

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 75

Aug. 2017

Dave Lacelle

fancycancel@hotmail.com

Group News. I must start this newsletter with an apology to our membership. First the explanation(s). My olde laptop has almost expired, and now works only in “safe” mode. This means that I have not been able to use it on line, or print recently. I still have some email access through my modem household connection and smartphone. As I live “out in the sticks” (Google Earth 1235 Barr Drive Merville BC. Streetview hasn’t reached here yet.), reception for the smartphone is also sometimes iffy.

So, I have been remise in answering some of your emails in the detail you should be receiving. There also may have been recent emails which I have not received at all. If you have sent me something for the newsletter within the last three months, and do not see it in this newsletter, please resend. I have bought a new laptop and the next newsletter will be prepared on it. Apologies for this confusion, time marches on, and I now have an 11 year learning curve to use the new toy.

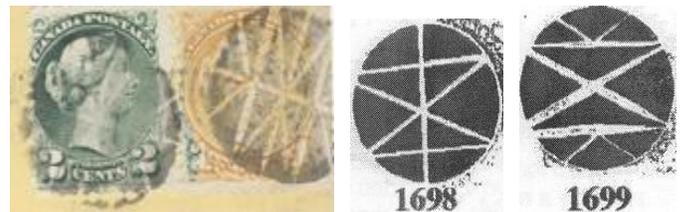
There were no volunteers to chair a Study Group meeting at the Calgary convention. Perhaps someone will rise to this yet? There have also been some communication problems with regards to the 2016 BNAPS Study Group stipend, I won’t go into details, but hopefully this will be discussed at the convention.

We have one new member, Bob Coulson of Hamilton Ont.

Work has resumed on the third edition of our book. Mike Halhed has provided a great deal of help with this, and we are now up to number 769, an “S”. There are 1704 entries in total. The text for the “book” portion could be updated in two days, however the changes to both the graphics and table sections are a great deal of work. There are about 350 revisions to this major part of the book. These are due to **YOU**, the study group members, and indicate both your enthusiasm and continued interest in this field. Fancy cancels seem to be located somewhere between folk art and graffiti and have a strong human interest aspect. The “capacity to surprise” evident in most collecting fields is obviously there as well. Thank you for your inputs, and special thanks to Mike Halhed (& Bob Turkowski in the previous edition). Keep sending that stuff in... Target deadline for the third edition is Dec. 31 to Mike Street for final editing, printing etc. Mike Street is another hard working BNAPSER who is not complemented enough on the excellent work he does. Now on to “Stamp cancel stuff”..

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters 59, 63, and 70 (pg.2.). Ottawa geometrics. Ron Smith presented an article in “Confederation” (The N.L. of the Large & Small Queens S.G.) showing the item at right. This nicely illustrates the difficulty of studying some of these geometric cancels. The cover was not mailed from Ottawa, but was receiver cancelled there. It had previously been poorly cancelled at source. It appears to be a recut or cleaned variant of L1698 (also noted as a receiver cancel) or the similar L1699. The dates of this cover (at least two other covers are known) indicate that it is actually the first of several probably recut or cleaned cancels. It would have taken but a few seconds for a clerk to “freshen up” one of these corks with his pocket knife, and there are many variations of them. This first variation will be listed in the third edition of our book, however I regret that due to the many recuts not all Ottawa (nor Toronto) geometrics can be illustrated. Thanks to Ron for clarifying this issue.



Newsletter 69, pg. 3, item 12. Unlisted Ottawa geometric. Mike Halhed has sent in three other cover examples of this, all Dec. 1877 to Jan. 1877. I had suggested that this cancel might ‘morph’ into some sort of star design, however it appears this did not happen. This will also be a new listing. An interesting feature of the example here is that it was an OHMS free cover with the free postage “signature” stamp of ?J. Paten? as authorization. Since it was going to the United States ‘real’ postage had to be added, and then finally clobbered by the geometric cancel at Ottawa Main PO just across the street from Parliament.



BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 75

Newsletter 72, page 3, the “cancel” and stamps acting as a (religious?) seal on a cover. Ron Majors wrote a great article recently on “Mourning Covers” in the recent Pence Issue S.G. newsletter. He illustrates many of the embossed patterns on the closures of these envelopes, and the item from our N.L. does have a closing embossing under the stamp and cancel. Unfortunately it is just a piece, so we cannot tell if it is a mourning cover, although the dark circles may imply that. I had asked for comments on this item and will run it here again. Only comment so far “... never seen anything like it.” (An afterthought, if the stamps were just intended to convey some “official seal” effect, then why use three of them, and different values? Five cent Registered rate?)



Newsletter 74, pg. 8, the International P.O. and Canusa Street. Last months Macleans Magazine ran a short story which also featured this house. Their picture showed that the Border pin is actually about ½ a metre (20 inches to our American friends) to the north of the front door. All is not well there, the building is currently abandoned and for sale. It had been split into six separate dwelling units, and there were big problems with it’s “dual” nationality. The Macleans article did not mention Canusa Street by name (perhaps deliberately), but did refer to “... customs stations on each side of the road.” Hopefully any Canusa Street problems will work themselves out.

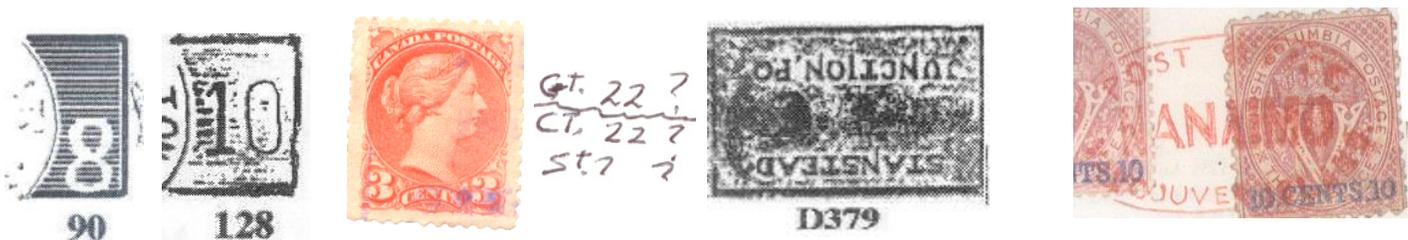
And, one of our members who lives reasonably close to me made the National TV news recently by fighting off an attacking grizzly bear which picked the wrong stamp collector to attack. Our guy was beachcombing (I can also relate to that) on a small island north of Vancouver Island and fought the bear off, lost his phone in the process, and had to go some distance in his boat to be able to radio for medical help. Tough guy! I have not identified him here – perhaps to protect the identity of the bear?

CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

Mike Halhed has sent in the two covers below. His first cover is L357, which is now confirmed as Stayner Ont. Mar. 1871. I cheated and moved the CDS, 1871 is also in ms. This is one of those odd initial cancels, why would PM J.H. McKeggie use a “D” from Stayner? He also used another “D” (L358) immediately after this one. (Some of these cancels have ‘secret’ meanings, perhaps a lodge or society identifier?) The next item is now confirmed as a “Kingston cross”, used Feb. 1873. This is a cut up version of an earlier cross L1080, and the meaning is perhaps a bit more obvious. PM “Deacon” probably used crosses as a symbol of his Christian name.



Graham Searle sent in the new late dates for the Railway PO fancy cancels below. Both are from the Quebec & Campbellton Express, L90, now known up to June 1897, and L128, now up to June 1895.



Roger Squires sent in the mystery cancel on 3 center above, and some of his suggestions. I think (?) thst it is a partial of our D379. I had to draw the line (so to speak) somewhere when it came to straight line town names, and D379 did not quite make the cut. It was listed as a “D” cancel just in case someone had a part strike... The last item from Eastern Auctions June 17 sale is a somewhat similar example. Should This “NANAIMO Post Office Vancouver Island” be listed as a “Fancy”, a “D” item, or just in our list of Town Name cancels, Appendix 1? Note, the cut is a composite from an album exhibit page with the “ANA” hand drawn.

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 75

H'everything you h'vever wanted to hear h'about Hagersville Ont. Ralph Vicero sent in a huge amount of material mostly relating to his primary collecting area, the megatropolis of Hagersville Ont. There are over 60 Hagersville covers, and at least 100 individual "H" initial cancels. Between 1881 and 1894 there were three Mr. Hager Post Masters, presumably Granpaw, father and son. The latter Mr. Hager seems to have abandoned the fancy cancel cause early in his career. Most of these cancels were H's, and it is perhaps worthwhile to consider the example at right before continuing. These are L479 in a fairly late state used between Nov. 1890 and May 1894. Philatelists are commonly perceived as people who pay a great deal of attention to VERY small details. These H's show a wide variation in shape despite having been stamped at the same time, on the same cover, by the same Mr. Hager. I have identified six Hagersville H's, please consider the variation which must be possible within this group over a 13 year period. This variation can also be an issue with many other cancels especially when you consider cancel wear, uneven paper/striking surfaces, inkpad changes, damage, reuse, sore arms etc.



My analysis of this material resulted in few changes to the existing FCM book. Two new H's were identified as below, and L479 as above appears to have a much earlier start, it was previously June 1891. L 501 also has a new late date, June 1887 from Apr. The new items are a small precise little "H" used in Mar. and Apr. 1883, and a somewhat subtle partly intaglio "H" used from Oct. 1884 to Dec. 1884. As mentioned above the last Hagersville H was used in July 1894 which is towards the end of the period of most fancy cancels. The Hagersville Squared Circle was used after Jan. 1895. The item at right below is a Hagersville leaf which is identical to the one in NL 64. This will be a new listing, Sept. and Oct. 1881 which is a bit later than the other two Hagersville leaf cancels, L1218 and L1221. This one appears to be Jarrett 886a.



Ralph sent in some other non-Hagersville material as below. The first is an example of L1129, a simple cross previously reported from about nine other PO, however this is the first from Selkirk Ont. July 1890. The cover is also interesting as it is another example (see NL 65, pg. 5) of a USA prestamped "Brainards" card with a Canadian stamp applied over the USA one. The next item is L1259, this is the "...similar cancel used in Dunville Ont...." now confirmed as Apr. and May 1875. The third one is a poor strike of a "star", somewhat similar to L1006, but used at Seneca Ont., May 1873.

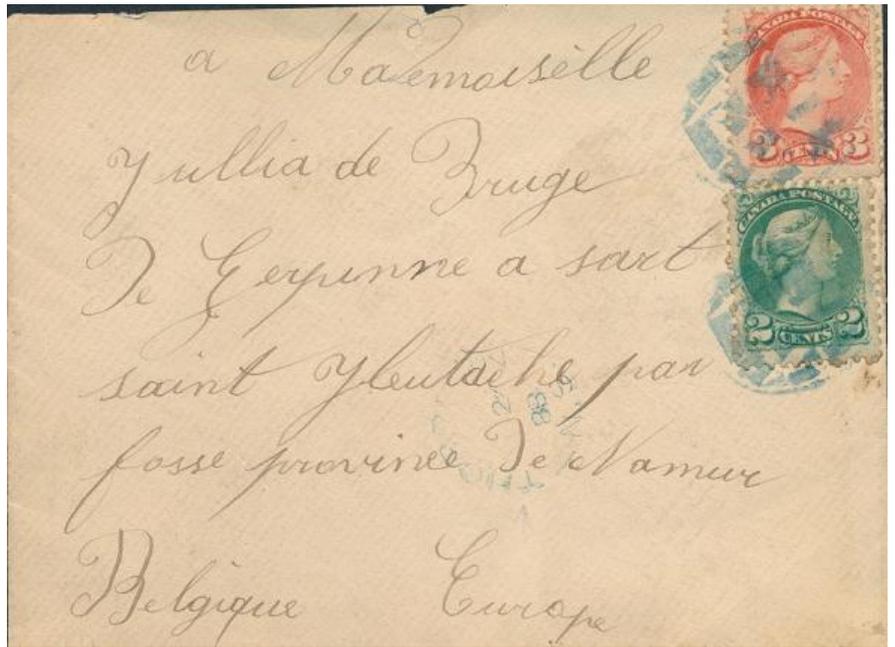


The "fancy" revenue use star (?) below is also from Ralph, "I.B. of C. (Imperial Bank of Canada) Cancelled date unreadable)" on Sc. 149, thus 1928 or 1929. The other "miscellaneous" cancel is a very neat paquebot sent in by Mike Street



BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 75

Paul Varty sent in this lovely cover to Belgium with a blue CDS and geometric cancel. While this is a fairly simple design, it does not really match any listed items, and will be a new listing. Used from Thorburn N.S. Apr. 1888.



Before proceeding to the “Fakes & Forgeries section, I have five queries I would like to present to our members. **Please provide any further information you may have.**

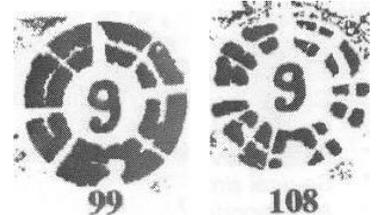
1. Somewheres between my smartphone and olde laptop I lost an email which contained a request for my opinion of “the fake Union BC” cancel. I do not even know who sent the email. Unless this is referring to some Union BC cancel I am not familiar with, it must be the only example in our book, L839 at right. I do not know of any reports, publication etc. which has declared this a fake. Enlightenment please?



2. There was a report in a recent Topics article about the “St. John’s Newfoundland 235 cancel” being used by a philatelic firm “N. Ohman” in the 1880’s. This is L175, and while it may have been used in the 1880’s by a stamp firm it has been reported used as early as 1873 by St. John’s PO. The cancel is odd in that it is a standard design used in England, and was first issued to Staindrop (Dur.) in the 1840’s. Our book is in error when I state that “the number was withdrawn in about 1860 and re-issued to St. Johns.” The number 235 was still valid at Staindrop in 1906, and was not re-issued. How a UK hammer ended up in St. John’s and was (? sorta ?) officially used in 1873 is a mystery? Enlightenment please?



3. A suggestion has been made that the Kingston 9’s, numbers 99 and 108 were not “cut up varieties of the official ‘two ring’ hammer” as I had stated in our book. As I do not have an “official 2R9” in my possession, I cannot confirm this. The two ring hammers were in two pieces, with the numeral being one and the concentric rings t’other. The “9” would have to have been removed and later reinserted (at the same place on the ring?) so that the radial cuts could be made. I have a suspicion that the “9” part was later reused in some other K9’s. (Note, both L99 and L108 have the small ‘hole’ at the bottom which was in the “official” hammer to differentiate it from an upside down ‘6’.) Enlightenment please?



4. The meaning of the “D.w” marking, our number D190 is still being debated. As it is a marking, and appears to only accidentally have ended up on stamps (ie is not a cancel), I have listed it as a miscellaneous item D190 with the following text. “This is air mail sorting identifier used in Mar. 1930 to Feb. 1932 (?and in 1942). It probably refers to letters which were too late for the flight and were thus redirected, See BNA Topics, Jan & Apr. 2017. Partial strikes are known on stamps, with other cancels also present.” Is everyone happy with this wording?

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 75

5. This “Shediac star” cover recently appeared on the market (eBay) and three of you expressed concerns about its authenticity. When I first became involved with “Fancy Cancels” I was very concerned about the issue of fakery. Anyone can carve a potato. When your friends ask for an opinion on something which is important (and possibly costly) to them and you have to “dump” on it, you may lose friends. They in turn may have a problem with whoever sold the item to them. I like having friends. I do not like ‘rocking the boat’, there is enough going on



in the ‘little life which is Dave’ without adding stress from my relaxing “hobby”! For at least the first 10 years of my F.C. research I kept my opinions on fake cancels discrete and minimal. Although I have identified about 26 different things which should be considered regarding cancel authenticity, I am rarely 100% certain. For this reason I started answering with a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 was “authentic in all regards”, and 1 was “something you would not give to your worst enemy”. In NL 51 (Aug. 2009) I finally started a “Fakes, Spurious, and Bogus items” section of the newsletter. These are my 5’s or less. I also will not personally attribute anything in the fakes section due to the “he said she said” rule. (He said “Dave Lacelle says that Mr. “Attribute” has a fake cancel in his collection” She repeats to someone else “Mr. A. has fakes in his collection” He says “Mr. A. has a collection full of fakes” to someone else. Ms Someone Else says “I wonder if Mr. A. makes fake cancels”...)

I first saw this Shediac star cover about 20 years ago. I would give it a 4 rating now. When listed for sale on eBay it was described as a “Large and Small Queen cover from 1893”. Both wrong. Moncton BS indicates 1895.

Here is my slightly rewritten response to one of you. *“First saw this cover about 20 years ago and was not very happy with it then. Cannot recall who sent it to me, but think they were skeptical also. At the time we decided to just ignore it and not list it. 8 cent registered rate ended Dec. 31 1877. Tying is poor in that the tiny intaglio space at the stamp edge is usually missing. CDS ink does not match but “R” does. (later thought, why would PM change inkpads?) Low R number works as this is early in the year, but shouldn’t there also be an R number from Moncton? No other fancies from Shediac, only one (L586 an “M”) from Moncton”. (later thought, there are a few stains etc. which make me wonder...)*

My respondent replied with the query ...”to ask the study group if anyone has the strike off cover – certainly someone, somewhere at some time would have saved such an interesting strike.” **Consider yourselves asked.**

Final comment, this cover is similar to many of the Littlefield fake covers in that it is unique, dramatic, on cover, and not listed previously. It was not in the Littlefield index card file however. He was a trained military draftsman, and knew a thing or two about inks, papers etc. The “R” hammer was produced in batches of 150 by P&A of Ottawa, this type was used for at least 50 years and many are probably still around....

5a. The item at right, L1226, Killarney Ont., Mar. 1882 has several similarities to the above, (only one, dramatic cover known, not on Littlefield file cards) however it was listed in the 1961 Edition of D&S (all Littlefield items first appeared in D&S). I listed it as “dubious”. **Does anyone have a second strike – on or off cover of this?** (Afterthought, this good Irish theme cancel is Mar. 4 or possibly Mar. 14. St Patty’s day is Mar. 17.)



BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 75
FAKES BOGUS AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

This little beastie recently appeared on eBay. Four of you asked for my opinion of it. Fake, at best a “2” on my 1-10 scale. Unlike other listed examples, inks don’t match, traces of weak CDS under etc.) Purportedly L1377, D&S 262, on S.Q.’s from ‘90’s. Location unknown. This ‘example’, for the record, is from Sherbrooke Que., Aug. 1872. For other “examples” of this cancel, see NL 69, pg. 7. I intend to delete this cancel in the third edition, my “strike” appears to be an oblique poor part strike from an oval parcel cancel, possibly L191.



MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS AND OTHER RELATED DUTIES...

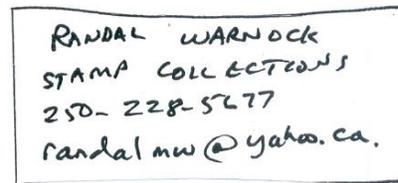
When I ran the scans of Hugh Rathbun’s “Crown wax seal” hammers. I neglected to state that there were two major types. The first (with outer rings) were produced by Berri of London (UK), and were produced at least up to Confederation. The second type (see Hugh’s Halifax one here) is the later design, produced by Pritchard and Andrews of Ottawa Ont.



The more things change, the more they remain the same. This cover was not philatelic inspired. It was a B’day card to my wife, which had not been sealed. The (Ottawa? Originating PO) P.O. had repaired it with tape, and someone then cancelled it with **AN OFFICIAL INITIAL “PC” CANCEL USED IN 2017 !!!** Presumably PC stands for Postes Canada? There were no other postal markings of any kind, but safely arrived here after about 2500 km of travel. I checked at Merville PO, it was not applied here. Do any of you have other cancel examples of this modern initial. Should it be listed in the third edition? Compare with L724 used a mere 140 or so years earlier...



The more things change... I remember seeing little handmade tear off requests for such things as “old envelopes, stamps” etc when I was a kid. One of our members has renewed this practice, the ad was posted at my local recycling centre. It has received quite a bit of attention, almost all the tear offs are gone. Good luck with this Randal, and I hope the bear bites have healed...



Have a good autumn, and please send in lots of stuff for the next newsletter.

P.S. Can any of you provide discounted postage for my September mailing? Can spend \$100.00 Please advise.

Dave.Lacelle