



The RPO Cowcatcher

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Since our last writing my wife, Mac, and I journeyed to Winnipeg for the annual gathering of the clan at BNAPEX '83. This was made easy by being just one stop out of Tokyo, although head winds gave us a tight connection of seven minutes at Vancouver. The R.P.O. Study Group meeting was well attended, with some 35 railway specialists, all of whom received complete copies of the 1983 Annex I supplement to the 1982 R.P.O. Catalogue. Discussion was held on future activities, including annual publication of the Annex, a book on detailed hammer analyses of the Maritimes and Newfoundland, possible improvements in future editions of the catalogue, and hammer analysis of the Quebec listings. We were able to advise that in the first year of availability approximately 600 copies of the catalogue had been sold, out of the 1,500 that were printed; we feel this is a quite satisfactory showing for a book in such a specialized field. Dave McKain distributed his latest Study Group Newsletter, and indicated that there would be one or two more yet this year.

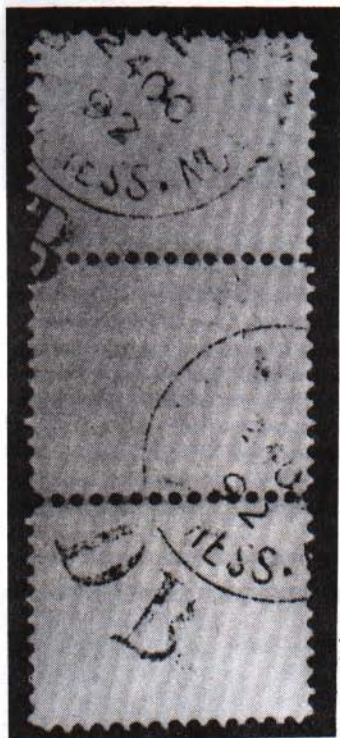
Editor's Note: Lew Ludlow was elected to the Order of the Beaver at Winnipeg. See the BNAPEX '83 coverage elsewhere in this issue for full details.

NEW TRACK

For years one of our own specialities within the railways has been clerk strikes of Quebec on stamp, an area that has received no less than 30-40 years of study by Dr. Whitehead, Rev. Gedye, A. V. Richardson and many others. Imagine then our pleasure and surprise to have received earlier this year from Peter Lerpiniere the illustrated strike on a strip of three 1¢ Small Queens, which after thorough scrutiny we have confirmed as the following new listing:

Q-195Bc QUE & CAMPBELLTON / EXPRESS - / DB, Type 21C, E, 1892,
RF-500*, Rptr 20

This extraordinary new discovery prompted a spate of study on our part (delaying unduly



E. Lerpiniere

the return of this new listing to Lerpiniere), an in-depth analysis of all the Q-188 EXPRESS hammers, eight in number, plus six analogs of external clerk numerals and initials. The resulting work, an eight page thesis, will be presented this year as an R.P.O. Study Group Newsletter. Interested non-members of the Study Group should contact Dave McKain, 5 Meadowcrest, Parkersburg, W. Va. 26101. Lerpiniere's remarkable find shows that there is still 'gold in them thar hills'!

MORE NEW TRACK

As reported in Annex I, new Reporter 218, J. M. McCrea, has submitted a marvellous new



J. M. McCrea

Unfortunately, the year of the December 19 date is not decipherable despite Gray's excellent photograph through a blue filter. Has anybody else ever seen this one? We need a date, probably somewhere in the 1920s.

AND YET MORE NEW TRACK



H. Reiche

listing:

N-32A FOGO DIST T. P. O. / NEWF'D, Type 4J, 1923, R.F. 500*

We also find this discovery quite remarkable. Like the Quebec clerk strikes, Newfoundland T.P.O.s have had years of study by the brothers Meyerson and their associates, but this new item has never been seen previously. We suspect this may be a corrected hammer for N-32, where DIST replaced the error DICT, noting that N-32 precedes N-32A in its period of use. Who will find the next one?

From Hans Reiche, we have another new Quebec clerk strike, also received subsequent to Annex I. After changing Q-45D to Q-45Dd, we list Reiche's discovery as follows:

Q-45Db JOS. LABRECQUE / LEVIS & MONTREAL, Type 6G, Tr. 199, 1914, Rf 500*, Rptr. 108

Reiche submitted an excellent match of two to make up the single strike, fully confirming the listing of this red-violet strike; however, even under a red filter, the confirming copy of the bottom of the strike did not photograph well, so we have illustrated only the clerk portion.

NEWER NEW TRACK



R. D. Gray

In a recent report, subsequent to Annex I, Ross Gray has continued his steady flow of new discoveries, including the following new listing:

W-12D BRANDON & REGINA / B.C. PHOENIX, Type 3D, W, 1¢ yellow Adm., RF-500*, Rptr 142

This lovely cancellation, in red, is on a Christmas greeting card to Deseronto, Ontario.

EXPLORATION



Above we illustrate an unknown that is so near, yet so far, from being listed. We postulate ??? & O. SOUND R. P. O. / ???E LANAWAY. For the initial terminal, we can speculate on LON.