

having been delisted, we have established this error as a major listing, N-18, with the earliest date of December 14, 1911 and the latest date of June 29, 1912. Since N-16 is not at all so uncommon, we wonder if there are other N-18s out there waiting to be found.



Fig. 2—Error N-18 for N-16, Joe Purcell



—Error N-18 for N-16, Palmer Moffat

Comments on Rubber Hammers

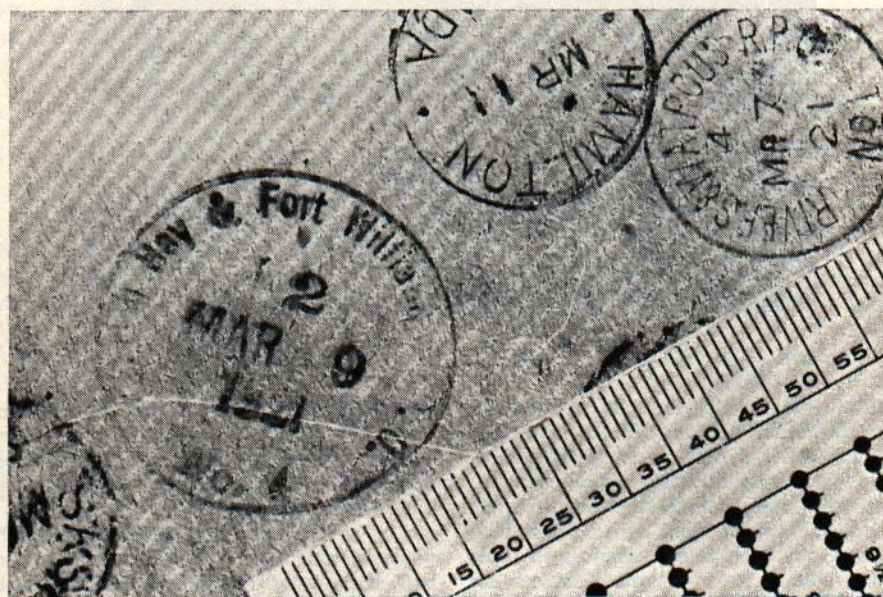
About ten years ago, Allan Steinhart reviewed the Pritchard and Andrews Proof Books in Ottawa and reported to Shaw on the existence of a number of rubber hammers, similar in lettering to many of our common R.P.O.s, but much larger in size, average diameter fully over 30mm, in contrast to the smaller steel hammers which are usually in the 24mm range of diameter. In 1972, in our examination of the proof books, we were able to confirm Steinhart's work and determined that there were at

least 113 different strikes illustrated in these proof books, represented by 332 strikes. In the preparation of the 1975 catalogue, there were so few of these known to have existed in postal use that the decision was made not to list all in the proof books, but only those which had been discovered in some form of postal use. As of this year, only nine have since been discovered and reported, specifically, M-11I, M-37B, M-52B, M-60A, Q-6A, O-355G, W-27C, W-146A and R-101B. Now, we are pleased to confirm that another of these proof strikes has been recorded and then confirmed in actual use. Graham Noble first reported O-297B, PRESCOTT & OTTAWA R.P.O., Type 5, May 21, 1922, on a Smith Belting C.O.D. cover, (not suitable for photograph); as per Fig. 4, this has now been confirmed by Ross Gray with two strikes on piece dated M.P., April 21, 1921. In addition to the 113 different proof strikes, and the ten listings therefrom that have been confirmed, we have also confirmed and listed 14 of these rubber hammers for which there are *no* proof strikes. These are Q-46D, Q-68A, Q176G, Q-205B, Q-263B, Q-274A, Q-282A, Q-305B, Q309A, O-207A, O-398A, O-412A, W-27D and W-195M. (As we know, the proof books are not complete.) Now, we are able to add another to this group to make the total fifteen; as illustrated in Fig. 5, North Bay & Fort William R.P.O./No. 4, Train 2, March 9, 1921, has also been recorded from Ross Gray. This has been temporarily listed as O-192C, but will be renumbered in the new catalogue. We note for the record that within the 113 proof strikes, there is one similar to O-192C; however, it has No. 6 at the bottom, rather than No. 4, and there is only the single proof strike.

As illustrated in Fig. 6, Don Wilson has sent in a lovely cancellation reading S.S. OTHAR/JUL 13, 1915, a probable new steamer listing; however, we have been completely unable to get a fix or an identification on the OTHAR which would pinpoint it as a vessel operating under Newfoundland control in Newfoundland waters, which would be required for listing. To date, we have listed from known reports or examples, N-55, S.S. BAR HAVEN, S.S. HOME and S.S. SAGONA; N-55C, S.S. CLYDE; and N-55F, S.S. GLENCOE. Also listed as N-81, N-103 and N-104 is the S.S. NORTHERN RANGER. In consulting the



Fig. 4 — Unlisted Prescott & Ottawa R.P.O. P.M. April 14, 1921 (black)



property Ross Gray



Fig. 6—Property Don Wilson



Fig. 7—N-55A GLENWOOD property Bob Soper



Fig. 8—N-A6 Nov 23, 1924 property Don Wilson

literature, we find that the S.S. BACALIEU, S.S. BURGEON, S.S. KYLE, S.S. PORTIA and S.S. PROSPERO were also in Newfoundland service although no cancellations from these vessels have been reported. In all of our investigation, no reference to OTHAR has been found. Can any of our readers give us any background data on the S.S. OTHAR which apparently was in Newfoundland waters in mid-1915?

Help Received

In recent issues of the Cowcatcher we

presented several unknowns that offered good opportunity for identification. Dave McKain has nailed down one of these, specifically Fig. 7, page 21, of the Sept./Oct., 1980 issue of *Topics*. Dave submitted a partial strike (not suitable for photograph) which ties with and completes the bottom half of the previously unknown strike; what we now have is a new clerk for Q-52A. The complete strike reads JOS. BEAULIEU/ LEVIS & SHERBROOKE, Type 6G. Neither strike has a complete date; however, our original unknown was on a 2c Edward while Dave's strike is on a 2c Admiral. Many thanks, Dave.

More New Ground for Newfoundland

In our 1975 catalogue, we listed two towns for the Ticket Stamps of N-55A, specifically GAMBO and MILLERSTOWN/JUNCTION. Since that time, we have announced here in the Cowcatcher the discovery of the additional towns of ARNOLD'S COVE and CARBONEAR. These were just the beginning. Since our last reports, several additional towns have been reported for the first time. Bob Soper and Bill Robinson have both submitted confirmed strikes of N-55A for LEWISPORTE and CORNER BROOK. Dave McKain and Soper both have confirmed strikes of CURLING, while McKain and Ludlow have identical strikes of CRABBS. Ludlow has a confirmed strike of BISHOP FALLS, while Soper has a confirmed strike each of AVONDALE and GLENWOOD (for latter, see Fig. 7). Robinson has also submitted a strike which tentatively has been identified as DEER LAKE, but needs confirmation. All of the foregoing fall under N-55A. Additionally, Soper has a confirmed new town for N-55D, namely

DOYLES. Finally, we have two more strikes from Soper, GRAND FALLS and STEPHENVILLE / CROSSING, for which the top of the strike is not visible and thus we do not know if these are N-55A, B, C, D, E or F; hopefully, some of our readers can match up and identify these partial strikes.

First Report

As illustrated in Fig. 8, Don Wilson has submitted the first report confirmed by us of N-46, a lovely full strike dated November 23, 1924; interestingly enough, this is the only date that was reported by Meyer-son. Is this then the only known strike of N-46? This issue of the Cowcatcher has been replete with information on Newfoundland strikes, since it is this area currently undergoing hammer analysis in the R.P.O. Study Group *Newsletter*, available to all members of the R.P.O. Study Group. Those interested in the Study Group, but not yet members, should contact Jim Lehr, 2918 Chesire Road, Devon, Wilmington, Delaware 19810, U.S.A.

Charles G. Firby wins Grand Award at BNAPEX '80

Charles Firby of Southfield, Michigan won the Grand Award at BNAPEX '80 held at McAllen, Texas—with his outstanding study of "Canadian Postal Rates 1859-68, and shown on covers bearing the 1859 Decimal Issue". He had terrific competition as other Gold Medal winners were *Allan Steinhart* "Stampless to and From Canada"—*Art Leggett* "Leafs and Numerals, 1897-1902"—*Ed Richardson* "4-Ring Numeral Cancellations on the Pence and 59s"—*Robert Pratt* "1910 Guy Issue of Newfoundland".

Winners of VERMEIL Medals were *Jack Wallace* "British Columbia and Vancouver Island"—*Larry Paige* "Flag Cancellations, 1896-1902"—*Joe DiCiommo* "Canada Large Queens of 1868" and *Bill Rockett* "Western Provinces and Territorial Revenues."

SILVER medals were won by *Lee Brandom* "Newfoundland Postal Stationery"—

Earl Corvet "Queen Victoria Postal Stationery"—*Mickey Richardson* "Anglo-Boer War Patriotics"—*Lee Brandom* "Canada Postage Booklets and Panes"—*Clarence Stillions* "Newfoundland Coronation Issue, 1937."

The SILVER-BRONZE winners were *Jack Myers* "Semi-Official Airs"—*Ed Christman, Jr.* "Semi-Official Airs"—*Barry Shapiro* "Exhibition & Celebration Covers"—*David McKain* "Maritime R.P.O. Cancellations"—*H. G. Walburn* "Canadian Precancels"—*John Siverts* "Federal Revenues" (also won the NOVICE Award)—*Guy des Rivieres* "Money Letters" and *Barry Shapiro* "King Edward Postal Stationery".

The BRONZE awards went to *Jonathan Johnson* "Canadian Railway Postal Perfins"—*Erick Middleton* "C.P.R. Railway Adv. Postal Cards"—*Jeff Switt* "Type I Squared Circle Cancellations"—*Don Makinen* "Imperial Penny Postage" and *Clinton Phillips* "Type II Squared Circles of the Maritimes".