

December 2013

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Group News.

I have received permission to prepare a third edition of our "Fancy Cancels on Canadian Stamps 1855 to 1950". It has also been suggested that I wait a bit, and announce this in a few newsletters so that the membership has plenty of opportunity to send in revisions from their material. This means **YOU**.

After the not very subtle remark above, I would like to thank the 13 members who took the time and effort to send in material for this newsletter. This is actually a huge number of contributors from such a small (88 members) group. I must also apologise for not responding to some emails when this material came in. The 'little life that is Dave' has been very busy lately, and this often gets in the way of my hobby. Silly me!

This has also been one of the rare newsletters when no one has sent in actual stamps, see the comment at the Fakes etc... section at the end. It is ironic that a group which studies ink marks on small pieces of paper affixed to paper envelopes which contained paper letters communicates (almost) exclusively by email! Having said that, about 40 of you always get this newsletter as paper and snail mailed. If anyone wants both, just ask. The illustrations are much better in colour.

We had a great meeting at the convention in Charlottetown with about a dozen members, and also several small presentations.

We have three new members: George Burse-Hanning, Chris Green, and Mike Halhead. Welcome aboard.

I am snail mailing 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 \$ 8.00 per year however I note that postage rates will increase dramatically next April. (Snailmail address here is Box 233, Merville BC, V0R 2M0.) Last years dues collected were \$404.00, plus \$216.00 advance payments, or donations. I will probably have to drop five members for nonpayment of dues for more than two years. (D.R., K.P., M.T.S., T.N., and W.H., this will thus be your last newsletter. Thanks for any contributions in the past.)

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 63, the "Wolfville oval" cancel. There is considerable evidence that this cancel despite being an apparently durable manufactured hammer was used only for one year, 1868.

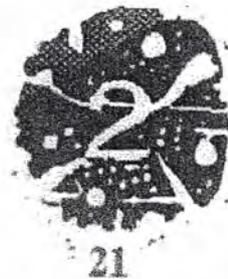
CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

Roger Squires sent in two examples of the odd boxed "Stanstead Junction P.Q.", our D379. This marking was probably modelled on railway ticket marks which are sometimes found cancelling items from Railway Post Offices. It was used in the mid 1890's, Rogers copies are ? 1893 and Apr. 1895. Does anyone have any further comments on this item.



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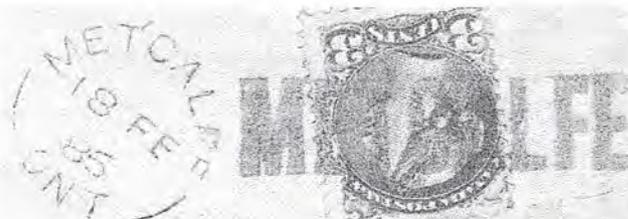
Bill Radcliffe sent in this GREAT new material. His first item is a new "Toronto 2" cover, our L21. This is the first cover for L21, the cancel was previously dated by the presence of a Galt Ont. CDS on a strip of four 3 cent L.Q.s in the Ron Mc Murrach collection. The Galt CDS there was the same day (Aug. 30) as Bills example however the year was indistinct. Lots of neat confirming and new information here and just the sort of thing we need for our third edition.



Bills second item is another "Toronto 2" cover, L36, and also provides new information. I had wondered if L36 (Dec. 29, 1869) was just a late worn state of L34 (Nov. 29 to Dec. 18 1869). The exact date on Bills item is hard to read, but may be Dec. 1(?6?), and if so it overlaps L34. The screw head holes in Bills example are the same as L34, but the "2" is from L36. They are thus the same cancel with L36 being an older worn state.



Bills third item is our D291, and confirms "(MET)CALFE" Feb., 1885, in purple ink.



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Bills last item is a fancy "Kingston 9" cancel, L110 used Jan. 1870. This is also a major update, I had never personally seen this on cover, all the information is now confirmed.



Garfield Portch sent in this item from farrans Point Ont., apr. 1880 at left below. It is a barred cork quartered with an "X" cut. One wonders why the "X" was necessary as it appears to work well with the bars?

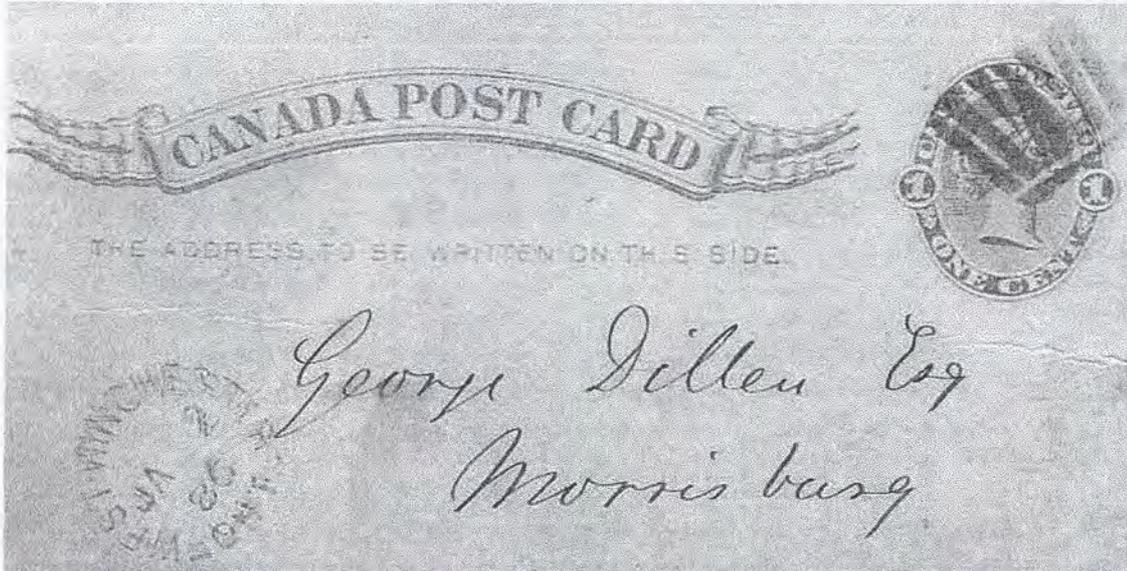


Frank Henry sent in the items above right. The first is a new fancy cross similar to L1098. His second is a previously unrecorded geometric cancel similar to several in the "Ottawa" series of geometrics. Or, is a fairly cryptic "KH"? The third item is probably L 1546 used at Parry sound Ont., July 1879 to Aug. 1879. If the stamp (10 cent SQ) is an 1880 magenta shade then it would have to be a later use of the cancel. If it is a rose-lilac shade from 1877, then no problem. (Similar cancels were used at Collingwood Ont., Mar. 1871, and Watford C.E., Sept. 1873. This could be an early pale shade from 1874.) Fourth is an example of L1533 which has recently been located as Dominionville Ont., Sept. 1892. Franks example extends the use back to Feb. 1892.



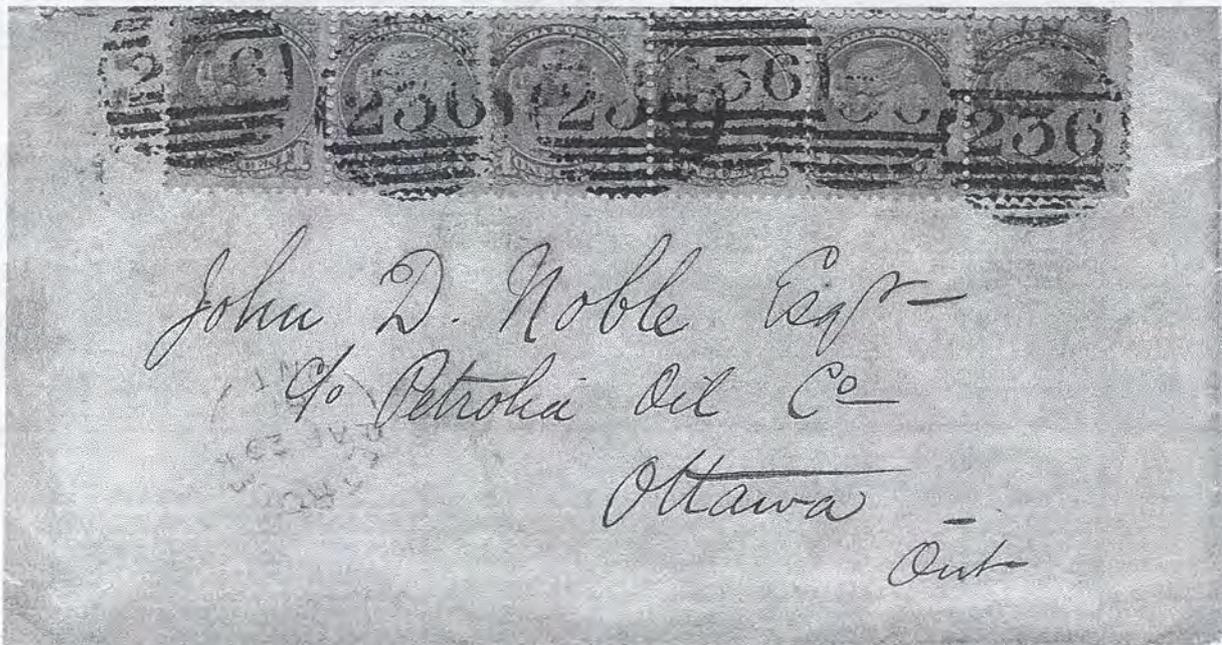
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Franks last item is L 912, a "WW" used as an initial for West Winchester Ont. from July 1885 to Dec. 1886. The message on the back is official year end P.O. business, and is signed by P.M. W. Bow, Jan. 1886.



*Letter
2 Jan 1886
See already
sent it to be
taken in collector
division and
W Bow*

Guy Jeffrey sent in the spectacular cover below. He also sent in a letter from Doc Day (Day & Smythies Fancy Cancels book) relating to this cover. The cover unfortunately is a bit of a "red herring", the 235 cancel, L 176 was applied at New Edinburgh, then a suburb of Ottawa. P.M. J.W. Procter was obviously a real keener several other covers are known "receiver" cancelled with the 236. The reason for the numeral 236 is unknown however the hammer was officially produced by Pritchard & Andrews of Ottawa. I have crammed in details from two other 236 covers Guy sent in, the first is to Toronto, t'other to Montreal.

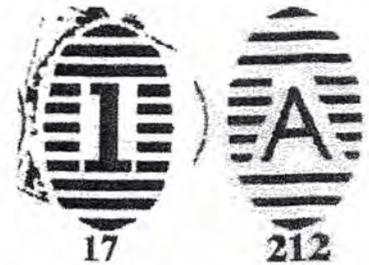


(The history of Petrolia Ontario is very interesting, if I have room on the last page I will put in a bit more info. New Edinburgh was where my Granpa lived...)



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Jack Forbes sent along an article by David Gronbeck-Jones regarding the Montreal numeral and letter duplex cancels listed by us as L17 (#'s 1-13) and L 212, L 270 etc. (Letters A-J). I can forward the article if requested. See also the Fakes and Forgeries section on the last page.



Ron Smith sent in the items below. The first is somewhat indistinct, but may be L 825 which is described in our book as “dubious”. There is an ms address on this to Mr J. ?McLellan? Cobourg Ont. If applied at the nearest

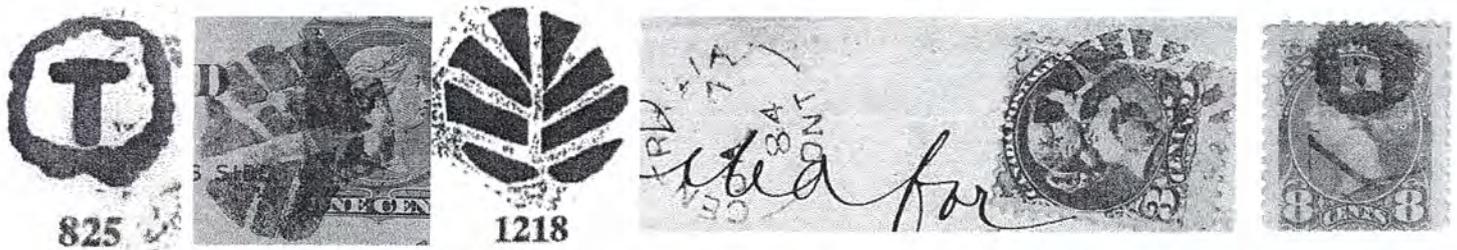


city, this could be a Toronto “T” cancel, if applied at Cobourg it is not an initial cancel (PM William Sykes). It may have taken other routes from London, so we are no further ahead with this cancel. Pretty item tho...

Ron’s next item is a “leaf” cancel from Hagersville Ont., Oct. 1881. Hagersville used two similar leaf cancels, L1218 (July-Dec. 1879) and L1221 (Apr. 1880) so this use is certainly plausible. Jarrett (J.886a) refers to another version (but does not illustrate) with “5 sections to a side.”

The next item is our D679 (a USA cancel) with the end comment “...a single example of a very similar item has been reported (not personally examined) from Centralia Ont., Jan ’84.” This is what Ron has, the inks match (slightly purple-black) on the cancel and CDS, the tying is good (incl. the ms “for”) and it is somewhat different from the San Francisco receiving mark (which is a more precise rubber stamp). So, a new listing for Centralia.

Ron’s last item (edited slightly to show internal detail) is unlisted. I first thought that it was L1451 a “keyhole” from Saint John N.B., Aug. – Nov. 1874 however it is much differently sized and on a much later stamp.

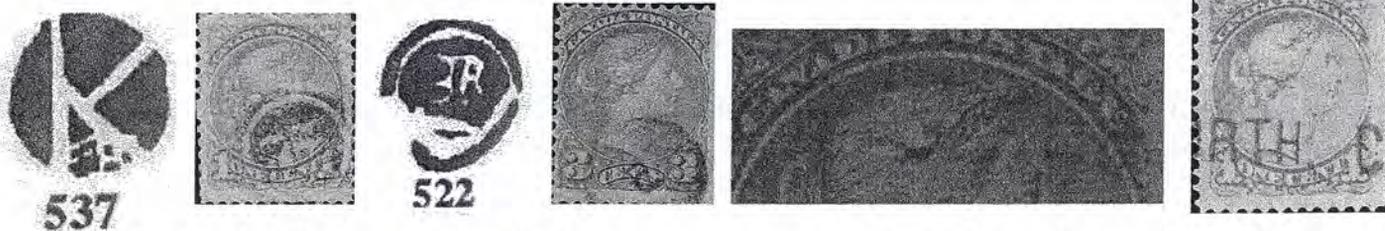


Paul Varty sent in two covers with this five segment cork from Winnipeg, used in July 1880. (I ‘cheated’ and moved the CDS.) Five segments is unusual.

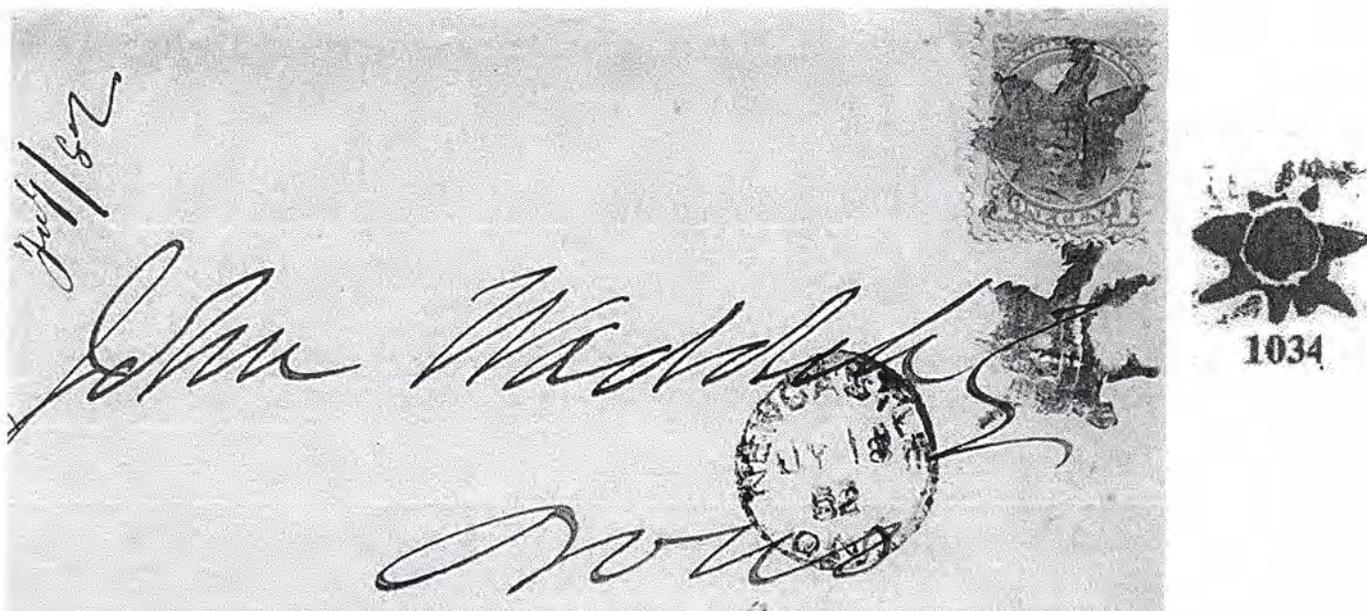


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Guillaume Vadeboncoeur sent in these items. His first item is a somewhat indistinct fancy crown cancel known used in the mid 1870's. This is better than the book illustration (contrast enhanced here) and is probably an early use. The second item is our D 539, this is the first time I have seen this. It was previously reported (in Topics) by the Small Queen S.G. as a tracing. The tracing just looked like a 'blob' to me, but Guillaume's example has some fine leaf veins visible (also enhanced) and it should be listed in the third edition. It is on a S.Q. from the 1870's. Third. L 896, a "W", on S.Q. from the 1870's, no further information known. Fourth is an intaglio "K" which may be L 537 from Galt Ont., Apr. 1888. The stamp does not have the pre 1888 position dot, but the shape of the "K" is a bit different. Fifth is possibly L 522, a "JR" (?). The only previous illustration of this was from a tracing from the Smythies collection. I also wonder if this could be a patriotic USA "76" cancel? Next is L 83, a reversed "5" (possibly from a button) used at Sturgeon Falls Ont. Nov. 1894. The next items are partial text markings, firstly "Day Run" (presumably some Railway or Steamer route) and "RTH C". Our Appendix 1 lists Perth, Seaforth, and Toronto North, however all of these are the wrong size or type.



Guillaume also sent in this cover (electronically cut down here) with a very odd looking "star" cancel. It is probably L 1034, and thus now located, Newcastle Ont. July 1882. This cancel must have been very soft, strikes vary, compare the two on this cover for example.

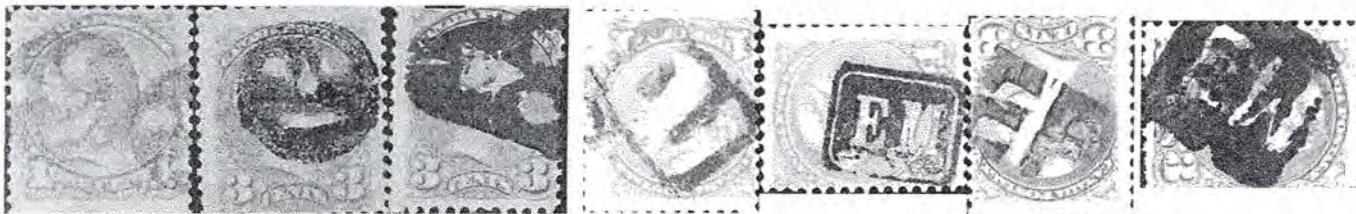


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Harley Cohen sent these in. The first one "XX" certainly does a nice job of cancelling the stamps! His second item is a straight line (STE)AMBOA(T) cancel, Jarrett 429. The third item is L 405, EUGENIA, used Eugenia Ont., Mar. 1867 to Mar. 1892 (an extremely long time!) PM Mclean Purdy (1862 – 1895) also used several modified CDS hammers with the year numerals handmade, listed as L 187 and L189, shown at right about ½ scale. Some of the strikes of these are early philatelic items. At first I wondered about the authenticity of the strike here, they are usually much more precise, however both strikes seem equally smeared. Possibly the stamp was wet, or slightly greasy and the ink would not take? The cancel is not rare (used for 25 years) does anyone else have examples of this slightly "off" cancel. (I did not have the actual stamp, so could not test it for ink penetration, or writing ink characteristics.) Harley also sent in two examples of this unusual eight segmented cork with wedges but the segmenting lines are cut as positive rather than intaglio.



Yohan Tanguay sent in a 'bunch of stuff' back in August which I then lost track of. Apologies for not replying Yohan. The Bogey cancels are really neat! They are L 1353, L 1355, and L 1360. Only the latter has been located, Toronto Ont., Jan. 1875. While I have not personally examined these, they all look 'good', and are on appropriate stamps. He also sent along some better "Initial" cancels, unfortunately I only have room for four here, all with an "E" theme, "E", L 385 unknown location, "EM" PM Emile Mouchet of West Arichat N.S. Nov. 1879 to Dec. 1885, "EP", L 404, PM E. Pridham of Grenville Que. Nov. 1882 to ? 1890, and "EW", L 406 unknown location.



Yohan also sent along a great Machine Cancel item. I am not conversant in this area, so I shall let him do the talking... Firstly, the boxed quote at right is from Smythies "Canadian Roller cancellations 1894-1930.

(B) Essays, Errors, Mistakes. First, both in time and importance, is a rare Roller with eight long unbroken bars, no number, and instead of the name of the Post Office, the single word "CANADA". At present only one example of this Roller is known, which has a number of unusual features -

(i) It is found on S.Q. 3^c rose-carmine perf 12 x 2½ (Shoemakers No. 30) of Dec. 1888 printing. This stamp was in use more than five years before Roller cancellations were started!



Now, from Yohan "Smythies lists a so-called essay of a roller (picture shown in his book showing wording CANADA alone) on 1888 issue Small Queens. Now I have (both Montreal "Gazette" printing circa. 1888-1889) a strip of three in a dull rose carmine shade late 1888 printing with a

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full impression that reads HULL / 1 NO 88 / CANADA and a pair in scarlet shade of late 1888 – early 1889 printing again with similar strike, but clearer than previous that reads HULL / 6 NO 8? / CANADA – The second indicia in the year date is likely a 8 or 9 – I am quite certain.

Since Smythies has documented this essay on circa 1888 stamp inscribed CANADA – likely on a single only so it did not show the rest of the roller, would this be the complete strike of the so called essay? Roller cancels only started in 1894 (5 years later) and the roller cancels from Hull (NOT CANADA, but inscribed QUE) in the handbook start only in the 1917-1922 period. Interesting roller cancelled item nevertheless and thought that maybe you would have some additional information on these.” Can anyone help?

Don Echobichon sent in these two items, L1119 used at St. Catherines Ont., Oct. to Dec. 1882. This is another “soft” cancel hammer (or VERY heavy handed PM) as many deformed strikes are known. The other item is from an auction offering, and is rather indescribable. It too has quite a variation between strikes.



Harold Hurlbutt sent in two pages of Rate Marks or SPECIMEN overprints, I do not have room for all of ‘em.



FAKES, BOGUS AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

Just a few this time, but I do have to make one comment... I mentioned earlier that I had not received any stamps this time, all material was emailed (about 80%) or snail mailed photocopies. I am thus less certain about authenticity as several tests such as; ink penetration, perf hole inking, hinge/paper inking, stamp shade, cancel imprints (there are about 20 different things which can be looked at to determine authenticity) etc. cannot be performed. If anyone is unhappy, or just wants a “better” opinion, please send the item to me.



The first item is a bit of a judgment call, I think it is a fake (traces of a weak cancel underneath) which was based on the D&S illustration 830 (aka Jar. 1202, L 1628). None of these illustrations are very good, the cover in Newsletter 63, pg. 4 is best. Second, L509 has been reported as philatelic use on modern issues. The “PM” (or whatever) just might be genuine (Who would use an ‘accidental’ mirror image cancel more than once? Oops!) however it appears to be in a modern ink over some red ink pen cancels. I highlighted this one. The Bogey, is on top of another cancel, appears to be writing ink, and is based on an old Jarrett illustration. The “car” from a slogan cancel is probably accidental, however I have seen S.Q.’s with airplanes. The “car” has been on ebay for quite a while, asking \$ 9999.99....

So... another newsletter ends. May I wish You and Yours a Merry Xmas and good collecting in the New Year

HO HO HO

