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I hope to include with the first issue the following:

1. Proposed numbering system (Thanks to John Burnett for his help).
2. Proposed identification code (Smythies + Jean-Guy Dalpe & Father Lawrence Walker's systems).
3. B.C. Town duplex list. (Thanks to Ken Ellison, Jim Felton, John Burnett, Gray Scrimgeour).
4. Unofficial duplex list. (My humble attempt).
5. RPO duplex comments. (Thanks to Lewis Ludlow).
6. A few new (?) discoveries.
7. Membership list.

First the numbering system, I had written to Lew Ludlow, seeking his advice, received a very nice letter which I think important enough to reprint.

.....For your numbering system, I think I understand it, but you send no example so I'll make up some of my own, and then you tell me if they are correct. For example, for a Toronto duplex, you might have DON 250 (or some sequential number), while Montreal might be DPQ 104 and Quebec City might be DPQ 210. I appreciate that there are many different duplexes for Toronto, Montreal and Quebec and assume that they would all have numbers fore and aft of DON 250, DPQ 104 and DPQ 210. Now, if I am correct so far, then I will answer your question of is it practical to leave gaps between the assigned numbers; the answer to this question is "yes, it is practical", but such procedure needs to be applied with discretion. The principle that is involved is that your letters and numbers assigned are for the purpose of fixing a specific identification; once it is fixed, you do not at some later date want to change it. Such changes are a very real turn-off to the collectors of your speciality. In organizing the duplexes, it is very important to have ALL of a similar kind in the same area of a section. For example, if you have five different Montreal with horizontal unbroken bars they should all be together. Now, what happens if a sixth one, or a seventh is discovered after you have published your work? If you have not left gaps in your numbering system, then you end up as Shaw had to do of using capital letters added to the numbers. Remember, your numbers are for identification; there is absolutely nothing that says that such identification must be consecutively sequential. I left gaps in many areas when I renumbered (and should have left more than I did), and there have been NO complaints from R.P.O. specialist.

How many gaps and how large the gaps should be is a judgement call, depending a great deal on how deeply your speciality has already been studied and researched, and your ability to predict what discoveries now unknown, are going to be made in the future. With the RPO's, I am constantly amazed by the number of new discoveries being turned up, and not with just the unofficial clerk strikes. It may be that

your duplexes have been more deeply researched than the RPO's. Certainly you have the great advantage of starting from scratch, and also have all the proof book material available to you before you start to assign identification numbers. The firm, fixed assignment of identification letters and numbers should be the LAST thing that you do after you have assembled ALL of the cancellations you can get your hands on from any source; then, depending on your feelings about future discoveries, you still leave gaps.....

We thank Lew very much for his comments, he also commented on the identification codes but I had neglected to send examples so will leave that for another letter.

I purposely printed the numbering & identification chart separately so that you may duplicate it, send it along or show it to other collectors, the same applies to the B.C. and unofficial lists.

R.P.O. DUPLEXES In my letter to Lew I asked if we could confirm the following as duplexes Q-195A, Q-195C, DD-2, DD-22, DD-24, DD-94, RR-70.

He confirms DD-2, DD-22, one of the two hammers of DD-24, one of the two hammers of DD-94. I can not confirm RR-70 but do confirm RR-71 as a duplex, two different hammers, both duplex. I question Q-195A and Q-195C should be called 'duplex', although we grant both have 'bars' in their attachments. First of all, we have recently proved that the attachment of Q-195C was removable, not a permanent part of the hammer while that of Q-195A was probably soldered to the base hammer, but was then later removed. So for both, the attachment was NOT a permanent part of the hammer. Also, in my opinion, these attachments were NOT for the purpose of providing 'killer' obliterators but rather were just fancy ways of adding the clerk number to the hammer. So, it is hard for me to confirm these two as duplexes.

On the other hand, I think you have to deal with a number of American RPO duplex strikes used on Canadian stamps; these would include among others, Q-131, Q-133 and Q-264, I do not know about Q-61, Q-263C and Q-267. In Ontario, there is O-294G. In the Westerns, there is W-6A, W-34, W-35, W-133D and probably W-154B; I do not know about W-6B W-133E. All of these are 'RMS' duplexes. If you decide to include them, fine; if not, believe you should have one paragraph somewhere dealing with these.

DO WE HAVE A MEMBER WILLING TO TACKLE THE RPO'S?

MEMBERSHIP LIST

1. Ken Barlow, 1055 Ottawa Avenue, West Vancouver, B. C. V7S 2J2
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16. Maggie Toms, 321 Crawford Street, Orillia, Ontario L3V 1K2
17. Lawrence A. Walker, 8844 est, rue Notre Dame, Montreal, Que.

UNOFFICIAL DUPLEXES

- BOWMANVILLE, ONTARIO - Dater II, killer 2-ring target.
- BRANDON, CANADA - Dater II, killer 2-ring target.
- CHATHAM, N.B. - Dater I double ring, killer B 10 bars.
- COBOCONK, ONT. - Dater I, 2-ring target.
- DORCHESTER, N.B. - 1869, Dater I double ring, killer B 10 bars.
- FREDERICTON, N.B. - 1869 Dater I double ring, killer B 11 bars.
- GAYS RIVER, ONT. - Dater I, killer star in circle.
- HALIFAX, N.S. - 1881, Dater II, killer H with 8 segmented cork.
- HALIFAX, N.S. - 1881, Dater II, killer H with 4 segmented cork.
- HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, ONTARIO - 1879, Dater II, killer diagonal 8 bar
circular at 6 o'clock position.
- HUNTINGDON, QUE. - 1883, Dater I, killer A cut diagonally.
- KINGSTON STATION, N.S. - 1881, killer II double circle, killer 3-ring
target.
- LUNENBURG, N.S. - 1886, Dater II, thick single circle.
- MONCTON, N.B. - 1869, Dater I double ring, killer B 10 bar.
- MONTREAL, CANADA - 1880, Dater II, killer 2-ring target.
- MONTREAL, QUE. - 1880, Dater II, 2-ring target.
- NEW GLASGOW, N.S. - 1874, Dater II, killer 8 bars in circle at 6
o'clock position.
- NEWMARKET, ONT. - 1884, Dater split circle encased in full circle,
killer 5 bar cork.
- OBAN, N.S. - 1884, Dater type I, killer 2-ring target.
- OIL SPRINGS, ONT. - 1899, Dater II, killer D.
- OSHAWA M.O.O., ONT. - 1877, Dater II, killer segmented cork.
- OSHAWA, M.O.O., ONT. - 1882, Dater II double ring, killer 4-ring
target.
- PIGEON LAKE, MANITOBA - 1884, Dater II, killer 4-ring target.
- PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MAN. - 1882, Dater I, killer 2-ring target.
- PORT HOPE, C.W. - 1869, Dater I (Berri), killer A with various cork
inserts.
- QUEBEC, CANADA - 1880, Dater II, killer G QUEBEC enclosed in 8 bars,
revolving.
- QUEBEC, CANADA - 1885, Dater II, killer 14 bars cut diagonally.
- QUEBEC, QUE - Dater II, killer 2-ring target.
- RENFREW, ONT - 1891/1902, Dater I, killer circular 9 thin
horiz. bars, screwed type.
- ST. ANDREWS, N.B. - 1882, Dater II, killer H small circle in 9 oval
bars.
- ST. JOHN, N.B. - 1868, Dater I, killer H '1' in 10 oval bars.
- ST. JOHN, N.B. - 1868, dater I double ring, killer B 10 bars.
- ST. JOHN, N.B. - 1869, Dater I double ring, killer A 8 bars.
- ST. JOHN, N.B. - 1879, Dater II, killer segmented cork.

SEAGULL, ONT. - 1886, Dater I, killer 2-ring target.
SHELBURNE, ONT. - 1876, Dater I, killer various corks.
STELLARTON, N.S. - 1888, Dater I, 5 point star.
STELLARTON, N.S. - 1888, Dater I, killer 7 bars crack with blank circle.
STELLARTON, N.S. - 1888, Dater I, 5 bars with blank circle.
TORONTO, ONT. - 1868, Dater II, 3-ring target.
TORONTO, ONT. - 1874, Dater II, various corks.
TORONTO, ONT. - 1880, Dater II, killer G 9 bars enclosing 4/TORONTO/80.
TORONTO, ONT. - 1880, Dater II, killer 2-ring target.
TORONTO, CANADA - 1880, Dater II, 2-ring target.
TORONTO, ONT. - 1880, Dater 1880, killer G 9 bars enclosing TORONTO.
TORONTO, CANADA - 1901, Dater no name date only, killer G 9 bars enclosing TORONTO, CANADA.
TORONTO NORTH, ONT. - 1881, Dater II, killer G 15 bars with N in intaglio.
TORONTO WEST, ONT. - 1881, Dater II, Killer G 15 bars with W in intaglio.
TORONTO EAST, ONT. - 1881, Dater II, killer G ?? bars with E in intaglio.
WELDFORD, N.S. - 1894, Dater II, killer E, 11 bar.
WINNIPEG, CANADA - 1881, Dater II, killer 18mm 2-ring target.
WINNIPEG, CANADA - 1882, Dater II, 22mm 2-ring target.
WINNIPEG, MAN. CANADA - 1882, Dater II, killer 2-ring target.
WOODSTOCK, ONT. - 1891, Dater II, killer H 7 bar enclosing 10.
WOODSTOCK, ONT. - 1891, Dater II, B 7 bar.

PLEASE LET ME HEAR FROM YOU IF YOU CAN ADD OR SUBTRACT FROM THIS LIST!