

THE MONTREAL TYPE 1
By Theodor Kerzner, FRPSL

The Montreal thin-barred Type 1 hammer was proofed 2/MY 19/93, but no example of its actual use had ever been found. It has been assumed that while likely delivered to the Post Office since it was proofed by the manufacturer, the hammer was nevertheless not put into postal use.

Sixty years on from the start of serious study of Canadian squared circles, an example of actual postal use has surfaced amongst a group of Turkish postal stationery offered to dealer Frank Hoyles (and purchased by him) in the spring of 2013. This Type 1 use appears to be a dispatching mark on -/JU 22/93 from Montreal where delivery must have been earlier but unsuccessfully attempted (Montreal carrier mark of 2/JU 8/93). It was then dispatched by the local post office with the Montreal squared circle strike to the Dead Letter Office (DLO) where it arrived -/JU 28/1893 (DLO backstamp).



Holding this hammer aside after its receipt from the Post Office for “the other side of the counter” use internally at the Montreal post office might explain why it has taken so long for an example of its actual use to surface since no regular postal use may have occurred.

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The Montreal Type 1 (Continued)

This theory leaves open the possibility of other examples still to be found, unless this use on June 22 was random and unique when the post office clerk involved grabbed the closest device at hand to cancel this piece of mail, which turned out to be the Montreal Type 1 hammer that had been earlier put aside and was not in regular use.

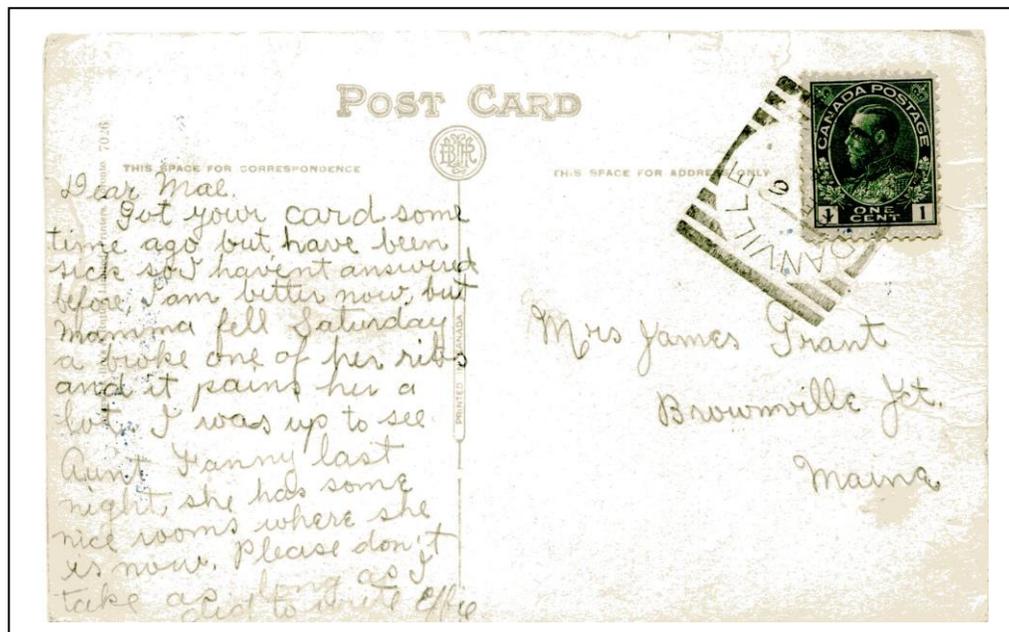
The widely used Montreal Type 2 hammer 1 was proofed on -/JU 28/93, just under a week after this -/JU 22/93 use of the Type 1 hammer and just over a month after the Type 1 hammer had been proofed. The scarce hammer 2 version of the Type 2 design was proofed later in early 1894. The current earliest date of recorded use of the Type 2 Montreal hammer 1 is JY/15/93, which would suggest a mere two-month maximum possible period of use for the Type 1 hammer from proofing on MY 19/93 until JY 15/98 when the Type 2 hammer went into regular postal use.

The 2013 discovery of actual postal use of the Type 1 Montreal hammer is probably the most significant find in Canadian squared circles in the fifty (50) years following the discovery of the Coleman type 1 hammer usage by Dr. Matthew Carstairs in the UK in the late 1950's.

Editor's Note: As you may have heard, Ted Kerzner passed away unexpectedly in August. Upon receiving the June 2014 Annex, Ted emailed Joe and I offering a series of articles for publication in the Annex, the first of which is presented above. Ted was the consummate squared circle collector, always willing to share his knowledge with other collectors. He will be missed by all.

NEW REPORTS AND UPDATES

DANVILLE, QUE. - New latest reported date: -/FE 6/14 (Vance Auctions) below. There have been 7 strikes reported between January 21st and February 6th; the previous six strikes are on off-cover stamps.



NEW REPORTS AND UPDATES (CONTINUED)



BLYTH, ONT. – An early date of use of this RF 120 squared circle, -/NO 13/93. *This is the first reported strike on the 1 cent Small Queen.* (Vance Auctions)

HAMILTON, ONT. – A third example of a “1” time mark used during the hammer’s second period (1913-1914); the strike is dated 1/AP 11/14.



LAMBTON MILLS, ONT. – A *new example (the 13th known)* of this RF 130 hammer. The partial strike is on a 6 Cent Small Queen; the letters “MBTON” are definitely clear on the stamp (below right).

PONTYPOOL, ONT. – Another example of this scarce hammer has been reported; the strike appears to be dated -/NO 6/93 (at left, below) is the 14th known example of this hammer. It was recently purchased on eBay as part of a larger lot of cancels on Small Queens.



Pontypool, ONT -/NO 6/93



Lambton Mills, ONT

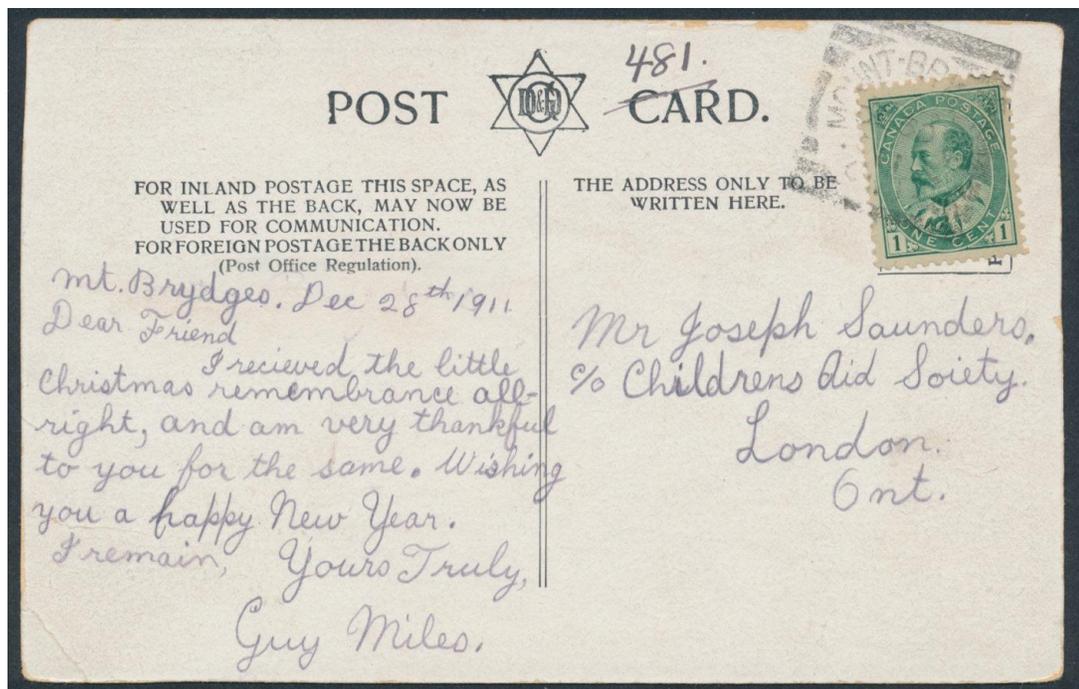
NEW REPORTS AND UPDATES (CONTINUED)

VIENNA, ONT. – *New early reported date:* -/AP 23/03 (from Ted Kerzner)

GRENFELL, ASSA. – *New latest reported date:* -/MY 2/00 (from Ted Kerzner)

AN UNCOMMON USE OF THE MOUNT BRYDGES, ONTARIO HAMMER

The postcard below exhibits what, in my experience, is an uncommon use of the Mount Brydges hammer, placed as a combination dater/obliterator; the strike is dated -/DE 30/11. Virtually all strikes of this hammer that I have encountered are either receiving or transit cancels or, as an originating cancel, applied as a free strike dater in conjunction with a circular barred killer.



CLOSING THOUGHTS

Just when it appears that all the scarce squared circle strikes have been found, a Study Group member comes across both the Lambton Mills and Pontypool strikes featured in this newsletter in the span of less than two weeks!

As Joe Smith noted in his response to these reports, “there is stuff in closet collections that have never been recognized for what they are. Makes for a little excitement every once in a while.”