

This issue features an article about Post Office Department order dates and details for some of the earliest R.P.O. postmarks and is based on research done by **Ferdinand Belanger** at the Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa. No proof records for these hammers exist and the information provided here suggests that there still may be rare, so far unreported items to be found.

We also see many new reports from **Ron Barrett**, **Jack Brandt** and **Ross Gray**.

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St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad



This new **early date** for both the listing and hammer, **RY-170.01**, ST · LAWRENCE · & · ATLANTIC · RAILROAD / = , 1854, MR 10 , is on a 3d mourning cover to Montreal. The Montreal receiving backstamp is dated the same day. Note that the indicia set is inverted and lacks a train number. Apparently the clerk lacked an obliterator to cancel the stamp but did a very thorough job with his pen.



A second cover from the same correspondence and dated 3 weeks later has the indicia set oriented correctly but still has the year date preceding the Month-Day and still lacks a train number. The clerk had apparently acquired a concentric ring obliterator in the interim.

Catalogue Corrections and Additions from Jack Brandt



MT-21.01, CAMP. & LEVIS · OCEAN LIMITED / . , 59, 23 MY, 61 , is a new late 2nd Period date for the hammer as well as a late date for the listing.

MT-301, SAINT JOHN & MONTREAL / · R.P.O. · , 39, MY 5, 48 , was proof struck on November 5, 1938 and is probably the original reported copy from Jerry Carr. This is the only known date and corrects the catalogue entry, which will now show **train 39**.



This purple transit backstamp, **ON-317.02**, North Bay & Fort William R.P.O. / No. 2, 2, MAY 7, 1920 , on a registered cover from Fort William to Hamilton is the **first reported example of this hammer within the ON-317 listing**. It also brings our attention to the error in the catalogue text i.e. that “Fort” is spelled out in full.

ON-828, TOR. STRAT. & GODERICH / R.P.O. , PM, VIII 11, 52 , is the first report of a **PM time indicium** for this listing.



This philatelic registered cover has the **only reported date** for **WT-391** and is used in conjunction with **WT-385.02**, MOOSE JAW & CALGARY · R.P.O. / A , 2, JUN 18, 53. The catalogue listing reference has been corrected.

Catalogue Corrections and Additions from Jack Brandt

WT-905, WPG. & M. JAW LOCAL R.P.O. / W. F. EAGLE, R.M.C. W'PEG / C.P.R. , MAY 28 East (1910) , is the only reported example and **corrects the listing text**.



MT-47.02, CH'TOWN & M. HBR. R.P.O. , N, SP 28, 22 , is a **new early date** for both hammer and listing.

MT-62, CHARLOTTETOWN & SOURIS · R.P.O. / P.E.I. , W, IV 8, 53 , is a new **2nd Period late date**.

MT-65.03, CH'TOWN. & TIGNISH / M.C. , blank, OC 27, 96 , is a new **early date** for both hammer and listing.

MT-65.03, CH'TOWN. & TIGNISH / M.C. , blank, AM 2, 04 , is a new **late date**, 1904/03/02, for the hammer.

MT-66.03, CH'TOWN & TIGNISH · R.P.O. / P.E.I. , W, III 9, 53 , is a new **early date** for the hammer.

MT-67.01, CH'TOWN & TIGNISH R.P.O. / . , ??, MR 14, 07, is a new **early date** for both hammer and listing.

MT-67.03, CH'TOWN & TIGNISH · R.P.O. / . , 54, NO 19, 28 , is the first report of **train 54** for hammer and listing.

MT-67.04, CH'TOWN & TIGNISH · R.P.O. / . , 54, AP 14, 31 , is the first report of **train 54** for hammer.

MT-71.02, CONNORS & RIV. DU LOUP R.P.O. / . , NO, MR 17, 15 , is the **first report of NO** direction.

MT-87.02, HX. BR. & YAR. / R.P.O. , 285, AU 28, 62 , is a new **late date** for the hammer.

MT-87.05, HX. BR. & YAR. / R.P.O. , 88, AU 7, 52 , is a new **early date** for the hammer.

MT-91.01, HALIFAX BR. & YAR. / R.P.O. , 87, AP 10, 53 , is a second and now **ERD** for this rare hammer.

MT-96.04, HALIFAX & CAMPBELLTON · R.P.O. / . , 2, AP 11, 55 , is the first report of **train 2** for the hammer.

MT-104.07, HX. & CAMP. R.P.O. / . , 4, AP 6, 61 , is the second and now **LRD** for this rare hammer.

MT-146.12, HX. DIG. & YAR. / R.P.O. , 95, JAN 30, 56 , is a new **late date** for the hammer.

MT-167.05, HALIFAX & ST JOHN · R.P.O. / DAY , 13, JAN 29, 54 , is a new **late date** for the hammer.

MT-177.02, TRAIN NO / · HX. & ST. JOHN · R.P.O. , 13, FE 16, 37 , is a new **late date** for the hammer.

MT-178.01, HALIFAX & SAINT JOHN / R.P.O. , 14, OC 4, 37 , is a new **early date** for both hammer and listing.

MT-178.02, HALIFAX & SAINT JOHN / R.P.O. , 13, SP 24, 56 , is a new **early date** for the hammer.

MT-194, HALIFAX & TRURO / R.P.O. , 6, AP 22, 46 , is a new **late date**.

MT-268, OXFORD & PICTOU / M.C. , W, JUL 25, 17 , is a new **late date**.

MT-334.01, SYDNEY & TRURO / R.P.O. , 603, 24 VII, 61 , is a new **late date** for the hammer.

MT-334.11, SYDNEY & TRURO / R.P.O. , 603, JUL 17, 62 , is a new **late date** for the hammer.

MT-334.11, SYDNEY & TRURO / R.P.O. , 604, JUN 22, 62 , is the first report of **train 604**.

MT-337, SYD. & TRU. R.P.O. / . , 5, JAN 23, 51 , is a new **early date** for this hammer, proofed 1946/07/11.

MT-343, TRAC & BATH / R.P.O. , 397, AP 5, 46 , is a new **early date** for this hammer, proofed 1946/03/26.

MT-349.02, TRURO & PICTOU · R.P.O. / M.C. , WEST, MY 25, 93 , is a new **late date** for hammer and listing.

QC-143.02, MONTREAL & CALUMET · R.P.O. / . , E, DE 27, 27 , is a new **late date** for hammer and listing.

QC-420, QUEBEC & NORANDA / R.P.O. , 12, JUN 30, 61 , is a new **late date**.

QC-494, J. ART LESSARD / ST. GEORGES & BEAUCE JUNCTION corrects text. Add trains 30,31,32,33,34,35.

ON-535, STRATFORD & WIARTON / M.C. , 2, MR 15, 01 , is a **new indicia variety** for the listing.

WT-73, CALGARY & ED. / R.P.O. / G. SAMUEL, M.C. , correct text with clerk name in capitals.

WT-78, CALGARY & ED. R.P.O. / E. RUTHERFORD , add train 24. Change Type to CC1R.

WT-80, CAL. & ED. R.P.O. / L. ALLISON , only reported date is 1948/04/25. Type is CC2R.

WT-84, Cal. & Ed. R.P.O. / H. CLOWES , correct text with clerk name in capitals.

Catalogue Corrections and Additions from Jack Brandt

- WT-213.04**, EDM. & PR. GEO. R.P.O. / · No. 4 · , new **late date**, 1948/01/02.
- WT-215**, FROM ED. & P. G. R.P.O. TR. _____ , add period after “TR” and train number 196.
- WT-217.55**, ED. & P. G., R.P.O. / E. MELNYK , add comma after “G.”.
- WT-364**, FROM MED. HAT & NEL. TR. ## / SIMPSON , correct text of listing.
- WT-366**, M H & N TR ## / N. MC CARGAR , correct text as shown.
- WT-367**, M. H. & N. R.P.O. / L. H. Melbourn , add train 11 to the indicia.
- WT-371**, M. H. & N. R.P.O. / E. NAGEL , add train 11 to the indicia.
- WT-381.052**, M. JAW & CAL · R.P.O. / No. 5, blank, OC 1, 45 , is the first report of **blank indicium**.
- WT-563.182**, P. GEORGE & P. RUPERT / ♦ R.P.O. ♦ , a new **early date** for the hammer, 1915/04/07.
- WT-646.011**, REST. & WOL. R.P.O. / N^o 1 , a second and new **late date**, 1910/02/06. The R.F. is now “F”.
- WT-781**, S. & Q. R.P.O. / B.C. , 1, AU 24, 53 , is a new late date.
- WT-839**, WATROUS & WAINWRIGHT · R.P.O. / N^o # , correct misspelled text.
- WT-852.01**, WPG. & BINS · R.P.O. / N^o 1, 106, DE 15, 27 , is a new **early date** and **new train** for the hammer.
- WT-886.01**, WPG. & KAM. R.P.O. / · No. 1 · , 9, MY 22, 39 , is a new **early date** for the hammer & listing.
- WT-896.032**, WPG. & M. JAW · R.P.O. / · No. 3 · , 57, MR 22, 57. **Train 57 is new** for the hammer.
- WT-897.09**, WINNIPEG & MOOSE JAW R.P.O. / N^o 9, 61, SP 9, 17. **Train 61 is new** for the hammer.
- WT-957.03**, WINNIPEG & PRINCE ALBERT R.P.O. / N^o 3, W, SP 2, 14 , is a new **late date** for the hammer.
- WT-961.01**, W'P'G. & REG. R.P.O. / N^o 1 , 54, AP 17, 28 , is a new **early date** for the hammer and listing.
- WT-972.01**, WPG. S. & REG · R.P.O. / No. 1 , 56, NO 11, 46 , is a new **early date** for the hammer.
- WT-972.03**, WPG. S. & REG · R.P.O. / No. 3 , 56, NO 20, 46 , is a new **early date** for the hammer.
- WT-972.04**, WPG. S. & REG · R.P.O. / No. 4 , 56, DE 30, 46 , is a new **early date** for the hammer.
- WT-994.03**, YORK & SASK. R.P.O. / NO. 3 , 52, 4 III, 54 , is a new **early date** for the hammer.
- WT-1006**, CALGARY DIVISION / J. L. CATLEY , a second and new **late date**, 1948/06/30.
- WT-1012**, CAL. DIV., R.M.C. / A. P. JENKINS , add trains 8, 17 and 18. Change Type to OV2R.
- WT-1019**, CAL. DIST. / G. V. DAHL , add train 18 to the recorded indicia.

Gems from the Archives by Ross Gray

We are grateful to **Ferdinand Belanger** for sharing his research relating to some of the early railway cancellations. He writes, “All the material that I am reporting was extracted from the Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa. It was obtained from the Records of the Post Office Department / RG 3 / Series: Correspondence sent, 1851-1902. I spent three weeks last fall looking through 10 reels of microfilms (1851-1874). It was a huge job. There was an index at the beginning of each volume but I found that it was incomplete and so I decided to go through each page of the letter books.”

A letter dated March 4, 1854 from W. H. Griffin at the Post Office Department to John Francis, London, England ordering a number of stamps and stating, “The two Railroad stamps you will please send out “via Halifax” as soon as you can finish them.”

Reference is T-3851, volume 367, page 468

The order does not specify the wording of the “two Railroad stamps” and may be a request to expedite hammers previously ordered and urgently required or possibly for items lost and requiring replacement.

There was an order sent to John Francis on August 12, 1853 for the two hammers of **RY-131**, ONTARIO - SIMCOE - & - HURON - RAILROAD / = , one of which is known used from August 18, 1855 and for two hammers of **RY-170**, S^t · LAWRENCE · & · ATLANTIC - RAILROAD / = , one of which is known used as early as March 10, 1854.

Gems from the Archives by Ross Gray

A letter dated September 9, 1859 from the Post Office Department to D. G. Berri, Requisition No. 35 for dated steel stamps;

G. W. R. 8 stamps

G. W. R. Sarnia Branch 2 stamps

B. & L. H. R. 3 stamps

these stamps, besides being furnished with moveable dates, are to be adapted for and supplied with the *ind?* cut in a single moveable steel type, respectively East, West.

I may explain that G. W. R. stands for Great Western Rwy and B. & L. H. R. for Buffalo & Lake Huron Rwy.

Reference is reel T-3855, vol. 374, page 400.

The first item refers to **RY-68**, G. W. R. / _ , which is known used as early as November 15, 1859.

The second item refers to **RY-81**, G. W. R. / _ SARNIA - BRANCH _ , which is reported used as early as November 8, 1859.

The third item refers to **RY-5**, B. & L. H. R. / _ , which is known in use as early as November 14, 1859.

A letter dated July 12, 1860 from the Post Office Department to D. G. Berri, London, England as follows;

Requisition No. 41

Steel stamps required as follows:

Six "G.T.R - M. & T. Night" numbered respectively 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.

Five "G.T.R - M. & T. Day" numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.

Two "G.W.R - H. & T." numbered 1 & 2 respectively.

Three "G.T.R. - T. & S." numbered 1, 2 & 3.

Each of the stamps to be furnished with moveable date type, as also, in moveable type, with the words "East" and "West".

Two stamps likewise required, "N. R. - T. & C.", numbered respectively 1 & 2 with moveable type for dates, as also moveable type with the words North" & "South".

It is not necessary that these stamps which are for the Railway Service should be furnished with the letters A.M. or P.M.

The reference is T-3855, vol. 375, page 386.

The first item has not been reported and may never have been used because the Montreal & Toronto run was found to be impractically long during this early period. The run first existed between 1859/07/17 and 1862/07/25 and all postmarks from this first period are very rare.

The second item refers to **QC-290**, G.T. R. - M. & T. DAY / _ # _ , which is known between 1861/09/05 and 1862/07/25. Only two hammers, "1" and "2", have been reported used.

The third item refers to **ON-207**, G.W.R - H. & T / _ # _ , reported from 1860/12/27 until 1874/10/01.

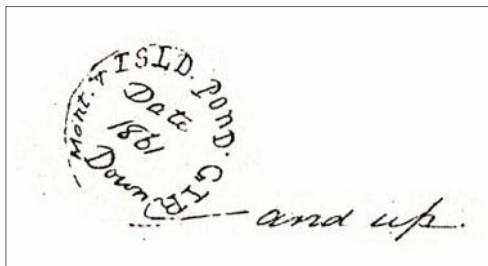
The fourth item refers to **ON-806**, G.T. R - T. & S / _ # _ , Two of the first three hammers are reported between 1860/09/21 and 1871/05/13. The first Hammer "2" remains unreported.

The fifth item refers to **ON-560**, N. R - T. & C / _ # _ , which is reported used from 1862/03/09 until 1873/04/24.



Gems from the Archives by Ross Gray

A letter dated February 14, 1861 from the Post Office Department to D. G. Berri, for the a stamp for the Montreal & Island Pond Section of the G.T.R., “besides the moveable dates, we require the moveable ..?..?.. down and up”.



Reference is reel T-3855, vo. 376, page 31.

This order refers to **QC-169**, MONT. & ISL^D POND - G.T.R. , which is known from 1861/05/21 until 1862/05/17.

A letter dated February 21, 1861 from W. H. Griffin to O. F. Fournier, MPP, St. Jean Port Joli, states that (*Quebec & Riviere du Loup*) railway post office mail service will commence in the Spring of 1861.

Reference is reel T-3855, Vol. 376, page 47.

A letter dated April 11, 1861 from the Post Office Department to D. G. Berri, requisitions stamps for the Quebec and Riviere du Loup section of the Grand Trunk Railway which must, besides the moveable dates, be each fitted with the words Up and Down and with the exception of being numbered , No.1 and No.2, are to be similar to a stamp executed by you not long since for the Montreal and Island Pond section of the G.T.R. ordered in a requisition dated February 14 last.

Reference is reel T-3856, Vol. 376, page 126

This order refers to the two hammers of **QC-442**, QUEBEC & RIVIERE DU LOUP. G.T. R. / N^o # , reported used between 1861/06/17 and 1872/12/04.

A letter dated November 20, 1862 from the Post Office Department to D. G. Berri, London, England for three stamps required for the use of the Mail Clerks on the Quebec and Richmond section of the Gr Tk Ry similar to those previously furnished from your establishment, fitted with moveable type - the words night and day, east & west, and to be numbered respectively 1, 2 & 3.

Reference is reel T-3856, vol. 377, page 160.

This order refers to **QC-425**, QUEBEC & RICHMOND - SECTION G. T. R. / N^o # , which has two reported hammers, “N^o 1” and “N^o 3”, known used from 1863/02/10 until 1873/05/19. There is a suggestion here that a “N^o 2” hammer may have been made but was not used, possibly because **QC-424**, QUEBEC & RICHMOND G. T. R. WAY. / No. 2. , was already in use and it is reported used from 1858/12/30 until 1872/06/20.



QC-169



QC-442



QC-425

Gems from the Archives by Ross Gray

A letter dated August 5, 1864 from the Post Office Department to D. G. Berri, London to manufacture TWO DATED STAMPS, for the Welland Railway Mail Service, similar in size to the enclosed impression of a stamp previously executed by you and dissimilar but in the name of the Railway on which they are to be employed, "Welland Rail Road".

Reference reel T-3857, vol. 378, page 91.

This order refers to **RY-203**, WELLAND RAIL ROAD / ☒, reported from 1864/10/13 until 1876/07/21. The revelation that two hammers were made is interesting and invites a hammer study of this scarce and usually poorly struck cancellation. We also see that the error of "Rail Road" for the proper "Railway" in the wording of the postmark originated at the post office department.

A letter dated December 14, 1864 from the Post Office Department to D. G. Berri, Requisition No. 79, which includes two dated stamps similar to some previously ordered about a year ago,

"B & L H R R" to be fitted with the words, East & West in moveable type - intended for use on the Buffalo & Lake Huron R R.

Reference is reel T-3857, vol. 378, page 207.

This order may refer to three later hammers of **RY-5**, B. & L. H. R. / _ , or more likely to **RY-7**, B. & L. H. R. R. / _ , which is reported used between 1870/03/01 and 1878/01/06. The error of "Rail Road" for the proper "Railway" appears to be a Post Office Department error. The possibility of two hammers for RY-7 is interesting.

A letter dated March 3, 1865 from the Post Office Department to D. G. Berri, requisitions a dated stamp, No. 1 Arthabaska & Three Rivers G.T.R., to be fitted with the words, "North" and "South".

Also another stamp for Quebec & Riviere du Loup G.T.R. No. 3 to be fitted with the words, "Up" and "Down" in moveable type.

Reference is reel T-3857, Vol. 378, page 293

The first item refers to **QC-1**, ARTHABASKA & THREE RIVERS G.T.R. / N^o 1, which is known from 1865/05/24 until 1872/10/07.

The second item refers to **QC-443**, QUEBEC - & - RIV - DU - LOUP - G.T.R. / N^o - 3, known as early as 1865/10/30 and as late as 1873/06/5. (*The original 1865/02/08 ERD in the catalogue was discovered to be a year date error for 1866.*)



RY-203



RY-7



QC-1



QC-443

Gems from the Archives by Ross Gray

A letter dated December 7, 1865 from the Post Office Department to D. G. Berri, ordering four dated stamps of the same size and shape as other Railway stamps for the Ottawa & Prescott Railway, each stamp to have A.M. & P.M. moveable and two stamps to have in addition, the word "North", the other two the word "South".

Reference is reel T-3857, Vol. 378, page 485.

This order refers to **ON-413**, OTTAWA & PRESCOTT RAILWAY / ☒. The current ERD is listed as 1865/12/11, which seems much too early for the hammer to have been delivered for use. The **ERD will therefore be corrected to 1866/03/26**, based on other records. The LRD for the listing is 1873/02/01. Only three of the four hammers has been identified to date. (*See page 1881 of the May-June, 2005 newsletter.*)

A letter dated March 27, 1866 from the Post Office Department to D. G. Berri, ordering by Requisition No. 90, along with other stamps, a dated stamp "like the pattern given", for Ottawa and Grenville.



x Ottawa and Grenville
* To be moveable like the Railway stamps

*"Up" or "Down" to be used
as occasion may require*

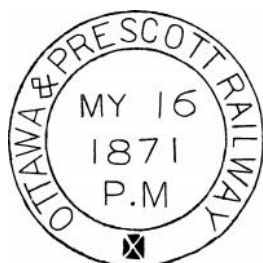
Reference is reel T-3857, Vol. 378, page 582.

This order refers to **ON-903**, OTTAWA AND GRENVILLE / N^o 1 , which is reported from 1866/08/08 until 1872/07/11.

A letter dated September 3, 1866 from the Post Office Department to D. G. Berri, London, requisition No. 90 including two dated stamps for the Br & O. Ry such as the one which the impression is here enclosed, one of the stamps to have the word North, the other South, in other respects to be alike.

Reference is reel T-3857, vol. 379, pages 32-33.

This order refers to **ON-57**, BROCKVILLE & OTTAWA RAILWAY / ☒ , which is known used from 1867/02/01 until 1872/08/14. The knowledge that **two hammers** were ordered invites a hammer study for this listing.



ON-413



ON-903



ON-57

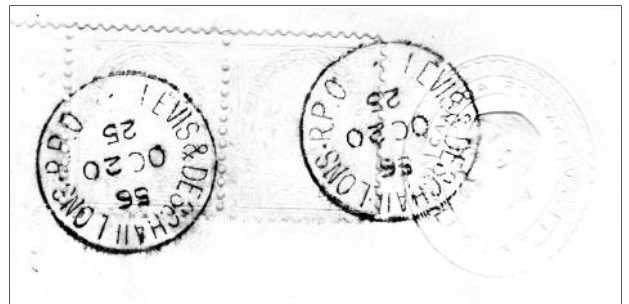
New Reports from Ross Gray

Tanner Green was a prominent philatelist and worked as a high level post office official in Quebec City. Circa 1925, he prepared numerous favour covers, many with R.P.O.s, which were either addressed to himself or Alfred Lichtenstein in New York. Some of these covers are included in the following reports.



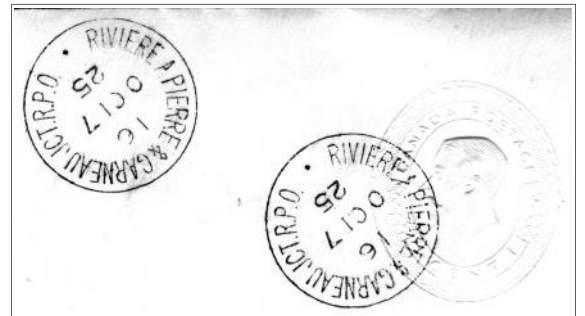
On a "Tanner Green" favour cover, is this first example of train 4 for the hammer, **MT-21.02**, CAMP & LEVIS · OCEAN LIMITED / . , 4, NO 2, 25.

Another "Tanner Green" cover has this new **early date** and first report of **train 56** for the hammer, **QC-67.01**, LEVIS & DESCHAILLONS · R.P.O. / . , 56, OC 20, 25.



On a "Tanner Green" cover, this **QC-470**, RIVIERE A PIERRE & GARNEAU JCT. R.P.O. / . , 15, OC 17, 25 , is the first report of **train 15**.

On a "Tanner Green" cover, this **QC-470**, RIVIERE A PIERRE & GARNEAU JCT. R.P.O. / . , 16, OC 17, 25 , is the first report of **train 16**.



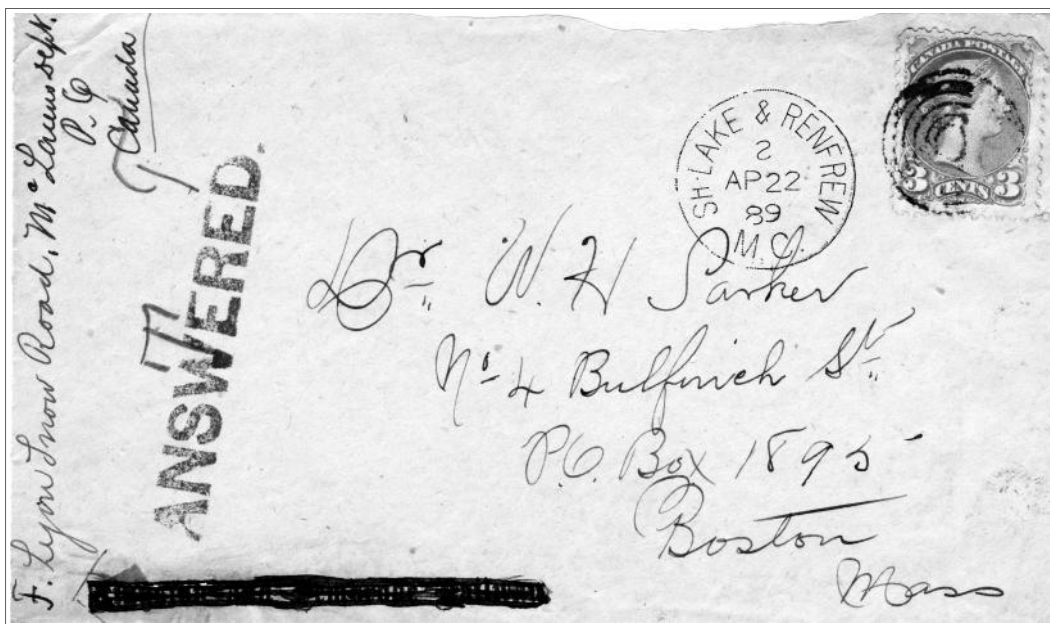
This **QC-535**, TROIS RIVERES & GRAND MERE R.P.O. / . , 379, OC 20, 25 , on a "Tanner Green" cover is a new **early date** and first report of **train 379**.

This recently acquired example of **ON-462**, PT. COL. & MERRITON · R.P.O. / N^o 1 , 132, DE 18, 23 , was originally reported as a late date because the overinked year date was mistaken for "26". It is on a post card to Sharp Corners, Ontario, The receiving postmark has no year date. The **current LRD for the listing** has been corrected to 1926/08/09.



This new **late date** for the rare **ON-502**, ST. THOS. & STRAT. / R.P.O. , 159, JUN 17, 31 , is on a 3 cent cover to Hamilton.

A New Report from Ross Gray

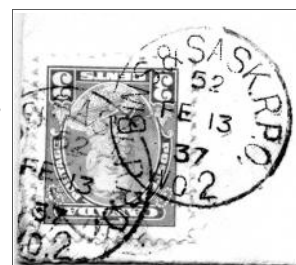


ON-511, SH · LAKE & RENFREW / M.C. , S, AP 22, 89 , is a new **early date** for this hammer, which was proof struck on October 26, 1888. It replaced **RY-102**, K. & P. RWY / NORTH^N DIV. , which is reported used as late as August 27, 1888 on the Kingston & Pembroke Railway.

New Reports from Ron Barrett



SN-49.02, UNION STATION / . SAINT JOHN - N.B. , 20, 16 VII, 68 , is a new **late date** and the first report of **time mark 20** for both the hammer and the listing.



WT-6.02, BINS. & SASK. R.P.O. / No. 2 , 52, FE 13, 37, is a new **early date** for the hammer.



WT-304, KEL & SIC / R. F. MARRIAGE , 707, 25 SEP, 1954 , corrects the punctuation of the listing.

This **WT-771**, SMITHERS & PRINCE RUPERT / R.P.O. , 195, 13 VIII, 60 , on a Last Trip favour cover, **corrects the late date** in the catalogue.



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