

BNAPS FANCY CANCEL AND MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 37

Dave. Lacelle
Dec. 2004.

- Group News

I have received a bit more information on bisected Small Queens, any more would be greatly appreciated. There has been no feedback on the major topic of the last newsletter - Newfoundland cancels - so I guess that (more than) enough must have been said. The Union Bay modern fancy cancel was altered several times, and at one point lost any reference to the earlier fancy cancel, which I personally found somewhat regrettable.

We have three new members, Mr. W.G. Burden, 20 Aspen Court, Truro NS, B2N 5S1, Mr. F.D. Hoenger, 17 Anderson Ave., Toronto ON, M5P 1H2, and Mr. R. Pinet, 100 Gloucester, #714, Toronto ON, M4Y 1M1. (Mr. Pinet has a specific interest in Montreal postal items, Small Queens era.). I regret to report that one of our older members, Frank Waite passed away July 23. Frank was always willing to share information, and indeed sometimes actually 'give away' (!) items if such would enhance other peoples collections or research. The hobby is poorer for his passing.

As most of you know, I am slowly selling my reference collection of fancy cancels which was used for many of the illustrations in the fancy cancel book. One portion of the collection is taking a long time to sell due to its' bulk - the "Letters and Initials" section. I still have about 345 individual examples. Some of you collect very specific areas (cities, counties, etc.), and may be interested in some of these initials as they relate to P.M.'s or P.O.'s within your areas of interest. If anyone has a "wish list" (of initials) please send it to me, and I shall see what I can do. (Please, this is not an invitation for someone to come and "cherry pick" my collection, rather it is an offer to enhance your collection.) Prices will be in the range of \$15.00 - \$25.00 Cdn., will be for off cover stamps, and minor condition problems may apply as the strikes were selected for clarity. If anyone wants them all for \$10.00 Cdn. each, please advise.

It is dues time again. I have retained dues at \$6.00 as last years dues (including a few donations and carry overs) amounted to \$380.00. It costs \$125.00 per newsletter (ironically postage is the most expensive single item), so the break-even point is being reached. This is not intended as a profit making venture. I will probably have to drop five members for non-payment of dues from the last two years. If you owe dues there will be an insert with this newsletter. **Why not send in a photocopy of something for the newsletter when you send in your dues?** Thank you.

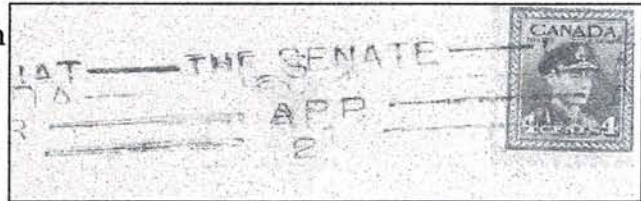
REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 1; Crown wax seals. New listing, St. Luce Station Que., June 1883, as free strike on registered cover, type 2.

Newsletter 30, the oval "T1" cancel. Jack Forbes has sent in some follow-up information on his own query. A gentleman named Tim Burgess sent him another example, this time on a piece of newspaper wrapper cancelling a Turks and Caicos stamp. This foreign use was suspected in Newsletter 30, and I would consider it confirmed now.



Newsletter 34; roller cancels. There seems to be renewed interest in this field, some of which has recently appeared in P.H.S.C. Journal. Jon Cable has reported that he collects, and would appreciate information on a very specific roller area; "legislative rollers". He has sent along some specific details about new listings, and dates of use. An example is above.



Newsletter 36; reuse of stamps. Maresch Sale 393 had this example of a reused three cent S.Q. The P.M. as per regulation put a small "cross in a circle" by the offending stamp, and wrote "Stamp previously used" before sending it to the D.L.O. He also (re)cancelled it. The previous cancel must have been very weak as I cannot see it in the illustration, and the auction description does not elaborate. The stamp is heavily oxidized which may now cover up a weak cancel that would have been more obvious at the time. (Two little 'asides'; 1, Thurso had a major pulp mill which would account for the oxidation (sulphuration) of the stamp, and 2. the process can be chemically reversed by soaking in a weak hydrogen peroxide / water solution which will reveal cancel details not otherwise visible.)



CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

I have a series of small "oddball" things to mention.

Firstly, BNA Topics, Sept.- June 2004, pg. 66, there is a query from Bill Pekonen which in part refers to our D393, an hexagonal "Public Works" Federal Government free marking. This marking was previously known used from 1877 to 1879, however the Topics example expands this range to 1889. The marking was occasionally used as a (secondary?) cancel on S.Q.'s which had been added to official mail when it could not be free franked. Cases where a stamp would have to added included mail to foreign countries, and/or registration charges. As David Handleman pointed out in his editorial comment this was not the case with this cover, due to a fairly recent agreement with the United States. To further confuse the issue, the stamp appears to be placed on top of the franking/cancel and as such may have been added by the Ottawa Main P.O.. I have seen one or two other examples where Ottawa Main P.O. "fiddled" with Government mail. The P.O. is almost directly across the street, and also contained Post Office Inspectors Offices, D.L.O. Offices etc. This query as well as presenting a new late date, also gives a second name inside the cancel. Previously, "T. Trudeau" (Aug.1877, and Jan.1879) was reported, and we now have "H.F. Perly" in July 1889.



Secondly, I have recently seen a photo of a cover with a 'two ring "2"' cancelling a three cent L.Q., also with March 29, 1869, Toronto C.D.S.. This reportedly is the third day of use of the two ring hammer. It is perhaps worthwhile noting that even on day three, the hammer was giving poor strikes. The Toronto two ring "2" hammer apparently had very short use, and the "2" design was renewed with the



hand made "Toronto 2" fancy cork series, some of which appear below. These started in August 1869, and were used (with two breaks in sequence) until October 1872. There are about 35 different cancels, ten are unconfirmed for place and date, however they have been included within the listing due to consistency of design, and stamp issue.



My question is; when was the last use of the two ring "2" hammer? Does anyone have any covers between say May to August 1869? I had a 3 cent L.Q, with a bold strike of the first Toronto 2 cork (as in the first cut above), which was placed directly on top of a two ring cancel - was this a last use? Unfortunately the top cork was too dark, and the underlying numeral could not be read. To further confuse the issue, two of the later (Sept. & Nov. 1870) Toronto 2 corks (last two in the cut above) incorporated a metal type "2", possibly the central portion from the old metal two ring 2 hammer.

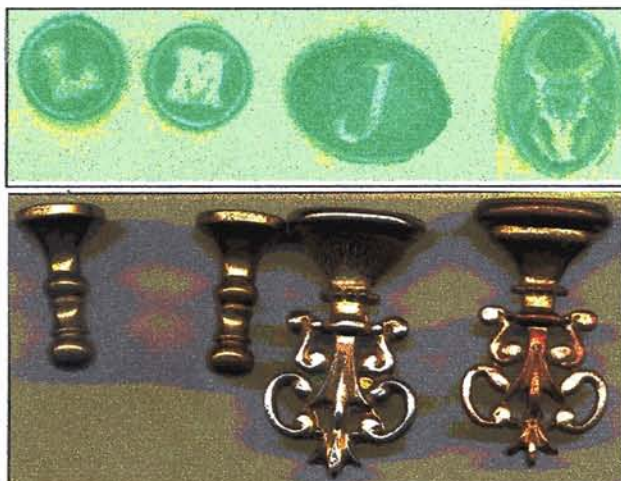
Thirdly, I literally "picked this item up" off the sidewalk in Regina. Sometimes philately is where you find it! I thought that postage due collection is somewhat unusual now, probably as it involves human intervention by at least two people to collect. I assume that this envelope was too thick, it appeared to possibly have contained a stack of photos. All markings are in a nice bright carmine red, and I note that except for the "D", the stamp is uncanceled!



Bill Burden had a query on a barred cancel hammer a friend of his had found. This was a fairly common design, hundreds (thousands?) of them were produced. Proof strikes in the Pritchard and Andrews book show similar "generic" killers with penned notations as; "(250)" or similar numbers, which are presumably the number manufactured. There are probably many of these hammers still around. For example, I have the Halls Harbour N.S. sealing wax hammer from about 1850. Does anyone have any other examples they could share with us? These old hammers are dangerous if they fall into the wrong hands as they can be used to fake or enhance old covers.



I recently bought (for a pittance) these four brass sealing wax stamps, they are probably of recent manufacture, and are presented here for information only. Note: these are not known as fancy cancels. The "L" and the "M" ones state "Made in England" at the side of the rim. The "J" and "Bull" ('Taurus' I presume) have no maker marks. These last two are slightly different in manufacture although the handles have similar elaborate designs, one is a more "golden" bronze, and the other (the "J") is a more heavily and less finished casting.

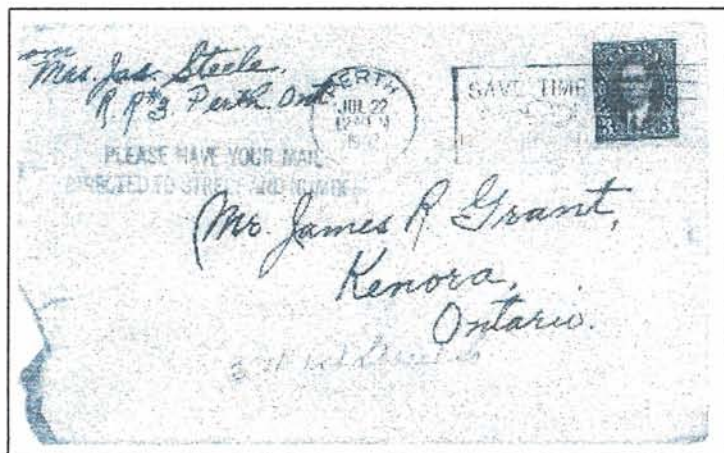


I would like to remind our members that I have two spreadsheet type databases relating to cancellation articles in the literature. One (with over 7500 entries) specifically relates to the “fancy cancels” used in the book, while the other (a mere 5000 entries) is a more general listing of 53 Canadian cancel related topics in major philatelic publications. This latter database is not an “end all, be all” database, it is biased by my interests, and needs updating - little has been done since 1991, however it may still be of use to some of you. I have thought of updating this database, however if no one wants to use it, I may as well spend time counting the maple leaves in my yard! (In fairness, Cimon Morin of National Archives has told me that he uses it quite often - he is of course the author of the Canadian Bibliography.) A few random selection examples: listed under; “Forgeries (of cancels)”, 108 articles or references; “Foreign [cancels on Canada] British, FB”, four references; “WAY” markings, 20 references including one on fakes.

I shall end this newsletter with some more of Gus Quatarochis’ modern postal markings, and two comments.

Firstly, I need more material for the newsletter. Please send some.

Secondly, this may be a bit late , but may I wish the best of the holiday season to all of you..

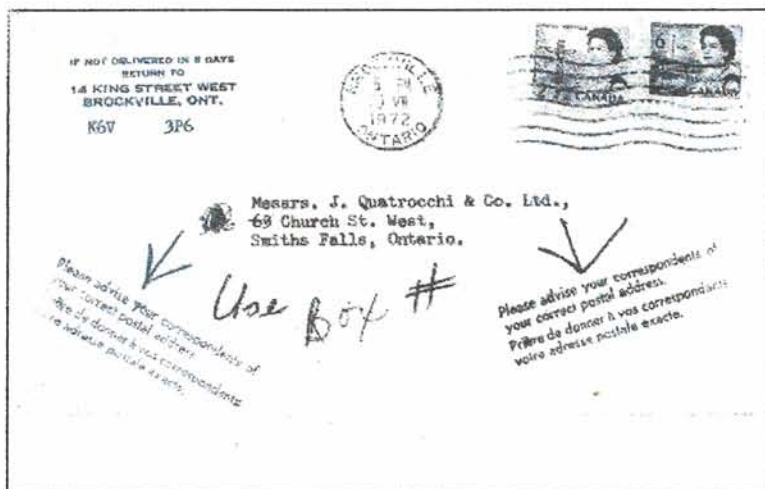


“PLEASE HAVE YOUR MAIL DIRECTED TO STREET AND NUMBER” - Possibly a very old marking, 1942 use here. (At one time everyone picked up their mail at the P.O.!) I am not sure when “General Delivery” ended at Kenora. The ms. At bottom directs to a street address.

PLEASE ADVISE YOUR CORRESPONDENTS OF YOUR CORRECT POSTAL ADDRESS.

Used in 1962, first street number crossed off, corrected number scribbled out, but apparently delivered anyways. (It is interesting that they did not ask for postal code also as it was in use at this time - note use in return address.)

And good collecting.



Dave Lacelle.