

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 91

June, 2022
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Group News.

This will be a somewhat smaller newsletter than the last few as I have not had a great deal of material sent in. This is **YOUR** Newsletter, please send in “**STUFF**” for it! On the other hand, much of the material (aka “stuff”) sent in was in direct response to questions about stuff in NL 90. This shows keen interest in detail which is something philatelists are noted for.

Thank you for the stuff....

Despite the high gas prices, I intend to take a little drive to Calgary in September for the BNAPS Convention, and we shall have a Study Group meeting there. **Do any of you have an comments on meeting contents, style, specific topics, etc.?**

I am (slowly) working on a sideline FC&MM item, a list from all of the newsletters of all the Lacelle numbers (aka “L #'s”) with Newsletter number and page. This supplements our book in two ways. Firstly, it helps anyone wishing for more information than what is in the book. Secondly, in most cases it shows more information for “new” listings. Not all L #'s have appeared in the newsletters, however (unless my original count is wrong) there will be about 3,000 entries. I might add that there is already a list of L #'s by Post Office/municipality in our book Appendix 6, pgs. 215 to 221. Thus to pick a hypothetical example, if someone was researching fancy cancels from Fort Garry, Manitoba one would find seven cancels in the book (Ap. 6) and 17 newer or more detailed references (with some duplication) in the 90+ Newsletters. Is this “over kill” on my part? **Comments appreciated.**

Another (sorta) listing project would be L # illustrations at (say) ¼ scale crammed into as few pages as possible. There are so many fancy cancels in our book that it is difficult to use the book for commercial lotting. A quick ‘n dirty small illustrations item like this could probably be done in say 10 pages. This concept in part competes with the book and should only be used for commercial purposes. I have not yet done any work on this “listing” and again would appreciate **comments.**

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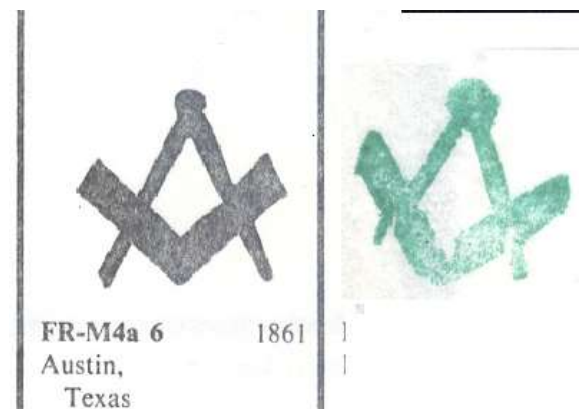
... and on a more personal note, while the two items above will (hopefully) have the effect of making the data that you, gentle reader have sent in a bit more usable, there is also a bit of a legacy component. About three years ago I was diagnosed with Parkinson's. My version is a very slow changing variety and I can (obviously) still work a keyboard, scale and move images etc. I tell people "that it makes stir frying much easier..."

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS



Newsletters 90, 73, 48 etc. My actual corks, D596a & 596b. I had wondered why there was a simple quartered cork with these Masonic corks. NL 90 stated that a PM used the Masonic corks when he was sending to a fellow Mason. Everyone else just got the regular quartered cork. I have no idea what value these have, but if anyone wants them **please make me an offer. Box 233 Merville BC V0R 2M0.**

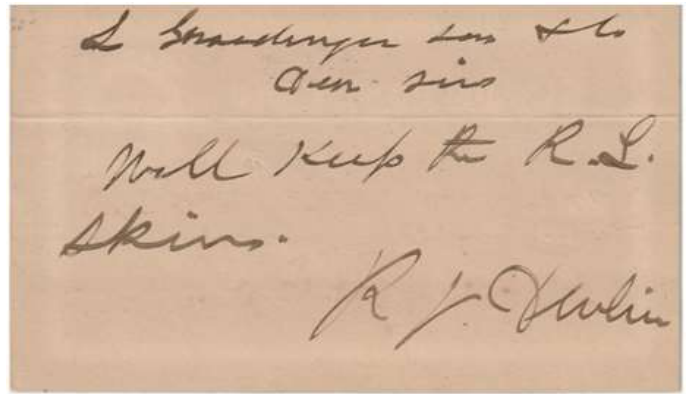
Newsletter 73, The Masonic corks as above. I have presented these as well as "proof" strikes in several previous newsletters and have asked for a mere 25 years now if anyone has ever seen them used as Canadian cancels. The bad news – they have never been reported on Canadian – the good news, they have never been reported as fakes of other



Masonics. They were used somewhere, and I suggested in NL 73 that the United States is a very likely possibility. So I searched my USA fancy cancel books (Zareski, Herst Zareski, and Skinner & Eno). The Skinner & Eno number "FR-M4a 6" page 236 used Austin Texas is the closest match. S&E listed about 325 "compass and square" Masonic cancels our book lists 33. There was no way to determine the origin of the very mixed stamp "junque" box I found them in.

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Newsletter 90, pg. 9. Mike Halhed's Ottawa crown L 1284 apparent "First Day Cover". Mike has sent the back of the card. The card was addressed to a jeweler in Montreal and I was hoping for some sort of "stamp collector" note. No such luck. Writing is terrible but it appears to say "Will keep the R L ? skins?". If the sender was a furrier (a luxury business in this era), this would be a typical business comment. ?R L ?



Newsletter 90, pg. 2. My comment about the abundance of PEI cancels led to Frank Gross recalling that he had bought the 68,000 SQ's from a gentleman from PEI. The 68,000 are mostly in a 20 year period (say 1875 to 1895), what business in such a small province would receive about 3400 letters a year?

Newsletter 90, pg. 12, the stamp dealer marking. Leo Beudet sent in a clearer example on 1897 PC with "79" CDS error. The NL90 example was on an 1871 issue PC used in 1879. The dealer's name is "Wm (William) H. Adams" of Toronto who was active for several decades. Leo agrees that the marking was probably applied in the early 1900's.



Newsletter 90, pg. 8, the Ottawa Journal back side. Randy Evans did some awesome research on the "Court News" section. He found Magistrate M. O'Gara. Mrs. M. Hudson, and Mr. N. Dubois in the Ottawa City Directories from 1893 to 1897. Mr. Dubois was a neighbour of Mrs. Hudson and was probably a witness at her trial. Further a sentence of a month for "nuisance" would not be unusual in those times. This nicely narrows down the date of the skull and cross bone cancel.

Newsletter 84, pg. 11. Ron Smith's fancy cancel cover from Black Brook. There is a typo, "L 1585" should read "L 1515". This cancel with its three triangles is different enough from L 1515 that it deserves a new listing, tentatively L 1515a.



CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

Rick Freisen sent in this cover with the Ottawa Crown L1284 cancelling a Map stamp (issued 1898) and with a Powassan Ont. squared circle. These are somewhat “strange bed fellows”, however the date is Jan. 12, 1900, and I have seen this crown used in 1899 (see NL 68 pg.6) so it fits as a slightly later usage. Neat item!



Smythies wrote a 12 page article on this cancel and fakes of it in “Maple Leaves” Apr. '63, pg.171 and reported use up to 1903 (not verified by me). Jarrett, 1929 lists (Jar. 853) seven different prices for this cancel from \$1.50 to \$ 15.00 depending on what issue it is on. Map stamp is \$3.50. He reports it from 1868 issues to 1903 (Sc. 90 the 2 cent Edward.) This wide range of possible use and values may have encouraged the many early fakes. With regards to fakes of this cancel, I have in the past mentioned that the P&A proof strike (enlarged at right) has two oddities/mistakes.

This is interesting as P&A was very precise in the exact lettering of it’s CDS hammers. The town names are always perfectly centered. (Compare with fake Vallentyne CDS in NL 90.) The crown is asymmetrical in that one of the bottom lines is longer on one side. Also, the cancel is closer to it’s surround at bottom left. Most of the fakers have corrected this and these are features I look for regarding this cancel. The earlier crown proof L 1283 also has the line issue. Finally, Rick’s item above has both these as in the proof, another indicator of it’s authenticity.



I would like to share one more detail about covers of the Ottawa crown cancel.

Almost all covers have a circular “sorting clerk” stamp. A recent Topics article gives more detail about these marks and it makes sense that a crown cancel indicating “Special Handling” would have an earlier sorting clerk mark routing it there. (Cut from Mike Halhed’s cover, NL 90.)



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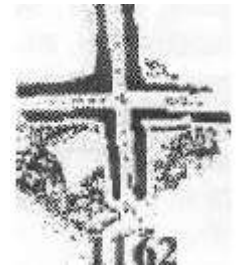
Phil Visser has sent in three Owen Sound items. The first (I cheated and moved the CDS and cut the cover) is a variant of L 1536 used in many PO's, here Owen Sound, July 1874.



Phil also sent in this example of the "Twisted" variant of L 1162. He has now confirmed the use of this variety over four months which indicates that it was not a "one time" bumpy paper, strong hit etc. This bending also indicates that the



cancel was made of something more flexible than cork or wood. I suspect it is metal and thought it was some common tool or household item "pressed" into use as a cancel. From my note to Philip below



"One possible origin for it is it is the outside central rod of an old folding umbrella. The longer and thinner part would slide inside the cross when you compressed the broly. Cut the broly a bit below the handle and you would have a nice wood handle with a thin metal "X" for a cancel hammer. Discard all the rest of the presumably broken broly. What do you think?"

Unfortunately, I do not have an old broken broly around to make a proof strike and the modern ones use circular rods.

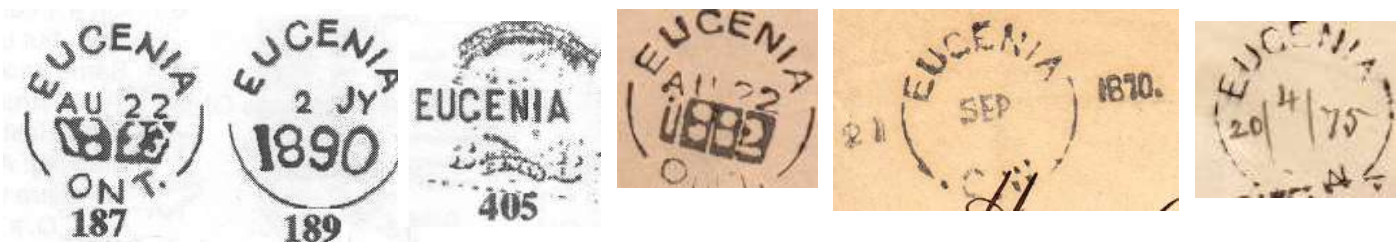
Philip also asked if I could put a...**"request in the next newsletter for collaboration and study of the cork cancels from Owen Sound in the early 1870's?"** If you have any, please send to me, or get his address from me. Thank you.

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I have mentioned in several newsletters how L 1564 appears to be bottom of a door handle. I found that Granpaw had put aside one of the old white ceramic doorknobs used everywhere in the 1880's and on. Proof strike is below. Not identical to L 1564, but there were probably many different versions of these doorknobs. See also NL 89.

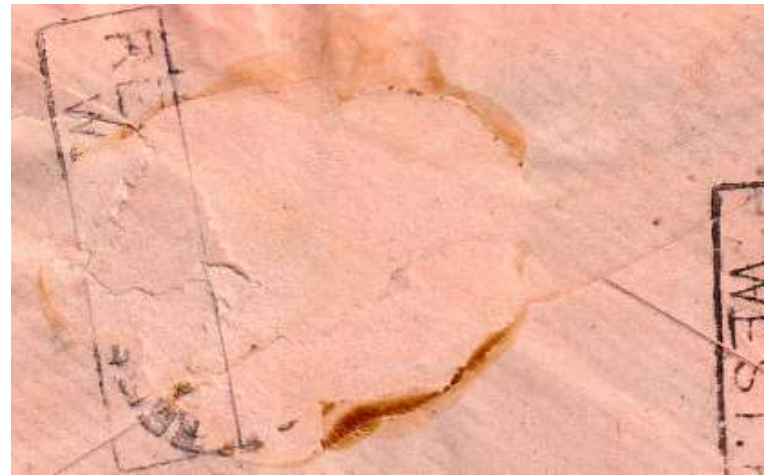


Longley Auctions sale 26 May 15 was HUGE and I hope many of you got Goodies from it. If not, then maybe next time. www.longleyauctions.com
Among many other cancel items, there were many fancy "Toronto 2's" cancels, L18 to L 54. What caught my eye were some new variations of the Eugenia Ont. hand carved or personally prepared fancy cancels. The three listed in our book are below. The PM Mr. Purdy was also the local Justice of the Peace, Merchant, and probably (sorta) Bank Manager etc. He may have used these "special" cancels to impress upon his customers that they were important and rated "the personal touch". See also NL 84 for a previous write up. L 187 used May 1883 – Nov. 1883 (Note Aug.1882 version below), L 189 May 1890 – Aug. 1890, L 405 Mar. 1867 – Mar. 1892 (!). Three items from the Longley sale are below, new listing tentatively L 187a, with hand carved 1882, a curious CDS with day and year attached outside (does this qualify as a "Fancy"? If so, then L 187b) and the earlier CDS ms cancel. style CDS. There was also a new early date for L 189, now May 1890 to Aug. 1890.



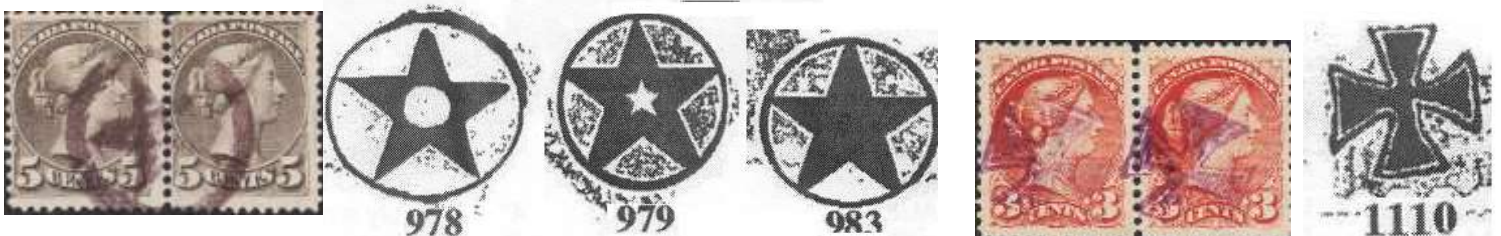
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Another thing in the Longley sale which caught my eye was the strange item at right, a REMOVED wax seal. But first a word or two about wax seals. See L 1270 to L 1272 for examples of these used with ink as cancels or postal markings. Each PO was given an OFFICIAL PO wax seal upon it's opening to be used to seal important mailings to Ottawa or other postal centres.



Appendix 8 in our book lists over 160 surviving examples of these. There were also private wax seals used by business and individuals. I am not sure when the PO stopped issuing them (?1930's ?) but they have been reported in postal use in the late 1940's, and by some legal firms up to the 1960's. Some private (and religious) organizations included a tiny cloth ribbon in the wax so that it could not be "accidentally" broken. I had never before heard of a wax seal removed in transit. The cover piece (I've cut it up here in Paint) was from Teeswater Ont. Dec. 1877 via WEST. EXT. RY to Crown Lands Commission in Toronto. It was Registered and had a large wax seal on the back which then had a Teeswater CDS on top - which implies PO acceptance of the seal. The seal was removed (by the RPO?) and a boxed RPO Registered stamp was placed over where it had been. The same RPO box was put over another Teeswater CDS at right as though to cancel it. If the removed seal was a private seal then the PO should NOT have touched it. If it was the PO seal, then why remove it? (Possibly seal was put on the wrong envelope?) Does anyone else have anything similar? Curiouser 'n curiouser...

Guillaume Vadeboncoeur sent in these four items. Firstly, L978, Brooklyn NS Aug. 1881 – Jan. 1894. (L979 & L983 are also possibilities. Both of these were made by P&A of Ottawa and used in many PO's. See pg. 6 of our book.) next L1110 in purple (as usual), Sherrington Que., Jan. 1881.



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Next are two Ottawa Geometrics, L 1661, Apr. 1878 –May 1878 (The selvage at right was “lumpy” and deformed the cancel) and L 1698, Oct. 1874 –Sept. 1876. This was probably a receiver cancel as it clobbers the poorly cancelled 10 “center”.



Mike Halhed sent in this Newspaper cover (slightly reduced here) with a new late date for L 1050, now Welland Ont. 1885- May 1886.



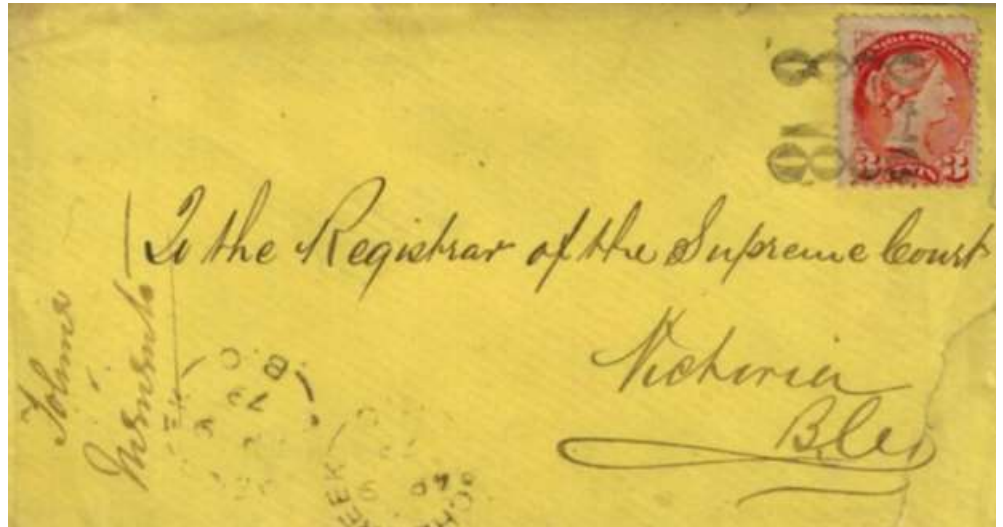
Mike also sent in the covers below. The first has Lucknow, Hamilton, and Ste. Catherines Ont. Aug. 1877 markings and an indistinct marking at top left which is about the size of an official PO crown wax seal. It seems to have the words “OFFICE” at top and NO ?? at bottom. A “Toronto sub Office” crown is known in use 30 years later. “Dead Letter Office” crowns are also known but this cover does not seem to have been misdirected. Furthermore the “seal” marking is **under** the registration stamp. My guess is a marking from the sender indicating that the cover is important Grand Loyal Orange Lodge fraternal correspondence. The Ste. Catherines LOL was founded in 1851 and is still extant. I have included some of the LOL symbols also FYI.

Loyal Orange Lodge



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Mike's last item is a previously unrecorded "8" cancel (BC # 8 was assigned to Clinton) from Cache Creek BC Apr. 1879. For several reasons I can only give this a "5" on my 1-10 authenticity scale. Does anyone have any other strikes?



FAKES, BOGUS, AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

One of our members sent in these items with the suggestion they were placed on ungummed (o/w mint) stamps to make them more saleable as fancy cancels. I agree. The "cancel" is in a purple ink, and I have altered the colour contrast to make them more visible. They vaguely resemble our L784. L784 is a scan, not a tracing or line drawing so the resemblance is not close. There are no similar items in D&S nor in Jarrett.



Just to end this newsletter on a light note ... I believe it was Jung who said "The primary function of Jargon is to keep outsiders out." If I may be so trite, it also applies to abbreviations. The Loyal Orange Lodge LOL cover on page 8 is certainly different from the LOL sign off from the 1960's "Lots of Love" and the modern "Laughing Out Loud" meanings. My old cabin in Ontario was in the "Land O Lakes" tourist region. So... As long as I am not loaning or leasing my LOL cabin to my good friend Lucie O' Leary for the LOL meeting then all will be OK.

LOL
Dave Lacelle

PS, I need stuff for the next newsletter. **Lots Of Letters** please...