

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 81

November 2019

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Group News. This will be a very “mixed” newsletter, about 14 of you have sent in a wide variety of items. Hopefully this means there will be something for all of you. The Study Group meeting at the BNAPEX Ottawa Convention went well in a sort of confused fashion. I should be more formal at these meetings, however 27 years in a headquarters government job made me a wee bit leery of formal, structured, orderly, scripted (you’ve got the idea), exact, regulated, detailed, meetings. There were about a dozen of us attending.

I would like to thank those who provided assistance to me at this convention and my (usual) cross country road trip. Special thanks to Bill Wegman for putting me up or is that “putting up with me”? It is a bit early to ask, but does anyone have a spare bed for the 2020 Dartmouth convention?

Speaking of the road trip in case anyone is wondering... I returned to Vancouver Island by way of Lunenburg NS. Hurricane Dorion was interesting. My only a misadventure was near Fort Macleod, AB where my car was savagely attacked by vicious deer. \$5,420 damage! (O deer dats a lotta doe! [sorry couldn’t resist puns] all buck \$100 covered by car insurance)

The two items below were offered at the meeting by Robert Lemire as ‘free to a good home’. It appears that I was not loud enough when offering them and they are still in my possession. **If anyone wants them, please let me know.** One is the somewhat strange “PC” cancel used lately in the Ottawa area and mentioned in several recent newsletters. T’other asks for a box number when the box number is clearly already in the address. Curiouser & curiouser.....



We have two new members, Mr R. Dulmage from Ottawa, and Mr. N. Hobrath from Strongsville OH. Welcome aboard. Our membership is now about 82.

Mike Halhed has volunteered to become “Associate Editor” of this newsletter. This is good as it provides some backup and continuity (say I decide to run into a moose next time – see above.), provides another pair of eyes to spot my errors, and will provide a younger more up to date Eview (a newword?). He can be reached directly at mikehalhed@gmail.com.

It is again dues time, they are \$10.00 a year, and if applicable a dues notice will be attached to this newsletter. Please do **NOT send fees via Paypal**, rather please snailmail to D. Lacelle, Box 233, Merville BC V0R 2M0. The first year is free to new members. If you can, use philatelic frankings (old stamps etc.) as I donate these to Oxfam’s “Help STAMP out poverty” program. Thanks for this and other contributions to the group. Now, to STAMP STUFF finally.

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REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 80, Aug. 2019, Pg. 3 references the “smallest town in Canada” is rather inexact in that the town’s name “Tilt Cove Newfoundland” was not stated. Robert Coulson has sent another example on cover.



CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES



Our newest member, Norbert Hobrath, has a keen interest in oval parcel cancels as well as other oval cancels. He is starting to write a book on this topic. The example at left is the most basic and probably most common type, a Montreal large oval parcel cancel.

I included this example in our fancy cancel book as I had received examples of partial strikes from new collectors as “fancy curved MONTREAL” or “small stars in two lines” etc.

Parcel cancels were created as a sort of kinder, gentler type of cancel hammer. They were hand held stamps rather than the oft used cancel hammers. The hammers were often too forceful on delicate parcels and damage resulted. I immediately think of the early glass photo plates, but great granny’s Xmas present tea cups are a possibility also.

These (or similar) cancels were used irregularly at many post offices between the early 1890’s to about 1925. They appear to have been used occasionally to cancel non parcel mailings. There is a somewhat similar type of oval REGISTRATION marking. FMI, Wally Gutzman’s articles in “In Touch” magazine starting Jan 1986.

Some of these cancel hammers appear to have been rather poorly made, the rubber was thin and peeled off easily. This may account for the short usage in some centres. Two of these damaged cancels from Fredericton and Victoria have been reported as spurious (no intent to defraud) fancy “B’s”, “D’s” etc. See D127 below and Maple Leaves from Aug. 1974, pg.120.

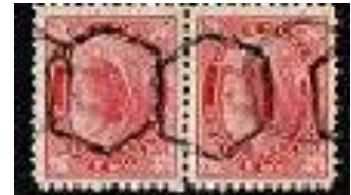
The other items below are from Norbert and are an unusual numeral error and an unreported (and crudely highlighted by me) WINNIPEG parcel oval. The number error may be that one of the numbers was put in upside down. Several other PO’s left the centres of these ovals blank which may indicate some issue with the type or placement of same.

The Winnipeg oval has not been previously reported as far as I can tell. I highlighted this (triple strike, purple ink on blue stamps) and would like to note that there are traces of numerals in the areas marked with white ovals one of which may read “190?7?”. (The 50 cent Widow Weed was the highest value stamp readily available for some time, year 1907 is a reasonable use.) The cancel also has stars in the same place as the Montreal oval. There are also two small red ink marks on the stamps which make me think of the red ink used by the British GPO to indicate Registered items. The Brits were usually much more heavy-handed however. I have not personally examined this item but from what I can see it looks good. It is also possible that this was not previously reported as earlier lists stopped around 1900. Any other examples of this Winnipeg oval out there?



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While I was in Ottawa I had a chance to examine some of Bill Wegmans fancy cancels. Lots of "goodies" there. (Thanks for the hand knitted slippers also.) I shall run some of his material here, and some in the next newsletter.



OOOPs, I had never seen the cover above however it was reported by D&S as D&S 514b Jan. 1881, from Ste. Helene de Chester Que. I had seen at least two other very similar cancels on RPO covers (from 1884 & 1885) and listed them as L484 with a note about the D&S listing. This must be a different cancel as the example here is more worn than the ones three years later. So D&S got it right and our book has a new listing. One minor problem: Ste. Helene was between PM's in Jan. 1881 as the previous PM had resigned in Dec. 1881. PM Hector Payer did not officially start until March. Judging by the wear this is probably an initial for Helene, but Hector is another possibility.

The pair at right is a great example of L1591 a socket head wrench pushed into duty as a cancel. It has been reported on other stamps from around 1898. Does anyone have a cover? The last item is an unlisted star somewhat similar to L964 but much later. Fancy cancels are unusual on the Map stamp, does anyone have a cover?



The cover above has some similarities to L838 (not located) but appears to be too late a use. It should be a new listing. The CDS year appears to be 1900,, St. John West NB. PM was J. Reed.

The top four items are the enigmatic "no name CDS" used around 1897, and reads "1896 77". Another one had a partial Toronto CDS so the Montreal one here is inconclusive. Comments? The "NP" should also be a new listing, I had seen another strike (D356) and thought it was a double strike of L657. The flag cancel L1380 has appeared in several recent newsletters (especially NL 79) and was poorly faked by L. Littlefield. This is an example of the genuine fancy. Finally, a fancy Revenue star cancel is shown.

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David Dawes sent in this Winnipeg drop letter strangely addressed to "Nr west Ter." with a correct "Winnipeg Man. Canada" May 1880 CDS. The cancel is also odd, and makes me think it is something which has dried and cracked. A piece of wood with many layers of paint can crack like this. Another possibility is an early use of rubber which was fairly new in 1880. Comments please?



While on the topic of unusual areas.... In the past I have presented some foreign cancels on Canada as miscellaneous markings. Robert Coulson sent in this Harmon Field June 1948 example of a (sorta) foreign on Newfoundland. Harmond Field was a USA military air base near Stephenville, NF from 1942 to 1966. It is now Stephenville Airport.



Bruce Crow sent in the items at right. The first one may be some type of tool used as a hammer, or possibly an old postal marking heavily modified. There is some sort of unreadable marking inside. From Baden Ont., July 1880.



T'other item may be described as a "Butterfly". I have seen this before and did not list it as there seemed to be great variation between strikes. On this strip of three the variation is due to thinning of the cancel ink between three consecutive strikes. Any other examples out there?



Luc Freve sent this registered cover from Hull, Que. sent June 1876 to Toronto. I'm not doing it justice here by cutting it down. It has some similarities to some of the leaf or radial designs in our book such as L1228 and L1542 in that it has features of both. This may be a receiving cancel as there appears to be a weak under cancel.



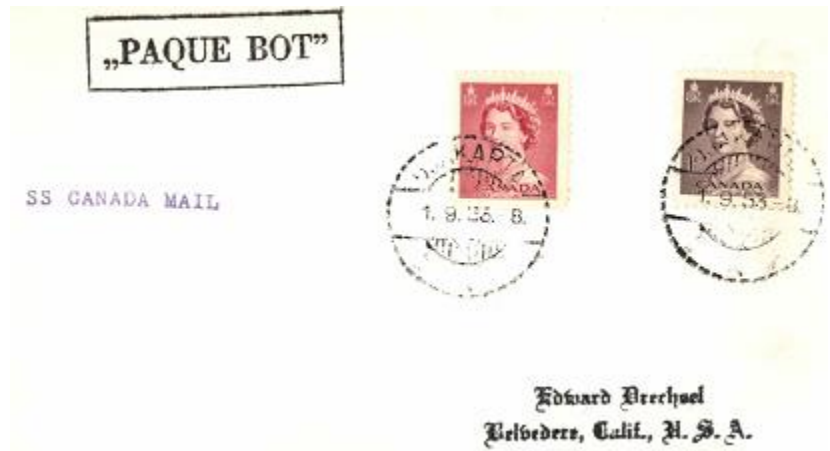
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Mike Street sent in several references to Paquebot uses with Canadian stamps and resulting unusual cancels. Some of these may be philatelic or souvenir usage. The covers basically speak for themselves so they are presented in reduced scale, partly cut down and with basic info.

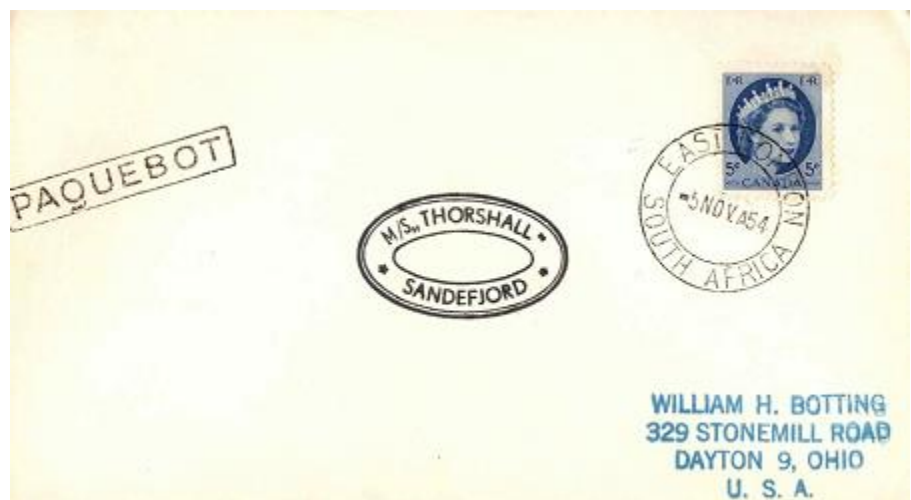
Liverpool Paquebot Posted at Sea, July 1953. Empress of France.



Jakarta "Paque Bot" Sept. 1953. SS Canada.

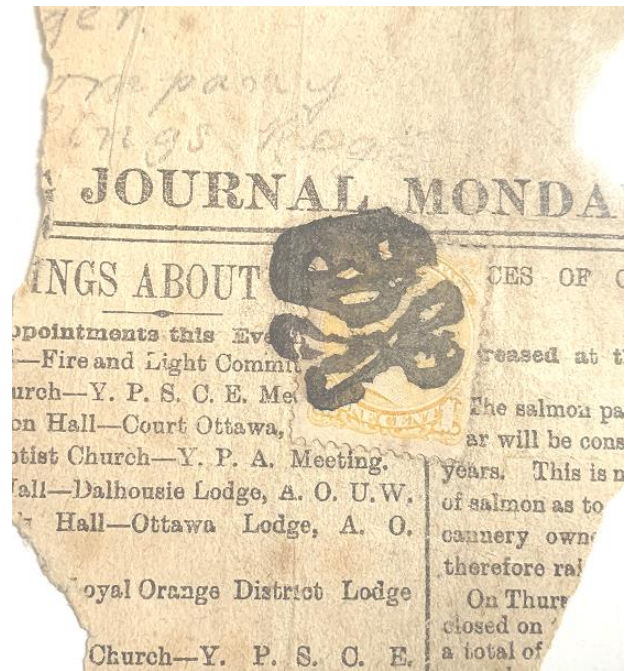


East London South Africa, Paquebot Nov. 1954. MS Thorshall.



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The curious little beastie at right was sent by Daryl Friedhandler. It is on an undated fraternal society notices section in what is probably The Ottawa Journal newspaper founded as Ottawa Evening Journal 1885, note part of letter "G" and Ottawa Societies There may be a weak under cancel. There is a partial ms at top "...ger... om....passing...Things req..." Other interpretations are possible. The 1 cent newspaper rate would be good in the SQ era, and the stamp appears to be from the 1890's. The cancel is not the same as the only similar Canadian marking, L1364 which is described as "dubious". I also show the most similar USA item, Herst Zareski # 10, pg. 199. Skull and bones did not always have the "pirate" connotation of today. It was used in the 1700's and later in a respectful fashion to indicate the presence of human burial sites. Herst Zareski has an example of this in #6, marking Andrew Johnson's grave (1875). I have also seen an example in a Nova Scotia graveyard. It is possible (but probably stretching it a bit) that this marking was applied by a Fraternal Society member regarding the "passing" ms referred to above.



Mike Halhed had sent in the Map stamp cancel above in June and for some reason I missed running it in the previous newsletter. It appears to be some sort of tool handle and as such is similar to the items listed around L1564. I note there is a poor pen cancel also but this was probably corrected by a keen PM. Fancy cancels are not common on the Map stamp and I note one other example with a (sorta) similar odd design, L 1592 used Port Haney BC in Apr. 1899.

Guy Jeffries sent this cover of L 1646 locating it as Carillon Que., May 1883. The strike appears somewhat worn, and the cancel was previously only known as "on 3 cent SQ from the early 70's." This was probably late use of an old stamp. Does anyone have any other examples, and if so, what printing?



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Guy also sent in this very interesting cover with L1323. This is a new early date (from backstamp), July 1879 to May 1883, Blake Ont. As well as the Masonic symbol, the cover has references to "Amish" and "Chr Juggenfraund". I have also been told that it would be VERY incorrect to replace the "G" (for God) in a Masonic symbol with any other initial. Possibly this cancel was used by someone ONLY when they knew it was going to another Fraternal organization? Curiouser 'n curiouser...



FAKES, BOGUS, AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

This cover (which I first saw 20 years ago is a fake of L392, used Erin Ont. 1887 –Mar. 1893. The fake was made before the correct PO was known and is rather crudely on top of another cancel.



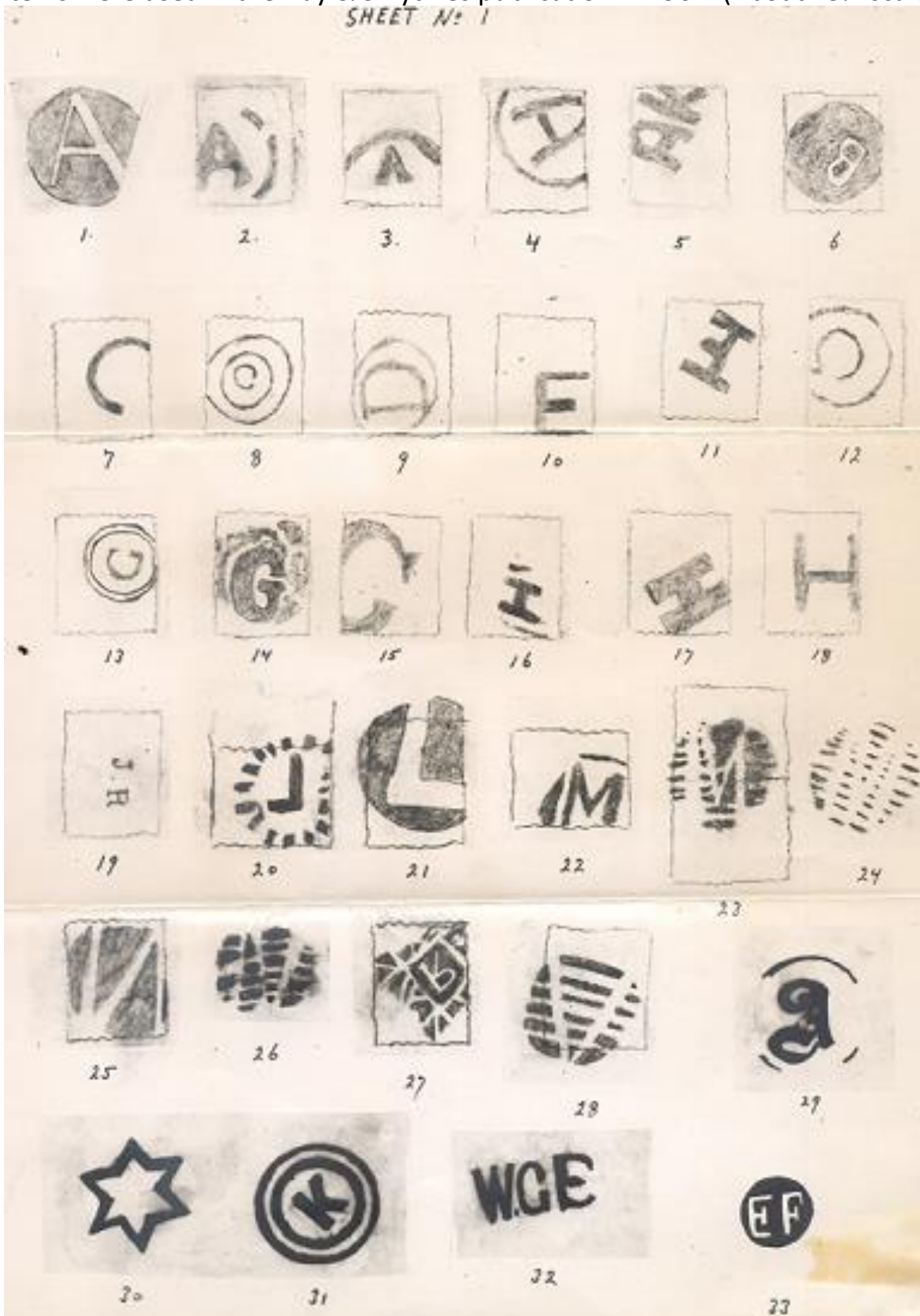
The Admiral stamp above is an example of a "spurious" cancel. (No intention to fool anyone) and was first described as a "fancy tree". It is really a pictorial cancel from 1927. (See N.L. 65)

And finally an example of one of Henry Hechler's (Halifax stamp dealer 1890's) more elaborate postings. Note also his "Service" overprint. Not exactly fake but...



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The scan below is from a compilation page from about 1960 by the Fancy Cancel Group. Some of these items were used in the Day & Smythies publication in 1962. (About 75% scale)



And on that note I shall close. This certainly was a wide-ranging newsletter. May I wish a Merry Xmas and Winter season to all of you.
Dave Lacelle