

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 87

August 2021

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Group News. Thank you to the 13 members who sent in material. Without your help this would not be possible. **PLEASE SEND MORE.** This newsletter will be more focused on “Miscellaneous Markings” side, including: paquebot material, perfins with corks, parcel post (to Hechler family), precancel rollers, price list (from Hechler 1881) etc. That’s a lotta “P’s” and hopefully there will be something for all.

I will probably produce a fourth newsletter this year rather than the usual three, so there is no Dues Notice this time. Unfortunately I will be travelling (“road trip”) when the BNAPS Online Convention occurs, and will probably be unavailable to participate in any other of the web based meetings.

One last Group comment. Four of the 13 people who provided material for this NL are named Michael, and usually sign as just “Mike”. (It’s also my middle name.) Apologies if I mix up which Mike sent what...

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 85, Aug. 2021, pg. 3. I refer to this Simcoe “8” as a “cork”, since it is oval in design it was more likely a rubber stamp.



Newsletter 85, Aug. 2021, pg. 5. Smythies (Maple Leaves, Oct. 1958, pg. 148) shows a line drawing of a somewhat similar “barred and radial” cork which was used in Toronto in 1872. The horizontal bars are at a different angle than the Kilkenny, NS, 1877 item in NL 85.

Newsletter 86, two bad spelling mistakes on my part, Mr. Hobrath’s name pg. 4 is spelt wrong (my bad X 2), and the Panama Port is named Cristobal.

Newsletter 86, June 2021, pg. 7. Philip Visser has sent in a great deal of information regarding the S.S. Sunrell and S.S. Wairuna. This is a fine example of the kind of detailed research which can now be done on specific topics. As this is a bit bulky for here, I have presented it at the end of this NL, pg. 12 as a “Reader Write” article. Thanks Philip. See also pgs 3 -5 for some more paquebot items.

CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

I am pleased to present some of the cancel material from Frank Gross’s find of 68,000 bundled S.Q.’s, but first a few comments on this type of material. It is very rare to find such untouched accumulations. In my younger days I had the opportunity to review (for cancel interest) two huge “back room dealers stocks” and one “compulsive accumulator” (for want of a better term) Small Queen holdings. These weighed in at 20, 21, and 31 pounds. Lotta S.Q.’s in 72 pounds of material! All of the “stuff” I handled had felt many hands This is obviously not the case with Frank’s material. While multiple strikes of fancy cancels do occur on cover, (see the three stars on cover NL 85, pg. 3.) to find them on off cover strips of three is VERY unusual. Any stamp dealer in the past would have separated them for the higher value they would receive as “scarce” rarely seen cancels. The two that didn’t immediately sell would be placed into “back room dealers stocks”.



BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 87



The four strips of three are also interesting because they show how much the cancel can vary depending upon the amount of ink, angle, and heaviness of strike. Note also how they tend to be on the same angle of strike – this is something fakers often do not consider. L 1194 is probably a late state, and note also how ink and angle of strike on L 72 varies between strikes.



L248 "AK", L261 "B" L278 "B" L318 "BS" L357 "D" L418 "FO" LL468a "H" L468 "H"

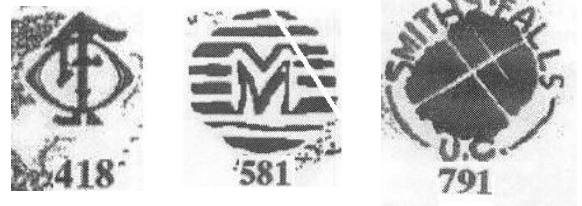


L481 "H" L537? "K" L542 "K" L581 "M" L586 "M" L622? "N" L707 "P" L782 "S"



L893 "W" L912 "WW" N.L. "Y"? L791 "Smiths Falls" L689 "OTTAWA" L728 PRESCOTT"

The above are all from Frank's find. A few comments are necessary. L 418 "FO" (or "OF") is usually quite indistinct, and in purple as here. The P.O. is unknown. L 581 ("M" for Manitoba) is a partial strike as in the full example at right. L 791 is a cork insert to an old CDS hammer. The lettering is usually indistinct. The L 537 above is indistinct and may be just a radial segmented cork.

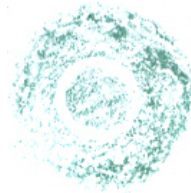


Similar cancels to the one at right occur fairly often in Frank's material. They may to new collectors appear as fancy cancels but are really roller precancels. They are known with several varieties. See G. Walburn, "Official Catalogue of Canadian Precancels" or BNA Topics review of 7th Edition, Mar. 1966, pg. 70, This type of precancel is known as Walburn Types "T" to "U".



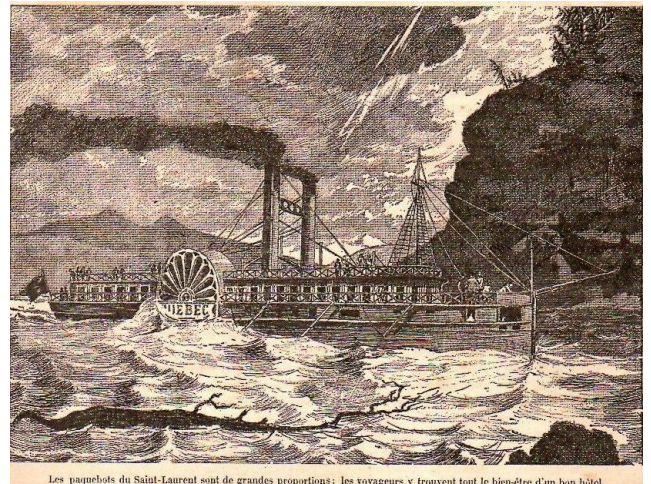
BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 87

Frank also sent in this “7/8 mystery” cancel for comment on what it actually meant or was. I did some serious research i.e. went to the basement, took Grandpa’s ½” and ¾” wooden handled wood chisels and inked the head of the handle. The head is a circular round of softer wood with a small hole in the middle with the handle wood slightly recessed. Presumably this reduces the force of your hammer hit which would keep the handle from splitting while also directing the force to the centre of the blade. Grandpa did not label his handles ¾” etc. Mystery solved ? I hope this paragraph is not taken in too serious a way and I am sure Grandpa is rolling in his grave laughing at the thought of me holding his chisel upside down and inking it 100 years later. Appendix 2 in our book lists 73 other utilitarian devices ‘pressed’ into use as obliterations.



Mike Street sent in a sort he had made from eBay “Canada + packet” which had about 170 entries. Paquebot (various spellings) and (marine) Packet Mail is a huge area of study, of which I know very little. Any comments or corrections on the following text are appreciated. (Hint would any of you like to provide a more detailed account of your Paquebot study area as a “Readers Write” item for this newsletter?) The various markings and cancels inherent in this field certainly fall into our “Miscellaneous Markings” study area. I am of course limiting myself to Paquebot items with Canadian interest.

Paquebot covers are letters which have been mailed at sea, carried by designated mailboats, and the stamps are usually cancelled at receiving ports. This can result in foreign cancels on stamps. The picture at right is an 1889 Quebec “St. Laurent” paquebot. Modern ocean liners, cruise ships, tramp steamers etc. can also qualify. Many of the more modern items are of philatelic (cancelled to order) or souvenir status. There are many markings associated with these covers as they often have unusual stamps and origins. The item here was the most “marked up” of the 170. However many similar items exist. Stamps from Norway, Paquebot markings, CDS cancelled



Vancouver Canada then on to Michigan USA with USA machine bar cancel. Some paquebot collectors study the routes, others the ships/companies, some the destination/origin countries etc.

A few words about eBay are required before I go any further. I hope that these do not appear to be too critical, my personal experience with eBay is very limited. Several of the comments below also apply to other online sales venues.



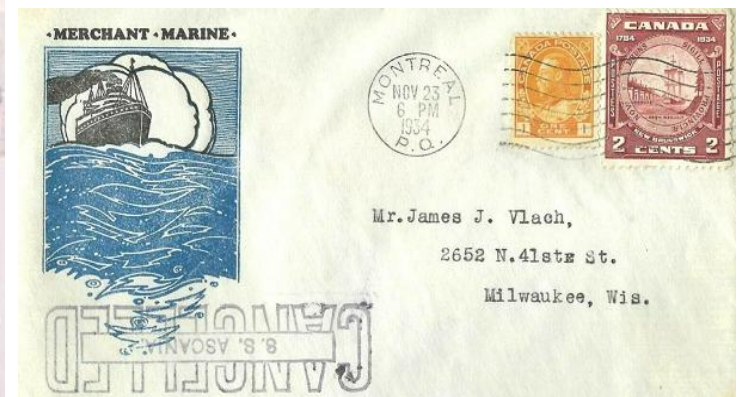
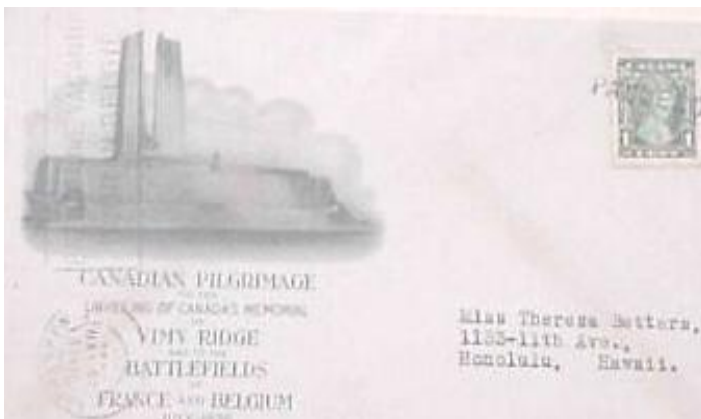
BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 87

Firstly, eBay is not intended to be a research tool. In a way it is a “living thing”, search results can change hourly as items are sold, closed out, new items listed and/or descriptions are changed. It is hard to keep it still so to speak when reviewing 170 sorta similar items.

Secondly the descriptions (at least in this search area) are often very short and simple. The descriptions may change over time and are not vetted for accuracy. Although this can mean that some buyers may get bargains if they notice “rare” unmentioned aspects of an item. This tends to limit research to basic details. Sometimes several similar items are lumped together and some are shown as partials. This “capacity to surprise” is a characteristic in many hobbies, but somewhat discouraging to research.

Thirdly, some material may be bogus or forged. As mentioned in previous newsletters I have determined (at least for pre 1900 material) about 26 different ways to determine cancel authenticity, many of which cannot be used on electronic scans. The individual selling the item is not necessarily the owner, some philatelic sellers have over 20,000 eBay items on sale at once, and some sellers do not issue refunds. Some “bad” stuff will get through, see the “MacAulay” covers in the “Fakes” etc. section pg. 14.

Having said the above, I have selected about 16 items from the 170 search results to present here and in the next Newsletter. **If any of you ever see anything (fancy cancels included) in eBay you think should be mentioned in this newsletter, please email Dave at fancycancel@hotmail.com** . I am a researcher, do not have a stamp collection and are thus not competition to you. An eBay “send to a friend” would be nice also.



The two items above are what I would call “fancy” paquebot covers with high eye appeal. They may be produced for promotional purposes, for philatelic sales or as souvenirs.

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 87



I would characterize the above when Canadian stamps have paquebot cancels as "miscellaneous cancels" covers. The cancel is not a typical Canadian type, and if not on cover might be hard to identify. More next newsletter.

Mike also sent in the two recent eBay items at right. The first is a "miscellaneous" paquebot cancel. I cheated and moved the backstamp to the bottom. Presumably mailed at sea, received in Germany, then somehow (no other markings) to USA. Curious little beastie. Comments?



Mike also sent in this example of a receiver paquebot machine cancel at Grenock, Renfrewshire. The P.C. is Canadian Pacific, Empress of Canada. This is either a souvenir or philatelic use as it is unwritten and is going to Grenock.



BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 87

Robert Hobrath sent in this Halifax oval parcel cancel wrapper to presumably one of Henry Hecheler's relatives. It appears to be 1890's era. I have also seen a letter to his brother which was greatly over franked, stamped etc. as usual for Hechler. Perhaps there was something of value in the parcel and he did not want to draw attention to it? It wasn't his SQ bundle's (see NL 86 pg.2) as they were still around in 1928 and would probably be of little value in 1890.



I stumbled onto a Smythies reference (Maple Leaves Oct. 1958, pg. 148) to a Mr. McMurrich and his collection of fancy "Toronto Two" cancels. See examples at right. Mr. McMurrich was an Alderman in a southern Ontario city. The quote: "Mr. Mc Murrich tells me he has 25 to 30 **different** Toronto 2 fancy corks."

Mr. McMurrich's collection was rewritten in about 1960 to be very fancy and have about 70 different Toronto 2 fancy corks. I have a photo copy of this rewritten version.



On page 1 in the same handwriting as the body of the rewritten collection is this quote.: "From the collection formed by **the late** Ron McMurrich ." There seemed to be many possible duplicates in these 70+ cancels and the material was being 'hyped' (to be blunt) for resale. Whoever did the rewrite did not identify himself. The 70 (or so) line drawings went into the Day & Smythies fancy cancel book without any further editing. When preparing our book I reviewed the rewritten McMurrich pages, about 50 pages from other collections (and many other single stamp items) and concluded that there were only about 37 different Toronto 2 fancy cancels. The rewritten McMurrich collection had only about 24 covers (which sorta agrees with the 25 to 30 stated by Mr. McMurrich above), and I have studied about 70 other covers. There are still about nine Toronto 2 fancy cancels which have never been confirmed as Toronto on cover. See Appendix 5 in the third Edition FMI.

So what is now new? I realized that I had never before studied the 24 McMurrich covers for other commonalities such as handwriting, addresses, stamp placement etc. Of the 24 covers, there was a variety of script, envelopes, and stamp placement which is reassuring in terms of authenticity, however eight were addressed to "Crown Lands" in Toronto, and three were to a Mrs Pritchard. Most of the cancels have been confirmed by other covers, so I do not find this disturbing. I have asked before if anyone has any information on the "Crown Lands Covers" find in the 1950's, it appears Mr. McMurrich knew something about it!

Smythies also says in the 1958 article: "... he (Mr. McMurrich) fortunately acquired a large number (several hundreds) of covers posted in Toronto between 1869 and 1876 by a Dr. Ryerson to his daughter..." Does this "ring any bells" with any of you specializing in Toronto covers? Mr. McMurrich did seem to know where to look for philatelic goodies in the 1950's!

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 87

In several recent Newsletters (71, 85, 87) I have asked for any information on a printed "Running Chicken" return address envelope used in Canada apparently in the early 1880's. Quote from NL 71 follows.

"I also note the curious similarity between the printed return image on this cover and the famous USA "Running Chicken" fancy cancel from Waterbury Conn. Which came first, the envelope or the chicken?"



I have since found another cover from about 1881 (weak CDS) and Vic Wilson sent in a scan of another return address cover he had owned as below. This is from 1877 and narrows the gap as the USA cancel was used 1869 to 1870. I might add that covers with the USA running chicken fancy **cancel** have sold for over \$100,000.

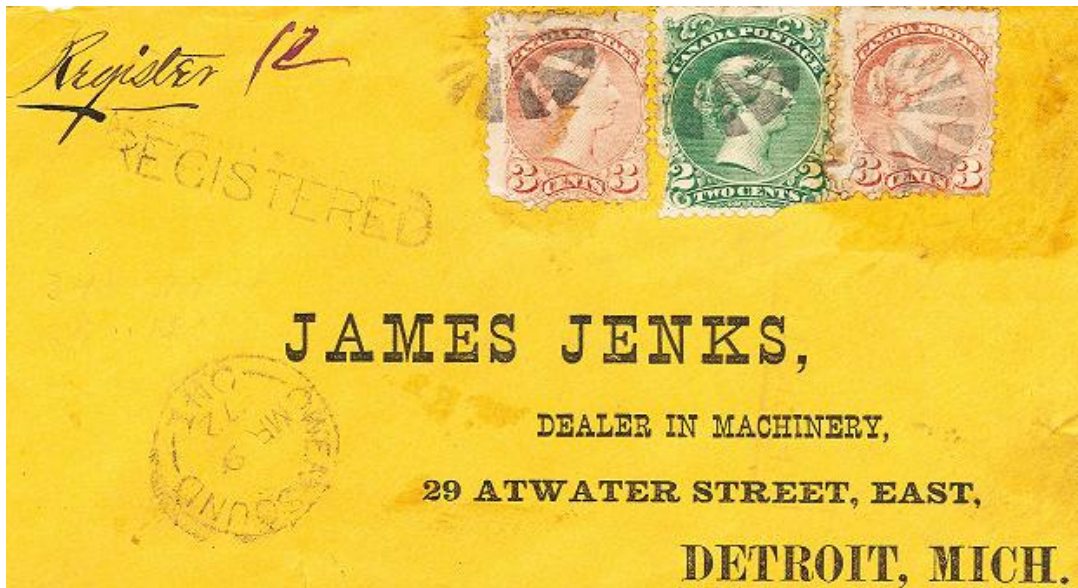


To end this topic, I recently found this USA return address cover from Feb. 1870 for sale on eBay. The illustration is a bit rougher (the envelope is light brown) than the Canadian ones. It was sent by a Post Master to a relative. I would be quite sure that the Waterbury PM copied the chicken portion of one of these printed covers for his fancy Running Chicken cancel. I wonder if any of the other Waterbury fancy cancels were direct copies of current printed material rather than hand carved originals.



BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 87

Phil Visser (see also "Readers Write" pg 12 sent in this 16 segmented cork (L1540) as a new location: Owen Sound Ont. Mar .9, 1872.



Mike Behrn sent in this cover with a distorted radial cancel (similar but much later than L1539) **AND** with a "WJG" perfin. I am out of my area of study here however ... There were a few early perfin used on S.Q.'s, and cork cancels were not too common in the late 1890's so this is an unusual posting. There is no CDS, and it appears to be a local (or commercial?) rate. Guess Moncton NS 1897. Any more cork & perfin covers out there? He also sent along a few examples of Admiral issue perfin with CDS Paquebot cancels.



The cancel at right was forwarded to me from the Facebook fancy cancel group. It is a "W" used in the 1870's, L 896. Note the circled break at the same place on all three. The sides of the cork often show and I suspect it wore out quite fast as it is cut shallow and rough.

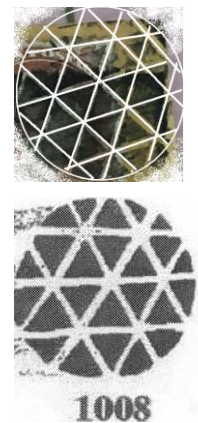
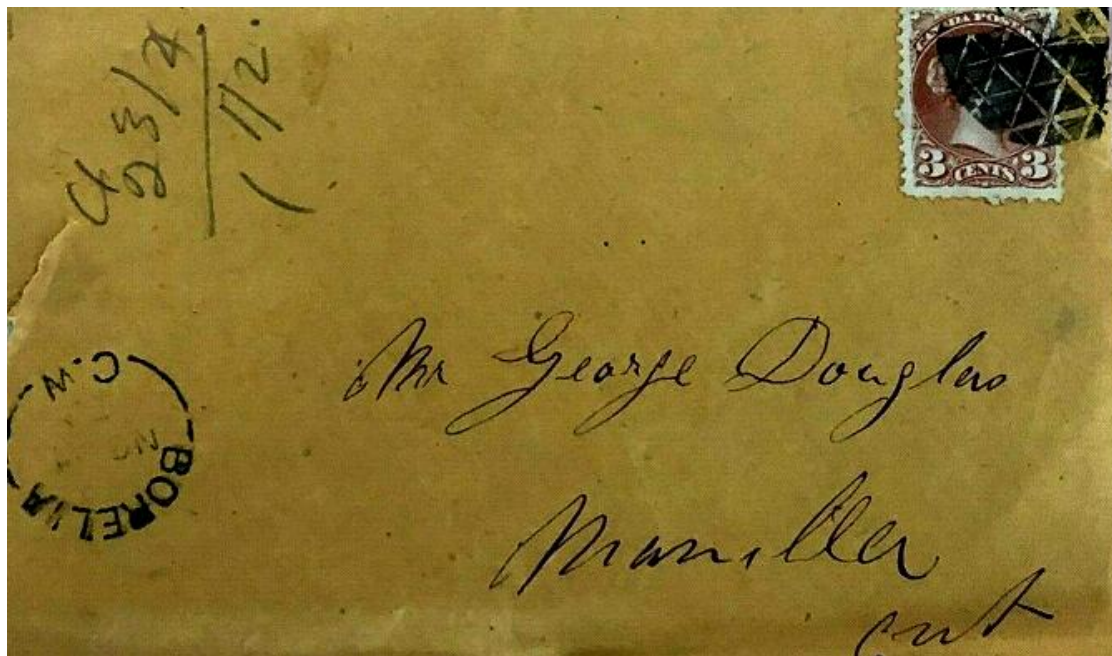


BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 87

Jason Boersma sent in this lovely colourful cover to Switzerland from Ottawa Ont., Sept. 1872. While the cancel is just an eight sectioned cork L1536 the cover also shows a variant of our D352, a "PD". This is a British PAID to Europe marking and is usually in red as here.



Bob Stock sent in the cover below from the tiny town of Borelia Ont. Nov. 1870. I made a "Paint" version of this and although not a "star" it is somewhat similar in design to L1008

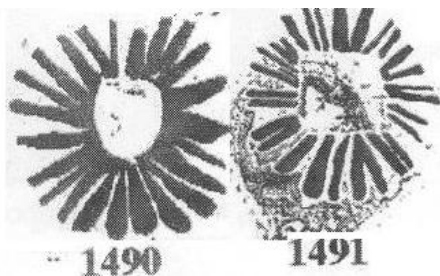
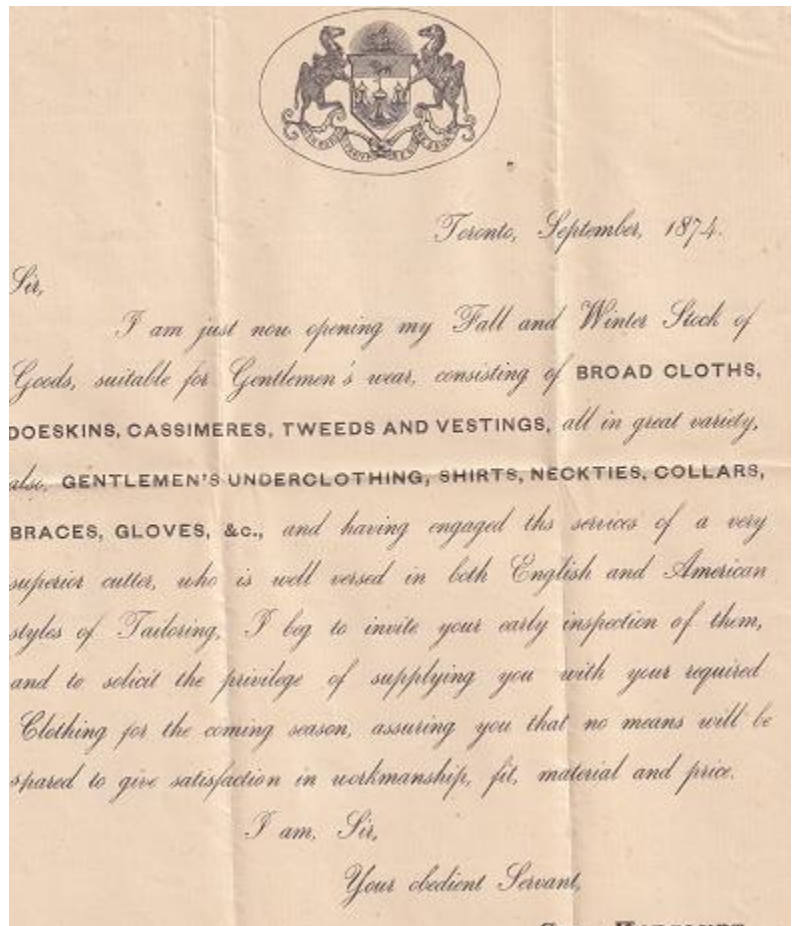


Gary Arnold sent in this strike of L261, a "B" from Bobcaygeon Ont., used in Oct. 1880. There is also a rather crude fake of this on stamps from the 1890's. Gary's strike looks good, the stamp appears to be before 1887, and has several other correct details. This is the only listed fancy cancel from Bobcaygeon. Does anyone have any others?



BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 87

Paul Grimm sent in this example of a Toronto fancy similar to L 1490, but with a smaller square centre. There are no CDS's, and this location is based on a rather fancy commercial circular (reduced here) which was inside The Sept. 1874 date of the circular, and the stamp shade (early '70's) appears to agree. The 1 cent commercial rate works too. I did a bit of research, the company was founded in 1842, is still extant, and has provided robes for the Legal Profession and other elaborate clothing for most of its existence. I noted that one of their customers was the Knights of Columbus in the 1880's. Is the crest on the letter have any K. of C. significance? The addressee, "Captain" O'Malley had probably served in the "Wardsville Volunteer Infantry" in the earlier Finnian uprisings. One last note, cancels with a hollow centre like this are designed to cancel the stamp and not cancel the Queen's face and are thus quite Patriotic. It almost worked here. "Take That" you Finians!! Does anyone have any comments on the crest below? K. of C. ?



Mike Halhed forwarded the lovely strike of L 1672, which had been sent to the Facebook group by Bryan Dunn. It certainly does a good job of cancelling the Queen and the stamp. Used at Ottawa Ont., June – Aug. 1872. There may be some Masonic symbolism in this cancel, for example compare with L 1315 for example. "Take That" you K. of C.'s. (Sorry I couldn't resist it.)

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 87

Graham Searle would like to tell us that the next Canadian Postal Society of Great Britain auction contains “the first part of an large old time collection of fancy cancels.” The catalogue can be viewed at <http://www.canadianpsgb.org.uk/> Please be sure that CPSGB has your snail mail address so they can mail out winnings.

Lot 249 appears below. Reduced scale.

Canada. Leaf Cancellations.



*Feathery Maple Leaf.
Jolt. Ont. 1870.*



*Solid Leaf, Intaglio veins.
Bartie, Ont. 1870.*



*Feathery Maple Leaf.
Richibucto, N.S. 1872.*



*Solid Fern Type Leaf,
Twelve fronds and central stem.*



*Oak Leaf with thin
intaglio veins 1902.*



*Oak Leaf: thick veins.
Souris East. P.E.I. 1891.*



*Solid irregular leaf,
intaglio veins.*



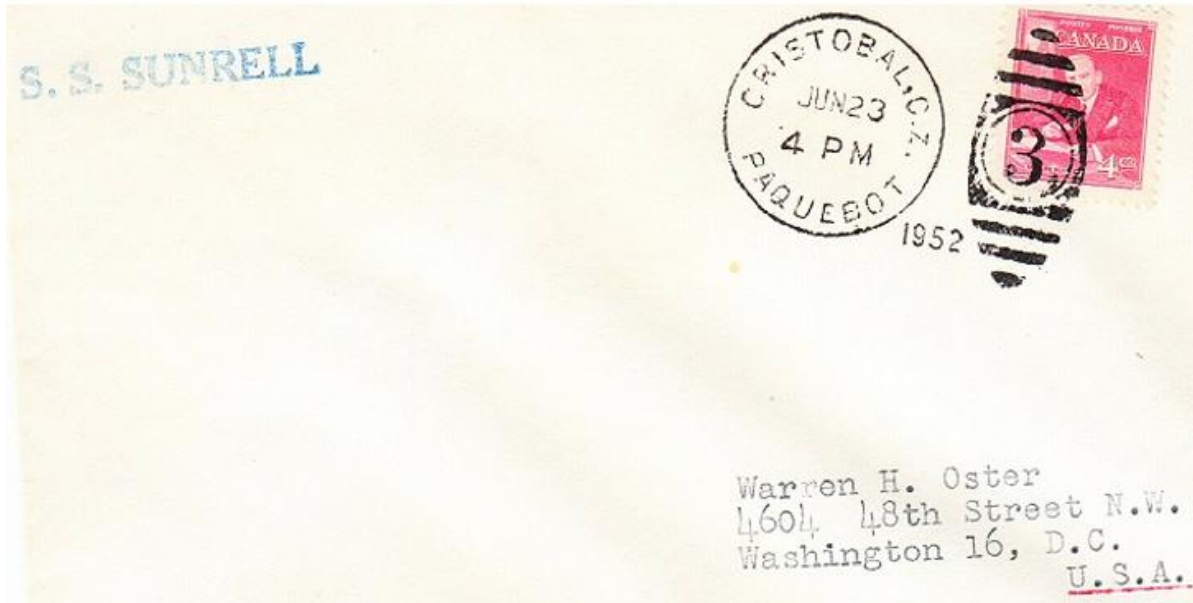
*Fern Type: 13 fronds.
St Hyacinthe P.Q. 1876.*



*Rosette with base fronds.
Montreal 1897.*

READER'S WRITE

Phil Visser sent in a whole bunch of information on two of the ships, the S.S. Sunrell and the S.S. Wairuna and their paquebot covers as shown in N L 86 pg. 7 as below.



The second scan showed a letter with the name S.S. Sunrell in the upper left corner. That is the name of the ship from which the letter was mailed. This particular ship was built in 1943 at the Burrard Dry Dock Company in North Vancouver and was named the Fort Columbia. This ship design was similar to the Liberty ships built in the US and both were based on the design of a general cargo ship designed by J.L. Thompson in Sunderland in the UK prior to the start of the second war.

The cancellation in the upper right corner of the envelope shows that the letter was mailed from Cristobal, Canal Zone (C.Z.) on the Atlantic/Caribbean side of the Panama Canal. The ship was owned by Saguenay Shipping from Montreal who purchased the ship as surplus war equipment from the Canadian government in 1946. It carried the name Fort

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 87

Columbia until 1948 when it was renamed the Sunrell. This company offered trade between Montreal and the Caribbean islands and return.

What doesn't make sense with the cover is that it is mailed from a Canadian ship to Washington D.C. from the Panama Canal! Some collectors may debate the authenticity and purpose of the envelope, but I think it shows a lot of interesting things about the mail system in the 1950's. The Cristobal C.Z. cancel is itself done very clearly and properly where it was to be cancelled as "Paquebot" at the point of landing and entry into the land mail system.

On the second letter, the box in the bottom left corner is of interest. The ship's name is indeed the S.S. (Steamship) Wairuna and the second line is the port of registry of the ship, so yes this was mailed from a Canadian ship as the port of registry is Vancouver. Just to mix things up a bit, there is also Vancouver, Washington, USA. Vancouver Wash is a port on the Columbia river and is directly across the river from Portland Oregon.

The box in the corner would normally be used to indicate sea service on a ship in a seafarers discharge book. The remaining information is important as the official number would then be traceable with government records. The Net Tonnage is a measurement of tonnage, or the cubic capacity of the ship to carry cargo. This number was used to pay for harbour dues at the various ports visited during the career of the ship. Finally the IHP is the Indicated Horse Power of the ship, which means that the ship was steam powered and could be compared with other ships that were diesel powered. This information is necessary for the engineering crew to be able to become qualified engineering officers based on service with main engines of certain horsepower.

The SS Wairuna was also a surplus war built ship. It was launched at the Victoria Machinery Depot Co in Victoria BC and it appears to have been launched in 1944. It changed hands from government ownership to private ownership in 1946. Not much else can be found on this ship other than it appears to have had a steady trade between the west coast of Canada and Australia/New Zealand.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

In several of the recent newsletters I have written about Telegrams being a source of competition to the mails. It occurred to me that telegrams have not been used for quite a while and an example of one might be useful STOP A reduced scale example from 1927 appears below STOP This was the email of it's era STOP

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these symbols appears after the check number of words in a day message otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAM

HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO, ONT. W. G. BARBER, GENERAL MANAGER

Exclusive Connection with WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH CO. Cable Service to all the World Money Transferred by Telegraph

108 WGRD 63 BLUE

OTTAWA ONT 1222PM OCT 19 1927

AGENT OF DOMINION LANDS 367

CALGARY ALTA

YOUR LETTER TWENTY SECOND JUNE FILE EIGHT FIVE FIVE EIGHT

FOUR MORGAN APPLICATION WEST SIDE FIVE THOUSAND ACRE BLOCK DESCRIPTION

AS GIVEN BY MINCHINS REPORT TWENTY FIRST JUNE STOP ADVERTISE AND SELL

AS FIREKILLED BERTH UNDER SECTION FORTY SEVEN NOTIFYING INTERESTED

PARTIES STOP BLUE PRINTS AND LETTER FOLLOWING STOP WIRE ME

OF ACTION TAKEN T G FILE SIX TWO SIX ONE NINE NINE

G P PEREIRA

1140AM

USE OUR DIRECT ALL-CANADA SERVICE TO VANCOUVER, VICTORIA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA POINTS

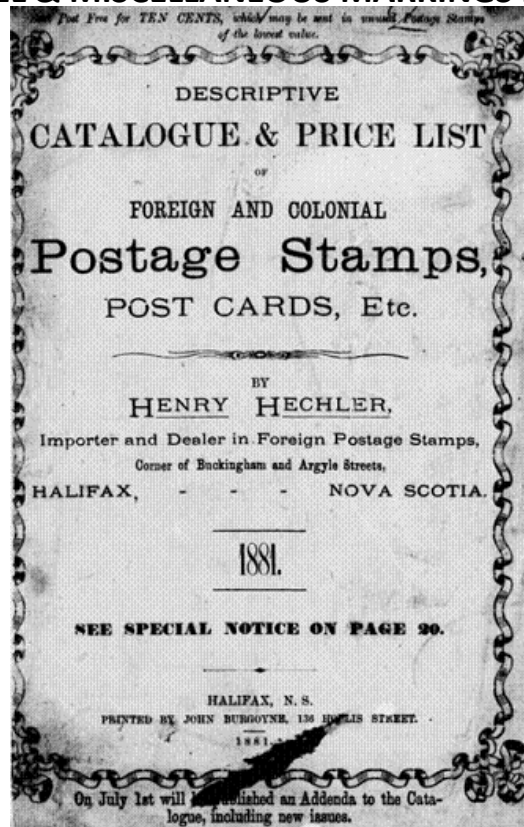
BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 87

The cuts at right are from Henry Hrchler's 20 page 1881 price list. He was an early Canadian stamp dealer and has been mentioned in many of our newsletters. He also produced "SERVICE" overprints and many VERY pretty multi franked, multi stamped covers. See N.L. 84 pg.15 for an example of the previous.

I am not too sure how readable this is, but...

3 cent vermilion. per dozen 4 cents
2 cent Large Queen 5 cent mint, 4 cent used.

8 cent Registered 30 cents mint, 25 cents used.



USED CANADIAN STAMPS BY THE DOZEN, 1868-75.		
		Per doz.
1 Cent, yellow	.....	5
2 " green	.....	7
3 " vermilion	.....	4
5 " grey	.....	15
6 " brown	.....	10
10 " rose	.....	15
Registration Stamps.		
2 Cents, vermilion	.....	10
5 " green	.....	30
Post Cards.		
1 Cent, blue	.....	10

CANADA, 1856.		
1860-64.		
34. oblong	..... vermilion	13
1 Cent, rect.	..... rose	4
5 " oblong	..... vermilion	4
10 " rect.	..... dark purple	10
10 " " "	..... purple	25
12½ " " "	..... green	10
1868.		
1 Cent, rect. large	..... red-brown	4
1 " " "	..... orange	4
2 " " "	..... green	5
2 " " "	..... red	2
12½ " " "	..... brown	4
15 " " "	..... blue	15
15 " " "	..... rose-lilac	30
15 " " "	..... deep lilac	25
1868-75.		
1 Cent, small rect.	..... black	1
1 " " "	..... orange	2
2 " " "	..... green	2
3 " " "	..... rose	3
3 " " "	..... vermilion	4
5 " large rect.	..... grey	15
5 " small rect.	..... grey	6
10 " " "	..... rose	12
1875. Registration Stamps.		
2 Cent, oblong	..... vermilion	3
5 " " "	..... green	8
8 " " "	..... blue	30
Envelope Stamps.		
1 Cent, oval	..... blue	3
3 " " "	..... vermilion	6
1880. Official Circulars.		
1 Cent, oval	..... blue	5

FAKES, BOGUS, AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

Unfortunately these three fake "Mac Aulay" covers showed up in the eBay "packet" search described on page 3. This rather extensive group of fakes was written up in NL 61, NL 85, and PHSC Journal March 1977. They and several rather imaginative (usually marine transport) covers were produced in the early 1970's, and in this case covers to "S.S. River Dennis" (a town called "South Shore River Dennis") was presented as "Sailing Ship River Dennis". All the covers presented have been to Mr. Mac Auley (var. spellings), and here the only fake item is the purple PAQUEBOT oval. If anyone has seen this oval on ANY other covers,



PLEASE LET ME KNOW. Two of the covers in the eBay search were correctly identified as fake, one was duplicated as separate fake and genuine items (probably as a result of a failure to delete the previous incorrect description), and one of them was listed as a genuine Paquebot cover.

And That's all, hope you enjoyed the NL & T.C. Dave. L., Mike H.