



BRITISH COLUMBIA
POSTAL HISTORY
RESEARCH GROUP

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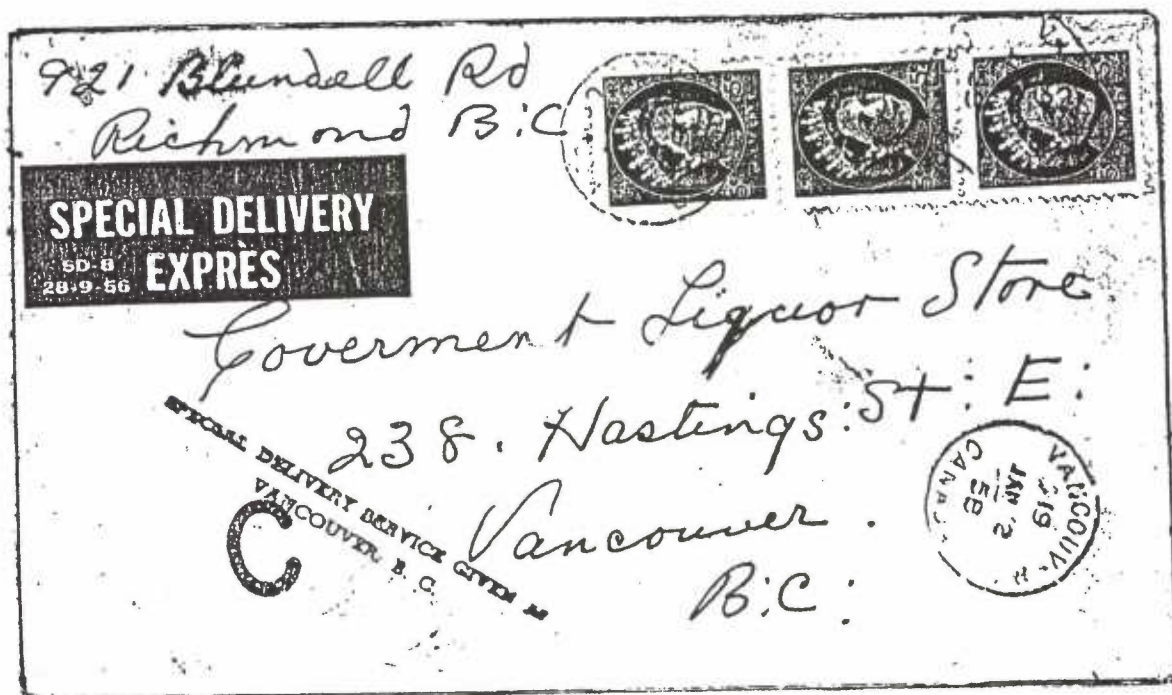
Whole number 79

September 2011

SPECIAL DELIVERY – LETTERS AND NUMBERS

Starting in the spring of 1957 the Post Office Department introduced a series of numbers and letters that were used on Special Delivery mail for delivery in Vancouver. The numbers / letters were stamped in violet or red with the number “3” being the most common. It would appear the markings came into use in March 1957 and were withdrawn by February 1964 with the bulk of the markings be reported for 1958/59. The exact purpose of the markings is not known but they could be clerk numbers or a coded dispatch time markings. The marking appear to have been replaced with an oval back stamp reading “SPECIAL DELIVERY UNIT / VANCOUVER, B.C.” Any suggestions ?

LETTER “C” -VANCOUVER B.C. / 19 / JAN 2 / 58 / CANADA



LETTER "S" - ALERT BAY / AP 12 / 57 / B.C.



The following have been reported;

"A" 23 X 58
 "B" MY 25 / 57 07/57
 "C" 18 IV / 57 JUN 20 / 58
 "D" 24 IV / 58 JUN 23 / 58
 "E" SEP 25 / 57 ~~DE 11 / 57~~ 1 VII 58
 "S" AP 12 / 57 14 JAN / 60

"1" 06/MR/59 JAN 25/60 AU 9/63
 "2" MR 21/59 FE 23/64
 "3" MR 20 / 57 7 JAN / 60
 "4" 28 X / 59 ← 15/IV/59
 "5" JY 4 / 59
 "8" AU 16 / 58 28/MR/58
 "13" AP 16 / 57 ~~DE 11 / 57~~ 30/12/57
 "14" 5 VII / 57

"L" 20/DE/58

KINGSTON ONT. / 24 V 11 AM / 1957

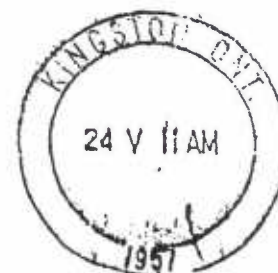
"6" 22 IX '59

Topping

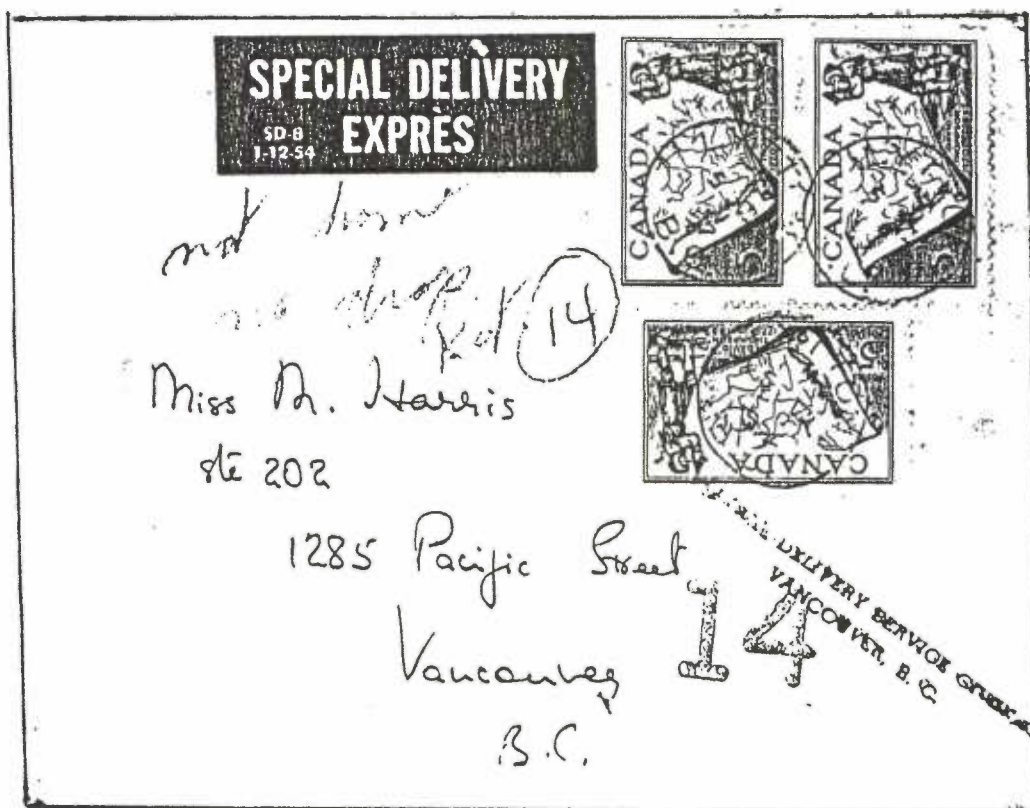
UNITED COLLEGE
 WINNIPEG 2
 MANITOBA



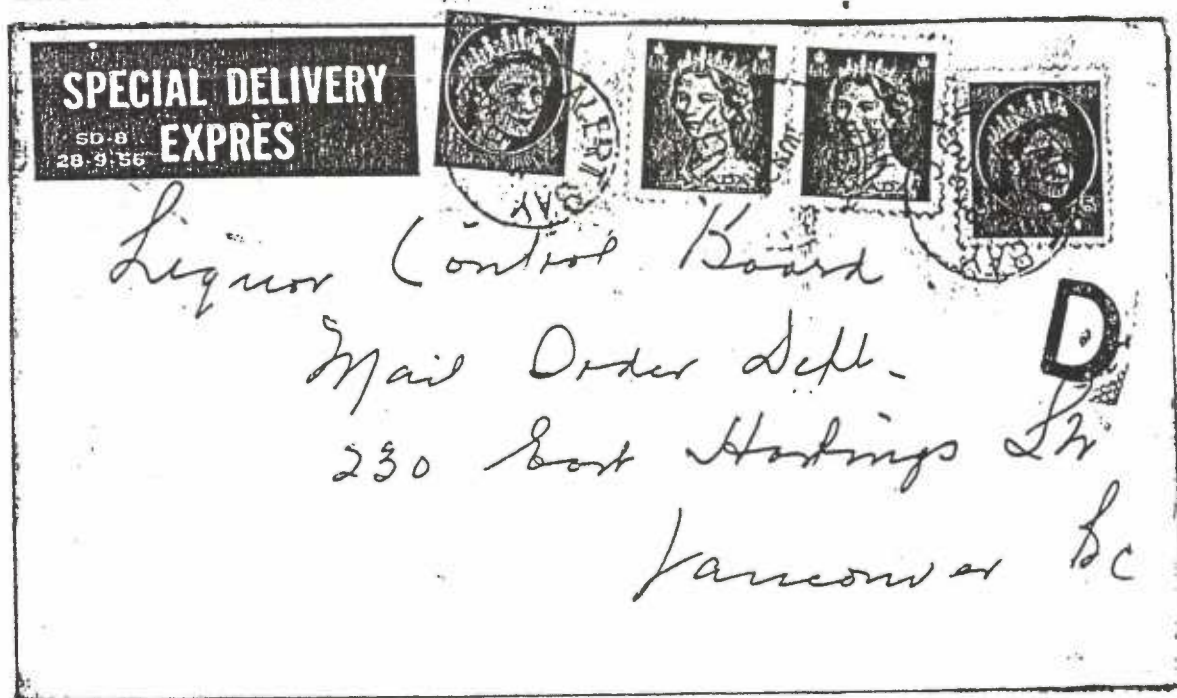
Mr. W.E. Topping,
 3227 W. 28th Ave.,
 Vancouver, B.C.



NUMBER "14" - LYTTON / 5 VII / 57 / B.C.



LETTER "D" - ALERT BAY / JUN 23 / 58 / B.C.



WAY MAIL AND SHIP "R.P.O." DATERS WITHOUT SHIP NAME

The two recently published books on R.R.O. and ship way mail, Ross Gray's *Catalogue of Canadian Railway Post Office Cancellations* and Bill Topping's *Western Canadian Ship Way Letter Cancellations* contain a number of errors. In part the problem is that none of the markings include the ship name and therefore proper identification is speculative. The problem is further complicated by the limited number of reported copies and in two cases almost identical hammers were issued. Hopefully the following listings will solve the problem

In the case of the WAY MAIL rubber hand stamps these were mainly used at the Vancouver Post Office and multiple daters may have been issued or minor variations may be the result of prolonged use.

CLARK'S RANCH
SKAGWAY, ALASKA



WAY
MAIL



Mr Nicholas Moran
Special Photographer
Canadian Pacific Railway
Press Bureau
Montreal

THE MASSETT CANNERS, LTD.
P.O. BOX 1700
PRINCE RUPERT, B.C.



Balfour, Guthrie & Co. Ltd.

Vancouver, B.C.

Attention Mr. Rand.

WAY MAIL

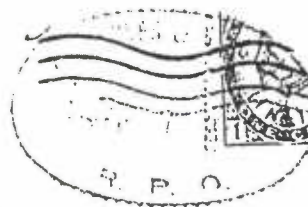
SHIP MAIL SERVICE AND R.P.O. DATERS - WITHOUT SHIP NAME

WW-16 Telegraph Creek & Wrangell MAIL SERVICE

WW-16.01 hammer 1 proof 1930 03 25 1930 12 24 1942 09 04 12 copies
"r" above "S" erviceWW-16.02 hammer 2 proof 1935 06 11 1937 08 28 1946 -- -- 7 copies
"C" above "S" ervice

WW-17 VANCOUVER & SKAGWAY / R.P.O. plain rim 1906 04 15 1906 07 20 5c

WW-18 VANCOUVER & SKAGWAY / R.P.O. serrated rim 1907 06 28 1907 09 20 3c



WW-19 VAN. & VIC, B.C, R.P.O. / . 1903 02 14 1911 04 11 29 copies

WW-20 VAN. & VICT, B.C, R.P.O. / . proof only 1908 07 03 nil



WW-21 VIC. & VAN, R.P.O, / VICTORIA, B. C. 1922 01 01 1925 11 21



SHIP "R.P.O." DATERS WITHOUT SHIP NAME

The "Telegraph Creek & Wrangell MAIL SERVICE" operated as an International Mail Service during the 1930's, between Wrangell, Alaska located on Wrangell Island near the mouth of the Stikine River, and Telegraph Creek some 70 miles up the Stikine River a river.

Taku Trading Company
Telegraph Creek, B.C.

Messrs Gault Bros.,



PRIVATE POST CARD



THIS SPACE MAY BE USED FOR CORRESPONDENCE

THIS SPACE IS FOR ADDRESS ONLY

July 18th 1900

I can not for the
mountain land,
I hear not now the
Canyon's roar
long to close one
more a hand and
all her that I room

Miss Grace M. Higgins
200 Andrews Bldg
Minneapolis
Minn
U.S.A.

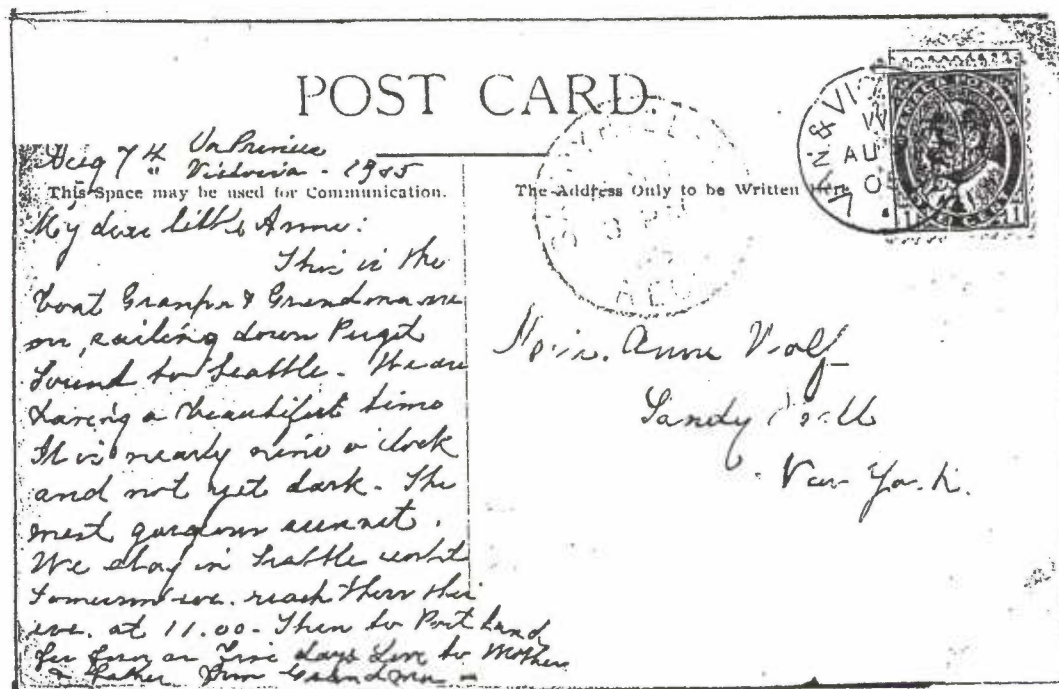


Mrs Walter Low
767 8th Ave.
Fairview
Vancouver
B.C.

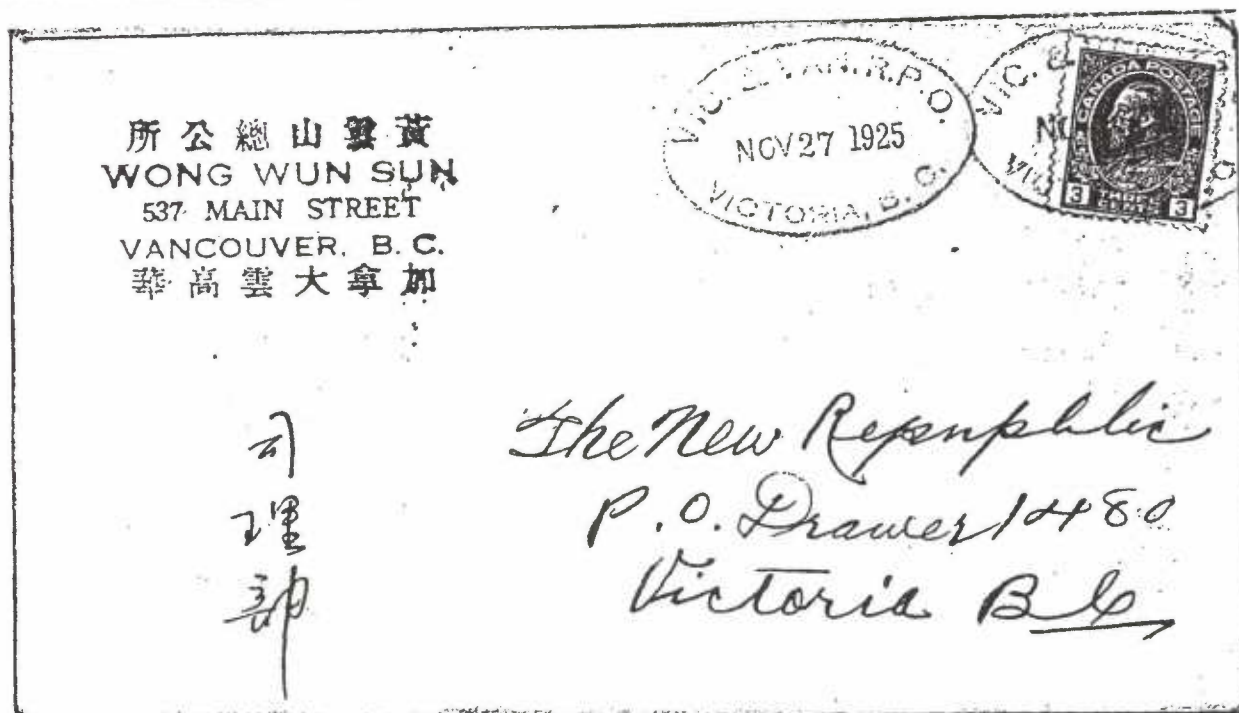
THIS SIDE IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.

The VANCOUVER & SKAGWAY R.P.O. dater was probably used on the *Princess Royal* or the *Princess May* on their weekly service to Alaska prior to the transfer to the Triangle Route in 1907.

The "VAN - VIC(T) B.C. R.P.O. was used on a number of CPR ships including the *Princess Beatrice*, *Princess Royal* and the *Princess Victoria*. It was assigned to the afternoon sailing from Vancouver to Vancouver Island that left Vancouver at about 2:00 PM following the arrival of the Trans Continental train from Eastern Canada. The objective was to sort the mail for Victoria and the upper Island for delivery the next morning and as a result operated in the westerly direction only.



The VIC. & VAN, R.P.O. VICTORIA, B. C. date stamp appears to have been produced by the CPR to be used on mail from Victoria addressed to Vancouver.



WAY MAIL CANCELLATIONS – mainly applied at the Vancouver Post Office,

WW-22 Hand stamp 1- 45 mm - many hand stamps – minor variations

Early 1929 11 07

late 1940 03 05

WAYMAIL

WW-22.02 hand stamp 2- 30mm – used at Steveston and on deep sea mail at Vancouver

Early 1947 06 12

late 1957 01 18

WAYMAIL

WW-23 Universal RCM

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Proof 1931 12 12

Early 1932 01 05

late 1934 10 18



WW-23.02 Perfect RCM

B. C.

Introduced 1934 11 20

Early 1934 12 02

late 1939 07 10



WW-23.03 Pitney Bowes RCM

Test dater with "WAY" removed from slogan
used on New Westminster RCM 1984

Early 1984 05 27

late 1984 06 14



Die "P" - Perfect Machine - 1931 - 1934

WAY
MAIL

Emp Gorden & Belyea Ltd
101 Powell St

CANADA FOOD BOARD
LICENSE NO. 10-2366

Hotel Prince Rupert
 H. B. ROCHESTER,
 MANAGER

HEADQUARTERS FOR
 COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS
 PRINCE RUPERT, B.C.
 CANADA

WAY
MAIL

Division Commissioner of
Immigration
E. O. Wray #548
Vancouver
B.C.

Die "U" - Universal Machine - 1931-1934

H. R. HENDERSON LTD.

308 WATER STREET
VANCOUVER, B. C.WAY
MAIL

H. R. Henderson Ltd

308 Water St

Vancouver B. C.



PORT TOWNSEND – KICKING MULE

One of the more unusual cancellations appearing on Canadian stamps is the “kicking mule” cancellation. The duplex hand stamp consisted of a double circular date stamp with a kicking mule duplex that was used as transit marking by postmaster A.F. Learned postmaster at Post Townsend, Washington. The kicking mule cancellation was also used at Neah Bay, Washington and at three post offices in California. The duplex canceling devices were produced by C.A. Klinkner who produced a variety of rubber and metal marking devices for various of uses including post office daters.

Of particular interest to collectors of British Columbia material are the two reported examples, on 3c small queen stamps, each bearing a superb strike of the kicking mule duplex and are thought to be from Port Townsend. It should be noted that the markings are thought to be genuine although a large number of forgeries have been reported.



Partnering to stamp out crime

Canada Post and the RCMP cracked the biggest counterfeit postage ring in more than two decades this past spring.

The investigation, which began in Toronto and Montréal in May 2010, was prompted when a Canada Post employee in Montréal discovered a large quantity of counterfeit stamps. A national sampling undertaken by Canada Post's Security and Investigation Services revealed that one per cent of every 1,000 pieces of mail affixed with stamps in Montréal and Toronto was counterfeit, which represented a potential revenue loss of more than \$4.6 million annually for the company.

During the year-long investigation, 40,000 counterfeit stamps were seized from businesses—and one Canada Post outlet—along with 10,000 washed and recycled stamps.

The phony postage features the portrait of the Queen, images from the Vancouver Olympics and one of a Canadian lighthouse.

Police have arrested 10 people in connection with the alleged counterfeit ring. The accused face charges of trafficking counterfeit tokens of value and selling stamps without Canada Post consent and could face fines of up to \$1 million, or imprisonment for up to five years. ©



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.