

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 83

June -July 2020

Dave Lacelle/Mike Halhed

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Group News. THANK YOU. 14 of you sent in material for this newsletter. This is the largest NL to date, 18 pages 75+ illustrations! Some of the material received will have to run in the next newsletter. Apologies to any of you who do not see all of your material in this newsletter. I must also apologize for not answering all my emails and instead presenting the email items directly into the newsletter, there are only 25 hours in the day or so I am told...

Please send in more material and/or comments on anything presented.

While I am in a bit of an apology mode I need to make a comment on my criteria for authenticity of any given cancel. Occasionally, I seem to be a bit on the harsh side when it comes to authenticity. About 25 years ago, I wrote an article on "How to Detect Fake Fancy Cancels". I listed 26 different criteria which should be considered. Obviously not all apply to every cancel. Some require the item to be on cover/piece, some may be destructive if the item is fake and some are rather specific in other ways. Few are 100% definitive so I rank a cancel for authenticity on a 1 to 10 scale where a "1" is "something you would not give to your worst enemy" and a "10" is genuine to the "best of my knowledge". I decided to not publish the article as it could also be used as a guide to "what not to do" to successfully fake a cancel.

Almost 100% of the material I receive now arrives by Email, and at least 12 of the 26 criteria cannot be used on a scan as opposed to the actual stamp/cover. Also, different scanners and computers have different pixel size/shapes and colour balances which are not always obvious. Often I do not receive back scans, information on stamp shades, information on ink variations, information on subtle under cancel markings, etc. Due to the preceding I tend to "error on the side of caution" and be cynical regarding authenticity in the absence of this other information. The preceding is not meant as a criticism of any specific member(s). For an example of scan vs actual stamp, see NL 82, pg.2, the Ottawa crown cancel. If I did not have the actual stamp at hand I probably would have given it a "4". Having the actual item brings it up to at least an "8". See pg. 12. this NL for an example of scale problems regarding L 996, and one of the 26 criteria "poor tying" on pg. 13. Nuff said...

Robert Coulson has sent in some information on a program he developed which has the effect of reducing the stamp design and enhancing the cancel. He is also "big on software that can enhance the stamp collecting hobby...". His example is at right. This would be particularly useful on darker stamps where other "filtration" methods do not work well. If any of you wish to have further information on his program please email me and I will pass you on to him.



In the past there have been three primary other ways of filtering up the cancel details. 1. Plastic filters usually reddish to block out stamp colour such as a 3 cent SQ. 2. Paint type programs which can adjust colour balance, contrast and/or brightness. 3. Physical individual editing in paint type programs at high magnifications so as to create a contrast gap at the edge of the cancel. This was the method used in our book, 250 dpi gap edited in. This was pretty neat new technology in the late 1980's. Refer to the 2 June 1989 NL for more details.

We have two new members, Mr. Philip Visser, and Mr. Robin Simpson. Both have material in this newsletter. Welcome aboard guys, your contributions are appreciated.

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

There are seven revisions this time. This is great, one of the primary reasons for having a newsletter and indeed a Study Group is to GIT IT RITE. Thanks for the revisions.

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 83

Newsletter #81 Nov. 2019, pg. 6. My knowledge of USA history is a bit weak . The reference to President Andrew Johnsons gravestone with a “skull & crossbones” marking may have been an angry political statement and not as neutral as I implied. He was impeached in 1868, and died 1875. Feelings were quite heated. The trial was basically (as I understand it) over whether or not he could independently fire his War Minister. (“The more things change, the more they remain the same!” Sorry, I couldn’t resist it.)

Newsletter #82 Feb. 2020, pg. 3. The second cover is "Hampton" and not "Hoberton". The date, confirmed by backstamp, is JY 20 1870. Thanks Bill.

Newsletter #82 Feb. 2020, pg. 2. The Lunenburg oval parcel cancel has been reported on higher values mid to late 1890's, which implies parcel use. Thanks Jim.

Newsletter #82 Feb. 2020, pg. 4. Reference to original sales of "Commissioner of Crown Lands" covers. There may be a reference to this in Fred Jarrett's book "Stamping Around". This is a PHSC publication and would be hard to obtain here. Can anyone elaborate further on this reference? Apparently, these covers hit the market in the early 1970's and not in 1962. I d.

Newsletter #82 Feb. 2020, pg. 5. The possible “9” under cancel. Part of the “9” may be just the darker area under Queen Vic’s chin.

REVISIONS TO 3rd EDITION OF OUR BOOK

Number L 279, 280, , pg.38. The Campden Ont. "similar item" referred to in L279 should be listed as L280. Three covers of this Campden "B" have been reported in 1883, Mar. 1886 and Nov. 1888. The PM was HW Moyer. There is also one cover with this cancel and a Brockfield Station, Ont. MR 1898 CDS. Brookfield Station (closed 1914) was smaller and may have been an RPO transfer station for nearby Campden. (The 10 year gap in use may be a reuse, re-carved cork or CDS error?) Thanks Bill.



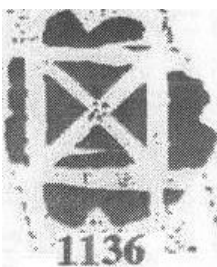
Number L718a. The text for this new addition was accidentally deleted. It was used Pubnico Harbour, NS, Sept. 1898 to May 1899. The September 1898 strike is shown at right. Notice that the "PH" both reversed & backwards. .



CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

The material below is the second part of Ron Smith's material, continued from NL82.

The first (I cut down the illustration) is similar to L1136 . The CDS is almost unreadable, but L----... AU 77 ONT is visible (?Lakefield?). L1136 was used at Fawcett Hill NB in Nov. 1878 so this should be listed as a "similar to" item.



The cancel below is not really similar to any other listed crosses, and the closest type design would be L1046. It appears to be an early 1870's shade. Any other examples out there?



BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 83



The cover above is similar to L1074 used in many PO's, and is somewhat unusual as all markings are in blue. Bishop's Crossing Que. Oct. 1885. The original PM was Mr. Bishop, it is a water crossing, and the cross cancel apparently does not have direct religious significance.

Ron also sent in the non-cross items below. The first is a geometric somewhat similar to our L1212 used 20 years earlier. It is from Everton Ont. Oct. 1894. The next is somewhat similar to the heart cancel L 1414, not located and "On SQ '75-85". The PO is Gosport Ont. JU 1886. Ron's last item is this unlisted target (?) off cover cancel. It certainly does a good job of cancelling the stamp.



The cover at right was sent by Vince Chermishnok. He asks if the CDS is "UC", or "WC" (reversed CW). Frank Campbell shows it as "CW". Colborne (not the same as Port Colborne) opened in 1821. This would be in Upper Canada which was renamed Canada West in 1841. If this is "UC" it would be 20 years late. So... could the PM's change the UC designation manually? or is it a mistake? (Or, in the early days of stamp collecting some collectors "improved" the appearance of their covers by penning in weak CDS's.) My guess is that it is a VERY worn "UC" (from 1821?) appearing as "WC".



BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 83

Mike Halhed sent in a ton of stuff mostly relating to Pembroke, Ont. His material is presented in a postal history format and I have selected 16 items which focus on fancy cancels for presentation here and in the next newsletter.



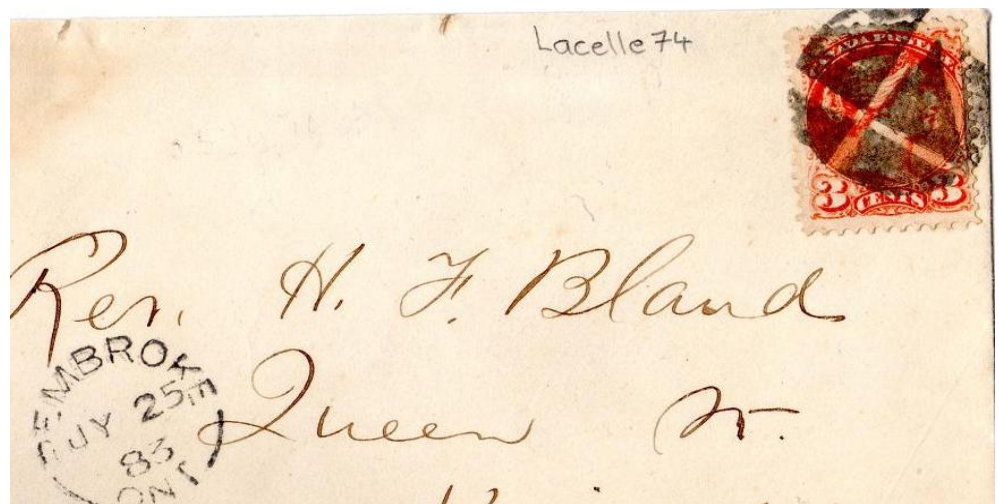
The first item is on a piece. The destination is unknown and it is possible that other postal markings may have been on the entire cover. This strike has not been previously reported from Pembroke and has a Sept 1872 CDS. It appears to be a star pattern somewhat similar to L1011 known used as a receiver cancel at Toronto Ont. Dec. 1870 to Sept. 1872. Pembroke did use other fancy star/cross designs such as L1109 used Dec. 1870 – Nov. 1871.

The item at right appears to be a cut cork design which may be a star pattern. It does not appear to be the same as the above. The CDS is Pembroke Ont., Nov. 1872.



This is a "2nd level" mourning cover. 1st level would be the immediate notice and would have a one inch border. 2nd would be used for (say) two months, then 3rd, a thin black line for up to a year.

This item, Pembroke JY 1883 is a very early strike of L 74, a somewhat stylized numeral "4". It was probably recut later into several variants. Used JY 1883 to Feb. 1890.



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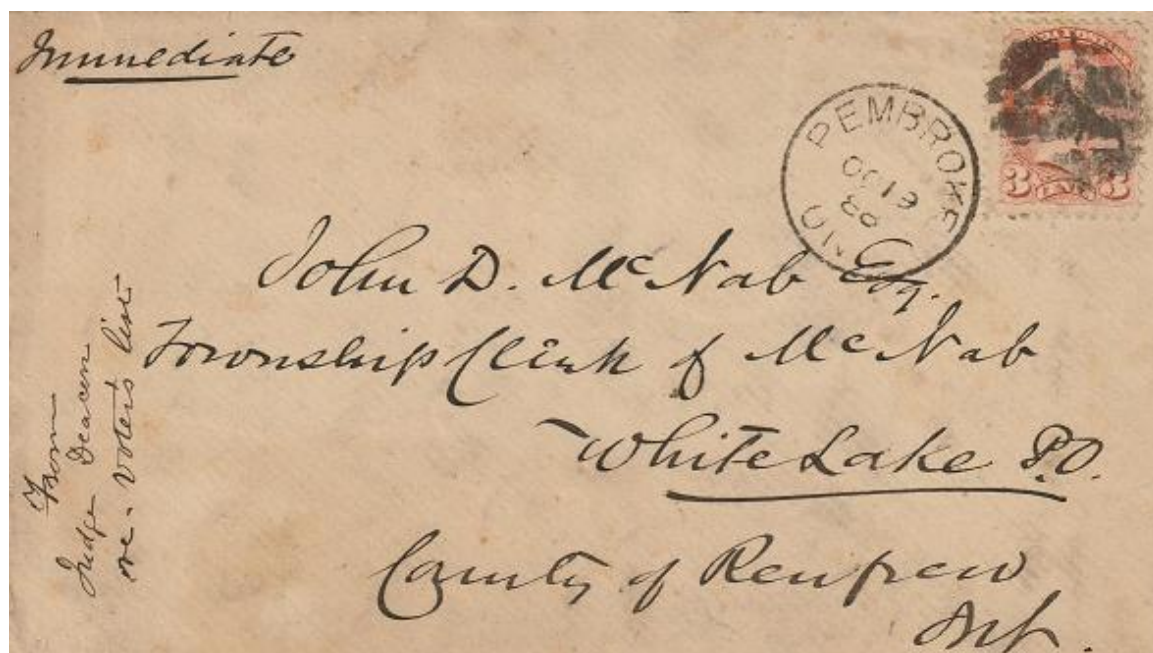


The item above (see also NL 68 Apr. 2015) is in the correct era for the “Pembroke 4’s” May 1886, and overlaps use of L 74 as on the previous page. It takes quite a bit of imagination to see this as a “4”, and I would consider it to be an intersecting geometric design.

This lovely cover from Mar. 1888 and is somewhat similar to the above in that it overlaps L74 and is also a geometric design. Copeland House was the main hotel in town.



This cover Oct. 1888 may also be a geometric or possibly a very poor smeared strike of L74.



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This cover, Oct. 1889 has similarities with L74, L76, and L77 as below. These cancels overlap, and are probably recut and/or cleaned versions of the same cork. It would take seconds to recut or clean a cork with a pocket knife.



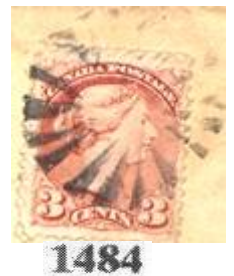
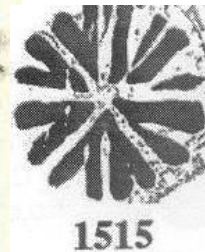
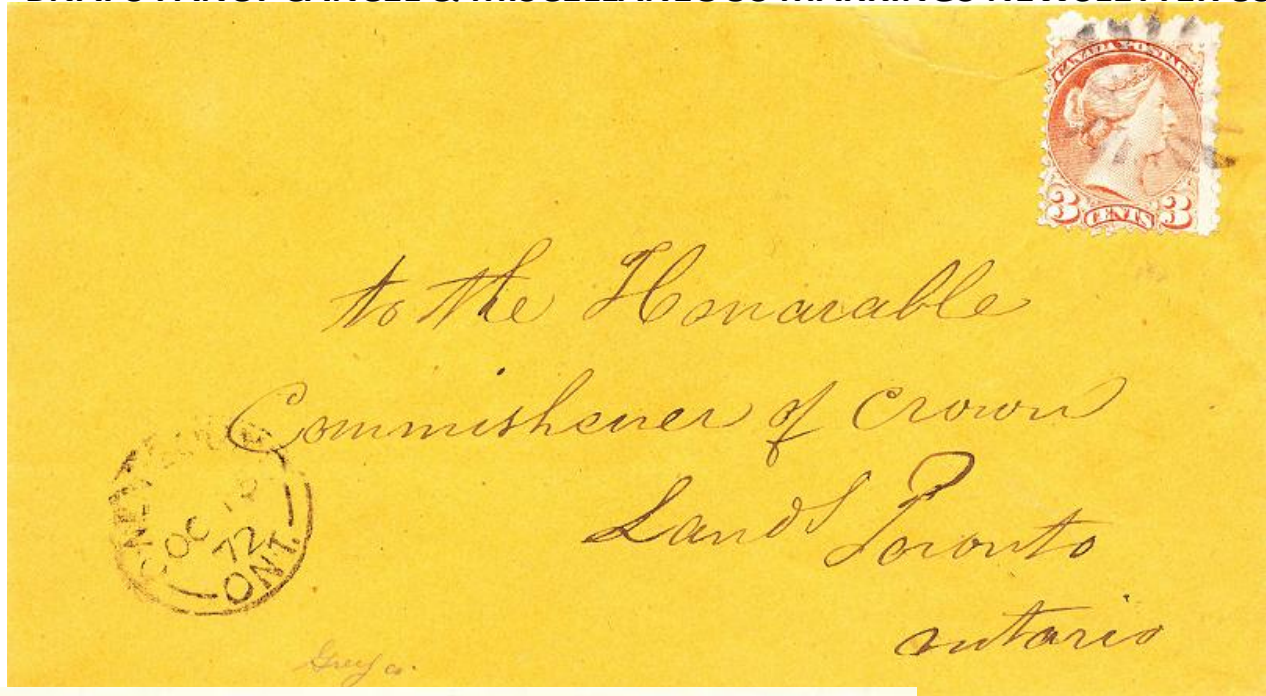
It is possible that these were not intended as "4's" however Pembroke used several other more definite "4" designs. More in the next NL. Thanks Mike.



Philip Visser has sent in the items below. As was the case with Mike's material above it is in a postal history format and has Owen Sound Ont. as the Post Office of interest. I have picked out the ones below for their fancy cancel interest.



The cover above is L 1161 used Owen Sound Ont. May 1876 to Aug. 1878. This is thus an early state, June 1876 and is in purple ink. The PM at Owen Sound often used coloured inks. This design was used at several other P.O.'s. A pretty little thing.



The cover at top is L1484, a new early date, Owen Sound Ont. Oct. 1872 –Nov. 1873. (The illustration in our book is a poor drawing and should be replaced by the illustration at right.) The lower Post Card is L1515, an eight radial segmented cork used in many PO's. The Post Card has a back stamp and Owen Sound identifier of Mar. 1874 a new late date formerly Jan. 1874.



This cover is to Owen Sound. However, I show it here as a rather late use of a cork cancel Oct. 1897, a nice colourful eight cent Registration rate and either a very worn registration "R", or one which is home made. Compare with L755 previously not located, Louise Ont. Oct 1897.

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Phillip's last two covers are L 1129 a quartered cork used Owen Sound Ont. June to Nov. 1882 (and many other PO's), and an earlier Owen Sound version Oct. 1881. Note the PM's use of blue ink on both covers.

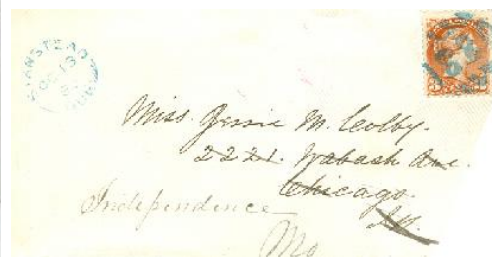
Ron Leith sent in two examples of L 1666 as below (reduced illustrations). This is now confirmed as an "Ottawa Geometric" style cancel used Aug. 1877 to Oct. 1877.



BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 83

Graham Searle has reviewed the fancy numeral and letters cancels parts of his collection (L1 to L 927) and has eight cancels he would wish to comment on. I welcome any review of this sort, as I have said before, the purpose of the Study Group is to compile information on fancy cancels 'n i don always git it rite". Also, this is less than 1% of the 927 items. One of his items was the missing info for L718a, see page 2 this NL. Four of you caught this one!

His first item, L183 was described as "dubious" by me (See NL 79) however two covers have turned up since publication. They are very similar, blue ink, to the same person 12 days apart from Stanstead Que. Oct. 1880. I've run the illustration here and t'other in reduced format. Could this be a "favour" cancel for Miss Jessie Colby or her admirer?? We will never know.



1880
183

Graham's next item is L 395 **Reconfirmed as East Farnham** and not as "St. Fa???" as in our book. The cancel was first reported as a tracing by the 1951 SG, and this tracing was copied by D&S and myself. I received a poor photocopy of this cover in 1998 - just as the book was going for publication and could only read the "ST FA" part of the CDS. Notice the contrast change item.



EF
395

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Graham's next item opens up a ball of worms (I know, mixed metaphor, but it works!) in that it appears to be listed twice, as L 422, a "G", and L 1341b as a Masonic triangle. L 1341b appears to be the better illustration, and contains the same information as Graham's example (Toronto Ont. Nov. 1872) so I would suggest deleting L 422.

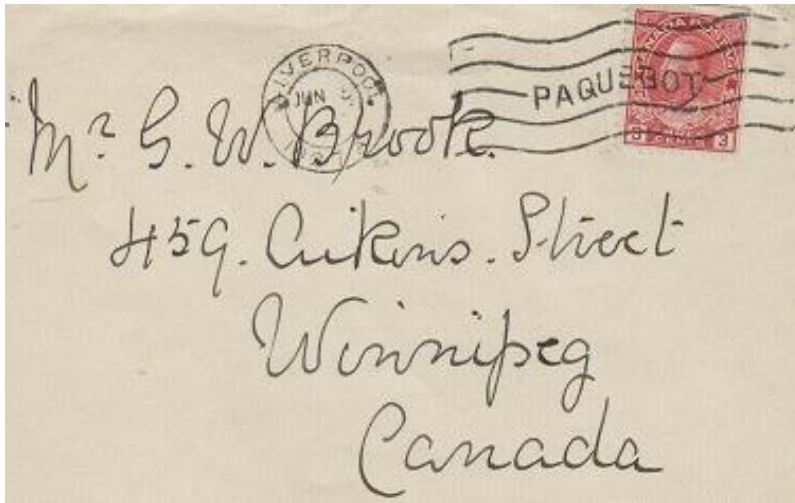


The item above is our former L 438. I delisted it (D213, and D213a) in the 3rd Edition as the only information I had on it was unconfirmed, from D&S (including the only illustration see Plate G, prepared in 1964) and the fact that it is very similar to L664 also used at St. Catharines Ont., in July to Sept. 1882. The F1 at right has an odd cancel which I had seen before and decided to not list as it was not precise enough in meaning and there was no cover (or other info.) available. It could be an "A", "VD", random scratches, etc. Anyone have a cover?



Robin Simpson sent in the covers above (which I have massacred by cutting down and moving the CDS to save space) which corrects some of the information from L532. The D&S location of "Kildonan Man." was unconfirmed. His covers show Winona Ont, Aug. 1882 to May 1883. Robin also notes that the PM before this period was Mr. Kerr, and also notes that D&S may have had a partial CDS showing "...ONA..." and thus D&S thought "Kildonan" was logical. Nice philatelic detective work on his part!

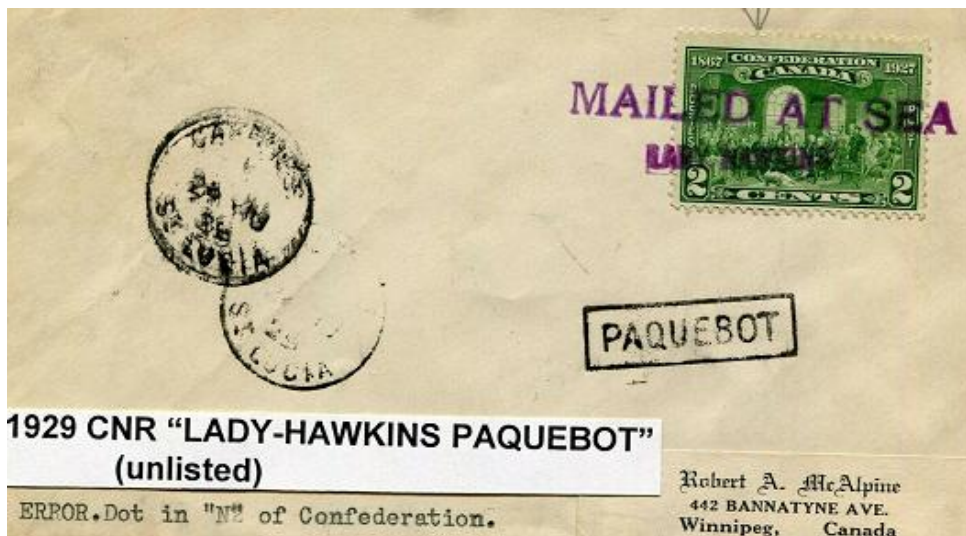
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Batley Yorkshire UK



Ferrovie Milan Italy



CDS is St. Lucia Castries (Caribbean Island), June 29, 1929.

Mike Street has been busy keeping me up to date with foreign markings on Canada as listed on eBay. These are more or less self explanatory (sorta), and the two immediately above look rather "philatelic" or as souvenirs to me. Thanks Mike.

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 83

Guy Jeffery sent in this post card (UX2, 1876 -1882) from New Glasgow NS (no date provided). I first thought that it was L996 (Toronto Ont., 1880, undated commercial covers) as below, but the scale seemed wrong. So... I went way back to my original research on L996 and found several different scales. I also concluded that this was not L996, was too small, and should probably be a new listing.



Scale problems with fancy cancel listings in the past can come from three primary sources. Firstly the old illustration was prepared from a published illustration which had been reduced to "fit" the article. Secondly some auction houses in the past reduced their illustrations by 85% or more to save space and ink which can also result in a reduced tracing, and finally photocopying can reduce an image by up to five percent each time. The illustrations in our book usually include the background stamp which gives a good idea of scale and there is also a metric scale bar on each page. So what did I find out for L996?

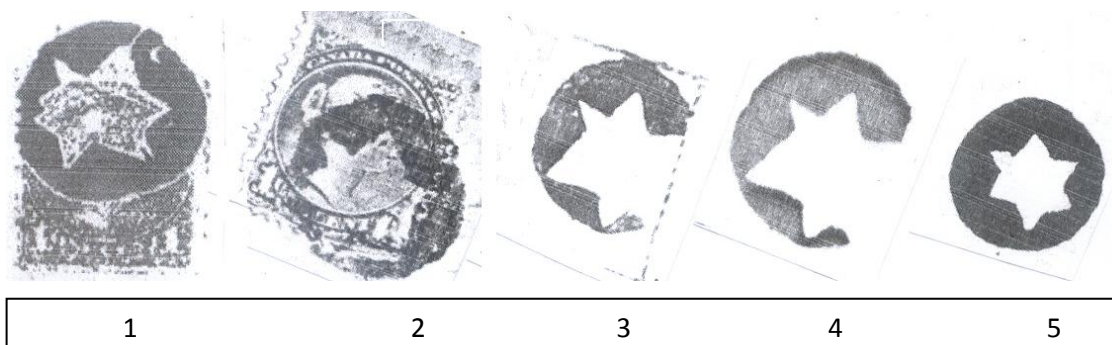


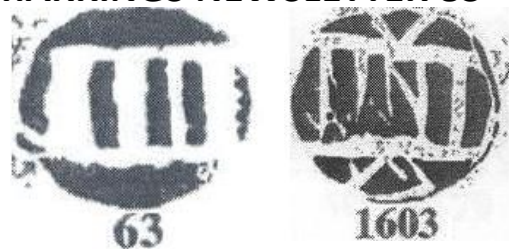
Illustration 1 is L996 from our book, 2 is a second confirming strike, 3 is a SQ Study Group tracing from 1951 (note stamp edges as a dashed line) 4 is from the illustration in BNA Topics Dec. 1952. For some reason this cancel never made it to D&S. The last item is the closest other listed fancy, L995 (D&S 124a) which appeared in BNA Topics Mar. 1966 and in the 2nd edition of D&S. It is not very similar, and the D&S information (Montreal Que., 1878) is unconfirmed. I have a note in my research text "... fakes made in Montreal in 1980's" and the item L995 is described as "Dubious...." in our book. Such fun...

Jim McCormick sent in two Orillia Ont. covers (which I have photo massacred by cutting and moving the CDS with L 1489 and dates of July 31 1879 and Sept. 29 1879 but with several differences. L1489 has been reported used from July 1879 to Nov. 1880, and thus appears to have been two (or more) different but similar cancels. Cancels with hollow centers were designed to frame the Queen's face rather than cancelling her! This type of cancel has been described elsewhere as a "flower", and imaginarily as an Orillia "O"



BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 83

Jim also sent in a new date for L1603 (July 1875) which effectively confirms that it is a recutting of L63 as was suggested in the third edition of our book. Both were used at Stayner Ont., L63 was used from Aug. 1873 to June 1875, L1603 from July 1875 to July 1876. This is certainly "close enough" in my opinion to show the commonality. They certainly got their money's worth out of that cork!



The only known example of L607, a "MHS" cancel from Murray Harbour South PEI, Nov. 1890 was recently sent in. I have described this as "dubious" based on "poor tying and ink type". I was asked about the tying. Generally, there is a tiny white gap between the stamp and envelope due to the differences in paper thickness.



Fakers often miss this with "too perfect" strikes. I attempted to show this using my favourite "FAKE" cork and some selvedge. The top strike is a carefully hand applied strike, the gap is NOT showing in the circled areas in the "F" and the "A". The second strike is with the cork in a hammer (pipe wrench) and applied with moderate force. The gap (circled) is very evident. In the MHS enlargement below there is a very tiny gap at one place, but not what I would have expected. The modern enlargement may also show staining where the original stamp was removed at top left. This cancel was not in the reference card files for the "Littlefield" fakes, but it has great similarity to his work. A "5" on my 1-10 scale of authenticity. **Any other strikes out there?**



BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 83

FAKES, BOGUS, AND SPURIOUS ITEMS.

The item below is our D415a from the third edition where it is described as “Bogus”. It was listed in the “Fakes etc.” section of NL 71, Apr. 2016. The text from NL 71 is below.

“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. 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 would add one correction to the above text. I had a poor reduced auction catalogue illustration of this in NL 27, not a “sketch”.

One other consideration should be that this “W” may be a USA receiving cancel on a poorly cancelled Canadian item. Unfortunately, my USA fancy cancel books (Zareski, Skinner & Eno, Herst -Zareski) lists very few “initial” type cancels. This “W” is not in their listing.



The next page is our first **“Readers Write”** article by Ron Smith. If any of you wish to present in this fashion, please send in your own Fancy Cancel article for our consideration. Thanks Ron.

The last page is a free plug for Hugh Rathbun’s new book **“Nova Scotia Pictorial Postmarks”** available from H. Rathbun, 37 Elmridge Dr. Waverly NS, B2R 1C7. \$ 25.00 + \$10.00 shipping.

Long long Newsletter...May I wish you all well in these somewhat “trying times”. Please send more stuff!

Dave Lacelle

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 83

The Fredericton 'F' Lacelle L409 – Spurious or not? – Ron Smith

Building a story to question whether or not a specific 'single' example of a cancel is spurious or not can be a fun if not frustrating exercise. I have been collecting New Brunswick fancy cancels for some 20+ years now and have continually been on the search for Lacelle number 409, a Fredericton 'F'. This cancel was listed in Day & Smythies, (481f) and a cover with three nice strikes was part of the Day collection (Figure 1).

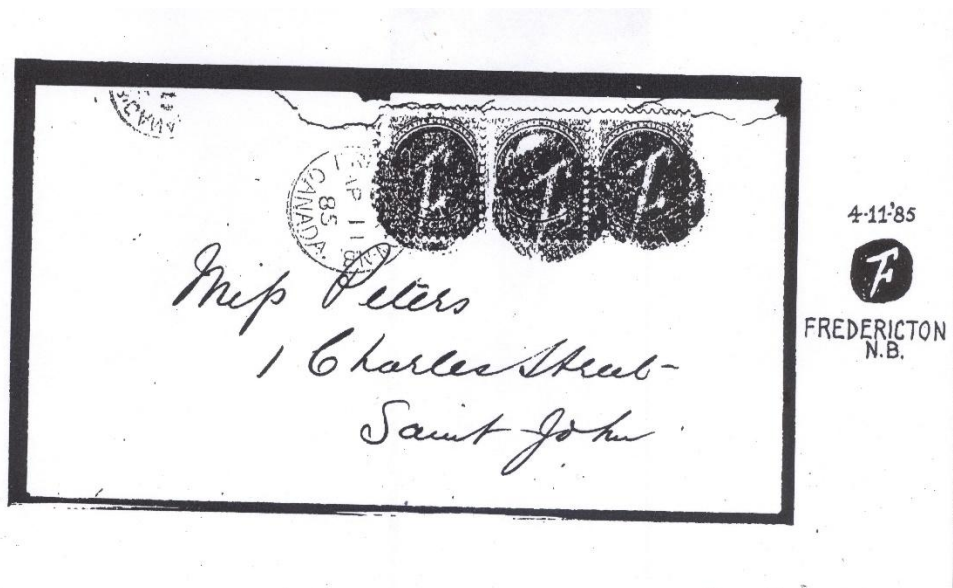


Figure 1. Scan of a photocopy of a cover dated April 11, 1885. This cover was in the Day collection and the photocopy was taken from that. It shows three nice strikes of what has become to be known as a Fredericton 'F'.

Over the past 20 years I have managed to accumulate some 20 covers cancelled in Fredericton in 1884 and 1885 as well as examined many others. However I have never seen the elusive 'F'. As I understand it, the original Day cover is the only reported example. Much to my pleasant surprise, in a recent club show, I came across a front that was in the possession of a friend. This front was dated January 1885. It appeared to be a solid cork with a few almost random lines. However, my imagination started to catch up to me and I began looking to see how these lines closely resembled those for L409. (Figure 2).

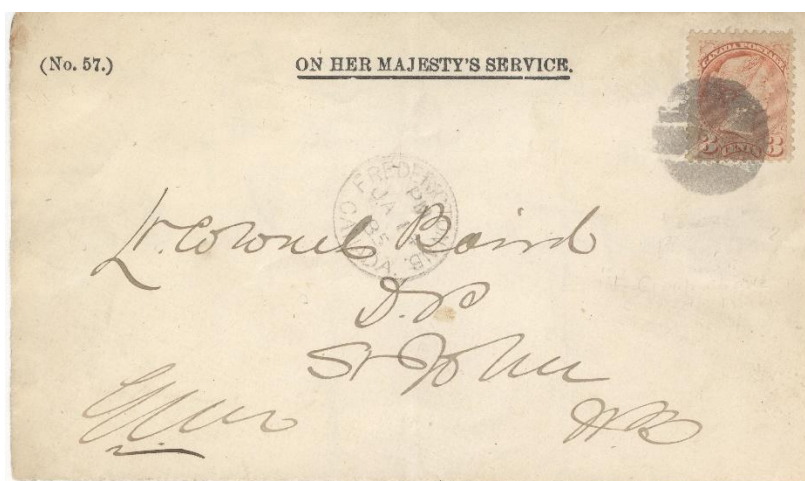


Figure 2. Cover front dated Jan 24 1885 with a Fredericton cork cancel.

The two cancels do not necessarily jump out at you as being the same until you take a closer examination. Specifically, when the cancels are rotated to have the intaglio lines in the same orientation, they start to definitely look alike (Figure3).

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Figure 3. Close up scans of the two cancels with the intaglio lines oriented in the same direction.

The CSI case is not quite fully solved but here are some additional points for consideration.

- 1) If some of the white was filled with ink, the cancel on the left could easily closely resemble the one on the right, ie become an 'F'.
- 2) Examining covers with Fredericton cancels before and after the period of January to April 1885, provides some additional insights.

Between the period August 1884 and August 1885, all of the killers from Fredericton I have seen are quartered corks (see Figure 4 for two examples). I own a total of five such covers, one from 1884 and four from 1885. I have noted three others from various sales all in 1885.

As a matter of information, covers prior to August 1884 show a clearly different pattern (Figure 5).

Admittedly there is a several month gap (September 1884 to December 1884 in which I have not seen quartered corks. So then the question warrants asking, was a different cancel ie the Fredericton 'F', used either JUST in April 1885 or is it a spurious cancel from a solid cork showing deterioration?

Fredericton covers from this period are not scarce. Although during the three month period Jan to April 1885, a new 'F' cancel could have been introduced and used, but if one had, I would have expected to have seen one given my 20-year serious search in auctions, dealers stocks, written requests to postal history dealers, etc.

This is far from iron-clad but it's a start.

If anyone reading this article has any covers that could contribute to this mini-study, I would love to hear from you.

Ron Smith:

Email: Pigotsmith@gmail.com.



Figure 4. Examples of two covers with a Fredericton quartered cork. The covers span the period from August 1884 (top) to May 1885 (bottom).

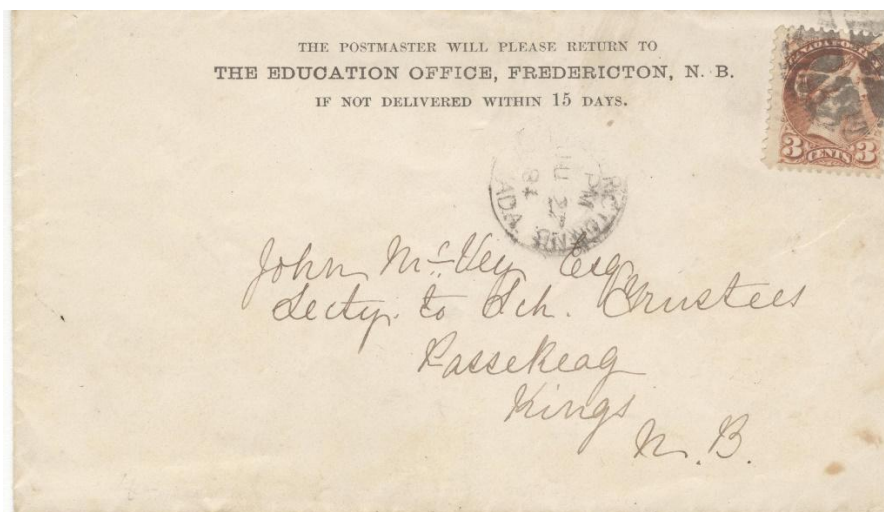
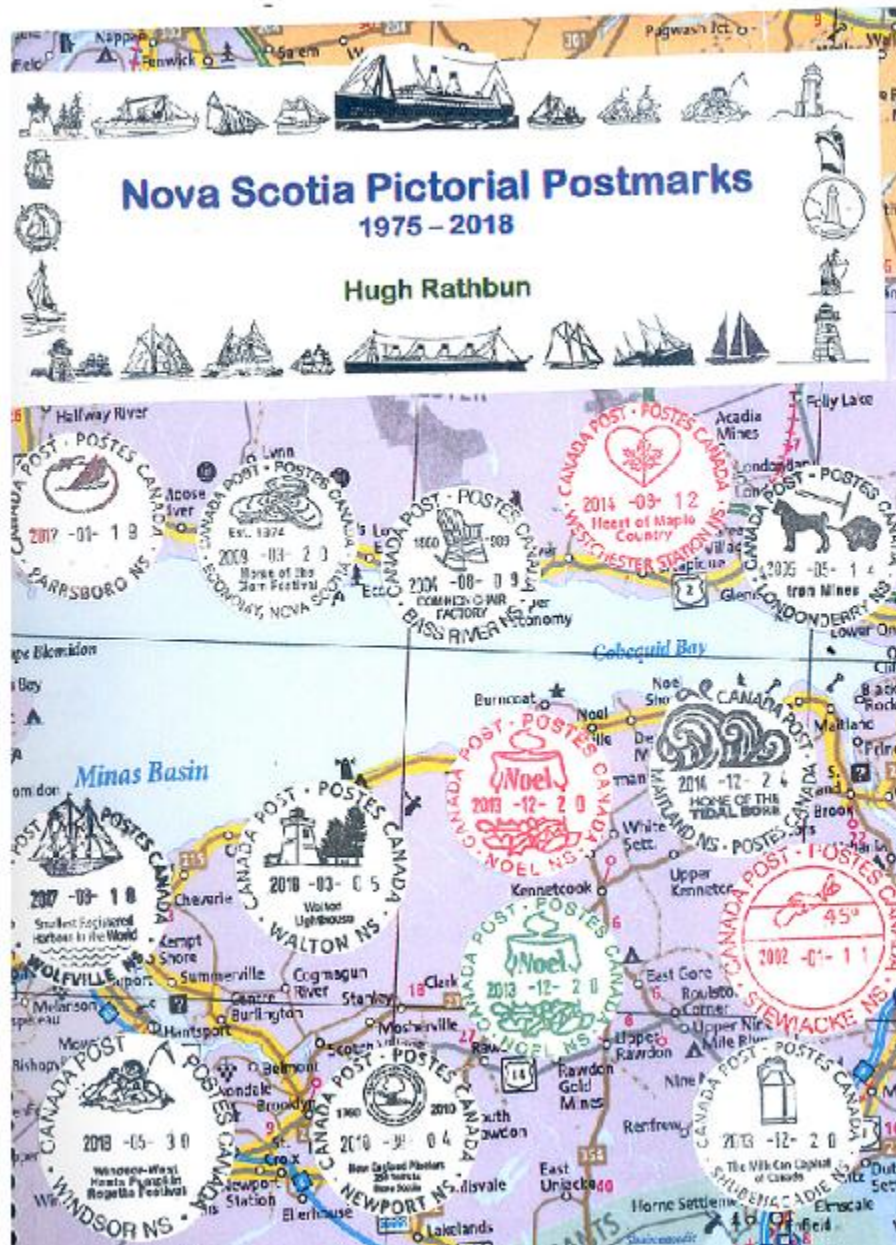


Figure 5. Example of a Fredericton cork from June 1884.



Web proof: 2014 06 13

ERD: (2014 06 23) LRD: (2017 07 10

"Home of the / Phantom Ships"

Size: 46 mm x 45 mm

Pictorial element: The burning ghost ship of the Northumberland Strait and a wave.

The ghost ship of the Northumberland Strait was one of the subjects for the Haunted Canada stamp series in 2014. Five post offices bordering on the Northumberland Strait received cancellations: Pictou Island, River John, and Tatamagouche NS; Buctouche, NB; and Murray Harbour, PE.

I am pleased to present Hugh Rathbun's new book above, "**Nova Scotia Pictorial Postmarks**" and also a typical entry. Available from H. Rathbun, 37 Elmridge Dr. Waverly NS B2R 1C7, or hrathbun@eastlink.ca Cost is \$ 25.00 + \$10.00 shipping. Well done Hugh.