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THE ROUND-UP ANNEX.
THE SQUARED CIRCLES NEWSLETTER.
VOLUME THREE. NUMBER ONE.

February, 1980.

WINNIPEG
LAC LU, ONT.

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Something Has Been Added:

Readers will notice this issue has a great deal of material in it with the unmistakable touch of Bill Moffatt. In this issue, in fact, most of the text material will have been provided by Dr. Moffatt. Bill has finally been able to find time, in his busy schedule, to work in some really heavy work on Squared Circles, including his contributions to this issue.

Some Real News:

One reason Bill has become active again is that he and I have agreed to act as co-authors of the Fourth Edition of the Squared Circles Handbook and, in fact, both of us are busy now preparing material for that important book. As you read some of what Bill has written for this issue you will see that Bill is asking for any new information on strikes, error indicia, and so on. While we are going ahead in the preparation of text nothing will be closed on the new book until the final galley proof has been approved and the presses are ready to roll. During the past little while, when Bill has been too busy with his job to deal with his hobby, Bill has assiduously kept all mail addressed to him and has now entered new dates and so on in his very meticulously kept records.

In late January I went to New York to visit with Bill and his family for a week-end and we ironed out the details of our joint authorship. Bill will work on the research aspect and forward on to me his detailed notes on each and every hammer in the logical order in which they have been developed in the past Handbooks by Dr. Whitehead. He will also send material on the several chapters which will meat out the hammer listings and so on. My job will be to prepare Bill's material for the printer, flesh out the textual material, and deal with both BNAPS Board of Directors and the printers as we aim for a publication date of early 1981.

Work is progressing right along and, up to February 24th, I have completed the initial work on all Type One hammers and all of Nova Scotia in Type Two. Also substantially completed are two important checklists which will serve to make the Fourth Edition not only a Handbook but a workbook for the Squared Circle collector.

Format and Cost Being Considered:

Both Bill and I believe that the only acceptable form of Handbook is one with dimensions quite similar to the past three editions. The number of pages will, however, be substantially increased and could possibly run to somewhere close to 300. With that in mind we are going to go hardcover, if at all possible. Cost is likely to run a bit higher than the usual BNAPS Handbook and price to you may go around the \$20. mark. Both Bill and I are interested in whether, at this high price, there will be any real buyer resistance if we produce what we expect to be the best Handbook ever released by BNAPS. Any comments should be sent to either one of us. We really want to know and a positive response will help me in my dealing with the Board of Directors at McAllen, Texas. I expect to have the rough draft of the book available there for the Board of Directors and others.

Robert Bateman on Study Circles:

Just recently I have been reading a rather interesting little book by Robert Bateman who has recently written a number of books on stamp collecting over in England. His "Specialized Stamp Collecting" was published in 1971 and his comments are particularly pertinent as they relate to Study Groups.

Bateman says, and I quote verbatim:

"A study circle is only as strong as its members, and this applies particularly to its bulletins. There is a dangerous tendency to regard the small annual Study Circle subscription as payment for a service, rather than as a contribution to cover expenses, and there are unfortunately quite a number of specialists who grumble about the lack of information forthcoming in their Study Circle bulletins while at the same time keeping the results of their own work a deathly secret."

To-day we often refer to "The Black Hole" and this is often quite apt as it could refer to some Squared Circle collectors. Over the past several years a number of extremely good early collections have been sold as their original owners either died or simply disposed of their holdings. In preparing material for the Fourth Edition Bill has remarked, time and time again, on the disappearance of material known to exist just a few years ago. In the Fourth Edition reference will have to be made to what now has become unfirmed and partial information on Error Indicia, early dates, etc., as an enormous amount of material has just disappeared down "The Black Hole."

If you know you have information of use to your fellow Squared Circle collectors please let us have it. If you wish to remain anonymous we will honor your wishes but we would prefer to know who you are ourselves so that we can contact you, if necessary. If even that is too much open publicity for you just send the information on a postcard without your name or address.

AND NOW, HERE's Bill:

Type One Hammers and Unreported dates of Use:

Many gaps in known periods of use, as well as many new early and late dates have been reported in the past year or so. Since generation of copy for the new Fourth Edition Handbook is now under way, perhaps we can fill in some of the last holes that remain. The following list of the Type I towns gives my presently recorded Early and Late dates, and the years between those dates for which no strikes have yet been reported. The notation NSR means "No Strikes Recorded" for the years listed; the notation "All" means strikes have been recorded for all years between Early and Late, and thus no gap remains. COLEMAN and MONTREAL are omitted from this listing since no specific dates are known.

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ALDERGROVE | OC 8/ 95 to DE 26/ 08 | NSR: 94, 98, 00, 01, 04 |
| BEAVERTON | MY 4/ 93 to MY 6/ 01 | All |
| BEETON | MY 6/ 98 to FE 15/ 01 | NSR: 93 to 97 inclusive |
| BROCKVILLE | AP 28/ 93 to SP 29/ 01 | All |
| BYNG INLET | JY 25/ 93 to MR 17/ 95 | All <i>DE 21/93 TO JY 25/95</i> |
| CUMBERLAND | JU 9/ 93 to MR 31/ 00 | All |
| DUTTON | MY 5/ 93 to JAN 17/ 11 | NSR 09, 10 (JAN is 3-letter month) |
| GRIMSBY | MY 20/ 93 to MR 30/ 99 | All |
| LONDON, 1st | AP 28/ 93 to AP 9/ 94 | All |
| LONDON, 2nd | AP 24/ 94 to SP 21/ 99 | All |
| LONDON EAST | JU 6/ 93 to OC 14/ 01 | All |
| MANSONVILLE | JY 5/ 93 to MR 6/ 99 | All |

POINT ST. CHARLES

Period I: MY 15/ 93 to JY 14/ 94
 Period II: FE 25/ 99 to MR 13/ 99
 MOUNT FOREST JU 3/ 93 to AP 28/ 01 All
 NEW GERMANY SP 12/ 93 to DE 30/ 04 NSR: 98, 00, 01, 03
 OTTAWA MY 3/ 93 to DE 6/ 05 NSR: 02 (Early date, MY 3/ 93 and
 also MY 4/ 93 precedes Proof Date.)
 RAT PORTAGE MY 8/ 93 to MY 21/ 97 All
 ST. ANN'S JY 24/ 93 to Sp 8/ 08 NSR: 99, 00, 01
 ST. HILARION JU 19/ 93 to AU 14/ 97 NSR: 95, 96
 SHANNONVILLE JU 27/ 93 to SP 6/ 06 NSR: 01, 02
 SP'HILL MINES MY 11/ 93 to FE 17/ 94 All
 TERREBONNE MY 6/ 93 to FE 14/ 06 NSR: 03
 THREE RIVERS MY 20/ 93 to AU 28/ 02 All
 WESTVILLE JY 3/ 93 to AP 20/ 08 NSR: 05

Please advise of any earlier or later dates, or dates of strikes for years shown NSR above.

Who Has the Mission City Cover?

Who has the MISSION CITY cover from the collection recently dispersed? Please send me the date on the cover; you don't even need to identify yourself; an unsigned postcard, with the date of the MISSION CITY cover will do. Reason is that I think I know whose the collection was, since I have a Roster form from a collector who reported such a cover, including the date. If the date is different from my records, then I will know it is a new item, and that many of the others in the sale had not been reported to me. On the other hand, if it is the same, I think the probability is near 100% that it is one and the same as the one earlier reported, and that most of the scarce towns in the sale are already included in the Roster count. The same would not be true of indicia errors and varieties, I think.

The Nude Strike That Isn't Bleeker St:

Back to the Drawing Board! I am in receipt of an interesting letter from Jerry Carr taking issue with identification of the completely nude hammer as the BLEEKER STREET misspelling from which the lettering had been removed. In particular, he has a nearly complete strike on which the spacing of the bars can be compared with BLEEKER, and they do not match. I really cant tell from my own partial copy, which is only a quadrant of a strike; but on the basis of his measurements, and several other points, I think I have to agree that it was not BLEEKER. Quite by coincidence, I have a letter from John Frith, raising quite a different question about this same hammer. By good luck, John enclosed Xerox copies of a stamp on piece, carrying this cancel not extending onto the paper, indicating cancellation prior to affixing the stamp, and a second still more interesting strike. The latter is a nearly complete strike which should make it easy to compare bar spacings with other hammers. It has been struck so heavily that traces of the bottoms of the removed letters show. I cannot tell from the Xerox copy how many letters there were, but a count on the actual stamp might go a long way to finally identifying the town. Then by a still greater coincidence, I have a letter from Bill MacDonald enclosing a Xerox copy of another nude, also a near complete strike, and also so heavily struck that traces of the bottom of the removed letters show. Apparently the letters were removed with a chisel, to a level below the general face of the hammer. I have asked both of them to try to count the letters, and to try

to match bar spacings against other hammers. It does seem though that an alternative explanation that has been proposed to me by a number of others - that the nude was not an altered hammer, but a special no-name hammer - is now dispelled with the discovery of strikes showing the remnants of lettering. If you also have nearly complete strikes, or strikes which show letter remnants, please try to count the letters and to match the bar spacings against other hammers.

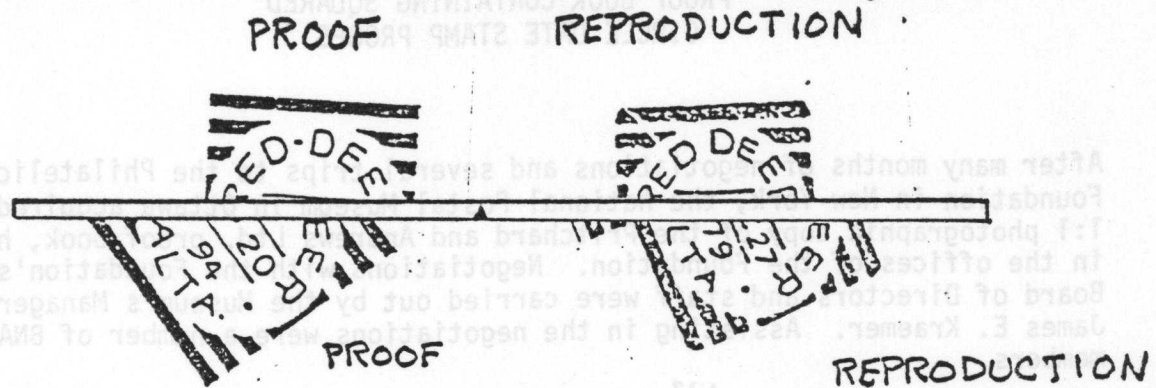
Are New Members More Enthusiastic or Observant than Older Ones:

I am continually struck by the fact that much new information comes to me from relatively new correspondents who are relatively new at the squared circle collecting game. Perhaps those who have been at it longer don't expect to find something new? A case in point is a report from John Frith with a new early date for KINGSTON II, 4/JA 1/ 94 backstamped with the WARKWORTH squared circle, JA 1/ 94, also a new early date for this town by nearly two weeks. Additionally, for many years the latest date I had recorded for SUDBURY was PM/ NO 17/ 03, with a single report of PM/ MY 13/ 10 and not another confirming report for '10 or any strikes for the years '04 to '09 inclusive. I had just about concluded that the MY 13/ 10 date was a Postmaster's inversion of 01, similar to the WINGHAM '10 strikes for '01, and that the late date for SUDBURY really was NO 17/ 03. John remarked that although his information was incomplete, he knew that this hammer was used in conjunction with other devices in the period NO/ 01 to DE/ 07. So evidently the '10 date is correct, and I hope to get a listing of dates for the SUDBURY NSR years '04 to '07.

Red Deer Souvenir Cover, something to Watch For:

In the last Annex, Glenn illustrated the RED DEER souvenir cover with reproduction of the RED DEER squared circle, and carrying date OC 27/ 79. I share Glenn's concern that eventually these are bound to be cut out of the cover and peddled as "proofs", after the fashion of the GORE BAY strikes with price tags of \$10.00 or more. Incidentally, let me digress for a moment to state that I still have many GORE BAY proof strikes provided to me by Mike Squirrell who found the hammer; these were sent gratis, courtesy of Mike, to any squared circle collector participating in the Roster. If the current readership of Annex includes some new people who were not aware of the availability of this item, send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a request for a GORE BAY proof and I will send you one at no cost as long as my supply lasts - don't pay dollars for one. Now, back to RED DEER; Glenn pointed out one obvious point of difference between this strike and the genuine RED DEER cancels - no dot between RED and DEER - and asked if there were others. There are; a second point of difference is that the genuine RED DEER has a period after ALTA whereas the copy does not. But I suppose some one could carefully mark in the two periods with black ink. There are, however two other fool-proof tests for separating the genuine and the copy RED DEER, based on the same technique which I devised some years ago for separating all four WINNIPEG HAMMERS. Since it is based on angular relationships, it can be applied to photos or photocopies, even if not full size, in contrast to spacing measurements in millimeters between critical points on the strike. The separation is beautifully simple; all you need is three items: (1) a blank 3 x 5 file card; (2) the illustration of the souvenir cover from the last Annex; and (3) the illustration of the RED DEER proof strike from an earlier Annex. Proceed as follows:

- (a) cover the bottom half of the strike with the file card; line the top edge of the file card along the tail of R in RED. If the strike is from the genuine hammer, the R of DEER will be completely hidden under the file card; if the reproduction, about half of the R in DEER will be exposed and in view (see illustration).
- (b) cover the left side of the strike with the file card and line the edge of the card along the vertical of the first E in DEER. If the strike is from the genuine hammer, the first A of ALTA will be completely in view; if the strike is the reproduction, the first A of ALTA will be completely hidden under the card, the edge of the



card passing between A and L of ALTA (see illustration).

The Proof Strikes From the Proof Book:

A few issues ago we illustrated the strengthened proof strikes from the proofbook as prepared by Gary Arnold. These are a work of art and are a very pretty, and extremely useful, guide to all Squared Circle collectors for identifying those difficult, and not so difficult, strikes. While at Quebec I had a number of extremely knowledgeable collectors point out that while the usefulness of these strengthened strikes was undeniable it would be nice for all collectors to see just how the strikes looked in the proofbook itself.

Gary sent me a set of photocopies of the proofbook as it exist at the Postal Museum in Ottawa and I have pasted up a set of pages showing all of the proof strikes I could find in substantially the same order that Gary used in his work of art. Some strikes are not too good, but this is the un-prettied truth, nevertheless there is often a quite noticeable spatial difference in the original and Gary's copies. I believe it will be useful for all of us to have both the Arnold version and the proofbook photocopies available as reference material as we collect.

For your convenience I am doing these on one side of the sheet only again, hang the expense.

The Annual Subscription:

Most of you have sent in your 1980 dues but that last remark of mine has made me bold. If you haven't sent in your dues will you either let me know if you are not interested in getting the Annex in the future or send in your \$5. now? In all honesty, I don't make money on this thing and I am just too soft to drop anyone I think may still be interested.

The Next Issue:

The next issue should contain a completely up-dated list of members and I think I would like to have perhaps a page or two of members adlets. There is no charge for the adlets but some of the requests I now have are at least a year or two old. I can run about ten or twelve small adlets to a page and I know this is one way to beat the high cost of buying every strike we want.

And, Now a message just received from Jim Kraemer at the National Postal Museum:

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION
PROOF BOOK CONTAINING SQUARED
CIRCLE DATE STAMP PROOFS

After many months of negotiations and several trips to the Philatelic Foundation in New York, the National Postal Museum in Ottawa acquired a 1:1 photographic copy of the Pritchard and Andrews Ltd. proof book, held in the offices of the Foundation. Negotiations with the Foundation's Board of Directors and staff were carried out by the Museum's Manager, James E. Kraemer. Assisting in the negotiations were a number of BNAPS members.

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Although there are only 104 large pages of proofs at the Philatelic Foundation as compared to the several thousand pages of Pritchard and Andrews proofs at the Museum, the section at the Foundation is of utmost importance to Squared Circle specialists since it contains the squared circle proofs. A few known squared circle proofs not found in the Foundation's proof book were saved for posterity when retrieved some years ago from a hoard of old papers. They were discovered by Mr. Colin Bayley of Ottawa. Mr. Bayley has since given these proofs to the Postal Museum.

The Philatelic Foundation Proof Book is in need of conservation and preservation. It needs deacidification and lengthy treatment in order to conserve it for future research studies. Consideration is being given to returning the original proofs to Canada by giving them to the National Postal Museum. It is hoped that this will be done in order that steps to preserve the proof books can be undertaken as soon as possible.

The Museum's collection of Pritchard and Andrews proofs are housed in the Museum's Research Library, 180 Wellington Street, Ottawa, where they are available to researchers, writers and specialists for further study. The Museum Research Library is under the direction of Librarian, Cimon Morin.