

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER

of the Newfoundland Study Group of BNAPS

Number 26

November/December 1989

SPECIAL DELIVERY SERVICE FROM NEWFOUNDLAND

Seen at VAPEX was a superb display of Canada's Special delivery stamps by BNAPS member, G. H. Davis. Also seen were four Newfoundland covers at the BNAPS regional group meeting.

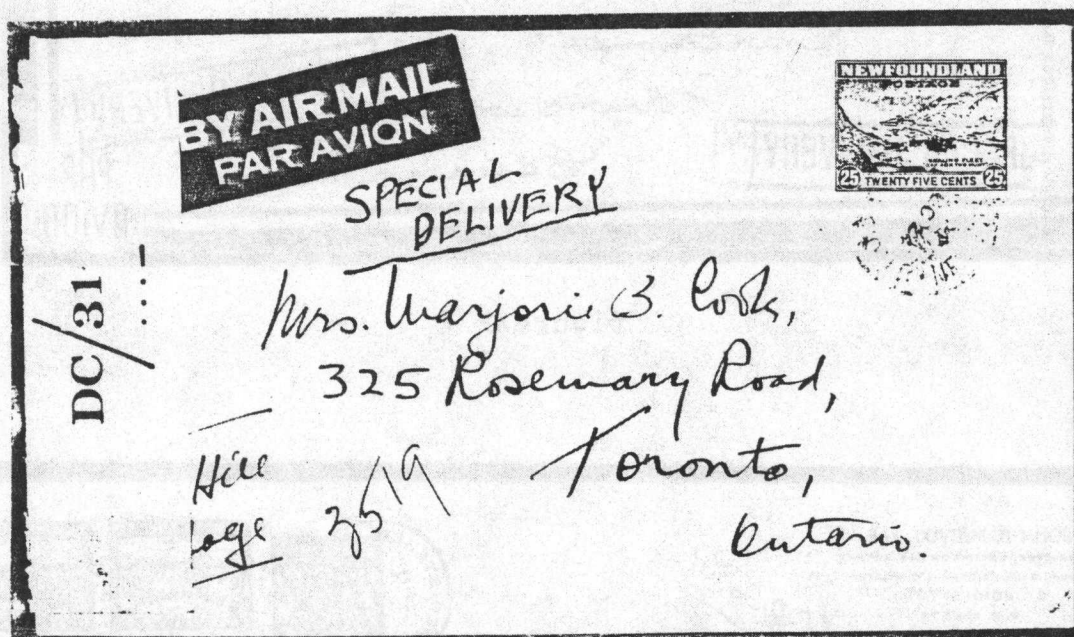


figure 1

Special delivery service within Newfoundland is unknown. There is no mention of special delivery services in Newfoundland's only Post Office Guide issued in 1948. Neither domestic nor international special delivery is mentioned in this guide. According to G.H. Davis there was no provision to prepay special delivery fees in one country for special delivery service in Canada. Figure 1 shows a Scott #197 used in October 1942 on a censored cover from St. John's to Toronto with the penned notation, SPECIAL DELIVERY, added. The number 3519 indicates that this

cover did receive special delivery service in Toronto in the opinion of G. H. Davis.

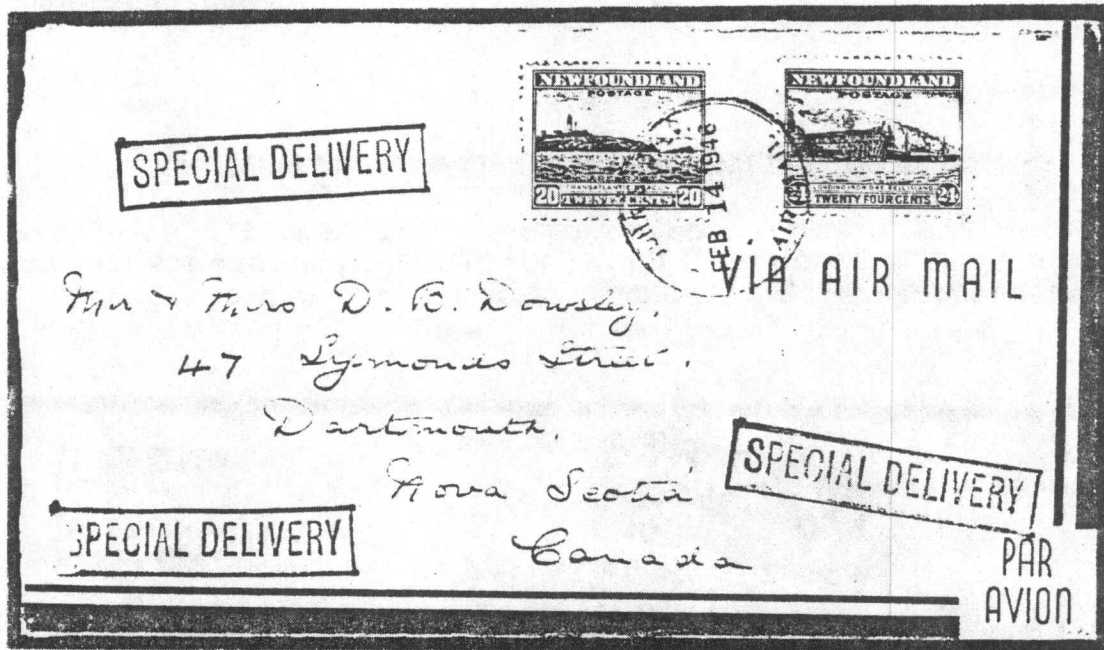


figure 2

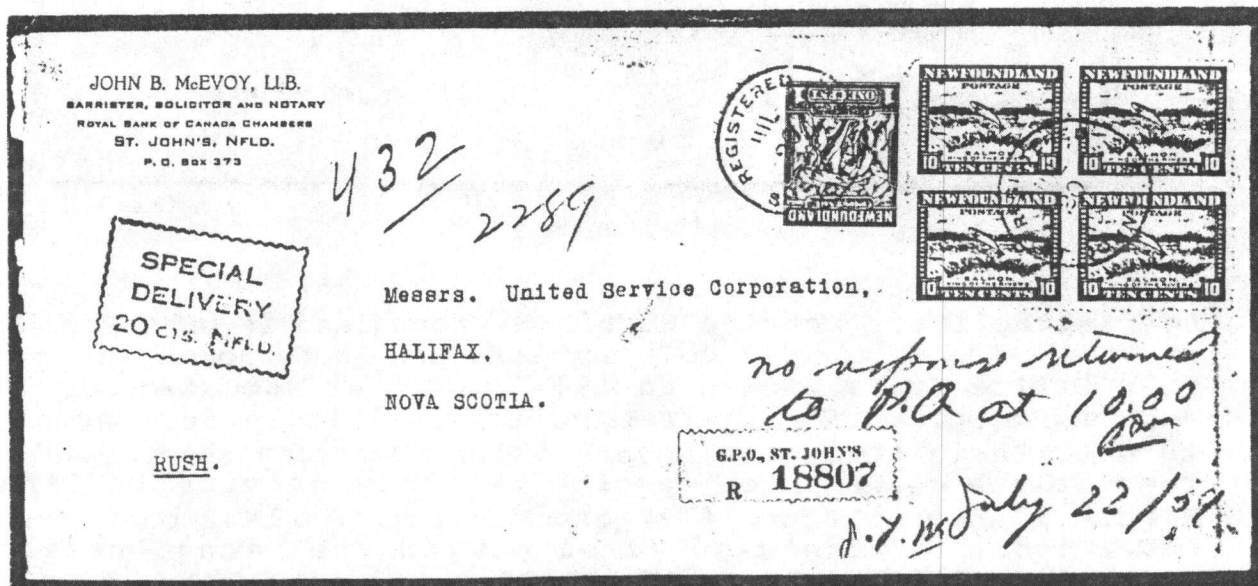


figure 3

Figure 2 shows an airmail cover with Scott #263 and #264 used on 14 February 1946 from St. John's to Dartmouth, N.S. There are 3 boxed SPECIAL DELIVERY markings on the front and four more on the back. All are in the same purple ink as the St. John's datestamp. On neither of the covers shown in figures 1 and 2 does the postage paid in stamps equal any combination of known rates. The 41¢ in postage on the cover in figure 3 does equal known rates. A block of four of Scott #193 and a single of #184 makes up the 41¢ paid. The payment breaks down as follows:

- 20¢ Special delivery fee,
- 10¢ Registration fee,
- 5¢ Postage for the first ounce,
- 3¢ Postage for the second ounce, and
- 3¢ Postage for the third ounce.

The handstamp at the left indicates that 20¢ special delivery fee was paid in Newfoundland and the pencil notation at the lower right indicates that special delivery service was attempted in Halifax. There is a problem with this analysis however. At the time this letter was posted in St. John's, 20 July 1939, the special delivery fee in Canada was 10¢.

A fourth cover seen at the VAPEX meeting is shown in figure 4.

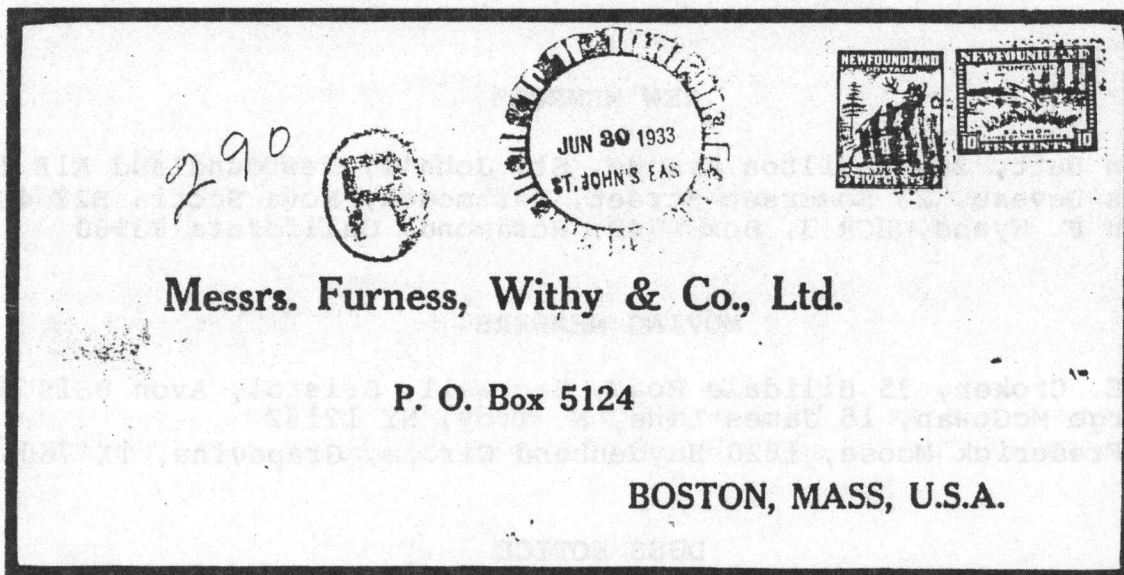


figure 4

This registered cover from St. John's East is datestamped with a time indicator handstamp in purple. The barred oval obliterator and the R-in-oval marks are all in black. Registered mail is not normally hour sensitive, it is day sensitive. Special delivery mail, however, is time sensitive to the nearest hour. Figure 4 certainly is not a special delivery cover; but, it does indicate

that a time indicating handstamp was available in at least one Newfoundland Post Office.

Obviously, the first three covers, especially the cover in figure 3, indicate that there was an arrangement between Newfoundland and Canada that allowed the prepayment of a special delivery fee in Newfoundland for special delivery service to be rendered in Canada. It is not logical that Canada Post would allow Newfoundland to keep the money collected while they did the work. Therefore, either a reciprocal service existed for special delivery letters originating in Canada for delivery in Newfoundland or some kind of accounting system existed where by at least part of the fee collected in Newfoundland was paid to Canada for the letters originating in Newfoundland and destined for delivery in Canada. It would be interesting to know the details of the arrangement and when the arrangement began. Anyone with information about this Newfoundland mystery is invited to send their information to your editor for a future issue of the newsletter.

When you attend a BNAPS regional group meeting, you never know what you will see or what new Newfoundland mystery will reach out and grab you.

NEW MEMBERS

John Butt, 264 Hamilton Avenue, St. John's, Newfoundland A1E 1J7
Russ Deveau, 23 Somerset Street, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2Y 4G7
John P. Wynns, HCR 3, Box 174D, Rosamond, California 93560

MOVING MEMBERS

J. E. Croker, 35 Hilldale Road, Backwell, Bristol, Avon BS19 3J2
George McGowan, 15 James Lane, N. Troy, NY 12182
L. Frederick Moose, 1820 Haydenbend Circle, Grapevine, TX 76051

DUES NOTICE

If you do not have a 90 following your name in the address block on the envelope that this Newsletter came in, then you have not paid your 1990 study group dues. Study group dues are only \$3.00 in U.S.A. funds, \$4.00 in Canadian funds, or £2.00 sterling. Make checks payable to C. A. Stillions in order to save on bank charges

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.

WHAT IS THIS?

Paul Burega saw this cover in a European sale recently and thought it odd enough to share with the study group.



The auction catalog description reads: "1900, letter bearing 10¢ red-brown inland revenue stamp, used for postage on reg. cover, Snooks Harbour to Cape Freils. Extremely rare although probably of philatelic nature. Opinion Holcombe - unique est. 7000 Swiss francs." Huys-Berlingin AG sale of 27-28 October 1989.

Editors note: This is probably a Cox creation. See page 425 of Pratt's THE NINETEENTH CENTURY POSTAL HISTORY OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

COMING EVENTS

BNAPLEX'90, October 18-20, 1990, Galveston, Texas, Annual convention and exhibition of the British North America Philatelic Society. Annual meeting of the Newfoundland Study Group.

SUPPORT OUR DEALER MEMBERS

Gary J. Lyon, EASTERN AUCTIONS LTD., P.O.Box 250, Bathurst, New Brunswick, CANADA E2A 3Z2

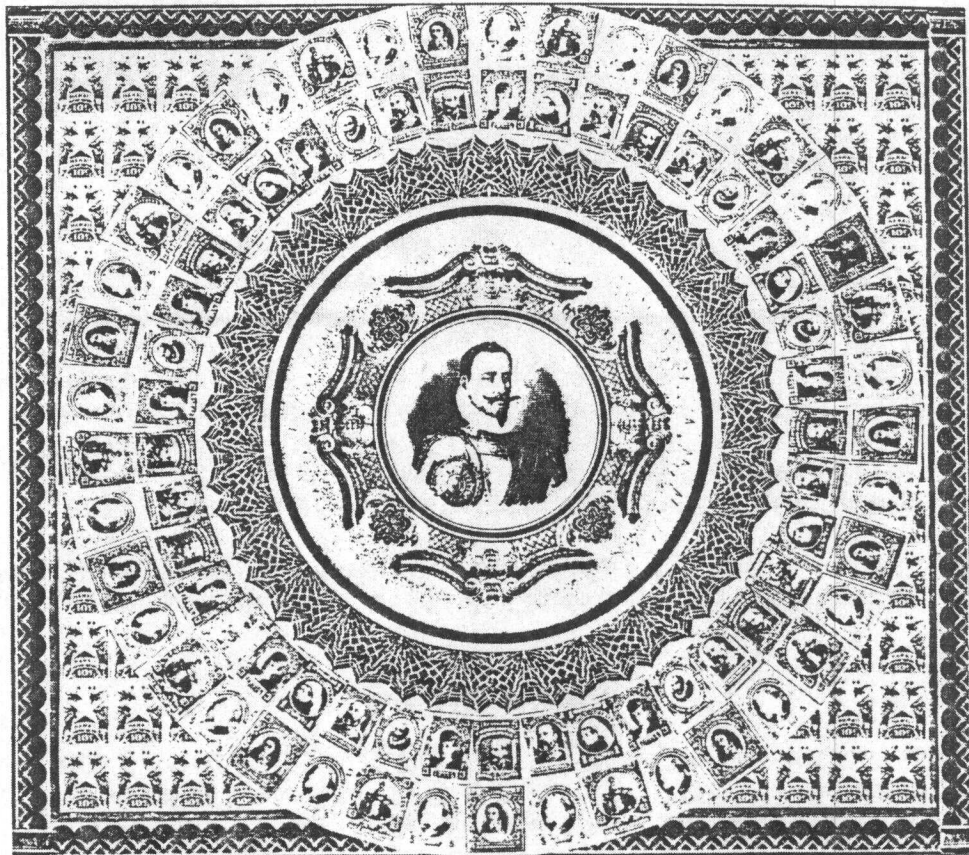
Ed Wener, INDIGO, P.O. Box 308, Guelph, Ontario CANADA

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

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

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

ESSAY-PROOF JOURNAL: Article by Barbara R. Mueller on an unreported American Bank Note Company proof collage. The collage which is pictured here contained 25 Newfoundland proofs. E-P JOURNAL, Third Quarter, 1989, Vol. 46, No. 3, Whole No. 183. Also see Newfie Newsletter No. 19.



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Compiled by Dean W. Mario

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