

KASLO, B.C. SQUARED CIRCLE: STATES 1 AND 2

Brian Copeland

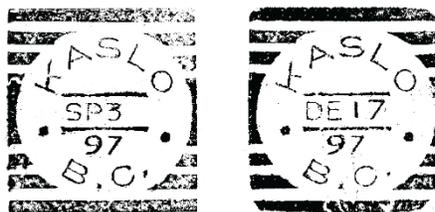


Figure 1. Kaslo squared circle. States 1 and 2

The Kaslo squared circle hammer was altered in late November or early December 1897. In three issues of the Roundup Annex (Nos. 77, 94 and 101), Jack Gordon reported that the corners of the hammer had been rounded, but he was only able to narrow down the date of the change to some time after Oct. 5, 1897. In RA-94, he stated, "It is now clear that a second (modified) state exists for this hammer." However, in the 5th edition of the squared circle *Handbook*, he did not formally list two states of the hammer, but said: "2 clear strikes in DE 97 on 3c s.q. and 1c Jubilee have rounded corners similar to Formosa, Ont. A strike on OC 5 97 has square corners."

The corners of the hammer could have become worn over time. However, the change in the strikes of the Kaslo hammer was abrupt and can be narrowed down to a period of just over a week. The hammer was deliberately altered, and so two states exist. A clear strike of the first state of the hammer from SP 3/97 is shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2. Kaslo State 1 (-/SP 13/97) to Vancouver

Figure 3 shows a cover from NO 25/97. The corners are still sharp. [I also have a strike on a 1 cent Jubilee cover dated NO 17/97 with sharp corners.] The cover in Fig. 3 has the latest strike of the first state of the Kaslo hammer that I have seen.



Figure 3. Kaslo State 1 (-/NO 25/97) to Salt Lake City.

The hammer was altered between Nov. 25, 1897 and Dec. 3, 1897. Figure 4 shows strikes from DE 3/97 and DE 17/97, both with rounded corners.



Figure 4. Kaslo State 2 (-/DE 3/97) and (-/DE 17/97)

Figure 5 shows a DE 21/97 cover mentioned by Jack Gordon in RA-101. The corners are rounded.



Figure 5. Kaslo State 2 (-/DE 21/97) on cover to Independence, Oregon.

KALSO, B.C. SQUARED CIRCLE: STATES 1 AND 2 (Continued)

Based on current information, the reported periods of usage for the two states are:

State 1: DE 6/94 - NO 25/97

State 2: DE 3/97 - DE 21/97

I have reports of State 2 on DE 3/97 (1 cent JUB); DE 14/97 (3c small queen, but corners do not show); DE 17/97 (3c small queen on piece); and DE 21/97 (3c small queen cover).

If readers have other examples of State 2 cancels, or strikes that can narrow down the timing of the hammer's alteration, it would be much appreciated if scans were sent to the editor.

WINNIPEG HAMMER III DAMAGED MR INDICIA

David Robinson sent along the following thoughts on the timeline for the damaged "R" in the month MR indicia found on March 1895 strikes.

The latest undamaged MR I have is 9/MR 27/95 (top row, right) and the earliest damaged MR is 1/MR 28/95 on a 5 Cent Small Queen (bottom row, left). That only leaves:

- *A later use of 9/MR 29/95 when the damage occurred.*
- *10/MR 27/95 could exist both damaged and undamaged*
- *An early issue on 1/MR 28/95 that is undamaged*



WINNIPEG HAMMER III DAMAGED MR INDICIA (continued)



To me, it seems like the MR slug is different on the 27th and 28th. The upper half of the R on the 27th looks narrower/smaller than the R on the 28th. Is this the result of the damage or was a different slug used? (See enlarged images to the left).

NEW REPORTS AND UPDATES

Hagersville, ONT: A new LRD for this hammer; strike on 8 Cent Leaf stamp is dated -/JU 13/98.

Smiths Falls, ONT: Strike on 6 Cent Numeral, dated -/DE 23/98; unreported on this stamp. Also, a third example of the use of a "1" time mark; the strike is dated 1/JY 13/00.



Scarce Lambton Mills, ONT Strike on Cover/Card (1 of 2 known) -/JU 9/99