

Treatment: This exhibit covers the three categories of cancels can be linked to the appearance of a free home postal carrier system: SORTING cancels (with dispatch/time /month/date/year indicia) are found in great quantity on covers in the 1872-1904 period but not all of them, DISTRICT DISPATCHING cancels with CARRIER on top and a DISTRICT identification at the bottom are found on some covers in the 1874 to 1884 period and finally cancels relating to the RECEIVING HOUSES on a few cover from 1874 to 1906.

Why three (3) types of cancels appearing around the same year (1874); a working hypothesis would be that they had different functions.

The SORTING carrier marks (small circle cancels), as suggested by J. Houser, could be used to verify the diligence of the letter carrier by putting a time mark on the letters. All the sorting is done in the Head Office; not all letters received a date stamp, we suppose that maybe only the top letter in each sorting slot received a dispatch/timed SORTING cancel.

The DISTRICT (carrier marks) cancels served another function; after sorting it is necessary for the central post office to identify the district where they should be sent. To explain the lesser number of these cancels in relation to the SORTING carrier marks, we can suppose that only the top letter in each route or even each batch prepared for the Receiving House received a DISTRICT DISPATCHING cancel indicating the district.

The RECEIVING HOUSES hammers were distributed and used in each of them and not at the central office as the two previous hammers. They would be used on mail received at the receiving house: registered letters or oversize mail that could not be dropped in the mail boxes, undeliverable mail returned by the letter carriers and re-entering the postal system or mail handed to the carrier during his oute.

Development: The exhibit's structure, after a short portion on precursor

markings, revolves around the three (3) types of cancels mentioned in the treatment section. It will present in a chronological order the evolution of each type of cancel (type of usage, indicia used, introduction of sub-types...)

Completion: The three categories of cancels that appeared at the beginning of the free home postal delivery by carrier are all covered in this exhibit: SORTING cancels, DISTRICT DISPATCHING and finally cancels relating to the RECEIVING HOUSES. With these three cancels, we can cover the whole home delivery process and this is the limit of the scope of this exhibit.

Another interesting field is the Montreal cancels used in the period on mail either received, dispatched or transiting. These are not within the scope of this exhibit.

Balance: Even if the number of covers studied is unequal between the three types of cancels, each type has as much importance as the other one so each is given a third of number of pages available.

Exactness: This exhibit is based on an hypothesis of the process of free home delivery in Montreal based on the analysis of more than fourteen hundred (1400) covers addressed to Montreal. The data was organised in Excell spread sheets to produce graphs and statistics.

Philatelic importance: Even if those cancels have been used more than 140 years ago, little has been written on the subject since the articles published by J. Houser in TOPICS some 50 years ago. He only addressed the subject of the "so called Carrier marks" that I grouped as SORTING cancels. I expended the search to include the DISTRICT DISPATCHING cancels and the RECEIVING HOUSE cancels as they all began to be used together (see taxonomy annex for details). The free home delivery of mail is an important evolution in the Canadian postal service.

Knowledge, study and research: This exhibit is the result of personal research based on the items I own, resulting from the regrouping of a personal collection to a collection built by M. Rixon. My

collection now contains more than 1200 SORTING cancels, 235 DISTRICT DISPATCHING cancels and 80 RECEIVING HOUSE cancels. The quantity and quality of available material made it possible to identify sub-types, periods of usage, ...

Annexed to the synopsis are 3 pages of personal research: 1- a diagram presenting an hypothesis of how the mail was distributed and cancelled in Montreal; 2- a taxonomy of the 3 types of cancels associated with mail distribution in Montreal (showing predecessors work) and 3- a table of data on the number of strikes studied, ERD, and LRD for the various cancels used.

The articles written by C. de Volpi and J. Houser in TOPICS and an unpublished research by G. Teyssier were the basis for theoretical information.

A series of four (4) articles is in preparation for publication later this year in TOPICS to present the complete results of this research.

Rarity: Even with access to numerous cancels some of them are rare: SORTING cancels - sub-type V-19mm (2 copies); DISTRICT DISPATCHING cancels - CARRIER HEAD OFFICE type 1 (3), CARRIER EAST DISTRICT type 1 (5); RECEIVING HOUSE cancels - MONTREAL WRH type 1 (4), MONTREAL N.R.H. type 2B (2); MONTREAL-N.R.HOUSE type 3 (1).

Condition: The material presented in this exhibit dates mostly back to the late Victorian period (1870's to early 1900's). As the items are selected primarily for the quality of the cancels, some of them will show signs of aging.

Presentation: The general presentation is based on a minimum of half a page allocated for each item or group of items for each hammer. All hammer changes are identified. Special items will be surrounded by a red rectangle.

SPECIAL ITEMS

TAXONOMY OF MONTREAL CARRIER RELATED STRIKES					
BÉLISLE 2018		DESHAYE 2011	TEYSSIER 1996	HOUSER 1968	
SORTING (CARRIER MARKS)		Small circle		I	16
			3E		16.5
	I-17		3F		17
	I-17.5		3G		
	I-18				
		18	3B	V	18
	V-19		3D		
	V-20	20			
		20,5	3A		
	V-21				
	V-22	22	3C		
DISTRICT	1A (HO, W, N, E)	1 (HO) 1 (E, W, N)		VIII	
	1B (HEAD OFFICE ONLY)	2 (HEAD OFFICE)	1 (ALL DISTRICTS)	IX	
	2 (W, N, E)	2 (W, N, E)	2	X	
	3 (W, N, E)	3 (W, N, E)	2	III	
RECEIVING HOUSE	1	1			
	2A		1		
	2B	2	3		
	3		4		

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TEYSSIER, G.: Les marques des bureaux de réception et de facteurs de Montréal: 1874-1904, copy of personal collection, undated, unpublished.

TEYSSIER, G.: MONTREAL, 1ER OCTOBRE 1874: La distribution gratuite du courrier, Bulletin d'histoire postale et de marcophilie, Bulletin No43 – Avril 1992, p. 7-12.

TEYSSIER, G.: La poste urbaine a Montréal – Introduction au service/essai de classification, Conférence prononcée devant les membres de l'Académie Québécoise d'Études Philatéliques (A.Q.E.P.), 18 MAI 1996.

DESHAIE, H.: Personal notes, unpublished.

BÉLISLE, L.: Articles to be published in TOPICS later this year.

STATISTICS ON MONTREAL CARRIER STRIKES

	HAMMER TYPE	TYPE	ILLUSTRATION	UPPER INSCRIPTION	LOWER INSCRIPTION	ERD	LRD	NB
SORTING	CIRCULAR DATE STAMP	I				1884-11-29	1903-04-04	1128
	CIRCULAR DATE STAMP	V				1872-03-25 1887-07-20 1888-12-23 1889-04-09 1891-04-25	1886-02-02 1887-07-20 1888-12-24 1889-04-09 1891-04-27	332
DISTRICT	SPLIT CIRCLE	1A		CARRIER	HEAD OFFICE	1875-12-20 - 4	1876-02-15 - 6	3
					EAST-DIST	1875/07/24 - 3	1878/12/24 - 1	5
					WEST-DIST	1875/10/06 - 1	1879/07/31 - 1	23
					NORTH-DIST	1875/04/19 - 4	1878/12/14 - 1	33
	SPLIT CIRCLE	1B		CARRIERS STAMP	HEAD OFFICE	1876-03-17 - 1	1877-04-20	27
	CIRCULAR DATE STAMP	2		CARRIER	EAST-DIST	1878/10/02 - 1	1882/02/25 - 1	15
					WEST-DIST	1879/04/25 - 2	1882/03/06 - 2	50
					NORTH-DIST	1879/02/21 - 4	1882/01/02 - 1	18
	CIRCULAR DATE STAMP	3			E	1882/04/11 - 1	1884/06/10 - 1	10
					W	1882/04/20 - 1	1884/12/24 - 1	21
					N	1882/05/09 - 3	1884/11/20 - 3	31
RECEIVING HOUSE	NO RIM	1		MONTREAL	ERH			
					WRH	1874/12/18 - 2	1891/05/14 - 11	4
					NRH	1875/03/18 - 8	1894/03/07 - 8	9
	SPLIT CIRCLE	2A 22mm		MONTREAL	E.R.H.			
					W.R.H.			
					N.R.H.	1894/09/17 - 12	1894/12/12 - 8	2
	SPLIT CIRCLE	2B 25mm		MONTREAL	E.R.H.	1890/08/05 - 5	1904/08-22 - 1?	42
					W.R.H.			
					N.R.H.	1896/09/08 - 8	1906/10/16 - 3	24
	CIRCULAR DATE STAMP	3		MONTREAL-E.R.HOUSE	.			
				MONTREAL-W.R.HOUSE	.			
				MONTREAL-N.R.HOUSE	.	1895/08/30 - 3		1

COLOR LEGEND

IN BLACK: MAIL MOVING IN MONTREAL

IN BLUE: WORK DONE AT HEAD OFFICE

IN RED: WORK DONE IN RECEIVING HOUSE

