

December 2012

One of the major problem in producing a catalogue is to decide what information should receive major listing, what information should receive minor listing and what information should be omitted. In the case of the recently published ship cancellation catalogues, marking that were obviously favour or CTO were omitted

Tim Woodland recently found a number of interesting ship letters some of which are definitely "cancel to order" (CTO) or "favour" in origin. In theory under the postal regulations Pursers were not to cancel letters letter of a philatelic nature. These letters were referred to by the Post Office as "Round-the-world" letters and were to be forwarded to Ottawa for disposal under section 323 (1947) of the Canadian Postal Guide.

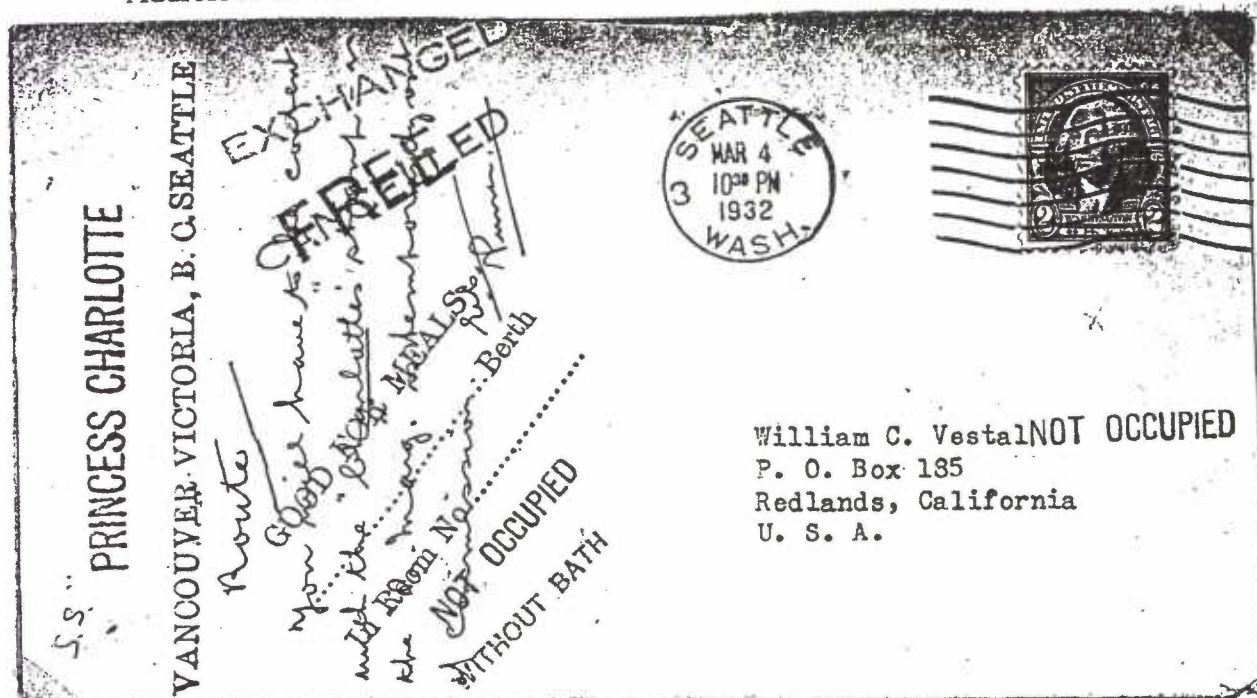
323. "Round-the-World" letters or other articles sent with the obvious intention of obtaining "Round-the-World" cancellation marks or of rendering them objects of curiosity or interest are prohibited. Such articles are to be sent to the Administration Branch (For Inspection Division), Ottawa. letters, etc.

b. Letters and other articles prepared in such a way as to receive successive addresses are not admitted.

PRINCESS CHARLOTTE - MAR. 4, 1932

Nine different purser's hand stamps

Nine different purser's hand stamps
Addressed to William C. Vestal well known collector of ship markings



These regulations appear to have been ignored by most of the Purser's who continued to cancel mail on request. In a 1958 letter from retired C.P.R. Purser Mr. F.J. Gosling to Mr. H. Tyson, Superintendent of the C.P.R. B.C. Coastal Service the general attitude of most Purser's is explained.

C.P.R. File No. 13789 dated April 22ND, 1958 - letter
from retired Purser F.J. Gosling to H. Tyson, Supt. B.C.C.S.

File No. 13789

In replying to yours of the 14th inst. When I first went north on the Co's steamers in 1908, the vessels carried Way Mail in addition to sealed bags, as the Company then had the Mail Contract for certain B.C. Ports. The Purser's Office had R.P.O. rubber cancelling stamps, and I think they were obtained from the Stationary Dept. at Winnipeg. It is quite correct to say the steamers were not Railway Post Offices.

After the Company gave up the Mail Contract for the B.C. Ports the public still brought letters to the steamers for mailing and in the interest of maintaining good relations with the public the letters were handled, but the postage was not cancelled unless the mail was addressed to a U.S. point. There was no actual authority from either the P.O. or your Office, to use (at) these cancelling stamps, so far as I am aware - or can recall.

PRINCESS KATHLEEN - AUG 28, 1938

Six different purser's hand stamps

Addressed to Walter E Atkinson Jr. well know collector of ship markings

	<p>Can. Pac. Rly. Co. B.C. COASTAL SERVICE AUG 29 1938 9 AM PURSER'S OFFICE PRINCESS KATHLEEN</p>	
<p>S.S. PRINCESS KATHLEEN</p>	<p>Walter E. Atkinson Jr. Box 68 Palo Alto, California U.S.A.</p>	
<p>S.S. Princess Kathleen USED ON</p>		
<p>S.S. <i>Princess Kathleen</i></p>		
<p>on <i>Aug 28</i> 19<i>38</i></p>		
<p>For stateroom No.</p>		

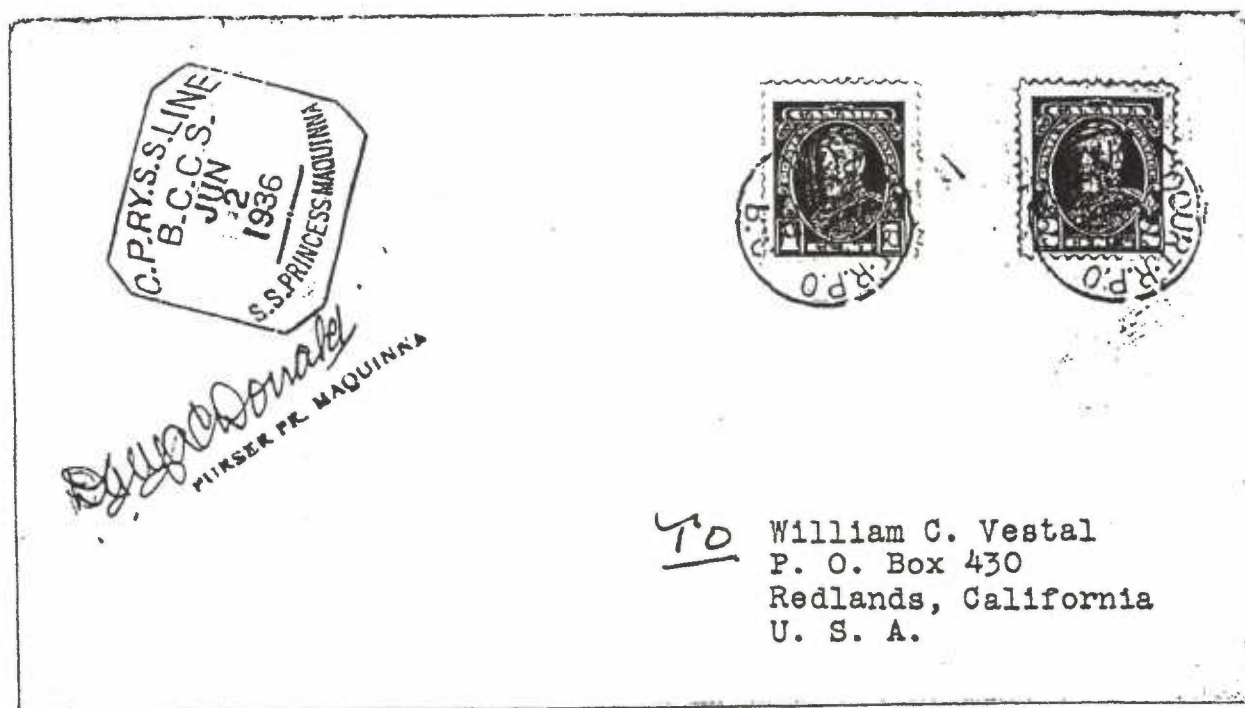
Thus it would appear that officially ships operating on the West Coast after 1930 were supposed to turn in all mail, posted on board, at Vancouver, or other major ports, where it was, in theory, to be cancelled "Way mail". This was not the case. Through the efforts of the "World Ship Society" and other similar groups specializing in the collecting of ship markings, particularly, in the United States, went to great length to get mail postmarked by the Purser. Each Purser processed the mail differently and many C.P.R. Purser stamped the envelope well clear of the postage and these markings should be classes as corner cards rather than ship cancellations.

A few pursers actually cancelled the stamps as requested and then returned them to the collector without them going through the mail. A few treated the letters as regular mail and turned it into the post office with or without the ship marking. In a few cases the collector was given access to all the pursers hand stamps that were used to produce some spectacular covers that only on rare occasions did these pass through the mail.

S.S. PRINCESS MAQUINNA – JUN 2, 1936

Signed by Purser D.A. MacDonald and

addressed to William. C. Vestal well known collector of ship markings



It should be noted that a number of ships serving the northern or outer coast were issued with oval R.P.O. hand stamps bearing the ships name the name of the route served. Usually the purser served as the R.P.O. clerk without additional pay although his duties were similar to the regular R.P.O. mail clerks. For the most part the Purser cooperated with request for cancellations contrary to the regulations

To further confuse the issue captains on ships holding mail contracts were designated as "mail couriers" and under section 273 (1947) of the postal regulations they were required to accept mail offered to them at distances greater than one mile from the nearest post office. Thus under this section of the act captains all mail offered to them despite the regulations governing "round-the-world" letters.

CANADA OFFICIAL POSTAL GUIDE - 1947-section 273

Mail couriers to
receive letters
en route.

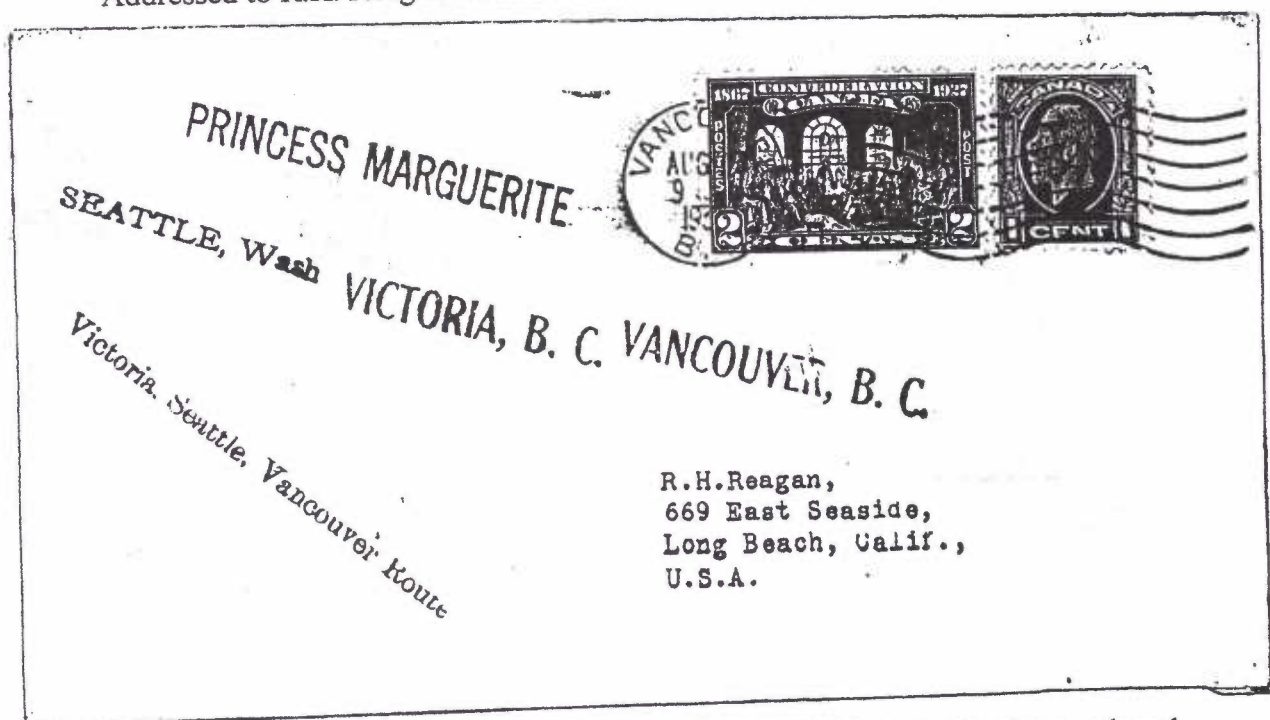
273. Mail couriers are authorized and required to receive letters offered to them whilst on the road between one post office and another provided that when a letter is so offered the distance from the nearest post office exceeds one mile. Such letters are termed Way Letters, and should be prepaid by postage stamp.

Finally ships serving the many small settlements not served by the larger ships accepted mail as a service to the local residents and often stamped the envelope with the ship or company name. This mail was dropped off at the nearest post office where it may or may not have been canceled. Thus by far the majority of the ship mail falls under one or more of the regulations and should be treated as such.

PRINCESS MARGUERITE - May 23, 193

Five different purser's hand stamps

Addressed to R.H. Reagan well known collector of ship markings



R.H.Reagan,
669 East Seaside,
Long Beach, Calif.,
U.S.A.

On the hand the activities of World Ship Society and other similar organization produced a large number of very attractive envelopes that may or not have passed through the mail. In a few cases, hand stamps were provided to the Purser or by a member of the World Ship Society to be used to produce more attractive envelopes. Many of these covers should be classes as "Round-the-world" and should be of limited value. On the other hand dealers in recent months at least one cover that may have been processed on the dock was sold for over a thousand dollars while a legitimate but mundane way mail cover sold for a few dollars.

"BRACLENDALE" DATESTAMP ERROR

Andrew Scott

A new datestamp for Brackendale appeared earlier in 2012, misspelled "Bracledale." The earliest date noted for this error is APR 21 2012; the latest date is MAY 31 2012. A corrected datestamp was soon issued; the earliest date noted for the correction is JUN 6 2012.

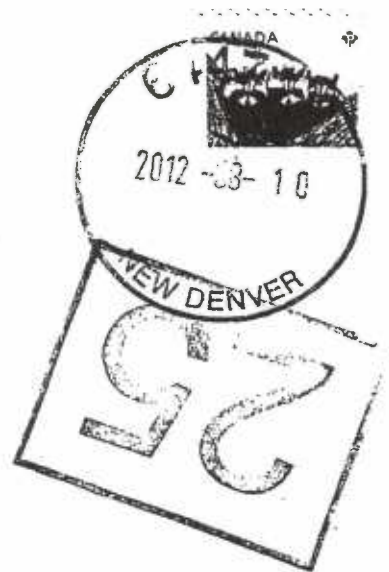
**THE MYSTERIOUS "25" MARKING**

Some time in the summer of 2012, a boxed "25" marking began appearing on mail addressed to Vancouver. It is seen on all sizes of envelopes, and on mail sent from locations throughout BC. It is not uncommon, appearing on perhaps every 100 or 200 covers. Presumably, it is applied at the Vancouver mail processing plant. Can anyone shed any light on this mystery?

L. Ducharme
PO Box 46
New Denver, BC
VOG 1S0

PACIFIC BLUE CROSS
PO Box 7000
Vancouver, BC
V6B 4E1

E/-/11/11



RECENT VANCOUVER DATESTAMPS

Andrew Scott

New styles of six-digit handstamps have been appearing recently from many retail postal outlets in Vancouver and Victoria. Vancouver seems to be opting for rectangular designs, Victoria for circular ones.

DENMAN PLACE RPO
068454
2011 -11- 23
VANCOUVER BC
V6G 2M0

FOURTH AVE RPO
112194
2011 -12- 05
VANCOUVER BC
V6K 1F0

SOUTH GRANVILLE RPO
102007
2012 -06- 13
VANCOUVER BC
V6J 1W0

ALBERNI ST. R.P.O.
102526
2011 -05- 06
VANCOUVER BC
V6G 2L0

WEST PENDER PO
102834
2011 -11- 23
VANCOUVER BC
V6C 1T0

103935
YALETOWN PO
2012 -01- 03
VANCOUVER BC
V6Z 2Y0

104135
ROBSON PO
2011 -12- 05
VANCOUVER BC
V6G 1C7

631671
2012 -09- 16
MARPOLE 7-ELEVEN RPO
VANCOUVER BC V6P 5A0

058459
2011 -06- 29
GRANVILLE PARK P.O.
VANCOUVER V6H 6J0

102109
2012 -08- 13
OAKRIDGE MALL POSTAL OUTLET
VANCOUVER BC V5Z 2N0

103826
2012 -03- 09
MAIN STREET SOUTH POSTAL OUTLET
VANCOUVER BC V5X 5L0

103876
2010 -09- 07
CITY SQUARE POSTAL OUTLET
VANCOUVER BC V5Z 3X0

104063
DEC 05 2011
FAIRVIEW POSTAL OUTLET
VANCOUVER BC V5Z 1E0

104102
2011 -10- 27
FRASER POSTAL OUTLET
VANCOUVER BC V5W 3A0

104127
2011 -10- 19
HILLCREST POSTAL OUTLET
VANCOUVER BC V5V 3P0

SPECIAL DELIVERY TIME DATE STAMPS

See volume 21 number 4 page 734-736

Since the last issue of the News Letter a number unreported daters have been reported including a number from Eastern Canada. At the same time a list of post offices providing Special Delivery service was located in the 1961 *Canada official postal guide*. It should be noted that it appears that a number of Postal Stations and Postal Depots were also issued with Special Delivery time daters that do not appear in the listing. An updated list of reported hand stamps for British Columbia is provided below.

VANCOUVER

Blank (5 daters)
 Special Delivery (2 daters)
 Vancouver Special Delivery – English (11 daters)
 Vancouver ... par express – French (6 daters)

Vancouver Depot 31 (2 daters)
 Vancouver Depot 32 (1 dater)
 Vancouver Depot 74 (1 dater)

Vancouver Depot 31 (2 daters)
 Vancouver Depot 32 (1 dater)
 Vancouver Depot 74 (1 dater)
 Vancouver Station "C" (1 dater)
 Vancouver Station "D" (5 daters)
 Vancouver Station "E" (1 dater)
 Vancouver Station "O" (1 dater)

Vancouver - City Division (2 daters)
 Vancouver – Priority Post (3 daters)
 Vancouver – Received (1 dater)
 Vancouver - Telepost Unit (3 daters)
 Vancouver – Transportation Section (2 daters)
 V6B 1Z1 (Vancouver) 2 daters)

BRITISH COLUMBIA

* listed in 1961 Postal Guide

Abbotsford (3 daters)
 Chilliwack * (2 daters)
 Dawson Creek * (1 dater)
 Delta (1 dater)
 Kamloops * (10 daters)
 Kelowna * (3 daters)
 Nanaimo * (6 daters)
 Nelson * (2 daters)
 New Westminster * (3 daters)
 Penticton * (2 daters)
 Port Alberni * (2 daters)
 Prince George * (5 daters)
 Prince Rupert * (1 dater)
 Richmond – Depot 23 (1 dater)
 Surrey (1 dater)
 Trail * (unreported)
 Vancouver * – see above
 Vernon * (unreported)
 Victoria * (2 daters)
 White Rock * unreported



285. SPECIAL DELIVERY LETTERS from Great Britain, United States, United States Possessions and Territories, addressed to any post offices shown in Section 286 are to be accorded the same treatment as special delivery letters, posted in Canada for delivery in Canada.

286. CANADIAN POST OFFICES (including local municipal names authorized as postal addresses) HAVING SPECIAL DELIVERY SERVICE.

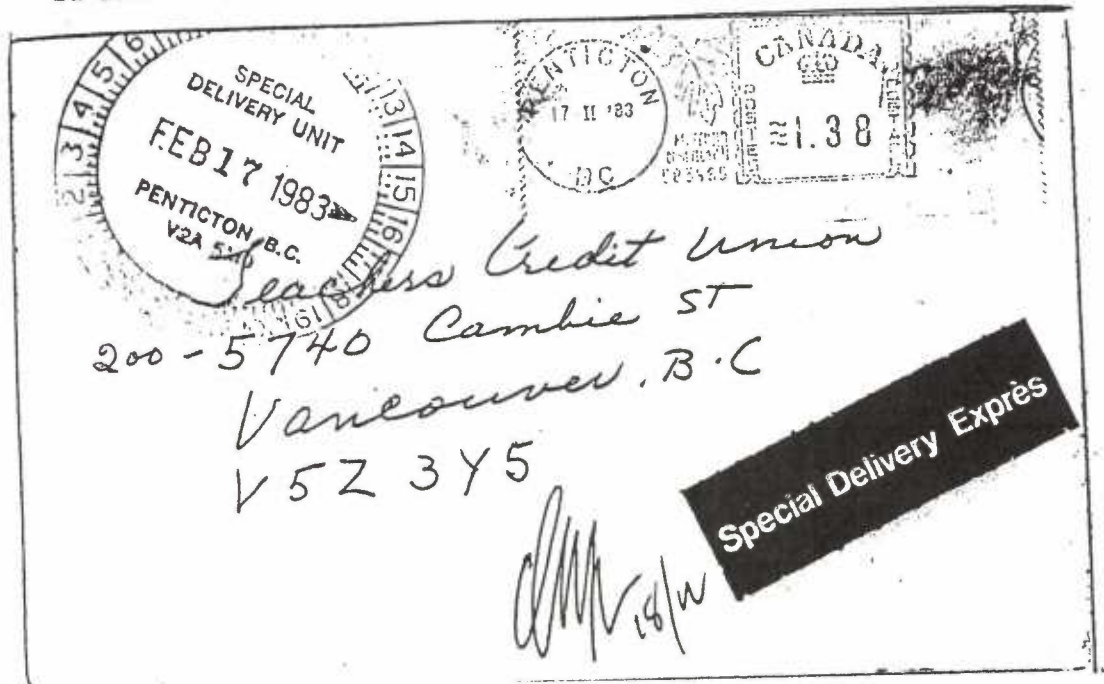
(This service applies only to articles addressed for delivery within the letter carrier area of the following:)

Abord-à-Plouffe, P.Q.	Don Mills, Ont.	Korah, Ont.
Agincourt, Ont.	Dorval, P.Q.	Lachine, P.Q.
Alma, P.Q.	Downsview, Ont.	Lachute, P.Q.
Amherst, N.S.	Drummondville, P.Q.	Lafèche, P.Q.
Armdale, (P.S.) N.S.	Dundas, Ont.	Lancaster (P.S.) N.B.
Arvida, P.Q.	Duvernay, P.Q.	La Tuque, P.Q.
Asbestos, P.Q.	East Kildonan, Man.	Laval-des-Rapides, P.Q.
Baie-d'Urfe, P.Q.	Eastview, Ont.	Leamington, Ont.
Barrie, Ont.	Edmonton, Alta.	Leaside, Ont.
Bathurst, N.B.	Edmunston, N.B.	Lethbridge, Alta.
Beaconsfield, P.Q.	Elliot Lake, Ont.	Lévis, P.Q.
Beauport, P.Q.	Etobicoke, Ont.	Lincoln Park, Alta.
Beaurepaire, P.Q.	Ferris, Ont.	Lindsay, Ont.
Belleville, Ont.	Flin Flon, Man.	London, Ont.
Beverly, Alta.	Forest Hill, Ont.	Long Branch, Ont.
Brampton, Ont.	Forest Lawn, Alta.	Longueuil (P.S.) P.Q.
Brandon, Man.	Fort Erie, Ont.	Magog, P.Q.
Brantford, Ont.	Fort Frances, Ont.	Mattagami Heights, Ont.
Brockville, Ont.	Fort Garry, Man.	Medicine Hat, Alta.
Bronte, Ont.	Fort William, Ont.	Midland, Ont.
Brooklands, Man.	Fredericton, N.B.	Mimico, Ont.
Burlington, Ont.	Galt, Ont.	Moncton, N.B.
Cainsville, Ont.	Gamelin, P.Q.	Montgomery, Alta.
Calgary, Alta.	Georgetown, Ont.	Montmorency, P.Q.
Campbellton, N.B.	Giffard, P.Q.	Montréal, P.Q.
Cap-de-la-Madeleine, P.Q.	Glace Bay, N.S.	Mount Royal, P.Q.
Charlesbourg, P.Q.	Granby, P.Q.	Moose Jaw, Sask.
Charleswood, Man.	Grand Falls, Nfld.	Nanaimo, B.C.
Charlottetown, P.E.I.	Grand'Mère, P.Q.	Nelson, B.C.
Chatham, Ont.	Guelph, Ont.	New Glasgow, N.S.
Chicoutimi, P.Q.	Halifax, N.S.	Newmarket, Ont.
Chilliwack, B.C.	Hamilton, Ont.	New Toronto, Ont.
Cité-de-Jacques-Cartier, P.Q.	Hampstead, P.Q.	New Waterford, N.S.
Cité-de-St-Michel, P.Q.	Hull, P.Q.	New Westminster, B.C.
City View, Ont.	Islington, Ont.	Niagara Falls, Ont.
Cobourg, Ont.	Jasper Place, Alta.	Noranda, P.Q.
Collingwood, Ont.	Joliette, P.Q.	North Battleford, Sask.
Corner Brook, Nfld.	Jonquière-Kénogami, P.Q.	North Bay, Ont.
Cornwall, Ont.	Kamloops, B.C.	North Kildonan, Man.
Côte-St-Luc, P.Q.	Kelowna, B.C.	Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Cœur, P.Q.
Courville, P.Q.	Kenora, Ont.	Oakville, Ont.
Croydon, P.Q.	Kentville, N.S.	Orillia, Ont.
Dawson Creek, B.C.	Kingston, Ont.	Oshawa, Ont.
Dollard-des-Ormeaux, P.Q.	Kirkfield Park, Man.	Ottawa, Ont.
	Kirkland Lake, Ont.	Outremont, P.Q.
	Kitchener, Ont.	

DOMESTIC MAILS, SPECIAL DELIVERY SERVICE

87

Owen Sound, Ont.	St. Eustache, P.Q.	Sydney, N.S.
Pacific Junction, Man.	Ste. Foy, P.Q.	Tarentorou, Ont.
Pembroke, Ont.	Ste. Geneviève, P.Q.	Thetford Mines, P.Q.
Penticton, B.C.	Ste. Geneviève-de-Pierre-	Thorold, Ont.
Peterborough, Ont.	fonds, P.Q.	Timmins, Ont.
Petite Rivière-Québec,	St. Hyacinthe, P.Q.	Toronto, Ont.
P.Q.	St. James, Man.	Trail, B.C.
Pierrefonds, P.Q.	St. Jean, P.Q.	Transcona, Man.
Pointe-aux-Trembles, P.Q.	St. Jérôme, P.Q.	Trenton, Ont.
Pointe-Claire, P.Q.	St. John's, Nfld.	Trois-Rivières, P.Q.
Pont-Viau, P.Q.	St. Lambert-Chambly	Truro, N.S.
Portage la Prairie, Man.	(P.S.) P.Q.	Tuxedo, Man.
Port Alberni, B.C.	St. Léonard-de-Port-	Val d'Or, P.Q.
Port Arthur, Ont.	Maurice, P.Q.	Valleyfield, P.Q.
Port Colborne, Ont.	St. Martin, P.Q.	Valois, P.Q.
Port Credit, Ont.	Ste. Thérèse-de-Blain-	Vancouver, B.C.
Port Hope, Ont.	ville, P.Q.	Verdun, P.Q.
Preston, Ont.	St. Thomas, Ont.	Vernon, B.C.
Préville, P.Q.	St. Vincent-de-Paul, P.Q.	Victoria, B.C.
Prince Albert, Sask.	St. Vital, Man.	Victoriaville, P.Q.
Prince George, B.C.	Saint John, N.B.	Ville-d'Anjou, P.Q.
Prince Rupert, B.C.	Saint Laurent, P.Q.	Ville-La-Salle, P.Q.
Québec, P.Q.	Saraguay, P.Q.	Ville-St. Pierre, P.Q.
Red Deer, Alta.	Sarnia, Ont.	Villeneuve, P.Q.
Regina, Sask.	Saskatoon, Sask.	Wallaceburg, Ont.
Renfrew, Ont.	Sault Ste Marie, Ont.	Waterloo, Ont.
Rexdale, Ont.	Scarborough, Ont.	Welland, Ont.
Richmond Hill, Ont.	Senneville, P.Q.	West Kildonan, Man.
Rimouski, P.Q.	Shawinigan, P.Q.	Westmount, P.Q.
Riverside, Ont.	Sherbrooke, P.Q.	Weston, Ont.
Rivière-des-Prairies, P.Q.	Sillery, P.Q.	Whitby, Ont.
Rivière-du-Loup, P.Q.	Simcoe, Ont.	White Rock, B.C.
Rockcliffe, Ont.	Smiths Falls, Ont.	Widdifield, Ont.
Rouyn, P.Q.	Sorel, P.Q.	Willowdale, Ont.
Roxboro, P.Q.	Stoney Creek, Ont.	Windsor, Ont.
Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue,	Stratford, Ont.	Winnipeg, Man.
P.Q.	Sudbury, Ont.	Woodstock, Ont.
St. Boniface, Man.	Swansea, Ont.	Yarmouth, N.S.
St. Catharines, Ont.	Swift Current, Sask.	Yorkton, Sask.



SANTA LETTER-WRITING PROGRAM

Canada Post expects to receive more than 1,3 million letter as part of their "Santa letter-writing program" The program is now 30 years old and every year the number of letters increases. To reply to the letter the post office relies on the good will of it employees. The children are very excited and are looking forward to Santa's special reply which is mailed in specially designed Christmas envelopes.

Letters in the Vancouver district are processed at the Vancouver Plan, Langley, Abbotsford, White Rock and Surrey Depot 2. Letters are also picked up at Pitt Meadows, Chilliwack, and Coquitlam and Ladner P.O. to be processed at hime.

Despite the number of letters processed the special envelopes are scarce as most children want save theor letter from Santa.

