

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 71

March/April 98

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

I have always been perplexed by the meaning of "philatelic" as applied to postal history. If a cover has been overpaid (i.e. a 60 cent Cabot stamp paying the single letter rate) I consider it to be "philatelic" usage. On the other hand, if a cover is properly paid (i.e. 1 of each type of the 1897 Victoria surcharged stamps paying the 3 cent inland rate) even though the sender intentionally put the stamps on the letter to a collector friend, I consider this to be "postal" usage.

Much of the expensive postal history appearing on the market is being labelled as philatelic, although paying a proper rate (i.e. #127 inverted, 130 inverted, etc.). I think that this is wrong and the item should just be marked paying the rate to. So much for being a purist.

MOVING MEMBERS

I received a letter from long time member Alfred Peatman, noting that he recently had a slight stroke but he is well on the way to recovery. I am sure that we all wish him well. His new address is: 437 Osbourne Crescent, Edmonton, Alberta, T6R 7C3.

SHOW NEWS

Horace Harrison, our postal stationery expert, who exhibited at the A.P.S. show in Milwaukee, won a gold medal and the Prix d'Honneur for his exhibit "Newfoundland Postal Stationery". Our congratulations Horace.

SUPPORT OUR DEALER MEMBERS

*R.J. McGillvary, STANLEY STAMPS, 1096 Richard's Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6B 3E1
J.C. Michaud, Box 31248, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 5Y1
Jon Jameison, Saskatoon Stamp Centre, P.O. Box 1879, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7K 3S2
Ed Wener, INDIGO, P.O. Box 89, Orewa, Hibiscus Coast, New Zealand*

*Chairman & Editor: John Butt, 264 Hamilton Avenue, St. John's, NF, A1E 1J7
Treasurer: Martin Goebel, 79 Highland Drive, St. John's, NF, A1A 3C3*

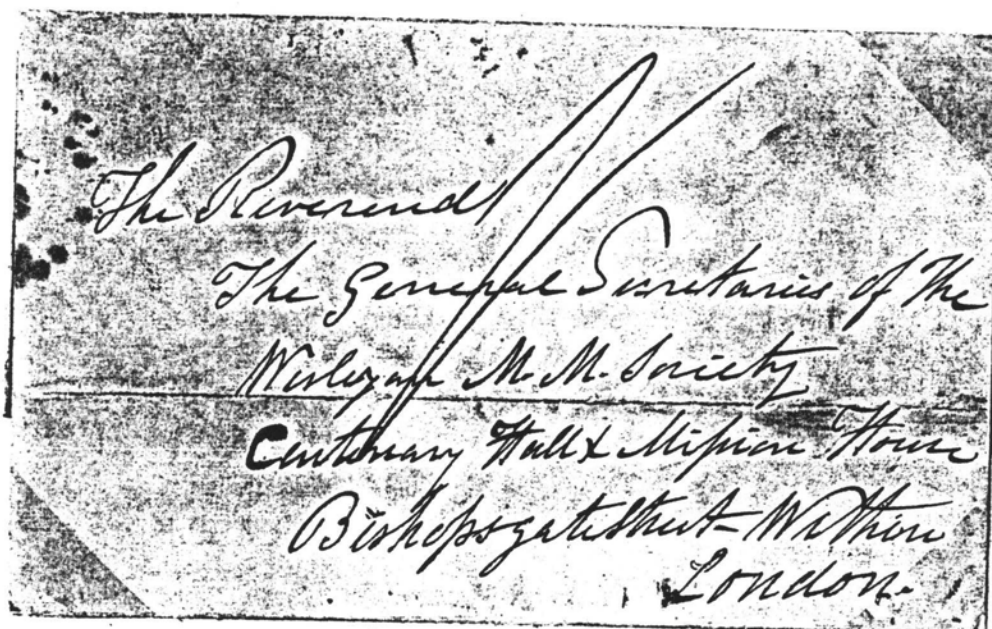
Newfoundland

DOUGLAS CAMPBELL'S
"GOLDEN OLDIES"

THE FIRST OFFICIAL HANDSTAMP.

"NEWFOUNDLAND".

1840-46.

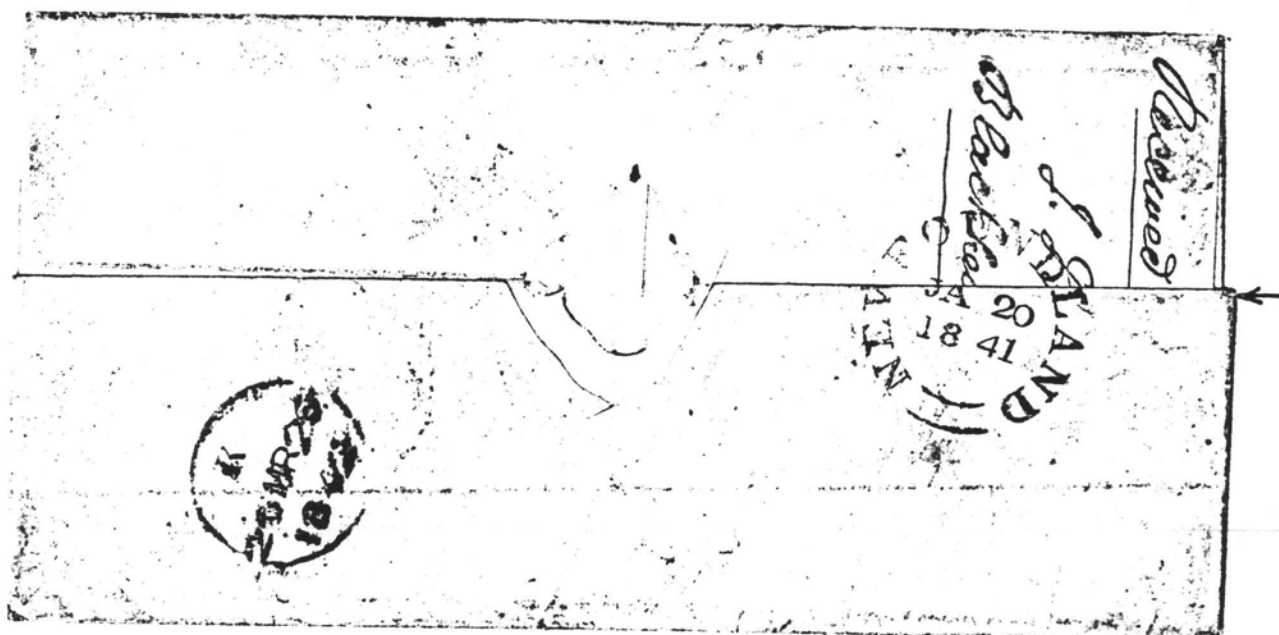


"1/-".

The
front of an
identical
letter.

Date-
stamp
as below
on back.

January 8, 1845. St John's to London. Received October 15. 1/- to pay on arrival.



January 8, 1841. Blackhead to London, via St John's, January 20. Received on March 26.

In 1840 the Newfoundland Post Office was incorporated into the Imperial Postal System and St John's was provided with its first handstamp by the G. P.O. London. It continued in use until 1846. It was struck, in black, on front of letters as a dispatch stamp and on the back as a receipting stamp.

Newfoundland

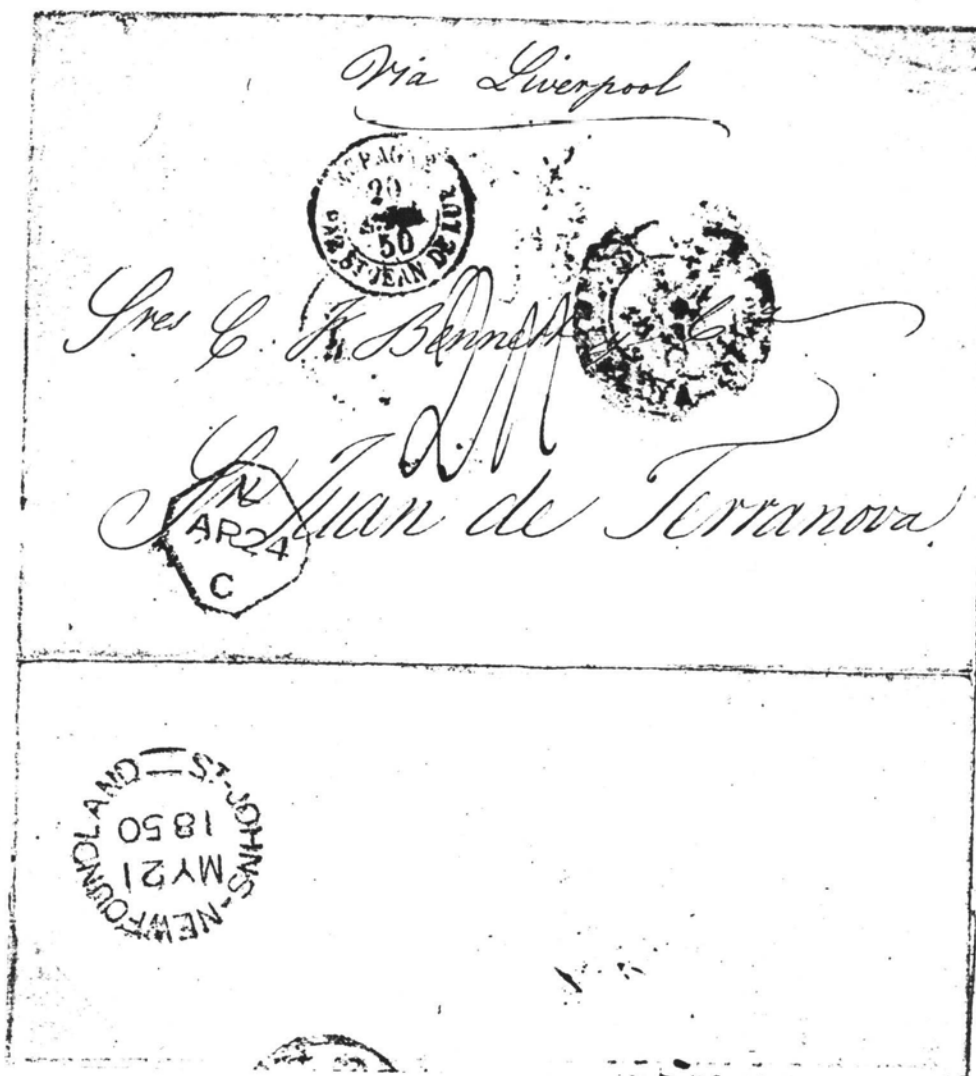
DOUGLAS CAMPBELL'S
"GOLDEN OLDIES"

THE SECOND OFFICIAL HANDSTAMP.

"St John's Newfoundland."

c1846-56.

Letter from Spain.



Used as
Receipt
stamp.

December 24, 1849. Valencia to St John's, via Liverpool, April 24. Recd
May 21, 1850. Packet rate 2/1d.

The second official handstamp was prepared by the G.P.O. London and was sent to St John's in 1846. This particular "small arc" (6 mm outer arc) stamp remained in use until about 1856, when it was replaced by the "wide arc" (13 mm outer arc) variant, which continued in use at St John's until c1876.

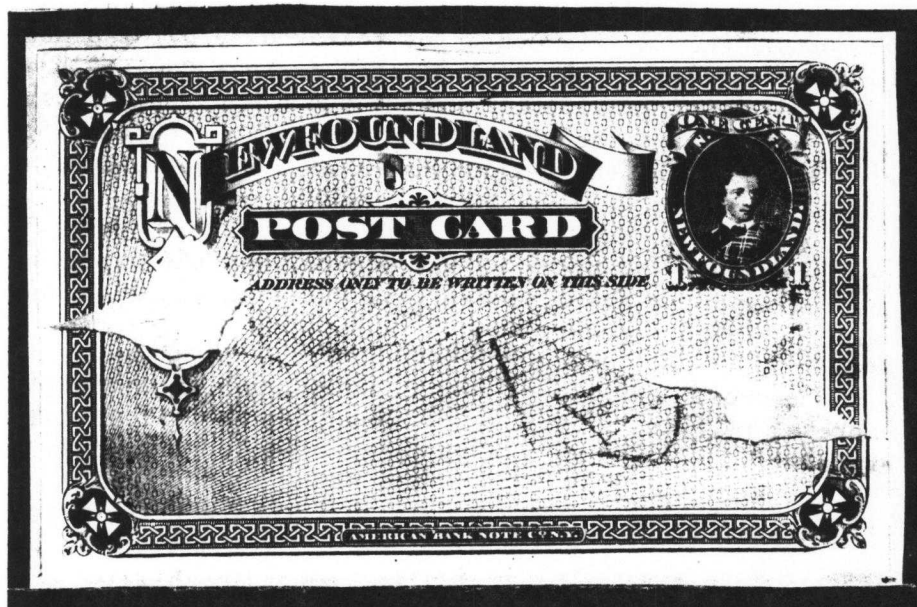
Struck in black, the stamps were used as receipt stamps on back and as transit stamps on front. Both types were later used as holders for cork cancelling handstamps.

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO.

THIS SMALL DIE ESSAY ON INDIA PAPER, TORN IN HALF HORIZONTALLY, WAS FOUND IN THE ARCHIVES PINNED TOGETHER WITH THE TWO ITEMS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE. IT WAS PART OF THE MOCK-UP FOR THE TWO CENTS U. P. U. CARD OF 1879.

THE LARGE PART MISSING UNDER THE CAPITAL "N" IS TO REMIND THE ARTIST TO OMIT THE WORD "TO" FOUND ON THE ONE CENT. IT IS POSTULATED THAT ESSAY WAS INCLUDED TO GIVE SOME IDEA OF THE STYLE IN USE FOR NEWFOUNDLAND, ALL THE ISSUED CARDS HAVING BEEN SENT TO THE POST OFFICE.

THIS DIE ESSAY DIFFERS FROM OTHERS RECORDED BECAUSE THE ADDRESS LINES HAVE NOT YET BEEN ADDED.



THE BOTTOM PORTION WAS PINNED UNDERNEATH THE UPPER PART SHOWING THE INDICIA AND LEGENDS.

LOT 1513 FROM THE R. A. Siegel SALE 6/27/97

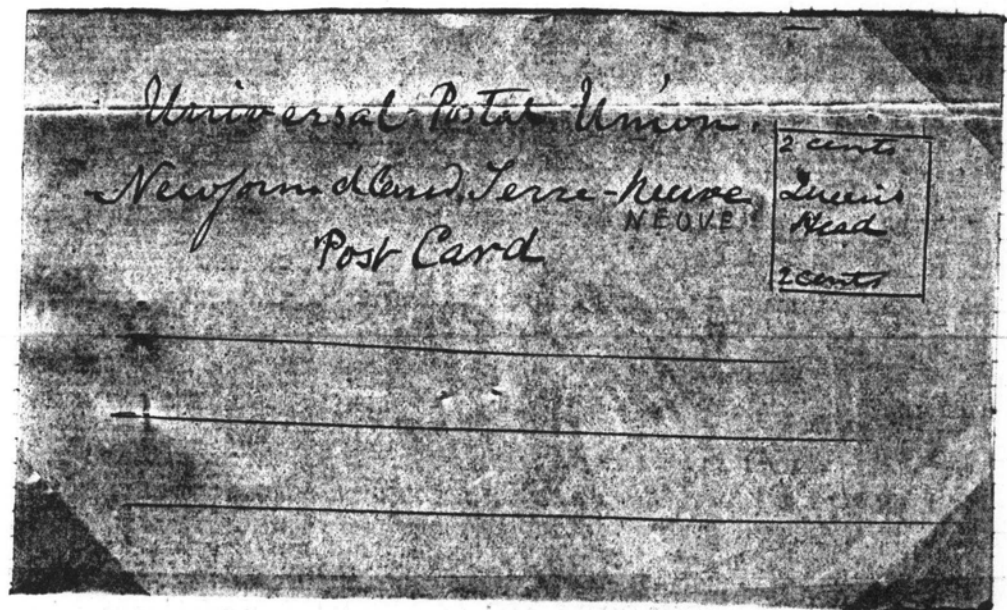
H. W. HARRISON, BNAPS
1802 INDIAN HEAD RD.
BALTO., MD USA 21204
410-828-5341

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO.

THE TWO ITEMS TO WHICH THE DIE ESSAY ON THE PRIOR PAGE WAS PINNED, TOGETHER WITH THE ACTUAL PIN WHICH HELD THE TWO PIECES OF THE DIE ESSAY TO THE GREY PAPER LAY-OUT AND THE LINED NOTE PAPER WHICH STILL HOLDS THE ORIGINAL PIN. NOTE THAT THE SPELLING OF "NEUVE" HAS BEEN PRINTED IN PENCIL BENEATH THE SCRIPT VERSION IN INK.

*Newfoundland
Post Card
Apr - 1879.*

LOT 1514 FROM THE R.A. SIEGEL SALE 6/27/97



H. W. HARRISON, BNAPS
1802 INDIAN HEAD RD.
BALTO., MD USA 21204
410 - 828-5341

H. W. HARRISON, BNAPS
1802 INDIAN HEAD RD.
BALTO., MD USA 21204
410 - 828-5341

1889 ENVELOPES
REGISTERED MAIL
SEVEN CENTS IN ADHESIVES PLUS THREE CENTS ENVELOPE
REGISTERED U.P.U. RATE
ST. JOHN'S 2 MR 02, VIA LIVERPOOL 2 AP, & LONDON



BACKSTAMPED: CHEMNITZ 4.4.02

FIVE CENTS IN ADHESIVES PLUS FIVE CENTS ENVELOPE
REGISTERED U.P.U. RATE

THE UNRECORDED REGISTERED LABEL APPEARS
TO BE PRINTED, WITH ROULETTED SEPARATIONS



BACKSTAMPED: LIVERPOOL & LONDON 28 JY 02
CHEMNITZ 30.7.02.

SEAL ISLANDS

Lat. Long.: 53° 13' N 55° 44' W
 Population: 52 (1965)
 Origin of Name:

KEVIN O'AVELLY
 "LABRADOR OFFICES"

Opened: 1888 [Walsh and Butt]
 1891 (Way Office) Labrador North [Almanac] [John S. Pike,
 waymaster]
 1892 (Post Office) [Almanac] [Sweetland Pike, postmaster]
 1894 (Post Office) [Pratt] [Barton Green, postmaster]
 Closed: 1920 [Walsh and Butt]

No postal markings known.

"LABRADOR OFFICES"

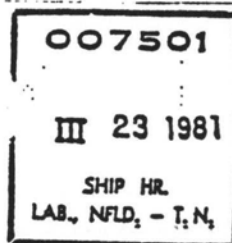
SHIP HARBOUR

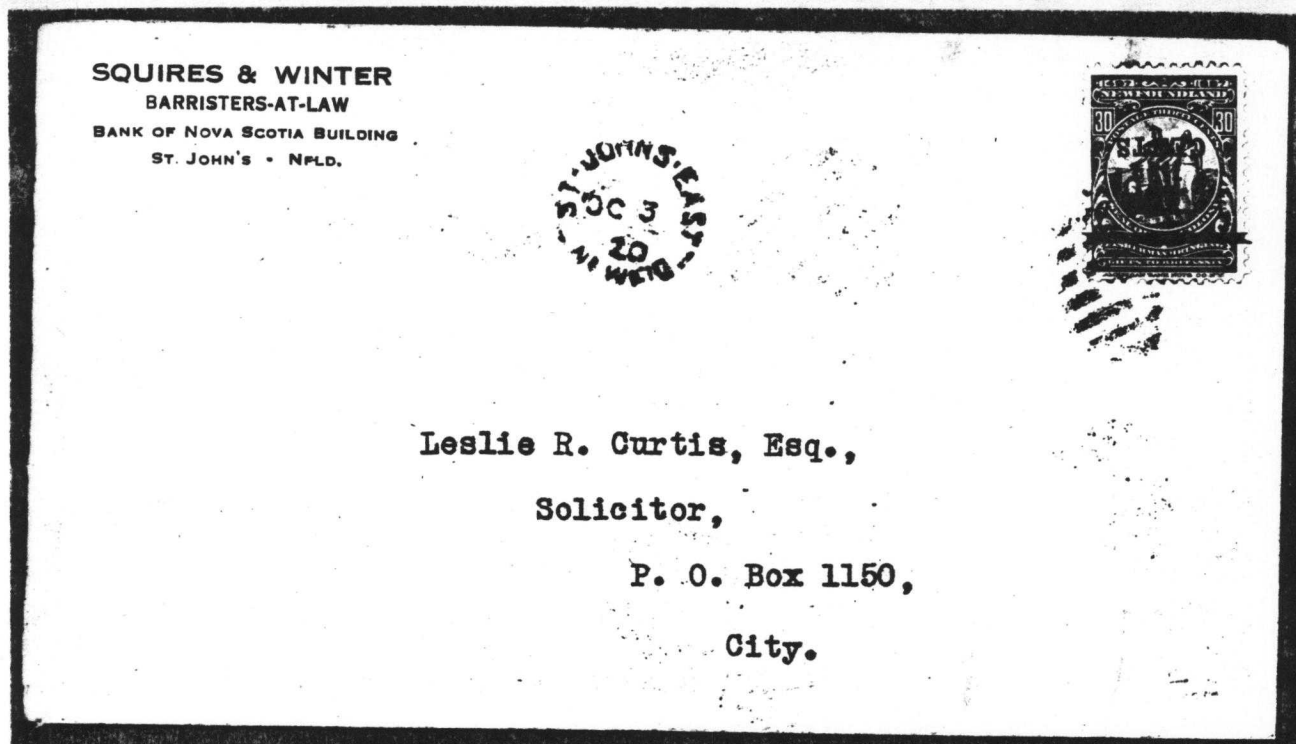
Lat. Long.: 52° 38' N 55° 47' W
 Population: 23 (1965)
 Origin of Name:

Opened: 1899 [Pratt] [Robert Bradbury, postmaster]
 1909 [Walsh and Butt]
 before 1948, summer office, no money order service
 Closed: Mar. 31, 1949
 Reopened: ? 1981 Non-Accounting POCON 007501
 June 12-Sept. 29, 1981
 June 22-Oct. 12, 1982
 June 27-Sept. 24, 1983
 June 18-Nov. 16, 1984
 ??
 June 25-Sept. 21, 1990

Postal Code: A0K 5Z0

TYPE	COLOUR	PROOF DATE	EARLIEST	LATEST
C1		May 27, 1981		
P1		Mar. 23, 1981		





2¢ ON 35¢ INVERTED SURCHARGE ON COVER

In my article in **BNA TOPICS**, Vol. 54, No 3, last year, titled NEWFOUNDLAND'S 1918-1920 POSTAL SHORTAGES, I expressed some skepticism about Sunday use of the provisionals, and two covers that had reached the market with the 2¢ on 35¢ surcharge *inverted and on cover postmarked the last day of the provisional period, Sunday, October 3, 1920*. I suggested personal inspection of one of the covers might change my mind. This led to communications from Randall Martin of Massachusetts. Mr. Martin's cover is pictured.

Prompted by Martin's inquiry, I expanded my research, concentrating on the St. John's East postmark - I found a **NO 22 20** postmark on an inexpensive (2¢ Caribou) postcard, with distinct similarities between it and the **OC 3 20** postmark on Martin's (Curtis) cover, as well as on the cover addressed to Burt. All postmarks are pictured, with the postcard specimen slightly enlarged. My letters go into detail.

I renew my request for Xerox copies of any of the four 1920 provisionals, or the **POSTAGE PAID** handstamp, postmarked on any of the following Sundays from 1920: September 5, 12, 19, 26, and October 3.

Postmarks



Curtis Cover



Burt Cover



Postcard

January 5, 1998

Randall R. Martin
etc.

Dear Mr. Martin:

Receipt of your letter of December 30, 1997 resulted in my reexamining the question of Sunday usage of **PAID ALL**, and provisional issues in September and October, 1920.

I remain unconvinced that *regular* Sunday usage occurred from Sunday, September 5, 1920 - October 3, 1920, however, your cover may well be genuine, based upon the photographic evidence, and a contemporary post card I have.

When I attend stamp shows, I bring my **Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue**, which includes small calendars I have pasted on for the 1897 and 1920 provisionals. I had the opportunity to go through the Allan Steinhart covers at PACIFIC97, and a number of cover collections at BNAPEX97, in St. John's. This resulted in my establishing several new dates for the 1897 provisionals, but, *I still found no covers during the 1920 provisional period postmarked on Sunday*. No one, who read my article in **BNA TOPICS**, from 1997 has written me of any Sunday usage, either. One would assume that if any post office needed to move mail on Sundays, it would have been the G.P.O., and not a small branch office like St. John's East.

With these caveats, let's examine your cover. I assume you bought it from Eastern Auctions, in their December 9, 1995 sale (Lot #200), where it was described as "likely the only known example." Attached is an enlarged Xerox of a similar cover from Siegel's October 16, 1996 sale. We only have the upper part of the cover but it is enough to show us that attorney Curtis, who received your cover, sent this one to another attorney, H. Norman Burt. There were only 50 of the inverted 2¢ on 30¢ stamps, and I assume the attorneys were trying to establish usage on cover at the end of the provisional period - or at least, *usage on cover*.

Related to all this, I have found a post card postmarked at St. John's East, on November 22, 1920, less than two months later (on a Monday, by the way). The damaged **F** in **NEWF'D**, from wear, suggests the same canceller was used on your cover and the Burt example. The **20**, designating **1920**, also shows wear on the post card, but the residual "heaviness" in the lower left of the **0**, at around "7 o'clock" and the irregular curvature of the **2** on its inner aspect, especially as seen on the postmark right on the 2¢ Caribou, is suggestive of the **20**, on your cover, if somewhat less so, the **20** on the Burt cover..

Now it's possible that the **3** was really **13** or **23**, but the **3** strike on both covers appears identical, and with less usage of individual day slugs, one would expect less wear than on the **20** year date. The alternatives dates are still a possibility, however.

Thank you for your offer of letting me examine your cover, but without the Burt cover to also examine, I am not certain I could come up with a 100% opinion of what happened here. You may still send the cover for my inspection if you want to, as I am going by photographic evidence only, however, I now believe it is genuine, even if possibly philatelic by design and execution. [See follow-up letter.]

My conclusions, at this point are:

- The post marks on both covers are genuine, but the 20, in each case may have been reinforced, and slight differences may have resulted. Note, for example the flat bottom on the 2 on your cover compared to the curve on the bottom of the 2 on the Burt cover. I do not believe either 3 has been touched.
- I still believe the Sunday post mark, although that of the 3rd, was *irregular*, in that Sunday usage has not otherwise been shown during the provisional period. Perhaps these attorneys had a postal clerk friend (postmaster?) who gave them the favor of a last day usage cancel, using a legitimate canceller.
- Nice item, *even* if philatelically conceived and rendered. Probably impossible to prove it *illegitimate*.

I would be interested in purchasing your cover for my collection and exhibit on Newfoundland surcharges. Let me now if interested.

Sincerely,



March 5, 1998

Randall R. Martin
etc.

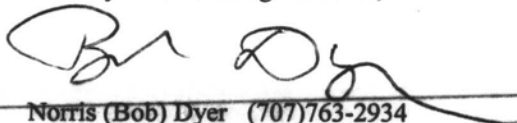
Dear Mr. Martin:

Received your 2¢ on 30¢ inverted surcharged on cover. After looking at it closely, there is no doubt in my mind now that the 20 in the OC 3 20 postmark has **not** been enhanced. The cover seems genuine in all respects. Although it does not have a certificate, it was obviously created at the same time as the very similar cover in the Siegel sale of October 16, 1996. The latter was described as "ex Harris, with 1963 B.P.A. certificate." I assume these are the only two covers of this sort, and very collectible!

Going back to my three conclusions in my letter of January 5, 1998, I still view the Sunday use as irregular, or (softening it somewhat) "not the norm". The cover was probably philatelically conceived with assistance from some official in St. John's East. It is still at the proper rate, with legitimate markings, and on the last day of the 1920 provisional period.

Per your comment, I will send these letters to the **NEWFIE NEWSLETTER**.

Thank you for sending the cover,



Norris (Bob) Dyer (707)763-2934