

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 54

July 2010

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Group News.

I trust all of you are enjoying pleasant summer weather. We have not had a drop of rain for the last month in this part of Vancouver Island, and I hope that this continues for the Victoria BNAPS Convention. We will be having a meeting Friday Sept. 3, 1:00 – 2:00 pm., in the Kensington Room. I note that there is an earlier inaugural meeting of the “BNA Forgeries Study Group” at 11:00 am. This new group should be complimentary to us as the topic of spurious, bogus, or fake cancels often arises. I wish the new group well, and would encourage them to freely reuse any information in our newsletters. Our other complementary Study Group the Large and Small Queens S.G. is meeting the next day, Saturday at 4:00 pm. Hope to see you at all three meetings.

We have two new members, Mr. S. Bodley, 14 Briarwood Court, North Bay ON, P1C 1M1, and Mr. R. Cromwell, 10 Birch Drive, Billingshurst, West Sussex, G.B., RH14 9RQ. We now have 88 members (a new high!) however I shall have to remove three for non-payment of dues after this newsletter. (If RF, RL, or BP wish to remain members, please contact me.)

The emailing of the last newsletter as a .pdf file went well. Thanks to those of you who returned the nice Emails regarding it. If you are not receiving this as a .pdf, please consider it, the illustrations are much sharper, and in colour. Most of what we collect are tiny little ‘folk art’ carvings, the quality of the illustrations is very important. The newsletters are sent out “bcc” – meaning that the other recipients cannot see your Email address, so your address is thus secure. About half of our members are now receiving the .pdf version. (Two people wanted both .pdf, and snail mail, this is OK with me.)

There was one glitch with the conversion to .pdf last time. One illustration decided to duplicate itself (a ‘rogue’ cancel?) and jumped one page ahead into the middle of the page. This made the following text a bit disjunctive. I shall check for this in the future.

I often wonder if (for example) Mr. D. Johnson, the P.M. of Combermere Ontario considered in September 1876 when he carved his initials into the bottom of a bottle cork, that people would still be looking for (indeed desiring) the result “L 375” over 130 years later! The invention of the telephone was still two years away, many of the people now viewing his initials anywhere in the world use a ‘magic’ box and something called a .pdf file. “Pretty Durn Fine” he would probably say! (Sorry, I couldn’t resist the pun.)



I also wonder if having the newsletter in a .pdf format might perhaps reduce the amount of material sent to me for the next newsletter. It is easy to just go to the next email, a piece of paper is harder to

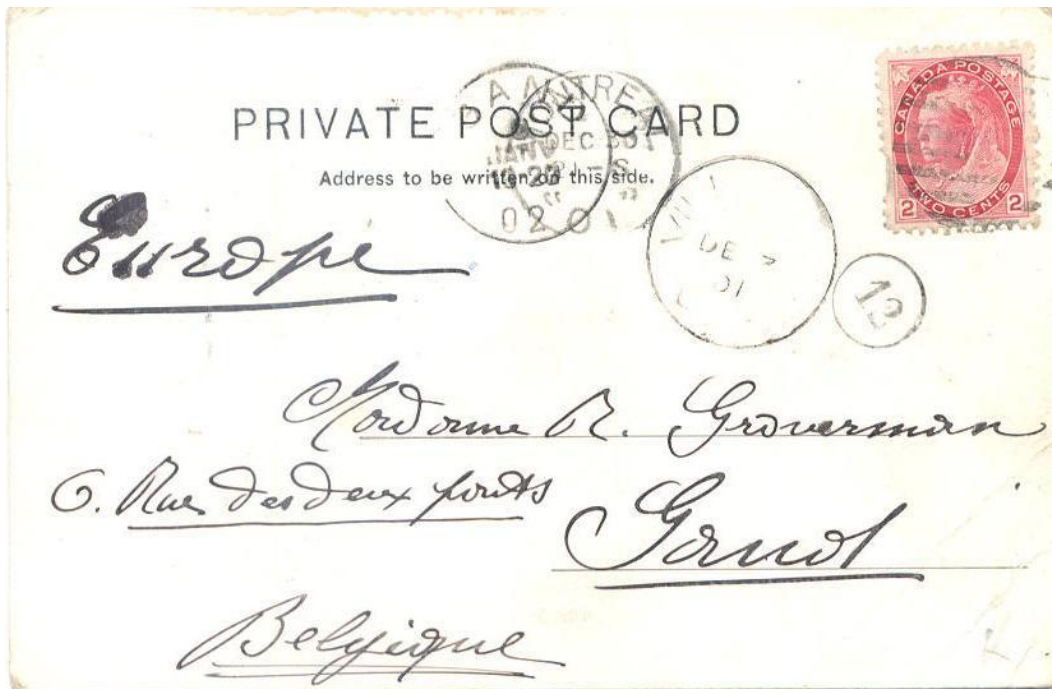
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ignore. We have only 12 contributors to this newsletter, it has recently been as high as 17. (Summer doldrums?) I also admit that there is a certain appeal to the written word on paper, and at the risk of perhaps sounding somewhat like Mr. D. Johnson of the preceding paragraph, I am glad that we have not gone to the "Hi hw RU? Im GR8 TTFN" level of communication (yet).

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS.

NEWSLETTERS 51 & 53,

1. Belgium postal markings on Canadian items. Note the '12 in circle' on the P.C. below, which is similar to the '21' from Belgium, (our D 75 in the book) and was described by Mr. Vermeulan as a receiver cancel. This two cent to Europe P.C. rate was from Mattawa Ont. Dec. 23 1901 to ? Gornot ? Belgium, was received 8 Jan. 1902 at Pand Belgium. (If anyone wants this cover for \$20.00, please let me know - that's what I paid for it, and I do not really collect anymore.)



2. Belgium postal markings on Canadian items. The 'V in circle' described as the equivalent to a Canadian "WAY" cancel. Arnie Janson has a very similar marking (next page) on postal stationary U7, October 1896 Fredericton NB to Brighton Massachusetts. The V seems to be in a darker ink than the CDS. The other "V in a circle" mentioned in Newsletter 51 was a backstamp next to a Brussels Belgium receiver, the cover was also from Fredericton NB, Nov. 1894, the handwriting (and addressee) are different than Arnie's item. Does anyone else have any covers from Fredericton from about 1893 to 1897 with this "V" mark? It is also possible that this is just a similar USA receiver marking.

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NEWSLETTER 53. There is a bit of follow up to the reference about the Toronto "G" flag cancel items which were for sale. They sold for about \$ (Cdn.) 2,200. Now what should I do with the other half dozen of them? (Just kidding.)

NEWSLETTER 53. "Bogusman's" productions. This item is probably another example of L 281, a fancy "B" as on the back page.



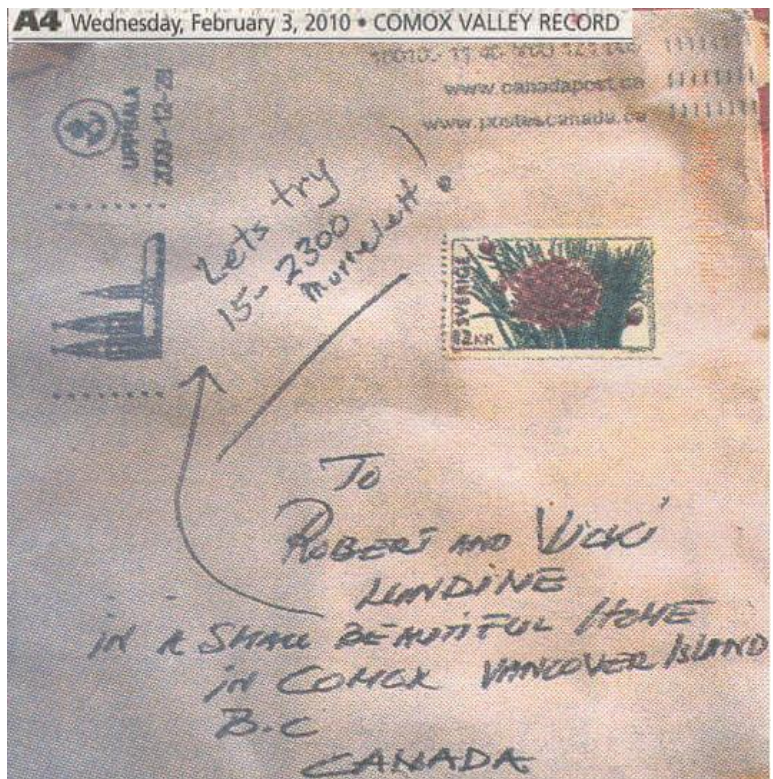
CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

The following two items are the remainder of the foreign cancels on Canadian Peace Issue sent in by Mike Street. The first is an unusual straight line "PARIS XIV", with no Canadian markings. I'm guessing it was some military unit. The other, a diamond, is a mark periodically applied by a UK counting machine, which kept track of the number of incoming foreign letters.



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I may be pushing the definition of 'miscellaneous markings' a bit, but the following manuscript "Lets try..." marking appeared in our local 'Comox Valley Record' newspaper, and is a nice example of someone in the P.O. doing a really good job. A letter from Sweden, no return address, addressed to "Robert and Vicki Lundine, In a small beautiful home in Comox Vancouver Island BC Canada". Comox has over 13,000 population, so this did involve some work on the part of a local postal worker. It is also somewhat ironic that despite this covers travels, neither country cancelled the stamp!



Mike Street also sent in this modern reincarnation of a 1955 - 1962 "Barrel" cancel. Have there been any others since? FMI, see Mike's article in Topics, Mar. Apr. 1986. (A late note... recently published "Canada's Barrel Postmarks" by R.C. Smith, available through PHSC.)



Ron Smith has directed my attention to this item which appeared in a recent auction, and was described as a "rare dragonfly". It has similarities to L 1440 and to the illustration for L 1442 in the first edition. It may of course also be a previously undescribed fancy cancel. (Does anyone have another example?) L 1440 is described in our book as "a problem child". If it is intended as a fake of L 1440, it is a very poor fake indeed, and does not appear to be similar to any other strikes of L 1442 I have seen. If it is L 1442, it is reasonably similar to the illustration in the first edition, yet there are also differences. In short, I am not sure of the status of this cancel, and would probably give it a "5" on my 1-10 scale of authenticity.



I am stealing a bit here from the 'Bull.MOOSE' (PHSC, "Money Order Office Society" Study Group). What a wonderful goof with CANAD. Sometimes the most obvious things are the ones that slip bye.



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This cover from Tioga Ont. (P.O. from 1878 to 1919) Mar. 1885 is difficult to explain, however it appears that the star cancels may be our L944, not previously located. (I stated "on S.Q.'s from the '90's", but I have been wrong before.) Does anyone have a second example? The cover apparently was originally underpaid to USA both in terms of registration charge and weight.



Furthermore, there is no Registration number from Tioga the two higher numbers would be from Toronto, and Dead Letter Office. FMI, see the DLO Study Group Newsletter 3, Jan. – Mar. 2010 at the BNAPS Website. Thanks to Gary Steele for the original item and to Brian Plain for forwarding it to me. This is a fine example of the study groups working together to expand the philatelic knowledge base.

The items here are from Jim Mc Cormick. The first could be described as an intaglio "N". I have seen it before on Jubilee and Map issues. It was one of the items which 'almost' got into the book. At the time I considered that it might be just a hatched cork with a slash. There is another fancy "N" on Map stamp, L 646, (Newcastle NB), so maybe I should reconsider. Jim's second item is similar to the preceding, this is our D 415. I have seen it many times on late issues, however I decided it was probably just a cracked cork, and not intended as a "W". The third item is another late use of a cork, similar to L 1482. This type was designed with a hollow centre so that the stamp would be cancelled, yet the Queen's face would not be! The leaves are L 1183, L 1205, and L 1187.



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Bill Radcliffe has sent in this cover which identifies L685 as an "NG" from St. Catherines Ont., Aug. 1877. I had listed this upside down as a partial "ON". Another mystery solved, and I might add a great bit of detective work on Bill's part to figure this out. St. Catherines also used another "G" cancel, L 438 in ? 1880. This latter item is unconfirmed. The PM was R. Lawrie, who or what 'NG' is still remains a mystery.



Ocean Park Auctions <oceanp@telus.net> recently had these two items for sale. I think the bottom one is an elaborate anchor, stylistically similar to our D648. There were many similar 'paquet boat', and marine anchor designs. The second item is a nice double Canadian & USA cancelled cover. From Comox BC (Comox again see pg.4), Apr. 1897. The Comox cancel is a blob/bar, and the USA one is an elaborate San Francisco machine cancel. (This is also a marine item in another way, Capt. Dyke RN to Captain Hanford USN.)



See next page for these Masonics



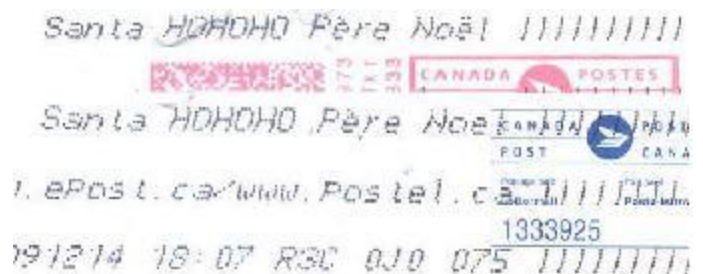
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Graham Searle has sent in the Masonic cancels on the previous page. They are similar to L 1321, however the carver forgot to carve the “G”'s in mirror image. I have examined a back scan of these, put simply, they look good. There is no excessive ink penetration, nor is there perf. hole staining. As mentioned in several previous newsletters, when a letter cancel appears in mirror image, it would probably not be used for very long as the maker would feel ‘sorta silly’ for his mistake. The stamps appear to be from the 1880’s. **Are there any other examples out there with the reversed “G”?** (The stamps are really better than they appear some perfs were accidentally removed in picture editing/sizing. No perforations were injured in the production of this newsletter.)

Larry Margetish has sent in the cover below, an insured and registered July 1974 cover from Toronto Stn. R. to Austria. He asks “Has anyone any idea of how common or uncommon are this cancellation and/or Registration Box?” This is beyond my area of expertise, but I will certainly pass along any information received. (A guess, the ‘box’ may be common – used for all Stn. R registration, the CDS may be more specific, and thus less common.)



David Dawes has sent in another inkjet error, missing umlauts over the “E” in NOEL. My French Canadian keyboard will not work with “Alt Car” and some USA software, so both with and without umlauts inkjets are shown.



FAVOURITE CANCEL

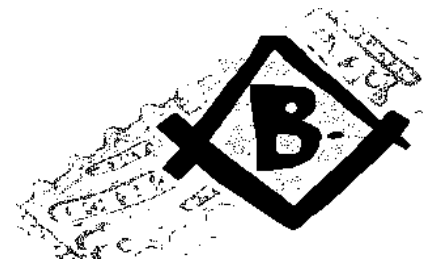
One of my neighbours at the cabin was looking at our book, and asked; “Is there any one cancel that you like the best?” This is not an easy question as one could have several personal criteria; artistic merit, popularity, value/scarcity, use/meaning etc. The latter choice won, but best in the other categories would be (in my opinion)....
1. Best artistry, L 1183. Galt Ont., June 1870. It would not have been easy to carve



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this fine detail, and this maple leaf cancel also has a patriotic appeal. 2. Most popular, L 1291. Victoria & Esquimalt BC, used (Victoria) Oct. 1880 to Nov. 1893, and (Esquimalt) Feb. 1903 to July 1914. This crown cancel was extensively used in two major BC centres, and also had considerable philatelic use. It has high visual appeal, and is reasonably easy to obtain. I have recorded an incredible 53 covers of this cancel! The cancel was made by Pritchard & Andrews of Ottawa, the official supplier of CDS hammers etc. This illustration is from their proof strike book. 3. Value/Scarcity, probably L 315, Barnard's Express BC, 1871. I seem to recall a strike of this "BXR" on stamp selling for \$ (Cdn.) 2,400.00 about a decade ago. Some covers have sold for more, but this is probably the record for a single Canadian fancy cancel. BXR was run from the ranch of the same name, and functioned primarily during the BC Caribou gold rush. And the winner, use/meaning is L 1323, a "Masonic" cancel. This cancel lead me more astray than any other. Firstly, it is terribly incorrect to replace God's "G" (which would normally be in the middle) with any other initial! It is unlikely a devout Mason would do this. Secondly, there was a rather detailed write up claiming that this was used by PM Charles Mason of Beechville Ont. as a 'play' on his name, and the town initial. Problem, there is no such place however he was PM of Beachville 1867 to 1884. This makes a good and logical story but, thirdly, there was no philatelic evidence. Fourth, finally a cover showed up proving use in Blake Ont. in May 1883 by PM J. Smilie. (See also L 1363 for another "tall tale"!) I would be pleased to hear of any other entries in the categories above.

Please advise.



FAKES, BOGUS AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

This bogey head cancel was recently sent to me for an opinion. Unfortunately it fails on several criteria, design, ink penetration, perf. hole staining, ink type, etc. At best a "3" on my scale of authenticity. Front and back scans are shown.



I have run out of space, so cannot provide any of the "Bogusman Series" of fake cancels in this newsletter. Next time...

There is sometimes an unintentional bias in these newsletters, which I note after I have finally gotten all the "bits 'n pieces" together. In this newsletter (after one has got by the Belgium stuff), there seems to be an abundance of British Columbia material. This is appropriate as our upcoming BNAPS Convention is in Victoria BC. Hope to see you there.

Please send me more "bits 'n pieces" for the next issue. Have a good summer, & Good Collecting.