

# BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 53

April 2010

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## Group News.

May I take this opportunity to wish all of you a great Spring. I am again preparing this from my somewhat isolated cabin on northern Vancouver Island BC. There is a lovely fiord lake, snow covered mountains on either side, however I wouldn't know it, the fog is so thick! Makes it easier to concentrate on the Newsletter I guess...

This is our first newsletter to go out as a .pdf file. If you have received a paper copy, and would wish one emailed instead, please advise at the address above. Conversely, if you want a paper copy, I can oblige. The major advantage of the .pdf file is that the newsletter will be in colour, this is of course significant when viewing weak cancel strikes on dark stamps.

We have three new members, Mr. L. Margetish, Apt. 407, 955 Dingley Dell, Victoria BC V9A 5R6, Mr. P. R. Varty, 509 Creekview Circle, Pickering ON, L1W 3A5, and Mr. R. D. Vicero, 2758 Lake Capri Dr., Conyers GA, 30012, USA.

I have received a letter from Mrs. J. Almond advising that her husband's **Flag Cancel collection** will be sold at the CPSGB Convention auction May 1. <http://www.canadianpsgb.org.uk>. Among other fine items are two covers with the scarce Toronto "G" cancel.

## REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS.

Newsletter 1, (! January 1989!) Crown wax seals. South Farmington NS, type?, June 1881, as wax seal on back of registered cover. The P.O. had only been open about six months, a Registered letter might have been 'pretty serious business', and thus rated the wax seal!

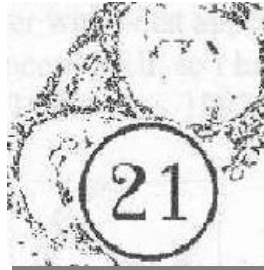
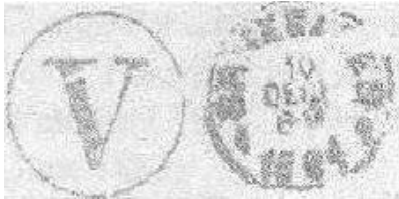
Newsletter 10, "VOL" cancel on Newfoundland stamps. Two articles by David Piercy (PHSC 139, and Topics Vol. 67, #1) have explained this cancel (L 858). The Mailboat Volunteer operated between 1888, and 1891. It sank. "VOL" strikes seem to be on appropriate stamps, the 1887 issue.



Newsletter 50, cancels and markings from Belgium on Canada. Mark Vermeulen, one of our newer members, and resident of Belgium has sent some answers. The first marking is what we would call a "Way" marking. The Postman picks up, and delivers letters at small villages etc. which do not have their own P.O.'s. He marks the envelopes with a distinctive marking for each

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village. (In Canada this was not so precise, "WAY" or "Way Letter" handstamps were used.) The second item is a receiver cancel on items which had not been previously cancelled. There was no reason to do this with foreign stamps, however some Belgium P.M.'s were obviously very dedicated. (The Canadian fancy cancel L 803, a signet ring "T", is known on uncanceled Chile, and St. Helena stamps.) The third item is also a receiver cancel, a "roulette" (roller) cancel, and is still in use.



Newsletter 52, Jim McCormick's cancels on Registered stamps. Jim had made an observation which I have never heard before. "The P.M.'s often double cancelled the Registration stamps". I agree, this may be because unconsciously they were cancelling a pair of S.Q.'s, which could be almost the same length.

### CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

Mike Street has sent in eight examples of foreign cancels on his collecting area (the Peace issue). I shall run three in the next newsletter. Item 1 is Sc. CE4, cancelled by "41<sup>st</sup> Commando RM PO" also marking "UK Forces in Korea". The backstamp is Tokyo Japan. According to Mike, The 41<sup>st</sup> was a British unit, and for some reason one of its members used this Canadian stamp on correspondence from Japan to San Francisco. Things often get a little confused when there is a war going on. Thus Canadian cancelled by British foreign military, accepted in Japan, and USA!



Item 2 is Sc. 270 with a San Francisco parcel oval, and also a partial (Canadian?) parcel roller cancel. (Roller cancels were originally introduced when it was realised that the force required to cancel a parcel with a hammer device was also enough to break some items in the parcels! Rollers may have had other advantages as well, but they were (if used right) a kinder and more gentle cancel.)



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Item 3 is Auckland New Zealand, presumably a receiver cancel on uncancelled. Item 4 is an unusual Dutch cancel, on Sc. 269, and the later (1949) Sc. 288, note it has no indices. (This info. is from Mike, but I have seen an earlier example of a Canadian stamp cancelled at Achen (aka Aachen) an important postal trans-shipment centre on the Northern border of France & Germany.) Mikes last item is a Korean Australian cancel, APO means 'Army Post Office'.



Bill Radcliffe sent two covers, one with L 512, a "J" in correct time and place, Belleville Ont., Jan. 1891. This may be representing the P.M.'s first name J.H. Meacham. The second cover is L 914, an "X", previously known used only in Dec. 1897, thus a new early date, St. Antoine Lotbiniere Que., May 1894. The cancel looks considerably "sharper" on Bill's earlier cover!



I found this example of L 71, (above right) when I was sorting through some old auction catalogues. This was used as a Receiver or Due mark at Halifax N.S. from Mar. 1859 to Jan. 1899. (This may also be a British "Pound" symbol in mirror image.) This example expands the use to at least July 1899, as the surcharged stamp was not issued before then. This is a curious item but, as mentioned in a few previous newsletters, there was some collusion with the Halifax P.O., and local stamp dealers.

Joe smith has sent in a Post Card (Sc. UX1, issued 1871 which is similar to L 1493, a radial with hollow centre. The CDS is very poor, all that can be discerned is that it is from Aylmer (E. or W. Is unknown, both P.O.'s were open from the 1830's.)



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Jim McCormick provided this cover with a cancel 'somewhat' similar to L 1461. There is no CDS, however it is a 1 cent drop rate to Cazaville Que., and is thus from either there or some nearby centre, Huntingdon is a possibility. I suspect that this cancel hammer was very soft, and strikes would vary greatly depending on the strength of the strike. I have included five other cancel items from the material Jim sent in some time ago. They are bogeyheads (for Halloween or all Saints Day) L 1355, L 1346, L 1367, a flag L 1398, and an "LA" in blue, possibly standing for 'Legislative Assembly' in Toronto.



Hugh Rathbun has answered another fancy cancel mystery, L 857, a "VM". Previously all that was known was



that it was "On S.Q.'s from the '90's". Hugh has a poor strike, but readable (under a red filter) indicating this is a P.O. initial type, Victoria Mines N.S., Nov. 1895. Hugh has several covers from Bridgewater NS. Firstly, there is L 889 a "W", two covers, Mar. and May 1886. This is a new late date, the cancel was known from Mar. 1885 to Apr. 1886. It is a P.M. initial type, for Mr. J. Whitford. The simple little bisected rectangle was used in Nov. 1878. He also shows several 'spoked' corks, one is L 1505, extreme late state Oct. 1881. The others are similar to L 1486, July 1880, and two with a slightly smaller design to L 1505, Feb. 1881, and May 1881. Hugh suggests that his last Bridgewater item may be Masonic, (used July 1889), however it appears too worn for me to really give an opinion. P.M. Whitford was around from 1874 to 1894, and is the originator of all of these.



The next four items are probably a great example of early "philatelic inspired" items. All hail from Paradise Lane N.S. The first (July 1874) is a very weak strike somewhat similar to L 1044 (in that it has several small "X boxes), with a split ring

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CDS. The second item (Apr. 1879) is somewhat similar to L 1689 (but with a smaller central design). It has a unusual CDS, (USA type), is in blue ink, and addressed to Henry Hechler, the Halifax N.S. stamp dealer. The third item L 983, Feb. 1878, is also to Hechler, with the same blue ink, and odd CDS. (This cancel has also been reported from here in purple and in blue ink, both in Dec. 1877.) Finally, what may be a worn example of second item, Dec. 1879, with another CDS, split ring with "CANADA" at base. The P.M. during this period of 'creativity' was W.F. Morse (1873 to 1893). I might also mention that Paradise Lane had a town initial type cancel, L 707, in later use, Apr. 1885, Nov. 1885. Newsletter 49 also reported a use of this USA type CDS (in blue) with a cancel similar to L 1549, Dec. 1877. Do any of you have further examples of the Paradise Lane unusual CDS from 1878, or 1879?



Keith MacKay has sent this item undated drop letter from Peterboro would be about 1872 to 1875. including another cross (L 1076) in



which is very similar to L 1041, on an (return address). A guess at the shade Peterboro used several fancy corks, 1873.

Ron Smith has brought this item L 1373, a very elaborate "Fleur de Lys"? design which was in a foreign auction. This is a decidedly scarce item. He also sent in a query on L1355 in blue black ink on an appropriate shade – about 1890.



I noted a use of "O.A.T." in an oval, mauve ink. These Overseas Air Transit markings are described at L676. This example just touches the stamps which are cancelled by a Mar. 1945 NB CDS, (town unreadable) official "Armed Forces Air Letter" to South Africa.



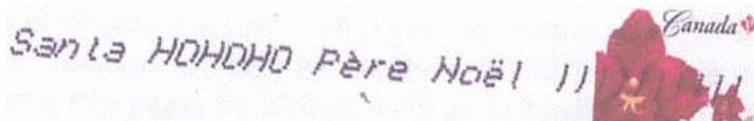
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The Late Wally Gutzman sent in these items. Firstly, a cover example of L1639, a curious “sponge” type design. It is from Alfred Ont., Mar. 1886. His second item is L 1533, which had been located as Dominionville Ont. Sept. 1892, now known as early as Feb. 1892. Wally’s third item is L 271, a Bridgewater “B”, a new late date for this, July 1879. The next item is L 241, an “A” from Amherst N.S., Sept. 1875. This is a bit problematic as the previous date was Nov. 1880, and this is a rather long lifespan for a cork. (Both strikes were on printed Post Cards, which may also indicate a problem, please see the note in the Fakes... etc. section on Post Cards)



Jack Forbes sent along a block of six, with what may be a fancy leaf cancel. The best strike is at top right. The shade seems to be from around 1874 or 1875. It may be L 1182, or L 1189.

We have some more modern, (and miscellaneous) material sent in by David Dawes, and Arnie Janson. David’s item is an odd one line inkjet. It probably would not cancel that well, and does not give a clue as to the P.O. of origin nor the date, other than that...



TO POST OFFICE FOR  
VERIFICATION  
AU POST OFFICE POUR  
VERIFICATION

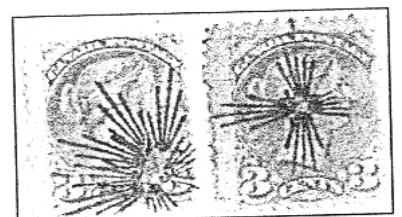
not at this  
address anymore

Arnie's items are a “Forwarded as a Courtesy” marking where the P.O. forwarded an oversize party card rather than returning it to the sender for more postage.

Unfortunately, this will not reproduce well. (I reported on a similar “Address added as a courtesy...” item in newsletter 47, which is still in use here in the megatropolis of Merville when people do not realize that we pick up our mail at the P.O., and must have a Box. number.) The second item “To Post Office for Verification” was a case where a recipient had moved, and the P.O. had to verify the new address.

### FAKES, BOGUS AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

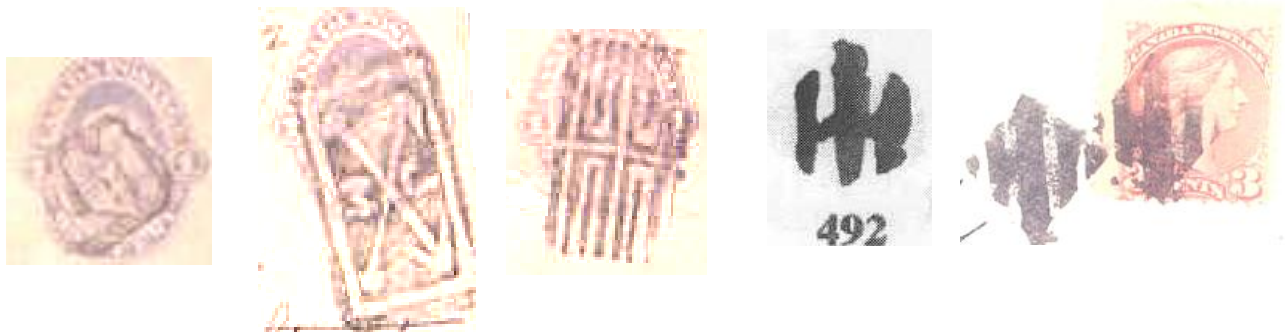
These items are bogus, they were prepared by someone playing with a drafting pen, and were first written up in Newsletter 43, pg. 6. The one at left has recently reappeared in an auction sale



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I found the three items below in a auction sale from about a year ago. The first one is on printed Post Card from Marysville N.B. Mar. 1885, is supposedly a P.M. initial "JM" cancel by PM John McDermid. There are several problems with this card, not the least of which is that John McDermid resigned as PM in 1870. Item two, from Marysville, also a postcard, to the same person (Rev. J.P. Magee in Boston), and in the same handwriting also has a "JP" in the design in Dec. 1884. It is unlike any other Canadian fancy cancel, certainly shows a great deal of imagination, and was first reported as Bogus in our Newsletter 48 when it was for sale by Ebay in Aug. 2008. The third item in the same sale is probably by the same faker, Post Card from Cranbrook Ont. Dec. 1886. All three are Bogus in my opinion.

Please note, there is no reason to cancel the stamp part of a printed Post Card, although many PM's did. I once examined several boxes of commercial mail on Post Cards, there were about 400 or so, and about 20% had no cancel on the stamp part. These Post cards are still relatively cheap, and can provide an easy to use source of 1880's and 1890's material for the unscrupulous. Be careful when buying anything "fancy" on printed Post Cards. Nuff said...



On a lighter note, a spurious item. (One that appears to be something that it really isn't.) I take the blame. L 492, a town initial "HH" from Hazel Hill N.S. Sept. 1895, appears to have 'evolved' from a square sectioned cork as in the earlier strikes (Jan., and June 1895) illustrated here. This should be delisted, and I should have 'turned down my imagination' when I listed it. (In fairness, D&S listed it too, D&S 527a).

This item L 177 is a bit of a problem. It was described in an old auction catalogue as Fake. It is quite similar to the one I used for the book, fakes that I have seen were much less precise in the numerals. The example here was placed on top of a CDS cancel, although no real attempt was made to hide the CDS. (CDS hammers were not supposed to be used as cancellers until about 1894, PM's were supposed to use something else to cancel the stamp, and place the CDS on the cover.) I have seen another example on a three pence Beaver where this cancel is on top of a weak pen cancel. Again, if it is a fake, it is a very good one – and on a rather pricey stamp too! There is also a problem with the cancel Jarrett states that it commemorates Queen Victoria's 20<sup>th</sup> Jubilee in 1857. As I note in our book "It must have been a long party if they were



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still celebrating in Aug. 1861!" Some examples of this are genuine, I'm not too sure of the examples referred to above, but they may just have been the actions of a "keener" PM making sure something was properly cancelled.

The following five items are my next random selection from the index cards prepared in about 1961 of the items produced by "Bogusman" as described in the previous newsletter. As before, the sketch, modern illustration, and "L" numbers appear for all. I am somewhat surprised that there has not been any feedback from anyone on the listing of these. They were highly dramatic (and expensive) "unique new discoveries" back in the 60's!



I have a bit of left over space, so shall again offer some "left overs" from my Foreign Cancels on Canada. "Free to a good home", the four items below. "Phila. PA oval", "USA type numeral killer", "Liverpool Packet", and "Correos" (Portugal?) The last item I would like to sell, if anyone wants a USA Flag cancel on Canadian E1 special delivery stamp, I would accept \$20.00 for it. (To my surprise no one wanted to pay for the "Yokohama" Japan on five 2 cent Edwards in the last newsletter – do I hear \$20.00?) All the freebies went, sometimes they were wanted by several people.



And, Good Collecting,

Dave.Lacelle





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