

Aug.
July '02

BNAPS Fancy and Miscellaneous Cancel Study Group Newsletter 30.

Dave.Lacelle

- Group News.

I have obtained agreement from all concerned to amalgamate the former BNAPS Miscellaneous Cancels Study Group into our group. The two study groups were overlapping in some ways, and there seems to have been a lack of material for the newsletter of the former group. I would like to address both these issues below, the second issue seems to be somewhat dependant upon the first however.

Firstly, I have referred to several items in recent newsletters as "miscellaneous" cancels. That is to say that they are not especially "fancy", or creative, yet **they are cancels or markings consisting of unusual or irregular postal usage, and do not fit into other BNAPS study group areas of interest.** This is in part a definition by exclusion, it may be that when a miscellaneous cancel item is completely understood, then it may fall under some other BNAPS study group area. Any liaison between the different groups would be good in my opinion, we would all benefit. For example, this newsletter will be directed to both the Revenues, and to the Railway (R.P.O.) Study Groups for comments on specific items.

Examples of miscellaneous cancels in Newsletter 29 included the "Riffs Montreal" C.D.S., "Robert McNaulton" typeset selling agents name as "cancel", late or fraudulent use of "two ring numeral" cancels, various British type "cancels", and the curious "Third Del. Indore" marking on a two cent S.Q. This 'questioning' approach to miscellaneous cancels (usually) seems to work, and I would suggest that the above highlighted definition be accepted. There are still however at least two loose ends. Does a postal marking which does not cancel a stamp (say a "return to arrow") count as a miscellaneous cancel? (I am inclined to say "yes"). Also, is there any time frame? For example, should a 1950's Vancouver postal route marking letter (see "D162" in the fancy cancel book) be included? (Again I am inclined to say "yes".) I also notice that the definition above does not really include; fake, bogus, or philatelic markings as miscellaneous. Should they be? (My opinion, "yes".) Perhaps we would be best advised to let our members comment on what should or should not be a "miscellaneous" cancel - see below.

The second issue was the lack of material for the miscellaneous cancel newsletter. I remember when I was doing some volunteer work back in my university days, that some wise fellow said "scratch any organization, and you will find that only 5 or 6 people are really doing 90% of the work." There are over 60 members in the Fancy Cancel Study Group, yet only about six of you regularly send in items for the newsletter. (Hint - please send in more - it makes the newsletter easier to prepare). There were only 18 members (other than required mailings to BNAPS officials) in the Miscellaneous Cancel Study Group, this may have been below the required "critical mass" to generate the "six" keeners. Clint Philips should receive a hearty thanks for his efforts, it was very difficult for him to make a berry pie with so few berries...

In order to facilitate the amalgamation of the two groups, and because the M.C.S.G. mailing list may be somewhat dated, I have sent a small questionnaire to the 14 new members (to our group) regarding their interests, if they wish their addresses listed as new members, and for any general comments they may have. I have also included a copy of our last

newsletter, and shall consider all 14 as dues paid in full until the end of this year. If all of these individuals wish to remain in the new group, this will bring our membership to about 75. May I collectively **“Welcome all of you aboard”**. (Now, please send in some “stuff” for the next newsletter.)

I apologize for rambling on so much on this one topic, my desire is to stimulate some interest, and make our new members welcome.

Good news, I have changed my mind, shall shake the money tree a bit, and will be attending the Spokane Convention. We will thus be having a study group meeting, and I hope to see you there. I will just give a general chat on fancy cancels, if anyone wishes to bring along any “show ‘n tell” items, they would be welcome, and appreciated.

Some of you have enquired as to how the sale of the first part of my collection went. Your collections also will be sold some day, so this interest is logical, there is a great deal of ‘recycling’ in stamp collecting! I was very pleased with the results of this sale. While some items did not sell, most sold for over my estimates. Robert Lee will be including some more of my stuff in his September sale. I hope some of you got some of my former “goodies”. (R.A. Lee Auctions 203 - 1139 Sutherland Ave., Kelowna B.C. V1Y 5Y2, or E mail >bob@stamp-bids.com>.

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

NEWSLETTER 1, Crown Wax Seals.

The Oct. 2001 Topics Study Group Centreline Column had a reference to two R.P.O. “Crown” sealing wax uses. The details are sketchy, and I have contacted the R.P.O. group for more details but have not yet received a reply. This is an example where study groups can work together, and where the Study Group Centreline performed a “bridging” function.

NEWSLETTER 6, Victoria - Esquimalt crown.
New date, Esquimalt , Feb., ‘07, on Post Card.

NEWSLETTER 29, “(SHE)RIFFS OFFICE MONTREAL”.

Further information on this item. David Handleman suggested that this is probably a revenue usage. I have confirmed this by finding a very similar revenue marking. “BUREAU DU SHERIFF MONTREAL” on a 1912 Law stamp. The above item lead to an interesting question; “Were there any revenue markings in the Small Queen era which could be interpreted as “fancy cancels” if they were used on regular postage stamps? I shall direct this to the revenue group, but, do any of you know of any examples? Could some of the letter and initial fancy cancels have been revenue use? (I have a two ring C.D.S. which is somewhat similar to the “Sheriffs” item from “J.W. Murten, Hamilton Ont.” on a three cent L.Q., however this appears to be a private cancel or business marking [and not revenue use] as they were coal merchants according to the local 1870 business directory.)

NEWSLETTER 29, the “Third Del. Indore” cancel.

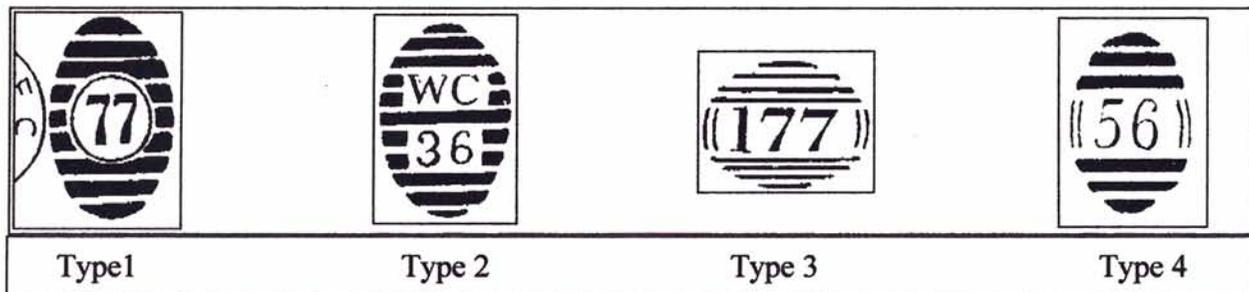
This has been identified as most probably from India, no wonder I did not recognize it.

NEWSLETTER 29, the stamp “cancelled” with “Robert McNaulton”.

The illustration and text should have indicated that this stamp has a weak C.D.S. cancel, the name cancel was not necessary.

United Kingdom Numeral Cancels

In the last newsletter, I commented on how some Canadian cancels mimicked the U.K. barred numeral oval cancels. After a great deal of searching I relocated my list of these U.K. numerals on BNA, which I had prepared in 1989 (!). An updated version is at the end of this newsletter. The four main types are below, and are based on line drawings from Brumell, 1946.



Although I have probably ran this topic into the ground now, I think a few observations are in order. Firstly, most examples do not have other cancels. The British numerals are thus valid cancels on uncanceled stamps, and not just accidental strikes. Some of these were missed by the Canadian P.O., however most were probably mailed on board ships en route to Europe. (I am sure there are also U.K. cancelled in Canada - do any of the overseas members know any? The only example I know is a Canadian Pacific Overseas Service perfin on U.K. stamp, "mailed on high seas" marking and Quebec City C.D.S. cancel). The other (than accidental) way these U.K markings are picked up on BNA is when a letter from Canada is redirected in Britain. It thus re-enters the U.K mail and gets cancelled as if U.K. In some cases U.K stamps are added, sometimes overlapping the Canadian ones. Most of the cover examples on the list are redirected.

Scarifying Cancels

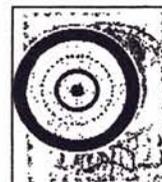
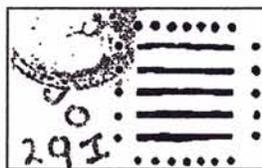
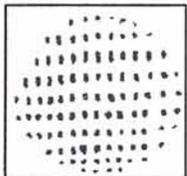
I have received a letter from one of our members asking if I had a list of scarifying cancels. I had only listed these in the new book if they appeared to be fancy cancels or could be mixed up with fancy cancels i.e.. Lacelle 407, 809, 1065, 1498, 1596, D163, D333. Our Newsletter 10 (Dec. '92) had an article on scarifying cancels. These are also miscellaneous cancels, so I have reprinted this below, with minor updating.

"Scarifying cancels are at best borderline fancy cancels, although in some cases they may result in elaborate designs. To the best of my knowledge Canadian scarifying cancels have never been written up before. Perhaps this part of the newsletter should also appear in Topics? (2002 note, this did not occur.)"

Scarifying cancels are cancels with an attitude - namely sharp. They are designed to cut into, penetrate, or mutilate the stamp and thus prevent its reuse. In most cases, the purpose is to get the cancel ink soaked into the paper of the stamp. Some thrifty people from the 1850's and later, were coating stamps with a thin layer of wax or shellac before use. If the stamp was only lightly cancelled or normal ink (as opposed to official cancel ink which had oils added) was used, then the recipient would boil the stamp, the cancel would dissolve with the coating, and the stamp could be reused.

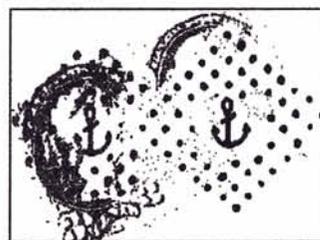
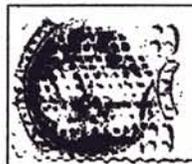
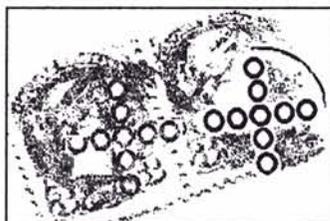
Item 1 below is an example of the early scarifying cancel used in Toronto in the 1860's. Three pins were inserted into a cork and actually stuck right through the stamp. It must have been relatively successful as several different positions of the pins are known (see Jarrett 903 y to 903 xyz). Item 2, a "cork dots" cancel was also used at this time. Similar types had rather large dots which were probably from a coarse piece of wire brush. Jarrett 1302 (Toronto), 1304 (New Brunswick), and 1305 (Toronto) are examples. I suspect that this type did not work well as the ink did not always stick to the teeth of the brush. I have seen stamps where the pins went through, yet they had no ink on them.

Item 3 (Lacelle 1596) was an early example of a commercially made scarifying cancel, and was used in Saint John N.B. in 1868. Several United States firms were producing scarifying cancels at this time, and may have been the source. Items 4 (Lacelle 809) and 5 (Lacelle D333) are similar but later "patent scarifying cancels". Can any of our members confirm the use of these or similar cancels on United States stamps? (2002 note, there was no response to this question.)



Item 6 (Lacelle D163) below was a similar type, but was used "Officially" in Ottawa in the 1880's. It was not particularly successful, as it was abandoned after short use. I suspect that the pins were too short, or wore too quickly, as I have seen many strikes which did not penetrate the stamp. Item 7 (Lacelle 1065) may not have been intended a scarifying cancel, however it certainly accomplished this. In one copy I have examined, one of the circles was completely punched out.

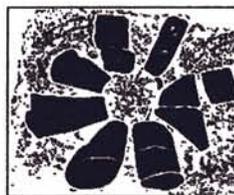
Item 8 is a metal scarifying cancel. These were apparently brass hammers with raised points, they seem to have cancelled well, but not penetrated. Item 9. (Lacelle D644) is an example of a foreign scarifying cancel found occasionally on Canadian issues from the 1860's to '70's. It is a French marine cancel and is also known (logically) on stamps from other nations.



There are no doubt other types of Canadian scarifying cancels. For example, Toronto used an experimental C.D.S. in 1886, with a complete circle of pins. I would appreciate hearing details of any other types. (2002 note, there was no response.) Most often it appears that they did not work well, wore too fast and/or clogged up with ink. It is also probable that when they did work well they so destroyed the stamp, that earlier generations of collectors have discarded the best examples.

CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Bill Clark has sent in his compilation and examples of cancels from Elgin County Ontario. Item 1 is an intaglio "A" cancel on Post Card from Aylmer Ont., Apr. '79. The scan is from a photocopy, and I have not personally examined this item. Does anyone have another confirming strike? Item 2 is the "WL" from West Lorne (Lacelle 907). This cancel is decidedly scarce, probably since the "L" was carved backwards, which might be a little embarrassing, and thus limit it's use! Item 3 is a Middlemarch "M", probably Lacelle 592 (illustrated). This use is in Apr. '76, previous date was Aug. 76. This P.O. is unusual, it opened in 76, but there is no P.M. listed for '77 to '79 in the official P.M. book lists. This cover indicates that someone was running the P.O. in '78 thus the book omission is probably a typo. Archivanet indicates continuous operation from '75 to '85, P.M. was Mr. T. Hatherley. (When I think of how long I spent peering at those small print, often yellowing P.M. lists for the fancy cancel book, and now it can almost all be done on line...)

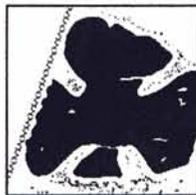


Several P.O.'s in Elgin County used radial designs with hollow centres, Lacelle 1238 is illustrated as an example. St. Thomas used two or three variants, or used 1238 until it was almost unrecognizable. Port Burwell and West Lorne used similar designs. In many cases, these corks with hollow centres were designed to "frame" the Queen's head, the stamp was thus cancelled, the Queen was not. Bill also questions whether Lacelle 1436 (item 5) is a "bird" cancel or just a smeared (or worn) example of something similar to Lacelle 1129 (a cross cancel). This idea had occurred to me, the book illustration is from the 1959 D&S photo, and the "bird" suggestion is from Smythies. It doesn't appear to be smeared.

Bob Turkowski has sent in a photocopy of Lacelle 729 on F1. Unfortunately, this will not scan well. This was one of my "unconfirmed items" in the fancy cancel book. The strike is similar to my illustration here (from D&S), but has an outer ring. It also does not appear to be my 514 upside down as I suggested in the text. It appears to be from a signet ring. This is the first example of this I have seen, are there any more examples out there?



Peter Geoffrey sent in several pages of cancels, including some new, early and late dates. Included in this was the cross/cover below from Durham Ont., July '91. It is probably an earlier state of Lacelle 1126 (illustrated). It could also be considered as a four leaf clover. (Peter is from Ireland.) The third item, Lacelle 1056 has a clear C.D.S. indicating that this is Cranbrook Ont., July '91, not my misinterpreted Granbrook.

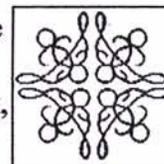


The fourth item is Lacelle 1130 which has previously (but since the book was printed) been reported as Paris Ont., Oct. '66. Peter's example is much sharper and more precise (similar to 1129), possibly the illustration in the book is erroneous, or from a late, or re-cut state.



Item five is a leaf type cancel from Toronto, Dec. '75 on Postal Stationary. Lacelle 1211 (illustrated) is similar, and is noted as a receival cancel on items from two towns near its P.O. of use, Preston Ont. I was having some difficulty locating the P.O. "Jarretts Corners", it was not in Archivanet, and Statistics Canada place name lists only indicated a "Jarratt" in Oro- Medonte Twp., Simcoe County. Frank Campbell's book listing Canadian P.O.'s reports "Jarretts Corners" in Simcoe County, which is not near Preston. It could still be from Preston as a receival strike (reported up to Dec. '74), but is more probably from Toronto. (There is no real reason to cancel a Post Card, a receival cancel by a "keener" is possible.) Do any of you have confirming strikes? Finally, item six is an obscure little symbol from Pakenham Ont. Aug. '74. I shall run Peter's scan and tracing as received, rather than attempt to edit it. This is not a 'compass and square', yet for some reason I think it is Masonic. Any comments?

Joe Smith sent in a query regarding an example of Lacelle 1455 for sale on Ebay. This has been noted on Sc. 18, and was also (re?) used in the 1870's at Craighleith U.C. This item is on the Revision page for the fancy cancel book, if any of you have not received this page, I will be glad to send one.



Brian Hargreaves has sent in several items. The first item is similar to my D389, and very similar to D&S 713. A somewhat similar line drawing was presented in "Postal Markings" Dec. '34, and reprinted in "Maple Leaves" Apr. '56. This is the only strike I have seen. I had believed that D&S 713 was derived from a poor strike of Lacelle 805. It appears this is in error, and that this "T" cancel should be listed as a separate item equal to D&S 713. The D&S location of "Tilsonburg" is however unconfirmed, all covers were Lacelle 805, and not D&S 713. Brian's second item is an example of a British barred oval, see page 3. The bottom numeral part is not visible.



He has also sent in two other items I have seen before, and believe both are spurious. (Note, my definition of "spurious" is basically something which can look like something else but isn't.) This "10" cancel has also been described as a crown. Both cases are just wishful thinking in my opinion. I have never seen another strike. The "8" cancel is actually two strikes from the top of a small medicine bottle. See also my D325 and D326.

Jack Forbes has sent in an example of a "T1" (or TI) cancel, British barred oval style on a block of ½ cent Small Queens. The auction firm selling this suggested it might be Turks Island, part of the modern Turks and Caicos Islands. I checked some U.K. overseas numeral listings, there were no Turks or Caicos numeral assignments. However, the Turks and Caicos were part of the Bahamas to 1848, independent to 1874, then part of Jamaica. As such they could have been listed variously in the U.K. lists. Has anyone else seen a "T1" or "TI"? (Note, close examination indicates that this is not the "T01" Foreign Branch cancel, see Lacelle D396.)

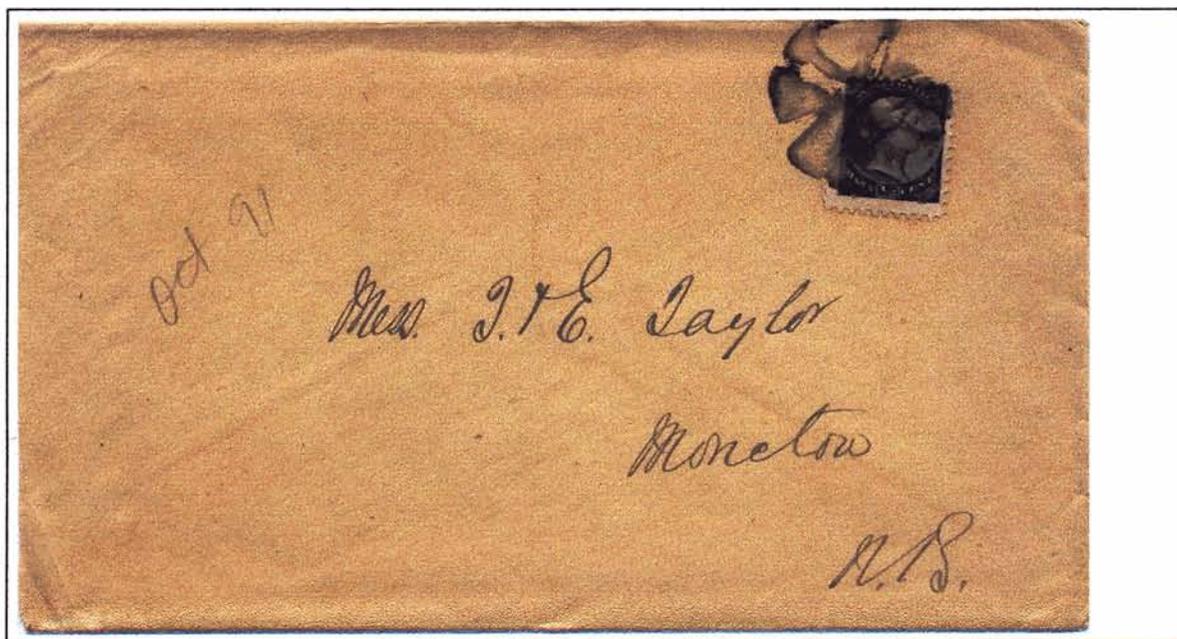


Roger Boisclair and I have had some correspondence over a Map stamp I have in my collection. On one side it has what appears to be a USA C.D.S., on the other an indistinct British oval numeral. There are no Canadian cancels. Obviously philatelic, but an interesting three country use!

Upon rereading this newsletter, I note an unintended theme, emphasis upon "foreign cancels on Canada". This is not intentional, however this is an area I have researched extensively, and foreign markings are often a source of confusion. The next newsletter will hopefully be more balanced. Please send in material for it. One more observation, this is probably the most "technical" newsletter I have ever done - 33 illustrations, many of them taken from different software/sources. A real learning experience!

And,
Good collecting
Dave Lacelle.

As I have some extra space, I shall run this cover sent in by Brian Hargreaves. The cancel seems to be a segmented radial cork, which was smeared when applied. I wonder if it was a wrapper? I only have the scanned image to go by, but the tying at the left, and the ink penetration (looks like writing ink) are not very good. This is not really the correct Study Group for this (I shall forward to the S.Q. S.G.), however do any of you have comments?



U.K. Numeral Cancels on BNA Stamps.

Number	Type	Date	Stamp	Notes
24	4	?	37	
33	4	?	?	
38	1	95	42	+ Halifax squared circle.
46	?	?	?	On "Large Queen"
48	4	80	35-37	Several examples.
49	?	?	29	Indistinct.
53	3	?	14	
53	4	?	42	
60	1	?	42	+ Partial Toronto CDS
74	1	70	37a	Date based on shade.
75	4	?	28	
76	5	?	37	Type = London Dist., 1st series.
76	?	?	N.B. 10	
85	3	?	14 & 19	Two examples.
87	5	?	18	Irish type.
124	?	?	19	
129	4	?	39	
131	5	75, & 85	37, & 42	Scottish type. Forwarding cancels.
134	3	?	15, 18, & 25	Several examples.
159	?	?	15	
165	3	?	P.E.I. 7	
172	5	?	18	Irish type.
177	4	?	39	
209	?	?	38	
214	4	?	54	
242	3	98	70	
250	4	69	28	
277	5	83	37	Scottish type.
279	5	?	42	Scottish type.
309	4	?	26	
342	3	?	28	
357	5	?	27	Irish type.
439	3	?	28	
453	3	?	N.S. 4	
466	?	?	Nfld. 6 & 251	
466	3	?	9	
466	4	?	28	
498	4	?	42	
512	4	?	28	
515	4	?	42	
547	4	?	75	
564	4	?	35	
583	4	97	52	
603	4	95 to 97	52	Several examples.
620	4	98	70	
625	4	93, 98	35, 42&85	Several examples.
659	4	88	15 & 17	Cover.
700	4	?	28	
708	4	?	27&28	Two examples.
723	3	?	25	
761	4	?	24	
788	4	02	Nfld 62	
820	4	?	37	
846	?	?	51	
849	4	?	42	
871	4	98	42&85	Both with partial CDS's (1 is USA).
890	?	?	41	
905	4	?	26	
946	4	?	26	
971	4	97	42	+ Halifax squared circle.
A01	?	?	?	On B.C.
A12	4	92	34	On UPU reply card.
B60	4	92	35	+Kingston CDS
C48	3	?	24	
D52	4	?	42	
EC1	1	?	85	
EC01	1	?	42	
EC14	1	?	24	
EC15	1	?	37 & 42	Two examples.
FB	1	?	37	Several examples. Foreign Branch.
SE	1	?	37	
SE12	1	85	37	+ partial CDS.
SW	1	?	18	
SW20	2	?	18	
SW39	2	?	42	
SW44	2	99	88	
T01-T06	3	?	34	Also on N.S. Foreign Branch.
WO9	2	96	35	
W12	2	93	42	
WC5	2	?	28	