



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
POSTAL HISTORY  
RESEARCH GROUP

Volume 3 - Number 2

WHOLE NUMBER 10

JUNE 1994

**CROWN CANCELLATIONS - ESQUIMALT / VICTORIA**

The B.C. Crown or "Esquimalt Crown", as it is often called, is an elusive cancel that has confused collectors for many years. Cancels, some genuine and some faked, show up in auctions from time to time and are eagerly sought after. Three distinct hammers plus at least two fake exist and it is possible that at least one hammer found its way into private hands. Gray Scrimgeour recently purchased the cover shown below, a real beauty, and as might be expected had some concern about its authenticity.

**GENUINE**



Esquimalt Crown Type "B"  
- Dated Esquimalt May 25, 1903

**FORGED CROWNS**

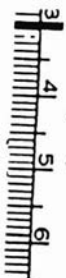


As part of the on-going study of British Columbia markings the topic for this month's Research Report is the B.C. Crown Cancellations. On the next page are diagrams based on the results of E.A. Smythies research. Your assistance is requested on updating his work.

**B.C. Crown Cancellations - continued**

The forged crown was extensively studied by E.A. Smythies and references to his works are listed below. The first B.C. Crown cancellation was proofed by Pritchard and Andrews in September 1880 (Type "A"). No proofs are reported for Types "B" and "C". The most common forgery, usually found on the 15 cent large queen stamp, was taken from Jarrett's 1929 sketch number 854 and has only 36 rays as opposed to the 40 of the genuine. The table below and the illustrations based on the Smythies sketches reproduced in the August 1966 issue of BNA Topics.

Pritchard & Andrews Type A                      Type B                      Type C                      Forgery #  
Proof



not to scale

**B.C. CROWN**

	Type A	Type B	Type C	Forgery #
Diameter, mm.	24	24	26	26.5
Rays - number	40	40	40	36
Rays - length. mm.	5.0	4.5	5.0	5.5
Dots below Diadem	3	2	2	4
Strokes in arch				
left	4	4	5	4
right	4	5	5	4
Width of crown, mm.	12.5	11.75	12.0	11.5
Period of use	1880 09 --			
early	1880 10 05	1881 05 03	1907 08 23	-
late	1882 07 13	1905 05 25*		-

# A second forgery is known with "PAID" above crown - 31 rays  
\* A 2 cent green Admiral stamp is in the Editors collection

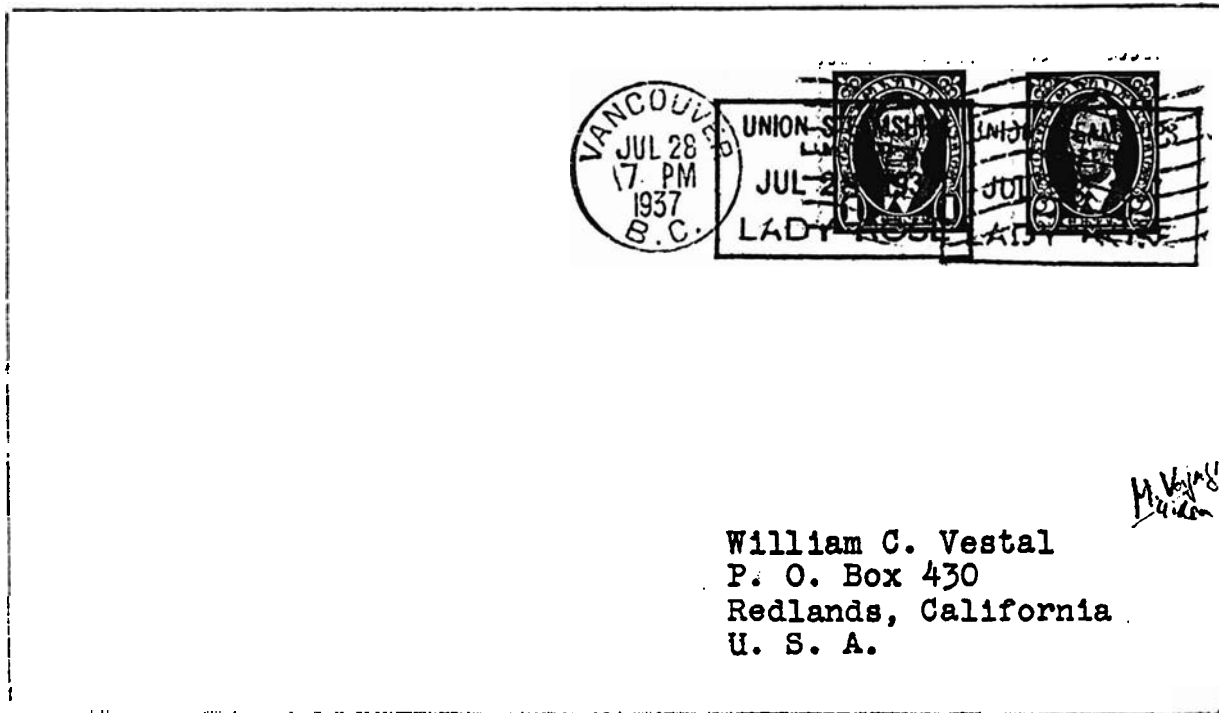
**References**

Smythies, E.A., "The B.C. Crown Cancellation." Maple Leaves, Vol. 10 No. 1 Page 2 - 4 and Vol. 10 No. 4 Page 83 - 84.  
Smythies, E.A., "The Ottawa and B.C. Crown Cancellations." BNA Topics, Vol. 23 No. 8, August 1966, Page 166 - 169.

**LADY ROSE UNION STEANSHIPS LIMITED**

The *LADY ROSE* was a steel passenger and cargo motor vessel of 199 gross tons with a length of 104.8 feet and a beam of 21.2 feet. She was built in 1937 by A. & H. Inglis Limited of Glasgow. She was launched as the *LADY SYLVIA* but, because of a registry duplication, she was re-named the *LADY ROSE* upon arrival in Vancouver. She was on the West Howe Sound route from 1937 to 1940 when she was used to transport military personnel and supplies to York Island. From 1942 to 1946 she was requisitioned by naval transport for West Coast use. She then returned to her former run until she was sold to the Harbour Navigation Company in 1951. She was later sold to Alberni Marine Transportation Ltd. for use in Barkley Sound and on the Alberni Canal. She now serves Nahmint, Sarita, Kildonan, Bamfield, Ucluelet and Port Albion from Port Alberni. The *Lady Rose* holds the mail contract for Kildonan and Bamfield and as a result is entitled to accept "Way Mail" along the route.

CTO COVER - LADY ROSE - JUL 28, 1937



William C. Vestal  
P. O. Box 430  
Redlands, California  
U. S. A.

VANCOUVER / JUL 28 / 7 PM / 1937 / B.C.

"Cancel To Order" (CTO) cover addressed to well known CTO collector William C. Vestal. THE "Maiden Voyage" notation at right is not correct as maiden voyage of the *Lady Rose* was made on or about July 12, 1937. The marking is the earliest date for Ludlow S-191 1 and the latest reported date is July 22, 1940. Only five copies of S-191 1 have been reported.

The British Columbia Postal History News Letter is published quarterly for the Pacific Northwest Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society. The annual membership fee is \$5.00 in Canadian or US funds.  
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LADY ROSE ALBERNI MARINE TRANSPORTATION LIMITED

"Way Mail" reached its peak in the 1930's when hundreds of way mail letters were carried by coastal ships serving the British Columbia coast. By the early 1950's the three main carriers, Union Steamships, Canadian Pacific Steamships, and Canadian National Steamships had ceased coastal service and as a result the use of "Way Mail" virtually ended. Today, one of the few ships applying "way mail" markings is the Lady Rose operated by Alberni Marine Transportation Limited of Port Alberni. Bill Robinson recently reported that the Lady Rose is using a new larger marking on the back of mail picked up at Bamfield after the regular mail closes.

All reported marking are found on the back of the cover and have had corner cards from Bamfield.



On face -  
PORT ALBERNI  
29 VII 1987



Two dated -  
13 III 89  
25 IV 89



On face -  
V6Z 4B0 (Victoria)  
16 II 1994

WEST COAST CRUISE to  
**Barkley Sound**  
AND RETURN VIA  
**Alberni Inlet**  
ON VANCOUVER ISLAND, B.C.

**Tourist Round Trip**  
(Day trip) \$6.00  
Special Rates for Families

COMFORTABLE LOUNGE  
COFFEE SHOP

LADY ROSE

## DEERHOLME, B.C. - 1912 to 1925

From information supplied by Lester Small.

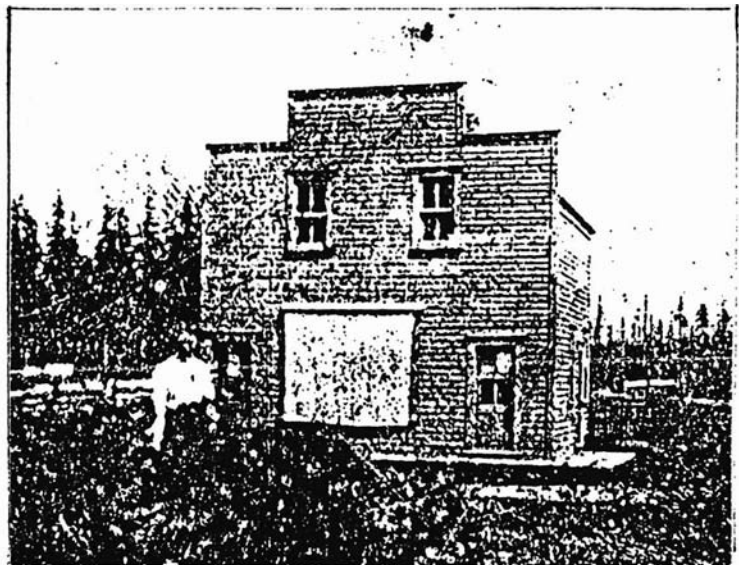
The rural district of Glenora lies six miles to the northwest of Duncan and in the early days was mainly a farming region. It was sparsely settled and was served by a small store at the junction of Glenora and Water Roads. As the population grew a post office was requested under the name of "Glenora" but the name was refused by the Post Office Department although a previous office of that name had been located southwest of Duncan from 1898 to 1903. The station on the Canadian National Railway was called Deerholme and this was approved for the name of the Post Office. The Deerholme Post office opened in the Justus Williams store, April 1, 1912, with Justus E. Williams as Postmaster.

Proof strike  
MR 16 / 12



In 1915 the following were  
boxholders at the post office;

Amsden, Jn. - farmer  
Fletcher, Richards - poultry  
French, Christopher - farmer  
Hale, Frederech M., - farmer  
Pike, Ernest - poultry  
Row, J - poultry  
Waldon, Wm. - poultry  
Williams, Justus E. - store  
& sawmill



Williams Store and Deerholme Post Office  
Glenora and Water Roads - c. 1925

The office was closed from June 30, 1917 because of lack of revenue. The postmaster stipend was \$50 and the revenue for the previous year was only \$46.05. Over the next few years the settlement of the Glenora district increased rapidly and as a result the Deerholme Post Office, under postal order 2644 dated 28 June 1921, was re-established August 1, 1921 with Justice Williams again being the Postmaster. Justice Williams died in the fall of 1924 at which time his daughter Alice took over as postmistress. She resigned April 6, 1925 and as no person was willing to assume the duties, the Deerholme Post Office closed June 30, 1925. Following the closing of the office mail was delivered on RR 3, Duncan.

The Williams' family home is still there on the crest of the hill at the corner of Glenora Road and Water Road. For many years it was the residence of the late Gerald Wellburn.

Deerholme Post Office  
 Boxholders - 1925

- Beckerley, J.
- Blackwood, James
- Carpenter, A.
- Cavin, J.
- Cavin, R.
- Cavin, S.
- Deerholme Lumber Co.
- Driver, H.W.
- Ferguson Bros.
- Fitch, A.E.
- Graham, T.
- Haslam, E.
- Horne, D.
- Kershaw, E.
- Palmer, E.
- Rowe, James
- Saneto, G.
- Sheepwash, H.
- Sheepwash, W.
- Simmons, F.
- Stevens Bros.
- Talbot, Col.
- Thomas, A.
- Thompson, C.A.
- Vaux, A.
- Vaux, F.
- Vaux, J.
- Vaux, R.
- Vaux, Wm.
- Williams, B.R.
- Williams, Mrs. J.E. Store
- Williams, M.J.
- Williams, R.H.
- Williams, S.E.
- Williams, V.A.
- Willing, C.A.

Lester Small has a personal interest in the Deerholme Post Office because his sister-in-law is Lily Williams wife of Justus' son Victor. The house is presently owned by Brooke Williams a grandson of Justus Williams.

Money Order  
 Receipt  
 AP 15 / 1924



Cowichan Agricultural Fall Show  
 Blotter - Deerholme Post Office  
 Cancelled NO 03 and NO 04 / 13

**XV COMMONWEALTH GAMES -  
VICTORIA - AUGUST 18-28, 1994**



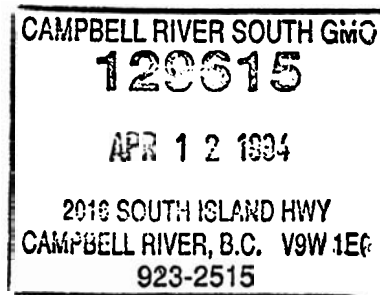
The XV Commonwealth Games will be held in Victoria from August 18 to 28 and Canada Post Corporation, as might be expected, issued two stamps to commemorate the event. The first day for those who missed it was May 20, 1994 with the "Official Launch" at Victoria. The launch has now come and gone and plans for mail service at the games seems to be in a state of confusion. The initial plans called for use of the Mobile Post Office used for the Canada Summer Games at Kamloops (see Vol 2 No. 4 page 59). The Mobile Post Office van has been withdrawn and the RC number retired, thus it is not available. A van could be brought from the East but this is unlikely.

Consideration is now being given to having the University Postal Outlet, located in the Book Store at the University of Victoria, set up satellite outlets at the various sites, as required, to provide postal service to the visiting athletes. The University PO presently holds stamp sale rights to a number of the games locations and thus this may be the option selected. Whether any special cancellation will be provided at any or all of the sites, as was done at Kamloops, is not yet known. For those attending the games this aspect might be worth looking into. [please keep the editor in mind]

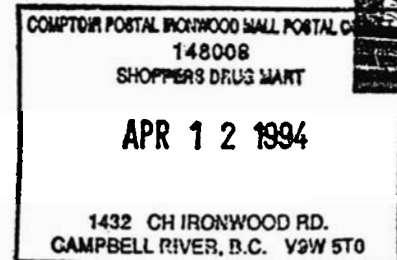
**CAMPBELL RIVER - Recent Changes**

The newest types of daters to be produced by Canada Post is now being used at three Post Offices in Campbell River. The new daters include the RC number, name of the office, the address and postal code and in some cases the name of the business of host company. These are not the first offices to use this new style. Any suggestions as to a name for this type of dater?

RPO 1 to Campbell River South GMO  
641111 to 129615 - 1993 06 21



RPO 3 to Ironwood Postal Outlet  
651893 to 148008 - 1994 02 14



RPO 6 to Campbell River North GMO  
653659 to 136654 - 1993 09 14





QUERIES

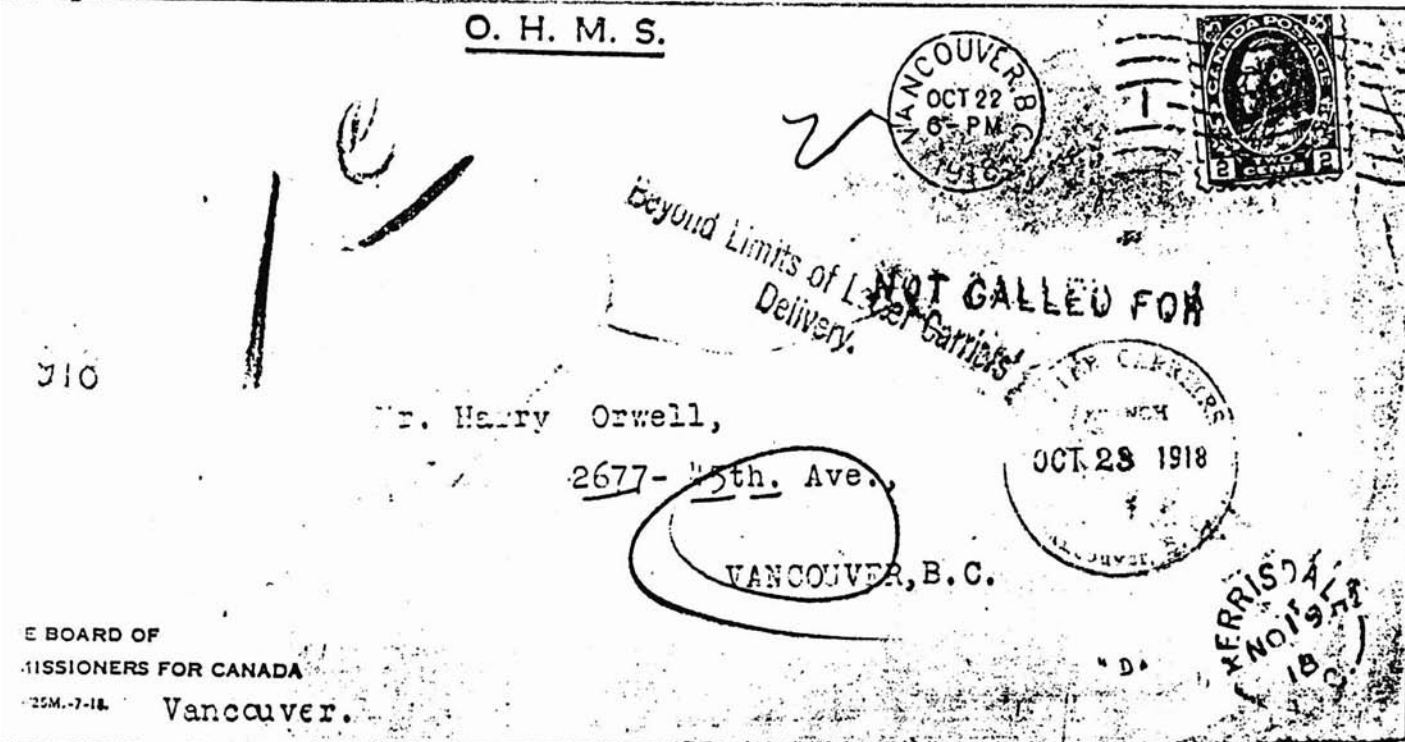
**94-01 CROSS-BORDER**

John Edgett writes "What information is there on cross-border mail along the International border when the mines were booming and the only rail transportation from them was by Great Northern and some mail was dispatched on that route in bags to be forwarded back into Canada?"

Editor - Cec Coutts in "Cancelled with Pride" p.120 mentions the use of the Lemola and Maple Falls Post Offices by Canadians prior to the opening of the Lindell Post Office in 1906. Also mail from Cranbrook area between 1892 and 1898 was sent to Jennings, Montana as the Cranbrook Post Office was closed. The mail sent by this route required both US and Canadian stamps. Can anyone provided further examples of cross-border mail from B.C.?

**94-02 BEYOND LIMITS OF LETTER CARRIERS' DELIVERY - Vancouver, October 1918**

Cec Coutts sends a copy of an unusual Government cover to 2677 - 45th. Ave., Vancouver. The cover is marked "BEYOND LIMITS OF LETTER CARRIERS' DELIVERY" and was sent to the Kerrisdale Post Office where it was marked "NOT CALLED FOR". This is the first time he has seen this marking and suggests that a listing of similar "odd ball" markings might be if interest. The Editor would love to receive other such items.



**94-03 MYSTERY BOOKS WITH A PHILATELIC THEME**

The Mystery Merchant Bookstore, of 1952 West Forth Avenue, Vancouver, has provided the following current mysteries where stamps play a prominent part in the story.

Grave Mistake (Marsh Ngaio), Solomons Seal (Innes Hammond), The Bearer Plot (Sela Owen). The Chinese Orange Mystery (Queen Ellery), The Dutch Blue Error (Tapply William G.), The Scarlet Ruse (MacDonald John D.) Any others to add to this list?



Please check your collection for copies of the B.C. Crowns

Please list all copies in your possession including undated items on stamp or piece. For undated items please list issue on which the cancellation is found. Type "A" appears to have been used at Victoria and Types "B" and "C" at Esquimalt but please indicate town of origin.

Smythies sketch	Date	Postmark or stamp	Addresses to
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Type "A"



Type "B"



Type "C"



Forgery



Forms should be mailed to  
Bill Topping, Editor  
B.C. Postal History News Letter  
7430 Angus Drive  
Vancouver, B.C. V6P 5K2

Name .....
Address .....