

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 94

May/June 2002

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NOTICE TO MEMBERS:

Please, submit some articles by mail or email (address below) as the well is (still) running dry.

COMMENTS ON THIS ISSUE – WE HAVE QUESTIONS – DO YOU HAVE ANSWERS?

You'll note a common theme in this edition— *requests for help!* Dr. Graham Worrall has questions about a cover to Jamaica. Dean Mario seeks help explaining a 1949 stampless cover from Twillingate. I'm looking for information on the fate of famous stamp dealer, Nils Ohman. Was he still active in the 20th century? Randall Martin asks if his June 26, 1897 local cover with the 1¢ green Cabot is the earliest known, and is also asking when registered letter rate to Great Britain went to 14¢. Lastly, I'm looking for more of those curious August 17, 1899 registered covers from St. John's to Heart Content. Please help! *Additional* questions or requests are always welcomed!

Please note enclosed flyer on the new edition of the *Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue*. This is best single reference for Newfoundland philately.

NEXT ISSUE – THE LABRADOR LABELS

Basil Burrell recently forwarded a letter from Walter Hess with questions about the three Labrador labels that you sometimes run across. I can't find mention of these labels in any previous **Newfie Newsletter**, and print Hess' letter. I have three references on this –Robson Lowe's encyclopedia, Boggs' book and Harry Huber's comments (included at the end of the Boggs book), and also have photos from auction catalogues of the three stamps, although the one of the \$1 value is not great. Please submit any other information you might have – but I would need it by June first.

NEWFIE WORKSHOP AT BNAPEX2002, SPOKANE? MORE ON THIS IN NEXT NEWSLETTER

Support our dealer Members:

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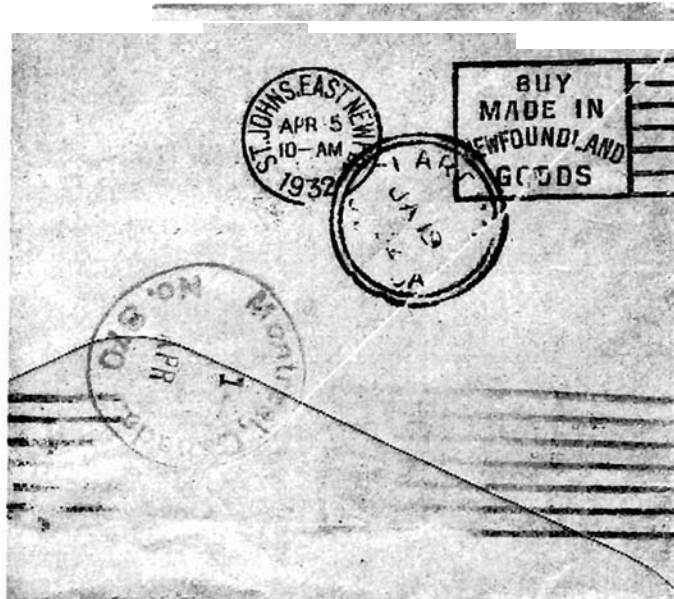
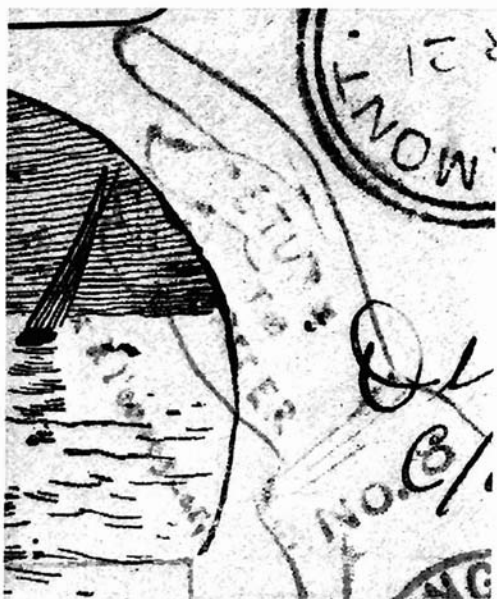
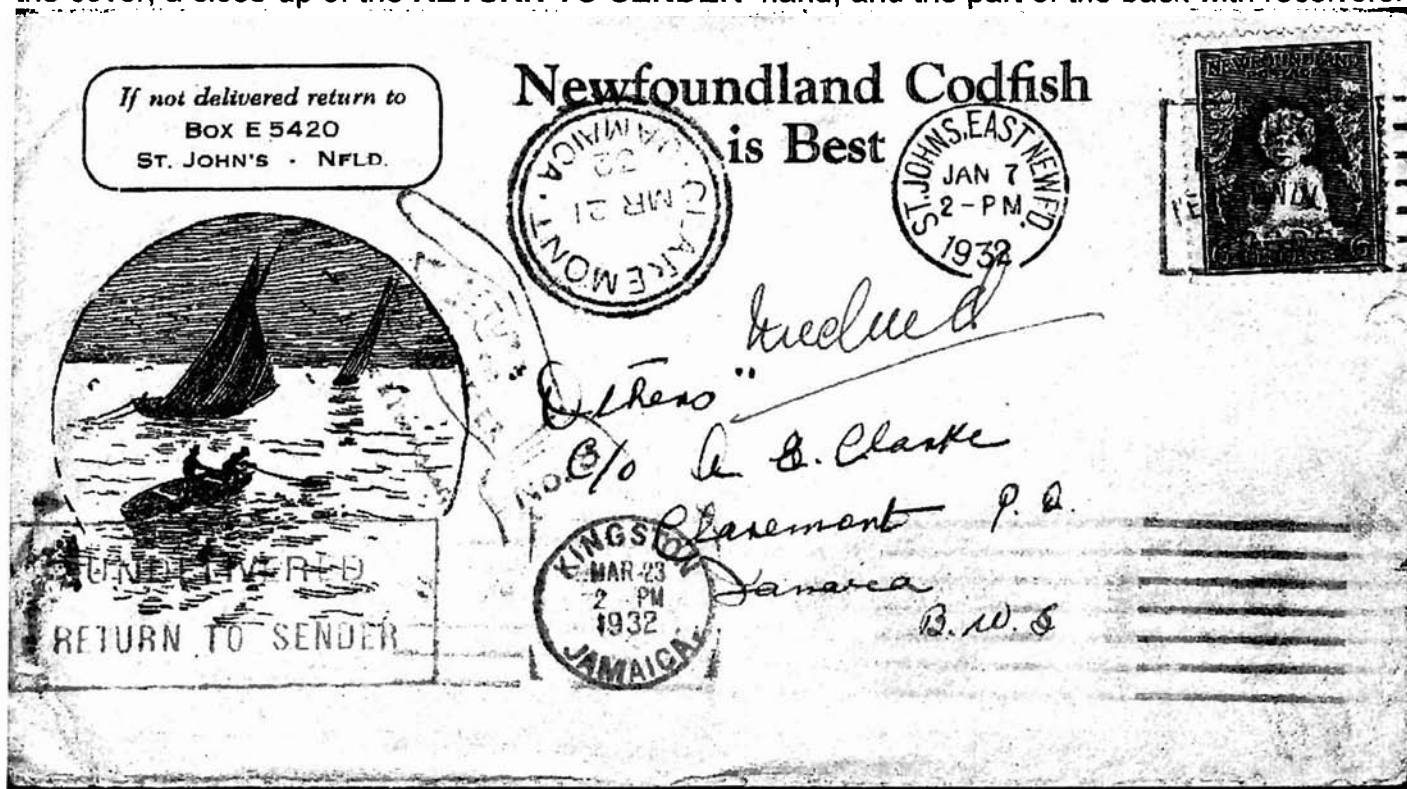
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1932 COVER FROM ST. JOHN'S TO JAMAICA RAISES QUESTIONS

Dr. Graham Worrall sent this cover with questions about it. Look at the pictures below: the front of the cover, a close-up of the **RETURN TO SENDER** hand, and the part of the back with receivers.



I have darkened the pictures of the cover to maximize details. In the **RETURN TO SENDER** hand note the 8 on the cuff, within the C. Details and questions about the cover are on the next page.

1932 Cover (Concluded)

Front of Envelope

- Newfoundland 6¢ Princess Elizabeth (*issued January 2, 1932*)
- **Newfoundland Codfish is Best** ad cover
- St. John's East postmark of **JAN 7 1932**
- *Left* Claremont, Jamaica homeward **MR 21 32**
- Kingston, Jamaica *homeward* in red of **MAR 23 1932**
- Over picture at left in red - **UNDELIVERED RETURN TO SENDER**
- Pointing hand in purple with **RETURN TO SENDER** and **NO. 8** on cuff
- Addressed to "**Others**" (?) "**C/O A. E. Clarke, Claremont....**"
- Mystery word in red written above address at angle and underlined

Back of Envelope

- Claremont, Jamaica receiver of **JA 19 32**
- Montreal purple receiver (forwarder) homeward of **1 APR**
- St. John receiver **APR 5 1932**

Dr. Worrall's Questions

1. Why 6¢ when Empire rate was 4¢ and letter is addressed to Jamaica, BWI (British West Indies) ? [Editor: Elizabeth stamp released five days earlier. Maybe sender liked it or thought receiver would, whoever that might have been???]
2. Was it addressed to "**Others**" or "**Athens**" ?
3. Why was outward journey direct to Jamaica from Newfoundland 12 days, while the Homeward journey 15 days via Montreal?
4. Where was purple "**Return to Sender**" hand applied [Editor: Matches color of Montreal receiver – so I would guess there. Any protocol for this?]
5. Was this a philatelic artifact? (Envelope was opened at one time but no contents now).
6. What is that mystery word angled above the address?

Cover is certainly impressive looking with red and purple postal markings and blue Elizabeth stamp. Has anyone seen anything like it? Insights into any of the questions above? Send them to Editor.

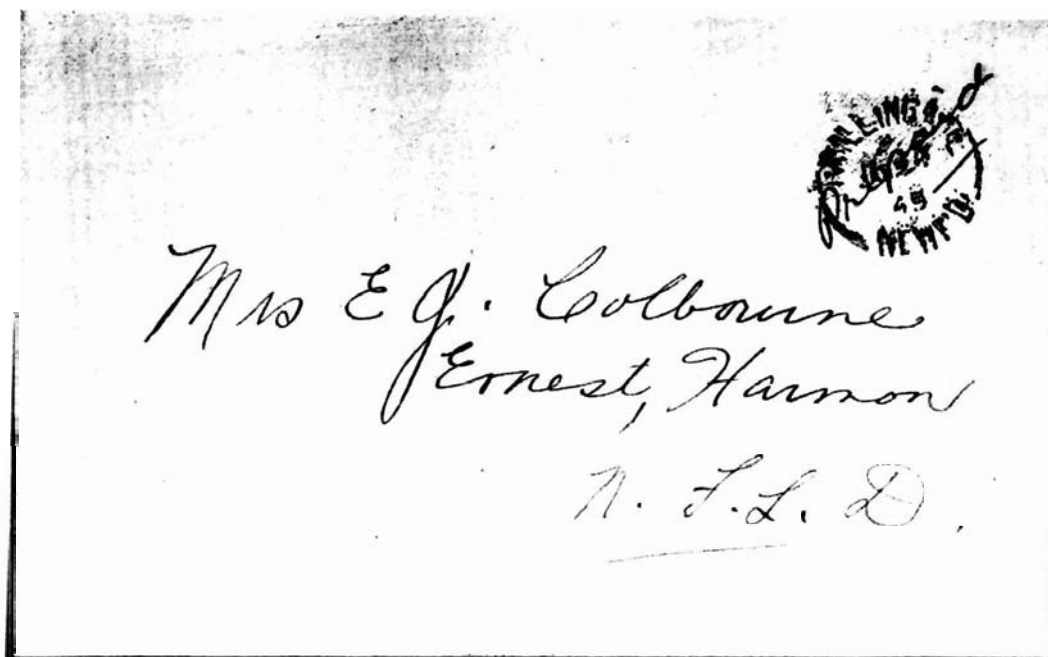
A 1949 TWILLINGATE STAMPLESS COVER

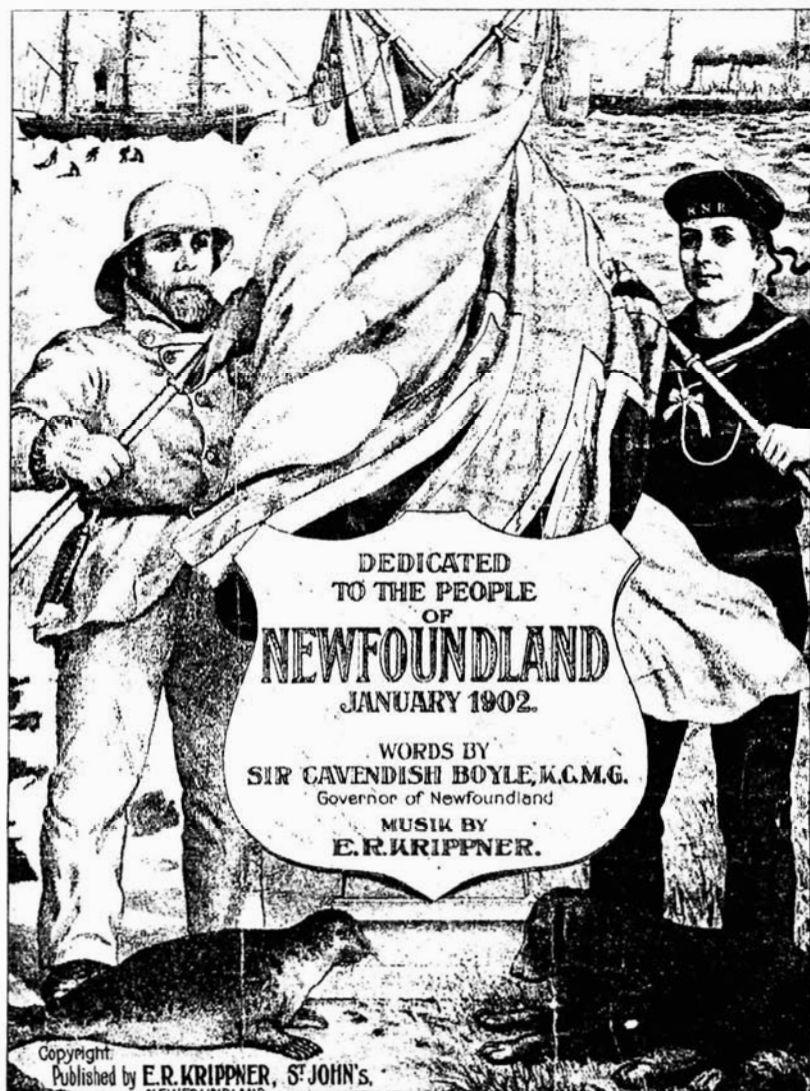
By Dean Mario

Very little is known about Newfoundland's postal history during the dying days of the island's pre-confederation "independence". The item below is one of the many curious covers, which have survived from 1949, and members' help is solicited.

The cover (sealed) is from **TWILLINGATE** and is dated **JA 24 49** (the auction house from which it was purchased noted that it was from 1945!) It has a manuscript **prepaid** written below the dater which was presumably in lieu of stamps. Do other members have similar covers in this time period with similar notations? Was the office out of stamps in late January 1949?

Another question I have concerns the unusual address. I can find no town listing by the name of **Ernest** or **Harmon**. There was obviously "Harmon Field" (1945-1949), but was **Ernest, Harmon** simply local lexicon that this "mainlander" doesn't know about? Did a collector who needed to assign the cover a fictitious locale to obtain the prepaid notation and satisfy the postal clerk or postmaster do it? Replies for any of the above through the Editor would be most appreciated.





The original 1902 cover of the sheet music for *The Ode to Newfoundland*, featuring the score that was later replaced by that of English hymn composer Sir Hubert Parry.

Ode to Newfoundland

When sun rays crown thy pine clad hills,
And summer spreads her hand,
When silvern voices tune thy rills,
We love thee smiling land,
We love thee, we love thee
We love thee smiling land.

When spreads thy cloak of shimm'r-
ing white,
At Winter's stern command,
Thro' shortened day and starlit night,
We love thee, frozen land,
We love thee, we love thee,
We love thee, frozen land.

When blinding storm gusts fret thy
shore,

And wild waves lash thy strand,
Thro' sprindrift swirl and tempest
roar,
We love thee, wind-swept land,
We love thee, we love thee,
We love thee, wind-swept land.

As loved our fathers, so we love,
Where once they stood we stand,
Their prayer we raise to heav'n
above,
God guard thee, Newfoundland,
God guard thee, God guard thee,
God guard thee, Newfoundland.

-- Sir Cavendish Boyle, Britain's Gov-
ernor of Newfoundland between
1901 and 1904

ODE TO NEWFOUNDLAND

E. R. Krippner was a musician and stamp dealer. He designed fancy philatelic covers with the Royal Family set such as the one below, many of them addressed to Europe. He also dabbled in the red, and red and black proofs of the 1897 surcharges.



As to his musical abilities. I quote From Wayne Johnston's marvelous *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams*, 1999, Random House, Page 443:

"Governor Sir Cavendish Boyle writes a quartet of quatrains that, when set to music, become the official anthem of Newfoundland, 'The Ode to Newfoundland'.

Six musical settings are written to 'The Ode to Newfoundland,' the first by German bandmaster E. R. Krippner. Boyle so dislikes the Krippner setting that he buys the rights to it to prevent it from being published."



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NILS OHMAN, HOW LONG WAS HE IN BUSINESS?

In the last **BNA TOPICS** for 2001, I wrote about Newfoundland's provisional postal card, and stamp dealer, jeweler, optician, Nils Ohman. He was active in the 1880's, and in the stamp business until the end of the century. **Does anyone have a cover from him after 1899?** Over the years, he sent a lot of mail with various corner cards or returns on the backs, such as below from circa 1898-99.

**N. OHMAN,
WATCHMAKER,
ST JOHN'S, N.F.**

At other times he used his name over **Watchmaker and Jeweller**, or **Optician**. On ebay recently I saw a 1902 Newfie cover with two ½¢ Edward's (1898) paying the 1¢ third class rate to the U.S. and addressed to a stamp company. The corner card read

**WATCHMAKER, JEWELLER
AND DEALER IN
POSTAGE STAMPS**

It looked to me that something above and below it was removed. "Recycled"? Did someone take over his business by 1902?. Help us trace his career from after 1899 – please!

IS THIS THE EARLIEST USE OF 1¢ CABOT ON DROP COVER?

Randall Martin's drop cover is from **JU26 97**. Issuance date was the 24th. Challengers?



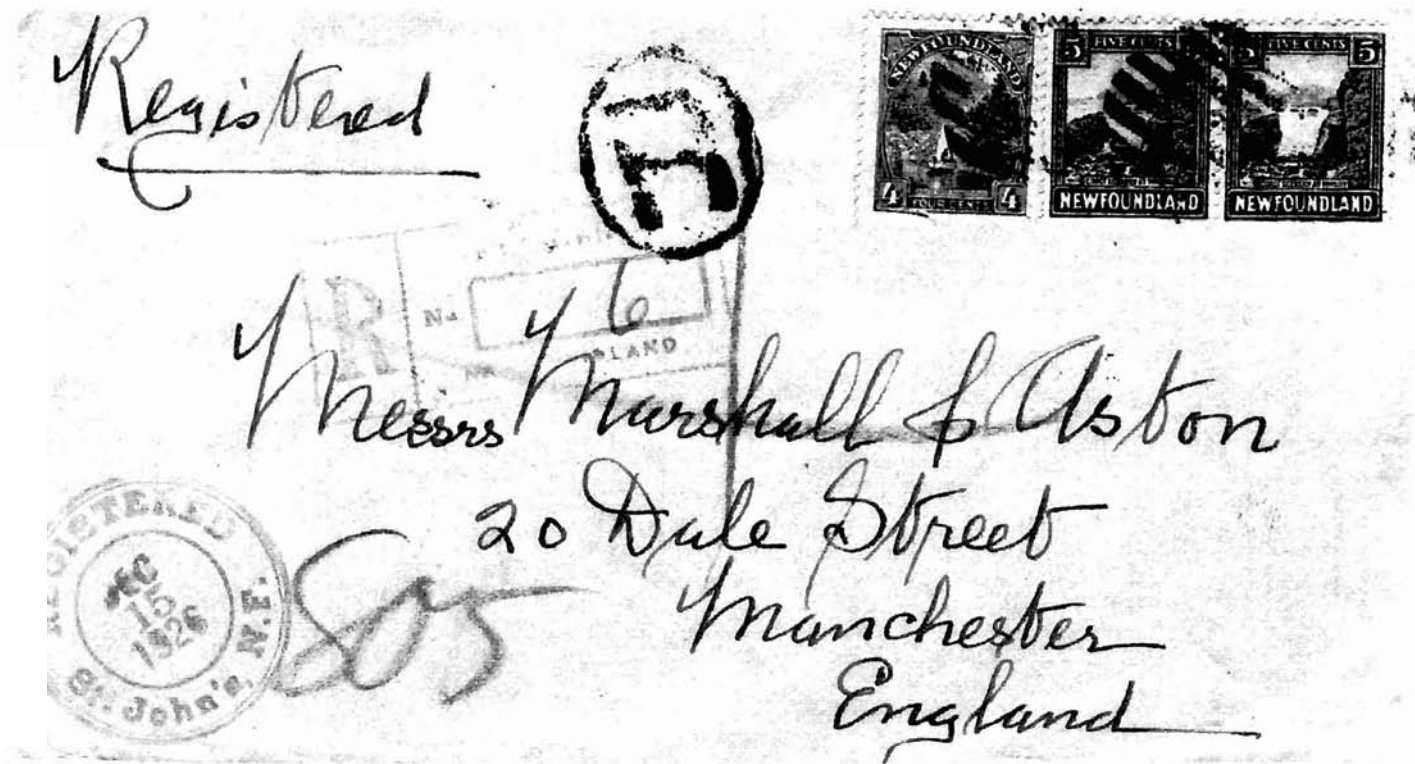
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WHEN DID 14¢ REGISTERED RATE GO INTO EFFECT?

Take a good look at this registered rate cover from St. John's to England, DEC 15 1926. It was sent to us by member Randall Martin. The illustration is enlarged.



The letter rate from 1922-32 for letters sent abroad was 4¢. Randall wonders when the registered rate for mail sent outside of Newfoundland changed from 5¢ to 10¢, thus increasing the cost of a registered letter from 9¢ to 14¢. The Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue states the registered rate was only 5¢ until 1927, but if so, why would someone be paying the gratuitous 5¢ in December 1926? The 14¢ rate does not jive with any overweight schedule, either. It does appear then that the registered rate changed prior to January 1, 1927. If so, when?

Please check any registered letters from 1926 to help us narrow the date down, and send a Xerox or just a good description, including the date and destination, to the Editor.

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REGISTERED COVERS FROM ST. JOHN'S TO HEART'S CONTENT WITH 1897
SURCHARGES AND THREE-CENT CABOT, RECEIVED THERE ON AUGUST 17, 1899



On August 16, 1899, a collector in St. John's decided to send a bunch of registered covers to a number of people at Heart's Content, Trinity Bay. X used different St. John's corner cards to either hide an identity or to make the covers more interesting, and three of the 1¢ 1897 surcharges with the 3¢ Cabot on each of the covers. All the covers have convenient receiver numbers on the face that help distinguish them quickly. X used a variety of the surcharge types, and on the covers so far discovered in this recent research, I count three Scott #77's, the rare Type III surcharge which was only in Pos. 49-50 of the setting of 50 – so X was not confined to one setting. Did X have a friend gather the covers up and return them? Those I've seen are in generally good condition – suggesting that a collector took care of them. Can you add any of the missing one's, and/or do the numbers start before #92 or end after #1076? Or do you know who X might be? --- the editor

#	ADDRESSEE	STAMPS WITH #63	CORNER CARD	SOURCE
92	Norman Trippe,	Two #76, one #75	PERCIE JOHNSON	Hennok, 12-
94	Geo. C F.....	Strip of 3 #75	Did You Try our Tea?	Maresch 4-9
95	J. Scotland, Esq.	Strip of #76-77-77	[Can't read]	Cavendish 10-91
98	James Wilcox	Strip of 3 #75	S.E. Garland	Robert Lee, 3-02
99	H.H. MacKensie	Strip of 3 #75	Canadian Life Assurance	Coll. Ma. Auc.
101	John Cook	Strip of 3 #75	None	1986 Pratt art.
103	Chi (?)	Strip of 3 #75	Martin Brothers	Hennok 9-00
104	Mr. Geo. Bailey	Strip of 3 #75	G.S. ?? Bookseller	Hennok 9-00
105	H.H. MacKensie	Strip of 3 #75a	John Anderson	Whaley 1-02
107	N.F. Trippe	Two #75a, One #77	Gray & Good	Hennok 9-00

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Cyril H.C. Harmer Airmails Auction. London, February, 2002



Lot 2045, a block of the Halifax issue with inverted overprint went for £22,350

Here are extracts from Harmers' (the London auction house) press release on the sale. The prices realized include a hefty buyer's premium of 17.625%.

COLLECTORS FLOCK TO A ONCE IN A LIFETIME AUCTION REALIZING £803,000

The collection was the life's work of the late Cyril H.C. Harmer RDP. His grandson attended the auction, and was delighted to see the enthusiasm and excitement shown towards his grandfather's astonishingly fine and unique collection of airmail philately. The collection has particular significance...as it was during a stormy five-day boat journey, whilst traveling to Newfoundland as an expert philatelic witness, that the late Cyril Harmer met and fell in love with his future wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Harmer....

Bidding opened with a flurry of activity, competition being strong from the outset. Notable highlights were Lot 2006, 1919 "Hawker" 3¢ mint, vertical pair, sold for £28,230 and Lot 2002 1919 "Hawker" 3¢ trial overprint, unmounted or o.g. block of 12 also realizing £28,230...Lot 2014, a unique manuscript overprint on 5¢ blue [Caribou] achieved a spectacular £70,575.

Lot 2053, the 1927 "De Pinedo" 60¢, unique block of four was, of course, the focus of much attention and speculation...This lot realized £129,387.

Lot 2070, 1930 "Columbia" 50¢ on 36¢ "sheet" of four, which is one of only three blocks of four still in existence today, achieved a price of £22,348. Lot 2141, 1932 Dornier "Do-x" sheet of four with inverted surcharged, another fine and very rare example, achieved £31,758....Lot 2198, 1933 Balbo \$4.50 on 75¢, inverted surcharge was scheduled for the end of the sale. Yet another spectacular lot, it realized £67,046.....

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NEWFOUNDLAND'S POSTAL STATIONERY 1873-1941 – Horace W. Harrison

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POSTAGE ADDED TO MAKE UP THE TWO CENTS U.P.U. RATE
AN INDICATION OF A LEGITIMATE NEED FOR A
REVALUED CARD ISSUED IN MAY OF 1889

HARBOUR GRACE, OC 2, 1886 TO JERSEY, CHANNEL ISLANDS



PLATE
POSITION
SIX

VIA ST. JOHN'S OC 4.
CX

ST. JOHN'S, NEWF'D. SEP 11, 88 TO BOSTON SEP 18.



PLATE
POSITION
THREE