



The RPO Cowcatcher

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NEW CATALOGUE

At the time of writing (late August), the first copies of the new catalogue have been received, but it will be early December when this issue of Topics delivers this Cowcatcher, and many of our readers will already have picked up their copies of the new catalogue. Because of this interval comment on reader reaction is thus impossible until the next issue of Topics. Normally, Cowcatcher content is not critical to closing deadlines, but here we have an exception. So, onward and upward with new data and information. Railway cancellations are never static.

COWCATCHER UPDATE



Don Wilson

In the new catalogue we prominently displayed the unknown and unlisted S.S. OTHAR, a steamer cancellation on a 2¢ Newfoundland Princess illustrated here and previously shown in this column. Our thesis was that, properly broadcast, someone would pinpoint this vessel which we had earlier laid to rest. The stratagem worked! It worked so well that key data came in on the S.S. OTHAR before the catalogue was back from the printer! On a trip down to Newfoundland this summer, Palmer Moffat unearthed a 1910 Yearbook and Almanac of Newfoundland. In it, under Post Office Department, Bay and Coastal Steamers, we find the S.S. OTHAR serving the Fortune Bay District in

the South Coast Service. Awaiting the arrival of the S.S. GLENCOE from Placentia, the S.S. OTHAR departed Belleoram on Sunday, moving east around Fortune Bay through Terenceville to Fox Cove, with about a dozen intermediate stops coming and going. After returning to Belleoram, the vessel then moved west as far as Hermitage Bay, making almost 40 stops before returning once again to Belleoram, we presume in time to start out the following Sunday. While we do not yet know the name of the registered owner of this vessel, this data fully authenticates the conveying of mail by the S.S. OTHAR and we are pleased to list this single rare strike of Don Wilson, with an assist to Palmer Moffat, as follows: S-250 S.S. OTHAR/, Type 22B, 1915, R.F.-500*, Reporters-197, 209.



L. M. Ludlow

TO LIST OR NOT - IT'S LISTED - TWICE.

In the July-August issue of Topics, we agreed to list the use of the initials "RJH" in place of the year, as illustrated, in the Ornament Section. This has been done as follows: W-30a, Ornament # 116 Variety, 'RJH' clerk initials, Type 21L, 1915, R.F.-500*, Reporters-137, 142. Since locking the manuscript into the