

## OF THE CANADIAN R.P.O.STUDY GROUP ( B.N.A.P.S.)

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Volume 29 - No.2

Whole No.151

December, 2000

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**A FOND FAREWELL** - At our 1984 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, this Study Group saw fit to elect me as Secretary-Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. My first Newsletter was Volume 13, No.1, Whole No.46, dated February, 1985. In total I have edited 106 issues since then, with over 1000 pages of information. I hope that we have succeeded in popularizing the specialty, and improving the level of knowledge. After sixteen years, however, it is time that someone else with new and fresh ideas takes over.

I have enjoyed meeting so many of you over the years and developing lasting friendships among kindred spirits. There will still be opportunities for this at Annual and Regional Meetings, and I will still be writing the Cowcatcher column for TOPICS, and will continue to compile the annual Annexes of new reports - at least for the time being.

Please send future articles and news items to Ross Gray at 33 George Street East, Lindsay, Ontario, K9V 1W6. Ross is a fine collector and exhibitor, a painstaking researcher, and an author of note. He should do a great job as Editor with the assistance of Chris Anstead in collecting dues and mailing the Newsletters. I wish them both every success, and will give whatever help is needed to facilitate their efforts. Good Luck to both !

**CELEBRATE THE CENTURY EXPRESS** - Dr. Frank Scheer has sent information regarding this exhibit train which toured the eastern and south-western states during the year 2000. It provided postal exhibits and information regarding the Railway Mail Service in the U.S.A., and was primarily aimed at 3rd to 5th grade school students.

**MEMBERSHIP** - Keith Dowd advises that Nepean has become part of Ottawa for postal purposes.

Robert Prince has moved to 5 Ottaway Avenue, Barrie, ON, L4M 2W6, while John Watson's address has been amended to Lyngarth, 100 Huddersfield Road, Penistone, Sheffield, S36, 7BX, England.

Brian Stalker has moved from North Wales to Little Boxgrove, Fox Hole Lane, Four Throws, Hawkhurst, Kent, TN18 5DT, England.

As of 15 December, 2000, the following members have not yet paid 2000-2001 dues. If they are not paid, this will be the last Newsletter they receive - Carl Cammarata, James Goben, Malcolm Jones, Stanley Kalabza, John J. MacDonald, John McCrea (also 1999-2000), Randy Manuel, David Mayerovitch, Martin Scott, George Smalley, Clarence Stillions, Colin Troup, and Ted Woodward.

Please send your subscriptions from now on to Chris Anstead at R.R.#1, McDonalds Corners, Ontario, K0G 1M0, Canada - Ten Dollars CAD for Canadian addresses, \$ 9 US or 5 pounds sterling as applicable for other addresses. Please make cheques out to Chris.

Postal rates for 30 grams are increasing January 1, 2001 to 47 cents domestic, 60 cents to the U.S.A., and \$ 1.05 overseas so cost pressures increase.

## CATALOGUE COMMENTS - From Ross Gray -

1. The ticket stamps, depots, emergencies, railways and registered sections should be organized by geographical region. I suspect that most collectors do not study the entire country but even so, it would be a more logical approach. The present catalogue groups the basic cancellations by region, why not the remainder? In addition, some of the so-called "ticket stamps" are really regional clerk stamps or even clerk stamps with the run specified and so belong in the main body of the catalogue.

2. I have some mixed feelings about the cancel types but favour a simplification of the system. Perhaps Chris may be trying to over simplify. The ideal answer would be to illustrate every marking, or at least the odd balls which are the only example of a particular type, but this may not be practical.

3. Changing the catalogue numbers is understandably very hard to swallow for collectors, as well as dealers. Personally, I shall have to modify about 30,000 records by adding the new numbers, change numerous exhibit pages and rearrange my collection. However, the gain is worth the pain in my view.

The present catalogue definitely needs major reorganization and that will require new numbers. The new numbers cannot be confused with old numbers and must allow for extensive expansion to include the many, still unreported private clerk stamps. At the same time, re-numbering will eliminate numbers with complex upper and lower case alphabetical suffixes.

I am not keen on the numbering system which Chris is proposing, I would prefer a regional prefix followed by a basic number followed by a decimal, to allow refining the number to differentiate hammers. My system is akin to the Dewey Decimal System. Chris was not convinced but has two friends who are well versed in cataloging items and plans to discuss the pros and cons with them. I did a mock-up page based on his new format but using my proposed numbering system, and it is shown on the next page. His system incorporates run information in the catalogue number and I feel that this approach is redundant and confusing. (I remember making a similar suggestion to Lew before the last catalogue).

I have never met Jim Fulton but we have corresponded extensively and he is an exceptionally knowledgeable and helpful colleague in our specialty. Obviously, he has very passionate views about what should be done or not done. I believe that he is misguided if he believes that reorganizing the catalogue in any way dishonours Lew or his predecessors. Lew was a chemist, as was Shaw. As scientists, I think they would be supportive of efforts to build and expand on their efforts, using the large body of new knowledge which the study group has collectively amassed since 1982. To regard these gentlemen's work as cast in stone and resist logical change in the light of our greater, more refined data would be to disrespect their memory.

CAT. #	Postmark.....	Type	ERD	LRD	Direction / Train No.	RF	Prior #
ON-504	TOR. & N. F. R.P.O. / .	C24	1909/??/??	1914/??/??	E, W, 11-20, 25-2, 97-20 96-61, 2, 11	295	O-379
ON-505	TOR. & NIA. FALLS R.P.O. / .	C24	1920/11/24	1961/??/??	7, 35, 63, 71, 83, 85, 91 93, 95, 103, 105, 601	125	O-378
ON-506	TORONTO & NIAGARA FALLS / R.P.O.	C24	1949/04/29	1961/??/??	101, 107, 108	155	O-377
ON-509.307	TOR. & NIA. FALLS / E. C. GILLELAND	CC	1933/03/07	1933/03/07	105-6	500	O-378g
ON-509.313	TOR. & NIA. FALLS / P. L. McCALL	CC	???/04/04	???/04/04	105	500	O-378m
ON-511.545	T. & N. F. / C. E. PORTER	BOX	1950/10/24	1950/10/24	101	500	O-379L
..... & NORTH BAY, ON							
ON-520	TORONTO & NORTH BAY M.C. G.T.R. / No. 3	C24	1895/04/03	1942/11/12	N, S, 15?, 41, 44, 46, 47, 50, 61, 63?, 64, 132?	120	O-382
ON-521.11	TORONTO & NORTH BAY R.P.O. / No. 1	C24	1899/12/20	1927/10/27	N, S, 44, 46, 47, 50, 55? 61, 68, 69	45	O-383
ON-521.21	TORONTO & NORTH BAY R.P.O. / No. 2	C24	1899/12/19	1904/09/17	N, S	45	O-383
ON-521.22	TORONTO & NORTH BAY R.P.O. / No. 2	C24	1905/01/28	1905/01/28	61	45	O-383
ON-521.23	TORONTO & NORTH BAY R.P.O. / No. 2	C24	1906/06/30	1921/12/30	40, 41, 44, 46, 47, 50, 61, 64, 65, 68	45	O-383
ON-521.31	TORONTO & NORTH BAY R.P.O. / No. 3	C24	O.P.K. 1919/04/09				O-383
ON-521.41	TORONTO & NORTH BAY R.P.O. / No. 4	C24	1906/06/22	1913/08/18	44, 46, 47, 50, 51, 61, 64, 68	45	O-383
ON-521.42	TORONTO & NORTH BAY R.P.O. / No. 4	C24	1914/08/18	1963/10/07	41, 44, 45, 46, 47	45	O-383

CATALOGUE COMMENTS - From Dr. Warren L. Bosch - Major suggestion is to clean up any format: eliminate all those unnecessary provincial abbreviations! Who, in serious Canadian philately, doesn't know that Hamilton lies in Ontario? I'd say, get rid of the provincial abbreviations EXCEPT when the run crosses from one province into another.

Lesser idea: do we want a reference volume or a check list? Get rid of those boxes for checking off covers, singles, and what-have-you. Instead, how about a simple listing of the number of proofed hammers and when known? Then, for arranging album pages, we'd know to have, say, three areas of space because we expect to show three hammers.

Major objection: I see the logic in using the "library" numbering sequence, but I don't personally like it. I believe it would be a hindrance to those new to the study of RPOs. I also dislike having a possible catalogue number as long as 10 digits/letters!!! There's no way I would do that, even for current holdings - and certainly not for my thousands of duplicate strikes. While I have pushed for a new catalogue, and I will buy one for whatever cash it takes, I will resist those new numbers as long as I can.

Great Idea: The inclusion of initial termini under the headings of the final termini has long been needed.

OK Idea: I like the idea of a catalogue strictly for those markings of railways and actually used on mail, omitting boats and facing slips, etc. Those ultra-rare clerk strikes on facing slips are like date-stamps on some intra-office memorandum, as opposed to showing postal usage.

NEW SHIP MARKING - from Bill Topping - probably a favour marking judging by the address to a well-known participant in ship marking society efforts. It will be listed as S-140A, B.C.C.S. / PRINCESS ADELAIDE, Type 1F, 09/02/1948, RF 500#, Reporter 97.

B. C. C. S.

SEP 2, 1948

PRINCESS ADELAIDE



B. C. PACKERS LTD.  
Alert Bay Wharf

R.P.O STUDY GROUP

MEMBERSHIP December 2000

CANADA

Christopher Anstead	R.R.#1	McDonalds Corners ON	KOG 1M0
Ronald Battersby	2184 Lafayette St.	Victoria, BC	V8S 2P1
Douglas Birchill	R.R.#5	Orillia, ON	L3V 6H5
Alex.D.Campbell	165 Queen St.N.	Kitchener, ON	N2H 2H8
John Cheramy	Box 5214, Stn.B	Victoria, BC	V8R 6N4
John F.Church	284 Tudor Court	Pointe Claire, QC	H9P 1Z5
Earle L.Covert **	187 W.200 S.Ave.	Raymond, AB	T0K 2S0
Wayne R.Curtis	Box 74, Stn.'A'	Toronto, ON	M5W 1A2
Hugh P.Delaney	105 Pump Hill Ldg.SW	Calgary, AB	T2V 5C4
Keith J.Dowd	51 Castlethorpe Cres.	Ottawa, ON	K2G 5P9
Peter Eggett	6826 Bilberry Drive	Orleans, ON	K1C 3R4
Kenneth V.Ellison**	14600 Middle Bench Rd.	Oyama, BC	V4V 2C3
Jean-Pierre Forest	4014 des Cedres	Cap Rouge, PQ	G1Y 3T5
Donald Fraser	1183 Warsaw Ave.	Winnipeg, MB	R3M 1C5
Ross D. Gray **	33 George St. East	Lindsay, ON	K9V 1W6
J.Douglas Hannan	#80-1120 Guisachan Rd.	Kelowna, BC	V1Y 9R5
Reg.Hiscock	57 Drayton Road	Pointe Claire, PQ	H9S 4V4
James S.Karr	536 - 49th Ave.SW	Calgary, AB	T2S 1G5
Donald B.Kaye	% #203 - 1139 Sutherland	Kelowna, BC	V1Y 5Y2
John Keenlyside	4590 Beverley Cr.	Vancouver, B.C.	V6J 4E6
Melville C.Kertcher	#604 - 155 Navy St.	Oakville, ON	L6J 2Z7
Robert A.Lee **	#203-1139 Sutherland	Kelowna, BC	V1Y 5Y2
Bill Longley	Box 620	Waterdown, ON	L0R 2H0
Peter J.McCarthy	573 Griffith Street	London, ON	N6K 2S5
John J.MacDonald	1070 Bland St.	Halifax, NS	B3H 2S8
D.McInnis	Box 2063	Sudbury, ON	P3A 4R8
Ivan W.MacKenzie	#2411-420 Gloucester	Ottawa, ON	K1R 7T7
Randy Manuel	3340 Sandy Lane	Burlington, ON	L7M 3T2
David Mayerovitch	5205 Beaconsfield	Montreal, PQ	H3X 3R9
Jean-C. Michaud	Box 31248	Halifax, NS	B3K 5Y1
James Miller	Box 3005, MPP	Kamloops, BC	V2C 6B7
Ian Mowat	790 Cuaulta Cres.	Victoria, B.C.	V9C 3H3

Notes: L - Life Member

\* - Owing for 1999-2000

\*\* - Paid for 2001-2002

\*\*\* - Paid for 2001-2 & 2002-3

December 2000

R.F.Narbonne	216 Mailey Drive	Carleton Place, ON	K7C 3X9
Kevin O'Reilly	Box 444	Yellowknife, NT	X1A 2N3
Alfred N.Peatman **	437 Osborne Cres.NW	Edmonton, AB	T6R 2C3
H.Alex.Price	#74 - 1201 Cameron	Kelowna, BC	V1W 3R8
Robert W.Prince	5 Ottaway Ave.	Barrie, ON	L4M 2W6
Charles Purdon	3025 Dogwood Road	RR#6,Duncan, BC	V9L 4T8
William G.Robinson	L 301-2108 W.38 Ave.	Vancouver, BC	V6M 1R9
Martin W.Scott	328 Sawyer Road	Oakville, ON	L6L 3N7
George F.Smalley	298 John St.	Gananoque, ON	K7G 1A7
Carleton Smith	261 Thorner Drive	Hamilton, ON	L8V 2M6
Joseph Smith	Box 1143	Rocky Mtn.House,AB	TOM 1TO
J.Malcolm Smith	11 Abbey Rise	London, ON	N6G 1Y8
Thomas Southey	34456 Ascott Ave.	Abbotsford, BC	V2S 4V5
Robert A.Spencer**	4447 Cheviot Road	North Vancouver,BC	V7R 3T3
William E.Topping	7430 Angus Drive	Vancouver, BC	V6P 5K2
Colin Troup	4172 Strawberry Court	Vineland ,ON	L0R 2C0
Jack M.Wallace	#802-670 Dallas Road	Victoria, BC	V8V 1B7
J.Don Wilson ***	11 Elm Place	St.John, NF	A1B 2S4

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J.M.Ayshford	129 Burges Road	Thorpe Bay,Essex	SS1 3JL
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Trevor E.Gartland	Old Inn, Bishops Hull	Taunton, Somerset	TAL 5EG
Lionel F.Gillam L	23, High Trees, Stag Lane	Rotherham,S.Yorks.	S60 3NR
Albert R.Govier ***	13 Kilnford Dr.	Dundonald, Kilmarnock	
		Ayrshire, Scotland	KA2 9ES
Brian A.Hargreaves	87 Fordington Rd.	London	N6 4TH
T.Malcolm Jones	14 Tullis Close,	Sutton Courtenay,Oxon.	OX14 4BD
Colin Lewis	62 Graiglwyd Rd,	Cockett Swansea, Wales	SA2 0X4
Rick Parama	6 Yamate-Cho,	Naka-Ku, Yokohama, Japan	231-0862
Brian T.Stalker **	Little Boxgrove, Fox Hole Lane		
	Four Throws, Hawkhurst,	Kent, England	TN18 5DT
John Watson	Lyngarth, 100 Huddersfield Road		
	Penistone, Sheffield		S36 7BX

FRIENDS

Richard Colberg	126 Crosswick Lane	Lancaster, PA	17601
Dr. Frank Scheer	12 East Rosemont Ave.	Alexandria, VA	22301-2325
Howard T.Moulton	204 Richards Ave.	Portsmouth.NH	03801-5264

TOTALS

Canada	50	Regular	6	Ex-Officio
U.S.A.	17		2	
Overseas	11		0	
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Totals	78		8	

## MEMBERSHIP LIST (Continued) -

U.S.A.

December 2000

Warren L. Bosch	Elgin Comm. College	Elgin, IL	60120
Chas. F. Boubelik	Box 40	Canon City, CO	81215
Edward H. Bowen	1623 Bulgarmarsh Rd.	Tiverton, RI	02878-2513
Carl Cammarata	Box 145	Scotts, MI	49088
Gerald C. Carr	12599 Coach Lane	South Lyon, MI	48178
Bruce R. Cobb	4773 Hwy. 22A	Addison, VT	05490-8907
James Felton	Box 209	New Riegel, OH	44853
James Goben	304 W. Lincoln St.	Bloomington, IL	61701
Horace W. Harrison**	1802 Indian Head Rd.	Ruxton, ML	21204
Stanley Kalabza	2310 S. 61st Ave.	Cicero, IL	60650
James C. Lehr L	125 Kendal Drive	Kennett Square, PA	19348
John McCrea *	Box 172	Monroeville, PA	15146-0172
Rev. Elwood S. Poore	1910 Laurel Road	Gainesville, TX	76240-5118
Clarence Stillions	2010 48th St. NW	Washington, DC	20007-1552
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William C. Walton	125 Turtleback Road	Califon, NJ	07830
Ted Woodward	Box 2022	San Bernardino, CA	92406

EX-OFFICIO

Horace W. Harrison	1802 Indian Head Rd.	Ruxton, ML	21204
(President, BNAPS)			
Thomas Hillman	1995 Cedar Lane Terrace	Ottawa, ON	K2A 2E5
(National Archives of Canada)			
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(American Philatelic Research Library)			
Douglas Lingard	2425 Blackstone Cr.	Ottawa, ON	K1B 4H3
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(BNA 'Portraits' Editor)			
Dr. David Handelman, University of Ottawa	Ottawa, ON		K1N 6N5
(BNA 'TOPICS' Editor)			

Some thoughts and observations from Brian Stalker

The discussion at our Study Group meeting in Vernon last year and recent correspondence has focused on Chris Anstead's proposal to publish an updated catalogue. In considering my reaction to that proposal, I have found myself thinking about the wider aspects of our Study Group and I would like to share those thoughts with you.

Browsing through recent Newsletters, we appear to have three main activities running in parallel:-

- (i) Reporting new finds, latest dates etc associated with updating Lew Ludlow's general catalogue:
- (ii) Ad-hoc reporting of hammer analyses:
- (iii) Ad-hoc reporting of "general" information such as photographs, postcards, timetables, historical info and such like.

All in all, we have an eclectic mix and a most informative set of newsletters...and long may that continue! Let me comment a little further on each of those activities:

(i) **General Catalogue:** having an up-to-date general catalogue is vitally important for the generalist and the specialist alike; furthermore it is our outward facing interface with the philatelic community at large and it is a means of attracting further members. Chris Anstead has kindly volunteered to produce an updated catalogue, and in my view, his offer should be welcomed.

Inevitably, this poses questions relating to format, content and quality, and equally inevitably it will bring to the fore our various likes, dislikes and preferences.

For my part I am not enthusiastic about the extent of sectionalisation that Chris proposes, particularly for Newfoundland, however I do appreciate the logic behind that proposal, and I do agree that the rail and water listings should be separate.

I would prefer to see the Clerk's Hammers separated from the "official" postmarks.

I have no strong views on date formats and Provincial abbreviations, both of which seemed to stir up some strong feelings at Vernon!

I would much prefer to have a quality product, even if it means paying an extra \$20 or so.

However, we need to establish a reasonable consensus and allow (and even encourage) Chris to get on with the job, and avoid getting too bogged-down by trying to satisfy everyone. Furthermore, there is the question of funding and a fundamental issue of "Custodianship" and ownership of intellectual property which I shall comment on later; all of which leads me to suggesting that we should establish an editorial board of say three people to work with Chris and allow that board to make decisions on our behalf.

(ii) **Specialist Hammer Analysis:** Lew Ludlow took the lead on undertaking and co-ordinating hammer analysis of the Newfoundland and Maritimes during the 1980s; since then Ross Gray and others (including me) have taken an ad-hoc approach on the other sections of the catalogue. I suspect that only a relatively small proportion of our membership (perhaps 20%?) is interested in delving into that level of detail. Be that as it may, I would like to suggest that if there is a sufficient number of us, we should set up a properly structured Hammer Analysis Project Team, perhaps seeking nominees to lead on each geographical area, and seek to agree

a common basis for measuring,

a common basis for formatting and reporting;  
a timetable for producing interim and final reports.  
(note, this might need to be 3-5 years)

This specialist project could embrace proof strikes, and it would appear to be a more natural home for recording the identity of earliest and latest reporters than the general catalogue. I am not a computing expert, but it might be that e-mail and the web might be the most appropriate means of communication for those participating. Indeed, a "virtual" on-line hammer analysis catalogue might be a desirable end product. The Newsletter and snail-mail could be the means of providing progress reports and soliciting information from the general membership.

(iii) **General Information:** the newsletter seems to be the ideal vehicle for disseminating general information, however it would be helpful if we could improve the quality of reproduction of photographs and picture post-cards, the quality of photo-copy is poor in some issues. I would have no objection to paying an additional \$5 for a better quality product, or is electronic publication and distribution by e-mail a viable proposition?

Another aspect of general information could be that of establishing a library of folders, one or more for each of the railway companies (perhaps using the listing produced by Gillam in his History of Canadian RPOs as a starting point?), into which we could deposit copies of timetables, photos, post-cards, maps etc etc. Once again, the web could be most appropriate tool for this kind of project.

**Custodianship:** I am not sure that this is the most appropriate title, but I use it in the sense of organisation and ownership of intellectual property.

For many years we have placed almost total reliance on Lew Ludlow and Bill Robinson, and they have taken on the duties of Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sheriff and final arbiter...to name but a few roles! I guess that Bill has sometimes had the feeling that he has been in the Despatch Office, the Caboose and on the footplate (cab?) of the loco, all at the same time! Thanks Bill, we owe you a debt of gratitude...but for how much longer will you want to carry all of those burdens of office?

As a group, and individually, we have had the benefit of strong leadership, clarity of purpose and total integrity of intent. It is essential that we carry forward those attributes.

From a slightly different perspective, assuming that Chris proceeds with publication of a new catalogue, as I hope that he will, it begs the question of who will be the custodian and owner of the published information. In many respects, the intellectual property belongs to everyone who has contributed to our shared pool of knowledge; past, present and for future changes yet to come. Production of a catalogue is only another starting point in time; who will be responsible for collating and publishing updates? Who will decide on the contentious issues that arise from time to time? Who will be the Custodian?

To conclude my rambling, I suspect that discussion of the Catalogue will be more than sufficient for this year's meeting. Perhaps we can think about some of the other issues during the coming year?

A POSSIBLE NEW LISTING FROM PETER McCARTHY - Peter has sent a photo copy of a cover dated May 10, 1954 with a GUELPH & GODERICH R.P.O. Type 17 marking, Train 640. It has an arrival backstamp of London, Ont., May 10, 1954. Please check your holdings of O-89, the GUELPH & GODERICH / R.P.O., Type 17H, to see if any more Type 17 show up.



*Bill  
Anstead*

RPO STUDY GROUP - FINANCIAL REPORT - September to December, 2000

Income - 2000-2001 Dues	649.40
2001-2002 Dues (Covert, Ellison, Gray, Lee, Peatman, Spencer, Wilson, Cable, Govier, Stalker, Waite)	117.00
2002-2003 Dues (Govier, Wilson)	21.00
BNAPS Stipend, 1999-2000	\$ 174.00
Sale of Supplement 2, Special Watch	115.00
Gifts (Waite 15, Wilson 60, Harrison 30)	105.00
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Total Income	\$ 1181.40
Expenses-Annex 20, Supplement 2, print & post	\$ 641.44
Photo-copying-Letterhead, exhibit, misc.	202.68
Misc. postage, Sept.-Dec.	32.17
Vol. 29 No. 1 #150 - Printing, Postage	156.50
No. 2-#151 - "	156.50
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Total Expenses	\$ 1189.29
Excess of Income over Expenses	\$ ( 7.89)
Balance from 1999-2000	\$ 336.88
Total on hand 15 December 2000	\$ 328.99
Remitted to Chris Anstead.	

THAT'S ALL ! SEASON'S GREETINGS TO YOU ALL !

*Bill*