

After a year of intense work, the new catalogue was introduced at the BNAPS annual convention in Kingston.

Catalogue of Canadian Railway Cancellations and Related Railway Postmarks including Selected Waterway Postmarks, 2009, Ross D. Gray. Spiral Bound, 336 pages, 8.5 x 11. ISBN: 978-1-897391-54-9. Published by the British North America Philatelic Society Ltd. (BNAPS).

‘The Catalogue of Canadian Railway Cancellations and Related Railway Postmarks including Selected Waterway Postmarks’, the much anticipated successor to the 1982 Ludlow RPO catalogue, is now available. At 336 pages, it is packed with almost 30 years’ worth of additions to the database of Canadian RPO knowledge, including many new listings and new dates.

In his Preface to the book, W.G. (Bill) Robinson, OTB, Chairman of the Canadian RPO Study Group, writes, “Lew Ludlow’s 1982 Catalogue of Canadian Railway Cancellations and Related Transportation Postmarks has been in use now for 27 years. Lack of space to insert new listings into the numbering sequence meant that train runs were no longer grouped together in alphabetical or chronological order. It was becoming increasingly difficult to insert new listings in any logical order and equally difficult for users to find after new listings were numbered.”

The major change is that all listings have been renumbered, with the old catalogue number shown in the right hand column of the page. Because the old listings were usually sequential, in many cases it is relatively easy to go down the right column to the old number, then across to the new one. Among the many other improvements are listings that have been reorganized chronologically within each run to present a more historical perspective, Registered cancellations now listed with the contemporary regular postmarks, and the Rarity Factor changed from a numerical format to an alphabetical scheme. Separating listings with headers identifying the run will make it easier to find a particular postmark in the larger sections. The Steamer section has been removed because it is being included in a volume being prepared by others.

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BNAPLEX-2009-SEAWAYPEX - September 11-13, 2009

Congratulations to the R.P.O. Study Group members who were recognised with the following awards;
Gold to **Peter McCarthy** for his exhibit, “Mail by Rail 1853-1923”
Gold to **Brian Stalker** for his exhibit, “Newfoundland: Fortune Bay Mail Services and Routes 1873-1968 & Placentia Bay Mail Services and Routes 1888-1968”
Order of the Beaver Recipient to **Peter McCarthy**
Order of the Beaver Lifetime Achievement Award to **Ross Gray**

Report of Canadian RPO Study Group Annual General Meeting

held at the Ambassador Conference Resort, Kingston, Ontario, on Saturday 12th Sept. 2009

1. Appointment of Chairman for Meeting *Brian Stalker had been proposed by Bob Lane, and was accepted by those present.*

2. Approval of Agenda. *Approved as tabled*

3. Apologies for Absence *received from Messrs Robinson, Lane, Gray, Topping, Lewis, Poore, Anstead and Keenlyside.*

Members Barrett, Carde, Fraser, McCarthy and Stalker attended, plus visitors D Smith and Sneyd.

3a. Derek Smith (Study Group Centreline) *attended the early part of the meeting and addressed the Group on his endeavour to promote active participation in Study Groups.*

4. Minutes of Meeting held in Halifax 2008 (see Newsletter page 2087)

a. accuracy *Proposed and accepted as an accurate record.*

b. matters arising.

Item 6: Revised Catalogue: Ross Gray chaired the Working Group. First edition of new catalogue is now available via Ian Kimmerly. (see Agenda Item 7a)

Item 7: Minutes were included in Newsletter; see Newsletter page 2087.

Item 10: Steamship marks; see Agenda Item 7b below.

5. Officer's Reports

a. Honorary Chairman **William G Robinson**

*Bill's greetings were passed on to attendees and a draft of his Preface to the new catalogue was handed out as his report for the year. Bill also proposed that **Ross Gray** be appointed as an **Honorary Life Member of the RPO Study Group** because of his long-term involvement with the group, his excellent service as Newsletter Editor and recent activity in producing the new catalogue. The proposal was warmly received and agreed.*

b. Vice Chairman **Bob Lane**

Bob's written report was tabled; the main points related to improving communication between members by on-going development of the RPO section of the bnaps website, use of the web for hosting and updating catalogues. Bob also asked for articles for the 'Cowcatcher' column in Topics.

c. Secretary / Treasurer. **Chris Anstead**

Chris's end of year accounts for 2007-08 were circulated: cash in bank of \$941 consisted of Assets of \$716 + \$225 prepayment of dues. An interim set of accounts for 2008-09 showed an increase in 'Regular' Membership from 59 to 63 and an anticipated modest increase in the 'cash in bank'. Chris's use of good quality paper for the Newsletters and his use of commemorative stamps on mailings was much appreciated.

d. Newsletter Editor **Ross Gray**

Ross's apologies for being late with Newsletter production owing to his time being spent on finalising the new catalogue was accepted without criticism.

All Officer's Reports were accepted with thanks for their endeavours.

6. Subscription for 2009/10 **Chris Anstead**

*In view of the healthy state of the funds no change was proposed. Dues remain at \$10 Canadian, \$12.50 US and £7 for UK members (please remit to **Chris Anstead**).*

7. Progress on Catalogues

a. Railways & Water Routes Ross Gray

The new catalogue, now available from Ian Kimmerly Stamps at \$42 plus mailing to BNAPS Members, had been completed within the target timescale set at last year's AGM. Ross had done a splendid job, assisted by Messrs Lane, McCarthy, Stalker and Robinson. Several radical changes have been made, including totally revised numbering, postmark type definitions and rarity factors, also the inclusion of hammer data for those listings with readily identifiable hammers. Although looking considerably different to the Ludlow format, it is hoped that members will quickly become familiar with the new format. This first edition should be regarded as a new beginning rather than as a completed project and members are encouraged to submit updates, new finds, comments and corrections to Ross Gray, with a view to a second edition being available within 5 years.

b. Named Steamers William Topping

Bill submitted a written report which was tabled, the main points being that he intends publishing two volumes. The first dealing with Western ships should be available later this year; the companion volume on Eastern (ie East of Winnipeg) ships is scheduled for completion by BNAPEX Victoria, 2010. A sample page was circulated.

8. Custody of Study Group Intellectual Property;

a. Introduction Brian Stalker

A paper, circulated to those on the Study Group e-mail address list, was tabled and summarised. The tragic circumstances of Lew Ludlow's stroke in the 1990s and recent difficulties in being given timely access to data highlighted the need for agreed guidelines for access to Study Group intellectual property and for appointment of Data Custodians.

b. Discussion:

*Positive feedback had been received by e-mail from Messrs Gray, Lane and Lewis, and Peter McCarthy also spoke in support of the proposals. In the absence of negative comment it was **resolved that recommendations given in the paper regarding Study Group Intellectual Property be implemented with Ross Gray being appointed Custodian of RPO and Water Routes data, and Bill Topping being appointed Custodian of the 'Named Ships' data.** The meeting endorsed the proposal that each Custodian should appoint an assistant or deputy.*

9. Election of Officers for 2009/2010: appointed as follows:-

Honorary Chairman	Bill Robinson
Vice Chairman	Brian Stalker
Secretary / Treasurer	Chris Anstead
Newsletter Editor	Ross Gray
Catalogue Editors & Data Custodians:	
RPOs and Water Routes	Ross Gray
Named Steamers	Bill Topping
Study Group Web-master	Bob Lane

10. Any Other Business

a. It was reported that Bill Robinson had spent 10-12 hours on phone calls to Ross Gray in order to get the new catalogue printed for this Convention. It was agreed that Bill should be re-imbursed for his expenses and the Treasurer was actioned to do so.

b. Railway Maps: discussion of this topic identified various sources including the simplified schematics in Gillam's 'A History of Canadian RPOs', recent Newsletters, Timetables, 'Lines of Country' by Andrea (Boston Mills Press 1997) and Canadian Railway Guides. It was understood that Chris Anstead has been working on maps to accompany the RPO Catalogue but no specific information was available.

c. Facing Slips with Clerk's Names: members were encouraged to report any data to Ross.

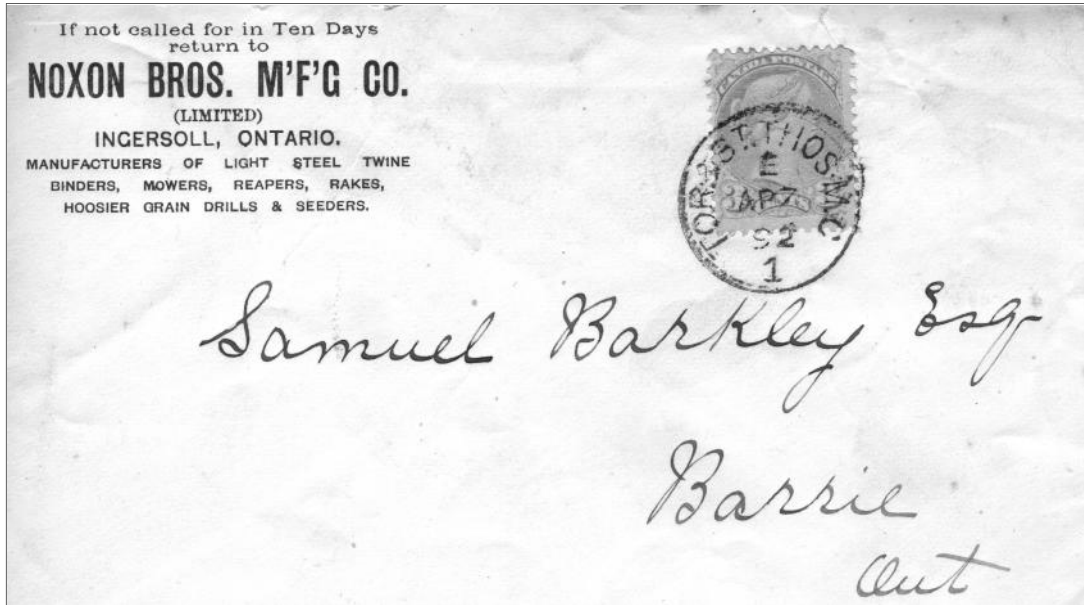
d. Messrs McCarthy & Stalker were congratulated on achieving 'Gold' for their RPO /TPO exhibits.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 17.05 hrs..

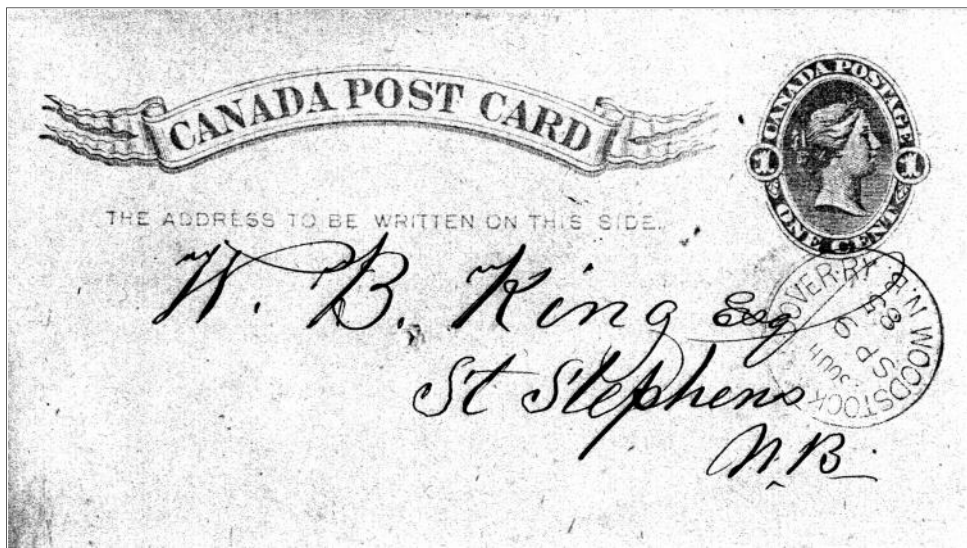
New Reports



A new **early date** for **ON-523**, STRATFORD & PI DOVER / - RY.P.O. -, N., MR 21,88 , appears on a post card addressed to Ogdensburg, NY. There are no other cancellations on the card but a “3-21-88” manuscript date is on the back.



This cover from Ingersoll to Barrie cancelled with **ON-804.01**, TOR. & ST. THOS · M.C. / 1 , E, AP 7, 92, a new **early date for the hammer**. Interestingly, it is much more common to find “NOXON” covers postmarked with R.P.O.s used on the Grand Trunk Railway than one from the Canadian Pacific Railway (*Former Credit Valley Railway*). The Barrie receiving backstamp is dated the following day.

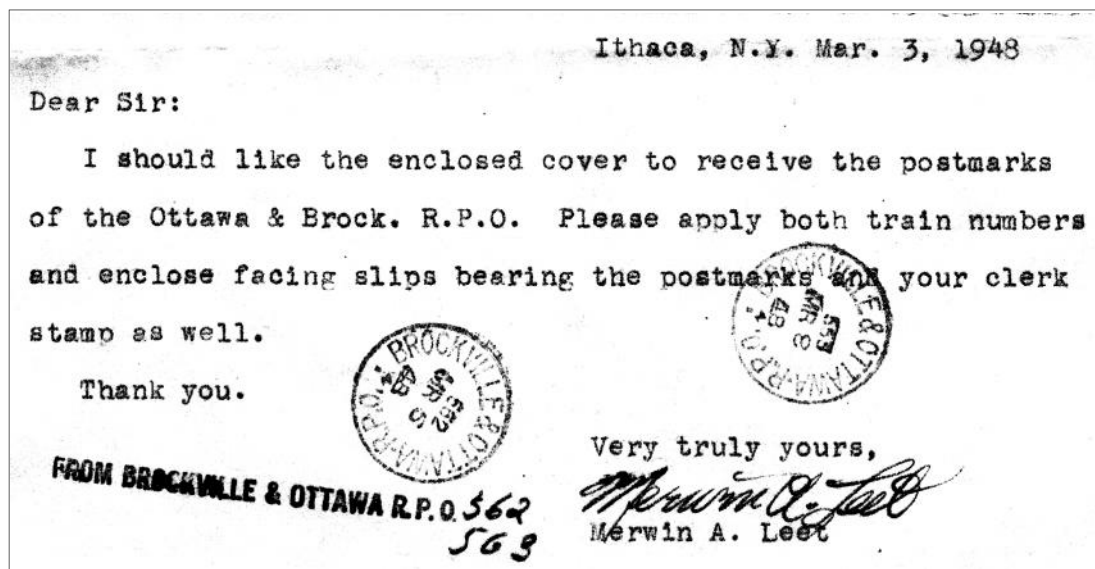


A friend of the study group, **Jack Brandt**, sent this copy of a post card with a **new late date** for the rare **MT-367**, WOODSTOCK & ANDOVER RY / N.B., SOUTH, SP 9, 85. Previously, the latest reported date was August 7, 1885.

New Reports from Ron Barrett



Ron Barrett reports this new straight line handstamp, FROM BROCKVILLE & OTTAWA R.P.O., on an enclosure in a favour cover cancelled with **ON-64**, BROCKVILLE & OTTAWA · R.P.O. / .,563, MR 8, 48. It will now be listed as **ON-64.55**, Type SL0R, only date 1948/03/08, RF-G.



On the back of another favour cover, **Ron** has found the second example and **new late date**, October 17, 1949, for **ON-348**, N: B. & SOO R.P.O. / W. H. BEATTIE, 17, OCT 17, 1949, struck in violet. The cover is cancelled with **ON-344**, NORTH BAY & SOO / R.P.O. , 9, OC 17, 49.

Ron reports this new private clerk handstamp struck in purple on an otherwise blank facing slip, ARM. STN. & WPG. R.P.O. / J. L. HARRISON, Tr. 1, MAY 18, 1948. It will now be listed as **ON-12.55**, Type CC2R, RF-G.

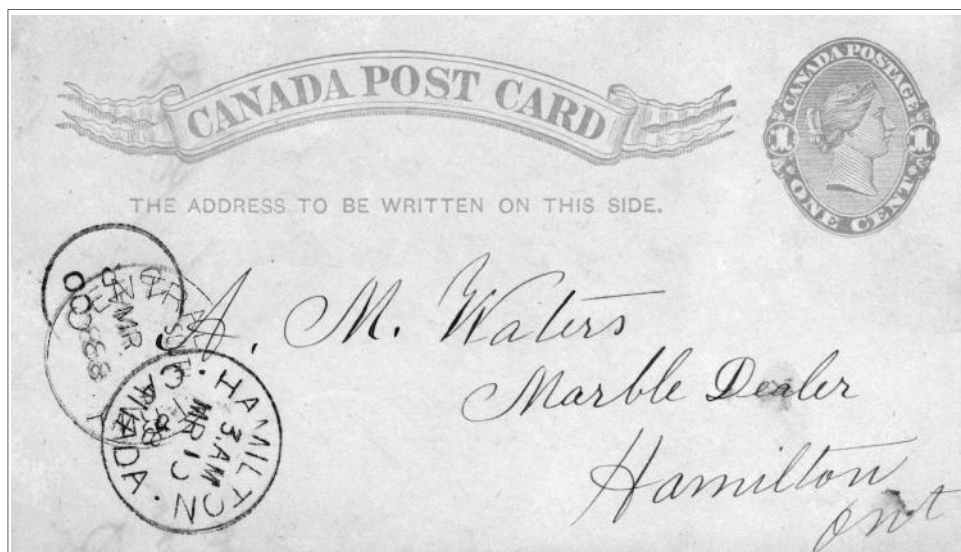


This is a new private clerk handstamp from the Ottawa & Fort William run and only the second clerk reported for this run. It will be listed as **ON-384.55**, OTTAWA & FORT WILLIAM / W. BARRINGER, M.C., Tr 6, OCT 29, (12). There is no other postmark or date indication on the card except a notation that it was mailed on Tuesday morning. The only year with October 29 falling on Tuesday that is within the operating period of the run and the use of the 1c green Admiral is 1912. It is a type CC6R.

New Reports



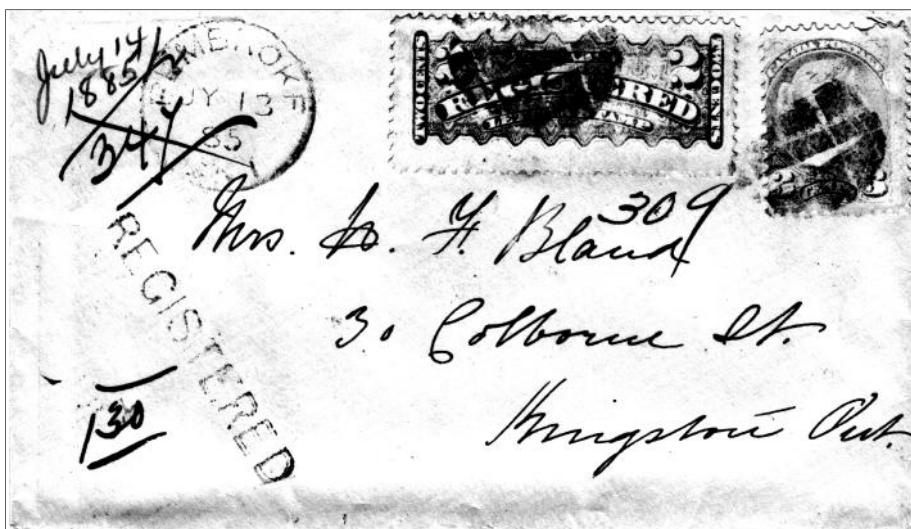
Peter McCarthy sends us two examples of a new Maritimes section clerk handstamp, used on letter bills, HFX. DIGBY & YARMOUTH / E. F. DART., 95, APR 19 (35) and JUN 28 (35). This type CC1R postmark will be listed as **MT-152.55**.



From **Ross Gray**; this light strike of **RY-41**, CENTRAL · ONT. RWY., SOUTH, MR 9, 88, on a post card from Murray to Hamilton, is the first reported example of the SOUTH direction indicium. Unfortunately the scarce cancellation is somewhat obscured by the Hamilton arrival postmark and letter carrier mark.

Kingston & Pembroke Railway News from Ross Gray

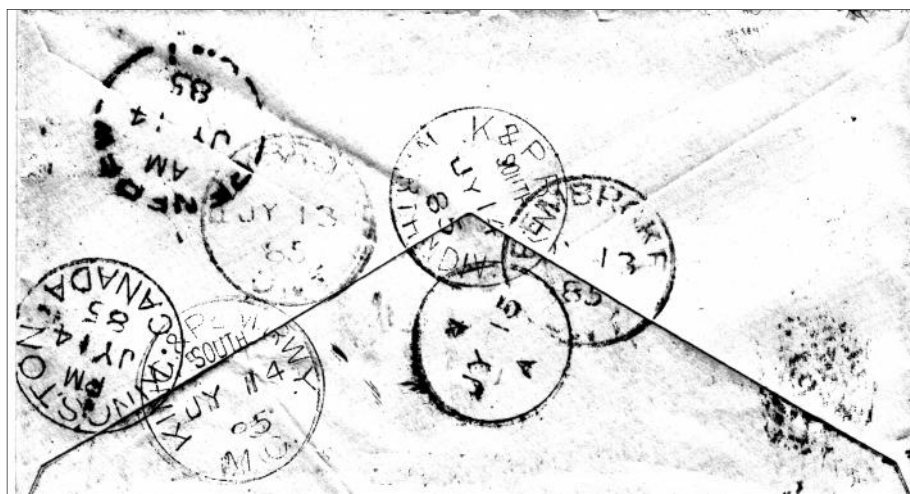
On page 1685 of the January-February, 2002 issue of the newsletter, **Colin Lewis** showed the first reported example of a rare cancellation used on the Kingston & Pembroke Railway. It read KING. & PEM. RWY. / M.C., SOUTH, MR 19, 87 and was used as a transit backstamp on a registered cover from Denbigh to Tamworth. Now we have a second, earlier example as well as a **new early date** for **RY-102**.



RY-102
 Proof - unknown
 ERD - 1885/07/14
 LRD - 1888/08/27
 Indicia - NORTH, SOUTH



RY-103
 Proof - unknown
 ERD - 1885/07/14
 LRD - 1887/03/19
 Indicia - SOUTH

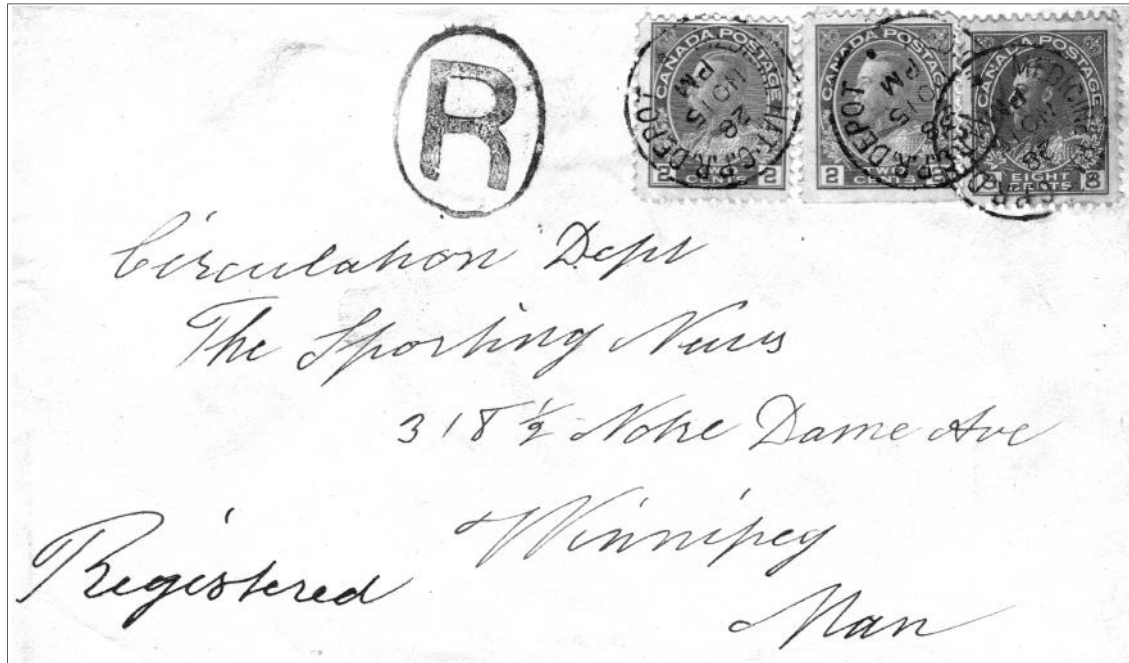


This cover originated at PEMBROKE, ONT JY 13, 85 and probably travelled by the Canadian Pacific Railway in a closed bag to RENFREW, ONT, AM, JY 14, 85. (The Kingston & Pembroke Railway ended at Renfrew.) There it was transferred to the southbound R.P.O. and was postmarked with **RY-102**, K. & P. RWY. / NORTH DIV. , SOUTH, JY 14, 85. It was probably transferred to the next southbound R.P.O. at Sharbot Lake and was postmarked, KING. & PEM. RWY. / M.C. , SOUTH JY 14, 85, now listed as **RY-103**.

The letter arrived at KINGSTON / CANADA, PM, JY 14, 85, and the letter carriers mark, 4, JY 15, A, was applied before delivery the following morning.

New Reports


A Registered Cover from a Railway Station Office reported by Ross Gray



This is **the first registered cover** which I have seen with a **railway station cancellation**, even as a transit mark. In this case the cover originated at the Medicine Hat C.P.R. station and was cancelled with **SN-22.01, (Hammer 1)**, MEDICINE HAT · C.P.R. DEPOT / . , 28, NO 15, PM (*The time indicium is in the year position and the year indicium is in the time position as usual with this cancellation.*) There are two WINNIPEG / CANADA, NO 16, 28 receiving backstamps.

The station post office facilities were organised for the transfer and security of mail to and from the railway post offices departing and arriving at the station. They received and cancelled mail posted at the station but did not offer counter service.

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Despatching Stamp

LETTER BILL (FEUILLE D'AVIS)

TO BE USED BY POSTMASTERS OR RAILWAY POST OFFICES WHEN THERE IS NO REGISTERED MATTER TO BE DESPATCHED.

Les maîtres de poste et les commis ambulants doivent se servir de cette feuille quand ils n'expédient pas d'objets recommandés.

Receiving Stamp



Receiving Stamp

Timbre du bureau de départ

Timbre du bureau d'arrivée

From

To

Initials of P.M. or Clerk Despatching

Initials of P.M. or Clerk Receiving

Initiales du M. de P. ou du commis du bureau de départ.

Initiales du M. de P. ou du commis du bureau d'arrivée.

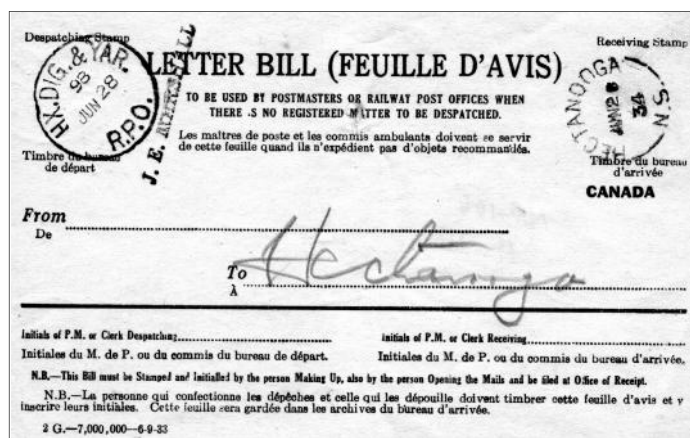
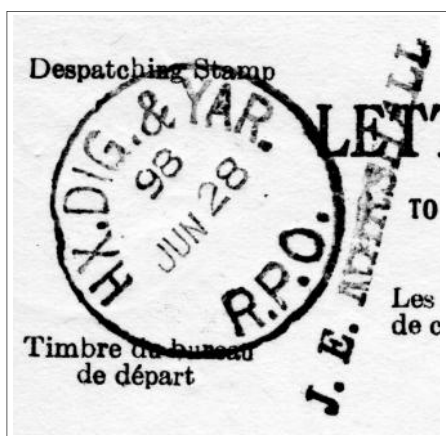
N.B.—This Bill must be Stamped and Initialed by the person Making Up, also by the person Opening the Mails and be filed at Office of receipt.

N.B.—La personne qui confectionne les dépêches et celle qui les dépouille doivent timbrer cette feuille d'avis et y inscrire leurs initiales. Cette feuille sera gardée dans les archives du bureau d'arrivée.

2 G.—8,120,000—6-7-34

Veteran study group member **Jim Felton** reports train 330 for **hammer II** of **ON-228**. on this Letter Bill from the Kingston & Tweed R.P.O. to Erinsville, Ont., dated June 7, 1935. (*See page 2111.*)

New Reports from Ross Gray



J. E. MARSHALL

MT-147

Found on a Letter Bill, is a **new clerk name attachment** to **hammer 3** of **MT-146**, HX. DIG. & YAR. / R.P.O. / **J. E. MARSHALL**, 98, JUN 28, (34).

Now listed as **MT-147**, it joins two previous clerk attachments attached to unknown hammers of MT-146, E. F. DART, which is listed as **MT-148**, and W. L. RYAN which is listed as **MT-149**.

I could not locate the original report for MT-148 to determine if the hammer was identified and if the clerk name was a straight line or curved to fit the hammer.

I was initially unsure if the name was attached instead of being separately struck until I observed the disturbed impression of the tops of the clerk name letters, "MAR" near the hammer hub.

On an advertising cover from Simcoe, Ontario, we find a previously **unreported** train 232 for **ON-480**, P. ROWAN & HAMILTON · R.P.O. / . , 232, DE 5, 33.



The **ON-561.01**, TORONTO & ELORA · R.P.O. / N^o 1 , transit backstamp on a registered cover from Orangeville to Hamilton is the first report of the "**S**" **direction indicium** for both the listing and hammer 1.



On a 3¢ cover from Bredenbury, Saskatchewan to Winnipeg is a new early date for **WT-998.02**, YORKTON & SASK. R.P.O. / N^o 2, E, OC 24, 1925. This hammer was proof struck on April 26, 1925 and apparently replaced WT-994.021.



This **new late date** for **ON-562.092**, TOR. & WM. R.P.O. / No. 9, 6, OC 7, 55, is on a 5¢ cover from Foot's Bay, Ontario to Toronto.



On a 2¢ Edward cover to Lansdowne, Ontario, there is a **new late date** for both the hammer and listing, **ON-366.02**, C. P. R. OTT. & BROCK. / M.C. , S, JU 3, 04. The Lansdowne arrival backstamp is dated the same day.

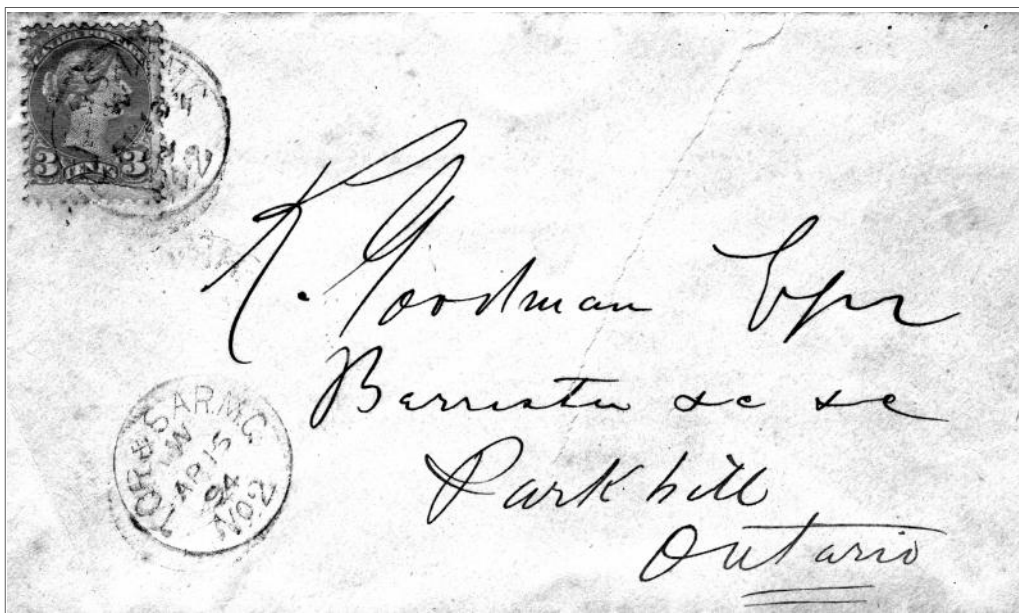


New Reports from Ross Gray



ON-461.07, C. P. R. & P. ARTHUR & W'PEG M.C. / 7. , was only known to exist from its proof strike dated, 1888/02/25, until this cover surfaced after the new catalogue was printed. Now we know this single date of January 19, 1895 and direction indicium E on a 3¢ Small Queen cover. There is a Thorold arrival backstamp dated January 22. The strike shows evidence of hammer wear and small rim dents which suggests that other, earlier examples, await discovery.

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This example of **ON-811.02**, TOR. & SAR. M.C. / N^o 2, W, AP 16, 94 on a 3¢ Small Queen cover to Parkhill is a **new early date for the hammer**. The receiving backstamp is dated the same day.

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Secretary's Report from Chris Anstead

Tony Hine of Toronto, **Dave Marshall** of Garden Bay, BC and **John Irvine** of London, Ontario have joined the group. Welcome aboard!

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