



THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER

of the Newfoundland Study Group of BNAPS

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September/October 1990

AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY ARCHIVES SALE



On Thursday the 13th of September 1990 the British North America portion of the archives of the American Bank Note Company were sold at public auction by Christie's Robson Lowe in New York. Your editor was not able to attend the sale, but was able to view many of the Newfoundland lots. A detailed report will appear in the next newsletter. Rumors have it that the majority of the lots went to two buyers, the Canadian government and a Canadian stamp dealer from Manitoba. The auction room was mostly full of Canadians, but only the one Canadian dealer was successful with bids of 4 to 6 times the high estimates. If any member of the Study Group was a successful bidder, The catalogue committee of the Essay-Proof Society would appreciate receiving a photocopy of your acquisitions. Please send your photocopies to me, your editor, for forwarding to the committee.

MOVING MEMBERS

Robert B. Soper, 1155 Cartaret Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 3P2

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

BNAPEX '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. The program at the annual meeting will be the "Last Definitives" by C. A. Stillions. Information can be obtained from Vic Willson, P. O. Box 10420, College Station, Texas 77840, U.S.A.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

ORAPEX '90: study group member, Paul Burega, received a Gold medal for his display of NEWFOUNDLAND CENTS, 1880-1897 at Ottawa's second national stamp show. Paul's same display also received a Vermeil medal at ROYAL '90 REGINA. Nice going Paul.

BOX AND OVAL CANCELS UPDATE

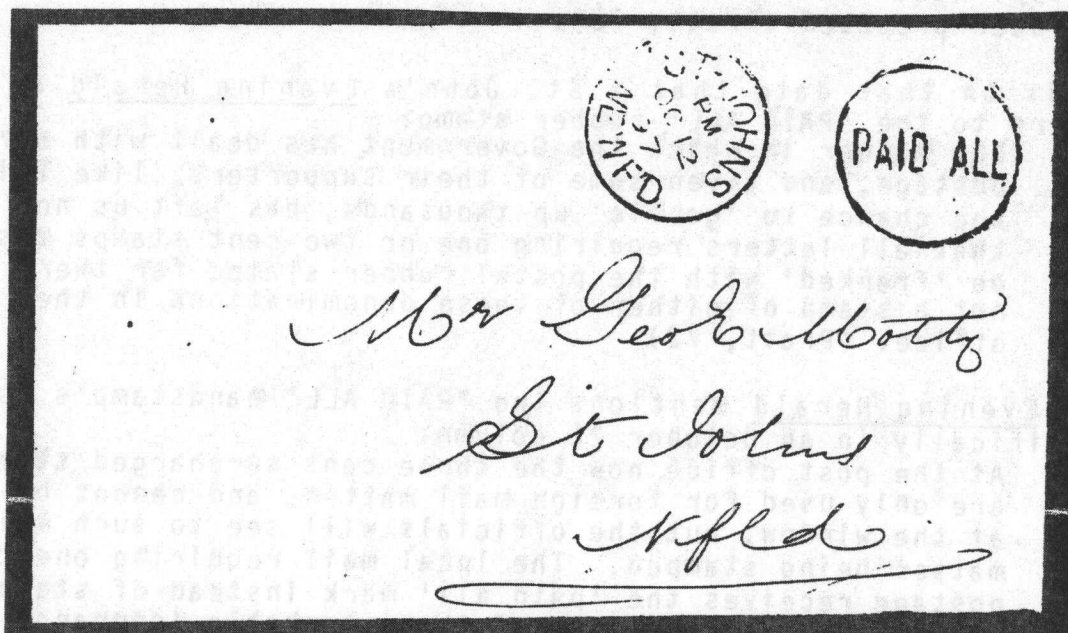
Palmer Moffat reports a new early date for a dotted rectangle from NORRIS ARM of 4 March 1937, data from Don Wilson. If anyone has any additions or corrections to the list that appeared in the May/June 1990 NEWFIE NEWSLETTER (Newsletter number 29), Palmer requests that only clear, readable photocopies be sent. If the strike does not copy well, the original should be sent. Palmer promises to return it promptly by the same method that it is sent. Send to G. Palmer Moffat, 4542 East Camino de Oro, Tucson, Arizona 85718.

NEWFOUNDLAND'S SECOND PROVISIONAL:
THE 1897 "PAID ALL" HANDSTAMP

Dean Mario

INTRODUCTION

In September 1897, just three months after the issuance of the Cabot Issue, Newfoundland postal officials found themselves facing a shortage of one cent stamps. Stocks of the popular 1¢ Cabot had decreased from 400,000 to only 15,000 (from June 24 to September 10), and the new Royal Family Issue would be unavailable until early December (Huber, 26). Unsuccessful attempts to restrict the sale of Cabots in sets persuaded officials to order the surcharging of the 1890 Three Cent Gray Victoria to "ONE CENT" (Pratt, 61).



This, as members know, did not solve the shortage problem. Profit-motivated collectors, speculators, and members of the general public sensed the Post Office's dilemma and "smelled blood". Supplies of the new overprinted stamp were first limited to fifty stamps per customer. This procedure was quickly reduced to twenty, then to only five stamps per person (Pratt, 74).

Demand was still so great that officials (fearing another shortage) halted the sale of the stamps altogether. Items destined outside the Colony would have the stamps affixed by officials themselves. To complement this "pseudo-rationing" (for officials purchased many), local items such as newspapers, circulars, and drop letters were to be sent stampless. A special circular handstamp, denoting "PAID ALL", was struck on items for delivery after the 1¢ fee was collected by clerks. This second provisional, then, was introduced to alleviate the demand pressures on the first provisional.

PREVIOUS INFORMATION

The "PAID ALL" handstamp has received a certain notoriety from various Newfoundland postal historians. Specific details as to its use, however, are rarely mentioned. Dating information is quite limited. Few have tried to pinpoint the dates of operation and only general comments such as "used early October 1897 to mid-December 1897" (Meyerson, (1946) 25, (1956) 53; Boggs, 75; Lowe 479) or used "used late-September to December (Hamilton, 497-98) have been offered. A Specific date of October 1, 1897 has been proposed (Pratt, 73).

It is on that date that a St. John's Evening Herald editorial refers to the "PAID ALL" rubber stamp:

The manner in which the Government has dealt with our postage, and given some of their supporters, like Tait, the chance to 'gobble' up thousands, has left us now so that all letters requiring one or two-cent stamps must be 'franked' with the postal rubber stamp, for there is not a stamp of either of these denominations in the office. (Pratt, 72)

The Evening Herald mentions the "PAID ALL" handstamp's used more specifically in an October 21 column:

At the post office now the three cent surcharged stamps, are only used for foreign mail matter, and cannot be bought at the window, but the officials will see to such mail matter being stamped. The local mail requiring one cent postage receives the 'paid all' mark instead of stamp. This is another instance of the remarkable ignorance and incapability of the Government, regarding public matters. (Pratt, 72)

Obviously the "PAID ALL" handstamp did not impress many people and was frequently criticized. Nevertheless we now know that the handstamp was used between October 1 and October 21, 1897. But what of the assumed dates of late-September and December (presumably December 4 when the new 1¢ Royal Family stamp was available)?

RESEARCH/NEWSLETTER SURVEY RESULTS

I would first like to thank all members who so graciously contributed items from their collections. The response to the survey was inspiring and greatly appreciated. Here, then, are the results of the research and the survey:

"PAID ALL" handstamp, 24mm circle, black ink

(ERD) September 24, 1897 (ex. Calgary Stamp Shop Sale #2,
October/November, 1891
October 1/2/12/13/15/15/16/18/20/21
November 3/26
(LRD) November 27, 1897

All are found on covers locally addressed to St. John's addresses.

Several "PAID ALL" covers exist (dated October 14 and 15) with the "E. M. LeMessurier, St. John's Newfoundland" rubber address stamp (George W. LeMessurier, Jr., was the P. O. Chief Clerk). Although the "PAID ALL" handstamp was intended to prevent local speculators et al. from securing a large supply of used stamps, and "...all reasonable precautions seem to have been taken to restrict the sale of these provisionals [stamps] to their legitimate use...." (Poole, 18), none were taken regarding the "PAID ALL" use. One must acknowledge the foresight of LeMessurier for he saw the potential in these rather unusual handstamps too.

CONCLUSIONS

The "PAID ALL" handstamp was used as early as September 24, 1897 and as late as November 27, 1897 (until new discoveries are made). This would substantiate the late-September date (similar to the early date of September 20 for the provisional stamp, W. and D. Meyerson, 52). Heavy use of the handstamp appears to have been in mid-October. The November date clearly reveals the use of the "PAID ALL" over a two month period. No December dates have been reported but one could assume that they are at least possible. Despite this rather lengthy period of use, fewer than thirty-five examples have been noted (accounting for some which may have been duplicated).

Members are still cordially invited to submit details to the author or the newsletter editor should they find any new "PAID ALL", ERDs, LRDs, or dates used. Until then, the search continues.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I would very much like to see your excellent newsletter change its name from "newfie" to "Newfoundland Newsletter". Although I understand you and all the members of the study group have respect for the people and Island of Newfoundland (it shows through your professional treatment of the articles in the newsletter), your using the term newfie somewhat belittles my people and your newsletter. The term newfie is actually a derogatory term signifying a hick or hayseed type person. Besides, I think "The Newfoundland Newsletter" although a bit stuffy sounds much more professional. I am not proposing you ban the term "newfie" as, in the context of coming from friends and mainland acquaintances it is merely a more specific term of "Hey you", and only becomes insulting when it is used in connection with a typical bungling of any given task. As in to err mightily as is preordained due to the fact of being a newfie.

No Newfoundlander takes your newsletters name as an insult because we know the term comes from friends, but I would like

your proposing a name change, to the study group on the grounds that it would better reflect the precise and indepth work that is contained within the newsletter itself.

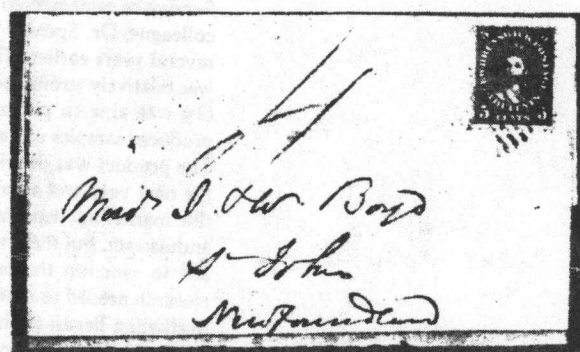
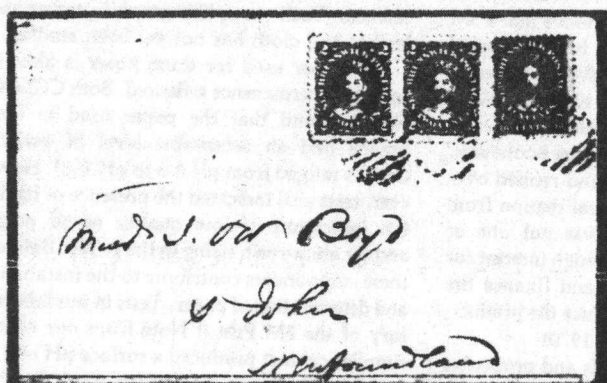
Thank you for your time,

Neil Connors

Your editor is certainly willing to change the name of the study group's newsletter. Suggestions are welcome. But, it will not be "The Newfoundland Newsletter". That name was rejected when the study group was started for the very reason cited by Mr. Connors, too stuffy. Newfoundland philately is fun and is not to be taken too seriously. All comments and suggestions are welcome.

INFORMATION WANTED

BNAPS member, John S. Keenlyside, is curious about a correspondence to Newfoundland and is hoping someone in the study group can help him.



The correspondence is from New Brunswick in the 1860's and addressed to J & W Boyd, St. John's, Newfoundland. Mr. Keenlyside reports most are folded letters and he would appreciate any background information on these letters. He would also appreciate knowing any notations on the backs of these letters. Send any information to John S. Keenlyside, 622-470 Granville Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 1V5.

Don't Post-it on your archives!

It was only a matter of time until the 3M Post-it Note™ and other self-sticking note tabs found their way into archival collections. Almost everyone has used them to annotate, correct, direct or remind. They serve as shopping lists, telephone directories, menus and labels for just about anything, and are much less painful than a string tied around the finger. As a device for holding an idea or making a temporary note, the Post-it Note rivals the paper-clip in simplicity of design and ease of use. It fails, however, as a means of retaining information for posterity.

The development of the Post-it Note by the 3M company is a story of divine inspiration and corporate encouragement. In 1974, Art Fry was a product development specialist who also sang for his church choir. The paper book-marks he used in his hymnal constantly fell out, leaving him searching for verses. One Sunday he remembered an adhesive that a 3M colleague, Dr. Spencer Silver, had discovered several years earlier. This high-tack adhesive was relatively strong, but also easily removed. Fry was able to pursue his idea at 3M and produced samples of a self-sticking bookmark. The product was developed and refined over the next year and a half. Initial reaction from the marketing department was not one of enthusiasm, but there was enough interest for 3M to sanction the project and finance the research needed to mass-produce the product. Marketing began in the late 1970s.

Knowledge of the materials and properties of the 3M Post-it Note is based on research by the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington, and a number of other articles detailing observed characteristics.

CCI's analysis showed that the adhesive used on the 3M note was an acrylate polymer. This class of adhesives performs well under accelerated thermal aging tests. However, archivists, conservators and librarians have observed

traces of adhesive left behind on surfaces after removal of a self-stick note. This observation has been confirmed by tests and analysis at NARA. Adhesive left behind on the surface of paper will result in pages sticking together and dirt being held in place. The former invites damage from handling and the latter requires conservation treatment for removal. NARA discovered a different adhesive, a rubber or polybutylene, used on the note of a rival company. Butyrate adhesives can be expected to discolour and lose adhesion over time. It is important to note here that adhesive quality is not consistent, and there is always a risk of adhesive transfer to paper and other materials.

The adhesive on self-sticking notes has also been found to lift some typewriter, electrostatic printing inks and text from facsimile copies after prolonged contact. The effects of prolonged contact of self-sticking notes to other surfaces such as photographic materials, leather and cloth has not yet been studied.

The paper used for these notes is also of concern if permanence is desired. Both CCI and NARA found that the paper used in two brands had an acceptable level of acidity (results ranged from pH 6.3 to pH 8.3). However, tests also indicated the presence of lignin (an indication of low quality wood pulp) and/or alum-rosin sizing in the paper. Both of these components contribute to the instability and deterioration of paper. Tests in our laboratory of the 3M Post-it Note from our office supplies cabinet produced a surface pH of 5.0 (pH 7 is neutral) and a positive result for the presence of lignin.

The results of these tests lead to the recommendation that self-sticking notes not be used on documents, books or any other object of importance or value.

JOHN GRACE
PICTURE CONSERVATION
DIVISION