

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 95

July/August 2002

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

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COMMENTS ON THIS ISSUE

Page 10 provides you a number of Updates from members in response to inquiries to items in the last newsletter. Please also note Sammy Whaley's article on Page 8-9 and our second **COLOR** page this year, showing two of Sammy's covers, thanks to Sammy and the dues of our members!

BNAPLEX2002

This year we meet in the lovely city of Spokane, Washington , a fairly easy jaunt from many points in central and western Canada We'll have at least one six-frame Newfoundland exhibit, and a workshop on Saturday afternoon, September 28th (exact time to be announced later) where Sammy Whaley will update us on his census of Cents covers, and how he has expanded Robert Pratt's 1989 study, **Newfoundland Cents Issue Covers**. Sammy will bring many of his classic covers and seek our help (see some of his questions on Page 9). Please join us!

HELP REQUESTED IN STUDY OF NEWFOUNDLAND MACHINE CANCELS

Jim Luetje is studying machine cancels, especially those made by the International Cancelling Machine. The use of these machines ran from June, 1911 to November, 1935. His address is 16640 Killdeer Dr. Rockville, MD 20855, or email at Luetjejim@aol.com Jim writes:

"I would like to hear from anyone who has any information regarding the number of International machines owned/leased by the P.O. and where they were located. I'm also looking for information regarding the use of letter inserts in the wavy line slug of the cancel. The most common usage is no letter insert. An inserted 'R' is fairly common, a 'C' is less common, and a 'D' is quite rare. I recently purchased a cover with a slug containing a 'T'. Having never seen this before, I feel it must have been very sparingly used. I would like to hear from anyone who has an International Machine cancel with a 'T' insert, or any other letter not reported above. " [Jim sent a cover that showed the "T" between the bottom two wavy lines of cancel at the left. - Ed.]

Support our dealer Members:

J-Claude Michaud, P.O. Box 31248, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 5Y1

Gary Douglas, 2675 Hayfort City, Missussuaga, Ontario, L5K 1P8

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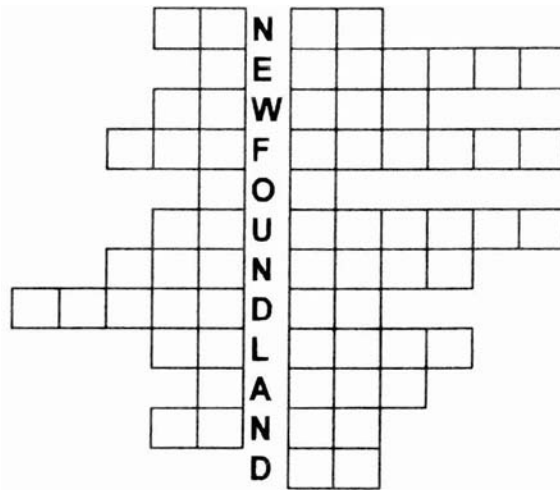
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NEWFOUNDLAND PUZZLE 101

Sammy Whaley

Editor's Note: Sammy Whaley has devised several crossword puzzles with answers from Newfoundland philately. This is the first one. Can you complete it? Answers are on the Bottom of Page 6.

NEWFOUNDLAND 101



- 1- THE ____ ISSUES FALL BETWEEN THE PENCES AND THE CABOTS
- 2- 1927 AIRMAIL FLIGHT
- 3- FIRST AIRMAIL STAMP
- 4- 1865 SAW FIRST _____ STAMP
- 5- 1887 SAW WORLD'S FIRST _____ STAMP
- 6- 1876-1879 STAMPS WERE _____ RATHER THAN PERFORATED
- 7- 1941 STAMP COMMERATED SIR WILFRED _____
- 8- IN 1947 A STAMP WAS ISSUED ON THE OCCASION OF THE _____ OF PRINCESS ELIZABETH
- 9- 1933 STAMPS COMMERATED THE ANNEXATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND BY SIR HUMPREY _____
- 10- 1897 ISSUE COMMERATED THE DISCOVERY OF NEWFOUNDLAND BY JOHN _____
- 11- THE FIRST STAMPS ISSUED ARE KNOWN AS THE _____ ISSUE
- 12- 1939 SAW THE FIRST POSTAGE _____ STAMP.

THOSE DANG LABRADOR LABELS!

Bob Dyer



\$1, and top value of three Labrador labels

Basil Burrell sent us a letter from BNAPS member, Walter Hess, with inquiries about the Labrador labels (don't look for any catalogue reference as they aren't listed anywhere). I can find no mention of the labels in any previous **NEWFIE NEWSLETTER**. Extracts from Hess' letter:

"...another stamp, again a fake Newf. air mail, has been showing up in local auctions as a private 1907/08 issue. The Labrador Map stamp is described in the attached 2 articles. [Summarized next page]. The two write-ups as you will note, do not tell the same story....

"There is a third story about this stamp which has only been passed on verbally. So the story goes – this 1907 or 08 issue date in bunk. This stamp was dreamed-up by U.S. G.I.'s who were stationed with Canadian troops in Lab and Newf in the early 1940's for protection of N. America against any attempted Nazi landings. The idea was that they could expedite the G.I.'s mail back to the U.S. A scheme that was based on using the U.S. Air Force as the transfer agent. It didn't work because the flights had no regular Schedule.

"In conclusion, I have never seen any of these stamps with a cancellation mark or with any sign of gum. I have only seen the \$1.00 stamp. If you are aware of this issue, have you ever seen the 5¢ and 25¢ varieties. " --- Walter Hess

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LABRADOR LABELS (continued)

Both pieces sent by Hess have pictures of the \$1 label.

PIECE 1. "...In 1908 a company claimed to have a charter from the governments of Canada and Newfoundland to develop the natural resources of Labrador. Apparently no such charter was granted, but the promoters of the scheme printed three stamps in 5¢, 25¢ and \$1 denominations with a total face value of \$1,000,000. Some \$675,000 worth was destroyed by the Canadian authorities when the ringleaders were apprehended. These bogus 'locals' are now sought after by Newfoundland stamp collectors.."

PIECE 2. "The Standard British North America catalog describes this historic stamp [\$1] as follows: 'Many years ago an American had annexed Labrador and had printed stamps intending to use them on the coast. The Royal North West Mounted Police seized them, the lot being destroyed with the exception of a few sets which had eagerly been sought after by collectors.' Catalogue Value by BNA Catalog is \$10.00"



5¢ Value of the Labrador labels

PIECE 1. quotes from Winthrop S. Boggs' *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Newfoundland*, 1975 edition. I have no idea from which catalogue PIECE 2. derives its story. The label is not mentioned in Gibbons, Scott, Unitrade or Butt and Walsh's NSSC catalogue. One can still find a \$1 value for around \$10, however.

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LABRADOR LABELS (continued)

The following is from *Postage Stamps of Newfoundland* by Bertram Poole and Harry Huber:

"In the summer of 1908, some labels were offered to the dealers of the country, purporting to be an issue for the prepayment of postage on letters sent by a service from the Labrador direct to Canada and the States, instead of via Newfoundland. These were issued by an American Company claiming to have obtained a charter from the Canadian and Newfoundland Governments for the exploitation of the natural resources of Labrador.

"The labels were of three denominations, 5¢, 25¢ and \$1 and pictured respectively a seal an Eskimo, and a map of the northwestern coast of Labrador. The values were expressed in figures and words, and in addition LABRADOR and POSTAGE. On the \$1 POST OFFICE was substituted for POSTAGE. U.S.A. also appeared twice on the 5¢ and \$1, and four times on the 25¢. Letters have been shown franked with the labels, duly cancelled, but in addition, Canadian stamps, so that their postal standing has never been established."

Note – Dean Mario tells me Frank Phillips wrote about the labels for Gibbons *Stamp News* in August, 1908, already questioning their authenticity. Forget the WW II theory, therefore!

The last reference I have is from Robson Lowe's 1973 *Encyclopedia.....*:

"...these labels were produced in America and generally sold to American collectors. The used example on cover which we illustrate...paid no postal duty but was probably stuck on the envelope addressed to the Montreal newspaper *L'Argus* in the hope of securing press publicity and stimulating sales of the bogus issue to collectors in Canada. To-day, the two lower values are rarely seen, but the multi-colored \$1 value is still comparatively common."



25¢ Labrador label. Is the Eskimo looking for suckers?

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LABRADOR LABELS (Concluded)

Here are a few additional observations:

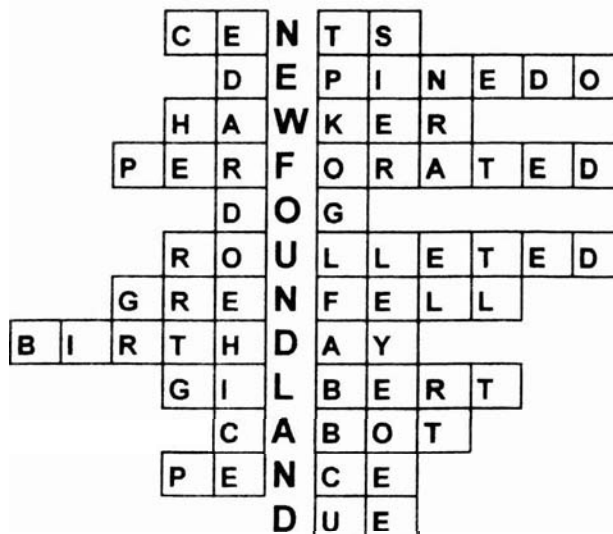
- The three labels were issued ungummed.
- CAVENDISH auction, March 2, 1991, Lot #793 contained blocks of the 5¢ and \$1, plus a \$1 tied to a 1936 cover to the U.S. with a 3¢ U.S. stamp. It realized 55 £.
- EASTERN auction, October 14, 2000, Lot #392 contained a set of the labels, "VF" Estimated at \$150 (Cdn), it sold for only \$86.
- EASTERN auction, May 25, 2001, Lot #398 contained a block of the 5¢, est. \$250 (Cdn)., and sold for \$115.

SUMMARY

It appears the three Labrador labels were created by one or more Americans and issued in 1907 or 1908 to attempt to dupe stamp collectors. Although they can be found "tied", they have not been known to have actually paid Canadian or U.S. postage. The \$1 value is common and can still be found for \$10 or so (*offer no more!*) but the two lower values are much more scarce. Based upon Eastern's auction results of two years ago, expect to pay around \$100 for a complete set of these bogus items.

Answers to NEWFOUNDLAND 101 PUZZLE (From Page 2.)

NEWFOUNDLAND 101



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NEWFOUNDLAND' POSTAL STATIONERY 1873-1941 - Horace Harrison

Page 26

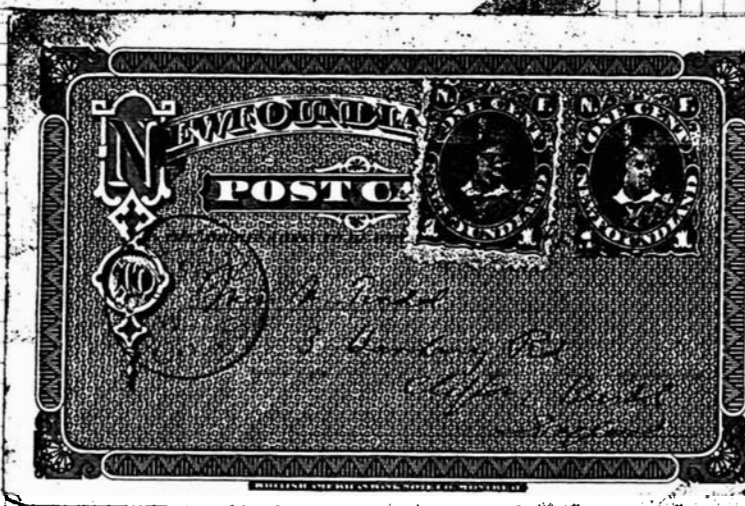
POSTAGE ADDED TO MAKE UP THE TWO CENTS U.P.U. RATE



ST. JOHNS, P.M. MR 1, 92
TO BERLIN, GERMANY
REC'D 31-3 92

PLATE POSITION
CONCEALED BY
ADHESIVE.

PLATE
POSITION
FOUR



BAY OF
ISLANDS
30 NOV. 95
TO BRISTOL,
ENGLAND
VIA ST. JOHNS
DE 6. 95

ST. JOHN'S, AM, OCT 9, 92
TO SAN MARINO

PLATE POSITION
TEN



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MYSTERIOUS OVERPAYMENT ON TWO CENTS COVERS

Sammy Whaley

When I examine the two Cents covers that are on the next page, I am reminded of the frustration felt by astronomers who observed the slightly erratic behavior in the orbit of the planet Neptune. They were sure there was another planetary body beyond Neptune that would account for the deviated orbit but were unable to locate it for many years. Of course, the later discovery of Pluto proved them correct.

Such is my frustration at an inability to locate written documentation to account for the 1-cent overpayment found on several Cents covers of which these two are only examples. These 1-cent overpaid covers exist to various destinations and on varying rates including the double-weight domestic cover (top cover). (I refer to this cover as the "April Fool" cover as the obverse has an April 1, 1872 date stamp. I do hope someone in 1872 was not playing an April fool's joke on future postal historians!) None of the overpaid covers I have examined have any collateral markings, such as **TOO-LATE**, which would indicate extra postage was necessary, nor are any of them dated during times of stamp shortages which would have necessitated the usage of the particular stamps on the covers. Although very colorful, these overpaid covers are seldom, if ever, exhibited, as they are "improper" for rate studies. *By the way, send all shunned, unwanted, non-exhibitable, inexplicable overpaid Cents covers to me where they will be welcomed as I'm sure a reason for the overpayment is out there waiting to be discovered and when it is....*

The 1-cent overpaid covers are but one example of many unanswered questions that have presented themselves to me during my quest to update the Census of the New York Printings. Other interesting questions of which the following are examples will be entertained at the Newfoundland Study Group's workshop at BNAPEX2002, on Saturday afternoon, in Spokane.

- Why was there such an apparent reluctance to make use of the 6-cent first printing (Scott #35)? It arrived in late 1870 but only one cover is recorded within the next two years, after that it is used to such an extent as to become the most prolific Cents issue on cover.
- Why does the 24-cent (Scott #31), which was issued in 1865, have only one cover recorded for the next 25 years?
- Why are the 1-cent and 2-cent roulettes (Scott #'s 37 & 38) so common used off cover and so inexplicably rare on cover?
- Of 280 recorded domestic covers, why are 186 (67%) found originating from St. John's and going to the outports but only 45 (16%) are found from the outports to St. John's? (The other 17% went from outport to outport).

Editor: Please join us in Spokane, BNAPEX2002, at the Saturday Newfie workshop!

SAMMY WHALEY'S COVERS (See text on Page 8.)



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UPDATES FROM NEWFIE NEWSLETTER #94

COVER TO JAMAICA (Pages 2-3)

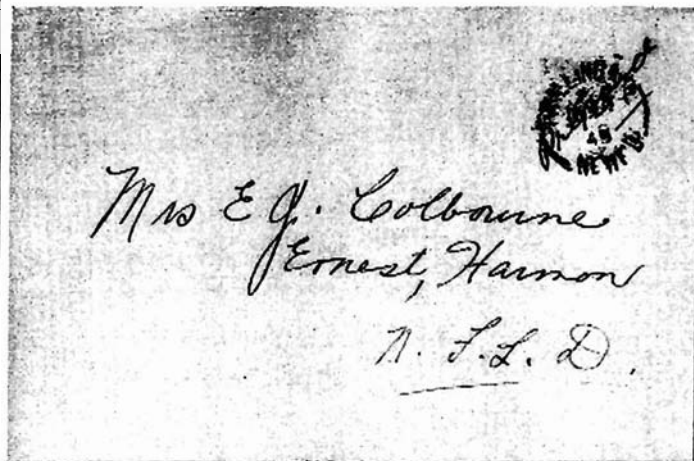
David Handelman, **BNA TOPICS** editor, has unscrambled several mystery words on the front of the St. John's to Jamaica cover. He thinks the word above the address is **Unclaimed**, perhaps abbreviated as **Unclmed**. He also points out the words below the pointing hand (lower left of front) as probably being **retourner à l'envoyeur**. He feels this was part of the purple handstamp likely applied at Montreal during the cover's return to St. John's.



STAMPLESS COVER TO "ERNEST, HARMON" NFLD (Page 4)

Colin Lewis writes about the 1949 Twillingate stampless cover to "Ernest, Harmon" which has mystified Dean Mario. I summarize:

In 1941 the U.S. obtained rights to build an Air force base in the St. George's Bay area. It was originally known as Stephenville Air Base but was renamed Ernest Harmon Air Force Base on June 23, 1948, in honor of a U.S. ace killed in a 1933 air crash. It became a part of the Northeast Air Command in October, 1950. In April, 1957, the Strategic Air Command took control. The base was used to maintain a tanker alert force for refueling jet bombers. That year, the Canadian Department of Transportation also constructed an air terminal for Trans Canada Airlines there. It is now totally civilian and known as Stephenville Airport, and able to handle the world's biggest aircraft.



14¢ EXTERNAL REGISTERED RATE (Page 7)

Jim Luetje sent copies of two covers with the 14¢ registered external rate *earlier* than the **DEC 15 26** cover of Randall Martin. NSSC shows 14¢ external rate went into effect in **1927**, *but* this one to U.S. is from **AUG 23 1924** (portion shown)+ another to U.S. has St. John's **SEP 15 1926** registry. The mystery deepens! When did the 14¢ rate go into effect?

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