

September 2023

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Group News. Hope to see lots of you in Halifax at the Convention. We will have a Study Group meeting Saturday Sept 16, 14:30 – 1600, presentations by Mike Halhed, Ron Smith, and I will bring in some old files and illustrations from the early (1951) Fancy Cancel Group.

This will be a somewhat smaller than usual newsletter as I have not had much material sent in or it. **PLEASE GIMME SOME STUFF** for the next one! My cat just hopped on the keyboard to help ... here is what she had to say “-----htjjjjjjtnyct”. Presumably the “h” means “happy” and the “ct” is definitely “cat”, don’t know about the rest, smart little beastie! We have two new members (other than the cat). Please welcome Mario Chevrette and Vince Chermishnok.

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

- Newsletter 69, Pg. 8. The Toronto cork listed as “Dubious” has turned up on another cover and I would now consider it as genuine. See below Page 4.
- Newsletter 94, Pg. 5. The second item from Randy Evans material has now been found on cover and was listed in our book as L534. See below page 6.

CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

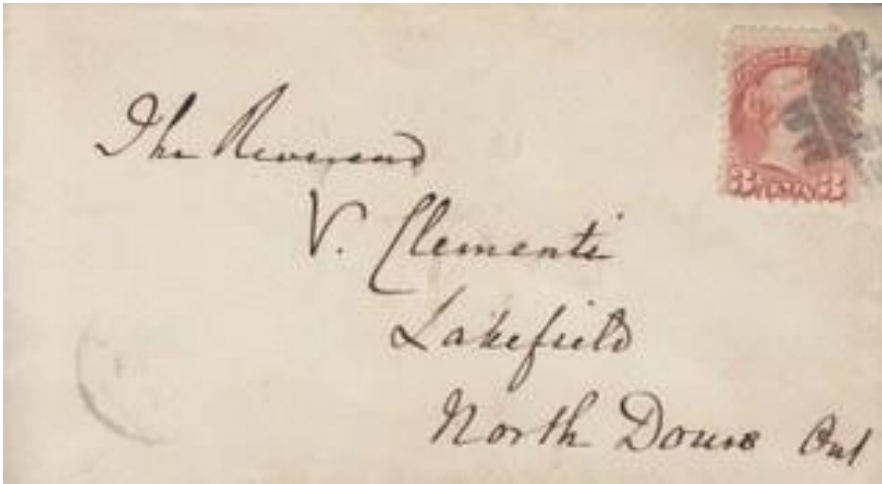
I will start off with items sent in by Guy Jefferies, several of which are Toronto geometric corks, but first a word or two about these cancels. Toronto is rather unique when compared to other post offices. It was the second biggest PO in Canada and used many hand carved cork cancels. About 150 (incl “Branch PO’s) are in our book, most are “Geometric” designs with no specific meanings. There are probably at least another 150 similar geometrics not listed. Notably, there are about 35 fancy carved “Toronto 2” cancels (L 18 – L 40) used by the Toronto Main PO Inspectors Office in 1869. These were carved by a Toronto postal clerk who was then reimbursed by the POI according to the Postmaster Generals Report for 1869. Montreal, then the biggest PO had no fancy “1’s” for comparison until 1915 when they used a machine made duplex hammer. Both PO’s had about 30 postal clerks as well as many other employees. Montreal also had Branch Offices and a POI

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Office. Our book lists only 44 fancy cancels from Montreal. The following items are relevant to the Toronto “heavy” use of carved corks.

1. With 30 Clerks on any day several could be using corks, thus the fancy cancels overlap by date of use unlike most other PO’s.
2. The POI often recancelled items when they were reviewed. Covers with sending CDS cancels can easily be considered as from that PO (the normal case) rather than from a later Toronto cancel. This can be resolved when more than two covers from different PO;s both have Toronto receiving/Inspectors cancels.
3. The Toronto postal clerks were thrifty they often cleaned and recut their geometric corks. Some of the Toronto corks thus appear to “morph” into later corks which may have been listed separately.

Now (finally) on to Guy’s material.



These are both from Toronto Feb. 1872.

They look good to me and probably should be a new listing, tentatively L 1098a.



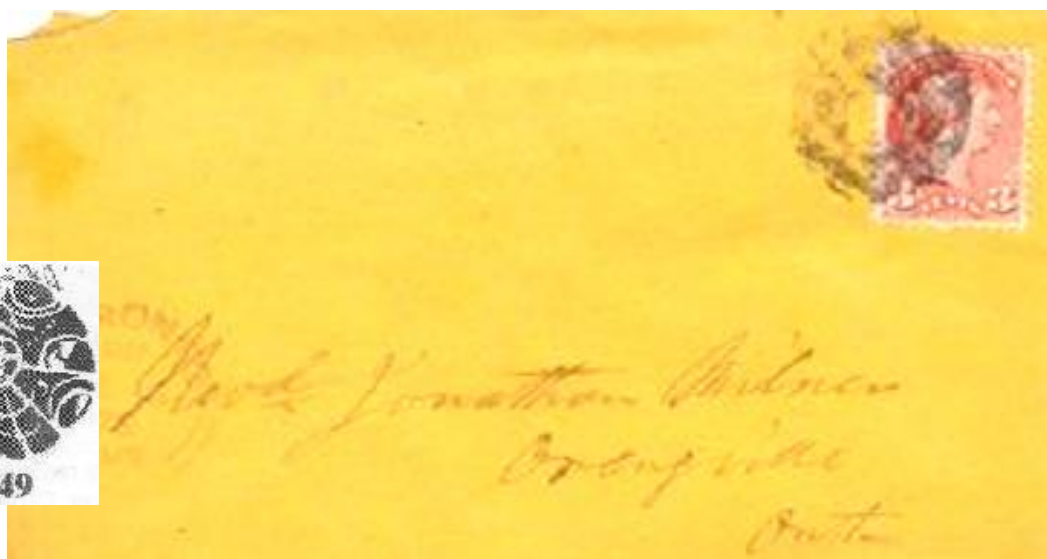
These are also both from Toronto, July 1872. A new listing, tentatively L 1586a.

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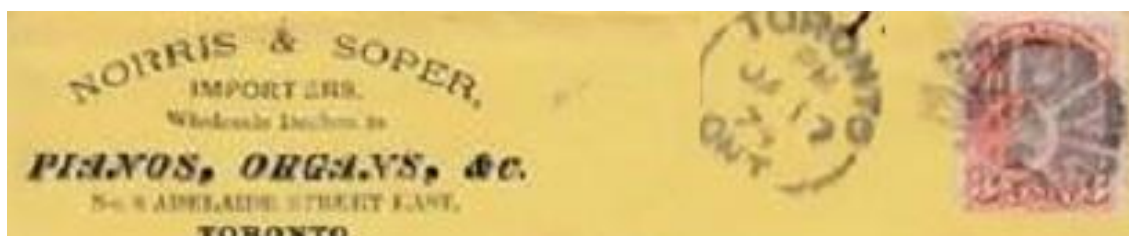


Toronto
July 72.
Simple
design to
cut but

unlike other listings.
Tentatively L 1707.

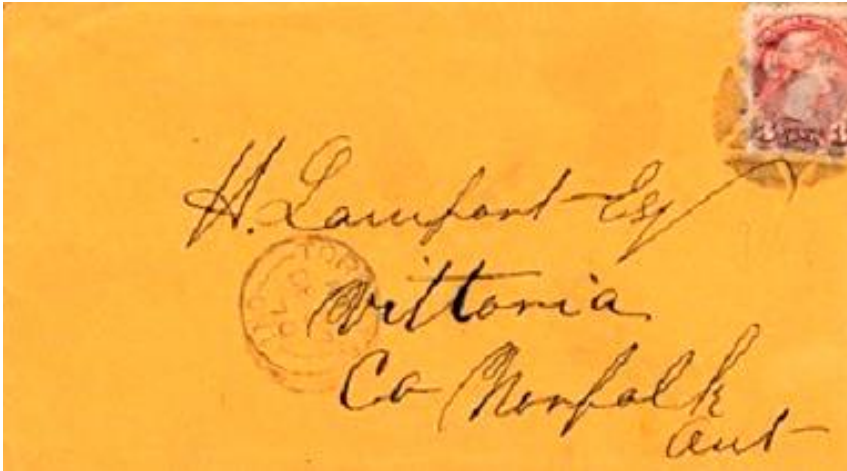


These are examples of a series of Toronto corks with a hole in the middle. The cover strike (Dec. 1873) is poor and may not be the same. The closest in our book (revised in 3rd Edition) is L 1449 used Jan. 1874. I suspect that the “hammer” for these cancels

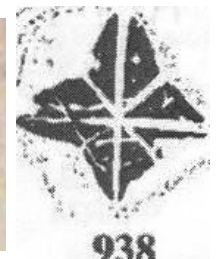


was a wooden sewing thread spool, see L 675a and NL 53 & 61.

This is L 1466, Toronto Jan. 1874, the stamp strike is probably a late strike.



This is L1011, used at Toronto as a receiving cancel Dec. 1870 – Sept. 1872. This long use is probably because it would only be used when required as a receiver cancel. Note also the Toronto CDS is partly obliterated by a solid ring. This was also the case with the top cover on the previous page. Perhaps this is an early type of “sorting clerk” mark later Toronto redirected items had a small CDS to indicate that they had “special handling” which would delay the letter’s transmission from the original CDS date. Note also there is variation in the center of the cork possibly due to cleaning/scratching of the cork over time. There is also a possibility that this was recut in 1874 to become L1006. Strange things happened within the Tor. PO.

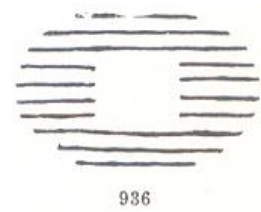


The letter example at left was in NL 69, and reported as fake due to evidence of some ink eradicator to

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remove an earlier marking. The letter was mailed (bs) Dec. 1874 and a second strike on a cover has now appeared dated March, 1875. I would tentatively list this as L 938b. Note how L 938 (Toronto January 1875) appears to be another possible cut down version.

Roger Squires sent in this double strike grid cancel which at first glance appears to be a “standard” type NS or NB grid cancel. It is on an Ottawa printing roughly 1890 which would be rather late use of a maritime grid. It does not appear in any of Jarrett’s illustrations, with the closest being J936. Perhaps a late locally made replacement grid?



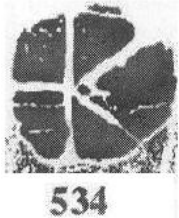
Jim Jung sent in this lovely transatlantic cover from Toronto July 1872. Although the cancel L 1536 is very common there are two miscellaneous cancel features which should be noted. The cancel may be on top of a weak pen cancel and was thus used to “clobber” the stamp, probably by the Toronto Post Office Inspector’s Office. The Toronto CDS also has the odd slightly off centered outer ring noted on pg. 4 of this newsletter as a possible POI cancel.



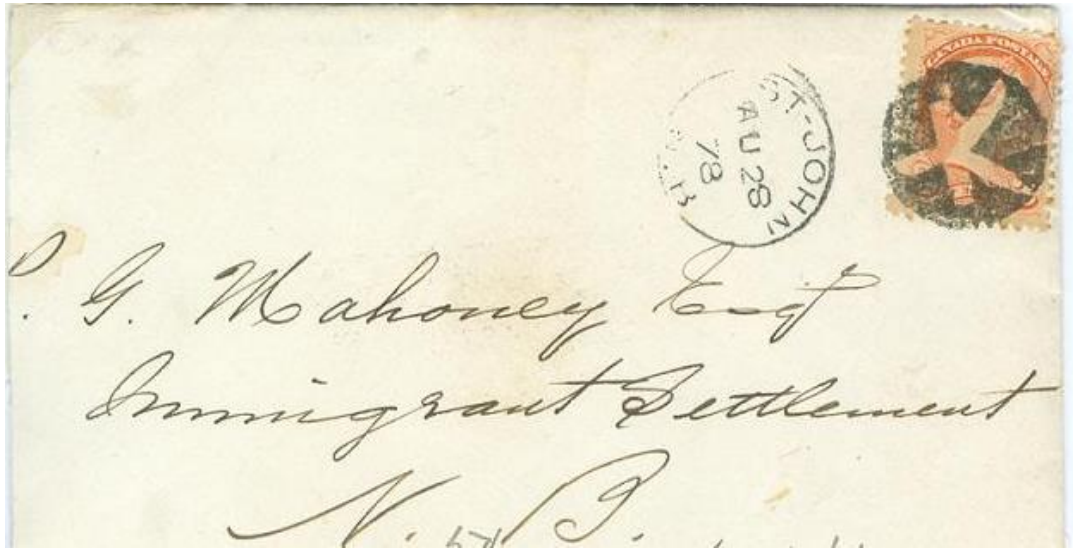
Mike Halhed sent in this scan from an old-time collection of L619 previously

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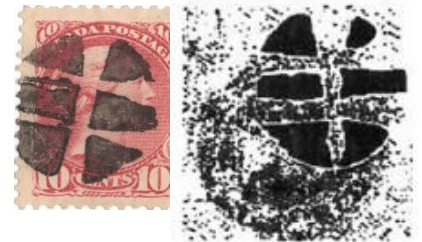
not located June to Aug. 1874, and used as a receiver cancel at Ottawa. This strike appears to be rougher than the one in our book perhaps recut or cleaned? If this was intended to be an “N” why would such a big PO use an accidental reversed N for 45 days! The sending PO is Chesterfield UC June 1874.



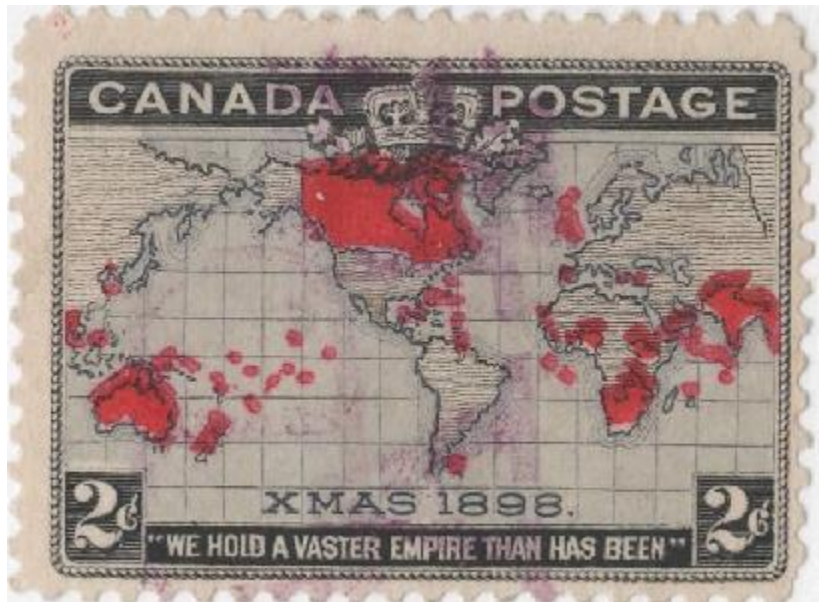
Ron Smith sent in this early example of L534, St. John NB Aug. 1878 - Oct. 1878. The book example is a late state.



Vince Chermishnok sent in the item at right. He has searched the net to find out where it is from and found the poor black and white illustration where it is described as a “Hamilton cork”. Hamilton is listed 15 times in our book, most are rather official looking clerk initials (or similar). However, there are a few simple corks – none the same as his. Does anyone have any other examples?



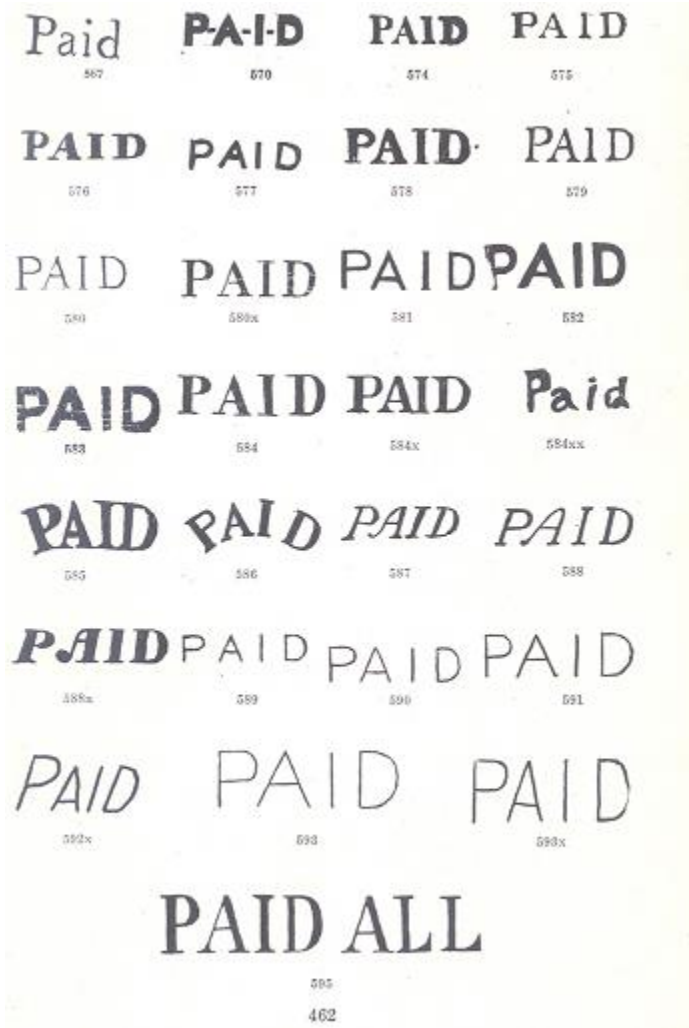
Vince also sent in this purple ink enigma at right (2X scale). He asks if it might be a J579 or similar (see next page) “PAID”



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mark. I cannot see it. In the late 1890's Montreal (for some strange reason) used a very water soluble purple ink. This cancel may have been more obvious before the stamp was soaked off. Any other ideas?

From Fred Jarrett, Stamps of British North America, 1929. (see previous page)



About ¾ scale

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FAKES, BOGUS, AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

One of our members sent this in and inquired if this flag is still considered fake. Answer, yes. This is our D 641, Fake and used on at least a 40 year range of stamps incl. Nfld. They were also used with the Mc Auley altered covers. FMI see NL 61, and our D26.



Now that I have your cattention... I recently inherited a postcard collection of about 350+ cat cards. I have no idea if anyone collects post cards now-a-days, nor of the value (if any) of these. About 40% are postally used and many are from the early 1900's. I would prefer to sell them as a lot (or say 100 in a lot) and will bring them with me to the BNAPS Halifax convention. Or... fancycancel@hotmail.com
Take care, see you in Halifax (now about the 300 ceramic cats...) &-----htjjjjjjjtnyct