

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

The Squared Circle Postmarks of New Brunswick

Significant items:

This exhibit displays the efforts of a lifetime to acquire many very rare, some unique and difficult to find items. The following are believed to be unique or known (previously recorded) in only one or two examples.

- Butternut Ridge – ERD on cover
- Clifton – LRD on 3c Numeral
- Indiantown 1c Jubilee pair - (Believe to be unique)
- Indiantown – 3 c Jubilee Cover (only known)
- Milltown – 2c Map Stamp on Cover (only known)
- Newcastle Creek full strike on stamp/piece - (Only known and previously unreported)
- Sackville 3 c Jubilee Cover - (Unique, previously unreported)
- Sackville 2 c Map Stamp on cover – 2 known
- St. John Hammer 2 – Blank time mark on cover.
- St. John Hammer 3 on 2 c Map Stamp on Cover - (two known and also LRD)
- Shediac on 3 c Jubilee cover – (2 known)
- Shediac on 2c Map over – (Only known)
- Woodstock on 2 c Map Stamp cover – (2 Known)

Treatment and structure:

- The acronym **ERD = “Earliest Recorded Date”**. **LRD = “Latest Recorded Date”**
- The objective of this exhibit is to display all of the 16 known squared circle hammers used in the province of New Brunswick during the period of 1893 - 1916.
- We strive to show an example on stamp and on cover for each hammer and in this regard, the collection is complete.
- Additional special items shown are usage on Jubilee stamps of 1897 and on the 2 c Map Stamp of 1898 both on stamp and where possible on cover. Some of these items are unique or nearly unique and in many cases the item may not exist or in currently unknown on cover.
- Although most items are scarce to very rare as in one or two known examples it should be noted that this collection has taken most of a lifetime to build with new additions to the collection over the past couple years. The majority of items in this collection/exhibit are scarce to rare, known in less than 10 examples based on previous counts done by collectors of squared circles.

History and general information:

- The widespread usage of the squared circle cancelling devices commenced in 1893 and appeared to be generally, somewhat unpopular with postmasters. In fact, these hammers were issued to only about 325 post offices across Canada and in New Brunswick, only 14 towns or cities were issued the hammers. Many larger and significant towns did not have squared circle hammers, notably; Moncton, Edmundston, Perth Andover, St Stephen, Buctouche, and many others.
- The large outer dimension did not allow for a full strike on any single Canadian stamp of the era, thus, finding well-centered and nearly full strikes on any stamp is very difficult. Hence, the collecting of these postmarks on covers is much more desirable though much more difficult as many stamps were soaked off in the collections of the day.

- For some reason, some postmaster seemed reluctant(or lazy) to re-ink their ink pads and hence, many strikes for many towns are particularly weak and full bold strikes are exceptional and uncommon.
- Due to limited space, details on each item are kept at a minimum, concentrating on the handstamps and covers.
- The pages in this exhibit have been enhanced with a full strike image taken from the "Fifth Edition of the Squared Circle Cancellations of Canada Handbook". The purpose of this is to show what a full clear strike should look like. These images are slightly larger than the actual.
- Where possible, examples exhibited have been chosen for the clearness of strike but also keeping in mind, due to the absolute rarity of the material, some covers may show wear, age or damage. Every item in the exhibit is over 100 years of age.

General Squared Circle Study and Research:

This exhibitor has been collecting Squared Circle Cancels for nearly 50 years and can testify to the difficulty in acquiring new material. The most frequent source for collectors is in auctions when retiring or deceased collector's accumulations have been consigned for sale. Occasional finds can also be made at dealers tables in the various exhibitions. Some very rare items exist in as few as one example known and thus, may only come up for sale once or twice in a collectors lifetime.

Exhibit Plan:

Each town exhibited contains one example of the hammer on stamp and one on cover. Additional pages for each town display special items such as illustrated covers, map stamp and jubilee covers and other exceptional or unusual material. St. John exhibits on stamp and on cover from the three separate hammers of this town.

Previous Awards:

This exhibit has been shown once before in The Valley Stamp Club (local) show. It was awarded a Gold Medal. This is its first time at a National Level show.

Bibliography

The Squared Circle Postmarks of Canada 1981 – W. G. Moffatt and Glenn Hansen

The Squared Circle Cancellations of Canada – 2001, The BNAPS Study Group, Edited John Gordon