

July 15, 2025

SYNOPSIS

ALL ROADS LEAD TO MONCTON

Purpose of Exhibit: This exhibit is meant to be a play on words of the slogan “All roads lead to Moncton” by inserting rail into roads and the Record Foundry and Machine Co. into Moncton. As this suggests the exhibit shows covers from across Canada which at some point have not only been carried by the Railway Post Office, but actually handled and cancelled by the R.P.O.

Exhibit Plan: Page 2 discusses what makes a R.P.O. cancel. Page 3 brings insight into the history of the Record Foundry and Machine Co. Page 3 also begins the presentation of RPO cancels on covers, starting with the Maritime provinces and continuing to the west coast.

About the Exhibit: This is an active collection that began about 20 years ago.

Challenge: While covers to Record Foundry abound, finding them cancelled by the R.P.O. has been challenging. Many a very pretty illustrated cover has been passed by due to the lack of the RPO cancel.

Observations: Some 27 different R.P.O. routes are represented.

Items of Impact in the Exhibit: The 1876 registered cover on page 3 is the most important piece in the exhibit. It is addressed to Charles Record in the period when he was building his business as the Moncton Foundry before becoming the Record Foundry & Machine Co. This is the earliest piece that I have found relating to Charles Record. Just as significantly the letter bears a rare RPO cancel. The cover on page 2 is noteworthy, and page 27 shows a minor but noteworthy new discovery. Red boxes and/or text highlights these items.

Research: (is another challenge) As much information as possible on the senders has been painstakingly reviewed. For some businesses there are reams of info on multiple websites. Others have turned up nothing, even in city/town directories, census, obituary sites, etc. It was as though the company did not exist despite the colourful return addresses. Another problem in goggling names and businesses was the automatic AI dropdown that comes up through the search engine. Some of the information is highly inaccurate. I found this particularly true when researching railroads and coal mines, specifically dates.

Bibliography :

Catalogue of Canadian Railway Cancellations, Ross Gray, British North America Philatelic Society, 2022.

Note that earlier editions of this catalogue contain the same information used in the exhibit.

Railway Postmarks of the Maritimes, Ross Gray, British North America Philatelic Society, Ltd., 2000