

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 62

April 2013

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Group News.

May I wish all of you a happy Spring, and hope you are all gardening, or doing whatever “Springthing” you enjoy. Personally, by the time you receive this, I shall be enjoying my non-sedentary hobby – my annual month long hike camp on the west coast of Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands). The “lonely tree” picture is very near the most westerly coastal point in Canada. (It isn’t ‘photo shopped’, the clouds really did frame the tree.) Now, back to the sedentary hobby...

We have three new members, Mr. F. Henry, 40 Parkstone Ave., Southsea Hants, P04 OQ2, UK, Mr. D. Law, 101 Old Mill Road, Toronto ON M8X 1G9, and Mr. R. Warnock, address temporarily unknown.

We now have 86 members. I had to drop six for non-payment of dues for more than two years. May I thank you for your dues, total this year was \$ 604.00, of which \$216.00 was for advance payment or donations. This is enough to pay my costs to produce the newsletter, but a quick question... **Do any of you have discounted postage that I can buy?**



This will be a very diverse newsletter, upon reviewing my draft, I note our typical fancy cancels, a bit of scattered postal history, roller cancels, oval parcel cancels, and modern fancy cancels etc. Some of these areas I know very little about, please send in any corrections, additions etc. Enjoy...

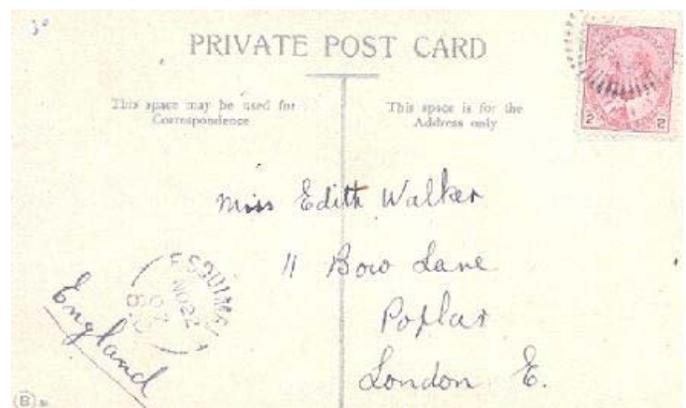
REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 61, page 1. Para. 3, should have read “\$186.00 were advance...”

Newsletter 61, page 3, bottom. I have received a reply back from the Malahat P.O. regarding the fancy “deer” cancel used there in 1953. Unfortunately they were unable to help. Any other info. out there?

REVISIONS TO FANCY CANCEL BOOK

Page 198, the Victoria, Esquimalt crown cancel, L 1291, ½ scale. Ralph Vincero has sent in the P.C. at right, Nov. 22, 1911. This is the second last listing, and was previously listed as “Unknown”. There are now 58 covers reported, Victoria BC Oct. 1880 to Nov. 1893, then Esquimalt BC Feb. 1903 to July 1914. Many of the later examples appear to be philatelic or souvenir strikes. This example has no text, and the Esquimalt CDS is right where the text should be. There is even an extant souvenir (Esquimalt) strike on a silk scarf!



BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 62
CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

Ron Smith has again sent in a wide range of material. The cover below is another example of the P.O. ‘chasing down’ an elected official. Newsletter 57 had an example with Hon. A. Rogers being located at his home “Hopewell Hills” N.B. with the given address “Riverside Albert County”. Newsletter 33 had the same cancel as below (L 1402) to Hon. C. Burpee in Ottawa with a Chipman NB CDS Mar. 1878. Ron’s cover to Hon. W. Butler “Fredericton” is a bit more problematic. The backstamps are Fredericton Mar. 2 1878, and St. Martins NB Mar. 4. While Chipman is in the Hon. gent’s riding (Queens), St. Martins is not, and is in fact the opposite direction. A bit of research indicated that Hon. Butler lived at “Grand Lake”, which was an unincorporated area on Grand Lake Road (local name) N.B. Highway 123 which runs north from Chipman. The cover went to Fredericton, was sent to the MP’s house near Chipman where it was somewhat unnecessarily cancelled, then forwarded (with no markings) to St. Martins. We may never know why he was in St. Martins, but it appears he received it there. I find this kind of internet research fascinating.



Ron’s next item is L 1568, now located as Toronto Dec. 1889. This appears to be an early strike of this cancel, and I wonder if it is the broken end of some tool handle (or similar), the hole in the middle was designed to hold a screw which would expand the middle for a firm attachment. His next item is L 978, which has been also reported from St. Jacques Que. AU 1883, and May 1884. His example (I cheated and moved the CDS) is Dec. 1884, obviously in worn condition.

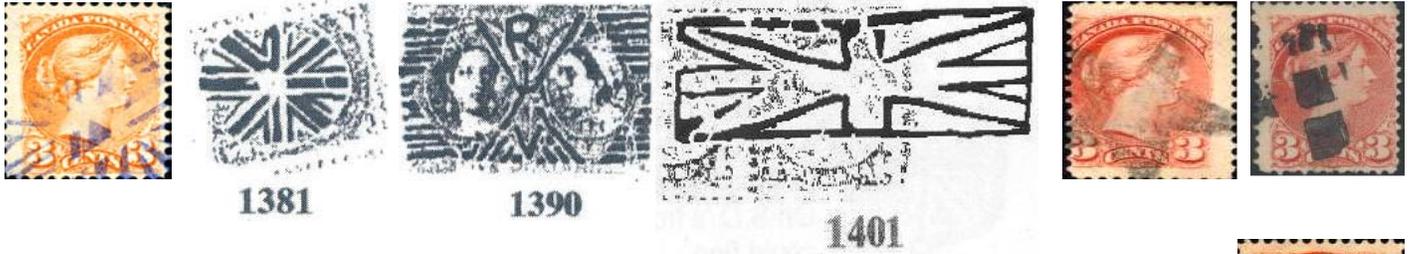
Ron also sent in the four items below as unreported oddities. I seem to remember having seen the first one (? an intaglio T ?), but did not list it. The next may be “swirl” at the bottom of a fancy 3 ratemark, compare with Jarrett 604. Third is similar to L 1615, but with a square surround. The last one may be an early strike of L1014 (?). Any comments on these are appreciated.



I do not usually run something twice, however the “EEXAT” cancel L394 sent in by Guy Jeffries still intrigues me. It must have meant something to someone! The last letter is indistinct, it might be EEXAD, or even EEXA. Any comments?

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 62

Jim McCormick sent this odd item in. It is in light purple ink on a 3 cent S.Q. indeterminate printing (a guess, 1890's). I have never seen it before, and in style it immediately makes me think of (a partial of?) some sort of machine (flag?) cancel. My other 'gut reaction' is that it seems similar to some of the odd designs from Notre Dame West (NDW Montreal) in 1897. L 1381, L1390, and L 1401 from NDW are illustrated as examples.



Jim also sent in 14 examples of corks on the distinctive 3 cent SQ. rose carmine shade of 1888. I've picked out three of the 'fancier' ones. Firstly, L953 a star from appropriately named Stellarton NS used JU 1888 to DE 1889. (I've again 'cheated', and changed the contrast for printing purposes – the shade will appear wrong on line.) Second is L 1971 a cross, the Guelph Ont. version used Apr 1888. At right is a "C" or "G" cancel similar to several listed types, however in the wrong time frame. I initially (no pun intended) thought it was L333, however the latest date for L333 is seven years earlier than this stamp. (I've again changed the contrast.) This is a nice example of how some of the specific shades (or short usages of stamps) can tie down (again no pun intended) the use of a specific cancel. A bit off topic here, but a minor advisement... Fred Jarrett dated most of the fancy cancels presented in his book by his version of the stamp shades as there was no detailed listing of covers available in 1928. Thus bogeyhead L 1346 now known by several covers as late 1882, was described as Jarrett 1140 "Black. 1893 3c \$ 1.50". He was closer with Masonic fancy L 1308 now known as Simcoe Ont., Mar. 1871 Jarrett 1167 "Black. 1870 1c orange, 3 c. ..." The preceding is not said to knock Jarrett, however his "year" dates may be a bit off given more modern research.



Glen Archer sent this in. I have enhanced the image a bit (dark stamp), and think that it is probably L 1477 which is not located, but known on stamps "from about '71 to '75. This 5 cent L.Q. would have probably been used in 1875, which fits.



Frank Henry sent in this PC with P.M. (and store owner) Emile Mouchet's personal signet ring "EM" cancel, L 399, West Arichat NS, NO 1879 – DE 1885. This is a new early date. There are three other similar "EM" PC's to Black Brothers Halifax, all ordering supplies for Emile's store. (Sept. Oct. and Nov. 1881) There were also two stamped covers, but not to B.B.

(A signet ring was a finger ring that you used to imprint your initials on the sealing wax of important letters. They were not usually inked.)



BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 62

Frank also has an interest in oval parcels, and I illustrate a few he has recently sent in, specifically a purple “Lunenberg NS”, and two “St. John NB”. The parcel cancels were first written up by George Olsen in the SQ Newsletters in 1980 and 1981, and more formally as "Notes on Oval Cancels of the Small Queens Era" accepted as a publication by the National Postal Museum, and cat. as Res. HE 6185 C24E 092 047 1983. This was a "3rd Edition, August 1983. I hope this stimulates some interest in this area, and can pass along Frank’s contact information if required. I would also of course seek any input to this newsletter regarding oval cancels.



Guy Jeffries sent in this example of L 1441, a “moth”, location and date unknown, with “On S.Q.’s from about ‘90” stated in our book. While I have not examined the actual item and thus cannot comment on a few criteria, there do not appear to be any other cancels, design details agree with other strikes, and the stamp is both torn and creased. As such, the cancel looks “good”. However, the stamp appears to be from an earlier shade than from the ‘90’s, and based upon the monitor colour balance received by me, I would say it is from about 1875. (I commented earlier on Fred Jarrett’s use of shades to date cancels – my shading judgements certainly are not always accurate either !) I have noticed some old stock – 1 cent oranges of about this vintage – used on city mailings in Toronto (presumably Main PO) in about 1895. **Has anyone else noticed this late use of 1 cent orange shade (not deep orange) S.Q.’s in Toronto?**

David Law sent in the strike above right of L226 on F1, the 1 cent Registration stamp. I have never seen a strike of this, and it was incorrectly located in Day and Smythies due to a collation error. F1 was issued in 1875, however was used for a long time, so this does not narrow down the use of this cancel.

David also sent in this interesting material on an F3 (8 cent Registration stamp). His text is as good as any I could prepare, so... “...images of a roller cancel which I acquired recently. The cancel purports to be a “MONTREAL R-1” registered roller on an F3, but on closer examination it also shows “NELSON 3” at the bottom. The first image shows how the cancel appears on the stamp in unaltered form; the others show the cancel after the blue and other colours have been reduced or removed using Photoshop.



Garfield Portch and I spent about an hour and a half yesterday examining the stamp with the VGG Foundation’s new VSC 6000 machine and could not find any evidence that the stamp or cancel had been altered in any way. However, Garfield was able to determine that that the same ink was used in all portions of the cancel and was applied with the same level of intensity. He concluded that it is highly likely that all portions of the cancel were applied as a single strike or on the same occasion.

I assume that the cancel is a fake. I would have thought that the intention was to fake the Montreal R-1 cancel, since it is the most visible of the two town names on the stamp and it is the more interesting cancel, at least on this stamp. The time period of the Montreal cancel (1894-98) is also closer to the time when the RLS stamps were being used than the Nelson roller cancels (1907 and later).

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 62

However, the Nelson portion of the cancel seems to make less sense than the Montreal. The roller cancel proof book for BC shows the “3” of the Nelson cancel in a plain typeface, separated from the town name by short vertical bars. But the “3” on my copy has a fancier typeface (similar to the Montreal R-3 roller), it is located immediately below the town name (also similar to the Montreal R-3 roller), and it is not centred. “Nelson” is centred on the cancel but it is missing the “BC” designation.

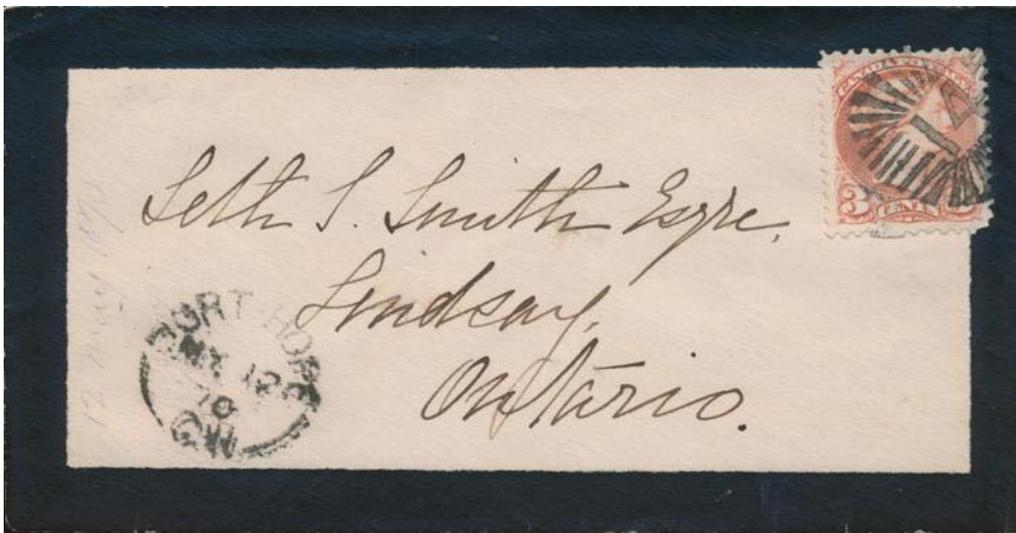
It is almost as though one part of a “Montreal R-3” roller or similar device was altered to “Montreal R-1” and another part to “Nelson 3”. But, why bother to create such a strange combination?

A few other points are worth noting: there is a faded manuscript cancel on the stamp, not all the vertical bars are evenly spaced, and the cancel ends abruptly in the top left corner. The VSC 6000 also showed a small amount of cancel ink to the right of the cancel, about the place where one would expect to find another vertical bar, if another bar or two were to be added to the right side of the cancel. But we couldn't say with any certainty that it was part of the cancel and, as noted previously, there are no signs that the cancel has been altered.

I am not sure whether you are the right person to be asking, but I would be curious to know whether you have seen anything like this before or have any thoughts that might explain it. I hope you will find this question interesting.”

I would have a bit to add to the above. The m/s cancel appears to be a date based on the “/” symbol, and the correct period of use of F3 is 1876 to 1877, way before these rollers were used. Stranger and stranger.... (An afterthought, roller cancels were usually used on bulk mail, would not a registered cover rate a somewhat higher degree (so to speak) of cancelling. I would suspect town name roller cancels would be rather scarce on any Registered stamp.)

One of our members sent in this mourning cover with L 141, and the suspicion that it was not tied. If it is, the tying is in the black mourning border. This is the second stage in the mourning cover sequence. The first mourning covers would have had a thicker (up to ¾ inch 20 cm) border for about the first month, this is the second, and the third, which may have lasted for a year could be as narrow as 1/8 inch, 2 mm. I was able to find other confirming examples of this cover from Port Hope, including two others to “Seth”, same handwriting, May 4 (thicker border), and May 6. In these cases the 14 was rather sloppily applied, but was tied. One oddity, the stamp was upside down on the earliest cover which was probably accidental, however in “The Language of Stamps” usually means “I love you”.

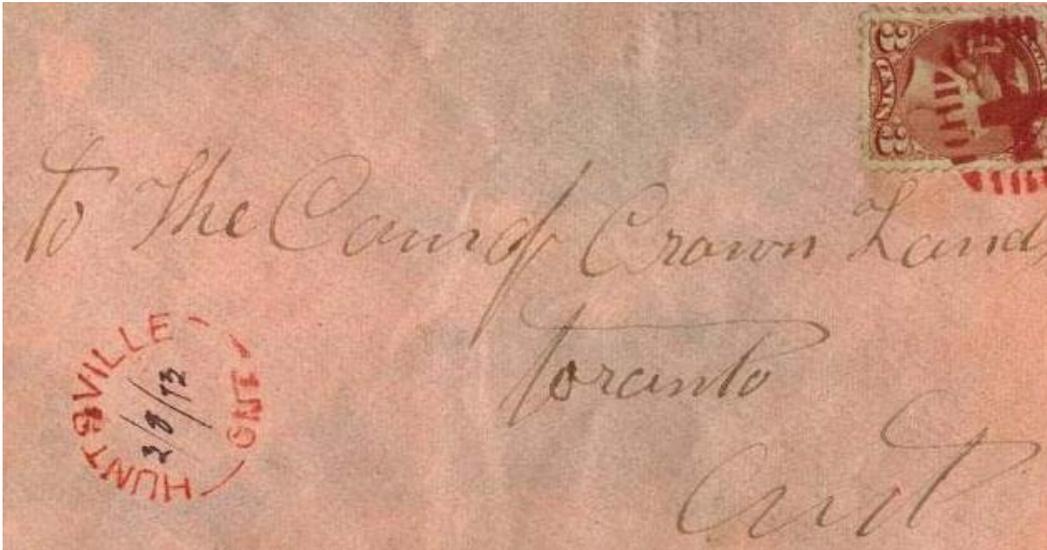


BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 62

FAKES, BOGUS AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

The cover below (reduced slightly) is the only known example of L 1159 which is believed to be a “Bogusman” production, and was described as such in Newsletter 52. It was recently offered for sale by a major international auction house. Both stamp and CDS are in red. The CDS is genuine, I compared it to three other Huntsville examples, the letters line up, and similar wear shows in all. None of the other CDS have ms date however. Most Bogusman productions are unique items with high visual appeal like this.

Huntsville used a fancy star (L1015) in 1879, a cross (L1071) in 1884, and another cross L 1113 (metal hammer?) 1872 to 1880. All of these three are known by multiple strikes, and the latter cross overlaps the date of the item below.



One of our members sent in this “moon and star” cancel in blue at right above. He has suspicions, and so do I. It seems to be loosely (one star is missing) based on L 1376, which is in turn described as “A problem child” in our book. There also appears to be a weak other cancel underneath.

I have a bit of extra space, so I shall elaborate a bit on the fellow I describe as “Bogusman” I have not identified this person for a few reasons, primarily as it is possible (but unlikely) that someone else set him up with these items. Bogusman was an American citizen, born about 1900 and lived in a small town in Massachusetts. He was a soldier as a young man, was wounded slightly in WWI, and for some time worked as a military draftsman (!). He was a BNAPS member for about 25 years starting in the early 1950’s, and was also a member of the S.Q. Study Group. His fancy cancel items started to appear about 1960 just after the original research for the Day & Smythies book was completed. This research compared about ten extant cancellation collections, and included about 500 photographs of fancy cancels. It was a very detailed effort. One of the members of the original group wondered why there was a sudden input of unique and elaborate fancy cancels all from the same source (Bogusman), and why they did not appear in any of the previous research (including Jarrett, Boggs and themselves), visited Bogusman and prepared rough index card sketches of his “holdings”. These are the sketches I have used in my listings of the Bogusman items. Each sketch has the CDS information, so it is easy to compare them with later listings. I have not found an auction sale of the “Bogusman” collection, and it appears the items were sold privately over a few years. It is possible that he also produced USA fakes.

And on that note, shall close. Again, have a nice Spring, and Good collecting,

Dave. L.

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 62