

THE ROUND UP ANEX

THE SQUARED CIRCLE NEWSLETTER

EDITORS: G.F. Hansen
W.G. Moffatt

VOLUME ONE: NUMBER ONE.

OCTOBER, 1976

THE SQUARED CIRCLES STUDY GROUP GOES FORMAL:

It happened at San Francisco. The Squared Circles Study Group, with possibly the greatest potential of all BNAPS study groups, has decided that it was time to follow the Flag Cancel, the R.P.O., the Revenuers and Small Queens study groups into the field of formal organization and publication of its own newsletter on a regular basis.

This does not mean the end of Rounding Up Squared Circles as one of the regular features of Topics but rather heralds extension of that column, by direct mail contact, beyond the space limitations of Topics. While the column will still serve as a means of introducing new members into the clan and as a means of circulating squared circle information to all members of BNAPS this newsletter, it is hoped, will serve to unite those who are most seriously interested in squared circles.

Bill Moffatt, while not acting as editor of this newsletter, has so many questions about squared circles for which he is seeking answers from us all that he will be regularly contributing a feature which at this time is being called "Bill's Questions." Readers are encouraged to write Bill, either directly or through the editor, in answer to his queries. At this time Bill is extremely busy preparing material for the Fourth Edition of the Squared Circle Handbook which is now slated for release either late in 1977 or sometime early in 1978.

One thing a number of readers of Topics has asked for has been the illustration of some of the rarer Squared Circle cancels. The masthead of this newsletter will bear, for the next few issues, proof strikes from the postal museum of two of the rarer cancels. Nassagaweya is shown with full bars at top and bottom struck from the hammer which also produces the thin bars known to the very few collectors lucky enough to own examples of this rare town. Palmerston is known to exist in only three copies according to the last squared circle roster.

In future issues of the newsletter it is hoped that other rare items can be illustrated either from collections of readers or from old and less well known articles in Topics or other periodicals. Any reader interested in submitting material for illustration is asked to send in only some form of photocopy, a good clear Xerox will do. It would be appreciated that no rare material should actually be sent in, mail service being what it is.

In formation of the Squared Circle Study Group into a formal group Bill had eleven other enthusiasts with him at San Francisco and I was made editor of the newsletter. Dues were set at \$3.00 which will serve as full payment to cover cost of production and mailing of the newsletter for what-ever period will be involved. When the newsletter funds run low the dues will be re-assessed.

This edition of the Newsletter, which we have decided to call "The Round-Up Annex" will be sent to the original eleven present at San Francisco and to a number of known squared circle collectors. Future editions will only be sent to those subscribing by dues payment. Make all checks, money orders, etc., payable to G. F. Hansen and I will report, from time to time, our financial position. At the time of writing we have a credit balance of \$42.00 in my keeping and the expense of production of the 1st. newsletter has not yet been assessed. Paid membership is as follows with all members being attested as BNAPS members first and always.

W. G. Moffatt, Hickory Hollow, R. R. 3, Ballston Lake, NY 12019.
G. F. Hansen, 375 Jefferson Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2V ON4.
H. W. S. Wilding, 135 Traill Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3J 242.
D. Fraser, 1183 Warsaw Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3M 1C5.
Dr. R. A. Chaplin, 65 Pepler Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4J 2Y7.
Edmund A. Harris, 620 - 74 Avenue, N.W., Calgary, Alberta T2K 0P9.
N. Pelletier, 34 Blandford Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M6E 3A7.
E. A. Clark 2957 North Brighton Street, Burbank, CA 91504.
J. Benning, 157 Wildwood Drive, Calgary, Alberta, T3C 3C7.
Alfred Cook, Coy Glen Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.
K. V. Ellison, R.R.1 Oyama, British Columbia, V0H 1W0.
Barry Shapiro, 1101 Merry Oaks Road, College Station, TX 77840.
Hank Narbonne, Box 463, Shearwater, Nova Scotia, B0J 3A0.
Ivor Cross, 1086 Dorchester Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3M 0S3.

These are the paid-up originals as of October 3rd., 1976. Charter membership in the group is being kept open until year end. When remitting please indicate your full mailing address and your BNAPS number. As with all other BNAPS study groups membership in BNAPS is the first requirement for membership in the Squared Circle Study Group.

It is planned to have somewhere between eight and ten issues each year of this letter but this schedule will depend on your help. If there is anything you are particularly interested in our field write to me, if you have some information or anything you feel would be of interest to us then write to me, I will be in close contact with Bill Moffatt so he can use anything he wishes in Rounding Up Squared Circles in Topics. It may be likely, however, that with regular publication this newsletter will be more current in its information than Topics.

One regular feature I would like to have is something that we will call WANT LISTS AVAILABLE. For starters here is my own contribution.

WANT LISTS AVAILABLE.

The following members have want lists available which can be received, upon request, by writing to the member at the address indicated.

G. F. Hansen, 375 Jefferson Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2V ON4.

This feature will always appear headed in this way. No want list will be published nor will any member's name appear under this heading unless he has indicated that he is prepared to send out his want list to enquirers.

The editor's desk is always ready for items for publication, news of interest to the readers, suggestions, etc.

Rarity Factors versus Prices:

There are two schools of thought on the matter of how a collector can gauge the relative value (rarity) of his holdings of specialist philatelic material. The one school says that all listings and handbooks written for this type of material should have prices shown even though these may, of necessity, be published about once every decade or so. Prices will have a constant relationship one to the other so that a collector entering the market will know how to value a particular item having only the current price of some of the related material as a guide. As an example, if a particular cover is listed in a handbook at \$5.00 and is known to sell for \$10.00 then another \$5.00 item in that handbook should probably also be selling for the \$10.00 figure. An item catalogued in the handbook at around \$2.50 might be selling for about \$5.00 and another listed at \$7.50 should be about \$15.00.

Another school of thought, the one presently expressed by squared circle and R.P.O. handbooks, says that there is a factor that can be calculated which shows the relative rarity of any item in relation both to other items and to the number of serious collectors who are looking for it. From a study of squared circle and R.P.O. handbooks it can be seen that there is some apparent difference in the factors used in arriving at the factors the two handbooks use and since this newsletter will deal almost exclusively in squared circle material we will discuss only some sort of pricing scale for squared circles using the rarity factors used in our roster.

Bill Moffatt has often said that the rarity factor that is now in use is based on the assumption that at about R.F. 45 the number of known copies of a particular squared circle just about equal the number of serious collectors who will be seeking it. A study of the last roster indicates a count of between 84 and 108 for R.F. 45. In a numerical listing of squared circles starting with the most common and proceeding to the rarest Bowmanville with 108 copies known is number 239 and Berlin with 84 is number 260. These two towns represent the limits of R.F. 45. It is considered that any collector with a holding of around 250 different hammers is serious and on the lookout for new material.

What then occurs is that the collectors and the dealers can come to some agreement on a price the specialist would be able to support at the R.F. 45 level, what could be considered fair for items less difficult and a scale of prices he could be expected to pay for more highly rated material. The limits are naturally set by two factors, at the low end of the scale no squared circle item can be worth less than the basis on which it exists, ie the stamp, piece or cover on which it is found. At the high end of things the affluence of the individual collector and of those competing with him—as well as the sheer acquisitive nature of the human animal—must be taken into account.

At least one older dealer I know has been clearing up his squared circle stock books with prices of about \$2.50 on stamp, \$3.00 on piece at a R.F. 45 level and going down to about .20 for R.F. 2.5. Of course there is very little material with R.F. 50 rating or higher but this is priced at an extremely low \$3.00 to \$4.00. Market prices, using some of the larger, and better known, dealers who handle squared circle material on a constant base have been carefully studied and a pricing structure, to R.F. 100 or so, can be discerned. There is, of course, some variance from this and there is an easily detected regional disparity, but in the main these prices are those found acceptable by these dealers and, evidently, by collectors.

for RF 2.5 to 25

RF	ON STAMP	ON PIECE	ON COVER	REMARKS
	\$	\$	\$	
2.5	.20	.30	.50	These prices are for the common Small Queen, Leaf or Numeral values or for Edward or Admiral stamps with low retail value.
5.	.25	.35	.60	
7.5	.30	.40	.75	
10.	.40	.50	1 - 2	For strikes on the more valuable stamps up to a RF of around 45 - 60 an allowance should cover the value of the stamp.
15.	.50	.75	2 - 3	
20.	.75	1 - 2	3 - 5	
25.	1 - 2	2 - 3	4 - 6	"On Piece" strikes are to be complete or just about.
30.	2 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 8	
35.	3 - 5	4 - 6	7 - 15	
40.	4 - 6	5 - 8	10 - 20	The range of prices as shown allows for value judgments on quality— for strike, piece, etc.
(83-110) 45.	5 - 8	7 - 15	15 - 30	
(62-82) 50.	7 - 15	10 - 20	20 - 40	
(46-61) 60.	10 - 20	15 - 30	25 - 50	At about this RF careful consideration must be given to the result of new finds and their affect on RFs.
(34-45) 70.	15 - 30	20 - 40	30 - 60	
(25-33) 80.	20 - 40	25 - 50	35 - 75	
(18-24) 90.	25 - 50	30 - 60	45 - 100	
(13-17) 100.	40 - 80	50 - 100	75 - 150	

The above prices are based on personal experience and a study of the market during the early fall of 1976. Prices at any individual dealer are likely to vary slightly from this but the relative pattern should hold true. Going into the higher RFs finer strikes are likely to earn premiums into the upper ranges of the price structure.

Some of the rarest squared circles are generally available only through auctions or private treaty sales. Prices realized at auctions are the result of interest at the time and the skill of the auctioneer.

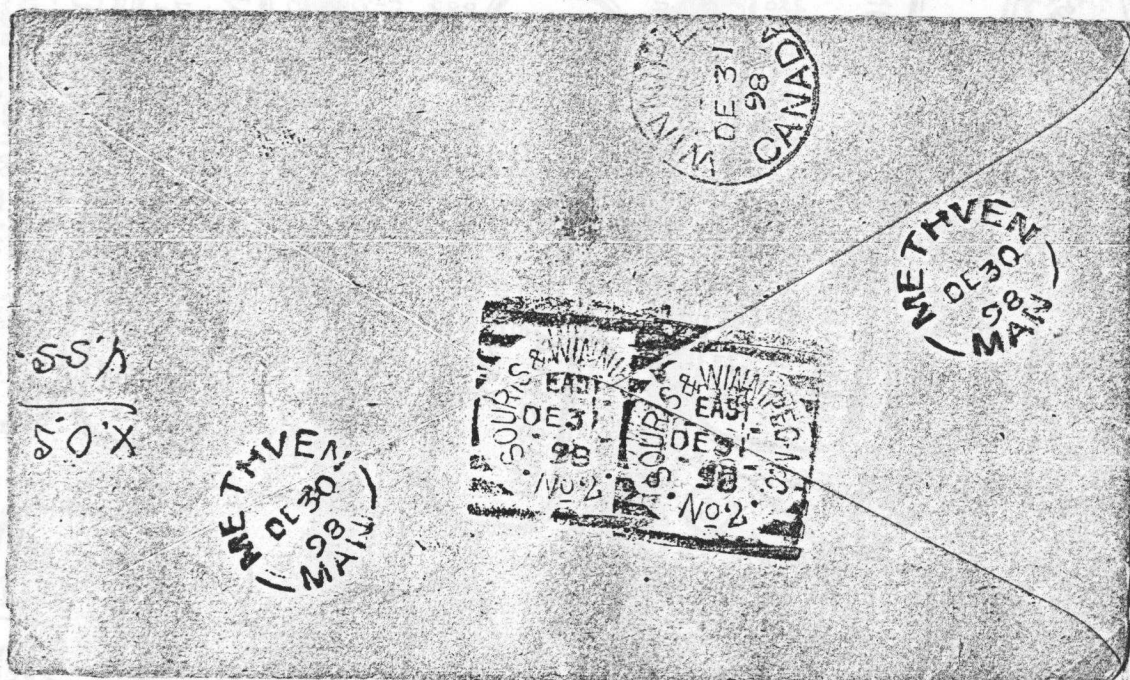
Knowledgeable collectors obtain a major part of their holdings, if not all of them, through barter and exchange with other collectors. A purchase of good quality material should then be judged "on balance," not in isolation. Thus the cost of a good collection of squared circles can be kept at a reasonable level in terms of real value and the pure fun of the hunt for ever more difficult to find material.

Eventually the collector can settle down to serious study of an interesting facet of squared circles which does not involve the high cost material. Interesting single town collections, indicia studies, can take up the slack created when the pocketbook dictates a halt to the hunt for rarities.



Napinka & Winnipeg. W94. Type 2. A very fine example of the use of the squared circle type of R. P. O. This cover shows two strikes of hammer using the direction West, and one strike of the East. 4th & 5th of April 1900.

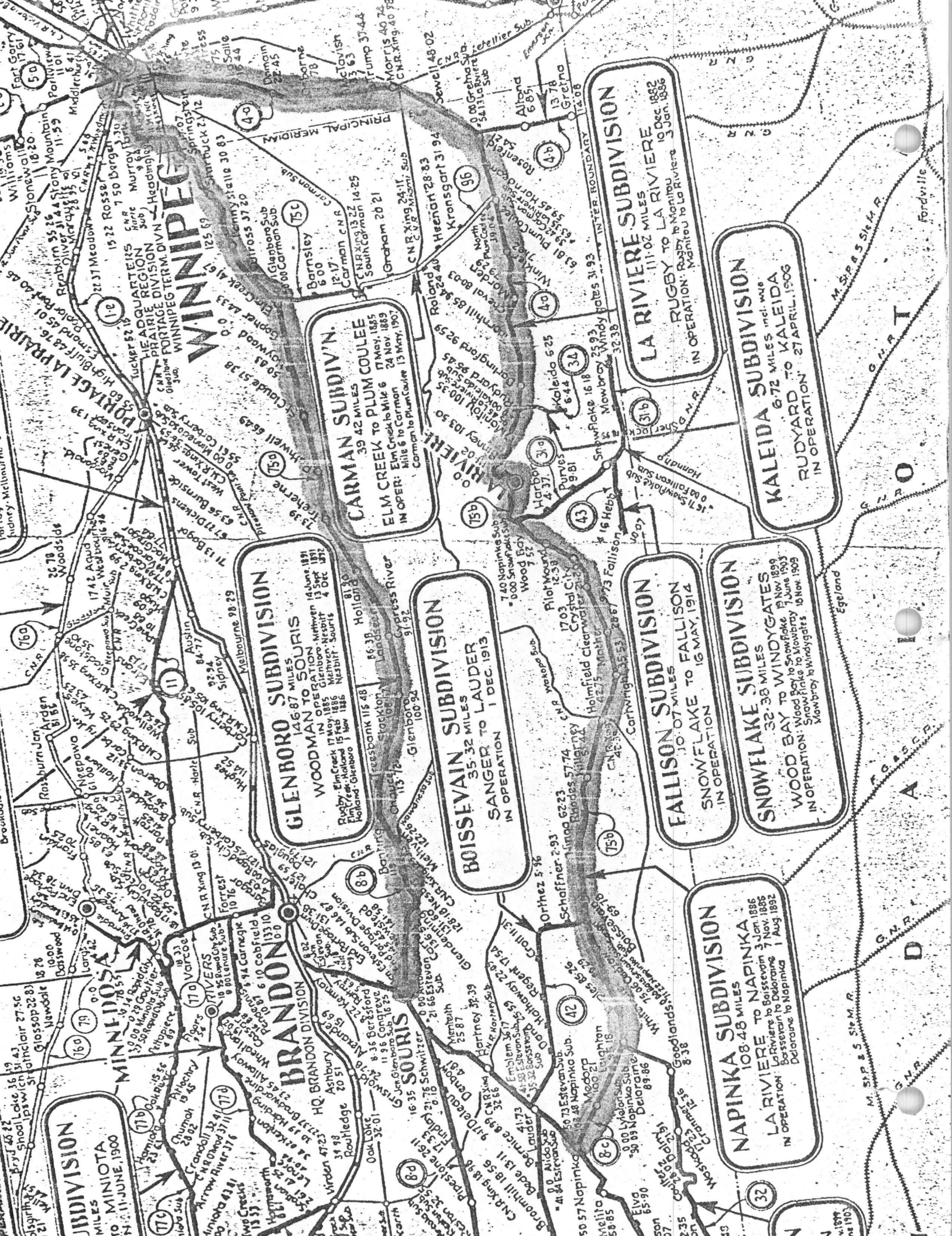
From Shaw's Canadian Transportation Postmarks, 1963.



Souris & Winnipeg. W 150. Type Two, Second Hammer. An example showing usage on the last day of the year, DE 31 / 98. Located at mile 122.56 on the C.P.R. Winnipeg to Souris run Methven was a very small farm community. The Methven cancel is rare.

From the collection of G. F. Hansen.

Two not scarce but interesting R.P.O. Squared Circle cancels.



WINNIPEG

CARMAN SUBDIVISION
39.42 MILES
ELM CREEK TO PLUM COULEE
IN OPERATION: 17 May 1885
IN OPERATION: 13 May 1907

GLENBORO SUBDIVISION
146.87 MILES
WOODMAN TO SOURIS
IN OPERATION: 14 June 1891
IN OPERATION: 13 Sept 1891
IN OPERATION: 4 Dec 1892

BOISSEvain SUBDIVISION
35.32 MILES
SANGER TO LAUDER
IN OPERATION: 1 Dec 1913

FALLISON SUBDIVISION
10.07 MILES
SNOWFLAKE TO FALLISON
IN OPERATION: 15 May 1914

SNOWFLAKE SUBDIVISION
32.38 MILES
WOOD BAY TO WINDYGATES
IN OPERATION: 10 Nov 1899
IN OPERATION: 10 Nov 1909

NAPINKA SUBDIVISION
108.48 MILES
LA RIVIERE TO NAPINKA
IN OPERATION: 3 Jan 1886
IN OPERATION: 7 Nov 1886
IN OPERATION: 1 Aug 1892

LA RIVIERE SUBDIVISION
111.02 MILES
RUGBY TO LA RIVIERE
IN OPERATION: 19 Dec 1882
IN OPERATION: 3 Jan 1886

KALEIDA SUBDIVISION
6.72 MILES incl. wye
RUDYARD TO KALEIDA
IN OPERATION: 27 April 1906

JUD DIVISION
10 MILES
MINIOTA
IN OPERATION: 11 June 1900

BRANDON DIVISION
103.10 MILES
H.Q. BRANDON DIVISION

SOURIS
16.35 MILES
Schwitzer

The Squared Circle R.P.O.S:

The preceding pages contain illustrations of two interesting R.P.O. squared circles. Shown as well is a map of the western region of the C.P.Ry. (a portion of Manitoba) on which both the runs involved are indicated. Close study of this map will show that the Souris & Winnipeg run originated at Woodman and was known as the Glenboro Subdivision. The full 146.87 miles became fully operative on October 4th., 1892. The Napinka & Winnipeg run started at Rugby and is actually two subdivisions. The first, known as the La Riviere subdivision, was 111.02 miles long and was fully operative by January 3rd. of 1886. The second section, known as the Napinka subdivision was 108.48 miles in length and was placed in complete operation on August 1st., 1892. Woodman and Rugby are the points just outside of Winnipeg at which the C.P.R. subdivision lines branch off the mainline.

There are actually three R.P.O. squared circles. Beside the two we have illustrated, both on the western runs of the C.P.R. there is one eastern run which was originally on the old Intercolonial Railroad and is now a part of the C.N.R. This is known as Quebec & Campbellton running from Campbellton in New Brunswick to Quebec City. I wonder if anyone can provide me with some sort of map, similar to the one illustrated, showing this run? I would also be interested in time tables used during the period of use of the squared circle cancellers.

Very little accurate information has been gathered together related to these runs and cancels and I am now trying to form a small collection that really could not, at the moment, be dignified by the term specialized. Since I have pretty well reached a point where I am going to have to slow down on a plan to put together a collection of around 310 different hammers (i have 290 plus) I think I will devote a bit of time and effort to building up this part of my collection and getting some definitive information on it. I would thus be interested in purchasing any material of this type or trading, if possible with other collectors. I would also appreciate reports of holdings of any of the R.P.O. squared circles.

When sending in your report please include full dates, indicia, any other interesting information such as whether the strike is on piece, on back or front of cover or on stamp. The R.P.O.s are listed on pages 57 and 58 of the third edition of the handbook but here is a full listing:—

Que. & Camp. MC Local

First Hammer. (No. 5 at base.)

Second Hammer. (No. 20 at base.)

First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth & Sixth states.

Napinka & Winnipeg MC

First Hammer. (No. 1 at base.)

Second Hammer. (No. 2 at base.)

Souris & Winnipeg MC

First Hammer. (No. 1 at base.)

Second Hammer. (No. 2 at base.)

The Hidden Rarity Factors:

After writing about rarity factors and prices I was reminded about the hidden rarity factors of early and late dates, rare indicia, errors etc. This can pose a problem for those who believe in being honest in all dealings with others. This includes both fellow collectors and dealers.

The Hidden Rarity Factors: (cont'd.)

The true specialist tries to be meticulously honest with everyone, dealer or fellow collector. When dealing with a collector whom he believes is a bit less knowledgeable than himself he will point out the value of any particular item being traded. When working with a dealer he will not become too surprised if the dealer is fully knowledgeable about the various factors influencing the prices of some squared circles. If the dealer underprices a particularly good item it isn't such a silly idea to let him know that he is doing so. I have always found that the dealers I know will still sell me an item at his original price and also will be inclined to look out for cancels or strikes I might find interesting.

The Proof Book of Canadian Postmarks:

One of the most important source books for students of the squared circle and other cancelling devices of Canada has been the proofbook of Pritchard & Andrews which is in the possession of the Philatelic Foundation, of New York. Proof strikes of cancelling devices of many types are included in the book and it is unfortunate that the book is not more readily available.

This situation could now be corrected if the National Postal Museum in Ottawa could either re-patriate to Canada the original volume or could at least obtain a full photocopy of it. It is my impression that efforts which have been made in this direction have been frustrated by inaction by staff of the Philatelic Foundation.

With the projected move of the National Postal Museum to the downtown area of Ottawa near the parliament buildings this facility will be much more accessible to collectors than the present arrangements. Squared circle collectors, and others interested in the postmarking devices of Canada could use their influence to make sure that this material is placed in Canada's own postal museum, in one form or another, as rapidly as possible.

Gore Bay NO 9/31:

A few years ago, at the time of preparation of the last roster, an impression of the GORE BAY hammer with this date was made on about 300 cards which were later distributed by Bill Moffatt to those who participated. The card and strike made its appearance at BNAPEX 76 in a dealers stock priced—at \$15.00. I am sure the dealer was not aware of just what he had and after he was informed of its philatelic nature he withdrew it from sale.

It just goes to show what can happen when a few innocent strikes of a relatively uncommon squared circle are produced.

This Newsletter is For YOU:

This editor is blessed with the marvelous help of Bill Moffatt and we both hope that this newsletter will provide you with the best possible information on squared circles. But without your help we will not be able to continue for long. If you have anything you would like to see covered or an article of your own you would like to see published, as long as it is squared circle material send it along. There is so much all of ^{us} can learn about this great specialty of ours that you shouldn't feel bashful about either telling or asking.

Correspondence should be sent to G. F. Hansen, 375 Jefferson Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R2V ON4. If possible you should use photocopy or photographic material to illustrate your material rather than actual strikes or other items from your collection.

A Handy Form For Dealing With Insistent Correspondents:

Ever wanted to get rid of overly demanding correspondence from a collector who was breathing down your neck for a reply? The form below is adapted from one sent me by Barry Shapiro of Texas when he got a bit cross at me for being slow in answering a letter or two of his. I have edited a bit, taking out some of his ideas which were a bit too personal, or were a bit too close to the truth.

Sir _____;

Dear Madam: _____:

_____ have not replied _____

I am not replying _____ to your letter of _____ because:

_____ I didn't get your letter.

_____ I got your letter, but didn't bother to read it.

_____ I got your letter, read it, don't consider it should be replied to.

_____ You took so long to reply to my last letter to you I am punishing you.

_____ My greatest rival found a Montreal, Type 1, on cover, backstamped with both Coleman and Fonthill squared circle transit marks, all three with colored strikes and so I am giving up and joining the trappist monks & making Oka cheese by trampling milk curds in my barefeet, at 40 below.

_____ Have been given absolutely undeniable proof that all squared circles are fakes produced by a Nazi fugitive living in the jungles of Brazil.

_____ My albums are getting overcrowded so I am busy soaking stamps off most of my covers or converting them into cut squares to save space.

_____ Have decided to have fun for a change and am now devoting full time to wine, women and song, not necessarily in that order.

_____ Am too old to have fun as indicated above and am reliving my misspent youth with dirty books and XXX rated movies.

_____ Letters to and from Canada must now be bi-lingual, one language to be French, or the Quebec version of it, and the other anything but English, so I can't write to you anymore.

_____ Canada's anti-inflation board has just ruled that I can't increase my correspondence by more than 8% over last year and letters to you have been rolled back. While awaiting action on my appeal, expected in no more than six months, I will have to ask you to return my last letter.

_____ Postage rates are too high and postal service is so poor, so the hell with it.

_____ Have joined a new religious order dedicated to getting rid of Pierre E. Trudeau and we are all going to Mecca, with all of Pierre's resigned cabinet ministers, to pray for victory.

_____ Will reply when I damm well feel like it.

_____ Will reply when hell freezes over, the polar icecaps melt, or your state becomes part of Canada.

Just a few attractive Squared Circle Covers From Other Lands.



Bill's Pages:

At BNAPEX '76 in San Francisco, when the formal Squared Circle Study Group was formed, a first edition of this newsletter was promised for the end of October. In order to keep our promise this first edition is being sent out without Bill's questions, or any other material from Bill.

A letter from Bill received to-day promises some material from him within the next week or ten days and I am sure that in the next edition Bill's pages will make up a major portion.

After San Francisco Bill and his wife took a well earned rest. They didn't return to Hickory Hollow until some time about two weeks ago. Under the circumstances I know we can forgive Bill for this time because, to Bill the Fourth Edition of the Handbook must be the most important thing in the works, philatelically, for at least the next several months.

Just the same, I had hoped to have material from Bill in this, our first effort, and it's absence reminds me of a story which I heard several years ago.

It seems away out west there was an elderly maiden lady whose wealth, a large cattle ranch, made her an attractive catch to a rangy cowpoke.

After a whirlwind courtship and a quiet marriage the two went off on their honeymoon and that evening, while they were in a situation that all newlyweds find themselves in the bride, in some rapture, said:—

"Just think, here we are, married at last and all set to ride into the sunset of life together."

"If you don't shut up and do something to join in this is one ride into the sunset I'll be going on on my own." was the sad reply of the groom.

If you haven't already joined the Squared Circles Study Group and enjoyed this first copy of the Round Up Annex why not get busy and join now. Membership is \$3.00 per year and will include the Round Up Annex.

Send your check or money order to:

G. F. Hansen,
375 Jefferson Avenue,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.
R2V 0N4.

Make checks payable to G. F. Hansen.

