

IDENTIFYING A CANCELLATION

by K. M. Day, BNAPS L12

A group of Small Queen enthusiasts has been studying the fancy cancellations of that period for several years and has collected some 500 photographs of various cancels. A photograph of a cover in the Brassler collection showed a strip of six of the one cent yellow cancelled with a series of strikes of grid numeral 236 (Jarrett 118) from Petrolea to Ottawa, April 1881, apparently iden-

opposite end of the province of Ontario from Petrolea. Examination of 15 stamps with this cancel off cover revealed light, secondary cancels in eight instances, two of which were pen cancels and one of a light town cancel of Vandreuil. A close examination of the Brassler cover from Petrolea reveals a light secondary grid cancel of wedges in a grayish color similar to the Petrolea town



tifying this cancel as originating in Petrolea. This seemed rather strange as the cancel is a fairly common one, in fact too common to be used from such a small town. In the West-haver collection this same cancellation appears on a card sent from New Edinburgh to Montreal, November 1881. The 236 cancel is superimposed on a light grid killer cancel as shown in the accompanying illustration. But New Edinburgh is at the extreme

cancel on four of the six stamps, whereas the 236 cancels were in a full black. When the writer learned that New Edinburgh is a suburb of Ottawa the answer to the puzzle suddenly appeared clearly. The grid 236 is an Ottawa transit or receiving cancel and will be so listed in the forthcoming handbook of fancy cancels. Apparently the Ottawa postal clerks in 1881 were assiduous in seeing that all incoming or rerouted mail was well cancelled.

(continued from page 156)



(continued from page 151)

copies of late '96 and throughout '97 do not show this clearly; they only hint at it. All my St. H. covers are of earlier date. I wrote concerning these to one of the most discerning of squared circle students, Mr. J. Millar Allen, of Northern Ireland, and he could see no evidence of cutting down; so I am still awaiting a piece which will furnish definite, incontrovertible proof.