

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL AND MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER 41.

Apr. '06

Dave Lacelle

- Group News

I hope that all of you are enjoying fine spring weather when this reaches you. This will be a fairly short newsletter as I do not have a great deal of new material. The exception to this is the last page (from Wally Gutzman) which continues (and I imagine will end) the sequence on "Pointing Hand" markings. I apologize to those members (no pun intended) who are not interested in this area, when this group joined the "miscellaneous markings" study group, I expected some obscure philatelic areas to appear, and the "pointing hands" are an example. (Perhaps the best of these from the last three newsletters could be written up as an article for Topics?) Another way of looking at this is, if the newsletter is not reflecting your collecting area or interest, then why not send in something from your area. This is **YOUR** newsletter, go for it! I can always use a hand (pun intended) with some new material.

The major news for the group is the start of the second edition of our Fancy Cancel Book. Bob Turkowski is acting as my proofreader (and then some), work is progressing (about 1/3 of the illustration/text pages are done), and, this will be a substantially revised and improved book. The numbering will remain the same as blanks were left after every 50 entries in the first edition for future new entries. There will be a rate factor listing, based upon some 3,000 plus prices I have accumulated. (More about the above later.) There is much new information, some improved illustrations and, corrections and/or elaboration in some areas. Printing and format will be similar, and we hope to be realistically priced so that everyone can afford one.

At least five members volunteered to help with proofreading/typing/technical details. I thank all of you, and sincerely hope no one feels left out. The fact that there were so many volunteers shows that there is still a great deal of interest within this field. Thanks again. I regret that I did not get back to several of you to personally thank you - real life keeps getting in the way of my hobby life. Silly real life....

We have three new members: Mr. P. Ahrens, 97 Cousins St., Yarmouth ME, 04096, USA; Dr. J. Anders, 16 Crestwood Dr., P. O. Box 122., Stn. Main, Barrie ON, L4M 4S9; and, Mr. G. Cutler, 4 Grant Ave., Sherwood Park AB, T8A 3B6. We have had one resignation ("real life" got in the way), and I have had to drop four members for nonpayment of dues since 2004. Total dues collected (including a few donations) were \$414.00 This is actually a bit more than required to produce the three annual newsletters, however postal rates haven't gone down! Thank you.

One last item, I have just received a request for a study group time at the Sudbury BNAPS Convention, Sept. 1 to 3 '06, and I have asked for a meeting on the 2nd. See you there.

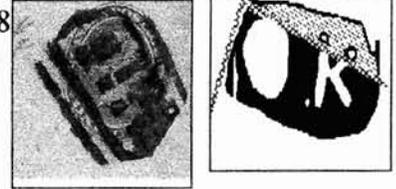
REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 40; pg. 4. The Carberry Manitoba C.D.S.. Mr. J.C. Rogers reports that he also has a strike of this on a 3 cent S.Q. with date of Feb. 7 1893.

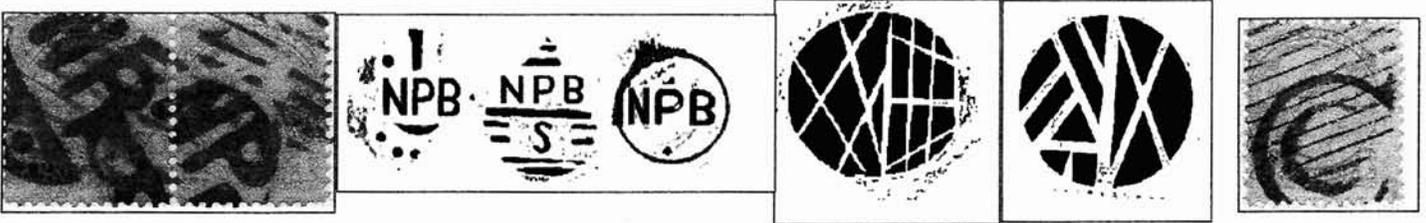
Newsletter 40; pg. 4. Paragraph 4, should read "L994", not "L944".

CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

Garfield Portch sent in this interesting item on a postcard from Pitts Ferry Feb. 28 1893. I am not really sure what to make of it, it may be an intaglio "OK" similar to L680 (which was used at least five years earlier) as in the second cut. I had difficulty finding out anything about "Pitts Ferry" (as in C.D.S.) as it is listed as "Pittsferry" (one word) in one postal listing, and "Pitt's Ferry" in t'other. The P.O. opened in 1856, and closed in 1913, the P.M. in 1893 was R. Wenborn, so it is not a P.M. initial type.



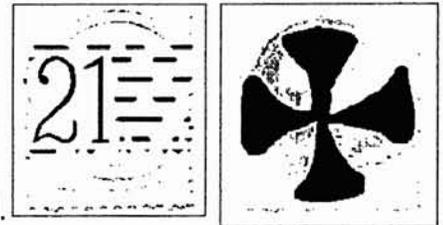
Brian Hargreaves has sent in some material. The first item appears to be a British "NPB" (News Paper Branch) cancel. This is one of the more original (unusual) ones of this type, in that the "B" is sideways at the bottom. It makes me think of some of the Ottawa Geometrics in that it almost appears as if two different minds carved opposite sides of the same cancel. (Rorschach ink blots anyone?) The second cut (reduced scale) shows some other "NPB's" which have been found on Canadian stamps, followed by two examples of "Ottawa Geometrics". Brian's other item (last cut) is our D159, or possibly a "bulls eye" cancel cut down.



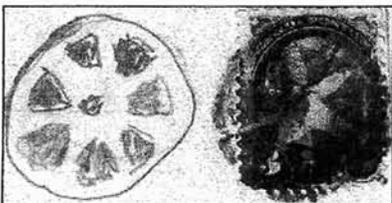
Bill Wegman sent in some information on our L12, a fancy "1". Although his cover does not have a C.D.S., there is a Hamilton Ont. JU 21, 1897 back stamp so we at least now know when. Unfortunately I have lost (or not received?) his scan of this, so I have used our illustration at right. Bill also has a cover of the Campden Ont. "B", very similar to L279, dated Nov. 12 1886.



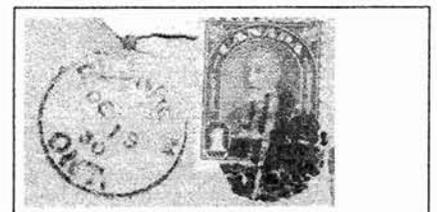
Gerry Carr sent in two items, a strike of our L147, a "21" roller cancel used in Montreal both as a cancel, (1855 to 1868) then as a precancel (1880 to 1897). His is on an early shade of the 1 cent S.Q. (about 1873 to 1874), which is outside of the two periods of use. Perhaps it was late use of the stamp? Gerry also sent in an example of L1076, a Maltese cross in shocking pink ink. It has been noted in blue, red, and green and was used at Peterboro (old spelling) Ont. in 1873. The cuts are from our stock illustrations as his will not scan well.



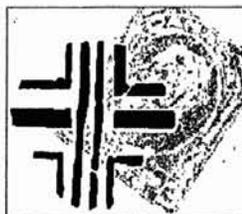
Gus Quattrocchi sent in the items below. The first (with his sketch to the left) is from Port Perry Ont., Aug. 1881. It is similar to L1474, but with a strong outer rim. The second item at first seems to be just a radial sectioned cork, however only half the cork seems to be there in both strikes, this is possibly just as a result of wear. It was used at Thorold Ont., Sept. 1891. The last item is from Blenheim Ont. in 1930. The Blenheim



41-2

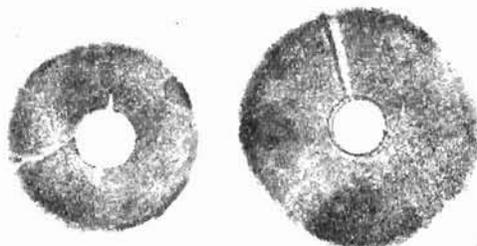


P.M. used several fancy corks in 1932 including L151, L267, L1170, and L1320 as illustrated below. I suspect he was strongly influenced by Fred Jarrett's cancel illustrations in "Stamps of British North America", first published in Canada in 1929. I think that while he was imitating an earlier era, he was probably not "pumping" the philatelic market, most of the covers I have seen are ordinary mailings, not with odd values, or stamp combinations for collectors. There must have been a few favour strikes however, as I have seen L1320 on a S.Q.! I would appreciate hearing more about any obvious Blenheim philatelic covers or use of these cancels on out of period (1930-1933) stamps.



Mr. Rogers also sent in some information on other lopsided C.D.S. cancels, notably L'Assumption CE in 1879, Millwood Man. in 1895, and Brussels Ont. in 1877. C.D.S. errors were written up in "BNA Topics" June '69, pg. 157, and Feb. '72, pg. 32. Major spelling errors included Cario (Cairo), Nepigon (Nipigon), Bleeker St (Bleecker St.), and Oznabruck (Osnabruck). There seem to be accepted double spellings for Cobourg/Coburg, and Peterborough/Peterboro however. The three spellings of the thriving megatropolis of "Pitts Ferry" have already been mentioned. There is also much confusion when a P.O. adopts a French version of it's former English name, however I "won't go der".

I have occasionally run examples of common items which may have been "pressed into" use as cancel hammers. Appendix 2 lists about fifty of these. It occurred to me that many people today would not be familiar with the wooden spools formerly used to hold thread, and that these could have easily been used as cancel devices. I seem to recall seeing a cancel similar to one of the two "proof" strikes below from old spools. Anyone seen others?



Notes, and Queries for the 2nd Edition of the Fancy Cancel Book.

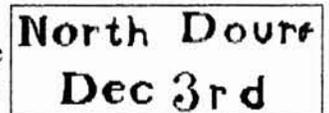
I have several little comments and queries which will be of value during the preparation of this new edition.

Firstly, There will be a 1 to 6 "rate factor" for many of the cancels. This is not strictly speaking a 'rarity' factor for several reasons. Firstly, many of these cancels could be described as 'rare' in that few examples are known. Just because something is rare, does not necessarily make it valuable, every snowflake is unique, probably every grain of sand upon a beach is unique, however unless there is a specific demand their monetary values are low. I note many cases where cross or star cancels (for example) which I know are 'rare' sell for literally peanuts. Others such as the Victoria BC crown, L1291 have wide appeal, despite there being at least 53 cover (!) examples, see Appendix 4b. My rate factors are based upon raw selling prices for over 3000 cancel items

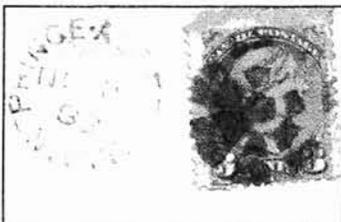
compiled over 25 years. These prices have not been (and generally could not be) adjusted for; inflation, stamp issue, stamp quality, cancel quality, or several other value affecting factors. Thus the rate factors are a general guide, pricing groups were chosen to put reasonably similar numbers of cancels in each group, the distribution was far from 'normal', and as explained below, many are not rated. For the record, cancels selling in the Cdn. \$10.00 to \$ 20.99 range made up groups "3" and "4". Items are not rated for three reasons, firstly there were no sales of them in the database, secondly, the item illustrated was merely representative of a larger group with many internal ratings possible (i.e.. fancy flag cancels), and thirdly, they are items I have never seen, or which I have doubts about authenticity. In the latter two cases, "NA" will be used, in the first case when I have seen the item, and believe it genuine, an extra rating group has been assigned, tentatively listed as "6*". Again, just because there are few examples of something, it does not necessarily follow that it is valuable. (PS I have disposed of my reference collection, so have no conflict of interest in these ratings.)

Secondly, I have some specific requests for information for the next edition. The book will have wider appeal if it covers a more varied range of stamps, or geographic areas.

With regards to stamp issues, I noticed that David Handleman's recent article in BNA Topics showed L661 "North Douro" cancel (?) used as a marking on stampless covers. There was little information about this item when the first edition appeared (Jarrett reported it as a cancel on Sc. 15 and Sc. 18), so I asked David if he knew of any cancel use. The answer was "no", the two examples he had were markings on stampless. Does anyone out there have a cancel example? There are probably some unlisted early fancy cancels on stamps earlier than the L.Q.'s, I would be interested in receiving scans of any. A similar request can be made for issues later than the S.Q.'s. (An aside, Mr. Anders has specifically requested information on the Map stamp, Sc. 85 & 86.) Scans may be sent to <<lacelle@mars.ark.com>>, or (what else) <<fancycancel@hotmail.com>>.



As to geographic areas, G. Scrimgeour had an article in "PHSC" Dec. 2005 with a cogwheel fancy used at Prince Albert NWT, Nov. 1882, and he has generously sent me a scan for the next edition. There are three other examples of NWT cancels (L416, L762, and L1665) in the first edition, these areas were soon absorbed into the prairie provinces. Does anyone have any other NWT fancy cancels (Other areas could be., Yukon, or even Newfoundland, or other pre-confederation areas?) If so, please send a scan to the E-mail addresses above.

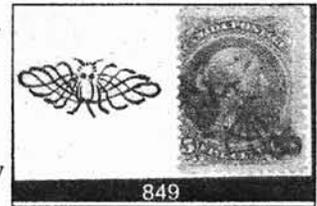


I would again like to ask if anyone has examples of the home made "V" for Victory cancels used at Bolney Sask., and Nipissing Junction Ont. in 1943. These were written up in Newsletter 35, and a query was directed to the Military Mail Study Group. No response was received. I believe that these are genuine fancy initial cancels, and would like to add them into the second edition. In the absence of any sort of scan or illustration I cannot do so. Anyone? E-mail address is above.

I would also like to have any details on unlisted fancy geometric cancels. Please, no radial corks like L1536, or cross hatched corks like L1705, these were used everywhere, and have no originality or "fancy" nature. This part of the book could use some expansion in the second edition.



Just as I “went to press” (almost) I received a copy of Longley auctions Sale #9, Apr. 22, 2006. This sale contains some very nice “eye candy” selected fancy cancels. (None are owned by me.) There is one item, a fancy “moth” (lot 849), which I had wanted to list in the first edition, however I had not personally examined it, and had only a poor photocopy to go by. If any of you end up owning this item, I would really like a chance to personally examine it so as to list/not list in the next edition.



The final page is again “pointing hands” as covered in the previous two newsletters. Thanks to Wally Gutzman for these.

I would first like to list a new postal “meaning” for the “Pointing Hand”, it usually means “return to”, or “missent”, in this case it is printed on a postal return card to indicate where the stamp should be placed for the return. Instructions about placing the stamp are on the other side (!), so perhaps the hand was necessary?



Details from top left, then clockwise are:

1. Used Moose Jaw Sask., Jan. '43, purple ink, “RETURN TO”, pointing to Waterloo Ont. C.D.S.
2. Halifax N.S., black, Dec. '78, “RETURN TO”.
3. Prince Rupert B.C., purple, Apr. '19, separate “NOT CALLED FOR” straight line.
4. Montreal Que., purple, Nov. '35, “RETURN TO SENDER”, “Retournez a l’envoyeur”, and “St’n. “N” Montreal”
5. Grand Pre (or Halifax?) N.S., black, Dec. '04, “MISSENT TO” and separate “PLEASE RETURN COVER TO POSTMASTER FOR ENQUIRY” , an unclaimed general delivery cover.
6. Sorel Que., purple, Nov. 36, “RETURNED TO RETOURNE A”, re-addressed to Longueuil.
7. Niagara Falls Ont., black, Nov. '80, “RETURN TO”.
8. Nanaimo B.C., black, ? '77, “RETURN TO”.
9. London Ont., ? black, June '27, “RETURNED TO WRITER” and “UNCLAIMED.”, also typewritten ? “Name not in Directory No. 4”
10. Amherst N.S., purple, Mar. '09, “MISSENT AMHERST N.S.”, in oval. Was addressed to Mr J.W. Jean, Petit Degrat, CB. (Cape Breton), from Hamilton Ont.

