



## THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER

of the Newfoundland Study Group of BNAPS

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### THE BLITZ STAMPS OF NEWFOUNDLAND

It was in the dying fury of the German offensive against Great Britain, during the night of 10 May 1941, that the printing works of Perkins Bacon Ltd. was destroyed. This World War II event is of great importance to philatelists. The Perkins Bacon name goes all the way back to the first stamps -- the penny black and the two penny blue. Perkins Bacon had also printed the first stamps of Newfoundland in 1856 and after an interruption of 72 years had resumed printing Newfoundland's postage stamps in 1929. That night the production of postage stamps by Perkins Bacon was severely interrupted and permanently interrupted the production of postage stamps for Newfoundland.

After the destruction of the Perkins Bacon printing works, Waterlow and Sons in the spirit of "help-thy-neighbor" generously offered to print the stamps of Newfoundland for Perkins Bacon. Waterlow and Sons continued to print the definitive postage stamps of Newfoundland until Newfoundland ceased to be a stamp issuing country on 1 April 1949.

The printing records of Waterlow and Sons state that the earliest printings of Newfoundland stamps occurred in February 1942. However, several values are known used in the Fall of 1941 and early winter of 1942. These were recorded by Winthrop S. Boggs in his classic book "The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Newfoundland" which went to press in the winter of 1942. He listed five stamps with characteristics different from the Perkins Bacon stamps previously in use. He did not know why the new stamps were appearing but he speculated correctly that they were due to a new printer and due to the exigencies of war. All five of the stamps he listed have recorded earliest printing



King George VI  
Line Perforated 12.5  
Earliest Recorded Printing February 1942  
Earliest Reported Use: 14 November 1941



Queen Elizabeth  
Line Perforated 12.5  
Earliest Recorded Printing: February 1942  
Earliest Reported Use: 15 November 1941



Princess Elizabeth  
Line Perforated 12.5  
Earliest Recorded Printing: February 1942  
Earliest Reported Use: 1 October 1941



Caribou  
Comb Perforated 13.3  
Earliest Recorded Printing: February 1942  
Earliest Reported Use: 1 November 1941



Queen Mary  
Line Perforated 12.5  
Earliest Recorded Printing: July 1942  
Earliest Reported Use: January 1942

All are on paper watermarked with coat of arms of the colony and all are 21.0mm wide.

FIGURE 1

dates later than January 1942 when he stopped writing his book. The five stamps with the earliest recorded printing and the earliest reported use are listed in figure 1. Thus the recorded printings represented specific printing orders and the unrecorded printings of 1941 are the "help-thy-neighbor" printings. The products of the "help-thy-neighbor" printings are the BLITZ STAMPS OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

To produce the Blitz stamps, new printing plates had to be made accommodate the Waterlow presses. The plates were made from salvaged dies, from salvaged transfer rollers, or from completely new re-engraved dies. The 2¢ King George VI is clearly a new die. The numeral 2 slopes backwards and is clearly different from the 1938 Perkins Bacon design. The 3¢ Queen Elizabeth is also a completely new die but the differences are not as obvious as on the 2¢. The plates for the 4¢ Princess Elizabeth and the 7¢ Queen Mary were probably made from the salvaged transfer rollers. There is some conjecture that the original Perkins Bacon plates were salvaged and used. This is doubtful. Plate proofs from the Waterlow archives show markings between positions 5 and 6, 41 and 51, 50 and 60, and 95 and 96 which are distinctively Waterlow plate markings. In the case of the 4¢ Princess the printing records state that two plates were used -- 41420 and 42042.

The 5¢ Caribou is the most interesting of the Blitz stamps. Apparently the die for the stamp in production at the time of the bombing, Perkins Bacon die no. 1923, could not be salvaged; but the earlier die, Perkins Bacon die no. 960, was salvaged. The salvaged die was used to produced Waterlow plate 41419. It has been proven that plate 41419 was used to produce the Blitz stamp even though it is recorded as first being used to print stamps in February 1942. A stamp from a die that was retired in 1932 reappears in the fall of 1941, very unusual. Another curious aspect of this stamp is that it is perforated 13.3 and not 12.5 like all others produced by Waterlow. Perf 13.3 is the gauge of the Perkins Bacon stamps, but with Perkins Bacon printing works destroyed it is not known who perforated this stamp. Boggs reported the earliest date of use as 1 November 1941. Figure 2 is a cover from St. John's bearing the 5¢ Blitz Caribou dated 14 October 1941.



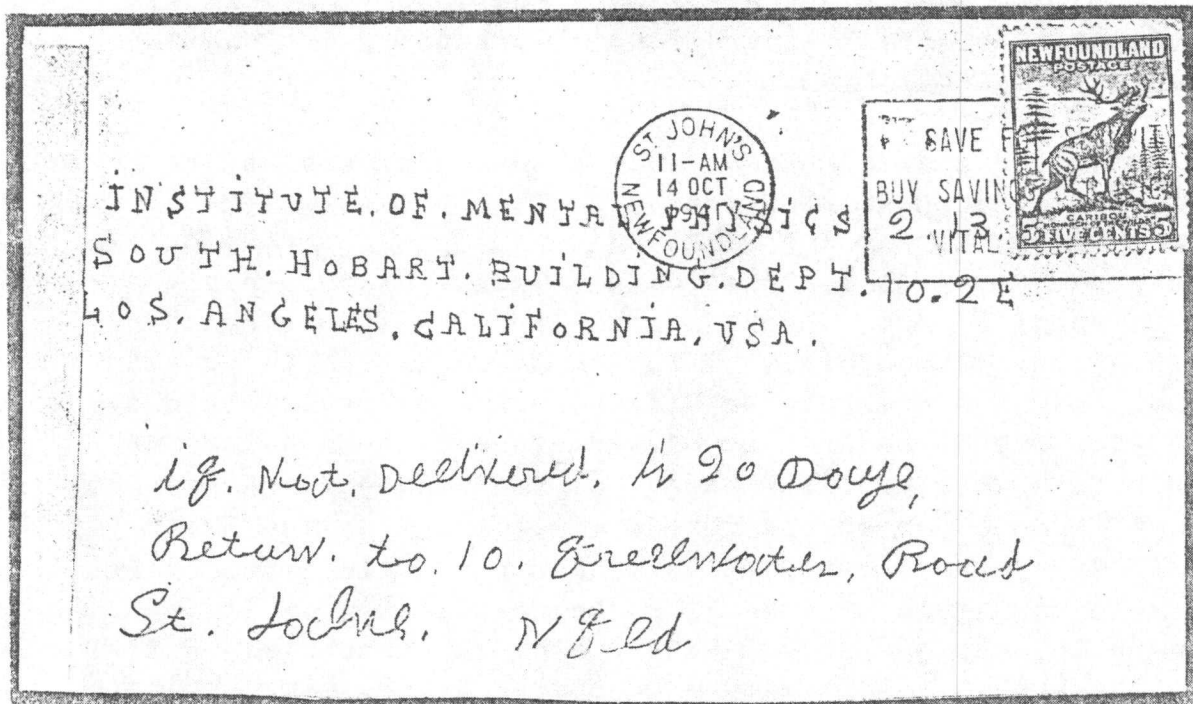


FIGURE 2

Obviously, what happened in the summer and fall of 1941 to make up for the destruction of Perkins Bacon's printing works is a story which has not yet been fully researched nor completely written. All five of these stamps can be purchased for less than a dollar and covers are not very expensive either. Used copies with a 1941 or January 1942 cancellation make nice additions to a collection when annotated for what they are -- the Blitz Stamps of Newfoundland.

#### NEW MEMBERS

Peter A. T. Robertson, 26 Recreation Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex  
SS9 3JX, United Kingdom

#### LOST MEMBERS

We have lost another study group member due to death. Member Hank Lubke passed away on February 15. While not an avid collector of Newfoundland, Hank was a strong supporter of our study group. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his widow, Peggy.

#### ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

David Piercey, 2424 - 117 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, CANADA T6J  
3S3.

Randall W. Van Someren, 1511 West Pioneer, #5, Oak Harbor,  
Washington 98277

Dick Bales, P. O. Box 4096, Aurora, Illinois 60507

#### COMING EVENTS

Fall 1989, R. Maresch & Son of Toronto will sell at public auction the Newfoundland and other BNA collections of John S. Siverts.

BNAPLEX'89, September 22-24, 1989, Sheraton Hotel. Hamilton, Ontario, annual convention and exhibition of the British North America Philatelic Society. There will be a meeting of the Newfoundland Study Group. Day, time and place to be announced.

#### INFOFINDER

There still are a number of copies available of Bob Pratt's INFOFINDER, the index to his book THE NINETEENTH CENTURY POSTAL

HISTORY OF NEWFOUNDLAND. If you do not have one, you can get one by sending your check to me, C. A. Stillions, 5031 Eskridge Terrace, N. W., Washington, D.C. 20016. The price is \$5.00US to study group members or \$7.00 to nonmembers. Remember, Bob is donating all profits from the sale of the INFOFINDER to the study group.

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

**Postal Stationery:** A short article on the formula registered envelopes is in the May 1989 issue of POSTAL STATIONERY NOTES, the newsletter of the BNAPS Postal Stationery Study Group. Editor: Robert Lemire, Box 549, Pinawa, Manitoba R0E 1L0.

**Re-entries:** The May/August 1989 newsletter of the Canadian Re-entry Study Group has an article concerning an unlisted re-entry on Scott #145, the 1¢ Map of 1928. Information can be obtained from Ralph Trimble, P.O. Box 532, Station A, Scarborough, Ontario M1K 5C3.

**The Archivist:** The March/April 1989 edition of magazine of the National Archives of Canada features Newfoundland and Labrador; its history, its geography, and its arts. There is even an article on Canada's Newfoundland commemorative stamp of 1949. The magazine is free on request from the National Archives of Canada, 344 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N3.

#### BOXED AND OVAL CANCELLATION UPDATE

Palmer Moffat reports that in a recent telephone conversation with BNAPS member, Bill Walton; Bill mentioned that he had a wavy box strike. He said it was similar to Frank Campbell's "tracing" but not as complete. Among other minor differences Bill pointed out that the "3" in "23" had a curved top, while the "3" in "1923" had a straight line top on his cover as did the drawing of Mr. Campbell. The figure "3" in "23" is incomplete on the actual date stamp. It appears that whoever made the drawing made at least one incorrect assumption, the correct date is 28 JUN 1923 and it appears that Bill has the very cover from which the



drawing was made! This means the following correction is in order: on the wavy box list, change the date to 28 June 1923, eliminate Frank Campbell's drawing, and show Bill Walton as reporter.

#### PERFIN SURVEY

Isaac Oelgart reports that due to business commitments he has been unable to tabulate the results of the survey. He now has some time to devote this project. If anyone has not sent in a completed survey form, there is still time to do so. Additional survey forms can be obtained from your newsletter editor or from Isaac Oelgart at 24 School Street #12, Hanover, New Hampshire 03755.

#### POSTAGE PAID HANDSTAMP STUDY

Dean Mario is studying the 1897 "PAID ALL" and the 1918-1920 "G.P.O. POSTAGE PAID" provisional handstamps. He is compiling dates and types. He would appreciate hearing from any member with information or photocopies of covers. Send your information to Dean Mario, P. O. Box 342 M.P.O., Saskatoon, SK S7K 3L3.

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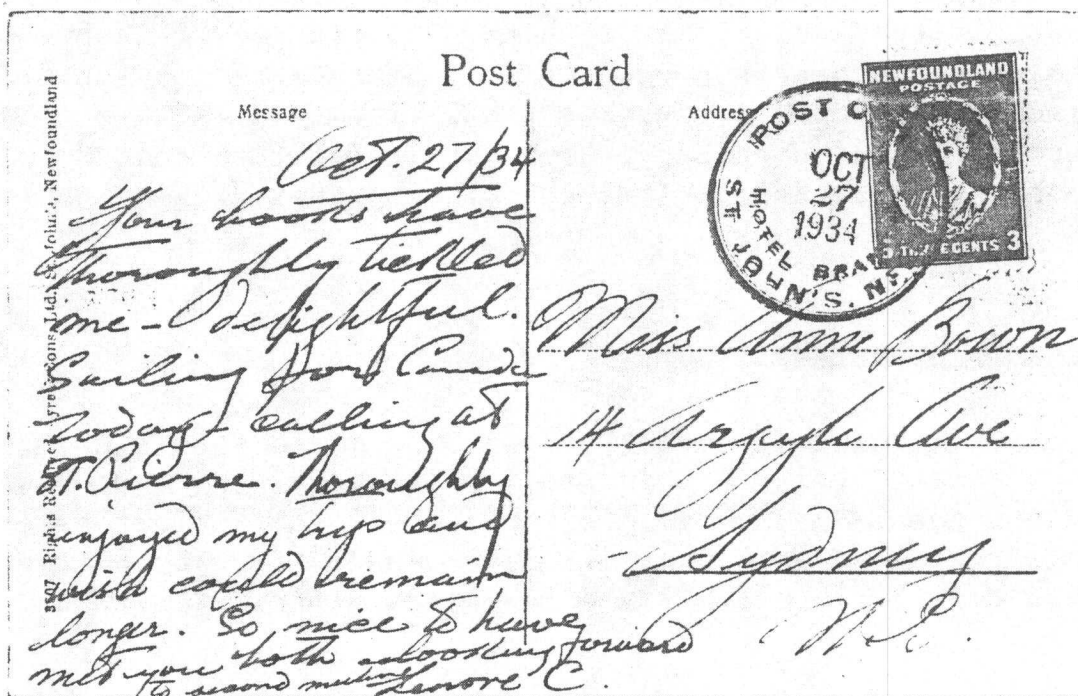
Ed Wener, INDIGO, P.O. Box 308, Guelph, Ontario CANADA

John M. Walsh, 9 Guy Street, St. John's, Newfoundland CANADA A1B 1P4

Neil Conners, ISLAND STAMPS, 22 Greenwood Avenue, Grand Falls, Newfoundland, CANADA A2A 1S8

NEW FIND

Brian Noble reports "Recently I picked up a Newfoundland post card that I found rather interesting. It has a cancellation that I had not seen before nor could I find referenced in any literature. It is a large purple double ring from POST OFFICE / HOTEL BRANCH / ST JOHN'S, NFLD. dated OCT 27, 1934.



The only other example I have been able to find of this cancellation belongs to Don Wilson and is on piece and dated Oct. 13 or 18, 1934.

Does anyone have any further information on this post office? If anyone has an example of this cancellation in their collection, would you please advise me of the quantity and the dates of usage?

I will pass the accumulated results on to Palmer Moffat for his list of 20th Century Post Offices and to Clarence Stillions for the Newfie Newsletter.