

In this issue we continue our examination of the **railway post offices of Nova Scotia.**

We also have new reports from **Ross Gray, Dave Hanes, Doug Lingard, Peter McCarthy, Jim O'Connor and Brian Stalker**

Intercolonial Railway - Halifax & Amherst

On page 2080 of the previous issue, we omitted the second postmark used for the Halifax-Amherst route, MA-61. It saw contemporary use with **MA-2**, INTERCOL. R. R. AMHERST & HALIFAX / _ , (Page 2082), which had the terminal names reversed.



MA-61

Proof - 1877/01/25

ERD - 1877/04/26

LRD - 1880/10/12

Indicia - WEST

On March 6, 1882 two new hammers for the run were proof struck. A third hammer appeared in use in 1887, possibly to replace hammer I, but no proof record for it exists.

These three hammers can be separated using chordal measurements which are available in, "Railway Postmarks of the Maritimes" by Ross Gray.

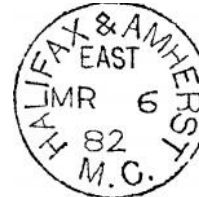
MA-62, H-I

Proof - 1882/03/06

ERD - 1882/06/24

LRD - 1887/05/27

Indicia - EAST



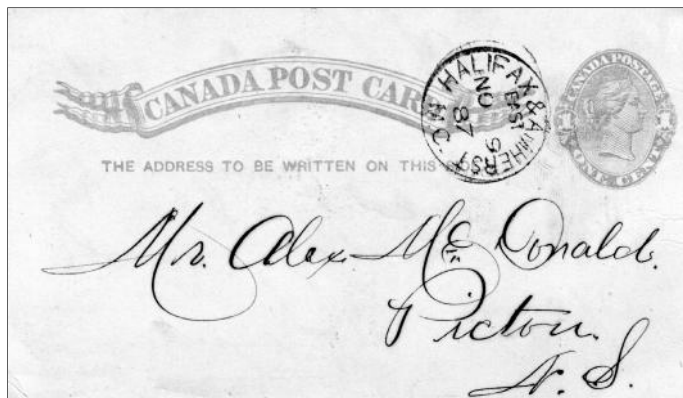
MA-62, H-II

Proof - 1882/03/06

ERD - 1882/??/13

LRD - 1900/03/06

Indicia - EAST, WEST, W



MA-62, H-III

Proof - unknown

ERD - 1887/04/15

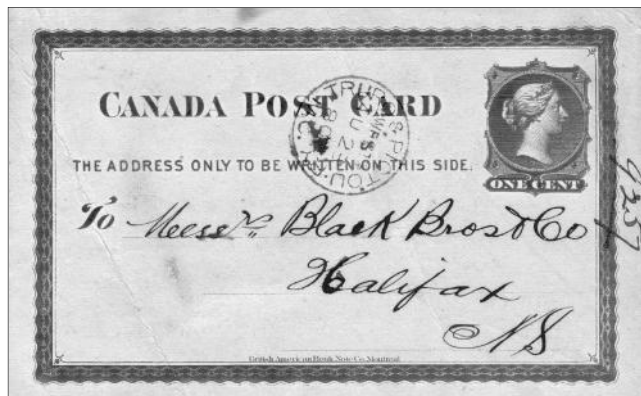
LRD - 1900/06/13

Indicia - EAST, WEST

The post card was posted aboard the train at Truro. There is no Pictou receiving postmark.

Intercolonial Railway - Truro & Pictou (Landing)

On page 2080 of the previous issue, we showed the first cancellation used for this run, MA-249, TRURO - & PICTOU · R R / = . On February 15, 1880, two new hammers were proof struck to replace it.

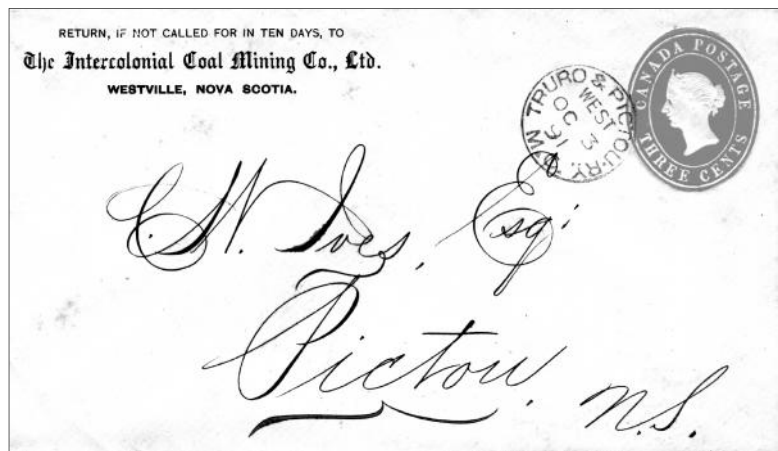


MA-250, H-I
Proof - 1880/02/15
ERD - 1880/05/01
LRD - 1888/03/30
Indicia - EAST, WEST

There is no Halifax receiving postmark on the post card.



MA-250, H-II
Proof - 1880/02/15
ERD - 1888/05/22
LRD - 1893/03/13
Indicia - EAST, WEST



The Truro receiving backstamp is dated in the afternoon of the same day. This cover suggests the possibility that the R.P.O. began to operate to the Town of Pictou instead of Pictou Landing after completion of the rail link to New Glasgow in 1887.

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On November 28, 1887, a branch line from New Glasgow to the town of Pictou was opened, giving it direct railway access. In 1890, a line between Oxford Junction and Pictou was finished and two years later the **Oxford & Pictou R.P.O.** service was initiated. R.P.O. service to Pictou Landing ended shortly thereafter.

PICTOU BRANCH

PICTOU LANDING BRANCH

Mls.	STATIONS	78 Mixed A.M.	100 Mixed A.M.	22 Mixed P.M.
0.	PICTOU LAND'G..Dep		18 40	15 35
7.0	Trenton	16 45	8 57	5 55
8.0	New Glasgow	6 50	10 50	6 00
10.1	STELLARTONArr	7 00	11 00	6 10
		79	21	101
0.	STELLARTON.....Dep	16 30	17 40	14 45
2.1	New Glasgow	6 38	8 00	4 50
3.1	Trenton	6 42	8 03	4 55
10.1	PICTOU LAND'G..Arr		8 20	5 15
		A.M.	A.M.	P.M.

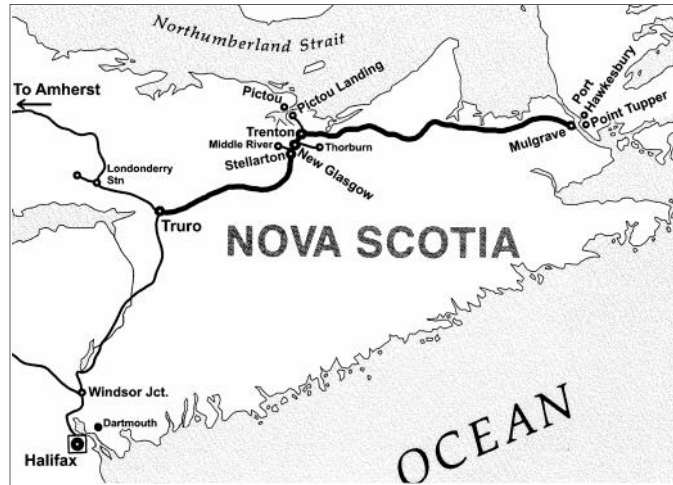
I. C. Ry. Public Timetable - 1910

Mls.	STATIONS	61 Express A.M.	27 Mixed A.M.	139 Mixed P.M.	65 Mixed P.M.
0.	PICTOU	16 45	10 20	12 20	16 45
1.7	Brown's Point	6 51	10 25	2 25	6 51
3.4	Lochbroom	16 56	10 31	12 29	16 56
6.2	Sylvester	17 04	10 41	12 38	17 06
8.1	Alma	17 11	10 46	12 43	17 13
10.8	Westville	7 20	10 55	2 51	7 25
13.9	Stellarton	7 30	11 20	3 00	7 40
16.0	NEW GLASGOW...Arr	7 40	11 25		7 45
		62 Mxd.	28 Mxd.	140 Mxd.	66 Exp.
0.	NEW GLASGOW..Dep	17 20	110 50	13 00	19 55
2.1	Stellarton	7 45	11 25	3 20	10 10
5.2	Westville	7 55	11 35	3 40	10 18
7.9	Alma	18 04	11 44	13 50	110 27
9.8	Sylvester	18 10	11 50	13 57	110 32
12.6	Lochbroom	18 19	11 59	14 07	110 40
14.3	Brown's Point	8 25	12 05	4 15	10 45
16.0	PICTOU.....Arr	8 30	12 10	4 20	10 50
		A.M.	N'ON	P.M.	P.M.

I. C. Ry. Public Timetable - 1910

Intercolonial Railway - Truro & Port Hawkesbury

The railway between Trenton, near New Glasgow, and Mulgrave, on the Canso Strait, was completed in December, 1880. Port Hawkesbury is on the opposite shore of Canso Strait and was connected by a ferry service to Mulgrave. Port Hawkesbury would not have a railway connection to Sydney at the north end of Cape Breton Island until 1891.



Two hammers for the first postmark used on the run were proof struck on February 13, 1881 and were used for less than a year.



MA-254, H-I
Proof - 1881/02/13
ERD - 1881/03/25
LRD - 1881/09/04
Indicia - blank, AM

There is a Stellarton transit backstamp showing that the letter was transferred from the westbound train and travelled by road to Westville, arriving there the same day.

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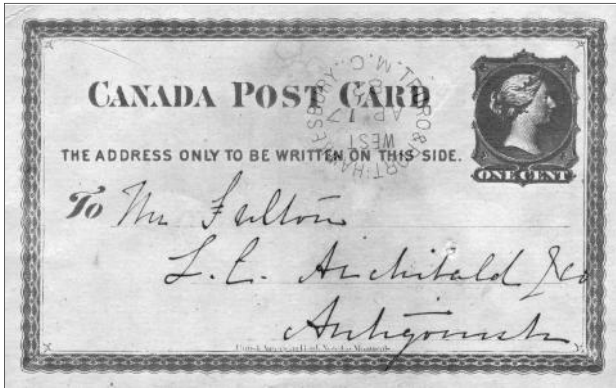
MA-254, H-II
Proof - 1881/02/13
ERD - 1881/03/28
LRD - 1881/06/22
Indicia - AM, PM



This post card was aboard the train at New Glasgow. There is no Stellarton receiving backstamp.

Intercolonial Railway - Truro & Port Hawkesbury

The second cancellation for the run was proof struck on July 16, 1881. Like the two predecessor hammers, it saw use for only a short time before being replaced.



MA-252
Proof - 1881/07/16
ERD - 1881/07/26
LRD - 1882/04/21
Indicia - WEST

The post card was posted aboard the train at Mulgrave. There is no Antigonish receiving postmark.

Two hammers of a new postmark were proof struck on March 2, 1883. This cancellation remained in use until the establishment of the **Truro & New Glasgow** and **New Glasgow & Point Tupper** runs in 1893.



MA-253, H-I
Proof - 1883/03/02
ERD - 1884/07/23
LRD - 1893/03/21
Indicia - EAST, WEST



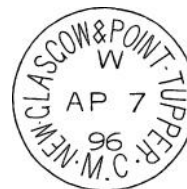
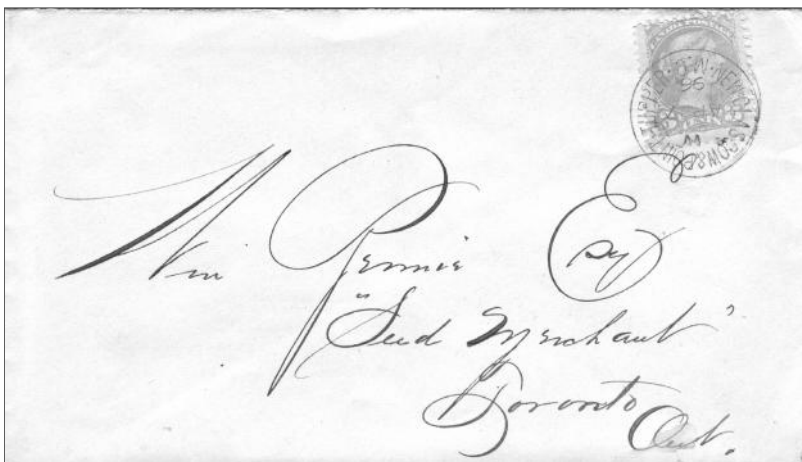
This post card was posted at Antigonish. There is no Sackville, New Brunswick receiving mark.



MA-253, H-II
Proof - 1883/03/02
ERD - 1884/10/29
LRD - 1893/03/29
Indicia - blank, EAST, WEST

The date of the Canso receiving backstamp is illegible on this mourning cover, which has an extraordinarily wide black border.

Intercolonial Railway - New Glasgow & Point Tupper



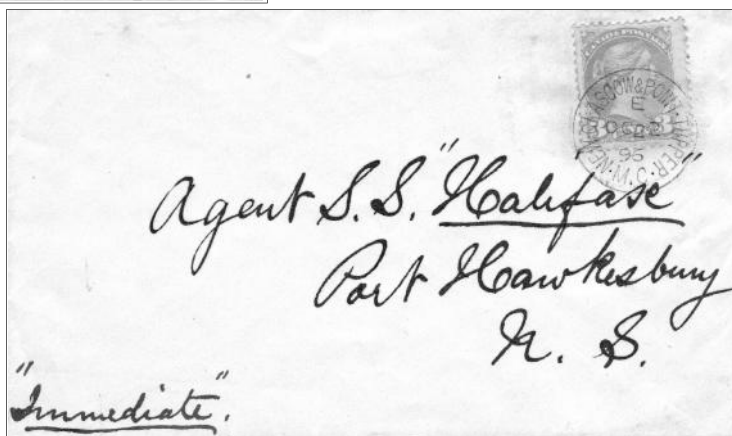
MA-183, H-I
Proof - 1893/05/18
ERD - 1893/07/10
LRD - 1897/05/29
Indicia - E, W

The Toronto receiving backstamp is dated April 9.

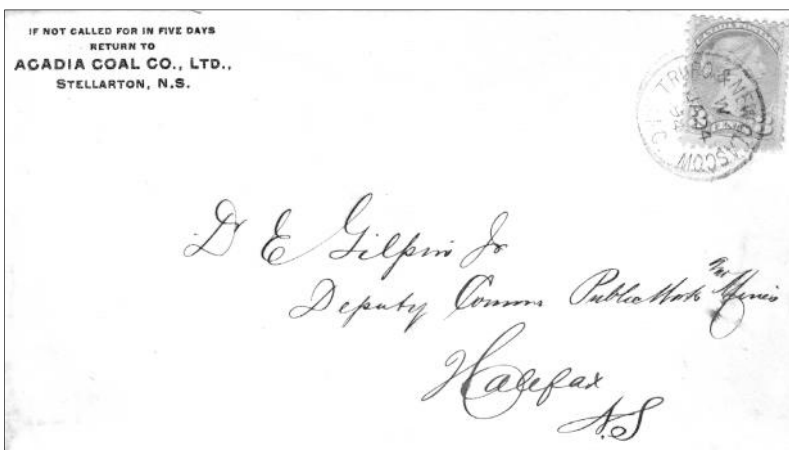
MA-183, H-II
Proof - 1893/05/18
ERD - 1893/09/03
LRD - 1897/02/11
Indicia - E, W



The Port Hawkesbury receiving backstamp is dated the same day.



Intercolonial Railway - Truro & New Glasgow



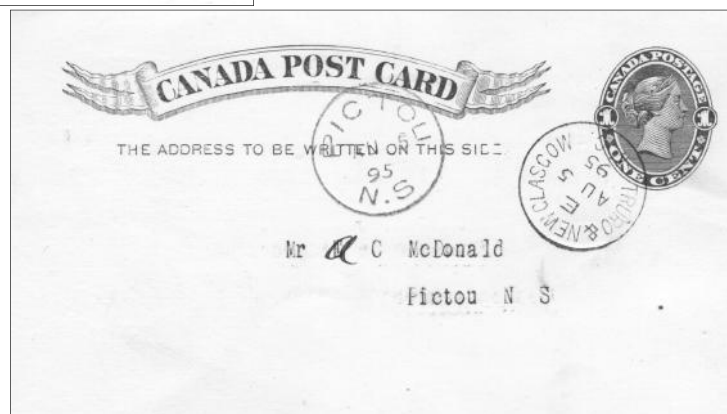
MA-248, H-I
Proof - 1893/05/03
ERD - 1893/06/08
LRD - 1897/04/27
Indicia - E, W

This cover from Stellarton arrived in Halifax the same day.

MA-248, H-II
Proof - 1893/05/03
ERD - 1893/10/18
LRD - 1897/05/21
Indicia - E, W

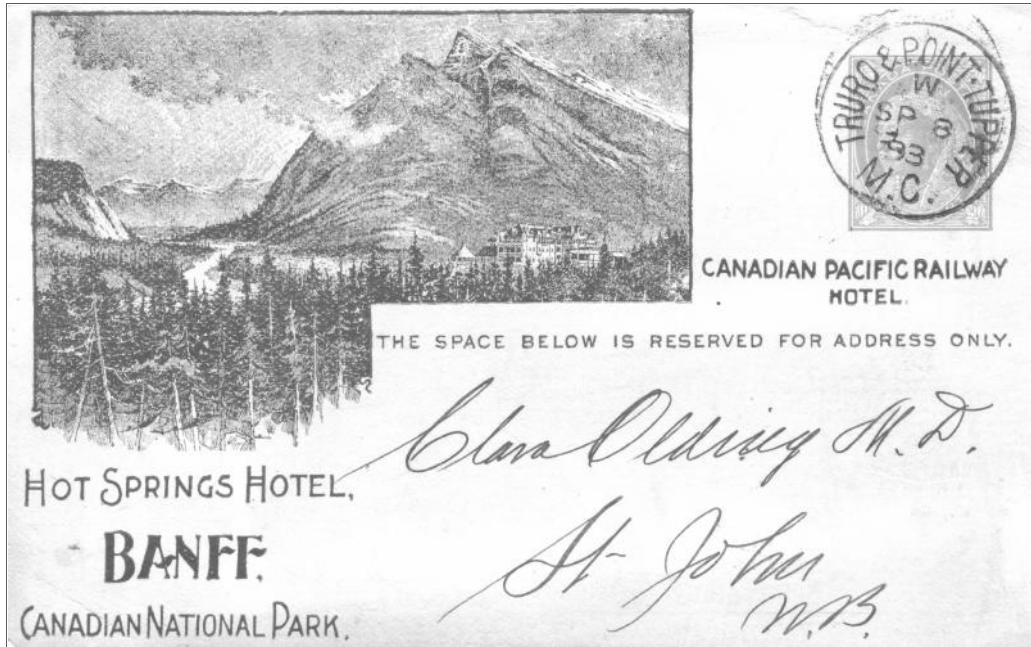


This post card was posted on the train at Truro and was received at Pictou the same day.



Intercolonial Railway - Truro & Point Tupper

In 1897, the **Truro & New Glasgow** run and **New Glasgow & Point Tupper** run were combined to become the **Truro & Point Tupper** run.



This post card was posted on board the train at New Glasgow and was cancelled with hammer I. There is no St. John receiving postmark but the message confirms that the year date is 1898 although it appears to be 1893.

MA-251, H-I
Proof - unknown
ERD - 1897/06/23
LRD - 1900/08/13
Indicia - E, W



MA-251, H-II
Proof - unknown
ERD - 1897/07/03
LRD - 1900/07/21
Indicia - E, W



This cover was cancelled with hammer II. The St. John receiving backstamp is dated the morning of the following day.

New Reports



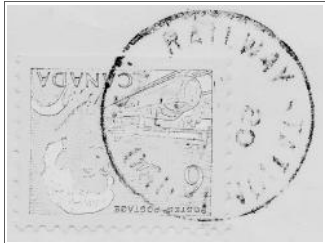
O-385, H-8

Peter McCarthy reports a new late date for **hammer 8** of **O-385**, TOR. & NORTH BAY R.P.O. N^o 8 / . , 44, DE 5, 62, on a commercial cover addressed to Toronto.

Peter also reports a new early date for both the listing and **hammer 1** of **O-293**, PORT HOPE & TORONTO · R.P.O. / N^o 1, E, JUN 7, 01, on a mourning cover addressed to Bethany, Ontario.



O-293, H-1



DD-104

Another find by **Peter**, is a new **late date** for **DD-104**, RAILWAY STATION TRURO / N.S. on a cover to Port Burwell, Ontario. The time indicium is 20 but the date is obscure. The year date may be 69 but conservatively speaking, we can safely say the the date is no earlier than November 1, 1968, the day of issue of the 6c orange Centennial stamp. Previously the cancellation was reported as late as 1965.

Peter also sent us this new **late date** for **hammer 2** of **Q-173**, MON. & TOR · R.P.O. / 2 , 18, JUL 24, 37, used as a transit backstamp on a registered cover from Whitby to Toronto. It is interesting that the train number is an eastbound train. Either the clerk used the wrong train number slug or the cover had to be turned. The Toronto arrival cancellation is dated the following day. Shortly after reporting this late date, Peter found an even **later date**, August 13, 1938.

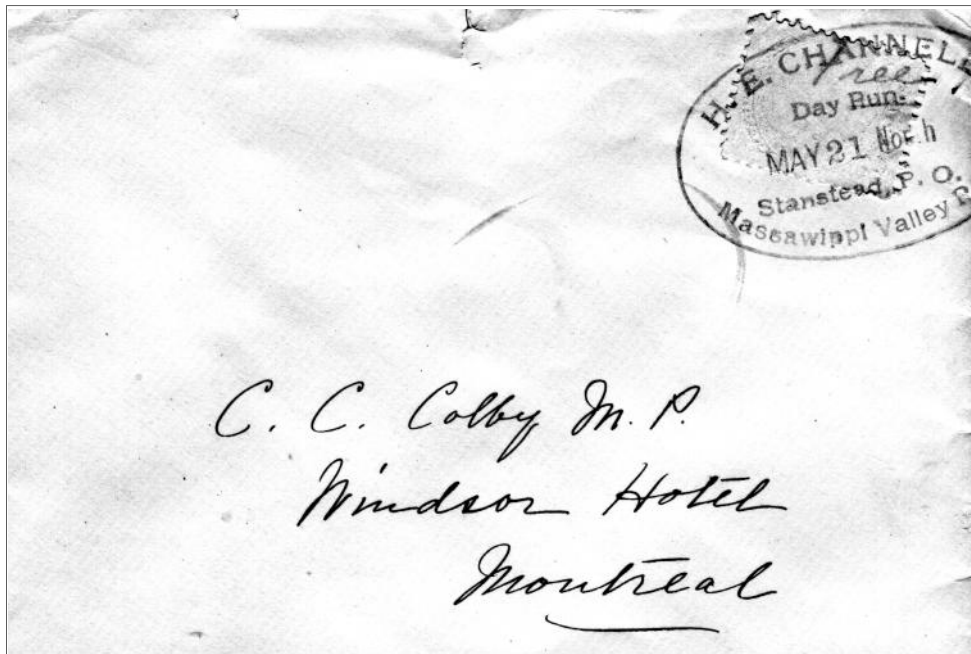


Q-173, H-2



Observed in a recent mail sale, is this previously unreported clerk handstamp from the Winnipeg and Swan River R.P.O. Used as a transit marking, struck in violet, on a bank money bag tag from Winnipeg to Minitonas, Manitoba, it reads, "WPG. & S. R. / **G. HOUDÉ** , 15, AUG 26, 1953".

New Reports



Receiving backstamp

This is a newly discovered example of **TS-110**, H. E. CHANNELL / Stanstead, P.Q. / Massawippi Valley R.R., Day Run, MAY 21 North. It is struck in purple, cancelling a 3¢ Small Queen cover addressed to C. C. Colby, M.P., who was the Liberal Member of Parliament representing Stanstead continuously between 1867 and 1891. There is a Montreal receiving backstamp which is dated 8, MAY 22, AM. Presumably the year date is 1888. Previously we only knew that this private clerk stamp was used in the Small Queen period.

It is also interesting to note that there is a manuscript "Free" under the stamp which shows well in the enhanced scan. Did the sender try to avoid paying postage because the letter was addressed to a M.P. and the clerk refused to accept it?

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Brian Stalker reports this previously unknown private clerk stamp found on an otherwise blank piece of rough brown paper about the size of a facing slip. It reads, TORONTO & NORTH BAY R.P.O. / F. C. H. KIRK / TORONTO DISTRICT, Tr. 47, AUG 6, 1936.



unlisted

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Inspired by his recent visit to Halifax, **Brian** has also examined his examples of **MA-138** and reports the following;

Re **MA-138: Hammer XIV**, I think that chord "d" should be 10 1/2 rather than 11 1/2 . (*The editor agrees.*)

Other updates for this listing :

MA-138, Hammer VI, 1918/07/27, new ERD

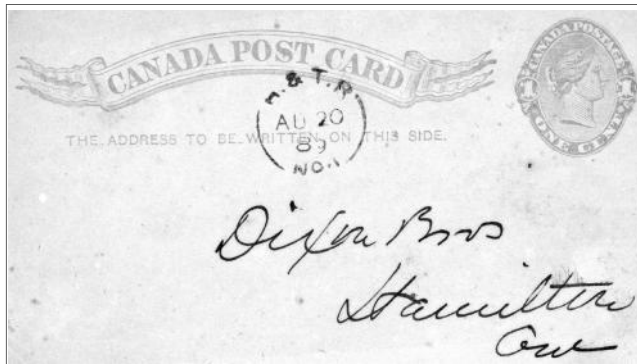
MA-138, Hammer X, 1922/11/07, new ERD

MA-138, Hammer XI, 1929/03/20, new LRD

MA-138, Hammer XIII, 1928/05/17, W, new LRD (I also have another earlier W)

MA-138, Hammer XIV, 1919/06/09, E, new ERD.

New Reports



RR-86, H-I

This example of **RR-86**, H. & T. R / N^o 1, AU 20,89 is a **new late date for the hammer**, which was previously only reported as late as August 11, 1888. The post card, addressed to Hamilton, originated in Oakville. There is a manuscript date on the back confirming the year but no receiving postmark.

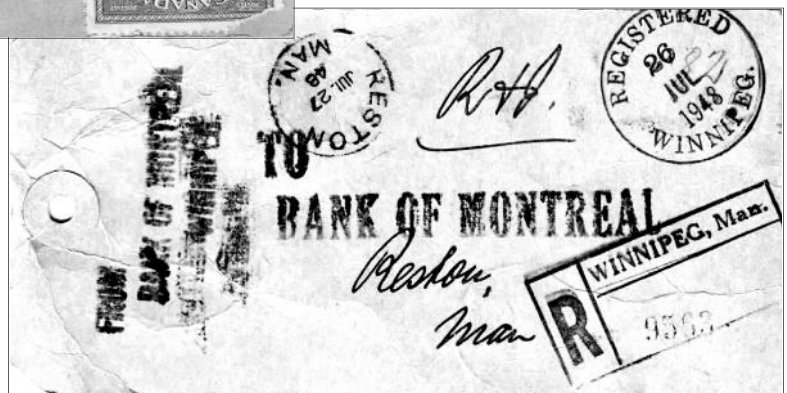
Previously only reported until August 31, 1908, this lovely strike of **hammer I** of **O-349**, TOR. HAM. & LONDON · RY P. O. , E, NO 23, 08 is a **new late date for the hammer**. The Simcoe receiving postmark on the back is dated the same day.



O-349, H-I



unlisted



Dave Hanes shares his discovery of a **new clerk handstamp**, REST. & WOL. R.P.O. / J. BRATTAN, Tr. 246, JUL 27, 1948, struck in red and used as a transit postmark on a registered money bag tag from Winnipeg to Reston, Manitoba, via the Winnipeg & Moose Jaw R.P.O.

New Reports



Ross Gray reports a new **late date** for **Q-152**, MONT & THREE · RIV. RY. / M.C. W, JY 30, 95 on a letter card from St. Vincent de Paul to Three Rivers. This scarce postmark was proof struck on February 15, 1880 and is reported used from 1882.



Q-152



Q-243, H-I

Ross also reports the first confirmation of train number 6 for **Q-243, hammer I**, QUE. ROB. & CHIC. R.P.O. / ., 6, AU 26, 17. It is found on a picture post card of Chicoutimi, addressed to Detroit. (See hammer study on page 1996)



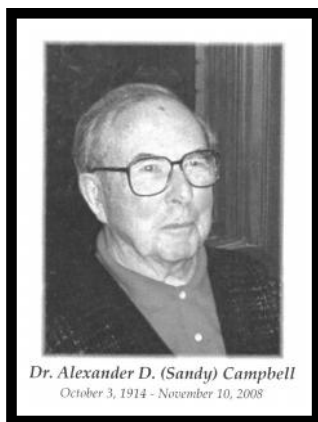
MA-151

Doug Lingard discovered this interesting new **early second period date** for **MA-151**, INVERNESS & PT. TUPPER - R.P.O. / ., 156, MR 17, 41. It is struck in bright green ink, cancelling a green stamp on a blank, unaddressed post card, in honour of St. Patrick's day.

Jim O'Connor reports this previously unrecorded clerk's private handstamp, OTTAWA & TORONTO / R. J. CARLIN, Tr. 33, MAR 25, 1946, struck in violet on an otherwise blank facing slip. Jim's discovery will have a catalogue number assigned when it is included in the new catalogue.



unlisted



Dr. Alexander D. (Sandy) Campbell
October 3, 1914 - November 10, 2008

We are sad to learn of the passing of one of our former study group members, **Dr. Sandy Campbell**. Sandy retired from a distinguished medical career in 1984. In addition to his contributions to R.P.O. studies, he was active in the Waterloo Historical Society and served as Chairman of the Archives Committee of the Ontario Medical Association.

Newsletter Editor,
Catalogue Committee Chairman
Secretary-Treasurer,
Newsletter Mailer, Catalogue Committee

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