

The Pilot's Log

Newsletter of the BNAPS Air Mail Study Group

Volume 16 – Number 1

December 2023



NEXT BNAPS AIR MAIL STUDY GROUP AND CANADIAN AEROPHILATELIC SOCIETY JOINT ZOOM MEETING SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4th

11.00 am to 1.00 pm Eastern Time.

The meeting will begin with a tribute by John Bertram to Robert Bradford. – It will describe his life as a renowned aviation artist, historian, curator, and national museum founder; and feature the elegant series of 16 aircraft stamps he produced for Canada Post in 1979-82, including some draft studies which changed considerably before getting final approval for an actual stamp.

The meeting will be organized on a “show and tell” basis to facilitate discussion between participants. - Everybody is invited to show a cover franked with one of Bob Bradford’s stamps, or one of their favourite covers ,and/or describe their collecting interests, and/or raise questions they hope the group can help answer. Illustrations of covers can be sent to Charles Livermore at charleslivermore@hotmail.com or Dave Bartlet at dave.bartlet@shaw.ca who will have it ready to be screened, or you can use Screenshare yourself.

The Zoom link is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86890986692?pwd=p8S4gzf9pjlfzSRjVtx16fhO0GhEx.1>

If attending by telephone: Meeting ID: 868 9098 6692 Passcode: 100937

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/keucrPjgo9>

BNAPS AMSG at BNAPEX 2023 in HALIFAX

Thanks to Dave Bartlet for organizing the meeting of the Air Mail Study Group. The meeting began with Dave showing a variety of covers and postcards. This was followed by a recorded presentation on TRANS-ATLANTIC AIR MAIL THROUGH BOTWOOD, NEWFOUNDLAND, 1939-1945 by Chris Hargreaves. This presentation was originally made to the West Toronto Stamp Club, and can be viewed on their website at

westtorontostampclub.org/resources/df_gp_WTSCDG_TransAtlantic_Airmail_By_Chris-Hargreaves.mp4

CONGRATULATIONS to the AEROPHILATELIC EXHIBITORS:

- Gary Steele - Canadian Mail Sent via the Empire Air Mail Scheme 1938 – 1939 (Vermeil Single Frame & Canadian Aerophilatelic Society Award)
- Rob Lunn - Alouette: Canada's Entry into the "Space Race" (Vermeil Medal)



REPORT ON The Annual CAS/BNAPSAMSG Day of Aerophilately - Held on Sunday, November 5th 2023 at the Vincent Greene Foundation, Toronto.

This hybrid meeting had 34 participants: 10 at the in-person meeting at the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation in Toronto, and 24 on zoom who were spread out from British Columbia in the west, to Edmonton in the north, France to the east, and Arizona in the south.

Clark Seaborn gave a great presentation about THE PRAIRIE AIR MAIL: 1930-1932, which focussed on the aircraft involved and the problems encountered in flying the routes. It concluded with a very interesting video about the commemorative flight of the restored Fokker Super Universal bushplane CF-AAM to the Yukon in 2001. A variety of covers were

produced for this visit. The video shows how the air mail commemorative flight was run, and includes shots of the covers being delivered and cancelled in various post offices. The video is number 9 in a series of 10 videos showing various stages in the restoration of CF-AAM. It can be seen on You Tube at:

[\(526\) Fokker Super Universal: Back to the Sky - Episode Nine - YouTube](#)

The complete series of ten videos can be found by Googling "*Fokker Super Universal back to the sky*".

Clark's presentation was followed by Bob Galway, who described the fascinating problems and issues involved in selecting pilots for the 1927 London to London flight that was eventually attempted by Terrence Tully and James Medcalf.

Both presentations were recorded by Charles Livermore. The video is currently available at

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AkOhdTVHRqpgghqQS54ItUx4KXPgm1A?e=IQB7kf>

and will be posted on the CAS website in the future.

After these presentations the folks in Toronto went for a long lunch, then returned to the VGGF for two more presentations: one by Bob Galway on Flying Officer Kingsley Rose, who flew in the RCAF from 1928 to 1931 (approximately), and a description by John Bertram of his visit while in England to the London Postal Museum and Underground Postal Railway Museum.

BNAPEX 2024

**Will be held August 23rd – 25th 2024 at St. Lawrence College,
Kingston, Ontario.**

The theme of the show will be THE PHILATELIC HISTORY OF KINGSTON FROM 1673 TO THE PRESENT DAY.

A feature of the show will be a collaborative exhibit consisting of ONE-PAGE exhibits on this theme, to which everybody is invited to contribute. This will be a fun, non-competitive exhibit that will not be restricted by the exhibiting guidelines for Postal History but can include anything that has gone through or was intended to go through the mail to or from Kingston — including covers such as RPO's and Military Mail, as well as postmarks, advertising, special event covers and stamps.

I hope that all members of the AMSG will contribute a page to this co-operative exhibit.

Full details and a sample page are given on the next two pages.

BNAPEX 2024

August 23rd – 25th at St. Lawrence College, Kingston.

The theme of the show will be:

PHILATELIC HISTORY OF KINGSTON FROM 1673 TO THE PRESENT DAY.

Invitation to participate:

The Court of Honour will include a new exhibit on this theme, to which everybody is invited to participate. This will be a fun, non-competitive exhibit that will not be restricted by the exhibiting guidelines for Postal History, but can include anything that has gone through or was intended to go through the mail to or from Kingston — including covers such as RPO's and Military Mail, as well as postmarks, advertising, special event covers and stamps.

Do you have interesting Kingston material in your collection? We hope many BNAPS members will participate.

Page Submission Details —Deadline: July 1, 2024 (But sooner would be welcome.)

By your submission you will agree to be included in articles and publications regarding the exhibit. In the event of duplication or other issues, we will choose what to include in the exhibit.

Page Specifications:

Each page should have:

- 8½" × 11", vertical format, mounted on white stock
- minimum 1 cm / ½ inch margin on all sides
- font type – optional
 - minimum sizes:
 - page title - 16 point bold (include a year or range of years)
 - headings - 14 point bold
 - text - 12 point.

If you wish acknowledgement, add your name, initials or "from the collection of ..." on the bottom right.

Separately, include your contact data and any background information that is pertinent.

Please don't send valuable documents. We do not want to become temporary custodians and couriers of extremely rare and valuable covers. High quality colour copies of your page(s) should be submitted electronically or postally.

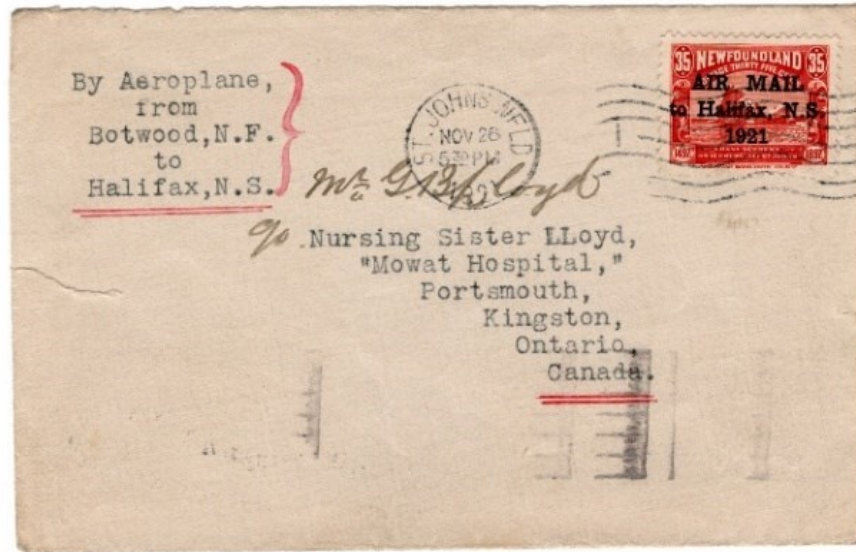
For electronic submission, email a high quality, colour pdf or jpeg. If more than one page, consider multiple emails to reduce size. For postal submissions print on white card stock and mail unfolded and adequately stiffened.

Please let one of us know if you are interested in participating, and/or would like help with your submission:

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Co-Chair: BNAPEX 2024

1921 – A VERY EARLY AIRMAIL LETTER TO KINGSTON



Postmarked ST. JOHNS NFLD NOV 26 5:30 PM 1921
Endorsed "By Aeroplane, from Botwood,N.F. to Halifax,N.S."

In November 1920, Major Sidney Cotton set up an aviation company to provide seal-spotting flights for the Newfoundland government. It also made occasional mail carrying flights within Newfoundland.

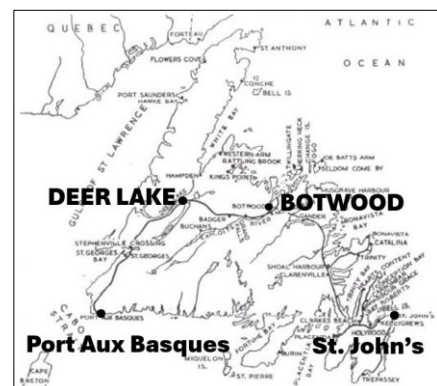
In November 1921 the company proposed a mail carrying flight to Halifax, Nova Scotia. The cost would be 35 cents per letter instead of the usual 3 cents, and the Newfoundland Post Office issued a special stamp for the flight by overprinting an existing 35 cents stamp.

Mail for the flight was collected at the St. John's post office, and was sent by train to Botwood on November 26th. Major Cotton planned to fly to Halifax on November 30th in a four-seater Martinsyde aircraft, but the Martinsyde was damaged when a ski broke through thin ice. It was then planned fly mail in the De Havilland 9 shown below, but this plane was not ready to take off until December 10th. The plane left Botwood at 10:40 a.m. but after two hours had to land near Deer Lake, 150 km from Botwood, due to engine trouble. A spare part was sent by rail to Deer Lake, but in trying to start the plane the next day Cotton was hit by the propeller and injured. He was sent by train to St. John's and was in hospital for several weeks. The mail was held until January 23rd in the hope of completing the flight, but was then sent by rail to Port-aux-Basques, by steamship to North Sydney in Nova Scotia, and then by rail to Halifax where it was backstamped on February 4th 1922.

This letter continued by rail to Kingston, and was then sent on to Portsmouth – at that time a village 4 kms outside Kingston – where it was backstamped on February 7th 1922.



(Information from *Newfoundland Air Mails* by C.H.C. Harmer)



Chris Hargreaves

THE CANADIAN AEROPHILATELIC SOCIETY

is currently offering a free membership for one year to new members who will receive their journal, *The Canadian Aerophilatelist*, by email.

If you are interested in joining the CAS. just send your email and postal addresses to the CAS Secretary Brian Wolfenden at bjnepean@trytel.com

Best wishes to all for the Holiday Season and New Year,

Chris

Chris Hargreaves,
AMSG Chair/Editor

The AMSG is operating on a cyber-only basis, so no membership dues are required. – Anybody who would like to be added to the AMSG email/membership list should just send their email and postal address to hargreavescp@sympatico.ca

