

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 57

August 2011

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Group News.

Summertime finally! I keep hearing about heat waves back East, but cool central Vancouver Island has been exactly that - cool! I was up at "Paradise Meadows" on Mount Washington yesterday for a botany hike, and we were still (!) walking in snow. July 25!

This will be a shorter newsletter than the last one as I have not received much material for it. Please send in "stuff", **THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER PLEASE CONTRIBUTE**. The Email address is above, the snailmail is Box 233, Merville BC, V0R 2M0. I note that the material I do have for this newsletter has a great deal of variety, and leads me into several unusual areas. Read on...

I am unable to attend the BNAPS Convention in North Bay, **can anyone hold a FC&MM meeting** in my absence?

We have two new members; Mr. H. Cohen, 55 Tanoak Dr., Winnipeg Man., R2V 2W6, and Mr. G. Steele, 6 Braemont Court, Lower Sackville NS, B4E 3A1. (I should have listed Mr. Steele in the last newsletter, but somehow didn't.)

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

None – my that was easy!

CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

Ron Smith has sent in the items below. His first item is L 1647, a geometric previously known only on F2, the registration stamp. His is on a second Ottawa printing 3 cent S.Q. which narrows down the date of use to the 1890's. Ron's second item is a cut down cover front from Sonya Ont., Jan. 1896. (I have cheated in the cut, and have moved the CDS to beside the stamp) with what has been described at auction as an intaglio "S". I have seen this before, and did not list it in the Fancy Cancel book as I believe that this is probably just a barred cork with a bit of imagination. This is the only strike I have ever seen, if anyone has another, please forward it. I also have concerns that this is a cut down cover piece, and it appears that the CDS may have been 'fiddled' with a bit by a fine pen. Any comments, or other examples of this item would be appreciated.



Ron has also sent in an example of L 274, a fancy "B" from Napanee Ont. used in 1878. This is a PM initial cancel, from PM G. Bogart. This cover also resulted in some background research. The cover is as illustrated, with the CDS perfectly upside down, and is to Crown Lands Office, Toronto. At first glance it appears to be somewhat 'fuzzy', and was struck by a left handed person. The 'fuzziness' is a result of what is sometimes

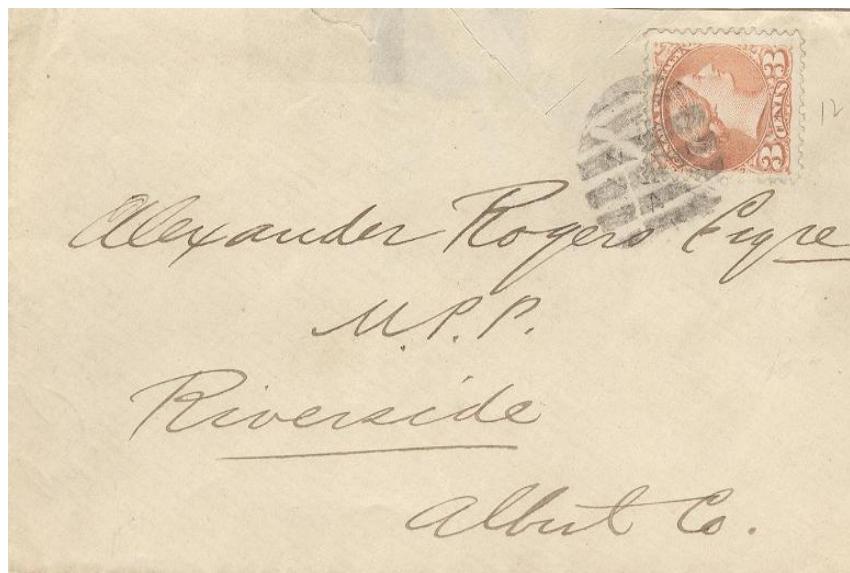
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erroneously referred to a “struck through cloth”, but which really occurs when an inkpad is dry. The texture of the cloth pad is picked up on the canceller in such cases. The upside down bit is explained by another cover I found about a month later, same hand writing, also to Crown Lands, and also with an upside down CDS. PM Bogart was consistent, the sender puts the stamps on (right side up to him), the PM leans over the counter and puts on the CDS (right side up to him). The PM is also right handed this way.

Ron's last item is this GTR (Grand Trunk Railway) ACCOM, JY 88 cover, which is new to me. The cancel looks like some sort of utilitarian item (screw or nail head in the middle ?) which has been ‘pressed’ into use as a cancel. Does anyone have any idea what it might have been?



Ron has also asked for any comments on the cover and cancel below, which is about 3/4 scale). I did a bit of research, and came to an odd conclusion. The cover is to an MPP (Member of Provincial Parliament), Alexander Rogers, Riverside, Albert County. There are neither CDS, nor backstamps, and I note that the Province is not indicated, although it is not a 1 cent local or drop rate. The stamp is a shade from the early 1870's. He was an MPP for Albert County NB from 1875 to 1878, and an MP (Member of [Federal] Parliament) from 1878 to 1882. It can be assumed that the letter would be sent to either the Provincial Legislature, or the MPP's home, which was “Hopewell Hills”. This P.O. was a Way office until 1875, when it became a regular P.O., which is probably not coincidental with a new MP resident there. But where was it mailed from? The cancel appears to be L 1702, used in Ottawa Ontario, around August 1873. Some of the Ottawa corks were in use for two years, so this is just possible as something mailed to him as he was transitioning from MPP to MP. I have included a picture of the Hon. Gent at right, the sideburns are amazing!



Ralph Vincero sent in his dues this Spring with the correct address etc. The letter was mailed from Natchez MS April 13, and received in Jackson Apr. 15, then the trail goes (very) cold. It was received here (Merville, Vancouver Island BC) August 2 (109 days), and has no other postal markings. We had a three week postal strike, but... (In fairness, the word CANADA in the address was where the sorting bar code printed, and someone crossed out the bar code, but...)

He mentions that he may soon be writing an article on the “H” initial cancels from Hagersville Ontario, L 457, L 478 – L480, and L 501. (1/4 scale here) I won’t “steal his thunder, but they were used over a 12 year period (1882 on) by (possibly) three different P.M’s. He also states that he has forty H” covers!



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Cecil Coutts has sent in several interesting items. The first one explains the unusual late fancy cork cancel L 1610 used in Newfoundland in the early 1940's. It was a "black out" cancel. These cancels were used in wartime when the name of the sending town (military base etc.) could have been useful to the enemy. Cecil's example gives away the fact that it travelled through St. John's Nfld. in Dec. 1940. L 1594 was a similar use from St. John's in 1942. The more common blacked out CDS is also in the cut, courtesy of Charles Livermore.



"Now soldier, I want you to take this pointed stick, annnnnddd, make us a good durable stamp canceller."
"Yes Sir Sarge."

I first thought that this fancy "C" cancel he sent was just a broken target type of cancel (see also the "Fakes" section, item three), or a bogus item. However upon viewing the actual stamps, I have to conclude that it passes all the ordinary tests (ink type, penetration, perf. holes, other cancels, more than one strike etc.) and conclude that it is a genuine fancy cancel. Now, the BIG question, does anyone have another example, and/or a cover?

Our newest member, Harley Cohen has sent in this cancel which I believe is an unlisted 'Ottawa Geometric' cancel. This odd series of Ottawa cancels (pgs. 148 to 151 in the F.C. book) were often recut, and can "morph" into each other. This one is a close cousin to L 1663, or L1667. Due to this "morphing", as well as the number of these cancels, not all Ottawa geometrics were listed in the book.



This item has been forwarded by Eastern Auctions. It is L 979, which is described in our F.C. book as "...on Map stamp...", we now know that it is Fulton Ont., Apr. 1899. This cancel is also interesting as it is part of six officially prepared "corks" (probably really metal hammers) by Pritchard and Andrews of Ottawa, and used in many different P.O.'s. I suspect these were sent to P.O.'s when there was a need for a hammer due to damage etc. This P&A proof page portion from Apr. 1880 is illustrated on page 4 of our F.C. book..



Gary Steele sent in a group of fancy numeral cancels, which I have finally got around to reviewing. I haven't written about numeral cancels as a group for quite some time, and his material had several different types, so...

The "official" four and two ring numeral cancels were issued by the P.O. in the 1850's, and 1870's. It followed the British method of giving every important P.O. a number – an efficient method to keep track of a far flung Empire. These numeral cancel series are study areas in their own rights, and are rather hard to value as the value depends not only on the issue, the quality (stamp & strike), but also reassessments, and lack of use by some P.O.'s.



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Three major P.O.'s hand carved fancy numeral cancels based upon their earlier assigned numbers when the official hammers were worn out. These are "Toronto 2's" (L18 to L 54), "Ottawa 8's" (L 93 to L 98), and "Kingston 9's", (L 99 to L 120). The Toronto 2 below (from Cecil Coutts, all others are from Gary Steele) is somewhat atypical in that it is a recut and/or cleaned variant of L 37. Most Toronto 2's were used for about a month before they wore out, there is a eight month gap after number L 37, so presumably it was recut to extend its life. The Ottawa 8 (L 93) was in use for about four months, worn 'states' are known, see also our D52, and possible recut L 96. The Kingston 9, L 111 on the other hand was in use for less than a month.



Quebec City had two fancy numeral cancels made of with the official "37" number. The dates of use of this cancel are unconfirmed, D&S reported from 1859, Jarrett reported 1868, only Nov. 1867 is confirmed. I suspect the other dates were based upon the issue of the stamps the cancel appeared on, rather than "hard" CDS data. Any covers out there? Please advise if so.

London Ont. had this "6" (L 85) made up as a metal "duplex" hammer (CDS, and killer were joined together), and used it for at least four years. Hamilton Ont. did the same with a somewhat similar "5", L 80 (not illustrated).



Other items sent in by Gary are a stampless era "3 Ratemark" used as a cancel, and a British Columbia pre-confederation "35" (Victoria) steel hammer used as a cancel on Canadian stamp. I might also mention that New Brunswick also had a separate numerical group of metal hammers, none are illustrated here. There are many more details on these numerical cancels in our book. Thanks Gary.

FAKES, BOGUS AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

This item can be considered as "spurious", there was no real attempt to defraud or fool anyone. It is a philatelic 'joke' cancel, there were no airplanes in the S.Q. era. A similar slogan cancel was in use for almost 20 years with a line drawing of Santa Claus. If perfectly centered, the resulting cancel can be ghastly. (I could not find my example, so I "created" one using a paint program. The example here does not exist in real life, however others do on other stamps. Is this example a new class, "cyber fakes"?)



Spurious, again a 'joke' cancel. Sometimes strange things arrive at the Merville P.O.!

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This “face” cancel is also spurious. It is really a damaged ‘target’ canceller. Two similar items from the F.C. book are also presented here, firstly D 622a, which is a CDS hammer that has been twisted and thus appears (with a bit of imagination) as a ‘face’, and D 604 another misinterpreted (by me) target cancel. The ‘triangle’ was caused by a bump (folded corner?) inside the envelope.



Another spurious item, in this case the middle of a large Montreal oval parcel (L 191) interpreted on a small stamp as a “new” numeral cancel.



Bogus, I am not sure if I ran this “Elephant” (D 644) before, but it is as genuine as a three dollar bill.



I have been reviewing the page of 17 fake cancels on stamp which was sold as a “fake cancel lot” in the recent Jim Hennok sale, and have several comments. Only two of these “on stamp” cancels can be attributed to “Bogusman”. This is to be expected as Bogusman specialized in dramatic covers (he was a draftsman by profession) which would bring top dollar, and not on mere stamp items. There is also a possibility that these are fakes of Bogusman on cover items prepared by someone else, the Bogusman items first appeared over 50 years ago.



Most of the fakes in this lot are reasonably good, but are on the wrong issue (or shade) of stamp. This shows the value of reporting ‘on cover’ dates in our book, and in this newsletter. Some of the fakes can also be identified as they mimic old incorrect illustrations from Jarrett (1929) or other old sources. I wonder about three of these cancels however...

1. L 643, an “N” (or “Z”) inside a circle. When I prepared the book, I knew of only one example of this cancel, and described it as “Dubious”. This example was used as a cancel on printed postal stationary and the ink did not match the CDS. There is no reason to cancel postal stationary, and it is unlikely the PM would use a different ink to cancel something he knew did not need to be cancelled. The “N” supposedly stands for “Newmarket Ont.”, and I believe that someone just made up an appropriate “cancel” and applied it to the postal stationary. However, the fact that there is an off cover example now known makes me wonder if perhaps the cancel is genuine. (I could make a better judgement if I actually had the stamp at hand.) This again, does not rule out a later faker copying, or the original faker applying his cancel to off cover items. Does anyone have any other examples of this?
2. L 523, a “JVG” intaglio cancel from Picton Ont., june 1876. This also appears genuine, and genuine on cover examples are known. PM J. Shannon was very precise, and usually centered his cancel very precisely, so part strikes are not the norm. What JVG stood for, we may never know. This may have been included on this page by accident.
3. L 163, “76” in a circle. This is the only known example of this cancel, and is on an 1887 shade (note, not an 1876 shade) S.Q. It is also “too perfect”, and came from a collection which had several other suspicious numeral cancels within it. There is a possibility that this is a patriotic “76” USA cancel celebrating Independence Day from Britain in 1776. If this is the case, then it is not surprising that the cancel

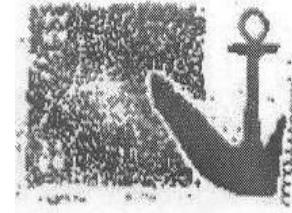
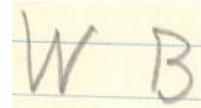


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'clobbers' the face of a British monarch! A few "76" USA cancels are illustrated in the cut, from one of the first books on USA fancy cancels – "Obliterations & Marques Postales des Etats – Unis", by Zareski, 1947. This is about 1/4 scale.



The items below are more "Bogusman" productions. As in previous newsletters, the index card sketch, and L illustrations appear for each. I would like to qualify the source of these index cards, someone had a reference to 'my' index cards, which implied I had made them. I was about 10 years old when these cards were made, the impression I had when they were given to me was that someone had viewed the "Bogusman" collection and/or "holdings" in about 1960. This person prepared very quick sketches of these items, and I believe that he was suspicious that so many new, (dramatic), and previously unrecorded fancy cancels were appearing from one source. (Bogusman joined BNAPs in the early 1950's, the S.Q. SG in 1952, and was still around in the late 1960's.) I do not know if Bogusman also prepared USA fake fancy cancel covers, but would not be surprised if he did.



L 722

L 727

L 909

L 1420

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Another Newsletter done! The first newsletter was in mid 1989, it is a notable comment that this continues, THANKS to those of you whom have sent in material to make this happen, couldn't have done it without you. I hope you are all enjoying a good summer when this arrives. Apologies for not being able to make the Convention this year. Take Care, and,

Good collecting,

Dave.Lacelle.

PS, I've just received word that Eastern Auctions will be holding a sale with **46 fancy cancel** lots October 22. Many will be fancy **Letter and Initials Cancels**. www.easternstamps.com or easternauctions@nb.aibn.com