

The Round-Up Annex
Squared Circle Study Group Newsletter

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ORAPEX 2003

As usual 2 days was not sufficient time to shake down all the dealer stocks and material availability exceeded that of funds to acquire same. Our meeting on Sunday (there was a good turnout) included Hoyles Kalbfleisch Kerzner Radcliffe Shaman Wagner Wegman.

NEW REPORTS

Montreal Hammer I - the first on-cover Jubilee report, a pair of 2 cents with 4 1-ct. small queens OC 23 P6/97 dispatch to Maine, in Bill Longley's stock.

Type I Beaverton - PM/OC91/95, probably 19th intended.

Dutton - period of blank above extended to -/NO 5/00, received from a dealer in British Columbia. Year missing on PM/2 ON/- (2c E7, note inverted MMDD line, Bruce Kalbfleisch).

London - timemark 15 on NO21/98, probably 1 intended and the 5 was left in from the previous day (Bruce Kalbfleisch).

Ottawa - I was recently offered 14/JU27/94 and 17/JY 8/96 which appear to be of questionable authenticity; it is difficult to explain how these would come about.

Type 2 Halifax I - an interesting year error 2/OC18/64 from Wayne Walton, I have 2/OC18/94.

North Sydney - also from Wayne, late use -/NO 1/02 on a 3c Victoria Numeral.

Baie Verte - 3-letter month JAN on -/JAN20/12, seen on eBay.

Aylmer (East) - inverted year 94 in top slot on 46/OC 3/-, Dave Robinson; this may be the earliest report from the 3rd Edition but we can't be sure (3rd Ed. doesn't mention inverts).

Danville - month missing -/--29/09 on 2c E7, Wayne Walton.

Hochelaga - May 94 use on MY30, Wayne Walton. Late use on -/AU11/94 (2 cent), received from a dealer in British Columbia.

Sherbrooke I - an 1898 PM strike on NO28, Wayne Walton.

Brantford - inverted AM on JY15/97, found in Frank Hoyles' stock. An isolated ?/OC 4/99 strike on 2c Numeral; this could be considered Period 2.

Cardinal - another day in the inverted month sequence on -/6 CO/97 (presumably the 9th of October, Bruce K.).

Dundas - the first report of an inverted timemark on MA/DE 7/99 (Bruce K.).

Flesherton - inverted month on -/PS 3/98, 3c Numeral, received from a dealer in Brit. Col.

Goderich - another "9" for the year in 96, -/AP 3/9 on postcard with other 96 marking, seen on eBay.

London - day missing on 5/OC /98 (Bruce K.). Late use in Period 3 on 20/NO23/20 on a 10c Special, reported by Dick Lamb.

Manitowaning - early use on -/SP 5/94 on 3c postal stationery entire, Ted Kerzner.

Peterborough - 1/SP19/?? on 2c purple numeral, no year showing but could be 98; late usage in Period 2.

Smiths Falls - the first report -/AP17/99 on a 15c Large, in Frank Hoyles' stock.

Thornhill - digit missing in year on AM/OC10/ 3 (2c Edward, Bruce K.).

Vienna - Lee's May sale has the first Map cover report, -/AP25/99.

Wallaceburg - early use on PM/AU31/94 with confirming receiver of Mount Brydges SP 1, seen in Toronto by Dave Robinson.

McGregor Station - Lee's sale has the entire indicia block inverted 39/5 ON/-, for -/NO 5/93.

Morden - I just discovered I have ? 7/04 (possibly ?17) partial on a 7c E7 (first 04 report), lurking on my album page, no idea where it came from or how many years it's been there.

Wolseley II - Lee's May sale has early use on -/OC14/95.

Nanaimo - 1944 usage on a special delivery, 7/MR 2/44 (Bruce K.).

Victoria III - another odd date on NT/3 JU/98 (3c Leaf), from Dave Eisenhauer.

Napinka & Winnipeg 2 - early use on EAST/JA31/94, Lee's May sale.

Souris & Winnipeg 1 - an unusual date error EAST/1AP1/94, in Lee's May sale; the corrected version EAST/AP11/94 is included in the same lot

OBSERVATION ON LONDON TYPE I

It has come to my attention that, during the numeral timemark period, 1 was the only mark used on Sundays but not all 1's are Sundays. I have (96) NO15; (97) FE14, FE28, MR 7, MY23, JU27, JY 4, SP19, SP26; (98) JA30, FE13, FE20, MR 7, AP10, JU 5. Joe Smith has (97) JY18, AU 1, AU15, AU22, SP 5, OC 3; (98) FE 6. Who can add to this list? I have available Appendix G listing Sunday dates in 1892-1902 which was mistakenly omitted from the Handbook; write or e-mail me & I'll send a copy

A PLUG FOR STAMPHEAD

One of the major problems facing humanity, in addition to deficits & the warmonger in the White House, is - what do you do with your duplicates? I was recently contacted by Stamphead Auctions of Sarnia & invited to participate. I had been trying for many months to get eBay to accept jpeg's of my stamps from my Mac into their auction site, without any success & without any cooperation at all from eBay's technical (service?) or the software vendor, Blackmagik. It turns out that Stamphead's system is much easier to use & troublefree. You might want to try it (<http://www.stamphead.com>)

BNAPLEX 2003

There will be a study group meeting @ London; visit the BNAPS website for latest details

THE ORBS

Jim Miller begins the discussion of the Toronto 3-ring hammers with Article No. 32, attached

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TORONTO's 3-RING ORBS

A Discussion Paper on the Five Different Hammers

Second only to the Winnipeg orb hammers in difficulty to sort are the five different 3-ring Toronto orbs. For research material, I have 3 previous articles (Hollingsworth, Rosenthal, Handelman) and about 5000 examples. The Hollingsworth article does not distinguish the first two hammers, the Rosenthal article does not distinguish any hammer, and the Handelman article identifies the first four hammers, but not the fifth. Additional difficulty in identifying the hammers lies in the following:

1. Hammers one and two are very similar.
 2. There is overlap in usage of all of the first four hammers.
 3. Proof strikes of the first two hammers are distorted, and no proof strikes exist for the 3rd and 4th hammers.
 4. Many strikes are poor or incomplete, making positive identification often impossible.
- Fortunately, the first 4 hammers had much usage, so an abundance of good strikes exists.

Using Acetate overlays and Handelman's criteria, I was able to sort my examples, and compile the attached data sheets. Due to the overlapping usage and close similarity of some hammers, one should have complete, clear strikes. Hammers 3-T1 and 3-T2 require the use of acetate overlays. Hammer 3-T3 is fairly easy to identify, as the o's are round compared to oval o's of the first two hammers. Handelman's article identifies the 4th hammer as "scarce", but I find it to be quite common, having several hundred in my collection. Since 3-T4 often tends to be poorly struck, there could be confusion with one of the earlier hammers. Hammer 3-T5 so far is elusive, known only as a proof strike dated 9/MR 16/14. It has side dots whereas the first four hammers do not.

There is a curious small time gap. I have identified OCT 30/7 PM/99 as the LRD for 3-T3 and DEC 22/1 PM/99 as the ERD for 3-T4. 3-T1 and 3-T2 were not in use during this gap period, but 3-T2 came back into use 12 PM/DEC 26/99 and overlaps with 3-T4 for several years after. No doubt this minor time gap will become shortened, or perhaps eliminated with further study.

References:

Hollingsworth, Dr. W. "Some Notes on the Three Ring Circular Date Stamps", Maple Leaves, Vol. 14, No. 8, Whole No. 140, Feb., 1973.

Rosenthal, Max. "Orbs and Postal Stations", BNA Topics, Vol. 27, No. 11, Whole No. 296, Dec., 1970.

Handelman, David. "Toronto's Two and Three Ring Orbs", BNA Topics, Vol. 30, No. 3, Whole No. 322, April, 1973.

Proof: 12 AM/FEB 19/91

ERD: 12 AM/FEB 21/91 12 AM/FEB 21/91

LRD: SEP 24/7 PM/96 SEP 24/7 PM/96

Characteristics:

3 rings.

Outside ring diameter: 33 mm. Inner ring diameter: 27 mm.

Outer spacing slightly wider than inner spacing.

'O' is slightly oval.

Straight of 'D' lines up with straight of 'R'.

Most strikes require acetate overlay for definite ID if dated after proof date for 3-T2 (3 AM/MAY 5/93). Example in Hughes/Lee Proof Book is distorted.

Hammer flaws listed below can help with hammer ID.

Timemarks:

8 AM to 12 AM, 1 PM to 12 PM

Reported Years of Use:

91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96

Unknown on Jubilee and Map stamps.

**Errors:**

DEC 7/7 PM/no year date-clear, clean strike on 3c. sm. qn. Also have

DEC 8/12 AM/no year date on cover w/1893 b/s. I have no other DEC 1893 examples, possibly entire month without year date?

7 PM/MAR 0/91 on card, message dated Mar. 10 & has MAR 11 b/s.

Comments:

Rosenthal article does not distinguish the 3-ring Toronto orbs!

Hollingsworth article does not distinguish the first two Toronto orbs!

Tm./month day/year from beginning to 6 PM/NOV 20/91, except JUN 11/6 PM/91. Month day/tm./year from NOV 27/7 PM/91 to end, except 10 AM/OCT 12/94 to 10 AM/OCT 30/94; 7 PM/APL 2/95 to 10 PM/APL 4/95; 7 PM/JUL 17/96; 9 PM/JUL 30/96 (dates between JUL 17 & 30 are normal)

3 letter months.

One use gap: MAR 11/7 PM/92 to AUG 18/7 PM/92.

3-T3 ERD is OCT 3/? ??/96, thus 3-T3 probably replaced 3-T1.

Contemporary with squared circle.

Hammer saw considerable abuse as numerous constant flaws appear:

1. Inner ring shows definite large break below straight of 'D' in CANADA 1 PM/APL 16/91 to end of use.
2. Outer ring shows definite large gap below first 'A' of CANADA DEC 13/7 PM/94 to end of use.
3. Inner ring shows tiny break below 'N' of CANADA from FEB 17/7 PM/92 to end of use.
4. Small dents in outer ring above 'ON' of TORONTO MAY 22/7 PM/93 to end of use.
5. Short top of last "A" of CANADA develops through mid-1893 & 1894 and remains to end of use. This helps separating 3-T1 & 3-T2.
6. Outer ring shows small break below 'N' of CANADA from FEB 18/7 PM/92, gradually fades away in 1895.
7. Outer ring shows small break opposite 'C' of CANADA from JAN 11/7 PM/92, gradually fades away by end of 1893.
8. Small break in middle of 'C' of CANADA DEC 11/12 PM/91, gradually fades away in late 1893.
9. Outer ring shows small break above 'R' of TORONTO JAN 12/7 PM/92, gradually fades away by end of 1893.