

SYNOPSIS

19TH Century Brandon Post Office Postmarks

Brandon, Manitoba, was one of the greatest benefactors of the construction of the CPR west from Winnipeg. From a small settlement, dependent on other towns for postal service, it was transformed over-night to a railway divisional point with post office, land titles office and a thriving commercial and cultural center.

This exhibit illustrates examples of the postal marks used at Brandon. The period is from the 19th Century. This period includes the first several marks used at the main post office.

The exhibit is organized by decades.

- 1881-1890 [split-ring, CDS, duplex]
- 1891-1899 [CDS, squared circle]

The first hammer used at Brandon was a split-ring hammer modified from one originally made for Brandon, NWT, but was never used at the Brandon post office. I have analyzed the two and suggested some changes that were made during the modification.

A number of CDS hammers followed, including one that is not in the proof books and not previously reported. This exhibit is the first description of that hammer. The exhibit also includes one of two known examples of the reported Unofficial Duplex (DUN-3). As a result of advice from Gray Scrimgeour, and my additional analyses, the mark has been changed from DUN to DUU.

The squared circle hammer receives due attention. Students of this postmark have identified rare occurrences of time marks. Two such are included – both of them considered to be only the second reported. The better-known 1898 flaw is also described.

This exhibit received a Silver at the 2003 Edmonton Spring National a Vermeil (small-gold) at the 2004 Winnipeg Stamp Club Show and a Vermeil at CALTAPEX, 2005. There was a comment that it required the N.W.T. hammer, but that hammer was never used at Brandon post office. The exhibit was updated between each of those shows.

Acknowledgment is gratefully expressed for advice provided by Gray Scrimgeour, Don Fraser, Jack Gordon and Stephane Cloutier.

Numerous proof books and catalogues (not listed) were used for reference purposes.

Robert K. Lane
2005