

CHENEVILLE / CHÉNÉVILLE REVISITED

by Charles J. G. Verge

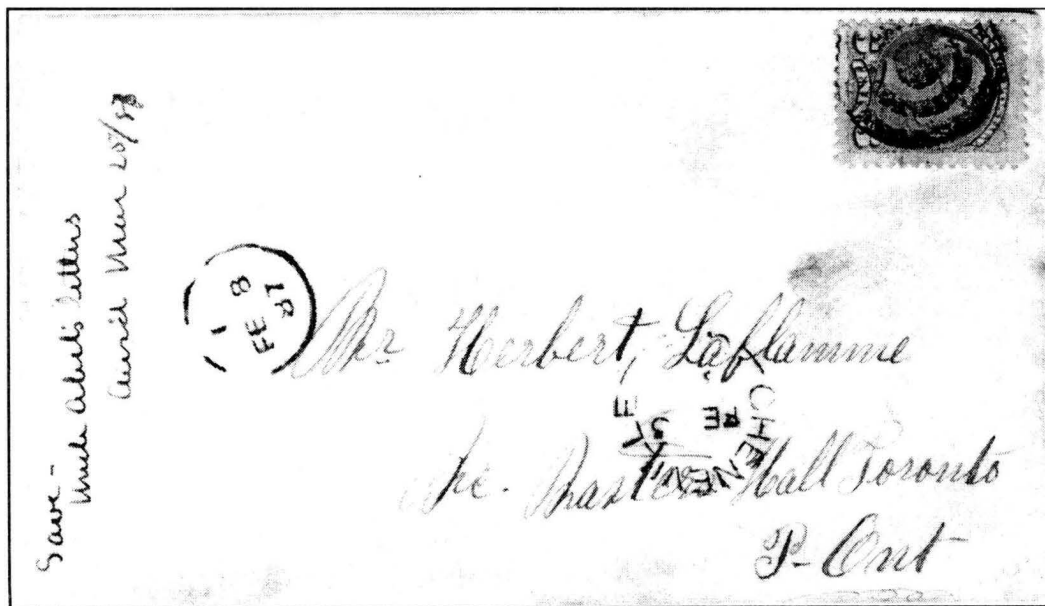
Gray Scrimgeour [1] and Joe Smith [2] have both written about CHENEVILLE, QUE. broken circles. Chénéville is a town in Papi-neau County, whose postal history I collect. The question of the acute accents on the first two E's of the name is intriguing and requires more study, as will be apparent in what follows.

Let me first set the stage before discussing the handstamps used at Chénéville. The Chénéville post office was known first as Hartwell, whose opening date is not listed by Father Anatole Walker [3]. Frank W. Campbell [4] shows dates of 1875 to 1885 for the operating period of the Hartwell post office. Michel Gagné [5] and J. Paul

Hughes [6] both show a May 2, 1876 proof strike of the HARTWELL / QUE. broken circle.

When it comes to the successor post office, Chénéville, Father Walker reports, as does Smith, a date for the name change of December 1, 1884. Campbell gives the year as 1885. All others (Scrimgeour, Gagné and Hughes) are silent on this issue, although Hughes reports a proof strike which we will discuss later.

Before we discuss the accents it should be made clear to readers that there are two Chénéville broken circles, one which reads CHENEVILLE / QUE and one which reads CHENEVILLE / P.Q. The only proof strike reported for any Chénéville hammer is that shown by Hughes in his book, and it is for the CHENEVILLE / P.Q. hammer. Although Smith reports that it was proofed on SP 13 / 12, it is shown in the proof book and replicated by Hughes as SP 13 / 13. There are no proof records for the CHENEVILLE / QUE device, which





is the hammer both with and without the accents. The four CHENEVILLE / P.Q. hammer strikes in my collection (DE 27 / 15; MY 6 / 16; DE 25 / 17 and FE 14 / 39) show no accents whatsoever.

Now comes the question of the 22 mm vs the 20 mm hammers. Smith implies that there are two CHENEVILLE / QUE hammers, one of each size. He bases the existence of the 20 mm one on Scrimgeour's report [1], although it is not recorded there as such. My research so far indicates that there are only two hammers, a 22 mm CHENEVILLE / QUE and a 20 mm CHENEVILLE / P.Q. My two CHENEVILLE / QUE 22 mm hammers are dated FE 3 / 87 and MR 19 / 96; the first has accents, the second has none. Contrary to Scrim-

geour's MY 12 / 03 accented broken circle, which is shown as having the accents pointing to the northeast (É) as they are supposed to be, my FE 3 / 87 strike shows the accents flat and parallel to the upper stroke of the E, thus: Ê.

Where does this leave us? Definitely in need of more strikes to study. Based on the evidence so far, a theory can be advanced. I believe that the original hammer was proofed prior to 1887 and had the flat accents. Some time between then and 1896 the hammer was recut to repair the letters 'C', 'H' and 'V' and the accents were removed at that time. However, it is possible that a completely new hammer, without accents, was made and shipped to Chénerville. When the inhabitants noticed the missing accents on the recut or new hammer, it is possible that a third (20 mm?) hammer, as described by Scrimgeour, was locally made before the CHENEVILLE / P.Q. device came into use after 1913. Do readers have any comments?

References

- [1] Scrimgeour, K. G., *PHSC Journal* #50, p. 134, June 1987.
- [2] Smith, J. M., *PHSC Journal* #93, p. 67, March, 1998.
- [3] Walker, L. A., *Les Bureaux de Poste du Québec*, Le Marché Philatélique de Montréal, 1987.
- [4] Campbell, F. W., *Canada Post Offices 1755/1895*, Quarterman Publications, Inc., Boston, 1972.
- [5] Gagné, M., *Marques postales du Québec, Période 1876-1907*, Société d'Histoire Postale du Québec, Montreal, 1990.
- [6] Hughes, J. P., *Proof Strikes of Canada*, Vol. III, *Split Circle Proof Strikes of Quebec*, Robert A. Lee Ltd., Kelowna, 1989.



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