

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 73.

Dec. 2016

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Group News. May I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and the best of health (etc.) in the upcoming year. It is perhaps interesting to note that while there are fancy cancels (apparently) for Valentines Day, and Halloween (All Saints day) there are none specifically for Christmas. Perhaps in the fancy cancel era Christmas day was regarded as too important a Holy day to trivialize with a "crude" fancy cancel, those Victorians were pretty serious folks! Do any of our members have any examples of fancy cancels used specially around Dec. 25?



The above (apologize for being a wee bit off target here) led me to the fact that the first Christmas Card was prepared by a British civil servant working in the "Public Records Office" in 1843. The intent was to encourage public use of the then three year old "Penny Post". The "P.R.O." was soon renamed to something we are familiar with, the "Post Office"! They were in common use from about 1875 in North America. The P.O. has probably benefited. ☺. The one below is from 1905 I found it in an old file.



(If anyone wants this card for say \$25.00 Cdn., I shall send . I will just lose it again anyways...)

We had a fine meeting in Fredericton as there were about 15 there which is pretty good considering our total membership is 83. I gave a sort of rambling presentation on the next edition of our book, and some of the research materials behind it. There were also several "hands on" old cancellers, corks, paper files etc. passed around. Thank you to all for your comments at this meeting.

It is again **DUES TIME**, if this applies to you, there will be a dues notice attached to this page. Dues are still \$10.00 a year, and cover the three newsletters per year. Please send to D. Lacelle, Box 233, Merville BC V0R 2M0. Please **DO NOT** use any Pay Pal account purporting to be me.

Work on the third edition of our book continue. The section on numeral cancels (L 1 to L 192) is complete in first draft. This was actually less work than I thought it would be, however I am finding it hard to carve out the 25th hour of each day for this.

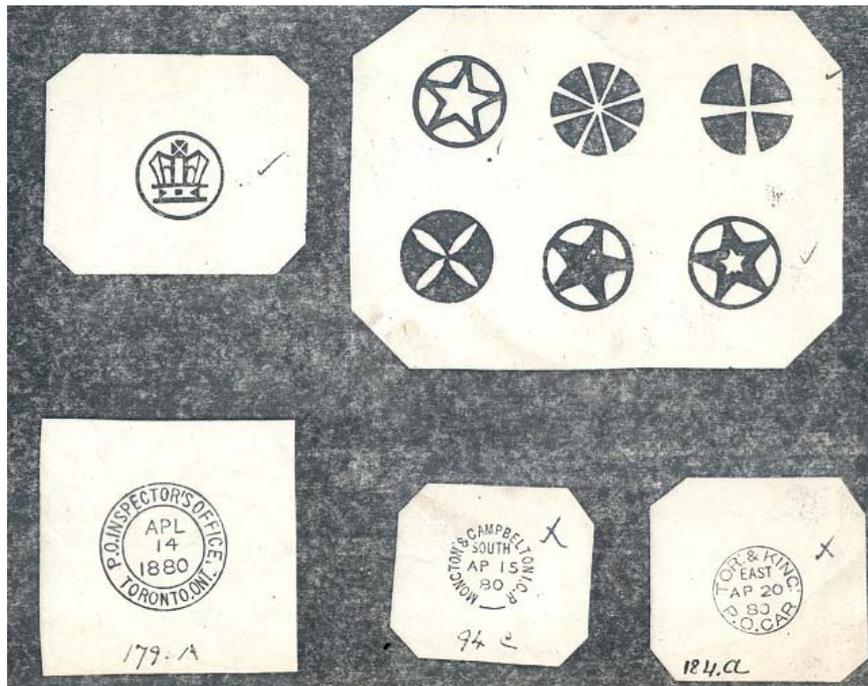
For the earlier editions I had used a set of the 500 photographs of fancy cancel covers prepared by the original researchers for the Day & Smythies publication and have recently reviewed them for our next edition. Instead of just looking at just the cancel information this time I was a bit more critical and looked for any unusual commonalities in use. This was somewhat along the lines of my investigation of the "Bogusman" card selection. Eleven different collectors contributed these 500 photos, inputs varied from 235 to four, with some of the larger contributors sending in material which could be considered as marginal to fancy cancel collecting. (The collector who sent in only four had initials "LML", Bogusman's initials were "LWL", however these four items were not similar to the highly dramatic items later produced by Bogusman.) Of the 500, a large number (158) were to "Toronto Lands Commission", which is a bit worrying, however many of these cancels have been found on other covers. These "Lands Commission" covers were part of a massive find in the mid 1950s (?), presumably when a provincial government office discarded old files. I would be interested to know

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any details of this find???? There were only nine to “The Star Card Company”, another large find. There were only 11 examples of fancy numeral cancels, obviously the early compilers either did not consider these as fancy cancels, or were just plain not interested. This may in part explain some of the disorganised portions of the numeral cancels listed in Day and Smythies. All in all the pictures seemed to be a reasonable, valid file of research material.

I would also like to question our members about the location of the Pritchard and Andrews cancellation proof books. A photo set of these was in the former “National Postal Museum” in Ottawa. The originals were apparently in the files of a Philatelic Research Library in New York in the 1930’s. **Recently there have been several cases of fake philatelic items with hand drawn (by the fakers) circular date stamps, and this fakery can be revealed by comparison to the genuine in the proof books.**

The scan below (about ½ scale) is from a photocopy made by me of a part page of one of the first sets (photographs) of the P&A proofs formerly in the National Philatelic Library. It is atypical as P&A did not usually make “fancy cancels”, however the style of page layout is typical. The strikes were made on a thin paper then pasted onto larger pages.



When the corks which I had found in a “junk box” at auction about 20 years ago were passed around at the Study Group meeting there were two observations made which I had never considered. Firstly, they are hand numbered 1, 2, and 4, with 4 being the quartered cork. The numbers are in different sizes and for one they correctly line up the Masonic symbol. This is the sort of thing which would be done in a busy office rather than by a faker wanting to produce a few strikes. Secondly, the corks are of high quality and do not appear to have ever been in any bottles. Again, not what might be expected from a faker. I have run strikes from these corks in several newsletters, there have never been any strikes from them reported on Canadian stamps and I suspect they are from an American P.O. It also seems odd that anyone would fake the very common quartered cork.

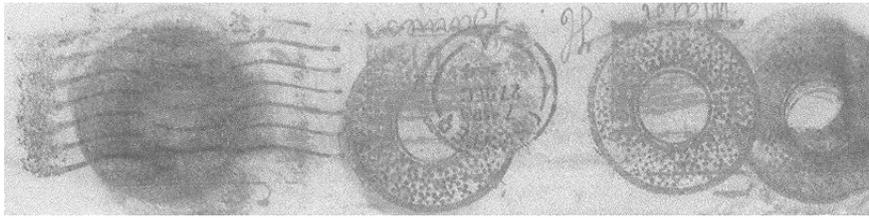


I have received a query regarding the placing of “want lists” in this newsletter. I am fine with this as long as the list is not huge. Likewise, we are all the better off if anyone wants to ask any questions to the group via the newsletter. **Please contribute, this is YOUR newsletter.**

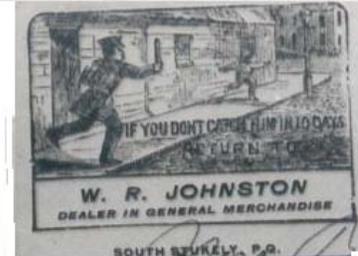
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REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 70, & 72 pg. 1. Ref. to C. Coutts book published by BNAPS on World War 2 "Blackout Cancels". Mike Street has thoughtfully sent in this 'over the top use' example from this book. There are actually more than on just this cut...



Newsletters 70, & 71, pg.2. Use of OHMS or G overprints by the public or private firms. Bill Pekonen has sent in two examples of the "G" overprint used this way.



Newsletter 71, Pg.7. I had noted similarities with the USA "Running Chicken" cancel, and a printed 'return address' envelope. While reviewing the 500 D&S photos I found another example, and one of a similar theme.

CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

Mike Halhed sent in a whole bunch of "stuff", several of which confirm (or revise) information in our book. His first item is L817. This is the second post card to Pictou NS with this as a receival cancel. Due to an editing error, the first one was missed in our second edition. Now known Pictou NS, JU 1880 and JY 1881. The reason for a "T" is unknown, the PM was E. Mc Phail. His second item is probably L 1058. This was described in the book under L 1057 as "Similar from Port Perry Ont. May '74" and under L 1058 as "...possibly a worn state of L 1057". Now confirmed Port Perry Ont., May 1874 to DE 1881. This is a long period of use, and the sizes are somewhat different (or a recut), possibly these are two cancels from the same place? The third item is similar to L 1483 noted from several other P.O.'s. In this case, Varna Ont., MR 1879.



Mike's other items below are L 740 a lovely "R" PO initial, confirming both P.O. and date, Rosemont Ont., MR 1875. Next L 1603, a new late date, Stayner Ont., OC 1875 – MY 1876. Stayner also used a somewhat similar "111", L 63. This also shows there was some distortion in the L 1603 illustration. Next, a confirming FE 1876 of the Ottawa geometric L 1655.

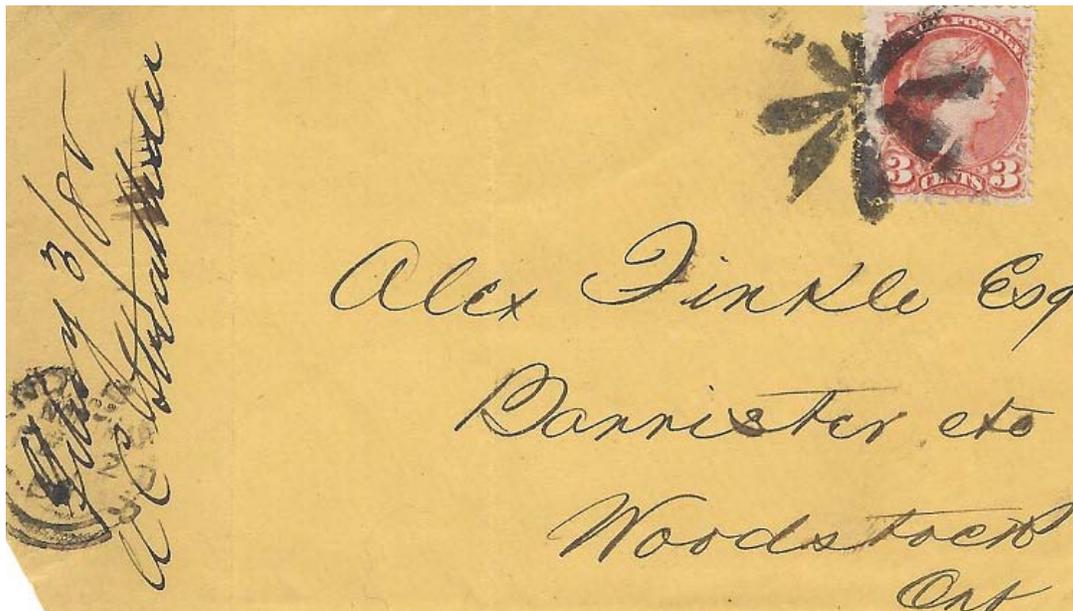


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Mikes last item, is one of the multiple P.O.'s reported for L1109. This fancy cancel was probably made by Pritchard and Andrews of Ottawa, and was used when either the local CDS was damaged, had not yet arrived, or...? See page two for other examples from the P&A proofs. Soda Creek was previously reported as using this cancel in in JA 1875, use here is JY 1874. Soda Creek was on the Caribou gold rush road in 1860, and (way more than you wanted to know), R. Mc Leese bought a lot and later built a hotel (and P.O.) there in 1863. This letter is apparently from PM Mc Leese to a relative in Ross settlement Ontario. The PM of Ross was Marie Mc Laren, and R.M. married a Marie Mc Laren in 1873 (?). R.M. later became a member of the B.C. Legislature. A lovely piece of B.C. history.



Peter Mc Carthy sent in this cover to Woodstock Ont. carried by the London & Port Stanley RPO (L&PS), FE 1880. RPO fancy cancels can be confusing because if the Cancel is used by the RPO, and there is a source P.O., then the tendency is to assume that the source P.O. used the fancy. This can be disproven if the cancel appears to be from several places along the RPO, with the only commonality the RPO. This example however has no other CDS, and the cover would have had to go from London to Woodstock via another carrier. Similar fancy cancels (see L 1233, 7 L 1485) were used in Paris Ont. AP 1879, Cayuga Ont., JU 1879, and Essex Centre Ont. SE 1879, however none of these PO's would be on likely routings between Port Stanley and Woodstock. Perhaps some of you with more background in RPOs could provide more info.? I checked the other 1879 PO's reported using this cancel, however none of the covers had RPO markings.



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Peter's next item is similar to L 1239, but used at Kincardine Ont., Jan. 1891. This should probably be a new listing. The last item is somewhat indescribable, but may also be a deformed strike. The RPO is GWR East, May 1872. There is also a very weak ? Ingersoll ? CDS (based on return address).



The item at right above was sent in by Joe Smith and has some similarities to L 674. I think that both of these may be some common object "pressed" into use as a cancel. Any ideas what it might be?

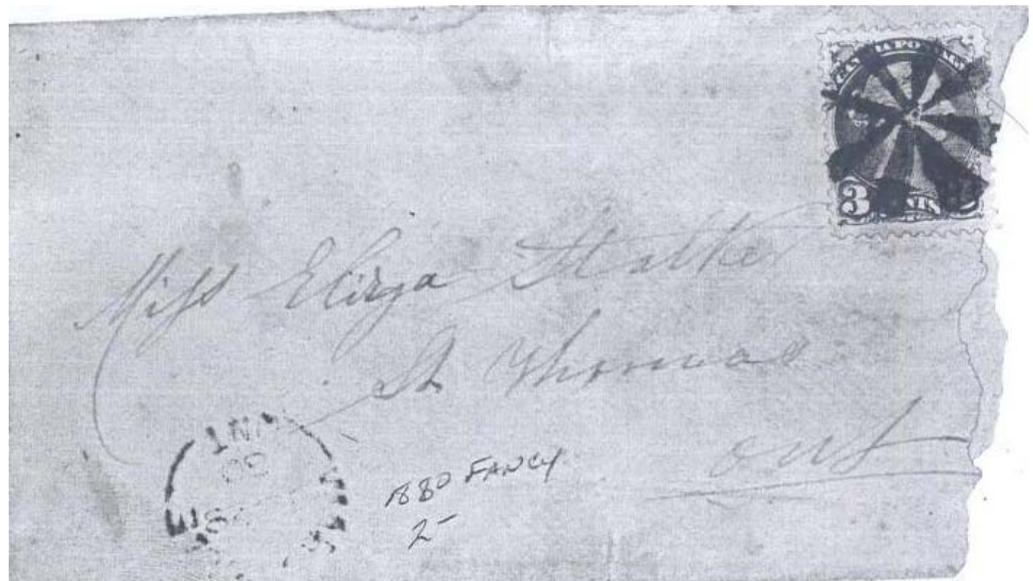


Guy Jeffries sent in this new early date for L, 1462, now N.D.W. Dec. 1895.

I have a query regarding L 1256, a curious "scalloped?", "banded?" Toronto Geometric. It appears that the cover dating this cancel as Apr. 1871 was actually another cancel. The Feb, 1872 cover(s) are good however. It would be very unusual for a Toronto geometric to be used for so long. Please advise if you have any covers of this cancel before Feb. 1872. Most strikes of this are poor, possibly because the cancel was so hacked up that it deformed easily?

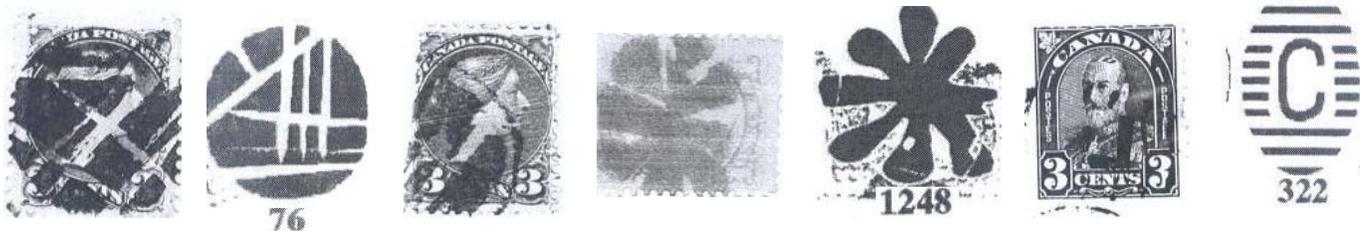
Bill Pekonen sent in the smudge? blob? fancy? at right above. It is from about 1931, has no other postal markings, and went from Victoria to Seattle Wash. Odd that it is trans-border with no other markings and that the printed stamps which could not be reused were even cancelled. It is almost like "someone doing their job well the wrong way".

Randy Evans sent in this item from Wardsville Ont., which is similar to L1485 and also somewhat similar to the other radial used at Wardsville L 1505 (below) later, JU 1881 to OC 1884. The PM certainly did a good S.O.N. job on the Queen!



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Randy also sent in this example of L 76, one of the very cut up Pembroke Ont. "4's", used Oct. 1891 to Dec. 1892. The PM was obviously not one to waste a good cork when just a few cuts would "freshen" it! His next item was also presented in N.L. 60 as some sort of tool handle, used Kensington PEI, Sept. 1888, and will be a new listing. Next may be an early (or deformed?) strike of L 1248, used L. & P.S. RPO July 1879 to Mar. 1880. (Another [probable] L. & P.S. cork from this same period is on page 4.) The last item was described to him as a "Montreal C" presumably similar to L 322, but I believe this is more likely to be some sort of revenue (or?) marking.



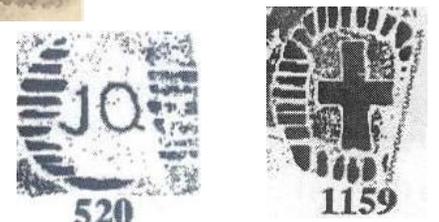
Before moving into the next section, I would like to make three comments. Lately there seems to have been several comments about very small differences in a cancel vs the book illustrations. Although studying minute differences is characteristic of the stereotypical "stamp collector", there are many reasons - see pg. 5 of our book - for variation. Secondly, when the book gives only one month under the use date, this does not mean there is only one "unique" cover. The cancel may only have been used that month, there may be several covers. Finally, the use of the word "unconfirmed" in the description text does not mean that the "unconfirmed" date or PO is a unique rarity. It may be a fake, an error due to a poor CDS, or several other reasons. (Jarrett 'dated' many of his cancels by the stamp printing, the stamp may have already been old when used for example.)

FAKES BOGUS AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

Two spurious items at right - "spurious" something seen as something else, no intent to defraud. The first one I'd by me as an unusual "fingerprint" cancel. The fingerprint lines are the engraving lines in the Queen's neck. Ooops. The other item is from Jarrett, part strikes of these can be seen as parts of "straight line town name" cancels. Jarrett listed seven varieties.



Two Littlefield (aka Bogusman) unique bogus covers have recently reappeared. The one with L 520 appears to have been cut down at right, so that the original stamp was removed. (Close examination reveals that the "Eganville" part of the CDS was hand lettered.) The CDS on the L 1159 was hand drawn, and does not agree with other genuine strikes. He was a trained military draftsman. Nuff said...



Unconfirmed, never seen cancels



L961, now confirmed as at right, Saint Stephen NB, DE. 1872. As the top of the cancel seems darker, and the bottom of the CDS seems darker, it is unlikely this was a duplex hammer.



L1148, now confirmed as at right. It appears that the D&S illustration (and thus also Lacelle) was poor, and the cancel is somewhat similar to L 1149 or L 1150. Almonte Ont., DE 1875. (The CDS may have been "enhanced" by hand? This was sometimes done in "the old days" to show the cover better at exhibitions.)



And out of space, Best of the season to all of you. Thanks to all whom have sent in dues, donations, or stamps.
Dave. Lacelle