



BNAPS NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP NEWS

Edition #32 – December 15, 2025



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From the Editor: Just a reminder, I still need articles for the Newsletter. Please consider writing something: a recent acquisition, a favourite cover, a favourite stamp issue, etc.

We are also committed to a Study Group presentation at BNAPS Virtual. Following last year's success, BNAPS is holding a one-day, mid-winter virtual exhibition and conference (VEC) on **Saturday, 31 January**. BNAPS members are invited to submit exhibits, be they competitive or non-competitive. Study groups and members are invited to host seminars during the conference. VEC 2026 is open to all, not just BNAPS members. Attendance is free, but registration is required. This event is in addition to BNAPEX 2026, the annual BNAPS in-person convention being held in Valleyfield, QC, on 18-20 September.

If you would like to present at our session at 10:00 AM please let me know as soon as possible with a talk title or subject.

Bob Dyer showed this cover in BNA Topics, Volume 64, Number 4, Oct-Dec 2007. He stated that the "Registered Return Receipt Requested" mark was a rubber stamp that Butler created. I showed the cover below in NN 169, Oct-Dec 2017 questioning if the Registration mark was a Post Office creation or a Butler creation.

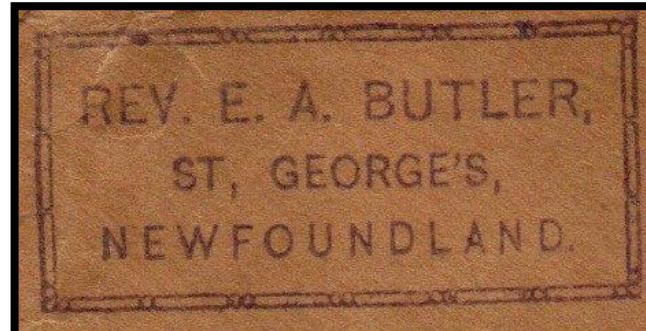
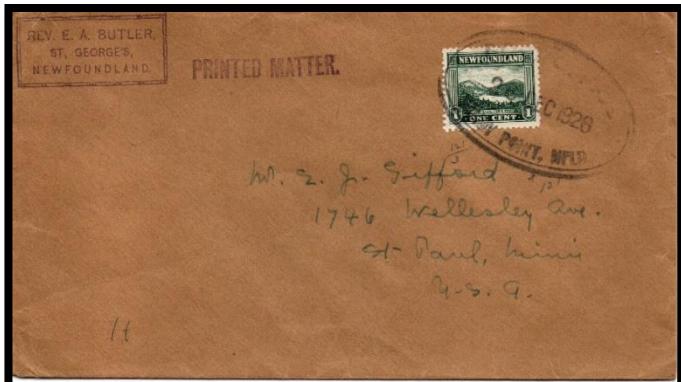
I can now show by indirect evidence that the mark is indeed a Butler creation. Compare the lower cover with the REV. E. A. Butler address mark in the upper left corner. Compare the style of the border that surrounds the address mark with that of the Registration mark. They are the same design.

Figure 13 is a registered cover from 1924 to the U.S. at the proper 9¢ rate. Note the three registration markers. The one below his corner card is a rubber stamp Butler created about this time.



Figure 13. A registered cover from 1924 with Rev. Butler's purple handstamp below the corner card.

BNA Topics, Volume 64, Number 4, Oct-Dec 2007





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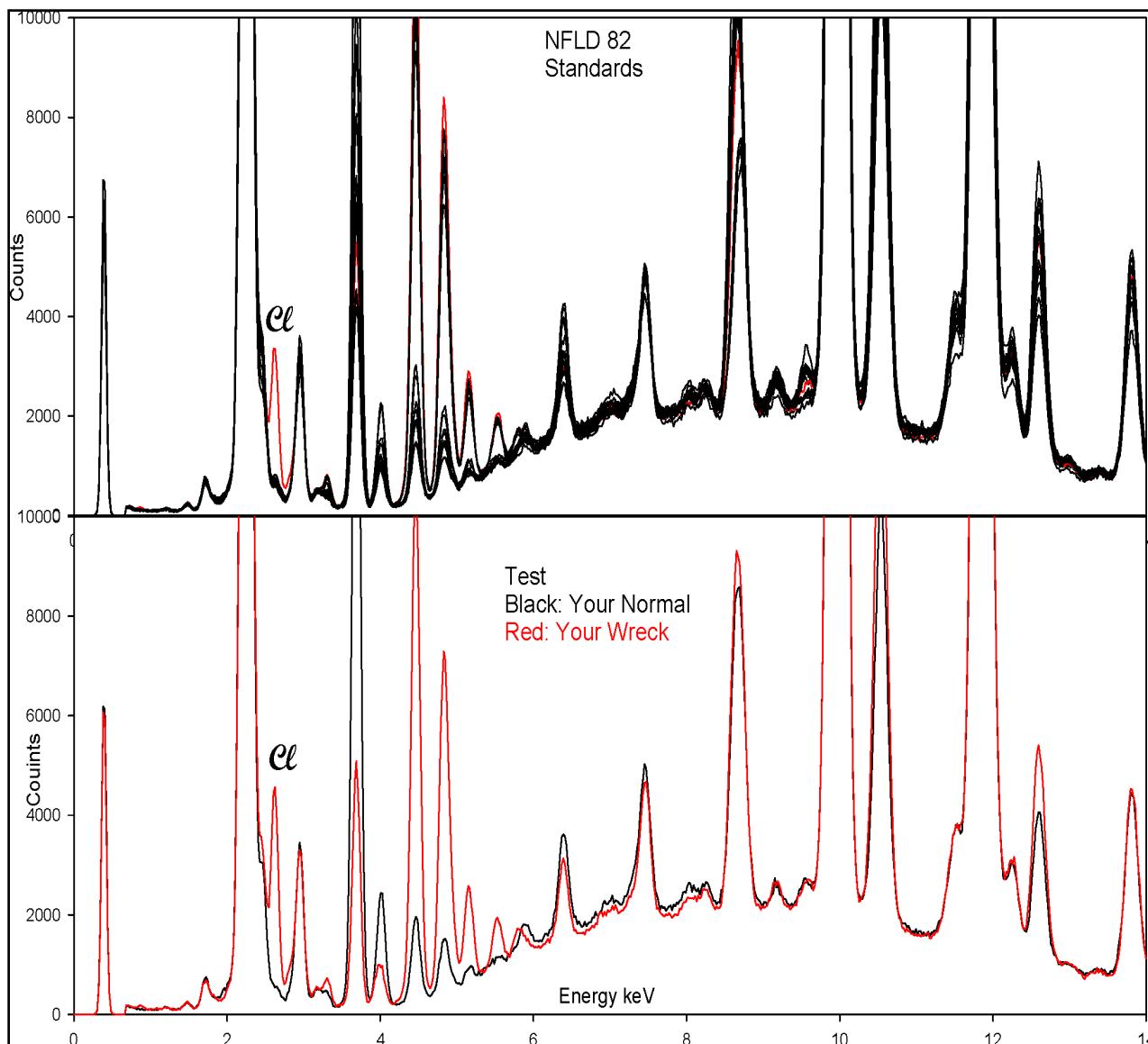
While in attendance at BNAPEX 2025 in Vernon BC, Richard Judge were talking about many subjects related to our collecting interests and the use of X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) in Philately. I mentioned that I had two examples of stamps (Sc 82 & 85) reportedly from a shipwreck of the SS Sylvia in April 1908. We wondered if XRF would be able to prove immersion in seawater. The results of Richard's test follow below.

From Richard Judge: The not so great results for your wreck stamps is in. Sorry to take so long but while working on your problem, I got really interested in the inks of the Royal Family Issue. So I wrote a short summary. I am hoping that you will be able to add it to your newsletter (ed. see NN202 January 2026). The paper is enclosed as a pdf along with a pdf of your XRF results.

It has been a lot of fun working on both projects.

Here are your results for the shipwreck stamps. I am unable to give you an answer.

The only element that would have made sense for Scott 82 is chlorine and although it is strongly present in the wreck sample it is also present in one of my control stamps. That control stamp looks to be unused but has no gum. So it may have picked up chloride from the washing of the stamp. Your test stamps for 82 are not significantly different from my controls.





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Scott 85 normal and wreck have the opposite problem with chlorine present in your clean standard and absent in the wreck stamp. Chlorine is not strongly present in any of my standards (top graph).

In both 82 and 85, I see no extra lines that may have come in from seawater. Sorry that it did not work out.

Best Wishes Richard Judge

