

# THE ROUND-UP ANNEX

## squared circle study group newsletter

VOL. 14

NO. 2/62

APR, 1991

### THE ORBS

By Jim Miller

Discussion #2: TORONTO 2-ring orbs

In the July 1990 Annex, the three 2-ring TORONTO hammers were listed. First, please make a few updates to those lists as follows:

- 2-T1 Change Jim's LRD to AUG 5/11 PM/97
- 2-T2 Timemarks should now read: 10AM to 12AM, 1PM to 12PM
- 2-T3 New LRD: 7/DEC 10/03 (Jim's)
- 2-T3 Comments: DEC after day date 14/?2 DEC/02

The three hammers are very easy to sort out. There are major ring diameter size differences. 2-T1 has a dot after CANADA. 2-T2 has no dot after CANADA, but has large side dots. 2-T3 has much larger lettering and dates than 2-T1 or 2-T2; 2-T3 has lines separating the date indicia like squared circles (2-T1 and 2-T2 have no such bars); and 2-T3 can be distinguished by the dates 1902-1903 whereas 2-T1 is known 1891-1899 and 2-T2 is known 1892-1901.



2-T1 with broken C



2-T2



2-T3

2-T1 is Canada's first orb with a proof date of 10 AM/FEB 19/91. Also, 3-T1, the first 3-ring orb hammer was proofed a couple hours later 12 AM/FEB 19/91. Both hammers were put into use right away, as I have regular usage from 6 PM/FEB 21/91 for 2-T1 and 12 AM/FEB 21/91 for 3-T1. The second 2-ring Toronto orb was proofed JUL 26/2 PM/92 and the earliest date I have is JUL 29/8 PM/92. This date is in the middle of the TORONTO barred circle usage.

2-T3 is an anomaly, being the largest diameter of all orb cancels, and unique with large indicia and has bars between the indicia. The proof date is unknown, maybe it was never proofed, since the indicia were taken from an earlier

unofficial duplex (Lee #DUN-137). Another curious feature of this hammer is a constant break in the outer ring between 3:00 and 4:00 for all dates, including the earliest. Being that the indicia came from a previous duplex hammer, could it be possible this orb hammer was used earlier for some other purpose, maybe even non-postal use?

2-T1 shows some rather interesting breaks in the letters, especially the damaged 'C' from September 1891 to September 1892. Indicia errors are not common to 2-T1 or 2-T2 given their regular usage for many years.

2-T1 and 2-T2 are quite common; I have 291 good examples of 2-T1 and 237 for 2-T2. 2-T3 is not common, but it certainly cannot be considered rare. I have 36 fully dated strikes on stamps and 4 on covers. Additionally, I have many partial strikes which is quite common given the unusually large size of the hammer. The usage of 2-T3 appears mostly on non-standard rate items, indicating it was used for parcels, odd-size mail that couldn't pass through the machine, and possibly to postmark stamps not cancelled by the machine. A brief article by Dr. Hollingsworth in Maple Leaves, Whole #97, Vol. 11, #1, Oct. 1965, Pg. 25 identifies the curious relationship with the unofficial duplex Lee #DUN-137.

You have asked about my catalogue numbers on the data sheets. The orbs lend themselves to a fairly easy catalogue numbering system as follows:

The first number identifies the number of rings:

- 2 = two rings
- 3 = three rings

The letter combination identifies the town (and postal station)

- DLO = Dead Letter Branch Ottawa
- H = Hamilton
- L = London
- MB = Montreal Stn. B
- MC = Montreal Stn. C
- O = Ottawa
- SJ = Harvey Road, St. John's, Nfld.
- T = Toronto
- TA to TF = Toronto Stations A to F
- VA = Vancouver Stn. A

The last number identifies the hammer number in proof date or earliest known date sequence. Even if only one hammer is known, to be consistent I have chosen to include the hammer number.

Thus, 2-TF2 would be a 2-ring orb from TORONTO STATION F and is the second hammer. LONDON's two hammers will be discussed in the next issue of Annex.

## IDENTIFYING PARTIAL STRIKES WITH CANADA AT THE BASE

By: David Robinson

There are twelve squared circles with CANADA at the base.

Halifax Hammer I	Quebec
Halifax Hammer II	St. John Hammer I
Hamilton	St. John Hammer II
Kingston Hammer I	St. John Hammer III
Kingston Hammer II	Toronto
Kingston Hammer III	Winnipeg Hammer III

### Hammer types

The St. John Hammer I is sub-type 3, having a dished out region at the inner edge of the bottom bar. The other eleven hammers are sub-type 1, having straight, uncut top and bottom bars.

### Period after CANADA

The following hammers have a period after CANADA.

Halifax Hammer I  
Hamilton  
Kingston Hammer III  
Quebec  
Toronto

There are three charts included for reference.

1. A listing of known month/year of usage for each hammer. This chart does not include the 15/JAN 21/08 to 18/MR 30/08 usage for Halifax II, the 19/FE 26/13 to 17/NO 18/15 usage for Hamilton, the single 1903 Kingston I strike of 11/DE 26/03 or the unique Kingston III strike of 12/JUL 22/02.

2. A listing of all known timemarks and the hammers they were used with.

3. A checklist that can be used to summarize information when identifying a partial strike. The description used for the left and right side dots are with reference to the lower indicia bar and are as follows:

A - above, the dot is completely above the bar (Hamilton, left dot).

B - below, the dot is completely below the bar (St. John I, both dots).

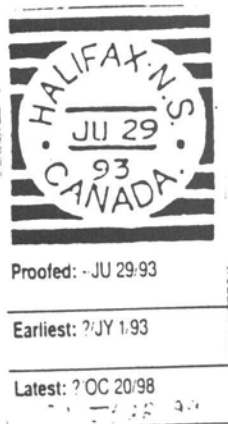
E - even, the dot is even with the bar (St. John II, left dot).

E- - even minus, the dot is even with the lower part of the bar (Winnipeg III, right dot).

E+ - even plus, the dot is even with the upper part of the bar (Toronto, left dot).

The period column refers to the presence of a period after CANADA.

The main section identifies differences based on the placement of the letters in CANADA relative to various fixed features. The descriptions used are based on the "file card method" as described on page 264 of the Moffatt and Hansen handbook, fourth edition.

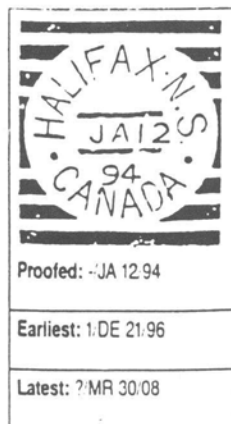


Proofed: -JU 29:93

Earliest: ?JY 1:93

Latest: ?OC 20:98

**HAMMER I**

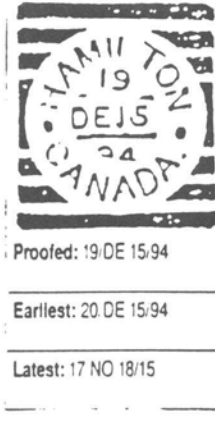


Proofed: -JA 12:94

Earliest: 1:DE 21:96

Latest: ?MR 30:08

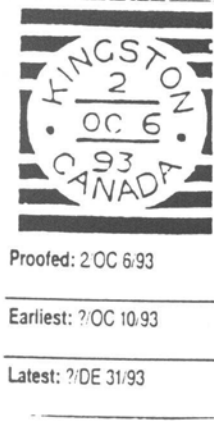
**HAMMER II**



Proofed: 19:DE 15:94

Earliest: 20:DE 15:94

Latest: 17:NO 18:15

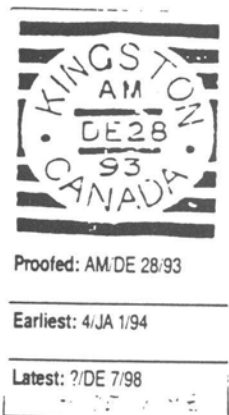


Proofed: 2:OC 6:93

Earliest: ?OC 10:93

Latest: ?DE 31:93

**HAMMER I**

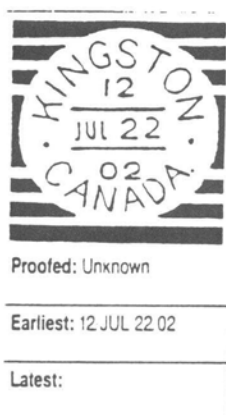


Proofed: AM:DE 28:93

Earliest: 4/JA 1:94

Latest: ?DE 7:98

**HAMMER II**

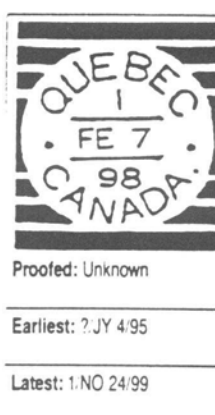


Proofed: Unknown

Earliest: 12:JUL 22:02

Latest:

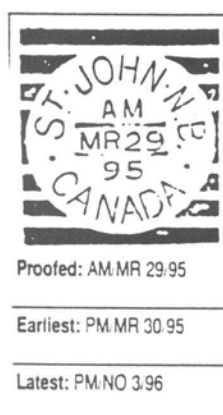
**HAMMER III**



Proofed: Unknown

Earliest: ?JY 4:95

Latest: 1:NO 24:99



Proofed: AM:MR 29:95

Earliest: PM:MR 30:95

Latest: PM:NO 3:96

**HAMMER I**

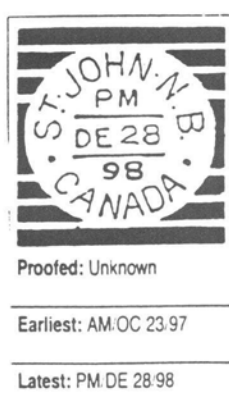


Proofed: Unknown

Earliest: PM:NO 4:96

Latest: 2:OC 22:97

**HAMMER II**

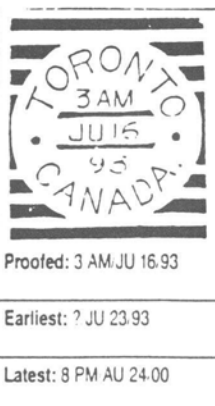


Proofed: Unknown

Earliest: AM:OC 23:97

Latest: PM:DE 28:98

**HAMMER III**



Proofed: 3:AM:JU 16:93

Earliest: ?JU 23:93

Latest: 8:PM:AU 24:00



Proofed: -JA 9:95

Earliest: ?JA 26:95

Latest: 7:NO 1:97

**HAMMER III**

Following is a list of distinguishing features that can be used to differentiate the twelve hammers.

#### Halifax Hammer I

The letters are round.

C - Bottom is about  $1/2$  of the way above the bottom of the 3LB.

A - Left leg points between 3LB and 4LB, right leg points about  $3/4$  of the way down from the upper tip of the 4LB.

N - Left leg points at lower tip of 4LB.

A - Both legs point fully between 4LB and 4RB.

D - Left side is inside 4RB.

A - Left leg points about  $1/2$  way up 4RB. Right leg points just above the lower tip of 3RB.

Period - Just above parallel of top of 3RB.

#### Halifax Hammer II

The letters are tall and thin.

C - Bottom is about  $1/3$  of the way above the bottom of the 3LB.

A - Left leg points just below the upper tip of 4LB, right leg points outside lower tip of 4LB.

NA - Almost vertical, both fully between 4LB and 4RB.

D - Left side is just inside 4RB.

A - Left leg points about  $2/3$  way up 4RB. Right leg points at the lower tip of 3RB.

Period - None.

#### Hamilton

The letters are regular and the side dots are large.

C - Bottom is about at the middle of the 3LB.

A - Left leg points between the 3LB and the 4LB, right leg points outside lower tip of 4LB.

NAD - Fully between 4LB and 4RB.

A - Left leg points about  $1/3$  way up 4RB. Right leg points inside the lower tip of 3RB.

Period - Even with the upper tip of the 3RB.

### Kingston I

The letters are regular.

C - Bottom is about  $\frac{2}{3}$  from the bottom of the 3LB.

A - Left leg points at the upper tip of the 4LB, right leg points outside lower tip of 4LB.

N - Fully between 4LB and 4RB.

A - Left leg points between 4LB and 4RB. Right leg points just outside the lower tip of the 4RB.

D - Left side points at lower tip of 4RB.

A - Left leg points about  $\frac{3}{4}$  way up 4RB. Right leg points just over  $\frac{1}{2}$  up 3RB.

Period - None.

### Kingston II

Thin side bars.

C - Bottom is just above the bottom of the 3LB.

A - Left leg points just below the upper tip of the 4LB, right leg points outside lower tip of 4LB.

NA - Fully between 4LB and 4RB.

D - Left side points outside lower tip of 4RB.

A - Left leg points at about the middle of the 4RB. Right leg points about  $\frac{1}{3}$  up from the lower tip of the 3RB.

Period - None.

### Kingston III

Tall letters and small side dots.

C - Bottom is even with the middle of the 3LB.

A - Left leg points at the upper tip of the 4LB, right leg points outside lower tip of 4LB.

NA - Fully between 4LB and 4RB.

D - Left side points  $\frac{1}{4}$  up from the lower tip of 4RB.

A - Left leg points at the upper tip of the 4RB. Right leg points just below the upper tip of the 3RB.

Period - Just below RSB.

## Quebec

C - Round. Bottom is  $\frac{1}{3}$  up from the lower tip of the 3LB.

A - Left leg points just below upper tip of the 4LB, right leg points outside lower tip of 4LB.

NA - Fully between 4LB and 4RB.

D - Large. Left side points outside of the lower tip of 4RB.

A - Left leg points about  $\frac{1}{4}$  below the upper tip of the 4RB. Right leg points about  $\frac{1}{3}$  below the upper tip of the 3RB.

Period - About even with the RSB.

## St. John I

Thin side bars.

C - Bottom is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  way between 3LB and 4LB.

A - Left leg points just below the middle of the 4LB, right leg points well outside of the lower tip of the 4LB.

NAD - Fully between 4LB and 4RB.

A - Left leg points at the lower tip of the 4RB. Right leg points just above the upper tip of the 4RB.

Period - None.

## St. John II

Thick side bars.

C - Bottom is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  way from bottom of the 3LB.

A - Left leg points between the 3LB and the 4LB, right leg points  $\frac{1}{4}$  up from the lower tip of the 4LB.

NA - Fully between 4LB and 4RB.

D - Left side points just inside lower tip of the 4RB.

A - Left leg points just inside the upper tip of the 4RB. Right leg points at the upper tip of the 3RB.

Period - None.

### St. John III

Medium side bars.

C - Bottom is just above the lower tip of the 3LB.

A - Left leg points just inside the upper tip of the 4LB, right leg points just outside of the lower tip of the 4LB.

NA - Fully between 4LB and 4RB.

D - Left side points just outside of the lower tip of the 4RB.

A - Left leg points just inside the upper tip of the 4RB. Right leg points at the lower tip of the 3RB.

Period - None.

### Toronto

Thin side bars and large dots.

C - Bottom is about 1/2 above the lower tip of the 3LB.

A - Left leg points above the upper tip of the 4LB, right leg points just outside of the lower tip of the 4LB.

NA - Fully between 4LB and 4RB.

D - Left side points outside of the lower tip of the 4RB.

A - Left leg points just above 1/2 up from the lower tip of the 4RB. Right leg points at the middle of the 3RB.

Period - Just below RSB.

### Winnipeg III

Thin side bars and large dots.

C - Very round. Bottom is even with the bottom of the 3LB.

A - Left leg points 1/4 below the upper tip of the 4LB, right leg points substantially outside of the lower tip of the 4LB.

NAD - Fully between 4LB and 4RB.

A - Left leg points 1/3 up from the lower tip of the 4RB. Right leg points 2/3 up from the lower tip of the 3RB.

Period - None.

(NOTE: Final installment to be included in next ANNEX issue)



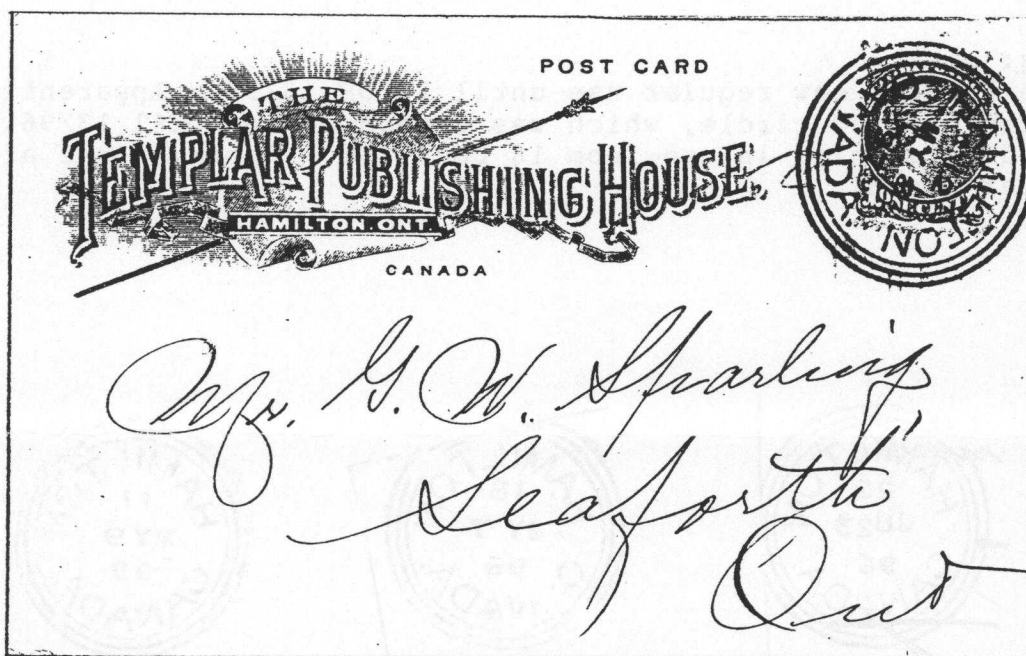
THE ORBS: DISCUSSION #1 - HAMILTON  
(Continued)

As you can see, the results are quite similar, with timemarks 3 to 6 unreported and timemarks 1-2, 7-10 and 20-24 being quite scarce. None of the early timemarks are reported for Sundays or holidays, but 4 of the 10 timemarks 23 and 24 are Sundays and holidays, a significant observation given the very low percentages in the table.

The orb hammer saw regular usage from April, 1896 to December, 1897, a bit over one and one-half years. There appears to be little hammer wear, as some Fall, 1897 strikes look as clear as early ones. The 1898-99 strikes (of which I have 12) are, with one exception, rather weak and sometimes smudgy. 3 of the 12 late dates are on non-standard rate items, indicating that the hammer may have been used for oversize mail not capable of use on the Bickerdyke machine. Bulky mail could also explain the weak and smudgy strikes, since my one exception identified above is a real nice transit backstamp on a normal cover.

For the next time, I'll discuss the TORONTO 2 RING orb cancels, the data of which was illustrated in ANNEX Volume 13, No. 3/58, July, 1990. Already I have some major changes for those lists.

18	.282	Cum
17	.15	.432
19	.139	.571
16	.088	.659
14	.066	.725
12-15	.059	.843
13	.041	.884
11	.029	.913
10	.018	.931
23	.011	.942
21	.010	.952
1-24	.008	.968
6		.992



1/NO 25/99 Late

3-H1 HAMILTON/CANADA.

Jim's:

Proof: Unknown

ERD: 15/AP 13/96~

15/AP 15/96

LRD: ?/JA 13/00\*

1/NO 25/99

Characteristics:

3 rings.

Outside ring diameter: 32 mm. Inner ring diameter: 27 mm.

Only one hammer.

Timemarks:

1, 2^, 7\*^, 8-24. 23 & 24 often used for Sunday dates.

Reported years of use:

96, 97, 98, 99, 00\*

Errors:

Comments:

Only one hammer, saw regular use until 18/DE 13/97. Apparently replaced squared circle, which was common up to April 13/96.

Bickerdike machine in use from 16 DEC/1897. Sporadic use after. Two letter month.



^ Joe Smith  
\* Hollingsworth article  
~ Graham Noble

Updated as of:  
Dec. 15, 1990