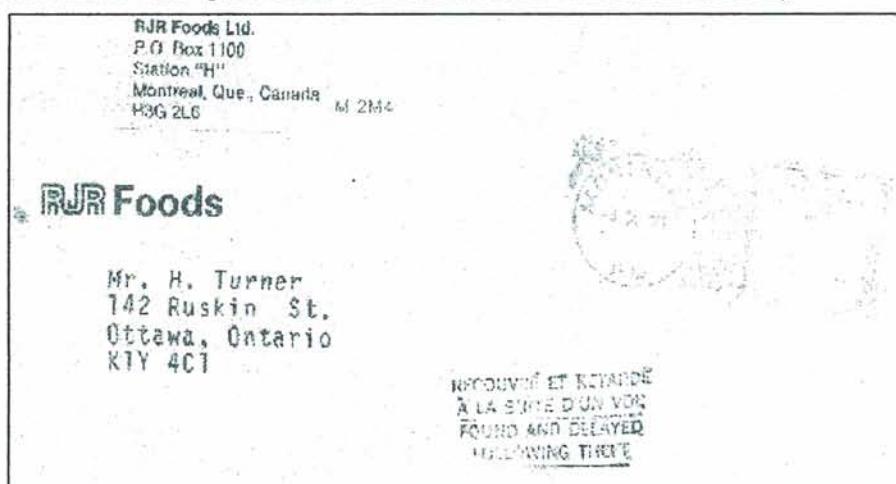
The illustrations on the next page, have all been slightly highlighted or edited for clarity. Exact dates of use are uncertain, they are presented in no particular order. Any information on dates of use would be appreciated, year of use, and last issue of stamp use from D. Piercy are included. There were not only two Berri hammers, but both were often in use at the same time. Some covers from this period indicate that one hammer was used as a regular time mark, (usually the one with "PAID") on the cover, while the other was used with cork insert as a cancel. This is not always the case, sometimes there is no other St. John's CDS, and at other times there is a more modern (by Pritchard and Andrews of Ottawa) split ring St. John's CDS. I have a suspicion that there may be a few other types, however in these cases the corks protruded so far that only tiny traces of the hammer lettering may be visible.

- Specific notes,

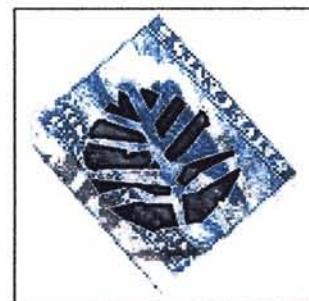
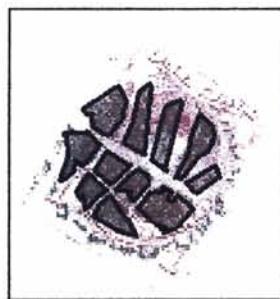
- A. Heavy strikes, the thin bars widen and merge together. (Piercy 5.2, on 1875, & 1870 issues.)
- B. Uses the PAID hammer. Heavy strikes (and late state strikes) appear to have only three bars on each side. (Piercy 5.4? If so, on 1877 issues.)
- C. None. (Piercy 5.3, Use in 1878, & on issues of 1870, and 1877.)
- D. Short usage. (Piercy 4.2, not identified as Berri CDS, on 1877 issue.)
- E. The cork rotates in the collar, splits in the middle, and in late state resembles a quartered cork. (Piercy 9.2, & 1.1 [late state], on 1865, 1870, & 1873 issues.)
- F. Possibly more than one quartered cork. (Piercy 1.4, & ?1.2?, used 1866, and on issues of 1865, and 1868, if 1.2, used 1870, issues 1865, 1871.)
- G. None. (Piercy 9.1, issue of 1870.)
- H. Heavy strikes, the "outer wedges" merge and the inner hollow centre becomes more circular. (Piercy 2.6?, if so, issues of 1871, possibly also Piercy 2.8?, issues 1865, 1870.)
- I. Possibly type H recut or cleaned? (Piercy 1.6?, not identified as Berri CDS, on 1865 issue.)
- J. None. (Piercy 4.6, not identified as Berri CDS, on 1870 & 1880 issues.)
- K. Uses the PAID hammer. (Piercy 4.1, not identified as Berri CDS, on 1876 issue.)
- L. The cork moves in the collar. In late or heavy strikes appears as a "blob". (Piercy 9.3, on issues of 1870, 7 1871.)
- M. Somewhat later use than previous items. (Piercy 2.12, not identified as Berri CDS, on issue of 1880.)

I shall conclude with one more item from Gus Quattrochi's Miscellaneous Cancel collection,

"RECOUVRE ET RETARDE
A LA SUITE D'UN VOL /
FOUND AND DELAYED
FOLLOWING THEFT"



And a good summer to all,
Dave.Lacelle

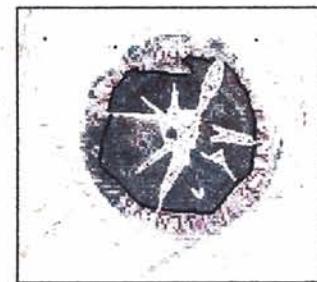
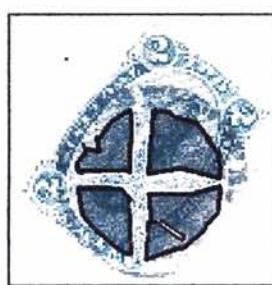


A ✓

B ✓

C ✓

D ✓

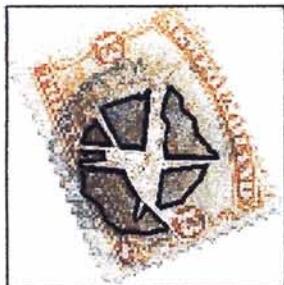


E

F

G

✓ H

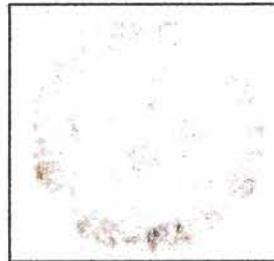
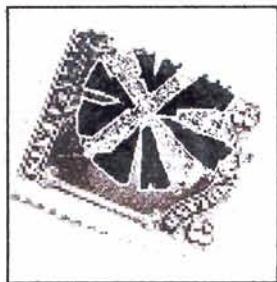


I

J ✓

K

L



M

Berri CDS hammer lettering.

St. John's NFLD., CDS cork insert types.