

# BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 97

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**Group News. Please note the change in email address above.** Our old “hotmail” address seems to still be working despite warnings about the demise of hotmail. Of course I do not know what I am not receiving. If you have sent something in and it does not appear in this newsletter please resend. You are not being ignored, just lost.

Thanks to those of you whom have sent in material for this newsletter. This will be a rather general newsletter with branches off into several different areas of cancellations. I also intend to provide some general definitions (at least as I see them) on page 4 of a few “Fancy and Miscellaneous” terms starting with “Fancy” as I have received emails from some of the Face Book study group (etc.) as to what is a “squared circle” “P.O.I. Office” etc. I believe it was Jung who stated that “The primary function of jargon is to keep outsiders out” and I do not want to discourage any new interest in our field.

I regret that I will not be able to attend the BNAPS Convention in Kingston Ontario this year. Mike Halhed has volunteered to hold a FC&MM meeting. This is also unfortunate as this is the year I become a “Beaver” .... speaking of jargon...

## REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

**Newsletter 96**, Feb. 2024 pg. 6. I illustrated several examples of the Ottawa crown cancel L 1284 as hand prepared in earlier texts with a “proof” strike from the P&A proof books. (See also NL 83.) At right are the proof and two more examples, specifically, the Robson Lowe “gummed sheet of cancels” (23 mm) from the Bowman sale in 1959, and “Postal Markings” (23 mm) Oct. 1934. The Bowman illustrations were deliberately made “inexact” and the Postal Markings example is superior to other hand traced examples.



**Newsletter 96**, Feb. 2024 pg. 6. Pritchard & Andrews of Ottawa was in business from 1873 to 2010, and not the mere 50 years as stated.

**Newsletter 96**, Feb. 2024 pg. 6. The Smythies crown illustration is from the 1961 D&S publication. By 1963 Smythies had a copy of the P&A proof and published it in Maple Leaves Apr. 63 pg. 172. Unfortunately the D&S illustration was not updated when it was republished.

**Newsletter 40**, Dec. 2005 pg. 2. The “Toronto ON sub office No. 4” crown wax seal on map stamp. I have received a backstamp of this item and the ink penetration and perf holes are better than I thought. Toronto was still using wax seals on mail in the 1960’s. So... I would now consider this D 565a as a 5 in my 1-10 scale of authenticity. See also Pg. 6.

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**CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES**



Mike Halhed sent in the cover above, a "CC" rough carved cork from Colchester Ontario ? 1874 – weak CDS bottom left. It would appear that the PM re inked his pad for the actual cancel as all other markings are weak.



Mike would also like to know of any other covers of this early fancy "16" Hamilton Ont. (L 143) cover used for only two months Mar. and Apr. 1858.

Randy Evans sent in these corks and would like more information on them. I think the first two are L 618a (L 602 ed. 1 & 2) New Glasgow NS Apr. '87, while the third has some similarities to L 1548 which may be a Toronto receiver cancel from 1876. Item four is somewhat similar to L1624 but I think it is probably an unlisted Ottawa geometric. Please let me know if you have examples of the last pair on cover.





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Rick Friesen has sent in a back scan of this curious "Toronto ON sub office No. 4" crown wax seal. This seal was in the 1907 P&A proof books, and has been reported on earlier stamps including Small Queens. I listed it as D565a as "bogus" as someone reusing an old hammer. The backstrike looks good both in terms of ink penetration and perf hole inking and it is possible that someone in this PO sub office always clobbered out of time stamps. (There is an "Old Stamp" regulation in UK, but not so in Canada.) Few of our members collect as late as 1907 so in period uses of this hammer might not be noted by us. Toronto was still using wax seals into the 1960's. So... I would now give it a "5" on my 1 to 10 scale of authenticity. Does anyone have any 1907 or later examples of it as a cancel?



Rick would also like to know if any of our members collect fancy (or other cancels) on the Map stamp of 1898.

Alec Globe has done an incredible amount of work on the "Kingston 9's" series (L99 to L120) and I hope to have a "Readers Write" article from him for the next newsletter. He has a database of 850 K9 strikes! I'm going to steal a bit of his information below. Hope you do not mind, Alec?

There is some indications that the Toronto 2's, and Ottawa 8's used at the same time as the Kingston 9's were primarily used in the local "Post Office Inspectors Office" (POI) on anything requiring inspection by someone other than the regular PO clerks. The sheer number of these K9's would indicate that they were also used to cancel regular mail. The Postmaster General's report for 1870 indicates that the POI Kingston received an official stamp obliterator sometime between June 1869 and June 1870. The POI would occasionally cancel out (usually **VERY** heavily) incorrect routing markings or cancels from other PO's. The double struck K9's below from Duckworth 1976, Alec and one from G. Vadeboncoeur are probably examples of this.



*To the left, Types 117 and 119 over targets (Duckworth 1976: 10). Middle two (Globe): Type 104 over 2-ring 13. Type 110 over a 2-ring. Right: a metal diamond strike under Type 120 (G. Vadeboncoeur).*

Alec would also like to know of any covers of L 118 or L 120. I have been unable to find my (now) 30 year old notes to confirm use in Apr. 1870, and Jan. – Feb. 1871.

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On page one I suggested a few definitions or explanations of “jargon” used in our book and in the newsletters would be in order.

A “**Fancy Cancel**”, to quote myself (see Page 1) is “a postage obliterating mark which expresses some degree of personal creativity on the part of the user.” I enjoy both the detail and discovering the 100 year old meanings of these. There are many cork or soft wood personal designs we may never understand, and there are many which may be nothing more than random knife slashes prepared by a postal clerk in a few seconds. These latter items are still collectable as some people collect all postal history in a geographic area (Say Ottawa) or on a specific stamp issue (Say Jubilee Issue 1897). Also some of these may have specific meanings used only when the cancelling Postmaster is sending to his family or fraternal society. The 100 + years old symbolism in some of these cancels is fascinating!

“**Pritchard & Andrews**” (aka P&A) was the firm in Ottawa which for over a hundred years manufactured postal stamp devices for the PO. Their proof books of thousands of postal cancels etc were held by the National Postal Museum in Ottawa.

A “**Post Office Inspectors**” office is where mail with “problems” was sent. These problems may have to do with wrong stamp rates, reused stamps, incorrect routings of mail, etc. There seems to be a great deal of variation between the POI’s and how they indicated their involvement, with some using hand carved “special” markings, while others used “official” made in Ottawa stamps, and some just penning in what was wrong and/or fixed.

A “**Squared Circle**” is a cancel hammer type incorporating both a circular date stamp and metal bars to cancel the stamp which came into use in the early 1890’s. There were over 300 examples in the P&A proof books. As there is no personal creativity they are not in our book. The cut is from Jarrett, FMI see “The Squared Circle Postmarks of Canada”, by WG Moffat & Glenn Hanson. This is a BNAPS Handbook.



A “**Lacelle ‘D’ number**” at the bottom of the page in our book is intended to direct the reader to similar designs, changes in book placement, or more specific details of a listed cancel on the page above. It usually does not mean that the cancel is fake, bogus, or spurious.

“**Fake, Bogus, or Spurious**” cancels is a section towards the end of our newsletters indicating “problem” cancels. “Fake” means exactly that, in the past anyone could cut up a potato, and today anyone can scan an image to produce a fake of a listed cancel. I have determined 26 different cancel authenticity tests. “Bogus” is the creation of a new unlisted fancy cancel which is usually promoted as rare and valuable. “Spurious” refers to postal strikes which may appear as other cancels if the original is worn or poorly struck. The example at right (D 127) is a very worn Fredericton NB oval parcel cancel where the attach of the cancel handle is visible. This has been described as fancy “O”s, “8”s, “B”s, and “D”s in various publications. There was no intention to defraud if the earlier parcel hammer was not known.

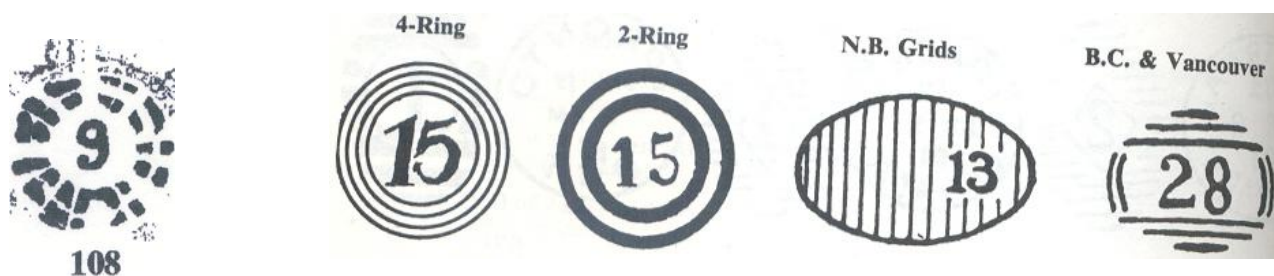


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A “*Crown Sealing Wax*” strike is an ink strike from a wax seal stamp which were issued to all PO’s to wax seal mail bags, or for important mailings within the Post Office. These sealing wax stamps were inked by some PM’s to indicate other important mail. Usually the central “hole” with the crown design does not appear when inked as it is too deep. See L1271, a proof strike, in the cut and Appendix 4a of our book for a listing of over 160 examples.



A “*Four or Two ring*” numeral cancel is a reference to “Official” numeral cancels usually made out of brass and issued to important PO’s. There were two main designs as well as some pre confederation types. As there is nothing fancy about these they are not in our book – with the exception of a few “cut up” types as in L 108. The summary illustration cut is from D&S.



So much for “Jargon”, although I invite any other questions on our terms.

I was recently reading somewhere that if a cork cancel also had a metal insert in it, that the metal part would show heavier darker ink than would the cork part. This is opposite to what I would have thought as cork being softer should pick up more ink. Usually a difference in inking within a cancel is cause for concern re authenticity. So down to Granpa’s tools in the basement to create such a “sorta” cancel.



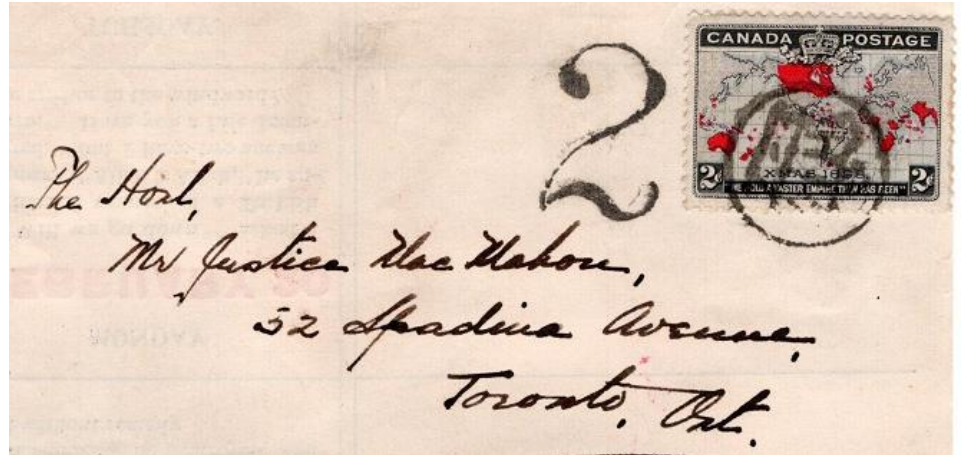
The “cork” above has a metal bolt head inserted level with the cork. The bolt has the raised letters “FNL”, and “JH”. The first three strikes are light, medium, and heavy. The fourth (medium) strike has had the bolt head raised about 2mm above the cork surface. In the medium and dark strikes it is obvious that the cork has picked up much more ink than the metal. The light strike seems about equal. In the last case, not surprisingly the raised bolt is darker.



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## FAKES, BOGUS, AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

The item at right is a rubber stamp fake of the Ottawa crown L 1284. These rubber fakes have been noted on stamps up to the 1940's. See also the proof strike on page 1.



### MISCELLANEOUS

The postcard below fell out of the 700+ “cat” themed cards I was trying to sell recently. Neither of us had noticed the swastika before. Note, I do not collect nor do I promote Nazi memorabilia. There are so many different symbols and meanings here that I thought I would share it. Firstly, I had been told as a young man that the swastika was an ancient symbol “made evil by the German Nazi’s in WWII” (say 1937). This card is from 1922. The Nazi party was founded in Bavaria in 1920 and was originally called a “workers party”. The card was made in England(!) and includes a black cat (traditionally bad luck) wishing Dear “Ida” luck from her lover/friend/X (kiss). The cat is wearing a military ribbon and a small (bird) warning bell. It’s tail points at the swastika and it is moving towards a bigger (human?) warning bell which hangs from the swastika. There are also bells in the corners. I note also two 102 year old emoji in the cat’s text, “spinning head”, and “envelope” for mail. The card was delivered by a friend who knew who/where Ida was. What does MISaph mean? I hope that Ida & Ormond had good luck and heard the “warning bells”. Do we?



On that note, I wish you all good luck. Dave Lacelle