



The RPO Cowcatcher

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TOKYO EXPRESS!

AT LONG LAST!

Our new R.P.O. Catalogue will be available in time for BNAPEX '82, and my wife, Mac, and I will be at Virginia Beach to give it a proper christening. Meet us wherever Larry Paige has set up the mint juleps!

In keeping all abreast of our continuing saga, we can advise that a printer here in Japan has been selected, cover material and spring back coil chosen and, after trial printing on several different qualities, paper decided upon. The finished manuscript will be finalized no later than August, and the printer will deliver the completed edition no later than September.

Pricing of the new book will be announced in the September/October Cowcatcher along with more specific details. During the summer we will be arranging for shipment to North America and developing channels of distribution so that the catalogue will be available to all interested. All of the above assumes that Murphy's Law has already taken all its toll, and that we will be subjected to no further glitches that would upset this time table. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel!!!

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UNKNOWN TRACK

We have heard from several of our correspondents that the S. S. OTHAR, reported on previously, was not a vessel ever under control of Newfoundland or sailing in Newfoundland waters. Until we can get a definite fix on the owners and flag of this ship, we are deep-sixing this strike to our unknown file. As a new challenge for our Newfoundland specialists, we offer the photo shown above of an apparent oval (slight) strike of SPRUCE BROOK, October 26, 1925. Can anybody connect this to some let-



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tering across the top of the strike? This appears very similar in shape and size of lettering to N- 46A, discovered by Jim Miller, which reads NEWFOUNDLAND / RAILWAY / CRABBS, dated October 31, 1924, just about the same period. This SPRUCE BROOK strike needs help for a new listing.

A FASCINATING CLERK STRIKE



Bill Robinson

In the marvellous group of clerk strikes acquired last year by Bill Robinson, is another that we consider quite unusual. The cancellation reads ST. JOHN & MONTREAL R.P.O. / D.A. ROBINSON/ST. JOHN, in which the run and clerk's name are between the two circles, while the town is in a box, external to the outer ring. This will be established as a new Type 6 in the new catalogue. In any of these strikes, where the town is external to the ring, e.g. this and Q-27, such listings will be carried in regular sections, and not in the Ticket Stamp Section. Bill's strike is one on facing slip. Let's hope that this can be found on stamp or cover.

NEW TRACK FOR NEWFOUNDLAND



Ron Kitchen

In Ottawa last September we met - for the first time - one of our newer R.P.O. Study Group members, Ron Kitchen. Ron enters our recorded files, as Reporter # 210, with an important first report of S. S. LEWISPORTE / NEWF'D, on cover, dated December 9, 1916. Based on the proof data of some twenty-five strikes, reported by Bob Pratt, this discovery was expected, and Ron wins first honours. The proof strike was dated November 6, 1909. This hammer appears to have been in use for at least six full years so additional reports can be anticipated. Who will be next?

TO LIST OR NOT TO LIST? (That is the question.)

Ross Gray has submitted the above photograph of W-30, P-8 Ornament, + C. & V. R.P.O. + / B.C., plus a further enlargement wherein the year set of the indicia has been replaced by



Ross Gray

the clerk initials "R.J.H.", and suggests that this deserves a separate listing. Jim Lehr had previously sent us a xerox copy of the same strike with the same suggestion. This is not a new dis-



Ross Gray

covery, and while it certainly is not common, it cannot be considered as rare. An interesting point - no one, to date, has been able to pinpoint any specific year of use. I had previously indicated to Jim that this merely seemed to be an indicia variety; however, Ross feels that it