



BNAPS NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP NEWS

Edition #17 – May 15, 2024



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From Malcolm Back: We held a special session of the Newfoundland Study Group at this year's ORAPEX in Ottawa. For the 2024 show, the theme was **Marcophily/ Postmarks**.

Blair Ashford presented on the topic: “New” Newfoundland Registration Cancels: Hiding in Plain Sight”

It was a fascinating account on the research that Blair has done on Registration Cancels, much of it on the Internet looking at old Newfoundland Study Group Newsletters, and other resources such as TOPICS, etc. He has promised to share this research in upcoming Newsletters.

BNAPEX 2024

A reminder that the Newfoundland Study Group has a meeting booked at BNAPEX on Saturday, August 24, 10:40 – 12:00. We would very much like to have a presentation at this meeting. **If you are willing and able, please let me know as soon as possible with a title, so that we can add it to the BNAPS website.**

Welcome! Bienvenue!



Photo credit: Tourism Kingston
Kingston City Hall



BNAPEX 2024 Kingston

BNAPS convention, exhibition, and bourse

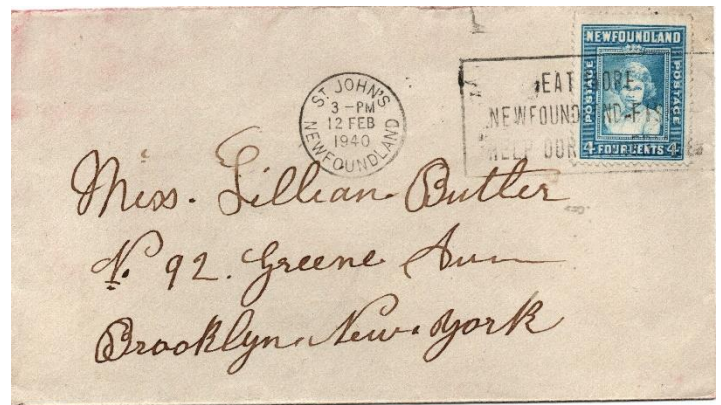
23-25 August 2024

Friday (10:00-17:00) Saturday (10:00-18:00) Sunday (10:00-15:00)

The convention venue is the St. Lawrence College Event, Conference and Banquet Centre
100 Portsmouth Ave, Kingston K7L 5A6

In the April 15th SGN#16 Klaus Wehlt posed the following question: From Klaus Wehlt: I recently acquired a lot of Newfoundland letters from the time of the 2nd World War. Mainly but not exclusively censored mail. I noticed that some letters to the USA were only franked with 4c. The postage was not objected to on any of these letters. As far as I know (according to the NSSC), domestic postage in Newfoundland was 4c, while postage to the USA was 5c at the time. Was the Newfoundland postal service so lax in controlling postage or was there a special regulation that I do not know about.

From Malcolm Back: I talked to few members and other collectors about this question, and they confirm that as far as we know there was no special rate in effect. The consensus is that if a postal clerk was pressed for time, say for a train or ship departure, then he/she would likely ignore the underpayment and let it go through rather than delay the mail. Best explanation we have for now. If you have any other explanation, please share with us.



From Malcolm Back: I have a cover to Canada from the same time period with the same rate.



In SGN 16 On the Balboa article in NN195 : From John Walsh: I was reading the Castel article on Balbo in NN195. Nice research. As Balbo does come in two perms., I wonder if the inverted torn or untorn items Marc has seen can the perms be measured?

From Marc Castel: In response, Marc provided this update to his article.



Untorn Block

UL (Copy 1): At David Brandon Stamp Dealer UK Expertization: Alberto Diena 1969, Enzo Diena 1977, David Brandon 2007, Backstamps: Enzo Diena

UR (Copy 2): Unknown location

LL (Copy 3): Unknown location

LR (Copy 4): Cherrystone Auctions, April 24, 2018, Lot 1274, \$95,000 USD +BP Cherrystone Auctions, "The Sante Fe Collection", December 7, 2011, Lot 429, \$110,000 USD +BP

Cherrystone Auctions, Jan. 1, 2010, Lot 649, \$100,000 USD +BP Harmer's of London, "The Cyril Henry Carrington Harmer Collection of Newfoundland Airmails", February 26, 2002, £67,046

Torn Block

UL (Copy 5): Unknown UR

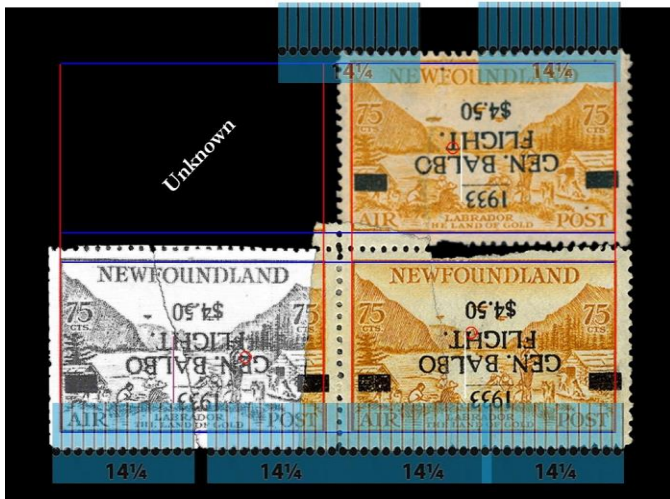
(Copy 6): City Stamp, October 14, 2022, \$13,565 USD Sparks Auctions, September 27, 2019, Lot 487, \$17,000 +BP Sparks Auctions, January 5, 2015, Lot 846, \$18,000 +BP Expertization: Sergio Sismondo, 2013; Vincent Graves Green Foundation 2022. Backstamps: Nicolas Sanabria (one on each half)

LL (Copy 7): From "Newfoundland Air Mails 1910-1939, C.H Harmer, 1953, updated 1984. Pg. 160

LR (Copy 8): Cherrystone Auctions, July 19, 2006, Lot 1315, USD \$17,000 USD,

Expertization: 1956 PFC cert. 7093

J.C.Vasseur reports this was sold in 2012 per "Newfoundland Air Mails 1919/1930, Part II: Notes", pg. 87 - that image is nearly identical but is missing the period after "FLIGHT" (see copy 8a).



Torn Remnants

(Individual stamps reportedly from torn blocks or possible forgeries)

UL (Copy 9): Philatelic Foundation, cert. 144867

UR (Copy 10): From "Newfoundland Air Mails 1910-1939, C.H. Harmer, 1953, updated 1984. pg 160

LL (Copy 11): Sotheby's New York, The Sir Gawaine Baillie sale, May 10, 2006, Lot 678, USD \$26,000

LR (Copy 12): Eastern Auctions, June 22, 2022, Lot 429, C \$14,000 +BP, (to City Stamp Montreal), Expertization: 1989 Enzo Diena; VGF 24/10/2022 #F57 1 7. Backstamps: Kessler, Nicolas Sanabria. VGG cert F571 5.



Census of the Inverted Balbo Blocks

by Marc Castel

In reconstructing the blocks from the know stamps, it appears that possibly 6 blocks may have existed at one point.

Auction Descriptions and Provenance Untorn Block (now separated)



Copy 1 - [UL Block 1]

\$4.50 on 75c Yellow-brown. Perf. 14.3, surcharged (Type 129) in black (inverted). AIR BALBO MASS TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT. Brilliant fresh mint with beautiful colour and perforations. Unused with original gum. David Brandon, Alberto Diena and Enzo Diena Certificates. Position 1 of the unique sheet of four stamps. The rarest and most important of Newfoundland in all air mail philately.

Provenance: Available through David Brandon Stamp Dealer UK,

Expertization: Alberto Diena 1969, Enzo Diena 1977, David Brandon 2007, Backstamps: Enzo Diena



Copy 2 - [UR Block 1]

The unique Balbo setting with inverted surcharge has been divided into singles. Perf. 14.3.

Provenance:

Unknown



Copy 3 - [LL Block 1]

The unique Balbo setting with inverted surcharge has been divided into singles. Perf 14.3.

Provenance:

Unknown



Copy 4 - The Sante Fe [LR Block 1]

1933 Balbo Flight, \$4.50 on 75c bister, surcharge inverted, well centered, never hinged and post office fresh, with 2002 BPA cert. Perf. 14.3. One intact inverted block of four did reach the public hands and was subsequently split into four singles, this copy being position 1 (inverted orientation) of the setting. Of the four sound singles, only two are in never hinged condition. A major 20th Century and Air Post rarity, missing from even the most advanced collections.

Provenance:

Cherrystone Auctions, April 24, 2018, Lot 1274, \$95,000 USD +BP

Cherrystone Auctions, "The Sante Fe Collection", December 7, 2011, Lot 429, \$110,000 USD +BP

Cherrystone Auctions, January 1, 2010, Lot 649, \$100,000 USD +BP

Harmer's of London, The Cyril Henry Carrington Harmer Collection of Newfoundland Airmails, February 26, 2002, £67,046



Copy 5 - [UL Block 2]

No information available.

Provenance:

Unknown whereabouts

Copy 6 - [UR Block 2]

Mint hinged (re-gummed), from a block of four which was officially destroyed, then later expertly repaired. Perf 14.3. Accompanied by a 2013 Sismondo certificate explaining in detail this repair and stating in part "...from position 3 (inverted orientation) in the block, was formed by rejoining two parts (a right and a left part); but the lower-left corner was added from another stamp since the lower left corner of the original error stamp is still attached to the (officially destroyed) stamp from Position 1 (inverted) in the block, which still survives...". A true world rarity despite its condition, and SG notes that four copies were repaired and four remain intact. Their valuation for a repaired copy is £20,000.

Provenance: City Stamp, October 14, 2022, \$13,565 USD

Sparks Auctions, September 27, 2019, Lot 487, \$17,000 +BP

Sparks Auctions, January 5, 2015, Lot 846, \$18,000 +BP



Expertization: Sergio Sismondo, 2013; Vincent Graves Green Foundation 2022. Backstamps: Nicolas Sanabria (one on each half)

Census of the Inverted Balbo Blocks



Copy 7 - [LL Block 2]

Pieces of "destroyed" inverts. One stamp was reconstructed from fragments. Perf 14.3.

Provenance:

From "Newfoundland Air Mails 1910-1939", C.H Harmer, 1953, updated 1984. Pg. 160



Copy 8 - The Matejka Copy [LR Block 2]

1933 Balbo, surcharge inverted, one of the four officially destroyed examples of this rarity, comprising two portions and with parts of the three adjoining stamps, ex Dr.Matejka collection, with 1956 PFC cert 7093. Perf 14.3. Gibbons catalogues undamaged errors at £55,000+, with typical auction realizations of \$100,000+.

Provenance: Cherrystone Auctions, July 19, 2006, Lot 1315, \$17,000 USD

Expertization: 1956 PFC cert. 7093



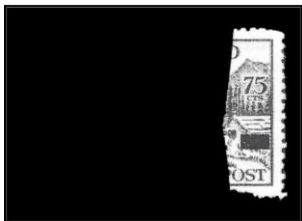
Copy 8a - [Odd reconstruction of Copy 8 or **Forgery**] [LR Block 2]

Torn example position 1, repaired from pieces and sold in 2012. Perf. 14.3.

Note: This stamp is reported by Vasseur in 2015, however, in his photograph, the reconstruction is missing the "." after "FLIGHT" which is apparent in the Matejka stamp, and also noted in its PFC certificate of 1956.

Provenance:

From "Newfoundland Air Mails 1919/1930, Part II: Notes" J.C. Vasseur, 2015, pg. 87



Copy 9 - [From an unknown UR Block]

Pieces of "destroyed" inverts. One stamp was reconstructed from fragments. Perf 14.3.

Provenance:

From "Newfoundland Air Mails 1910-1939", C.H Harmer, 1953, updated 1984. Pg. 160



Copy 10 - [From an unknown UL block or **Forgery**]

Reconstructed from discarded and almost, completely destroyed stamp. Perf 14.3.

Provenance:

Philatelic Foundation, 144867



Copy 11 - [From an unknown LL block or **Forgery**]

\$4.50 on 75c. yellow-brown Surcharge inverted, S.G.235a, Untrade C18a from the Philatelic Collection formed by Sir Gawaine Baillie. A reconstructed example using elements from a block of 4 which had been officially torn into pieces. Perf 14.3. VERY RARE. Alex Rendon certificate 1984 and B.P.A. certificate 1985.

Provenance:

Sotheby's New York, The Sir Gawaine Baillie Collection, May 10, 2006, Vol. VII, BNA, Lot 678, \$26,000 USD

Census of the Inverted Balbo Blocks



Copy 12 - [From an unknown LR block or **Forgery**]

A lovely mint example of this incredible rarity, one of the four repaired copies recorded by Cyril Harmer, the repairs are barely discernible to the naked eye, gum redistributed. Strong color and well centered. Two airmail expert backstamps - Kessler and Sanabria. **F-VF** appearing. Stamp torn in middle, reconstructed from parts of two stamps with different overprint settings, upper left corner torn off and rejoined, upper right corner replaced from another stamp, re-gummed. Appears to be perf. 14.3. It has been reported, upon the discovery of the errors, they were ordered to be destroyed. However, two panes of four were saved. One had been torn and subsequently expertly repaired from which this example originates.

Provenance:

Eastern Auctions, June 22, 2022, Lot 429, C \$14,000 +BP (To City Stamp Montreal)

H.R. Harmer, The Edward M. Gilbert Collection, October 22, 2004, Lot 109

Expertization: 1989 Enzo Diena, Backstamps: Kessler, Nicolas Sanabria; VGG cert F5715.



Forgery 1

\$4.50 on 75c Yellow-brown. Perf. 14.3, surcharged (Type 129) in black (inverted). Forged overprint on a genuine stamp.

Provenance:

Vance Auctions, March 23, 2022, Sale 355, Lot 4515, \$135



Forgery 2

C18a: 1933 Balbo with inverted surcharge forgery, appears fine.

Provenance:

R. Maresch & Son Auctions Ltd., February 23, 2023, Sale No. 572, Lot 794, \$142



Forgery 3 - The Dangerous Forgery

Newfoundland Airmail, 1933, \$4.50 on 75c Balbo Flight, inverted surcharge (C18a), position 3 in the setting of four, beautifully centered and remarkably bright and fresh with barely hinged original gum (we could see no trace of hinging, but the accompanying certificate notes only "mint, OG"; Extremely Fine and choice. Scott \$120,000. This stamp was later deemed to be a forgery and was withdrawn from the Matthew Bennett auction.

Expertization: 2010 V.G. Greene Certificate.

Provenance: Matthew Bennett International, Sale 336, Lot 1532 (33?) March 5, 2011. Withdrawn.

Expertization: 2010 V.G. Greene Certificate.



Forgery 4

Forged overprint on a genuine stamp.

Provenance:

Unknown