

# THE ROUND-UP ANNEX

## squared circle study group newsletter

vol. 5  
no. 5/30  
dec, 1982

In addition to the regular ANNEX items, this issue features an article by a prominent former Study Group member detailing his solution to the problem of how to mount a squared circle collection. Hopefully, members will find some ideas which they can translate to their own collections.

The next issue of ANNEX will continue Bill Moffatt's series on the squared circle hammers on display at the Postal Museum in Ottawa. The subject of the upcoming article will be the construction of the hammers.

Since the last issue, the following members have rejoined the Study Group:

G. Palmer Moffat, 4542 East Camino De Oro, Tucson, AZ 85718  
Gray Scrimgeour, 227 Hanna Road, Toronto, Ontario M4C 3P3

### A MOST INTERESTING WATERLOO, ONTARIO COVER

The WATERLOO squared circle hammer was one of four postal markings struck on this cover from the time of mailing at WATERLOO to arrival at its destination, the Seychelles Islands. The letter was refused upon arrival at the Seychelles and began a 43 day journey back to WATERLOO. During the return trip, four additional cancels were placed on the cover.



## NEW REPORTS AND FINDINGS

VICTORIA, HAMMER 1 - Tom Southey reports an error indicia for a strike dated -/AP 24/94; the "4" of "94" is placed in sideways and not upsidedown as indicated in the Handbook. Also, the strike has a "PM" time mark and those mentioned in the handbook are "NT". This suggests the existence of matched time mark errors for AP 24/97.

VICTORIA, HAMMER 11 - Tom reports a matched pair for this hammer; NT/NO 11/97 and PM/NO 11/97. *may be TUI*

WINNIPEG, HAMMER 1 - Tom also reports two examples of this hammer with the wrong year date; the strikes are 6/JA 17/93 and ?/JA 19/93, both of which are well before the proofing date. Obviously, the year indicia was not changed to "94" after the New Year. Any other reports of this would be appreciated as we could determine how long this use prevailed before the error was discovered.

GODERICH, ONTARIO - Jim Hennok reports the acquisition of several covers backstamped with the GODERICH squared circle hammer during October, 1902. In each instance, the "OC" indicia is inverted, as noted in the Handbook. The strikes are for the 4th, 13th, 14th, 20th, 21st, 24th and the 25th. It is apparent that this error probably occurred throughout the month of October!

NEEPAWA, MANITOBA - Jerry Carr reports the first strike of this hammer on the EI Special Delivery stamp, dated -/SP 8/98. *OK*

THORNHILL, ONTARIO - Jerry also reports a new year of use for this hammer, a free strike on an Edward postcard, dated AM/FE 14/8. }

NEW GERMANY, ONTARIO - A new year of use is reported for the NEW GERMANY squared circle, a strike dated -/JY 9/01.

NEWPORT LANDING, N.S. - A new early date for the second period has been reported; -/SP 30/07.

QUE. & CAMP. STATE 5 - The first strike for the year 1898 has been reported; a clear strike dated E/NO 24/98 on a 3 Cent Numeral. (Refer to discussions under Continuity of Use in the new Handbook). *No. E JU 6 97 (69)*

WELLINGTON, ONTARIO - The three line date pattern has been reported for a strike dated 95/JU 4/-. Refer to discussions in the Handbook.

ST. ANN'S, ONTARIO - Brian Plain reports a new late date for this hammer, a receiving mark dated -/SP 12/08.

GLAMMIS, ONTARIO - Brian reports a two line date later than that previously reported and overlapping the reported three line date period; the strike is dated -/AU 23/98. *OK*

PARLIMENT STREET - Brian reports the first known example of the AM time mark for this hammer, a strike dated AM/SP 15/96 on a 2 Cent SQ.

TEESWATER, ONTARIO - Brian also reports a new late date for this hammer, a strike dated -/MY 26/98. *OK*

The following article by Fernand Belanger, which appeared in a recent PHSC Journal (VOL 31), is reprinted herein with the kind permission of the author and the Postal History Society of Canada.

### THE POINTE-A-PIC SQUARED CIRCLE

The post office at POINTE-A-PIC was opened on July 1, 1870(1). It was located near the St. Lawrence River, in the County of Charlevoix East, two miles from the Murray Bay post office.



The POINTE-A-PIC squared circle hammer was proofed on July 21, 1893. Hubert Warren, the postmaster at that time, died just two days later, on July 23, 1893(2). Although Mrs. Desiree Warren was not officially appointed as postmistress until October 1, 1893, the post office was not closed in the intervening period, during which she presumably acted unofficially in that capacity. In fact, eight of the nine known strikes of the squared circle hammer fall in the period from August 13-14, 1893.

Now according to the following letter from the Post Office Inspector to the Postmaster General(3), the POINTE-A-PIC post office was completely destroyed by fire on Sunday, September 2, 1894:

"Post Office Inspector's Office, Quebec  
Sept. 4th, 1894

Sir:

I beg to report that I was informed by telegram yesterday, from P.M. Pointe-a-Pic, that the Post Office was burned on Sunday afternoon last and that the Postmistress could save only the Registered and ordinary letters, Blank Book of W.O. and stamps and Post Office money. All the other forms and the office dating stamp was destroyed.

The fire originated in one of the hotels of the locality and destroyed altogether about eighteen other buildings.

I have the honor to be

Your obedient servant,  
A. Bolduc  
P.O. Inspr."

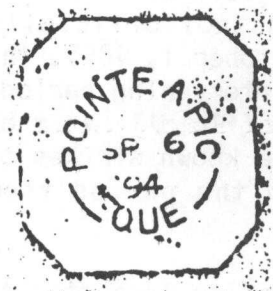
Note the use of the singular " office dating stamp ". Does this really imply that there was only one? Was it the squared circle hammer? If so, why have no strikes of it been reported for 1894? The squared circle hammers were reported to have been somewhat heavy and awkward to use; could it have been that Postmistress Warren simply did not like to use it? But if that were the case, there must have been some other dater in use in 1894. Broken circle hammers had been proofed on March 6, 1880 and November 7, 1888; do any of the readers have postmarks from POINTE-A-PIC of 1894?



Moffatt and Hansen report the existence of a cover bearing the POINTE-A-PIC squared circle with illegible date, backstamped at Quebec on August 12, 1898. This of course inconsistent with the destruction of the hammer in the fire of 1894. Could it be that the Quebec backstamp is really 1893 rather than 1898? This would of course make it consistent with the earliest usage, being one day before the currently accepted earliest day of known usage.

Whatever the reason for the scarcity of the POINTE-A-PIC squared circle, it is interesting to note the proof strike shown below(4). Just four days after the fire, a broken-circle hammer had been fabricated by Pritchard & Andrews and was ready to go!

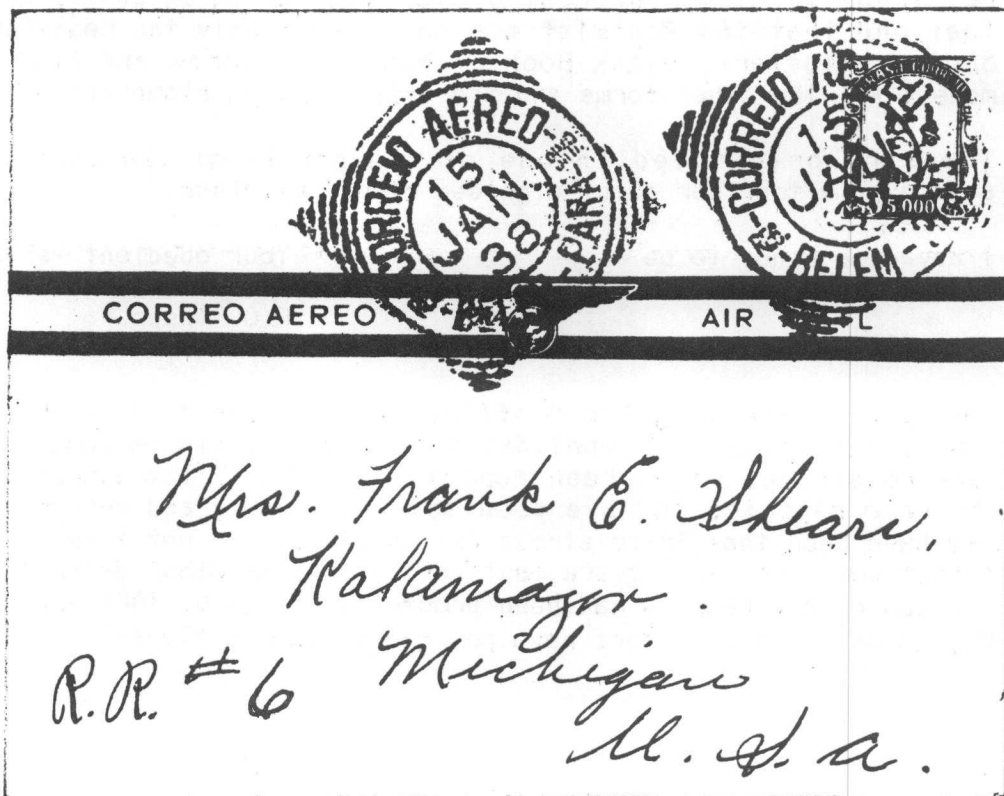
#### REFERENCES:



- (1) Post office record card, Eastern Quebec Postal District
- (2) Moffatt, W.G. and G. Hansen, The Squared Circle Postmarks of Canada, BNAPS, 1981
- (3) Public Archives of Canada, R.G. 3, Vol. 134, File 115, 1894
- (4) Proof Impressions Books, Pritchard & Andrews. National Postal Museum

#### SQUARED CIRCLE CANCELLATIONS OF THE WORLD

The Fourth Edition Handbook, in the discussions in Chapter One, makes reference to a squared circle cancel being used in Brazil. The cover below illustrates one type used in Brazil, apparently for air mail. The strike is dated 15/JAN/38.



## ON MOUNTING A SQUARED CIRCLE COLLECTION

The trouble with collecting Squared Circle cancellations is that the collection has a bad habit of growing like topsy until it doesn't matter how the thing started out, it now looks like garbage and the only thing to do is re-mount the whole thing.

After the Fourth Edition Handbook was released, I hit upon the idea of devoting a single page to each cancellation and illustrating it with proper coverage from the Handbook. This took two full books, torn apart and dissected, to accomplish, but the result is a collection that makes full use of the information available in the Handbook and builds upon it.

### THE ALBUMS

Using two copies of the Handbook was fairly expensive in itself and it seemed pointless to mount the result in one of the cheaper albums or on loose leaf sheets. For one thing, the pages had to be fairly large to accommodate the writeups, the maps and perhaps a cover and some strikes on piece or stamps. It was decided that a really good quality album would be the only thing that would do and, short of actually commissioning a totally custom made album and pages, the result had to be the Elbe Governor, which has good sized and quality pages with linen hinging and a good binding system. The only drawback has been the material with which Elbe has chosen to cover its albums; it picks up every finger mark and can become unsightly in time. To take care of this, it has been necessary to have all albums rebound and the result has turned out to be a blessing in disguise. The binders are all now personalized with a title, volume number and my name on the spines.

### THE PAGES

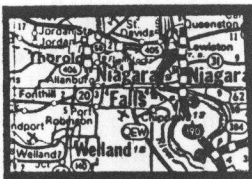

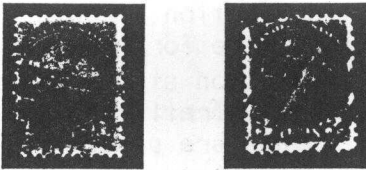



The quadrille ruled mounting section of each page covers an area about 8" by 10" and seems to be adequate for mounting the Handbook writeups, the maps, a few examples of strikes on stamps or on piece and perhaps a cover or contemporary post card illustrating a town scene with the post office prominently displayed. Write ups are placed in the upper right hand corner with the small maps to the immediate left and close to the top. Below the map on the left side are placed the stamps and on-piece strikes while the covers or postcards are usually located near the bottom right hand corner. This arrangement is varied slightly to add a bit of variety and interest. These albums are designed to hold about fifty pages with ease and no effort is made to jam more than this in each album. With linen hinging, the albums are so designed that pages lie flat when opened and this makes annotating pages easy as work progresses on the collection.

### MOUNTING

After each writeup has been carefully cut out of the two Handbook volumes and cut into the proper mounting proportions, a paper-friendly glue should be used. (I have found the UHU STIC to be the best.) The maps have been taken from an atlas and have been mounted in Showgard mounts. This makes it possible to move the maps around as I remount the collection. The strikes on stamps and piece are also Showgard mounted; covers and postcard examples are mounted with small transparent photo mounts.

## THE FINAL RESULT

The NIAGARA FALLS SOUTH page below shows the "finished" product. It is realized that eventually the collection will be broken up and disposed of and, at that time, the expensive album pages and bindings will be worth nothing. But collecting should be a fun thing if it is going to be anything at all, and one way to make it fun is to splurge a little on the externals.

NIAGARA FALLS SOUTH, ONT.																																																																															
Qty: 249		R.F.: 30		No:																																																																											
Now absorbed by Niagara Falls, Ontario, the famous honey-mooner's resort.																																																																															
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