



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
POSTAL HISTORY  
RESEARCH GROUP

Volume 7 - Number 4

Whole number 28

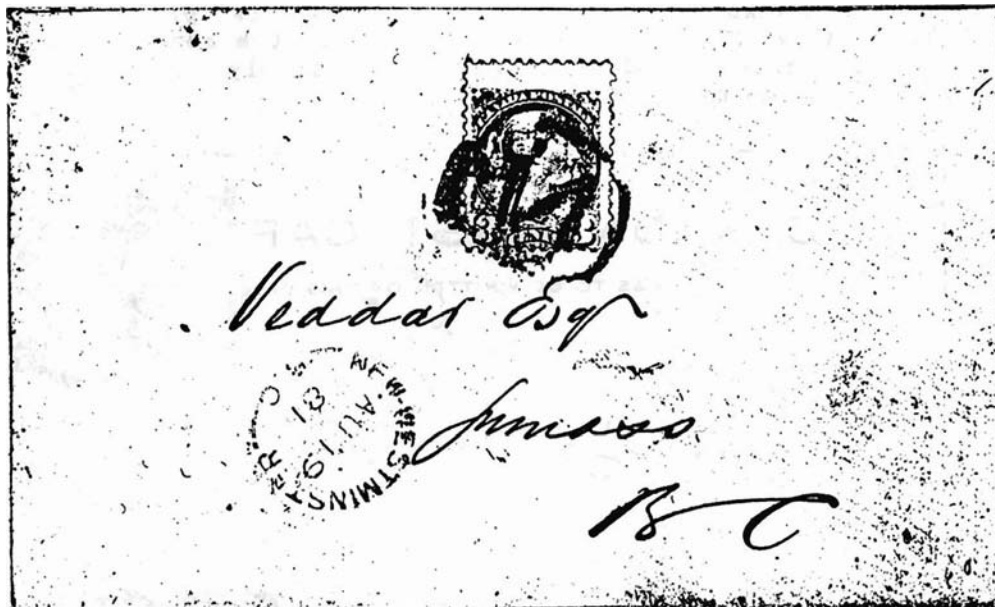
JANUARY 1999

### NEW WESTMINSTER - CORKS

The publication of the Gerald Wellburn list of Victoria cork cancels has revived interest in cork cancels. Andrew Scott has offered to work on a similar list for New Westminster and he can be reached at "Brooks Site C-23 RR #2, Half Moon Bay, B.C., V0N 1Y0". He would appreciate xerox copies of New Westminster corks, enhanced if necessary, with date of use.

Probably the best known of the New Westminster corks is the reversed "N" in a broken circle and is listed by Day and Smythies as number 262. It saw brief service in July and August 1881.

New Westminster "N" - AU 19 / 81  
Jarrett 1054



Jarrett  
1055



Back - nil

Jarrett lists the above cork as number 1045 and shows a similar intaglio "N" cork as 1055. A similar but much smaller cork is listed as number 613 by Day and Smythies. There is some speculation that both of these corks were used at New Westminster but neither is reported on cover.

GELLATLY, B.C. by W.G.Robinson

A Post Office was opened June 1, 1903, on the west shore of Okanagan Lake, one and a half miles south of Westbank, opposite Kelowna. It was named after an early settler - David E.Gellatly - who settled and farmed there, and was known as the "Tomato King" of the Okanagan district.

The first Postmaster was C.D.Osborne, from June 1 to September 18, 1903. He was succeeded by David E. Gellatly from January 1, 1904 to March 7, 1922. His wife, Mrs. E.Gellatly, served from May 5, 1922 to June 30, 1926, when the Office was closed.

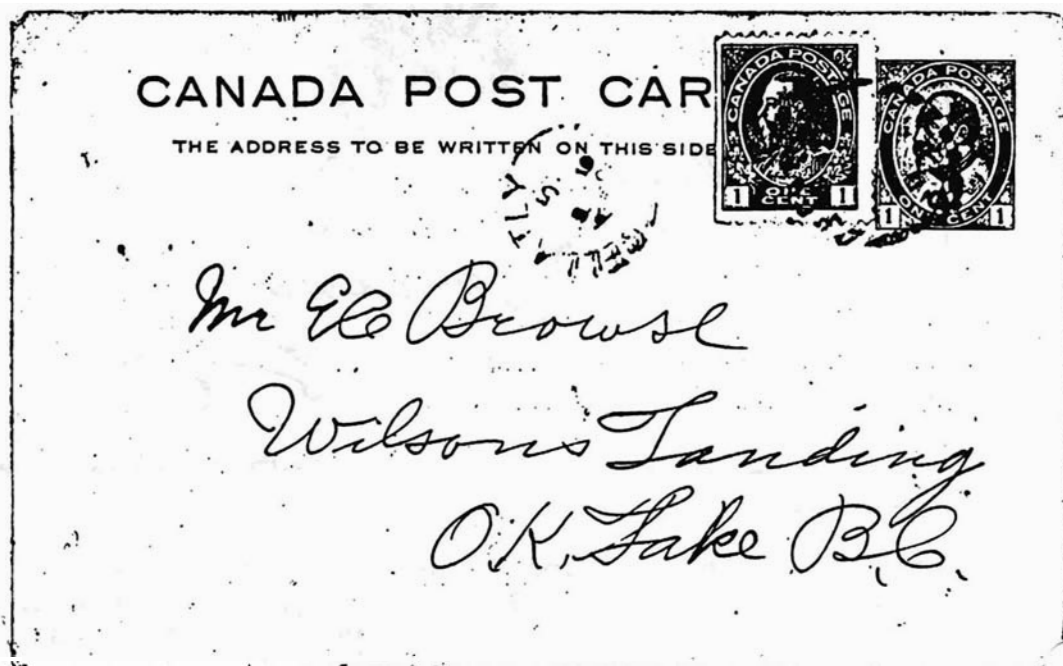
There is no record of the date on which the split-circle dater shown on the card was proofed, but apparently the Postmaster did not receive it for some time after the Office opened. The two-cent red numeral stamp shows most of a manuscript cancellation reading "Gellatly P.O./ June 9, 1903 / B.C."

The card, mailed April 5, 1926, is addressed to Mr. C.G.Browse, Postmaster at Wilson Landing from 1915 to 1957. Wilson Landing is about eight miles north of Kelowna on the west side of Okanagan Lake, so the card would have travelled by steamer. It carries a printed message saying -

" Order your season supply of Tomatoes from D.E.Gellatly & Sons, the largest growers in the Province, and make sure of a full supply. We beg to quote Tomatoes for immediate shipment at \$ 2.00 per crate of 20 lbs. Peppers, per dozen ....cts. Corn, green per dozen ....cts. Melons, musk per lb.....cts. Cucumbers per lb. ....cts. net, f.o.b. here. Kindly favor us with your orders and we will spare no pains to serve you right.

Yours truly,  
D.E.GELLATLY & SONS"

There is an additional manuscript message saying - "Your cheque for \$ 6.00 O.K., with thanks. I forgot quoting you a special price. Your truly, J.U.Gellatly" This must have been one of the sons. A Wilson Landing split-circle backstamp shows arrival simply as AP / 26. There is no day of the month shown.



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Bill Topping, Editor, 7430 Angus Drive, Vancouver, BC, V6P 5K2, Canada.

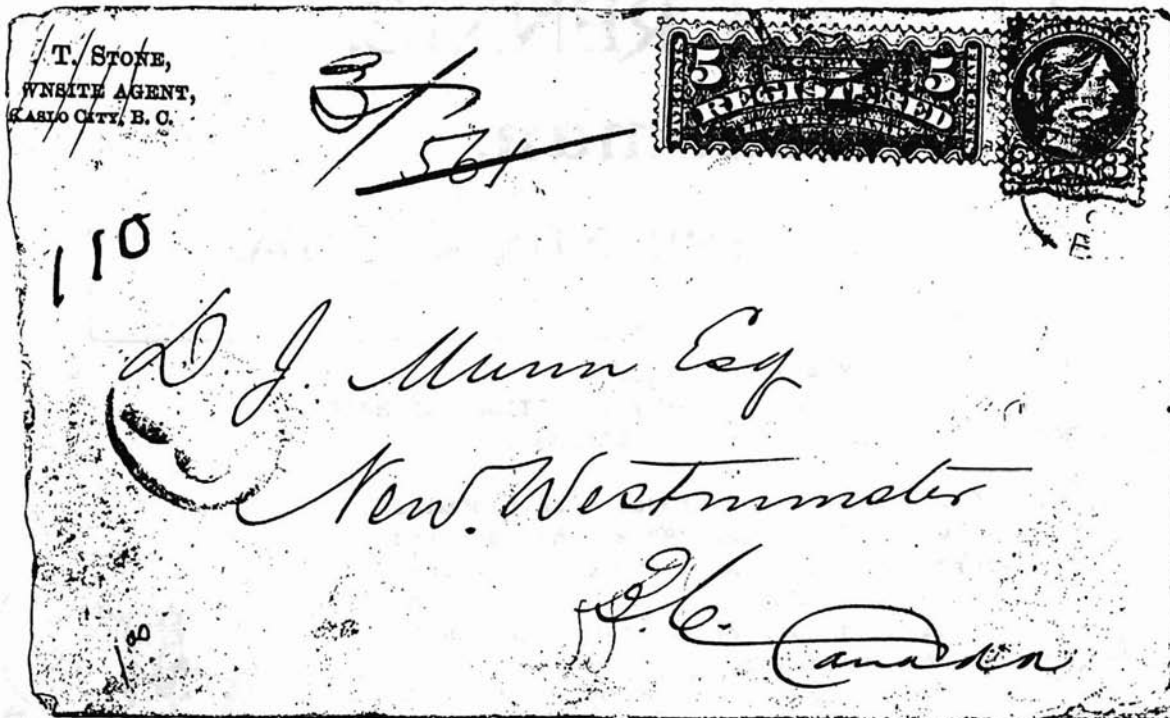
(604) 261-1508

**REGISTERED MARKINGS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

British Columbia entered Confederation well after the Registered Mail System had been introduced by the Canadian Post Office Department and although Registered Mail should exist in British Columbia for the 1870's none has been reported as yet. In Eastern Canada a straight line "REGISTERED" hand stamp was supplied to Postmasters by the Post Office and these saw regular use at the larger post offices. At the same time a dozen "REGISTERED" CDS handstamps were issued, mainly in New Brunswick, but none are reported as being used in B.C.

The first registration hand stamps issued in British Columbia appears to have been the thick "R" in an oval type (Harrison E-1). Horrace Harrison indicates the oval "R" marking came into use in 1886 although the earliest use in British Columbia, seen by the editor, is on a cover from Kaslo, dated MY 11, 1893. Since the oval "R" marking served the same function as the registration postage stamp the "R" handstamp seems to have had limited use until after the turn of the century. With the introduction of the "town name" registration handstamps in 1922 the oval "R" hand stamp became obsolete but markings oval "R" markings continued in use as late as the 1940's.

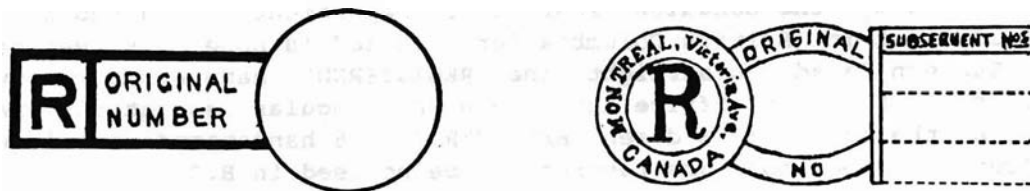
KASLO / MY 11 / 93 / B.C.



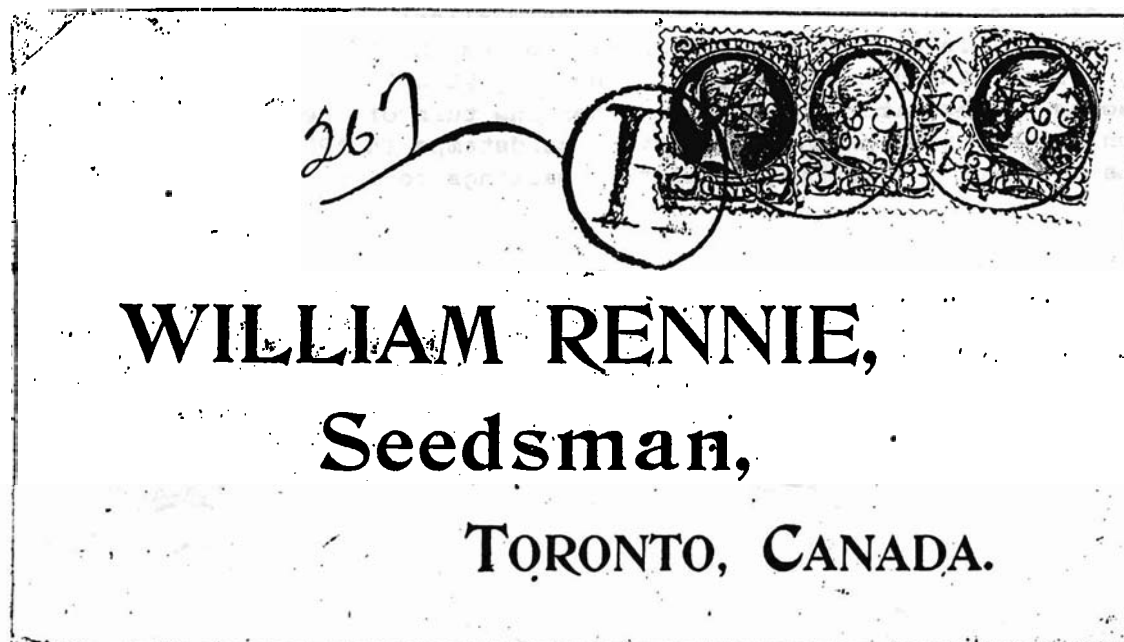
Back - C.P. RWY. M.C. / W / MY 15 / B.C.  
- NEW WESTMINSTER / PM / MY 15 / 93 / B.C.

Postmasters are also known to have made their own unofficial handstamps. A good B.C. example is the Nanaimo "R" (Harrison E-5) which was usually struck in purple or blue rather than black. Two fancy markings from Vernon dated AUG 6 1904 and MAR -6 1916 are not listed. It is possible these handstamps were made in the United States.

In 1907, the 'Keyhole' registration marking came into use and this was followed, in 1918, by a similar marking with the town name and spaces for "Subsequent Nos." Neither of these seem to have seen general use and to date only markings from Vancouver, Anyox, and New Westminster are known.



NANAIMO / 12 / MY 4 / 96 / B.C.



Back - NANAIMO / 12 / MY 4 / 96 / B.C.  
 - C.P. Ry M.C. / E / MY 6 / 96 / . BRITISH COLUMBIA .  
 - TORONTO / NT / MY 11 / 96 / . CANADA .

Starting in 1922, the traditional rectangular registration box with the letter "R" at the left and the town name across the top came into general use. At first the words "ORIGINAL NO." appeared in the number box but beginning in 1929 the word "ORIGINAL" was dropped. Rubber handstamps were issued to all post offices in Canada and these remained in use until November 1989 when the registration system was reorganized and the handstamps were replaced by green and purple computerized stickers.



#### Source of further information

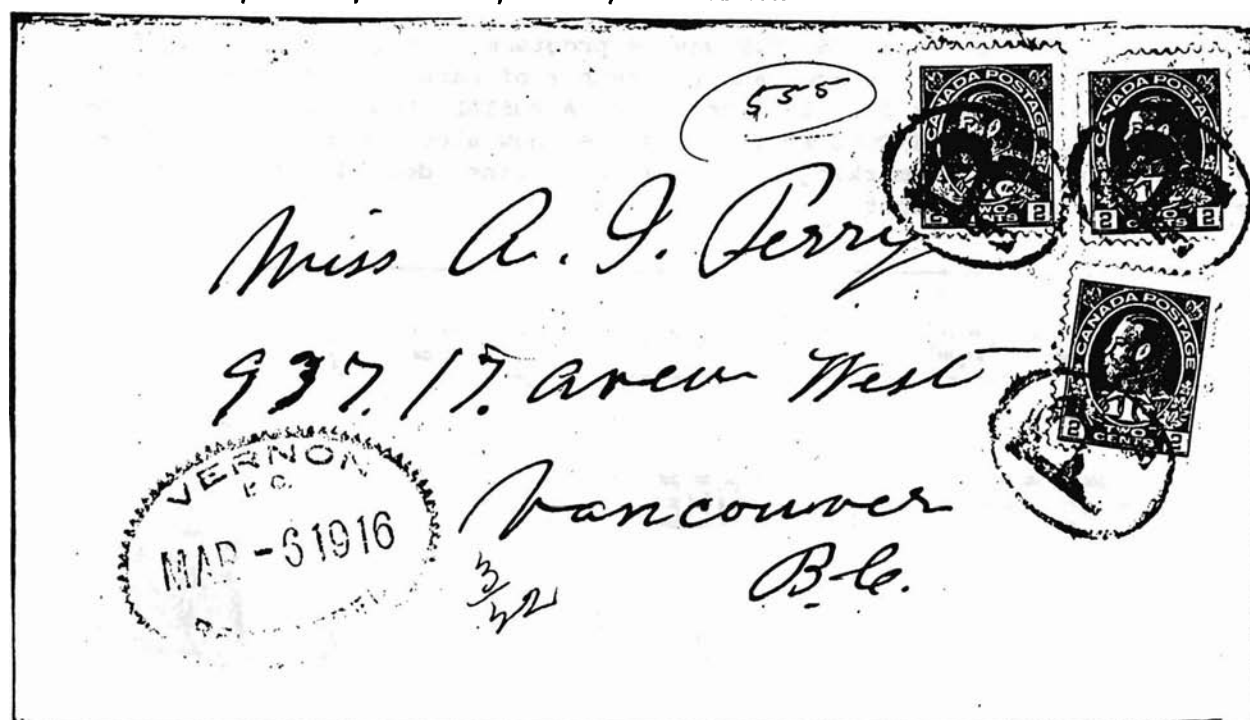
Horace Harrison "Canada's Registry System: 1827-1911" American Philatelist Vol. 84, Nos. 5 and 6, pages 420 and 503. (also in book form)

#### New Book

Harry W. Lussey's REGISTERED MARKINGS & THE REGISTERED LETTER STAMPS OF CANADA. 280 pages 8.5 by 11 inches, wire coil bound, color cover. Available from Ken V. Ellison, see BNA TOPICS, Oct-Dec 1998 p. 77 for details.

VERNON serrated oval

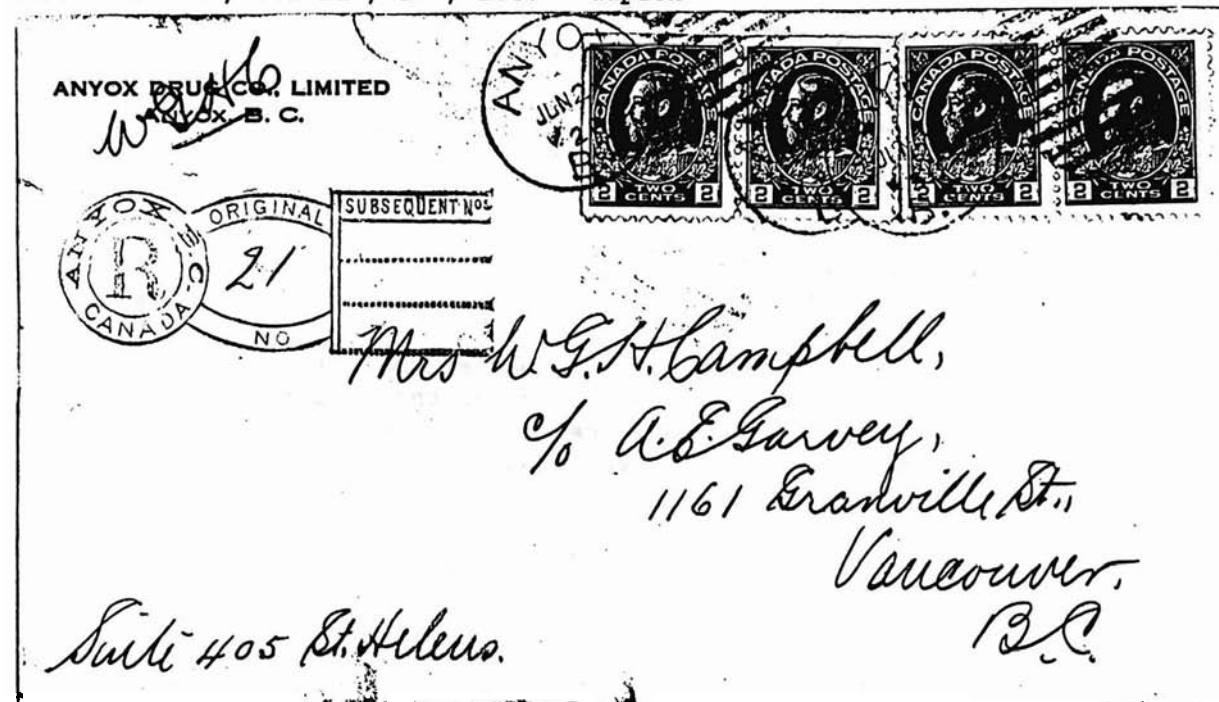
Face - VERNON / B.C. / MAR -6 / 1916 / REGISTERED



Back - O.L. & S. - R.P.O. / N / MR 6 / 16 / .  
 - \ C. & V. R.P.O. \ / 1 / MR 6 / 16 / B.C.  
 - VANCOUVER / MR 7 / 16 / B.C.

ANYOX - SUBSEQUENT Nos.

Face - ANYOX / JUN 21 / 20 / B.C. - duplex

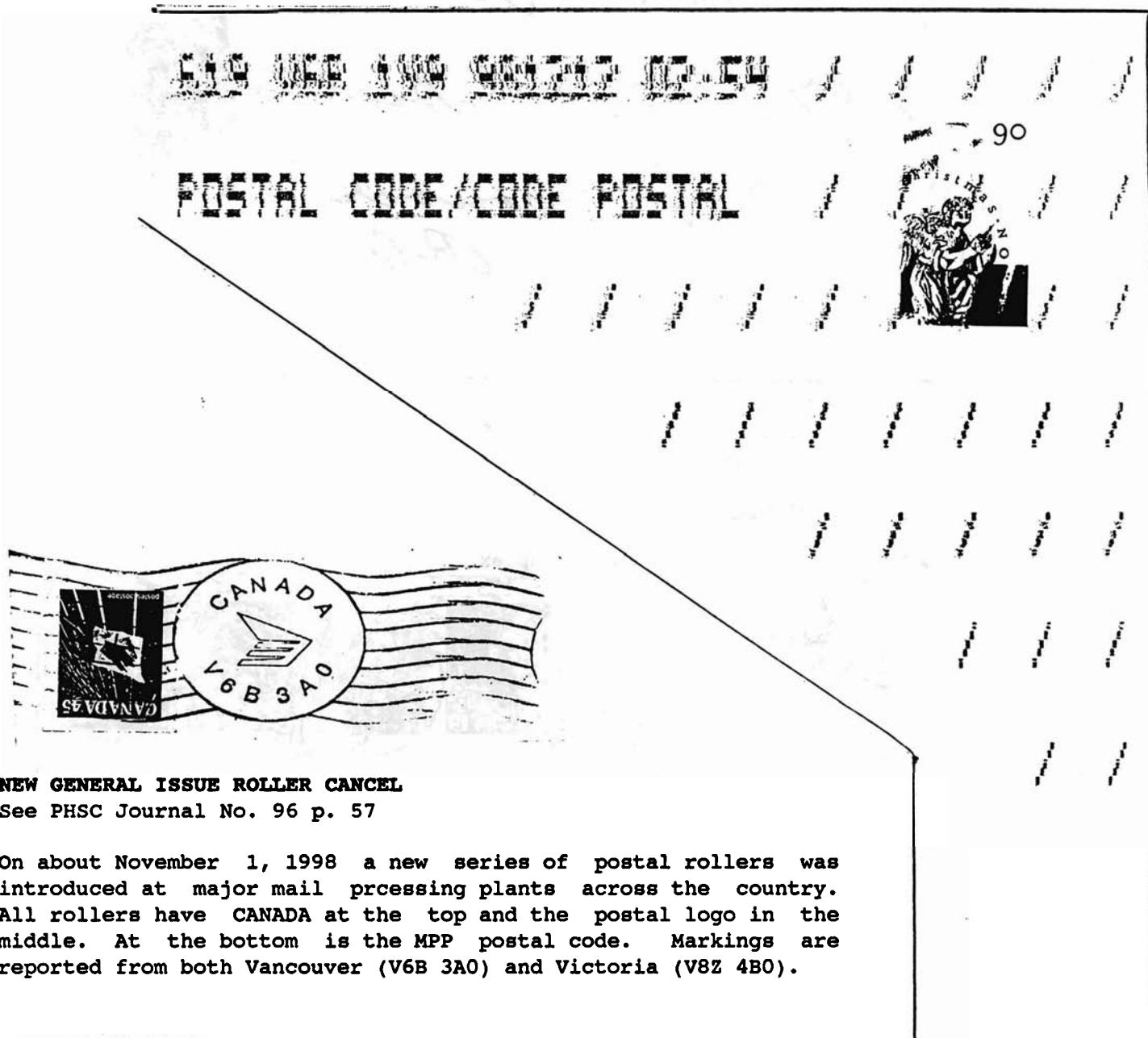


Back - VANCOUVER / JUN 24 / 20 / B.C.

**SNELL BUBBLE JET - modified again**

See Vol 7, No. 2, p. 202

The Snell Bubble Jet printer on JSP 619 was re-programmed on October 18, 1998 so that lines of bars are more widely spaced and the number of bars in each row decreases from top to bottom. On October 31, 1998 the "USE A POSTAL MONEY ORDER" slogan was changed to read "POSTAL CODE/CODE POSTAL" and the new slogan was placed on what had been the third line of the marking. The number of line depends on the size of the envelope. See example at right.

**NEW GENERAL ISSUE ROLLER CANCEL**

See PHSC Journal No. 96 p. 57

On about November 1, 1998 a new series of postal rollers was introduced at major mail processing plants across the country. All rollers have CANADA at the top and the postal logo in the middle. At the bottom is the MPP postal code. Markings are reported from both Vancouver (V6B 3A0) and Victoria (V8Z 4B0).

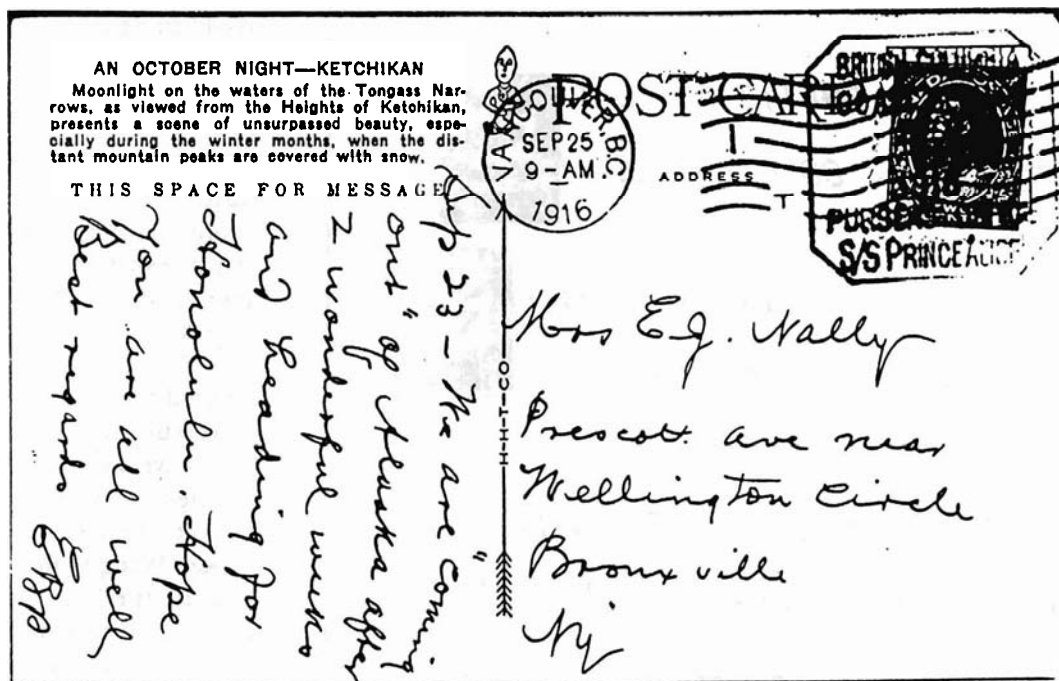


CUMBERLAND -  
100th ANNIVERSARY



**PRINCESS ALICE - PRINCE ALICE - error**

The *PRINCESS ALICE* arrived on the the British Columbia Coast in May 1911 and was used as the Victoria-Vancouver night boat. It appears that it also served on the Alaska route during the summer. A recent find in the Steinhart material provides an interesting example of a ticket stamp used to cancel a post card mailed on the Alaska route in 1916. This is the earliest marking for the *PRINCESS ALICE* and shows the ship name as *S/S PRINCE ALICE* rather than "PRINCESS". How long the miss-spelled ticket stamp was used is not recorded but a re-designed ticket stamp is known on cover dated JUL 16 / 1917. The Ludlow numbers for the markings are A-140a and S-140b respectively. A third ticket stamp marking (S-140c) is known for 1931.



A series of TPO/RPO rubber stamps reading "VANCOUVER-SKAGWAY / T.P.O. / STR. PRINCESS ALICE" were proofed in 1917, 1918, 1921, and 1927 but with the exception of the 1927 hammer all markings are scarce or unreported. On the other hand a proof marking dated "3 1941 and found on cover as early as 1937 is fairly common and appears to have remained in use until July 1941. Does this late date for the proof stike mean the proof strike was made at the time the marking was taken out of service?

LUDLOW S-140a  
1916 hammer



LUDLOW S-140b  
1917 hammer



LUDLOW S-140c  
1931 hammer





**POST OFFICE NEEDS "SPELL CHECK"**

January has been a very good month for those who like to collect postal errors. OCR 081 and 118 have produced a variety of unique spellings that are worth watching for.

081 V6B 3A0 981128 11:11 111111111

POSTAL CODE / CODE POSTAL 111111111

081 V6B 3A0 990112 00:32 11

POSTAL CODE / CODE POSTLE 11



118 V8Z 4B0 990118 21:11 1111

POSTA CODE / CODE POSTALE 1111



081 V6B 3A0 990108 08:53 111111111

Walks are dicay when icy 111111111

Entrées glacées = danger 111111111

118 V8Z 4B0 990118 23:51 111111111

Walks are dicay when icy 111111111

Entrées glacées = danger 111111111

118 V8Z 4B0 990111 18:59 11

Walks are dicay when icy 111111111

Entrées glacées = danger 111111111



118 V8Z 4B0 990105 22:22 111111111

Walks are dicay when icy 111111111

Entrées glacées = danger 111111111

**DEFUSING THE MILLENNIUM BOMB**  
from Rerformance Dec/Jan 1998

Most software has only six digits for the date—two each for the year, month and day. Christmas 1999 will be represented by 991225. But one week later, several computers will go back to the year 1900 or will simply stop working because of their inability to recognize the year 2000. Experts fear the glitch could cause much confusion in CPC's and thousands of other companies' computer systems on the stroke of midnight, year 2000.

The Year 2000 Project team started by classifying areas needing attention. Priority was given to programs and goods that are essential to the company's operations and financial health.

In Operations, specialists estimate some 70 per cent of software will be affected by the bug. Programs used to process the mail and handle its collection and delivery could go bonkers. In cases deemed "very serious", mail delivery could be affected.

Ken Wong is among the employees chasing the bug. As mail processing equipment task manager, Year 2000 Project, Wong and his team will soon have completed the enormous task of analyzing and testing more than 100 computer applications to determine their risk factor.

For example, the group knows modifications will be needed to the software of 61 multi-line optical character readers (MLOC) and 13 video encoding systems (VES) nationally. These machines process more than three billion pieces of Lettermail a year.

"The operating systems in these machines and others are outdated. In year 2000, MLOCs will give a date of '100'. Applications will treat this date as illegal, produce wrong data or fail to run."

If nothing is done, the MLOC will cease to produce mail processing reports. As for the VES, it will be difficult to analyze mail volumes from a date that always reads as "00".



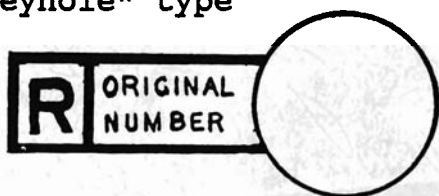
EARLY REGISTRATION MARKINGS

The topic for this months Response Form is the early Registration handstamps used in British Columbia prior to the introduction of the "town name" registration boxes in 1922. Please include date and town name were necessary.

Heavy "R" in oval  
Earliest date only



"Keyhole" type



"SUBSEQUENT Nos"



Fancy or other  
special markings  
prior to 1922

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

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

JACKMAN - first reported copy  
Reported by Ken Ellison

Established September 1, 1900  
Changed to HILTON May 1, 1905

Registered Seattle March 30, 1905  
Received Jackman April 12, 1905

SEATTLE - WASH.  
REGISTERED  
MAR / 30 / 1905

SPOKANE, WASH  
REG. DIV.  
MAR / 31 / 1905

NELSON B.C.  
PM / AP 1 / 05

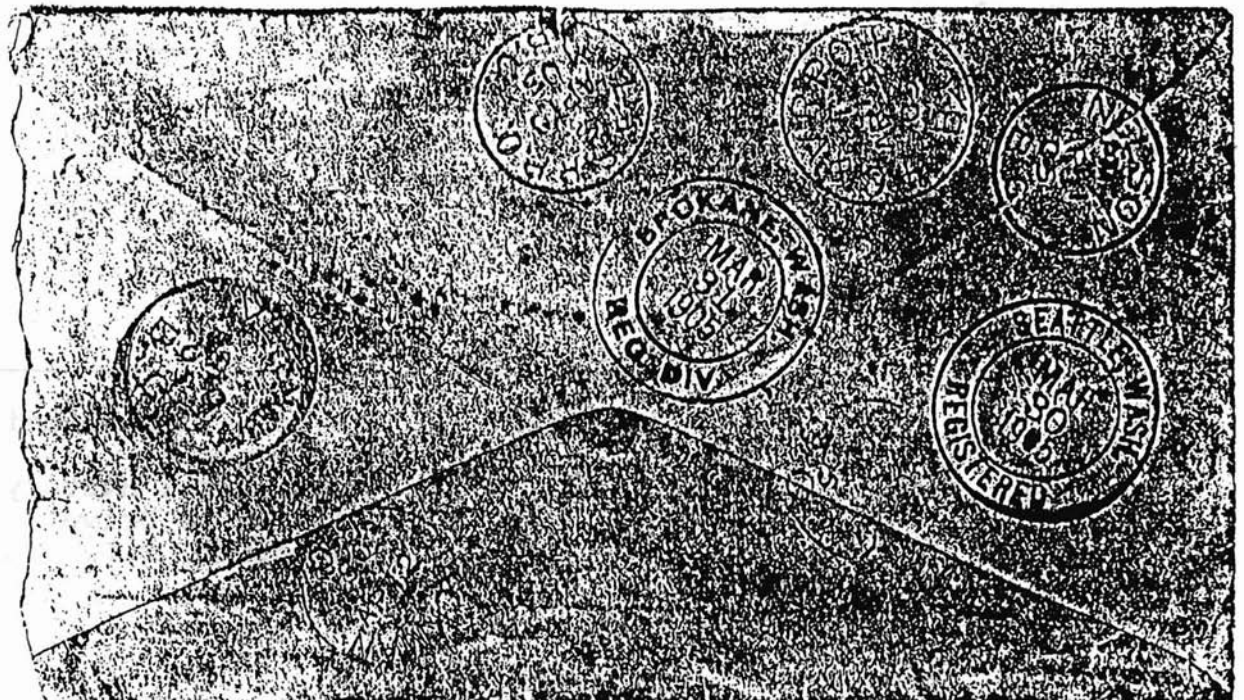
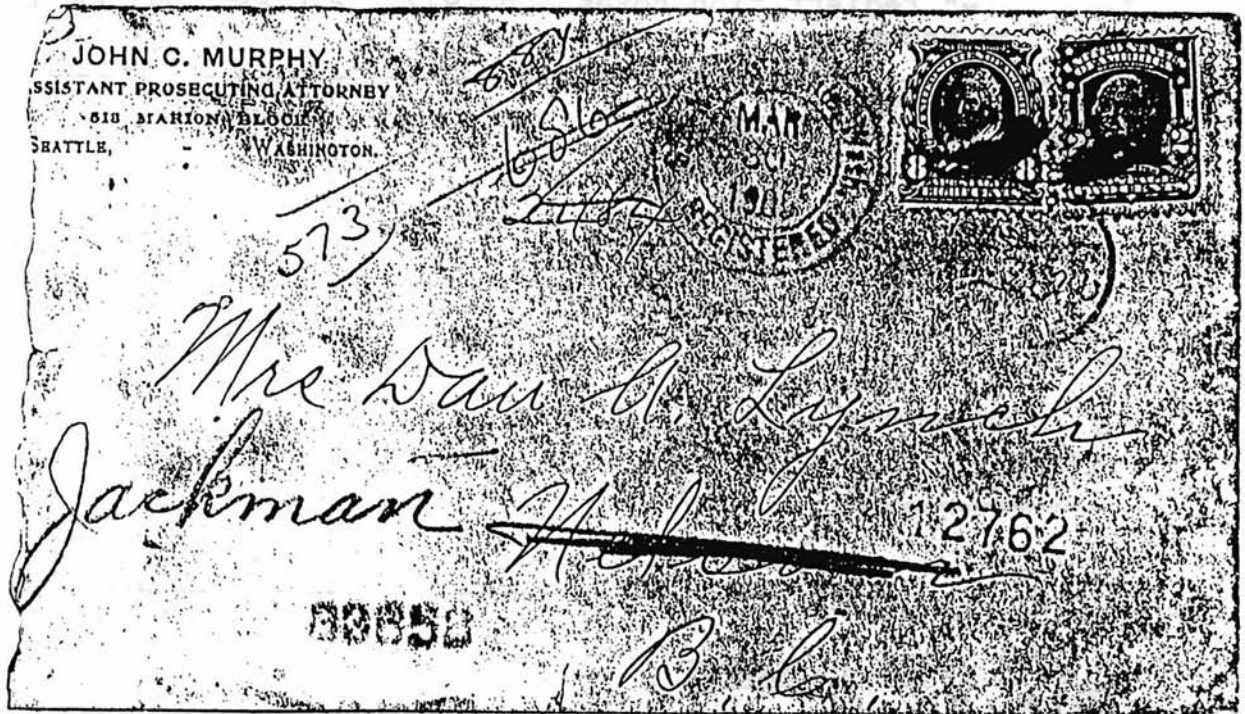
C. & V. R.P.O.  
1 / AP 9 / 05  
B.C.

O.L. & S. R.P.O.  
S / AP 10 / 05  
B.C.

VERNON / B.C.  
AP 10 / 05

LUMBY / B.C.  
AP 11 / 05

JACKMAN / B.C.  
AP 12 / 05



Sorry for the  
poor xerox

JACKMAN / B.C.