

SYNOPSIS

Halifax - Yarmouth Railway Post Office Clerk Cancels and Official Paperwork

Purpose of Exhibit: This exhibit is two fold. First it will show movements of various clerks through paperwork. Second it will show personalized clerk cancels used on the route.

Scope: The exhibit opens with a study of a remarkable collection of Acknowledgement Receipts covering the full month of July 1914. The receipts all come from Cambridge Station and are received by various clerks of the Halifax Yarmouth RPO. The study shows the movements of eight different clerks, five of whom are identifiable and cross referenced with their personalized clerk cancels elsewhere in the exhibit. A calendar presented at the end of the section readily shows the movement of two RPO Hammers and the back and forth movements of the clerks. The second part of the exhibit shows actual clerk cancels over two different time periods. The first period (early 1900's) will show 19 of the 25 known clerk cancels used on the Halifax - Yarmouth route between 1911 and 1919. This will be followed 9 of the 11 known cancels on the Halifax - Digby - Yarmouth route used between 1935 and 1955. The cancels are on various postal forms and for some clerks include east and west indicia.

Items of Impact in the Exhibit: Every item in the exhibit is rare to extremely rare. Most of the clerk cancels were in use for a brief period of time – two months or less, up to 1 to 2 years. A large number of clerk cancels are known by just a single copy. Among the cancels within the exhibit are three entirely new cancels found by the exhibitor and duly recorded with the RPO Study Group and in the Ross Gray catalogue. There are also three entirely new and unrecorded clerk cancels. **Red boxes frame items of extreme rarity.** Earliest and Latest Recorded Dates of use and only known copies will also be noted in red – **ERD – LRD – OKC.** Items discovered by the exhibitor are marked with a magnifying glass.

Acquisition: This material has been gathered over the past 20 years from a variety of sources (some individuals and dealers) of which only a small portion is displayed in the exhibit. Some of the material, including all the acknowledgement receipts, was acquired at a public household auction for Annapolis Valley stamp dealer Roger Grimm. Roger was a compatriot of William Long, well known railway postal clerk and cachet designer and speculation is that William originally acquired the vast amount of RPO material from this area and sub sequentially sold it to Roger. This material, mainly from Cambridge Station, Hectanooga and Bloomfield now turns up at dealer tables at shows across the country. I picked up a holding of some 200 pieces at CAPEX. So there is still much out there.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Catalogue of Canadian Railway Cancellations and Related Transportation Postmarks, Lewis M. Ludlow, 1982

Catalogue of Canadian Railway Cancellations, Ross Gray, 2015 and 2022 **SPECIFICALLY PAGES 21 & 30**

Many of the new additions found between Grays 2015 and 2022 editions were made by the exhibitor.