

THE ROUND-UP ANNEX

squared circle study group newsletter

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HAMILTON, ONTARIO TIMEMARK STUDY

A few months back, I (Gary Arnold) was the successful bidder on an Admiral squared circle item from the Lew Ludlow collection. Along with the lot was included a photocopy of Lew's study on the timemark frequency distribution for the HAMILTON hammer, based upon some 2100 analyzed cancels.

As an avid collector of Admiral period squared circle strikes, the obvious thought was to determine if the Ludlow findings translated into the distribution for the Admiral period strikes. Unfortunately, I did not have a large number of recorded strikes for the HAMILTON strikes in the years 1913 and 1914; however, the 94 strikes available did provide a sufficient number to at least define a reasonable pattern.

The distribution for the entire HAMILTON hammer period, as defined by Lew Ludlow and the Admiral period reported strikes are presented below. I would welcome information on any Admiral period strikes and will update this listing in the future as warranted.

TIMEMARK	FREQUENCY ALL STRIKES	FREQUENCY 1913	FREQUENCY 1914	FREQUENCY 1913-14 COMBINED
7	0.5%	NO ADMIRAL PERIOD STRIKES		
8	0.5%	NO ADMIRAL PERIOD STRIKES		
9	1.0	2.0	11.4	6.4
10	2.0	10.0	4.5	7.4
11	5.0	4.0	2.3	3.2
12	6.0	0.0	6.8	3.2
13	4.5	6.0	4.5	5.3
14	5.5	8.0	11.4	9.6
15	5.0	6.0	4.5	5.3
16	7.5	2.0	2.3	2.1
17	14.5	4.0	11.4	7.4
18	33.0	18.0	9.1	13.8
19	12.0	14.0	9.1	11.7
20	1.0	0.0	4.5	2.1
21	0.5	NO ADMIRAL PERIOD STRIKES		
22	0.5	6.0	2.3	4.3
23	1.0	10.0	11.4	10.6
24	0.5	10.0	4.5	7.4

The above table indicates that timemarks 9,10, 22, 23 and 24 were more commonly used in the Admiral period as compared to the entire period and that timemark 16 was used less frequently in the Admiral period. Other time marks appear to reflect similar frequency of use.

THE ORBS

By Jim Miller

Discussion #7: OTTAWA/CANADA

The Classic Period, Hammers 3-01 to 3-03

Surprisingly after only one squared circle hammer was extensively used by OTTAWA from 1893 to 1905, a proliferation of 13 different OTTAWA orb hammers appeared during the 1905 to 1931 period. The OTTAWA type 1 squared circle's latest reported date of use is ?/DE 21/05, and the earliest orb date is 5/DE 26/05, making it rather obvious that the first OTTAWA orb (Hammer 3-01) was a replacement for the squared circle. Later use of the OTTAWA squared circle continued, but always with a nude date, apparently for a special use.

If we accept the orb hammers as successors to the OTTAWA squared circle, then we next need to identify the 13 orb hammers and their use periods. The OTTAWA orb use pattern is very complex, with up to three different hammers in use at the same time. Due to the complexity and large number of hammers, I have decided to split this discussion into four parts as follows:

Hammers 3-01 to 3-03, the classic orb period.

Hammers 3-04 and 3-05, the small diameter orbs.

Hammers 3-06 to 3-011, the later period.

Hammers 2-01 and 2-02, the two-ring OTTAWA orbs.

At this point I should mention there were another two OTTAWA orbs used exclusively by the Dead Letter Office, and these will be dealt with in the future.

The J. Paul Hughes/Robert A. Lee *Proof Strikes of Canada Vol. IX* illustrate some of the orb hammers. The table below matches the orb positions illustrated in Hughes/Lee's book, pg. 157, with hammer numbers as I have identified them.

	3-L2	3-02	3-03	3-04
3-05	3-07	3-08	2-01	3-09
3-010	3-011	2-02	3-TC6	3-TC7
3-T5	2-T2			

The OTTAWA orbs illustrated are almost exactly drawn to the correct size, and a photocopied acetate overlay made of this page will be your best way to identify the hammers, provided the photocopier you use makes exact size reproductions. I should caution you that the last 2-ring TORONTO orb shown (2-T2) is NOT shown at the proper size, nor are the first three TORONTO orbs illustrated on page 154.

Back to the 'classic OTTAWA orb period', I have identified three hammers: 3-01 with no known proof date, 3-02 proofed 9/DE 20/07, and 3-03 proofed 20/AP 29/10. The following spread sheets indicate that as each new orb hammer appeared, it came into concurrent use with its predecessor. The inventory I am working with includes the following: (fully dated strikes only)

3-01 250 stamps + 131 covers = 381 total strikes.
3-02 299 stamps + 45 covers = 344 total strikes.
3-03 76 stamps + 27 covers = 103 total strikes.

Dr. Hollingsworth's article in *Maple Leaves*, Whole No. 140, Vol. 14, No. 8, Feb. 1973, pp. 207-214, identifies only four OTTAWA hammers in total. The three listed in the 'classic period' are OK, Hollingsworth's No. 1 is 3-02, No. 2 is 3-01, No. 3 is 3-03, but his No. 4 is incorrect as there are two distinctively different (and concurrent use) small diameter orbs which I'll discuss in the next orb article. Also Hollingsworth makes no mention of the later 3-ring orbs 3-06 to 3-011, and he identifies only one 2-ring orb where there are two different hammers.

One of the curious features in the 1906 to 1908 period is the apparent smudgy nature of many of the strikes. Some often show a definite grid pattern, thus the suggestion they were struck through cheesecloth. While this looks entirely possible, I wonder what the purpose of this was for? I would appreciate your ideas on this one.

ERD & LRD orb updates:

In Discussion #2 (April 1991 Annex):

2-T1 New LRD DEC 28/11 PM/97 (Joe Smith)

In Discussion #3 (Oct. 1991 Annex):

3-L1 New LRD 13/AP 19/20 (Jim Karr)

In Discussion #6 (May 1993 Annex):

3-TC1 New ERD 20/JUN 24/03 (Jim Miller)

3-TC2 New LRD 17/JAN 16/06 for first period of use (Jim Miller)

3-TC5 New ERD 17/MAR 16/09 (Jim Miller)

3-TC5 New LRD 16/OCT 26/11 (Jim Miller)

3-TC6 New LRD 7/JAN 3/16 (Jim Miller)

3-TC7 New ERD 14/MAY 3/20 (Jim Miller)

Proof: Unknown

ERD: 5/DE 26/05

5/DE 26/05

LRD: 22/MR 20/12

22/MR 20/12

(See comments below)

Characteristics:

3 rings.

Outside ring diameter: 31 mm.

Inner ring diameter: 26 mm.

Even size, evenly spaced rings.

Wide 'W', wide 'NA', tall 'TT'.

'O' slightly oblong, definitely not a perfect circle.

Timemarks:

1, 5, 8 to 24

Reported Years of Use:

05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12 (See comments below re: 13 & 15)

Errors:

All indicia inverted: 19/JUL 31/07, 13/AU 29/07, 15/AU 29/07, 18/AU 29/07, 11/AU 30/07, yet other August 1907 dates are normal.

Inverted years: 15/OC 7/07, 11/NO 11/07, 14/AP 22/15 (see comments below)

17/3 DE/08^, 18/3 DE/08 with inverted '3' and reversed day/month.

10/25 ?U/10 with inverted '25'.

80/91 AP/81 probably for 18/AP 16/08, have normal 19/AP 16/08.

Comments:

Often smudgy appearance as though struck through cheesecloth.

2 letter months except JAN, JUN, JUL, but 11/JU 30/07 2 letter month.

LRD of squared circle (dated copy) is ?/DE 21/05, so reasonable to conclude this orb replaced the squared circle hammer. Note nude

Edw. & Adm. use of Ottawa squared circle contemporary with orbs.

Small but curious use gap 19/AU 2/08 to 13/SP 20/08, except lone example 15/SP 3/08. This gap is significant, because of heavy use of this hammer in 1908, also the lone example (15/SP 3/08 clear strike on #98) occurs in year date error period for SP 1908 for 3-02.

Regular usage through to 11/DE 29/08, then sporadic after.

This hammer probably replaced by 3-04 (Proof date 17/AP 2/12).

Dr. Hollingsworth identifies LRD of ?/DE ?/13*, which I suspect is in error. This hammer saw a late period regular use from 11/AU 8/11 to 22/MR 20/12. We have a year error of 14/AP 22/15 with the 15 inverted on 2c. Edward #90, I suspect this should be '12', if so this would be the LRD.



ERD 5/DE 26/05

* Hollingsworth article
^ Paul Roling

Updated as of:
June 1, 1993

3-02 OTTAWA / CANADA

Reported:

Jim's:

Proof: 9/DE 20/07

ERD: 12/DE 23/07

12/DE 23/07

LRD: 23/DE 23/13

23/DE 23/13

Late revival ERD: 12/OC 26/17

12/OC 26/17

Late revival LRD: 22/NO 5/17

22/NO 5/17

Characteristics:

3 rings.

Outside ring diameter: 30.5 mm. Inner ring diameter: 25.5 mm.

Even size rings, even spacing.

Wide 'W', narrow 'NA', shorter 'TT'.

'O' definitely circular.

Timemarks:

1, 8 to 24



Reported Years of Use:

07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17

Errors:

'80' for '08' year date: 23/SP 2/80 to 16/SP 5/80

Correct: 19/SP 2/08 and 22/SP 6/08

22/DE 30/07 with 'DE' inverted.

Comments:

Sometimes has appearance of struck through cheesecloth.

2 letter months except JAN, JUN, JUL.

Use gap 16/SP 22/08 to 20/JAN 4/09. Note 3-01 was returned to regular use 13/SP 20/08 after a short gap.

1917 strikes show a very worn hammer. Did the 1917 late revival period temporarily replace 3-04 (LRD of 15/OC 8/17) until 3-06 appeared (Proof 20/DE 6/17)?



Year date error 15/SP 3/80

Updated as of:
June 1, 1993

3-03 OTTAWA / CANADA

Reported:

Jim's:

Proof: 20/AP 29/10

ERD: 18/MY 2/10+

?/MY 4/10

LRD: 15/MR 28/15

15/MR 28/15

Characteristics:

3 rings.

Outside ring diameter: 30.5 mm. Inner ring diameter: 25.5 mm.

Even size, even spaced rings.

Narrow 'W', narrow 'NA'.

'O' is very circular.

Timemarks:

1, 8, 10, 11, 13 to 24

Reported Years of Use:

10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 (See comments re: 1928 date)

Errors:

'01' for '10' year date: 22/JUL 16/01# to 15/AU 9/01,

Correct: 18/JUL 13/10 and 22/AU 21/10.

11/SP 6/13 with year date inverted.

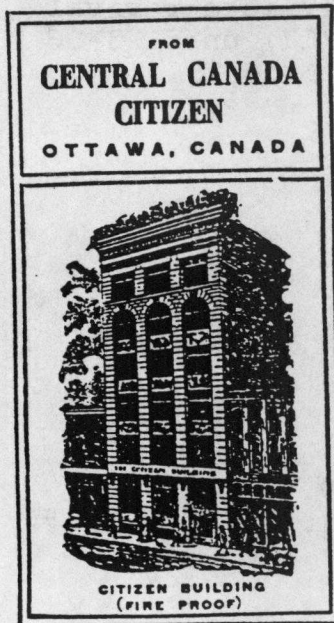
Comments:

First 'T' becomes quite short 14/MY 30/14 to end.

2 letter months except JAN, JUN, JUL.

3-05 (Proof 9/MR 13/15) may be the replacement hammer.

Jim Felton reports an LRD of 16/FE 17/28+, but I have not confirmed it, could be 3-07, 3-08, or 2-01 (which shows considerable wear in 1928 & could be confused with other hammers).



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Ont.

+ Jim Felton

Jim Karr

Updated as of:

June 1, 1993