

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 78

August. 2018

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Group News. The Third Edition of our book “Fancy Cancels on Canadian Stamps 1855 to 1950” is “in press” as i write this. It will be available through BNAPS. After resolving (I hope) a few minor crises at home I am again able to attend the Quebec City BNAPS Convention. THANK YOU to those of you who helped with this. We will have a Study Group meeting Friday September 21m 1600 to 1700 in the Ravel Room. I shall bring along some of the research material for this and previous editions as well as a few cancellation artifacts i have accumulated over the years. If anyone has any old hammers or other fancy cancel era material I am sure we would all like to see it. Book signing will also be available.

This third edition was a huge job, there are over 350 revisions, new data , deletions, and a few plain old fashioned mistake corrections from the 12 years since the second edition. While on the topic of mistakes, this book has several ‘layers’ to it, cancels may be inter-related in terms of Post Office location, meanings (i.e. fraternal society etc.) authenticity, time of use (i.e. Halloween bogey heads) etcetera. Sometimes when updating anything this complex some of the other “layer” information may not get updated for a specific cancel. I appreciate any comments regarding missing information or errors. Some material was also received “too late” I had to draw the line (so to speak) on some retro-active revisions or i never would have been able to complete the project. It is hoped that a “Corrections and Additions” page will be prepared soon to resolve some of the previous issues.

A great improvement with the updates and revisions (which are presented in italics) in the cancel lists and locations sections is that the FC&MM Newsletter numbers are also presented. Readers can thus go to the scanned copies on the BNAPS website and find more information.

One other thing I would like to mention regarding this book. I am just a researcher in this field. I am not affiliated with any stamp dealer or auction firm. I do not even have a fancy cancel (or any other) collection. The only benefit I receive from the sale of this book is four free “Author’s” copies. As well as putting any thoughts of ‘collusion’ or ‘conflict’ to rest, the preceding also indicates that I am not competing with you for any material. Please send in any references to specific fancy cancel items for sale which may be of use in this newsletter.

On a lighter note, while reviewing some old files i came across an article (Topics March 1950) by MW Cryderman on the 3 cent Small Queen (Sc 37 & 41) which is the most common stamp reported with fancy cancels. According to him there were 1,327,296,700 3 cent SQ;s printed. I did a quick calculation based on this number, if 1% of these survived to modern times, and 1% of those had cork cancels, and 1% of those had what we would consider as fancy cork cancels, then there would be 1,327 fancy cork cancels extant. Our book lists about 1,800 on all stamp issues.

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 75, Aug. 2017, pg, 6, Mike Street has also received an example of the hand applied “PC” cancel. Mike’s example was mailed just west of Ottawa, mine was mailed in eastern Ottawa. Like mine there are no other postal markings. This confirms official use at Ottawa and is probably a ‘special handling’ marking.



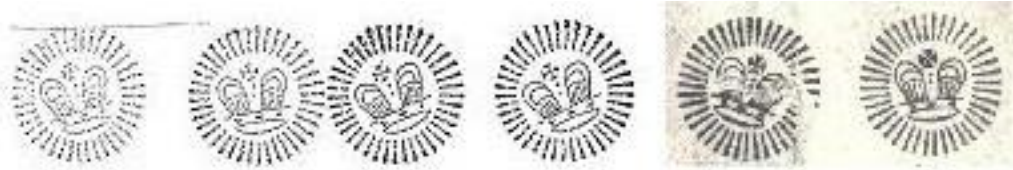
Newsletter 77, Apr. 2018, pg, 1. I am probably “flogging this cancel to death”, but I have found that my original notes (1987) are a bit incomplete. This Littlefield fake was sold in 1987 as both a cover example (the same date Aug. 1887, destination etc. as in the Littlefield fakes card file) and also as a single example on stamp. This latter item is described as a Sc. 41 and is the item at right. also noted that it was a sc. 41, but did not note the shade, and instead noted “after 1887.” Does anyone have this item? I would like to know if it is a shade late than the rose red shades in use 1887 to (say) 1889?



Newsletter 77, Apr. 2018, pg, 4. Para 2, “May 1889 to...” should read “May 1879 to...”.

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Newsletter 77, Apr. 2018, pg, 2, the Victoria crown hammer. I have received modern proof strikes from this hammer as below. When compared with the 1880 P&A proof strikes at right it appears that this hammer is closest to the P&A hammer with the paper crease, which Smythies called #2. It is interesting to note that the hammer has the three dots in the middle, however the bottom dot must be recessed enough that it does not show in modern strikes nor in the 1880's strikes studied by Smythies. The illustrations below are reduced as I had difficulties with the scan resolution of the modern proof strikes. (The third "dot" in both P&A proofs (1880) is visible at full scale)



CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

Ron Smith sent in a scan of the cover below with a previously unrecorded "ALEXANDRIA' Ont. Mar. 1889 fancy. He suggest and I am about 85% convinced that it is the source of the enigmatic "EEXAT" listed as our number 394. Unfortunately, the strike is weak. Does anyone have another strike of this? The cut at bottom right is the "EEXAT' example. Inks and stamp printings also appear to agree.



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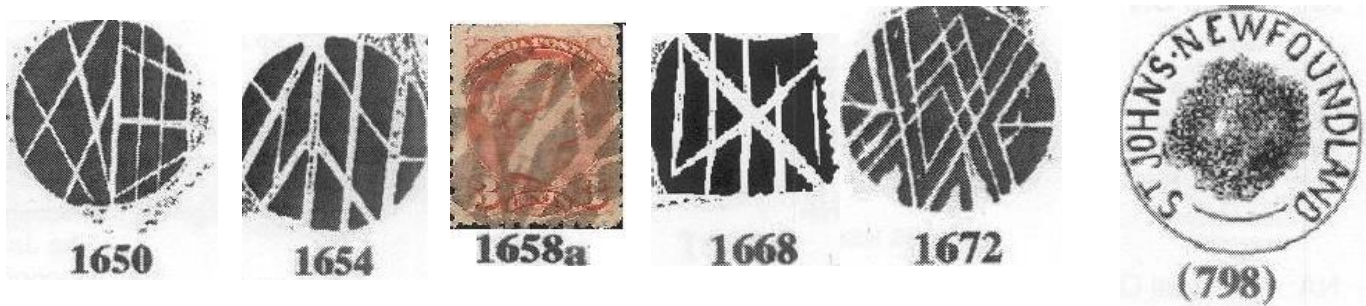
The OHMS item below left was sent in by Mike Street. This is a (paint program) cut up to save space, and also appeared in N.L. 61, Dec. 2012 where it was described as “philatelic”. The cut up beside it is from N.L. 70 Dec. 2015, and would seem to indicate that government employees were still using corks in an official cancel function in the early 1950’s, and as such the first item might be better described as “...late use of a cork cancel,” I also note that N.L. 56, Apr. 2011 reports 1949 use of an official “wax seal” by the Toronto Dead Letter Office. This also is a use of an 1890’s technology into almost modern times. Any other later examples out there?



The item at far right above was sent in by Joe Smith and is described as a “nest of V’s”. This would also be a late use of a fancy cancel but is possible. Any other examples out there?

Mike Halhed has sent in a bunch of notes regarding a study of the Ottawa Geometrics. 285 covers were examined, and I have used the F.C. book illustrations to save space. Note some of the suggested postal uses may be more representative of the types or sources of the surviving covers – see page 1 regarding my ‘1% of the 1% of the 1%’ survival rate of fancy cancel covers. I might also mention here that many of the old correspondence finds in the last 60 or so years have been from old government files (Crown Lands), legal files, and the occasional commercial corporation (Star Card Company) and may not reflect ordinary ‘Ma and Pa’ rural correspondence.

Other considerations regarding these Ottawa geometrics are that they were often recut/cleaned and can thus have many varieties and that our book shows only some of the more elaborate designs, there are many more simple corks used in Ottawa by several different clerks.



L1650, error in the book text. Change date of use to JU77.

L1654, add probably on registered items only.

L1658a, (a new 3rd edition listing). Confirmed use in Ottawa, DE78-JA79.

L1668, known on commercial correspondence (no CDS). Ottawa AU78.

L1672, new late date AU72.

Mike also sent in a reference to an unusual use (next page) of L798 (or very similar). St. John’s Newfoundland inserted corks into an old CDS hammer. Unfortunately, some icons from the original catalogue image were copied into the final. I was initially somewhat skeptical about the placement of this stamp however it is tied and is in the correct period.

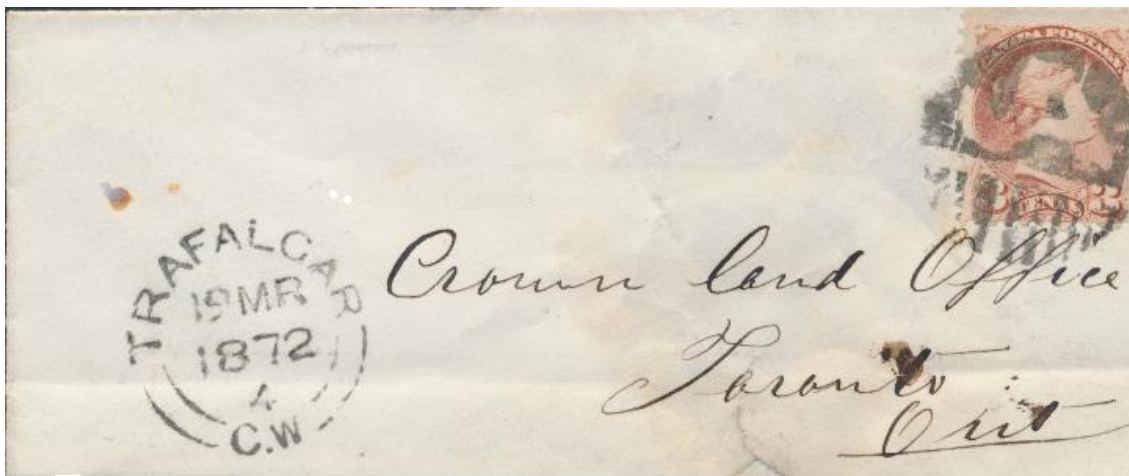
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St. John's Nfld. CDS cork insert. See previous page.

Jim McCormick sent in the item at right which is an unlisted geometric and is rather unlike any of the listed ones. The ink seems to be a poorly mixed "olde" style oil/water/lampblack writing type it has partly separated in places. It would be odd for a faker to use ink like this, make two part strikes, and not mimic other designs. It came from a "junque" of S.Q.'s. I would rate this as a 7 on my scale of authenticity, and it probably should have been listed. I have not examined the actual item for ink penetration, perf hole factors etc.

The "ladies" cover below was sent by Paul Varty and is a new PM initial cancel. I have examined it as best as I can from a scan, the inks match, the tying is good, there are no other cancels, no signs of stamp replacement, and the PM was J. Appelbe from Sept. 1861 to 1878. Any other examples out there?



Brian Hargreaves sent in this item (cut down here) which he thought was an "O". It is actually L 1451, which may be the bottom (door attachment side) of an old style door handle. The door handle would fit in your hand and make an excellent cancel hammer. Used at Saint John NB, Aug. 1874 to Nov. 1874.



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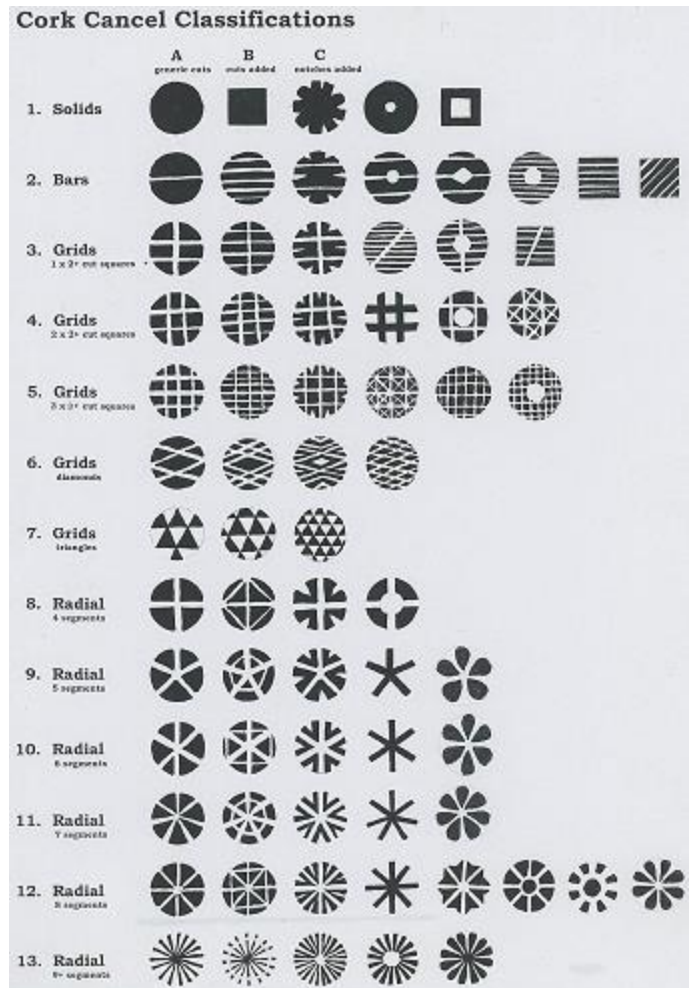
Ron Leith sent in an alternate way to classify what I call 'geometric' cancels. These cancels are usually utilitarian (no obvious meanings in the design) and were widely used. I have listed about 250 of them but have not included the simpler designs. His method would be better for any historical analysis of postal use at any given location. I listed about 100 'centralized' geometrics in the hope that the centralized feature would be recognised by someone as having a meaning such as a fraternal symbol, some utilitarian device used as a cancel, a local symbol, religious marking etc. this has happened in some cases.

FAKES, BOGUS, AND SPURIOUS ITEMS.

I would like to make one comment. I have identified over 20 different things to look for when questioning cancel authenticity. Many of these would require an actual personal physical viewing of the item. Most material is now sent in as highresolution scans, and while this approach allows very high magnification it does not cover some other aspects. At times I feel I may be missing things such as perf hole ink penetration, back ink penetration, old glue traces etc and my opinions may be on the generous side....



This fake engraved Newfoundland stamp has an obvious fake cancel somewhat similar to L1479. It was recently sold as a fake.



At best I would rate this Chester NS fancy "C" as a 3 on my 1 to 10 scale of authenticity. I have to also mention that the PM Mr. V. Church might also have used a "C", or that the cancel may have been applied in the USA as a receiver mark.



Hope to see many of you at the Quebec convention.
Have a good autumn.
& Good collecting,

Dave. Lacelle

Fancy Cancels

On Canadian Stamps
1855 to 1950
Third Edition

D.M. Lacelle



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