

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 77

Apr. 2018

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Group News. I am pleased to announce that I have FINALLY completed my input to the Third Edition of our Fancy Cancel Book. There may still be some technical details with my Editors and proofreaders however the “package” is complete. Thanks to Mike Street and Mike Halhed for their patience and hard work to make this possible. It has now been 12 years since the Second Edition, I have been on ‘n off working on this edition for about three years and the many of you whom have contributed the hundreds (at least 350) revisions, new entries, corrections etc must be thanked. Interest in this field remains strong. THANK YOU. Mike Street has informed me that the publication will probably be available in July.

Now, to some more mundane items. The December newsletter was our annual “dues” issue. I had to drop three members for non payment of dues (for two years). Our current membership is 88, of which 12 are dues free as required BNAPS mailings, review copies, or elders. Total monies collected were \$ 876, of which \$ 326 were donations or “pay ahead” dues. Several of you sent along stamps as well, which helps with the 25 (or so) members who wish mailed paper copies. Thank you for the dues and donations.

I must apologise for the many mistakes in the last newsletter. I have had to buy a new laptop, am still somewhat unfamiliar with it and had to play “catch up” with 14 years of software change... (Other excuses, end of year rush, and the fact that my dear wife and proof reader has now been in ‘extended care’ for four years and is now unable to help.)

Three other comments. Firstly, one of you has suggested that BNAPS should also make the third edition available as a .pdf. I imagine this would go over like the proverbial ‘lead balloon’ with the BNAPS Executive but mention it here and invite comments. Secondly, it appears that there is no longer any BNAPS stipend available to cover the cost of mailing the BNAPS “official” copies, I have requested information on this, but little is forth coming. Third, one of our members has mentioned that “Sparks Auctions” (Ottawa) will be having an “extensive collection of fancy cancels coming up in their May sale.” Please contact them directly. And a sorta fourth comment, I am still looking for some “cheap” accommodation near Quebec City for the September convention. Anyone?

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 68, Apr. 2015, pg, 10, the summary page of “Littlefield” (Bogusman) fake cancels. Number 727. Closer examination of the supposedly genuine cover strike of this indicates that it is a partly double struck and smeared strike which is otherwise identical to the other single known example of this fake cancel. There are no known genuine strikes of number L 727.



CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

Mike Halhed (and Ron Smith) have sent in examples confirming the error (since corrected) in our book regarding the fancy cross L1061 from Collingwood Ont. Sept. 1872 – July 1874. As reported in Newsletter 65, Apr. 2014, pg. 4, the early stages of this cancel have notched ends. This was not illustrated then, his item is at right.



Paul Varty has provided the scan at right of another cross, L 1158, now identified as Kilarney Ont., Sept. 1878. Kilarney also used another cross (L 1042) in 1876.



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Just when you think you have it all figured out, something like this comes along...

This was sent by one of our former members, and the owner wishes to remain anonymous. It appears to be one of the two hammers produced by P&A and recorded in their proofbook Sept. 1880 and listed as our L 1291, used Victoria BC and Esquimalt BC between Sept. 1880 and July 1914 (!). This was a very popular cancel and philatelic and souvenir strikes are known. Over 50 covers have survived.

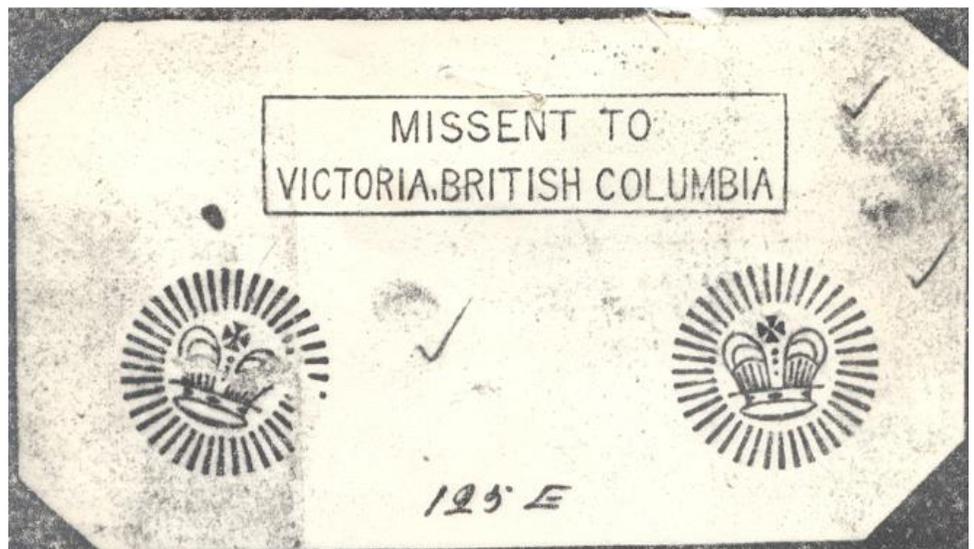
Unfortunately all I have is this illustration at right. A "proof" strike from this would be very revealing. I also do not know any details of the handle. The hammer appears to be a one piece brass casting.

The P&A proofs are presented below. There were two strikes, one was defective, and I had assumed the second was a correction. Actually the first has a crease in the onion skin paper AFTER the strike was made and appears defective when the paper was mounted on the P&A book page.

Unlike a common (and otherwise very good) fake of this item, the hammer has 40 rays as does the P&A proof. I believe this is the first strike in the proof book and base this on some tiny details circled. One disturbing aspect is the number of bars in the crown, 4 and 5. This "5 bar" is where the paper defect occurs on the proof page however. It is also possible that one of these bars is recessed and might appear on the hammer but not in normal use. Smythies made a detailed study in 1962 of this cancel and various fakes of it. Some of his hand written notes

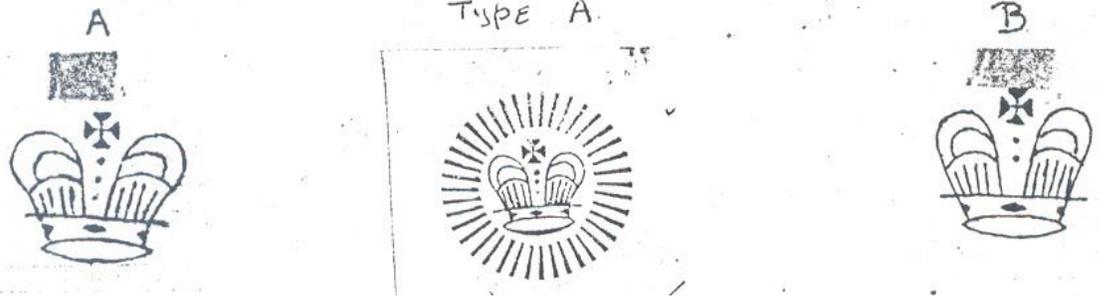
are on the next page. He believed there were two versions, one has a very weak bottom dot as does the hammer above. Smythies illustrated the second proof (note, same finger smudge at top right) as his "Type A", but did not illustrate the first defective proof which is presumably his type B with only two dots.

This is a fascinating bit of B.C. history however it shares a problem common to all of these old hammers. If modern proof strikes are not presented in modern literature, and the hammer falls into the "wrong" hands then it can be used to produce very convincing fakes. This is the reason why I try to run proofs here of the old hammers. As mentioned above strikes from the old hammers can also show changes due to wear from original proofs.

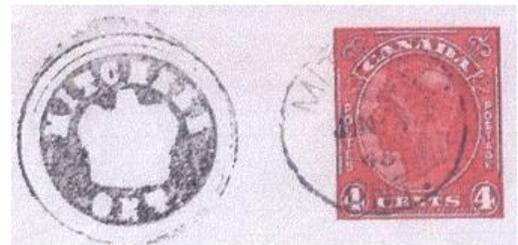
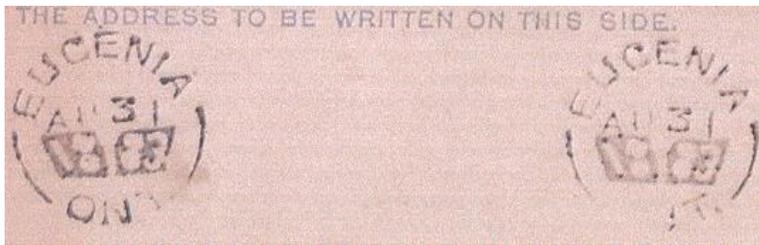


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Drawings (and P&A proof strike center) as prepared by EA Smythies in 1962.



While on this topic of proof/favour/philatelic (ie. fancy cancels with no intent to deceive anyone) cancels, Hugo Deshayé's most recent listing has two very interesting cover examples as below. Both are on unaddressed (note, never actually in the mail) postal stationery, and both are presented here as cuts to save space.



The first is L 187, a CDS with hand carved year date described in our book as “mainly philatelic use” used between May 1883, and Aug. 1883. The placing of the cancel on either side of where the address should have been probably indicates that this is a “show” or (sorta) proof strike. It should also be noted that if this item fell into the wrong hands, anyone – with a bit of penmanship – could add any address and create a fancy cover. This is another example why this sort of proof material should be documented. The second item (also unaddressed) is more obviously philatelic from the Mitchell Ont. P.O. The official CDS is from January 1945, appropriate for the stationery, and the crown wax seal is from the opening of the P.O. about 98 years earlier. (About 10 of the 175 postal use crown wax seals reported in our book have a “philatelic” component.)

The next two items can be described as miscellaneous markings, or “obscure” fancy cancels. Both are on dark stamps and are difficult to examine. The first was sent in as a reference by Mike Street. I first thought it was an example of a Registered oval “R” (see L 745) gone “wild”. Mike saw it as a “sorta beehive design”. It might also be some other instructional or commercial marking. Any other ideas? Whoever did it sure wanted those stamps cancelled!



The next item is from Brian Hargreaves. He suggested that it was a foreign marking, “possibly Italian based on the date 31 OTT (Ottobre)”. What I saw was “DIST 5?1, OTT” which for some reason made me think of the N.Y. Foreign Mail Office. Any other ideas? (I hope I was not unconsciously mixing this up with the modern USA secret “Area 51”? Let’s not go there OK? Especially in the 1870’s!)



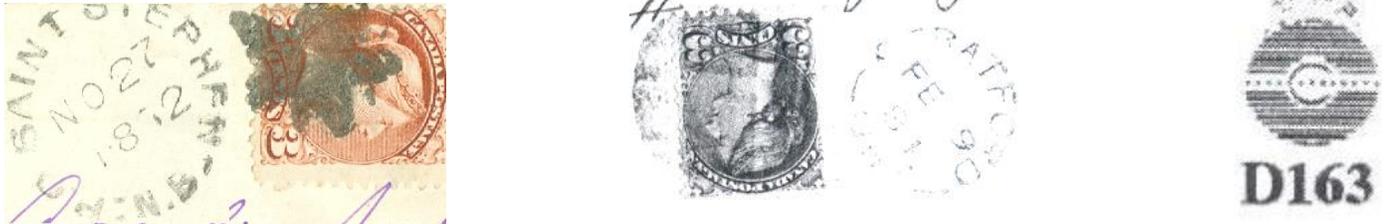
I would like to know if anyone has any further information on the Newfoundland “T” cancel at right. For some reason it was missed in the second edition of our book despite being referred to in both Newsletter 34 (Dec. 2003) and at least one “Newfie Newsletter”. It has been described as on the issue of 1880. It may be foreign, or an instructional marking T(ax)? As there are few Newfoundland fancies, I have now listed it, but would welcome any other information...



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Ron Smith sent in this new early date for L 961, used St. Stephens N.B., Nov. -Dec. 1872 at left below. The illustration for this cancel has been improved in the third Edition. Thanks Ron.

The item at centre below is a left over from Ralph Vicero's sending of various "H" cancels. It confused me as it is hard to visualize and did not appear to be the "H" from Stratford Ont. in use at that time. However if you turn the stamp upside down - as in this illustration, squint a bit, and shake your head it does appear as L 469, late state, used Stratford Ont., Mar. 1889 to Sept. 1881.



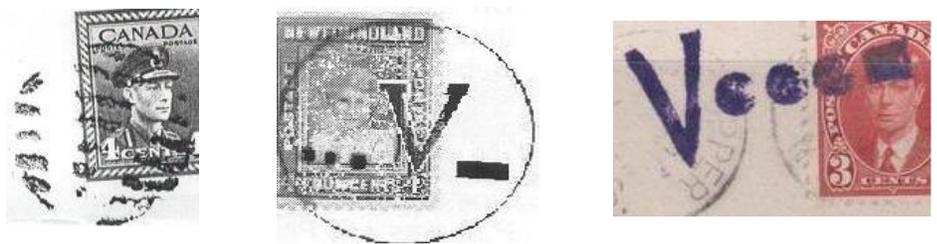
A strike of the item at right was recently sent by Kent Wilson. He had found it on an old stamp dealers page where it was described as "An experimental cancel from Ottawa. Rare." This is sorta right, it is our D163 and D 334, an experimental scarifying cancel used at Ottawa for a short time. The traverse row of pins were designed to cut into the stamp and thus increase ink penetration and reduce the possibility of stamp reuse. Not really rare however.

Peter Baxter sent a bunch of cancels including the items below. Item 2 looks familiar, but I cannot find it in our book. I am quite sure that the third one is L 1242, St. Catherines Ont. March 1882. Any comments on the others? Ron Smith sent in the two items at right. The second one is L 246, a cancel of which very little is known except for



an odd ink colour. He comments that the first one is very similar except the "A" is shaped differently. The stamp printings, and inks seem to agree. I have not seen the actual stamps, however I notice that the cancel edges seem to be a bit poorer defined in the first one. Tentatively a different cancel, but I would really have to see this one to test for ink solubility and penetration and perf hole staining. Interesting item.

The January BNA Topics had a very interesting article by John Bennett on the use of "V for Victory" (see L864) official cancels, as well as several examples of private cachets, and markings on this theme. There were



also at least three P.O.'s which made their own "fancy" V cancels, as illustrated at right. Two of these are new listings in the third edition. (Hint... buy the book, lots of new "stuff"!) I am still looking for a reported "V" from Bolney Sask. (Reported by J. Carstairs in a report from a stamp convention about 1975.) Anyone got one?

FAKES, BOGUS, AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

The items at right are an example of the spurious "struck through cloth" type of cancel. When an inkpad is dry the cloth texture is picked up by metal hammers. In this case an ordinary flat headed household hammer. Average, light, and heavy strikes.

