



Philatelic Writer, Specialist in Squared Circle Cancellations Of Canada and the World

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WINNIPEG  
LAC LU, ONT.

The Round-Up Annex.

The Squared Circle Newsletter.

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#### A Progress Report:

This annex is being mailed out shortly before the BNAPS meeting in McAllen where I expect to make a report to both the Board of Directors and a seminar meeting of the Squared Circle Study Group.

The actual work on the text of the Fourth Edition has been progressing well this past few months and this is, in fact, the first time that I have been really able to steal enough time to prepare an issue of the Annex. Last week end I called Bill and together we estimate that about 80% of the actual writing work is now completed. The listings of all towns is essentially complete; Bill is still to send me WINNIPEG, and the R. P. O.'s are awaiting final preparation. Several chapters of text are well on the way to completion and it is only the thoroughness of the work being done by Bill, and you will be amazed by it, that is delaying final completion of some chapters.

It is really incorrect to say that this will be the Fourth Edition of the Squared Circle Handbook as this volume will bear very little resemblance to the work done by Dr. Whitehead. All of the text chapters have been completely scrapped, not re-written as might have been easier, and the listings will contain as complete information as is possible on each town and its various hammers. The following page will show just one example of what is being done in preparing material for the printer.

The format used here may not, of course, be the same as appears in the book when it appears but the features incorporated will all be included.

FIRST: We will include, where possible, an example of the "improved" proof book strikes which first appeared in the Annex late last year. The "improved" strikes are being used as they are generally quite clear and quite accurate. We have noted some spatial relationships have been degraded in these strikes but they are otherwise, we feel, quite acceptable.

TWO: There is provision for indicating with each listing the number of copies of strikes from each town or hammer, the R.F., as established in this handbook, and a number which will be assigned to indicate the position of this listing in relation to all other listing with No. 1 being assigned to OTTAWA, TYPE I and the last number for one of the hammers of which no copy has yet been found.

THREE: A short description of the town's location, population and, possibly, its postmaster.

FOUR: Dates of proofing, earliest use and latest use.

FIVE: Sections on Time Marks, Indicia styles, Error Indicia, Comments, etc.

SIX: Bar charts indicating years of use and special stamps on which the strike may appear.

Accompanying the listings will be a series of maps which have been prepared for the book by Don Fraser and Harold Wilding.

TYPE TWO. ONTARIO.

<b>TYPE TWO.</b>				<b>ONTARIO.</b>
<b>ARNPRIOR. ONT.</b>			<b>QTY:</b>	<b>R.F:</b>
			<b>No:</b>	
Renfrew County, on the Madawaska River, 38 mi. from Ottawa. Pop: 4152. Postmaster: Edw. de Renzy.				
Time Marks: Blank, but see Indicia Styles below.				
Indicia Styles: Generally, two-line dates with Blank in upper slot. In 1900, year date "00" appears in upper slot and the lower slot is Blank. In 1906, 3-line dates with Month in upper slot, from MY/ 9/06 - MY/30/06 and possibly earlier and/or later. See Error Indicia and Comments. JU/JUN 15/06 - JU/OC 1/06, use of three letter type for JU and error? placement of JU.				
Continuity of Use:				
93	94	95	96	97
x	x	x	x	x
98	99	00	01	02
x	x	x	x	x
03	04	05	06	07
x	x	x	x	x
08	09			
x	x			
On Special Stamps:				
3¢JUB	2¢MAP	2¢RLS	5¢RLS	15¢LQ
x	x		x	
10¢SD	ADM	LATER		
Error Indicia: -/OC 27/94; -/MR S/S6 . 00/ZW/-; 00/EV/-; 00/GM/-; 00/MG/- corrected by 00/MR 13/. -O/MR 28/-. (second zero may have been in hammer but failed to print.) JU in upper slot, various dates from JU/JUN 15/06 to JU/OC 1/06. (According to the 3rd. Edition of the Handbook, this mark occurred in 1905 and 1906. No 1905 strikes of any kind were reported in the roster. Specific dates with JU in the upper slot are: JU/JUN 15, JU/JUN 18, JU/JUN 20, JU/JY 10, JU/JY 12, JU/JY 17, JU/AU 7, Ju/OC 1, all in 1906.				
Comments: It is unlikely that "JU" above date occurred in 1905 as stated in the 3rd. Edition; a tentative explanation is that the three-line dates MY/ 9/06 - MY/30/06 (these two strikes reported but presumably there were three-line dates in between) were followed by similar three-line dates in June, such as JU/1/06, JU/2/06, etc. (although none are yet reported.) This style may have been started by a temporary mail clerk. The presence of JU above the date is undoubtedly due to starting the month of June with a three-line date. One can guess that on the return of the regular mail clerk, reversion was made to Month-Day in the center slot but perhaps the JU was stuck in the upper slot so the 3-letter Month slug from the duplex hammer was inserted. The transition must have occurred after JU/i/06 and probably before JU/JUN 15/06.				

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In the process of preparing text for the new Handbook, it has become apparent that further information is required with regard to two multi-hammer towns: ACTON, ONT. and WOLSELEY, ASSA. In the hope that needed information is in the hands of readers, I detail what the problems are, and what information is required.

\* \* \* \* \*

ACTON, ONT. Two hammers were proofed, and issued to the ACTON Post Office. The first, Hammer I, was proofed on SP 20/ 94 and the second, Hammer II, on DE 15/ 94. Strikes of Hammer II are not difficult to come by; the hammer was in use from late December, 1894 through 1902. Hammer I strikes are another matter. For many years only one strike was known, -/ DE 11/ (94?). But later, a full strike on government postcard - the finest strike known - was reported by Graham Noble, and illustrated in the December 1971 Squared Circle column in TOPICS. In the event some readers do not have this volume available for ready reference, I present an illustration showing important features of this strike. This illustration is not a reproduction of the actual strike, but a copy of Gary Arnold's photocopy of the Proof Strike modified to show the essential features of Graham's strike.



Additional partial strikes, supposedly of Hammer I, have more recently been reported. I am persuaded that most of these involve mis-identification and I would like to clarify this matter. There are really two questions I would like to address: (1) Are these additional strikes really Hammer I, and if so, what are the dates? and (2) Is the Graham Noble strike from Hammer I, modified by grinding off the corners (after the fashion of FORMOSA, Hammer II, State 2), or are the rounded corners an artifact of inking, or impression of the strike on a hard-surface card lying on a hard surface?

Because of the difficulty in identifying partial strikes of the two hammers, I list the features known to me which might be useful in separating them. If there are additional features which I have overlooked, I would be pleased to hear of them.

1. Letter 'A' of town name. Cover lower part of the strike with a file card, lining its top edge along the right hand stroke of 'A'.
  - (a) Hammer I: At the left, file card edge passes under second left bar, which is fully visible and lies well clear of the card edge; at the right, the file card edge cuts the second right bar, the lower half of which is hidden under the card
  - (b) Hammer II: At the left, the card edge intercepts the lower inside corner of the second left bar; at the right, the card edge passes under the second right bar, all of which is visible and lies well clear of the card edge.
2. Letter 'C' of town name.
  - (a) Hammer I: The letter is a portion of a circle; width of the letter not greater than its height.
  - (b) Hammer II: The letter is elliptical in shape, width noticeably greater than its height.

3. Letter 'T' of town name. Cover lower part of strike with a file card, lining top edge of the card along the horizontal stroke of 'T', just covering it with the file card edge.

(a) Hammer I: Card edge intercepts inner curved edge of first left bar near its top; upper inside tip of first left bar is visible, projecting up above card edge.

(b) Hammer II: The first left bar is completely hidden under the card.

This test is rather sensitive to how sharply the strike is made; heavily struck, blurred, or bounced strikes may not be identifiable with this characteristic. I know of no useful similar test relating orientation of 'T' to features of the right hand side of the hammer frame.

4. Letter 'O' of town name.

(a) Hammer I: The letter is round; width and height equal.

(b) Hammer II: The letter is elliptical; width noticeably greater than height.

5. Letter 'N' of town name.

(a) Hammer I: Left vertical stroke of 'N' points to upper inside tip of second right bar; right hand vertical stroke of 'N', if extended, passes over top of right side piece.

(b) Hammer II: Left vertical of 'N' points just above lower inside corner of second right bar; right hand vertical of 'N', if extended, cuts through right side piece well below its top.

If (a) and (b) cannot be used, then cover left side of strike with a file card, lining its right hand edge so that the bottom end of both vertical strokes of 'N' just touch the card edge.

(c) Hammer I: Right side dot is hidden under the card, and card edge cuts out through the right hand side of the hammer.

(d) Hammer II: Right side dot is visible, and card edge cuts out through the bottom bar to the left of the lower right hand corner of the hammer.

6. Letter 'T' of 'ONT.'

(a) Hammer I: Vertical stroke of 'T', if extended, passes well to the left of the lower inside tip of the fourth right bar (lowest of the four short right hand bars).

(b) Hammer II: Vertical stroke of 'T', if extended, cuts through the inside curved edge of the fourth right bar.

7. Right Side Dot.

(a) Hammer I: Right side dot lies well below lower indicia bar.

(b) Hammer II: Right side dot in line with a rightward extension of the lower indicia bar.

Please check your ACTON strikes, reporting dates of any Hammer II earlier than -/ DE 29/ 94. If you have an undoubted Hammer I, please report full date, or as much as is readable. If Hammer I, pay particular attention to whether rounding of the corners, as illustrated above, is evident. Some surprises are possible. For example, the date of Graham Noble's round-cornered strike is DE 15/ 94 which is also the proof date of Hammer II. Later dates of Hammer I might overlap the earliest dates of Hammer II; if other round-cornered strikes are found, it is still possible that earlier square cornered strikes exist. For reasons too complex to go into at the

moment, I am inclined to believe that the round corners are not an artifact, and that, indeed, the hammer was modified. If so, it seems plausible that some early strikes of the unmodified Hammer I remain to be found.

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WOLSELEY, ASSA. Wolseley is now known to have used two distinct squared circle hammers. This fact is not recognized in Handbook III, which lists the proof date as MY 29/ 94 and contains a note that the Cohen collection has a copy dated AP 30/ 94. An article by Stan Cohen in the October 1966 issue of MAPLE LEAVES illustrates the AP 30/ 94 strike. In this article, Stan speculated that since the date is a full month earlier than the proof date (as given in Handbook III), the likely explanation was a clerk's error of inserting 94 instead of 95 or 96 for the year date. Later, in the April, 1971 issue of MAPLE LEAVES, Stan reported for the first time clear evidence that there were two distinct hammers and presented drawings detailing the identifying characteristics of each. In this article, Hammer I (represented by the AP 30/ 94 strike) is listed as being of unknown Proof Date, with earliest and latest known dates being AP 30/ 94 and SP 23/ 95, respectively. Hammer II was listed as being proofed on MY 29/ 94, with earliest and latest dates being AP 3/ 97 and MY 16/ 99, respectively.

However, the indicated Proof Dates are wrong - but through no fault of Stan's. I now know what the difficulty was, and how the error came about. I read Dr. Whitehead's manuscript for the Third Edition Handbook, which was a manuscript in the true sense of the word - it was delivered to the printer in hand-written form. In proof-reading the manuscript, I recall having difficulty with a peculiarity of his handwritten text; his lower case "r" looked for all the world like a lower case "y", thus: MY. In checking through Gary Arnold's photocopies of the Proof strikes, I discovered that the single WOLSELEY hammer included in the group carries the date MR 29/ 94. It became immediately apparent that Dr. Whitehead's hand written MY was misread by the typesetter as MY 29, and appears thus in the Third Edition Handbook.

So the Proof Dates given in Stan's article - based on faulty information in the Handbook - must be reversed: it is Hammer I which was proofed on MR 29/ 94 and the Proof Date of Hammer II is unknown.

It seems likely, in view of '97 to '99 dates for Hammer II, that this hammer was proofed some time after the 1895 cut-off date of the Proof Book, although this is not necessarily so (for example, BELLEVILLE III is not in the Proof Book, although 1893 strikes are known).

Herewith are shown examples of both hammers, Hammer I from Gary Arnold's enhanced proof strikes, and Hammer II shown in Stan Cohen's article in April 1971 MAPLE LEAVES:



Hammer I

Proofed MR 29/ 94



Hammer II

Proof date not known

Based on these two representations of WOLSELEY hammers, certain major points

of difference can be discerned. I list below, certain characteristics which may be useful in identifying which hammer made a particular strike. There may be additional points of difference, but before detailing them I would like to see a better representation of Hammer II, which as previously noted is a reproduction of a tracing. Can anyone provide a sharp, clear photocopy of a full strike of Hammer II - such as a free strike on cover?

Some points of difference between the two hammers are:

1. Letter 'W' of town name.
  - (a) Hammer I: Right limb of 'W' points to top end of left side piece.
  - (b) Hammer II: Right limb of 'W' points to base of second left bar.
2. Letter 'O' of town name.
  - (a) Hammer I: 'O' lies in part below top of left side piece.
  - (b) Hammer II: Lower loop of 'O' lies well above the top of the left side piece.
3. First 'L' of town name.
  - (a) Hammer I: Vertical stroke of 'L' points to lower inside corner of first left bar.
  - (b) Hammer II: Vertical stroke of 'L' points to center of the curved inside end of the first left bar.
4. Second 'E' of town name.
  - (a) Hammer I: Vertical stroke of 'E' points to the center of the inside curved end of the second right bar.
  - (b) Hammer II: Vertical of 'E', if extended, passes over the upper inside tip of the second right bar.
5. Letter 'Y' of town name.
  - (a) Hammer I: Upper left fork of 'Y', if extended, cuts through upper inside tip of the right side piece.
  - (b) Hammer II: Upper left fork of 'Y', if extended, does not intercept the upper inside corner of the right side piece, but continues on to cut the under edge of the second right bar.

With these preliminaries, please check your WOLSELEY strikes, reporting date and hammer for each; it will be interesting to see if there really was any overlapping use of the two hammers.

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STRATHROY, ONT. Information is urgently needed regarding period of use of the squared circle hammer at this town, and details of its use as a receiving mark. To date, the earliest reported strike is -/NO 6/ 96; this is also the only '96 strike reported. There is a possibility that it may be a clerk's error, '96 for '99; I am checking on this. The next earliest strike I have record of is -/NO 27/ 97, followed by -/NO 29/ 97, -/DE 8/ 97, and -/DE 11/ 97. The latest date I have record of is -/OC 17/ 00; only two other '00 strikes have been reported: -/FE 10/ 00 and -/FE 27/ 00.

Please send me a list of all dates you have for STRATHROY, indicating what stamp the strike is on. If on cover, please note, if a receiver mark, if the mark is on the address side or reverse side of the card or cover.

\* \* \* \* \*

INFORMATION GLEANED FROM AUCTION CATALOGUES AND PRIVATE TREATY LISTS. In view of the fact that items listed in such media are often not heard of again, and potentially valuable information lost, I applaud the recent trend to detailed description of individual better items which enables me to record the data.

Examples of this trend are a recent Cougar Stamps auction catalogue listing of the date of a SUTTON, QUE. strike, which enabled me to identify the strike as a new early date for the town; and a current Robert A. Lee auction catalogue provides first record of a previously unreported time mark for the Hamilton Barred Circle, and a new late date for MORDEN, MAN.: -/ DE 28/ 46. Curiously, the latter is described as "last day of use", rather than "latest known date". Perhaps I have missed something along the way; can any reader enlighten me as to whether this really is the last day of use, and the source of the information? But without doubt, Jim Hennock's Private Treaty listings of squared circle strikes is the finest example of this trend. I have gleaned from his latest list a large number of bits of useful information: previously unreported years of use of certain towns, previously unreported time marks of Barred Circles, and error and abnormal indicia. With regard to his latest list, No. 2, I have recorded those items which I could plainly read in the photocopies of the strikes; but there are a couple of them which were not clear to me. Would the purchasers of the following items please provide the requested information:

- (a) ANTIGONISHE cover, '69 year date error - day and month are not stated, and may, in fact be unreadable. I have no prior record of this error; perhaps day and month, or even only month could be identified with use of a filter?
- (b) GREAT VILLAGE, -/ ?? 29/ 94 - can month be identified? Present early and late dates are -/SP 3/ 94 to -/AP 24/ 95; since the hammer was proofed on -/AU 25/ 94 there is still room for this to be an earliest known date of use (if month is AU).
- (c) WOODVILLE, -/ ?? 18/ 01 - can month be identified? The only dates presently recorded for 1901 are -/JA 23/ 01 to -/AP 27/ 01. If month is JA, or MY or later, this would extend the known period of use in '01.

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TRANSITION DATES: PROOFING OF TYPE I AND TYPE II HAMMERS. According to Handbook III, last four lines of page 23, the earliest possible correct dates for squared circle strikes are:

Type One: AP 28/ 93 (BROCKVILLE and LONDON)  
Type Two: JU 15/ 93 (BELLEVILLE I)

I have known for a long time, as perhaps you have too, that these are wrong, and on several counts. First, the correct Proof date for BROCKVILLE is AP 26/ 93 (although LONDON is AP 28/ 93); and second, the very earliest Proof Date for a Type II hammer is that for LAURENTIDES, JU 9/ 93.

In the process of having a look at the frequency with which squared circle hammers were proofed, I have made a discovery which surprised me since I have seen no prior mention of it; perhaps it is well known, but was new to me. In the transition period between proofing of the Type I and Type II hammers, the following interesting sequence is observed:

<u>Proof Date</u>	<u>Hammers Proofed</u>
MY 20/ 93	NEW GERMANY
MY 31/ 93	LONDON EAST, ST. ANN'S, SHANNONVILLE
JU 9/ 93	MANSONVILLE (Type I), LAURENTIDES (Type II)
JU 15/ 93	ANTIGONISHE, CLIFTON, ROTHESAY, BELLEVILLE I

Notice that the last of the Type I hammers (MANSONVILLE) and the first of the Type II hammers (LAURENTIDES) were proofed on the same day! It seems that the MANSONVILLE hammer was put to use reasonably promptly for the present early date - with room to be bettered - is JY 5/ 93. However, there is about a seven month gap between the JU 9/ 93 proofing date of LAURENTIDES, and the present earliest recorded date of FE 1/ 94.

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I am completely swamped with replies to the last two Annex issues, and shall have to devote at least the next two weeks of evenings to record and digest the information. I have about 100 letters now, and will acknowledge each as I get to them. Understandably, it will take some time, since I am presently also trying to keep Glenn provided with material for his layout of the Handbook. I will close out this contribution to Annex to include it with another mass of data on Hammer Separations which I will be sending to Glenn - the 26th packet of material, typically 4 to 6 ounces or more!

Before closing, though, I would like to make an addition to an earlier paragraph giving a tip of the hat to dealers who make detailed descriptions of indicia in their Squared Circle offerings. I am in receipt of such a listing from Don Slaughter, which was sent to me by Jack Benningen. In this, I note a new late date for CHESTERVILLE, -/ SP 22/ 98.

Some astounding new information is coming to light; I offer two brief samples. Dave Mayerovitch reports finding a light, full, clean strike of PALMERSTON, -/DE 28/ 94 (which, of course, is a new late date). And Tom Southey reports a new find, remarkable in a different way: a dark purple strike of the MAGOG squared circle on Scott C-9. The cancel is blurred, so the date is not readable, but since the issue date of C-9 was SP 16/ 46, the date of the strike would have to be at least that late.

Numerous previously unrecorded time marks for the Barred Circles, and previously unrecorded years of use for some Squared Circles are now reported, as well as new record dates and new error indicia.

I will try to get this all collated in time for the next Annex; the problem right now is that each new letter I look at seems to contain some information which supersedes that in the previous letter. But I will get it all tidied up for next time.

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A Few Adlets:

De 8 97 m

EXCHANGE.BUY. SELL.  
SQUARED CIRCLES ON SMALL QUEENS  
AND JUBILEES. WANT LIST AVAILABLE.

I HAVE SQUARED CIRCLE CANCELS ON  
NUMERALS AND MAPLE LEAVES FOR  
EXCHANGE.

ALSO: BAIE VERTE. ST. JOHN. SYDNEY  
AND OXFORD MILLS ON MAP STAMP.

Roger Grigson, 75 Clarence Road,  
Windsor, Birks, SL4 5AR, England.

Do these adlets serve any purpose? Do  
you get any results? Could the space be  
put to better use?

WANTED. FOR SUDBURY SQUARED CIRCLE STUDY  
Would anyone with Sudbury Squared Circle  
cancels on the following dates please  
advise me of the indicia information on  
them: AM, PM, BLANK, INVERTED, ETC.:

JU 19 - JY 4/96; NO 29 - DE 15/97;  
MR 31 - AP 13/01; NO 2/01 - MR 17/03;  
MR 15/04 - MR 25/04.

Also, does anyone have a copy dated  
after JA 11/05? If so, advise, with  
all indicia information and stamp.

John Frith, Box 286, Copper Cliff,  
Ontario, P0M 1N0.