



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
POSTAL HISTORY  
RESEARCH GROUP

Volume 9 - Number 2

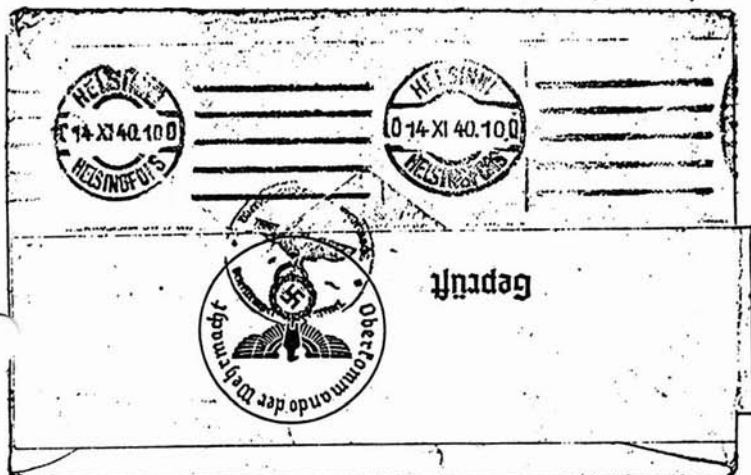
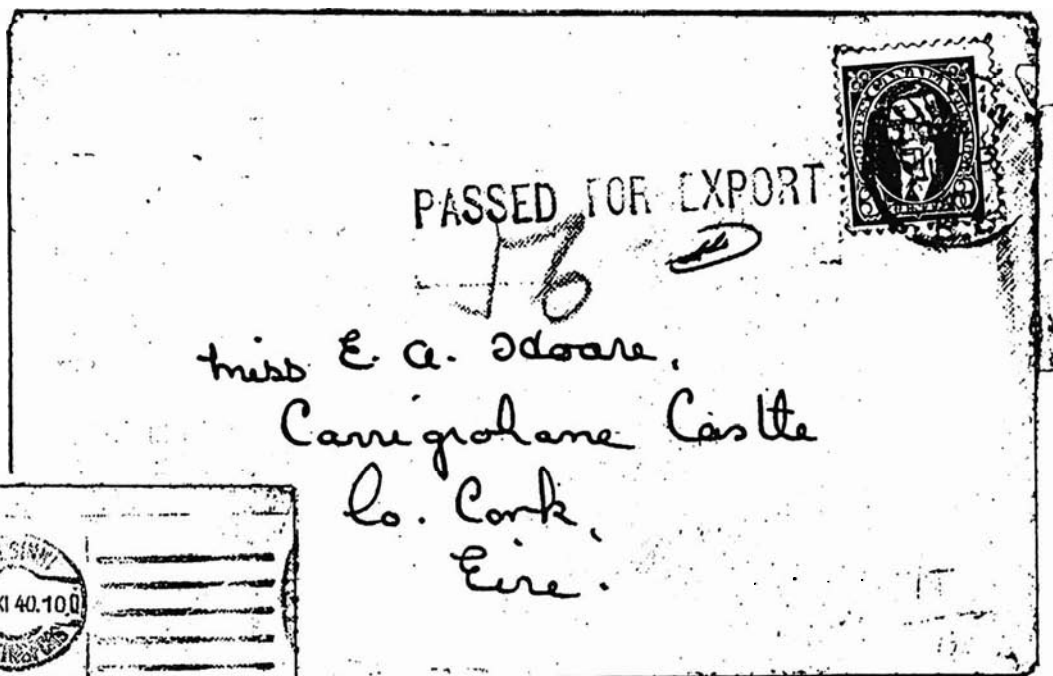
WHOLE NUMBER 34

JULY 2000

### CENSORED AT HELSINKI

There are times when a cover, if it could talk, would have a great story to tell. The cover below appears to be such a cover. At first glance it appears to be an early "PASSED FOR EXPORT" cover from a small B.C. town, namely, Duncan, addressed to Eire and mailed on July 23, 1940. The normal route for such a letter would be from Duncan, to Vancouver then by train to Montreal, for transfer to ship for delivery to England for further transport to Eire. An examination of the back shows that this was not the case. On the back is a black German censor label with a red censor marking applied before the letter was postmarked in Helsinki, Finland, on November 14, 1940, some five months later. The question is "How did this letter get to Helsinki where it was censored by the Germans?" Any suggestions?

Face - DUNCAN /  
JUL 23 / 40 /  
B.C.



**CENSORED AT HELSINKI, a suggestion**

Since this cover was acquired at, London 2000, it has been shown to a number of postal historians and the following routing seems acceptable.

By June 1940, mail service to most of Europe was badly disrupted and it appears the mail routes to and within Europe were changed on an almost weekly basis. In an attempt to maintain moral, mail and parcels for the armed forces were given priority. Thus a letter paid at surface rate had little chance of reaching Europe via the normal trans-atlantic routes. Changes in mail routes to and within Europe were reported monthly in the Supplements to the "Canada Official Postal Guide", but this was usually after the fact.

The following three entries from the "May, June and August 1940 Supplements" may help to explain the routing of the cover.

**MAY SUPPLEMENT, 1940**

9

(13) **Mail Services Suspended.**—All mail services, including Money Order service, have been suspended, until further notice, to Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The mail service to Greenland is also suspended.

**JUNE SUPPLEMENT 1940**

(14) **Mail Services to Belgium, Luxembourg and Holland Suspended.**—All mail services, including Money Order service, have been suspended, until further notice, to Belgium, Luxembourg and Holland.

(15) **Parcel Post Service to Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Suspended.**—The parcel post service to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is suspended until further notice.

(16) **Mail Services Resumed.**—Mail Service, except parcel post, has been resumed to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland and Sweden. The mail service to Finland is subject to heavy delay.

**AUGUST SUPPLEMENT, 1940**

13

(21) **Mail Service to Switzerland and Finland.**—Mail matter, except parcel post, may again be posted for transmission to Switzerland.

Mails for Switzerland are liable to censorship by the enemy and senders should accordingly exercise the utmost discretion as to what they send or write.

Attention is also directed to the fact that mails for Finland are liable to enemy interception.

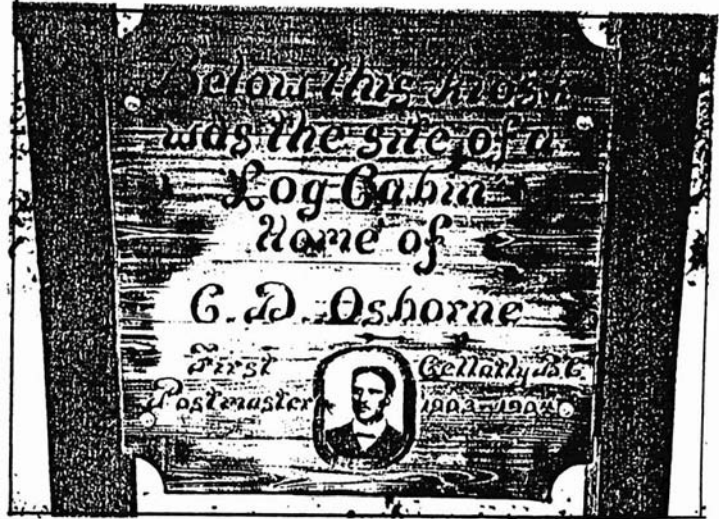
By May 1940 mail service to most countries in Northern Europe had been suspended but letter mail to the USSR was still being accepted. It can be assumed that mail from Canada would have been routed via Vancouver to Vladivostock and then by the Tran-Siberian Railway to Moscow. The resumption of mail service to Finland and other countries in Eastern Europe, in June 1940, confirms that this route was in use. In August mail was still being accepted for Finland but it was subject to "enemy interception".

Thus the cover mailed at Duncan on July 23, 1940 was probably sent via ship across the Pacific to Vladivostock and then via the Trans-Siberian Railway to Moscow. From there it was sent to Helsinki for transfer to Eire. As noted in the August Supplement the letter was subject to interception by the enemy and as a result was censored by the Germans before being postmarked at Helsinki on November 14, 1940. The route from there to Eire is speculative, but, it probably was via Germany to Eire which at the time was neutral. The fact there are no further postal markings, such as "Returned to Sender", would indicate that the letter was delivered in due time to Eire.

**GELLATLY REGIONAL PARK DEDICATED JUNE 10, 2000**

Photos thanks to Bill Tidball

On June 10, 2000, a Regional Park was dedicated at the site of the Gellatly Post Office and a special plaque to C.D. Osborne the first postmaster and the original owner of the property was unveiled. The Gellatly Post Office was authorized by the Postmaster General under Post Office Order F6570, on April 18, 1903, and was established June 1, 1903 with C.D. Osborne listed as postmaster. There may have been a delay in the opening as the equipment did not leave Vancouver until Tuesday, May 30.



The original house and post office, built by Mr. Osborne, still stands on the property. Although Mr. Osborne was the first postmaster the post office was named after David Erskine Gellatly, a vegetable grower, who was known as the "Tomato King of the Okanagan". He arrived in the Okanagan in the early 1900's.

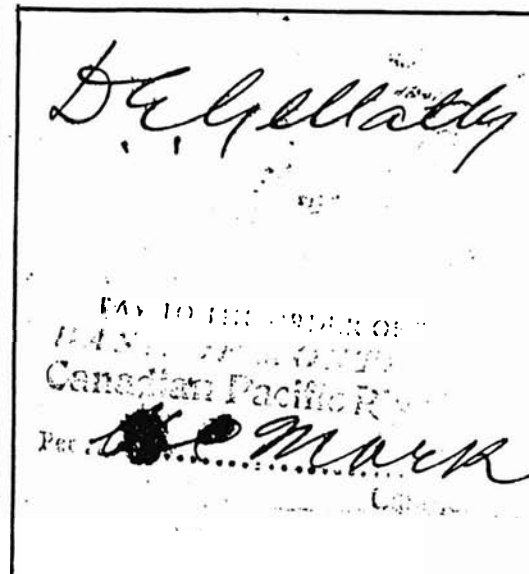
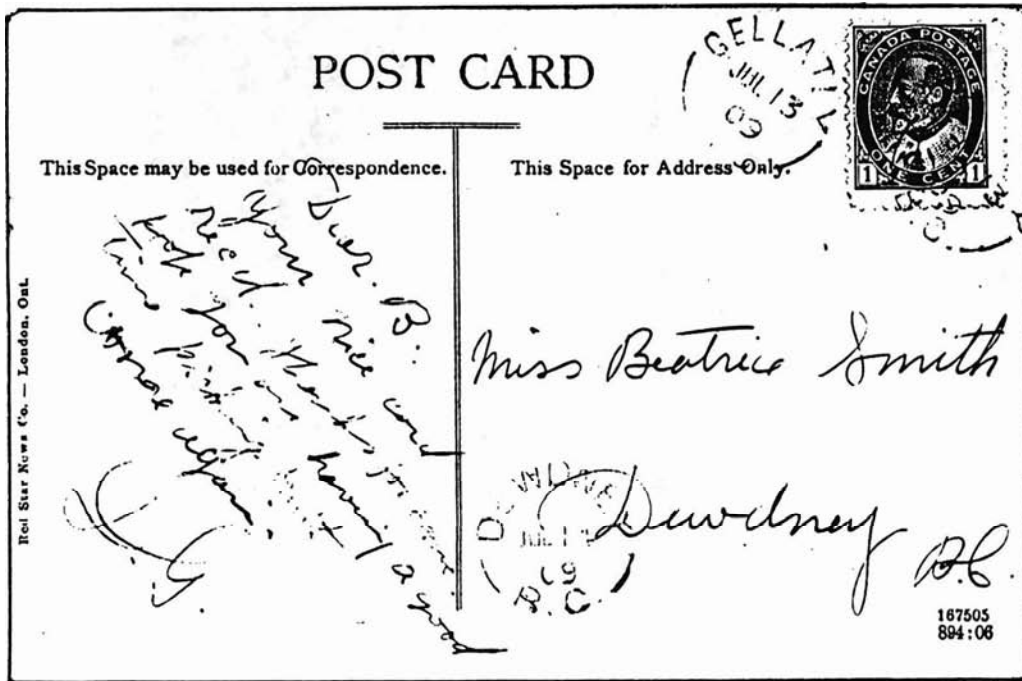
In January 1904, Mr. Gellatly took over the Osborne farm and became postmaster. He served as postmaster until he died on May 5, 1922 at the age of 65, His wife continued as postmaster until June 30, 1926 when the office was closed being "no longer required". The Osborne / Gellatly farm and wharf were located on the west side of Okanagan Lake about 8 miles south of Kelowna with the original wharf serving as the landing for Westbank as well.



GELLATLY JUL 13, 1909

Initial D.G. = D.E. Gellatly, Postmaster.

D.E. Gellatly signature on back of CPR check.



**RESPONSE FORM - April 2000**

Over a dozen replies were received to the April Response Form regarding the information to be included in a proposed update of the Checklist of B.C. Post Offices. The results of the survey can be broken into four distinct groups showing little range within each group. Thus in any revised Checklist an attempt will be made to include items with a moderate to high rating. The numbers below each heading were established using the central tendency method.

High rating (85-100)	Moderate rating (50-75)	Neutral rating (0-20)	Low rating (negative 70-80)
Outlet name	New name	Change to number	Phone number
Date of opening	Former name	Outlet grade	Contractor
Date of closing	Former number	Operator/Postmaster	Regional Rep.
R.C. Number	Address		
	Postal Code		

**TOUR OF VANCOUVER POST OFFICE**

Plans for an evening (7:00 PM) tour of the Vancouver Post Office in early October are underway. This is not the normal Post Office tour in that we will spend much more time looking at how the mail is processed and have a chance to see the new sorting equipment that is soon to be installed. If you are interested in joining the tour contact Bill Topping, 261-1508.

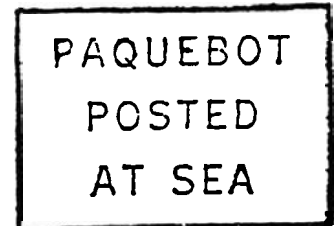
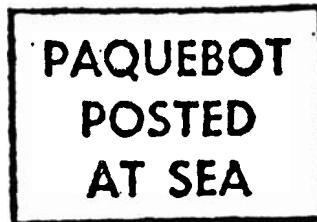
**JULY NEWS LETTER LATE**

What with CPS of GB in Hove, London 2000 and a trip to the Shetlands, followed by a trip to Alberta with the two grand children the July News Letter is a little late. It is hoped that the October News Letter will be out in late September.

**QUESTIONABLE "PAQUEBOT" MARKINGS**

The question of "PAQUEBOT" markings added to cover by ship cancellation collectors produced a number of requests for more details. It appears that between 1950 and 1983 at least seven collectors produced their own rubber handstamps which were applied to ship covers. In some cases the rubber stamps were sent to a postmaster, or ship captains, with a request to apply the marking to a number of covers. Often co-operative ships pursers marked envelopes with the ship name even though the ship was not authorized to accept mail. In a few cases "PAQUEBOT" markings were added later to produce attractive ship covers. At least 40 lots of covers, mainly from the United States, have been identified as having been produced in this manner and many others are suspect. The following collectors are known to have produced rubber "PAQUEBOT" stamps for use on ship covers from Western North America.

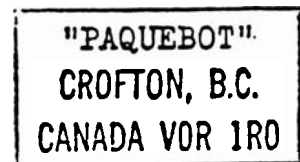
Collector	possible years
Edward Ceder	1948 to 1955
Vern Ardiff	1967 to 1970
Eugene Peterson	1979 to 1979
Gene Falada	1980 to 1983



The 30 by 49 mm, shown above, first appeared in 1979 and is reported on covers from Coquitlam, Kitimat, Prince Rupert, Squamish and Vancouver. The use on covers originating from Coquitlam, which is inland and has no port facilities, puts the use of this marking in question.

**PAQUEBOT-NAVIRE**

Posted at Sea  
Paquebot  
Kitimat, B.C.  
VBC 1TO



The Crofton and Kitimat markings with postal code appear to have produced by Eugene Peterson in 1979 and the "PAQUEBOT - NAVIRE" and the "VICTORIA BRITISH COLUMBIA" markings, produced in 1982, are attributed to Gene Falada.

**PAQUEBOT**

**P A Q U E B O T**  
VICTORIA BRITISH COLUMBIA

**"PAQUEBOT"**

During the 1970's, Vern Ardiff was by far the most prolific producer of ship covers of questionable parentage having produced markings from all parts of the United States. Of interest to British Columbia postal historians are markings from Ketchikan and Skagway added to ship covers bearing Canada stamps. He is also reported to have produced rubber stamp markings, for use on cruise ship covers originating from Juneau, Metlakatla, Sitka, Valdez, Ward Cove, and Wrangell.

**"PAQUEBOT"**  
KETCHIKAN  
AK. 99901

PAQUEBOT MAIL  
SITKA, AK 99835

**"PAQUEBOT"**  
METLAKATLA  
AK. 99926

**"PAQUEBOT"**  
SKAGWAY,

**"PAQUEBOT"**  
WRANGELL  
AK 99929

**"PAQUEBOT"**  
WARD COVE  
AK. 99928

"BOB OF THE NORTH LAND" - M.R. (Bob) Arlidge

The letter below is page one of a four page letter from "Bob of the North Land" extolling the wonders of purchasing First Flight Covers. The covers he is selling are priced at \$1.00 to \$2.00 and in a few cases \$10.00 each and are still selling today for little more then the prices quoted in his letter.

## "BOB OF THE NORTH LAND"



Representative in Western Canada of  
AMERICAN AERO PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
(An International Organisation)

Box 474, G.P.O.  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA  
Canada

3rd February 1931

My Reference:  
Supt. of Postal Service  
Edmonton

My dear Hawthorne Hill:

Your fine letter of the 26th Jany. has been with me since the 27th and to-night, that of yesterday came with subn. to my philatelic "Bullets & Bulls Eyes". You will have #2 by now and my first price list and it will give you an idea of what stuff I have to offer. Just to show you what subscribers to my cover service obtained since I started last June, I am sending one of my first statement blanks.

Your letter deserved an earlier reply, old man, (one of "the old gang" too, I see) and the writer - Bob - has not been so long a "dealer" as to be "hard boiled" and not want to give the "convert" to "The King of Hobbies" what help he can. Just while I think of it, IF you ever get up to Edmonton be sure and look me up as we will have one grand "chin-chin". I was at stamps in '98 - as Ripley says "Believe it - or not". Had a little album given to me at Christmas time and have been at stamps - on and off - since. Don't know if you ever saw any of my stamp corners in the Calgary Herald when I wrote for them each week last year under pen name "Vern Roberts" they decided they hadn't room - paid me very little - but it was doing missionary work and helping to get the western Canadian "Stamp minded" - with all the opportunity of the various "side lines" such as aerophilately - I coined the word "aerophils" in my last bulletin. Built a large collection of about 40M varieties and sold - made about \$6M - then started another and went up to about 33M - it was the BEST collection. I'm 50% dis.-still fighting Ottawa for pension - they gave me 10% a year ago but NOT retroactive but board said I was just half a man ;?? Tough !! Knocked my pride - what! Just a little about myself, then I won't talk "Bob" anymore. Spent nearly 17 years in service of the Canadian Bank of Commerce - I'm an Ontario boy born - Grey county - but, when I came back from US with a dud eye and wallop on the "beno" ("Flu" on top of that), had a lapse of memory of about 3 months and nervous system "gave out" after keeping it in check for over 4 years. Bank "ditched" me by giving lump sum of \$2,500 (instead of putting me on pension) and I tackled retail book business - did fine - financially - then had a breakdown - nerves - and doctors said "go West, young man, go West!" "Came up here about 2 years ago to see a brother - Woodland Dairy Creamery Mgr., at High Prairie, Alta. - hadn't seen for 16 years - rusticated first summer then to Edmonton and - military hospital twice - boarded - 10% on my "inards" only. We live in hopes of a chunk of BACK pension and I'll open office or wee store down town and try make a real stamp business of it. In meantime - have a room to myself at my digs. Married - best girl in the world - 8 months old boy - a dandy. He'll be another stamp collector, I hope. BUT - just before leaving the east, after selling business, made a play on stock market - and lost! I'm NOT kicking though. Wiggling along and we'll have a kick out of life for awhile - even if its a "shoe string" business just now.

My  
FIRST FLIGHT  
and  
EXPERIMENTAL  
FLIGHT  
COVER SERVICE  
is  
Second to None

Deposit of \$2.00, or  
more, required ac-  
cording to number  
of sets desired.

Subscribers will  
not miss a flight if  
funds on hand  
are low.

I prepare covers—  
15c each plus  
carrier's fee (if  
any) at actual  
out-of-pocket.

DON'T MISS  
THOSE GOOD  
"SUDDEN ONES"

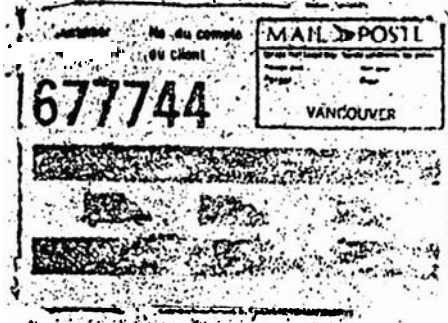
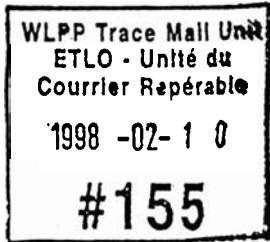
All remittances by  
postal order,  
please!



**QUERIES**

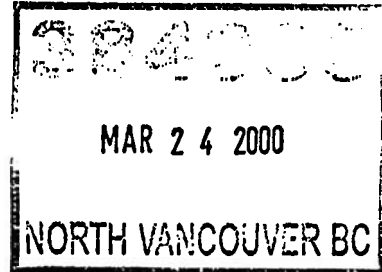
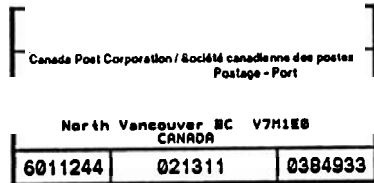
**VANCOUVER 677744**

Andrew Scott has sent two interesting cancellations with a request for further details. The first shows what appears to be RC number "677744" from Vancouver. The marking is from the B.C. Government Postal Branch located on Canada Way in Burnaby. The 677744 is not an RC number in the true sense but appears to be used as a billing number. The Victoria Government Postal Branch also uses the same number and is located in the Legislative complex in Victoria. Both Postal Branches are for the receiving and despatching of government mail but do not perform true postal functions and as a result do not appear in any list of B.C. post offices.



**Trace Mail Unit**

The second marking provided by Andrew reads "W.L.P.P Trace Mail Unit" and is stamped in red. The example above has #155 at the base and #149 has also been reported. It would appear that it may be from the Courier section of the Williams Lake mail processing plant, but this is a wild guess. Any other suggestions or reports of similar markings?

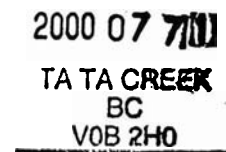
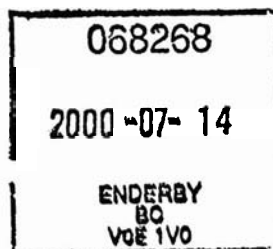
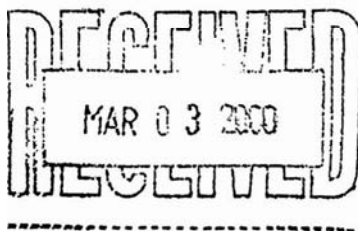


**NORTH VANCOUVER 384933**

RC 384933 is from the Metropolitan PO located at 126 West 3rd St. North Vancouver. During the 2000 conversion at Canada Post a few offices appear to have been omitted from the list provided by my sources at Canada Post.

**CFC - Call For Service**


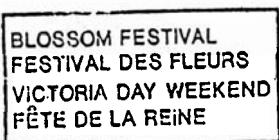
"Call For Service" postal outlets are a new postal designation and only distribute parcels and registered material. The CFS offices do not provide any regular postal services and are not provided with dating equipment showing the RC number. The following markings were obtained from RC 264571 (Enderby CFS) and RC 385247 (Ta Ta Creek CFS). A number of CFS's do not have any postal equipment.


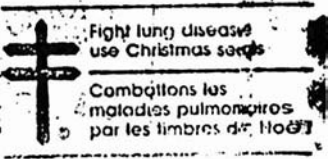




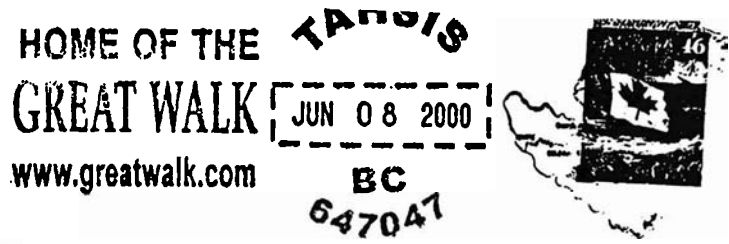
Cec Coutts has taken over as editor of the "Slogan Box" and is trying to update the early and late dates of recent slogan cancellations. In recent year it appears that Creston and Kamloops are the only post offices in British Columbia to have used slogan markings. Since the cancelling equipment is mainly used to cancel local mail reports of usage are scarce.

Please assist Cec by providing any additional early or late dates.

	Early	Late
<b>CRESTON - BLOSSOM FESTIVAL ...</b>		
	1998 05 19	only
	1999 05 14	1999 05 26
	2000 05 08	2000 06 08

<b>KAMLOOPS - FIGHT LUNG DISEASE ...</b>		
	1998 01 06	1998 02 11
	1999 01 07	only
	2000 01 10	only

Not a machine cancel but what was the period of use?



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

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

## MOON CANCELLATIONS

Mike Sagar continues to push ahead with his study of the Canadian moon cancellations and hopes, by the end of 2001, to have completed the listing of all Canadian moon cancelling equipment. Moon cancellations on cover, in the early period, are scarce, as it was against postal regulation to use them as cancelling stamps. Below is a listing of the the books that are available and those that are in progress. For those who already have copies, Mike would appreciate any additional information.

#208 - 611 West 13th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC  
V5Z 1N8  
April, 2000

### Re: BC Money Order Office Number (MOON) Update #1

After much thought I have decided to use an "update" format to give periodic refreshers to the MOON listings previously published, rather than waiting an inordinate amount of time before overhauling the whole publication. This update represents 2 1/2 years of reports from a number of collectors, and it contains enough new reports (about 56) to justify an update.

The frequency of these updates is entirely dependent upon you. The more new information that is reported to me, the more frequent the updates will be issued, and remember that there will eventually be MOON listings covering the rest of Canada.

I am always willing to buy, sell or trade MOON cancels on stamp, piece or cover. Please tell me your interests, and I will send you some material on approval. I hope to hear reports of your new finds - soon.

Michael Sagar

## OTHER MOON BOOKLETS AVAILABLE

"The MOON Cancellations of Alberta - A Working Draft", 927 listings, 70 pages, March, 1998 \$12.95. (Note: I am sold out of this booklet, some may still be available from the dealers below)

"The MOON Cancellations of Saskatchewan - A Working Draft", 1268 listings, 82 pages, January, 1999 \$14.95.

"The MOON Cancellations of Manitoba - A Working Draft", 614 listings, 50 pages, May, 1999 \$9.95.

"The MOON Cancellations of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia & PEI - First edition", 1375 listings, 102 pages, December, 1999 \$14.95.

"The MOON Cancellations of Quebec - First Edition" (estimated 2700+ listings), estimated release date: Summer, 2000.

"The MOON Cancellations of Newfoundland, Yukon and Northwest Territories, Military, Royal Train - First Edition" (estimated 800 listings). Estimated release date: Fall, 2000.

"The MOON Cancellations of Ontario - First Edition" (estimated 3000+ listings), estimated release date: Fall, 2001.

Dealers who stock at least some of these booklets (in alphabetical order)

Downtown Stamp & Coin (Vancouver)  
FvH Stamps (Vancouver)  
Ian Kimmerly (Ottawa)  
Robert Lee (Kelowna)

Rocky Point Philatelics (Vancouver)  
Saskatoon Stamp Centre  
Weeda Stamps (Vancouver)  
Western Stamp & Coins (Richmond)