

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 93

December 2022

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Group News. Yes, four newsletters this year! I hope that all of you are settled and ready for Winter, holidays etc. This “extra” newsletter is in part provided by a wide range of fancy cork covers sent in by Ron Smith. Several of these required me to backtrack through almost 40 years of research. One was so complicated that I relegated the text to a (sorta) “Readers Write” section at the end as most of you are not that interested in research history. (Short version. I don’t always get it right, our D588 is a Masonic cancel and should be listed in the main text.)

Put bluntly, not much happened at the Study Group meeting at the Calgary Convention. Only a few showed up, and we just had a general discussion. Hopefully this will be better at Halifax next year.

We have one new member, Richard Hautala who has sent in a bunch of cancels, see pages 5 and 6.

It is again dues time, and if appropriate a dues notice will be attached with this sending. Dues are \$ 10.00 per year and do not apply in your first year of membership, or if you are over 80 years old. Please send to Dave Lacelle, Box 233 Merville BC V0R 2M0. Thank you. I may have to cut three members for non-payment over three years this will bring our membership to about 85.

Three other financial aspects I would like mention. Firstly, I am a researcher, do not have a stamp collection, and do not receive any royalties from the sale of our book. Secondly, there was a \$100.00 Study Group stipend sent from BNAPS for 2022. And thirdly, I am not affiliated with any philatelic agency or business other than BNAPS.

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 92m page 2 Typo, L 304 text should read “PM ’BHJ’s initials” not “BMJ”.

REVISION TO FANCY CANCEK BOOK

Revision to book, our D588 should be in the main text, tentatively L1309a Simcoe Ont. May 1877. .

CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

I will start with Ron Smith's covers and present them in roughly the same order as our book. The first item is L 591, a fancy town initial "M" used Maniwaki Que. Oct. 1888. The PO and date were not previously known.



The cover below appears to be L894 a "W", from Waterford Ont. Aug. – Dec. 1892 however it is five years too early. I believe it is really L896 location previously unknown but now known from Waterford Ont. Dec. 1887. I also note other similarities with these they are both rather crudely cut and tend to be upside down.



Ron's next item is a new late date for L1518 used at Port Hope Ont. July 1872. His example a month later shows that this cancel became more rounded as it aged.



his

This item is a bit problematical, and I give it a '5' on my authenticity scale. It may be a fancy, or it may be just a slightly slashed cork used several times. There might also be a weak "blob" cancel under it.

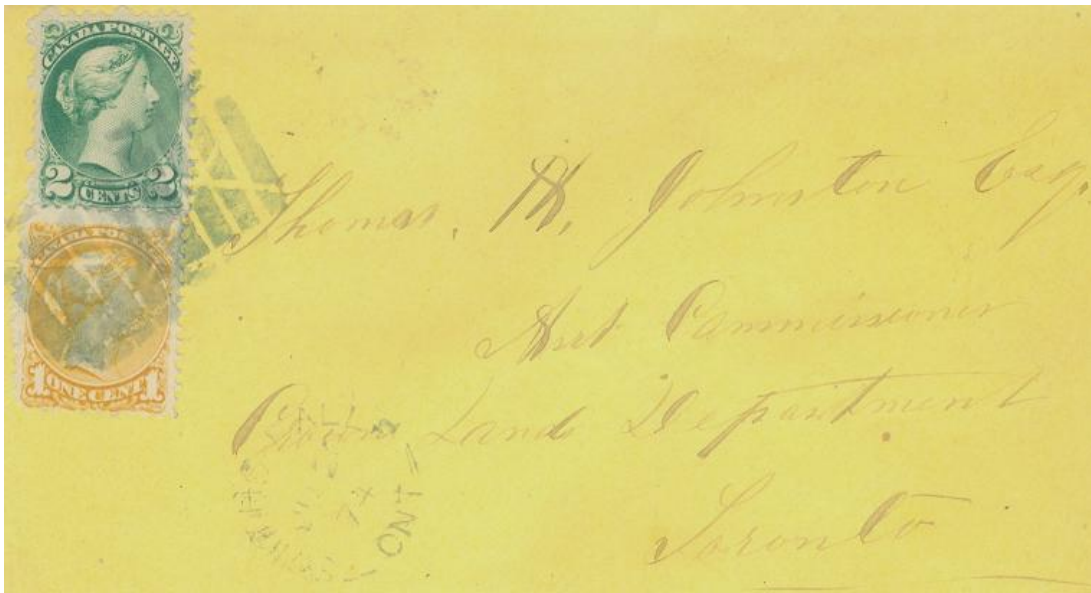


This is an unlisted geometric from Peterboro (old spelling) Ont., and the best estimate of it's use (receiver cancel printing, CDS type etc.) would be Sept. 1885. I have one reservation about this, why is the cancel so dark and the CDS's so weak? It should probably be listed as L1678b. There is also the possibility that this is a receiver cancel applied at Toronto on poorly cancelled. See NL 58 for a similar Peterboro/Toronto item (cut at right) with weak CDS cancel and somewhat similar heavy cancel L1678a. If anyone has examples of either of these, please send them in to clear this up.

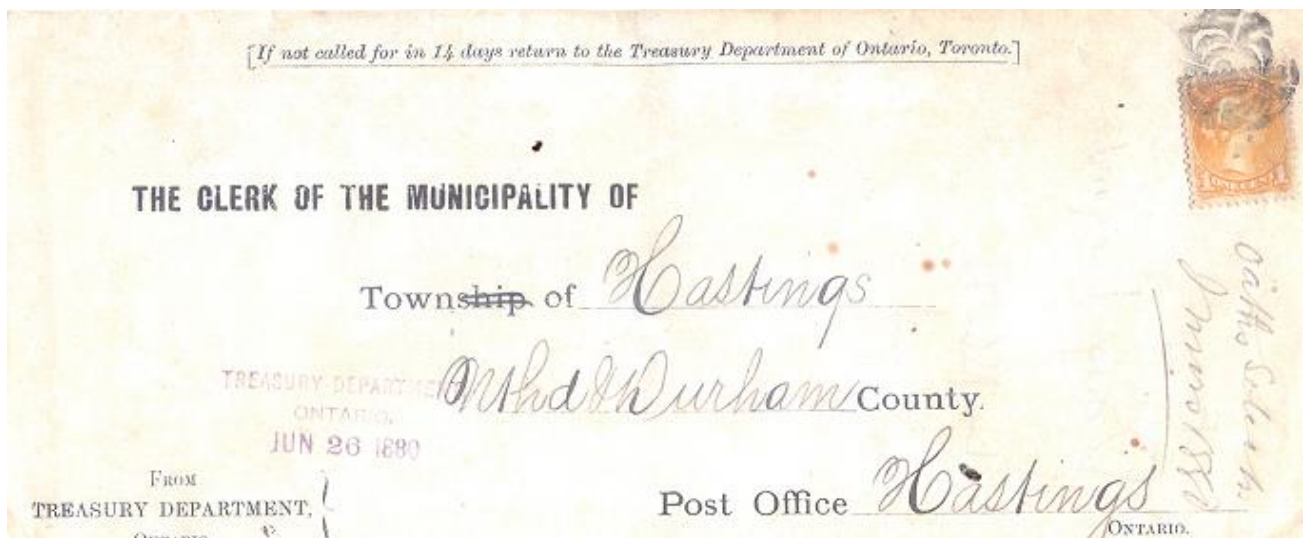


This is what I would have to call a "Miscellaneous" cancel. It appears that someone filed down an old CDS hammer head so it would be unreadable and thus could be used to cancel the stamps. Thrifty soul...





The item above from Smith Falls Ont. July? 1874 has both the CDS and cancel in blue ink, and is similar to two other items, L1703 and L1703a (top right) which was written up in NL 63. I would tentatively list it as L1703b. I would make one minor advisement however. Some raw corks have ridges on their bottoms from their manufacture which would appear as solid bars when used as a cancel. This does not appear to apply here as L1703b is rectangular and probably carved from wood.



Doug Lingard sent in this (slightly reduced) example of Government mail with a Toronto geometric. At first I thought this was the Toronto "spider web" L1449 (1/2 scale right) but it is five years too late. Close comparison showed it is different, and should probably be listed as L1449a used Toronto Ont. June 1880. Any other examples of this out there?



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Phil Visser sent in this pretty version of L1487 used Owen Sound Ont. Mar. 1883. All markings are in blue. L1487 (type) below.



Richard Hautala sent in the cover below. It is L1055 from Stroud Ont. Apr. 1886. I had only a written report of this location previously and the month was unknown. I also note that the recipient a clothing sales/preparer/washer/repairer (?) was another "thrifty soul" (see pg. 3) and used every bit of paper for his business. The reverse is similar. I note also the quaint olde expression "under clothing".



Richard also sent in the items on the next page. More from him in next newsletter.

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I would like to note that the L# scans were prepared (if possible) from mid use strikes. The perfect first use cancel is rarely seen, and the late state may be almost unrecognizable. Earlier hand drawn illustrations such as Jarrett, D&S etc usually do not show carving mistakes, wear etc. This helps identify fakes in some cases as the fake is based on the published hand drawing and is too perfect. An example of this is the bogeyhead cancel below. The wear mark/crack across the forehead appears in almost all strikes but was not shown in Jarrett, D&S etc. In the late state the "chin" breaks off (our D610) which is also not previously illustrated.



L679 Black Brook NB
L803 Wellington Ont.
L1097 Albion Ont.
L1346 St. Catharines O

L1556 Port Perry Ont.



Mike Halhed sent in these next two covers. This is L638 Nicksville/Nixon Ont. a new late date. Aug. 1875 – Dec. 1878. The town name changed in 1877, but the thrifty souls at the PO recycled the "N" even though it was in mirror image!



This could be considered as either a cross or a geometric cancel. Almonte Ont. used many cork cancels, and I would tentatively list this next to another Almonte cross, thus L1149a, Nov. 1876.



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Mike Street sent in this very busy cover. It is firstly a first day cover Dominion Day 1942 and thus supports both the country and it's military. Secondly, I do not know why the Air Mail sticker was cut in half.



Thirdly, the brown tape at left is a sealing after review by a military censor. Fourthly, the Special Delivery stamp was also issued at this time and fifth, it has a wartime "blackout" cancel which may be covering a UK or Ship cancel. Special Delivery stamps to foreign destinations were supposed to be cancelled by the receiving country. Finally, the purple marking at bottom appears to be a receiving U.K. Registration Marking substituting for a Special Delivery mark.

One of our members has requested information on an "M" in a circle, aka our L604. His strike is on an Admiral Issue of 1922. This cancel was first used in 1917 at a military site, Camp Barryfield, later part of CFB Kingston. A similar but smaller "cancel" probably a revenue use occurred in 1935. Jarrett unfortunately listed a similar "E" cancel (our L392) as an "M" however he correctly dated it (L392) as 1890.



Murray Smith wanted some information on this "leaf" cancel. It is another late use fancy, our L1195 used Souris East PEI, used Jan. 1900 to May 1909. Souris had several other long use cancels including another "leaf" used for 12 years.



BNA Topics Oct. 2022 had an article by D. Smith on the cancels from Saint John NB. This showed that L86 was used in 1877 later than 1876.



FAKES, BOGUS, AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

Spurious (?). This little beastie was sent in with the suggestion that it was a fancy “G something”. I attempted to highlight it at right, and it does not appear to me to be any listed initial cancel. Comments?



Spurious. This was suggested as a new fancy cancel. It is actually a poor partial strike of L983 a “star”. L983 was one of the “fancy” cancels



produced in Ottawa (pg. 5 of our book) and sent out to multiple PO’s. In this case Bealton Ont. Feb. 1894 and at least five other PO’s. Unfortunately one of these hammers was also used (probably by H. Hechler) to produce very fancy bogus covers.

“Spurious” as used above refers to something which is seen as something else. There is no intent to defraud. “Bogus” is something created and promoted as a new or desirable fancy cancel or use. H. Hechler had friends in the Halifax PO who allowed him to post his 1880’s “pretty covers” with genuine Halifax CDS’s. Times were different back then.

Bogus. I just do not like this item, and would give it at best a ‘3’ on my 1-10 scale of authenticity. There is no need to cancel a PC “Queen” part, the inks do not match, it is unlike any other fancy cancels, the internal cut lines in the design do not “line up” etc. Some firms used these PC’s for record keeping, and they became a cheap supply of Victorian material for fakers when disposed of (say) 60 years later.



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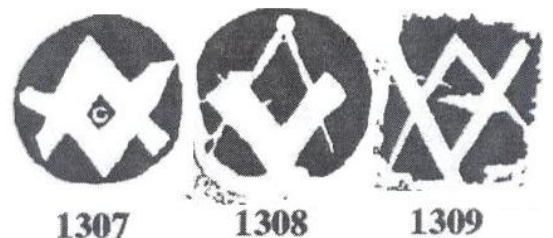
READERS WRITE (SORTA)

The following write up happened when I did a backwards check on a Masonic cancel I had listed as a “Delete” (spurious) in our book. The short version, *D588 should be listed, tentatively as L1309a*. The long version, the research was so detailed that I felt it rated an article in it’s own right.



Ron Smith sent in this post card with the suggestion that it was D&S 250 which I had stated in our book as a deleted item, D588 “Spurious, D&S 250 is a poor illustration of # 1309.” After quite a bit of research I agree with him, and D588 should be presented as a new listing tentatively L 1309a. I would like to present the background information on this cancel, but first a few comments.

1. All published fancy Canadian cancel illustrations prior to our book were derived from photographs or handmade tracings. The quality of these illustrations varies immensely. All illustrations in our book are from scanned images at 200 dpi.
2. Masonic symbol cancels may be somewhat scarce as the sending PM might use them only when he knew he was sending official Masonic mail, or sending to another Mason.
3. Simcoe Ont. used three other Masonic cancels roughly between 1871 and 1876, the PM was H. Mulkins. These are desirable collector items, and fakes of L



1307 & L 1308 have been noted on single stamps.

4. The PC above had me somewhat concerned as thousands of these commercial PCs exist without any cancel on the “Queen’s face” part as the PC could not be reused. Many firms saved these commercial post cards as business records and they would appear on the philatelic market (sometimes as several lots of 200) as much as 80 years later when files were disposed of. These are an easy and cheap source of Victorian era material and were used to produce fake postal history or fake cancel items. The CDS inks and the cancel inks usually do not agree in the fakes. In the PC above the inks do seem to agree, and any faker would have had to know that Simcoe used Masonic cancels in this time frame. The preceding makes me somewhat more comfortable with this PC and I would give it a “6” on my 1-10 scale of authenticity.
5. One last item regarding authenticity. While the PC strike is very similar to the D&S hand drawn illustration it is not perfect which tends to rule out a modern “scanned/printed” forgery.

This L 1309a cancel was (apparently) the item referred to in Jarrett’s 1929 book as Jar. 1166a “Simcoe Dec. ‘75. Smaller type. Black, 1875, 1 & 3 cent.” It was not illustrated, and the Jar. 1166 illustration [probably L 1304) was circular, 24mm in diameter.

When the remainders of the Jarrett collection were sold in 1960, the cover at right was included. It is described as “Masonic cancel cover, 1 cent yellow from Simcoe Ont. Dec.



1875.” The cancel does not appear to be similar to L1309a, and appears to be closer in design to L1309 known at Simcoe Dec. 1875.

When Smythies prepared his book, D&S 250 appears to be a very late addition to his notes. D&S 250 does not appear in the 400 photographs nor in the five

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pages of tracings used for the book and appears to be a personal tracing from
either his own collection or Doc Day's collection.

When Smythies presented a promotional article regarding his new
book in Topics June 1962, he included an illustration of D&S 250 as
at right. It is described as from Simcoe Ont. 1875, 22mm circle. The
published version of this item is a bit rougher, and the surround is
less perfect. The information here may have been derived from Jarrett, with the
illustration made to agree.



An article in "Covers Magazine" Aug. 1963 (reprint from "Masonic
Philatelist" Apr. 1962) included the item at right described as "off
cover 3 cent 1870". The scale is uncertain and it is probably L 1300
known used in 1870.



In about 1987 I prepared a tracing of an off cover 1 cent S.Q. which has
deteriorated over time. It was presented to me as a D&S 250. As far as I can tell, it
looks more like L1304 than to L1309a.

In about 1990 I received a photocopy of the item at right. At the
time I thought that it was just a part strike of a slashed cork and
not a Masonic symbol. It is quite similar to L1309a, and helps
confirm the reality of this cancel.



The above information is not intended to downplay anyone's input into this
field of research rather it shows the keen interest in the field as well as the
complexity of the field.

See next page for information on this "cork"....



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I have an extra end page here so will illustrate an interesting (to me at least) non-stamp “cork” use.

In the pre-plastic era corks were used in some novel ways. The cork bottle above was used by the “Frontenac Ale and Lager Co.” as promotional prizes in some of their corked bottles. The company was founded in 1911 and was a bit of a leader in the field of (sometimes controversial) advertising. If you were lucky, your stoneware beer jug would have a prize inside its hollowed cork, in this case three tiny ivory dice. You would have your “friends” bet on the winning roll number between 3 to 18. “6” wins here. Such fun! (Hint, bet on number 12.)



If anyone wants to make me an offer on this “miscellaneous” cork please do. Dice included.

The reduced pic at right shows another of their ads, GIANT beer bottle road signs. In the prohibition era ? ...

