

THE R.P.O. NEWSLETTER
OF THE CANADIAN R.P.O. STUDY GROUP (BNAPS)

VOLUME X, NO. 5

December, 1983

If the mails do a good job, Merry Christmas; if a poor job, Happy New Year; and, if they do a lousy job - Greetings and Salutations!

This newsletter's sole function is to distribute the first draft of the RPO "cork" study. I hope each of you will review and give me your comments and suggestions.

The purpose of the study and documentation of the "corks" is to upgrade the currently available information in the philatelic literature, i.e. Day & Smythies and to provide both the R.P.O. collector and the cancel collector more accurate information with which to work - and chase after. Included is any strike on a cover applied by the R.P.O. clerk which is not his regular run and date hammer. These are presumably covers mailed along the route, picked up at points where there was no regular P.O. A type of "RPO Way Letter".

Included are enhanced copies of the cancel only, taken from copies of covers sent in by members of the study group. Quite frankly, some were very clear, but some were lousy - so enhancing became somewhat of a chore in some cases. Submissions ranged from the very "fancy" to the very distinct blurs. However, that is exactly what I wanted because it has been my experience that a fancy or distinct geometric shape can be clear one day, blurred the next and clear the following. Since we are trying to get a pattern of use, then, we need documentation on them all. In summary, enclosed are:

1. Approx. 185 different strikes - 181 more than currently in D&S.
2. 98 different runs
3. 34 strikes for runs which have direct or a semblance of consistency from one use to the next - indicating the same hammer.
4. Day & Smythies listed 4:
 - a. RR 153? Coyer reported indicates the D&S illustration is not the correct pattern.
 - b. RR 180 - Appears to confirm the D&S pattern.
 - c. RR 185 - Not confirmed.
 - d. O-381 - Not confirmed.

General comments on this project, other than it has been a lot of fun, are as follows:

1. Newfoundland has no representation. Are there any out there. I have several bar killers in my collection and a couple of blurs, but I did not include them on this first draft. Are there others?
2. Generally, working with copies is necessary, but difficult. It helps if there is a control on the copier to adjust the darkness of each copy, so that the stamp or cover does not blank out critical portions of the strike.
3. There was not indication as to whether any of the strikes were in color.
4. One reporter ask if I knew how to use a filter with a copier. I don't - does anyone? My experience is that a filter simply blacks out the copy.
5. One question raised by several reporters and myself, was "How do you know whether the "cork" strike was applied by the town clerk who forgot the CDS dater?" We don't, except where there is a consistent usage on the same run either of the same cork or of corks in general. Because of this, we need reports of both distinct and blurred corks.
6. Covers with a town dater on the front with the RPO cancel and the cork, were not not included. The only variance to this would be if the date on the RPO was earlier than the town date, indicating the town dater was a transit mark. If I missed such on any of your reports, please include in your comments, and I will rectify.
7. Also, because many of these reports came in while I was temporarily "derailed" from my stamp room, and my correspondence got in a real mess, please excuse omissions, but be sure and get back to me with a new report.

8. There is always a problem with "cork" cancels, and that is the possibility of forgery, particularly on stamp - once a defined cork is printed, distributed and becomes the basis for collecting. I am sure that D&S wrestled with this problem and I have been told that their catalog has deliberate distortions to cover this. But who has their documentation now for reference comparison for the future. Does anyone have any ideas as to how to handle this problem?

9. I am calling the subject "cork obliterations" - that's a lousy but descriptive title. They are not all fancy cancels - so "fancy" is not descriptive. I am open to a new title. Any ideas?

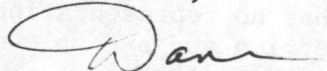
10.. I am not satisfied with D&S's method of classification - cogwheels, arrowheads, etc. I am currently working on a classification methodology for the geometric designs and will have such (hopefully) when a second draft is completed. Does anyone know a reference or have any ideas on this. Maybe it has already been done.

We have reports from a number of members but many did not respond. Those who sent copies of covers, and to whom I express my thanks, are:

Frank Waite
Joe Purcell
Jim Lehr
Norm Brassler
Ross Gray
Lew Ludlow
Maggie Toms
Graham Noble
Gerald Carr
Bob Soper
John Aitken


I really hope that each of you, including those above, will look again in hopes that we can develop this further. Sometimes seeing the product instead of the words will stimulate more interest. I hope that is the case here. I already have additional strikes to add since this was completed and hope that we can really get this going, ready for another draft within a few months. Get off your duff! Your ideas, comments and suggestions are hereby solicited!







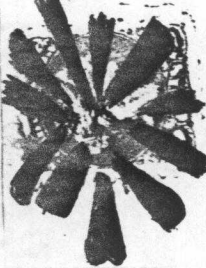






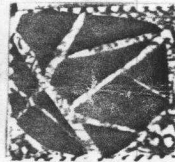

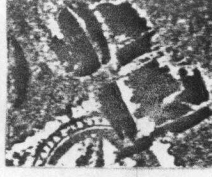

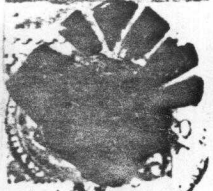
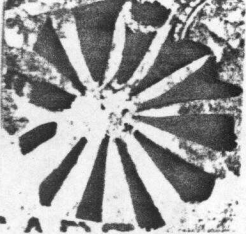
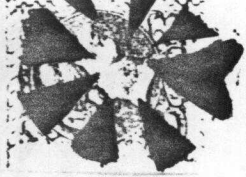
Thanks,

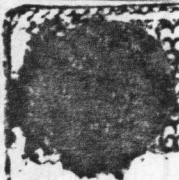

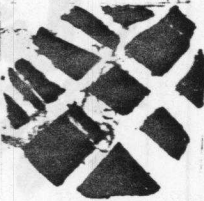


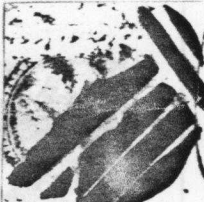



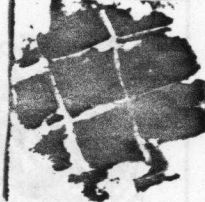
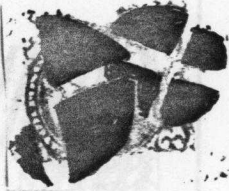
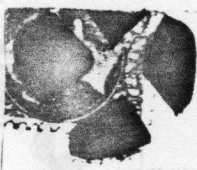

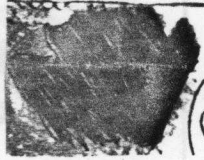
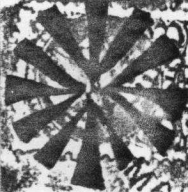
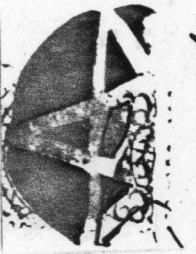





David L. McKain
5 Meadowcrest
Parkersburg, W. Va. 26101







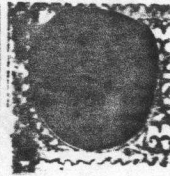
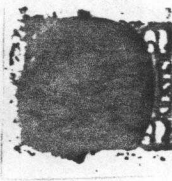
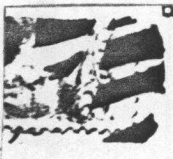
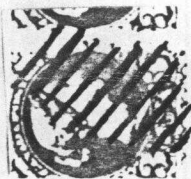
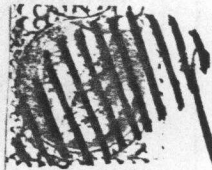




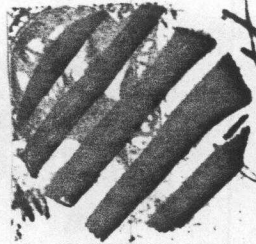
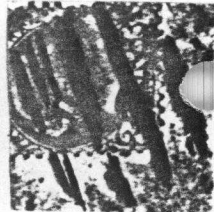

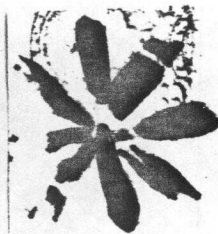
A dark, textured, star-shaped object, possibly a piece of fabric or a decorative element, with eight points. The points are irregular and jagged, and the central area is lighter and more textured. The overall appearance is that of a dark, possibly black, material with some lighter, possibly white, fibers or threads visible. The shape is reminiscent of a stylized star or a flower with eight petals.









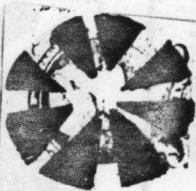




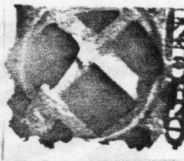
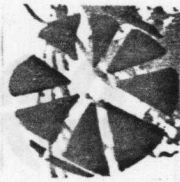
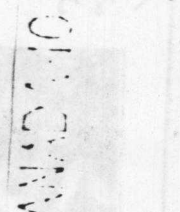


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<p>1. RR 57 2. 2/80 3. 173</p> 	<p>1. RR 57 2. 7/79 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. RR 59 2. 7/86 3. 137</p> 	<p>1. RR 61 2. 5/95 3. 165</p> 
<p>1. RR 61 2. 3/96 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. RR 61 2. 7/83 3. 165</p> 	<p>1. RR 65 2. 10/79 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. RR 65 2. 2/82 3. 165</p> 
<p>1. RR 65 2. 4/80? 3. 165</p> 	<p>1. RR 65 2. 8/78 3. 173</p> 	<p>1. RR 65 2. 6/79 3. 173</p> 	<p>1. RR 67 2. 8/81 3. 101</p> 






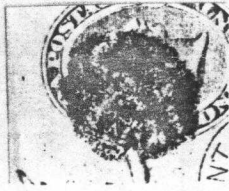
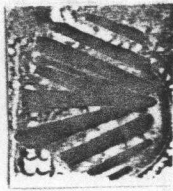




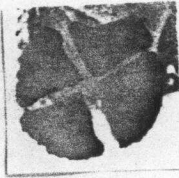

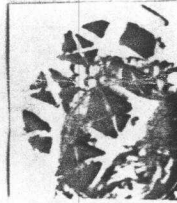

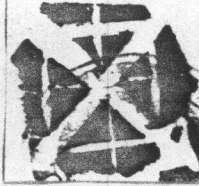
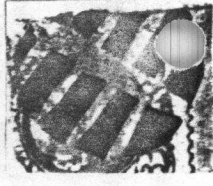
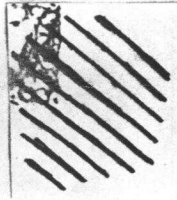

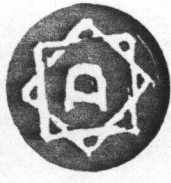
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RPO "CORK" OBLITERATOR CANCELS - D. L. McKAIN

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<p>1. RR 85 2. 7 3. LML</p> 	<p>1. RR 86 2. 5/81 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. RR 86 2. 6/83 3. 165</p> 	<p>1. RR 86 2. 6/83 3. 159</p> 
<p>1. RR 86 2. 10/83 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. RR 88 2. 2/71 3. 142</p> 	<p>1. RR 88 2. 6/72 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. RR 93 2. 6/87 3. 16</p> 
<p>1. RR 93 2. 7/87 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. RR 93 2. 12/87 3. 165</p> 	<p>1. RR 94 2. 9/80 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. RR 94 2. 10/80 3. 173</p> 
<p>1. RR 94 2. 1/82 3. 165</p> 	<p>1. RR 95 2. 8/89 3. 142</p> 	<p>1. RR 96 2. 3/85? 3. 16</p> 	

<p>1. RR 104 2. 2/77 3. 142</p> 	<p>1. RR 104 2. 2/81? 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. RR 106 2. 8/77 3. 173</p> 	<p>1. RR 110 2. 12/83 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. RR 112 2. 10/88 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. RR 113 2. 7/88 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. RR 114 2. 8/57 3. 142</p> 	<p>1. RR 114 2. 3/58 3. 142</p> 	<p>1. RR 119 2. 9/83 3. 142</p> 	<p>1. RR 120 2. 1/82 3. 147</p> 	<p>1. RR 123 2. 8/91 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. RR 137 2. 9/91 3. 147</p> 	<p>1. RR 142 2. 6/55 3. 142</p> 	<p>1. RR 144 2. 5/81 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. RR 144 2. 3/76 3. 142</p> 	<p>1. RR 142 2. 6/55? 3. 142</p> <p>CANADIAN CANCELS</p> 
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RPO "CORK" OBLITERATOR CANCELS - D. L. MCKAIN

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<p>1. RR 183 2. 11/78 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. RR 183 2. 1/83 3. 173</p> 	<p>1. RR 183 2. 7/83 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. RR 184 2. 1/89 3. 173</p> 
<p>1. RR 184 2. 7/81 3. J. Burnett</p> 	<p>1. RR 185 2. 11/80 3. 173</p> 	<p>1. RR 185 2. 12/76 3. 142</p> 	<p>1. RR 186 2. 6/76 3. 16</p> 
<p>1. RR 189 2. 11/79 3. 165</p> 	<p>1. RR 190 2.</p> 	<p>1. RR 194 2. - 3. 7</p> 	<p>1. RR 185 2. 1876 3. D+S. P. 72</p> 

1. 2261
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1. 2266
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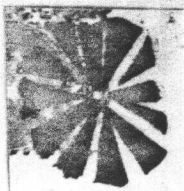
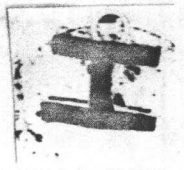


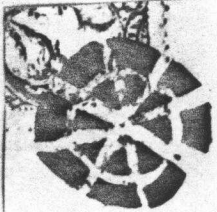
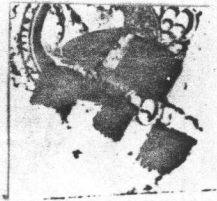


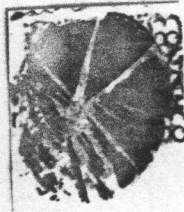




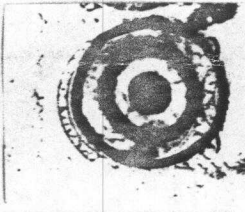
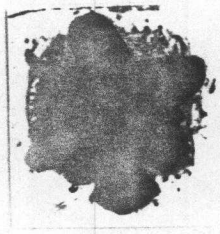
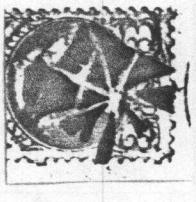


1. South Eastern
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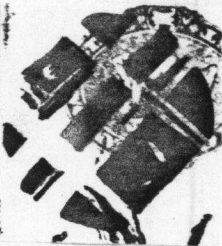
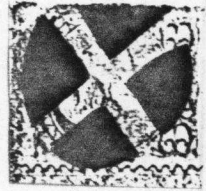












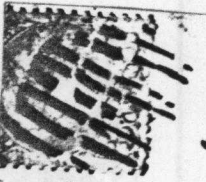


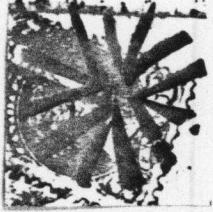


1. 2228
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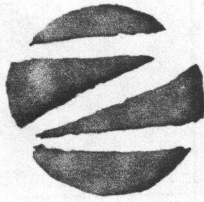





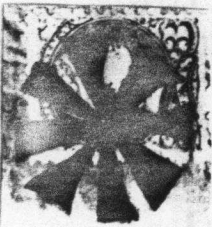

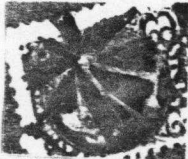
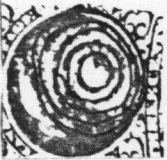
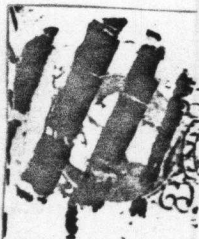
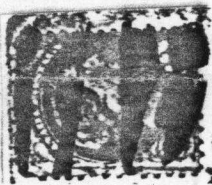
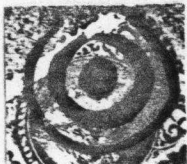
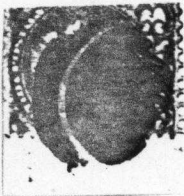




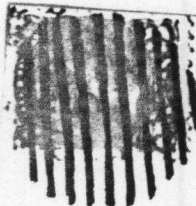


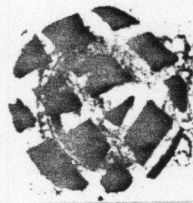
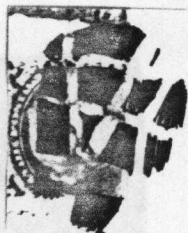



RPO "CORK" OBLITERATOR CANCELS - D. L. MCKAIN

<p>1. MA 63 2. 9/81 3. 165</p> 	<p>1. MA 64 2. 11/85 3. 146</p> 	<p>1. MA 64 2. 4/85 3. 137</p> 	<p>1. MA 64 2. 5/85 3. 207</p> 
<p>1. MA 64 2. 5/85 3. 207</p> 	<p>1. MA 193 2. 6/74 3. 165</p> 	<p>1. MA 193 2. 6/74 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. MA 193 2. 12/74 3. 142</p> 
<p>1. MA 194 2. 6/76 3. 173</p> 	<p>1. MA 206 2. 10/87 3. 173</p> 	<p>1. MA 228 2. 7/76 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. MA 228 2. 7/76 3. 16</p> 
<p>1. P 411 2. 2/81 ? 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. P-152A 2. 11/81 3. 147</p> 	<p>1. P 155 2. 5/90 3. 173</p> 	<p>1. P 1774 2. 5/7 (24) 3. 165</p> 
<p>1. P 233 2. 1/68 3. 142</p> 	<p>1. P 239 2. 8/90 3. 142</p> 		


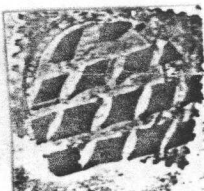

<p>1. 0-3 2. 8/41 3. 165</p> 	<p>1. 0-42 2. 11/61 3. 142</p> 	<p>1. 0-81 2. 11/91 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. 0-125 2. 6/83 3. 101</p> 
<p>1. 0-141 2. 4/88 3. 165</p> 	<p>1. 0-148 2. 6/94 3. 193</p> 	<p>1. 0-150 2. 4/90 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. 0-150 2. 7/90 3. 16</p> 
<p>1. 0-150 2. 10/90 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. 0-150 2. 7/92 3. 146</p> 	<p>1. 0-168 2. 3/93 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. 0-175 2. 9/87 3. 16</p> 
<p>1. 0-226 2. 8/75 3. 165</p> 	<p>1. 0-239 2. 11/7 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. 0-308 2. 12/88 3. 173</p> 	<p>1. 0-353 2. 10/89 3. 165</p> 
<p>1. 0-335B 2. 7/91 3. 165</p> 	<p>1. 0-353 2. 8/91 3. 173</p> 	<p>1. 0-353 2. 9/81 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. 0-381 2. 5/76 3. 165</p> 

RPO "CORK" OBLITERATOR CANCELS - D. L. McKAIN

<p>1. 0-381 2. 9/77 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. 0-381 2. 1/76 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. 0-381 2. '76 3. D+S P.88</p> 			
<p>1. W-134A 2. 9/84 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. W-134A 2. 11/86 3. 137</p> 				
<p>1. TS 240? 2. 8/90 3. 147</p> 					

<p>1. DD 12 2. 12/70 3. 173</p> 	<p>1. DD 12 2. 12/73 3. 165</p> 	<p>1. DD 12 2. 4/75 3. 173</p> 	<p>1. DD 12 2. 11/68 3. 142</p> 
<p>1. DD 14 2. 4/80 3. 146</p> 	<p>1. DD 14 2. 5/80 3. 165</p> 	<p>1. DD 16 2. 3/85 3. 137</p> 	<p>1. DD 16 2. 11/89 3. 165</p> 
<p>1. DD 16 2. 6/84 3. 136</p> 	<p>1. DD 16 2. 7/82 3. 165</p> 	<p>1. DD 16 2. 9/81 3. 16</p> 	<p>1. DD 16 2. 6/84 3. 16</p> 
<p>1. DD 24 2. 9/85 to 9/92 3. 173/16/ 142/16 4 copies reported</p> 	<p>1. DD 24 2. 9/82 3. 136</p> 	<p>1. DD 24 2. 9/83 3. 136</p> 	<p>1. DD 92 2. 8/79 3. 136</p> 
<p>1. DD 92 2. 9/79 3. 165</p> 	<p>1. DD 92 2. 6/80 3. 136</p> 	<p>1. DD 92 2. 8/80 3. 173</p> 	<p>1. DD 92 2. 11/80 3. 142</p> 

RPO "CORK" OBLITERATOR CANCELS - D. L. McKAIN

 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DD 84 2. 8/87 3. 142 				
 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DD 82 2. 7/81 3. 165 				
 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DD 82 2. 3/81 3. 16 				