

**THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER  
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS**

Number 79

July/August 99

EDITOR'S NOTES

Welcome to the 79th edition of our Newsletter. Summer is just about over so it's time for the stamp equipment to re-appear! Auction catalogues are starting to appear again for September bidding. I would say stamp season is back again!! In this issue:

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*My personal thanks to Don Wilson & his wife Jean who photocopy, stuff & stamp our Newsletter six times a year. Also to Martui Tobel, our treasurer, who keeps our accounts in order.  
my gratitude,  
John*

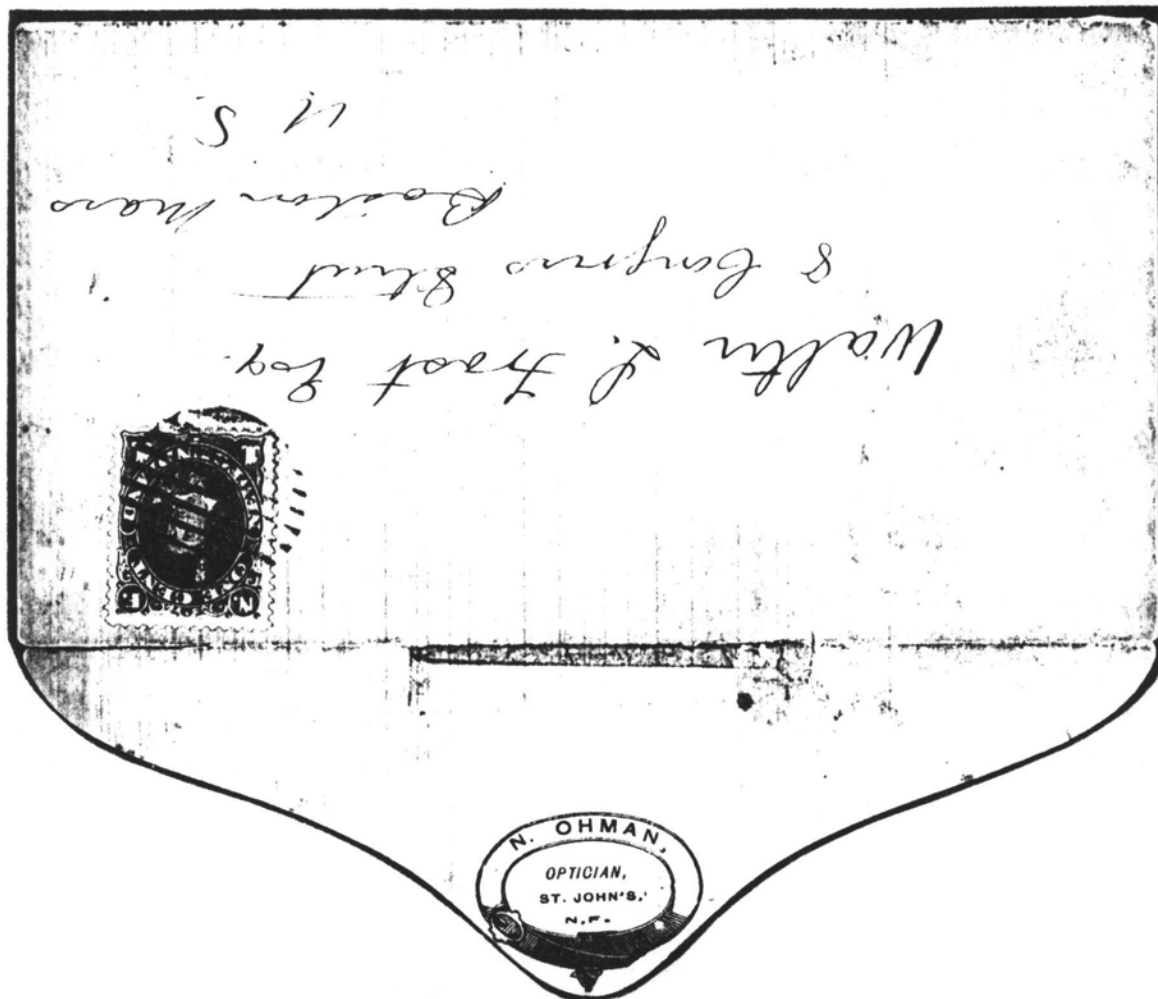
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## NILS OHMAN RE-VISITED

I am indebted to Colin Lewis for his informative submission on Nils Ohman (May/June 1998), the St. John's watchmaker, jeweller, stamp dealer, and Late Letter Office clerk. I recently came upon this commercial cover which is different than the 1887 5¢ cover Colin illustrated (No.72, May/June 1998, p.5).

This unsealed printed-matter rate cover to Boston is undated, as usual, but falls within Colin's stated time frame. It also bears an interesting cachet on the reverse flap. Note the "optician" designation. Given Ohman's other careers, was there any job he didn't do?!

--Dean Mario

The associated entire letter and transcript originated in St. John's Newfoundland on August 5 1709 and as such is one of the earliest letters emanating from Britain's earliest Colony. Pratt does record the earliest as being October 1708 to London but it is quite likely that this item is not housed in a Newfoundland collection.

My letter was written by a James Denman who was the Master of a Sloop trading between St. John's and Liverpool. It was carried to Ireland by a Captain Nayler where it was handed to R. Delahorde a Forwarding Agent at Cork. This Forwarding Agent is not recorded in the list published by Rowe in his book. The letter was then mailed to Liverpool at Cork where it was struck with the straightline CORK in black. The letter contained enclosures and was therefore assessed as a double rate item and an initial charge of 1/8 was recorded on the front. This was subsequently amended to 2/- the 1/8 charge being deleted.

As a double rate letter the assessment of charges was as follows:

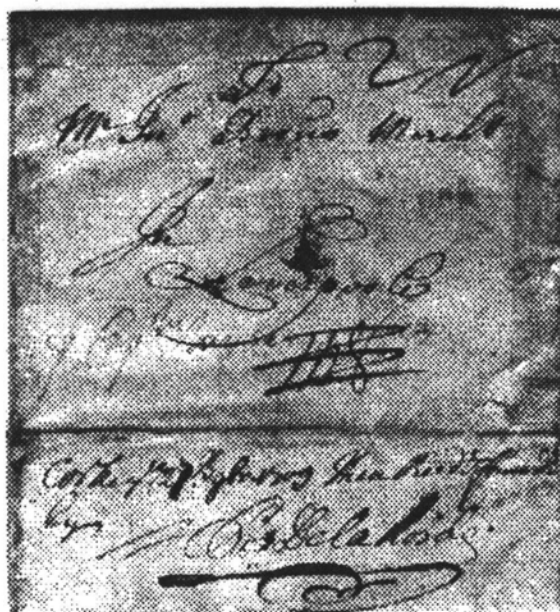
Inland Postage Cork to Dublin	8d Above 40 Irish miles (longer than English)
Dublin to Holyhead Packet charge	4d
Holyhead to Liverpool	8d Inland Postage above 40 miles
Initial assessment	1/8d
Amended assessment at Chester	2/0d

The amended charge was necessary because the rate for a double letter from Dublin to anywhere in England except London was 1/-(Robinson table 9.1). This excluded the packet boat charge from Dublin to Holyhead.

Some may ponder why ship-letter charges were not applied to this letter. The letter is, in fact, too early for such charges to be applied. The charge for ship-letters was only enacted in 1711.

The letter itself proved very difficult to transcribe, mainly due to its disjointed syntax but the content does indicate the difficult times experienced at sea in those days. We were at war with the French and to sail anywhere other than in convoy was a risky business.

Colin Lewis, Swansea, U.K.



CONTD. PAGE 4

Addressed: John Brown Merchant Liverpool.

Dear Friend

St John's in Newfoundland 8 (Aug) 5<sup>th</sup> 1709

I wrote you yesterday 23rd ultimo per a gally (sic) bound for Bristoll (sic) wherein I acquainted you with my business and design of sailing home without Convoy for Gibralter (sic) for which I gave these reasons as our merchants must need.

Be much better and if we should sail with Convoy its much if we can keep them in a Winter passage and moreover I cannot leave when your fleet will sail home for they are repairing the forts and some of your convoy ships are expected from England and its believed there will be a French Squadron to cross near Lisbon to intercept this fleet.

I drew on Mr. Jn. Crosby since my arrival for £5.0.0 and on you for £75.0.0 for fish bought here but finding our Sloop too deep have sold fish to your value £50.0.0. for which I send you inclosed (sic) bills of which I have sent a copy to Wm. Crosbie and Mr. Dixon with a bill lading to service our insurance if any made.

I advised in my last you might insure on our Sloop and forgave £500.0.0 or if that might not seem convenient to you fund on my account £150.

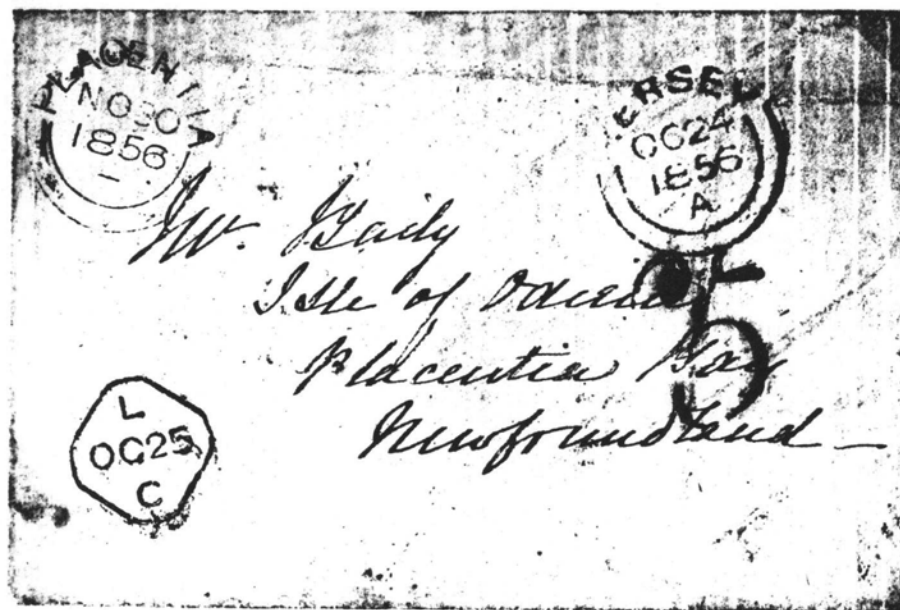
I have been detained two dayes (sic) for your sale of ----- ship which I could not buy and design God willing to sea this day.

If your Company Insurance be made I have insured 5 of our mens wages passage Dublin to Gibralter on your Company Acct. but if insurance be only made for myself it is insured on my own Acct. I mean your mens wages are insured on my Acct.

I am with kind respect to yourself and all friends.

Your loyal friend and Comrade

James Denman



"LETTER FROM JERSEY."

1856.

5d Rate?

← "5d"

Backstamped

"C W  
25 OCT 20  
1856  
(in circle)  
and  
"St John's  
Newfoundland  
C.D.S.  
Nov 26."

DOUG CAMPBELL'S  
"GOLDEN OLDIES"

October 24, 1856. Jersey to Ogerin, Placentia Bay, via St John's, November 26, and Placentia, November 30.  
"5" indicating 5d to pay. Normal rate 6d in 1854.

(? Double 2d 1/2 internal rate for overseas mail carried by a private vessel.)

## **SURVEY OF COLUMBIA AIR MAIL ON COVER**

In **BNA TOPICS** (VOL 55 NO 2, Apr-May-June, 1998) I published a survey of the Columbia air mail under the title **Newfoundland's Columbia Air Mail - Revisited**. There were 36 specimens in the study. Recently I submitted an updated study to the **TOPICS**, increasing the specimen size to 60 - all items that had come to market since 1994. The literature suggests 100 of the total 300 Columbia's were used on cover, postmarked either at St. John's or Harbour Grace, with the majority having St. John's postmarks (65-70). My latest survey contains 23% of the possible 200 copies (46), but only 10% (10) of the covers. I questioned what had happened to all the covers.

Looking at auction catalogues back to 1979, I was able to expand the total specimens to 54 mint/unused, 7 used and 14 covers. This still suggests to me that only 50 or so covers have survived - assuming no one who purchased a cover since 1979 has removed the stamp. The numbers show that some stamps have been removed from covers since 1930. It is also probable that a number of covers have been lost. Perhaps some went to non-collectors who did not retain them. Perhaps 35 or so St. John's covers have survived and only 15 or so Harbour Grace covers. This would mean such covers are extremely rare.

The table that follows provides some details on the 14 covers of which I have a record, including four from 1979-1990 that are not in the 60-specimen study I just completed. This leads to my request. I am searching for more covers! Please narrow your search to the last twenty years.

- **Are you aware of any Columbia covers not in the table?**
- **If so, could you send me the details, like the information in the table?**
- **Xerox copies would be nice, especially if facts match one of the 14**

in the table and it's unclear whether it's the same cover or not.

(There are multiple covers to some parties, such as E.G. Furneaux.)

The source ("Sale") is not important if you know the cover still exists.

- Any additional theories on why so few covers are coming to market?

I will publish an expanded table if sufficient additional covers come to my attention.

Norris (Bob) Dyer, 1708 Granada Court, Petaluma, CA 94954

e-mail is [nrdyer@worldnet.att.net](mailto:nrdyer@worldnet.att.net)

#### COLUMBIA AIR MAIL ON COVER

FROM	ADDRESSEE	SALE	YEAR
1. H.G. Mr. E.G. Furneaux [signed by crew]		Harmer's (N.Y.)	1979
2. S.J. The Rev. G Stall		Robert Siegel	1984
3. S.J. Per Air Mail Columbia		Christie's	1985
4. H.G. Mr. E.G. Furneaux		Robert Siegel	1990
5. S.J. P. G. Butler		Paradise Valley	1996
6. S.J. Mr. Owens [Royal Stores adv. cover]		Saskatoon (Retail)	1997
7. H.G. E.G. Furneaux		Ivy and Mader	1997
8. S.J. Mr. Jas A. Ryall [signed by Connor]		Ivy and Mader	1997
9. S.J. Mrs. Robbins [Job Brothers c. card]		Rodgers	1997
10. S.J. Messers R. Pringle & Sons [torn stamp]		A. Siegel (Retail)	1998
11. S.J. Miss Louise Saunders		Harmer's (London)	1998
12. H.G. A. W. Dawson		" "	1998
13. S.J. Miss Holloway		" "	1999
14. S.J. Henley Munn [W.A. Munn corner card]		Robert Siegel	1999

**WHITE BEAR ISLAND**

Lat. Long.: 54° 28' N 56° 56' W

Population: 52 (1965)

Origin of Name:

Opened: 1888 [Walsh and Butt] (White Bear Islands)  
1890 (Way Office) [Almanac] [Timothy Hayden, waymaster]  
(White Bears)  
1892 (Post Office) Labrador North [Almanac] [Richard  
Hayden, postmaster] (White Bear Islands)  
1892 (Post Office) [Pratt] [Richard Hayden Jr., postmaster]  
(White Bear Islands)  
before 1948, summer office, no money order service (White  
Bear Island)  
Closed: 1931 [Walsh and Butt] (White Bears)  
Mar. 31, 1949 (White Bear Island)

No postal markings known.

**WINSOR'S HARBOR**

Lat. Long.: 55° 20' N 59° 45' W

Population: 11 (1965)

Origin of Name:

Opened: 1888 [Walsh and Butt] (Windsor's Harbor)  
1890 (Way Office) [Almanac] [John Hennessey, waymaster]  
(Winsor's Harbor)  
1892 (Post Office) Labrador North [Almanac] [John  
Hennessey, postmaster] (Winsor's Harbor)  
1893 (Post Office) [Pratt] [John Hennessey, postmaster]  
(Windsor Harbor)  
Closed: 1896 [Almanac]  
1900 [Walsh and Butt]

No postal markings known.

**WOLF ISLAND**

Lat. Long.: 53° 49' N 56° 20' W

Population:

Origin of Name:

Opened: 1912 [Walsh and Butt]  
before 1948, summer office, no money order service  
Closed: Mar. 31, 1949

No postal markings known.



## WILLIAMS HARBOUR

Lat. Long.: 52° 33' N 55° 47' W

Population: 75 (1971)

Origin of Name:

Opened: 1957? Non-accounting MOON

POCON 006475

June 9, 1975 Year-round Office

May 18, 1979 Accounting POCON 007390

Postal Code: A0K 5V0

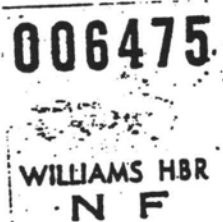
TYPE	COLOUR	PROOF DATE	EARLIEST	LATEST
C1		Sept. 27, 1957	July 25, 1964	
C2		May 29, 1963	Aug. 13, 1975	
P1		Mar. 13, 1973		
P2		Apr. 13, 1976		
P3		Sept. 12, 1978	Jan. 28, 1983	July 25, 1990
R1			July 25, 1990	



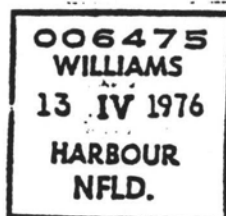
C1



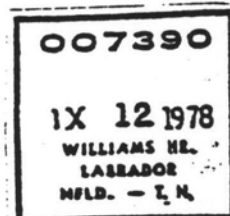
C2



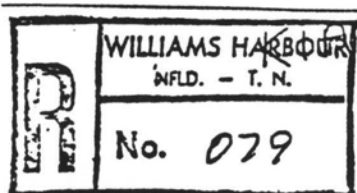
P1



P2



P3



R1



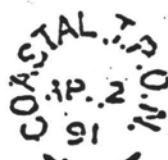
## COASTAL NORTH T.P.O.

Opened: 1887 (Way Office) [Pratt] [Alexander Ewing, waymaster]  
 Closed: 1949?

TYPE	COLOUR	PROOF DATE	EARLIEST	LATEST
A1		May 9, 1888	Sept. 10, 1888	Sept. 8, 1891
A2		Apr. 2, 1891	1892?	Sept. 20, 1893
A3		Sept. 9, 1893	July 22, 1901	Nov. 15, 1906
A4		Sept. ?, 1911	Dec. 14, 1911	Oct. 8, 1915
A5			Sept. 22, 1945	
B1		Mar. ?, 1920	1920?	1934?



A1



A2



A3



A4



A5

