

UPDATING THE HAMILTON PERIOD 1 DISCUSSIONS

The August 2024 ANNEX issue featured an article on Hamilton's latest reported date for Period 1. In response to this article, Aaron Gulliver noticed that the strike included in the article, dated 17/AU 13/96 on the 3 cent Small Queen (right), appears to be an ORB postmark and not a squared circle. Upon further examination, the strike definitely appears to be an ORB cancel.



For comparison, Aaron sent the squared circle and ORB images below, all dated April 13, 1896. Note the different shapes of the "O" of the squared circle and ORB strikes, as well as the location of the "O" relative to the date indicia.



Accepting that the August 1896 strike is an ORB strike, and further, that the that 4/OC 4/96 and 19/AP 15/96 strikes noted in the August ANNEX article are not confirmed, the Hamilton strikes on the 3 cent (from David Robinson) and 5 cent Small Queens (above left and right), both dated 11/AP 13/96, are the latest Period 1 strikes **that can be confirmed with an image**. Aaron also notes that the April 13th ORB strikes are the earliest use of the Hamilton ORB postmark.

Based on the above discussions and assuming the April and October 1896 strikes noted in the above paragraph remain unconfirmed, **the 2024 Handbook update will indicate the latest reported date for Hamilton's Period 1 will be 11/AP 13/96.**

NEW REPORTS AND UPDATES – TYPE ONT and NOVA SCOTIA



Dutton, ONT: A double strike on an 8 cent Small Queen. The strikes were applied on a 180 degree orientation, with the interior bars overlapping. Strike is dated -/DE 23/93 (Far left)

St. Hilarion, QUE: First reported strike on the 1898 Map stamp; very partial strike with "6" in the month space

Stellarton, NS: First reported strike on a 10 cent QV Numeral dated -/SP 13/? (Above, right)

NEW REPORTS AND UPDATES – ONTARIO

Kingston, ONT, Hmr 1: First reported strike on a 2 cent Small Queen issue; strike on stamp dated 3/DE 19/93.

Lindsay, ONT: First reported strike on a 10 cent Jubilee; strike dated PM/DE 11/97 (Below left)

London, ONT: First reported strike on a 20 cent Widow Weed issue; strike dated AM/SP 19/95 (Below, second from left)



Merrickville, ONT: Additional example of zero spacer in the day; strike on 3 cent SQ dated ?/FE 05/95.

Port Arthur, ONT: New **Earliest Reported Date** for Period 2; strike on 2 cent Edward stamp dated -/DE 2/06.

Port Arthur, ONT: Additional 3 letter month indicia; strike on 1 cent Edward stamp dated -/JUN 30/07

Port Perry, ONT: Day before month indicia error; strike on 3 cent SQ stamp dated -/01 AP/95

Powassan, ONT: Second reported 1901 dated strike; on 2 cent QV Numeral (red) dated -/?E 4/(0)1.

Powassan, ONT: Second reported 1902 dated strike; on 2 cent QV Numeral (red) dated -/SP 11/02.

Prescott, ONT: New Earliest Reported Date for an AM or PM time mark; examples on a 3 cent SQ and a 5 cent Registration stamp, both dated PM/AU 22/93

Prescott, ONT: First report of an AM time mark in the Blank TM period; strike on 3 cent SQ dated AM/JY 25/95 (Above, second from right)

Ripley, ONT: Additional date for zero spacer in day; strike dated PM/NO 02/97 (Above, right)

SYDNEY, NS COLOURED SQUARED CIRCLE POSTMARKS (Rick Freisen & Brian Copeland)

“ We would like to report the first coloured Squared Circle postmarks from Sydney, NS, both struck in January 1899. The first is dated -/JA 4/99 on a Map stamp cover (below, left). The portion of the tying cancel that is on the envelope definitely looks to be reddish-purple, while the portion on the stamp is more of a deep purple, possibly from a chemical reaction with the ink pigments in the Map stamp over the last 125 years.

Support for this hypothesis is found on a second cover. Struck only 3 days later on -/JA 7/99, the 2¢ Numeral cover shown below, right, confirms the use of reddish-purple ink in Sydney in early 1899”



SQUARED CIRCLE POSTMARKS ON THE 2¢ ENVELOPE OF 1895 (EN9 OR U7) (Rick Freisen)

The 2¢ envelope Webb EN9 (or Unitrade U7) was issued on June 14, 1895, and a total of 94,970 envelopes were printed. The main intended use of EN9 was to pay the drop letter rate for towns with local delivery service. However, this service was available in only 14 cities prior to January 1, 1899, when the 2¢ rate became the general first class rate domestically and to the USA. Thus, prior to 1899 the predominant use of the EN9 envelope was to pay a partial rate by uprating with additional franking.

I have begun to document the use of Squared Circle postmarks on these envelopes and my preliminary results are reported in the table below where the number of envelopes for that hammer are listed. An accompanying asterisk (*) indicates that the current online squared circle handbook does not report a strike on a 2¢ envelope for that hammer. However, it should be noted that for hammers that list a strike on a 2¢ envelope, the handbook typically does not specify which one it is - EN9, EN12, EN13, EN17 etc.

53 of the 61 documented EN9 envelopes are uprated. Only 8 do not have additional franking and 5 of these are drop letters used as initially intended and posted prior to the rate reduction in 1899 (Halifax H2 (Figure 1 on the following page), Ste. Cunegonde, 2 x Winnipeg H1, Victoria). Other envelopes without additional franking include an Ottawa cover sent to England in 1899 (properly rated at 2¢ according to the Imperial Penny Postage scheme), and a domestic cover sent from Lindsay to Toronto in 1900. A third example is interesting because it is an 1896 Yarmouth drop letter (Figure 2 on the following page). Since Yarmouth did not have local delivery service in 1896, a drop letter was rated at 1¢ postage. So, either this example is (a) a double weight drop letter, or (b) a drop letter overpaid by 1¢.

Squared Circle Hammer	Number of Strikes	Squared Circle Hammer	Number of Strikes
LONDON / ONT. (Type 1)	3*	HAMILTON / CANADA.	2
OTTAWA / CANADA	1	KINGSTON / CANADA (H2)	3
WESTVILLE / N.S.	1*	LINDSAY / ONT.	2
HALIFAX•N.S. / CANADA (H1)	3*	LONDON / ONT. (Type 2)	1
HALIFAX•N.S. / CANADA (H2)	3*	MANITOWANING / ONT.	1
KENTVILLE / N.S.	1*	PARIS / ONT.	6
TRURO / N.S.	3	PETERBOROUGH / ONT.	1
YARMOUTH / N.S. (S2)	2*	STOUFFVILLE / ONT.	1*
FREDERICTON / N.B.	2*	TORONTO / CANADA.	1*
SI•JOHN•N.B. / CANADA (H1)	1*	BLEECKER ST. / TORONTO	3
HULL / QUE. (H2)	1*	YORK•STREET / TORONTO	1*
SI•CUNEGONDE / QUE.	1*	WATERLOO / ONT.	1*
BELLEVILLE / ONT. (H2)	1	WINNIPEG / MAN. (H1)	2*
BELLEVILLE / ONT. (H3)	1*	WINNIPEG / CANADA (H3)	3*
GEORGETOWN / ONT.	1	EDMONTON / ALTA.	1
GODERICH / ONT.	3	VICTORIA / B.C. (H2)	3
		VICTORIA / B.C. (H3)	1

SQUARED CIRCLE POSTMARKS ON THE 2¢ ENVELOPE OF 1895 (EN9 OR U7) (Continued)



Figure 1. EN9 used as a drop letter in Halifax

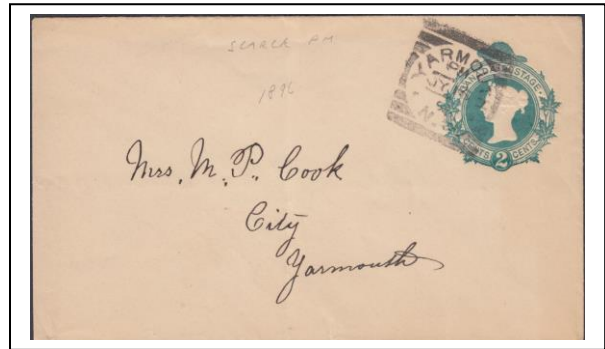


Figure 2. EN9 used as a drop letter in Yarmouth

If readers have EN9 envelopes with squared circle strikes that they have not reported to me, please send scans to rickfriesen5@gmail.com. I intend to publish a more detailed census on the BNAPS website in the next year.

NANAIMO, BC SQUARED CIRCLES

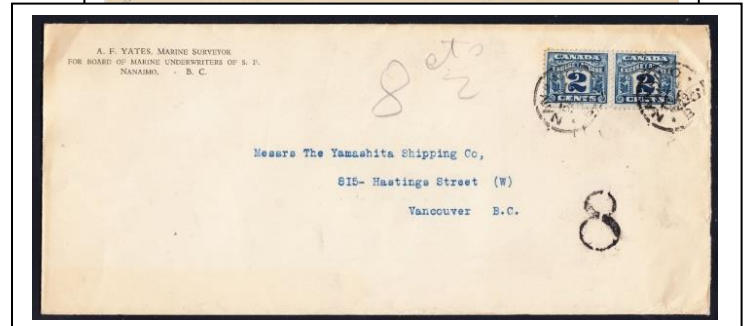
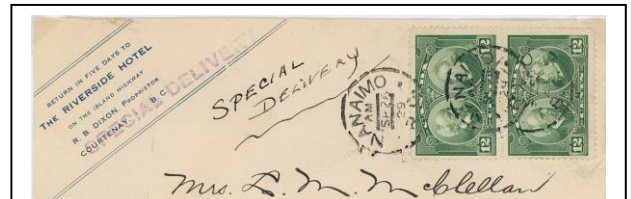
Both Brian Copeland and Aaron Gulliver, active collectors of Western postal history, including Nanaimo, BC postmarks. Aaron provided a numerical inventory of their State 1 and 2 Nanaimo squared circle collections, both on-cover and off-cover strikes, included in the table below.

Source	State 1 Off cover	State 1 On cover	State 2 Off cover	State 2 On cover
Handbook	403	37	739	117
Copeland/Gulliver	497	41	641	291

Note that the number of strikes in the Copeland/Gulliver collections generally exceed the current Handbook quantities, which indicates that the Handbook numbers are on the low side. The Copeland/Gulliver totals for the State 1 hammer change the RF from the current 25 to RF 20.

Brian Copeland sent a scan of the cover (top), posted Special Delivery; strikes dated AM/SP 26/29. Aaron Gulliver sent the scan of the cover to the right with the use of excise tax stamps, which were disallowed and treated as unpaid; note the "8 ct" notation which represents a penalty of double the prevailing single weight letter rate. Strikes are dated AM/DE 2/29.

Brian noted that these covers may be the only 1929 dated strikes of the Nanaimo BC State 2 hammer.



REQUEST FOR INPUT – NIAGARA ONT STRIKES

Rick Friesen is compiling a list of all NIAGARA/ONT. squared circle strikes and requests the following:

“Please send a list of your NIAGARA/ONT. strikes to rickfriesen5@gmail.com. The list should include strike date and the stamp issue. If the strike is on cover, a scan would be appreciated. Thank you.