



THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER  
of the Newfoundland Study Group of BNAPS

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The Newfoundland Study Group had its first meeting at the Calgary '85 BNAPS convention. There were 14 people attending who were either already study group members, or were so by the end of the convention! C.A. Stillions was elected permanent chairman. Dues were set at \$3.00 a year in U.S. funds or \$4.00 a year in Canadian funds. A discussion of possible projects for the study group was held. The consensus was that since there are so many mysteries, it is difficult to put a priority on any. Before the meeting's end, however, Palmer Moffitt also discussed his project for developing a list of twentieth century post offices and showed representative samplings of various town markings.

Several members did send additional post office information to Palmer from the list in the first issue of the Newfie Newsletter. The second half of Palmer's list of Twentieth Century Newfoundland Post Offices is enclosed. Please look over your collections and compare with this list. Report it (and preferably enclose a photocopy) to Palmer Moffitt, 4542 East Camino de Oro, Tuscon, Arizona 85718 U.S.A.

Robert Pratt requests that anyone having a 1 cent on 3 cent provisional of 1897 Victoria (Scott #75, 76 or 77) used earlier than 16 October 1897, please notify him. Bob is working on an article on this issue and is trying to establish its earliest date of use. So please check your collections and send Bob a photocopy of any strike earlier than this date. Send to Robert H. Pratt, 7912 North Beach Drive, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53217 U.S.A.

### Study Group Projects

There are so many mysteries and inconsistencies in Newfoundland philately, it is difficult to establish a priority list of projects for the study group to tackle. The following list represents my ranking of some Newfoundland mysteries, and hearing no other suggestions, will proceed to attempt to solve them.

1. List of Newfoundland Post Offices with Years of Operation:  
The Newfoundland Post Office published one Post Office Guide and that one was not published until 1948. Thus, any list must be generated from old almanacs, post office bulletins, newspaper reports and cancellations on stamps and covers. Palmer Moffitt is already well underway with the project.

2. Perforation Varieties: From the Trail of the Caribou issue in 1919 until Confederation in 1949, all the various issues have perforation varieties. No catalog has a complete and accurate listing of all the varieties. This is my favorite subject, so you will be hearing a lot about this subject.
3. Dates of Issue of the Waterlow Printed Industrial Issue: The dates of issue for a few values are known. Since these were not considered "new" stamps at the time of issue, records were not kept. Thus the earliest date of use will have to be determined by studying dated copies.
4. Airmail Rates: Newfoundland was a pioneer in the issuance of airmail stamps. What were the airmail rates within Newfoundland and from Newfoundland?
5. Postage Rates: What were the postage rates for various classes of mail within Newfoundland and from Newfoundland and when were they in effect?
6. Machine Cancellations: Machine cancellations were used sparingly in Newfoundland - St. John's and St. John's East principally. When did the use of machine cancellers spread to other post offices?
7. Slogan Cancellations: The slogan cancellations produced on International machines have been well documented by David Sessions in his "The Early Rapid Cancelling Machines of Canada" the slogan cancellations produced on universal machines has not been as well documented.

We may never be able to solve completely all of these mysteries, but we should be able to reduce the number of them.

There are some areas of Newfoundland philately that the study group should not take on. Subjects that are currently the objective of other study groups, such as revenues, perfins, RPO-TPO's, and postal stationery, should not be taken on by a Newfoundland study group.

As the above list indicated, there are more than enough mysterious and interesting items for our Newfoundland group to study that topics already identified by other study groups can be left to them.

#### Notes on Perforating Gauges

When studying the perforation varieties, there is a lot of confusion when determining the gauge of a stamp. For the purposes of this study group, I propose that the "Instanta" gauge by Stanley Gibbons, London, England, be used. I further propose that the accuracy be expressed to the nearest tenth of a hole per two centimeters, knowing full well that even with these restrictions there will be differences in readings. The



following is from an article by Dan Meyerson in the March 1961 edition of BNA Topics. It helps to partly explain why slightly different readings have been reported over the years.

... W.D. Van Ness (BNAPS 248), Chestnut Hill, Mass., has recently made a singular discovery that explains in part the differences that many members may find when using the Instanta gauge. Mr. Van Ness has discovered that there are at least three different issues, one going up to 15.2 (the one I use), the second up to 16.2, and the latest up to 18.2. Mr. Van Ness discovered that there were slight differences in these as follows:

15.2	16.2	18.2
14.0	14.1	14.2
13.4*	13.5	13.6
12.5	12.5*	12.5*
11.8	11.9**	11.9*
13.7	13.8	13.9
10.9**	10.9*	11.0

(\* means plus, \*\* means minus)

From the above it can readily be seen why there are differences of opinion as to the exact measurement, but nevertheless the major variety should be distinct as they are usually at least .4 apart.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to the problems associated with the three different Instanta gauges, there is another problem with the Instanta gauge. The plastic material on which the gage is printed shrinks. I have two gauges both 18.2. The oldest was purchased in 1970 and the newest in 1982. The oldest is about 2 mm shorter than the newest. The difference may be seen in the second decimal place. At that small a tolerance, other factors come into play, such as paper shrinkage, which affect the readings. Thus a reading to the nearest tenth is accurate enough for our purposes.

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<sup>1</sup>Meyerson, D.C., "Newfoundland Specialized." BNA Topics Vol. 18, No. 3, March 1961, p. 67.



Comb perforated 13.2

Line perforated 13.7

Line perforated 14.1

The three different perforations on the Long Coronation Issue of 1937 (Scott #233-243). All values in the series exist in all three gauges.