

**BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS STUDY GROUP
NEWSLETTER 35**

Dave.Lacelle
Apr. 2004

• **Group News,**

I (we) must be doing something right, I have a large amount of material for this newsletter. Thanks to all for sending this in, please send more! Sixteen people sent information for the newsletter - WOW!

On a similar topic I note that the Large and Small Queens Study Group is in need of newsletter material, many of our members are in both groups, or have a strong interest in S.Q.'s. Please help them out if you can. Email <<laudron@yahoo.com>>.

Personally I have a request for information from both groups.

Would you please send in any details (scan/photocopy preferred) of bisected Small Queens.

John Hillson and I have been discussing this subject and it seems that there is enough new information for a short Topics article. I have about ten references to postal use of bisected Small Queens, the only detailed article I could find on them was on the two cent bisect only, Topics, Vol. 8, 1951. We are particularly interested in the bisects usually attributed to Henry Hechler from Halifax N.S. in the mid 1880's.

I would also like to mention that John has a great introductory article on Fancy Cancels on the home page of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain. The article is very well written extensively illustrated, and touches on most basic aspects of our field. My one criticism is that our study group is not mentioned, an opportunity to 'cross promote' was thus missed. Site is <<www.canadianpsgb.org.uk>>

The article above has some details on cancel forgery detection, something I have written about occasionally as well (see Newsletter 28). With so many people sending in items for this newsletter, the topic of authenticity will arise several times. As many of you know, I freely give opinions on authenticity, however, I am very rarely 100% certain. In order to resolve this problem, I state my opinion on a "one to ten" scale, a "ten" is unquestioned authenticity and a "one" is something you would not give to your worst enemy. The downside to giving opinion is that I sometimes have to 'dump' on an item someone may have spent considerable money on, and then went to the trouble of sending to me for either an opinion or inclusion in the newsletter. If anyone's feelings (or pocket book) are hurt by too low a scale value (3 or lower), I wish to apologize. However my opinions are sincere, and are based upon twenty years of (hobby) research in this field. There are about 23 different ways to check for cancel authenticity, some are very technical, and many require a cover or piece.

A somewhat related issue is that I often run items in this newsletter, and ask if the membership has any further information. **Please answer if you do.** Many of these items are new to me, and if other uses are known, this information can go a long way to establishing authenticity. Consistency of use, ink type, date stamps, stamp issue/printing, wear details, etc. are all useful information to determine authenticity, See the new listing "BL" (L 301) in Newsletter 34 for example.

I have debated whether or not to mention the following, however... We all have a certain value tied up in our collections, and have a desire to know as to whether or not this value is retained. I have been selling the reference collection used for the preparation of my book through R.A. Lee <<www.robertaleeauctions.com>> in small lots for sometime now. I must advise that this is a specialized "reference" collection, and is thus not a typical stamp collection, in that the stamps were chosen for cancel strike quality, rather than stamp quality. The collection was never meant as an investment, nor for exhibit or show, and thus does not concentrate on 'eye-candy', or expensive items. So, how are the sales going? For Mr. Lee's last sale (No. 109) I prepared 70 lots, one was as returned as 'too small for sale', ten did not sell, and the remainder sold for 116% of my estimate. Other sales have been similar. The "not solds" will have to be lumped together as larger lots in the future. I am very pleased with the results so far. Thank you for your purchases, I hope that the recycling of my material will be enjoyed by many in the future. (Hint there will be about 100 lots for sale from my collection in Mr. Lee's next sale (June?), on line bidding is now available.)

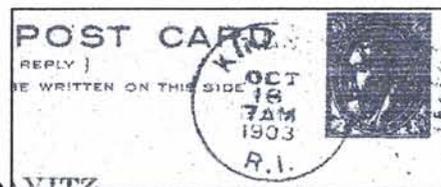
We have three new members; Mr. J. C. Carleton, 90 Greyabby Trail, Toronto, ON, M1E 1V7; Mr. G. Power, RR# 2, Lisle ON, L0M 1M0 and Mr. J. C. Rogers, 418 Needham Way, Saskatoon SK, S7M 4X7.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to do any further work on our proposed WEB page. This will be a major learning experience for me, and I have just not been able to find enough time.

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 32, "Way Letter in circle", Mr. Rogers reports a cover with Feb. 3, 1876 date, this is ten months earlier than previously reported in Newsletter 33.

Newsletter 33, page 2, under "Correspondence and Queries", I had referred to USA cancels on Canadian UPU "Reply Cards", and stated that I was not sure if this was correct, or favour usage. Robert Lemire has confirmed that this is correct use and referred me to another example in BNA Topics, July 1999, pg. 51. This Canada Reply portion has the printed stamp cancelled by a Kingston R.I. (Rhode Island) Oct. 16 1903 CDS.



Newsletter 33, page 4, Brian Hargreaves first item, an intaglio numeral "108" mirror image on Sc. 82. Brian has sent in another example on a one cent S.Q. As Sc. 82 was issued in 1898, Small Queen use is also reasonable. Any other examples out there?



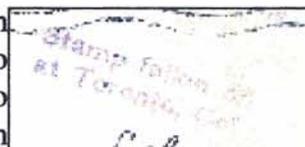
Newsletter 33 and 34, Barkerville BC star, (see Lacelle 960). Bill Topping has sent in confirming information that this indeed from Barkerville, date of use Aug. 1897 his strike is at left below. Thank you Bill. Also, Bill and Brian Hargreaves have reminded me that there was another star from Barkerville, Lacelle 66. This other item has a very small typeset "3" visible inside the star in the early state of the cancel. Late state example from Brian is below, centre. Use was from Feb. 1895 to Mar. 1898.



Newsletter 34, "Enquiry Office/Post Office Toronto", Mr. J.C. Rogers has sent in quite a bit of further information. He has this marking on two strips of three, three cent S.Q.'s, Feb. and June 1896. He also refers to a block of twelve three cent S.Q.'s, and several singles with this cancel. This usage on multiples seems to indicate that the Enquiry Office was used for higher value items or those that require some special handling. I have also noted that in one of Bill Longley's listings there is an official OHMS mailing from Toronto Post Office (ms "From Toronto Post Office about lost PC") May 6 1887 with standard Toronto CDS, and an oval blue ink "Post Masters Office Toronto" marking where a stamp would otherwise be. This indicates that an autonomous "special handling" unit existed in 1887, as was also the case in the 1870's.

Newsletter 34, page 5, bottom. The Post card is actually double cancelled, the CDS was a duplex cancel device. Perhaps the roller was used as it was a weak cancel.

Newsletter 34, page 6. "Stamps fallen off at Toronto" marking. John Hillson reports another cover with this marking from 1937. It appears to have been rather damp at Toronto Sept. to Nov. 1937. Dean Mario also sends in a double struck example (at right) from Oct. 1947. This is in purple, and is slightly different.



CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

Bob Stock has sent in a very interesting pair of printed stationary Post Cards with the Masonic cancel L 1318. I had listed this as a "dubious" item (i.e. a "3" or "4" on my 1 to 10 scale) from Embro Ont. Feb. 1881, also on printed Post Card. (I listed some dubious items as I was uncertain about them, yet others {usually Day and Smythies, Jarrett or in this case Masonic Philatelist} had listed them as genuine.) Mr. Stock's cards are from Eastwood Ont., and Tavistock Ont. All three towns are in Oxford County, all three cards are addressed to the same firm in Hamilton Ont. There are three possibilities.

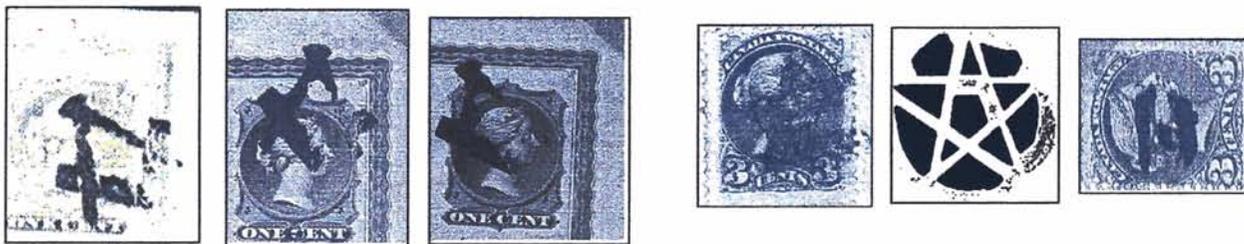
1. A receiver cancel from Hamilton. Thus is unlikely as there are no other Masonic cancels known from Hamilton, nor any L 1318 covers other than these to this company. Hamilton is listed in our book as having 17 fancy cancels, yet almost all were modifications from official

P.O. cancels. The exceptions were; carved "16's" (L 143 & 144) used from 1858 to 1866, and an unconfirmed "cross" cancel (L 1071) from 1872.

2. A common transit mark, such as an R.P.O. This is unlikely as it would require consistent use over eight months, and would probably been reported on covers going to other places.

3. A bogus item.

I have mentioned in the past how large accumulations of printed post cards to commercial establishments have occasionally come on the philatelic market. They are from old corporate files, and in many cases the stamp portion is not cancelled as there was no reason to cancel a used printed post card. This type of material is an easy source for the production of fake or bogus cancels. All three strikes appear below, the first is from a poor photocopy, and will probably not reproduce well. In all three, the Masonic cancel is much darker than the CDS, and all are weak on the right side (thus indicating a left handed striker), the CDS's are bit weak on the left side. Does anyone else have Canada Post Cards to Simpson Stuart and Co., Hamilton Ontario, (1880's) with fancy or "fiddled" cancels?

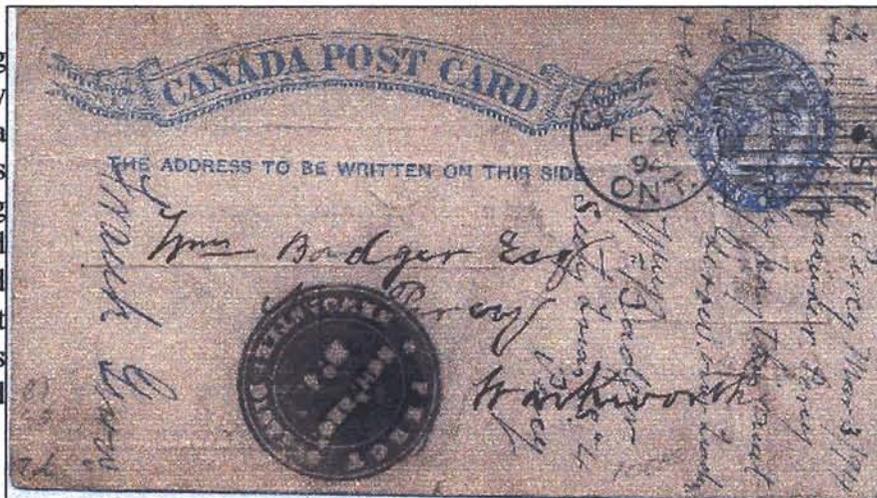


Bob has also sent along a confirming cover for our L 998, Burgessville C.W. Feb. 1878. This star was reported in D&S, but could not be confirmed by me. I should also be able to make a better illustration from this strike. He also sent in an example of the B&LHRR (Railway Post Office) cancel L 974 (second star, from file image) originating in Tavistock Ont. His last item is from Hickson Ont. May 1891. He suggests an that it is probably an "H" town initial cancel. This cancel is triple struck on the cover, each strike is weaker as the ink ran out, both these details add to authenticity. Does anyone have another strike?

Bob Lane has written asking if the study group is interested in markings which are not Post Office related, such as; date stamps by the Dominion Lands Agency, Customs, etc. Some of these were written up in Newsletter 25. I am interested in these markings as they sometimes add to the story of a cover and it's travels. (See the next paragraph also.) They are also sometimes used as cancels (L1273, D572 etc.). They can also be a source of confusion when mixed up with fancy cancels when they fall on a stamp. Some of the revenue/fiscal cancels are another case, they cancel stamps, yet are not postal use.

Brian Hargreaves has sent in several items. The first is can be considered an example of one of the non postal markings referred to above. This "Percy Newcastle District SCH ??? No 4" (next page) marking is on a printed stationary post card, with CDS Cobourg, Ont., Feb. 21 1894, and with manuscript request (and follow up authorization) for some funds for the teacher (Miss Gerow) at this school district. The marking certainly adds to the visual and historical nature of the cover.

I have seen a stamping device which was very similar to this in use at a municipal office. It was made in 1885. The stamping surface is a black hard vitreous surface, outer and inner rings are bronze. It appears that hot type is pressed into the surface, and the surface is then hardened.



Brian's other items are; firstly our D150 "BSD" with part "-altcoa--" CDS letters , (Saltcoats Assa?) This has some resemblance to U.K. "NPB" (Newspaper Branch, D 318), or "FB" (Foreign Branch, D 203) markings as in the second cut below. Is this perhaps another of these "non postal markings"? This item also ran in newsletter 22, there were no comments then. The third item is L 148, showing the extreme late state of this fancy "21" cancel. The fourth item, an "11" at first glance appears to be a revenue cancel. However, in one of our book revisions (L 151) an "11" from Blenheim Ont. was noted from 1931. Blenheim also used a somewhat similar "B" in 1932. This stamp is from 1932, so this use is also possible.



Brian also sent in four (!) examples of L 1440, a very fancy "butterfly" cancel. When I listed this item I had some reservations, as Doc Day did not 'like' it, and I had only seen one copy. I have personally examined two of Brian's examples, and with the exception of some possible very weak other cancels, I would have to say that in all other ways they look OK. I am upgrading this to a "5" on my authenticity scale, and would revise the book text accordingly. The reported place of use, Toronto Ont., 1890 is still unconfirmed, and on my opinion unlikely. Covers would have likely survived from the second largest P.O. in 1890, or the cancel would be more common.

Gerry Carr has sent in this possible intaglio Masonic cancel, however it could also be a cork hatched in a tic-tac-toe design. See L 1315 for more information on this type of cancel..



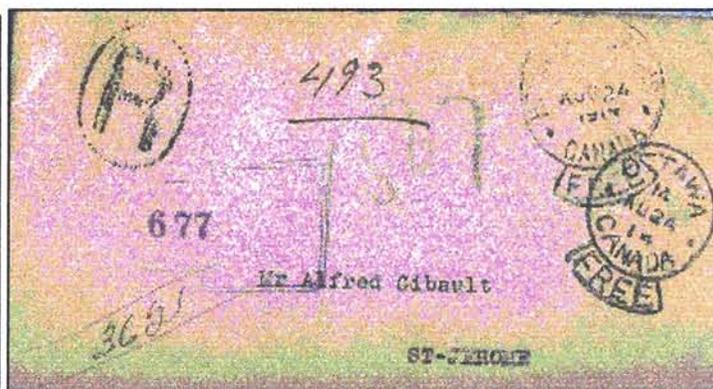
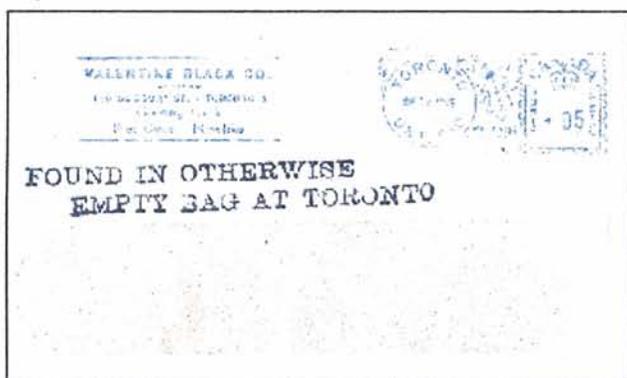
Tony Shaman has sent in this "turtleshell" (?or honeycomb?) Cancel. I would like to list it around L 1450, however I would need to see at least one more example. Does anyone have one?



One of our members has brought the item at right to my attention, however, I had already seen it offered on the Net by a USA auction firm. It is a red outline leaf cancel on a block of 40, ½ cent S.Q.'s. It has no similarity to any listed fancy cancels, and is most probably bogus (a "2" or "3") in my opinion. The same sale had a rather poor fake of the fancy Ottawa Crown cancel Lacelle 1284 on a block of four of the ½ cent S.Q.



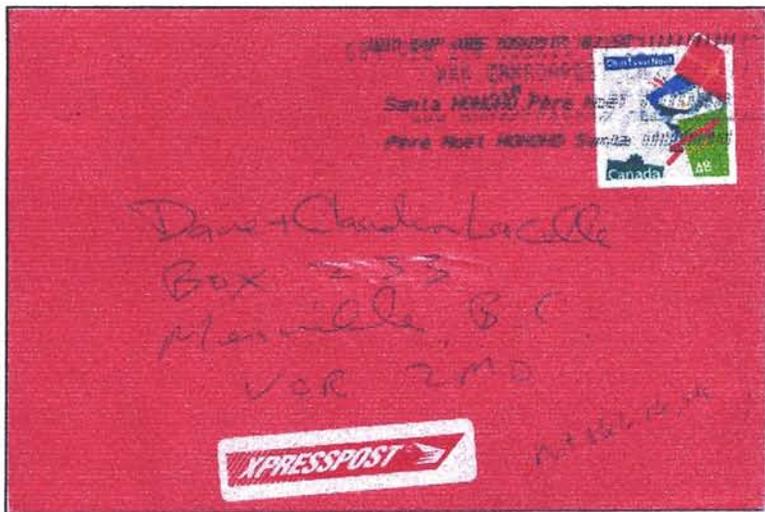
Dean Mario sends in another "cover every eventuality" marking from Toronto, "FOUND IN OTHERWISE EMPTY BAG AT TORONTO". How much use could this have had, or did someone just handset some type when required? This is actually a 'favour cover', it would have been very easy for the postal employee to 'look the other way', at least (50 years too late) he is getting some credit! Dean has also sent along three examples of Admiral Issue Post Cards with the stamps very well cancelled with roller cancels. These are all from fairly small towns in Saskatchewan (Oxbow, Rocanville, and Stoughton), in two of these, the CDS is also used, but not as a cancel. The PM's did a bit of extra work to cancel the stamp well, when they could have just hit it with the CDS!



I have recently examined a cover from an Member of Parliament's (M.P.) correspondence which is interesting for what it does not show (political pun not intended). This stampless (Gov't free) 1914 cover was posted by the MP in Montreal to himself at his home in St. Jerome, Que. He did not put any obvious reference to it being governmental mail, and even referred to himself as "Mr." rather than "Honourable" as he could have. Somehow this received "special handling", and was sent to Ottawa. It received two RPO transit marks on the back on its way to Ottawa, and then (the next day!) received "Ottawa Free" and "Ottawa House of Commons Free" keyhole cancels (Jarrett 1533, and 1529) as well as some non requested Registration markings. It was then sent to St. Jerome. The interesting point is that there were no indications on the front that this was Government mail other than the fact that it was stampless. Thus, carried to Ottawa "by favour", and redirected there by some diligent P.O. Employee. A favour cover as late as 1914!

I would like to show another type of favour cover below. (The cover is a deep red, hopefully it will reproduce well.) Several Postal workers obviously went out of their way to redirect this wayward (unsealed) Xmas card. It was mailed in Regina Saskatchewan with the correct address, however it was misdirected to Melville Saskatchewan rather than Merville BC. There appear to be at least six cancels. Somewhere, the Box number was covered up, then uncovered, presumably

when the "Not Melville SK" was penned in. Someone gave it an XPRESSPOST sticker, and we received it about five days before Christmas. Yes, Virginia there really are Postal Elves! (An unsealed unofficial XPRESSPOST Xmas card, now how many of those are around!) The above also shows that there are real people working in the P.O., and that they try hard to do their jobs well, and to do 'the right thing' A very modern favour cover!



Bruce Holmes has sent in several items. The strike of L 1195, a leaf from Souris East PEI, is good example of a late fancy cancel. It was in use from Jan. 1900 to Sept. 1908. There were two earlier leaves from Souris East, unfortunately the illustrations in Day and Smythies were reversed for two of these leaves, this has been corrected in our book.



Peter Geoffroy has also sent in some leaf cancel illustrations. He was playing with his new scanner or printer (been there/done that). I am not sure how well my scans of his printed scans will reproduce, but will try to run some. Of particular interest is an example of L 1197 which has consistent use on the Cents Issue, thus 1860's. It is remarkably similar to L 1194 one of the Souris East cancels used 40 years later, and referred to above. Peter's third item is an unlisted flower or leaf on a one cent L.Q. I wish I knew where this was from. Any information out there? The other items are L 1183, and L 1191.



Colin Campbell has sent in this dotted rim Montreal CDS hammer, used as a back stamp in 1911, and as a cancel in 1934. The letter spacing seems to be the same despite 23 years of use. This cancel does not seem to be listed in Jarrett, does anyone have any further information? (I have found a reference to a partial strike of this in BNA Topics, Sept. 1977, however, I do not have a complete photocopy. Details in next newsletter.)



Bill Topping has sent in a new (to me anyway) example of a "V" for Victory (World War II) cancel used at Irving's Landing BC. His examples are from 1948 and 1949, he also says that this cancel was used from the mid '40's to the early '50's. The PM from 1935 to 1956 was J.W. Potts, so the cancel is not a personal initial. Mr. Potts served for all of WW II, which covers the time of use for the "V" for Victory slogan. (Winston Churchill used this slogan and a "V" finger gesture in a July 1941 speech. Earliest uses are attributed to Victor de Laveleye (? "V" for Victor?), a BBC broadcaster to occupied Belgium.) This cancel is similar to L 204 or L 205 which are listed as "A's". An official "V for Victory" cancel is L 864 at the right. Nipissing Junction Ontario, and Bolney Saskatchewan also produced hand made "V" cancels in 1943. I have been able to find only one reference to these latter items, Popular Stamps, May 1951, pg. 12, which did not include illustrations. I shall send this newsletter to the Military Mail Study Group, to see if they have any further information. Does anyone else have examples of the Nipissing Junction, or Bolney "V's"?



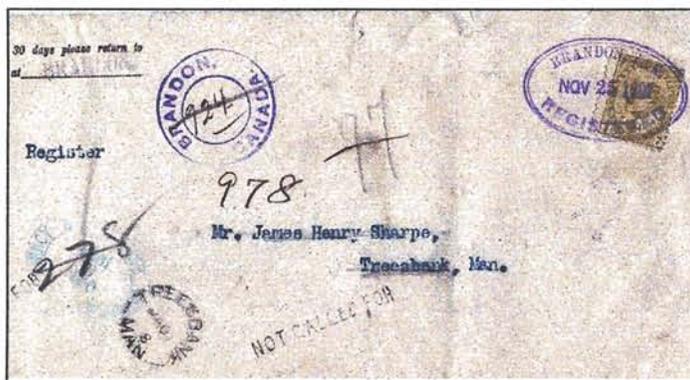
While on the topic of World War II patriotic cancels, I would like to show the item at right. Due to the sensitive locations of some of the military facilities, CDS's with no town or province were sometimes used. I am sure that it is not coincidental that some patriotic P.M. precisely applied his otherwise blank hammer so that the "CANADA" on the stamp appears to fit the CDS where the town name should be.



George Power sent in the items below. The first one is L 1703, which Jarrett listed (with a poor illustration, Jarrett 1211), and attributed to Ottawa Ont., Aug. 1878. This is very similar to the Ottawa series of geometrics such as L 1698 to L 1700 etc., so that the assignment seems logical, yet I could not find a confirming cover. Most of the other Ottawa geometrics were easy to confirm on multiple covers. George's cover is from Orangeville, Ont., Oct. 1882, the book will need a correction. The second item is a wonderful strike of the Orangeville leaf L 1180 in its first month of use. The third item, L 1207, is the best strike that I have seen, of the "Similar used at Orangeville, Sept. 1879" that I have seen. This indicates that it is not so similar, and should probably have a separate listing. The fourth item is an unlisted geometric cancel from Orangeville Feb. 1879. Does anyone have a confirming second strike?



Bob Lane has sent in the item on the next page. He states that the proof book has two other two ring date stamps for Brandon but not this one. There is also a Brandon Lands Agency stamp in blue. It seems odd that Brandon would use a stamp for number 924, and then not also use it for the returned registration number 978, however, this may have been self evident. Another thing that seems odd, "Brandon Canada" no provincial designation? Any comments on this?



Philip Hicks had a question. "Are foreign cancels on Canada always accidental?" This is a collecting area I am very interested in, also someone else also recently asked about foreign cancel use, so I shall reprint my answer to him below.

Reasons for foreign cancels on Canadian (other than accidental).

1. Stamp is uncanceled upon receipt in foreign, and is cancelled there by a "keener". (A reverse [Canadian on foreign] example is Lacelle 803, known on poorly (or not at all) cancelled from Chile, and St. Helena.)



2. Redirected in foreign, envelope re-enters the foreign domestic mail system, and is re-cancelled in foreign as a routing mark. I have seen at least six U.K. examples of this from the 1880's.

3. Mailed in wrong country, usually USA on Canada. Often from a border community. In other words, usually a "favour/favor" letter. Beebe Quebec, Stanstead Vermont actually shared a post office building (so called "International P.O."), the boundary bisected the structure. Sometimes a P.M. would fill in for the other guy in the other country - now that's a favour! (This is the town that has an "International Library", "International Pool hall", and even CANUSA Street - the boundary runs down the centreline, I have personally been there.)

4. Mailed on ship, with whatever postage is handy, and cancelled by the nearest port, the ships base, or on board. (One of my favourites is a "Loose Ship Letter" oval cancel apparently used on board a ship which travelled between New Zealand and Australia, on Canadian issue of 1902.)

Oddball cases (Other than "philatelic")

5. Forwarding postage, early Canada applied in USA (with USA stamps) to cover the rate in the Canada portion, sometimes cancelled in USA, or by some carrier such as Wells Fargo. Some other countries (non-UPU) may have required/accepted foreign postage.

6. UPU reply postage card, a tear-off card with Canadian printed postage, usually cancelled where it came from.

7. First or early flight/sailings etc. covers to foreign, most are philatelic.

8. Foreign Office, War, Diplomatic, Treaty Ports etc. Latter case occurred in Japan, and Hong Kong.

A final item, I was recently examining an old white ceramic door handle at a local flea market (jumble sale in UK). A square central rod fits into the base, goes through the door and meshes into an identical square hole on the opposite handle. If one handle was used as a cancel device, it would nicely fit ones hand and would produce a cancel similar to Lacelle 1564.



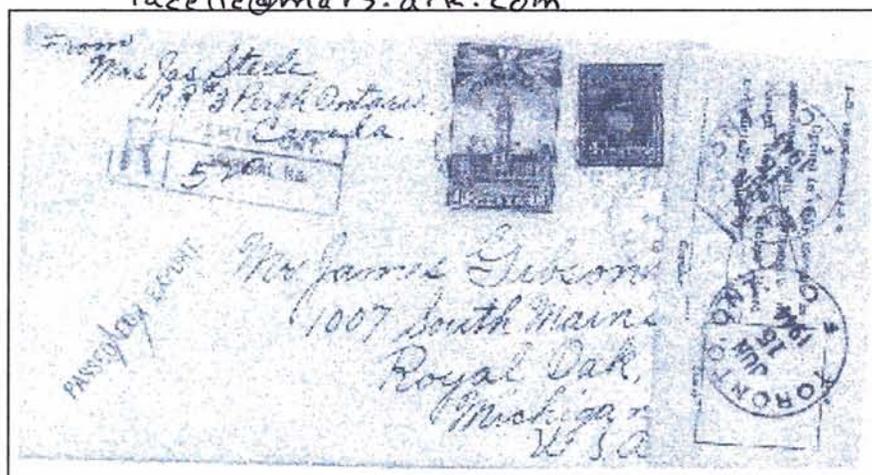
One late breaking development, Jim Hennok's next sale May 15, has a "Two Ring Numeral" collection on Large Queens offered as almost 90 lots. There is also an extensive precancel collection offered in over 100 lots. <<www.hennok.ca>> or J.A. Hennok Ltd., 185 Queen St. East, Toronto ON, M5A 1S2.

A few more items from Gus Quattrochi's modern cancel collection follow. Again, **THANK YOU** all for sending in this material and,

Good collecting,



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This is almost out of the "miscellaneous markings" area, however we have some other WWII items in this newsletter.. "PASSED FOR EXPORT" straight line due to wartime currency controls. Letter was inspected to ensure that money was not being illegally transferred out of Canada.



Date is Jun 19 1996. I am not sure what a "Revenue Protection / and Collection Centre" is, but it sure does sound serious...