

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 74.

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Group News.

It has been said that “When you are preparing a Federal government ‘Job Description’ (bin der, done dat) the very first thing you do is go to the bottom of the last page and enter “,,, and other related duties””. From looking through my 18 epages, and ten mail pages of notes for this newsletter it is obvious that there will be many “other related items” in this newsletter....

I hope you all had a good winter, the one here was ghastly! We now have 86 members, with new members being Mr. R. Beck of Williams Lake BC, and Mr. P Bradford of Lasalle ON, and Mr. B. Coulson . I had to drop two others for non-payment of dues (for two years). Glad to have all of you on board, **please send in lots of stuff for the next newsletter**. Thank you for the dues, donations and/or postage. Total raised was \$ 917.00, of which \$ 347.00 were ‘pay aheads’ or donations. About 25 of our members still want paper copies (We do collect “bits of paper” don’t we?) and this more than covers my printer cartridges, mailing, photocopying charges etc. Now, about that 10 year old laptop, I shouldn’t ask, but does anyone have any spare newer one otherwise gathering dust?

I will not be able to attend the BNAPS convention in Calgary this year. Can any of you **volunteer to hold a Study Group meeting?** (... other related duties...)

The 1905 Christmas card I ran in the last newsletter is probably more ‘complex’ than it first appeared. It was likely privately produced, and is highly personal. The people on the card are probably “Edith, Reggie, and Leslie” as referred to inside. We don’t know what happened to Mr. Morris, but there is a newspaper marriage notice for “Leslie Morris”, same address in Sept. 1916. Brooks Bar UK was originally an upper class enclave. For more information on this, please contact me. Thanks to Bill Pekonen for this research.



And other related duties... At the Fredericton Convention meeting I showed some of the 3000 (or so) pages of photocopies I used for the fancy cancel book. About half of these are actual pages from various collections, and Mike Halhed suggested that these should be scanned so as to be used as a wider reference source. He completed this project at his own expense in time and money. Thank you very much Mike. This is a very wide range of material (about 1600 pages), and includes my handwritten notes on many cancels. The originals were modified so that owners names were removed – and a few of my more “succinct” comments were deleted. The quality of the originals varies, as there are about 40 different collections present. As these are scanned images they can be blown up to show fine cancel detail. The material is partly sort able via the Excel spreadsheet I used to compile the book – that is to say by “L” numbers, and in most cases by D&S numbers. For more information on this, please contact me.

The third edition of our book... I continue to slog away at this. There are hundreds of additions and updates – this is why we have a Study Group. However, given that my average day seems to have only 25 hours in it to date I am only up to L596, a fancy “M” cancel. If space permits I will run a few of the revised pages with this newsletter. All of the “Littlefield Fakes” have been moved to the deletions section, this is also the case with most of the “...not verified, never seen by me” Items. There are also many new listings. Lots of work, related duties...

One of our members sent in a query regarding the “Rate” factors column in our fancy cancel book. As explained on page 9, these are not “Rarity factors”, rather they are based upon actual selling prices of each cancel. Some cancels with highly dramatic details may be fairly common, yet fetch a high price (& thus Rate factor), conversely some “blobby” uninteresting cancels may be quite scarce, yet sell for low prices. Perhaps the best illustration of this would be the Victoria – Esquimalt crown cancel, L1291. This cancel was from a metal hammer produced by Pritchard and Andrews of Ottawa, has very high visual appeal, and was used for almost 34 years. There must be hundreds of strikes (and several fakes), about 52 (!) covers are known, yet the cancel retains a reasonably high price and worked out to a Rate factor of “4”, or \$ 15.00 to \$ 20.99 (not corrected for inflation) each. The illustration is from a photocopy of the 1880 P&A proof strike.



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REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 62, pg. 2. The "unidentified" cancel on the 10 cent S.Q. is actually L 1451 used in Saint John NB, Aug. 1874 to Nov. 1874.

Newsletter 73, pg. 1-2, "Toronto Lands Commission" cover find. Mike Halhed remembers that there was a reference to this find in Fred Jarrett's biography. Unfortunately he does not have easy access to his copy, and I am having trouble obtaining one. **If you have a copy of this publication, the specific details would be appreciated.**

Newsletter 73, pg. 4, Railway P.O. radial, L 1233. Roger Squires has sent in another example on cover. Unfortunately there is neither CDS nor backstamp. The return address is Montreal, destination is Moncton N.B. The 1 cent rate is a bit odd also, however this may be an advertising rate as the back is an advertisement. This may indicate a use of this cancel on some Montreal RPO. The origin of the cover in N.L. 73 is unknown, so it could have been from the Montreal area.

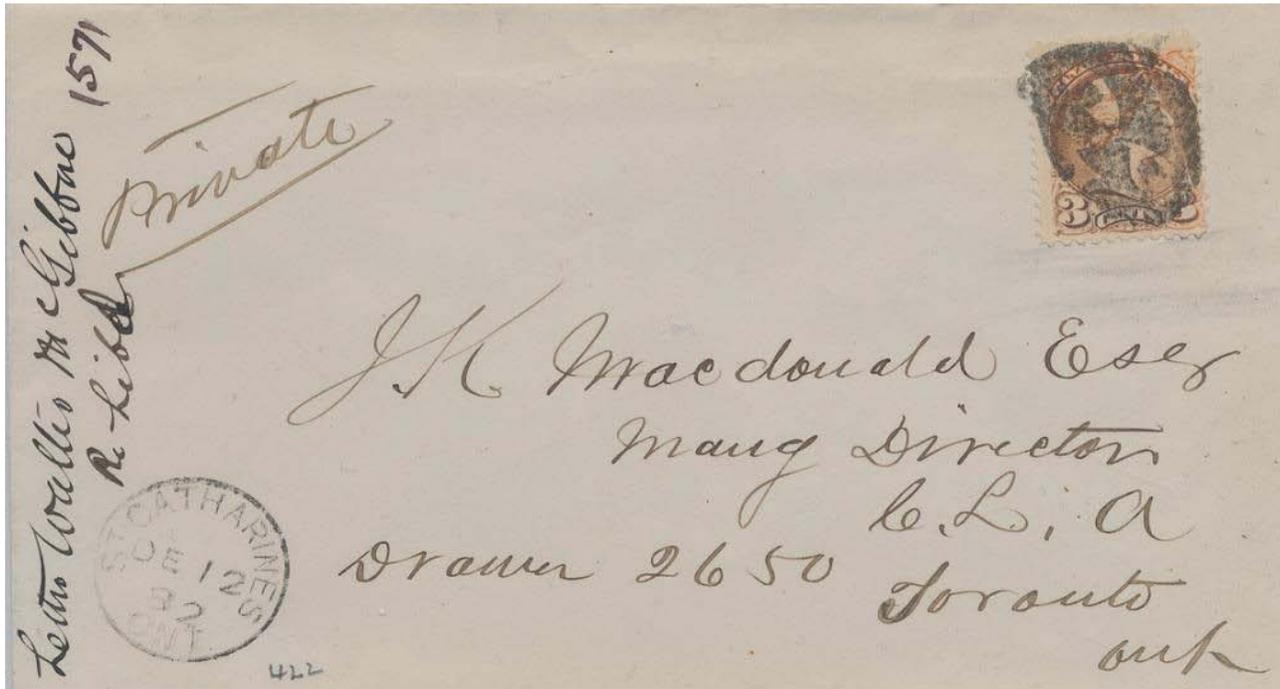


CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

Jim McCormick sent in a very impressive page (etc.) of Bogey head cancels. 24 examples! As well as providing an indication of wear and variation between strikes it also gives a bit of an indication of scarcity. There are for example nine of L 1355, and seven of L 1367. He also provides covers of L1346, and a confirming date and location for L 1370, Scotsburn Station NS, Oct. 1893 at right. (I must admit to prettying up this cut a bit, the stain at the bottom is from some sealing wax (or glue?) on the back of the cover.



The cover below and strikes of L 1346 show the wear on the cancel (chin breaks off etc.)



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I also have a question about L 1367. As Jim points out, the cancel is fairly common, and is found on late S.Q.'s, and the Jubilee issue. There has been speculation that this was used at Notre Dame Street West PO (Montreal) based mainly on similarity of design to several other fancies from this PO in 1897. This has never been proven, and it is odd that a cover with this cancel did not survive from such a major PO. Use at a large PO would explain why it is fairly common. **Are there any covers of this out there?** The illustration (below left) is from one of Jim's examples. The other item below is also Jim's, and he (and I) wonder if it is a "bogey" or a blob, or what? It may be L 1357, however this has only been reported on "early '70's S.Q.'s", and F1 was issued in late 1875.



Barry Dale sent in the "IXI" geometric above. Is there some meaning in this that is not immediately evident here – the bottom of the "X" seems to have been filled in before use?

Mike Halhed sent in the Ottawa Geometric at far right. This was also reported in newsletter 59, and I have seen two other covers, all of 'em from Nov. - Dec. 1875. This should be a new listing.

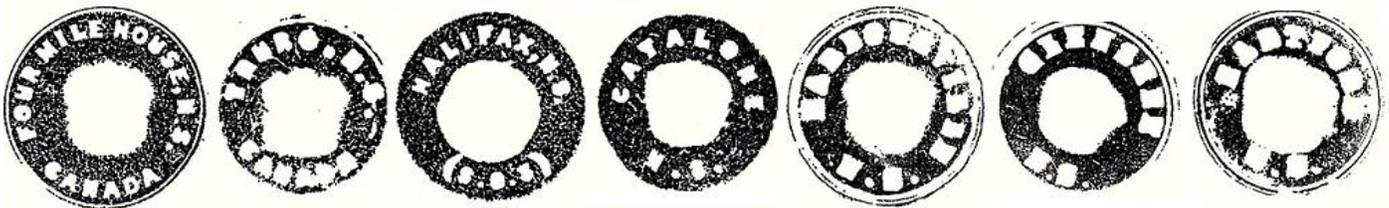
In the last newsletter, and a few others I had mused as to what happened to the Pritchard and Andrews proof strike books formerly held in the National Postal Museum. There were two different formats of these proof books. They can be very useful in postal history studies and can sometimes be used to verify fancy cancel authenticity – see page 7 for an example. I still do not know where the originals are, but thanks to some information from Mike Halhed, Stephane Cloutier, and Bill Wegman I feel assured that the scanned proof strikes at the PHSC site do include all the P&A examples as well as more from PHSC research. The text below is from Mike Halhed.

I'd like to bring a valuable resource to the attention of the FC&MM Study Group members. I was recently researching a town stamp associated with a fancy cancel in an attempt to determine if the cover and fancy cancel were legitimate and leveraged the Postal History Society of Canada (PHSC) website.

The PHSC has an excellent database of towns and their associated postal markings. This proved very useful to confirm that the fancy cancel cover I was looking was in period for the split-ring date stamp on the cover. Further, the PHSC has a listing unofficial duplex hammers, many of which are listed in your catalogue. There is also a wealth of information on early markings, duplex, machine and barrel cancellation with an emerging section on two and four ring numeral cancels. An electronic membership to the PHSC is only \$15.00 per year which includes access to the PHSC Journal and deeper access to their website. Details can be found at <http://www.postalhistorycanada.net> I hope this helps other collectors in our study group.

Thanks Mike.

There is a reference to 2 and 4 ring numeral cancels above. I was asked for information on two of the 'odder' 4 ring numerals, #022, and #807. I found three references to #022, and five to #807. They do exist. A reported #918 however turned out to be a poor upside down strike of #516. FMI on these oddities, contact me.

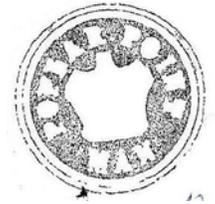


Hugh Rathbun sent in the proof strikes from crown wax hammers he owns above. He also sent photos of the hammers.

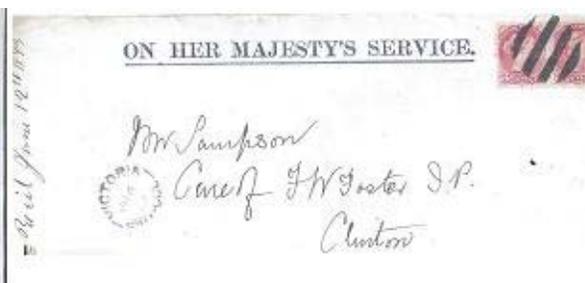
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These crown wax seals were issued to each PO upon it's opening, and were intended to be used to seal PO letter bags and/or important (official) letters. They were sometimes used as cancels. Some of the above (Halifax?) may be replacement seals when the originals were lost or damaged. Hugh's examples (all from N.S.) are; Four Mile House (open. June 1879), Truro (before 1815), Halifax (?), Catalone (before 1868), Harbourville (before 1868), Glenshee (Sept. 1873), and Hartford (Apr. 1876).

... and one more. David Daws sent in this example (described as a cancel), Poplar Pointe Man. Opened July 1871.



I mentioned these rather simple cancels used at Victoria BC in June 1873 in newsletter 69, but missed something. They were mailed within four days of each other, appear to have been handled by the same clerk, are both OHMS, and both have **unnecessary** postage added, which then had to be cancelled. There was a similar unnecessarily cancelled item also from Victoria, but from 1931 in newsletter 73. I described that as "someone doing their job well the wrong way." I guess Victoria wasn't the 'laid back mellow place' it is thought of now in the past. (Disclaimer, I live north of there in mellow Merville.) Thanks to John Burnett for sending these.



Robert Coulson sent in the roller cancels at right, they are Hamilton, Hartney, and Winnipeg. The last two are unidentified, and may even be late use carved "fancy" cancels, or early machine cancels? I am out of my area, (other related duties?), any comments would be appreciated. FMI, "Canadian Roller Cancels" Smythies and Hollingsworth, 1967, also "Maple Leaves" Dec. 1966. The study group disbanded in the late 1970's. (?)



And speaking of roller cancels, I borrowed this item (front and back are shown) from the last edition of MOOSE, and some correspondence with Mike Sagar, and Doug Murray. This is L 310, showing a traditional Doukhobor (Religious sect) house and traditional hat and beard as would be found at their site in Brilliant BC. L 311 Below is another example (about ¼ scale here). These were used in the late 1920's to early 1933. Most uses are philatelic.



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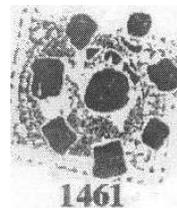
Paul Varty sent in this item which was recently purchased by one of his customers, Mr. Biff Pilon. To save space I have cut down the cover, and moved the CDS. This Vankleek Hill ON (near Ottawa), Apr. 1875 cancel is somewhat similar to some of the Ottawa and Toronto corks of the same period, and may be a receiver cancel (See L1695, Ottawa, June 1870 for example.) Vankleek Hill used another notched cork similar to L 1515 in Nov. 1871. Please note, these other cancels are 'similar to' items, the Vankleek Hill ones are different and were copying types used by the major centres. Mr. Pilon collects Vankleek Hill and would welcome any further information.



Doug Lingard sent in this example of a very late (1898) cork on an otherwise unmarked cover to Kingston Jamaica. The absence of any transit marks, CDS etc. to overseas is odd.



Ron Smith sent along the items below. The first, L1019 was listed in our book as an unconfirmed item from Gays River NS, Mar. 1888. Ron's example confirms the D&S information, and provides a much better strike. (I have a bit of concern that the inks may not match, but the postcard is not going to any of the known addresses associated with P.C. fakery.) His next item probably clears up some confusion with L 1461, which is on several covers from Guelph Ont. in 1871, yet D&S stated the year was 1877. This is probably a CDS date error, the P.C. is from the pre 1876 printing with "Montreal and Ottawa" in the printers name. This does not rule out a reuse, or similar cancel six years later, and I welcome any more information.



Something completely different... Mike Street sent in this unusual boxed Montreal Sept. 1913 cancel at right.

Bob Stock sent in the example of L 1505 used at Cornell Ont. JU 1880. This brings the list of PO's which used similar designs to this to 15. He also sent in the rather stunning example of the preprinted return address envelope from the 1880's (?) (The probable model for the famous USA 'Running chicken' csncl, see N.L. 71 and 74.) used in 1953 ! Jack – of Jacks Stamp farm was not shy regarding philatelic items – but many others weren't either in the 1950's. Jack also probably made the hyped up Airmail cover next page.



And in a similar vein, Mike Halhed has sent in this Paradise Lane fancy cover and cancel produced by Halifax stamp dealer Henry Hechler in 1875. Note it is self addressed.

Please note, the two item at right and the AIRMAIL cover next page have not been listed in the "Fakes" section of this newsletter as (in these cases) there is no real attempt to fool anyone. The stamp dealers have attached their names to their works of art!



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FAKES BOGUS AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

In NL 71, I ran an obvious philatelic strike of the Hickson Ont. crown wax seal (issued 1883) used as a cancel on a 1961 cover to "Jacks Stamp Farm" (see previous page), and commented "... no intent to defraud, but if on 1897 issues..." Jack's 'farm' was about five miles south of Hickson. 'Nuff said!

The recent Eastern Auctions fancy cancel sale had a lot featuring fake cancels. They generously provided high resolution scans of the 16 different items, and with one (sorta) exception (the anchor), I concur all are fake. Except for the three items below all of these have in the past appeared in our "Fakes etc." section. The first, a supposed Bagotville "B" has not been listed before, and bears no resemblance to any other Canadian fancy "B". (There is a slight chance this is an American fancy cancel, the post card is going to Salem Massachusetts. But why "B" then?). Secondly, a fake of L 1376, presence of other cancel, based on old Jarrett illustration etc. And thirdly the red "anchor" with the intaglio word "SHIP". This is unlike any listed Canadian or American (I checked three USA cancel books) marine cancel. It may however be a paquebot or marine cancel from any ship which just happened to be used on Canada posted "on board". Out of my area here, although I do remember seeing a "book" on paquebot (various spellings) markings at one time. Comments?



The item at right, supposedly "AM" or "MA" was part of a large group of fancy (and highly imaginative) transportation markings which suddenly appeared on the market in the mid 1970's. Almost all were from a "Mc Auley" (various spellings) correspondence, and most were to South Shore River Denis. This is our D 122, see also our D 26, and Can. Phil. July '76, and Jan. '77.

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The cover at right is L 1159, and is a Lester Littlefield production. This has re-appeared in several of our newsletters in the last few years, and I must make a correction. I had previously stated that the CDS was hand drawn by Littlefield. This was based upon a Huntsville CDS from around the same time. Detailed examination of the PHSC CDS proof (and other CDS) strikes indicated a CDS similar to the one in this cover (and also in red!) with ms date was in use for a short time around the middle of 1873.

(Presumably the dating part of

the CDS broke, and the PO made do with ms until a replacement arrived.) As with most other Littlefield productions, it is a unique item and has high visual appeal. It was in the Littlefield index card file, and the oval above appears to indicate perf hole stains from where two (original) stamps were removed.



The little beastie at right first appeared in our newsletters over 10 years ago. This was before we had a separate "Fakes etc..." part to the newsletters, and I cannot find my comments on it then. I do not have the actual stamp, so cannot comment on ink penetration. The ink appears to be a water soluble writing ink rather than the appropriate oil based cancel ink. There is a lightened area in the centre of the bogey, and also in the Queen's hair where a (pen?) cancel has been removed. It is also the only known example although our D 615 (On a Jubilee) also has a top knot. It (D 615) is described as "bogus, poor ink and other cancel".



I am sure most of you noticed the article in Oct, - Dec. 2016 Topics on fake items. This included the fake fancy "leaf" on PC at right. I agree with the author's conclusions, and would add one thing. The "cancel" appears to have been based on Jarrett's number 867 illustration which I have never seen outside of Jarrett. (Our L 1189 was used from Bala Ont. in the same time period as reported by Jarrett, but bears no resemblance to Jar. 867.)



At one time I had prepared an article for topics on "how to detect fake fancy cancels". I listed 26 different criteria to determine authenticity. I then thought "Why make it easier for someone? This is almost a 'how to do it' article." I then canned the entire article.

This sad little thing, is an obvious CDS date error, a "6" was used instead of a "9" – they are in mirror image as type. It was recently offered on ebay for \$ 5,000 US. The "logic" must have been that it must be VERY rare if it was used five years before the official issue date!!! This is a sad attempt to rip off the gullible.



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Miscellaneous items and other related duties...

The cover below – a dues payment from Barry Dales was definitely the best “philatelic” cover I received last year. When writing to me please use philatelic frankings. I give the stamps to Oxfam’s Canada “Help **STAMP** Out Poverty” program. Hint, if you have any old “stuff” you would like to donate, please consider them as this is a good charity. I believe (may be wrong on amount) that if your item(s) sell for more than \$50.00 they will issue a tax receipt.



(An aside, 15 stamps, no cancels, no routing info, and no backstamps...)

A long time ago I wrote three articles for Topics on “Foreign Cancels on Canada”. Soon after that I was in the area in southern Quebec where the International Boundary does some odd things... People crossing the border on foot, ‘sorta illegally’ to seek Canadian refugee status has been in the news recently. Canusa Street was deliberately built with the International Boundary running down the street’s centre line. Think about it... In the picture below, I am standing on the Canusa Street centre line, one foot in each country to take this picture of what was at one time “The International Post Office” building. There were both Canada and USA counters in this P.O. The border seems to run roughly through the main building triple window on the left.

More than you want to know – perhaps – but then on July 1st Canada Day everyone on Canusa Street would scurry North and have backyard BBQ’s to celebrate. Then on July 4th the opposite would occur.

I asked Customs what the rule was when the border cuts a house? Your citizenship etc. etc. is determined by what country your front door is in . Who knew?

On that odd note I wish you all well. Have a good July 1st or 4th, or if on Canusa both.
Dave.Lacelle

