

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 85

March 2021

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Group News. This will again be a rather long newsletter, 17 of you sent in material! Hopefully there will thus be something of interest for all. Keep up the good work & THANKS.

Thank you also to those of you who sent in dues, the total was \$ 768.00 of which \$ 480.00 were 'pay ahead' dues or donations. Unfortunately, I will have to drop three members for non-payment of more than two years. We have four new members, Jason Broersma, Paul Grimm, Gary Arnold, and Roger Larsen. Welcome aboard guys. Membership is now at 85.

REVISIONS TO OUR FANCY CANCEL BOOK,

Page 120, 121 Third edition: The text for the new listing L 1294a was missing. It was used at Stonefield Que., Aug. 1891. FMI, newsletter 47. Thanks Ron.

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter # 84 Dec. 2020, several pages, references to "**H.J.Morgan**" and incorrect references to Morgan's Department Store. This was a big mistake on my part, three of you sent in quite a bit of info (which did not always agree) on him, and I checked out several on line sources... Since there was some concern over this error on my part I will devote some space to him.

1. He was a Federal first class clerk working at the External Affairs /Secretary of State Department in Ottawa. For most of his career he prepared biographies of important people in Canada. This information would (in a pre-Google era) be of great value to important government officials, Members of Parliament and Senators.
2. There were 5 classes of Clerk in the Federal Government at the time, it was not an unusual job title. Both Montreal and Toronto PO's had over 30 clerks each. First class earned \$ 1,250 per year in 1872, \$2,400 in 1892. The 1892 List of Civil Servants was 258 pages long, say 40/page, then there would be about 10,320 Civil Servants. Larger departments were Customs, Post Office, and Public Works, although smaller ones were Agriculture, Fisheries etc. "External Affairs" has been described as "the Department that does 'anything else' that other Departments don't do." (Some of the smaller Government named groups were – to us now – curious. What did "The Ottawa River Police" do for example?)
3. Mr Morgan would have to have much correspondence with important people, who would also be nice to him so that they were written up well. This explains the vague addresses on his correspondence, "anyone who was anyone" would know who he was. If space permits I have attached a scan of 13 of his correspondences at the end of the newsletter. These range from very personal "...sad my dog died today." to formal legal items and three biographical forms. Unfortunately the originals were not unfolded completely and the text is olde style so they are hard to read. Have fun.

I have three other items of note from the info sent in to me in regard to Mr. Morgan:

1. A steamer trunk of his correspondence was found in an old Ottawa house in the 1970's. This is unconfirmed, but explains why so much of it is still around.
2. He was a stamp dealer in the 1890's and profited from "interesting" covers. I checked three lists and an old article and could find no reference to him as a dealer. This is unsubstantiated. (Compare with CA Campeau, Chief Accountant at Revenue Canada who at about the same time who sold "varieties" of revenue alcohol & tobacco stamps to collectors.)
3. I have been unable to confirm any connection between him and the Montreal 'Morgan Department Store' family but by the 1890's six different Morgan's were involved in running the stores. This was Canada's first "Department" store, the concept had originated in Paris. It catered to the wealthy, visiting Dignitaries, and other members of the upper class. This was also "...the last store in Canada where you could get proper uniforms for your footmen."

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Having said all of that, I still think the cover in Newsletter 84 pg. 2 (1/2 scale here) was a mix up in rates or postal services between the Ottawa Civil Servant it was intended for and the classy Montreal 'Morgan's Department Store'. Would External Affairs Ottawa have a (usually commercial) "Ch(arge) Dr(awer) 203" in Montreal? Also why did it take a month to be ms "Accepted" presumably by External?



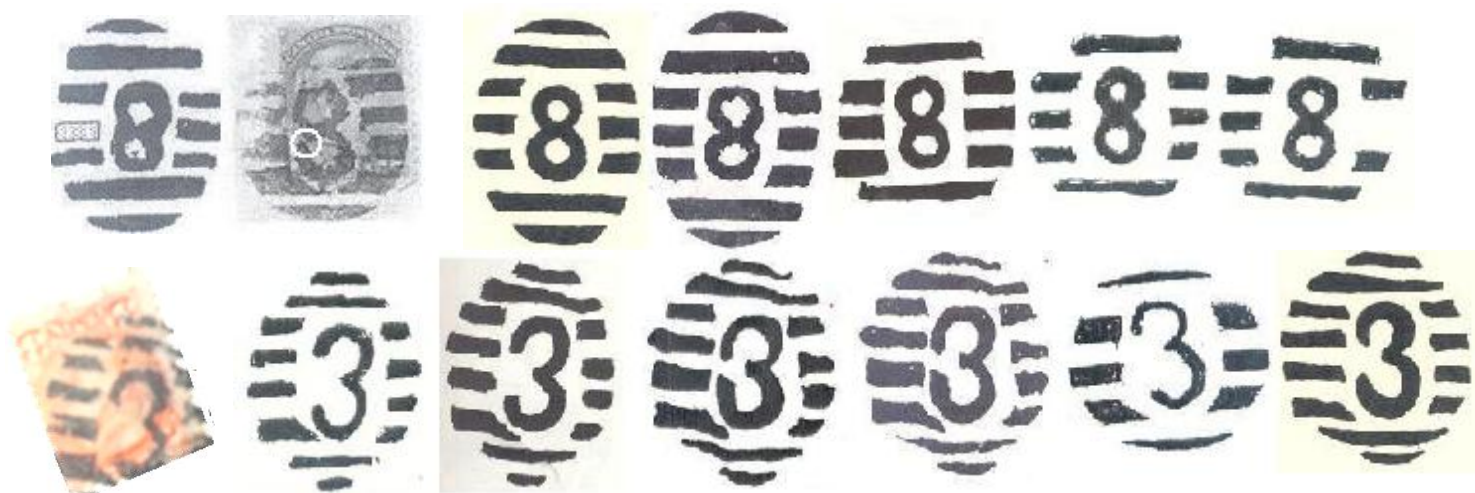
CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES



Mark Berner sent this neat strike Sept 1882 of L399, (Used West Arichat NS, Nov. 1879 - Dec. 1885) a signet ring used as a cancel by PM Emile Mouchet, and also signed by him on the back. Several other PCs signed by Emile are known (Two to Black Brothers Co.) and all have to do with Emile's store and business. A Signet ring marking was generally considered as significant as a Signature, so Emile was attaching extra importance. See NL 84 for a similar example, pg. 9 used Eugenia Ont. Mark's example has to do with a receipt for overdue goods not yet received. The cancel has been written up twice, Maple Leaves Aug. '58, pg. 121 and Apr. '68, pg. 88. One of the examples is a lovely cover with a triple strike to Cuba, not signed, but in Emile's handwriting. Mark also sent in this colourful blue hatched cork and CDS. (Sydney NS Dec. 24 ! 1879) The Liverpool Packet is (as usual) in red. The sender? has included his initials at BL, and the initials by the stamp may be an early stamp collector's ownership / authentication mark.

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Roger Squires was questioning whether L 89 (an "8"), L 89a (a cleaned/recut "8") and D27 (a sorta "3") should be listed as three separate cancels based on the differences between the illustrations in D&S, Jarrett, and our book. So back to my old notes - only 10 significant references to these... They were used Simcoe Ont. May 1892 to July 1892. (Why "8" for Simcoe?) All strikes are heavy and at least $\frac{3}{4}$ on the stamp, the PM did his job **WELL**. This can lead to quick wear/infilling on the cancel, and variation between strikes. I was able to find 11 hand drawn illustrations in the review. I must comment that before our book, all fancy cancel illustrations were tracings or hand drawings of variable quality. All illustrations in our book are from electronic scans slightly edited for contrast. This does not of course make them perfect, as mentioned above heavy strikes, age, and several other factors can lead to variation. The first item below is our L 89, a very early strike. By the third edition I realized that the cancel was soon "cleaned" by being gouged out rather crudely with something like a 3" nail! This was listed as L 89a, the circle shows where it is already breaking to become the "3" variant D 27. The first item on the second row was sent by Roger, and is the most worn example I have seen. The "3" variant seems to be more common than the earlier "8". In other words, the PM "dinna throw it out just because it was broke". The other figures are hand drawn illustrations from other publications and show how these can vary from scans.



The beautiful item at right will be in Eastern Auctions Spring sale Apr. 30, May 1st. See also BNA Topics Jan. '21 pg. 63. It is L 994, Fort Garry (later called Winnipeg) Man. used Jan. 1872 to July 1872. The designation "Dominion of Canada" is a bit odd as Manitoba had become a province 19 months earlier.

I was at first a wee bit concerned that the cancel was not tied however after reviewing 17 references to this cancel I discovered that it was similar to the "8" cancel above in that almost all strikes are heavy, centered, and the cancel shows considerable wear over time. There may also be a tiny "tie" in one perf hole from ink at the right side of the hammer. It is also another "Morgan" item see my correction note previous page. This cancel is illustrated three times in our NL 59 Apr. 2012 and Fort Garry postal history is written up in BNA Topics Feb. 1966 pg. 32. Neat item!

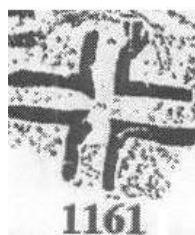


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Jason Broersma sent in this leaf (?) cover which I have cut down. I am quite sure is L 1204 used Toronto Ont. Dec. 1875 to Jan. 1876. This cancel is one of those with confusion as to which PO is appropriate. Smythies showed three different but similar cancels, the one closest to L 1204 (D&S 34a) was described as Welland Ont., 1875. The other two are now listed as L1205, St. Hyacinthe Que. Aug. 1870 to Apr. 1872. (Jason's example is six months after the dates for L 1204, but this is possible.) I have seen three strikes of this with Toronto NT (Night) CDS which I suspect may be receiver cancels from a late RPO delivery, the leaf having been applied in transit. This would account for the apparent different sending CDS's. Clear as mud? No?

Phil Visser sent in three more items from his Owen Sound, Ont. collection. These are L 1161 (May 1876 - Aug. 1878) L 1484 (Oct. 1872 - Apr. 1874, new late date), and L 1515 (type) (May 1870 - Nov. 1874.) I note that many of the Owen Sound cancels are light strikes this would assure that the corks would not quickly wear out. (This is not a "kinder gentler feminine touch", PM was John Francis.) Some cancels with central "holes" or empty spaces such as L 1484 were designed so that the stamp would be cancelled, and the Queen's image would not be marked. (see L 1390 for a superb example.). There are also several different types of cross (aka cross-road) cancels such as L1161 used here. I wonder if there was some religious or Fraternal symbolism at work?

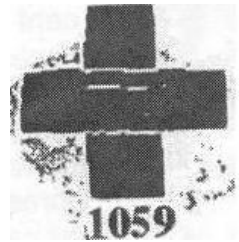


L 1071b

Jean sent in the cancel at right above. It is related to T. Milburn & Company, (founded 1872, main product was a patent medicine "Burdock Blood Bitters". Yum...) Toronto, Ont. 1873. It was a very weak strike I fiddled with it a bit and came up with this highlighted version. This could also be done with the "retro reveal" program and compare. It appears to be just a cork cut to small squares in a sorta cross design, perhaps a distant cousin to L 1071b.

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Ralph Vicero sent in the fancy cross at right. There is an unreadable CDS at top left, and Ralph suggests that this is a new "Kingston Cross" cancel similar to L1059 (used Kingston Feb. – Nov. 1871.) Backstamps on his are Prescott Ont. Sept. 2 1874, and Ogdensburg Ont. Sept 2. L 1103 has a has a text reference to "similar used at Prescott Ont. Aug. to Dec. 1874 as in the cut from NL 72. I am quite sure that Ralph's item is the world's heaviest strike of this – even the sides of the metal collar the cork is in shows!



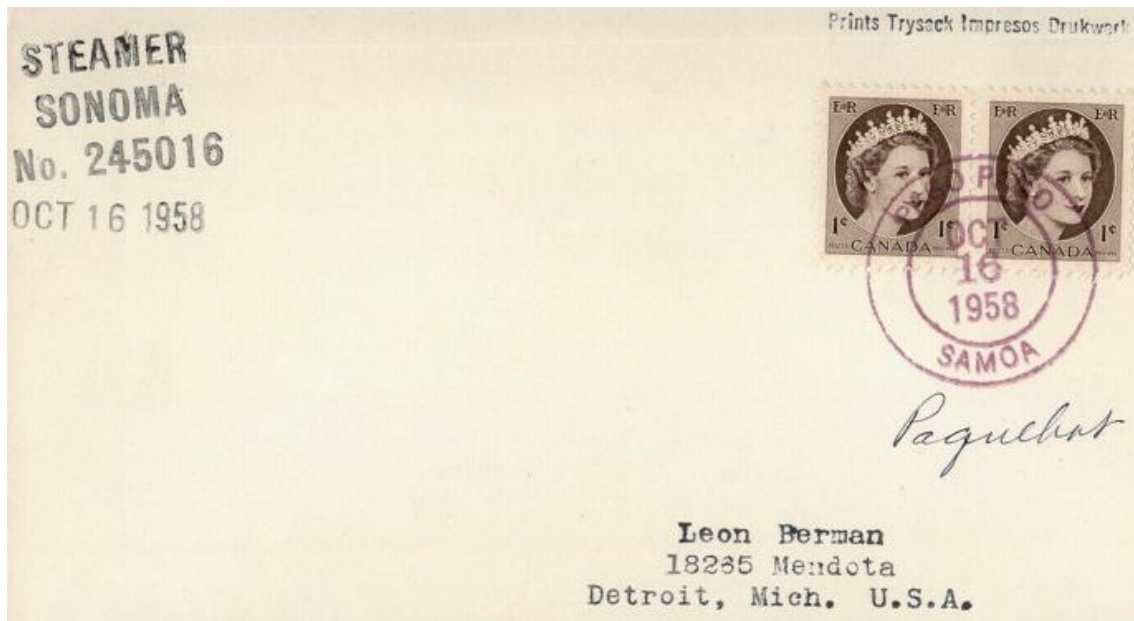
Ralph also sent in the items above. (I cheated and moved the CDS's for both.) The first Kilkenny Lake NS, Oct. 1877 in blue ink appears to be a hybrid of both a barred cork and a radial sectioned cork. Some corks have raised bars from their manufacture, but not as strong as here and I think the design here is deliberate. Interesting item. The other (at right) shows someone with a very steady carving hand, and if I may say "a lot of time on their hands. Chatham NB June 1872.



Robin Simpson sent in the cover above – which I have electronically massacred to save space with our L 1224 a shamrock leaf design used Victoria Road Station Ont. Oct. 1877. This cancel has appeared in five previous Newsletters, and his example was the one used for the improved illustration in the third edition of our book.



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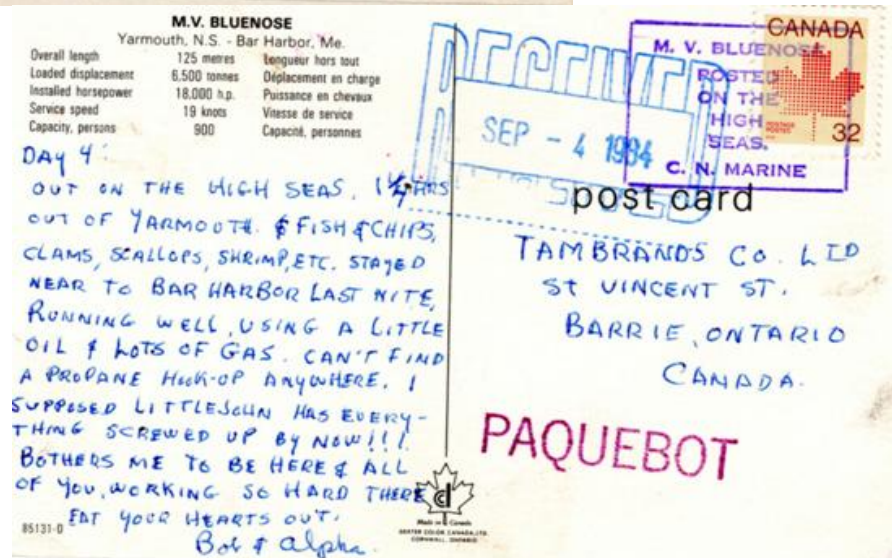


Canada stamp,
Samoa Pago
Pago CDS to
USA. Steamer
Sonoma, ms
"Paquebot"
(? Philatelic ?)



Canada stamps, Oslo
Norway ship mail
Paquetbot to Winnipeg

Modern Paquebot, sorta
souvenir / philatelic.
¾ scale



Mike Street sent in references to the items above and next page. Details beside each.

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Cover, St. Pierre et Miquelon (tiny French Colony in Gulf of St. Lawrence) stamp, Halifax Paquebot CDS.

Canadian stamps, from my former collection with St. Pierre et Miquelon CDS

Thanks Mike.

T' other Mike (Halhed) sent in several items as below. The "V for Victory" from Foxwarren Man. Aug. 1941 is a new fancy initial cancel. A couple other locally made examples are beside it. Foxwarren was a radar (new technology in '41) base near the Ontario border and the AIRMAIL emphasis seems odd, however the fact that it is going to the home address (not military base address) of an RCAF Flight Sergeant may provide a clue.



851



864a



In this item the (new technology) machine bar canceller cancelled the return address and the stamp was then hand cancelled.

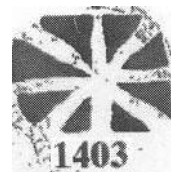
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Mike's last item is a lovely strike of an official PO "Crown Wax Seal" used as a cancel, L 1271. These hammers were issued to each PO when it opened (1831 for Port Dalhousie) and were originally supposed to be used for the wax seals on PO mailbags, or to seal important mail to the PO head office. They were later often used as favour cancels to add an appearance of importance to some mail, in this case a missing insurance policy. For about 150 other examples, please see Appendix 4a, page 207 of our book. The Port Dalhousie seal has been previously reported as a cancel on several S. Q's however this is the first cover example.

Mike used "Retro Reveal" as in the black cut to show more detail. These hammers usually do not produce very good ink strikes, and this item was reported as an odd example of our D 325, a "bottle top" used as a cancel. D325 does report a bottle top cancel from Port Dalhousie in 1878, and with a bit of searching I found an old "1980's note to self" that this was in January 1878. I strongly suspect that given the example above, this January item was also a crown wax seal, and D325 is in error when it lists Port Dalhousie.

Ron Smith sent this cover of L 1403 (or a very close cousin) Georgetown Ont. Jan. 1891, and another cover Oct. 1890. Our listing is Apr. 1890. This might be a metal cancel which would explain such long use? The stamp examples are a variety of L1403, and an example of L 916, used Toronto Ont. Mar. 1874. L 916 has been described as "An envelope in a box".)



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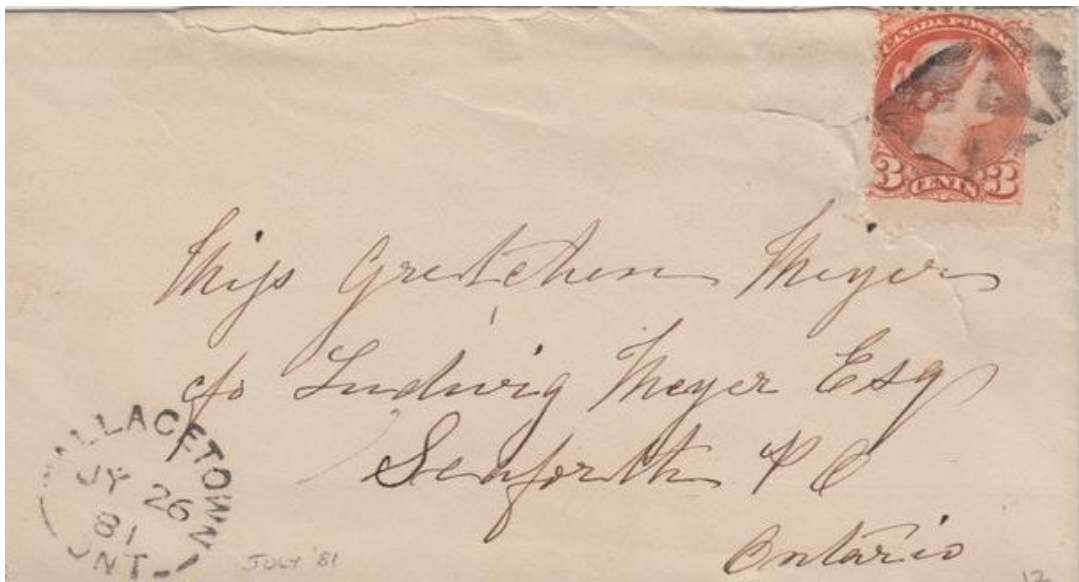


Ron also sent in the two covers above – which I have massacred in “Paint”. The item at left is another hard to describe or categorize item, see also Ralph Vicero’s hybrid cork on page 5. It could be called a radial of geometric cancel, Ron suggests it should be listed as a Flag cancel. I’m OK with that. Used Chatham Ont. May 1879. The item at right is a new “similar to” L 1403 flag cancel as on previous page. Used “Charlottetown Canada” (no Provincial designation) Apr. 1884 and is going to a Grammar School in Malpeque (PEI). This CDS is similar in design to many used in the USA but with CANADA where the state would be.

Roger Larsen wanted information on the two rather primitive “Registration R’s” below. They are variants of L750 to L754 which were used in Montreal from 1895 to about 1897. They were used instead of the official “R”, L745 which was produced in Ottawa by Pritchard and Andrews in batches of 250. Why such rough looking cancels would be used by such a major PO is curious. See also pg. 14 re. PMG payment (1868) to “Burland.... for engraving and altering stamps...Montreal PO.”

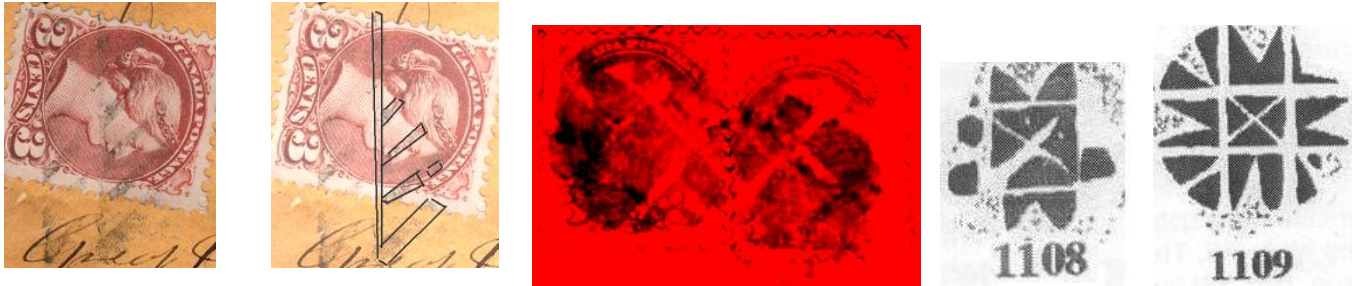


Guy Jeffery sent the cover below from Wallacetown, Ont. JY 1881 and suggested that it was somewhat similar to a “Kingston Cross” cancel, see the write up at L 1059 FMI. These rather creative crosses (about 12 of them) were used after the earlier “Kingston 9” series which ended 1871. The cross design may reflect the religious nature of the PM’s name, Mr. Deacon. Unfortunately, there are no Kingston markings and Wallacetown and Seaforth are in southern Ontario. The latest Kingston cross was Feb. 1877. I illustrate a similar Kingston cross L 1135 used in Aug. 1875 (see NL 82).



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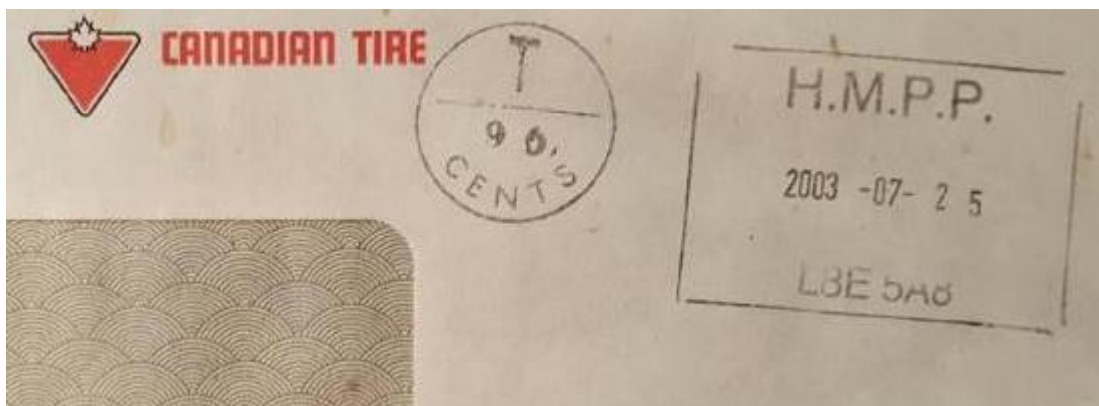
Gary Arnold sent in the item at left, and suggests that it is a "fern" design. Used at Bobcaygeon, Ont. July 1875. It is double struck and I did a quick highlighting of it. To me (for some reason) it seems to be the edge of some utilitarian object pressed into use as a cancel but I cannot think of what it would be. Any ideas out there? The item centre below is from the previous news letter, I fiddled with the contrast a bit more and realize it could be L1108 or L 1109. Gary's cover has an 1881 CDS, and these two items were in use to 1875. L1109 is a multiple use cancel (probably officially made by Pritchard & Andrews of Ottawa) and known used at six PO's over five years, so 1881 is possible.



Don Beaumont sent in the Jubilee with a strange cancel below. My guess (based on the sorta tassels at top and bottom would be L 868 severely compressed due either to a major bump under the stamp, or deformation of the cancel head This is unlikely, however the middle strike shows L868 deformed 60% horizontally in a paint program. L868 is from Cedar Springs Ont. Sept. 1888 to Apr. 1902. This is an extremely period of usage even for a tiny PO. The Jubilee stamp (1897) fits however. Most other cancels of this are on 1890's stamps and are usually poor strikes (a soft hammer?) Any other ideas?



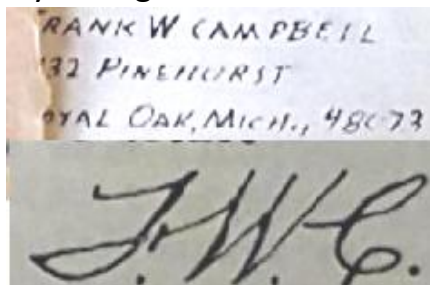
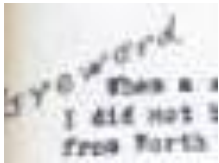
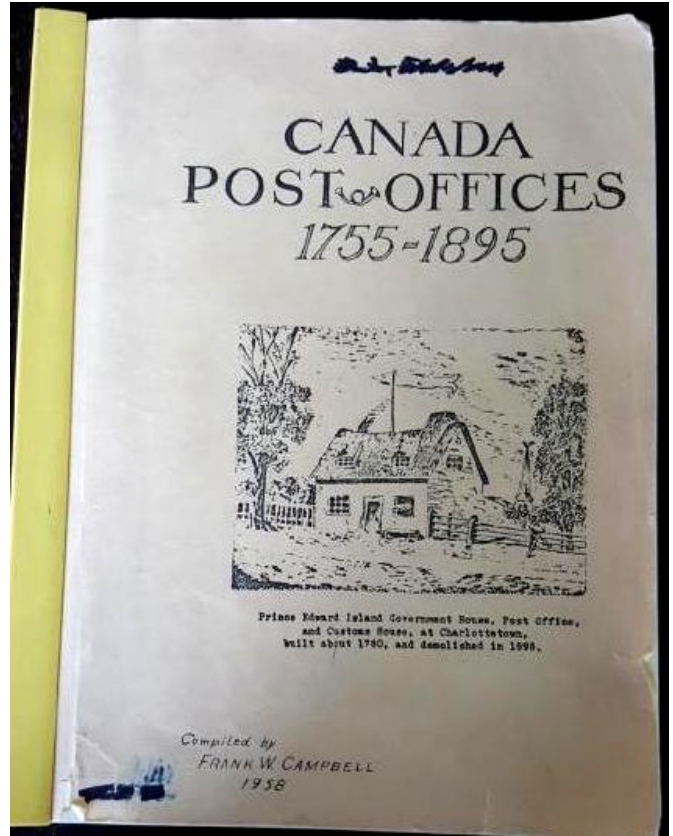
Robert Coulson sent in the items at right. Some of these should have been in the previous Newsletter. Firstly, a major CDS error, stamp issued in 1930 with a 1929 CDS. Second, a revenue "cancelled" probably off an old cheque. It does the job well, note Cdn. spelling with two "L's". Third, a modern very well cancelled item. No one will reuse that stamp! The item below is an example of a modern postage due "T" cancel



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Robert and I have a question about the book at right. It is a 1958 first printing of Frank W. Campbell's compilation "Canada Post Offices". It was reprinted with a cover and more modern binding in 1972. I vaguely remember seeing a copy of this 1958 print a mere say 45 years ago. It was then (if I remember correctly) just a mimeographed list, with some items changed by hand text and reprinted. The loose plastic "sleeve" binding would make it easy to replace a page if it needed updating. The smaller images below are from the "Forward" (title in ms) page and are handwritten. Question: **Could this have been Frank's personal copy, or was this ms text in all 1958 copies?**

Please send me a scan of the cover and forward of any 1958 copies you might have.



I have a similar miscellaneous request/comment: One of the things that most interests me regarding fancy cancels is trying to figure out the "meanings" behind some of them. Someone 100+ years ago took the time to carve some initial, symbol, critter etc. which must have a personal or social meaning. Some (secret Fraternal society symbols, jokes between Postmasters etc.) we may never be able to figure out. I have described fancy cancels as "something that exists between folk art and graffiti" for this reason.

The reduced scale illustrations below are from our newsletter 71, and feature the famous USA fancy cancel "The Running Chicken" from Waterbury Connecticut, as well as a printed return envelope where people wrote or stamped their name in a blank box at bottom. The bird in this envelope (with 1881 CDS) has a very explicit meaning, it is chasing a bug, and the text says "If you don't catch him in 10 days come back to". I have seen one other example of this return envelope, unfortunately undated. If you take this bird image and cut it onto a soft (cancelling surface) you would get a resulting reverse cancel image VERY similar to the Running Chicken" which has no obvious cancel meaning by itself. Q1. **Please send any examples of this return envelope to me incl. any dating info..** Q2. **Have the USA "Running Chicken" covers been compared for commonalities? Dates, Senders, etc.? Thank you.**



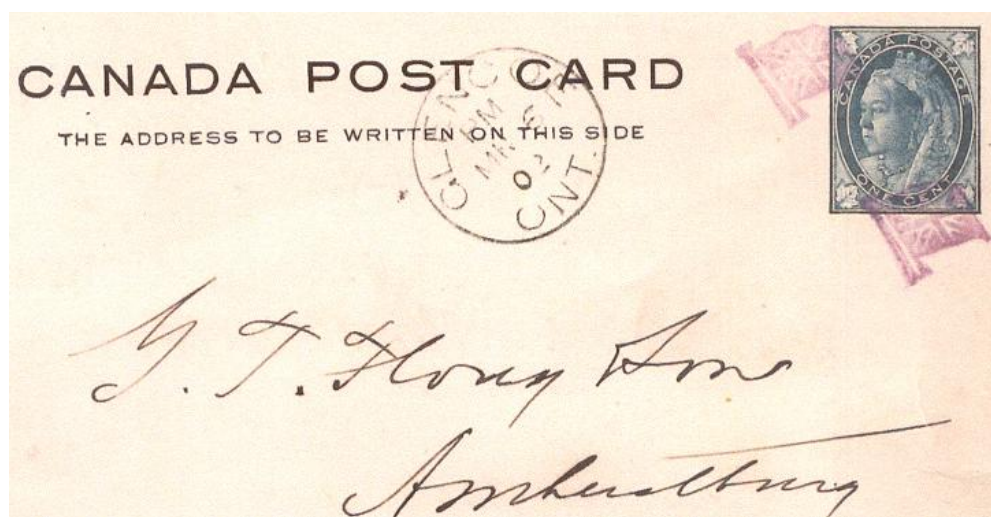
BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 85 FAKES, BOGUS, AND SPURIOUS ITEMS.



More of these Coleville Sask. bogus cancels have recently surfaced. They were supposedly prepared by PM W. Tate, who served Oct. 1950 to 1968. They were first reported as bogus in our Newsletter 65 shown at right, ½ scale. The CDS's appear genuine, and that is about it. All are the exact same day, and three covers are to Mr Dickenson, two of which also have Mr. Dickenson's return address. No tying. None attempt to fake any existing fancy cancels. Suspect none were ever actually in the mail. Nuff said.



The item at right was recently sent in for comment. It is one of the Mc Auley series of bogus cancels which suddenly appeared in the mid 1970's and were written up extensively then. It is our D641, and I have included the info from our Newsletter 61 on the next page. Other "covers" have since been "found", dating from 1885 to 1902!



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EXCERPT FROM NEWSLETTER 61

"In the early 1970's there were an extensive number of bogus transportation markings put on the philatelic market. Many of these were addressed to a J.A. MacAuley of South Side River Dennis (aka Denys) in Nova Scotia. The genuine post mark on these covers reads "S.S. River Dennis", and this was imaginatively presented as "Sailing Ship River Denis" with various fake transportation initials, crests etc. added for effect. See D 26, 'CPSSC 2', D 122 'AM', D 123 'AOF', D 168 "CAN PAC". (Ref. PHSC, Mar. 1977) The faker also produced some "cork inserts to CDS hammers (D 358, D 383) and two bogus flags, D 641 (illustrated) and D 642. D 641 was used extensively as a fake cancel or precancel, and sometimes with the other fake markings above. The origin of the stamp (but not necessarily the faker) has now been discovered. PHSC Journal Summer 2012 showed a King George VI coronation cover with D 641 and the cachet as in the cut.



The text reads "Newfoundland's First CACHET COVER, Sponsored, PRINTED and MAILED by THE PIONEER STAMP CO., THE



STATION, GRAND FALLS, NEWFOUNDLAND." I do not know the link between this 1937 cover use, and the 35 year later fakes, but would guess the faker bought some leftover items from the former Pioneer Co."

I have several personal requests to direct to our members

A. A long long time ago, (early '80's?) someone showed me a block of six of the ½ cent SQ's with different fake fancy cancels on all of them. The block had full original gum (!!) and these could have been applied to anything. Compare with "Coleville" cancels on the previous page.

Does anyone have this block (or similar), and if so could you please send me a scan?

B. In our 3rd Edition there is a reference pg. 236 to a spoof "Snowmobile" fancy cancel. The only example of this that I have ever seen was a poor reduced photocopy in an auction catalogue. The book illustration is thus poor, and i would love to **have a better strike of this.**

Does anyone have one?

C. Similar to the above, but regarding the spoof (?) "Peace Cancel" on page 238. The line drawing of this was sent to Smythies in 1964, and was described as from Rockland, Ont. 1881. No other info. was supplied. **Does anyone have an example?** I suspect it is a complete spoof.

D. In the mid (?) 90's there was a minor scandal when someone used scans or high quality photocopies of CDS proof strikes from a private listing of proof-strikes (most of which were from photocopies of the "official" Pritchard and Andrews proof books then in the National Postal Museum in Ottawa) to produce fake covers. The fakers usually chose CDS's from tiny Post Offices so that the covers could then be described as "rare and valuable". This was then outside of my area of interest so I did not take notes. **Any information out there?** It was written up in briefly one of the Canadian philatelic magazines.

Off topic, but possibly interesting? In the last Newsletter on page 15, I mentioned the military "tradition" of spoofing the public. (The "Peace Symbol" cancel above could be an example.) I did not realize how socially popular and acceptable this was. While recently casually reading a January, 1943 Readers Digest I came across a then regular feature "Tall Tales the Service Men Spin". There were several presented, one was about a new Navy ship which was hinged so she could turn faster. Unfortunately, she rammed herself and sank....

A modern reference to red sealing wax seals. Their truck also has this red seal on it. The last official postal red wax seal (i.e. real sealing wax) I have seen was from 1949 used on OFFICIAL mail from Toronto PO. Anyone have any later postal examples?



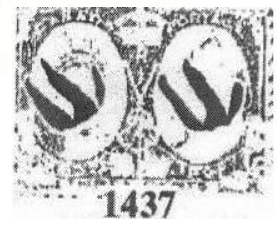
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EXCERPT FROM BILLIG'S PHILATELIC HANDBOOK of USA FANCY HEADS



I ran a scan from Billing's in our last newsletter and here is a reduced scale example of another type of USA fancy cancels. I apologise for the poor photocopy, obviously I was in a hurry. As you can see USA fancy cancels often had more "attitude" than Canadian ones.

Two attitudinal Canadian cancels are at right: L1323, a Masonic with God's "G" initial replaced with a private initial (Blake Ont., July 1879 to May 1883), and L 1437, where Queen Victoria is stomped on by chicken (?) feet, PO unknown..



T. Caldwell.....	Stools for P. O., London.....		\$	cts.
J. Boyd & Son.....	Locksmith's work for Post Office, Montreal.....		4	00
Burland, Lafreicin & Co....	Engraving and altering stamps for do		249	90
G. Bishop & Co.....	Repairing stamp for do		21	00
E. Chanteloup.....	Fitting up stamping table, lamp, &c., do		0	60
C. Garth & Co.....	Plumber's work for do		30	38
J. Gillard.....	Carpenter's work for do		28	90
H. Grant.....	Attendance on clocks do		442	17
G. Kingan.....	British ensign for do		74	50
Ford & Rice.....	Door springs for do		20	00
J. Murphy.....	Glazier's work, &c., for do		22	31
J. Donnelly.....	Carpenter's work, &c., for do		22	70
Prowse Bros.....	Plumber's and tinsmith's work for do		196	63
D. O'Connor.....	Stamping pads for do		529	88
W. Evans.....	Truck for mail bags for do		20	00
H. Millen.....	Whitewashing for do		6	50
T. Hayes.....	Water butts for do		25	00
S. T. Drennan.....	Office furniture for P. O., Ottawa.....		3	50
H. Meadows.....	do do		25	00
Blyth & Kerr.....	Plumber's work for do		8	60
R. Kenly.....	Repairing clock for do		15	75
S. Rogers.....	Carpenter's work for do		0	75
E. F. Austin.....	Painter's work for do		9	69
P. Scholes.....	Rubber for stamping table for do		53	00
P. Christie.....	Carpenter's work for do		12	15
C. P. Dorion.....	Plumber's work for do		45	00
H. W. Knight.....	Branding irons for do		44	48
P. Adams.....	Repairing royal mail cart for P. O., Paris Station.....		12	40
T. Adams.....			15	00

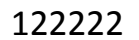
The cut at left shows the detail in some of the Post Master's General Reports in this case 1868.

I note "Branding irons for Ottawa PO", "Engraving and altering stamps for Montreal PO" etc. See also pg. 9 re. different Montreal stamps.

Tongue in cheek, but would this work as an Ottawa PO brand?



H. Morgan correspondence. Source Pittsburgh Museum.



BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 85

Norbert Hobrath's new book is out. Some of the wealth of information in this book was provided by our Study Group. Well done. Norbert's words follow...

There is a growing interest among Canadian Fancy Cancel Collectors and postal historians to learn more about oval parcel cancels (OPCs). Many of these cancels are highlighted in Dave Lacelle's well-studied book, *Fancy Cancels on Canadian Stamps*.

The first OPC originated from Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1872. This strike cancelled a 3¢ 'rose' Small Queen franking, according to Fred Jarrett in his 1929 publication, *Stamps of British North America*.

Within a few years, a number of other Canadian cities followed in the use of oval parcel cancels, predominately being Montreal and Toronto. These were typically rubber hammers that cancelled stamps on parcels and also for circulars, bills, and newspaper wrappers.

OPCs were primarily used during Canada's Small Queens period and occasionally afterward into the early 1900s. OPCs did not show a full date (missing the year date) as postal regulations did not require dating this type of mail, so not much postal history material was saved by collectors other than the cancelled stamps. Luckily OPCs were also occasionally used on letter rate mail (covers) and other parcel wrappers, along with an accompanying circular date stamp or other identifying date, thus providing a source of knowledge for postal historians. These were rare and isolated uses.

I have been collecting and studying Canada Oval Parcel Cancels for a number of years, and decided to share what I've learned with my fellow collectors by writing the book, *Canada Oval Parcel Cancels*, which was just published by the British North America Philatelic Society Ltd. To simplify the inventorying of different Canada OPCs, I devised a new naming system, starting with the city of origin. For example the Halifax OPC noted previously is listed as **H-Halifax-1**.

To learn more about this fascinating field of postal history, you can order the OPC book from Bill Longley on his website <https://longleyauctions.com/product/hobrath-norbert-j-2020-canada-oval-parcel-cancels/>

This was another BIG FAT newsletter hopefully there is something in it for everyone.

The cartoon at right is perfect follow up for my Page 1 note about getting "proper uniforms for your footmen"...

Please send more stuff, this is YOUR newsletter.

Take Care,
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CANADA OVAL PARCEL CANCELS



A POSTAL HISTORY STUDY BY NORBERT J. HOBRATH
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