

THE R.P.O. NEWSLETTER
OF THE CANADIAN R.P.O. STUDY GROUP (BNAPS)

VOLUME XI, NO. 2

August, 1983

As this is being typed, we are just around the corner from the BNAPS Convention in Winnipeg. Since it is too late to get mailing accomplished ahead of the convention, copies will be available at Winnipeg for those in attendance. Hope all are there as it should be an outstanding show - as all BNAPS conventions are.

ANNEX I - Lew has sent the first update of the new catalog and pages are included herein for your use with the catalog. The same material was also in Topics for July/August, but if you are like me, having pages to fit the catalog is more useful than the Topics format. A review of the listing demonstrates how alive the field of RPOs really is, and how much new material is still out there. I would never have believed so much new material would be uncovered in such a short interval of time since publication. Of course, some of the material came to light while the catalog was being put to bed but, as you know, Lew put new items in right up to the wire.

Enclosed is an article written by Dr. Shaw in Topics back in the late 50s or early 60s. Note his theme of "Huge, Difficult and Fascinating" - that hasn't changed much. Even then he was wondering if any RPO catalog would be complete. The Sheriff must wonder that also - and that is one of the reasons RPOs are so intriguing - there are still many elusive ones still around in regular collections that pop up from time to time in the least unsuspecting places.

From Ludlow - an interesting cover, absolutely smothered with cancels. His count has 25 on the back with a terminus of the Dead Letter Office in Vancouver.

From Warren Bosch - News Flash! "I have just found MA 21, hammer IV with large HG attached at bottom on No 15/19. Can see "CAMPBELLT-----RESS - R.P.O." and measurements verify IV hammer especially the "C being only 3+ units of the dot. Strike is light, but readable, on 2¢ Red Admiral. Would this be a new kind of MA22?" Editors answer, subject to correction by you know whom, is that it is probably a second listing of MA22 - also subject to the comment that it could also be Campbellton & Vancouver Express and we had better wait for a second copy for verification!

From Graham Noble - Periodically good for a new find - this time a clerk strike of "BELL. - PETE. - TOR. / C. A. MOORE. - plus another on cover of D-110, N.B. & C R. R. / WOODSTOCK STATION dated Sep 7, 1870. Graham properly notes the latter as being one of the great Depot rarities and I am sure it will stay with his fine Depot collection. I hope it copies well as it will be enclosed. Even my copy does not show the lettering at the top of the hammer.

From W. L. Bradley - editor of the Map Stamp Newsletter - thanks for the plug for Map Stamps with RPOs - he reports that stretching the use period from Dec 98 to the end of 1900 should cover all the possibilities. Lew has done some work on this which will be reported in the next newsletter.

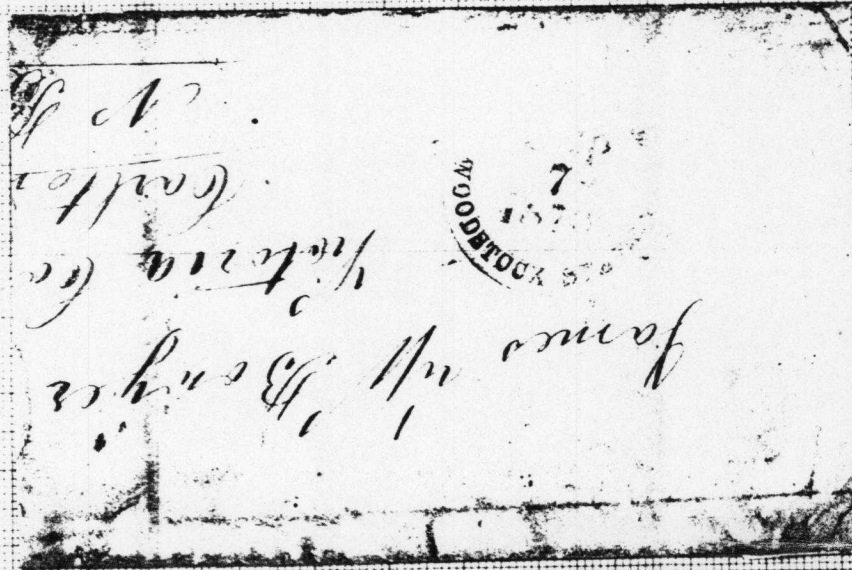
RPO Newsletter - August 1983

CORKS ON RPOs - Still haven't gotten reports from the larger collections but did get a nice lot of copies from Norm Brassler enclosing 29 such corks. I haven't had any time to spend on this project recently - still battling my "smokestack industry" problem. Hope to get more input and have a good listing done this fall. That will get us started so that more information can be gathered as a reaction to a listing from other areas of BNAPS. Haven't heard anything from the small queen study group. Any more input?

Regards

Wam

D-110



N.B.C. R.R. / WOODSTOCK STATION

SEP

7
1870

found by GSN 19 May 1983
One of the great Depot rarities!

ANNEX I - First Update - CATALOGUE of CANADIAN RAILWAY CANCELLATIONS - 1983

Approximately one year has passed since the publication of the Catalogue of Canadian Railway Cancellations and Related Transportation Postmarks in 1982; in the interim, specialists from all over the world have reviewed their collections with the new catalogue and, as a result, we have been overwhelmed with an extraordinary amount of new data. In summary, we have 9 new reporters, 69 previously unknown new listings, 15 confirmations of listings previously unconfirmed, 3 first reports of listings previously known only from their proof strike (O.P.K.) and only one relisting of the approximately 400 delisted runs. Additionally, there have been reported 143 new earliest or latest dates of period of use, 142 new train numbers and 58 new direction or time marks. Finally, there are several dozen changes which have resulted from reconfirmation of old data and the correction of typographical error. Arrangements have been made to publish the new listings in a forthcoming issue of Topics of BNAPS, while the balance of the new data will be available in the BNAPS R.P.O. Study Group Newsletter as space and time permit. This Annex I, 1983, contains all new information; a second update, Annex II, will be published in 1984.

NEW REPORTERS

We are pleased to advise that nine (9) new reporters have been added to the list of those contributing important new data to the catalogue; these new reporters are:

215. R. W. Laird	218. J. M. McCrea	221. K. Alton
216. W. H. Maresch	219. R. H. Jamieson	222. H. Delasalle
217. M. W. Carstairs	220. H. M. Street	223. S. F. Cohen

NEW LISTINGS

The following 69 major and minor new listings have never been previously reported. For those entering this data to update their catalogues, please be sure to cross-reference the Train Number Section and the alphabetical sections for Clerks, Steamers and Ticket Stamps, since this information will not be repeated. Dates are given in the order of " day / month / year " .

Listing #	Cancellation	Type	Tr./Dir.	Period	R.F.	Reporters
N-30A	FOGO DISTRICT T. P. O. / NFLD.	7D		10/31/41	500	197
N-32A	FOGO DIST T. P. O. / NEWF'D	4J		7/20/23	500*	218
N-38T	LABRADOR NORTH / NEWF'D	4J		8/29/91 - 9/ 9/96	500	151, 199
MA-88A	FROM HAL. & CAMP. / S. D. BURRILL	22E	2	2/ 4/40	500	217
MA-116A	HALIFAX & ST. JOHN R. P. O. / J. F. ASHE	6E	13	11/26/29	500*	142
MA-257A	TRURO & ST. JOHN R. P. O. / J. E. BIGNEY	17J	17	12/24/17	500*	173

NEW LISTINGS (continued)

Listing #	Cancellation	Type	Tr./Dir.	Period	R.F.	Reporters
Q-0	ALBURG & BOS. / R. P. O. (RMS duplex) (American R.P.O. on 3¢ Royal Visit)	5B	52	9/14/39	500	218
Q-5A	(ARTH. & ?) 3 RIVERS R. P. O. / A. DELISLE	6E	PM	2/19/23	500*	151
Q-120H	MONT. & N. BAY R. P. O. / J. M. EDWARDS	7B	6	10/ 5/32	500	217
Q-230C	QUE. & RICHMOND / ALPH GINGRAS / M.C.Q.D.	10	EAST	4/26/??	500*	137
O-76L	Ft. Wm. & (Wpg. ?) R.P.O. / Fitzroy Theobald / WINNIPEG 21M	21M	1	2/15/20	500*	222
O-106L	HAM. & NIA FALLS /	22B	14	6/22/??	500*	151
O-201D	N: B. & SOO R. P. O. / W. H. BEATTIE	3D	17	10/ 7/49	500	217
O-272D	P & K. / D. A. TEEPLE	22H	176	9/21/49	500	217
O-294G	PT HURON & CHI / R. P. O. (RMS duplex) (American R.P.O. on 1¢ green Admiral on card)	17H	11	2/28/13	500*	151
W-8B	BDN. & ESTEVAN R. P. O. / A. LE CLAIRE, M. C.	17O	138	9/13/19	500*	142
W-14A	BRANDON & SASKATOON R. P. O. / No.	5C	E	4/18/19	500*	137
W-26Eg	CAL. & VAN. R. P. O. / M. D. CREIGHTON	17J	14	12/25/12	500*	142
W-26S	Cal. & Van. R. P. O. / W. E. WADDELL	22C	3	12/17/53	500	4
W-27Ec	CAL. & VAN. / S. O. D.	12A	8	9/ 5/52	500	158
W-76Z	TRAIN No. / Med. Hat & Nel. R. P. O. No.	5I	67	6/20/19	500*	221
W-77E	MED. HAT & NEL. / A. ANDERSON, M. C.	1P	67	11/11/18	500*	179
W-77F	MED. HAT & NEL. / O. T. DEAN	23A	513	1/ 4/13	500*	221
W-86L	M. JAW & CAL. R. P. O. / JA8. B. AITKEN, R. M. C.	17O	3	8/27/12	500*	217
W-91I	M. JAW & SHAUN, R. P. O. / J. S. H. NOTLEY	6E	319	2/17/20	500*	222
W-92A	Munson & Camrose R. P. O. / John Rourke, M. C.	6E	25,26	12/12/16- 12/20/16	500*	179
W-122	REGINA & PR. ALBERT / R.P.O. / L. N. PARKER, M. C.	3D	S	9/ 8/11	500*	92
W-130L	ROBSON & ARROWHEAD, B.C. R.P.O. / N. R. MILLAR	5H	S	7/18/??	500	221
W-130Z	ROBSON & A. HEAD, R. P. O. / B. C.	5D		7/30/??	500	221
W-131L	R. & A. = B. C. / D. M. Dargie	3C	S	9/ 3/??	500	221
W-133E	ST. P. & PORTAL, R. P. O. / N. D. (American R.P.O. on 3¢ War Issue, on card)	17C	4	7/ 3/48	500	218
W-141E	(change W-141E to W-141Ed)					16
W-141Eg	SASK. HARD. & ED. R. P. O. / W. Woodhead	17J	52	3/ 6/50	500	151
W-158B	S. C. & EMP., R. P. O. / P. MATHER	7B	66	1/ 7/56	500	151
W-161C	(change W-161C to W-161Ca)					16
W-161Cd	VIC. & COURT. R. P. O. / E. G. KANE	17J	1	4/ 7/49	500	217

NEW LISTINGS (continued)

Listing #	Cancellation	Type	Tr./Dir.	Period	R.F.	Reporters
W-161R	V & C / A. L. S. EMSLEY	1I	2	5/ 5/36	500	151
W-178C	WPG. & DELORAINE / R. P. O. / J. P. CHISHOLM	17Q	124	6/11/49	500	217
W-180I	WINNIPEG DIST. R. M. S. / P. N. SHEA	12C	1	10/ 3/54	500	4
W-211B	FROM Wpg. & York. /	22F		7/ 2/59	500	4
W-211C	WPG. & YORKTON R.P.O. / D. W. WATSON / WINNIPEG	21K	53	11/23/25	500*	107
RR-39A	EASTERN ARCTIC / PATROL, R. M. S. / CANADA	1E		6/27/52	500	97
TS-2	RAILWAYS & CANALS / CANADA	1C		11/22/82	500*	179
TS-3	RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE / P. O. DEPT, OTTAWA.	1D		12/13/49	500	220
TS-18	CANADIAN NATIONAL / RAILWAYS / LUNENBURG, N. S. 23A			7/18/35	500	16
TS-20	(change TS-20 to TS-20g)					16
TS-20m	C. N. RYS. / LONDON. ONT.	1E		7/30/45	500	151
TS-60	(New reports have doubled the number of sub-listings for TS-60, and accordingly, we believe it is necessary to promptly reletter all sub-listings now not only to accommodate this current influx but also to facilitate future entries; the complete listings of TS-60 are as follows:)					
TS-60	CANADIAN PACIFIC / RAILWAY / (town)	1J				(R-29Q)
	c. CALGARY, ALTA.			1/14/12	500*	173
	e. FIELD, B. C.			10/30/06	500*	217
	g. GRENFELL, SASK			10/10/08	500*	151
	i. HAMMOND, B. C.			7/12/52	500	151
	k. MANOTICK, ONT.			1/24/13	500*	24
	m. NAPINKA, MAN.			10/31/11	500*	151
	p. Notch Hill (B. C. ?)			5/15/13	500*	151
	r. OKANAGAN LDG. / B. C.			9/ 5/06	500*	151
	t. SALMON ARM, B. C.			7/15/06	500*	151
	w. WOODSTOCK, ONT. / CITY			3/24/93	500*	151
TS-61k	CANADIAN PACIFIC / RAILWAY / J. R. BYERS / AGENT / Oakville, Ont.	1J		4/17/28	500	217
GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC RAILWAY						
TS-87	GRAND TRUNK / PACIFIC RAILWAY / TATE, SASK.	1E		12/22/10	500*	144
LONDON AND PORT STANLEY RAILWAY						
TS-105	L. & P. S. Ry. / TALBOT ST. / ST. THOMAS, ONT.	1E		7/17/45	500	151
TS-184z	NFLD. RY. / TRINITY EAST	1E		5/18/31	500	209
TS-188	(change TS-188 to TS-188m)					16
TS-188c	NF. RY. / CORNER BROOK	1E		9/17/35	500	218

NEW LISTINGS (continued)

Listing #	Cancellation	Type	Tr./Dir.	Period	R.F.	Reporters
TS-240	(change TS-240 to TS-240m)					16
TS-240s	QUEBEC CENTRAL RY. CO. / VALLEE JONC, QUE	3		3/ 8/63	500	219
TS-249	REID NEWFOUNDLAND / COMPANY / SPRUCE BROOK	3A		10/26/25- 4/28/26	500*	16, 156
TS-350	SWIFT CURRENT / THOS. L. PEARSON	7B		12/30/50	500	151
TS-360	Windsor, Ont. / W. C. ARMSTRONG	1E	10	12/ 5/49	500	151
S-121c	CANADIAN PACIFIC / RAILWAY / STEAMER / "PRINCESS / BEATRICE"	1J		2/ 8/09	500*	151
S-130h	CAN. PAC. RY. CO. / B. C. COAST SERVICE / PURSER / S. S. PRINCESS JOAN	1L		12/ 8/58	500#	151
S-133A	CAN. PAC. RY. CO. / B. C. C. S. / S. S. YUKON PRINCESS	1L		4/21/54	500#	97
S-134	(change S-134 to S-134c)					16
S-134f	CAN. PAC. RY. CO. / PURSERS OFFICE / STR. PRINCESS SOPHIA	1L		10/23/15	500*	217
S-160	ESQUIMALT & NANAIMO / S. S. CITY OF NANAIMO	6E		8/ 6/08	500*	217
S-204	STEAMER / ALEXANDRIA	1M		10/11/97	500*	160, 179
S-246	S. S. NORTHERN RANGER	22		no date	500	151, 209
S-250	S. S. OTHAR / (change caption on page 184)	22B		7/13/15	500*	197, 209
E-12	ALBERTA DIST EMERG NO / DIST DE L'ALB D'URGENCE NO	35L		10/10/81-		
E-27	EDMONTON DISTRICT / EMERGENCY No.	35I		2/ 2/82	400	101, 137, 150
E-102	WPG. DISTRICT / EMERGENCY / No.	35K		2/14/62	500	137
				9/26/62	500	137

"O.P.K." LISTINGS CONFIRMED

The following listings, previously known only from proof strikes (O.P.K.), have now been confirmed:

RG-18	REGISTERED / H & N. W. R.	30B		1/18/82	500*	123
S-29a	Vancouver - Skagway, T. P. O. / Str. Princess Alice	3F		6/24/21	500*	151
DD-44	MONTREAL POST OFFICE / BONAVENTURE STA.	25E		7/19/15	500*	142

DELISTED RUN RELISTED

With around 400 previous entries delisted, it is with a sense of satisfaction we can advise that - to date - only one has been reported for relisting, as follows:

W-71	FROM BRAN. BUL. & REG. R. P. O. /	22F		ca 1953	500	4 (V 1B)
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REPORT" LISTINGS CONFIRMED

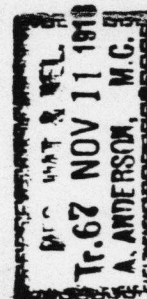
following fifteen (15) listings, previously entered as "no report", have now been confirmed; we herewith repeat the whole listing confirmation of the actual strike has - in some cases - revealed changes to the previous entry as to lettering or type:

Listing #	Cancellation	Type	Tr./Dir.	Period	R.F.	Reporters
98	St. J. & P. A. B. R. P. O. / NEWF'D.	4J		3/21/40	400	16
23	T. P. OFFICE / NEWFOUNDLAND / TRINITY BAY	1L		11/20/19	500*	217
24	WHITE BAY T. P. O. / NEWF'D.	4J		8/ 1/??	500*	218
52	MONT & THREE · RIV. Ry. / M. C.	4H	W	8/ 2/94-	500*	16, 136
				9/27/94		
95	QUE. & CAMPBELLTON / EXPRESS / 8	21A		no date	500*	223
84A	J. H. LETELLIER, R.M.C. / SHER. & MONT. R. P. O.	7E	AM	2/ 5/33	500	137
9	FT. ERIE N. & BRANT. R. P. O. / G. S. CLINE	17J	219	4/12/37	500	24
83A	TORONTO & NORTH BAY R.P.O. / B. BENNETT M. C.	3D	46	5/ 2/12	500*	4
83L	TORONTO & N. BAY / R.P.O. / T. T. BOWER M. C.	5H	68	5/29/05	500*	142
88F	EDM. & DAW. CR. / A. M. GREENSLADE	12A	2	9/ 7/57	500	151
72Ea	McL. & H. C. R. P. O. / E. MELNYK	17J	6	9/26/53	500	151
137N	W. G. CANT / SASKATOON DIVISION	23B	62	no date	500	4
141Fd	Sask. Hard. & Ed. R. P. O. / E. J. VICK	17J	51	2/ 7/48	500	16
153A	FROM SQ. & QUE. /	22F		8/30/53	500	4
180Dc	WINNIPEG DISTRICT / E. H. LEWIS	12C		5/26/54	500	4

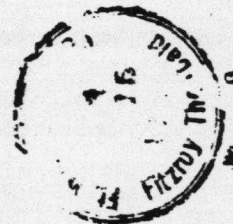
W TYPES

following three new types are required to identify their appropriate listings:

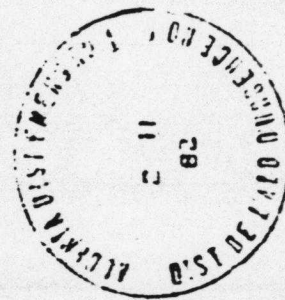
- 1P Small horizontal box, frame swastika, fluted or otherwise decorate, corners not clipped; known only for W-77E.
- 21M Any Type 7, with city or other wording attached externally; currently known only for O-76L.
- 35L Large diameter circle, over 30 mm, EMERGENCY wording, English at top, French at bottom; known only for E-12.



1P



21M



35L

Canadian Railway Postmarks

By DR. ALFRED WHITEHEAD (#192)

No. 1 — INTRODUCTORY

Several correspondents have asked me to write something for TOPICS about the huge, difficult and fascinating group of Canadian railway postmarks. Note these three points—huge, difficult, fascinating.

Huge? This group is so big that many collectors become discouraged and bewildered, however keenly they begin. My advice is to concentrate on a particular period, region or railway for a time, of course taking every opportunity to acquire other R.P.O.'s, which should be held in reserve for later study and mounting. Several factors led me first of all to the Numerals issue, especially the 2 cents carmine of 1899-1903, and I found this period not only interesting, but also not too difficult to study and arrange. (This was about 1940, before Shaw's catalogue appeared.) By the time this was done I had a mass of other material, particularly the early markings on stampless and other covers, and many thousands on King Edward issues.

Difficult? Yes, for beyond the excellent but incomplete catalogue by Shaw (I wonder if any Canadian R.P.O. catalogue will be complete!) there is nothing else which is sufficiently inclusive or reliable for beginner or advanced specialist. The Old and New Testaments of Canadian philately, Jarrett's great book of 1929, and Boggs' monumental work alike reflect comparative apathy towards the subject and cannot be recommended. Boggs especially threw away a golden opportunity, for by the time his book appeared there was little excuse for the errors and omissions which mark his attempt to deal with the last 50 years or so. Both books contain excellent information regarding the earlier decades of the Canadian railway post office.

Fascinating? From any point of view, geographic, historic or philatelic, this vast assortment of markings is of endless fascination and variety. Do you look for rarities? They are here, many as rare as the Twelvepenny Black. Are you interested in the relations between the U. S. A. and Canada? There is a large group of international R.P.O.'s, ranging from ST. JOHN & VANCOUVER (N. B. and Maine) to BLAINE & VANCOUVER (State of Washington and B. C.). Does the development of the Canadian West appeal to you? Here is one of the best fields for the R.P.O. collector. Do you wish to follow up the history of one of the big railways, for instance, the C.P.R.? There is endless material for this. Too, you may collect the markings by provinces, a tiny and difficult field in the case of P.E.I., including its "BOAT" postmarks, and an immense field for Ontario. Then the specialist in separate issues or single stamps will find much along his line—the 3¢ Small Queen man has one of the best groups and the King Edward period is unrivalled as a big and interesting R.P.O. era, one with much railway expansion, especially in the West. (There are many signs that Canadian collectors are at long last becoming interested in the neglected Edwardian issues and postal history. Although there are some rarities amongst Edwardian R.P.O.'s, it is not impossible to get a complete showing. The stamps are common enough for one to attempt the life history of the more frequently seen R.P.O.'s, with their important and fascinating direction marks and train numbers—those miniatures which delight the specialist, and without which no R.P.O. collection is complete.) I have mentioned only two periods; the keen collector will instantly think of others.

The following books should be obtained as occasion presents. Some are out of print and can be had only from second hand book dealers or from other collectors.

- (1) **CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN RAILWAY CANCELLATIONS; Their Classification, Identification and Value.** By T. P. G. SHAW.

INDISPENSABLE. Like most catalogues, it has some errors and omissions. There is much guessing—some of it inspired. His rarity factors are often debatable. It is now well and favourably known in Canada and the U. S. A. During a recent visit to England I was delighted to find how appreciated it is there. Try to get Shaw's "Appendix"—a mimeographed issue of real value.

(2) **THE RAILWAY BUILDERS** by Oscar Skelton.

Volume 32 (the last vol.) of **CHRONICLES OF CANADA**, pub. in 1916 by Glasgow, Brook & Co., of Toronto.

This hard-to-get book is a **MUST!** The G.T.R., I.C.R., C.P.R., G.T.P. and Can. Northern Ry. are all accurately dealt with. A series of excellent maps will delight the specialist. (Out of print).

(3) **A STATUTORY HISTORY OF THE STEAM AND ELECTRIC RAILWAYS OF CANADA**, Compiled by Robert Dorman. Pub. by the Queen's Printer, Ottawa. Of the greatest usefulness.

(4) **THE CANADIAN OFFICIAL RAILWAY GUIDE WITH GAZETTEER.** Any Issue, \$3.00 per copy. Per Year, \$8.00. Pub. by The International Railway Publishing Co., Ltd., 480 LaGauchetiere St. W., Montreal.

Any one issue is a **MUST**, and can frequently be obtained gratis from a large business house.

(5) **LOVELL'S GAZETTEER OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.** 1873, 1881, 1908. (Out of print.)

Indispensable for the Table of Routes and much other material. I believe there are other issues, but the above are the most useful, especially that of 1908, which is in my hands almost daily.

● **Later articles of this series will deal with Direction Marks and Train Numbers; International R.P.O.'s; Error R.P.O. markings; Western R.P.O.'s, with Private Marks; Markings with Clerks' Name or Number; How to Mount R.P.O.'s, etc.**

