THE ROUND-UP ANNEX

squared circle study group newsletter

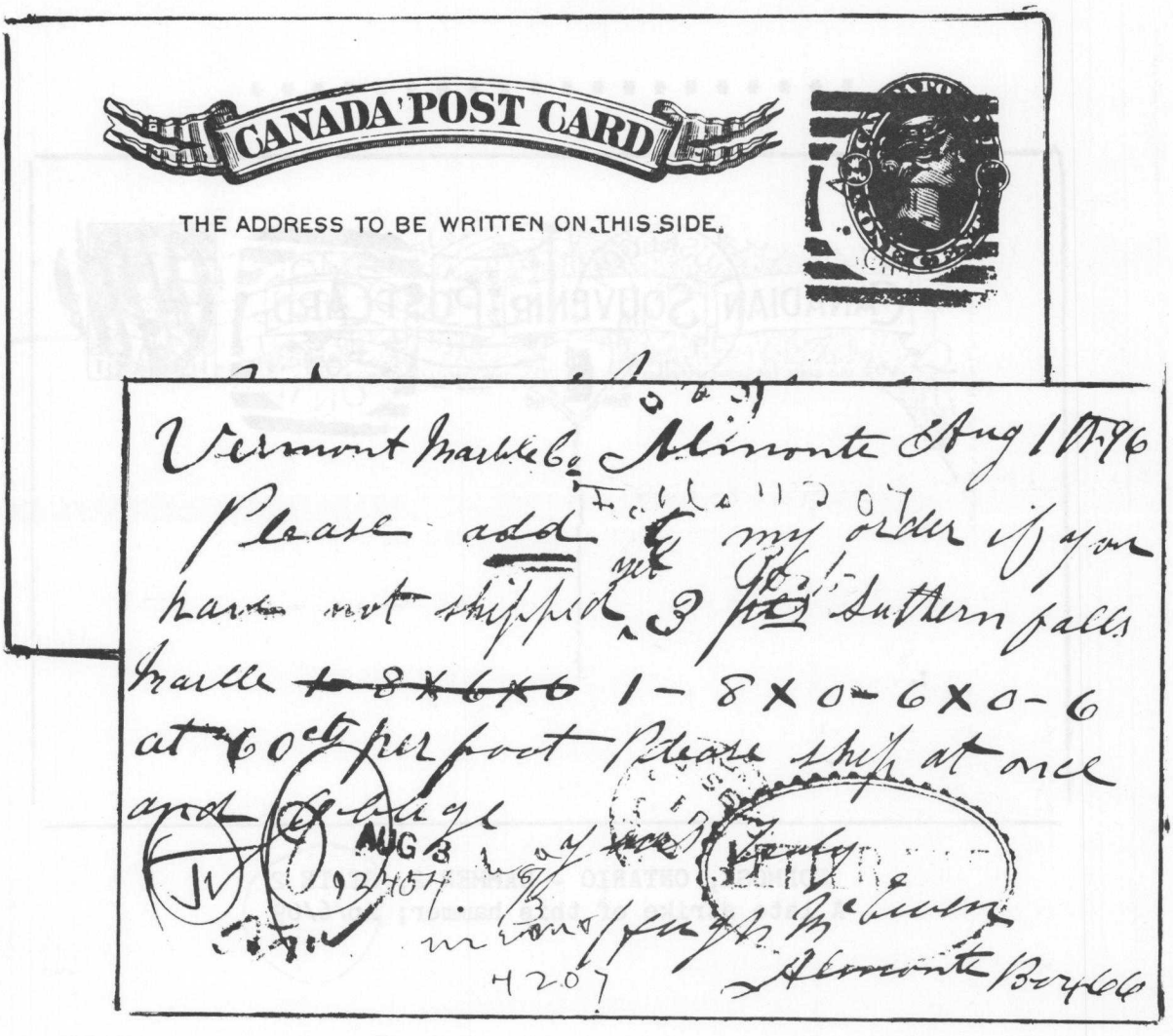
Vol. 8
No. 4/42
Oct, 1985

ALMONTE: THE ERROR IN THE "69" ERROR FOR "99"

By: Ted Kerzner

Handbook IV, page 90, describes the "69" year date error as being an error for "99"; in fact, it is an error for "96"! The illustration below of both the front and back of a postal card mailed from ALMONTE, indicates clearly that the message is dated August 1, 1896, and the OTTAWA CDS mark is clearly dated AU 1/96.

Quite apart from the hard evidence shown by the back of the postal card, the Handbook IV itself at page 406, in discussing the errors that arose from the fact that indicia slugs were inserted in mirror image, lists a number of examples including ".... 69 replace(s) 96, 66 replace(s) 99...."



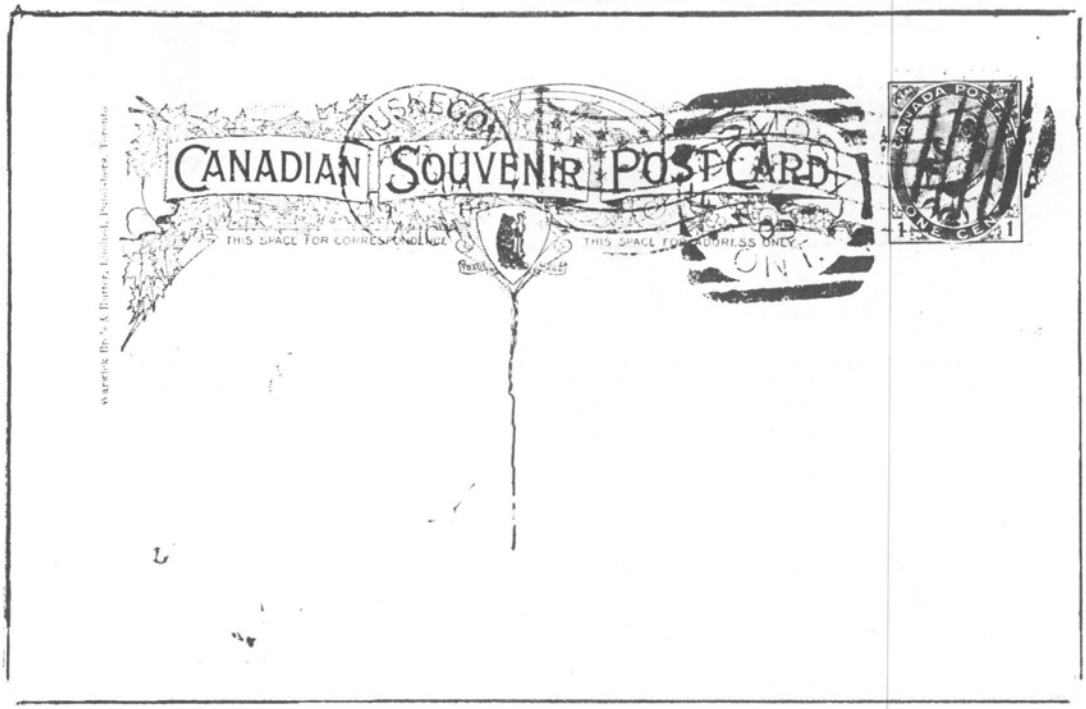
editor: g.d. arnold, 5509 east st. joe hwy, grand ledge, mi 48837

With the nature of the mirror imaging known, how did the misconception arise in the ALMONTE listing? It may be that those items rostered with the year error were not on cover. Off cover strikes obviously do not permit any independent verification of the correct date, although given the sizeable number of rostered covers, one might have expected several during the 5-6 weeks that the error appears to have been in use.

A description of the year error first appeared in Handbook II, page 36, and was described as ".... AU, Sp '99, have "69" as the year date". This same observation is continued in Handbook III (page 41) in the same terms and it appears to have found its unaltered way into Handbook IV. It may be that the earliest reports were off cover, and an inaccurate conclusion drawn at the outset as to the correct date, which was simply continued through the last 26 years, without appreciation for the error in the conclusion itself!

The hammer strike on the face of the postal card illustrated appears to have been double struck, although under a glass, the date appears to be AU 1 rather than AU 11, which the various markings on the reverse side would tend to confirm. The earliest known date of use of the year error is therefore advanced to a date earlier that that set out in Handbook IV.

* *



FORMOSA, ONTARIO - HAMMER 2, STATE 2
A late strike of this hammer; Ap/6/09

REPORTS OF NEW FINDINGS

The following reports have been received since the last ANNEX issue; the majority of these were "gleaned" from Bob Lee's September auction (#36).

1892 BARRED CIRCLES - Bob's auction included 58 lots with many unreported time marks, indicia errors, etc.. These are not reported here; however, those interested can contact me for a copy.

ROTHESAY, N.B. (BOB LEE) - A new year of use, 1901; -/OC 19/01.

WINDSOR, N.S. (JIM FELTON) - A matched set of strikes, one with an indicia error and a second, normal example; the error is an inverted "7" on a strike dated PM/JU 27/96 and a correct strike, AM/JU 27/96.

LOTBINIERE, QUE. (BOB LEE) - A new late date of use; -/OC 4/01.

MELBOURNE, QUE. (BOB LEE) - A new year of use, 1909; -/AP 27/09.

WATERLOO, QUE. (JIM FELTON) - A new late date of use; -/MY 19/01.

BRAMPTON, ONT. (JIM FELTON) - A new late date of use; -/MY 20/97.

CACHE BAY, ONT. - A new late date of use, -/JUL 4/5 (1905); also an unreported year of use, 1903; -/AP 6/3. All 1900 dates of this hammer have the "0" in the year date missing.

CHELTENHAM, ONT. (BOB LEE) - A new year of use, 1910; -/MR 23/10.

GLAMMIS, ONT. - A new early date of use; -/29 OC/94.

HARRISTON, ONT. (BOB LEE) - A new early date of use; -/AU 29/93.

LEAMINGTON, ONT. (BOB LEE) - First report on a 5 Cent registered stamp, dated -/AU 18/97.

LINDSAY, ONT. (JIM FELTON) - A strike dated PM/JY 18/94; note the Handbook discussions indicate JY 18/94 as the beginning of the blank time mark slot.

MILLBROOK, ONT. - A new late date of use; -/SP 18/96.

PAISLEY, ONT. (JIM FELTON) - Another reported strike with the month and day indicia only; -/AP 26/-.

PERTH, ONT. (BOB LEE) - First report on the 15 Cent L.Q;-/AU 1/98.

ROCKTON, ONT. (BOB LEE) - A new year of use, 1912; -/JY 30/12.

THORNHILL, ONT. (BOB LEE) - A new year of use, 1907; AM/NO 20/07.

A CORRESPONDENCE FROM JIM FELTON.....

I recently received an interesting correspondence from Study Group member Jim Felton which covered a number of topics. Several of these are presented below.

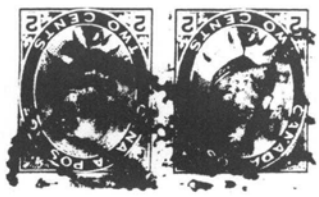
ALTERED BRANDON, MANITOBA STRIKES

"I recently found 15/AP 5/98 (strike) for BRANDON but before you get excited about the wrong thing, the 15 was added, probably by typewriter. The time mark is out of alignment with respect to the rest of the cancel; it is distinct and fully inked whereas the cancel is indistinct. The time mark is evident from the back whereas the rest of the cancel was lightly struck. This stamp was among a lot not described as containing BRANDON with a numeral time mark but there are figures in pencil on the back like someone thought it was worth $12.....I recommend everybody with similar cancels to give them a very close examination."

THE THREE RIVERS, QUEBEC INDICIA SPACER

"For further proof that the common squared circles are worthy of our attention, I noticed among my THREE RIVERS strikes the apparent use of a spacer in the date and the hint of something above the date. I notice FE 8*/97, DE 4*/97, MY 4*/98, NO 2*/98, DE 3*/98, FE 6*/99, and AU 9*/99, as well as 46 other dates with one digit dates without the dot (*) spacer. Some of the strikes without dots are around the period of strikes with the dot spacer. Secondly, I have DE 30 and 31/96 each with a dot above the date. Another copy from NO 17/96 has a very faint pinpoint in approximately the same position as the December copies. My next copy, JA 28/97 has no evidence of a dot above the date. ANY HELP?"

* *



PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO
NUDE STRIKE

PORT ARTHUR, ONTARIO
"1" TIME MARK; 1/AP 24/95

(Two interesting strikes from Jerry Carr)