

# SYNOPSIS

## THE RAILWAY POST OFFICE ON THE SHORT LINE

**SCOPE:** This exhibit presents on covers, cancels of the Railway Post Office used on the “Short Line”, a railway route between Oxford and Pictou, Nova Scotia. It will show all six different cancellations that came into use, at various times between 1892 and 1960.

**STRUCTURE:** The exhibit is organized into sections, chronologically, as to when each cancel came into use. Clear reproductions of the cancels (used by permission) are taken from Railway Postmarks of the Maritimes, by Ross Gray, and head each section, along with descriptions of the cancels, dates of use, etc. A selection of covers then illustrate the cancels.

**CHALLENGE & RARITY:** Covers and stamps in this exhibit have been selected from my Nova Scotia RPO collection, which is part of a Maritime Canadian collection. The collection began many years ago and has been actively worked on since 2001.

While not considered rare, the cancels shown in this exhibit are still quite scarce. Version two of the second steel hammer is the scarcest of all the cancels in this exhibit. Finding good, clear examples is a daunting task, as with all railway cancellations.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Many of the covers are illustrated or corner covers from businesses located along the railway line. Page three illustrates how two letters from the same source to the same destination can actually travel in two different directions. Another nice item is a registered cover from South Africa found on page 15.

**ABOUT THE EXHIBIT:** This exhibit was first shown in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia at the Novapex National Show in 2016 where it was awarded a silver medal. This is its second showing and with the previous critique in mind, has a new title page, new final page, and undergone a comprehensive overhaul of the main body. As well, some covers have been replaced with cleaner material.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

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