

# **EDWARD AND ALEXANDRA, NEWFOUNDLAND'S HOMAGE TO THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES**



In 1897 and 1898, Newfoundland issued stamps honoring Albert Edward (Later Edward VII) and Alexandra when they were Prince and Princess of Wales. This exhibit displays these issues, and varieties. It includes proofs, specimens, and examples of the final stamps both on and off cover, along with some history of the royal couple. Research is reflected regarding the early use of the reddish orange version of the Princess Alexandra issue.

Prepared by Norris (Bob) Dyer  
Petaluma, California, U.S.A.  
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# EDWARD AND ALEXANDRA

This exhibit covers two Newfoundland stamps originally issued in 1897 and 1898 to honor Prince Albert and Princess Alexandra. It is a traditional exhibit covering die proofs, plate proofs, specimens, mint examples, known varieties, and use in-period on covers. Also interwoven into the text are vignettes about the lives of Edward and Alexandra

## Synopsis

**Pages 2-5:** Orange Prince Edward stamp of 1897 – die and plate proofs, specimens, mint copies and in-period use on covers.

**Pages 6-9:** Vermilion Prince Edward stamp of 1898 - specimens (no proofs since there was no design change), large mint block, imperforate strip, misperforated single, in-period use on covers, bisect and block recovered from sinking of S.S. Sylvia.

**Pages 10-13:** Orange Princess Alexandra stamp of 1898 – die and plate proofs, specimens, mint copies, perforation varieties (imperforate, and imperforate between), as well as badly misperforated example, and in-period use on covers.

**Pages 14-16:** Reddish orange variety of Alexandra stamp first issued in 1906 - specimens (no proofs since there was no design change), mint examples including plate block, and use on cover in 1906 (earliest recorded use of this shade), as well as use in 1918 (the wartime printing).

## NOTE – TWO “VARIETIES” NOT IN THIS EXHIBIT

One “variety” of the *orange* Edward imperforated between is listed in several catalogues, *used* only, but it is most probably the vermillion Edward described improperly. It is *not* listed in the Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue for that reason, according to the editor.

A pair of the Alexandra “imperforated vertically” is also not included. A painstaking study of some 250 examples of imperforate varieties from the Royal Family set has failed to identify even one pair of this type, although 64 copies of the stamp imperforated horizontally have been found. It is also doubtful, therefore, that this variety exists. See reference.

## Reference:

*Newfoundland's Royal Family Imperforates*, BNATopics, VOL 60, NO 2, April-June, 2003, Pages 40-50.

## THE ORANGE PRINCE EDWARD STAMP



In 1860, at 19, Prince Albert Edward visited North America, including Newfoundland, his only trip across the Atlantic. He became king upon the death of his mother, Queen Victoria, on 22 January, 1901, and ruled until 6 May 1910. He loved life but preferred people to books. Known as the “Uncle of Europe” since so many nephews were kings, he also proved to be an effective diplomat.



Trial color Die Proof in Black, steel engraved on wove paper

## THE ORANGE PRINCE EDWARD STAMP



Plate proof of the 1897 orange Prince Edward stamp



This exhibit's stamps were printed by the American Bank Note Co. (A.B.N.C.). It kept one or two *SPECIMEN* sheets of each printing, and they were sold in a 1990 archive sale. There was only one printing of the orange Edward stamp. This stamp was ordered on an emergency basis by Postmaster General Robert Bond in September because of a shortage of 2¢ stamps.



## THE ORANGE PRINCE EDWARD STAMP

The 2¢ Prince Edward stamp arrived in St. John's on Saturday, Dec. 4, 1897. There is no known use on that day.



Second day of known use. A 3¢ Cabot stamp helped make up the U.S. 5¢ letter rate.



## THE ORANGE PRINCE EDWARD STAMP



Five Edward stamps pay the 10¢ registered letter rate to the U.S. in January, 1898.



Albert Edward was the eldest son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. Here, Edward and Victoria stamps pay the 10¢ registered letter rate to Switzerland on **7 MR 98**. Both stamps were in wrong colors under the U.P.U agreement, and would be replaced in June by versions in more appropriate shades.

## THE VERMILION PRINCE EDWARD STAMP



There were no proofs for the vermilion issue, as it was not a design change. *SPECIMEN*'s are shown by archival dates. Note the various shades. There were no *SPECIMEN*'s for the last two of the three 1908 printings.



This stamp from the first printing was used on an 1899 cover when the letter rate to Canada and the British Empire was only 2¢.



## THE VERMILION PRINCE EDWARD STAMP



Misperforated



A few gummed imperforate copies were released.



The Edward stamps were issued in sheets of 100. This block of 25 is from the 1907 printing.



## THE VERMILION PRINCE EDWARD STAMP



1903 cover with 5¢ rate to Germany and forwarded within that country. The Queen Victoria envelope is the 140mm X 78mm version.



Edward and Princess Alexandra on this 5¢ 1901 cover to the U.S. She was Danish Christian IX's daughter. Edward married her in 1863, and they had five children. He became king in 1901 and chose "Edward" rather than "Albert", as being less "Germanic". She would joke about his affairs, calling him "my naughty little man."

## THE VERMILION PRINCE EDWARD STAMP



The circled **T** on this 1900 cover to Canada signifies *short paid*. A 2¢ double penalty was made, denoted by the large script **4**.



A mail clerk on the Conception Bay Railroad, James Cox, created many postal souvenirs from 1901-04, such as this bisected Edward with **3** for himself and friends.



The first 1908 printing went down at sea when the S.S. Sylvia sank. Some were recovered and put on the market – usually ungummed. The 2¢ design was then changed.

***On May 6, 1910, King Edward VII died of pulmonary disease at the age of 68.***



# THE ORANGE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA STAMP



Die proof, color of issue, India paper mounted on card. Fewer than five known.

## THE ORANGE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA STAMP



Proof



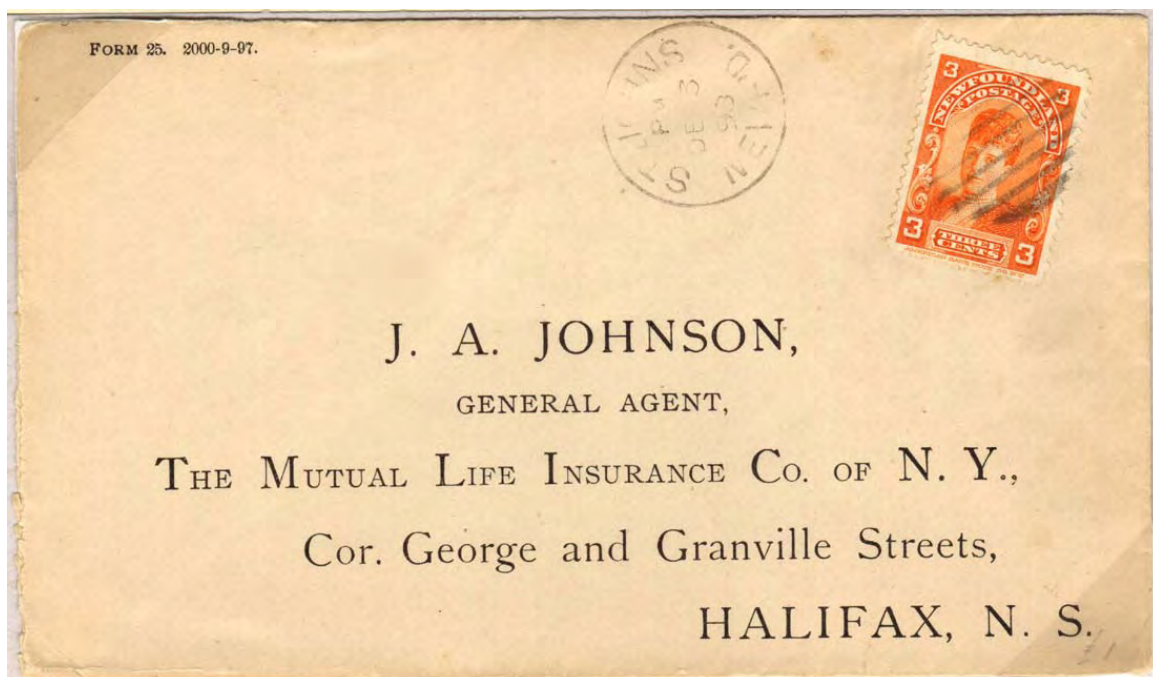
Specimen dates. There was none in archives for (2<sup>nd</sup>) 1899, or 1904 printings.



This inscription block is from the first printing of June, 1898. (The Edward stamps did not have marginal inscriptions.)



## THE ORANGE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA STAMP



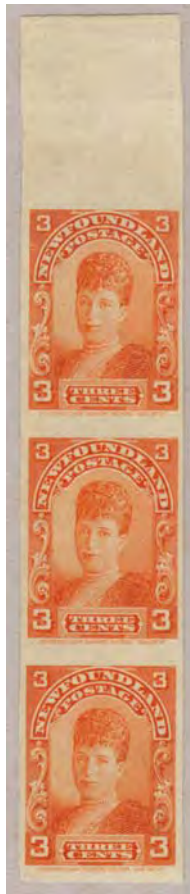
First printing paying letter rate to Canada **DE 3 98** weeks before rate to the United Kingdom and possessions became only 2¢, under the Imperial Penny Postal Union.



Registered double-weight to Germany **9 JU 99** at 15¢ rate with 1898 green Victoria and Alexandra stamps on 120mm X 94mm version of 3¢ Victoria stationery letter. Letter was carried by S.S. *Ulunda*, a Furness ship that started handling the St. John's – Liverpool run in 1893.

# THE ORANGE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA STAMP

## Perforation Varieties



Imperforate



Imperforate between horizontally

A sheet of the imperforate variety was sold at a St. John's post office in 1902. It is not recorded when the horizontally imperforate version appeared.



A misperforated example



## THE REDDISH ORANGE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA STAMP



The 1905 printing (issued in January 1906) was reddish orange. In May 1918, a 1¢ war tax reduced the supply of 3¢ stamps. Because of war risks, the A.B.N.C. (last used in 1910) was asked to do a new printing of the Alexandra stamp, using the die in *New York*. The panes of the 1918 printing are in slightly different shades .



Examples of the orange and reddish orange reflect the color difference. The block below is from the printing released in 1906.



## THE REDDISH ORANGE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA STAMP



Plate block from the 1906 issue with reversed 3, typical for this printing.



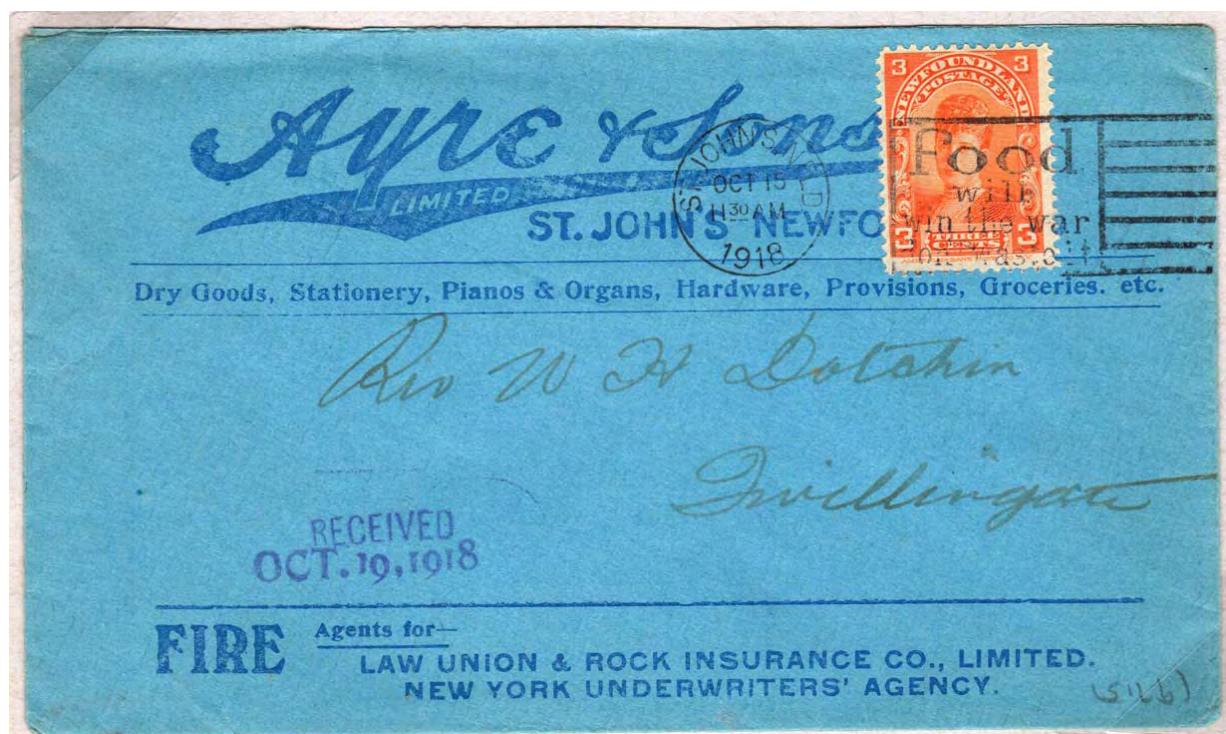
**MR 17 06**  
Halifax receiver  
from cover below.



Earliest recorded use of reddish orange Alexandra, on this **MR 13 06** overfranked cover to Nova Scotia. To the King and Queen's right are Princess Mary of Teck, and husband, Prince George. He would succeed his father in 1910. These two stamps were issued in 1901 and 1899, respectively.



## THE REDDISH ORANGE PRINCES ALEXANDRA STAMP



The 1918 printing. This 3¢ cover to U.S. was for 2¢ single rate + 1¢ war tax.



9¢ rate to England covered double rate (4¢), registration (4¢) and war tax (1¢).

*Queen Alexandra died of heart disease at the age of 80, in 1924.*