

# NEWFOUNDLAND:1840-1949 Postal Markings

## *issued to St. John's General Post Office and Sub Post Offices*    Synopsis

This exhibit has the known postal markings display extant pertaining to St. John's, Newfoundland. The exhibit is introduced with a rare signed letter dated 1854 by William Solomon; who was the first Post Master General of Newfoundland. It was he that introduced the first adhesive postage stamp to Newfoundland in 1857. William should not be confused with his father, Simon Solomon, who was a watchmaker jeweler, postmaster, appointed by British Post Office in 1805 to St. John's post office, and was the creator of the Solomon Seal that was used prior to this exhibit period.

The exhibit is broken down into 17 classifications of postal markings. There are displayed at least 50 significant items, of which less than 10 of each are known to exist. The reason for so many significant items is that the volume of mail in St. John's was quite low in relation to other larger centres, with an average population of only 32,000 people for this period. Much of St. John's postal history was destroyed during two great city fires in the late 1800s. Your attention is drawn to rare early date stamps in frame 1 while in frame 3 rare postal paid markings beckon. Here it is shown that there are 14 important items including those termed "outport" postal paid markings that were used in St. John's, well documented but impossible to duplicate. Frame 4 shows scarce money order cancels, one of only two "late letter fee 2¢" markings found, and Special Delivery covers where the total number of all Newfoundland special delivery covers are less than 12 known.

Presented are discoveries of 16 new markings not found reported in the research literature. This exhibit has been in development for over 25 years. It ends with the last item being from 1949, the year that Newfoundland ceased to be its own country.

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