

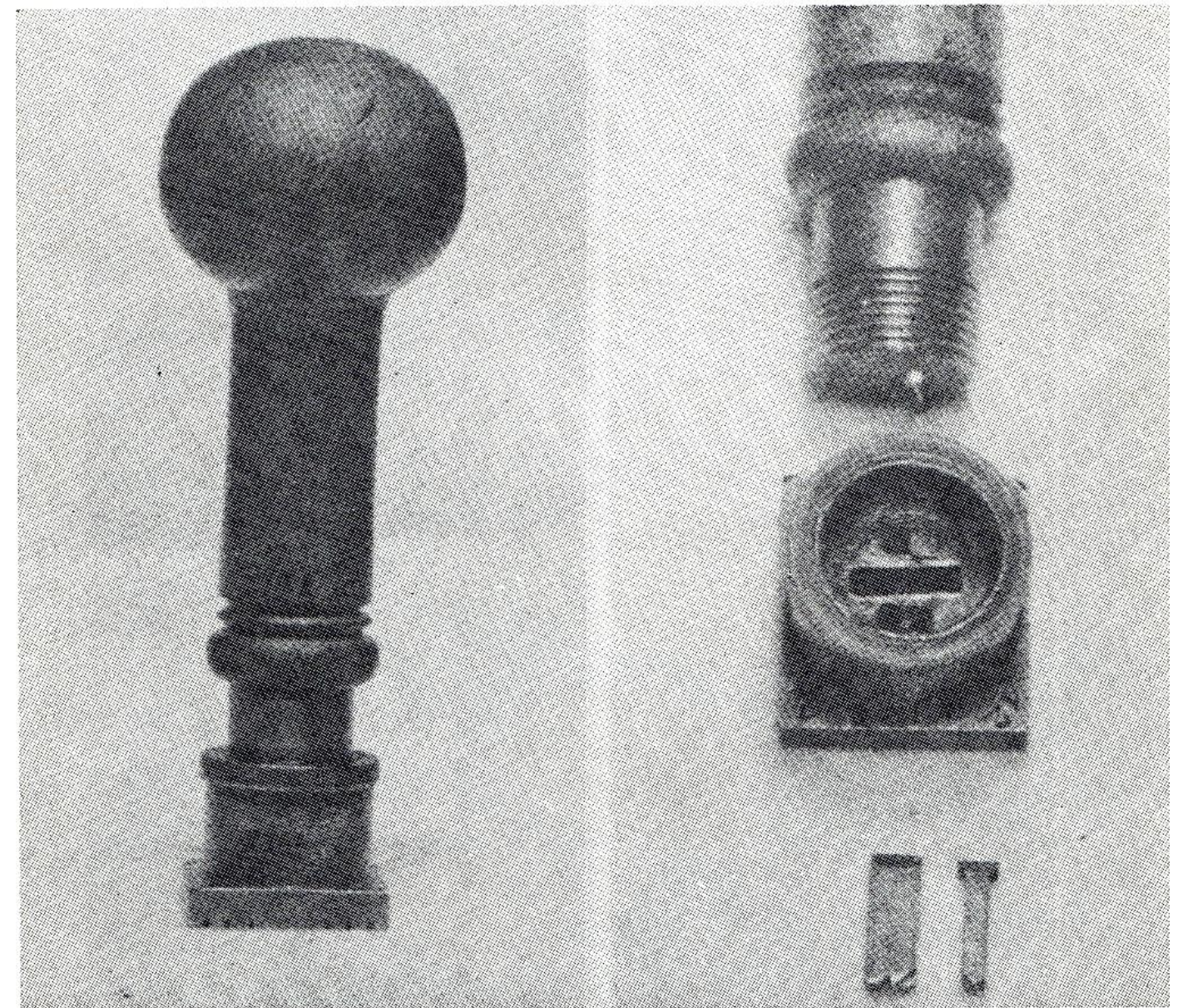
**SQUARED CIRCLE POSTMARKS
IN THE ADMIRAL PERIOD
1912-1927**

**BNAPS VIRTUAL CONVENTION
MARCH 1, 2025**

**PRESENTER: GARY ARNOLD
SQUARED CIRCLE STUDY GROUP CO-CHAIR**

SQUARED CIRCLE HAMMERS CHARACTERISTICS

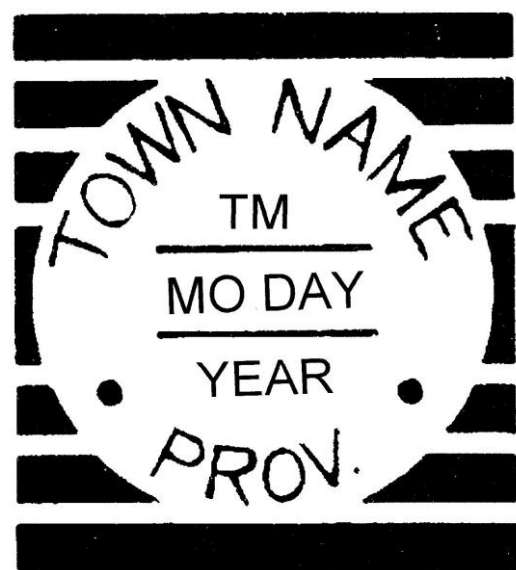
Squared circle hammers consist of a square, steel head measuring approximately 1 inch by 1-1/4 inch, attached via a threaded connection to a wood handle. The hammers vary in height from 4-3/4 and 5 inches and weigh 5 ounces. The hammer handles are birch hardwood, fitted with a brass collar at the point of connection to the steel head.



SQUARED CIRCLE POSTMARKS – TIME MARK & DATE INDICIA

The time mark and date indicia consist of T-shaped type, held in place in the respective slots when the wood handle is screwed into the head.

Time Mark (TM) Slot: The space above the top horizontal bar; indicates time or period of processing. Most offices left this space blank.



Month and Day Slot: The space between the two horizontal bars; typically, two-letter month indicia precede day date.

Year Date Slot: The space below the bottom horizontal bar; two-year date digits used.

Nude Strikes; Several squared circle postmarks are found with no date indicia, hence the name “Nude”. In these instances, they were used to process 3rd class mail, which did not require a dated postmark.

SQUARED CIRCLE POSTMARKS – TYPES



Type 1, having a surround of eight thin horizontal bars, with thicker vertical side-pieces, was first issued to offices in April, 1893. Only 25 towns used it before it was superseded by Type 2 in June, 1893.



Type 2, having a surround of six thick horizontal bars, with vertical side-pieces of varying height and thickness, was first issued to using offices in June, 1893, continuing through mid-1895. Over 320 Type 2 postmarks were used in Canada.



Type 2 Subtype 8, the surround of bars has been drastically cut down, leaving an interrupted circle (third state of Bobcaygeon, ONT; second states of Schreiber, ONT and Nanaimo, BC)

WAYS TO COLLECT SQUARED CIRCLE POSTMARKS

One of the attractions of Squared Circle postmarks is the variety of ways to collect these postmarks.

- **By Province**: Many members collect postmarks from specific provinces/geographical areas. Most popular are the Maritimes, Quebec and Western Canada provinces.
- **By Town**: 16 cities had more than one hammers issued/in use, including London, Halifax, St. Johns, Winnipeg, Victoria and a number of other smaller towns.
- **On Special Stamps**: This field began in the mid-1960's and today is the most popular aspect of squared circle collecting. The 1 and 3 cent Jubilee and the 1898 Map stamp are popular issues for collectors. Their larger size, compared to their contemporary issues, as well as their colors, are amenable to "display" more complete strikes.

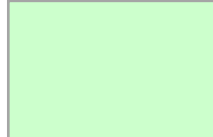
COLLECTING ADMIRAL PERIOD SQUARED CIRCLES

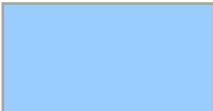
Although only 28 towns have been reported to have used squared circle postmarks during the period, it's relatively easy (and affordable) to assemble a collection of 20+ towns.

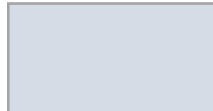
ROSTER OF ADMIRAL PERIOD SQUARED CIRCLE POSTMARKS

- Key to chart on following page:

 1 EXAMPLE, UNIQUE

 2-5 EXAMPLES

 6-10 EXAMPLES

 11-30 EXAMPLES

 MORE THAN 30

- (*) after the latest Admiral Period date of use indicates this date is also the last known date of use of the postmark

ADMIRAL PERIOD SQUARED CIRCLE POSTMARKS

HAMMER	No. STRIKES	PERIOD OF USE	TIME MARKS
OTTAWA, CANADA	100+	UNKNOWN	NUDE STRIKES
NEWPORT LANDING, NS	77	-/JA 22/12 to -/JY 28/16*	BLANK
BAIE VERTE, NB	9	-/JAN 20/12 to -/AU 14/12*	BLANK
RIVER LOUISON, NB	10	-/MR 21/12 to 19/MR 23/13*	BLANK
DANVILLE, QUE	8	-/JAN 21/14 to -/FE 6/14*	BLANK
FARNHAM, QUE	4	UNKNOWN	NUDE STRIKES
IBERVILLE, QUE	53	-/JAN 1/12 to -/JY 1/14*	BLANK
LAURENTIDES, QUE	32	-/MR 26/12 to -/MY 23/20*	BLANK
MELBOURNE, QUE	27	-/AP 22/12 to -/DE 31/13*	BLANK
RIVIERE DU LOUP STA, QUE	1	AM/12 MY/13	AM
BOBCAYGEON, ONT STATE 3	1	-/NO 11/20	AM
CHELTENHAM, ONT	45	-/DE 12/12 to -/MR 10/26*	BLANK
GORE BAY, ONT	55	-/FE 13/12 to -/DE 12/27	BLANK
HAMILTON, CANADA	110	19/FE 26/12 to 15/NO 18/16*	1, 9-20, 22-24
LONDON, ONT	89	20/JUL 10/12 to ?/FE 19/24	3,7,10-24
MOUNT BRYDGES, ONT	108	-/FE 24/12 to -/JY 1/27*	BLANK
PORT ARTHUR, ONT	68	-/JY 17/14 to -/MY 31/25	BLANK,8,10,12,16-18,21
ROCKTON, ONT	20	-/AP 1/12 to -/DE 25/16*	BLANK
ROSENEATH, ONT	8	AM/JA 12/12 to AM/JA 11/13*	AM
SCHREIBER, ONT STATE 2	7	-/DE 18/18 to -/DE 8/24*	BLANK
WATERLOO, ONT	100+	AM/AP 1/12 to PM/JUL 28/22*	NUDE, AM and PM
WOODVILLE, ONT	1	-/DE 24/16*	BLANK
WOOLER, ONT	24	-/JA 15/12 to -/DE 20/12*	BLANK
MORDEN, MAN	52	-/FE 27/12 to -/SP 1/23	BLANK
SELKIRK, MAN	2	PM/DE 10/19 and PM/AU 4/26*	PM
PRINCE ALBERT, SASK	48	-/NO 12/15 to -/DE 22/17	BLANK
NANAIMO, BC STATE 2	84	AM/JA 15/12 to AM/MR 7/25	AM
SOURIS & WINN MC No.1	4	E/FE 5/12 to E/FE 26/12*	E (EAST)

ADMIRAL PERIOD SQUARED CIRCLE POSTMARKS: THE SCARCE EXAMPLES



RIVIERE DU LOUP STATION QUEBEC – UNIQUE EXAMPLE

POSTMARK DATE: AM/12 MY/13

Discovery copy noted in February 1975 Rounding Up Squared Circles column; reported by Ferdinand Belanger

Sold in Robert Lee Auctions in March 1980 and January 1985



BOBCAYGEON, ONT STATE 3 – UNIQUE EXAMPLE

POSTMARK DATE: -/NO 19/20

This is the first known use of the cut down hammer; strike on postcard sold on eBay in March 2021

Next known commercial use was for 10 days in December 1960

ADMIRAL PERIOD SQUARED CIRCLE POSTMARKS: THE SCARCE EXAMPLES



WOODVILLE, ONT – UNIQUE EXAMPLE

POSTMARK DATE: -/DE 24/16

Discovery copy noted in September 1974 Rounding Up Squared Circles column; reported by Harry Lussey

Sold in Robert Lee auction in January 1985



SELKIRK, MAN – TWO EXAMPLES KNOWN

POSTMARK DATES: -/DE 10/19 (Left) & PM/AU 4/26

Discovery copy noted in February 1965 Rounding Up Squared Circles column; reported by John Siverts

Sold in Robert Laird/Siverts auction November 1982

Sold in February 2017 Sparks/Kerzner auction

Second example is a backstamp on cover

ADMIRAL PERIOD SQUARED CIRCLE POSTMARKS: THE SCARCE EXAMPLES

FARNHAM, QUE – 4 EXAMPLES KNOWN

POSTMARK DATES: NUDE STRIKES

- Discovery copies in December 1973 Topics (Ludlow) and September 1974 Topics (Lussey)
- All known examples on off-cover 1 cent (green) issues; typically light strikes

Four examples (including above discovery copies) sold in Robert Lee Auctions (March 1980; January 1985; March 1990 and March 2004)



SOURIS & WINNIPEG MC No 1 – 4 EXAMPLES KNOWN

Two on cover; one on postcard; one on stamp

One cover and the stamp example sold in February 2017
Sparks/Kerzner Auction

SQUARED CIRCLE STUDY GROUP

- The Study Group was formed at 1976 BNAPEX in San Francisco.
- The Study Group has been active since 1976, with the exception of a short hiatus from February 1994 to September 1996.
- Current study group membership includes 40 members from Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom.
- Membership is available to any member of BNAPS. There are no annual membership dues.
- Newsletters (the ANNEX) are published 4-6 times annually; distributed electronically and accessible on the BNAPS website
- Study Group's 650+ page handbook (electronic edition) is updated annually and is accessible for use on the BNAPS website.