

## BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 90

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Dave Lacelle/Mike Halhed

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

**Group News.** This will be a very complicated newsletter – at least from my viewpoint as I have about 70 different image files to keep track of! This is not a complaint, the entire aspect of fancy cancels is all about imagery, and more of it in any newsletter widens the scope of interest. Something for everyone I hope. Thank you for sending in all this material. **PLEASE SEND MORE.**

Last NL had our annual dues request, and I also mentioned that anyone over 80 does not have to pay dues. Five of you confirmed you are over this magic age. I am pleased to receive this info. Any others in this group? Bill Wegman confirmed that he has been a member since NL 1 in 1989 and the “Gold Star” at right is for his perfect attendance. Anyone else in this group? My detailed records do not go back that far. I would have laughed in 1989 if anyone had suggested I would still be writing it over 30 years later! We will never know how many of our “Star” fancy cancels were originally teacher’s rubber stars for GOOD work, attendance etc.



Total dues collected were \$701, of which \$300 were donations or ‘pay aheads’. We have about 85 members, and I had to drop six members for non-payment of dues for three years or more.

I would like to make two comments on the illustrations in our book.

1. The book illustrations are from mid or worn use strikes. This is for two reasons, A. These are the most likely to be seen by the average collector as opposed to fresh new perfect “exhibition” examples, and B. Cracks and other wear on the cancel can help separate fakes (which have a tendency to be “perfect”!) from the real thing.
2. Many cancels have partial or full “outer circular rings”. These are from the metal collars the corks were inserted into on cancel hammers. If struck on an angle, very heavy, or with very worn/cleaned/recut corks, parts of the collar will show as “an outer circular ring”.
3. OK, one more. If any piece of paper (including other stamps) comes between the cancel hammer and the stamp then when the stamp is soaked off it will be a partial cancel which sometimes is erroneously referred to as a “cut down” version of the cancel. Some PM’s fanned out several envelopes to be cancelled at once, over laps thus occurred. One “Kingston 9” has been reported in two different “cut down” versions! Nuff said...

### REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Many of the 70 or so items in this NL have been previously presented here, however none of these are mentioned as specific revisions to previous NL’s so I am skipping this section this time.

### CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

As mentioned in our last NL, I will present the fancy leaf cancels L1180 to L1268 from Frank Gross’s find of 68,000 SQ’s. Some of the “L#’s” above are “flower” cancels, not “leaves” and there are about 55 obvious “leaf” designs in our book. If Frank’s SQ’s were a representative sample of the cancels used on about 25 years of S.Q. mail then only 16 were fancy leaves, and if duplication below is removed, then there were five different fancy leaf cancels in any 68,000 SQ stamps. Good thing there were several billion SQ’s used or we would have few fancy cancels to collect.

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There are eight examples of L1194 on various stamp shades and wear, which also show a right handed PM. This and a few similar leaf cancels were used at Souris East PEI over the rather long period of Apr. 1884 to May 1896. The next two, L1211 are from Preston Ont., Mar. 1873 to May 1875. As usual for this cancel, blue ink was used. L1205 St. Hyacinthe Que., used Aug. 1870 to Apr. 1872 follows. The three strikes of L1183 are all poor, and there were several similar cancels in the early 1870's. L1193 was from Galt Ont. July 1870. Finally, another Souris PEI leaf Aug. 1882 (? or 1892, poor CDS on cover example) with the same right hand bias as 1194 above. It is curious that so many of the above are from PEI, L782 (an "S") from Summerside PEI seemed to also be over represented in the "Letters" cancels section of Frank's find. Curiouser 'n curiuser...

Daryl Fridhandler has been busy sorting through a mass of material which he purchased in the last twenty years or so. There is a wide range of material here, (some of which peels off into other topics) and I have split it into three groupings; 1. Items listed in our book (the next 12), 2 items not listed needing confirmation, and 3. Other items or miscellaneous markings.

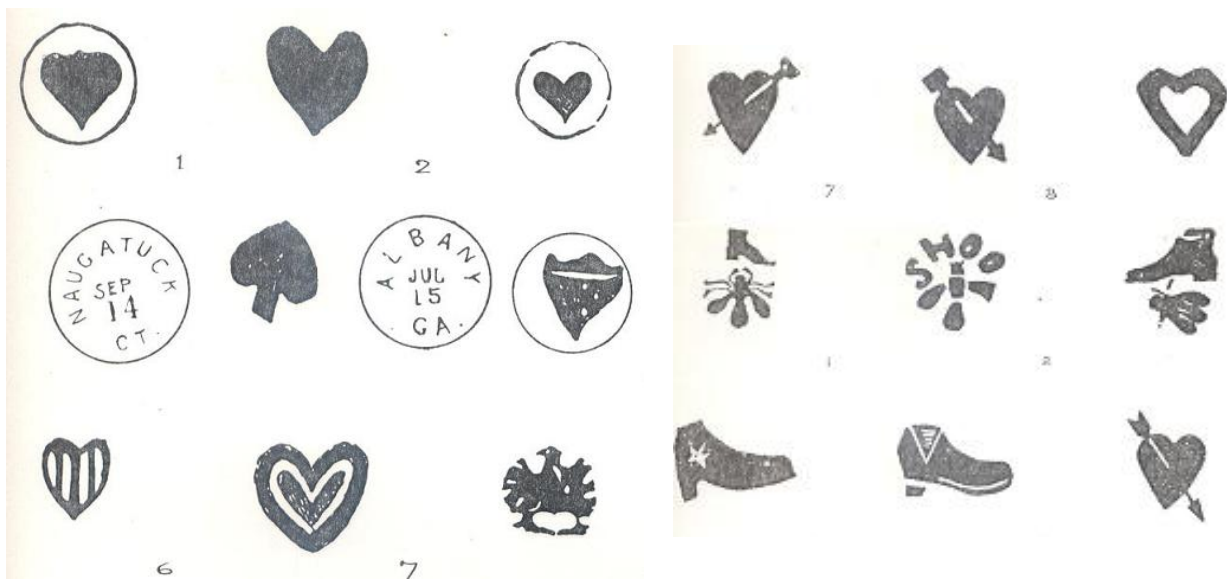
The cancel at right is L1408, and is only the second example of this I have seen. It was first reported to the SQ Fancy Cancel group about 1960. This appears to have been the example used for the tracing used in Day & Smythies (D&S 291). Note, the top heart is larger as it is in D&S. Soon after this tracing was received a very impressive cover appeared on the market from Vallentyne, Ont. Oct. 1884 which was recorded in D&S. I viewed this cover and used a scan of it for the illustration in our book. For several reasons I described it a "Dubious". Daryl's copy resulted in a more detailed review and I must report that both the illustration and information in our book for L1408 is incorrect and is based on a fake cover probably by L. Littlefield. See the "Fakes etc." section on pg. 14 for more info,



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including the fact that the hand drawn CDS on the cover spells the PO name wrong! My bad for not catching this earlier.

There is another possibility; it may be a USA marking. There were many more fancy cancels used in the United States and they tended to be more socially relevant, political or personally designed. In part this is probably due to the more heavily regulated postal system in Canada. PM's could be fired for "Political Partisanship" here for example. The illustrations below are all the USA "hearts" in the first edition of Zareski, there are probably others. There is nothing similar to L1408. The "Shoo Fly" cancels were on the same page and I left them here to show the variety of USA fancy cancels. The reference is to a children's nursery rhyme (several versions) as well as an 1840's square dance chant, "Skip to my Loo". "Loo" is 1840's slang for the word "Love". (Who noo, did yoo?)



One final comment on the "Two hearts entwined" cancel. As this cancel was not used at the Valentyne (official PO name) Ont. PO, it may have been used by a PM only when sending to their lover. Any other use (say Gov't. "Crown Lands" for example) would ruin the cancel's meaning. A similar situation exists with some Fraternal (Masonic etc.) cancels were used only when a PM knew he was sending to a "Brother". Way more than you ever wanted to noo...

The "PR" cover (next page) from Daryl was written up in NL 82 and is again the strike used for the initial 1960 tracing sent to D&S. Again, it was later faked by L. Littlefield and the faked item was unfortunately used for the scan in our book (L727, D359a). The authentic example here does not have a Canadian sending CDS, the fake is attributed to Port Royal Ont. by L. Littlefield. This is typical as he liked his fakes to have "meanings" and thus more value.

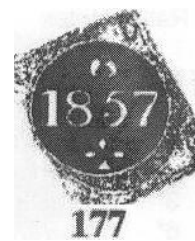




See previous page for above.

The "OTTAWA" roller above right L691 has an interesting feature the second strike is "TTAWA". Date of use is still unknown.

The L1373, PO unknown and L550, King Ont., Dec. 1888 – Jan. 1889 (Recut) show some details from earlier strikes than the later scans in our book show.



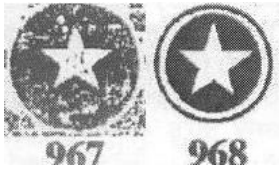
This is a new late date – by three months for L177, a souvenir marking for Queen Victoria's 20<sup>th</sup> Jubilee. It is not known postally used until July 1858, Streetsville Ont. now up to Nov. 1861. There is a fake of this with much rougher numerals. Mike Halhed used RetroReveal to



confirm this strike is genuine. This block is probably from a "Bulk mailing receipt book" as described in NL 88, pg.8. The Ottawa crown L1284 was mostly for items requiring "Special Handling" such as rate reviews, registered, light/no cancels etc. The bulk uses tend to be multiples in blocks as here, rather than say three 10 centers if this was "unpaid" for example.



This bogeyhead is a bit more worn than the L1360 in our book, and is a lovely example. Used at Toronto, Jan. 1875.



Daryl also sent in a reference "Postage Stamps of PEI" that our L967 and L968 are not

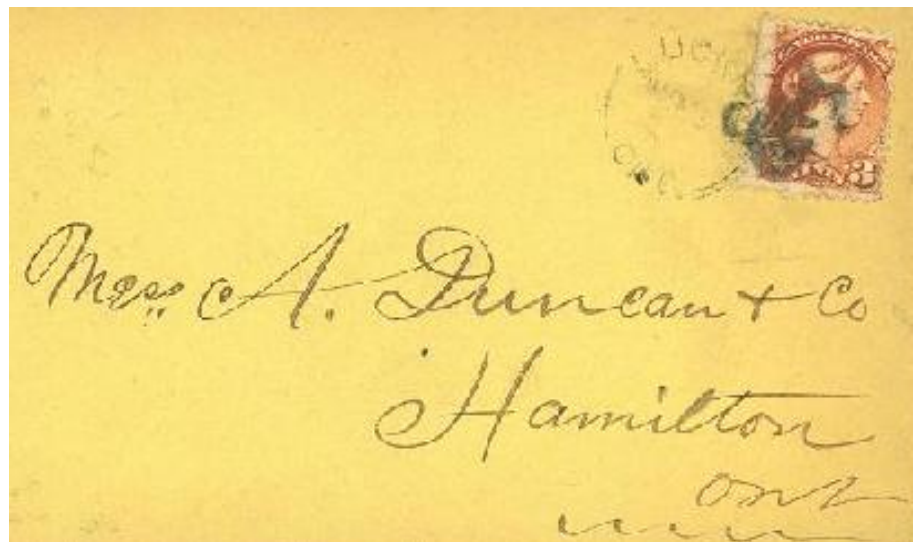
the same, although both (and two other non-fancy types) were used around the same time as early duplexes at Charlottetown, Apr. 1871 –Nov. 1872.



The cancel at right is L559 an elaborate "L", probably from a personal signet ring.



As with other strikes the CDS is very poor and the date cannot be read. The back stamps are unreadable and Duncan's store (paper products) was around for about 100 years. The stamp appears to be a rose shade



from about 1888, others were "early 1890's".

This is a "similar to" item to L983, used here at



Fieldville, Que., Jan. 1898. About six other similar PO strikes noted, and is in 1880 P&A proof book (see Pg. 9). Note, the centre is weak and the star is slightly smaller here.



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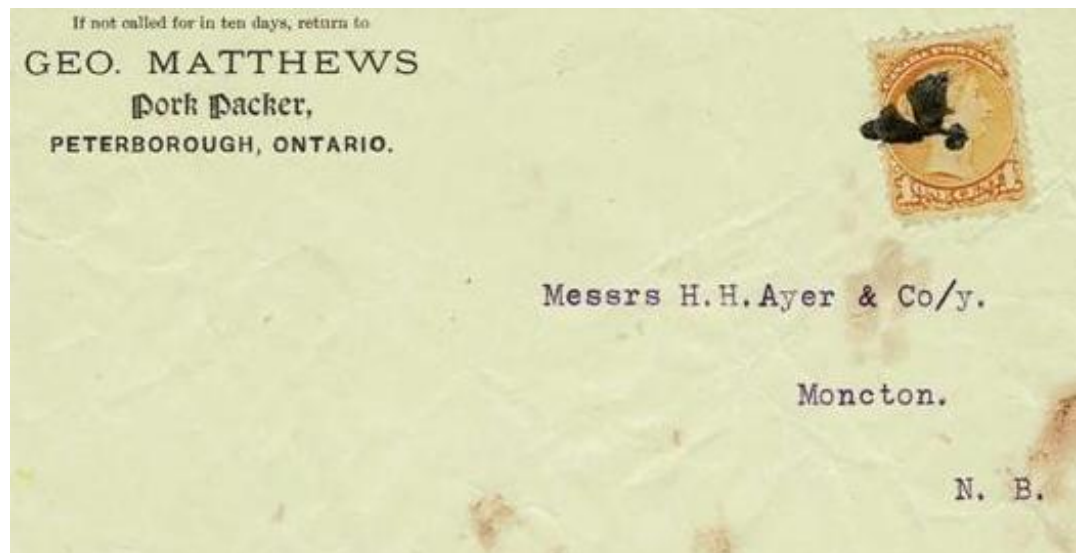
The next four of Daryl's cancels either have not been previously listed or need some interpretation as to what they are. Comments would be appreciated.



The PC above can be interpreted as having a “fancy crown” cancel on Queen Victoria’s head. The centre image is a roughly highlighted version of this cancel prepared by me. The PC is from Bracebridge, Ont., Oct. 1877 to a VERY British sounding firm, “British America Assurance Company” and is in regards to a fire insurance policy held by this firm. The inks of the CDS and the cancel do not match, and many of these old commercial PC’s have been used to produce fakes as there was no need to cancel a PC. Having said the preceding, the cancel may have been applied at Toronto, or there is a third possibility. It may be a Patriotic company marking. There is a blue BAAC receiver mark, and the Company’s official crest at right has a (not surprising) Lion, Unicorn, and World Globe with a Crown on top. Who else would crown the Queen?

Nuff said....

This cover appeared on the market in the 1990’s and was described by the seller as a “Stork with baby”. This is probably a rather imaginative description, personally I see a “bat with small mouse”...

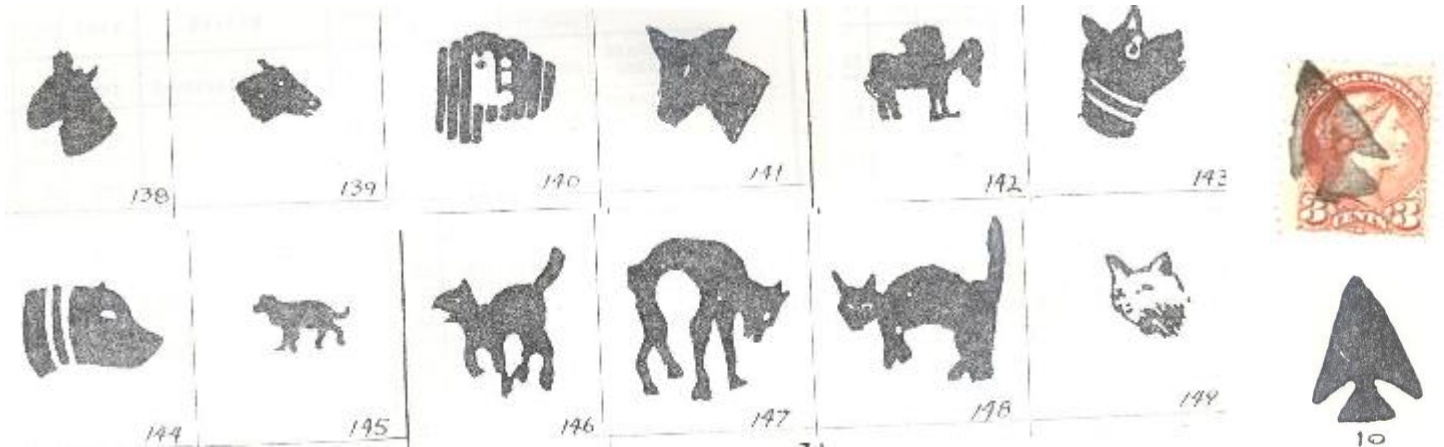


The tying is poor (no gap at edge of stamp), however there is no evidence of other cancels, nor of re gumming/replacement of the stamp. Any other examples flying around out there?



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The first item at right has been described as “a face or cat” cancel. The “cat whisker” on the Queen’s neck is an underlying pen cancel. I think that it is probably a part strike of a leaf cancel, see L1193 on page 2 as an example. The second item has been described as a “wolf or dog” cancel. Nothing similar has been reported as a Canadian cancel, so I checked for USA “dogs” as below from Herst – Zareski. There are no direct matches. I threw in a few USA “cats” also for balance.



Finally, an “others/miscellaneous” markings category for four of Daryl’s items. The arrow cancel at right above had me a bit confused. It appeared to be similar to L1431, but did not have any sign of the weak outer ring. L1431 also occurs on SQ shades from the 1890’s. The stamp shade looks to be a rose from either 1870- 1872, or 1887- 1889 printings. The bottom perfs cut off where the pre 1887 “position dot” would be. The centre arrow is from Zareski, page 175 and indicates that (at least to me) this is likely a USA fancy on Canadian. Used at Fredericksburg Virginia, 1873. There are other examples of this use of USA cancels on Canada, see our Appendix 3B.

Daryl also sent in several examples of the slogan cancel “Your Postman sells Stamps” used in the 1920’s and 1930’s. He also provided a slogan cancel “YOUR POSTMASTER SELLS MAILING LISTS” from 1928. I was not personally aware of these practices, but they make sense in that era. I wonder how detailed the mailing lists were (? Only lists by geographical PO area?) and how they were compiled?





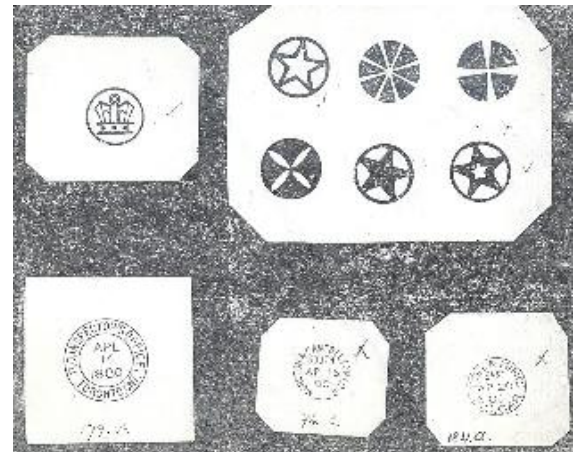
Finally, this “Skull and Crossbones” cancel of Daryl’s ran in NL 81 in 2019, and any further information on it was requested from the membership. Nothing was forthcoming. The earlier presentation did not have the backside, which confirms it is the Ottawa Journal. The court news gives some insight to the times, “Edward Osler, laborer, a drunk...”, “...the usual one and one (sentence)”. We still do not know exactly when this Newspaper was printed. Any ideas?

Now, for something completely different... Mike Halhed sent in two neat Ottawa Crown covers. This is L1284 used for “Special Handling” Apr. 80 – July 1888, and also in very worn state in 1898 and 1899. I might add that I have seen two L1284 covers, both to Montreal from Ottawa with no obvious need for Special Handling, all other covers have had “problems” with rates, cancel, etc. The two covers may have had something that was not obvious (Stamp fallen off for example) or may be early “philatelic” items.

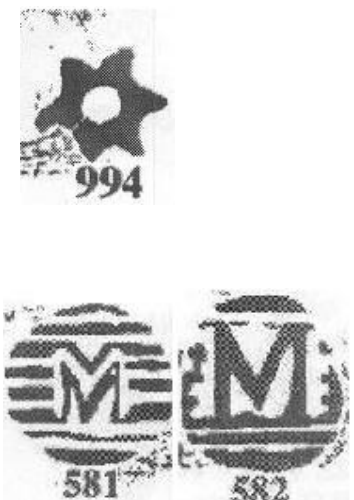
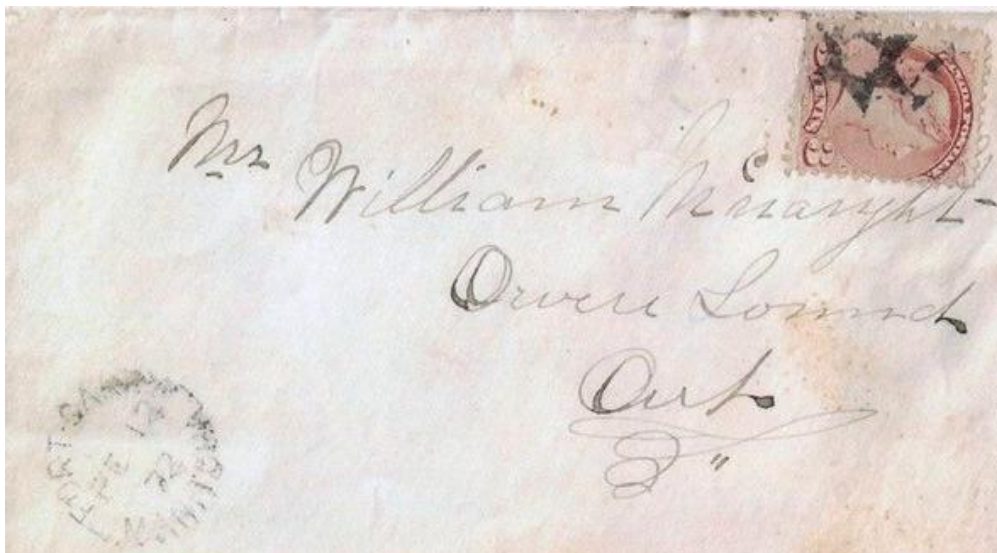
This cover is “special handled” by the stamps, crowns, CDS’s, and “REGISTERED” being put on first and **then** the address is squeezed in around them. Never seen one like it before!







Mike's other item above is really NEAT! At first, I was somewhat doubtful about this use of the Ottawa crown L1284. Beyond the fact that there is no need to cancel a PC, the cancel and CDS just seemed "too perfect". Ottawa crown strikes are usually partial, poorly inked and show a right-handed bias. (See previous page for an example.) The carrier or sorting CDS is likewise a bit too perfect. The recipient is a jewellery store in Montreal. There is an explanation when you consider the portion of the P&A proof page (about ½ scale) at right. The proof dates of the three hammers below the crown proof are Apr. 14, 15 and 20, 1880. The crown was probably proofed around Apr. 12 to 14, and allowing a few days for the hammer to be sent to the Ottawa PO, the CDS date of Apr. 19 effectively makes this a FIRST DAY COVER! This philatelic use explains the perfect strikes. Is this the earliest FDC in Canada?



Gordon Richardson sent in this cover of our L 994, Fort Garry Man., Jan. 1872 to June 1872. He is doing some research on Fort Garry and has asked if anyone has L581, and L582 used from July 1872 to Aug 1874 for sale to please contact me and I will patch through to him.



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Jack Forbes sent in some pen cancelled SQ's. Most are just "X"'s, but he also owns the "parcel post" one formerly owned by Smythies. In an era of straight pens and liquid ink, almost everyone had a small container of "ink eradicator" (or at least bleach) to correct errors. PM's were ordered to not use pen cancels so that the stamps could not be cleaned and reused. The 2 centers were recancelled with some kind of roller cancel. The six 5 centers pen cancelled is unusual, 30 cents was a lot of money back then.



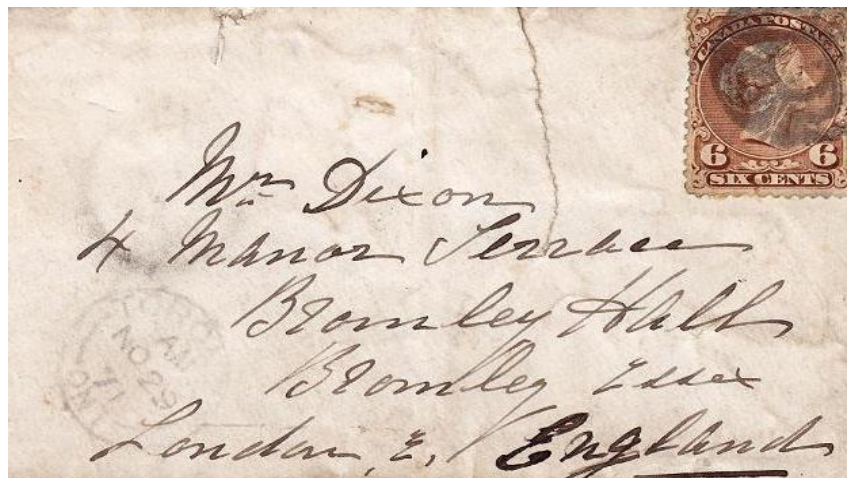
Jack also sent in the two 8 cent SQ's at right. He suggests that fancy cancels on the 8 cent SQ would be less likely as the stamps were issued in 1893, the peak of the fancy cancel era had already passed, also CDS cancels were more often used. The first stamp at right is just a roughly cut 8-segment radial cork. The second item is an example of a so called "cut down" cancel (see pg.1) where a piece of paper has got in the way when the cancel was applied. The entire cork was probably just a circular cork with some fine saw lines.



Bill Wegman sent in the item at right. The Collingwood Ont. July 1887 CDS has been glued on by some old-time collector. This design makes me think of some sort of tool, or handle being pressed into service as a cancel see Appendix 2, pg. 202 our book for other examples. It might also be just a square stick of wood with a former screw hole.



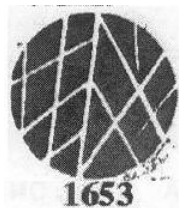
Garfield Porch sent in this example of a Toronto "lace like" cancel, probably an early strike of L1449, Toronto Jan. 1874.





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Guillaume Vadeboncoeur sent in the next five covers. The one at right is L480, a new late date, Hagersville Ont., Nov. 1893 June 1894. This is part of a series of six "H's" used there between 1882 to 1894. FMI see NL 75 Aug. 2017, pg. 3, an analysis of 60 Hagersville covers and over 100 stamps!

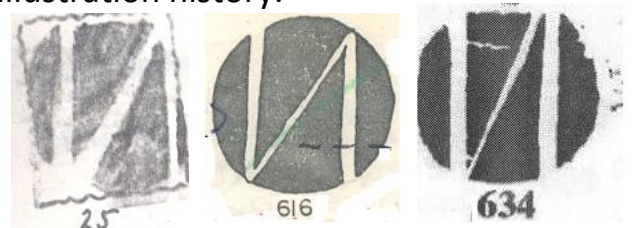


Guillaume also sent in covers of L1653 and L1495, both in correct periods of use. L1495 must have been soft, many small variations occur, and it wears over two years to a bumpy ring. This style of cancel with a hollow centre can have a patriotic meaning. The stamp is cancelled but NOT the Queen as above.

He also sent in this strip of three and suggests that the scan of L634 is wrong and the "N" should not be reversed. This item is from the correct PO (Sheridan Ont.) and is a month before our listed early date of Nov., 1877. I have seen at least five strikes of this, so I checked it's illustration history.



First at right, 1951, tracing BNAPS SQSG, #25, 1961, tracing D&S 616, 1997, BNAPS FC&MM NL 19, scan, (later) L634.



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Phil Visser sent in Owen Sound covers showing “crossroads” L1161 to L1163 used May, 1876 to Nov., 1880. Most are L1162 and show a deformation of the cross from right angles. This is consistent and is thus not due to “lumpy” letter paper or other causes. The cancels seem to be both delicate in design and sharp in strike, and I believe the hammer was metal or possibly rubber. L1162 is more delicate than similar crossroads used in almost 20 other PO’s. In our book I suggest these hammers were produced by P&A in Ottawa as brass hammers, although they do not appear in the P&A proof books. (See pg. 9 for examples of six other brass “corks” made by P&A.). Another possibility for L1162 is that it was some common (1870’s) metal device pressed into use as a cancel (see “doorknob” NL 82 pg.2) but what would it be? (Something in the back of my mind says it was some kitchen device used for wood stove cooking or even open flame cooking. (Great Gramma can you help us out here?)



Phil also sent in this nice “miscellaneous marking”, a commercial use PC from 1879 with a “Stamp Dealer” purple marking. It is from Toronto however I cannot read the name other than WM B???”MS?. There are six Toronto stamp dealers on my 1892 list, but none fit this name. Presumably the private company would file this PC for at least a year or two before it reached the stamp market, and it would probably not be a very desirable item immediately. I would guess the stamp is from the early 1900’s. He did not include an address nor phone number which would be very odd in more modern times. Any other examples of this dealers mark out there?





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Robin Simpson sent in this colourful registered cover, Toronto to Waterloo Ont.

July 1884. The computer colour balance may be off, but the stamp shades seem to

be early 1870's. The ms under the 3 cent is likely "3 Pd" or similar. I have seen at least one other Toronto Main cover from the mid 1880's with stamps from the early 1870's. It appears that Toronto Main received (or found?) a supply of old stamps. Another query. Do any of you have any other examples of Toronto covers from the mid 1880's with early 1870's stamps?



Robin also sent in this "trisected triangle" Masonic cancel, our L1333. This is a second (and later date) for this cancel, Stayner Ont. Jan. 1887- June 1887.



## FAKES, BOGUS, AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

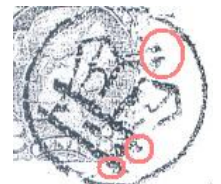
I recently found a photocopy off this Ottawa crown cancel in my old notes with several comments as to its authenticity. It has a weak Rockingham Ont. cancel (small town West of Ottawa) Dec. 14 1893, and

an Ottawa backstamp a day later. It was then recancelled with the Ottawa crown L1284. There is no Toronto receiver mark. This is five years after any other use of this cancel, and before a few damaged uses in 1898 and 1899. Close examination (highlights at



A White  
Assistant Commissioner  
of Crown Lands  
Department  
Toronto

right) show that it is probably a Smythies #7 fake, (on issues up to 1905) see NL 86, pg.10 and this NL pg. 9. A "5" on my 1 to 10 scale of authenticity. I would like to see any other Ottawa crown cancels between 1889 and 1898.



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This is the fake cover (probably by L. Littlefield) from page 2 & 3 of the “Two hearts cancel” which was unfortunately scanned for our book as L1408. The scan on pg. 2 is correct, note the hearts are different sizes. Valentyne (note spelling) Ont. is a small unincorporated area NW of Toronto. It has never had municipal status but had a PO 1855 to 1859, “Dismissed”, reopened 1867 to 1918, “closed”. The OFFICIAL PO spelling of the name is “Valentyne”. A double “L” version has come into partial use in more modern times. Close examination reveals that the misspelled CDS on this cover has been carefully drawn in on top of a previous weak CDS. There are several other flaws with this cover and it was probably originally stampless. Nuff said....



The first scan at right is the faulty scan used in our book, and was from a fake cover by L. Littlefield. See page 3 and 4 for a correct



scan. The second scan is the fake “1857” L177 see pg. 4.

This is a cut down scan of our former L1420, a L. Littlefield bogus cancel. It is the only known copy. Note ink on Queen’s neck from earlier cancel, no tying gap, typical dull flat ink etc. See Appendix 8.



Finally, a personal experiment with modern HP printer ink. I also intend to do this with some old (100 year) paper to compare ink penetration. (Old paper absorbs ink more readily.) Note here, NO tying gap, dull flat ink, no ink density change across cancel (angle of strike variation). Will destroy after some chemical tests. More next NL.

