



BRITISH COLUMBIA
POSTAL HISTORY
RESEARCH GROUP

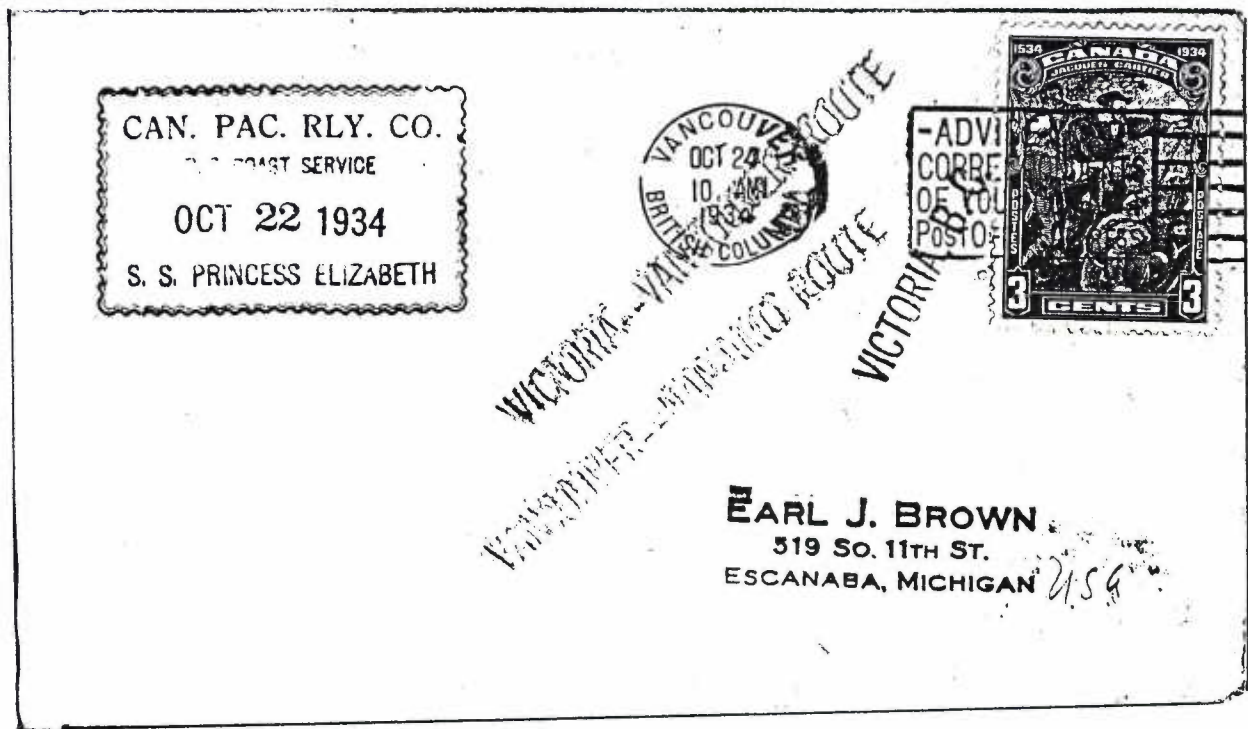
Volume 16 Number 2

Whole number 62

June 2007

PRINCESS ELIZABETH - CTO

This *Princess Elizabeth* cover is an excellent example of a "favour" or cancel to order (CTO) item. The question is "Which, if any, of the markings should be listed as ship cancellations?". The various "route" markings may produce a more interesting envelope but only confuse the routing as they were used on unrelated routes. At the time the *Princess Elizabeth* was on the Triangle route, namely Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle night service and had no reason to accept mail. The fact that the pursers ship stamp is in the upper left hand corner makes it a corner card rather than an actual "way mail" hand stamp. On the other hand if the purser's hand stamp is not listed in the new book, some dealers will state it is "unreported" and claim it is worth far more than its actual value that is only a few dollars, if that.



Most of this News Letter is devoted to the study of B.C. Coastal Ship markings. A book on the subject is in progress and a new ship classification system is being developed to replace the Ludlow system that is ill designed to identify the markings. Any comments on the project will be greatly appreciated.

CANCELLATION TYPES

The system of cancellation types developed by Lewis M. Ludlow may have served the identification of Railway Post Offices (R.P.O.) well but it is ill suited to distinguishing between similar ship cancellations, particularly in the case of Union Steamships Limited. In identifying a ship cancellation by far the most important factor is the name of the ship and the wording on the hand stamp, although important, is of much lesser significance. In many cases it is the shape of the marking that is used to distinguish one marking from another rather than the wording. In a few cases where marking may appear identical it is the length of the ship name or the dimensions of the hand stamp that are used to distinguish one marking from another. Under the Ludlow classification the markings were listed in alphabetical order, based on the first letter of the first word in the upper left hand corner of the hand stamp. This often did more to confuse the issue as many ship marks were poorly struck and as a result the top line was unreadable.

The most important item in identifying a ship marking is the name of the ship and therefore in developing a new classification system the ships should be listed alphabetically by the name of the ship. The easiest feature to identify is the shape of the marking and this should form a major part of the identification code. Letters such as "R" for "Rectangle" and "O" for "Octagonal" can be used for this purpose. To further refine the shape identification an additional letter can be added to distinguish rim types such as "F" for "Fluted" or "D" for "Double". The end result is that almost all markings can be identified by a two or occasionally a three letter code.

Sample page set up. Ship name – Registered owner – [dates of service]
Reference number – Identification letters (length of name n-) [Ludlow number]
Period of usage
Rarity factor - RF

AMUR – Canadian Pacific Navigation Co. / CPR [1899-1912]

AMUR.			
01-L1 [S-205A]	1902	E - 1	
VANCOUVER & SKAGWAY, R.P.O. / STR. AMUR			
02-SO [S-24a]	1905-1911	D - 6	
S.S. AMUR.			
03-L1 [S-205]	1907-1908	E - 5	
CANADIAN PACIFIC NAVIGATION CO. / LIMITED / STEAMER AMUR			
04-DN [S-116a]	1908-1908	E - 2	
CAN.PAC. RY.CO. / PURSER. / STEAMER AMUR			
05-RF [S-126B]	1910	E - 1	

Proposed new classification system for ship postal markings

Ship names

The ship names are listed alphabetically starting with the letter "A" and ending with the letter "Y" (no ship names begin with "Z"). Prefixes such as "S.S." or "T.S.S." are ignored. Markings are grouped under the ship's name that is underlined and this is followed by the name to the first operating company. The period of service is also included in brackets. Where a ship changes name or ownership the change, if of importance, may be included below the ship name.

Identification number code (first two items)

The identification number used in this work consists of two digits followed by two or occasionally three letters. The two digits arrange the cancel in the order of introduction. Thus "01" identifies the earliest reported marking, "02" the next and so on.

Identification letters code (second two items)

The purpose of the identification code is to make possible easy identification of the basic marking and to be able to distinguish between a pair of similar cancellation. The classification system used by Lewis Ludlow in his R.P.O. handbook may have worked well for R.P.O.'s but was not well suited to identification of ship markings. In the new system the first letter indicates the shape of the marking with the letter selected being related to the shape as follows:

C = Circular	D = Double inner / outer rim	L = one or more lines
O = Octagonal or 8 sided	R = Rectangular	S = Semicircular or oval
T = Ticket stamp	M = Miscellaneous – markings contain flags or pictures	

A second letter is used to fine tune the identification by indicating the size or special features such as double or serrated outer rim, as follows:

CDS + Circular date stamp

L = Large	F = Fluted or serrated outer rim	1 = Single line (ignore date)
M = medium	D = Double outer rim	2 = Two lines, etc.
S = Small	N = single line oval	
R = Ticket stamp - rectangular	O = Ticket stamp - octagonal	

Occasionally when two hand stamps appear to be identical the length of the ship name is shown in brackets following the identification code and the numbers (1), (2), etc. are used to distinguish the markings.

Thus the identification code indicates the order of introduction of the markings, the general shape and any special features that will help to identify to marking.

Period of usage

In most cases two dates are given the first indicating the first year of use and the second the last reported year of use. Where the two years are the same all reported marking are from the same year and where only one year is given it indicates the only one marking has been reported and that the is for the year shown.

Rarity factor (RF)

The rarity factors are base on the authors records of British Columbia coastal ship marking recorded over the past 50 years during which time many thousands of markings were recorded. The record are far from complete as there are probably many more markings that have not been recorded but the present information provides a good indication of the scarcity of each marking.

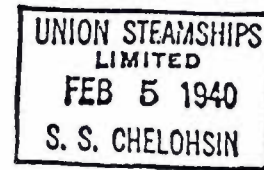
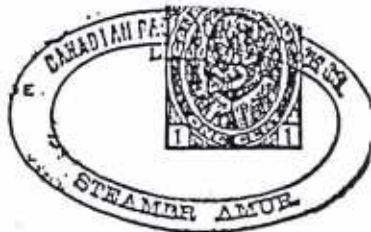
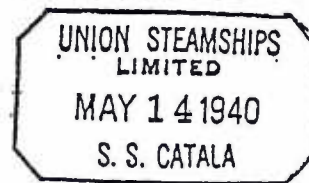
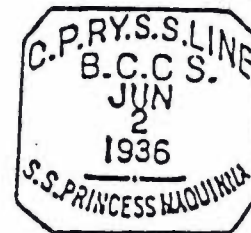
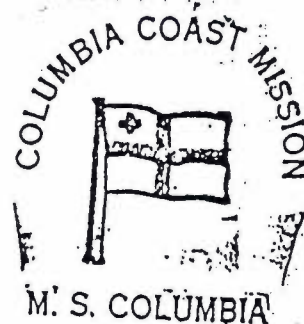
A simple "A", "B", "C", "D", and "E" rarity factor is used and is similar to that use in the Western Canada post office books with "A" standing for very common and "E" extremely scarce. The breakdown is as follows;

"A" = 50 +, "B" = 21 to 50, "C" = 11 to 20, "D" 6 to 10, "E" 1 to 5 reported copies.

A number sign (#) after the RF indicates that most, if not all, reported marking are of favour or 'cancel to order' origin and as a result do not indicate legitimate postal usage under the postal regulations. Such markings are worth considerably less than those of commercial or tourist origin.

MAJOR CANCELLATION TYPES

First Letter

Type C – CircularAll circular markings
Ludlow types 5, 6, 7Type R – RectangularAll rectangular or square markings
Ludlow types 1K, 1L, 23A, 23BType D – Double ringIncluding circular or oval markings
Ludlow types 8, 3HType O – OctagonalEight sided or clipped corners
Ludlow types 1J, 10, 23CType S – Semi circular or ovalAll semi-circular or oval shapes
Ludlow type 3Type T – Ticket stampAll ticket stamps regardless of shape
Ludlow type 1JType L – One or more linesNo enclosing outer line or box
Ludlow type 22R. P. O. PRINCESS LOUISE
VANCOUVER · SKAGWAYType M – MiscellaneousAny pictorial marking
Ludlow – not listed

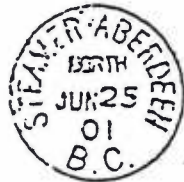
SECONDARY SUB-LETTERS

C - Circular

CDS
Circular
Date Stamp

CM
Medium

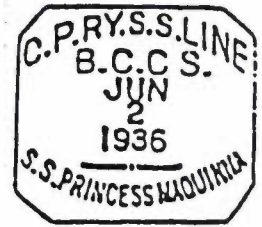
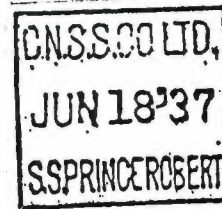
CLF
Large Fluted



T - Ticket stamp

TR
Rectangular

TO
Octagonal

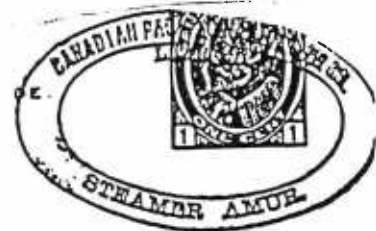


D - Double ring

DC
Circular

DCM
Circular Miscellaneous

DS
Semi-circular

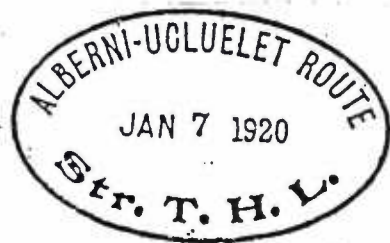


S - Semi-circular or oval

SN
Normal single outer line

SD
Double outer line

SDF
Double Fancy or serrated



L - One or more lines - excluding date

L1 Single line

L2 Two Lines

R. P. O. PRINCESS LOUISE
VANCOUVER - SKAGWAY

S.S. CAMOSUN

L3 Three lines

L4 Four lines

L3F 3 lines Fancy

T. S. S. CARDENA
JUN 8 - 1929
UNION S. S. CO.
OF ... LTD.

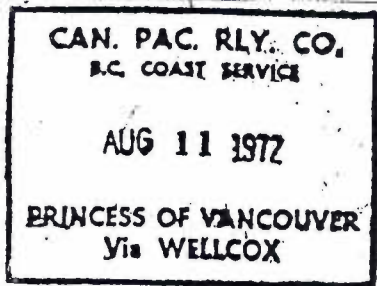
Can. Pac. Rly. Co.
B. C. COAST SERVICE
FEB 21 1932
PURSERS OFFICE
PRINCESS KATHLEEN

CAN. PAC. RY. CO.
B. C. L. & S.
JUL 16 1938
STEAMER COLUMBIA

SECONDARY SUB-LETTERS - Page 2

R - Rectangle

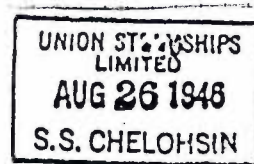
RL - Large



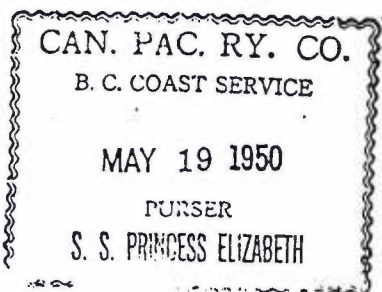
RM - Medium



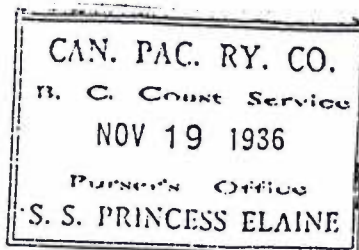
RS - Small



RLF - Large Fluted



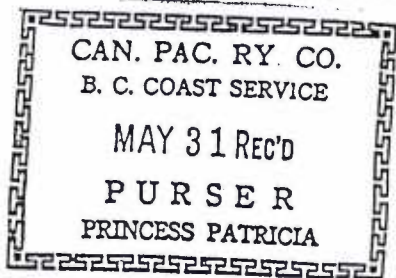
RLD - Large Double rim



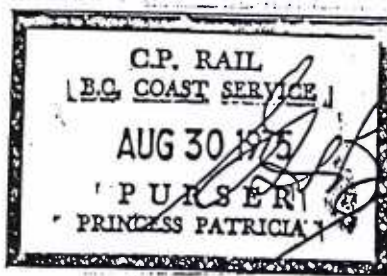
RMF - Medium Fluted



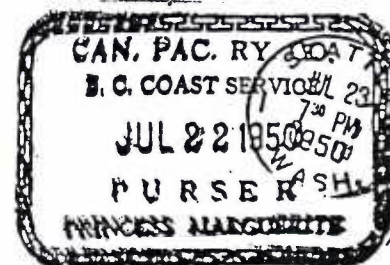
RMF - Medium Fancy (fluted)



RMF - Medium Fancy



RMF - Medium Fancy

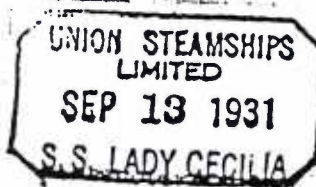


O - Octagonal (eight sides)

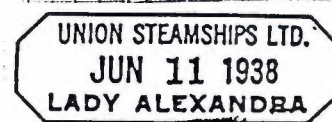
OL Large



OM - Medium



OS - Small



M - Miscellaneous

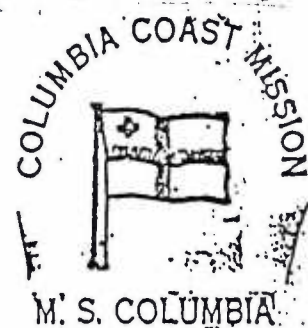
ML-ship - Large + ship



MM-ship - Medium + ship

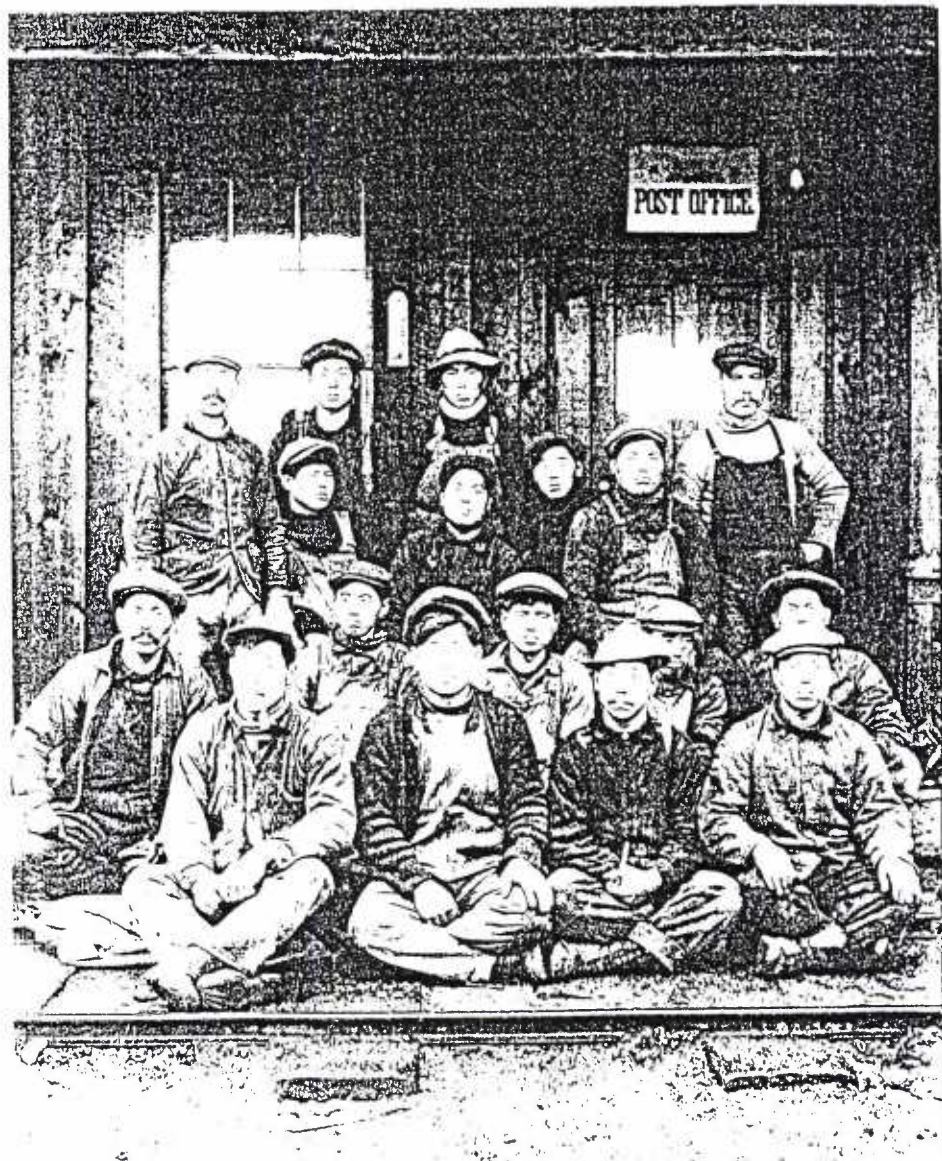


ML-flag - Large + flag



ROYAL CITY PLANING MILLS

The unidentified picture at right was in the *Vancouver Courier* and shows a group of orientals in a doorway below a Post Office sign. A little study shows it is the short lived Vancouver Post Office, located in the office of the Royal City Planing Mills at the south end of Carrall street following the June 13, 1886 fire that wiped out most of the city. The Post Office remained at this location for only a few weeks before being moved to a new location in the newly constructed office at 227 West Hastings Street.



Alex Price cover

VANCOUVER B.C.
 JUL 30 1886



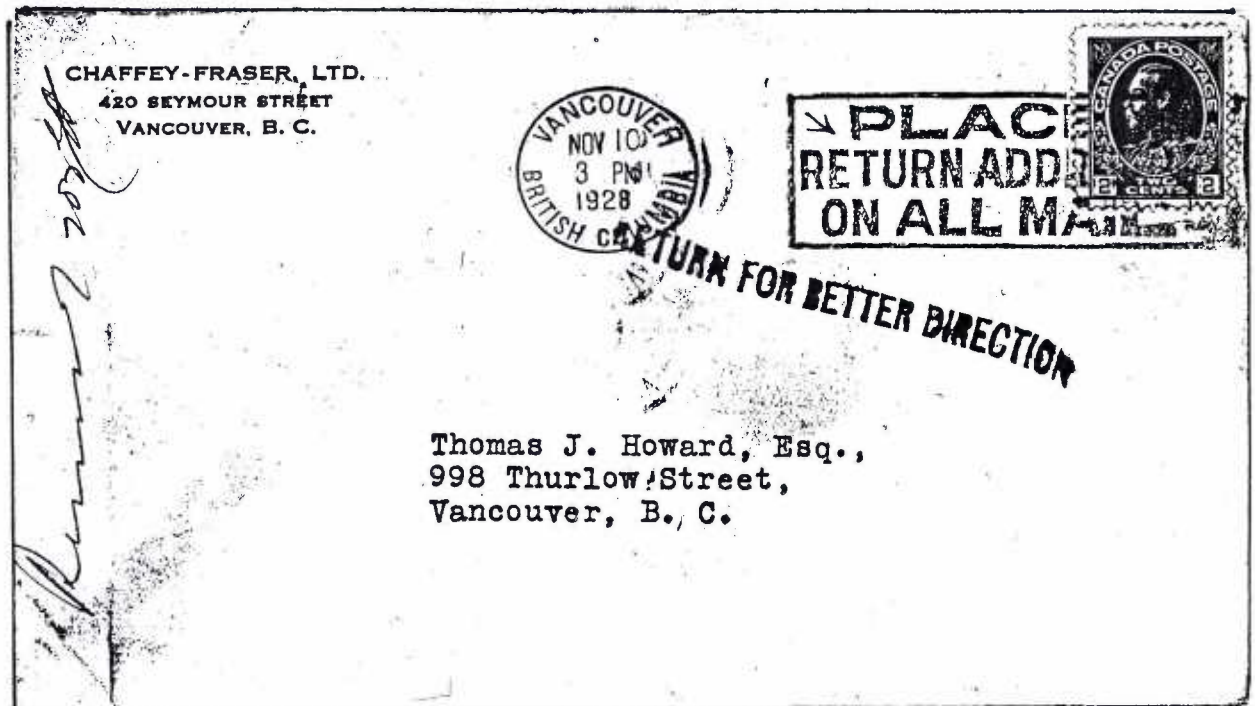
VANCOUVER EXHIBITION POST OFFICE

Recently a question was asked about the use of "Vancouver Sub. Post Office X" dater that appears to have been used at the Vancouver Exhibition starting in 1911. The Vancouver Post Office records show an earlier post office called "Vancouver Exhibition" as being authorized under postal order 43590 dated 20 June, 1910 and lists the office as a temporary office, open from August 13 to 20, 1910. There is no further reference in the Vancouver records to this or other Exhibition Post Offices.



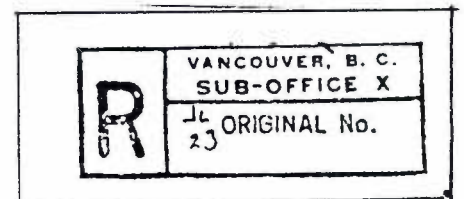
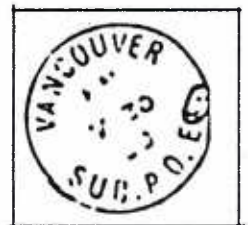
VANCOUVER-B.C. / SUB.POST OFFICE X

A hammer reading "VANCOUVER-B.C. / SUB.POST OFFICE X" was proofed 23 June, 1911 and appear to have been used at the Vancouver Exhibition from August 23 to September 4 that year. Other "X" hammers were proofed, at about the same time, for Victoria, Winnipeg, Toronto, and Montreal with the "X" standing for exhibition. The use of the hammer must have been very limited as the earliest reported date of usage is November 15, 1928 when it was used as a back stamp on a "return for better direction" envelope. Any reports of the early use of either of these hammers would be greatly appreciated. The final use of the "Sub.Post Office X" hammer was at the Pacific National Exhibition in 1950 when it was used at the Exhibition Post Office counter from August 23 to September 4.



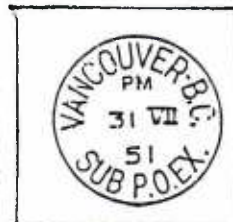
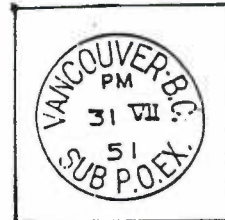
VANCOUVER / SUB. P.O. EX

In 1923 a new hammer reading "VANCOUVER / SUB.P.O. EX" was proofed and at the same time a registration box reading "VANCOUVER, B. C. / SUB-OFFICE X" was also proofed. Markings from this hand stamp are unreported, although the registration box appears to have been used in the 1950's with the "SUB-OFFICE X" removed.

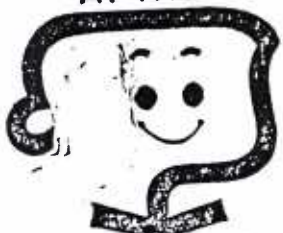


VANCOUVER-B.C. / SUB P.O.EX.

Two hammers reading "VANCOUVER-B.C. / SUB P.O.EX." were proofed PM / 31 VII / 51 and were used at the Post Office counter at the PNE from then until 1968. At the same time the "SUB P.O.EX." hammer was used at special functions such as the B.C. International Trade Fair in 1961. Markings from these hammers are quite common.




SO MUCH TO SEE
AT THE



PNE
AUG. 21 - SEPT. 2
VANCOUVER, B.C.
EXHIBITION POST OFFICE

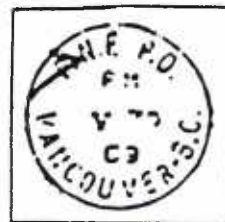
R	VANCOUVER, B. C.
	ORIGINAL No. 19



RUDOLF S. BELTNER
P. O. BOX 115
MERRITT, B. C., CANADA


P.N.E. P.O. / VANCOUVER-B.C.

The "SUB P.O.EX" hammer was replaced in 1969 with a hammer reading "P.N.E. P.O. / VANCOUVER-B.C." that was proofed PM / V 30 / 69 and was used at the Exhibition Post Office counter until 1973 when Canada Post stopped providing postal service at the PNE.




PACIFIC
NATIONAL
EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION PARK/VANCOUVER 6, B.C., CANADA/253-2311



P.N.E. P.O.
PM
V 30 69
VANCOUVER-B.C.



Mr. W. Sultan,
2308 - 14.A. Street S.W
Calgary. 4.
Alberta.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

The booklet "British Columbia Post Office 1990 to 2006" has been published in response to many requests for an update of the "Check List" series listing the post offices of Western Canada. It is designed to update the many openings and closing that have taken place since the earlier series was published in the 1980's. Other booklets in the series provide postal information for Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, including Northern Canada. The booklets were produced from the Canadian Post Office database and lists post office changes from the mid 1980's to the present. The booklets provide a single line entry for each postal outlet and are divided into two parts. The first is an alphabetical listing of the postal outlets and provides the RC number, Outlet Name, Address, Postal Code, Old RC number, and opening and closing dates. The second section lists the RC numbers and the outlet name and is arranged in numerical order by RC number. One minor problem is that the database was started in the early 1980's and all outlets open at that time are listed as opening in 1981. The result is that it is necessary to refer to the earlier works for information on postal facilities established prior to that date. To keep the costs low the approximately 40 page booklets are held together with a single staple and are designed to be mounted in a loose leaf booklet. Each booklet sells for \$12.00 plus postage.

At the same time the earlier publication "British Columbia Post Offices - 1991" has been republished at a cost of \$25.00 plus postage.

British Columbia Post Offices - 1990 to 2006	ISBN 978-0-9783489-0-8	\$12.00
Alberta Post Offices - 1990 to 2006	ISBN 978-0-9783489-1-5	\$12.00
Saskatchewan Post Offices - 1990 to 2006	ISBN 978-0-9783489-2-2	\$12.00
Manitoba Post Offices - 1990 to 2006	ISBN 978-0-9783489-3-9	\$12.00
British Columbia Post Offices 1991 - reprint	ISBN 978-0-9783489-4-6	\$25.00

Also in print

Territorial Post Offices of Canada	ISBN 969-0-9693163-4-8	\$10.00
Post Offices of Alberta 1998	ISBN 968-0-9684137-0-6	\$20.00
Yukon Airways and Exploration Co. Ltd.	ISBN 969-0-9693163-7-2	\$25.00

The booklets can be obtained from the Editor and members of the B.C. Postal History News Letter Group can obtain copies post free. Checks should be made payable to Bill Topping and orders should be set to Bill Topping, 7430 Angus Drive, Vancouver, BC, V6P 5K2.
(604) 261-1508

The British Columbia Postal History News Letter is published quarterly on behalf of the British North America Philatelic Society. Dues for the News Letter are \$8.00 for one year or \$15.00 for two years (\$ CAN or \$ US). Checks should be payable to the Editor, Bill Topping, 7430 Angus Drive, Vancouver, BC, V6P 5K2, Canada.