

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 98

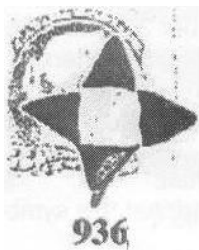
Dec. 2024

Dave Lacelle/Mike Halhed

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Group News. Please note change in email address above. We have two new members Mr. D. Karns and Mr. S. Hellsten. The 3rd edition of our book was recently reprinted indicating continuing strong interest. Mike Halhed provided the text below as I was unable to attend the Kingston Ont. convention. Thanks Mike.

BNAPEX Kingston took place on Aug. 23rd to 25th. It was well attended and included a large Court of Honour exhibit that will eventually be published as a book, outlining the history of Kingston philately from the early days of Fort Frontenac in the late 1600's to more modern times. Included in the exhibit was one frame of fancy Kingston 9s and a variety of fancy's on cover including this gem showing five strikes of L936 on a DLO cover originally going to India. See below and pg. 2.



The Fancy Cancel and Miscellaneous Markings Study Group had a one-hour session that included a presentation from Mike Halhed and Ron Smith going over the history and progression of fancy cancels in Kingston from 1869 to 1880. There were about ten collectors in attendance and the question & answer session after the presentation was quite interesting.

Thanks again Mike. I will probably be able to be at the 2025 BNAPS in Vernon BC, health, car, cat etc. permitting. Mike's cover was also presented in our NL 70, pg. 6. In that NL I stated that the handwritten "Dead" probably did not apply to the

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Dead Letter Office but rather to the recipient & thus the DLO. Backside has official “Dead Letter Office” stamps three from India and one Canada. See pg. 9 for a scan.

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

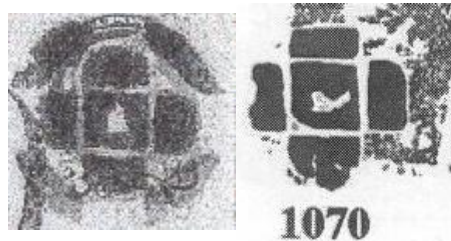
There are no direct revisions to previous N.L.’s however there are many references to previous N.L. here. All our NL’s have been scanned and are available at the BNAPS site <https://bnaps.org/studygroups/FancyCancel/newsletters-fc.php> as well as The Canadian Achieves Library, and USA National Philatelic Library.

CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

Further to Mike’s cover and L936: The recipient (as well as I can read it) is “Staff Asst Surgeon John R. Dickson *crv* (?) Dep. Supt General of Hospitals for care of British Troops Allahabad (*now called Prayagra*) Bengal India. India was a British colony since 1765. Troops were stationed there however the only significant (from the British viewpoint) event in 1872 was the completion of a Census.

The cancel is part of a series of fancy cancels (“9’s and “crosses”) produced by the Kingston Ont. PM Mr. Deacon in the early 1870’s. The “9’s” are personal follow up to the earlier officially assigned “2 ring 9”, and the crosses probably are a personal reference to the religious nature of his name. See L99 to L120, L 1059, NL’s 5 (June 1990), NL 18 (Apr. 1999), NL 65 (Apr. 2014), NL 70 (Dec. 2015), NL 76 (Dec. 2017), and especially Alec Globe’s “Readers Write” article pg. 3 this NL.

The “Kingston cross” at right from a religious cover (see NL 76) is typical of Mr. Deacon’s work, L 1070, precisely centre applied, heavily struck – showing a partial outer ring or personally applied ring. He must have been a rather interesting fellow that “Mr. D”!

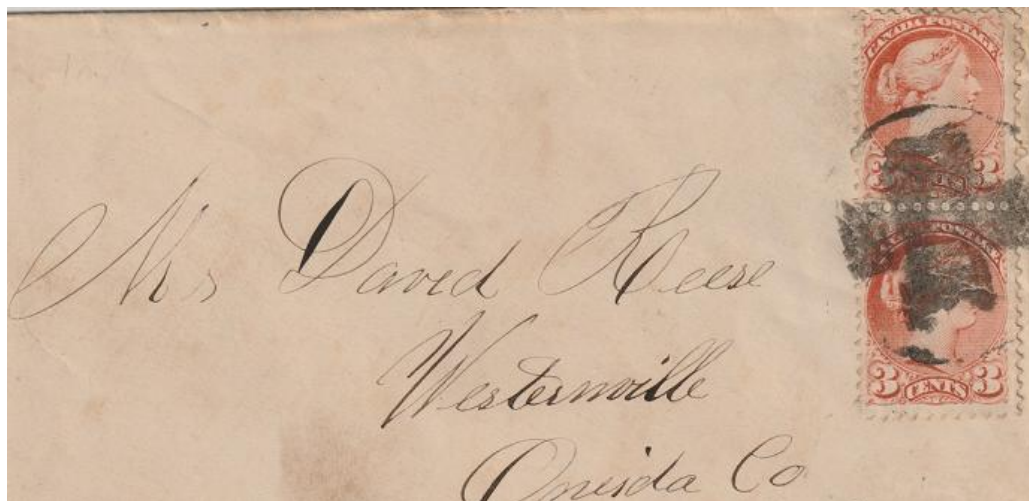


Mike also sent in two covers from Big Tracadie NS showing the PO name as a straight line. This is an addition to our Appendix 1 “Simple Town Name Cancels”, Type 2 and used between July 1890 and May 1891. Ron Smith collaborated with Mike on several of these items.



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Mike also sent in this new fancy cross from Prescott Ont., Sept. 1874. Tentatively L1059a. Prescott also used another cross "similar to" L1103.



Mike's next item is an "oops" example. The cover was first cancelled with a machine flag cancel (probably L1393) which missed the two left stamps. A sharp eyed clerk noticed this and corrected with a Toronto duplex L835.



Steve Hellsten sent in this example of L297 a fancy "B B" and asked for any info on it. I went back to my olde notes and found 14 references to it. I will print my answer below. (Short version..... can anyone confirm the printed dates on the 1951 S.G. photo next page? Also, delete L298.)



*"Listed as L297. Used at Bowmanville Ont. possibly as early as 1868, to Mar. 1870. The book illustration is a somewhat old use strike. PM was J.B. Fairbain, thus not a PM's initial. I have seen about 10 examples of it, on both Large and early SQ's. Fakes exist, yours looks genuine. Our book lists two other "B*B's", and all three were listed in D&S.*

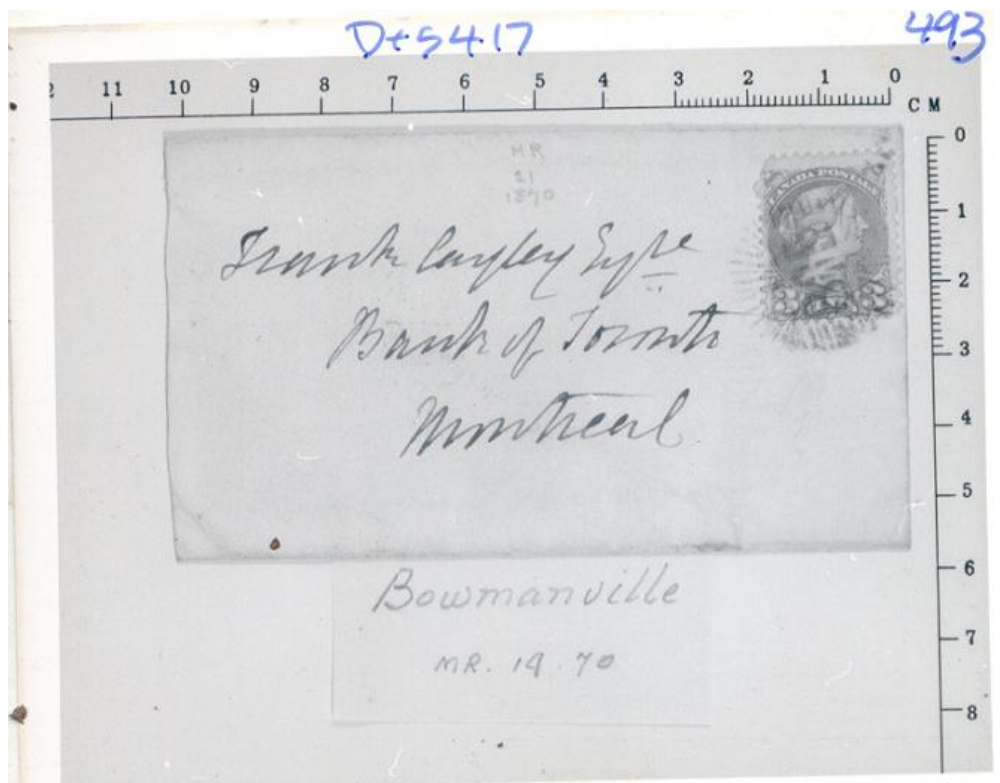
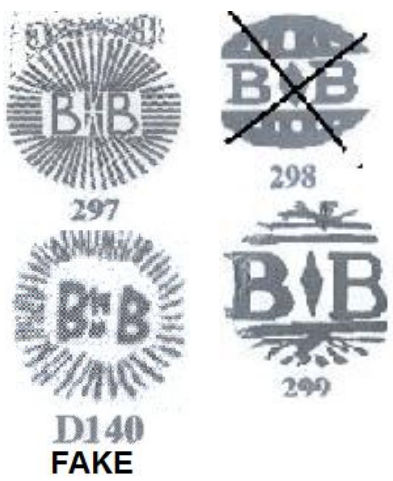
Now, the problems... There is only one L297 cover extant, and it is problematic. The only illustration of this cover is a small photo, part of the 1951 study group set of 500 fancy cancel photos. Ex Jarrett collection. There is no obvious CDS on the cover however someone has written MR 19 1870 on it and the note with the photo states

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"Bowmanville". This may be from a weak CDS (the cancel is not weak however), a backstamp (which does not usually indicate sending PO) or based on envelope contents. **I intend to ask the FC&MM study group if anyone else has a cover.** The L298 "B*B" is from a series of illustrations prepared by an auction firm which were "deliberately made inexact so as to prevent them being used in the future to make fakes." Unfortunately, no one told Smythies nor myself this, and we listed it as a separate cancel. There are no examples known, and it will be deleted in the next newsletter.

The L299 "B*B" is genuine but somewhat scarce, I have seen several strikes, but no confirming covers. The Bowmanville location appears to be based upon it's similarities in usage to L297. **I will also ask the study group about this one."**

The 500 x 1951 BNAPS FCSG photos have been referred to in several previous newsletters. This is the first scan of an entire 4X5 inch card. The cards had the owner's initials on back (in this case "FJ") and were distributed to six study group members in 1960. Much of Fred Jarrett's cancel material was on the market in the early 1960's. Due to scale issues with the photos they were of little use in later publications. More information on the deliberately "inexact illustrations" (aka "Bowman" sale) see our NL 80, page 7.



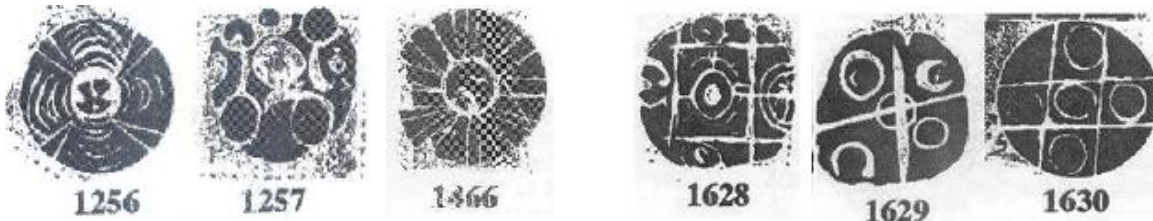
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Ron Smith sent in this star L990 with a new early date for Durham Ont. Aug. 1870. L990 (or very similar) was used in at least 10 different PO's over eight years. Some of these multiple use cancels were produced in Ottawa (see pg. 5 our book), however L990 is not in the P&A proof books. There is also duplication of use especially in 1871. This can happen if the cancel was used by some third party such as a Railway Post Office. If the RPO cancelled the stamp with a fancy cancel and did not use their own CDS cancel, then the cancel would be attributed to whatever the sending PO was. This also explains the duplication from various PO's. (I note also a weak other cancel under the Durham CDS – an RPO mark ?)



Another possible explanation for these multiple use stars is that they may have been widely available from a commercial manufacturer. Think “Teacher’s” stars for little Johnnie’s excellent work?

Alec Globe sent in a request for information on Toronto “corks” with interior small circles (“ISCs” for want of a better name), specifically similar to L 1256 but with a black centre. There were several of these ISCs, and I tried to duplicate using cork or wood. No such luck, the intaglio details were too fine. I’ve illustrated several below. Recently it occurred to me that these might be “carved” out of soft metal such as lead. I donna have any lead bars around to test with however.



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A recent “Topics” article (July – Sept. 2024) on “Hamilton carrier marks” by L. Belisle refers to an irregular “mesh” pattern on many of these strikes. When an ink pad is dry the cloth texture of the pad is picked up by metal hammers. See our NL 77 Apr. 2018 pg. 4 for examples. The carriers would presumably not want overly wet inkpads on their persons.

FAKES, BOGUS, AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

Nothing this time other than the fake “BB” on page 4.

READER’S WRITE

As promised last newsletter here is Alec Globe, alecglobe@gmail.com, report on some of his findings from his database of 850 “Kingston 9’s”, L99 to L120.

I am preparing a catalogue of the Kingston Fancy 9 cancels based on the largest database collected so far—some 850 strikes. Four Types account for around half of the strikes—Lacelle 103, 108, 109, and 117. By contrast, three Types are scarce, with only 10-12 strikes known: L99, 115, and 118. Nine are rare, known in just 1-5 strikes: L114, 116, and seven new items. This kind of imbalance will be familiar to collectors specializing in any area.

Almost a century ago, Fred Jarrett published the first selection of Fancy 9s, in his 1929 volume on *Stamps of British North America*, pages 407-8. Even now, L112 (Jarrett number 152) with the ray intact at 3:30 is known in only two copies. L116 (Jarrett 158) has only five copies. Two items are known only from his drawings: L100 (Jarrett 151) with all the rays complete, instead of the broken one directly under the number 9, and L119 (Jarrett 153) in a late state with the trapezoid at 1:00-2:00 o’clock broken. A further consideration is that the early collectors focused on LQs and tended to ignore strikes on SQs.

In short, rarity is no reason for dismissing newly reported Fancy 9 designs. The following seven new Types (numbered G121-G127) deserve to be treated as at least possible Fancy 9s, because (1) they resemble other Kingston designs, (2) they were all carved on corks the same size as the accepted Fancy 9s, (3) they all have the carbon-based ink of 19th-century cancels rather than the heavy 20th-century ink of fakes, (4) they imitate several known Toronto Fancy 2 initiatives (as do known Fancy 9s), and (5) they could fit into current spaces where no Fancy 9 covers are known (LQs G121-3 in the 47 days between November 26, 1869, and

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January 13, 1870; and G124-6 in the six plus months between May 25, 1870, and February 7, 1871).

Type G121 on a 1¢ LQ, orange shade of 1869. Globe copy.



Type G122 on a 2¢ LQ early printing on semi-transparent paper, not the opaque, white wove paper 10 reported for July 13, 1870, and later (Duckworth, *The Large Queen Stamps*, 2008, pp. 57-65). Globe copy.



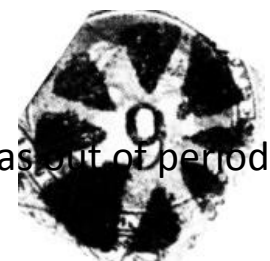
Type G123 on a 12½¢ LQ before the rate to Britain changed to 6¢ on January 1, 1870.



Type G124 on a 1¢ SQ, brownish orange shade common in 1870 and 1871.



Type G125. Duckworth (*BNA Topics*, no. 356, Nov. 1976, p. 13) illustrated the top on a light brown 6¢ LQ, reported as early as June 18, 1870 (Duckworth, *Large Queen Stamps*, 2008, p. 107). Two copies of the bottom have now been located, on a 15¢ LQ (Ebay, July 30, 2013), and a 3¢ LQ (Leggett Private Treaty, 1982). The 9s on all three copies match when overlaid, and the other parts of the design line up on all three strikes.



Type G126 (D&S 19/31). Duckworth (1976, p. 11) dismissed this as out of period in 1871 stamps: (1) a light brown 6¢ LQ, reported as early as June 18,

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1870 (Duckworth, *Large Queen Stamps*, 2008, p. 107), and (2) a 15¢ LQ (Siverts sale, Maresch, October 1989, lot 1116, later owned by Duckworth, *Large Queen Stamps*, 2008, p. 227). The triangles were carved from cork, which absorbed ink well. The 9 is a printer's type, much more regularly shaped than earlier carved cork 9s. The hard type took ink more lightly than the cork. The inspirations were two Toronto Fancy 2s with inserted metal "2"s—L38 and 39, known on ten covers from August 26 to November 18, 1870. The mid-1870 printing of G126's 6¢ LQ fits this time frame.

Type G127, on a dull red 3c SQ of 1876, with perforation 12 x 12 (see the Hillson and Nixon Small Queen handbook, p. 128). Once again, there is a printer's type inserted for the number, printing differently than the cork triangles. Toronto introduced several new Fancy 2s in 1876, and a number of towns, including Kingston, followed suit.



Additional evidence always makes for better judgments. I would greatly appreciate scans if other collectors have any of these possible Fancy 9s. Also scans of L100 with all rays intact and L119 with the broken trapezoid at 1-2 o'clock. Also scans of covers of L107, 113-116, 118, and G121-G127. End Alec Globe article.

MISCELLANEOUS

In NL 72 I showed several wax "Signet ring" hammers as at right. These rings or small stamps served three primary functions way back then. Firstly, if a person was illiterate the letter (or symbol) represented "His Mark" (signature) on any important papers. Later (1890's – 1960's) they were occasionally used to add an aspect of "IMPORTANCE" to something. Thirdly, they were used as a way to physically secure important letters/files so that the item could not be "accidentally" opened by anyone but the authorized recipient. Some of



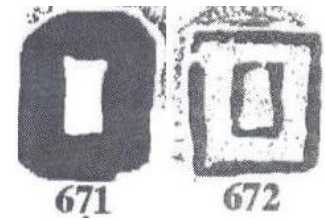
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the fancy "Initial" cancels are probably inked signet rings, see appendix 4 for official PO crown wax seals.

While sorting through some old family jewellery I found a different kind (at least to me) of signet ring. The ring has a green (jade?) head which has an image of a woman (judging by the skirt) carved into it.



You thus leave "yourself" rather than just a letter! It is too small to work well with ink but I tried to ink it. I wonder if our L671 & L672 are from similar rings?



Cursive writing has not been taught at schools for some time now and there was an unexpected problem before the recent USA election. Some young people had trouble registering to vote as they did not know how to make their cursive signature on the official documents. Perhaps we need new signet rings? Called "sAlg.net" rings? Just asking....



As mentioned on page one, here is the backside of Mike Halhed's "India" cover.



See next page.

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And finally, one more (off topic) pick from the selection of “cat post cards”.... The sender seems to think; “The problem with us sending Post Cards is that anyone can read them”. He may have given us a decoding hint as there is a small Masonic symbol in her address.

About ½ scale previous page, can anyone crack the code?

...And that’s about it. May I wish all of you a Happy Holiday season.

Take care, Dave Lacelle.