

# BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 89

December 2021

Dave Lacelle/Mike Halhed  
[fancycancel@hotmail.com](mailto:fancycancel@hotmail.com)

**Group News.** I had hoped to be able to prepare another newsletter before the end of the year and **would like to thank the 12 of you** who sent in material for it. Obviously interest remains strong..This newsletter has fancy or miscellaneous material from about 1870 to about 1955. There is also an interesting modern fancy (see pg. 7 ) from Nov. 2021!

It is again dues time, and if applicable a Dues Notice will be attached to this newsletter. **Thanks** to those who contribute in this fashion as well. Dues are \$10.00 per year, do not apply for any members first year, nor for those of you over 80. (Please let me know if your 80<sup>th</sup> has occurred and I dinna catch it.) There are three NL a year, this one is a bonus fourth this year. I try to keep the dues low enough so that I am not losing money. Snail mail: Box 233. Merville BC V0R 2M0.

Hugh Rathbun sent in a nice little note that he would be leaving the group. Hugh joined in 1989 (!) Thank you Hugh for your 30+ years of input, and for putting up with my occasional Nova Scotia goof. Anyone else out there been a member this long?

## REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 88, Oct. 2021, pg. 8, the 15 cent L.Q. multiple usage: This item “is part of the Fred Fawn collection (page 129 of his exhibit book where it is illustrated in colour).” It should be offered for sale by Maresch during CAPEX 2022. Thank you for this info. Also, pg. 8, there is a typo, 4<sup>th</sup> line from bottom, “1880” should be “1888”.

I also found the two examples below (at reduced scale) in “The Canadian Posted Letter Guide” by Firby & Wilson, pg. 67. The illustration has no text, but these are either bulk mail receipts retained by the PO (Peterborough? 1897), or tags on bags of bulk mail. As stated in NL 88 I think the 15 cent multiple is a similar bulk mail receipt.



Newsletter 88, Oct. 2021, pg. 4. My notes got a little mixed up... Peter Mc Carthy was not the person who sent in the examples of L 1515. Apologies, please advise who sent this in? The item on pg. 5 is from Peter.

CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

When I emailed NL 88 I included a query from Mike Halhed seeking opinions relating to the production of an Addendum page(s) showing “new” listings, and thus new “L#’s”. There was one response, so I shall include the request here in the body of the newsletter for any other comments. A secondary suggestion would be an annual page with the December Newsletter showing this new material. I have a few comments myself.

1. I tried this as an Addendum after the first Edition of our book. There was very little response or interest.
2. When D&S used this approach it led to some duplicate numbering and mixed up listings.
3. I have never intended to list every fancy cancel sent to me. I like to see at least two strikes of any given “new” cancel, as well as a cover example if possible. This reduces the chances of some “blob” (or fake) item being interpreted differently by different folks. See the example of the “cat /blob” cancel below.

Any comments on the above would be appreciated.

I will again start off with items from Frank Gross’s find of 68,000 S.Q.’s. This time I looked at all the “just fancies” files to find any of the more dramatic fancy cancels ie. leaves, flags, bogey heads etc. roughly L1180 to L1458. This was no minor task this file has about 380 different colour scans at several different scales with between one to 20 cancels per scan While doing this I also spotted the three “odd” cancels below..

The first is somewhat similar to L 1496 however if you look real close, it seems to have some lettering or markings in its centre. The letters seem to be too small to be an underlying CDS. The second item is probably an example of the bottom of a door handle being used as a cancel. It would fit in the palm of one’s hand very well. This is a bit more sophisticated than the others (L 1563, L 1564) in our book in that it has a locking mechanism cylinder in the middle .



Now, about that “cat” cancel. In NL 6, Dec. 1990 I ran an example of a cancel tracing which was suggested to be a fancy “cat”. It certainly looks like one. No other examples turned up, so I assumed it was just a blob and listed as D 655. Above is another possible cat from Frank’s material. After quite a review I found that the D 655 cat was on a Scott 83 issued 1898 which would be late as Frank’s is a Sc. 37. So, cat, blob or not? Anyone else have another example?

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There were 21 fancy leaf cancels in Frank's material. This is a big enough number to rate as a separate topic and I shall cover it in the next newsletter. On the other hand there were few Masonics, only 3 Crown (other than "Ottawa Crowns) and only one possible bogeyhead .



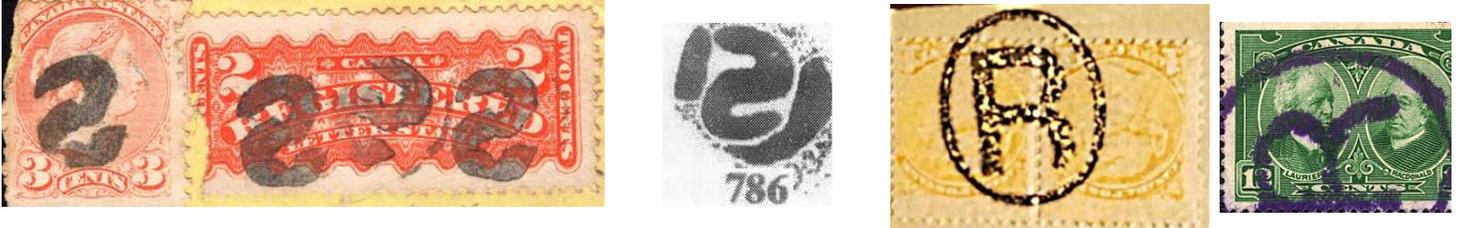
The Masonic triangles above are L 1338 used Jan. – Feb. 1872 at Kingston Ont, or a unknown P.O. in the 1890's. The middle item may be a bogeyhead, if so it is worn and shows similarities to several listed types. The items at right above are a crown, L1277. The third edition of our book really messed up with this cancel. The "improved illustration" did not print well and the "old" better illustration is presented here. My bad X2, the text was completely omitted and should read; "1277 D&S # 220b ?? Rate 5 On S.Q.'s from mid to late '70's."



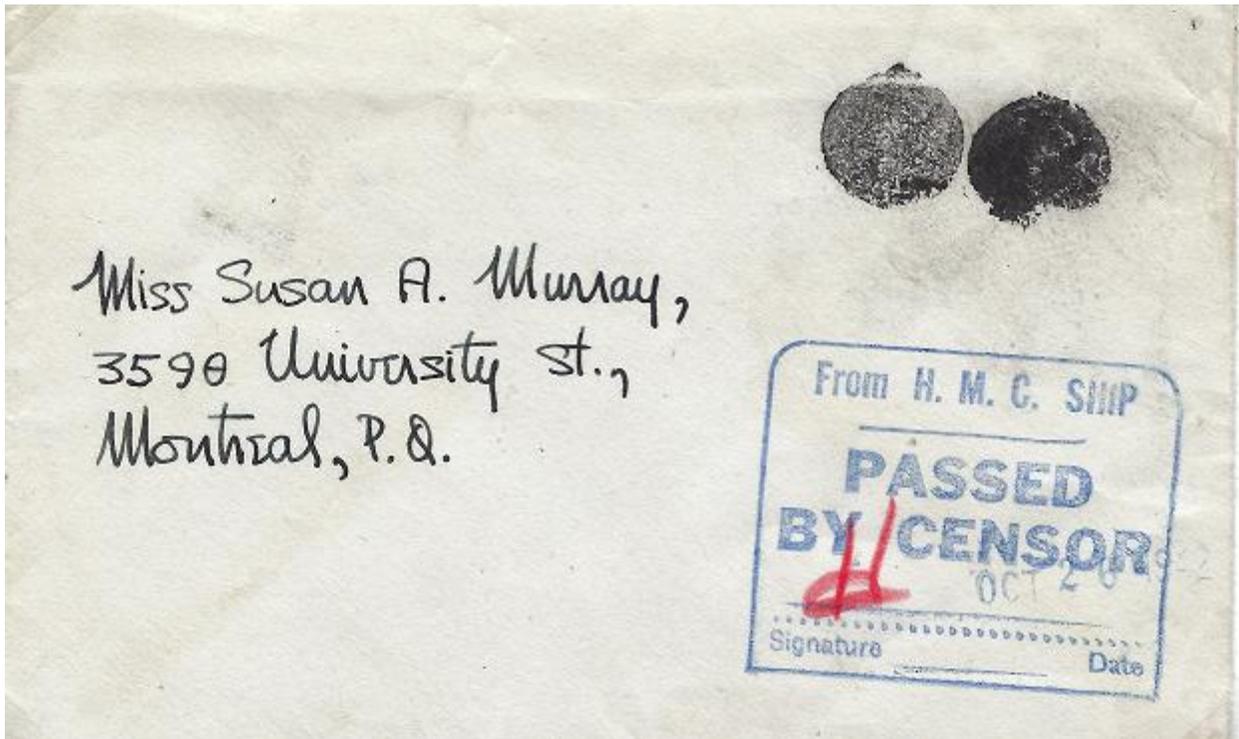
The Ottawa Crowns L 1284 are from Frank's find. There are some small scale variations; these were from many different scans. This crown was used at Ottawa Main Apr. 1880 to July 1888 and was mainly for items requiring "Special Handling" (aka "problems") the L1284 illustration is from the P&A proof book Apr. 1880. It is interesting to look for commonalities in multiple accumulations like this .There are few here, possibly because there might have been several different clerks over eight years. Several have other cancels which probably reflect rate reviews. The stamps are usually well clobbered, but there is little attempt to have "pretty" strikes. It would have been unusual for a private citizen to receive this many "problem" letters, or to get 2700 letters per year over 25 years. Government mail sometimes had special handling but these were usually outgoing (ie. "FREE" vs other). This again indicates a private company as the source of Frank's material

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Jason Broersma sent in this early strike of L786. The book illustration is a much later strike. One would think that when you realized that you had mistakenly not carved your cancel in mirror image, you would exclaim “Great Golly Gosh” (or similar) and discard it. Not so here, it appears this cancel was used for at least five years PO unknown, on stamps from 1875 to 1885



The Registration “R’s” (L 746 type) at right above were sent by Robert Coulson, the first one must have been an oily hammer as the ink does not want to stick, the second is a later larger variety on Sc. 147.



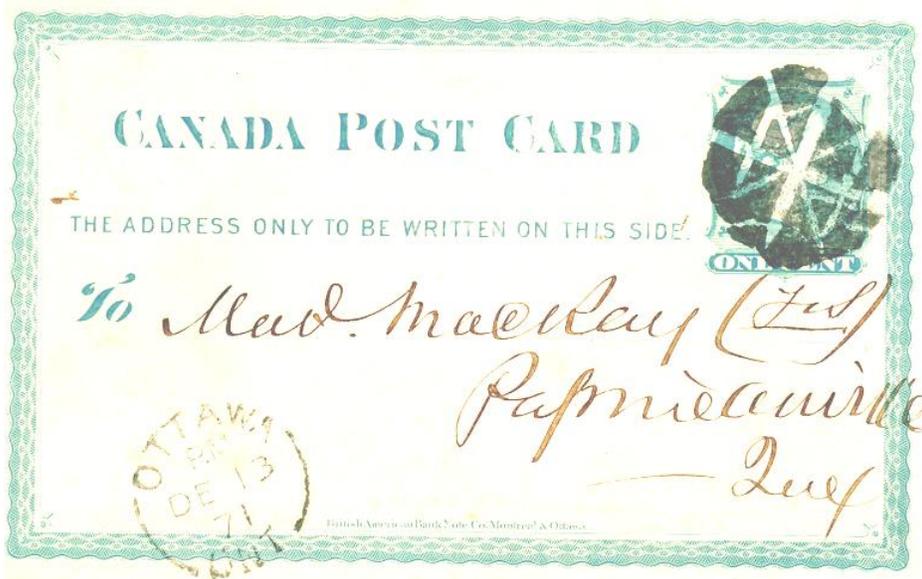
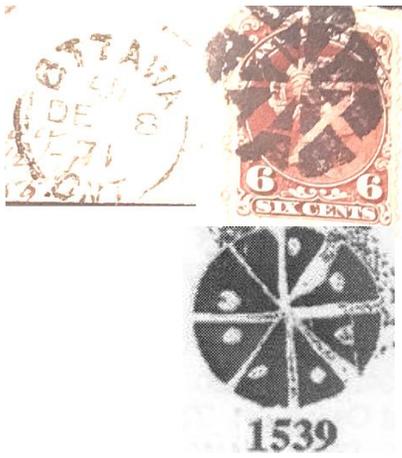
Peter Mc Carthy sent in this 1942 example of a black out cancel on two CDS strikes. It is so precisely applied that you can hardly tell that there are CDS’s.

Karl Giroux sent in this (sorta) modern day query. He notes that in the mid-to-late 1950’s many cancels in Canada (and USA) changed from round killers to “football” shaped.. Why? I suspect that this was just due to a change in manufacturer,. Was there more to it than that? Comments appreciated.



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Mike Halhed sent in the covers below from part of his study of Ottawa geometric cancels.



They are all of an unlisted Ottawa geometric used Dec; 8 1871 to Dec. 26 1871. This is quite early for an Ottawa geometric. In two of the covers I have moved the CDS to save space, they are all located as the bottom left(ish) of the covers as they are supposed to be – this is OTTAWA just across the street from the Parliament Buildings – so they had better get it right. The degree of wear in only one month is obvious.

At first I thought this might be a recut of L1539 (Used four months earlier by Ottawa RPO) however this is unlikely. I also thought that the Ottawa CDS had been “enhanced” with a fine pen. In the past some collectors did this with weak CDS’s so the covers would look better at stamp shows. However the “T’s” look a little off in all four strikes. Time for a new CDS.

This is a good example (covers, wear, and consistency) of a “new” fancy which should be listed.

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Bill Pekonen sent in two near identical pre-printed covers to the Traders Bank of Canada, St. Mary's Ont. The CDS's are poor but are probably (T)renton Ont. 1903. Each has a "blob" cancel which can be variously described. Compare with the "cat" cancel on page 2 except this cat has a big tail! These are the result of the (?) Trenton PM using the high tech cancelling device of a rag on the end of a stick. Trenton has no listed fancy cancels and the PM J.B. Christie had been on the job since 1873. Another possibility is they are receiving cancels from St. Mary's, (no fancy cancels recorded) the CDS cancels are certainly weak.



Traders Bank was one of the first Canadian banks to have multiple small town Branches and basically introduced the concept that individual private citizens could have "Savings" Accounts. The illustration is from their 1907 calendar. The "box" she is carrying is actually a savings bank box modelled on the bank's Head Office building.

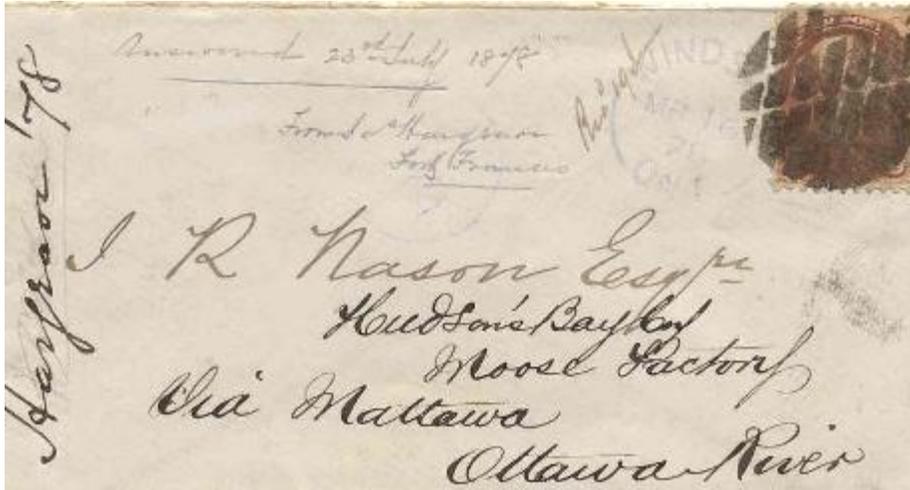


Phillip Visser sent in this sorta upside down cover from Owen Sound Ont. Mar.1871. See NL 83 & 85 for some of his other Owen Sound material. Radial sectioned corks like this were used at many PO's. His example is "similar" to L1541.



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Nicolas Escott sent in this fur trading cover apparently from Fort Frances Ont. – Winnipeg Man.- closed bag USA – Windsor Ont. – Mattawa Ont. – to Hudsons Bay HQ Moose Factory Ont. He asked if I could confirm by the cancel that it was from Fort Frances as ms note says. I like these fur trade items (Grampa was a trapper.) as they often have interesting routes. Unfortunately the cancel is just a slashed cork and is not listed. JH Hargrave (sender ms at left) was a low level clerk at Fort Frances at that time, and would soon move to Cumberland House Ont. JR Nason was a (sorta) HQ Clerk/Accountant at Moose Factory. The PM at Fort Frances was AR Lillse who wore another (and probably bigger) hat as the (sorta) Regional HBC Manager. I would guess that it is his thumbprint just below the well inked cancel. Nuff said..



Nicolas's other item above is from Point Aux Pins Ont. Aug. 1872 and is similar to our L 1008.



**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

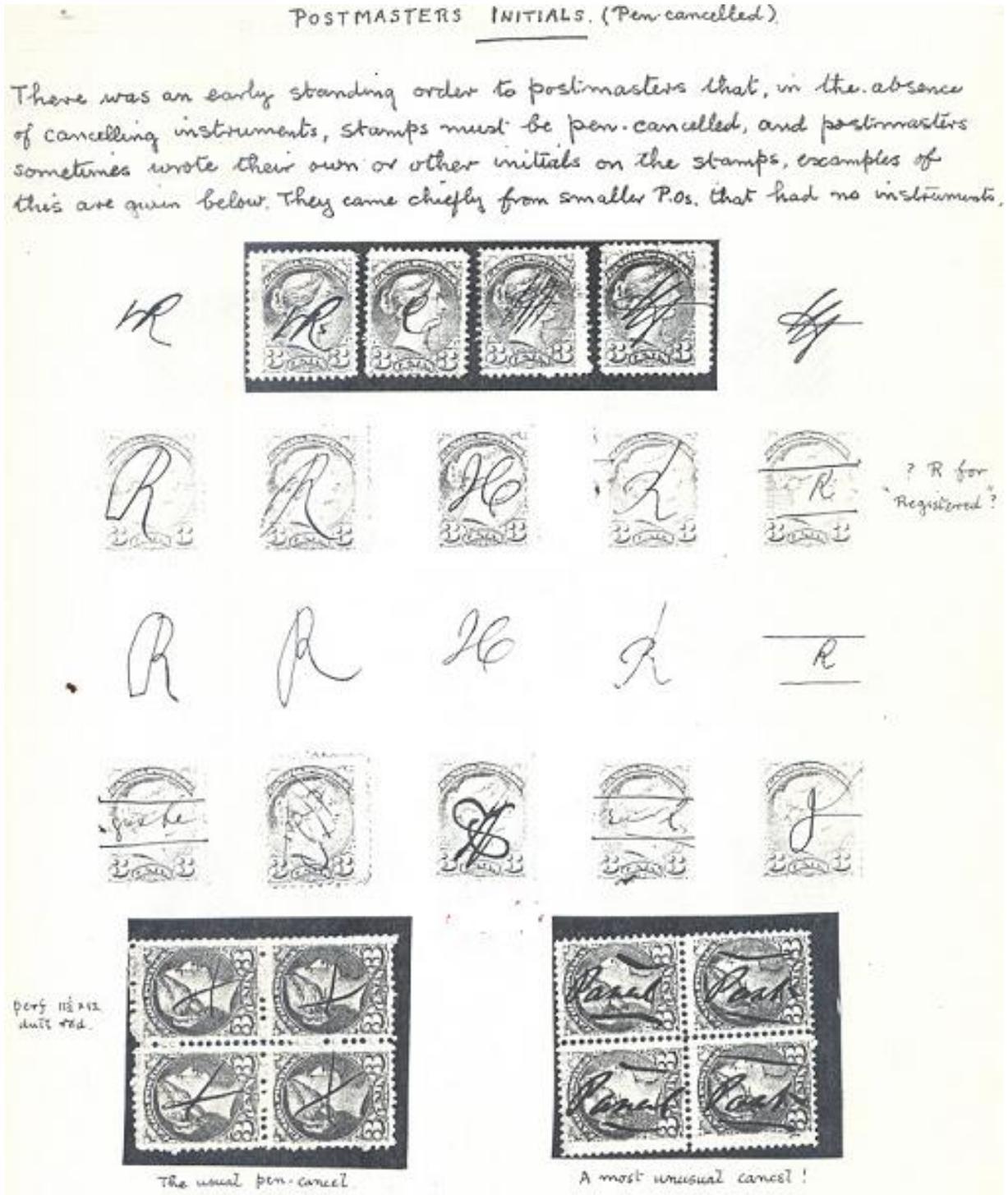
Best incoming cover I have had for quite some time!



If you look real close you can see that what I first thought were cancelling bars are actually Perce Rock in silhouette! A modern fancy cancel in that the picture also functions as a bar cancel Neat!

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Finally,, EA Smythies personal page on pen cancels. Most are probably PM's initials and may have been to make the cover look more important and official to the sender. Certainly cheaper then registering it. At about 85% scale.



And on that note shall close. I wish you all well in 2022.

**PLEASE send more stuff.** [fancycancel@hotmail.com](mailto:fancycancel@hotmail.com)

Take Care & be safe.

Dave Lacelle/Mike Halhed