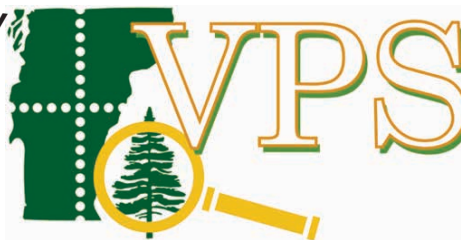


VERMONT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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TINMOUTH OCTAGON IS VERY RARE

By Bill Lizotte

This perfectly struck octagon postmark from Tinmouth is dated December 2, 1886, but is unfortunately on a cut square, the typical manner of collecting postmarks during the late nineteenth century. I have not seen any example of this postmark on a full cover.

Note that the letters of Tinmouth are in serif letters, while the letters spelling Vermont in full are sans serif. The postmark touches one nub of a single perforation on the stamp, but the stamp is otherwise canceled with the common target.

Octagon postmarks are the most difficult area of collecting in Vermont's postal history. Fifty-five different towns are known to have used them in sixty different examples. East Highgate, Fairfax, and Hinesburgh had two varieties each, while Milton had no less than three.

I have collected these avidly for more than thirty years, and have never seen at least a dozen on the list, and am missing seventeen of the sixty items. It is likely that more than a dozen on the list are unique usages, since I have searched for so long in dealer's stock and in literature. It seems that the three Milton octagons together in actual numbers may be more numerous than all other octagons from fifty-four other Vermont Post Offices combined.

This article originally appeared in the November 2014 Vermont Philatelist as part of Bill Lizotte's "Post Horn" column. Lizotte is the executive director of the Vermont Philatelic Society.

VPS ANNUAL MEETING

The 2015 annual meeting of the VPS will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2015, at 1 p.m. at the Crossroads Stamp Show in Quechee, Vermont. See listing in Shows & Bourses (PAGE 78). ■

