

# BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 96

Feb. 2024

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**Group News:** Thank you to those of you who have sent in material for this newsletter. I apologize for the delay in preparing it, the love of my life, my wife died in June...

Please note the change in email address to [lacelle1@telus.net](mailto:lacelle1@telus.net). The old hotmail account has been chaotic over the last few months. If you have recently sent something in for the newsletter and it does not appear here, please resend to the new address. You are not being ignored, just “not received”.

Ordinarily in December, I would send out a “Dues Notice”. However, I shall decline this year as there were only two newsletters in 2023. Thank you to those of you who have already sent in contributions. Should anyone wish a refund, just holler (gently)!

## REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

**Newsletter 93, Dec. 2022 pg. 7, & NL 94, Apr. 2023 pg. 1** the WWII “military”

cover at right (roughly ½ scale). Gordon Smith has sent in a whole bunch of info. I’ve decided to present this as a separate item. See pg. 6 & 7 for much more information and other examples. The producer of these covers was a stamp dealer Rev. Nathaniel Cole, from Port Hood NS. The covers appear to have gone through the mail, but other stamps or markings might have been added later to increase their value.



**NL 95, Dec. 2022 pg. 3**, the 1 cent cancel above the cut of L1449 does a superb job of cancelling the stamp but not the Queen’s face. This was often done as a ‘mark’ of respect for the Queen. See pg. 9 of this NL for another example.

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**NL 95, Dec. 2022 pg. 4.** The reference to “ink irradiator” on an earlier cover. Perhaps this irradiator was on the cover and was spotted by a sorting clerk at Toronto. The cover would then be sent for “special handling” and would thus receive the Toronto PO inspector’s marks as this cover has.

### **CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES**

Mike Halhed sent a scan of the two cover fronts next page, both from Souris East PEI and with fancy leaf cancels. He suggests that they look similar to Jarrett 875 (our D 523) and should be listed in the main text of our book.

There are (at least) three Souris East fancy leaf cancels, L 1193 – L 1195 running from Aug. 1882 to May 1909, a long and consistent run indeed! I went back to my 30 or so references and found other consistencies. There were four cover examples of L 1194 (Apr. 1884 – May 1896) each of which had the CDS as a weak strike in the same location and not touching the stamp. All of them had dark “socked on” strikes of the cancel. The CDS and cancel inks appeared different, which is usually a warning feature regarding authenticity. There were no other cancels on the stamps and these consistencies lasted over five years. Mike’s covers were similar and look like L 1194 - at least to me. PM’s were supposed to use an official ink which had oil mixed in it so as to penetrate the paper and prevent reuse. Apparently not so in Souris East. I examined about 20 photo copies of on stamp strikes of these leaf cancels and would have to say that while they were usually well centred they were much less distinct than the cover examples. I had soaked one of these overnight (see our now incorrect D 525) in the past and discovered that the cancel ink was water soluble, which probably explains the poor “on stamp” strikes as the ink ran when they were soaked off their envelopes in earlier days.

The short version; there may have been other similar leaf cancels from Souris East, however they “blur” into each other due to ink smearing/dissolving, and or cleaning of the hammer. For a further comment on the accuracy of hand drawn tracings please see my comments on pg. 6 regarding Jarrett, D&S (tracings) my scans and an official proof strike of a fancy cancel prepared by Pritchard & Andrews, the manufacturers of the PO CDS (etc.) hammers.

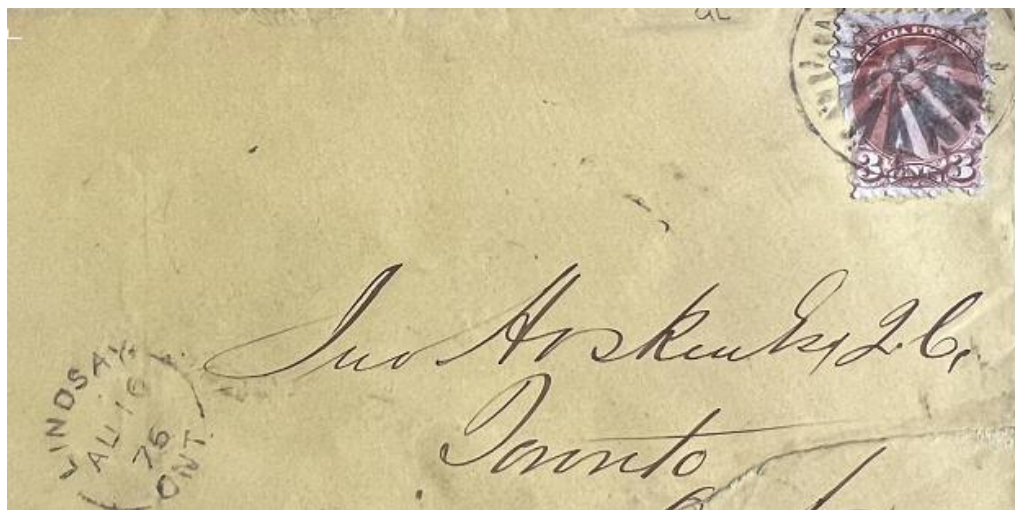
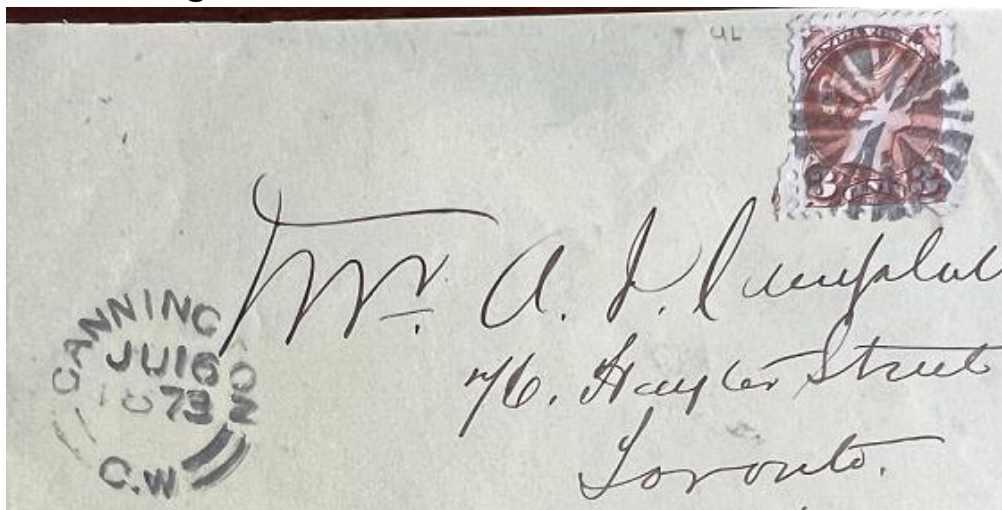
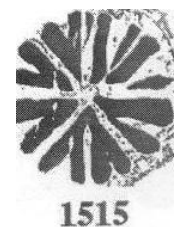
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Jarrett 875

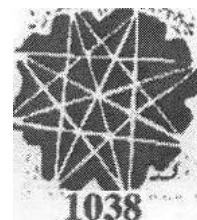
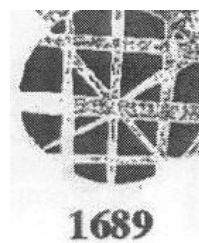


Mike also sent in the two radial cancel covers below which are similar to L1515. More than 20 P.O.'s used this design, and this is a new report for Cannington Ont. June 1873, and a new late date for Lindsay Ont. Dec. 1875 – Aug. 1875.



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Jack Forbes sent in these two corks from Whycomagh N.S. The first one Mar. 1893 is vaguely similar to L1537 in that the horizontal lines are probably "left over" from the manufacture of the cork which is then slashed to make a quick canceller. The second Mar. 1894 is similar to L1689, but a new P.O.

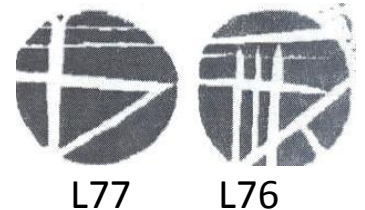


Jim McCormick sent in this cover of L 1038 with a new late date July 1872. This confirms the correction of place and date in edition three of our book. He also suggests that it may have been used on Registered mail only (or POI Office?) which would account for its low use in such a major city. Lovely item.

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Robin Simpson sent in this cover which he had bought some time ago and he was under the impression that it was fancy "Pembroke 4" cancel (L 72 to L79 and NL 88 & 84). It is somewhat similar to an upside down version of L 76 or L 77 as in the cut below. Recently he noticed that the weak CDS was really "Millbrook" and not "Pembroke" and was concerned that I might have used it as a Pembroke listing in our book.

So... I went back to my source files and reviewed about 40 references (incl. 20 different Pembroke 4 covers) and found that although L 76 and L 77 were in concurrent use with several varieties due to cleaning, angle, heaviness of strike etc. his cover had not been included in our book as a Pembroke 4. This is a good example of how the study group helps "git it rite" in our book.



Robert Lemire sent in this new style of CDS. It is a good design as the top part cancels the stamp and the bottom shows most of that "important" stuff on the envelope.



## BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 96

In Newsletter 83, pg. 12 I described how the size of some fancy cancel illustrations varied depending upon the source of the tracing and/or the printing/copying method used. Lately, I have noted in several correspondences or comments references of “similar to Jarrett’s illustration”. The comments below are not meant to disparage Jarrett but we must remember that his illustrations were hand drawn in the 1920’s from tracings and that he had no previous illustrations to compare. The Day & Smythies illustrations were also handmade. Lacelle illustrations (at least in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) were all electronic scans at 200 dpi with minor editing to highlight the cancel from the stamp. The “stamp” bits were left in so as to provide an indication of scale in subsequent copying and to make it harder to directly copy them to produce fakes.

We rarely have “proof strikes” of fancy cancels. However one example, L1284, the “Ottawa Crown” is an exception. This cancel was produced by the company “Pritchard & Andrews” who made all the post office CDS’s for about 50 years. The seven P&A proof books of these hammers were saved by the Canadian Postal Museum in Ottawa and I have personally viewed them. The Ottawa Crown was on the April 1880 page and I personally photocopied it. The cancel was used for over 20 years and is quite common (for a fancy cancel) and there are possibly 200 examples out there. See N.L. 88 page 9 for an example of 30+ strikes on one piece and N.L. 91 page 4 for two small features which can be used for authenticity.



P&A proof 23mm L. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. 23mm L. 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 23 mm D&S '62 20 mm Jar.'29 20mm

### **FAKES, BOGUS, AND SPURIOUS ITEMS**

Gordon Smith sent in a great deal of information on the World War II “military issue” first day cover (with a Special Delivery stamp and Registered markings) to U.K. It was presented in NL 93 and NL 94 and on Pg. 1 this NL at about 1 ½ scale. Thanks to Gordon I now believe this cover should be called FAKE - a “1” on my 1-10 scale of authenticity. The S.D. stamp with different cancel was probably added later to increase the value of an otherwise “pretty” Philatelic cover. The other markings are probably genuine but 7 out of 8 is “not good enough”.

## **BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 96**

Before presenting Gordon's comments and examples below, I would like to make a few other comments. Firstly, I am not saying that the examples below are fake instead they are "philatelic covers", pretty postal things to sell to people much like Henri Hechler prepared in the 1890's. There were many later examples however this is way beyond my area of study. Secondly there was a small military base at Port Hood Island in WWII. There is a tradition of the military spoofing the general public when they can get away with it. Check out "fake modern poetry" for examples. Some of these elaborate covers may also reflect this. Thirdly, I wish all our readers would send in so much information. THANK YOU Gordon. Finally, if any of you would like to contact Gordon I have both a website and email for him.

Comments from Gordon...

*Hello Dave Lacelle and Mike Halhed.*

*I picked up a copy of the BNAPS Fancy Cancel and Miscellaneous Markings Newsletter 94 at the BNAPEX 2023 show in Halifax this fall.*

*On the first page under the heading, "Revisions to Previous Newsletters", there was a cover illustrated with a bisected "By Air Mail" label.*

*This cover is a philatelic creation by the Rev. Nathaniel Cole, who was a stamp dealer in Port Hood, Nova Scotia, from 1940 to 1943. One of Rev. Cole's "trademarks" was the bisection of airmail labels as well as other stamps (see Figures 1 & 2).*

*Rev. Cole made a number of first day covers similar to the one illustrated in Newsletter 94, that he posted from Port Hood Island, a small community on an island just a mile off shore from Port Hood (see Figures 3, 4 and 5). He must have posted quite a number of these to friends or customers as Figure 4 has a registration number of 257, the cover illustrated in Newsletter 94 is number 265 and Figure 5 is 276, demonstrating a spread of at least 19 covers that he likely prepared.*

*Given that Rev. Cole was a stamp dealer, I would consider all of these covers to be philatelic creations to which he added unusual markings to make them more attractive.*

# BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 96



## MISCELLANEOUS

I have recently been sent two foreign fancy cancels. The first on UK stamp appears to put a crown on top of the Queen's head with some strange symbol below. My guess is that this is a partial of a modern slogan cancel which would be more meaningful if complete. Any comments please?



A similar Canadian item is in the cut (NL81 pg. 7). The part strike was firstly described as a "fancy tree" before the full slogan was known.





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I have been asked if the above USA “skull and cross bones” on #182 has any value? I am not qualified to answer this for two reasons. Firstly, my area of study is Canadian fancy cancels not USA, and secondly without further study of the actual item I cannot be sure of its authenticity. See also pg. 6 this NL regarding differences between hand drawn illustrations.

Having said the above, the quick answer is “some value, but don’t plan on retiring early” and...

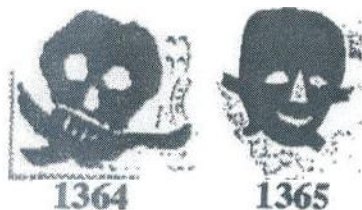
1 # 26 above is from; Herst – Zareski, 1951, about 24 other skull & cross bones listed, West Gardner Mass, 1873, value \$ 4.00. (1951 USA dollars)

2 # SB 27 is from Billig’s Philatelic Handbooks (see also our NL 84 pg. 16), about 35 others listed, unknown PO, 1883, scarcity factor “?”.

3 # PH-S 10 is from Skinner & Eno, 1980, about 27 others listed, Elizabethtown Ken., 1861, no value listed.

The “skull and bones” symbol was originally intended to indicate (in any language) where human remains were buried, it was later adopted as a pirate and death curse symbol as on the stamp above. There are many more USA examples than Canadian probably because the Canadian PO was more governmentally controlled. PM’s could (and were) fired if they showed “political partisanship”.

The two Canadian examples are below. L1364 is described as “dubious” and is probably a fake based on a USA cancel used at least 10 years earlier. L1365 was used at Sherbrooke Que. in Mar. 1888. L1437 (PO unknown) was designed to cancel the Queen’s face with (?) birds feet. L1390 is designed to cancel the stamp and not the Queen. A patriotic “Victoria Regina” was also added. Notre Dame W. (Montreal) Que. July 1897.



## BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 96

I have a little extra space here so shall run a few “miscellaneous miscellaneous” items. Firstly, **THANKS** to John Wiseman for the personal card below. How did you know that I had a military up-bringing?



The souvenir button above fell from a desk I was sorting out. (? George VI Coronation?) It is free to any of you who might want it as a collateral to your collection. Just Email me.



Similarly, “the everyday seals” are free to a good home. These 10 lick ‘n stick seals are between Grandpas inked initial (or “mark”) signet ring and a modern emoji. They are

probably from the 1950’s.

Finally, curious-er and curious-er.... I mentioned that I was trying to sell a collection of over 300 “cat” themed post cards. The cat in this photo style card has a sign on its neck which reads “**Born Blind**”! Who would find this funny? Who would send it to anyone? I know it was a different century, but... I have bounced (so to speak) this card off several friends and all have just shaken their heads. Any opinions from anyone would be appreciated. Used at Stanley Brae (Muskoka) Ont. Aug. 1901.

T.C. & Good Collecting,

Dave. Lacelle [lacelle1@telus.net](mailto:lacelle1@telus.net) & **PLEASE send** some stuff for the next newsletter.

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