



BRITISH COLUMBIA

POSTAL HISTORY

RESEARCH GROUP

MEMBERSHIP DUES
ARE NOW DUE \$5

Volume 7 - Number 1

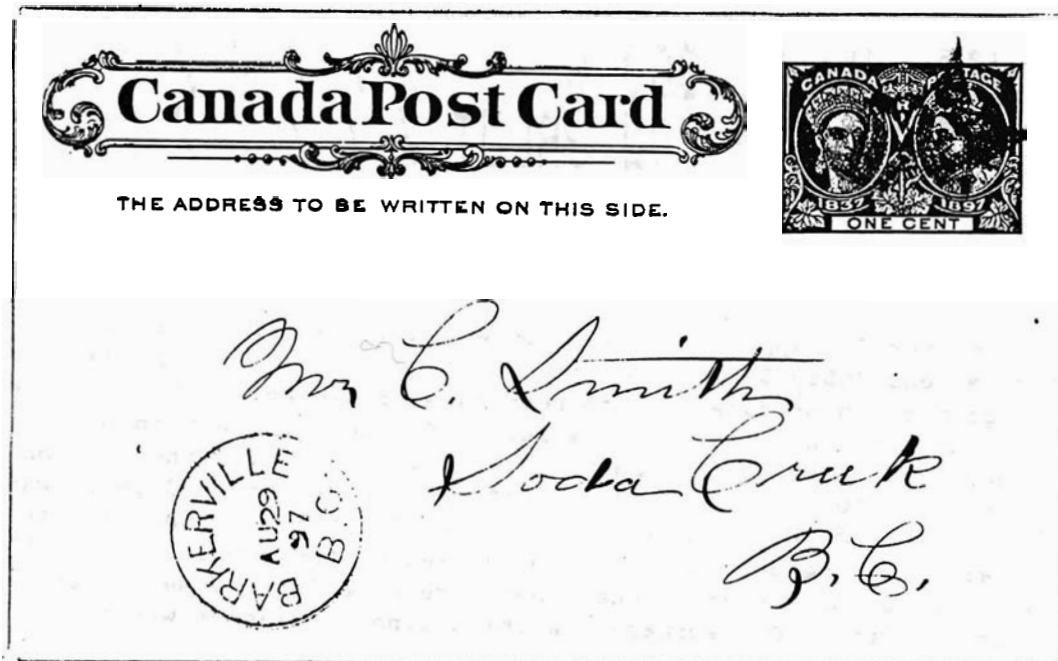
Whole number 25

March 1998

CORKS, CORKS, AND MORE CORKS

The study of cork cancellers has commanded little interest among postal historians. Most cork markings are little more than blobs used to kill the stamp and, as such, are of little interest. Most of these corks had a short life, lasting from a few days to a few weeks. In a few cases the postmaster did some artwork on the cork and it is these fancy corks that are of interest to the postal historian.

The Barkerville star markings are good examples of these more unusual markings produced in British Columbia. In 1897/8, James Stone, the Barkerville postmaster, carved two (if not three) five pointed stars which were used briefly on mail.



The only extensive work on cork cancels in Canada was first published, in 1962, by K.M. Day and E.S. Smythies, Canadian Fancy Cancellations of the Nineteenth Century. During the 1940's, Gerald Wellburn made a listing of close to 40 corks used by the Victoria Post Office. The list was never published and exists only as "C-" numbers found on covers. A revised lists shows close to 60 corks used at Victoria.

SNELL BUBBLE JET CANCELLER

The new Snell Bubble Jet cancellation, introduced about January 1, at the Vancouver MPP has created a considerable amount of interest. The marking is produced by a Snell Packaging Systematic Solutions (SPSS) modular Bubble Jet Spray Printer (BJP) unit Model SCIS 7199. Similar equipment was introduced about a year ago in Ontario and attracted little interest there. The Vancouver BJP is located on the new Flat Sorting Machine (FSM) Number 619 (see Vol. 6 No.3 p.180) and is in use on OCR 140 only, and as a result it does not appear on all FSM mail.

According to post office authorities the unit has four Bubble Jet Spray Printers each containing 8 nozzles producing a total of 32 spray lines. Multiple jets are activated by a sensor that reads the height of the envelope as it enters the equipment faced and the stamp upward. It produces a two line (recently three line) spray, that in theory, cancels the stamp. The lowest nozzle is located 60 mm above the envelope track making it capable of cancelling a number 10 envelope. The top jet is located at 260 mm above the track. The bubble jet spray printers must be set at exactly 1 mm from the face of the envelope. The jets are subject to plugging with the result that spray lines are often missing and as a result cancellations showing all line are scarce. The use of the equipment is still in the experimental stage and the problem may be solved shortly.

Test "A" - date reads "56 10 00" and time shown as "A"

619 V6B 1V9 561000 A / / / / /
SALV. ARMY/ARM. DU SALUT / / / / /

The experimental use of the JSP appears to have commenced on January 4 or 5, 1998, at which time the date read "561000" and the time was shown as "A". On January 5 the printer was programmed to produce the correct date followed by the numbers "1", "2" or "3" in place of the time. On January 6, the BJP went into full operation with the earliest recorded time being "16:50". Initially the second line read "SALV. ARMY/ARM. DU SALUT / / / / /" but on January 13 this was changed to read "POSTAL CODE/CODE POSTAL / / / / /". Normally the machine number, the MPP postal Code, the date and the time appear on the top line with the slogan on the lower line but on January 8 the lines were briefly reversed. Other errors have also been reported. On February 3 a third line of slashes was added.



SNELL BUBBLE JET CANCELLER - EARLY USAGE

Tests January 5 and 6, 1988 - Time shown as numbers 1, 2, or 3.

619 V6B 1Y9 980105 3 / / / / / /
SALV. ARMY/ARM. DU SALUT / / / / / /

Regular use begins January 6, 1998 - SALV. ARMY/ARM. DU SALUT

619 V6B 1Y9 980107 12:50 / / / / / / / /
SALV. ARMY/ARM. DU SALUT / / / / / / / /

Slogan at top January 8, 1998 only

SALV. ARMY/ARM. DU SALUT / / / / / / / /
619 V6B 1Y9 980108 20:01 / / / / / / / /

Slogan changed January 13, 1998 to POSTAL CODE/CODE POSTAL

619 V6B 1Y9 980115 14:56 / / / / / / / /
POSTAL CODE/CODE POSTAL / / / / / / / /

Third line of slash marks added February 2, 1998

619 V6B 1Y9 980226 23:35 / / / / / / / /
POSTAL CODE/CODE POSTAL / / / / / / / /
/ / / / / / / /

CARIBOO, B.C.

The establishment and location of the original Post Office opened in the present Barkerville area is one of confusion. A.S. Deaville's The Colonial Postal System ... is probably still the best source of information but in many ways it confuses the matter more than it assists in solving the problem. The following is based on Deaville's work with some reference to the postal records and the work done by George Melvin. The illustrations are from xerox copies of the Jim Pike collection which has now been dispersed.

In a letter dated May 1864, Governor Frederick Seymour appointed J.R. Commeline to be postmaster at Williams Creek at an annual salary of 400 pounds sterling. Commeline was responsible, under W.R. Spalding the Colonial Postmaster-General, for the postal services in the Cariboo district. At the same time the head office for Cariboo was removed from Williams Lake (not the present Williams Lake) to Williams Creek the centre of the Cariboo gold rush. Post offices were also established within the Cariboo district at Clinton, Lake (Lac) La Hache, Soda Creek, Quesnelle Mouth (Quesnel), and Van Winkle in addition to the Cariboo head office located at Williams Creek. Despite the establishment of the six post offices the express companies still dominated the mail service and, although their charges were higher, they provided twice-a-week delivery as opposed to the three mails per month provided by the post office department. Naturally, complaints were widespread and to overcome the problem branch delivery offices were opened at Camerontown and Barkerville.

In May 1865, the government mail service was improved to weekly delivery and in July Commeline moved the Post Office from Williams Creek to Barkerville which was a few mile away along Williams Creek. In January 1886, Commeline's services were dispensed with and, in November, the mail service was reduced to once a month. The exact status of the Williams Creek post office becomes unclear but according to Deaville the office continued to be known as "Williams Creek" until July 1, 1872 when the name was changed to "Barkerville".

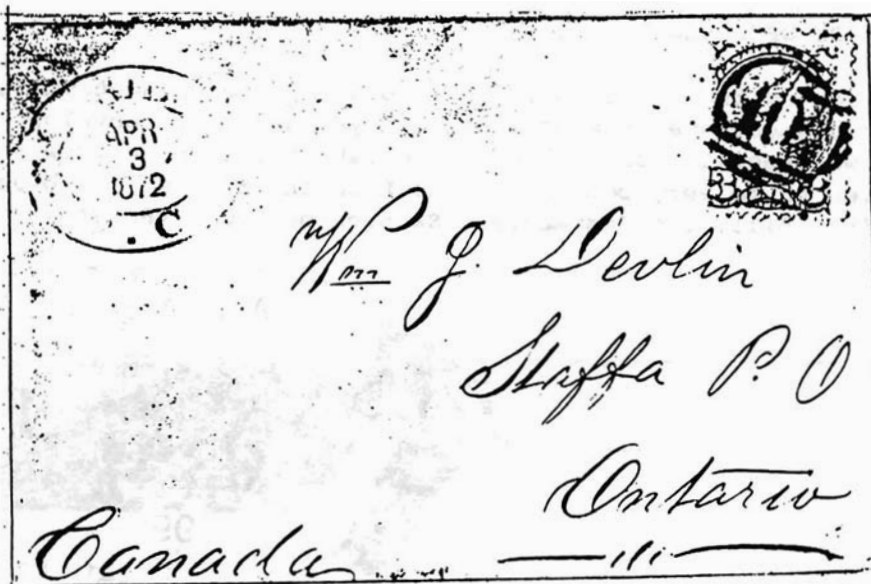
On July 20, 1871, British Columbia ceased to be a Crown Colony and the postal system was taken over by the Dominion Government. Officially a year later, July 1, 1872, the Barkerville Post Office was re-established with John Bowron as postmaster, with an annual salary of \$600. At no point does Deaville mention the existence of a post office under the name "Cariboo" and yet both Colonial and Dominion postal markings are known for an office of that name. A check of the records in Ottawa fails to produce any information, although the June 1872 Post Office Gazetteer lists Barkerville as being open but does not list the name "Cariboo".

A summary of the markings issued to the region do little to help solve the problem of "Cariboo". The colonial number ((10)) was issued to Williams Creek in July 1864 and remained in use until after Confederation when it was used as a killer until at least May 1872. A colonial oval canceller date stamp reading "CARIBOO / * * B.C. * *" is known to have been used between November 25, 1871 and April 8, 1872, while a split ring circular date stamp reading "CARIBOO / BRIT-COL" is reported in use between May 31, 1872 and September 7, 1872. The earliest "BARKERVILLE" cds is listed by Jim Pike as being dated January 2, 1875. The earliest proof date for Barkerville is October 8, 1879.

The express company markings provide no useful additional information. Gerald Wellburn in his study of the Barnard's Cariboo Express reported straight line markings from Barkerville, Richfield, Quesnelle, Lillooet, and Yale being used between 1884 and 1871.

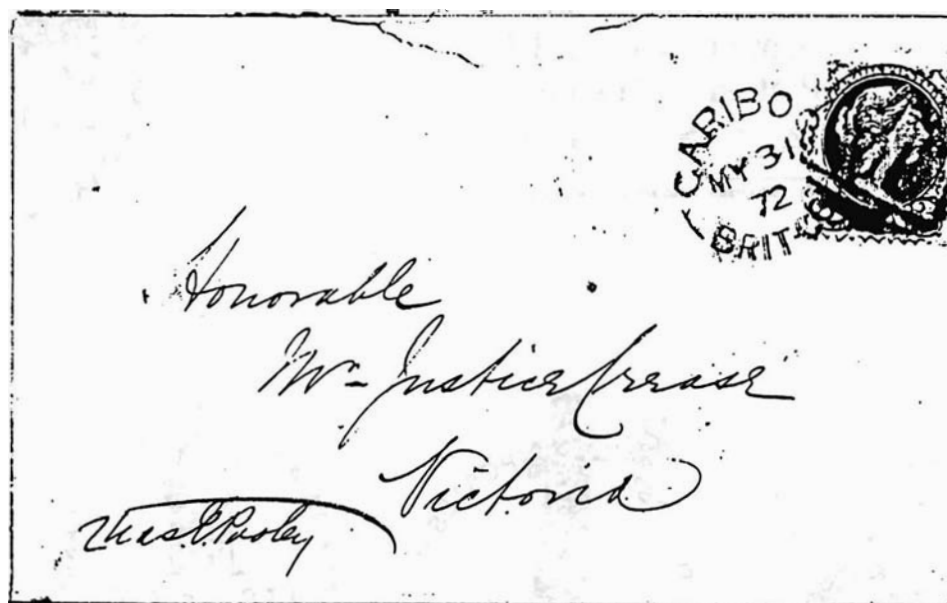
CARIBOO /
 * * B.C. * *
 APR 3, 1872

((10))
 killer



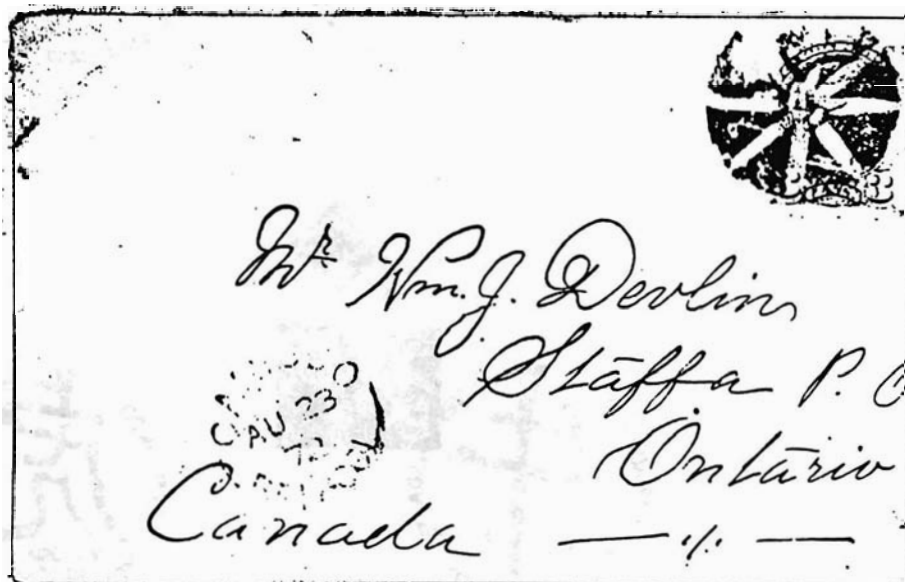
CARIBOO /
 - BRIT COL -
 MY 31 72

((10))
 killer



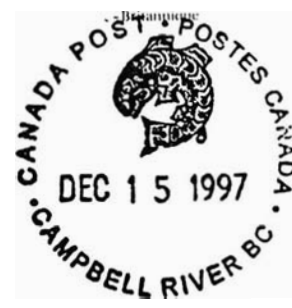
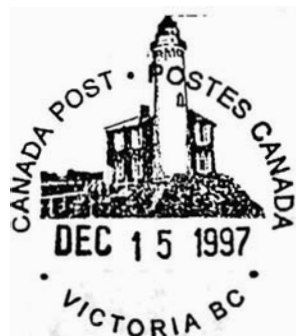
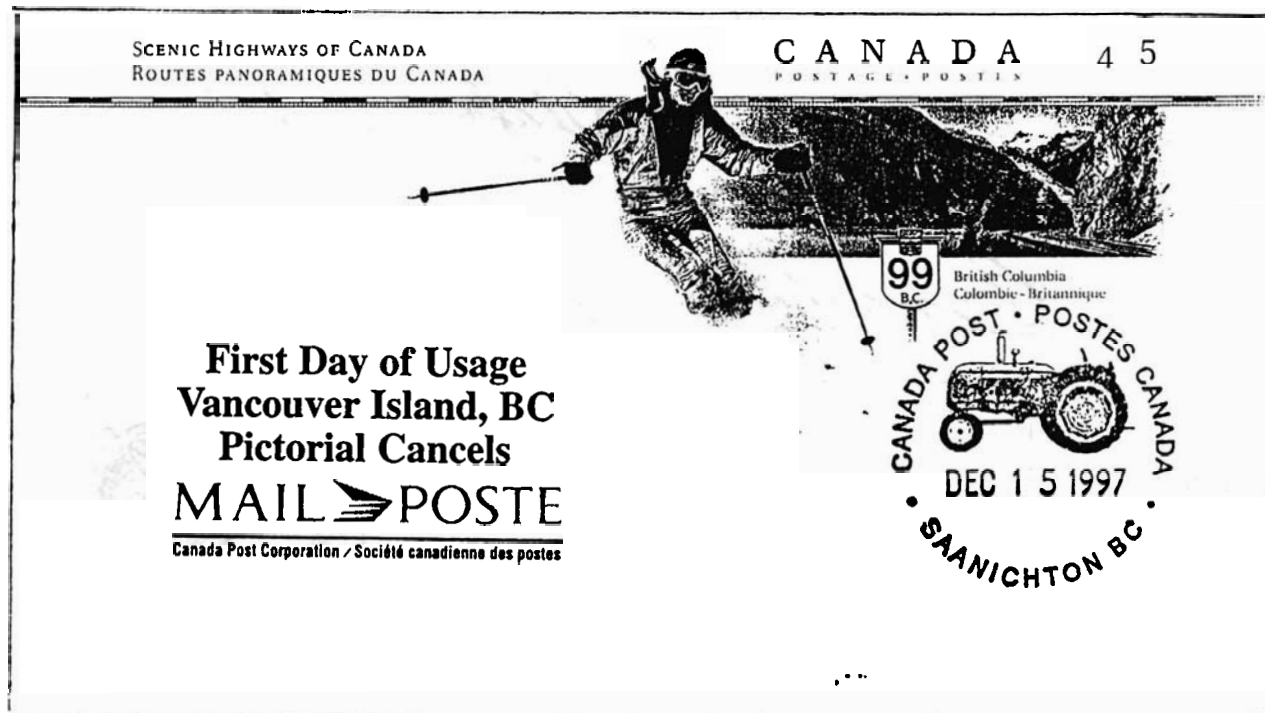
CARIBOO /
 - BRIT COL -
 AU 23 72

8 segment
 cork killer



BILL BARTLETT SPECIALS

The handstamp on the cover below, is one of five handstamps produced by Bill Bartlett to commemorate the Scenic Highways series of envelopes. He has also produced two special cachets to commemorate the Chinese New Year stamps. The items proved to be very popular at the Richmond Bourse in February. They can be obtained from Bill, C/o Postmaster, Saanichton B.C., V8M 1A0.



Jet Spray Printer - JSP 081 > 082

081 V6B 3A0 YeMoDa Ti:Me ///////////////
BEST WISHES/JOIE ET PAIX ///////////////
early 1996 12 09 10:48
late 1997 01 05 16:41

081 V6B 3A0 YeMoDa Ti:Me ///////////////
Literary/Alphabetisation ///////////////
early 1997 04 01 20:30
late 1997 05 15 04:17

081 V6B 3A0 YeMoDa Ti:Me ///////////////
MAY 31 MAI TELETHON BCCH ///////////////
early 1997 05 21 01:42
late 1997 06 03 04:15

NOTE - In September 1997 JSP 081
was briefly taken out of service
and returned to service as "082".

082 V6B 3A0 YeMoDa Ti:Me ///////////////
Literary/Alphabetisation ///////////////
early 1997 08 29 23:23
late 1997 09 14 17:49

082 V6B 3A0 YeMoDa Ti:Me ///////////////
UNITED WAY / CENTRAIDE ///////////////
early 1997 09 15 21:30
late 1997 10 01 00:40

082 V6B 3A0 YeMoDa Ti:Me ///////////////
STAMPS /TIMBRES ///////////////
early 1997 10 02 00:54
late 1997 10 28 03:54
Note - "TEST" Jet B1 activated
briefly with normal Jets B3/4.
TEST PRINTING MSG 21-JET ///////////////

NOTE - Changed back to read
OCR 081 - October 28, 1997

081 V6B 3A0 YeMoDa Ti:Me ///////////////
STAMPS /TIMBRES ///////////////
early 1997 10 28 21:03
late 1997 10 31 02:22

081 V6B 3A0 YeMoDa Ti:Me ///////////////
LUNG ASSOC. PULMONAIRE ///////////////
early 1997 11 01 02:57
late 1997 11 14 00:29

081 V6B 3A0 YeMoDa Ti:Me ///////////////
Salv. Army/Armes du Salut ///////////////
early 1997 11 15 15:24
late 1997 11 17 14:16

- slogans 1997

Postal Strike Nov. 19 to Dec 4

081 V6B 3A0 YeMoDa Ti:Me ///////////////
Santa HOH OHO Pere Noel ///////////////
early 1997 12 05 08:18
late 1997 12 31 00:51

Jet Spray Printer - JSP 118

118 V8Z 4B0 YeMoDa Ti:Me ///////////////
BEST WISHES/JOIE ET PAIX ///////////////
early 1996 12 10 10:44
late 1997 01 07 23:59

118 V8Z 4B0 YeMoDa Ti:Me ///////////////
Literacy/Alphabetisation ///////////////
early 1997 04 01 18:06
late 1997 05 18 21:54

118 V8Z 4B0 YeMoDa Ti:Me ///////////////
MAY 31 MAI TELETHON BCCH ///////////////
early 1997 05 20 16:21
late 1997 06 03 00:46

118 V8Z 4B0 YeMoDa Ti:Me ///////////////
Literacy/Alphabetisation ///////////////
early 1997 08 31 19:16
late 1997 09 14 23:34

118 V8Z 4B0 YeMoDa Ti:Me ///////////////
UNITED WAY / CENTRAIDE ///////////////
early 1997 09 15 17:44
late 1997 09 30 22:37

118 V8Z 4B0 YeMoDa Ti:Me ///////////////
LUNG ASSOC. PULMONAIRE ///////////////
early 1997 11 03 01:09
late 1997 11 14 02:11

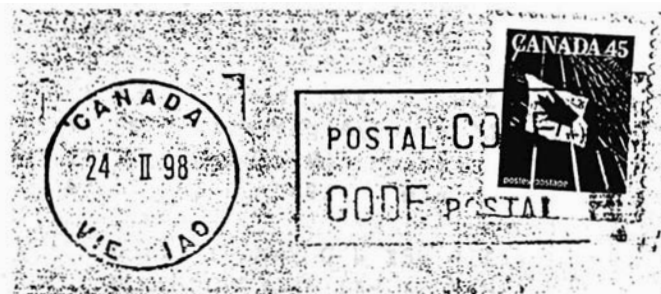
118 V8Z 4B0 YeMoDa Ti:Me ///////////////
Santa HOH OHO Pere Noel ///////////////
early 1997 11 16 16:22
late 1997 11 18 23:29

NOTE - Mail Strike Nov. 19 to Dec 4
early 1997 12 04 16:35
late 1997 12 16 09:41

118 V8Z 4B0 YeMoDa Ti:Me ///////////////
BEST WISHES/JOIE ET PAIX ///////////////
early 1997 12 16 09:53
late 1997 12 31 00:35

SALMON ARM - I.P.S. MACHINE

Salmon Arm is the latest of the British Columbia Post Offices to be issued a new I.P.S. Rapid Cancelling Machines. Like most of the new machines it contains the Postal Code "V1E 1A0" rather than the post office name. Offices of this type usually process regional mail as well as local mail and usually have pairs of mail boxes, one for regional mail and one for out of region mail which will be sent to Vancouver MPP for processing. Machine cancellation of this type are rare outside the local region.

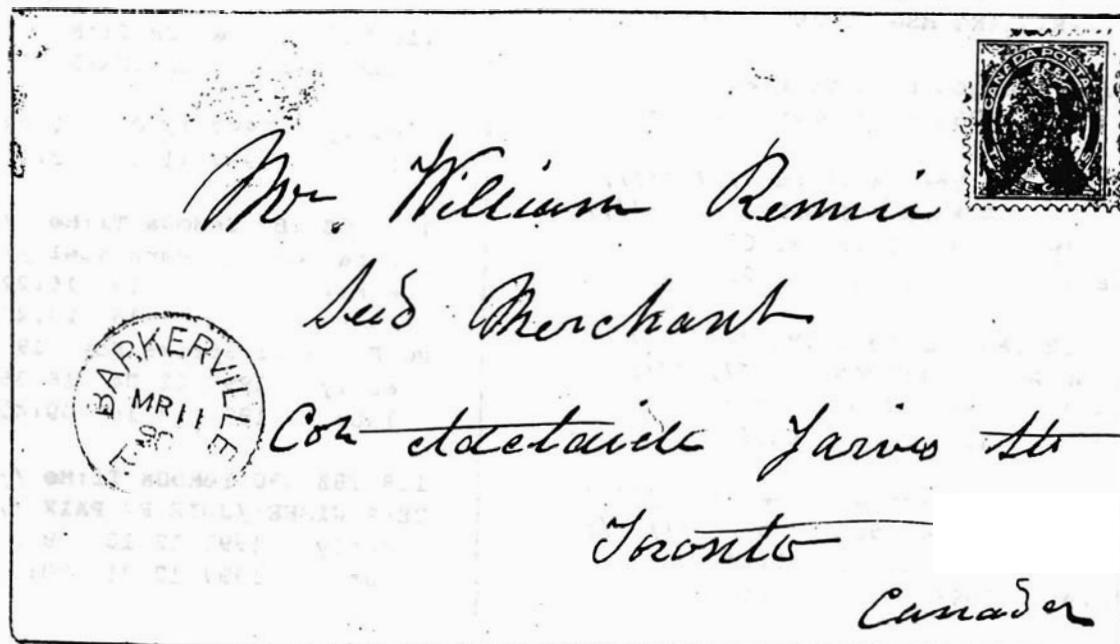

**MORE CORRECTIONS TO
- B.C. POST OFFICES**

Andrew Scott has pointed out a number of errors in RC number shown in the latest edition of "British Columbia Post Offices".

Page	Correction
19	Castlegar - Sub Shoreacres 642762 + 646571
19	- Kinnaird (sp)
22	Comox PS "A" 641499
23	Cortez Bay 649759
28	Elko est 1991 01 12
30	Fort St. John - Aennofield 640034
31	Galiano 018783
72	Vancouver @ - Kingsway PO 656933
72	- Park Royal PO 657093

BARKERVILLE STARS - 1897-98

The 1897 Barkerville star cancellation is shown on the page 1 of this News Letter. The second and less well formed star is shown on the cover below. The first star appears to have been carved in the summer of 1897 and is found mainly on the Jubilee issue, while the second star was made the next spring and is usually found on the three cent Leaves issue. Other corks are known between 1893 and 1900. This month's Response Form looks at the postal markings used at Barkerville prior to 1900.



MEMBERSHIP DUES \$5.00 (CAN OR US) ARE NOW DUE

RESPONSE FORM

Volume 6 Number 1, March 1997

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

Cariboo - Barkerville postal marking is the topic of this months
Response Form.

Type A-1 - Split ring

22 mm ?
P- nil
E-1873 05 16
L-1875 01 02

21 mm B.C
P- nil
E-1877 02 17
L-1893 02 13

22 mm B.C.
P-1894 01 23
E- ?
L-1897 11 12

A-4 - Solid Ring

22 mm - CANADA -
P-1879 10 08
E- ?
L- 1889 12 07

New dates

Corks

4 bars 21 mm
1893 02 13

9 bars 25 mm
1897 11 06

2 segments 18 mm
1900 10 19

New dates

Star 5 points

1897 08 29

1898 03 11

Type B-1 solid ring "B.C."

P- nil
E-1897 08 29
L-1909 10 22
(1954 10 31 ?)

New dates

Please provide details on other copies in your collection.

Name

Address

.....

DUES ENCLOSED \$5.00
Checks payable to -
Bill Topping

MEMBERSHIP As of March 1998

Abel, D. - Westbank, BC
Bailey, W.J. - Richmond, BC
Barlow, K. - West Vancouver, BC
Bartlett, W. - Saanichton, BC
Bedwell, S. - Salmon Arm, BC
Cabbage, K.J. - Alta Loma, CA
Carr, Dr. R.V.C. - Youngstown, OH
Chamberlin, D. - Victoria, BC
Cooper, T. - Williams Lake, BC
Coutts, C.C. - Abbotsford, BC
Covert, Dr. E. - Calgary, AB
Ellison, K. - Oyama, BC
Frick, S.A. - Surrey, BC
Harris, E.A. - Calgary, AB
Hedley, M. - San Mateo, CA
Jacobi, P. - Richmond, BC
Jones, T.M. - Sutton Courtenay, ENG
Joyner, G.W. - Yellowknife, NWT
Keenlyside, J. - Vancouver, BC
Kembel, V. - Mt. Lehman, BC
Lee, R.A. - Kelowna, BC
Leith, R.D. - Abbotsford, BC
Link, D. - Edmonton, AB
Marion, H. - Brentwood Bay, BC
McKay, H. - Vancouver, BC
McGregor, C. - Vancouver, BC
McGuinness, R.M. - West Vancouver, BC
Miller, C. - Reading, ENG
Millar, J. - Kamloops, BC
Mowat, R. - Victoria, BC
Murray, D. - Charlottetown, PEI
O'Reilly, K. - Yellowknife, NT
Painter, M.F. - South Surrey, BC
Pekonen, Bill, Richmond, BC
Piercey, D. - Edmonton, AB
Plain, Dr. B.C. - Kelowna, BC
Price, A. - Kelowna, BC
Robinson, W.G. - Vancouver, BC
Rosenblat, D.G. - Byron, CA
Rutherford, D. - Decatur, GA
Sagar, M. - Vancouver, BC
Schutt, L. - Bristol, ENG
Scott, A. - Halfmoon Bay, BC
Scrimgeour, Dr. G.K. - Victoria, BC
Sherritt, N.A. - Surrey, BC
Skucas, A. - Cranbrook, BC
Smith, J.M. - Rocky Mountain House, AB
Snow, Bryan, Vancouver, BC
Southey, T.W. - Abbotsford, BC
Spencer, R.A. - North Vancouver, BC
Sullivan, A. - Burnaby, BC
Switt, J. - Euless, TX
Tanner, A. - Vancouver, BC
Taylor, R.A., Vancouver, BC
Tidball, W. - Kelowna, BC
Topping, W.E. - Vancouver, BC
Unwin, A. - Bellevue, WA

Walburn, H.G. - Kelowna, BC
Wallace, J. - Victoria, BC
Walker, A. - Abbotsford, BC
Warwaryik, W. - Westlock, AB
Wissink, B. - Sherwood Park, AB
Wynns, J.P. - Inyokern, CA
Young, A.M. - Revelstoke, BC
Young, W. - Victoria, BC

FINANCIAL REPORT - 1997-1998

REVENUE

Surplus previous year	\$673.25
Membership dues	275.00
New members added	20.00
Sale of back issues	40.50
Grant from BNA	136.00
	<hr/>
Revenue	1172.50

EXPENSES

News Letters - members	\$275.00
News Letters - new members	20.00
News Letters - back Issues	40.00
Mailings to BNA officers	40.00
BNA free News Letters	22.50
Complimentary News Letters	12.50
Sample copies	-
	<hr/>
Expenses	410.00
Surplus	\$734.25

The British Columbia Postal History News Letter is published quarterly in conjunction with the British North Philatelic Society.

The membership fees are \$5.00 paid in Canadian or U.S. funds. Individual issues sell for \$1.25 post paid.

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