

Our First R.P.O. Newsletter.

At the 1973 Calgary BNAPS Convention, our first R.P.O. Study Group was a real success, with over 30 people in attendance. Led by Lew Ludlow, of "R.O.P. Cowcatcher" fame, the group decided to organize as a permanent Study Group and publish a regular Newsletter to all members. Lew Ludlow volunteered to be Chairman and Editor of the Topics column, and Jim Lehr agreed to be Secretary-Treasurer and Editor of the Newsletter. Hopefully, we can publish this Newsletter about four times a year - if all of you will send me enough news!

Let's Add Members!

At Calgary, we decided to have \$3.00 dues for membership in the R.P.O. Study Group. If we are as successful in getting donations periodically as is the Revenue Study Group, we wouldn't have to collect dues each year. In any case, all Study Group members must be members of BNAPS and all those joining before 1/1/74 will be Charter Members. Spread the word to all those potential members you know. The present membership list, with addresses, is included with this issue.

What Should The Newsletter Cover?

This Newsletter can become whatever the members want it to be. If you send in news of new finds, special activities of members, questions on R.P.O. topics, etc., we will run them, The Revenue Newsletter includes a "Buy & Sell" section. Do we want one? Send the Secretary your thoughts, comments and criticisms.

A Real Friend.

As Jim Lehr entered the Annual Meeting at Calgary, Jim Pike stopped him with an "I have something for you"...a postcard with a beautiful clear strike of the R-42 GRAND JUNCTION R.W.Y. He had brought it along to settle an argument of some sort and was finished with it. If that sort of experience doesn't bring you R.P.O.'ers out to the next conventions, nothing will.

New Finds Department.

John Siverts has a number of interesting finds which will be covered in some detail in our next Newsletter. We will mention two of these items now, however. One is a registered cover with a Quebec Central 1893 strike (R113B) but with a 28 below the ring rather than 27. The other is an 1894 cover mailed in Sydney, N.S. with an M74 (Moncton and Campbellton) strike and a Q 195D (Quebec and Campbellton Express) strike with a large heavy OT beneath the ring, similar to Q 21, 21B, 21C or 21D. Can anyone shed any information on this? Agent's initials?

Jim Lehr has a new modification of R76C with CAUSAPSCAL instead of RIVIERE DU LOUP, a beautiful blue strike on an 1883 postcard. Incidentally, the INTERNATIONAL in Shaw's Handbook for R-76A, 76B and 76C is a mistake and should be INTERCOLONIAL as in R-76.

Cancellation Gauge.

In his recent Topic columns, Lew Ludlow has covered identification of different hammers for some of the long runs (see particularly the February 1973 column). Many of you probably found, as did I, that it was difficult to check Lew's results with a normal straight gauge. Lew quickly convinced me at Calgary that the circular Bridger and Kay gauge he described is a necessity for this work. He has a few more gauges available at \$2.00 each while they last.