Volume 41 - No. 6 Whole No. 227 July - August, 2013

This issue includes many new updates from **Jack Brandt** and **Ross Gray**, as well as two new hammer studies, one for the first Welland Railway cancellation and another for the latest Great Western Railway postmark, used well after that line had been absorbed by the Grand Trunk Railway in 1884.

Michael Millar contributes information about the 1973 Royal Train souvenir postmark.

Ross Gray has found a previously unreported registration postmark from the Swan River & Prince Albert R.P.O. and traces its long and winding route from Cranberry Portage, Manitoba to Adelaide, South Australia, via Vancouver.



Canadian National Railways Station at The Pas, Manitoba circa 1930

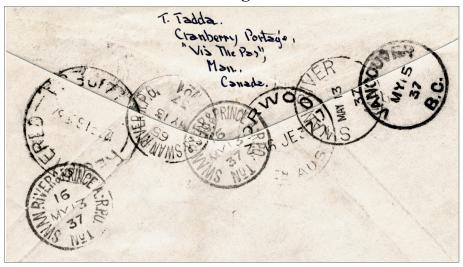
A New Western Registered Postmark

When I first saw this cover, I thought that it was probably a favour item but as I traced the routing, I learned that it was a practical makeshift effort by the R.P.O. clerk to register the item in transit.



WT-795.55, FROM SWAN R. & P.A. R.P.O. TR. / R ####

A New Western Registered Postmark



WT-792.01, SWAN RIVER & PRINCE A: R.P.O. / Nº 1, 16, MY 13, 37 SWAN RIVER / MAN., MAY 13, 37 WT-642.012, REG. & SWAN RIVER . R.P.O. / Nº 1, 65, MY 13, 37 VANCOUVER / B.C., MY 15, 37

The cover was cancelled at Cranberry Portage, Manitoba on Monday, May 10, in the afternoon, apparently too late to catch the Monday train. It was then placed in regular closed bag mail and transferred to southbound train 244 from Flin Flon to The Pas at 1:30 PM on Wednesday, May 12, arriving at The Pas at 4:00 PM.

At 7:00 PM, the closed bag mail was transferred to train 64 from The Pas to Hudson Bay Junction, arriving there at 10:40 PM. At 11:35 PM, the mail bag was put on board the Swan River & Prince Albert R.P.O. on train 16. The R.P.O. clerk realized that there was sufficient postage on the cover to pay for registration and used a rubber straightline marking, "FROM SWAN R. & P.A. R.P.O. TR." plus a large rubber "R" and wrote a tracking number in pencil, "7733". (This new marking will be listed as WT-795.55, FROM SWAN R. & P.A. R.P.O. TR. / R #### , Type RB2, R.F. - G.) The clerk then backstamped the cover with his regular steel hammer, WT-792.01, SWAN RIVER & PRINCE A: R.P.O. / Nº 1, 16, MY 13, 37.

The registered cover arrived in Swan River, Manitoba at 3:45 AM on Thursday, May 13 and was backstamped at the post office there before being transferred to the Regina & Swan River R.P.O. on train 65 at 7:45 AM and was backstamped, **WT-642.012**, REG. & SWAN RIVER . R.P.O. / Nº 1, 65, MY 13, 37 and sorted into the registered mail for Vancouver, where it arrived on May 15.

Arrival at Adelaide, South Australia was on June 16.

63	Miles	TABLE 259	64
А.М. В 3.30	0.0	(Central Time)	P.M.
3.56 4.15 4.36 5.20 5.20 5.39 6.46 7.10 A.M.	18.0 27.3 35.1 43.0 50.5 60.4 68.2 77.9	Sask. 246	f 10.14 f 9.55 f 9.35 f 9.10 f 8.50 f 8.31 f 8.07 f 7.47

CNRys Public Timetable - March 10, 1935

*Daily . REFERENCE	E MARKS-Tables 251 to 2	68 inclusive
Daily except Sunday.	eMonday and Friday	p Thursday and Saturday.
Daily except Monday.	Tuesday and Friday.	rMon. only. tThur. only.
Tues., Thurs. and Sat.	hMonday and Thursday.	uFri. only.
Sunday only.	Tuesday and Thursday.	A Restaurant or Lunch C'nter.
aSee footnote "A" table 262. bMonday and Wednesday.	LSaturday only.	⊖Postal Mail Box.
cMon., Tues., Thur., Sat.	mWednesday and Friday.	Light-face figures a.m. time
dMon., Tues., Wed., Fri.	nWednesday and Saturday.	Dark-face figures p.m. time.

245	243	Mis.	TABLE 261	244	246
A.M. 7 6.00	A.M. ∂9.00	0.0		P.M. @4.00	P.M. r 5 45
1 6.50 1 7.15 1 7.35	f 9.35 f10.00 f10.25	17.7 26.1 34.5	259, 262 Flin Flon Jct. Prospector Root Lake Wanless Atik Simonhouse dr Cranberry Portage: Lv	3.45 f 3.20 f 3.00 f 2.40 f 2.20 f 1.55 @1.30	f 5.15 f 4.55 f 4.35 f 4.65 f 3.50
9.00 9.30 (10.05 (10.40 (11.15 A.M.	0	62.9	Ly Cranberry Portage Ar Jowsey Optic Lake Heming Lake Fay Lake Ar Sherridan, Man. Ly (Sherritt-Gordon Mine)		P.M. r 3.25 f 2.45 f 2.15 f 1.40 f 1.05 r12.30 P.M.
	(12 50	61.8 70.2 79.4 86.1	Athapap Schist Lake Channing	@! .30 / I .05 /I2 40 /I2 .15	en ĝi ne ili ili daje daje

A New Western Registered Postmark PRINCE ALBERT NATIONAL PARK Wekusko Lake Split Lake A Montreat Lake Cumberland-House 0 Read Down Read Up TABLE 246 (Central Time) Miles 10 6 15 10@30 0.0 by (For st attions b) 12@20 55.0 1.16 82.5 1.32 88.3 1.48 93.5 1.2.15 (2.15 102.8 1.2.15 109.6 2.44 111.7 @2.55 11.5.8 br 7.30 * 8.10 9.00 \$ 9.45 ¶ 5.50 * 6.20 ¶ 4/48 A.M. 111.50 112/51 A.M. From Edmonton e Tables 240 and To Calgary, via Gladstone, Tables 235 and (3.10, 115.8, Lv 3.20, 120.4 3.23, 126.2 3.44, 131.2 3.56, 137.4 4.09, 143.7 4.09, 143.7 4.20, 147.8 4.32, 153.2 4.35, 154.3 4 240 239 1.50 ¶ 1.40 A.M. Swan River 267..... O

A New Western Registered Postmark

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111.4	141	.mater Man.	10@30 &7.00 A.M.	241.9	ILv:	Swan River The Pas, Ma	246	Arı &3	.45	9.181	[14]

CNRys Public Timetable - March 10, 1935



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The Newsletter of the Canadian R.P.O. Study Group (B.N.A.P.S.)

New Reports & Updates from Jack Brandt

MT-351.02, TRURO & PORT · HAWKESBURY · RY / _ M.C. _ , AM, DE 15, 81 , is a new late date.

QC-137, MONT. & BROCK · R.P.O. / . , 26, 9 VIII, 58 , is a new late date for the hammer and the run. QC-294.031, MONT. & TOR. G. T. R^{\perp} / 3 , 18, JAN 9, 23 , is a new late date and train for the hammer. QC-298.16, MONT. & TOR. G. T. R. - R.P.O. / N^{Ω} 16, 18, JUL 22, 32 , is a new hammer late date.

ON-151.02, GODERICH & FT · ERIE / RY. P.O. , E, MY 25, 92 , is a new **early date** for the hammer. **ON-494.02**, SI THOMAS & COURTRIGHT / · RY P.O. · , W, MR 18,18 , is a **new late** hammer date. **ON-500.01**, SI THOMAS & FORT · ERIE / RY.P.O., E., AP 23, 98 , is a new **late hammer date**. **ON-500.02**, SI THOMAS & FORT ERIE / RY.P.O., E., JU 23, 98 , is a new **late hammer date**.

WT-39, BRANDON & REGINA · R.P.O. № 2 / . , 5, JUN 7, 46 , is the first report for train 5.

WT-91.126, C. & V. R.P.O. / ∄ B.C. ∄, 3, SP28, 25 , is a new late date for the hammer.

WT-91.136, C. & V. R.P.O. / ಔ B.C. ∄, 2, AU 18, 04 , is a new early date for the hammer.

WT-318.022, MACLEOD & CALGARY · R.P.O. / № 2 ·, 542, MR 17, 34 , is a new early date and train.

WT-755.031, SASK. WAIN. & EDM · R.P.O. / № 3 , 78, SP 30, 32 , is a new train for the hammer.

WT-755.04, SASK. WAIN. & EDM · R.P.O. / № 4 , 3, JAN 17, 35 , is a new train for the hammer.

WT-841.022, WEY & ASSA. R.P.O. / № 2 , 310, FEB 26, 32 , is a new early date and train.

WT-861.02, WPG. B. & R - R.P.O. / № 2 , 5, NO 22, 46 , is a new early hammer date.

WT-897.13, WINNIPEG & MOOSE JAW · R.P.O. / № 13 , 43, JUN 24 , is a new train for the hammer.

WT-898.03, W'PEG. & M. JAW (LOCAL) R.P.O. / № 3 , 54, JUN 19, 25 , is a new late hammer date.

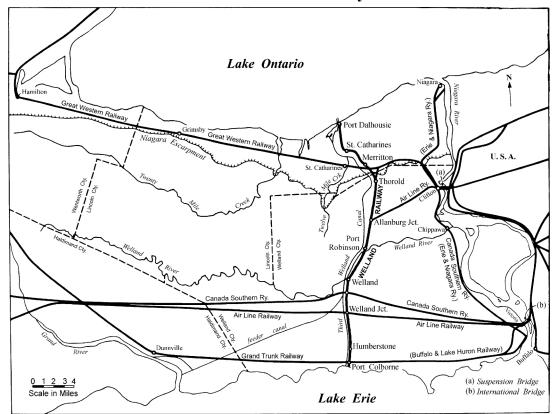
WT-961.02, WPG. & REG. R.P.O. / № 2 , 34, FE 20, 33 , is likely a clerk's error for train 54.

WT-975.011, W'PEG. & SWAN RIVER · R.P.O. / № 1, 15, FE 24, 41, is a new late date for the hammer.

RY-79.01, G. W. RWY. / ACCOM. , EAST, MR 30, 92 , is a new late date for the hammer and listing. RY-79.02, G. W. RWY. / ACCOM. , EAST, DE ??, 8(8) , is a new early date for the hammer. RY-93, COLLINGWOOD · BRANCH. / · H & N. W. R Y . · , blank, MR 23, 81 , is a new late date. RY-95.03, BEETON · BRANCH / _ H. & N. W. R Y . _ , 2, JU 1, 92 , is a new late date for the hammer. RY-177.02, SHEFFORD · R Y / M.C. , blank, JY 4, 91 , is a new late date. RY-214.02, W. G. & B. R Y / N Q 2. , SOUTH, ?8 JY, 89 , is a new early date and indicium for the hammer. RY-214.032, W. G. & B. R Y / N Q 3. , blank, AU ?, 90 , is a new late date for the hammer.

TKS-18, INTERCOLONIAL RY. / CAUSAPSCAL, SEP, 15, 1888, is a new early date.

The Welland Railway

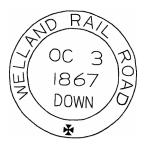


Railway Lines in the Niagara Peninsula in 1876

The 25 mile long Welland Railway, built parallel to the Welland Canal, was completed on June 27, 1859. It ran from Port Colborne, on Lake Erie, to Port Dalhousie, on Lake Ontario.

The first postmark was used from 1864 until 1876, with either an UP or DOWN direction indicia. The wording of the postmark is improper, using RAIL ROAD instead of railway.

Two handstamps were ordered by the Post Office Department from D.G. Berri on August 5, 1864. No proof strike is known. Jack Brandt pointed out a noticeable difference in strikes in his collection, prompting this study which shows the two hammers being used consecutively.



RY-203.01

RY-203 Hammer Study

WELLAND RAIL ROAD / *

Listing	a	b	c
RY-203.01	9 3/4	12 1/4	8 1/2
RY-203.02	11	13 1/4	7 -

Listing	Order Date	ERD	LRD	Indicia
RY-203.01	1864/08/05	1865/04/15 1	1870/04/27 1	UP, DOWN
RY-203.02	1864/08/05	1870/12/24 ²	1876/09/30 ³	UP, DOWN
RY-	203	1864/10/13	1876/09/30	UP, DOWN

Note ¹ - Jack Brandt Collection, Note ² - Ross Gray Collection, Note ³ - Brian Stalker Collection

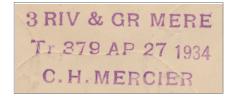
Page 2373 The Newsletter of the Canadian R.P.O. Study Group (B.N.A.P.S.)

New Reports from Ross Gray

Cancelling a 2 cent Admiral on a Christmas greeting card, we find a new late first period date for MT- 354.06, TRURO & SI JOHN . R.P.O. / . , W, DE 21, 15 .







This straight line, violet backstamp on a philatelic cover is a **new clerk listing**, **QC-536.55**, 3 RIV & GR MERE / C. H. MERCIER, Tr 379 AP 27 1934, type SL0R, R.F. - G. The front is cancelled with **QC-534**, TROIS RIVIERES & GRAND MERE · R.P.O. / . , 384, AP 26, 34.

This sharp strike of **ON-48.03**, BRIDGEBURG & SI THOMAS R.P.O. / . , W, JUL 21, 15 , on a greeting post card from Springfield to Lyon, Ontario, is a new **early date for the hammer**, which was proof struck on May 3, 1915.





On a May, 1936 Royal Visit commemorative post card addressed to Mull, Ontario, is a **new early date** for hammer **ON-76.05**, CAPREOL & ARMSTRONG STN. / R.P.O. , 2, SP 23, 39.

ON-499, ST. THOS. & COURT. / · R.P.O. · , 101, JUN 8, 38, used as a transit backstamp on a registered cover from Glen Rae, Ontario to Winnipeg is a new **early date** for this hammer which was proof struck on February 24, 1938.





A pair of one cent Numerals on a small piece is cancelled with a new **early date** for hammer **ON-634.031**, TOR. & LON. M.C. / N^Q 3, W, FE 1, 99. This is also the **first report of the "W"** direction indicia. This R.P.O. operated over the C.P.Ry.

New Reports from Ross Gray

On a cover from Heming Lake, Manitoba via Cranberry Portage to Winnipeg, is a new **early date** for the scarce **second period** use of, **WT-642.02**, REG. & SWAN RIVER \cdot R.P.O. $/ \cdot N^{\Omega} \cdot 2 \cdot , 62, 17 \cdot VI, 57$.



WT-644, REG. & YORK \cdot R.P.O. $/\cdot$ N \circ 1 \cdot , 62, MR 13, 46, is a new **late date** used as a transit backstamp on a registered cover from Melville, SK to Dahinda, SK.



A 5ϕ cover to a puzzle contest in Toronto bears a new **early date** for the rare **WT-691.042**, SASK. & DRUM R.P.O. / No 4 , 10, No 13, 60 .





The first report of **train 10** for hammer **WT-693.04**, S'TOON & DRUM. / R.P.O. No. 4 , 10, OC 19, 61 , is found on a cover from Hanna, Alberta to Toronto

This new early date for hammer WT-712.03, SASK. & ED. R.P.O. / N° 3 C.P.R. , E, 24 MY, 10 , cancels a picture post card to Grantham, England.





On a philatelic cover to Waukegan, Illinois, we find a new **late date** for hammer **WT-714.012**, SASKATOON & ESTON . R.P.O. / No. 1, 28, FE 10, 55.

A partial strike of hammer **RY-87.02**, HALIFAX & S. W. R' Y. R.P.O. / . , E, JUL 26, 07 , on a picture post card of Middleton, N.S. adressed to Springfield, N.S. , is a new **early date** for both the hammer and listing. No proof date is known for this hammer.





Used as a transit postmark on the back of a registered cover from Charlottetown to Mount Forest, Ontario is a new **early date** for hammer **RY-144.04**, P. E. ISLAND / M. C. , blank, SP 22, 93.

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RY-79 Hammer Study

Jack Brandt sent photo copies of two examples of RY-79 in his collection, one of which was a new late date for the listing. He noted that there was a difference in letter spacing between the two, prompting your editor to create this new study.

Perhaps one of our readers will be able to report which hammer the ERD for the listing is.



Listing	a	b	c
RY-79.01	15 ½	8 -	6 1/4
RY-79.02	14 ½	7	5 ½ -







RY-79.02

Listing	Proof Date	ERD	LRD	Indicia
RY-79.01	unknown	1886/05/11 ²	1892/03/30 1	EAST, WEST
RY-79.02	unknown	1886/11/30 ³	1891/11/02 ³	EAST, WEST
RY-79		1885/04/16	1892/03/30 1	EAST, WEST

Note ¹ - Jack Brandt Collection, Note ² - Ross Gray Collection, Note ³ - Brian Stalker Collection

The Great Western Railway was absorbed by the Grand Trunk Railway in 1884 but this cancellation was used long afterward. Accomodation trains were local trains which made frequent stops.



RY-79.01, G. W. RWY. / ACCOM., EAST, MY 1, 91

1973 Royal Train Postmark

It's a long way from the old railway mail cars to the plushness of a Royal Train, but for two former Railway Mail Clerks, the job was the same - get the mail out, on time.

Walter Judson of Toronto and Walter Gale of Ottawa were both aboard the special train carrying Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip on the tour of Southern Ontario June 27 and 28.

By their own estimate, they cancelled, by hand, some 18,000 pieces of mail during the Royal Tour, including many letters sent in by stamp collectors who wanted the special Royal Train cancellation.

"But," said Mr. Judson, "it was surprising how much mail the Royal Train itself generated. We were up each day from 6:30 in the morning until 11 at night."

In addition to cancelling and dispatching mail, the two former RMCs sold \$175 worth of stamps and 100 of the special Royal Tour envelopes. Another 400 envelopes were given away.

"Everyone in the Queen's entourage wanted a first day cover to send home," Mr. Judson said, "and there was a lot of interest among the RCMP officers in their special stamps."

(Three stamps commemorating the RCMP's 100th anniversary were issued shortly before the Royal Tour.)

Never met

Although the two mail clerks were on the Royal Train with the Queen for almost three days they never did meet her.

"She was supposed to take a walk through the train Thursday night, but the tour was two hours late," Mr. Judson said.

Life on the Royal Train wasn't all that hard, however. "The meals were fabulous," Mr. Judson recalled. "We had sirloin steak that just melted in your mouth."

It was a far cry from the Toronto-to-Montreal mail runs he worked for more than 30 years until they were phased out in April, 1971.

"Those were 72-foot cars, with a crew of up to four City and seven Forward sorters," Mr. Judson said. "And at Christmas, they'd throw on anything they had. They even used old horse cars, with no heating or light, and you'd work in your overshoes with mailbags wrapped around your feet to keep warm.

"Now I wonder how the hell we stood it."

Mr. Judson now works in Central District's customer service branch, but he finds his railway experience is still valuable.

"One night I was riding home on the train," he said, "and it was a particularly rough night. I was just standing there, but everyone else was falling all over the place.

"I guess I still have my sea legs."

CENTRAL POST, JULY 1973 PAGE 3



Ludlow RV-20

Michael Millar, a well known philatelist and retired railway post office clerk, kindly sent this clipping from an in-house P. O. D. newspaper, Central Post, July 1973 edition, which describes the application of the souvenir postmark on the 1973 Royal Train by two former R.P.O. clerks. (Michael had worked under the supervision of Walter Judson who was a Clerk-In-Charge on the Montreal & Toronto R.P.O.)

The railway car used for the Royal Train souvenir covers was a modified baggage car since there were no longer any R.P.O. cars available, the last runs having taken place over two years earlier, on April 24, 1971.

Although the train operated for "almost three days" (June 27 and June 28) in southern Ontario, the postmark has a fixed single date, June 28, 1973. Apparently it made stops in London, Kitchener and Kingston.

This cancellation was not included in the 2009 catalogue because the editor did not feel that the marking of these souvenirs constituted a fully functional post office, unlike those on the Royal Trains in 1939 and 1951, which had received and dispatched mail for passengers on the train, including registered mail.



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