

# BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 79

February 2019

Dave Lacelle

[fancycancel@hotmail.com](mailto:fancycancel@hotmail.com)

## Group News.

Finally I am able to prepare this newsletter. Apologies for not being able to do the usual December newsletter, the simple reason is "...sometimes real life issues get in the way of hobby life.". I hope you are all well and are having an OK winter.

Our Study group meeting at the Quebec Convention was well attended with 15 keeners there. I ave a very general presentation, showed some old hammers, signet rings and backup documentation from our book. I was very impressed with the display of old postal equipment etc . presented by G. Teyssier just outside of the exhibit/dealers area. Special thanks to Mr. Vicero and those who helped with my Quebec travel plans. I intend to make the Ottawa convention this year . Worked there for 30 years so will be a bit of a homecoming.

It is dues time (and then some), if appropriate there will be a dues notice snailmailed with a copy of the newsletter. I will try to produce four (one more than usual) newsletters this year. Dues will remain at \$10.00 per year my snail address is Box 233, Merville BC V0R 2M0 Canada. Do NOT remit to any PayPal account, this is NOT me. When snail mailing me please use philatelic frankings if possible, I give the stamps to OXFAMS "Help STAMP out poverty" program

We have one nrw member, Mr. R. Haslewood. We now have about 90 members, and I will unfortunately have to drop three for nonpayment of dues for three years. Thanks to all of you for your help with the group.

The third edition of our book is now available through BNAPS. Unfortunately I have found quite a few errors. Myonly excuse for these must be "too much of a hurry". Four new listings (#'s 492a, 718a, 1160a, & 1294a) were illustrated but did not have any text. One new listing (now # 333a) was missed entirely. I have presented this missing information as well as 10 other errors on the last page of this newsletter.

There was a technical mistake with some of the illustrations in Appendix 10 which resulted in distortion of the cancels. I have prepared a new Appendix 10 and attach it here at the end of the newsletter. These errors will be corrected within any future reprinting.

A long standing request... I need more material for the next newsletter. Thanks to those who have contributed to this newsletter. Send more SVP.

## REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 75, Aug. 2017, etc. The modern PC cancel. I have received an Xmas card with another one of these. It was from South Mountain Ontario, a metropolis south of Ottawa. Mark Berner sent in the most impressive example yet of this as at right (reduced). His is from London Ontario. In both cases, as in the earlier examples, there are no other postal markings. They are probably a 'special handling' marking. Two minor observations .. these were supposedly "delayed in the mail" yet there is no indication of where when how long etc. this is a far cry from past practices. Secondly, the bottom stamp of Mark's example is the Canada Post "Delivery Van" postage stamp, what an apt item to receive this cancel! .(If any of you would like to have my example of this cancel just drop me a line and I will send)



Newsletter 76, Dec. 2017, pg. 3. Ron Smith's "flower" cancel, L1245. Ross Gray noticed this should be 1880 and not 1888 as reported .

## CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

There has been various correspondence regarding the "Crown Wax Seals" such as L 1271, ½ scale at right. These were issued to each PO upon its opening and were to be used to officially seal mail bags,

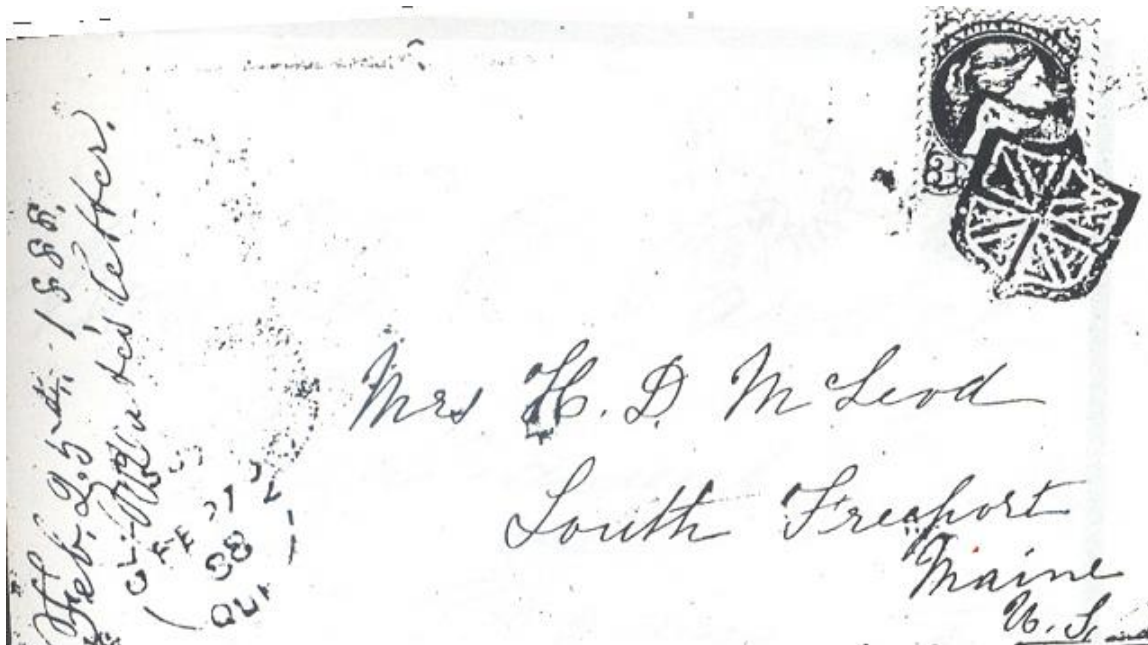


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important PO correspondence etc. Occasionally they were used as cancels. Appendix 4a in our book lists about 150 examples over twenty of these (see also NL 72, pg.3) are the actual handstamps which have somehow survived into modern times. I try to present proof strikes of these old handstamps in the newsletters because if they fell into the wrong hands in the future they could be used to fake all kinds of okde stuff.

Gregoire Tessier's display at our convention had four more actual handstamps to add to this list; Mansonville Station Que. St. Cesire Que. Montreal Qur., Sub Office No. 2., and South Picton Ont. I have written to him requesting proof strikes and will run these in the next newsletter if available. There was a previous report of a strike of the Mansonville Station (open'77) seal on cover however I was unable to determine any further details. (Do any of you have this cover?) One of our members has pointed out that these crown wax seals were actually handstamps,, not hammers as I have generally stated in the past. Unless you were extremely accurate at hitting that blob of cooling wax by swinging a hammer at it ... in other words, they had to be (and all extant examples are) handstamps.

Paul Bradford sent in the first item below. This is our L1379 which was deleted in the Third Edition as a Littlefield fake cancel. The fake Littlefield cover example appears below. They do not agree and the cancel was listed in Jarrett (#1426 below) 30 years before the Littlefield fakes. Also the 10 cent SQ is a fairly expensive stamp to put a fake on. The D&S (#281) and my illustration (#1379) were both based on the Littlefield cover which was in the Day collection. Finally I found the sixth item below in six different collections or sales (same stamp and cancel same place) which I had considered as a poor or smeared strike. It is closer to Paul's or Jarrett's examples. As such I conclude that L1379 did exist as a genuine cancel which Littlefield faked. Paul's example is a better strike of the authentic one. I have one small caveat, I have not personally examined Paul's example for such things as perf hole staining, or ink penetration. This is a good example of why we have a study group – the ability to back research new findings.



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Paul also sent in the items below, another copy of L1379 (!) , 1380, and 1381, a distorted (late?) strike and regular strike used at NDW Montreal July 1897. His last item is L 1258 used Toronto Jan. 1874. This latter item is part of the Toronto geometrics some of which were cleaned or recut and "shade" into each other.



L1379



L1380



L1381

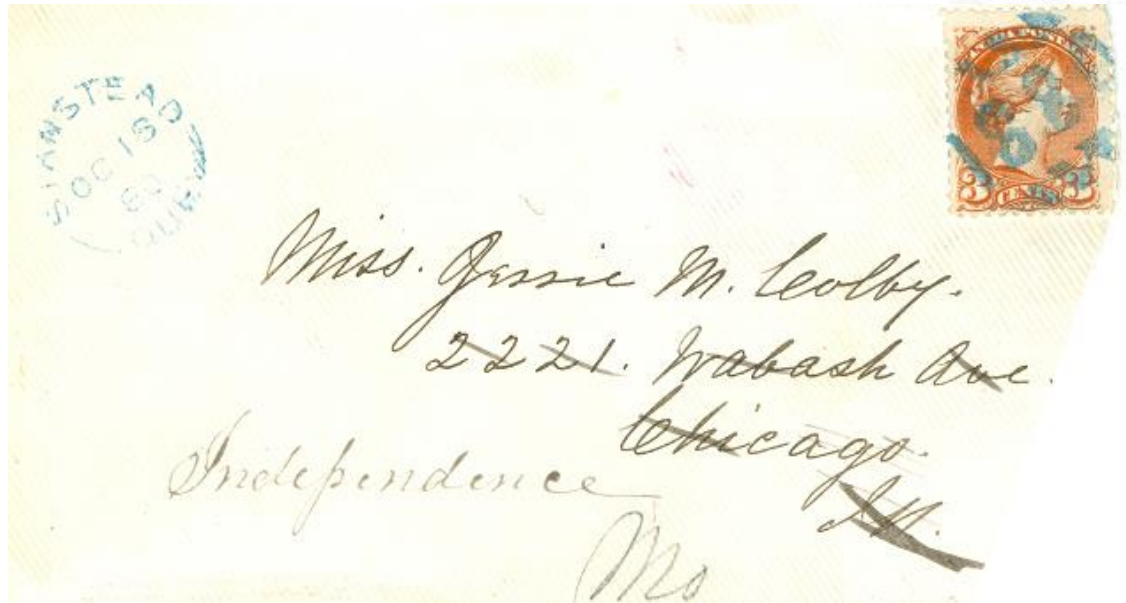
L1258



Graham Searlle has sent in these new late dates of use. Firstly, L 90 Quebec & Campbellton Express, Apr. 1874 - June 1897. Secondly, L 128 also Quebec & Campbellton Express Dec. 1894 - June 1895.



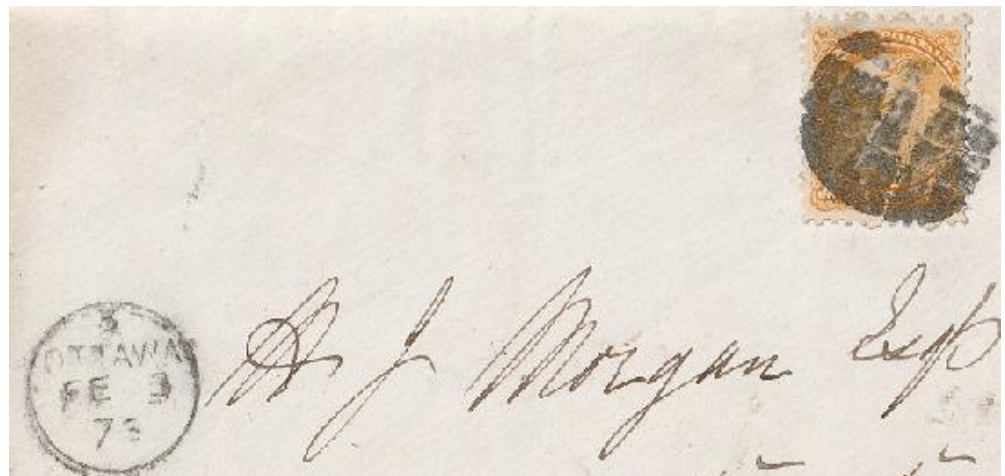
Ron Smith sent in the cover at right. It is L183 which I had described as "dubious" due to some stamp date confusion on my part. I have reviewed my old files and believe this is genuine. Used at Stanstead Quebec Oct. 1880.



Mike Halhed sent this extreme late state of the Ottawa geometric L1659a. Now known to Feb. 1875.



1659a\*





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Randy Evans sent this lovely advertising cover with Map stamp cork cancelled. Corks are not very common on this stamp in part because of the short period of use for the stamp and also that it is near the end of the cork cancel era. PMs were allowed to use the CDS as a cancel after 1896, and this cover is Preston Ont., Jan. 1899. Note also healthy belching smoke stacks (4 of 'em), ships behind,, sorta urban background, all signs of a vibrant (smoky) economy. Clare Brothers was a cast iron foundry producing stoves furnaces hollowware etc.



Mike Street sent in the link to this late use of cork cancels recently offered for sale. 1914 UPU post card returned from Geneva. I am a bit out of my area of research here, but it appears the stamp has been added – as a forwarding charge (?) and the corks do not tie it. It is cancelled with a machine cancel from Winnipeg. It may be partly on top of the ms Quitte Geneve ? So, why the corks? Any comments would be appreciated.



Richard Coulson sent in another item where I am “out of my depth”, but it is a sorta miscellaneous marking. At first glance it appears to be a Law Stamp cancelled with a CDS. It has been my (limited) experience with Law stamps that they are often cancelled with the initials of the authorising person. In some cases rectangular (usually) official cancels from the Law Office, Government Agency, or other “Official” agency were used. I had never seen a PO CDS used before (anyone have other examples?), but I can see how this could be the case. Closer examination reveals that the CDS is a personal stamp based on the same design as a CDS. The name is A.J. PETERSON, BERLIN ONT. Nov. 4 1869. I would have thought he was a Lawyer, or Post Master, but... Google reveals that he was the Berlin (later called Kitchener) Main Street Druggist and “Chemist”. I dinna know that Druggists would use Law Stamps although they did at that time deal in bulk “Propriety Medicines” which were probably (?) Government taxed. I’m going to go a bit off track here, but in some of my olde books the distinctions



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between Herb Gatherer, Apothecary (Druggist), Mediciene (Doctor) and Chirgeon (Surgeon) were somewhat vague and became more so the further back you go. The cut right is from my copy (1793 London Ed.) of "The Experienced Midwife" (1st Ed 1733, but borrows text back to 1500's) and relates to the prevention of Epilepsy in children.

For the remedy of this grievous and often mortal dittemper, give the following powder to prevent it, to a child as foon as it is born: Take male piony roots, gathered in the decrease of the moon, a scruple, with leaf-gold make a powder; or, take piony-roots a dram, piony-seeds, milletoe of the oak, elk's hoof, man's skull, amber, each a scruple, musk two grain; make a powder: The best part of the cure is taking care of the nurfe's

### FAKES, BOGUS, AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

There was a recent attempt to sell one of the Littlefield bogus covers with the statement that Mr. Littlefield was the Post master at the originating Post Office. This is totally false Mr. Littlefield was never a Canadian P.M. At our Quebec S.G. meeting I read out the following information on Mr. Littlefield. All of this was obtained from Google or old BNAPS membership lists.

Lester IL Littlefield was born in 1899, joined the U.S. military and fought overseas in World War I. He was "slightly wounded" in 1918 and continued to work in the military as a "draftsman" until his retirement. He would have been in his 40's when the USA joined WWII. For his entire adult life he lived at 52 West Emerson St., Melrose, 76 Massachusetts USA. He was an active BNAPS member in 1951 and a member of the BNAPS Small Queen S.G. in 1952. I have not discovered any listing of him as a "stamp dealer" nor is there any listing of his "collection" for sale upon his demise. He did not contribute any material to the S.Q.S.G. collection of 500 photographs prepared in the late 1950's. His bogus items first appeared for individual sale to selected fancy cancel collectors about 1960 and were thus included in D&S 1961 & 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 1973 as well as our book (mostly as "dubious" items) 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. and as "Bogus Deletes" in 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. He was still a BNAPS member in 1967. The following is speculative on my part, but... "It is sometimes necessary within the military to produce fake or bogus documents, travel approvals etc. The people who prepare these fake documents are possibly referred to as "Draftsmen". Mr. L. may have had some specialized training before preparing his bogus cancels..."

Only one bogus item to report. The "PR" (former L727) Littlefield bogus stamp cancel (as opposed to cancel on cover) reported in NL 78 (first page) and NL 77 has been reported extant. It is a Sc. 41 later than the deep rose shades of the bogus Littlefield cover.



### Third Edition Cancel book ERATTA.

I have run out of room to list all 15 of the errors, however please find below the four cases where we listed a cancel illustration but failed to present the relevant information as well as the one new listing which was missed entirely.

**A complete erratum and reworked Appendix 10 are attached as separate files.**

#	D&S	Post Office	Dates	Rate	Notes
492a	NA ?		?	NA	New listing. A signet ring. On a 3 cent SQ probably from early '80's. Possibly foreign? See FC&MM NL48 AU '08.
718a	NA	Pubnico Harbour NS	MY99	NA	New listing. See FC&MM NL 71, AP '16
1160a	NA ?		?	NA	Very strange use as a (? religious?) seal. See FC&MM NL72 SE '16 & NL75 AU 17.
1294a	NA	Stonefield QC	AU91	NA	New listing. See FC&MM NL47, MY '08.
333a	NA ?		?	(NA)	New listing, On 3 cent rose-carmine SQ from about '88 – '89. See FC&MM NL62 AP '13.





Appendix 10, Fantasy or Joke “cancels”.(Reprint in NL 79 due to illustration scale problems.)

Most of the material below was first reported in the Fancy Cancel and Miscellaneous Markings Newsletter 46, Dec. 2007. This was a very popular item, and indicates that many of our members do not take their hobby too seriously. Personally I find this pleasing and am also pleased to end this edition on a sort of “light ‘n frothy” note.

I would also like remind readers that the Post Masters in the fancy cancel era also had a sense of humour. It takes a certain “light ‘n frothy” attitude to carve and use (for example) a Halloween “face” such as # 1346 (illustrated at end), they would be very pleased to find out that over a hundred years later people still appreciate their efforts.

Some of the fancy cancels may also have joke (or perhaps very serious) meanings between Post Masters if each were members of fraternal or religious organizations. These meanings may have been lost in time. The world-wide nature of mail post also functioned as a sort of fraternity with inside jokes and meanings. Search for “Owney” the (USA) mail service dog for example. (Owney was in Canada several times [Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg etc.], went around the world at least once and is currently stuffed and on display at the Smithsonian.)

The paragraph below, and first seven items are from Newsletter 46 referenced above.

#### Fantasy or Joke Cancels

The following items are a unique class.They were produced (probably) as jokes between stamp collectors, with no real intent to defraud or (seriously) fool. Unfortunately over time sometimes the “joke” part is lost. I probably should be preparing this as an Apr.1 st newsletter.

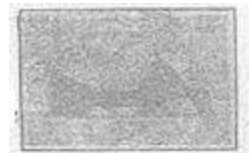
1. Thissill (a.k.a. Lacelle D620a). this item arrived recently in response to my listing it as a deletion in the second edition of our fancy cancel book. It is self explanatory. Pronounce the name of the wee little place out loud. *“...and can tell you of the history of Thisill, the town of origin, or to give its full title ‘Thisillinaedae’l. A village in Aberdeenshire it was cursed for all eternity by a fourteenth century oil prospectpr who it is said actually named the place, but cursed it afte being turned down by the local barmaid – a most unusual occurence as that was the first time she had ever been known to turn down anybody. Anyway the curse meant that the village would disappear and only reappear once every 80 years – a bit like Brigadoon, but 60 years was the said oil prospectors life span. So it appeared for example in 1836, in 1896 when the postmaster pinched some current Canadian stamps of a proninant Aberdeenshire stamp collector, one Mr. Mackie by name, again in 1956 when these stamps were used, and it is of course due to reappear in 2016. To see it all one has to do is to travel to the centre of Aberdeenshire, down a bottle of highland malt in one go, and it will be amazing what will be revealed to you.”*



*afte being turned down by the local barmaid – a most unusual occurence as that was the first time she had ever been known to turn down anybody. Anyway the curse meant that the village would disappear and only reappear once every 80 years – a bit like Brigadoon, but 60 years was the said oil prospectors life span. So it appeared for example in 1836, in 1896 when the postmaster pinched some current Canadian stamps of a proninant Aberdeenshire stamp collector, one Mr. Mackie by name, again in 1956 when these stamps were used, and it is of course due to reappear in 2016. To see it all one has to do is to travel to the centre of Aberdeenshire, down a bottle of highland malt in one go, and it will be amazing what will be revealed to you.”*

(2018 update. Somehow parts of the “cancel” appeared on mailed copies of one of the Fancy Cancel Newsletters in 2016.)

2. “Indian medicine man mask” (a.k.a. Lacelle 1363). The only example of this i have seen was sold “... with letter about Indian medicine man boasting that he could walk towards a mountain and it would move aside. It didn’t and the collision resulted in his nose being pushed to one side.” I suspect that was a prize in some children’s scavenger hunt or similar game.
3. Snowmobile (not listed anywhere). The first one or two person snowmobiles were mass produced in the late 1950’s. While some would say this was a wonderful



Canadian invention (others would disagree), the 1935 stamp is a tad too early. The ‘cancel’ is a strange joke by someone.

4. Atlantic City Bedbug (a.k.a. Lacelle D661). This wee little mite was created at a BNAPS convention in Atlantic city (196?) and was facetiously presented to “Doc Day” (1/2 of Day and Smythies fame) as a new finding. His comment has been recorded; *“Too good to be true. Sigh.”*



5. Marvelous modern “M” made in Merlin Ont. (a.k.a. Lacelle D2800. This cancel was probably produced as a joke in late 1931. A cover addressed to Fred Jarrett (Author of “Stamps of British North America”, 1929.) has survived. Fred was the first to write extensively about Canadian cancels and postal markings, his comments about this cover are unknown but can be imagined. There are unfortunately a few other strikes, one of which is on a three cent Small Queen. The “joke” is less funny when on an out of period stamp from the fancy cancel era. (This is probably coincidental however “Merlin” was the magician (mentor?) to King Arthur of yor.)



6. The “B Day Jan.1<sup>st</sup>.” (a.k.a. Lacelle D142) was apparently another joke on ‘Fred’ by members of the Toronto Stamp Club later in Fred’s life (born 1889). At the time he was president of the club.



7. Palmer Cox “Brownie” (a.k.a. Lacelle 1454). This one may be genuine, I have seen the one strike used for the illustration in our fancy cancel book, and another as a backstamp with Toronto Ont., 1896 CDS. The stamp example looked “good” in that the ink penetration was OK, there were no other cancels, and it was a poor strike. This item was first reported in “Postal Markings” Oct., 1934 (as in the cut), did not appear in Jarrett (1929) and was panned (as bogus) by Boggs in 1945. Boggs used the same illustration as in Postal markings. Boggs also described the “Nicaraguan Shield” cancel L 1453 bogus, yet a postally used cover does exist as illustrated in newsletter 45. For the record, Palmer Cox was a soap company which sponsored the “Brownies” cartoon strip in the 1890’s. There were about 40 different “Brownies”, children could buy various Brownie items such as rubber stamps, pictures etc. they were the “Mickey Mouse” of their day. The character on L1454 (a policeman) is called “Officer Moveon”. (2018 comment, Why would it not be unlikely that a postmaster would use one of his children’s toys as a joke cancel, many other rubber stamps were used?)



The items below are later examples of this class, and were not in Newsletter 46.

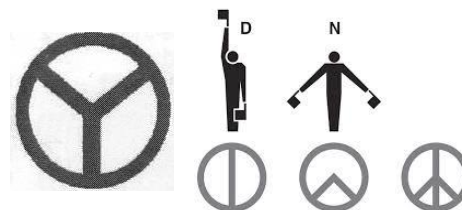
8. Merville BC “Gumboot Capital” cancel. (“Gumboot” aka rubber boots, or Wellingtons, Lacelle D633a). This is a modern commemorative cancel from the thriving rural area where I live. Unlike many of this type of cancel this one is intended to be humorous. It refers to our many small fields, rainy season and cows. (I did not have any input to the design or selection of this cancel.)
9. Small Queen “Airplane” cancel. (not listed) There were a great many “first flight” air plane covers some of which were philatelic inspired and were also quite elaborate. This later official machine cancel promoting the then new “Air Mail” program was in use for several years starting around 1920. Someone with a sense of humour carefully placed a Small Queen stamp – then about 20 years out dated exactly where Queen Victoria would get an airplane cancel. She would probably not be too amused.



10. "Santa" slogan cancel. This is similar to the above, but was created by me using a paint program. I have seen a genuine example on appropriate King George V stamp. Looks ghastly...



11. "Peace Symbol" cancellation. A report and line drawing of this "cancel" was sent to EA Smythies in late 1964 so as to be a new listing in his second edition of the fancy cancel handbook. Source unknown. It was described as on a cover from Rockland Ont.,



1881. It was listed as D&S 802a and L 1631. It has never been seen since. I suspect that someone was "messing with our heads" as we hippies used to say. The "Peace Symbol" was invented in 1958 as a combination of the semaphore symbols for "N" and "D" (Nuclear Disarmament).

12. Modern "Quartered Cork" cancel. Received here in 2011, no other cancel. PM's were allowed to use the CDS stamp as a canceller in 1896, and many "official" cancel hammers were also issued by Ottawa. Machine cancels also soon predominated, but was there ever any official order that corks could not be used?



13. Finally, a modern "FAKE" cork cancel. (a.k.a. Lacelle 202a). In 2014 I found this large cork in my driveway. I had often wondered how difficult it would be to actually hand carve a cork cancel. I did not want it to be mistaken for a "real" cork cancel, and was tempted to use "E=MC2" or "HTTP://" so it would obviously appear as a modern production. However to be certain I chose "FAKE". This was used as a stamp, but not as a cancel on some study group correspondence in 2014.



So, to end the third edition of this book, i would like to remind our readers (to paraphrase someone else) that...

A journey of a thousand smiles beguines with but a single one.



Dave.Lacelle

Newsletter 79 Cont.,

Almost out of space...

Apologies again for the lateness of this newsletter.

And have a good Spring

Dave. Lacelle

PS Regarding the cut from the 1793 book top of page 5. Please do not try this at home.

PSS Regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> item on page 6, the "snowmobile cancel". I have been unable to obtain a good scan of this item. Does anyone out there own it? Please send scan if so.




# **Fancy Cancels on Canadian Stamps 1855 to 1950**

Third edition

**David Lacelle**

Released August 2018

## **Errata**

#	D&S	Post Office	Dates used	Rate	Notes
175	NA	St. John's NF	AP73-FE88	2	This is a British "1844" type cancel <i>issued to Staindrop (Dur.), and was still on the 1906 PO list.. Somehow one of these hammers made its way to St. John's.</i> It was not used as a "Naval Station" cancel, and seems to have seen general use. <i>Philatelic use in the 1880's is also possible</i> The dates here agree closely with R.H. Pratt; other sources have stated '62 to '96. See "BNA Topics" Nov. '51, pg.309, and Sept. '65, pg. 206. Jar. 72a.
226	364a	?	?	NA	<i>On 2cent Registered (Sc. F1) issued in '75.</i> A typo in D&S incorrectly attributed this to "Bradford Ont. '86" (see #276).
287	397	St. Barnaby QC	MR87	3	On post card, in blue PM <i>was A. Bouvier</i> .Jarrett reported green or violet inks, and use In '80 (unconfirmed), J 997.
325	(435 a)	?	?	(NA)	Delete reported in "BNA Topics" July '632, pg. 179.Never seen since.
357	461a	<i>Stayner ON</i>	<i>MR71</i>	5	The D&S illustration was a partial. The Jarrett date of '80 is in error. Jar. 1015x.
<i>492a</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>?</i>	<i>?</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>New listing. A signet ring. On a 3 cent SQ probably from early '80's. Possibly foreign? See FC&amp;MM NL48 AU '08.</i>
<i>718a</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>Pubnico Harbour NS</i>	<i>MY99</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>New listing. See FC&amp;MM NL71 AP 16.</i>
760	(682)	?	?	(NA)	Delete, listed only by Smythies (1961). A poor tracing of # <i>75.3 or 754?</i>
1057	163	Sonya ON	FE77	3 *	Purple ink.
1158	NA	<i>Kilarney ON</i>	<i>SE78</i>	2	Now located..
1159	212	<i>(Huntsville)</i>	<i>(AU73)</i>	NA	Bogus cancel. See D511d & Appendix 8.
<i>1160 a</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>?</i>	<i>?</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>Very strange use as a (?religious?) seal. See FC&amp;MM NL72 SE '72 &amp; NL75 AU 17.</i>
<i>1294 a</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>Stonefield QC</i>	<i>AU91</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>New listing. See FC&amp;MM NL47, MY '08.</i>
1626	844	Almonte ON	NO74-DE74	3	The cancel was very soft, and deforms easily. Can be mixed up with #1627.Similar, <i>St. Leon Que., Aug. '74</i>
					
<i>333a</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>?</i>	<i>?</i>	<i>(NA)</i>	<i>New listing, On 3 cent rose-carmine from about '88 - ;89. See FC&amp;MM NL62 AP 13.</i>