



THE ROUND-UP ANNEX

squared circle study group newsletter

VOL. 14
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DUES NOTICE FOR 1992

Since the last dues request in August, 1989 and with the help of the annual BNAPS stipend for study groups, we have managed to issue nine (9) newsletter editions, totaling 40 pages. With this November issue, the checkbook balance is a bit below "empty" and in need of a transfusion.

Dues for the year 1992 (and likely a bit beyond) will remain the same: \$5.00 in US funds, \$6.00 Canadian. Please remember to make the checks payable to Gary Arnold and not BNAPS or the Study Group. Also, if possible, please remit in US funds. For members who are paid-up in advance, I have included a note to that effect with this newsletter.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO JIM MILLER

I want to express my appreciation to Jim Miller for his contributions to the past several issues of the ANNEX. His articles on the ORBS have been most interesting and informative. To date, I have not received a significant volume of mail regarding ORBS; hopefully, as we squared circle collectors run across these cancels, additional interest will be generated.

REPORTS OF NEW FINDINGS

LUNENBURG, N.S. (Lee's No. 63) - New latest day of use on a (2 cent Numeral) issue; strike is dated AM/AP 19/99. *absolute*

new NORTH SYDNEY, N.S. (Lee's No. 63) - Inverted month and day indicia in a strike dated -/MR 2/99.

new LAURENTIDES, QUE. (Lee's No. 63) - New years of reported use, 1901 and 1902 on strikes dated -/8 JY/01 and -/OC 6/02 respectively.

CHELTENHAM, ONT. (Lee's No. 63) - New year of use, 1905 on strike dated -/NO 4/05.

new FLESHERTON, ONT. (Lee's No. 63) - New early reported date of use; strike of 3 cent Small Queen dated -/AP 24/94.

RIPLEY, ONT. (Lee's No. 63) - New late date for intitial period of use; strike is dated -/JA 07/01 on 2 cent Numeral.

new MORDEN, MAN. (Lee's No. 63) - New late date for "37" time mark: 37/DE 6/97.

new QUE & CAMP MC LOCAL NO. 20, HAMMER II, STATE 4 (Lee's No. 63) - First recorded strike with "E" direction indicia; on 2 cent Numeral, stike is partially dated E/? 18/?.

THE ORBS

By Jim Miller

Discussion # 4: TORONTO CANADA/STATION A

None of the squared circles from Toronto had lettered or numbered postal stations or sub offices; however some street branches have well known squared circles including Bleecker St., Parliament St., Queen St. East, Spadina Ave., Strachan Ave., and York St. Toronto Stations A, B, C, E, and F are known used in orb hammers while no named stations exist as orbs. Max Rosenthal wrote an article (Topics, Dec. 1970:318-321) describing the Toronto postal stations and their use of orbs, CDS, and duplex cancellations. He mentions Station A (pg. 321) having been opened in 1903 at Union Station, but "One does not see it on circular postmarks, because it became the main post office in Toronto housing the electric machine cancellers producing postmarks simply inscribed Toronto". Perhaps Max was not aware in 1970 that Station A did indeed have an orb hammer.

Dr. Hollingsworth makes the first reference I can find about the Station A orb in Maple Leaves, Feb. 1973:207-214. He identifies use from May 1909 to October 1911. With only one timemark (23) noted, I am led to believe he had only a couple of examples. Indeed, Station A appears to have a very limited use as I have only 5 examples and know of only one other. The use is lengthy however, from 6/AUG 2/07 to 23/APL 3/17. With so few examples available spread over a ten year period, it should be rather difficult to positively identify the purpose of the hammer. However, the relative scarcity of this cancel may help to identify its use. Upon examining what little information I do have, there appears to be a definite pattern. Here's the 5 examples I currently have in date order:

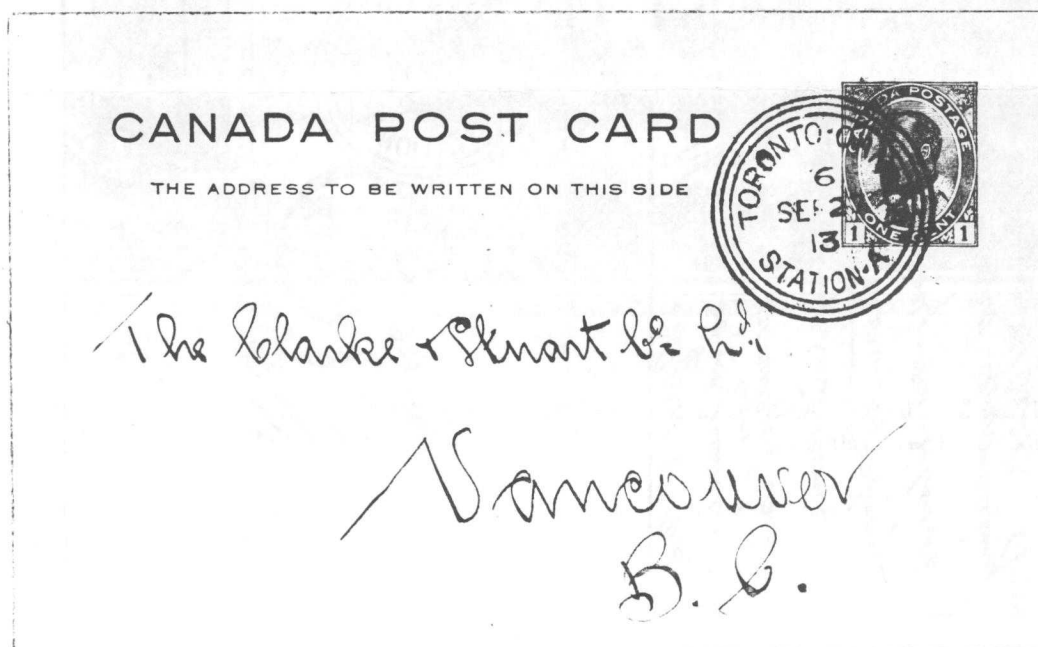
- #1 6/AUG 2/07 ties 2c. Edward #90 to normal cover to Montreal.
- #2 23/APL 18/13 transit strike on viewcard mailed from G.T.R. Stn./HAMILTON, CAN. PM/AP 18/13 CDS (RPO #DD-18) ties 1c. Admiral #104 to Consort, Alta. The card also has WAY/LETTER in circle (Jarrett #778).
- #3 6/SEP 27/13 on 1c. Edward postcard Webb #P22 addressed to Vancouver, B.C. The back is a printed 'thank you for order' notice from Geo. M. Hendry Co., Educational Supplies, 215-219 Victoria St., Toronto and is dated SEP 26 1913.
- #4 23/APL 26/16 A socked-on-the-nose strike on Admiral War Tax stamp #MR3.
- #5 23/APL 3/17 apparently a transit strike on a piece cut from a large brown kraft envelope with 3 x 5c. Admirals

#111 tied by several very smudgy LONDON, ONT. CDS strikes, date not discernable. The piece also has a weak strike of the WAY/LETTER in circle (Jarrett #778).

Since two of my five examples have the WAY/MAIL marking in common, is it possible that this orb hammer was designated for special handling use of Way Mail only? In Bob Lee's Feb. 9, 1991 auction No. 62, Lot #894, was a postcard very similar to my example #2, dated 23/APL 13/16 along with the WAY/MAIL marking. With three examples in three different years (1913, 1916, and 1917), and all with timemark 23, it would appear that this orb hammer may have had very specific special usage as a transit marking for Way Mail. My example #4 on the Admiral War Tax stamp and Hollingsworth's examples are all timemark 23 also, but these do not confirm the Way Mail usage.

My examples #1 and #3 appear like normal mail originating in Toronto. Both examples, 1907 and 1913, have timemark 6. My conclusion is that one postal clerk was in charge of this Station A orb hammer, working the graveyard shift handling transit of Way Mail at 11:PM (timemark 23) and then postmarking regular mail that came in too late the night before or may have been mailed in the wee hours of the morning, receiving the 6 timemark for 6:AM. The crisp, clean strike on my 6/SEP 27/13 postcard looks just as clean and clear as my 6/AUG 2/07 strike. After six years of use with little wear showing is another indication that usage of this hammer was very limited.

No doubt my thesis is weak and will need further confirmation with more examples. For now, the TORONTO/STATION A orb cancel is quite a scarce one, and given similar known quantities of squared circles and their values, the search should be on to find some Station A orbs! Good Luck!



3- TA1 TORONTO-CANADA/STATION-A

Jim's:

Proof: Unknown

ERD: 6/AUG 2/07

6/AUG 2/07

LRD: 23/APL 3/17

23/APL 3/17

Characteristics:

3 rings.

Outside ring diameter: 30 mm. Inner ring diameter: 25 mm.

Even size, even spaced rings.

Timemarks:

6, 23

Reported years of use:

07, 09*, 11*, 13, 16, 17

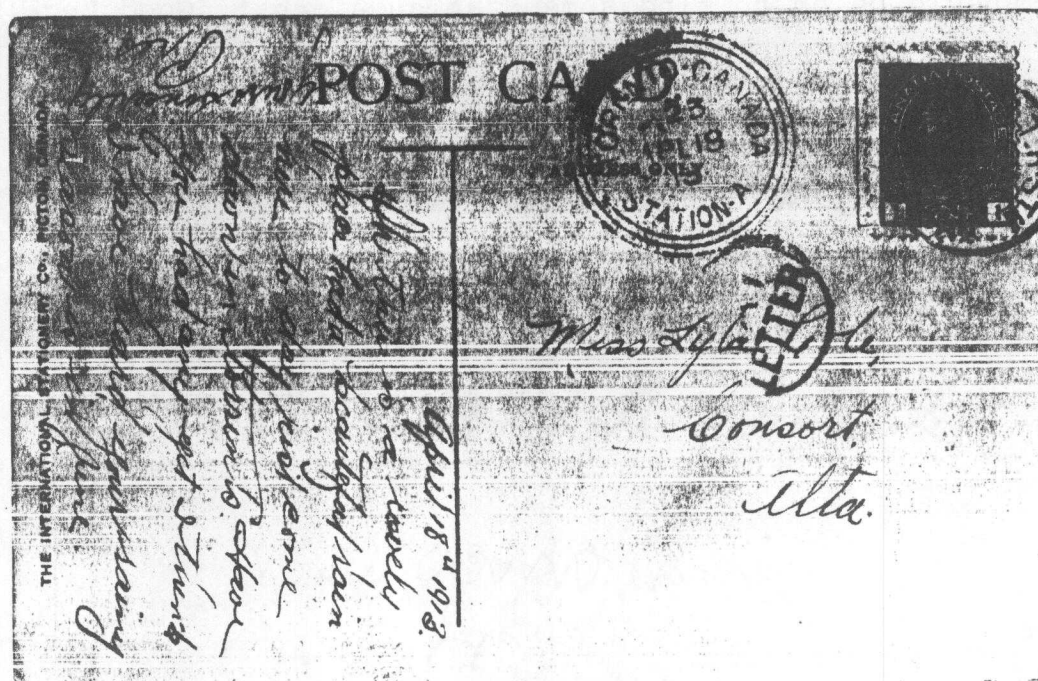
Errors:

Comments:

Only one hammer.

3 letter months

*Mr Robert R. Ford
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Quebec.*



Updated as of
May 1, 1991