



THE ROUND-UP ANNEX

squared circle study group newsletter

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THE KINGSTON " BLANK "

by Ted Kerzner

The Fourth edition of the Handbook makes no reference to a "blank" time mark for the second KINGSTON hammer. It, in fact, exists and is found used SP 2/97 and SP 3/97 and the following usage chronology may establish the termination and onset of numerical time marks that preceded and succeeded this short "hiccup" in time mark usage at this post office:

4/SP 1/97

-/SP 2/97

-/SP 3/97

4/SP 4/97

I have seen five examples of the "blank" time mark, including several on the 3 Cent Jubilee. Of these five, three are dated SP 2 and the other two SP 3.

The 4/SP 1/97 example would appear to limit the onset of the usage of the "blank" either to later on SP 1 or on SP 2. The 4/SP 3/97 example is one that I cannot personally confirm but it raises what to me has become a not uncommon failing of the Fourth Edition Handbook - it's reliance on reports contained in the 1980 roster to the virtual exclusion of the possibility of additional or different data that might be contained in the earlier literature.

Writing in 1959 Topics 96, T. Braden Elliott describes the following in his guest article on the KINGSTON squared circle:

" My "blank" is September 3, 1897 on a 3 Cent Jubilee, and I also have a "4" for the same day, on the same stamp....."

Reports by the early students of squared circles have to sometimes be viewed with skepticism. Without elimination of the possibilities that come with a long period of study, they sometimes saw what they wanted to or hoped to, not what was, in fact, there. Mr Elliott was right about the "blank", and I am inclined to think that he must also have been right about the numerical time mark as well.

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Watch for a special Collector's Guide to Canada which will appear in an April issue of Linn's Stamp News. There will be a short piece about the Squared Circle Study Group. A 1988 survey of Linn's readers revealed that 42.8 percent collect Canadian stamps!

NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY

In December, I received a letter from Jon Johnson, the BNAPS Study Group coordinator, referencing the adoption by the BNAPS Board of Directors of written procedures governing Study Groups. The procedures address the issues of membership, organization of new groups and the requirements necessary to maintain a group in good standing.

Membership - To be a member of a Study Group, a person has to be a member in good standing of BNAPS plus meet any membership conditions set by the particular Study Group. Usually, the only Study Group condition is payment of annual dues.

Maintaining a Study Group - To be a BNAPS Study Group in good standing, the following conditions must be met on an annual (calendar) basis:

1. On December 31, there must be a minimum of ten (10) members in the Study Group.
2. The Study Group must have two (2) or more officers. The officers are to be elected either annually or biennially. The election may be either by a majority of the Study Group membership or by a majority of the Study Group members present at the annual BNAPS show.
3. Three (3) or more newsletters must have been issued to the Study Group membership.
4. A complimentary copy of each newsletter must be sent to BNAPS officials as listed; President, TOPICS editor, Librarian, Study Group Coordinator, Study Group Centerline.
5. A list of members and officers, including addresses, as of December 31, must be sent to the Study Group coordinator before the following May 1.

If all of the above conditions are not met, the BNAPS Study Group Coordinator may recommend that BNAPS withdraw recognition of the Study Group. Conditions 1 and 3 are waived in the first year for a new Study Group.

The implications of the above for the Squared Circle Study Group are minimal; the only requirement we need to fulfill is the issue of officers. I will try to get a ballot out in the next newsletter, so if anyone is interested in being an officer (along with yours truly), please drop me a line. I have no idea at this point what duties would be involved as it is pretty much a one person job. However, those offering their assistance should be prepared at some future date to assume my role.

CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE

Jim Miller (Kamloops, BC) - Jim sent along the following "clean-up" of the geographical descriptions of several BC Squared Circle towns which are misidentified in the Fourth Edition Handbook.

KAMPLOOPS, BC - Is on the Thompson River, NOT the Columbia River. ✓

KALSO, BC - Is on Kootenay Lake, NOT Kootenay River, 30 miles by water from Nelson (NOT Kootenay). ←

REVELSTOKE, BC - Should have added the wording "on Columbia River". ↗

ROSSLAND, BC - Look at the spelling of Kootenay and perhaps should add 9 miles WEST of Trail and 55 miles southwest (NOT west) of Nelson. ↗

SANDON, BC - No location is given; should be " 25 miles west of Kalso." ↗

In addition, Jim notes that the distance between LETHBRIDGE and MACLEOD should be 36 miles apart in both descriptions.

Rick Parama (Karratha, Australia) - Rick's note of September 1, 1988 provided some thoughts on his Alberta squared circle collection.

"Sometime back, I had reported to Bill Moffatt an INNISFAIL strike with inverted indicia on a 1 Cent Maple Leaf postcard reading SP 13/98 (the "SP 13" being inverted). A handwritten date on the card's backside confirms a SP 13 date. Until then, I thought it may have been the only reported indicia error.

Now, I've come across another example, this time a clear indicia error on a 2 Cent red Numeral, dated -/JA 61/02 (inverted 19). I don't have enough squared circle strikes to establish any pattern. ↗

INNISFAIL squared circle overlaps with the first INNISFAIL hammer, a broken circle. I have examples of the broken circle as late as -/JU 4/98. I also try to obtain INNISFAIL squared circles on as many different stamps as possible; so far I have: Small Queens - 1, 3 and 5 Cent; Jubilees - 1 and 3 cent; Maple Leaves - 2 cent and 2 cent postal stationery; Numerals - 1, 2 red and purple, 3 and 7 cent; Maps - lavender. ←

Tony Shaman (Kitchener, ON) - Tony has come across several interesting strikes of BRANTFORD on the 3 Cent Jubilee issue:

" An unreported inverted AM time mark for NO 4/97. I also ran across several other BRANTFORD strikes with wide spacing between the date, the earliest being PM/JY2 2/97. An AM & PM pair for AU1 8/97 also has the space between the numbers, as does a third copy, PM/AU2 0. These dates suggest that this wide spacing was the norm at least for the dates between July 22 and August 20, 1897. "

CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE (CONTINUED)

Ted Kerzner (Toronto, ON) - Ted sent several notes within the past few months, some of which are reported elsewhere in this Annex. Ted reports a third example of the indicia error for the VICTORIA HAMMER III.

" My example is on a bulk mailing receipt dated PM/8 JU 2/98. The reverse side was also used and is struck with the contemporary CDS bearing indicia PM/JU 29/98. I think it is virtually certain that the squared circle strike is in fact JU 28, and this confirms the speculation on page 228 of the Handbook. It also makes one wonder whether the Rostered "blank" is a reporting error. My example contains a 1 Cent Leaf, and 3 Cent Leaf and six 5 Cent Leafs. The strikes on the 5 Cent do not show the time mark very well, but the strike that covers the 1 and 3 Cent stamps shows clearly against those colors with the PM."

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE OCTOBER, 1988 ANNEX

Both Ted Kerzner and Jim Felton spotted a few discrepancies in the Reports of New Findings section of the October, 1988 ANNEX. Please make these corrections on your copy:

ALMA, ONT STATE II - The new late date is for the year 1909 and not the "99" as indicated.

MEDICINE HAT, ASSA - The actual latest date is -/AU 23/99 as previously reported on page 348, Vol. 9, No. 3/45.

BLEECKER STREET, TORONTO - A later date was previously reported on page 373, Vol. 11, No. 1/49; the actual late date is -/JY 25/00.

REGINA, ASSA - " With respect to REGINA, I do not have nor do I know of anyone who has the 1904 strike referred to, but I have seen JA 6/04, with the year date inverted, which is a backstamp. The words "reported in Handbook III" usually indicate data which is unconfirmed in the 1980 roster." (Ted Kerzner)

HAWKESBURY, ONT - " In 1985 Maple Leafs, Whole No. 202, page 265, there is a report of AU 22/97 on a 3 Cent Jubilee, in a report that also bears Mr. Newman's name. The literature also reports much later usage on MR 18/98 (in Topics, 1974 No. 77 and Topics 1975, No. 211). These dates were not confirmed in the 1980 roster, on which Handbook IV is based. A surprising number of earlier reports unconfirmed in the 1980 roster have since been confirmed. These pre-1980 reports cannot be taken as gospel, but they are useful in suggesting where improvement in dates might occur." (Ted Kerzner)

SUTTON, QUE - Jim Felton notes that the illustration on page 386, Vol. 11, No. 3/51, dated -/MR 21/98, is a new year of use.