

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

Number 96

September/October 2002

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

THIS ISSUE

Page 2	Newfoundland Head Scratcher ---Sammy Whaley
Page 3-5	ARGENTIA. T.P.O. / NFLD --- Brian Stalker
Page 6	Unusual Destination Mail - Japan ---Colin Lewis
Page 7	Unreported Town Cancellation --- Dean Mario
Page 8	Newfoundland's Postal Stationery --- H. Harrison
Page 9	More on Harmon Field --- Doug Hannan
Page 10	UPDATES!



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

During the past year, five new collectors have joined our group. They are: **Colin Bulloch, Henry Conlon, Wayne Lindsay, Peter MacDonald, and Kenneth Pollock**. Thank you!. I hope you enjoy your membership in this elite group! Our membership now stands at 74.

OUR FEATURE ARTICLE

ARGENTIA. T.P.O. / NFLD. --- A Case of Mistaken Identity? was sent us by Brian Stalker. In his cover letter he stated:

"Normally I would address this to the RPO Newsletter but nothing new has been reported on this postmark in the last twenty years by the RPO Study Group members so I thought that it might be worth casting a wider net."

His address, including email, are at the end of the article on Page 5. If you can help, please contact Brian and copy me if possible.

BNAPLEX2002 CONVENTION, SPOKANE, WA, SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2002

As mentioned previously, our member Sammy Whaley will regale us with many beautiful 19th century **CENTS** covers at a Saturday afternoon workshop (exact time and room not available yet). Support Sammy in his research! In that regard, Doug Hannan, who contributed the updated information on Harmon Field also has sent Sammy color Xerox of six covers. Sammy says this is very helpful – even if he has certain covers listed, he may not have clear photos of them and he wishes to include such in his final work.

DUES

It's getting to be that time again! You may pony up for 2003 now - \$13.00 (Canadian Dollars), \$9.00 (United States), and £6.50 (British Pounds). Your support for 2003 can help us pay for more colored pages in the Newsletter, including newsletter #100! Send dues to our Treasurer, Martin Goebel.

Chairman/Editor: Norris (Bob) Dyer, 1708 Granada Court, Petaluma, Ca 94954 nrdyer@attbi.com
Treasurer: Martin Goebel, 79 Highland Dr., St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada A1A 3C3

I

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

Number 96

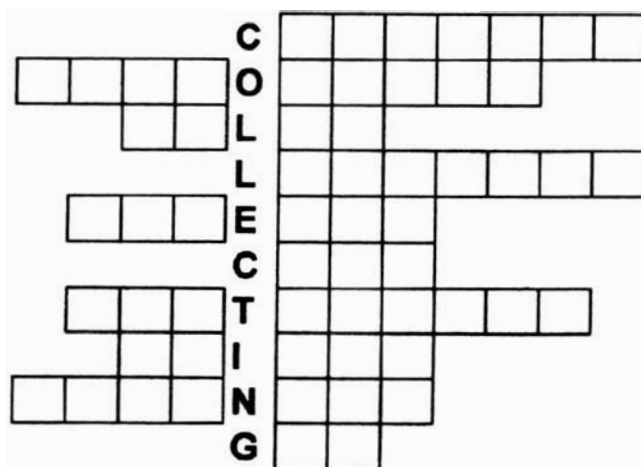
September/October 2002

NEWFOUNDLAND HEAD SCRATCHER

Sammy Whaley

Editor's Note: Sammy Whaley has devised several crossword puzzles with answers from Newfoundland philately. This is the second one. Can you complete it? Answers are on the Bottom of Page 5.

NEWFOUNDLAND HEAD SCRATCHER



- 1- 1930 AIRMAIL OVERPRINT
- 2- 1933 L & S OVERPRINT HAS ____ WATERMARK
- 3- FIRST POSTCARD DEPICTS PRINCE OF ____
- 4- NORTHERNMOST POST OFFICE LOCATED HERE
- 5- THE 1897 OVERPRINTS WERE DONE BY THE ROYAL ____
- 6- TYPE CANCEL USED ON THE EARLY CENTS ISSUES
- 7- 1923 ISSUE
- 8- MOST FREQUENTLY DEPICTED ENGAGEMENT ON THE CARIBOUS
- 9- THE 3 CENT ROULETTE HAS QUEEN VICTORIA IN HER ____ GARB
- 10- SECOND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE HONORS JOHN ____

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 96

September/October 2002

ARGENTIA. T.P.O. / NFLD. –A Case of Mistaken Identity?

Brian Stalker

This postmark has been the subject of much confusion and probably misreporting over the years, with as many as three variations on the same postmark being reported in some articles and publications. A summary is as follows:

In the February 1947 issue of **BNA TOPICS** the Meyerson brothers reported a large single circle postmark with sans-serif lettering **ARGENTIA T.P.O. / NFLD**, illustrating a copy dated **Nov 23 1942** and reporting its use from that date until January 27, 1945.

Subsequent reports resulted in the Meyersons reporting three different postmarks in the TPO & Seaport Society's **TPO JOURNAL** in 1952 and 1953:



- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Single circle, sans-serif | Nov 23 1942 to Oct 17 1947 |
| 1a. Single circle, serif | Oct 17 1947 |
| 2. Double circle, serif | Jun 17 1942 to Jan 27 1945 |

Note the illustrations seem to be hand-drawn representations rather than actual postmarks.

By the May 1962 **BNA TOPICS**, Dan Meyerson had reversed the position by delisting "1a" above and reporting:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Single circle, sans-serif | Jun 17 1942 to Jan 27 1945 |
| 2. Double circle, serif | Jun 17 1942 |

However, in his preamble to the listing he noted "*The listing may not be entirely accurate.....the markings have all been copied from covers and very often these were not too clear. As an example, markings No1 and No2 may be the same only that the canceller was not as heavily applied and the outer ring does not appear on No1 whereas it does on No2...*" Note also the seeming confusion of dates between this and the 1953 **TPO JOURNAL** data.

T.P.G. Shaw's **THE HANDBOOK AND CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN TRANSPORTATION POSTMARKS** published in 1963 included both of "1" and "2" above, numbering them "N-3" (single circle) and "N-2" (double circle) respectively and dating both for the period 1942-47. This information was carried forward into L.M. Ludlow's 1975 revision of Shaw's work.

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

Number 96

September/October 2002

ARGENTIA (Continued)

In February 1980 Ludlow commenced publication of his "Hammer Analysis for Newfoundland Runs" in **THE RPO NEWSLETTER OF THE CANADIAN RPO STUDY GROUP (BNAPS)**. In this he questioned the existence of Shaw "N-2", referring to the doubt mentioned by Dan Meyerson in 1962. A copy of this RPO newsletter annotated in Ludlow's handwriting in possession of the author, has "N-2" crossed out "delisted" and Shaw's "N-3" renumbered "N-2" with dates covering the period Jan 27 1942 to Oct 15 1947; therefore only one listing appeared in Ludlow's **CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN RAILWAY CANCELLATIONS AND RELATED TRANSPORTATION POSTMARKS** published in 1942.

Meanwhile in the UK, Cyril Kidd was updating the data provided by the Meyerson brothers in the early 1950's and the Autumn 1986 issue of the **TPO JOURNAL** included an update which then formed the basis of **BOOKLET 48 NEWFOUNDLAND TRAVELLING POST OFFICE CANCELLATIONS** by Cyril Kidd and Philip Cockrill, published in 1987. The booklet listed and illustrated postmarks "1" and "2", but not "1a" from the 1952/53 articles in the **TPO JOURNAL**.

Thus within the period 1982-87 we have two published works with contradictory information: Ludlow listing only the single circle postmark and Kidd/Cockrill listing both the single and double circle postmarks.

So what is the true position? Probably none of the foregoing illustrations were totally accurate...computer scanning and photocopying are recent luxuries not enjoyed fifty years ago... and a compromise between "1" and "1a" seems most likely.

The author has several copies of the single circle postmark (Ludlow "N-2") but all are dated between May and October 1942, and no copies of a double circle postmark. The lettering is of a partial serif font, certainly not what would be regarded as full serif so perhaps we could refer to it as "semi-serif".



Slightly enhanced photocopy from the author's collection

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 96

September/October 2002

ARGENTIA (Concluded)

It is unlikely that both a single circle and double circle postmark could be used concurrently but it is entirely feasible that a bounced strike would give the appearance of a double circle. (Photocopies of strikes of this postmark outside of the period May-October 1942 would be much appreciated).

Ludlow's 1982 catalogue has been subject to detailed scrutiny and annual updating by members of the Canadian RPO Study Group (BNAPS). In the twenty years since its publication no member of that group has reported the double circle version of the **ARGENTIA. T.P.O. / NFLD.** Postmark.

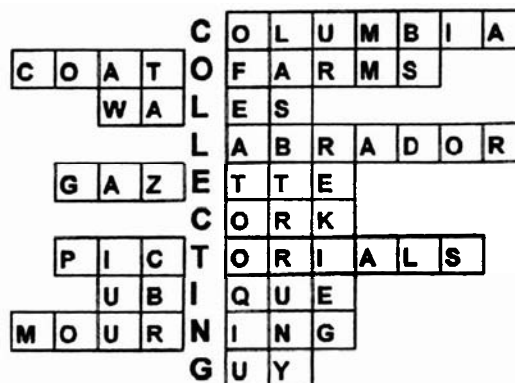
In view of the forgoing, the author supports Ludlow's conclusion that there was only one version of this postmark, the single circle; albeit the existence of more than one single circle hammer remains a possibility. Any reader with a double circle version is invited to submit a photocopy so that proper recognition can be given.

Finally, do we know whether this postmark was used on the railway service or on the coastal steamer service? The former seems more likely. Could its introduction have been in any way associated with the increase in mail resulting from the construction and operation of the World War II military base at Argentia?

Comments and information are invited, either via the editor or direct to Brian T, Stalker, Little Boxgrove, Foxhole Lane, Hawhurst, Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5DT, England or via email to freda.brian@virgin.net

Answers to NEWFOUNDLAND HEAD SCRATCHER PUZZLE (From Page 2.)

NEWFOUNDLAND HEAD SCRATCHER



THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 96

September/October 2002

UNUSUAL DESTINATION MAIL ---- JAPAN

Pre 1900 mail to the Far East from Newfoundland is extremely rare, whilst this cover rate to Tokio (Tokyo) Japan is possibly unique. I've heard claim that there's believed to be another cover to Japan, earlier than this, but I have no knowledge of it myself.



The cover which has an embossed crown and the words "Post Office Newfoundland" on the flap, was mailed "On Postal Service" from St John's GPO and probably contained the new Royal Family stamps. The franking is a strip of 5 of the 2¢ Prince of Wales and 10 of the 1¢ Queen Victoria red/carmine. These stamps were introduced on December 4, 1897 and the 1¢ red has been the subject of recent articles in the Newsletter. This is an early usage of the 1¢ being just 2 weeks after its issue. The rating of 20¢ covers the 15¢ postage for a foreign letter up to 1.5 ounces plus a 5¢ registration fee. The stamps are tied by St. John's circular date stamp **PM DE 18 1897**, and the St. John's precursor hammer of the same date has been applied to the front.

As evidenced by some of the other markings the routing was Trans-Atlantic to Liverpool where the registration oval dated December 31 was struck. It was then forwarded to London where the red registered was applied on January 1, 1898. At London it would have been put into a closed bag and shipped out via Southampton, through the Suez Canal and then via Colombo and Hong Kong to Yokohama where possibly the Japanese backstamp was applied. Being unable to decipher Japanese characters I can't establish the arrival date. — Colin D. Lewis, Swansea U.K.



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

Number 96

September/October 2002

UNREPORTED TOWN CANCELLATION ?



Dean Mario sent us the above stamp. The postmark, reads **BAIE VERTE ST.BARBE**. The date is **OC26 03** and the stamp is the 3¢ Queen Alexandra from the Royal Family set. Dean writes:

"I've recently 'stumbled' on the above which, I believe, perhaps is an unreported town cancellation. I cannot find it listed in Palmer Moffat's P.O. study in the Newsletter so I wondered if it is listed by Walsh & Butt in the NSSC? Now that Palmer has passed away I don't know who has taken up the challenge of Newfoundland town cancellations. Any ideas? Perhaps it is a common-enough cancellation which has been listed or reported previously. It's not within J. Paul Hughes' Proof Strike book series but that doesn't mean much as several towns have not been listed due to post office/Pritchard & Andres' files being missing. Any help would be appreciated."

The 2002 NSSC lists **BAIE VERTE**, in the Baie Verte Peninsula electoral district, and **ST. BARBE** in the Northern Peninsula district, several hundred kilometers apart. The **BAIE VERTE** office opened in 1903 but the **ST. BARRE** office did not open until 1930! I'm not enough of a postmark expert to know why they would be combined like this in 1903. I asked John Walsh. He answered:

"It has to do with *electoral district setup*. **BAIE VERTE** was in electoral district of **ST. BARBE** [in 1903]. And, yes, St. Barbe (the town) is located on the Northern Peninsula, while Baie Verte is situated on the Baie Verte Peninsula. But the electoral district encompassed this great area...The towns didn't move; the electoral districts did."

Not *all* outpost postmarks from that era also include their electoral districts, however.

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

Number 96

September/October 2002

NEWFOUNDLAND'S POSTAL STATIONERY 1873-1941 – Horace Harrison

Page 27

1880

NEW SECURITY PRINTER

BRITISH AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO.

SUPPLANTED AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO, WHICH
HAD SUPPLIED THE POST OFFICE SINCE 1865,

BY UNDERBIDDING AMERICAN FOR THE CONTRACT.

DIE PROOF ON INDIA MOUNTED ON CARD.



RARE - CLOSELY CONTROLLED BY PRINTER
NOTHING HAS BEEN RELEASED BY THE COMPANY AND
VERY LITTLE HAS COME FROM ITS SKILLED CRAFTSMEN.

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 96

September/October 2002

MORE ON HARMON FIELD



Doug Hannan sent us additional information on Ernest Harmon Air Force Base, Stephenville. The above shot is of base headquarters from a postcard postmarked in 1958. He also sent covers showing two different hammers. The earliest is below with a postmark of NO 29 47. Note the hammer and the return address both state **Harmon Field**. Our newsletter #95 suggested the name change from Stephenville Air Base to Ernest Harmon Air Force Base took place on June 23, 1948. This cover provides proof the change was earlier. **NSSC** shows usage from 1945-65. Is it possible the reference to "June 23, 1948" was meant to be to "June 23, 1945"? Anyone?

*1000 Gerald French
Harmonfield
Nfld*



The 13th League of America

105 Bond St.

Toronto 2.

Canada

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 96

September/October 2002

UPDATES

NILS OHMEN, HOW LONG WAS HE IN BUSINESS?

Colin Lewis has been researching what became of Nils Ohman, famous 19th century Newfoundland stamp dealer after 1899.

He emails from London:

"For your information, Nils Ohman left Newfoundland circa 1900 with his wife, Jessie, and they went to live in Montreal. I know very little more at this stage but am trying to track down his grand-daughters who are still alive...Very little information seems to be in the public domain." As of this writing he still has not been able to establish contact with a family member. Colin's information does explain why we see no Newfie covers from Nils after 1899.

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

THOSE DANG LABRADOR LABELS!

Robert Lemire sent me a one-page article by the Meyerson brothers from **BNA TOPICS**, Volume 5, Page 17, 1948. They, in turn, referred to Fred Jarrett's **STAMPS OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA**, 1929. (The labels were placed among Canadian proofs, and I'd only studied his Newfoundland section.) Jarrett's is the catalogue setting a \$10 value for each of the three labels. The Meyersons wrote "Mr. Jarrett has endeavored to correct this mistake innumerable times" Jarrett even offered to sell copies of the \$1 label for 50¢!, per the brothers. Dean Mario writes to tell me he feels the labels were issued with gum, however, lot #392 of Eastern Auction's sale of October 14, 2000 listing the three labels, read, in part: "...unused, as usual." None of the references state the labels were issued gummed, although Jarrett refers to the purchase of two sets "mint" in 1926. It is possible the labels were issued without gum in 1908 and later gummed to make them easier to sell. Perhaps a large supply became soaked at some point. Other opinions?

The Editor

