

## BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 88

Oct. – Nov. 2021

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**Group News.** Hi, I hope all of you are keeping well in this covid/confusing time. This will be a shorter newsletter than the last few as I have not had much material sent in. **PLEASE SEND!** It appears that there are more “Revisions to Previous Newsletter” items than usual. This is good as one of the main purposes of this NL is to “git it rite” with regards to meanings and uses of cancels. Although this is a little late, I hope that all your Halloween Bogeys were good. Is the carved pumpkin face a newish concept, or were our bogeyhead cancels supposed to represent carved pumpkins? None of ‘em have stalks at top like a real pumpkin would.



Rick Friesen and several others are working on a handbook for the “1892 Barred Circle” cancel as shown at right. These were first written up in Topics in 1951 and more recently in the mid-to-late 1970’s. New information must have appeared in the last 40 years. If you have any barred circle information, please send it along to [rickfriesen5@gmail.com](mailto:rickfriesen5@gmail.com)



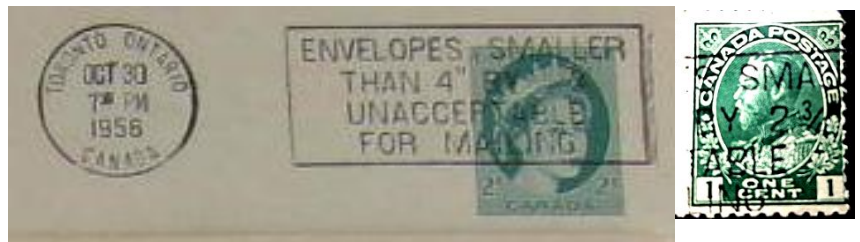
### REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 87, Aug. 2021, pg. 14. I inadvertently referred to this “SS” as South Shore River Dennis. It is really South **Side** River Denys. The covers presented are to a phonetic River “Dennis” officially “Denys”. Nova Scotia has some odd combinations of names. The full and proper PO name is “South Side Basin of River Denys” P.M. was M. Mc Aulay ’68-’90, JA Mac Auley 90-54 (when these covers were used). There are several different spellings; Mac Auley, Mcauley, Mc Auley and Mc Aulay in the Official PO lists. There are /were also PO’s at River Denys, Upper River Denys (X2), River Denys Station, River Denys Road, River Denys Centre, and North Side River Denys. Finally, there is a River Dennis PO in Yarmouth. Clear as mud?

In this same paragraph as above, I mentioned that the only fake marking was the oval PAQUEBOT. Most of these fakes also have an elaborate (also) fake “Marine Transportation” crest on the backside.

Newsletter 86, June. 2021, pg. 6.  
Robert Coulson’s odd cancel is not a calibration test. Refer to the scan presented at right. The stamp is a very late use to receive this slogan cancel.

See the “Readers Write” article at the end of this newsletter FMI. Thanks, Vince.



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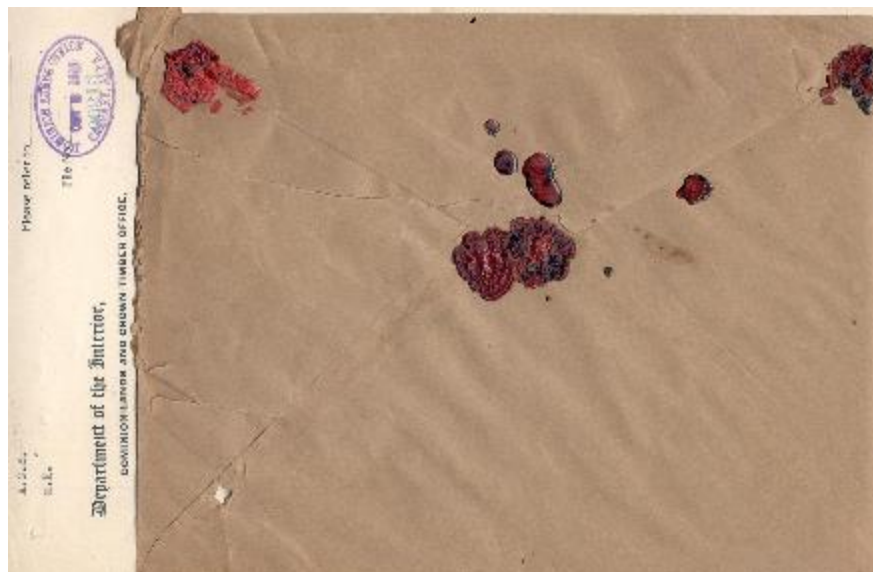
Newsletter 85, Mar. 2021, pg. 10. Leopold Beaudet sent in some information on the BNAPS Revenue Study Group as well as an article on Admiral issue cancels which included two other examples of the word “Cancelled” used as Revenue markings. I have presented some items from this article on pg. 4.



### CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

I have three things I would like to mention.

1. A five cm scale bar was placed on all illustration pages of our book so that scale comparisons could be made with real cancels AND so that any scale distortions from either printing of the book, or copying of pages could be verified. I had thought that by the 3rd Edition there would be a few percent reduction in the scale of the illustrations. Instead they are about 2 percent larger in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.
2. I had often wondered why the 1961 D&S fancy cancel publication had such a confusing numbering system for the fancy numeral cancels – see pg. 7 of our book. The first 264 examples of numeral cancels were somewhat arbitrarily put into three groups with each group starting over at number 1. This was partly corrected in the D&S 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. While conducting some other research I discovered a quote from Smythies (see Maple Leaves Apr. 1962) which partly explains their approach. The reason is that the first two groups were copied from earlier studies which ONLY considered fancy cancels on the Large Queen issue which (sorta) ended in 1870. The 15 cent LQ remained in use until about 1897. See pg. 8 for an example of an Ottawa Crown cancel (first used in 1880) on the 15 cent LQ in 1886. This duplicate numbering was corrected in our book.
3. I have occasionally referred to late use of sealing wax on official documents. The last official postal use I have seen was PO correspondence to Toronto in 1949. The example below (very reduced) of an obviously important (Dept. Of Interior 1915). This “sealed” file was saved from the trash by yours truly. Four strikes!

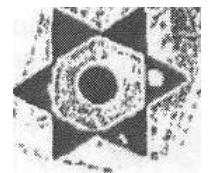
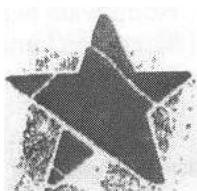


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The items below are from Frank Gross's 68,000 previously unsorted bundled SQ's, this time I am presenting some fancy star and cross cancels. I have one exception to this, the item at right which I sorta stumbled over. At first this looks like just a circular cork, however closer examination shows that it appears to be the unusual case of a cork cancelling a previously applied CDS. Another example of this was in NL 82, pg. 2. We will never know why, but it indicates some sort of "Special Handling" was applied (so to speak). I also note that there are many Ottawa crown cancels L1284 (for a stunning example of this crown, see a few pages below) which was used as a Special Handling mark at Ottawa Main PO Apr. 1880 to July 1888 when much of Frank's material was used. Is this "Ottawa Crown, Special Handling" perhaps a clue to the origin of the bundleware?



One other general comment, 68,000 SQ's is indeed a big number, however (see NL 78 pg. 4) 1.35 billion 3 cent SQ's were printed, if you throw in the other values, I wouldn't be surprised to see the total reach two billion! Frank's 68,000 are a lovely snapshot of what was actually out there at the time and confirm actual use as reported in our book. A sideline note, I generally did not list any fancy cancel unless it appeared in previous literature and/or I had personally seen at least two strikes. Nuff text let's get to the stars and crosses...



The above items are wonderful examples of strips of three with both a fancy cancel and CDS. They (L853 & L1018) were used to revise the first edition of our book, see also NL 40 Dec. 2005 pg. 2.



L933



L942



L944 ?



L958



L966



L1049 ?



L1050



L1053



L1073



L1084



L1086



L1135

Some of these items need a comment. L944, several similar shaped stars. L958, similar to L959 which was used much later. L1049, red ink & partial strike, L1053 listed as "dubious" now confirmed genuine, L1073, L1084, L1135

are "Kingston crosses", PM "Deacon" was probably referring to the religious nature of his name.



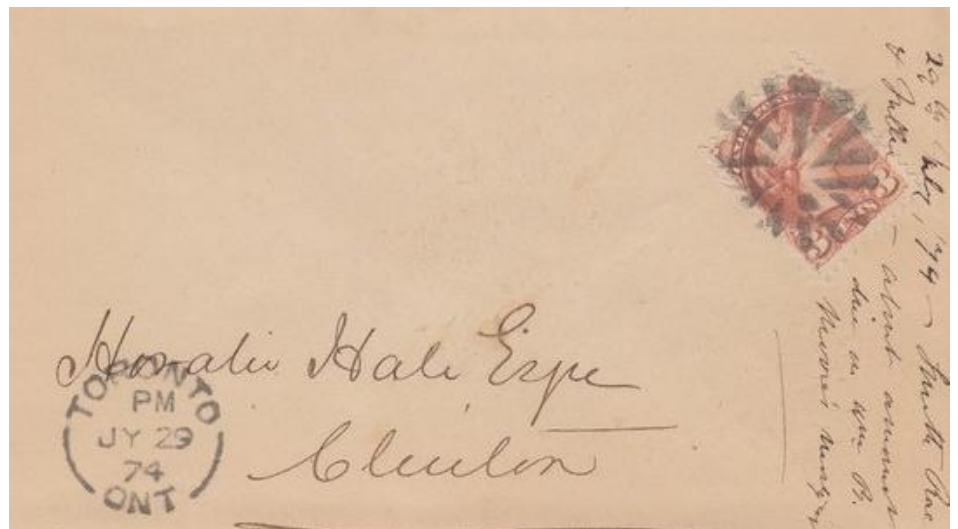
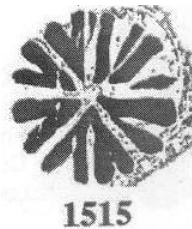
# BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 88

On pg. 2, I referred to the excellent article by R.W. Van Someren on cancels on the Admiral issue. <https://bnaps.org/ore/VanSomeren-AdmiralStamps/VanSomeren-AdmiralStamps-Cancellations.htm> I've borrowed the illustrations below as they have fancy cancel interest.



## “Boxes”

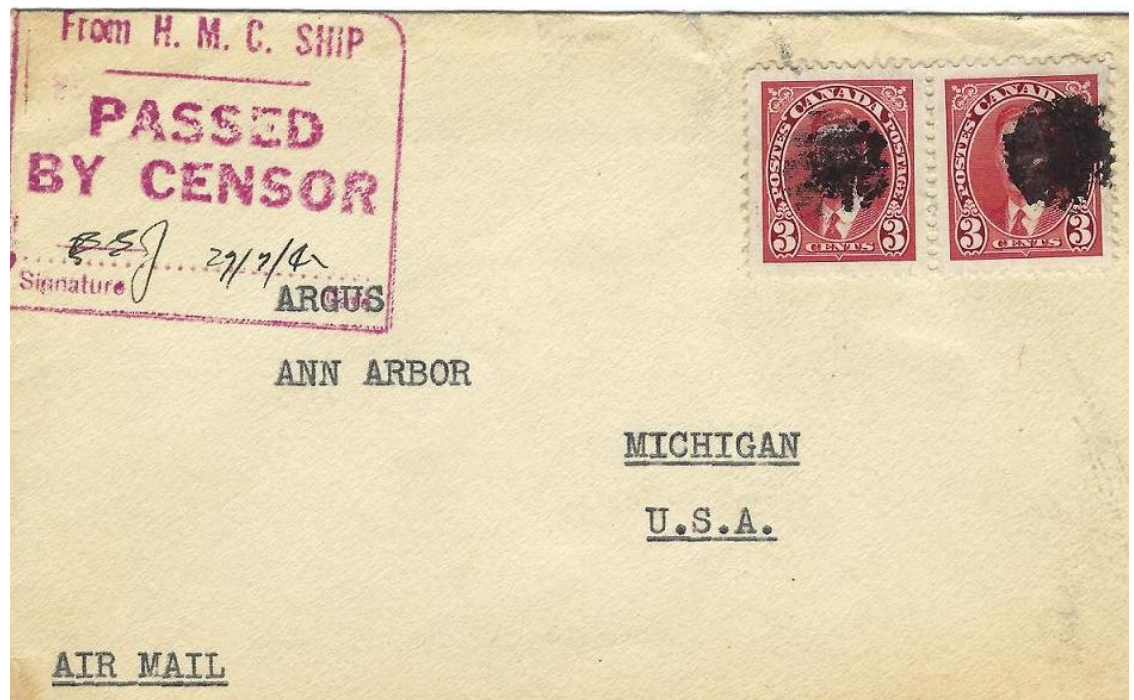
Peter Mc Carthy sent in the covers at right. They are both new late dates for the Toronto ON variant of L1515. Now June 1874 to Aug. 1874.



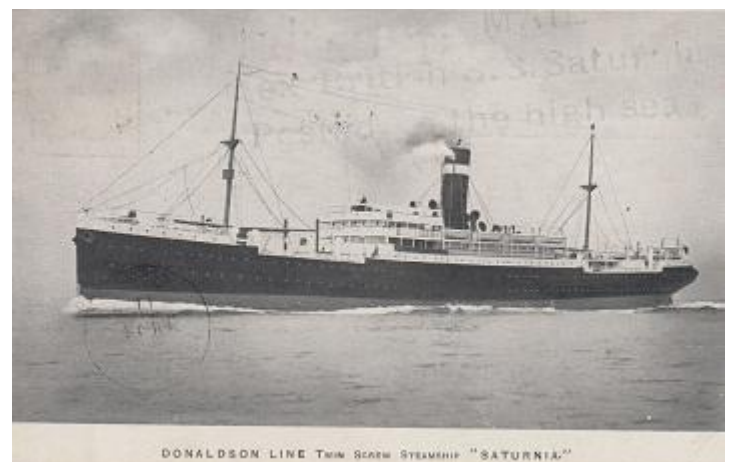
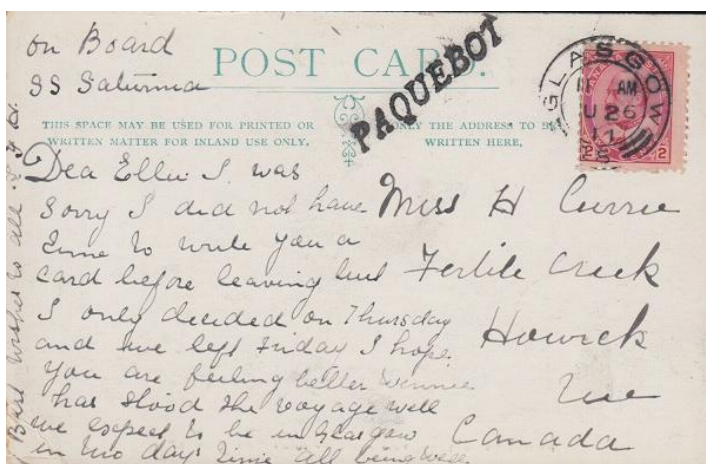
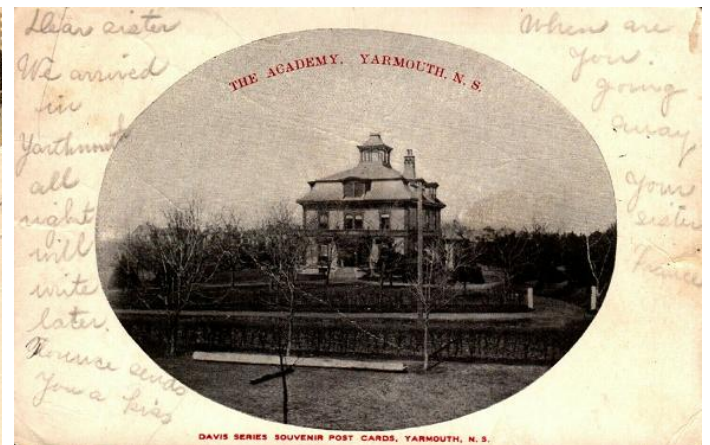
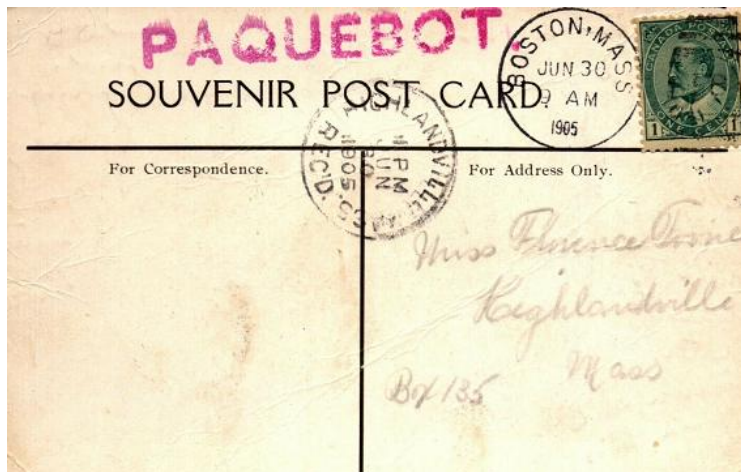


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Peter also sent in this nice example of the military using a cork as a cancel in 1941 so that there would be no obvious routing (CDS) of the letter for security reasons. I'm not sure of the destination (Argus)? Was it a ship, command centre, or military unit?



Mike Street sent in two more paquebot items with USA cancels and Canadian stamp, ½ scale below. The Yarmouth Academy is one of the oldest school buildings in Canada. The second one is with Canadian stamp, Glasgow UK CDS, Steamer SS Saturna





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Guy Jeffery sent in five examples of this geometric and also notes that he has seen it on cover with a Montreal corner marker. The stamps appear to be from the 1890's. One suggestion – in jest – is that it is an Inuit Inukshuk (known in

1890's?) to me it looks (sorta) like a flying wasp. This should be listed.

He also sent in this example of L692. His example is so S.O.N. that it is hard to recognise. The example from our book is similar. It is odd that the Ottawa PO would clobber the Queen's face so thoroughly! How disrespectful and from the

National Capital too!

Ron Smith sent this example of L184, a rare little beastie, only two strikes (on appropriate issues) are known. The other strike was used for the line drawings below. They were prepared by Day 1960, Smythies 1962, and Lacelle about 1990. All are poor drawings. In my old notes I said that the cancel "Looks good" when I viewed it in the "Cohen" sale.



Ron also sent in this cover which I have cut down of L1519 in earlier state (Dec. 1875) than in our book. Note the break at one side has already happened. I tried to use "mid-range" of use for our illustrations as they are most commonly found

Robert Coulson sent this in. I am "out of my area of expertise", but to me it reads ("Cor)onation ... George VI..." and is a respectful application of a 1936 commemorative cancel on the previous King's stamp. I might add, exactly opposite to the item at top of this page!

David Dawes sent in these two modern spelling errors cancels.



**FAKES, BOGUS AND SPURIOUS ITEMS**

Only one item this time and it is somewhat problematic. I received this as a scan and have not examined the actual stamp for details such as ink penetration, perf hole penetration etc. It was suggested that it was similar to L218,) or possibly was a Masonic cancel.

My opinion on this (from my scale of 1 – 10) is a “3”. L218 at ½ scale is at right, there are no close design Masonic cancels in our book.



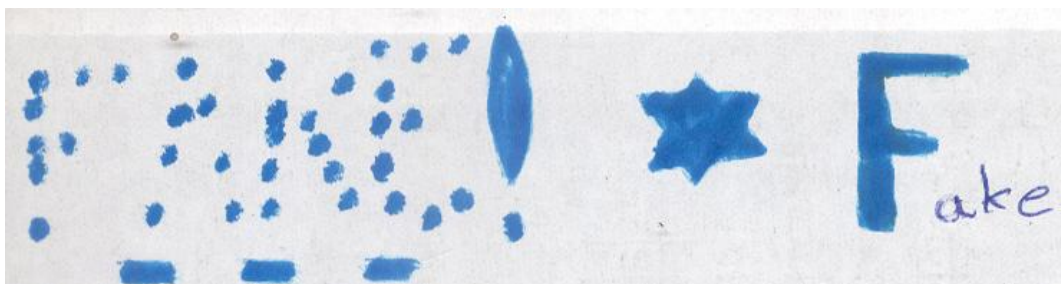
The opinion is based on the fine (brush) lines in the ink and how the design parts do not line up as would be expected with a tiny carved item. Some of what should be straight cut lines also seem to wobble and curve a bit. I think that this is one of the “painted fake fancy cancels” which first showed up in the early 1960’s. I reviewed my “fake cancels file” (148 published references) for this, and found only five references to “painted fakes”.

The first way to detect these is to soak the stamp over night, if the cancel has dissolved, it was paint instead of cancel ink. This also accounts for the lack of illustrations of these painted items, although “a BHJ” (L303, L304, or D149), possibly a fancy crown L1286, and “the Toronto butterfly” L1440 have been reported. One of Lester Littlefield’s “productions” was a “BHJ”. See Appendix 8 in our book, although his is only known on cover.(Possibly because the ones off cover may have tended to dissolve in water?)



I had often wondered how anyone could have such steady hands to paint on any reasonable imitation of fancy cancels. I then realized that although water soluble paint was used, they were done as stencils. Thus poor edge control, non-alignment (not carved) of parts, and brush marks.

So... way more than you wanted to know already... I tried the little stencil experiment below which basically speaks for itself...



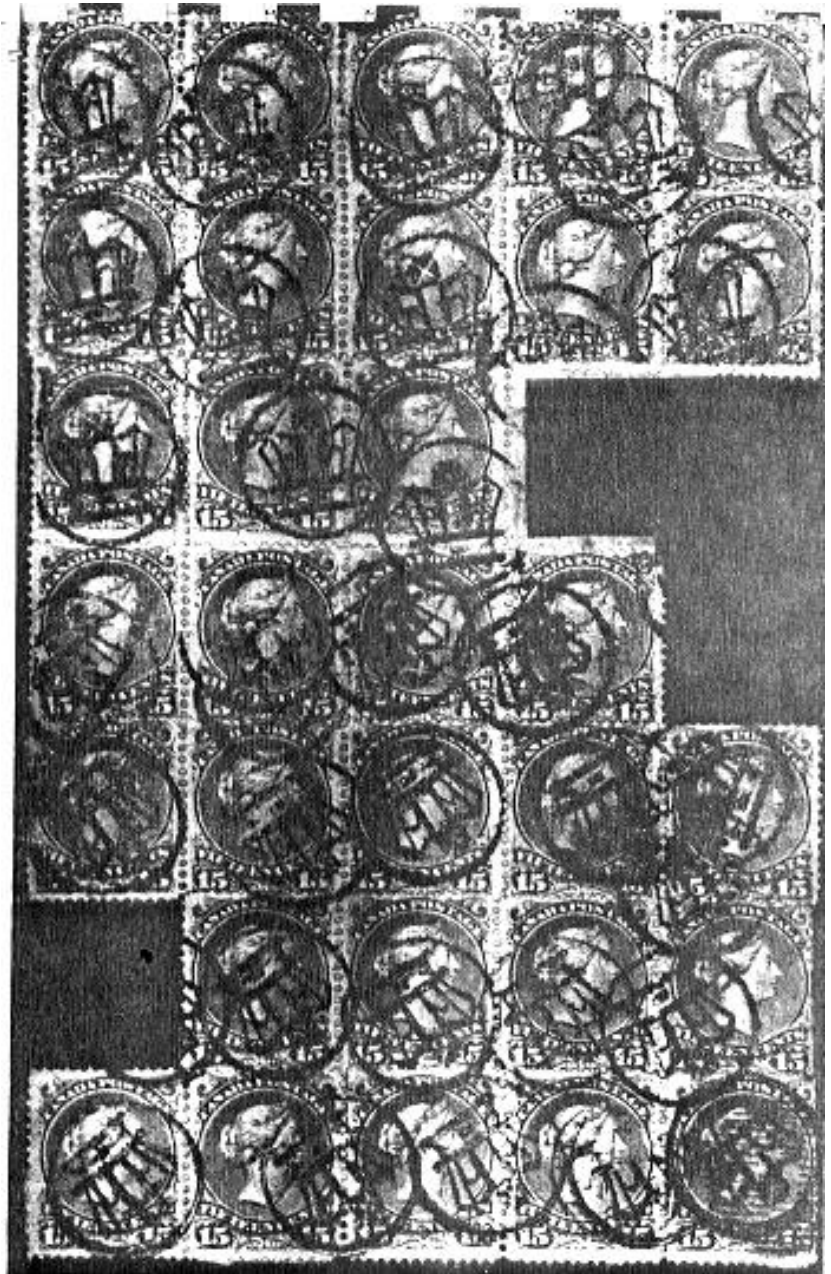
MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

This lovely item ran in Maple Leaves June 1960, pages 103 & 104. I wonder where it is now? Apologies for the poor photocopy.

The description with it states that they are a dark slate grey shade, and that there is an Ottawa duplex from July 1888 at bottom right. It reportedly came from a "remote part of Northern Canada" and was obtained by it's current (1960) owner during the Second World War.

I would add the following observations. The stamps were applied at slightly different times as a bottom block of 9 (or 10, 1 missing), centre block of 9 (or 10, 1 missing), top block of 10, and centre strip of 3. The cut out portion after the strip of 3 appears too narrow to have had stamps and a bit of paper is evident in it. The crown cancel L1284 was carefully applied in two sessions, was well inked, and probably started bottom right. The CDS is our L#1 and both cancels and stamps appear in correct period of use.

The Ottawa crown's L1284 first period of use ended in July 1888 and it had been used for items requiring "Special Handling". The regular use duplex cancel was used only once on this item..



I believe that this was a page from an official PO "Bulk Mailing Receipt Book". They usually had the highest possible values in multiples and were about this page size. I did not know they were used as early as 1880. The Company name was possibly on the cut out part, and how it wandered from Ottawa Main Special Handling is perhaps better not known..... If you find this in your basement, please let me know. Also check to see if you have any 15 centers with crowns which might have come from this. Thanks.



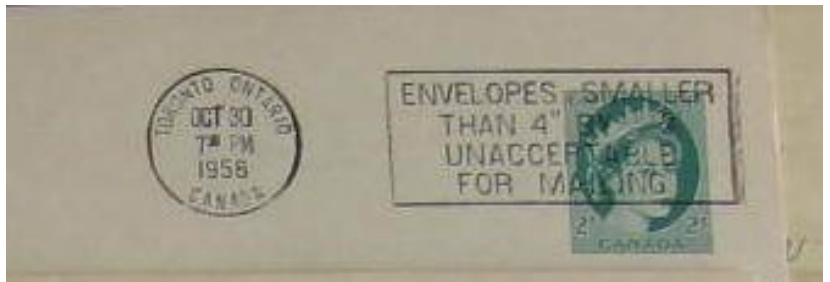
## READERS WRITE

Readers Write...

By Vince Chermishnok ([vchermis@ibinx.com](mailto:vchermis@ibinx.com)) BNAPS Member n.º 7126

The 1¢ Admiral mystery cancel as shared in an earlier newsletter has been resolved or at least partially resolved. With some help from a former BNAPSer and a little bit of searching on my part, Robert Coulson's cancel shared in the Fancy Cancel & Miscellaneous Markings Study Group newsletter n.º 86, June 2021, pg. 6 is not an experimental or calibration test cancel, but is instead, a slogan cancel from the late '50s and used well into the '60s.

Despite the lack of text, there is more than enough detail captured on this 1¢ Admiral that one can identify the cancel as being that of the slogan cancel of which the full version is shown below.



ENVELOPES SMALLER THAN 4" BY 2 3/4" UNACCEPTABLE FOR MAILING

Postmarked TORONTO ONTARIO OCT 30 7<sup>30</sup> PM 1956 CANADA

Source: Image from on-line seller

I would like to point out though, that although there is a match in terms of content, the two cancels are not exactly the same. In the example found on the Admiral, the '2' of the slogan can be found above the 'E' in "UNACCEPTABLE". Whereas the Toronto version shown, has the numeric portion shifted left and one can see that the '3/4' is now in the same place above the 'E'

To support the claim and review this or other slogan cancels in greater detail, one need look no further than Cecil Coutts' catalogue of Slogan Postmarks of Canada to find an exact match of the identified cancel. From the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the text, we learn that this particular slogan cancel was used for several years and across Canada in at least 16 different cities including Windsor (1956), Saint John, London, Vancouver, Halifax, Regina & Saskatoon (1956-63) Toronto (1956-57), Edmonton & Montreal (1956-57) and Calgary (1956-68). It is interesting to note that of the 16 cities cited, only Calgary and Toronto had multiple versions of cancel with each of them having 3 different dies identified.

ENVELOPES SMALLER THAN 4"  
UNACCEPTABLE FOR MAILING  
Postmarked VANCOUVER B.C. FEB  
CANADA

Source: Image from on-line seller



BY 2 3/4"  
(2<sup>nd</sup> version)  
13 7 PM 1961

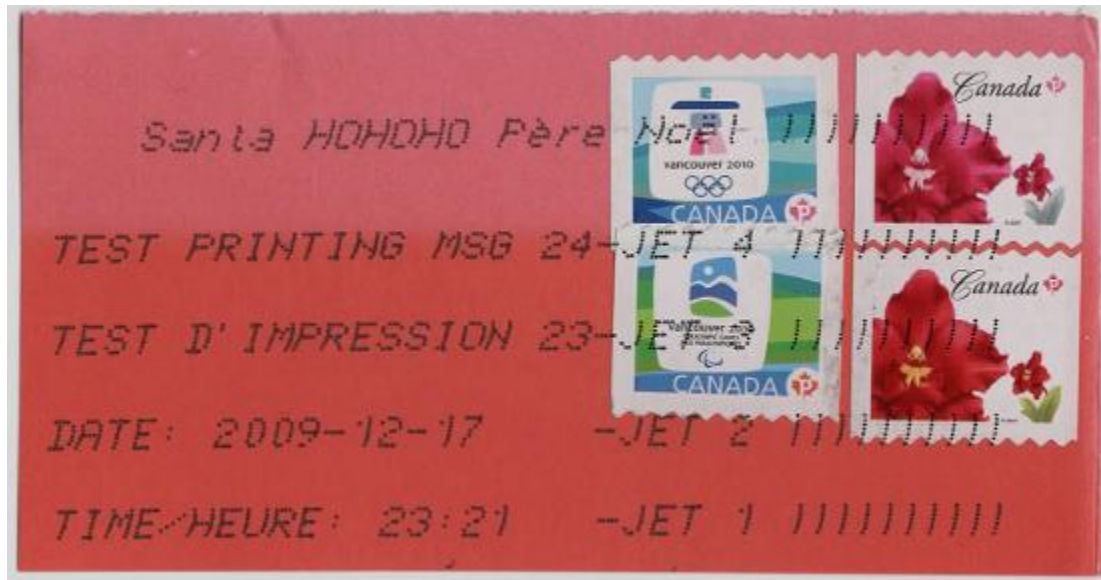
Even though the mystery of the

curious cancel

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found on Robert's Admiral may have been solved, at least one question remains; what was the rationale for using a stamp from KGV period (Scott n.° 104) some 40 years later? Similarly, the Coutts' text refers to three formats of this slogan cancel. Is there a third one in English or is the author counting the French versions for either Quebec or Montreal specifically as the third version?

Whilst we pondering the additional philatelic questions, here is one example of a calibration test of the cancelling machine:



### TEST\_PRINTING MSG.

Source: Author's collection

Cancel slogans or even machine cancels have been saved by collectors ever since their production began in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and this series, with its slogan "ENVELOPES SMALLER THAN 4" BY 2 ¾" UNACCEPTABLE FOR MAILING" in use from 1956-1968 is no exception.

Happy collecting!

### Acknowledgments:

I wish to thank Mike Slamo, librarian of The Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain (CPSGB), for his response and assistance in providing the details regarding the Slogan Postmarks and related cancels. It is appreciated!

### References:

Canadian Postal Slogan Cancellations Slogan cancels starting with 'E'. *BNA Topics* Vol 2, #10, Whole #19 (Oct 1945), p. 85(2) | View PDF  
Coutts, C., 2007. *Slogan postmarks of Canada*. Abbotsford, B.C.: C.C. Coutts, p.68.

Thanks for the "Readers Write" Vince On that note I shall close. I wish you all well. **PLEASE send more stuff.**

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

Take Care,

Dave Lacelle/Mike Halhed