



THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER

of the Newfoundland Study Group of BNAPS

Number 27

January/February 1990

STILL MORE LATHEWORK ON THE STAMPS OF NEWFOUNDLAND



SCOTT 184



SCOTT 245



SCOTT 246

Study group member and BNAPS Past President, Ed Harris, sends in these three examples from his collection of lathework on the stamps of BNA. It is interesting to note that the lathework on 184 is different than on the proof from plate 5 shown in Newsletter 24. Therefore, more than one plate must of had lathework for the 1c codfish. The 2c King George VI appears to have the same lathework as that of the corner block shown in newsletter 25. Ed measures the perforations as 13.5 whereas the block in Newsletter 25 was reported as 13.4. This .1 difference can easily be accounted for in the age of the Instanta gauge used. The plastic on which the Instanta gauge is printed shrinks with age and thus can give slightly different readings. The 3c Queen Elizabeth with lathework is a new report. Thanks Ed, for sending in these examples of lathework on Newfoundland stamps.

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 due 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

NEW MEMBERS

Thomas F. Nemec, 19 Howlett Avenue, St. John's, Newfoundland A1B 1L1

Robert G. Clark, P. O. Box 1151, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050

MOVING MEMBERS

Robin Moore, 45 Bellevue Crescent, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada A1E 5T4

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.

COMING EVENTS

BNAPLEX'90, October 18-20, 1990, Tremont House, Galveston, Texas, Annual convention and exhibition of the British North America Philatelic Society. Annual meeting of the Newfoundland Study Group. Information can be obtained from Vic Willson, P. O. Box 10420, College Station, TX 77840, U.S.A.

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

THE "VIKING" LABRADOR - NEWFOUNDLAND FLIGHT OF 1931

From the files of Cannon E. E. Rusted with permission from his son, Dr. Nigel F. S. Rusted.

Only six authenticated covers carried on this flight are known, making them rank as top rarities. All are autographed by the pilot and the observer and bear on the reverse the arrival mark of Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A. Other covers are known without this arrival mark and as will be seen, there is no guarantee that they were ever carried on the flight.

In the summer of 1931 the flying boat "Viking" was at Hopedale, Labrador. The pilot was Donald MacMillan and his observer was Charles F. Rocheville. MacMillan planned a pioneer flight to Boston, Massachusetts, being given every assistance by the authorities. Mails were to be carried and these, together with instructions from Mr. Hodder, Postmaster at St. John's, Newfoundland were awaited.

The 15 cents Airmail stamp of 1931 was used together, with the 3 cents, brown of the regular 1928 series. An airmail label was in the usual top left corner with the manuscript inscription to the right "per sea plane 'VIKING'." Below the label were the autographs of the pilot and observer and in the lower left corner a neat cachet in a wavy double-lined frame measuring one inch by fifteen sixteenths of an inch which has the appearance of being made up of printers' type. It reads



Just what, if anything, went wrong with the projected flight is not known but the "Viking" took to the air before the final instructions were received from the postmaster at St. John's or the mails from the capital were received for carriage by the plane. Somebody at Hopedale prepared six covers, three, if not all six, being addressed to the Revd. E. E. Rusted at Carbonear, Conception Bay, Newfoundland.

The Revd. E. E. Rusted had a philatelic friend at Hopedale, the Revd. W.W. Perrett of the Moravian Mission, and though we know that twelve covers mailed by Mr. Perrett did not receive the

Boston arrival mark it seems probable that the six covers which did receive the mark were mailed by him.

The six covers were cancelled HOPEDALE / AUG. 29 / 1931 and backstamped

BOSTON MASS.
Sept 8 F.B.
12M 1931
Foreign

The covers addressed to Mr. Rusted were further backstamped CARBONEAR / Sept. 12. on arrival at their final destination.

Four days after the flight Mr. Perrett advised Mr. Rusted in a letter dated Sept. 3rd. 1931: " I had mailed 1/2 doz. Air Mail stamped envelopes to you by Com. MacMillan's seaplane, He will carry them to U.S.A. and see to the further postage of them. I hope they reach you. Now I have received instructions from Mr. Hodder how to forward the Air Mail, but alas the instructions are too late, so I do not know how the letters will get on. If necessary however Com. MacMillan will put U.S.A. postage on them, but they will lack the blue labels required for Air Mails from Nfld".

The final letter from Mr. Perrett to his friend Rusted is dated November 13th, 1932. "Many thanks for the [Hopedale] airmail cover. Isn't it strange that neither of mine have the Boston postmark on the back?" (The records mention not two but twelve covers returned to Mr. Perrett.)

The above is the brief story of the very rare covers carried on a little known flight which was sanctioned by the Newfoundland post office.

Editor's note: This account of the Viking flight was written by T. D. Frost, a personal and collector friend of Cannon E. E. Rusted. John Butt secured this account from Revd. Rusted's son, Nigel, and submitted it to the Newfie Newsletter. Thanks to John and Nigel for sharing it with us.

THE NEWFOUNDLAND REPLY LETTER CARD
USAGES TO FOREIGN DESTINATIONS

by Bill Walton

All collectors who have pursued used Newfoundland postal stationery know how difficult it is to locate used examples - to any destination and in any condition - of the reply letter card, intact or as a detached half. Of all the usages, those from point to point within Newfoundland - domestic usages - seem to be the scarcest. Most used examples, both philatelic and non-philatelic, are to other countries, and these may be worth a closer look than they have been given.

Many countries issued letter cards, and their use to other countries is not unusual. This was most often accomplished by adding sufficient postage to the letter card with adhesives to meet the U.P.U. letter rate - a necessary requirement since to the best of my knowledge no letter card rate was ever established by the U.P.U., and a sealed letter could not be passed as a post card.

The admonition on the back of Newfoundland's reply letter card restricted it to domestic use, but use to foreign destinations with adhesives added for the letter rate would not be surprising. (It should be noted, though, that if sent as an entire with the reply half still attached, there would be no way to post the reply half back to Newfoundland - the U.P.U. never made provision for international reply paid letter rate mail.)

What is surprising is that most examples used to other countries do not carry additional postage, and yet are not taxed for postage due. It may be time to begin a survey of any examples used abroad which members can report, to see what, is anything, can be determined. To start the ball rolling, I can offer five reports.

1. - April 1914, to Germany, with 8¢ in additional adhesives for a total of 10¢
 - sent registered (5¢ + 5¢ letter rate - sealed as registration required)
 - reply half still attached, but without message
 - an obvious philatelic usage, but one which conforms to expected rates
2. - August 1917, to Sackville, New Brunswick, with no added postage
 - sent as a detached reply half
 - the selvedge has been removed so it can be presumed to have been sealed

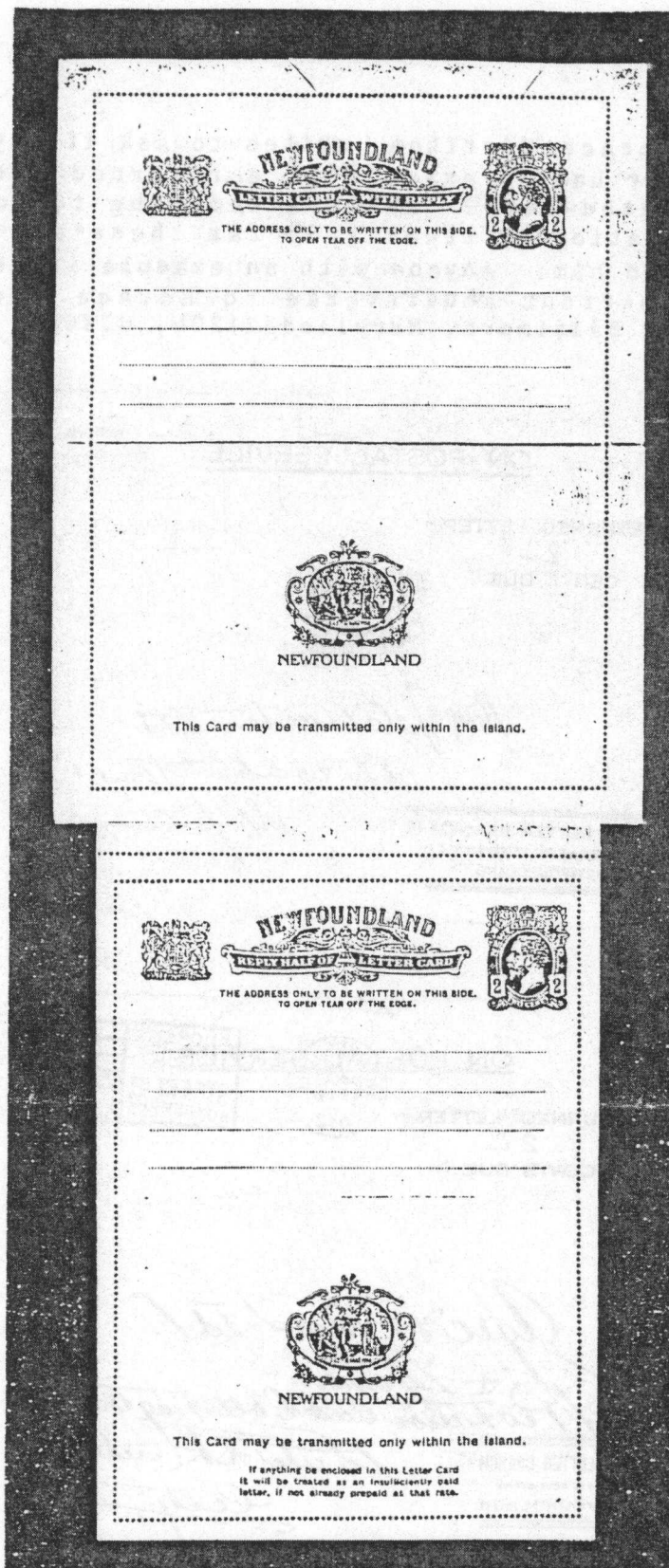
- addressed to the Sackville postmaster with a message requesting that mail be held
- untaxed (PSN ed. note: According to the Walsh and Butt Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue. The letter rate to Canada, the United States and the British Empire was 2¢ during this period. Thus, the 2¢ card probably properly prepaid the letter rate to Canada in this case.)
- 3. - July 1919, to Carstadt, New Jersey with no added postage
 - sent unsealed, with reply part still attached, and without message
 - presumably philatelic
 - untaxed
- 4. - July 1919, to Belgium with no added postage
 - sent unsealed, with reply part still attached
 - message from W. Campbell, secretary P.M. General, St. John's, and with handstamp of the P.M. General's office
 - untaxed
- 5. - an unclear postmark, but most likely 1923, to Portland, Oregon with no added postage
 - sent unsealed as a detached reply half
 - without message
 - again obviously philatelic
 - untaxed

The first four of these reposts have originating St. John's postmark; the fifth is postmarked Sandy Point.

If all of these usages originated from a common source, it would be easier to dismiss the apparent anomaly they represent. Given the span of time they cover, as well as the variety of users and usages they represent, it appears safer to conclude that there is something about the rate and use of these cards which is today not generally understood. None but the first carry additional postage. One (#4) originated from the Postmaster General's office in St. John's.

Can other members supply information on other usages of the letter card to destinations outside of Newfoundland?

Editor's note: This article first appeared in the November 1989 issue of POSTAL STATIONERY NOTES, the newsletter of the Postal Stationery Study Group of BNAPS, and is reprinted here in order to broaden Mr. Walton's request for information. Any study group member is asked to send data on additional examples or explanations as to the rates to the editor of the POSTAL STATIONERY NOTES, Robert Lemire at Box 549, Pinawa, MB, Canada ROE 1L0.




RETURNED LETTER ENVELOPES

BNAPS member, Horace Harrison, writes to ask if any Newfoundland Study Group member has an example of a returned letter envelope such as illustrated here. He is attempting to catalogue these unusual postal stationery items. So far these are the only two examples known to him. Anyone with an example is asked to send a photocopy of the front and reverse to Horace Harrison, 1802 Indian Head Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21204, U.S.A.

FORM 603

ON POSTAL SERVICE

RETURNED LETTER
2
CENTS DUE



10m of Clouston Ltd
187 Water Street
St John's


1989

HELP OUT FINANCIAL

DEAD LETTER BRANCH
GENERAL POST OFFICE
NEWFOUNDLAND

ON POSTAL SERVICE

RETURNED LETTER
2
CENTS DUE



ADDRESS

STREET OR BOX NUMBER

Agre & Sons Ltd
Member
of Protective and Collecting Association
Water Street
City

DEAD LETTER BRANCH
GENERAL POST OFFICE
NEWFOUNDLAND