



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
POSTAL HISTORY  
RESEARCH GROUP

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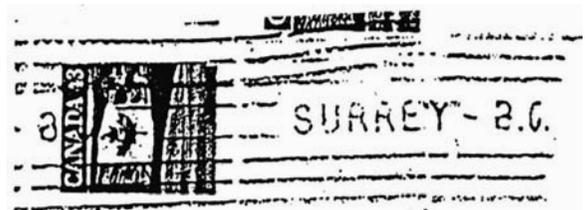
### VANCOUVER MPP - November 1993

The Vancouver Mail Processing Plant (MPP - V6B 3A0) is undergoing considerable upgrading now that plans to move the plant have been scrapped. In mid November 1993, a number of BNA members were taken on a tour of the fourth floor to see the recently installed equipment. The Toshiba Culler Facer Cancellers (CFC), installed in 1975 are still in use but two additional CFCs were added in the summer of 1993. The cancelling function of the CFC will soon be replaced by the new A.B. Dick Jet Spray Printers.

At present only an experimental Jet Spray has been added to Optical Character Reader (OCR) number 81. The A.B. Dick equipment cancels the stamp with a single line spray reading "081 V6B 3A0" followed by year, month, day, time, and three banks of dots. At the same time the A.B. Dick Video Encoder System (VSE) equipment was added to all the new OCR's, namely machines 80 thru 84. The equipment when fully operational will spray light orange bars on the back of the envelope and these serve to track the envelope until the postal code is sprayed on the face. This equipment will replace the OCR Coder Desks where the yellow code bars are presently sprayed on the face of the envelope.

The four Intra Peripheral System (IPS) cancellers have been withdrawn as a result of the new equipment for cancelling mail but two new IPS parcel cancellers have been installed to handle oversize envelopes (see News Letter 7 page 54). At the same time new eight bar rollers reading =VANCOUVER B.C.= were introduced for parcel post. By mistake rollers reading =NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.= and =SURREY - B.C.= were also introduced but these have now been withdrawn.

For those interested in a full report on the present equipment at the Vancouver MPP a 16 page Monograph has been developed. Included are examples of all markings as well as instructions on how to read OCR and VES numbers as well as the Postal Codes. The cost is \$2.00 to members and \$3.00 to non members (post paid).



**VANCOUVER STATION "A"**

Jim Miller of Kamloops writes -  
 "The early Vancouver information prompts me to ask the study group about the 3-ring orb cancel, VANCOUVER CANADA / STATION A. that was proofed 19 / JUL 13/ 14. The cancel is illustrated in Hughes/Lee Proof Strike book, vol. VIII, pg 101."



The opening of Vancouver Postal Station "A" is listed in the October 1915 "Post Office Transactions" as "July 26, 1915" with no Postmaster listed. On the other hand the Vancouver Postal Station "A" is not listed in "List of Post Offices in Canada" corrected to 1st December 1915. The records in the Vancouver Post Office confirm the opening but show no postmaster or location and no closing date is recorded in any of the above sources.

A Vancouver Postal Station "A" is recorded as opening March 14, 1958 in the former Vancouver Main Post Office but this is not the same office.

Can anyone produce evidence that Vancouver Postal Station "A" actually opened in 1915, or better still does anyone have an orb cancel from the office?

**POST OFFICE TRANSACTIONS**

FOR

October, 1915.

**LIST OF POST OFFICES OPENED.**

NAME OF POST OFFICE.	TOWNSHIP OR PARISH.	ELECTORAL COUNTY AND PROVINCE OR TERRITORY.	POSTMASTER.
Alvin .....	.....	New Westminster.. B.C.	G. A. Ward.
Benton Siding.....	.....	Kootenay .....	B.C. C. C. Ladd.
Chamcook.....	St. Croix.....	Charlotte..... N.B.	John Thompson.
Dolly Bay.....	Sec. 4, Tp. 25, R. 9, W. P. M.....	Dauphin..... M.	Olafur Thorlacius,
Earl .....	Sec. 32, Tp. 1, R. 28, W. 2nd M.....	Moose Jaw..... Sask.	Geo. E. Goudie.
Edmonton Sub-Office No. 7	42nd St. and Stony Plain Road. ....	West Edmonton .... Alberta	Wm. Duncan.....
Fauford.....	Sec. 36, Tp. 48, R. 23, W. 2nd M.....	Prince Albert..... Sask	Robert Garven .....
Frechette.....	St. Ferdinand.....	Megantic..... P.Q.	Amedée Cantin.....
Giscome.....	.....	Yale-Cariboo..... B.C.	C. Lindstrom (acting)
Grand Deuxieme.....	Mataue.....	Rimouski..... P.Q.	Eustache Marquis.
Gregan.....	Hardwick.....	Northumberland. N.B.	Robert Gregan.
Hay Meadow.....	Sec. 33, Tp. 4, R. 1, W. 3rd M.....	Moose Jaw..... Sask.	W. A. Siler.
Kalevala.....	Sec. 24, Tp. 23, R. 5, W. P. M.....	Dauphin..... M.	Ernest S. Norman.
Longworth.....	.....	Yale-Cariboo..... B.C.	Arthur E. Read.
Montreal Postal Station "A" .....	.....	St. Antoine..... P.Q.	.....
Olson.....	Sec. 27-40-17, W. 2nd M.....	Humboldt..... Sask.	Mrs. Tilda Olson.
Red River.....	.....	Inverness..... N.S.	Edward Moore.
St. Edouard de Maski- nongé.....	St. Edouard de Mas- kinongé.....	Maskinongé..... P.Q.	Oscar Bergeron.
Trapp Lake.....	.....	Yale-Cariboo..... B.C.	C. C. McKay.
Vancouver Postal Station "A" (opened July 26).....	.....	City of Vancouver.. B. C.	.....
Yarmouth South.....	.....	Yarmouth..... N.S.	A. P. Lewis.

**NOTE**—Sussex Camp, Field Post Office, County of Kings and Albert, N.B., was closed from the 16th July until the 23rd September.  
 Kildonan West, Sub Office, City of Winnipeg, M., was closed from the 31st August to the 10th September.  
 Valmorin Post Office, County of Terrebonne, P.Q., which was temporarily closed on the 24th June, will likely be re-opened at an early date.  
 In the list of closings last month, through a typographical error, "B" appeared before Cranmer.

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 Bill Topping, Editor, 7430 Angus Drive, Vancouver, B.C. Canada

**PAID ALL**

There was a cover in the latest Eaton sale (lot 626) from Okanagon Mission to G.R. Allison Esq, Manson Calhoun Co. Iowa. U.S.A. The markings on the cover are as follows;

Face -	OKANAGON MISSION	OC 19 / 74
	target or cork killer	
	PAID ALL	in red
	PORTLAND / ORGN	NO 9 / 74
Back -	OKANAGON	OC 24 / 74
	NEW WESTMINSTER	OC 30 / 74



Dale Forster of Portland, Oregon writes -

"The marking which I query is a red PAID ALL in circle with diameter of about 21 mm. My question is where was it applied."

EDITOR - The routing of the cover within British Columbia would appear to be Okanagon Mission to Okanagon and then to New Westminster. Victoria was the usual transfer point for mail to the United States and although not shown it probably was sent there. At Victoria mail was normally forwarded to Port Townsend, Portland, or San Francisco. In this case I would suggest the letter went directly to Portland where a receiving mark was applied.

Now to the red PAID ALL marking. In Canada the standard wording was "PAID" not "PAID ALL", and thus I would suggest the marking was applied at Portland, Oregon. Has anyone any information that might suggest otherwise?

**KAMLOOPS MOBILE POST UNIT**

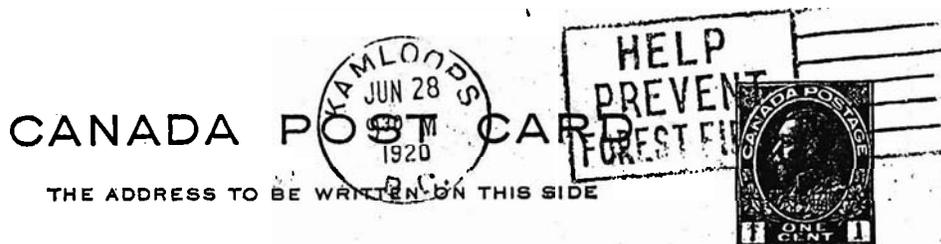
Canada Post has established a fleet of Emergency Mobile Postal Units (MPU) for use where regular postal facilities are not available, such as at special events, or to maintain postal service after a major disaster. The first use in British Columbia was at the Canada Summer Games in Kamloops in August 1993. In addition to serving the main site in Kamloops it also provided postal service to competitors at Nicola Lake (sailing), and Clearwater (baseball).

SLOGAN USAGE OF KAMLOOPS, 1920-53

Dan Rosenblat

The slogan usage of this office includes several rather unique features that warrant examining it in some detail, at least from its inception until 1953, when the proof book documentation ceases and definitive information is no longer available.

KAMLOOPS did not participate in the massive government slogan advertising of its fund raising activities in 1919, so it can be assumed that it had no machine canceller at that time. However, it must have had a machine in the following year, since it was included in the list of offices that the Forestry Division of the Dominion Department of the Interior selected to participate in the use of slogan 4400, HELP PREVENT FOREST FIRES, sponsored by the Division in 1920 and continuing to 1963.



In spite of the evidence of machine use in 1920-25, the office was not included in a 1926 P.O. inventory of all machine using offices, but similar 1929 and 1930 inventories show a Universal model D machine as being in place, though the property of the Postmaster, rather than government leased. It was also omitted from 1933-34 inventories of machines either owned or rented by the government, so its machine was probably still Postmaster owned at that time.

It certainly was never issued a Perfect machine, even though 132 of these had been put into use by late 1934, and this fact contributed significantly to the nature of its slogan use in the 1930's and 1940's, when the great majority of slogan dies were usable only in Perfect machines. It is probable that the first change from the Postmaster owned Universal machine took place in early 1937, when KAMLOOPS was issued one of the first of the small model D Pitney-Bowes government leased machines that were sent to smaller offices beginning in late 1936.

Evidence of this is supported by the fact that the first entry in the proof book section devoted to slogan use from Pitney-Bowes machines is the issue to KAMLOOPS of a Universal die (usable in a Pitney-Bowes machine) of slogan 10770, YOUR FRIEND WILL APPRECIATE A LETTER, on MAR.31.37.

An oddity of KAMLOOPS slogan use involves its treatment in the Distribution Lists. These began from 1912 as listings of slogan issue by offices and extended for the most part to the middle 1930's, since they terminated when an office began to use Perfect dies, rather than the original Internationals followed by Universals. The KAMLOOPS Distribution List should therefore have been initiated in 1920 with the first issue to it of a Universal die of slogan 4400, HELP PREVENT FOREST FIRES.

However, such was not the case, as the earliest entry was not until the re-issue of a slogan 4400 die in 1926, with all previous annual use of that slogan unlisted. The list continued until the final entry of the issue of a die of slogan 5537 on NOV.27.36, just prior to KAMLOOPS' first slogan use from its Pitney-Bowes machine in early 1937.



## SLOGAN USAGE OF KAMLOOPS, 1920-53 continued

As has been mentioned, the fact that KAMLOOPS never used a Perfect machine much impacted its slogan use. After the introduction of Perfect machines there were relatively few offices that could still employ any of the many Universal slogan dies of the 1920's that had been obsoleted by that introduction. Therefore, KAMLOOPS became a sort of repository of many of these and often retained them for several years, simply because there was little other demand for them.

Examples of such slogans issued to KAMLOOPS and retained for some time are:

6860, PARCEL POST REACHES EVERYWHERE, issued in 1927, retained to 1929 and re-issued in 1934 and 1949-50.

4815, INSURE YOUR PARCELS AT THE POST OFFICE, issued in 1927, retained to 1931 and re-issued in 1949.



5560, MAIL YOUR CHRISTMAS PARCELS EARLY, issued in 1928, re-issued in 1933-34, 1939, 1941 and 1945-48.

6995, PLACE RETURN ADDRESS ON ALL MAIL, issued in 1929, retained to 1933.

5537, MAIL EARLY BE SURE YOUR GIFTS ARRIVE IN TIME, issued in 1929, used in 1930-31, 1935-36 and 1950-52.

7050, PLEASE HAVE YOUR MAIL ADDRESSED TO STREET AND NUMBER, issued in 1939 and retained for ten years until 1948.

Additionally to these multi-office slogans, KAMLOOPS also had a proprietary slogan 7015, PLAN TO ATTEND FAT STOCK SHOW KAMLOOPS B.C., issued in 1930 and with retained intermittent use to 1962, all from the original die.

The KAMLOOPS employment of slogan 4400, HELP PREVENT FOREST FIRES, was very unique. Not only was the office in the first group to be issued the slogan in 1920, it was also for some time the only user, since no Perfect dies of the slogan were ever issued. The early use of the slogan was much curtailed in 1928, when only three offices of the thirteen employing it in 1927 continued use, KAMLOOPS being one of them. In 1929 KAMLOOPS was the sole user and in 1930 all usage ceased and was not generally revived until 1949, but KAMLOOPS was the exception.

A die of slogan 4400 was sent only to KAMLOOPS in 1937 and there is considerable evidence the this die was not returned to Ottawa after the use, but rather retained until after use in 1954. KAMLOOPS' annual use of it in the eighteen year period 1937-54 is only confirmed in twelve years, but there is a high probability of as yet unrecorded use in some, if not all, of the other six years and any use in 1937-48 was unique to KAMLOOPS alone.

By at least 1957 the KAMLOOPS machine was upgraded from the small model D to model G, the largest available and used by only 78 of all offices, indicating that by then the KAMLOOPS post office had grown very substantially in revenue and activity.

Since KAMLOOPS never had more than one machine, an examination of the use indicates that in most years from 1927 there must have been alternating use of most slogans, since two or more were almost always on hand at a given time.

**A. B. DICK JET SPRAY PRINTER - Model EXCEL 270i**  
Introduced at Vancouver September 28, 1993.

Canada Post, ever since the early 1970's, has been looking into ways of speeding up the mail through the uses of computer technology. In November 1992 jet spray equipment was introduced on OCR 69 at the West Letter Mail Processing Plant at Mississauga, Ontario. The spray markings are similar to those introduced in the United States a few year earlier. For further information on the introduction of the spray-on markings in Eastern Canada see the report by Allan Steinhart in "PHSC Journal" Number 75 page 107.

Jet spray cancelling equipment was introduced in Vancouver on September 28, 1993 at which time an A.B. Dick Jet Spray Printer - model EXCEL 270i, driven by two A.B. Dick computers was introduced on OCR 81. It is capable of processing six letters per second that is 20,000 letters per hour. The jet spray equipment consists of four heads mounted vertically above each other and located at 75, 90, 110, and 125 mm respectively above the base. A sensor on the OCR is able to locate the stamp and activate the appropriate spray jet. At the same time the Postal Code is read by the Video Encoder System which controls the speed of the OCR depending on the difficulty of reading the code. The variation in speed accounts for the variation in length of the spray markings. The initial spray markings were 5mm in height but during the trial period the size has varied from 2mm to 6mm and not all four spray jets were changed at the same time. Plans call for introduction of the new spray equipment on the four other new OCRs in April 1994.

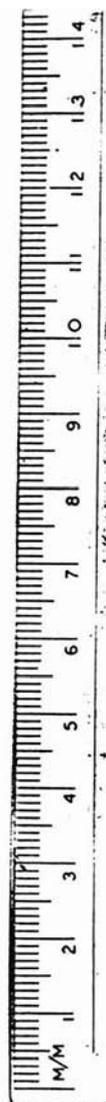
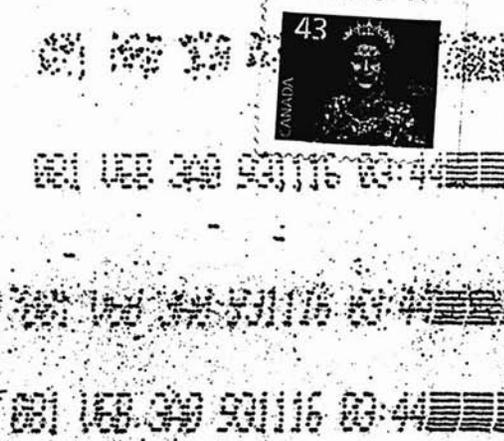
B.c.flow  
211-4951 SANDERST  
BBY, BC  
V5T1L5B

BCTF  
2235 BARRAD STREET  
VANCOUVER, BC

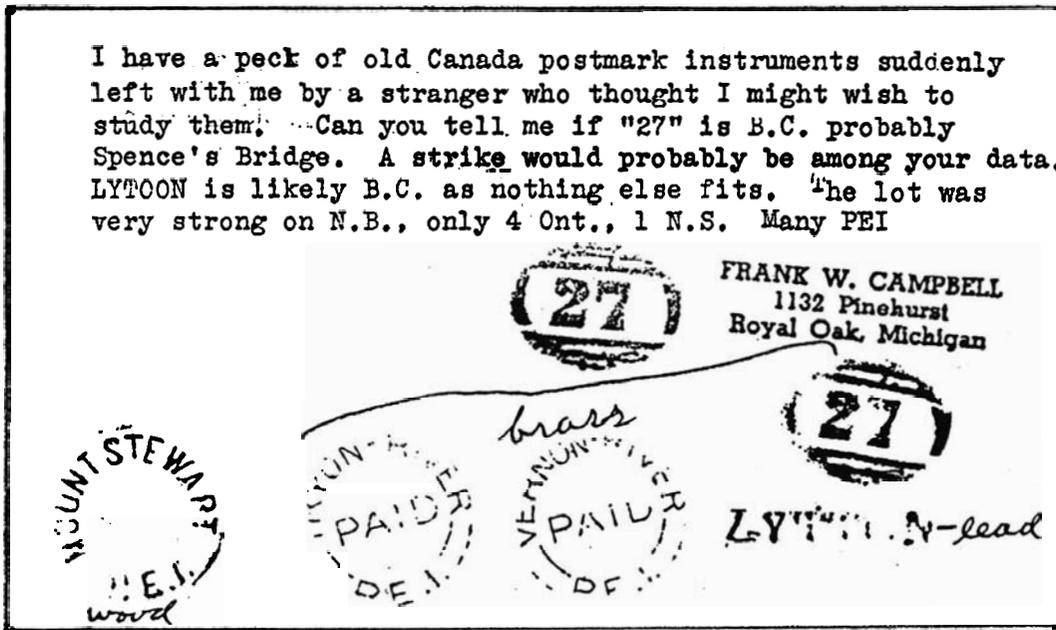
V6J 3H9

ENCLOSED =  
PSA - GIBQUE REQUISITION

|| ||



COLONIAL NUMBER 27 again



Since the last News Letter the above post card showing two strikes of Colonial Number 27 has surfaced. It was sent, in 1962, by Frank Campbell to the University of British Columbia Library in hopes of confirming that "27" was Spences Bridge.

Below is a cover dated SPENCES BRIDGE MY 28 79 with "27" used as a killer. The back of the cover has been used as a scratch pad in the same hand that wrote John Murray, etc. There are two back stamps reading NEW WESTMINSTER MY 30 76 (sic) and VICTORIA T MY 31 79. The "27" cancellations on the post card and the cover appear to be from the same hammer and in my view they are the same as illustrated on page 162 of Wellburn (see last News Letter page 56).

The question still remains "Where are they now?"



**CANCELLED WITH PRIDE**

A HISTORY OF CHILLIWACK AREA POST OFFICES  
1865-1993,  
Cecil C. Coutts, privately printed, 1993

Obtainable from author - Cecil C. Coutts,  
34820 McLeod Avenue, Abbotsford, BC, V3G 1G9,  
\$26.00 CAN post paid.

For those planning to write postal history, Cecil Coutts' "Cancelled with pride - A history of the Chilliwack Area Post Offices 1865-1993" is a must. As is to be expected in any postal history the opening and closing dates of all post offices are given together with the names of the Postmasters. An added feature is a detailed study of Rural Routes and mail routes within the Chilliwack area, information that is not found in most postal studies. The background to the establishment of many offices is also included and in some cases direct quotes from postal records are provided.

At first glance the most impressive features of the work are the pictures and other illustrative material. These include photographs of postmasters, the post offices, and a wide array of cancellations and covers from each of the offices. Sketch maps are included showing in detail the location and the changes of location of many of the post offices. This provides an excellent supplement to the detailed descriptions provided in the letter press.

Although this is primarily a postal history it also provides an informative background of the Chilliwack area from the days when mail was received as "favour letters" carried by the Colonial steamer captains on the Fraser River to the replacement of the smaller post offices by the new "Super Mail Boxes". Even for those with limited interest in Chilliwack the book provides an indepth study of the development of the rural postal system in Canada and serves to illustrate the problems faced in provding mail to a rural population.

As I stated earlier this 188 page postal history is a must for all beginning postal historians and hopefully will serve as a guide to many of the more experinced member of the fraternity.

**SELDOM SEEN MACHINES - 1993**

A number of pieces of machine cancelling equipment have been withdrawn or are rarely used. When I was in Logan Lake the postmaster told me it was too much bother to ink the machine and change the date and as a result his machine was only used during the Christmas rush. I am certain that a similar situation exists with other machines as a result of the centralizing of mail processing in Vancouver.

The following is a list of machines that may have been withdrawn or only seen occasional use.

Can you provide any details?

Town	Last reported
Abbotsford	1993 02 24
Armstrong	1993 11 10@
Brentwood Bay	1991 06 25
Campbell River	1993 12 09#
Chilliwack	1993 02 02
Ganges	1991 10 04
Logan Lake	occasional
Maple Ridge	1993 02 29
Mission	1993 01 08
Nanaimo no No.	1991 03 11
Naramata	1992 11 29*
Nelson	1993 07 --#
Pitt Meadows	1993 01 07
Powell River	1992 11 18
Prince Rupert	1992 09 15#
Quesnel	1992 11 14
Sooke	1990 08 09
Stewart	1992 11 19
Surrey	1993 04 13*
Williams Lake	1992 11 22
Vancouver (8F)	large hub
Mach. 1	1993 03 30
Mach. 2	1993 10 04
Mach. 3	1993 08 12
Mach. 4	1989 10 01

\* closed

# replaced by postal code

@ to Klussendorf

The purpose of this page is to provide opportunities for members to obtain information on areas of special research. It makes it possible to tap a large number of collections that might otherwise be missed in the study of a particular topic. It is hoped all members will take advantage of this aspect of the news letter. The previous item on recent machine cancellations produced a number of very useful comments. The following is an update of the information.

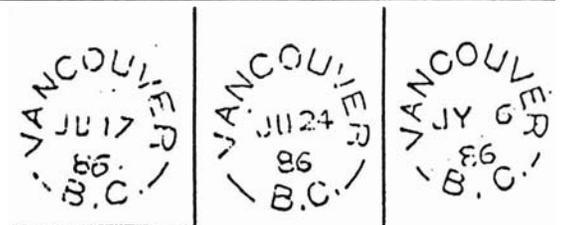
Please check your collection for late dates for the following

Town	Last reported	My latest date	
Abbotsford	1993 02 08		
Armstrong	1993 11 10@		
Brentwood Bay	1991 06 25		
Campbell River	1993 12 09#		
Chilliwack	1993 02 02		
Ganges	1991 10 04		
Logan Lake	occasional		
Maple Ridge	1993 02 29		
Mission	1993 01 08		
Nanaimo no No.	1991 03 11		
Naramata	1992 11 29*		
Nelson	1993 07 --#		
Pitt Meadows	1993 01 07		
Powell River	1992 11 18		
Prince Rupert	1992 09 15#		
Quesnel	1992 11 14		
Sooke	1990 08 09		
Stewart	1992 11 19		
Surrey	1993 04 13*		
Williams Lake	1992 11 22		
Vancouver (9C)	large hub	Hub 1	Hub 3
with code	1993	Hub 2	Hub 4

\* closed                      # replaced by postal code                      @ to Klussendorf

**FROM LAST NEWS LETTER -**

A number of members indicated Vancouver used more than three Type A hammers in 1886. If yours differ from the ones shown in the Proof Book please send xerox copies.



I can add no new dates                     

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

**STOP THE PRESS -**

As I was running off the last page of the News Letter I noticed two things had happened.

1. The xerox machine was making one or two black bars on some copies of page 64. I hope you don't mind the occasional rare double bar variety.
2. As this was happening the mail arrived with a new 24 page book on B.C. Moon cancellations 1950 - 1973 by Michael Sagar, 2831 West 45th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6N 3L4. The cost \$7.50 post paid. A review will appear in the March News Letter.

**THE  
MONEY ORDER OFFICE NUMBER (MOON)  
CANCELLATIONS  
OF  
BRITISH COLUMBIA  
(1950 — 1973)  
A WORKING DRAFT**