

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 58

December 2011

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Another end of the year newsletter... I am writing this one from home as the chance of being snowed in at my cabin would be very likely this year. I may not get this in the mail before the end of the month, but will take the opportunity to wish all of you the very best of the season, Merry Xmas, and a Happy New Year. (Interesting thought ... there are fancy cancels for Valentine's day and Halloween, but none for Christmas? Or did I miss something?)

Group News.

Thank you to the 15 members who took time to send in material for this newsletter. Please continue this practice! This is also an example of how well this Study Group works, 15 "hands on" contributors are a lot of hands in any group! Thanks again.

We have three new members: Mr. P. Kelly, 60 Thomsonhill, Cemetery St., RR6, Renfrew ON, K7V 3Z9; Mr. M.T. Schilling, 27 Wolsey Rd., East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9EN UK; and Mr. E. Stevens, PO Box 1457, La Ronge SK, S0J 1L0. Welcome aboard, it is a pleasure to see that interest in this area remains so strong. We now have 83 members.

I am both snail mailing, and Emailing this newsletter, due to the fact that it is dues time again - people respond better to a paper dues notice, and it seems that this leads to more material being sent in. Hint, if you are mailing in your dues, please send in something for the Newsletter. **If you owe dues, there will be a small dues notice insert with this newsletter.** I have retained the dues at the mighty sum of \$ 7.00 per year. (Snailmail address here is Box 233, Merville BC, V0R 2M0.) Last years revenues were \$ 583.00, of which almost \$ 200.00 were advance payments, or donations. I will probably have to drop three members for not paying dues for three years (M.V., R.P., & W.B.).

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 57, two members have pointed out that the Small Queen and Airmail item in the Fakes (etc.) section may be a genuine late use (about 20 years late) of the stamp which just happened to be cancelled by the Airmail cancel. This certainly could be true, however I have seen at least two other examples of Small Queen airmail cancels, and strongly suspect they were deliberate. When "air mail" was new, there were a great many "First Flight" covers and cachets. There were also some private airline stamps issued. Much of this was philatelic inspired. Would it not have been a wee bit tempting to create Small Queen airmails also? I might add a small "lighten up a bit" comment here – I personally find an Airmail S.Q. a real "hoot", almost as good as the modern quartered cork presented on the same page. Any other S.Q. Airmails out there?



Newsletter 57, Pg. 1. L 1647 (a geometric). Paul Varty has sent in another example. His is on a S.Q. from the 1890's. The previous example was on F2, and assuming the F2 was not late use, narrows the use of this cancel to roughly 1890 to 1895.

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Newsletter 57, Pg. 3, the new “C in rings” cancel. Murray Marchant has sent in another example, on a 3 cent S.Q. which appears to be a rose shade from about 1887 to 1889. I should have also pointed out that there was a somewhat similar cancel but with three rings L 336 used at Morell PE 1873.



REVISIONS TO FANCY CANCEL BOOK

Almost 12 years after publication, and there are still errors to be found... On the other hand, the main book listing describes over 1700 items, the raw data spreadsheet is 7715 rows deep by 10 columns wide (77,000+ data entries !), there are bound to be some mistakes.

Page 50, 51, L 471. Change to “ 522 Saint John NB NO77-DE77 2 (and delete the note.)”.

(The original photocopy of the cancel cover was poor, and was incorrectly identified by me.)

Pg. 94, 95, L 1009, Change to “ 144b La Presentation QC JA81 3.

(The original photocopy had incorrect information [from Doc Day] about a Fred Jarrett illustration! The guy in 2000 copied incorrect information from the guy in 1960 who goofed about something prepared in 1930. 82 years later we have it right again! This is one of the reasons why we have a study group. Belated thanks to Ron Smith for some of this information.)

CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

Mike Street has sent in several references to foreign cancels on Canada. This is an area I am particularly interested in as sometimes they can be mistaken for Canadian cancels. For example, there are thousands of USA carved cork fancy cancels, sometimes (see the line above re. mistakes.) these will fall on Canadian stamps. There is a slight possibility that his first item is Canadian, or possibly associated with some Canadian (or Newfoundland) military event in World War II. (I was going to use “WWII”, however perhaps some of the younger crowd might not ‘get’ the abbt. Another example, “LOL” at the end of old letters used to mean “Lots of Love”, now it means “Laughing out Loud”, this could lead to some misinterpretation now.)

The first item is on Newfoundland Sc. 267 issued in 1943. The item was for sale by Sandafayre Auctions, and an ms (meaning ‘manuscript’, not ‘Microsoft’ nor ‘female marital status unknown’) on the page says “Probably India Paquebot”. Close examination reveals another circular cancel directly under this in a light blue ink. The interior numerals 3 and 5 are from this other cancel. This may be a form of WWII military blackout cancel, as described in the previous newsletter. If so, it could have been used anywhere, but Newfoundland is the best possibility. Has anyone seen another? Blackout cancels are by definition hard to physically locate.



This item (which appeared in a Behr Ltd. Sale) is a Japanese (or Chinese) cancel on Canada. Initially there were “treaty ports” opened in these areas, with many different nations having commercial and/or semi diplomatic representation. In such unusual circumstances, odd frankings, cancels etc. are to be expected. I have also added a few (Yokohama, Hong Kong) from my former collection.



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Mike also sent in a reference to this mixture of stamps, and cancels on a bulk mailing receipt page which were also for sale by Sandafayre Auctions. When a firm paid for its bulk mailings, the appropriate amount of stamps were affixed to one of these pages, they were then cancelled by the appropriate postal official. I would imagine there would be nothing wrong with the firm bringing in their own stamps, which may explain the mix of issues on this page. Three different time indices are evident, 5 pm, 6 pm Feb. 13, and 11 am Feb. 15 1900. This is possibly co-incidental, but could this have been some Valentines day 'sale' and follow up? There were probably higher value stamps (? \$ 1.00 stamps for 100 1 cent circulars?) below these, the rate would have been 1 cent per pound otherwise, and although there was a 1 cent circular rate, I doubt it was per pound. (Quick rough calculation, if 5 gm/page, this would be about 100 1 page circulars per pound for 1 cent!) The parcel rate at the time was 24 cents for 1 pound. The really odd part is the cork cancel, which appears to have been put on last almost as an afterthought, everything was already cancelled!



Glenn Archer sent in the odd cancel on the 1/2 cent L.Q. at right above. I have highlighted some features in the enlargement. Most of these are small circles which remind me of some of the Toronto geometric cancels, especially L 1257, Toronto Apr. 1872. Glenn says that the stamp is from about 1874 to 1875, so I suspect it is a similar Toronto item. Glenn also sent in the modified (or very worn) two ring hammer strike on a 3 cent L.Q. It is impossible to tell what the two ring number was, but 2 (something) seems possible. I have illustrated below it another very worn 2R2 hammer, number 43 which wore to such a blob that it has imaginatively been described as a "fancy butterfly" cancel.

Bill Burden sent in this cancel, which is new, and also somewhat similar in design to L 1678. His item was used at Peterborough Ont., Sept. 1871 (or 1872, the CDS is weak), with both the cork and CDS on the stamp. The inks are a reasonable match. Usually a fancy cancel and another cancel already on the stamp is reason for suspicion, however I do not think that is the case here. The cancel is not "fancy" enough to create any extra value by itself above and beyond the value of the cover, that is to say it is not a major design collecting area such as Masonic, or P.M. initials, fancy leaf designs etc. I believe that the cork was applied at the receiver office (Toronto Ont.,) as it was against regulations at that time to use the CDS as a cancel, and also as the stamp was not well cancelled by the CDS. In other words this was done by a 'keener' in Toronto. Does anyone have any other covers of this?



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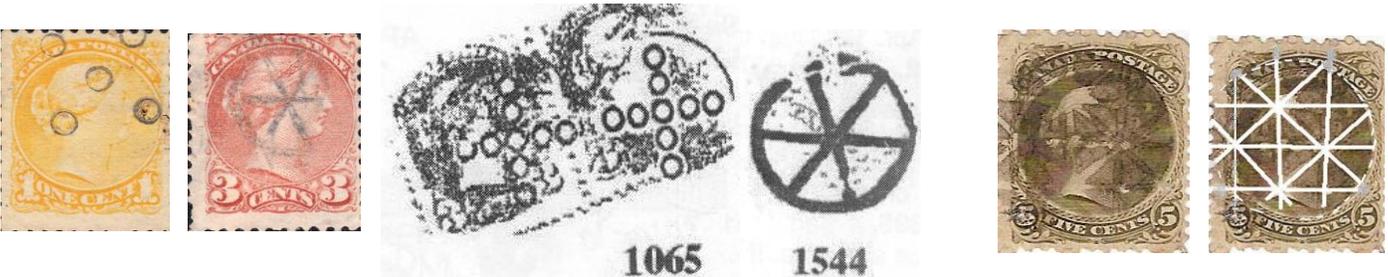
Paul Varty has sent in this intaglio “KM” cancel. It may be an unlisted geometric design, however the fact that the middle of the “M” does not continue as cut lines shows that “M” was probably the intention. I wonder if this was a part strike of L 530, however Pauls strike seems to be on a somewhat later stamp? Are there any other examples out there?



Iain Hallum referred me to this item in a Matthew Bennett auction. It is L 177, and was used in Streetsville Ont., July 1858 to Aug. 1861. According to Jarrett, this was to commemorate Queen Vic’s 20th Jubilee. Use in 1857 has not been confirmed, however the cancel is found on stamps of this age. S.O.N. strikes are the norm for this cancel, and I have seen two examples on top of other “poor” cancels – presumably as receiver cancels. While I have not examined this actual stamp it looks genuine, there is a fake, however the numerals in the fake are much ‘rougher’.



Guillaume Vadeboncoeur sent in the items at left below. The first is probably intended as a scarifying cancel, and is thus similar in intent to L 1065. Scarifying cancels were intended to cut into the paper so that the ink would penetrate better, and thus prevent reuse of the stamp. I might caution that there are signs of another very poor cancel on this stamp, however that might be another reason for a scarifying cancel to be applied elsewhere. There were many types used in the United States, and I suspect that that was where this one originated. His second item is similar to L 1544, however smaller. There are also traces of another cancel on this stamp. The notes for L 1544, include “also reported from Port Hope Ont., ’88...” I was unable to confirm this latter use, however the stamp here appears to be an 1887, or 1888 rose shade.



Brian Hargreaves sent in the item above at right. As it is very hard to see on the grey stamp, I attempted to exaggerate the intaglio lines in a paint program. It appears to be somewhat similar to L 1674 used at Ottawa Ont., Feb. 1873. As the 5 cent L.Q. was issued in Jan. 1875, this is another “similar to” (or recut ?) item.

Yohann Tanguay has sent in this item which was in some Eastern Auctions material. While it is not very fancy, cork cancels on Map stamps are unusual – both because 1898 was towards the end of the ‘cork’ era, and the stamp had a short usage. It is from Black Creek Ont., Mar. 1898. I enhanced the cancel at right in the hope that perhaps it was some kind of initial, but no such luck the P.M. was C. Jenks.



George Pond sent in a neat little cover with an example of L 1076, or similar from Westbourne Manitoba Mar., 1880. There are not many fancy corks from Manitoba.



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Ron Smith sent in the items below. His first item is a somewhat worn notched cork from Barrie Ont., May 1879. Both it and the CDS are in a bright blue ink. The Barrie PM (Mr. J. Edwards) seemed to like this colour, several other blue ink covers have been reported in this era. (He also used standard black ink similar design fancy cancels L 1506 '70, L1515 '78 are black, L 561 '74, L 1111 '79 are blue. An odd CDS with "MOO" [Money Order Office] is also to be noted.) The second item, while not very fancy is somewhat similar to L 1702, and is the first fancy cancel I have noted from Arnprior Ont. Oct., 1875. The third item is L 465, Port hope Ont., May 1876 to Nov. 1877. The illustration in our book is poor – my bad, sorry. If anyone wants a better illustration to paste over the one in the book, just let me know. The next item has what may be a numeral "11", or possibly just a bent nail head in the middle. His next item is an unlisted intaglio triangle, I am uncertain of the meaning of this, it seems to be deliberate, the horizontal hatches would have sufficed – Masonic, an "L", just a triangle? Lastly, we have L 811, a "T" from Toronto Ont., used Nov. 1871. This would seem appropriate, the "Toronto 2's" fancy series (L 18 – L 40) had basically ended just a year before, so why not a "T", however... This is the only known cover, (from a busy place like Toronto?) the inks of the CDS and cancel do not match very well, and most other Toronto corks from this time frame (i.e. L 1600, 1615, L 1628) were much more elaborate. The cover is to a small town "Thistle town Ont.", and I wonder if the "T" is a receiver cancel from there? Does anyone else have another strike?



Harley Cohen sent in several somewhat perplexing geometric fancy cancels, please see the next page. He had several comments regarding symmetry, and asymmetry both in a general nature, and as indicated in some of the fancy geometric cancels.

I have always been somewhat intrigued by the curious irregularity of some of the 'Ottawa geometric' series L 1648 etc. Some of these are split up the middle, and have elaborate cuts on one side, yet are rather simple in design on t'other. It is almost as if two different people (or two different mind frames) prepared them. L 1667, Ottawa Ont., Mar. 1878 is illustrated above at right as an example.

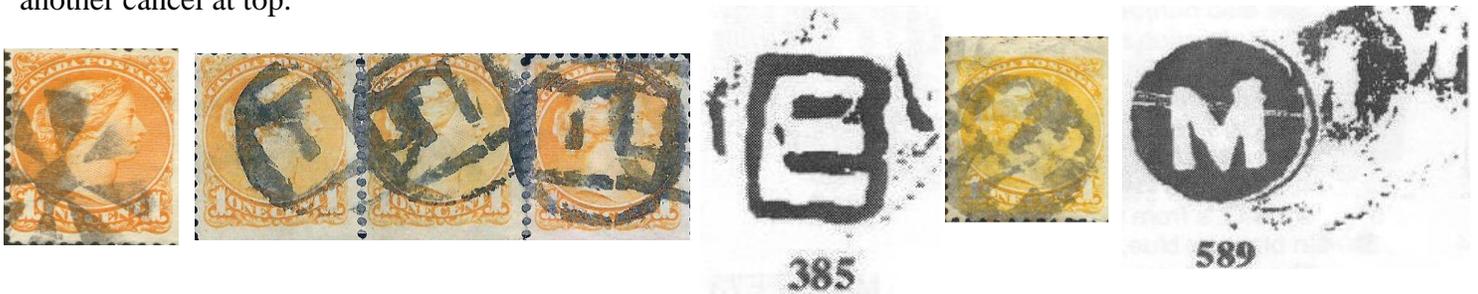
There may a more practical explanation however. If the cork were already mounted in some sort of hammer before carving, and the hammer was held in the left hand, it may have been easier - and safer - to carve a fancy design on the facing "away" side from you. In L 1667 as above, the top would be cut strokes away from you, and the bottom (the "facing you" side) has simpler cuts, which probably not coincidentally angle away from you. Elementary Sherlock! I just love trying to figure out what some of these designs "mean" in their 100 to 150 year old contexts. This "human touch" is one of the things that make fancy cancels so popular. You can almost hear the fellow who cut L 1667 "I'm not going to cut myself again by gollygosh" or words to that effect.

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Harleys first item is L 1009, a six pointed star aka ‘Star of David’, and which has considerable religious significance. Another inherent symbolism within this design is two ‘equilateral triangles transected’ which may have Masonic significance. L 1009 is incorrectly listed in our F.C. book, see pg. 2, it should be La Presentation Que. Jan. 1881. (La Presentation de Marie is a Roman Catholic order founded in 1796 in France, this may or may not account for the town name, Star of David etc.) The second item is actually less complex than it first appears. It is a double (or more) strike(s) of a six sectioned cork similar to L 1510, cut down to a square. The P.O. is unknown. The last item is L 1083, known used on a cover from Toronto Ont., (no CDS), and also on S.Q.’s from about 1875 to 1885. This stamp appears to be an earlier shade than 1875, but this may be a late use of the stamp.



Bob Turkowski sent in the items below. The first item is similar to L 1485, and is on an early 1 cent S.Q. (? 1871?). This variant with a solid square centre has also been noted on Sc. 15, possibly a late use of this stamp. There is also a weak partial CDS strike at the top of this stamp.) His second item is one of ‘those ink blot tests’, if you look at the intaglio part you see one thing, the solid parts another. I think this is L 385, an intaglio ‘E’, P.O. unknown, but turned the other way, it could be read as a solid ‘TD’, somewhat similar to L 826 (Belleville Ont., Aug., 1890 – June 1891), or L 827 (Unk.). An unlisted solid ‘T1’ is also possible. The stamp printing (1875 to 1886) would not be consistent with L 826. His last item is a very worn strike of L 589, an ‘M’ from Charlottetown PEI, Sept. - Oct. 1880. This stamp has had a rather rough life, there appears to be dirt, or possibly another cancel at top.



I borrowed this item from the Bull.MOOSE, November 2011, a PHSC study group, which in the simplest definition studies modern P.O. numbering systems and cancels. The contact is Doug Murray, Box. 693, Charlottetown PE, C1A 7L3. I do not know much about this field, however they want to know if anyone has any information on this ‘0064’, which appears to probably be a favour strike on a postally used plate block. The 0064 number was issued to Beauceville Est. Quebec Money Order Office at the appropriate time, however this 0064 stamp was not to be used as a cancel. Does anyone have any further information, or examples of other number (only) csncls like this?



Derek Smith sent in a bunch of stuff from his studies of Saint John NB. Note please, this is not St. John, or St. John’s, nor St. Jean, I have been taken to task by several members in the past for mixing up St. J’s. This leads to an interesting question, there must be re-directed covers out there which went to the wrong St. J. Please send in examples.

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Some of Derek's material ran in Newsletters 51, and 52 although I have tried to avoid duplication here. At least three of the covers are to MPP (later MP) Alexander Rogers who was mentioned and pictured ("he of the awesome sideburns") in Newsletter 57.

Dereks first item shows a cancel variation, "With fine lines on surface." While some cancels do have "saw", or (metal) file lines on their surfaces when new, the feature can also appear in illustrations when the cover paper is heavily ribbed. Anyone actually holding the cover would realise this, however it can be a source of confusion when working from poor illustrations.

The second item was referred to in Newsletter 49, as L 1564 in worn state, January 1876, but was not illustrated there. The third item is basically a quartered cork however it has an intaglio circular ring – vaguely like L 1143. This is a new listing, Saint John NB Feb. 1877. The last item (at bottom) is also a new geometric, Saint John NB, Jan. 1885. Derek was also the source for the book information revision on page. 2. Thanks.



FAKES, BOGUS AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

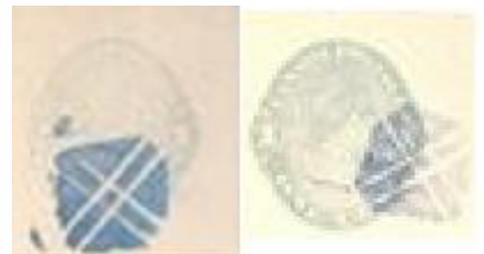
One of our members sent this "P" cancel in. I remember seeing it before, and at the time concluding it was a bogus item however I cannot find the reference. (There may be a very weak part CDS cancel TR.) I do not have the actual stamp at hand, so I cannot check several criteria. I may have to "eat crow" on this one, can anyone else send in the missing reference?



These two items appeared on commercial postal stationery cards. They are bogus, the cards are from two different towns, and are almost a year apart, Jan. & Dec. 1887! I must again remind you to be very careful when purchasing these commercial cards. Large accumulations of them are still available, and there was no need to cancel the stamp part.

Anyone can carve a potato, and add a "new" fancy cancel to these otherwise genuine stationery cards. Both of the cards referred to here were to "A.E. Vallerand" a merchant in Quebec City, would you please

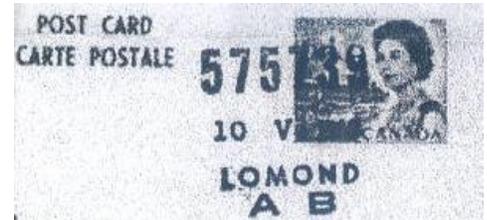
check your collections, and inform me of what other "cancels" may have been put on this firm's waste.



I did a bit of research, A.E. Vallerand imported durable commercial crockery for hotel and institutional customers. The firm was founded in 1883, and (with several different corporate owners) existed until 1987. "In that year the firm A.E. Vallerand declared bankruptcy, leaving everything in the store including an old chest containing many papers and souvenirs from the beginning of the business 104 years earlier, but which were subsequently either lost or destroyed." Quote from Thesis by Mr. C. Lafleur. It is sad when a good and long lasting firm has its corporate name tarnished by some unscrupulous person "reusing" old correspondence.

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The item at right is a wee bit more modern fake, and was written up in the PHSC Bull. MOOSE Aug. 2011. (Contact details are on pg. 6.) It is a fake POCON cancel, the card was sent May 10 1968, however this style of POCON was only proofed in late 1972. This type of P.C. was not used until early 1969. There may be a philatelic aspect here, as the card is addressed to a philatelic author, perhaps there might be a 'hint' in the message? There is another example of a fake POCON in this issue of Bull. MOOSE, however it will have to wait until the next newsletter.



A word or two about the illustrations in this newsletter is in order. Some items may not appear as they were sent in to me, and/or as they are in your collection. The input this time came from 16 different scanners, all with different colour balances, contrasts, and resolutions. There are times when I adjust sharpness and/or contrast at this end, although I rarely mess with the colour. In many cases - especially when an object is scanned on black - I show only the stamp image, and thus tend to visually trim the perfs. Sometimes I move a CDS on a cover to beside the stamp so that a smaller 'piece' may be shown. Hopefully this is not a source of concern, I am merely trying to improve the printing, save space in the newsletter, and save printer ink.

The items below are from the "Bogusman" traced cards, as described in previous newsletters. I am pleased to say that there will be only one more listing of his items in the next newsletter. As usual, the rough sketch from the index card of Bogusmans holdings is on top, and the "L" illustration is below.



Please note, there appear to be genuine strikes of L 904 above, possibly "copied" by Bogusman.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

You are all getting a little Christmas present with this newsletter. The "extra" 1 cent stamp on the envelope is "cancelled" (by me) with the Masonic cork that I received from a philatelic "junque box" about a 25 years ago. I have run strikes from this cork in several newsletters, yet have never received any examples of it in use - either as real or fake. (It may be a USA fancy.) Someone went to the trouble of carving this, yet...

May I wish you and yours a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year, and neat philatelic items under your tree... I cannot resist running that cyber Santa (from an old slogan cancel) I created in Newsletter 57. HO HO HO

