



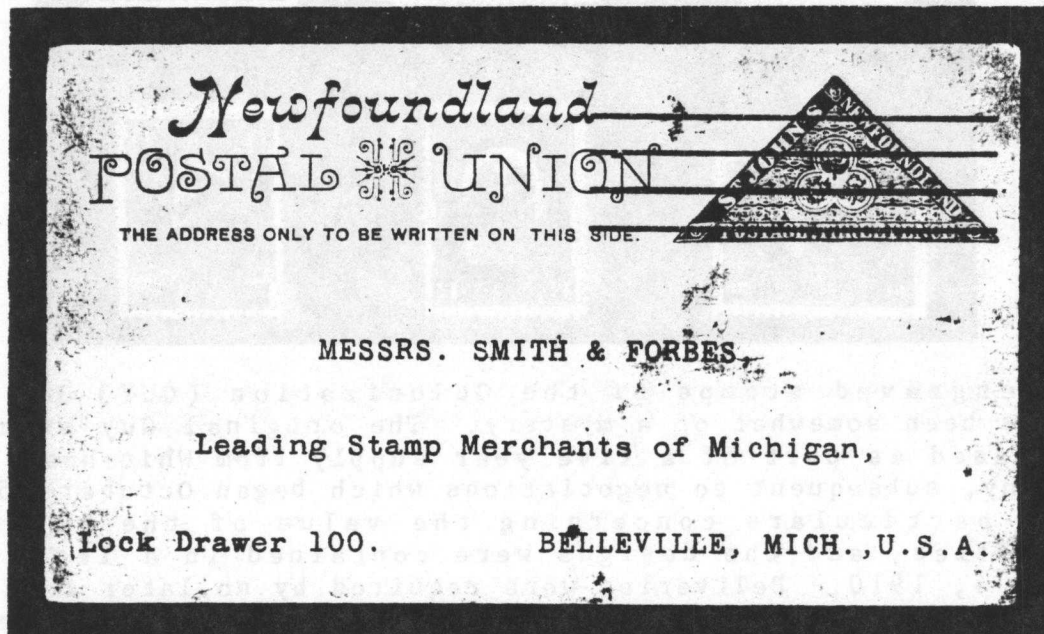
## THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER

of the Newfoundland Study Group of BNAPS

Number 39

January/February 1992

A THREE PENNY POST CARD?



This unusual post card showed up in a collection of Philatelic advertising materials that a Washington, D.C. area collector was showing to his local club. He was kind enough to provide a photocopy for this newsletter. Actually it is not a post card but an advertising card. When Smith & Forbes were in business and when they created this card is not known. Philatelic advertising cards, like this one, are quite scarce.

THE GUY (COLONIZATION) ISSUE - ENGRAVED  
FROM THE COLLECTION OF ROBERT H. PRATT

by C. A. Stillions



The engraved stamps of the Colonization (GUY) Issue have always been somewhat of a mystery. The original Guy stamps were purchased as part of a five year supply from Whitehead Morris & Company, subsequent to negotiations which began October 25, 1909. Full particulars concerning the value of the stamps, the quantities, and the designs were contained in a letter dated April 4, 1910. Deliveries were required by no later than the end of July. Previous correspondence had established that Newfoundland was swatisified with the ENGRAVED stamps of the American Bank Note Company, and that they desired the new stamps to be engraved and again supplied in sheets of 100 each.

Curious variations from the detailed instructions ensued, evidently from a lack of attention to detail by Whitehead Morris, and a lack of information concerning the capabilities of Whitehead Morris in Newfoundland. Whitehead Morris never has the ability to produce engraved stamps by themselves. They were stationers, and while they did have perforating equiptment, they could only lithograph stamps. They could not even prepare the required dies. The lithographed Colonization (GUY) Issue began in Newfoundland so late, that only the 1¢ and 2¢ stamps could be placed on sale in very limited quantities on August 12th, the day the celebration of the 300th anniversary of Guy's landing began.

Another mistake became apparent on August 25th, when a package containing a second shipment of 100 sheets of 6¢ stamps appeared,

unannounced and unsolicited. Why? To correct an apparent error! The letters with instructions to Whitehead Morris, all used the spelling of Colonization with a "Z". References to illustrations to be used by Whitehead Morris, directed them to various pages of the First Edition of Prowse's History of Newfoundland. In this book the spelling of Colonisation is with an "S". The engraver followed the book, the company finally detected the error, corrected it on the plate and sent new stamps to St. John's.

Evidently sensing unhappiness in Newfoundland, Mr. Morris, embarked on September 10th for St. John's, probably arriving about the 15th or 16th. What was discussed is unknown, and Mr. Morris returned home bearing whatever instructions had been conveyed to him. Probably the lack of engraved stamps was paramount. The correspondence is mute from early December until February 7, 1911 when instructions were issued for final payment of all open invoices received for this issue. Production orders rescued from the bombing of Whitehead Morris in 1940, indicate the quantities of sheets of the high value stamps which were engraved and were to be perforate on December 29, 1910. They were then shipped to St. John's early in January 1911.

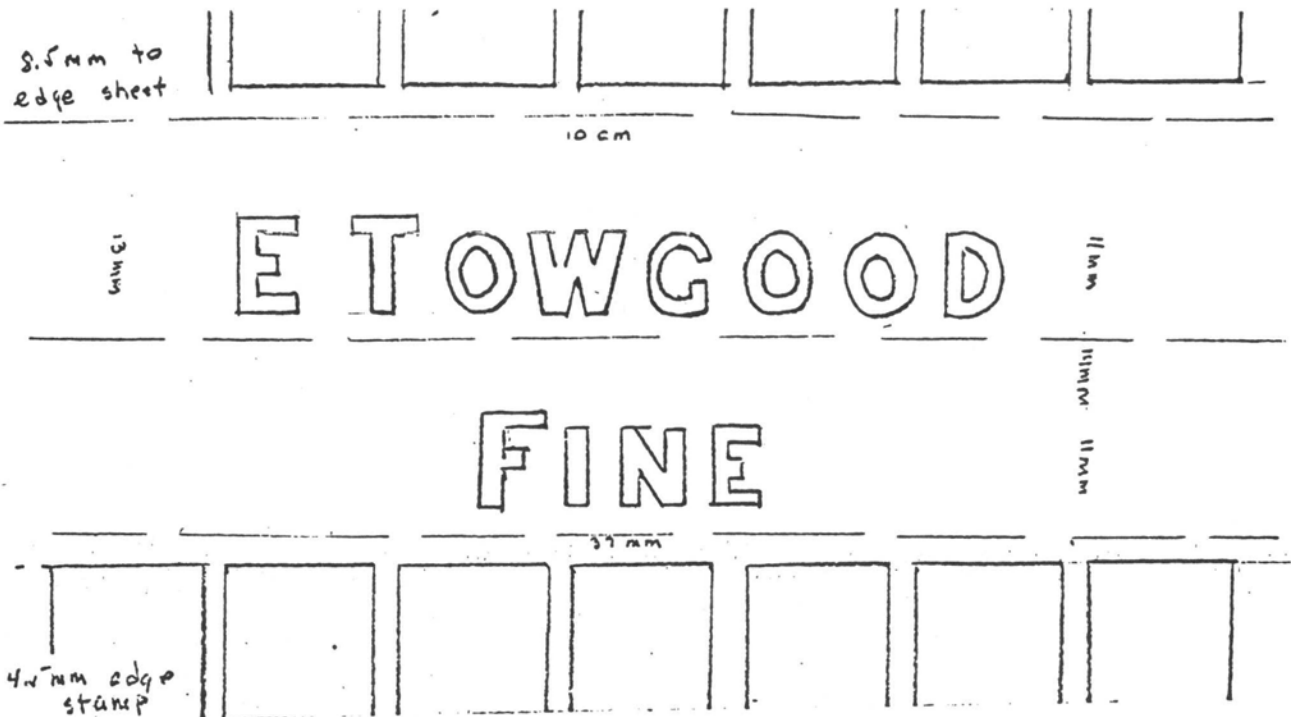
Initially these stamps were believed to have been produced by De La Rue. Later research, even though all the records of Whitehead Morris had been destroyed in the bombing and the company merged with another, definitely show that the dies had been made by McDonalds, also known as The London Bureau of Engraving, and printed by Alexander's. Initially the dies were etched, rather than cut with engraving tools, which would be satisfactory for lithograph printing. When engraved stamps were required, the dies were recut with the proper tools, and the transfers made. Possibly these stamps were printed from copper plates.

The proofs and stamps of this re-issue, have their interesting varieties. They were printed on sometimes watermarked paper, they exist imperforate and part perforate, and color trials are known on partially inked sheets. Some presentation pages were adorned with die proofs. Evidently an afterthought, prepared to correct a misinterpretation of a customers order, they are an interesting limited addition to a commemorative issue.

This narrative is taken from the introductory page in Robert H. Pratt's award winning exhibit at the 1988 BNAPS convention in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Unfortunately the quality of the photocopy of the exhibit does not permit another generation of reproduction. There is a line drawings in the exhibit that is of interest and should reproduce reasonably well.

On a few stamps of the engraved issue this watermark appears. It repeats every 8 7/8". Bob Pratt indicates that it probably

appears only twice for each 600 stamps. Thus only 16 out of 600 could have the watermark.



For additional information about this understudied issue try the following:

Pratt, Robert H., "Newfoundland - the Guy Issue of 1910", COLLECTOR CLUB PHILATELIST, v.47, no.1, 1968, p.15-25; v.47 no.2, 1968, p.85-92; v.47 no.3, 1968, p.151-161; v.47 no.4, 1968, p.235-238; v.47, no.5, 1968, p. 289-297.

Strange, Arnold M., "The Guy Commemorative Issue of Newfoundland", WEST-END PHILATELIST, v.33, n.392, 1940, p.188-190.

#### NEW MEMBER

Chris Piercey, 155 Tullamore Court, Brampton, Ontario L6T 3Z2

NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP MEMBERS  
of the British North America Philatelic Society  
as of 29 February 1992

Bernard Barry, P. O. Box 220, Lumsden, Saskatchewan, CANADA S0G 3C0  
Ronald Battersby, 2184 Lafayette Street, Victoria, British Columbia, CANADA V8S 2P1  
Mrs. Laura B. Boich, 4053 Sunnybrook Drive S.E., Warren, Ohio 44484-4741  
Mel Boone, 2711 Golan Ave. S.W., Calgary, Alberta, CANADA T3E 7A7  
Charles F. Boubelik, Box 40, Canon City, Colorado 81215  
Russell H. Burkhard, 6701 Wooden Spoke Road, Burke, Virginia 22015  
Paul Burega, Box 15765, Station F, Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA K2C 3S7  
John Butt, 264 Hamilton Avenue, St. John's, Newfoundland, CANADA A1E 1J7  
Robert G. Clarke, P. O. Box 1151, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050-1151  
Capt. N.D. Campbell, R.N., Barley More Cottage, Knaphill, Surrey, ENGLAND  
N. Clifford-Jones, Shoes Farm, Ockley, Surry, ENGLAND  
W. M. Collie, 22 Hill Road, Claughton, Brikenhead, Merseyside L43 8TL UNITED KINGDOM  
David Cooper, P.O. Box 2372, Postal Station "P", Thunder Bay, Ontario, CANADA P7B 5E9  
Henry H. Conland, 223 Newfield Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106-0102  
Brock Covington, P. O. Box 160, Glen Echo, Maryland 20812  
Allan C. Crane, 9272 North Thrush Lane, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53217  
J. E. Croker, 35 Hilldale Road, Blackwell, Bristol, Avon BS19 3J2 UNITED KINGDOM  
Charles J. Deur, 2700 Shavano Court, Arlington, Texas 76006  
Victor B. Drozd, P. O. Box 237, Wellborn, Texas 77881-0237  
William J. A. Davidson, 1502 Harbour Drive, Coquitlam, British Columbia, CANADA V3J 5V5  
Harold M. Forbes, Jr., 276 Richland Avenue, Morgantown, West Virginia 26505  
John Forrest, "Hightrees", 10 Thorner Lane, Scarcroft, Leeds LS14 3AR West Yorkshire, ENGLAND  
Albert R. Govier, 13 Kilnford Drive, Dundonald, Kilmarnock, SCOTLAND KA2 9ES  
Peter De Groot, P. O. Box 57, Hilton Beach, Ontario, CANADA POR 1G0  
Marion E. Gannon, P. O. Box 5705, Pasadena, Texas 77508-5705  
Horace W. Harrison, 1802 Indian Head Road, Ruxton, Maryland 21204  
J. Douglas Hannan, #23 - 1950 Burtch Road, Kelowna, British Columbia, CANADA V1Y 4B2  
Malcolm Jones, 14 Tullis Close, Oxon OX14 4BD UNITED KINGDOM



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Madeliene Eva Percey, 142 Davey Street, Hobart, Tasmania 7000  
AUSTRALIA  
John S. Keenlyside, 622 - 470 Granville Street, Vancouver,  
British Columbia, CANADA V6C 1V5  
John J. Kriz, 37 Strawberry Hill Road, New Canaan, CT 06840-4238  
James H. Luetje, 16640 Killdeer Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20855  
Eugene M. Labiuk, P. O. Box 1193 Station "B", Mississauga,  
Ontario, CANADA L4Y 3W5  
Gary J. Lyon, P.O. Box 450, Bathurst, New Brunswick, CANADA E2A  
3Z4  
Stephen H. Marcus, Lambert & Weiss, 61 Broadway, New York, New  
York 10006  
Lyal McCurdy, 12422 - 28A Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, CANADA  
T6J 4E1  
Robert J. McGillivray, STANLEY STAMP COMPANY, 1096 Richards  
Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, CANADA V6B 3E1  
George McGowan, 15 James Lane, N. Troy, New York 12182  
Wallace B. Mitchell, 163 Church Street, Watertown, Massachusetts  
02172  
Dean W. Mario, P. O. Box 342, M.P.O., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan,  
CANADA S7K 3L3  
G. Palmer Moffat, 4542 E. Camino De Oro, Tucson, AZ 85718  
L. Frederick Moose, 1820 Haydenbend Circle, Grapevine, Texas  
76051  
Robin Moore, 45 Bellevue Crescent, St. John's, Newfoundland,  
CANADA A1E 5T4  
Thomas F. Nemec, 19 Howlett Avenue, St. John's, Newfoundland,  
CANADA A1B 1L1  
Carl K. Newswanger, 1211 Glenview NE, North Canton, Ohio  
44721-1914  
Brian Noble, 11 Trailsmoke Crescent, Etobicoke, Ontario, CANADA  
M9C 1L9  
Alfred N. Peatman, 22 2nd Street, Renforth, Saint John, New  
Brunswick, CANADA E2M 1M1  
John Piercey, 27 Raymond Heights, Corner Brook, Newfoundland,  
CANADA A2H 2S2  
David Piercey, 2424 - 117 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, CANADA T6J  
3S3  
Robert H. Pratt, 7912 North Beach Drive, Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
53217  
Peter C. Prebble, 682 Sand Cove Road, Saint John, New Brunswick,  
CANADA E2M 3C8  
William G. Robinson, 5830 Cartier Street, Vancouver, British  
Columbia, CANADA V6M 3A7  
Howard Rotterdam, 138 - 48 76 Avenue, Flushing, NY 11367  
Nigel Rusted, 28 Monkton Road, St. John's, Newfoundland, CANADA  
A1C 3T3  
John D. Spangler, 601 Brevoort Lane, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301  
Arthur W. Sprague, 216 South Park Road, La Grange, Illinois 60525  
Robert B. Soper, 1155 Cartaret Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia,  
CANADA B3H 3P2

Brian Stalker, GLARAMARA, PARC BRYN COCH, UPPER BRYN COCH, MOLD,  
CLWYD CH7 1PU GREAT BRITAIN

David A. Stark, P. O. Box 400, Annapolis Junction, Maryland  
20701-0400

Allen L. Steinhart, 35 Church Street, Suite #305, Toronto,  
Ontario, CANADA M5E 1T3

C. A. Stillions, 5031 Eskridge Terrace, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
20016-3444

William P. Taylor, 225 Jay Street, Johnson City, New York 13790

Ralph E. Trimble, Box 26556, Markville P.O., Markham, Ontario,  
CANADA L3R 0M4

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

Ed Wener, INDIGO, P. O. Box 308, Guelph, Ontario, CANADA N1H 6K5

Edwin L. Wade, 434 Mary Lane, Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014

Frank Waite, 110 East McMillan Street, Newberry, Michigan 49868

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

David J. Wells, 9949 S. Mayfield Avenue, Oak Lawn, Illinois  
60453

J. Don Wilson, 11 Elm Place, St. John's, Newfoundland, CANADA  
A1B 2S4

John P. Wynns, HCR 3, Box 174D, Rosamond, California 93560

Total 70 Members

#### COMING EVENTS

BNAPEX'92, 10-12 September, St. Charles, Illinois, The Pheasant  
Run Resort, Annual convention and exhibition of the British North  
America Philatelic Society and annual meeting of the Newfoundland  
Study Group. St. Charles is a suburb of Chicago with  
transportation from O'Hare Airport. For additional information  
contact Bob Schlesinger, 523 Highland Grove Drive, Buffalo Grove,  
Illinois 60089-1762, U.S.A.

#### SPECIAL OFFER

Robert Pratt's donation of two autographed copies of his book THE  
ESSAYS AND PROOFS OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA went very quickly.  
Many thanks to Bob for his kind donation.

#### NEWFOUNDLAND BRANCH PACKETS

Allen Steinhart in reviewing a new book, BRITISH POST OFFICE NOTICES 1666-1899 volume 5, 1850-1859, by M. M. Raguin, found the following January 1850 notice:

#### "INSTRUCTIONS NO. 2

The branch packet for Newfoundland will be dispatched from Halifax on the arrival at the latter port of the homeward packet from Boston; and the branch packet for Bermuda will be dispatched from Halifax on the arrival at the port of the outward packet from Boston."

The BRITISH POST OFFICE NOTICES 1666-1899 is an ambitious project of Mr. Raguin to make the information in these notices available to postal historians. Nine volumes are planned and the first five are already in print. Information about the series can be obtained from the author at 280 Boston Avenue, Bedford, Massachusetts 02155 USA.

#### NEW STUDY GROUP PROJECT -- OFFICIALLY SEALED STAMP'S WATERMARK



Among specialists it has been long known that Newfoundland's Officially Sealed stamp of 1905 is occasionally watermarked. However, no one has identified the complete watermark. Eventhough the stamp is very large, 35mm x 48mm, only bits and pieces of the watermark have been determined. The stamp is so scarce that few collectors can accumulate sufficient quantities to study the watermark. As a group we should be able to pool the limited information and determined the watermark.

Randall Van Someren of 1511 West Pioneer #5, Oak Harbor, Washington 98277 has agreed to coordinate this project. He asks that members send him a tracing, or drawing of the watermark as it appears on the stamp, or measurements of the watermark. He does not want anyone to send the actual stamp since it is too valuable. So far, the letters OU, LI, LL (inverted), and LLI (inverted) have been recorded. Randy will accumulate the bits and pieces and try to put some order to them.