

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 71

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Group News.

Wow, 22 of you sent in material for this newsletter, I hope I do not miss including any of it. This is the highest response I have ever had, and indicates very strong interest in this field. It also explains why I seem a wee bit over-whelmed at the moment, but here goes... (Also, I feel that I must apologize to some of you when I cannot personally respond to emails.)

We have three new members, welcome aboard to Peter Baxter of Cinderford UK, Barry Dales of Lindsay Canada, and Matthew Knupp of Pittsburgh USA. It is also nice to see continued interest outside of Canada. This increases our membership to 82. I would like to thank the members who sent in dues, total received was \$ 737.00 of which \$ 287.00 were donations or pay aheads. ("Aheads", a newword, I seem to be good at making up these!) Thanks also to several of you who either sent in usable postage, and replied to my request for discounted postage. The envelopes of this newsletter will reflect this.

I have recently received a copy of an article on Canadian Fancy Cancels by John Hillson in the April Stanley Gibbons Monthly publication. This is an excellent article, and I would highly recommend it to anyone starting out in this field. He covers the "What Why When" aspects of Canadian Fancy cancels in great detail, and i could not find a single thing I disagreed with. One odd thing however, John never mentions this BNAPS study group, nor my book. Oh well... Thanks to Jack Forbes for this info. (If anyone is having trouble getting this article, I have saved as a .pdf and can forward it.)

I also noticed in a recent BNA Topics article that Tracey Cooper is compiling a list of BC cork cancels, he can be contacted through BNAPS.

I have had several responses to my list of "Unconfirmed ... never seen" cancels listed in Day & Smythies. About 10 of these "unconfirmed" items will also run as an article in Topics in order to reach a wider audience. I will give some of the "findings" in the next newsletter, this one is already over flowing...

While in the "unconfirmed" area, I am still looking for any covers of the solid Ottawa crown cancel, L 1283. PHSC (Mar 1999) reported "fewer than five genuine strikes", and I have seen one fake cover. The scan here is a better scan of the P&A cancel proof book (Feb. 1880) strike. The illustration in our book is a bit distorted at the top diadem.



While I am on the topic of illustrations, I have heard several times that "Smythies illustrations had deliberate errors so that fakes prepared from them would be more obvious.", or words to that effect. To the best of my knowledge, Smythies tried very hard to be as accurate as he could, there are no deliberate errors. Some of the limitations he worked under were discussed in Newsletter 66. Like me, he occasionally goofed as in the diadem above, and in my illustration L 586 on the next page. I also tried to present the cancels in a somewhat used condition as this would be what would be most likely seen. There is also great variation in the same cancel with the degree of inking, angle and strength of strike, type of surface etc. Smythies (and myself) had enough built in variation in the cancel strikes without adding deliberate errors.

Work slowly continues on the third edition of our cancel book. Real life keeps getting in the way, but I will soon have summarized all new information from our newsletters since the last edition. There will be more new listings in the next edition however this will mean that page margins will have to shrink.

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 69, page 3, the fancy "tortoise" L 1438. This was also written up in N.L.59. It will probably be delisted.

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Newsletter 70, bottom left item from Guy Jeffery. This is totally in error, the illustration is L 1629, and was written up in N.L. 69 pg.4. I was also unable to find the correct illustration for this text. Please delete all. (It must have been late at night when i prepared that – my bad!)

Newsletter 70, pg. 5, the Croiseur Jeanne d'arc" cover. Three of you have commented that the cancels are not the same, there were several different ships with very similar names, the ship was sometimes in Vancouver so Canadian postage would be required to cross Canada, when she was stationed in Canada, Canadian postage would be required, and one of the stamps is not outdated. Thanks to Mike Street, Peter McCarthy, & Paul Varty.

Newsletter 70, pg. 5, the use of OHMS stamps and covers. Bill Pekonen reports that this could be a legitimate use of the stamps issued to an unemployed person who would be required to mail in confirmation, or could also be for return correspondence from a private firm.

Newsletter 70, pg. 3, two different wax seals. Derek Smith reports that the "Great Fire of 1877" would have destroyed the original PO on Prince William St., and a new hammer would have been required.

REVISION TO FANCY CANCEL BOOK

Mike Halhed sent in an example of L 586, the Moncton NB "M". It to me, but did not really agree with the book illustration. Turns out, the book illustration has a "perfect" early state surround, while the inside "M" is a much later state. Mike's example is better, and is in the middle of the use range for this cancel. My bad again, and I refer to other people seeing things that are not really there... The illustration will be revised.



looked good

CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERRIES

One of our new members, Peter Baxter sent in the items below. The first is an early state strike of the fancy crown, L 1287 used at Ottawa Ont., June 1887 – Jan. 1888. This is known only on Registered covers, and Peter's example appears to be on a shade just before the 1887 rose carmine shades. Neat item! Next is L 1340 PO unknown, but it probably is of some Masonic significance. The star L 990 was used in about 10 different P.O.'s over an eight year period, and was probably an "official" fancy cancel manufactured by P&A in Ottawa. I note that there are traces of another weak cancel (or ink) on the stamp, and suspect this was a receival cancel on otherwise poorly cancelled. It certainly does a good job of it! (The cancel is not scarce, and fakers usually try to cover up the 'other' cancels.) The next item may be the remains of a cut up Two ring numeral cancel, however it is too poor a strike to tell which one. It appears to be two digits, and is not the "Toronto 2" cancel L 40. Does anyone have any other examples? Next is probably an unlisted "Ottawa geometric" cancel, probably a close cousin to L1658. The ink is unusual as it appears to be writing ink and blurred a bit when the stamp was soaked off. The last one is a mystery item, comments are appreciated. (Foreign?)



Ken Pugh is researching the Victoria – Esquimalt BC crown cancel, L 1291. He has records of 92 covers, and has verified 26 of 'em. I list 59 in Appendix 4b, pg. 198 of our book. Ken thinks there were two types, but I think it was just cancel wear. Either way, one of the most popular fancy cancels and was used over at least 34 years. (92 covers !)



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Mike Halhed sent in the material below. His first item has been a bit enhanced by me, and is from a Gore Bay Ont., May 1878, initial "M" for PM David Miller. A great new listing. His next item could best be described as a "relisting" as I had almost delisted it, L1484 is now confirmed as Qwen Sound Ont., Feb. & Nov. 1873. (The second strike was sent in by Iain Hallum in 2014.) Unfortunately both strikes are poor, and perhaps the book illustration is the best?



Keith MacKay asked about the initials NRH, (and also similar ERH) in 1906 in the Montreal CDS at right. Eastern, Northern and Central "Receiving Houses" were Montreal Letter Carrier Depots. See PHSC, Mar. 1981, pg. 4. It does seem to be an odd use of the word "house", something FrenGLISH here that I am missing?

I had asked if anyone had an old "2 ring numeral" hammer that I remembered Jim Hennok had owned. Turned out Bill Radcliff is the current owner, 2R59. I think this is the only one still around. See "Confederation", the Large and Small Queens S.G. newsletter 25, aug. 2014 for more detail.

There were some very late "re-uses" or philatelic uses. There was feedback from Bill Radcliff, Mike Halhed, Wayne Smith, and myself... Late (after 1897) 2 Ring numerals are...

2 rings after 1897 were 14, 18, 30, 38, 40, 49, & 50. 2R40, reused in 1935 to 1937 from St. Regis PQ. Non-philatelic mailings noted.

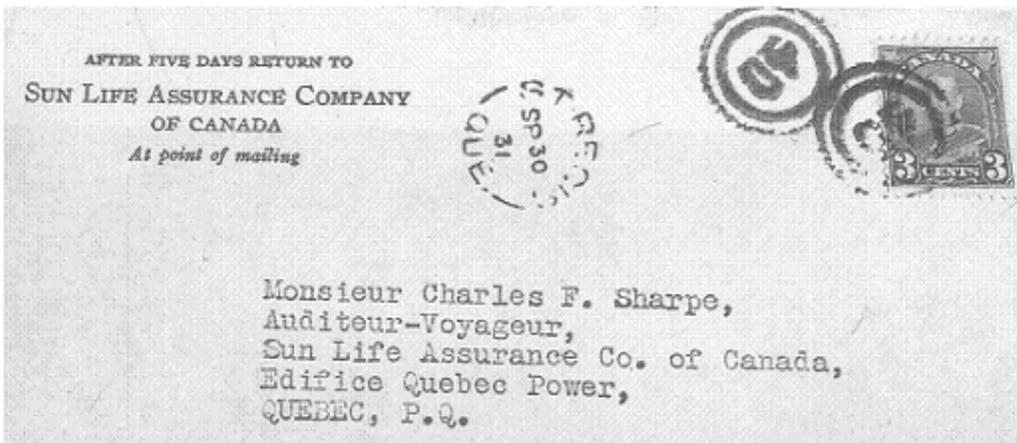
2R59, "proof strikes" prepared in 1980 on 1 cent & 3 cent S.Q.'s. Worn condition. Black or blue ink. 2R40 on cover Cornwall 1975. (This last item is questionable origin)

Other notes. An excellent date list by Wayne Smith is provided in Confederation 61, Dec. 2015. The LQ and SQ group will have input to the 2017 Unitrade catalogue. 2 R 9, 31, and 39 do not appear on S.Q.'s, although there are poor fakes.

The term "non-philatelic" above means ordinary mailings, such as the business correspondence on the next page. The actual hammer is made in two pieces, the rings and an inserted numeral. This confirms how the numeral parts appeared in several later fancy cancels.



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Mike halhed also sent in the item at right, a "similar to" L 1103 cross, but used Prescott Ont., Sept.? 1874.

Bill Wegman sent a photocopy of the somewhat enigmatic "bogey head cover below. It is a poor weak (and upside down) strike, but with a bit of filtering, it appears to be L 1346, used at St. Catherines Ont. between Nov. 1881 and Dec.. 1882. The cover is from Niagara Ont. Mar. 1882, but addressed to St. Catherines. The album page (from 1974) which it is on suggests that it was a receival cancel used at St. Catherines on otherwise uncancelled stamps . This is possible, and would a faker make such poor strikes? An odd thing, but aren't all fancy cancels a bit odd?



The February 19 2016 Eastern Auctions sale had some really neat items from Northern areas. Included were a new early date for L 994, Fort Garry Man. Jan. – July 1872, confirmation of the "FE" used at Fort Ellice NWT June 1882 several Fort Garry "M"s, L 581, Apr. 1874, L 582 Apr. 1873 – Apr. 1874, a cross similar to L 1071 also used at Fort Garry, Nov. 1875 etc. Neat stuff, I hope some of you got some of these "goodies".The cuts are all from our book.



July 1872 –

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Ron Smith sent in this new late date for L 612 an initial “MS” used at Mount Sherwood Ont., May 1881 – July 1881.



Graham Searle sent in this interesting “PH” used at Pubnico Harbour N.S. in May 1899. This is a late initial type cancel, and the lower strike is unusual, but it basically looks good to me. Does anyone else have any confirming strikes? This might be a scarce cancel as anyone who forgot to carve it in mirror image might also not use it out of embarrassment... (I’ve cut down the cover it was to Yarmouth.)

Guillaume Vadebonecoeur sent in this block of 3 cent rose carmine SQ’s, which were first used in Oct 1888 with oval parcel cancel L 353. This improves the cancels date of use to ? 1886 to Oct. 1880. Can anyone shed any light on when it was first used?



John Burnet sent in a page of 3 cent SQ’s presented by major printing types and featuring much fancy cancel “eye-candy”. I’ve picked some of the best below...



1871
Notre Dame
Quebec

1872
Beechville
Ontario

1880
Victoria

1880
Ottawa

1882
St. Catherine
Ontario

1895
St. Genevieve
Batiscan

Unknown

Flag, L1403 Masonic, L 1316

Crown, L 1291 236, L 176 Bogey, L 1247 Shield, L1453 Crown, L 1293.

Guy Jefferies found five covers all from Paradise Lane NS to a JW Bancroft (several towns) between 1872 and 1875, all with this fancy cancel. It is unlike any listed cancel, with the ‘closest’ design being L 1687. This definitely rates a new listing. (It might also be noted that Henry Hechler’s – the prominent Halifax stamp dealer – brother lived at Paradise Lane, so the local PM was somewhat encouraged to use fancies.



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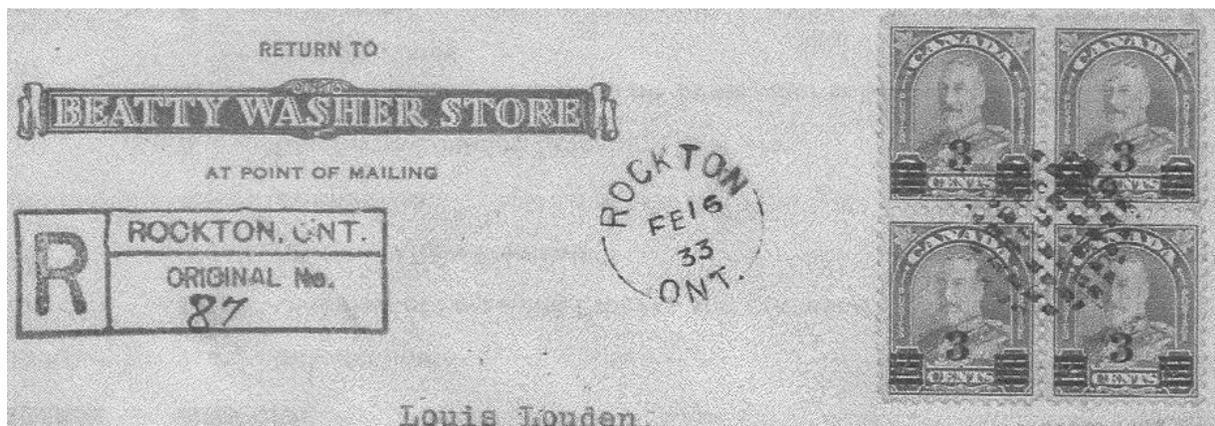
David Jones sent in this cover with a crown wax seal (St. Onesime Que.) as cancel and PO identifier . There are no backstamps, nor any other markings. The stamp dates from 1937, and the cover appears to be genuine although possibly 'favour' usage. (P.M.'s would occasionally use their "official" crown wax sealers to designate some mail as more "important" than other.) The PO opened in 1859 so this is a replacement hammer. The fact that the cover is a local rate to a nearby PO also indicates genuine usage. David has also indicated he would like to sell this cover, please send any offers to him via the BNAPS site email listings. I've copied a bit of my email to him below

"Looks like a use of my L1272 crown wax seal as a cancel. every PO was issued one of these to "officially" seal the mailbags. They were also occasionally used to back seal important PO letters, re seal damaged letters, and occasionally as cancels. I've recorded about 159 postal uses in my appendix 4a, and this is the first record from St. Onesime.

This is a late design of crown, and the hammer was made by Pritchard & Andrews of Ottawa. The tying looks good, the fact that the PM used two strikes, bolder one on cover first also looks good. These hammers were issued up to the late 1940's, so the timing is also OK. If it is a bogus reuse of an old hammer, there would probably be other examples reported by now, and both strikes would be dark."



Mike Street sent in the reference to this late state "cork" killer. I've "cut" the cover down to save space.



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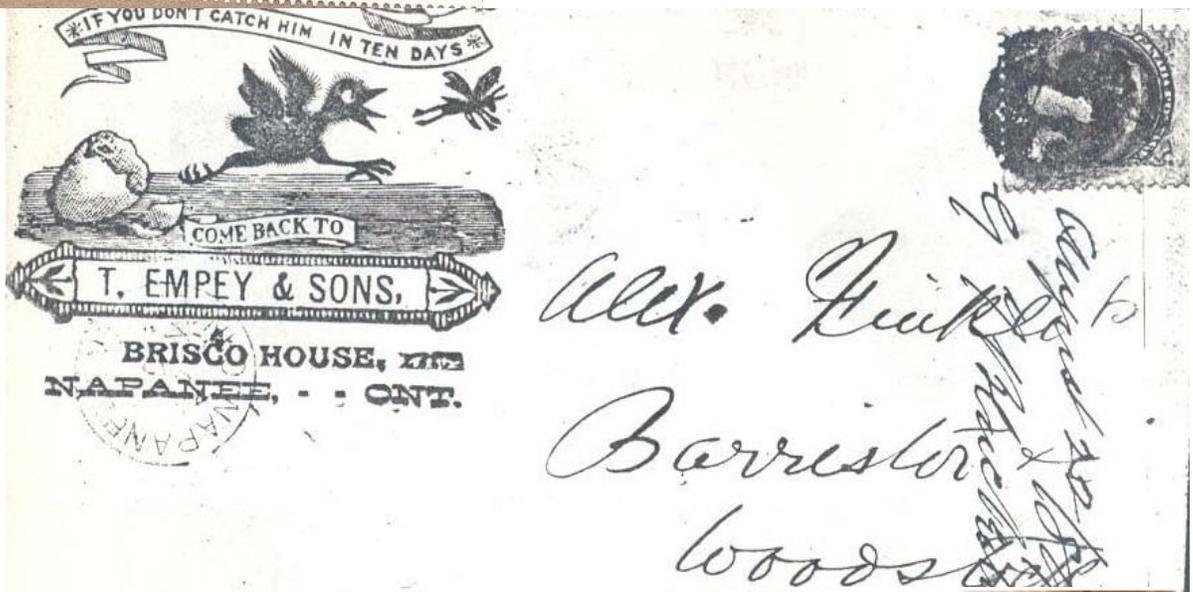
Brian Hargreaves sent in the "Toronto 2's" at right. The first one is L 43, recently confirmed used in Oct 1869. The book illustration is poor, and Brian's example shows the missing bottom right detail. The oversized "2" had already been noted. His second item is L 41 on a shade which is somewhat earlier (1868) from when most Toronto 2's were used. Jarrett listed this design as Aug. 1868 (not confirmed by me), however Jarrett dated his cancels – when he did not have covers – by the stamp shades. This would be a year earlier than any other Toronto 2, and I wonder if Jarrett used this specific example?



I would like to include two miscellaneous items. Firstly, an odd design of modern cancel sent in by Peter Geoffroy. The hammer must be very sort judging by the deformation. The second item is an early typewriter, the Crandall from 1883. While some places were still using sealing wax, and cutting up bits of cork to cancel stamps there was already some quite sophisticated technology. (QWERTY had not yet been invented, the Crandall used ZPRCHM.)



This is L 1349, as presented in the Day collection. The cover has been repaired, with the stamp re-attached. It was reported in July 1969 as an update,



D&S 268a, plate J. I had doubts about it then, and still do. Does anyone have any other examples?

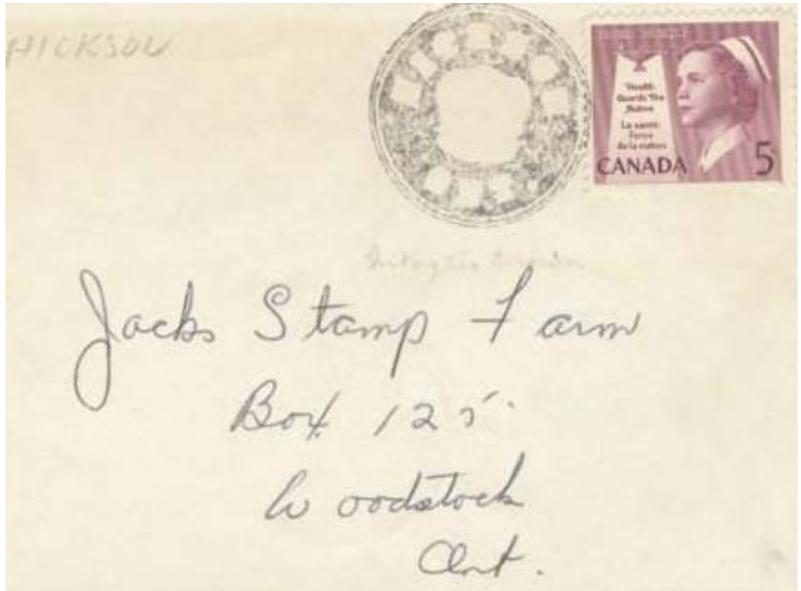
I also note the curious similarity between the printed return image on this cover and the famous USA "Running Chicken" fancy cancel from Waterbury Conn. Which came first, the envelope or the chicken?



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FAKES, BOGUS AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

Not exactly fake, but totally “philatelic”. This is a crown wax seal (see pg. 6.) from Hickson Ont., type L 1271. This is the earlier type produced by Berri of London, and used between the 1860’s to 1890’s. The stamp is from 1958, backstamp is from 1961, and the PO opened in 1883. Note also philatelic address. It is listed as “philatelic” in our appendix 4a, on an otherwise unused Jubilee (1897) postcard. This is so obvious, that there was no intent to defraud, but if on 1897 issues...



Similarly, this item at left is a “spurious” cancel with no intent to defraud. It is not a cross with fancy background, but rather a quartered cork with normal cork cracks in back. The maker turned it 90 degrees so it would be stronger!



This item is one that ‘just doesn’t work’ for me, probably a “3” on my 1-10 scale. It was described for sale as “1868”, but that may refer to the stamp. The CDS is almost unreadable, possibly Jan. 1870 or 1878. BC had their own stamps up to 1871, and the 2 cent LQ was replaced by the s.Q. in 1872. The cancel ink is a heavy (blotted?) probably water based writing ink, and does not agree with the CDS ink. There may be a weak pen cancel in the middle of the cancel. Nuff said...



The “Littlefield” fake cover of L 497 “H NS 1871” has again surfaced, and reveals two errors in our book. This should have been described as “dubious” (at best) in the second edition, and there is a typo, the date notation on the Littlefield index card was poor and was erroneously read as “Dec. 71”. There is only one cover (none off cover) strike of this cancel known, and the correct date is Aug. 1871.



This is another ‘doesn’t work’ for me item. I received a sketch of this “W” with the same CDS information just before the first edition of our book. I did not list it, but asked in Newsletter 27 (July 2001) for any more information on this item. Nothing was received, and it thus also missed the second edition. The inks do not match, there is a pen cancel on the stamp, and this is the only known example. Interesting though how the stamp, cancel, and CDS are all on a 30 degree slant, although the unnecessary partial isn’t.

I mentioned on page 1 that Smythies made his illustrations as accurate as possible. This was definitely not the case with a 4 page set of over 140 “Canadian Cancellations... illustrations ... printed on gummed paper (!) for ...illustrating the collection.” published by Robson Lowe in 1959. Their example of the Ottawa Crown L 1284 is shown here.

