

THE ROUND-UP ANNEX squared circle study group newsletter

vol. 7
no. 3/37
oct, 1984

A NOTE FROM BILL MOFFATT

I received a short note from Bill Moffatt in early August. He has apparently fully recovered from a lengthy and quite serious illness and is back to work, deeply involved in a number of top-priority programs with GE's aircraft engine group. Consequently, the time restraints will not permit Bill to again assume an active role in the Study Group. He has promised to send me a grocery bag full of past correspondence he recently located; his kids had packed it away with his family's camping gear. I am sure we all wish Bill the best in his recovery and look forward to hearing from him as time permits.

REPORTS OF NEW FINDINGS

The first three reports below were sent by Jim Felton, followed by four which were reported by Phillip Wolf.

WALLACEBURG, ONT - A strike with an inverted "DE" on a strike dated ?/DE 10/94.

MERRICKVILLE, ONT - A 3 Cent Small Queen strike dated ?/JU 04/96. The zero spacer was previously reported only for 1895 strikes.

SUDBURY, ONT - Finally, Jim reports a blank time mark slot on a strike dated -/JU 28/95, nine days later than the Handbook date.

BRANTFORD, ONT - Phillip Wolf reports an inverted "AM" time mark on a 3 Cent Numeral dated AM/NO 18/98.

GODERICH, ONT - A strike with an inverted month and day indicia, OC 12, dated -/OC 12/98.

TORONTO, ONT - An additional date is reported for the "PM" time mark (with no hour mark); the strike is dated PM/FE 4/97 on a 3 Cent Small Queen cover.

WOODSTOCK, ONT - Phillip's last report is a strike of this hammer with a missing year digit on a strike dated -/AP 1/9.

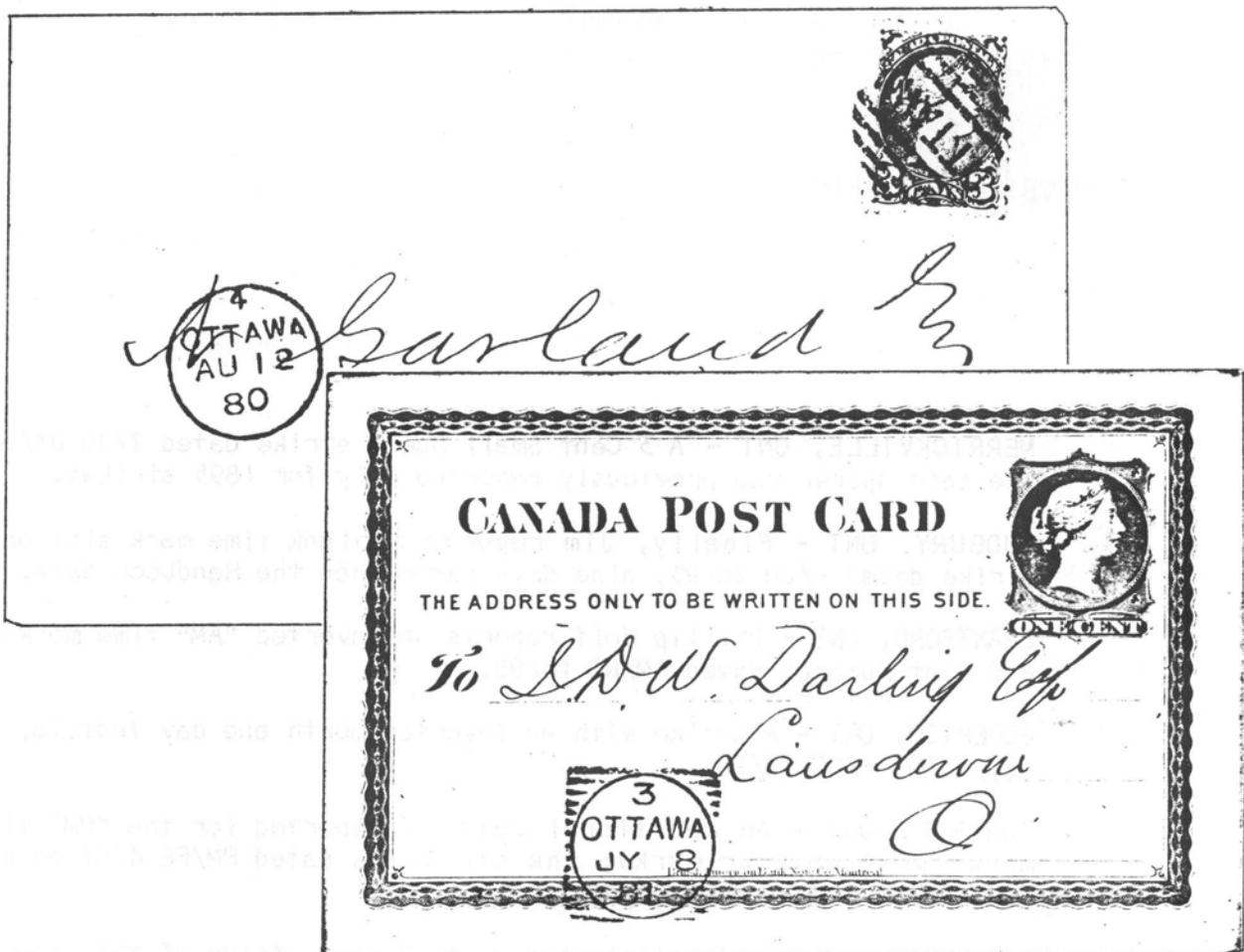
NANAIMO, B.C. STATE TWO - I recently purchased two examples of this hammer with 1917 year dates, the first reported strikes from this year; the strikes are dated AM/AP 17/17 and AM/OC 8/17.

medicine hat

THE 1880 OTTAWA PRECURSOR

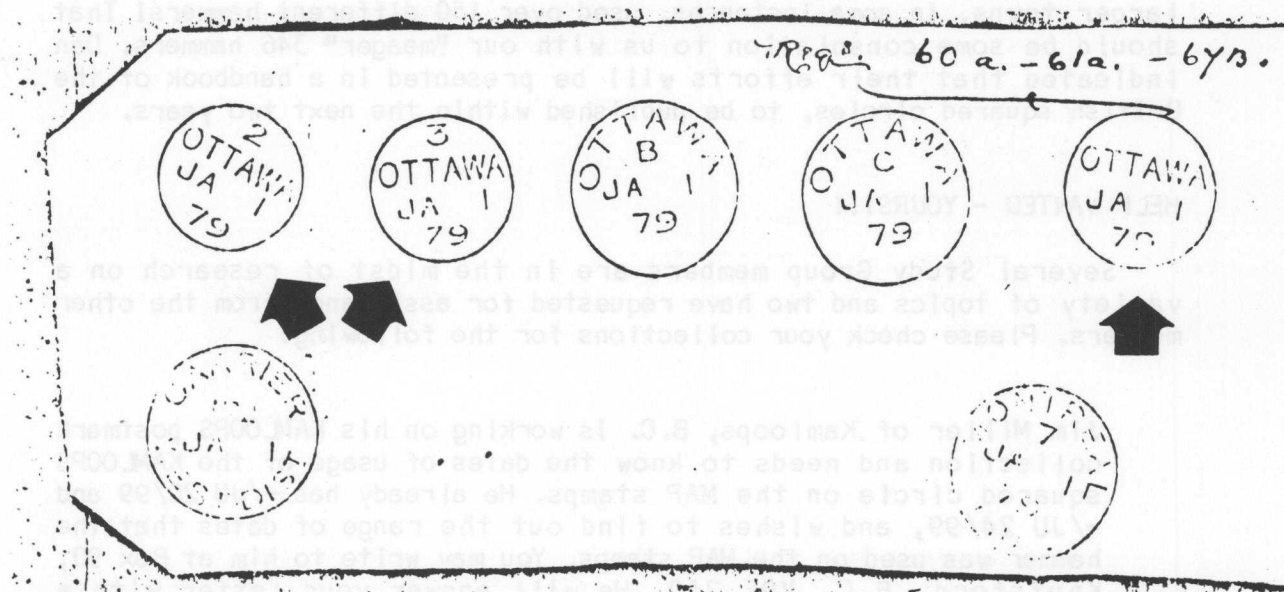
One of the topics of discussion at the Squared Circle Study Group session at San Francisco was the origin of the 1880 OTTAWA squared circle hammer. During one of my visits with Frank Campbell a few years ago, we searched through the photocopy of the Pritchard and Andrews proofbook for a strike of this hammer but could not find one. We assumed that the hammer was manufactured by some other firm.

About a year ago, I purchased the cover below with the OTTAWA grid cancel (Jarrett No. 356) and a circular dater and noticed that the size and letter style of the circular dater was similar to the round portion of the 1880 OTTAWA precursor. Was it possible that one of the OTTAWA circular date hammers was modified (by adding the horizontal bars) to produce the 1880 precursor?



I brought this up for discussion at San Francisco and Dan Rosenblatt noted that this had occurred with the British squared circle hammers. Evidently, two years prior to the release of the first British squared circle in 1879, an experimental hammer was produced by modifying a circular dater in this manner.

With the modification theory now a possibility and, given the fact that the 1880 precursor appeared shortly after the first British squared circle cancels, I then re-examined the P & A proofbook pages and found the Ottawa circular daters shown below. The one at the right has a diameter of 20mm, which matches the circular dater used in conjunction with the Ottawa grid. The other two have a diameter of 19mm which is identical to the 1880 precursor. Also note that the lettering style of the proofbook CDS and the OTTAWA squared circle is identical.



While the above theory is purely conjecture at this point, I would appreciate any comments you may have on this matter. Perhaps those members having strikes of the 1880 Ottawa hammer could look closely for any clues which might support or conflict with this theory.

BNAPEX '84 - A REAL SAN FRANCISCO TREAT!!!

San Francisco is a special place for the Squared Circle Study Group as it was eight years ago at BNAPEX' 76 in this city that Glenn Hansen, Bill Moffatt and a handful of other squared circle buffs started the Study Group. This time around was my first trip to this annual event and my wife and I spent a most enjoyable four days there. Study Group member Gar Lohman, his gracious wife Jan and the other members of the host NORCAL regional group are to be commended on their fine effort in putting this "show" together. I heard from many of the attendees that this was one of the best ever.

The Squared Circle Study Group meeting was held on Saturday from 10:00 to 11:00 AM; fifteen persons were in attendance, including Study Group members Lew Ludlow, Jim Karr, Ted and Norma Woodward, Don Fraser, John Siverts, and Cliff Guile. Guests included Stuart Clark, Ron Saint, Dan Rosenblatt, Whit Bradley, Geof Walburn, and Study Group coordinator John Burnett.

BNAPEX '84 (CONTINUED)

A number of topics were discussed at the session, including how to increase or reactivate interest in the Squared Circle Study Group. One method will be to renew periodically the Rounding Up Squared Circles column in Topics to increase "exposure" to the entire BNAPS membership.

The "feature" of the meeting was a presentation by Dan Rosenblatt who, with Stan Cohen, are researching the British squared circles. Dan noted that they have identified over 3800 different hammers and that larger towns, in some instances, used over 150 different hammers! That should be some consolation to us with our "meager" 346 hammers. Dan indicated that their efforts will be presented in a handbook of the British squared circles, to be published within the next two years.

HELP WANTED - YOURS!!!

Several Study Group members are in the midst of research on a variety of topics and two have requested for assistance from the other members. Please check your collections for the following:

Jim Miller of Kamloops, B.C. is working on his KAMLOOPS postmark collection and needs to know the dates of usage of the KAMLOOPS squared circle on the MAP stamps. He already has -/JU 20/99 and -/JU 24/99, and wishes to find out the range of dates that the hammer was used on the MAP stamps. You may write to him at Box 90, Knutsford, B.C. V0E 2A0. He will answer your letter with a dollar's face value in some nice Canadian stamps in return for your assistance.

In my discussions with John Siverts at San Francisco, he indicated that he did not sell all of his squared circles and has retained his ST. JOHN, N.B. HAMMER TWO calendar collection. John would like reports of fully dated strikes with the AM, PM, 1 and 2 time marks. John's address is P.O. Box 425, Wilmington, DE 19899. By the way, John is the newest member of the Order of the Beavers, announced in San Francisco at BNAPEX '84.

THE DUES ARE DUE!!! - The revenues from the 1983 Study Group dues have finally run out. The 1985 dues will be the same as 1983 - \$5.00 Canadian and \$4.00 U.S. funds, respectively. There are a number of interesting features and research article in the offing, so send in your renewal early so you don't miss an issue.