

This issue contains contributions from **John Aitken, Ron Barrett, Morris Beattie, Jack Brandt, Brian Copeland, Jim Felton, Ross Gray, Fred Mason and Brian Stalker.**

There are updated hammer studies for ON-381, ON-383 and WT-687, a new hammer study for **WT-686** which was suggested by **Brian Copeland** who observed two different hammers and a new one for ON-540.



Ross Gray  
Collection

This cover is from Lindsay Russell, Deputy Minister of the Interior, 1882-1883 to Dr. Robert Bell, an employee of the Geological Survey of Canada from 1857 until 1908. It has the latest reported date and only known example of the NORTH direction of **WT-686.02**, S<sup>I</sup> VINCENT & WINNIPEG / P.C. , NORTH, AU 11, 83 , used as a transit back-stamp.

**Jim Felton** sends this interesting clipping from the May 15, 1911 issue of the "DAILY BULLETIN of ORDERS AFFECTING THE POSTAL SERVICE" published by the U.S.P.O. It refers to American and Canadian R.P.O. connections at the Minnesota - Manitoba border.

**INTERNATIONAL THROUGH REGISTERED  
POUCHES.**

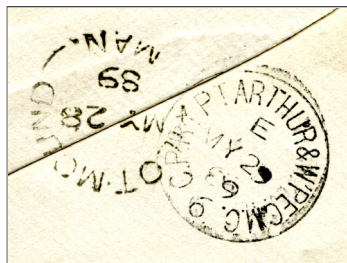
**New York, N. Y., and Winnipeg,  
Manitoba, Canada.**

Daily exchange, to commence June 1, 1911. From New York via New York & Chicago train 43, connecting Chicago & Minneapolis train 55, to St. Vincent & St. Paul train 7, for connection at Emerson with the Emerson & Winnipeg train 7. Return dispatch will be made via the Emerson & Winnipeg train 8, connecting St. Vincent & St. Paul train 8, to Chicago & Minneapolis train 6, to Pittsburg & Chicago train 18, to New York & Pittsburg train 18.

**Chicago, Ill., and Winnipeg, Mani-  
toba, Canada.**

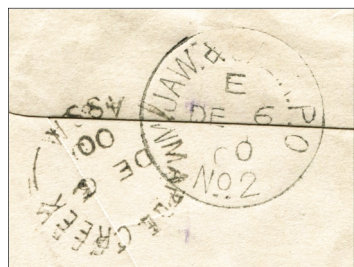
Daily exchange, to commence June 1, 1911. From Chicago, via the Chicago & Minneapolis train 55, to St. Vincent & St. Paul train 7, for connection at Emerson with the Emerson & Winnipeg train 7. The return dispatch will be made via Emerson & Winnipeg train 8, connecting St. Vincent & St. Paul train 8, to Chicago & Minneapolis train 6.  
[15 may]

## New Reports from Brian Copeland



**ON-461.061**, C.P.R. PI ARTHUR & W'PEG. M.C. / 6. , E, MY 29, 89 ,  
is a new **early date** for the hammer.

**WT-341.03**, M. H. & N. R.P.O. / B.C. , E, JUL 18, 06 ,  
is a new **early date** for the hammer.



**WT-381.021**, M. JAW & CAL. R.P.O. / N° 2 ,  
E, DE 6, 00 , is a new **early date** for the hammer.

**WT-687.03**, ST VINCENT & WINNIPEG / M.C. ,  
SOUTH, AU 18, 85, is a new **late date** for the hammer.



**RY-26**, SOURIS (C.P.R.) SECTION / M.C. , W, JA 1, 0(4),  
is a new **late date** and **WT-522.02**, C.P.R. NORTH · PORTAL &  
MOOSE · JAW · M.C / N° 2 , N, DE 31, 03 , is a new **early**  
**date** for the hammer.

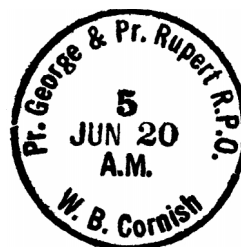
**RY-30.24**, C. P. R<sup>y</sup> WEST . OF . WINNIPEG / C. ,  
W, AU 2, 98 , is a new **late date** for the hammer.



## 2 Hammers for WT-572



WT-572.01



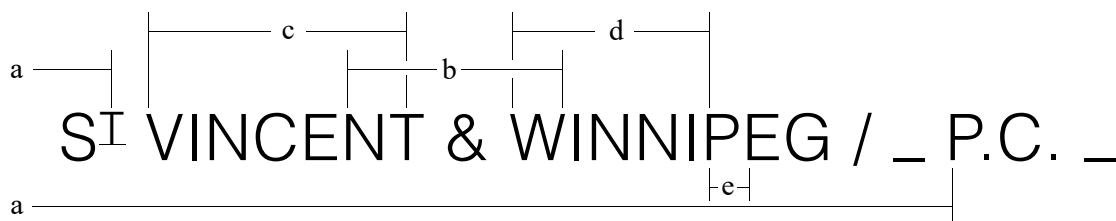
WT-572.02

Normally we do not try to separate similar rubber hammers unless there is an obvious difference as in the case of WT-572, where the spacing of the clerk's initials is much reduced in the later hammer. Accordingly the listing will now be divided as;

**WT-572.01**, Indicia - EAST, WEST , ERD - 1915/05/22, LRD - 1916/12/05, R.F. - G

**WT-572.02**, Indicia - 5 / A.M. and 6 / P.M. , ERD - 1931/06/17, LRD - 1931/06/20, R.F. - G

## WT-686 Hammer Study



Hammer	a	b	c	d	e
WT-686.01	9 ½	11 ½	15 ¼	11 ½	2 ¾
WT-686.02	8 ¾ +	11	14 ½	10 +	2 ¼

Hammer	Proof	ERD	LRD	Indicia
WT-686.01	unknown	1881/08/18	1882/03/06	NORTH,SOUTH
WT-686.02	unknown	1883/03/04	1883/08/11	NORTH,SOUTH
WT-686		1881/08/18	1883/08/11	NORTH,SOUTH



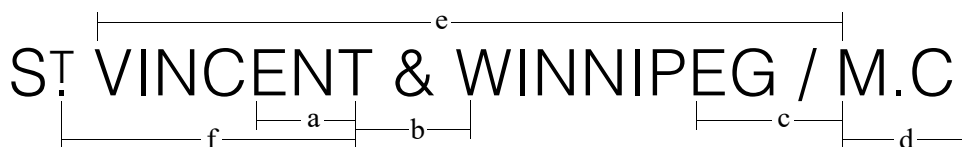
WT-686.01



WT-686.02



## WT-687 Hammer Study

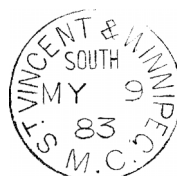


Hammer	a	b	c	d	e	f
WT-687.01	5	4 ½	11 ¾	8	9	12 ½
WT-687.02	5	5 ½ -	12 ½	9	8 ½ +	12 ½ -
WT-687.03	5 ¼ +	6 +	14 ¾	10	9 +	13

Hammer	Proof	ERD	LRD	Indicia
WT-687.01	1882/07/12	1882/08/23	1888/06/26	NORTH,SOUTH,blank
WT-687.02	unknown	1882/12/24	1883/05/09	NORTH,SOUTH
WT-687.03	1883/08/05	1883/09/21	1885/08/18	NORTH,SOUTH,blank
WT-687		1882/08/23	1888/06/26	NORTH,SOUTH,blank



WT-687.01



WT-687.02



WT-687.03



## New Reports from Ross Gray

**MT-93**, HFX. BRI. YAR. / R. W. S. , 87, OCT 11, 1954 , on a facing slip cut-out, is a new **early date** and the first report of **train 87**.



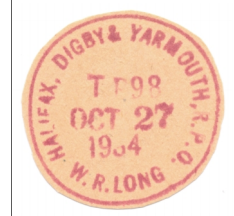
**MT-99.18**, HALIFAX & CAMP · R.P.O. / . , 3, AP 4, 47 , is a new **late date** for the hammer.



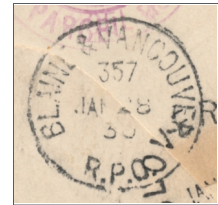
**MT-156**, HALIFAX, DIGBY & YARMOUTH R.P.O. / W. R. LONG , TR 98, OCT 27, 1954 , on a facing slip cut-out, is a new **early date**.



**QC-294.031**, MONT. & TOR. G. T. R. / 3 , N.E, AU 19, 19 , is the first report of the time/direction '**N.E**' indicium for the hammer.

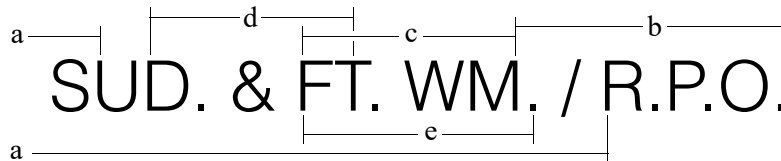


**WT-9.01**, BLAINE & VANCOUVER / R.P.O. , 357, JAN 28, 30 , is the first report of **train 357** for the listing.



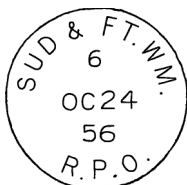
**WT-883.02**, WINNIPEG & HUMBOLDT · R.P.O. / N<sup>o</sup> 2 , E, MR 26, 10 , is a new **early date** for the hammer.

## ON-540 Hammer Study

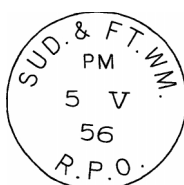


Hammer	a	b	c	d	e
ON-540.01	15	11 +	12	12 ¼	10 ¾
ON-540.02	15	11 ¾	11 ¾	12 ½	10 ¼
ON-540.03	14 ½ -	11 +	12	12	10 ¼
ON-540.04	14 ½ -	11 ¾	12 +	12 ¼ +	10 ½ +
ON-540.05	15 +	11	11 ½ +	12 ¾	10 ¼

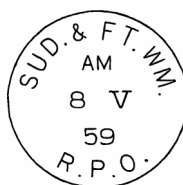
Hammer	Proof	ERD	LRD	Indicia
ON-540.01	1956/05/05	1956/10/24	1961/09/09	5,6,7,8
ON-540.02	1956/05/05	1959/10/02	1959/10/02	7
ON-540.03	1959/05/08	1960/03/28	1963/08/05	7,8
ON-540.04	unknown	1956/10/23	1963/10/10	5,6,7,8,blank
ON-540.05	unknown	1956/10/21	1962/11/12	
ON-540		1956/10/21	1963/10/10	5,6,7,8,blank



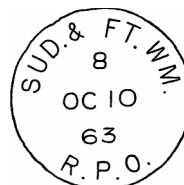
ON-540.01



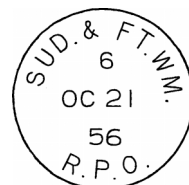
ON-540.02



ON-540.03



ON-540.04



ON-540.05



## New Reports from Ross Gray



WT-611, REG. & H. B. R.P.O. / No. 1 , 62, AU 13, 47 , is a new **early date**.



RY-171, SI L & O. R. R / = N<sup>o</sup>. 1 = , SOUTH, SP 13, 72 , is a new **early date**.

.....

## A New Direction Indicium for RY-62 from Brian Stalker



**RY-62.01**, G.T.P. W. OF WAINWRIGHT R.P.O. / N<sup>o</sup> 1 , W, JAN 28, 10 , is the first report of a direction indicium for both the hammer and listing. This example is only dated 18 days later than the ERD recorded in the Ludlow/Robinson records which did not record the indicium used on that date.

## New Reports from Jack Brandt



**QC-253.08**, MONTREAL & ST JOHN / M.C. ,  
W, AP 24, 03 , is a new **early date** for the hammer.

**ON-381.01**, TRAIN NO / OTT. & FI WM R.P.O. ,  
96, JUL 7, 04 , is a new **early date** for the hammer.



**ON-381.02**, TRAIN NO / OTT. & FI WM R.P.O. ,  
96, SP 26, 08 , is the first report of **train 96** for the  
hammer.

**ON-381.03**, TRAIN NO / OTT. & FI WM R.P.O. ,  
2, JUL 24, 14 , is a new **late date** for the hammer.



**ON-381.04**, TRAIN NO / OTT. & FI WM R.P.O. ,  
??, SP 1, 04 , is a new **early date** for the hammer.

**ON-381.04**, TRAIN NO / OTT. & FI WM R.P.O. ,  
1, FE 7, 14 , is a new **late date** for the hammer.



**ON-381.04**, TRAIN NO / OTT. & FI WM R.P.O. ,  
97, SP 11, 07 , is the first report of **train 97** for the  
hammer.

**ON-381.05**, TRAIN NO / OTT. & FI WM R.P.O. ,  
97, DE 30, 07 , is the first report of **train 97** for the  
hammer.



**ON-381.07**, TRAIN NO / OTT. & FI WM R.P.O. ,  
2, JUL 15, 09 , is a new **early date** for the hammer.

**ON-381.09**, TRAIN NO / OTT. & FI WM R.P.O. ,  
2, JUL 13, 13 , is the first report of **train 2** for the  
hammer.



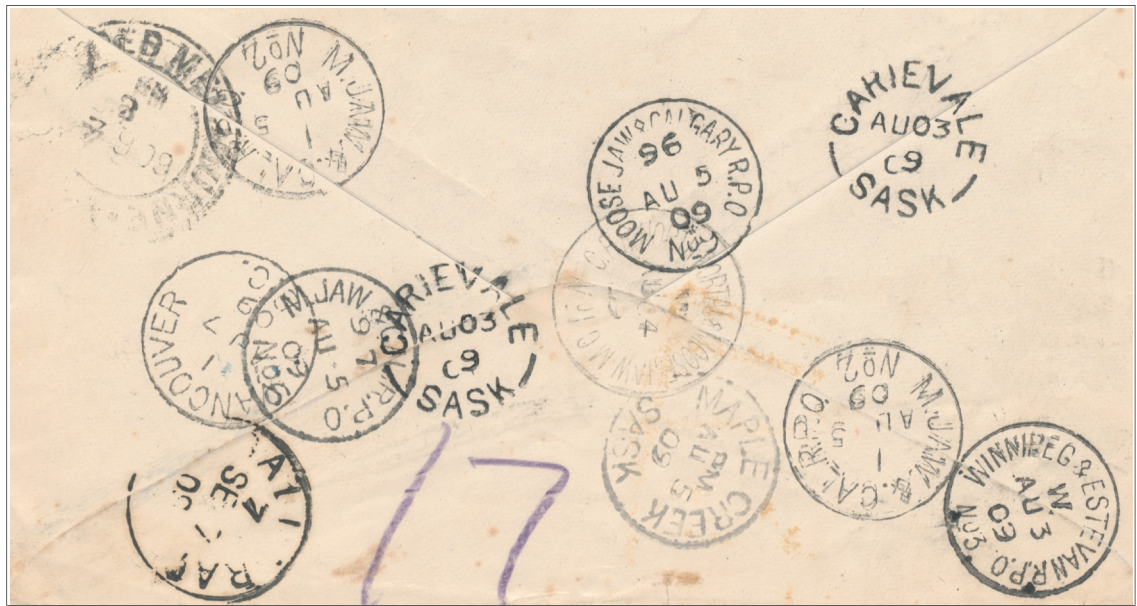
**ON-381.11**, TRAIN NO / OTT. & FI WM R.P.O. ,  
96, JUN 27, 06 , is a new **early date** for the  
hammer.

**ON-383.02**, OTT. & FT. WM. / R.P.O. ,  
5, AU 25, 14 , is a new **late date** and first  
report of **train 5** for the hammer.





## Confusion on the Moose Jaw & Calgary R.P.O. Cars



Ross Gray Collection

This registered cover to Bellarat, Australia, from Carievale, SK (located 66 miles east of Estevan on the Brandon-Napinka-Estevan CPR line) was mailed on August 3, 1909 and transferred to

**WT-877.03**, WINNIPEG & ESTEVAN R.P.O. / N<sup>o</sup> 3, W, AU 3, 09 (The **first report of the 'W' direction** for the hammer.). It arrived at Estevan the following day and was put on board the

**WT-522.01**, C.P.R. NORTH · PORTAL & MOOSE · JAW · M.C. / N<sup>o</sup> 1, W, AU 4, 09 for the trip to Moose Jaw.

From there it apparently played musical trains! There are 3 different Moose Jaw & Calgary R.P.O. backstamps from one eastbound and two different westbound trains,

**WT-381.022**, M. JAW & CAL. R.P.O. / N<sup>o</sup> 2, 1, AU 5, 09 and

**WT-381.061**, M. JAW & CAL. R.P.O. / N<sup>o</sup> 6, 97, AU 5, 09 and

**WT-383.091**, MOOSE JAW & CALGARY / N<sup>o</sup> 9, 96, AU 5, 09.

On one of these mail cars it was sorted into closed bag mail for Vancouver, arriving there on August 7. Arrival in Melbourne and Bellarat was on September 7.



## A New Clerk Handstamp from the Hope & Vancouver R.P.O.



Ross Gray Collection

This registered cover addressed to Hanover, PA from Dewdney, BC (located 6 miles east of Mission and 41 miles west of Hope on the CPR Calgary-Vancouver main line) was postmarked on May 18, 1928. It was transferred to the Calgary & Vancouver R.P.O. on eastbound train 2 the same day. The following day it was received on the Hope & Vancouver R.P.O. on eastbound train 706, where the clerk used his personal handstamp, possibly due to a misdirection of the letter from the Calgary & Vancouver R.P.O. This previously unreported handstamp will be listed as,

**WT-246.55**, Hope & Van. R.P.O. / MEAD , TR. 706, MAY 19, 1928 , Type SPX, R.F. - G .

The next transit backstamp is the Moose Jaw & Calgary R.P.O. , May 21 travelling on east bound train 2. It was received at its destination on May 24.

### Confirmation for ON-646



**Ron Barrett** discovered this example of **ON-646** on an otherwise blank facing slip. We are now able to correct the listing text and add a date and train number.

## ON-381 Hammer Study Update

TRAIN N<sup>o</sup> / OTT. & FT WM R.P.O.

Hammer	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
ON-381.01	8 ½ +	3 ½ -	8 +	7 +	3 ½ -	7 ¼	2 +	5 ¼
ON-381.02	8 -	3 ¼	8 ¼	7 ½ -	4 ½	7 ¾	2	5 ½ +
ON-381.03	8 +	3 ½ -	7 ½ +	7 -	4 -	7 ¾	2 +	4 ¾
ON-381.04	8 +	3 ½ -	8 ½	7 ¾	3 ¾	6 ¼	2 +	4 ¾
ON-381.05	6 ¾ +	3	8 ½	7 ½ -	3 +	6 ½ -	2 ½ -	5 +
ON-381.06	7 ½ +	3 ¼	8 ½ +	7 ½ +	4 ¾	7 ¾	2 ½	5 ½ +
ON-381.07	8 -	3 +	9	8 -	3 ½	6 ¼ +	2 ¾	5 ½
ON-381.08	8 ½	3 ¼	8 ½	6 ¾	3 ½	6	2 ½ -	5 -
ON-381.09	8 ¼	3 ¾	8 +	7	3 ½ +	6 ½ -	2 -	5 ¼
ON-381.10	8 +	3 ½ -	7 ½ +	7	3 ½ +	7 ½	2	5 ¼
ON-381.11	8 ¼	4 -	8	7 -	3 ¼	7 -	2 ¼	5 -
ON-382	7 ¼	2 ¾	7 ½ +	7 +	4 -	7 ¼	2 ½ -	5 ½ +

Hammer	Proof	ERD	LRD	Indicia
ON-381.01	unknown	1904/07/07*	1914/12/15	2,96
ON-381.02	unknown	1904/07/15	1912/08/24	1,2,5,6,96*,97
ON-381.03	unknown	1905/08/24	1914/07/24*	1,2,96,97
ON-381.04	unknown	1904/09/01*	1914/02/07*	1,2,96,97*
ON-381.05	unknown	1908/06/30	1913/01/17	2,5,6,94,96,97*
ON-381.06	1909/03/29	1910/03/13	1912/08/31	2,94,96
ON-381.07	1909/01/02	1909/07/15*	1912/08/17	2,6 inverted,94
ON-381.08	unknown	1907/03/18	1913/02/17	2,96
ON-381.09	unknown	1905/06/19	1915/11/19	1,2*,3,96
ON-381.10	unknown	1908/06/11	1912/09/24	2,96
ON-381.11	unknown	1906/06/27*	1906/07/11	96
ON-382	1913/04/25	1913/06/29	1914/08/26	1,2

\* Jack Brandt collection

.....

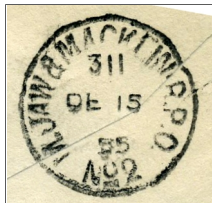
## ON-383 Hammer Study Update

OTT. & FT. WM. / R.P.O.

Hammer	Proof	ERD	LRD	Indicia	a	b	c	d	e
ON-383.01	1912/12/31	1913/04/17	1915/12/10	3,4,6	3 ¼	9 ¾	11 ½ -	8 +	8 ½
ON-383.02	1912/12/31	1913/01/05	1914/08/25*	4,5*,6	3 ¾	10 ¼	11 ¾	7 ½ -	8
ON-383.03	unknown	1913/08/15	1915/11/11	3,4,5,6	3 ½ -	10 ½ -	12 ½ -	7	8 ¾ +

\* Jack Brandt collection

## New Reports



**John Aitken** reports a new **late date** for hammer **WT-440.022**, M. JAW & MACKLIN · R.P.O. / No 2 , 311, DE 15, 55. It is used as a transit stamp on a registered cover from Herschel, SK to Vancouver along with **WT-724.01**, SASK. HARD. & ED. R.P.O. / No. 1 , 51, 15 XII, 55 .

*Correction: There was a typo in the previous newsletter for the year date on the following item from John. The year was '69' as confirmed by several other accompanying postmarks on the cover.*

**MT-108.04**, HALIFAX & CAMP / R.P.O. , 11, NO 12, 69 , is both a new **late date** and first report of **train 11** for the hammer.



**Morris Beattie** reports a new **late date** for hammer **WT-341.02**, M. H. & N. R.P.O. / B.C. , E, AP 14, 09.

We are grateful to **Fred Mason** of Roberts Creek, BC for reporting this unusual use of an RPO clerk's private handstamp. He writes as follows;

"I attach two JPGs of an RPO cancel found inside a book I recently picked up. The book itself is "The Luck Of The Mounted", By Ralph S. Kendall and published by S. B. Gundy in Toronto in 1920. The RPO shows a date of 1944. I bought the book at a flea market in Gibsons, BC and the seller had about 20 books of a similar vintage with the same cancel inside the front and back covers."

It is **WT-574**, Pr. George & Pr. Rupert R.P.O. / M. E. Prendergast , Tr. 196, MAR 10, 1944. Although the clerk used his stamp to identify his books, the indicia set would have been that which had been most recently used on the R.P.O. at the time of application. Therefore we shall accept this odd use as a new **late date** and first report of **train 196**.



## Railway Post Office Study Group Meeting Report from Peter McCarthy

The site of BNAPEX 2016 was the Fredericton Inn, Fredericton, NB. One certainly couldn't ask for a nicer location. A total of six attended the meeting on the Friday at 11:00 AM. After a brief report by the chairman on the status of the group, a fine three frame presentation of the cartwheel markings used by the R.P.O. over the Grand Trunk lines between Island Pond and Montreal, Quebec and Richmond and west of Montreal was given by **Brian Stalker**. This was followed by a lively discussion of these lines and what was formerly known as the Champlain and St. Lawrence line and the Stanstead, Shefford and Chambly Railway. It was certainly good to see Brian again after an absence of several years due to health problems. Brian's three frame exhibit entitled "Newfoundland's Notre Dame Bay Travelling Post Office 1899 – 1955" won a Gold Medal and also earning the William G. Robinson Award for best R.P.O. exhibit. Congratulations Brian.

It certainly would be nice to see more R.P.O. exhibits next year in Calgary. Think about it.

### Please Note the Editor's Change of Address

**Newsletter Editor, Catalogue Editor**

Ross Gray, 459 Cameron Street, Peterborough, ON, K9J 3Z4

Phone 705 748-0247 e-mail oshrr@sympatico.ca

**Secretary-Treasurer, Newsletter Mailer**

Chris Anstead, 3258 Elphin Maberly Road,

McDonald's Corners, ON, K0G 1M0

Phone 613 278-1428 e-mail acropolis@superaje.com