Volume 48 - No. 1 Whole No. 256 January - March, 2020

In this issue we enjoy contributions from Jack Brandt, Cec Coutts, Ross Gray, Bill Longley, Brian Stalker, Simon Taylor-Young and Sean Weatherup.

Sean Weatherup concludes his summary of **Gary Steele's** facing slip find and provides a Secretary-Treasurer's report.

There are also two new hammer studies for MT-163 and ON-162.



QC-450.02, QUEBEC ROB'L. & CHIC'T'I. R.P.O. / . , S, MY 23, 05 , is the **earliest** and only the **second reported date** for this rare hammer. The St. Joseph Beauce receiving backstamp is dated the following day.



 $RY\text{-}97.02, \, \text{INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY} \, / \, \, \text{N.S} \, \, \, \, , \, \, \text{EAST, MR 1, 75} \, , \, \text{is a new late date} \, \, \text{for both the hammer and the listing.}$

New Reports from Ross Gray

On a picture post card of Percé Rock to New Jersey mentioning a pleasant boat trip is MT-24.03, CAM. & LEVIS / R.P.O., 619, 20??, 68, the first report of train 619 for the hammer.





Used as a transit backstamp on a registered cover from Toronto to Glace Bay, MT-50.07, CH'TOWN & SACKVILLE . R.P.O. / . , E, JAN 7, 28 , is the first report of an **E direction** indicium for the hammer.

Used as a transit backstamp on a registered cover from London to Hawkesbury, is a a new **early date** for hammer **QC-209.11**, MONT. & NORTH BAY \cdot R.P.O. / . , 502, DE 1, 38 . It was proof struck on May 27, 1938.





Found as a transit backstamp on a registered cover from Intervale, NB to Hamilton is the first example of **train 19** for **QC-306**, MONT. & TORONTO R.P.O. / . , 19, MY 11, 20 .

Found on a blank facing slip is this new **early date** for **ON-353**, N. B. & TIM. / R.P.O. , 46, OC 19, 47. It was proof struck on August 17, 1945.





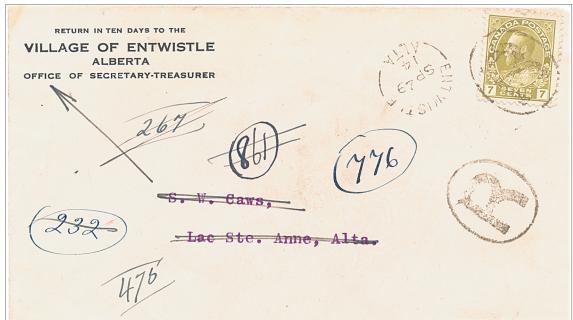
Found as a transit backstamp on a registered cover from Mount St. Patrick, ON to Arnprior, via Renfrew, is a new **early date** for **ON-511**, SH \cdot LAKE & RENFREW / M.C. , S, MR 13, 89. The hammer was proof struck on October 26, 1888.



Used as a transit backstamp on a registered cover from Los Angeles to Hamilton is the first report of train 16 for ON-615, TOR., HAM. & LON. / J. M. FARROW, Tr 16, SEP 18, 1929. It is accompanied by ON-259.06, LONDON & SARNIA R.P.O. / . , 112, SEP 18, 29.

Found as a transit backstamp on a registered cover from Sarnia to Port Hope is a new late date for hammer ON-806.03, G. T. R - T. & S / $_$ 3 $_$, EAST, AP 15, 73 .

New Reports from Ross Gray





WT-210.02, EDMONTON & EDSON \cdot R.P.O. / No 2 , E, SP 30, 14 , is a new **early date** for the hammer and WT-210.03, EDMONTON & EDSON \cdot R.P.O. / No 3 , 1, OC 11, 14 , is a new **early date** for the hammer and the first report of **train 1** for both the hammer and the listing.





WT-307.01

WT-309.04

Used as transit backstamps on a registered Land Titles Office letter from Regina to McDonald Hills, SK and returned as "Not Known" are;

a new **late date** for hammer **WT-307.01**, KIRKELLA & STRASSBURG R.P.O. / N^{Ω} 1 , E, AU 30, 12 , as well as the listing and a new **late date** for hammer **WT-309.04**, KIRKELLA & SASKATOON R.P.O. / N^{Ω} 4 , SP 18, 12 , as well as the listing.

Payment for a Station Letter Box

77

Account of Sums paid in discharge of Tradesmen's Bills, &c., for the year ended 30th September, 1859.—(Continued.)

			Amount.	
		\$	cts	
R. Vick	. Repairing Stamps for Owen Sound Post Office	0	50	
m. McLeod		2	75	
J. Shaw		43	15	
Wiggs		282	24	
hn Robe	Tinsmith's Work for do	18	48	
samer Bowmanville		ī	55	
hn Kempt		20	1 40	
Andrews		91	li	
arles McDonald		î	30	
B. Petitelere		20	04	
mes Roilly	An Office Sign for do	20	5	
Morin		-	۱ "	
Morin		5	00	
Shannon	Quarter, 1855	ŏ	1 18	
		26	30	
Booth		4	0	
hn Ellis		20	1 6	
mos Ellis				
Hewitt	. A Spade for do	1	2	
Valo & Co		42	2	
Bain & Wotherall		170	2	
Harding	Plumber's Work for do	39	75	
tohie & Harris			6:	
ce, Lowis and Son		34	0	
per & Brother		2	100	
Sugden	Portable Printing Press and Electrotypes for do	30	00	
mming & Wolls	Plumber's Work for do	62	9	
W. Drew	Brushes and Baskets for do	8	6:	
H. Holcomb		G	0	
i	Total\$	5832	55	

SIDNEY SMITH,

Postmaster General.

H. A. WICKSTERD,

Accountant.

Bill Longley found an interesting entry in the September, 1859 Post Master General's Report showing that \$2.75 was paid to William McLeod for a letter box at the Perth, Ontario railway station.

In 1859 the Brockville & Ottawa Railway completed a 12 mile branch between Smith's Falls and Perth, and a letter box was installed at the Perth station for receiving mail to be carried on the R.P.O..

The earliest date for the first postmark used on the Brockville-Ottawa line, ON-56, is October 27, 1859.



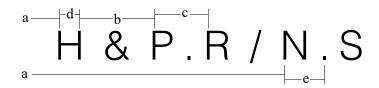
ON-56



Simon Taylor-Young reports a new late date for hammer, WT-383.092, MOOSE JAW & CALGARY \cdot R.P.O. / N $^{\circ}$ 9 , 14, JUL 14, 18.

MT-163 Hammer Study

The editor had long suspected that there might be two hammers for this early postmark and that suspicion was finally confirmed by a recently acquired cover. Apparently the second hammer is scarcer than the first. Proof date(s) are unknown.



Hammer	ERD	LRD	Indicia	a	b	c	d	e
MT-163.01	1869/11/052	1873/09/01	EAST,WEST,blank	17	10 +	7 ½ +	2 1/4	5 -
MT-163.02	1870/08/081	1871/11/04	EAST,WEST ³	18	10 ½	6 ½ -	2 1/2 +	5 1/4
MT-163	1869/04/084	1873/09/01	EAST,WEST,blank					

Brian Stalker ¹ (Partial date is <u>?U</u>, either JU or AU) Jack Brandt ²

Sean Weatherup ³

Colin Lewis 4



MT-163.01



MT-163.02

ON-162 Hammer Study

Brian Stalker observed that there were two hammers for this listing, prompting this new hammer study.



Hammer	Letter Height	a	b	c	d	e
ON-162.01	3 ½ -	6 3/4	2 1/4	8 -	7 ½	11
ON-162.02	3	6 -	2 3/4	6 ½ +	6 3/4	11 3/4

Hammer	Proof Date	ERD	LRD	Indicia
ON-162.01	1892/10/15	1893/03/301	1899/10/071	NORTH,SOUTH,S,blank
ON-162.02	unknown	1894/06/021	1899/12/061	NORTH,N,SOUTH,blank ²
ON	-162	1892/11/15	1899/11/291	NORTH,N,SOUTH,S,blank

Jack Brandt ¹ (The ON-162.02 LRD year date is a single "9", assumed to be 1899) Brian Stalker²



ON-162.01



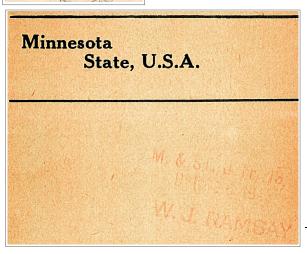
ON-162.02

New Reports from Jack Brandt



MT-96.02, HALIFAX & CAMPBELLTON \cdot R.P.O. / . , 1, JUL 25, 22 , is the **second reported and latest 2nd period date** and first report of **train 1** for the hammer.

QC-301.04, MONTREAL & TORONTO \cdot R.P.O. / . , 19, MY 1, 46 , is a new **early date** for the hammer.





 $QC\text{-}253.55,\,\text{M.}$ & ST. J. TR, 13 / W. J. RAMSAY , DEC 16 1943 , is a newly listed type SL0R, previously unrecorded clerk handstamp.

QC-399.05, QUEBEC & COCHRANE / R.P.O., 12, FE 3, 48, is a new **late date** for both the hammer and the listing. (*The LRD shown in the catalogue is a typo.*)



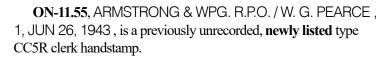


QC-451.06, QUE. ROB. & CHIC. R.P.O. /., 164, JAN 4, 33, is the first report of **train 164** for the hammer.

QC-451.06, QUE. ROB. & CHIC. R.P.O. / . , 163, JAN 18, 35 , is the first report of $train\ 163$ and a new late date for the hammer.

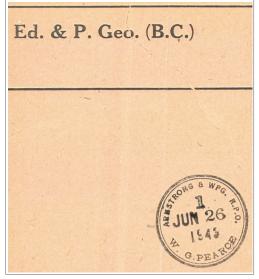


QC-491.02, SI ARMAND & MONTREAL \cdot R.P.O. / . , N, SP 12, 29 , is a new **late date** for both the hammer and the listing.





ON-40.04, BRIDGEBURG & GODERICH R.P.O. / . , T1E, AP 4, 21 , is a new **late date** for the hammer.



New Reports from Jack Brandt



 $\mathbf{ON\text{-}120},\,\mathsf{FROM}\,/\,\mathsf{FT}.\,\mathsf{WM}.\,\&\,\mathsf{WPG}.\,/\,\mathsf{J}.\,\mathsf{T}.\,\mathsf{SMITH}$, Tr. 3, JUN 27, 1943 , is the first report of $train\ 3.$

ON-150, GODERICH & BRANTFORD $/ \cdot M.C. \cdot$, E, JY 19, 94, is a new **early date**.



ON-329.55, N. B. & FT. WM. R.P.O. / G. V. CASSELMAN, Tr. 1, JUN 27, 1943, is is a previously unrecorded, **newly listed** type CC3R clerk handstamp.



ON-350.02, NORTH BAY & TIMMINS / R.P.O., 47, SP 27, 37, is the first report of **train 47** and a new **late date** for the hammer.



 $\mathbf{ON\text{-}369},\,\mathsf{OTT}.\,\,\&\,\,\mathsf{CALUMET}\,/\,\,\mathsf{M.C.}$, E, NO 12, 94 , is a new early date.



ON-381.10, TRAIN \mathbb{N}^{Q} / OTT. & F^I WM R.P.O. , 96, SP 10, 06 , is a new **early date** for the hammer.



ON-506.02, SI THOMAS & WINDSOR R.P.O. / . , 365, SP 2, 47 , is the first report of **train 365** for the hammer and the listing.



ON-568, TOR. & FT. WM. R.P.O. / J. H. McRAE , Tr. 3, JUN 26, 1943 , is a new **late date**.



ON-658.01, TOR. LON. & WINDSOR / R.P.O., 10, AU 17, 60, is a new **late date** for the hammer.



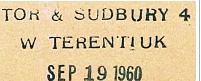
ON-658.05, TOR. LON. & WINDSOR / R.P.O., 9, MY 1, 58, is a new late date for the hammer.



ON-737, TORONTO & NORTH BAY M.C. G.T.R / N° 3 , 65, DE 2, 08 , is the first report of **train 65**.



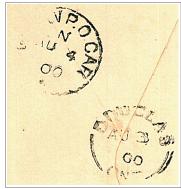
ON-772, TOR., NORTH BAY, R.P.O. / W. McINTYRE, 46, MAR 14, 1961, is a **complete date** and allows the listing text to be correctly punctuated.



ON-851, TOR & SUDBURY 4 / W TERENTIUK / SEP 19 1960, is a new **early date** and allows the listing text to be corrected.



New Reports from Jack Brandt



ON-876, W. MAN. P.O. CAR / . , N, AU 4, 00 , is a new **late date**.



SN-18.03, CAN. NAT'L. RY. STN. / · LONDON · ONT. · , 19, AU 31, 39 , is a new **early date** for the hammer.



SN-18.06, CAN. NAT'L RY. STN. / LONDON. ONT., 22, VIII 10, 55, is the first report of time mark 22 for the hammer.



SN-18.06, CAN. NAT'L RY. STN. / LONDON. ONT., 24, XI 8, 55, is the first report of **time** mark 24 for both the hammer and the listing.

SN-23.04, MONCTON STATION / N.B., 4, JUL 7, 39, is the first report of **time mark** 4 for both the hammer and the listing.



SN-23.04, MONCTON STATION / N.B., 16, 26 II, 57, is the first report of **time mark 16** for the hammer.



SN-23.05, MONCTON STATION / N.B. , 8, 9 XII, 58 , is a new early date for the hammer.



SN-29.02, MONTREAL \cdot P.Q. $/\cdot$ BONAVENTURE STA'N. \cdot , 8 AM, MY 14, 38 , is the first report of an **8 AM** time indicium for the hammer.



RY-210.02, W. G. & B. R / $_$ N $^{\circ}$ - 2 $_$, SOUTH, 29 MY, 83 , is a new **late date** for the hammer.

New Reports from Cec Coutts



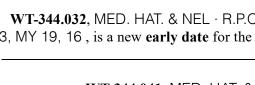
WT-212.031, EDM. & PR. GEORGE · R.P.O. / Nº 3, 1, JUL 22, 16, is the first report of train 1 for both the hammer and the listing.



WT-344.011, MED. HAT. & NEL. R.P.O. / Nº 1, 13, JUL 7, 14, is the first report of train 13 for the hammer.



WT-344.032, MED. HAT. & NEL · R.P.O. / Nº 3, 13, MY 19, 16, is a new early date for the hammer.





WT-344.041, MED. HAT. & NEL. R.P.O. / Nº 4, 68, NO 14, 17, is the first report of train 68 for the hammer.



Found as a transit backstamp on a registered cover from Blairmore, AB to Coleman, AB is the previously unrecorded clerk stamp, WT-353.55, M. H. & N. R.P.O. / C. D. MA- - - - - , Tr. 511 APR 17 '13 , type SLOR, R.F. - G.



Found as a transit backstamp on a registered cover from Frank, AB to Coleman, AB is the previously unrecorded clerk stamp, WT-354.55, MED HAT & NEL R.P.O. / P. C. Morrison R.M.C., TR. 511 FEB 19 13, type OV2R, R.F. - G.

I have used words like extraordinary, exceptional, remarkable and amazing when describing the extent of the horde of cancels I have been cataloguing and studying for Gary. Part III goes beyond that. The following scans are all clerk cancels used on western division or district cancels. At first glance I once again assumed I was not going to find a whole lot to report. I was not really all that familiar with the District and Division departments, as I mainly collect Maritime RPOs and there are only two such cancels known. There is also one from Ontario. The remainder of these cancels all come from the west; specifically Calgary, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, Vancouver and Winnipeg.

Ross Gray's 2009 catalogue lists 115 cancels from these five cities. When I went to the more recent 2015 catalogue I was surprised to discover that there were only two new additions. This seemed rather low considering the overall increase of listings that occurred between the two catalogues. I decided to dig a little deeper and went back to Ludlow's 1982 catalogue where 87 of the 115 cancels were known at that time. When I checked Shaw's listings I found 34 were known.

So while Ludlow more than doubled Shaw's listings over 19 years, Gray's original catalogue only increased the listings by 32% over 27 years. The cancels shown on the next pages will further the listing by another 20% with 23 reports of unknown clerk cancels. There are also 12 known cancels that combine for 10 new LRD's, one new ERD, and 10 new train numbers. The LRD's extend the period of use anywhere from two to six years while the ERD is a second report the pre-dates the original by just over one year. There are four other second reports here as well.

This particular aspect of RPO collecting has a great potential for further discoveries. The main problem is where to find such cancels. They are almost exclusively used on facing slips when forwarding mail from one train route to another. There would be no official use on actual mail. Acknowledgement slips and registered letter bills could be another source. The other problem is the fact that these cancels do not look like typical RPO's since they do not show the two termini normally seen on an RPO. This means that some dealers may not be placing these items within their RPO boxes. One will have to search diligently to come up with these cancels.



WT-1017, CALGARY DIVISION / J. J. SPENCER, Tr. 5, OC 7, 1958, is a new **late date**.

WT-1022.55, CALGARY DIV. / M. ROMBOUGH , Tr , 5, NOV, 23 , type CC3R, is a previously unrecorded clerk and a new listing.





WT-1026, MOOSE JAW DISTRICT / J. BRATTON, blank, JAN 22, 1959, is a new late date and the first report of a blank train number indicium.

WT-1036, MOOSE JAW DIVISION / R. P. LAW , Tr 63, JAN 5, 1959 , is a new late date and the first report of train 63.





WT-1038, MOOSE JAW DISTRICT / W. J. KERWIN, Tr. 62, JUN 16, 1958, is a new late date and the first report of train 62.



WT-1039, MOOSE JAW DIV. / S. RIVERS , Tr. 201, JAN 7, 1959 , is a new late date and the first report of train 201.



WT-1045.02, MOOSE JAW (DIVISION removed) / A. D. ACORN, blank, OCT 3, 1958, is the first report of the modified handstamp.

WT-1049, MOOSE JAW DISTRICT / A. ELLIOT, Tr. 66, JUL 15, 1958, is a second date and corrects the catalogue listing to a type CC5R and train 66 not 56.





WT-1049, MOOSE JAW DISTRICT / A. ELLIOT, Tr. 66, OCT 7, 1958, is a new late date.

> WT-1051.55, MOOSE JAW DIST. / R. SHIELS, blank, NOV 15, 1958, is the earliest date for this previously unreported clerk, type CC5R, new listing.





WT-1051.55, MOOSE JAW DIST. / R. SHIELS, blank, NOV 22, 1958, is the latest date for this previously unreported clerk, type CC5R, new listing.

> WT-1053, MOOSE JAW DISTRICT / H. A. LAW, Tr. 13, SEP, 29, is a **second date** and the first report of train 13.



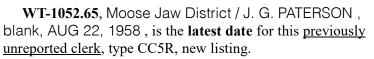


WT-1053, MOOSE JAW DISTRICT / H. A. LAW . Tr. 201, JAN, 22, is a **third date** and the first report of train 201.

> WT-1052.55, MOOSE JAW DIV. / R. D. JONES, Tr. 208, JUL 28, 1958, is a new previously unreported clerk listing.



WT-1052.65, Moose Jaw District / J. G. PATERSON, blank, AUG 13, 1958, is the earliest date for this previously unreported clerk, type CC5R, new listing.





WT-1053.35, MOOSE JAW DIVISION / KEN JONES , blank, OCT 2, 1958, is the earliest date for this previously unreported clerk, type CC5R, new listing.



WT-1053.35, MOOSE JAW DIVISION / KEN JONES . blank, JAN 23, 1959, is the **latest date** for this previously unreported clerk, type CC5R, new listing.









WT-1053.38, MOOSE JAW DISTRICT / K. R. - - RICE, Tr. 61, JAN 22, 1959, is a new previously unreported clerk listing.

WT-1063, SASKATOON DIV. / A. H. GENT, Tr. 9, JAN 23, 1958, is a new **late date**.





WT-1064, SASKATOON DIS. / J. H. REVILL, Tr. 41, NOV 29, 1958, is the first report of train 41 and a new late date.

WT-1068, SASKATOON DISTRICT / W. T. McCUSTER , Tr. 41, AUG 13, 1958 , is the first report of **train 41**.





 $WT\text{-}1068, \, \text{SASKATOON DISTRICT} \, / \, \text{W. T. McCUSTER} \, ,$ Tr. 42, DEC 27, 1958 , is the first report of $train \, 42$ and a new late date.

WT-1074.55, SASKATOON DIVISION / F. A. ALLARD , TR. 41, DATE 23 AUG 1958 , is a <u>previously unreported</u> <u>clerk</u>, type SL0R, **new listing**.





WT-1073.55, SASKATOON DIST. / K. BROCKINGTON , Tr. 9, MR 29, 1957 , is a previously unreported clerk, type CC5R, new listing.

WT-1073.55, SASKATOON DIST. / K. BROCKINGTON , Tr. 9, JUL 10, 1958 , is a <u>previously unreported clerk</u>, type CC5R, **new listing**.





WT-1075.55, SASKATOON DISTRICT / B. C. SHAW , Tr. 9, AUG 11, 1958 , is a previously unreported clerk, type CC5R, new listing.

WT-1075.55, SASKATOON DISTRICT / B. C. SHAW , Tr. 9, JAN 24, 1959 , is a previously unreported clerk, type CC5R, **new listing**.





WT-1076.55, SASKATOON DIV. / R. L. TAGGART, Tr. 11, NOV 1, is a <u>previously unreported clerk</u>, type CC5R, **new listing**.

WT-1076.55, SASKATOON DIV. / R. L. TAGGART , Tr. 12, NOV 8 , is a <u>previously unreported clerk</u>, type CC5R, **new listing**.





WT-1077.55, A. ANGELL / Saskatoon Div. , blank, OCT 7, is a <u>previously unreported clerk</u>, type CC3R, **new listing**.

WT-1077.55, A. ANGELL / Saskatoon Div. , blank, OCT 11, is a <u>previously unreported clerk</u>, type CC3R, **new listing**.





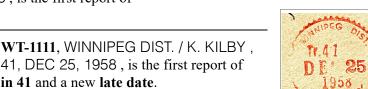
WT-1092, WINNIPEG DISTRICT / R. E. BALDWIN, Tr. 5, JAN 19, 1959, is a new late date and the first report of train 5.



WT-1110.55, WINNIPEG DIST. / A. V. TOAL , Tr. 33, JUL 28, 1958, is a previously unreported clerk, type CC6R, new listing.



WT-1111, WINNIPEG DIST. / K. KILBY, Tr. 42, NOV 8, 1958, is the first report of train 42.





Tr. 41, DEC 25, 1958, is the first report of train 41 and a new late date.

WT-1111.55, WPG. DIVISION R.M.S. / E. W. LEWIS , Tr. 42, DEC 28, 1958, is a previously unreported clerk, type CC6R, new listing.



WT-1112.55, WINNIPEG DIST. / L. McCARTH--, Tr. 10, OCT 14, 1958, is a previously unreported clerk, type CC6R, new listing.



WT-1113, WPG. DIST. R.M.S. / A. J. JANSSENS, TR 5, JUL 1, 1958, is a new early date and the first report of train 5.



WT-1113.55, WINNIPEG DIST. / D. R. TRAINER, Tr. 10, JUL 18, 1958, is a previously unreported clerk, type CC5R, new listing.



WT-1114.55, WPG. DIVISION R.M.S. / L. A. WILLIAMS, Tr. 42, AUG 7, 1958, is a previously unreported clerk, type CC6R, new listing.



WT-1114.55, WPG. DIVISION R.M.S. / L. A. WILLIAMS. Tr. 42, OCT 7, 1958, is a previously unreported clerk, type CC6R, new listing.



WT-1115.55, W. G. McKELVEY / WPG DIST. R.M.S., Tr. 42, JAN 22, 1959, is a previously unreported clerk, type CC5R, new listing.



WT-1115.65, WINNIPEG DISTRICT / A - - - - MOORE. Tr. 42, JAN 24, 1959, is a previously unreported clerk, type CC6R, new listing.



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New Reports



SN-38, MONTREAL. / C.P.R. Windsor St. Station, ?? ??, 1922, is the **first reported use** of one of these rubber handstamps. A similar but different stamp was proof struck on October 28, 1921 according to Ludlow's records. (The overall height of this strike is \sim 22 mm but the overall height of the proof strike is \sim 29 mm.)

MONTREAL.

OCT 28 1921

C.P.R. Windsor St. Station.

SN-38 proof strike

Secretary-Treasurer's Report from Sean Weatherup

I hope everyone is having a good start to 2020. On behalf of the RPO study group, I would like to send a great big thank you to **Terry Sitch** out in Winnipeg. Terry has made a very generous donation of his excess mint Canadian postage stamps from his stock pile. This donation will cover our postage needs for at least 5 issues. Thank you Terry.

On a sadder note, I must report the non-renewal of two members.

Bernie Smith of Winnipeg has written to indicate he is at a stage where he is cutting back on his collecting interests.

Walter Veraart of Castricum, The Nederland sends greetings, through his wife. She has written me on behalf of Walter, to tell of a terrible accident where Walter fell and broke his neck. He can no longer use his hands and informs us that sadly, he will no longer continue to be a member of our group.

Our prayers are with you.

The Halifax Convention is starting to shape up and the website should be up and running by the time this issue reaches you. I hope to see many of you there.

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