



THE ROUND UP ANEX



THE SQUARED CIRCLE NEWSLETTER

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

Volume One. Number Three.

January, 1977.

Wolseley, Assa. Help Requested, Help Supplied;

At least one member has asked for help in identifying the two known hammers used at Wolseley, Assiniboia. While we are eagerly awaiting our new Handbooks which will certainly detail the difference in the two hammers, and probably give some of the story that led to the discovery that there are two hammers it might be a good idea to give as full details as possible here.

At one time Lew Ludlow, now very deeply involved in R. P. O.'s, was one of the foremost collectors of Squared Circles. In his collection he had a mysterious Wolseley that actually pre-dated the known proofing of what was thought to be the sole hammer by almost a month:--AP 30 / 94 as opposed to a proof date of MY 29 / 94. This just didn't make much sense and it is a real shocker to many of us, knowing how thorough-going Lew is that he didn't spot what he had right away. According to Stan Cohen, writing in Maple Leaves of October 1966, Lew did not even particularly note that he had a pre-proofdate copy. Mr. Cohen, one of our members from Great Britain, purchased the whole Ludlow Squared Circle collection when Lew turned to R. P. O.'s as being more challenging.

At the time of writing in Maple Leaves Cohen assumed that there had been a simple error of date insertion by a postal clerk at the time, 94 for 95 or 96, but illustrated his article with a clear photograph of the strike. This must have led to a great deal of correspondence between Cohen and folks like Bill Moffatt because by April of 1971 Cohen was able to write in Maple Leaves that there were indeed two hammers! According to the Roster of 1970-71 there are 9 copies of Hammer 1 and 93 of Hammer 2. This gives a R.F. of 125 to Hammer 1 and 45 to Hammer 2. Everyone having Wolseley strikes should check them against the illustrations included here and the descriptions that Stan Cohen gave in his article in Maple Leaves of April, 1971, viz:—

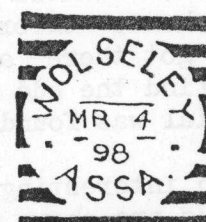
- First Hammer: Left fork of Y points well below right side-piece. First L points to base of left first bar. Right fork of W points below left side piece. ASSA round and neat. Proofed, unknown. Earliest, AP 30 / 94. Latest, SP 23 / 95.
- Second Hammer: Left fork of Y points to top of right side-piece. First L points to middle of first left bar. Right fork of W points to base of second bar at left. ASSA large and elongated. Proofed, MY 29 / 94. Earliest, AP 3 / 97. Latest, MY 16 / 99.



TYPE 1



TYPE 2



Gore Bay, How Mike Squirell Found the Hammer:

By courtesy of Ed. Richardson, now editor of Beaver Chatter, journal of the Texas Philatelic Association, Inc., I can now give you details of the finding of the Gore Bay hammer in 1971. An article by Mike Squirell, now our librarian (B.N.A.P.S.) is appearing in the current issue of Beaver Chatter.

In June of 1971 Mike had a telephone conversation with a Mrs. D. Dalgarno, who had recently retired as postmistress of the Gore Bay post office. Mike, obviously playing a hunch, asked her if she knew of any old cancellers, etc., and proceeded to describe the Squared Circle hammer and others, still in the post office. Mike hit the jackpot, Mrs. Dalgarno knew some old hammers were still there!

Then things hit a snag, the new postmaster was not very co-operative to say the least. He refused to even show Mrs. Dalgarno, the former postmistress any hammers and would give her no information she asked for on behalf of Mike. Mike got mad and contacted the postal authorities in North Bay and got almost immediate action.

A representative of the Post Office Department visited Gore Bay and picked up all the old hammers, Squared Circle, Duplex and all, and delivered them to Mike so that he could inspect, photograph and actually use these old hammers. Mike made about 1000 strikes of the Squared Circle hammer as well as of the Duplex and Crown Seal. Mike found, however, that after about 200 or so strikes he had raised a beautiful blister on his hand so that he understood why these hammers were unpopular with postal employees and why they all had a relatively short life.

Mike donated his collection of Manitoulin Postal History to our own National Postal Museum about two years ago and these hammers and other items of historical interest are now available for us all to see and enjoy.

Writing in Postal Histomine, the journal of the Ontario Postal History Society back in September of 1972, Mike gave some further details of Gore Bay and its interesting use of the Squared Circle hammer and others.

The Gore Bay Squared Circle hammer was proofed AP 29 / 95. Earliest date of use seems now to be SP 7 / 95 although this was at one time believed to be AP 7 / 95 but as this preceded the proof date for some three weeks some unanswerable questions arose that led to the obvious conclusion that someone, perhaps a beginning collector, mistook the S of SP for an A.

During the life of the Squared Circle hammer it was used irregularly with the Split Circle, Full Circle and Duplex hammers. Evidently the Duplex was last used in 1929 although Mike believes the Squared Circle device was in fairly constant use during 1929 to 1931. Unfortunately no records have been kept of the use made of cancelling devices in the Gore Bay office for the 1895 to 1931 period so one can only speculate on the periods of use.

Mike did have one unfortunate experience in this whole thing, he had heard that the files and correspondence belonging to an insurance salesman of the area named Winters for the period 1895 to 1935 were still intact at his daughter's home. Unfortunately she had burned all the files just the week before Mike got there and all Mike was able to do was to scour through some ashes and find the odd item from the 1930 period. Nothing of the Squared Circle material was found although the Full and Split Circles were in use.

An interesting story. Copies of the strikes supplied by Mike to a number of us are shown on page 37 of this issue.

Why a Numbering System?

A few members have asked me to write a bit about the numbering of Squared Circles which has appeared in my recent Guidebook and which I have called Hansen numbers. The purpose, the first time around, was simply to give me a check list of the Squared Circle hammers known to exist in order of rarity, from the commonest to the scarcest, so that I could realistically set and achieve goals in my collection.

The starting point was the roster published in various issues of BNA Topics during 1971. This was a tremendous effort on the part of Bill Moffatt and has been the most ambitious effort to date to list the Squared Circles known to exist in the hands of serious collectors at any point of time. After I had listed all the hammers in descending order of quantity, Ottawa being No. 1 with 14622 copies and Formosa, 1st hammer, 1st State or Sydney 2nd hammer or Montreal, Type 1 all vying for the final number, 348, I found I had a very useful tool which might be handy for other collectors as well.

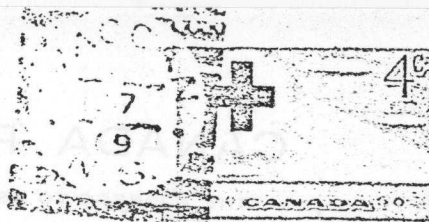
First of all, I found that I was missing some very common hammers which I should be able to pick up in trade without any difficulty. I also found that I had some good items in a bit of quantity that would allow me to trade with some collectors with collections much better than my own. I found that my first goal could very easily be 250 different hammers as my collection already had items with much higher numbers than that. As time went by and my want list narrowed considerably that a goal of around 290 was reasonable for 1976. This I attained shortly after BNAPEX '76 and the goal for 1977 has been set at in excess of 300.

Beyond that point we begin to get into an area where attaining an absolute quantity of hammers as a goal becomes unrealistic and I am now in a search for an area of specialization within the general field. While I was developing the numbering system and during the period when I was most active in my search for missing hammers I found my check list most handy.

Another tool I developed for myself was a pocket listing using a commercially available Two Week Time Book measuring about 4 by 7 inches by about an eighth of inch thick. This was used as the size was ideal and it was ruled up in a way which allowed me to list all the Squared Circles, in the traditional manner this time but including a reference to my number in the text. There was room for pertinent comments, where required, for each item and at the back of the book I was able to make up several lists that were helpful to me. The first list, of course, was that of the first 250 that I still needed. There was another of the more difficult that I then had. Finally, there was a "goal" page broken into units of ten from the 230 which was my first goal to 300 and then proceeding to 325 by fives. I now feel that while a goal of 325 is not unrealistic I am not going to be very worried about attaining it.

If any member is interested in seeing an example of a page of the pocket checklist I will be glad to send a photocopy along upon request.

One question that I have often been asked is should we number our holdings by hammers or by towns? This question goes back a long way and I know can stir up a great deal of controversy. Dr. Whitehead, it seems, at a very early point went for towns but considered BLEECKER STREET as two as one was an error of spelling. This seemed inconsistent to me when London, with two proofed hammers, was considered as one and Winnipeg with four was also considered as one. In the R. P. O. group, of course, it would be far easier to have a complete lot if we considered Quebec & Camp. as one "town" rather than as the seven separate hammers that are needed to complete that grouping. In this regard there is also the question of whether the RPO's, in particular, should be further split to recognize the directional marks, EAST, WEST, E, W, and so on. These are much more significant to me than a simple time mark as used by some towns.

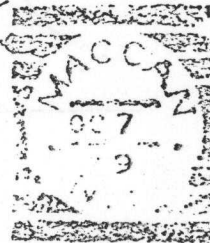


Dr. C. S. McKee
Mc Kee Rd

RR # 3

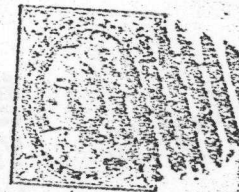
Abt
Bx

ex Whitehead



CANADA POST CARD

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE



S. D. H. Bosch

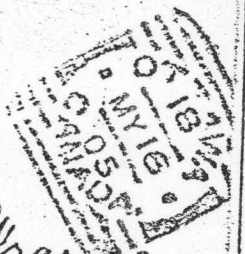
TARJETA

UNIÓN POSTAL UNIVERSAL

ESPAÑA

Mrs. H. M. Gorman
rue de Tournon
Paris

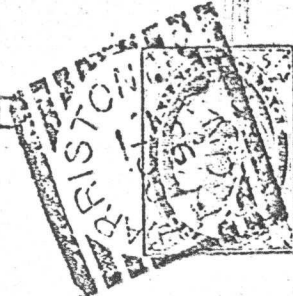
France



Two pages of covers from Dr. Warren Bosch. The Maccan is a favor cover from Dr. Whitehead to McKee at the time Dr. Whitehead found the Maccan hammer. Where is it now? Notice the fine Stanstead and the beautiful Westville. The Ottawa 18. On the reverse the Whycocomagh penned-in date change is particularly interesting and the Oxford Mills is attractive.

CANADA POST CARD

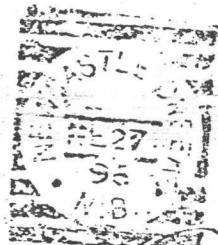
THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE



Mr H. Swan

Kemptville

The Bank of Canada



to

to

S. Reg. 228



2036

Imperial Oil Co

St John

N.B.

THE collecting of squared circles is now fully established, and the handbook¹ has had a good reception. Judging by auction catalogues and prices, dealers' offers, and the very large number of correspondents since the TOPICS articles of December 1951, and even more since the handbook appeared, there are now many keen hunters of these postmarks. They rival in number, and possibly exceed, those who collect the various numbered cancellations of Canada: the 4-ring, the 2-ring, and the numbered grids of New Brunswick.

It is not difficult to account for the popularity of squared circles. I can think of several explanations:

- (1) Their handsome appearance, especially when struck clearly, as they often are: well mounted collections are most effective on an album page;
- (2) Their wide spread distribution throughout the Canadian provinces, including the Territory of Assiniboia;
- (3) Their great appeal to the many Small Queen enthusiasts, who regard them as successors to the earlier numbered cancels;
- (5) Their widely varying degree of rarity. Some are common, while some are even now known only in one copy. This makes the hunt exciting—one is always hoping that the next packet will yield an ALDERGROVE, B.C., or COLEMAN, Ont., of Type I, or GREAT VILLAGE, N.S., CLIFTON, N.B., or LENNOXVILLE, Que., of

Type II. There might even be lurking in that packet an absolutely new, unlisted town name. This has happened. Four new towns have been found since the handbook appeared:

- (6) Their "study" interest is wide-ranging
 - (a) There is varying period of use, from two months or so to a lengthy period of years;
 - (b) There is to be found revival of use after a long period of disuse in some cases;
 - (c) Some towns used two, three, or even four squared circle hammers, making for the challenging task of discovering the chronologies in such cases: Halifax, St. John, Belleville, Winnipeg and Victoria, to mention only the most interesting;
 - (d) There is much variety in the indicia, especially above the date (figures, letters or time-marks);
 - (e) Some squared circles are found in more than one "state". The finest example is QUE. & CAMP. M.C. I.O.

¹ "The Squared Circle Postmarks of Canada" by Dr. Whitehead, available from the Editor at \$1.50 postpaid.

CAL. No. 20, which is known in no less than six states, some of them of the greatest rarity. Others known in two states are SCHREIBER, Ont. and NANAIMO, B.C., with their eagerly sought-for second states, the "broken circles". Then there are the two towns listed in the handbook as of Sub-type 5, ALMA, Ont. and WINGHAM, Ont.; these are now known with early dates showing them to have been originally true Type II's with thick bars at the top and base.

It is possible that squared circles may have been used (very rarely) as precancels. Very

little is known of this matter, and the writer would be glad to hear from any collector who has reliable information.

Readers of this column in the months to come will find some of these matters discussed, together with others. Quite a number of our members have promised their assistance; their names will follow their paragraphs. Suggestions, information and questions from others will be welcome, and their help will be acknowledged in this space.

The first matter calling for attention is the revision of earliest and latest known dates. This issue deals with such revision for Type I with thin lines. Type II, a big group, will be revised serially, beginning with Nova Scotia next month.

January., and on the reverse, February.



Springhill Mines, N.S.
FE 17 / 94.



Pipestone, Man.
No 23 / 98.



Prince Albert, Sask. SP 16 / 03. A matched pair, A Squared Circle and a contemporary Circular Date Stamp both used on the same day.



Union, B.C.
AP ? / 97.
Double Struck
with Victoria.



McGregor Station, Man.
JY 4 / 97.
An almost perfect strike on a
1 Cent Jubilee.

Deletions from the Handbook

Three towns, Type Two, listed in the handbook, are definitely to be deleted:

- (1) COLDWATER, ONT.;
- (2) WARINA, ONT.;
- (3) WIKWEMIKONG, ONT.

(1) proved to be Teeswater, while the copies listed as (2) and (3) turned out to be circular date stamps deceptively struck over "killer" grids, giving a marking curiously similar to a squared circle. The Warina copy belongs to me and needed close, very close, examination before its falsity could be detected.

In addition I suspect the following:

- (4) MONTREAL, Type One, and
- (5) SPRINGHILL MINES, N.S., Type One.

Both are included by Boggs on p. 625, Vol. 1, in a list possibly obtained from official sources. No one among my numerous correspondents has reported these and I am beginning to be confident that even if the hammers were prepared for use, and registered on the dates given by Boggs, they were never issued or put into use. Comments, please!

- (6) SPA SPRINGS, N.S., and
- (7) LONGUEUIL, QUE.

No one has reported these and they are always included in the "want lists" sent to me. I have never seen them, and if they DO exist they are rarities indeed.

My partial strike, listed as METCALF, has been seen by such experts as Frank Campbell and H. M. Dilworth. Both agree that it is a squared circle, Type Two, and that it puzzles them. The final letters only show clearly: . . . ALF. Mr. Dilworth calls

it a mystery, while Mr. Campbell says, "Let it stand as METCALF." (The correct P.O. spelling is METCALFE, of course.) Any comments?

To sum up—we can definitely strike out three towns of Type Two; and on the "doubtful" list we have (4) and (5) above of Type One and (6) and (7) Type Two.

The total numbers of squared circles, therefore, are:

TYPE ONE	
(Two doubtful) Total	25
TYPE TWO	
N.S.: 27 (one doubtful), plus FREEPORT	28
N.B.: 14; P.E.I. 3	17
Quebec: 36 (one doubtful)	36
Ont.: Listed 151 (one doubtful, three out)	148
Plus four new towns!	4
Man.: 17; Assa. 7; Sask. 1; Alta. 6	31
B.C.: 12; R.P.O.'s: 3	15
Total	279

Note: The total for Manitoba given in the handbook was 18, an error brought about by counting Winnipeg twice, because of listing the two different wordings at the base.

Query: Should BLEEKER St., Toronto and BLEECKER St., Toronto be counted as two? If so, it would be logical to count Winnipeg twice. And if these are to be counted twice, should not the three R.P.O.'s be counted as SIX, since the two hammers for each of the runs have respectively different numbers? This would bring the Type Two total to 286, making with Type One a grand total of 311.

WIKWEMIKONG LIVES.

An old canceller still in use in 1963. Was this a contemporary?

Return Postage Guaranteed
300 Carlton St.
Winnipeg, Canada



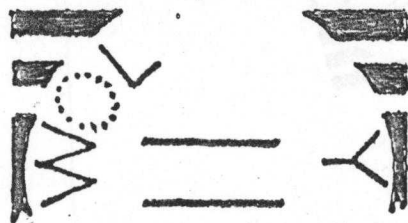
107



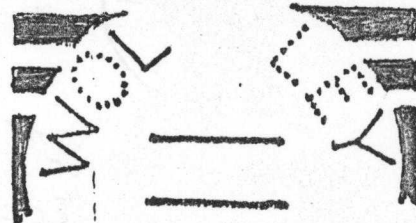
The Gore Bay Squared Circle, Duplex and Crown Seal strikes made and distributed by Mike Squirell. Dates shown on the strikes were those in the hammers as they were found.

These are now collectibles in their own rights as collateral material.

WOLSELEY hammers - Hammer I: left fork of Y points well below top of right side-piece; vertical stroke of first L points to base of first left bar; right fork of W points below top of left side piece; round, neat lettering in ASSA. (known dates: AP 30/ 94 through SP 23/ 95). Hammer II: left fork of Y points to top of right side piece; vertical stroke of first L points to middle of first left bar; right fork of W points to base of second left bar; tall, elongated letters in ASSA. (known dates: FE 11/ 96 through DE 31/ 99).



HAMMER I



HAMMER II

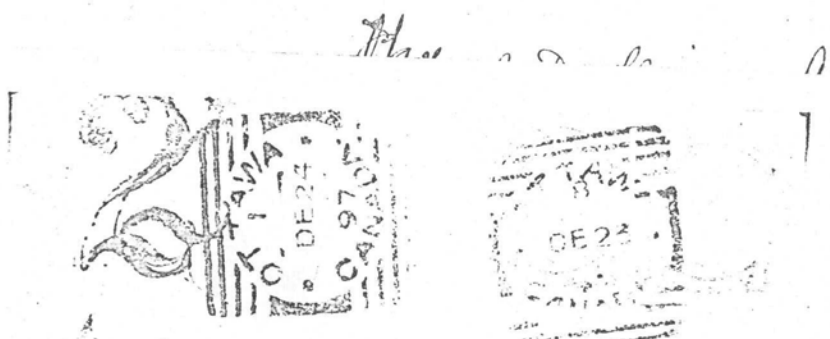
I found the above in my reference material just after writing the lead piece in this issue on the two Wolseley, Assa hammers. Evidently this is originally an illustration prepared by Dr. Moffatt for an article in Topics but I can't recall seeing it there nor can I find it in my file of Topics. It is included here as further help in identifying these two hammers.

Check your Wolseley strikes for hammers and dates. Note that Moffatt has a later date for Hammer Two than Cohen. His late date is DE 31 / 99. His early date is also different, FE 11 / 96.

Millbrook, Ont.
JU 11 / 95.



THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.



*out
Pht*

Mrs. & Mrs. W. A. MacMahon.

~~255 Cooper Street~~
52 Spadina Ave
Toronto

Ottawa, Ont.
8 / DE 23 / 97. and
1 / DE 24 / 97.



Belleville, Ont.
2 / NO 2 / 92. (2 inverted!)



Handwritten notes and signatures.

Calgary, Alta.
AM / DE 9 / 99. and
PM / DE 9 / 99.
as backstamps.

Some very attractive covers from the collection of our new member, Roger Grigson, of England. See further comments etc., on page 39.

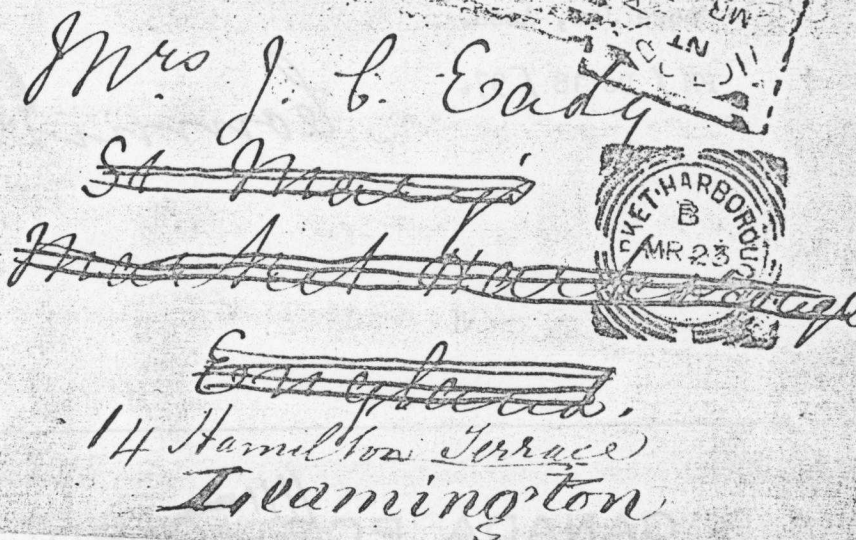


A Nice Forest, Ont.
JU 23 / 97.

A cover I really envy!
Squared Circles of both
Canada and Great Bri-
tain on the face of one
cover!

Victoria, B.C. (2)
NT / MR 5 / 94.
Market Harborough, Eng.
MR 23 / 94.

Illustrating the 5 Cent rate
to England.



Some Interesting Illustrations From Overseas:

Roger Grigson, who is exchange packet secretary for the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain, is one of our newer members. He has sent in some interesting illustrations of material from his own collection. The Mill.Brook is a very scarce item and is a beautiful full strike on postcard. Calgary AM and PM together as backstamps are extremely interesting. The Belleville is a real poser — what was that inverted "2" in 92 supposed to be? This is the third hammer that was in use in 1893 so I think it most likely that this is a 93 strike. Those two Ottawa strikes may be of interest to the students of the various time marks used there. Am I right in saying that 8 would indicate late usage on the 23rd while 1 was the first usage for the new day, DE 24 / 97? Forest is even scarcer than the Mill.Brook and is particularly complete as it is struck on a 3 Cent Jubilee. The cover with both Victoria and Market.Harborough is my own favorite as I have built up a small collection of the Squared Circles of the rest of the world as a small introductory section to my Canadian Squared Circle collection.

New Members to Date:

Since the last newsletter we have added the following to our roster:—

36. Jim Hennok, P. O. Box 250 (Adelaide St. Stn.) Toronto, Ontario, M5C 2J4.
37. David Mayerovitch, 5205 Beaconsfield Avenue, Montreal, Quebec, H3X 3R9.
38. William C. Allen, Box 51, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823.
39. R. S. Grigson, 75 Clarence Road, Windsor, Berks, England, SL4 5AR.
40. Tom Southey, 34456 Abbott Avenue, Abbotsford, British Columbia, V2S 4V5.

Of our forty members to date 24 are from Canada, 13 from the United States and 3 from Great Britain. To my knowledge all but 5 are collectors while 5 are known to me as primarily dealers. This brings up an interesting question, one that I think I will allow you to decide by your comments, one of the dealers has asked for our advertising rates and I have put off answering this query. Do we want even a minimum amount of advertising in the newsletter? Should we just indicate to collectors who the dealers are so that they can contact them if they so wish? The dealers I know of in our present membership roster I think highly of, I have personally dealt with four of them and the fifth I know by reputation to very respected by his customers.

W

Moose Jaw, Assa.

PM / De 18 / 97.

Commissioner of Crown Lands

Toronto

Ontario

CANADA POSTCARD

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE



*Consumers Jewelry
New Heaven
Company*

Terrebonne, Que.

My 9 / 02.

Two very attractive covers from Bill Allen, East Lansing, Mich., another new member.

Stellarton, N.S.
Mr 24 / 99.

From Colin Banfield, in
England. Rare on cover
with Map stamp.

*William Kemme &
Lee & House
Toronto
Canada*

Next Issue: From Nels Pelletier, the story of York Street, Illustrated.