

Convention Issue - Williamsburg

Our Study Group started at last year's convention, so it is now one year old! We have 32 paid-up members, \$89 in the treasury and a regular column in Topics. Now all we need are some membership study projects. What's your choice?

From the Members

F. Belanger (#28) sent in a Xerox of a cover prepared for the last run of train No. 123 on the Campbellton to Levis run, with the M-11K strike. A beautiful piece which we all would love to have. I'll include a picture of it if there is space by the time I finish this Newsletter.

Fred Seaman (#21) sent the following writeup on an "unlisted" railroad, together with a letterhead cover and letter he has.

"The Halifax and Cape Breton Railway was chartered in 1872 by the Nova Scotia government as the Louisbourg Extension Railway, to run between the Intercolonial junction at New Glasgow and Louisbourg. The line from New Glasgow to Port Mulgrave was opened for travel in 1879. The company encountered financial difficulties and was taken over by the N.S. government in 1883. In 1884, it was purchased by the Canadian government, renamed the Eastern Extension Railway, and operated by the Intercolonial railway system. The Cape Breton Railway, the part of the Eastern Extension Railway connecting the Canso Strait area with Sydney, opened in 1890. To cross the unbridged Strait, the trains were placed on a large steamer at Port Mulgrave and carried across to Point Tupper on Cape Breton Island. The line followed Point Tupper to Sydney by way of the Bras d'or Lakes. The planned line to Louisbourg was never started. The Mulgrave Spur connected with this line, and was a total of 12.6 miles in length. The whole system became part of the C.N.R. consolidation in 1920."

Mr. Seaman also raised a proposal on which we would appreciate membership comments: "Would it be possible for each member of our Study Group to make a list of R.P.O.'s he now has, numbered according to Mr. Shaw's Handbook, and also surplus cancellations he might wish to trade. As we are spread across Canada and the U.S., we might find items to help other members to fill some of the blanks." This would also be a start towards getting a better idea of the accuracy of present Rarity Factors (such as was done on Squared Circles).

New Finds Department

We have some new finds from John Siverts (guess I better push him on joining the Group, since he is my best source of new finds):

- 1) A cover with postmarks from Saint John, Sussex and Fredericton, N.B. (Dec. 27 and 28, 1929) and a two ring purple Type 6E cancellation with MONCTON and ST. JOHN, R.P.O. at top between the rings and a clerk's name which appears to be J.C. Bamsey at bottom. Inside the second ring is TR. 48, DEC. 27, 192.

- 2) A second registered cover with Port Elgin and Fredericton, N.B. postmarks (Aug. 25, 26, 1919) and two unlisted purple R.P.O. cancellations:
 - a) A type 7C, CHARLOTTETOWN-SACKVILLE, R.P.O., AUG 26 WEST, E.J. GALLANT - Inner circle is 33 1/2 mm diameter.

 - b) A slightly oval (31 mm long by 28 mm high) strike, HALIFAX and ST. JOHN DAY at top, R.P.O. at bottom and 13, AUG 23, 1919 in middle. Again, will try and include pictures of these.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Membership is now 32 paid-up members. A copy of the membership list is available. Income was \$96.77 (including 77¢ interest), Expenses (postage only) \$7.60, Balance of \$89.17 consists of \$77.07 Savings Account, \$8.00 in hands of Treasurer and \$4.10 postage. In view of this balance, it will be recommended that no dues be assessed for 1975.

We will try and get a third issue of this Newsletter out after the convention to cover the Study Group meeting there.