

Dec. '09

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Group News

I hope you all had good Christmas holidays. This should be a big newsletter, I again have 17 of you sending in information. We also have seven (!) new members, obviously interest remains strong. Another indication of this - Mike Street recently emailed me with the news that our Fancy Cancel book, Second Edition, has just gone to fourth printing!

The Kingston meeting at the BNAPS Convention went well, there were about 15 present. I have finally graduated to "Power Point" rather than overheads but will have to improve my slides for any future presentations. Gus Quattrochi also had a few comments on his collection of "unusual P.O. markings", and Arnie Janson also spoke on his cover with the "Fraudulent character" P.O. marking as described in Newsletter 50.

I have had little response to my request as to whether or not this newsletter should be distributed via Email as a .pdf file. There were only three responses, two for, one against. Any further opinions?

It is again dues time, if there is a dues notice with this newsletter, please remit to D. Lacelle, Box 233, Merville, B.C. V0R 2M0. I have increased the dues to \$8.00, the major expense is increasing postal rates. If I do not have to drop anyone for nonpayment, that will make our membership 86 which includes about six "required" (by BNAPS) mailings. FYI, total raised last year \$443.00, this includes some carry over to this year.

Our new members are: Mr. S. Friedenthal, 3 Lindburgh Cres., St. Albert AB, T8N 2S8; Mr. A. Globe, 1041 Lee St., White Rock BC, V4B 4P2; Mr. G. Green, 1800 Chaine Ct., Orleans ON, K1C 2N3; Mr. J. Mc Cormick, 43 Elm Cres., Stittsville ON, K2S 1S8; Mr. G. Pek, 1968 Main St. West, Suite 908, Hamilton ON, L8S 1J7; Mr. S. Pruthee, 47 Panamount GDNS NW, Calgary AB, T3K 5V5, and Mr. B. D. Sloley, 11120 - 63 Street, Edmonton AB, T5W 4E4. Welcome aboard, I (and I am sure the study group also) am pleased to see so many new members. Some of you have already sent in material for this newsletter, it is much appreciated (hint SEND MORE!)

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

NEWSLETTERS 30, & 37, the "T1" cancel. Jack Forbes has sent in another example of this cancelling a Turks Island (Turks and Caicos now) stamp. His original example of it cancelling a 1/2 cent S.Q. is thus an example of "foreign on Canada".

NEWSLETTER 51. pg. 2, "Henry Hechler" comment. John Hillson has pointed out that Hechler may not have produced the Halifax S.Q. bisects. I agree, although Hechler did produce some other interesting, and imaginative items. This was not really a "bad" thing in his day, and it may even have been regarded as a sign of creativity. We have to consider that some Post Masters "creatively" defaced their official cancel hammers, and some went so far as to carve elaborate fancy cancels! John also points out that the Halifax P.M. at that time "had a retail stamp business fronted by his wife". See also page 4 for comments on modern Mail Artists and/or Artistamps.

CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES.

Ron Smith has sent in many items. His first item is D561, which I had thought was just a radial cork that had been twisted when used. I have however seen several strikes now, and have to consider that this should be considered as a separate fancy (flower?) cancel as the design features are consistent, and not accidentally created. It may also be a late state of L1234, as in the third illustration. Ron's next item, an "A" is similar to L 219, but from Almonte Ont., Apr. 1875, in blue-black ink. There were at least eight other fancy cancels from Almonte, including another "A", L 242. The third item is an odd marking from Kingston Ont., Apr. 1879. Kingston used many other fancy cancels including a 'cross' series which were probably a word play on the religious nature of the P.M.'s name, Mr. Deacon. The next item is an "H" from Enfield N.S., Oct. 1871, possibly a first name initial from the P.M., Hy F. Donaldson. Somewhat similar "H's" were used at Halifax N.S. from the early 1860's to about 1894, however the probable routing of this cover from Enfield to Pictou would rule out a Halifax cancel.



The next item, (see below) is a confirming strike of L1223, Charlottetown PEI, May 1875. Next is a possible strike of D 559, described in D&S as a "rosebud". Ron's example will probably not print well, however it is the closest thing to the D&S illustration that I have seen. It may however just be a series of wavy sawmarks on the bottom of a cork. The fancy geometric is L 1710, Ron's cover gives a location for this item, Fordwich Ont., Apr. 1876. The "boxy" geometric (Alma Que., May 1883) is a new fancy cancel, similar in design to L1602, which also hails from Alma. I had seen this before, however only as a single strike, and not on cover. Finally, the odd design from Crow Harbour NS, Dec. 1895 is also new, and resembles (to me anyway) an "eye". I (eye) have not personally examined this item, and the scan received was considerably reduced, such as eye can see, it looks OK.



Brian Hargreaves has sent in these two items. The first is L 828, a "TD" from Bellville Ont., Dec. 1896, part of the "D" is breaking up from use. Brian's other item is probably L 292, a "B", all strikes of this cancel are deformed, it must have been a very soft hammer. Another possibility is that it is an unrecorded "Bogeyhead" cancel (compare with the former L 1361), or some other "B". Brian's example is on a shade from about 1888, and none of the other identified "B's" fit unless there was late use of the stamp.



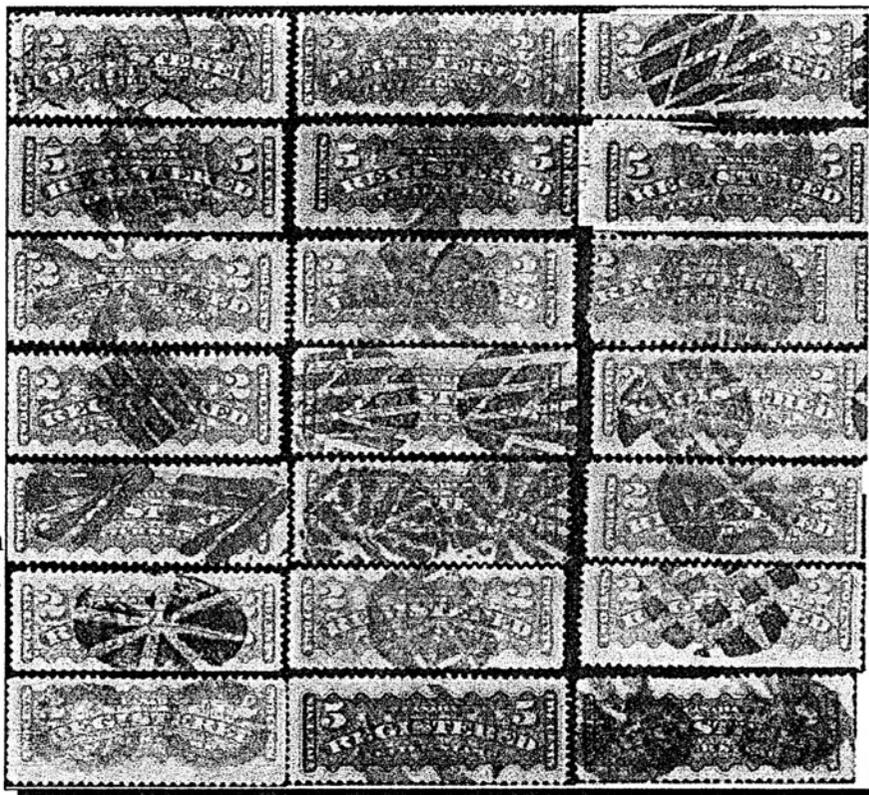
George Pek has sent in this late use of a cork cancel from Selkirk Ont., Oct. 1911. He suggests that it may have been intended as an "H". It might again have been a first name initial type, I note also that the P.M. "H". Kerr was a very precise individual, the cork is exactly centered!



Jim McCormick has sent in several pages of fancies. I have decided to initially concentrate on his items on the Registered stamps, F1 to F3. These stamps were in use for a shorter period (1875 - 1888) than most of the S.Q.'s, especially when compared to the 30 year use of the three cent S.Q., and the (sorta) 40 year use of the 15 cent L.Q. Use on these registered stamps can thus indicate roughly when the cancels were used. I have reduced the illustration, and in this process, I have accidentally (fortunately only in a digital sense) cut some of the perfs. The F2's (a dark stamp) will probably not print well, however if anyone would like to see a colour scan of this,

<<fancycancel@hotmail.com>>.

The F3 is a poor strike, but appears somewhat similar to L 1643, which was used around 1875. The F3 was issued in late 1875, and was in very short use. Within this material, I note L 978 (a star), L 1654 (geometric), L 865(a "V"), L 1642 (?) (geometric), L 1688 (geometric), as well as several interesting 'bottle top' cancels, seven (!) rayed radial cork (eight rays are easy to carve), an odd oblong eight piece cork etc.



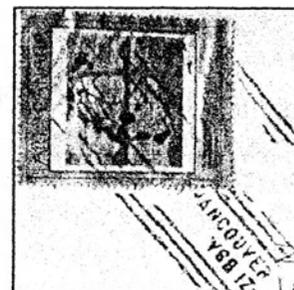
Jim has also sent in the odd item here, which I think is probably a cross cancel with one arm broken off. There also appear to be many intaglio lines, possibly a screw head hole etc. on the surface, so it is also possible that this is some very worn "official" hammer of some sort. It was used in Apr. 1878, there is no front CDS, but it is a one cent "local" rate, to Ingonish NS, and passed through Englishtown NS (60 km South), so probably from there. (Many of the postal rates were somewhat loosely interpreted in NS. in the "early" days.)



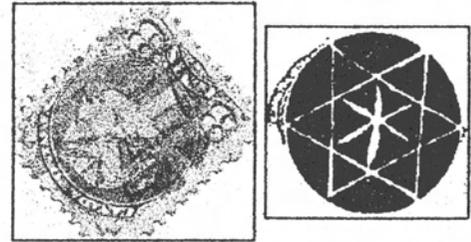
Bob Turkowski has sent in this Newfoundland "BJ", or "BD" or whatever cancel. It is on Sc. 39, issued in 1877. This is a new one to me, other Newfoundland. initial cancels are L 631 to 633, L 851, and L 881. There are many initial cancels where the P.M.'s forgot to carve them in mirror image. After a few "backwards" strikes, the P.M.'s probably said "Oh Golly gosh" (or something similar), and discarded the corks. Mirror image initials probably saw little use, and are thus theoretically rarer.



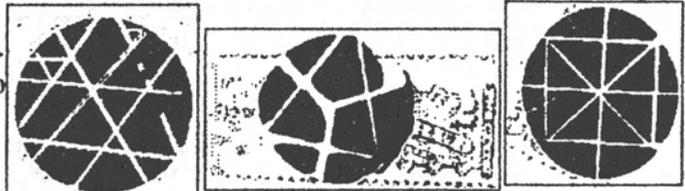
John Ho has sent in the modern roller cancel below. I had thought that there was a "Rollers S.G." with PHSC, but apparently not. He would specifically like to know when this roller was used/discontinued? Can anyone help? Is there a "Rollers S.G." somewhere?



Darrel Mc Nally has sent in this "A" cancel from Arcadia NS, Aug. 1879, blue ink. This is the "similar to" item mentioned at L 206. This is also a new late date, now Mar. to Aug. 1879. He has also sent in another "similar to" L 1007, item from Cape Negro NS, Mar. 1879. His strike is poor, and will not print well, so I have run our stock illustration of L 1007.



John cable has sent in an odd little cork cancel, and he suggests that it might have Masonic significance. The strike is weak, and is on a dark six cent S.Q., so I have reverted to old technology, and made a tracing as at right. I may be reading a bit too much into what may just be a slashed cork, however it can



appear as a rough "trisected triangle" but with one extra diagonal slash. as such, it can be compared with L 1337, described as "probably Masonic". The cancel was used at Fredericton NB, May 1877. Fredericton also used another intaglio geometric, L 1688, four years later.

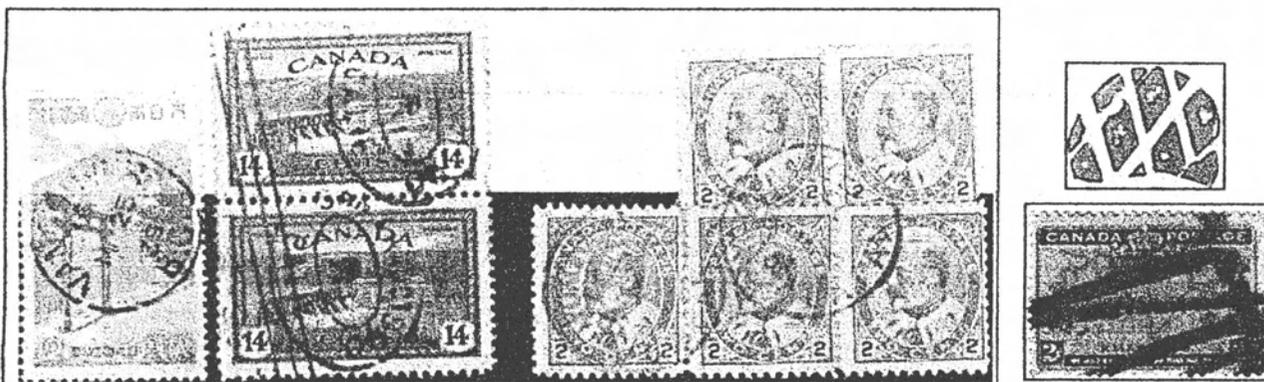


While on this topic... A recent auction had a new late date for the Charlottetown PEI Masonic triangle, L 1341, May 1873. The note in our book "...becomes a solid triangle in late state." is incorrect, and was probably a compilation mix-up with L 1338.

David Dawes has sent in this modern "foreign on Canada" item. Two Canadian commemorative TD bank stamps mailed, accepted, and cancelled in Kansas City to Brandon Man.



While on this topic... "Foreign on Canada", and vice versa, the two items at left below (Vancouver BC on Japan, and San Francisco oval on Canada) are "free to a good home", my Email is on the first page. I've also included a third item, "Yokohama Japan" on two cent Edwards. This item was written up in "Maple Leaves" in Nov. 1952, and referred to again in Jan. 1953. I cannot really give this latter item away, however if anyone wants it for say \$25.00, it's yours.



Wally Gutzman has sent in the two items at right above. Due to the poor strike, I had to again resort to a tracing. It would be just a hatched cork, except that each 'diamond' has a hollowed out centre. It was used at the thriving megatropolis of Totogon Man. in Nov. 1878. Wally's other item on Map stamp may be some kind of inked roller. It is neither grease pencil, nor modern 'magic' marker. Odd thing.

I recently went to an "Artistamp" presentation here in Courtenay BC. Some Artistamp people create their own "countries", then make up "stamps", as well as finely decorated envelopes from these countries. We philatelists know these fantasy stamps as "Cinderellas". There are also imaginary (and elaborate) money etc. created for these "countries". The fellow giving the talk also created a few fantasy cancels one of which is in the cut. After all, if you are going to create a country, money, stamps, and letters from that country, you may as well create a post office, and cancels. His country is called Canadada. I have included (at random) six \$5.00 "Fluxus Bucks" with this newsletter, which are of similar origin. If you are one of the recipients, you may "art" up the Fluxus Buck (It has large blank areas for this purpose), and return to the address on the F.B. What happens then, I do not know. Perhaps good Karma, or should I say "Karmamata"? (I can Email or send a scan of one of these F.B.'s if anyone really wants one. Since they have serial numbers, I might however be guilty of counterfeiting an imaginary country's currency...) FMI, evarney@shaw.ca



One other interesting aspect of this presentation was how the 'stamps' were perforated. He has a foot operated "patented 1897" comb type (about 18 inches wide!) perforating machine. It still works!!! I have attached a sample from that 1896 machine, there is some up and down 'wobble' of the perf. holes, however I get it to be perf. 12 which is certainly appropriate in the late S.Q. era of the late 1890's! (I can probably get more examples of these perf. samples if anyone wants one.)

FAKES, BOGUS, & SPURIOUS ITEMS

As mentioned in the last newsletter, I shall present these items in a separate section, rather than mixing them in with the other portions of the newsletter..

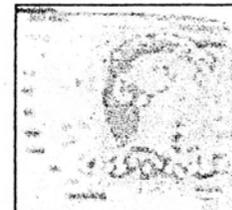
This cover with D 501 has been for sale on Ebay twice recently, and two of our members have asked me for an opinion. Bogus, "the cancel is penned on". It mimics designs used at the New York Foreign Mail Office. It is unlike other Canadian fancy cancels, and no other strikes - on or off cover - have ever been reported. For the record, the cover went from Cathcart Ont. (no other fancy cancels reported from there), to Saint John NB in Sept. 1871. There are no signs of misdirection. This is possibly another 'work' by "Bogusman" as described next page.



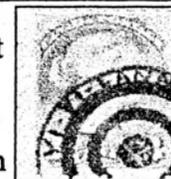
This fake of L 93, one of the "Ottawa 8" series, L 93 to L 98, appeared in a recent auction lot. It was based upon the illustration in the 1961 set of fancy numeral cancels which were later incorporated into D&S. There are about five things wrong with it, not the least of which is that it is on a stamp issued at least 18 months after this series of "Ottawa 8's" was used!



The little 'spurious' beastie at right seems to be an example of either playfulness, or mimicry on the part of a P.M. A regular round CDS has been applied inside of an earlier applied hollow grid cancel. The two strikes mimic the 'squared circle' type of cancel hammer. Town is Vernon Mines NS, Mar. 1896.



This bogus item is the result of another type of playfulness, probably by children. The first time I saw this, it was associated with a small group of highly imaginatively shaped and coloured (modern 'magic marker' incl.) unbelievable items including D 440, D 446, and D 450. Some of these items have multiple colours in the same "strike". The strikes are drawn on using some rather basic "drafting" equipment.



The fake cancel on this cover mimics the type of cancel used in the Ottawa series of geometrics (compare L 1670, L 1671 etc.) used from 1871 to 1880. The inks of the CDS, and the "cancel" are dissimilar, the underneath target cancel appears to agree with the CDS however. (There was no reason to recancel, nor to change ink.) The origin is Russell Ont. Mar. 1873, (about 25 km southeast of Ottawa) and to Toronto. There is a possibility that the cover was recancelled in Ottawa, (with an otherwise unrecorded fancy), however there was neither need, nor indication of this. (This is not a forwarding case, the two cent overlaps.)

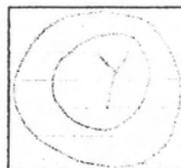
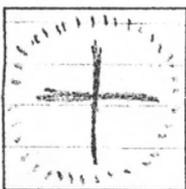


This spurious item is just a VERY heavy oval parcel hammer, probably L. 14.

Finally, Bogus, Bogus, Bogus... There was a collection which appeared around 1961, just before D&S was published, which had a disturbing number of bogus covers. I will not use the name of the collector, as there is a possibility that he bought them in good faith, after all there were only Jarrett's illustrations (later copied by Boggs) of fancy cancels available at the time. None of these items were in Jarrett, so they were "new" discoveries then.

It is also possible that this gent "made" them, and on this assumption, I shall call him "Bogusman". (The name has no implied or other similarity to any real persons name.) Bogeyman's material has several common characteristics, a flat dull writing ink, unique covers (rarely on stamps), penned in cancels, dramatic cancels, usually with some background "meaning". He tended to concentrate on fancy letter and initial cancels. The covers are otherwise genuine, in that they have real CDS's, back stamps etc. His covers do not have "traces of another cancel", he must have had a source of many S.Q. covers to obtain source material. Many of his creations made it into D&S, although they do not appear in the sets of photos or tracings from the late 1950's which were the primary D&S material. I have 35 index cards (one item per card), from about 1961 when a member of the BNAPS Small Queen S.G. roughly sketched the fancy "cancel" covers from Bogeyman's collection. Perhaps the gentleman preparing the sketches was suspicious, the sketches are too poor to have been the source illustrations for D&S.

All the items on these 35 cards attributed to "Bogusman" in our current book have been labeled "dubious", and are not ranked by scarcity. (I too had suspicions.) I shall present five or six of these items (1961 sketches, and later illustrations) in this and subsequent newsletters. In a few rare cases Bogusman may have made poor "copies" of real fancy cancels, and to further muddy the waters, fakes may have been made of some of his creations by later scoundrels.



L 1159

L 792

D 424

L 1229

L 487

I regret that this newsletter has been delayed, I shall mail it as soon as possible in 2010. I hope all of you had a good Christmas / New Years holiday.

Good collecting,

Dave.Lacelle