



THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER

of the Newfoundland Study Group of BNAPS

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THE BOGUS "PARIS" LABELS

by C. A. Stillions



In the spring of 1901 these four stamps were being peddled to the stamp trade as new revenue stamps from Newfoundland. However, their status was quickly challenged and by April 1902 were confirmed as bogus. They quietly disappeared from the stamp marketplace only to reappear from time to time with a great big question mark as to their status.

When I acquired my set a couple of years ago the only readily available information was contained in Winthrop Boggs' THE POSTAGE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY OF NEWFOUNDLAND. Since then, Ed Wener of Indigo and L. N. Williams have published new findings. Ed Wener published his new information in his company's December 1981 price list and L. N. Williams's appeared in 16 March and 20 April 1987 editions of LINN'S STAMP NEWS. The purpose of this short article is to summarize this information and add some about the creators of these labels.

There are four designs with values inscribed. They are the one cent, post rider; the three cents, sailing ship; the five cents, train leaving the sheds; and the ten cents, steamship. All are on white unwatermarked paper and perforated 11. My four labels are ungummed and there has been no reference to gum in the scant literature. Also, all values are only known unused.

These four values are illustrated in Boggs. It was Ed Wener who reported a fifth design -- a design of a child riding a fish but without NEWFOUNDLAND or value. It was discovered in an imperforate block of four along with the one cent, three cents and five cents. The child riding a fish and the train leaving the sheds are also known se-tenant, both without NEWFOUNDLAND and value. The color of the block is olive and six other colors are known -- black, purple, red, deep blue, brown, and green. Ed Wener speculated that there was only one printing plate and in order to get each design in a different color, the faker had to print the whole set in each color. He further speculated that since there were seven colors and only five designs known there may be two more designs.

On the five cents value under the words FIVE CENTS can be found the name and address, "A. BAGUET GR 58 STRASBOURG PARIS". It is from this inscription that these labels take their name, PARIS ESSAYS. In the margin above some three cents and some ten cents can be found "WILLIAM B. HALE" and "WILLIAMSVILLE, MASS USA" respectively. Around the turn of the century, William B. Hale was a traveling stamp salesman based in Williamsville, Massachusetts, in other words, a satchal dealer. His ethics were not of the highest order. For example, in 1906 while living in Williamsville, he was accused by J. M. Bartels of Boston of selling United States newspaper stamps with forged cancellations to customers in Germany. Although Hale agreed to make restitution, Bartels indicated that the case had been reported to the authorities.

When Hale died in 1936 in the federal penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia, found among his possessions was a number of handstamps and cancellation blocks for forging postal markings, including one for ST JOHNS NEWF'D. A photograph of the impressions from Hale's devices was published in the 20 January 1937 issue of POSTAL MARKINGS from which the illustration at the right was taken. The exact deminsions however are not known. To my knowledge this marking is not known on any Newfoundland cover or stamp. It is possible that Hale after having the handstamp made never got around to using it. If anyone has a cover or stamp with this marking, I would like to know about it.



William B. Hale's accomplice in this little production, A. Baguet, also served time in jail. Alfred Baguet was imprisoned for three months in Paris in 1922 for counterfeiting French and French Colonies stamps. Also, L. N. Williams has traced other Cinderella stamps to Alfred Baguet. In the 16 March 1987 edition of LINN'S STAMP NEWS, Mr. Williams identified two Crete labels as Baguet creations. In the same article the Crete labels are linked to these Newfoundland labels. The Crete labels like the

Newfoundland labels were printed in sheets of different designs. In the case of the Crete labels a complete sheet was found at the British Library Philatelic Collections in a remarkable 31 album collection of poster stamps formed by Louis Campbell-Johnston. This sheet contained 12 designs. Mr. Williams did not say that a sheet of the Newfoundland labels were in the collection, but it would be nice to go look.

While Winthrop Boggs and Robson Lowe both called these labels essays, in truth they are Cinderellas.

RECEIVED IN THE MAIL

From study group member dealer, Ed Wener, comes his July 1991 price list. As usual, in addition to a nice selection of BNA stamps and covers, are two short articles; one on Newfoundland Fakes and Forgeries and one on the Specimen stamps of the 1897 Royal Family Issue. Also the front cover is a photo of the upper right corner of the emergency printing of the three cents Princess of Wales, plate 4.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Dean Mario is compiling a list of Newfoundland duplex cancellations and requests assistance from members for latest or earliest dates of use etc. Photocopies would be appreciated. Send to Dean Mario, Post Office Box 342, Main Post Office, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 3L3.

RESIGNATIONS

T. R. Ubbelohde, Davenport, Iowa due to failing eyesight

NEWFIE NEWSLETTER WINS A METAL:

Yor editor is pleased to announce that this study group's 1990 newsletters was awarded a Bronze medal in the National Philatelic Exhibition held at ORAPEX'91 in Ottawa, 3-5 May 1991. Of the six BNAPS study groups that entered their newsletters, two were awarded Silver-Bronze medals and four a Bronze medal. Not bad for specialized publications produced on a shoestring and a lot of labor of love.

COMING EVENTS

BNAPLEX'91, August 29-31, 1991, Vancouver, British Columbia, Westin Bayshore Hotel, Annual convention and exhibition of the British North America Philatelic Society and annual meeting of the Newfoundland Study Group. The Study Group meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm, Friday, 30 August.

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

Robert J. McGillivray, STANLEY STAMP COMPANY, 1096 Richards Street, Vancouver, B.C., CANADA V6B 3E1

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.

WANTED

Articles for the Newsletter. If you have any items you want to showoff, questions about something you don't understand, or opinions you would like to express, this is the place. So send a photocopy of your favorite item, your question, or your essay to me and I'll use it in the newsletter.

UPDATE: 1897 "PAID ALL" HANDSTAMP
by Dean Mario

Members will recall my previous article on the 1897 "PAID ALL" handstamp study of September/October 1990 (Newsletter No. 31). Illustrated are some recent examples of the earliest recorded date of use, September 24, as well as another early unrecorded date, September 27. Both were from the "Zurich Collection" recently auctioned in England.

Another "Zurich" piece is an unusual (and previously unknown by the author) usage of the "PAID ALL" handstamp with an adhesive added to pay the proper 3¢ inland letter rate. The stamp is the 2¢ Vermillion Codfish. Have other members seen such an odd combination with the "PAID ALL" handstamp? Details to the author would be greatly appreciated.



