

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 97

November/December 2002

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

THIS ISSUE

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Two BNAPS members joined the Newfoundland Study Group at the September PIPEX APS show. They are Bill Longley of Longley Auctions and John E. Rempert of Torrance, California. Welcome aboard! According to my records, this brings our Group membership up to 76.

OUR FEATURE ARTICLE

This month it is about the mysterious 'Sudan' Booklet, now listed in the Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue as "BK1" with a price (in italics) of \$9500, USd. John Cooper of BNAPS (not a Group member) had a two-frame exhibit at BNAPEX 2002, for which he received a nice award – a Vermeil. Would he need a "BK1" for a Gold???? There appears to be only one. I have included "Pro" and "Con" articles on the booklet, as there are still questions about its legitimacy.

HORACE HARRISON

Just as I was finishing this issue, I was saddened to learn of the death of BNAPS President, Horace Harrison, a week after BNAPEX 2002. He had been unable to attend because of his declining health. You'll be reading a lot about Horace's in BNAPS publications and on the website. He was a great man, and expert on Canadian/Newfoundland postal stationery. We have been extracting from his *NEWFOUNDLAND POSTAL STATIONERY* and a major hardback book is due out later this year on Canadian registry with Horace as principle author.

DUES

You may find a half-sheet attached, meaning you still owe dues for 2003. Speaking of finances, our annual financial statement will be found on Page 10. We are solvent but plan to run more color pages in 2003, which cost considerably more than black and white, of course. Our 100th newsletter scheduled for May/June will have multiple pages in color.

Support our dealer members:

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

R.L. McGillivray, Stanley Stamps, 1096 Richard's St., Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3E1

John Jamieson, Saskatoon Stamp Center, P.O. Box 1870, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7K 3S2

Bill Longley, Longley Auctions, P.O. Box 620, Waterdown, Ontario, L0R 2H0

Chairman/Editor: Norris (Bob) Dyer, 1708 Granada Court, Petaluma, Ca 94954 ndyer@attbi.com

Treasurer: Martin Goebel, 79 Highland Dr., St. John's, Newfoundland, A1A 3C3

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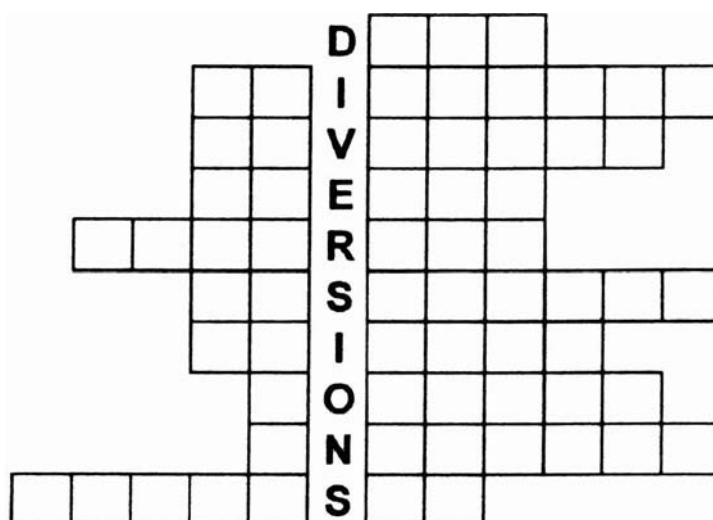
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NEWFOUNDLAND LOOK 'EM UPS PUZZLE

Sammy Whaley

Editor's Note: Sammy Whaley devised three crossword puzzles with answers from Newfoundland philately. This is the third. Can you complete it? Do you like this sort of thing? If so, please let us know. Answers are on the Bottom of Page 10.

NEWFOUNDLAND LOOK 'EM UPS



- 1- HAEC TIBI _____ FERO
- 2- TYPE SEAL DEPICTED ON 15 CENT RESOURCE ISSUE
- 3- FIRST _____ ISSUED IN 1889
- 4- ONLY AMERICAN ON NEWFOUNDLAND STAMP
- 5- FIRM RECEIVING MOST CENTS COVERS
- 6- ELECTED PRESIDENT BNAPS 2001
- 7- 1897 CANCEL
- 8- POSTMASTER WHEN FIRST STAMPS INTRODUCED
- 9- GUY'S SHIP
- 10- POSTMASTER WHO INITIALED THE MARTINSYDE OVERPRINTS

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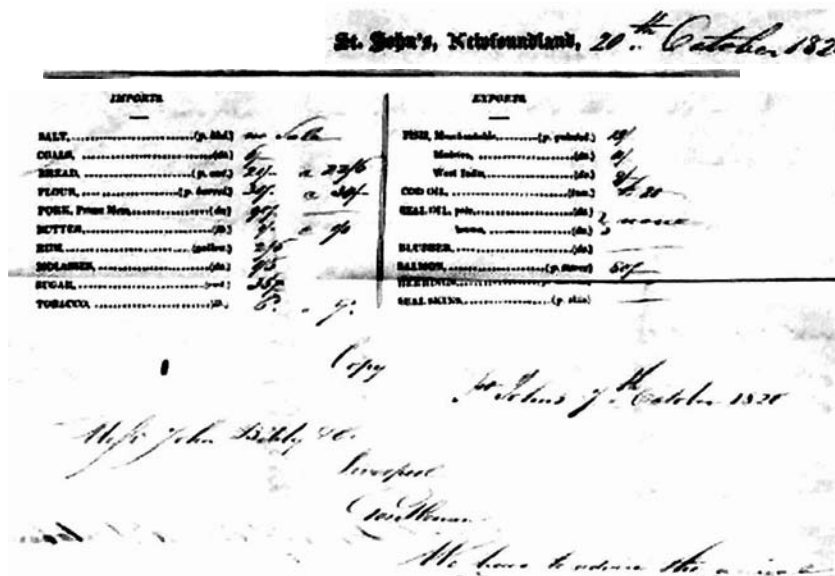
SHIP LETTERS – NEWFOUNDLAND TO THE BRITISH ISLES

Colin Lewis, Swansea, United Kingdom

Prior to 1840 and the introduction of Cunard's regular packet service between Halifax and Liverpool, the majority of letters were forwarded by private vessels at a cost agreed between the sender and the captain or agent for the vessel. Bags were placed at the offices of agents and mail requiring to be forwarded across the Atlantic was deposited with the agent. Last minute letters were often handed to masters aboard their vessels and fees paid directly to the master.

It was the requirement of the master to land any mail he was carrying at the first British port sighted upon the completion of his Atlantic crossing. The mail would be delivered to the local Postmaster and the captain given a gratuity for each letter handed over. The amount of the gratuity was normally 2 pence but in earlier years this was 1 penny and, in fact, at the outset of ship-letters in 1711 there was no gratuity given.

Upon receipt of the letters the Postmaster was required to stamp each item with the office ship-letter hand-stamp. He was also required to assess the amount to be charged to the addressee for handling the letter and delivering it to the town to which it was addressed. It was to the advantage of the Post Office that the letters were handed in at a Post Office the greatest distance from the post town because all delivery charged were assessed on distance. Below is a ship-letter from Newfoundland.



It was written at St. John's on 20 October 1820 and is a typical lengthy commercial letter of the day, referring to the delivery of various products to Newfoundland and the subsequent cargo of fish loading for the return trip. The vessel was the brig "Bottle", Captain Evans in command. From the letter heading it can be seen that this was a copy letter [see center of illustration], and as was the practice the same letter was often sent in duplicate by different vessels in case one ship got lost. It is likely that this letter was carried on board a Cornish fishing vessel from the port of Penzance.

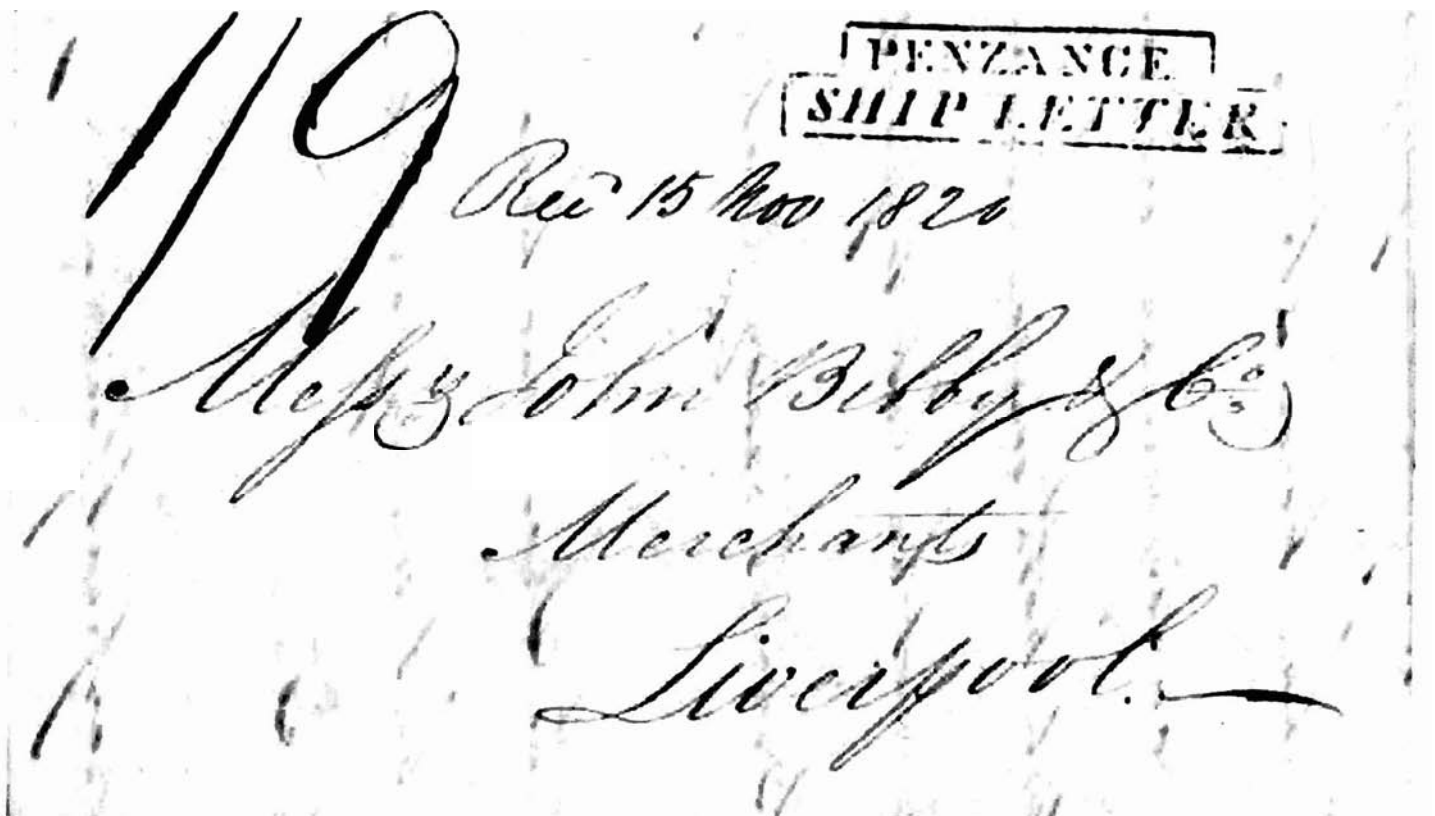
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SHIP LETTERS (Concluded)

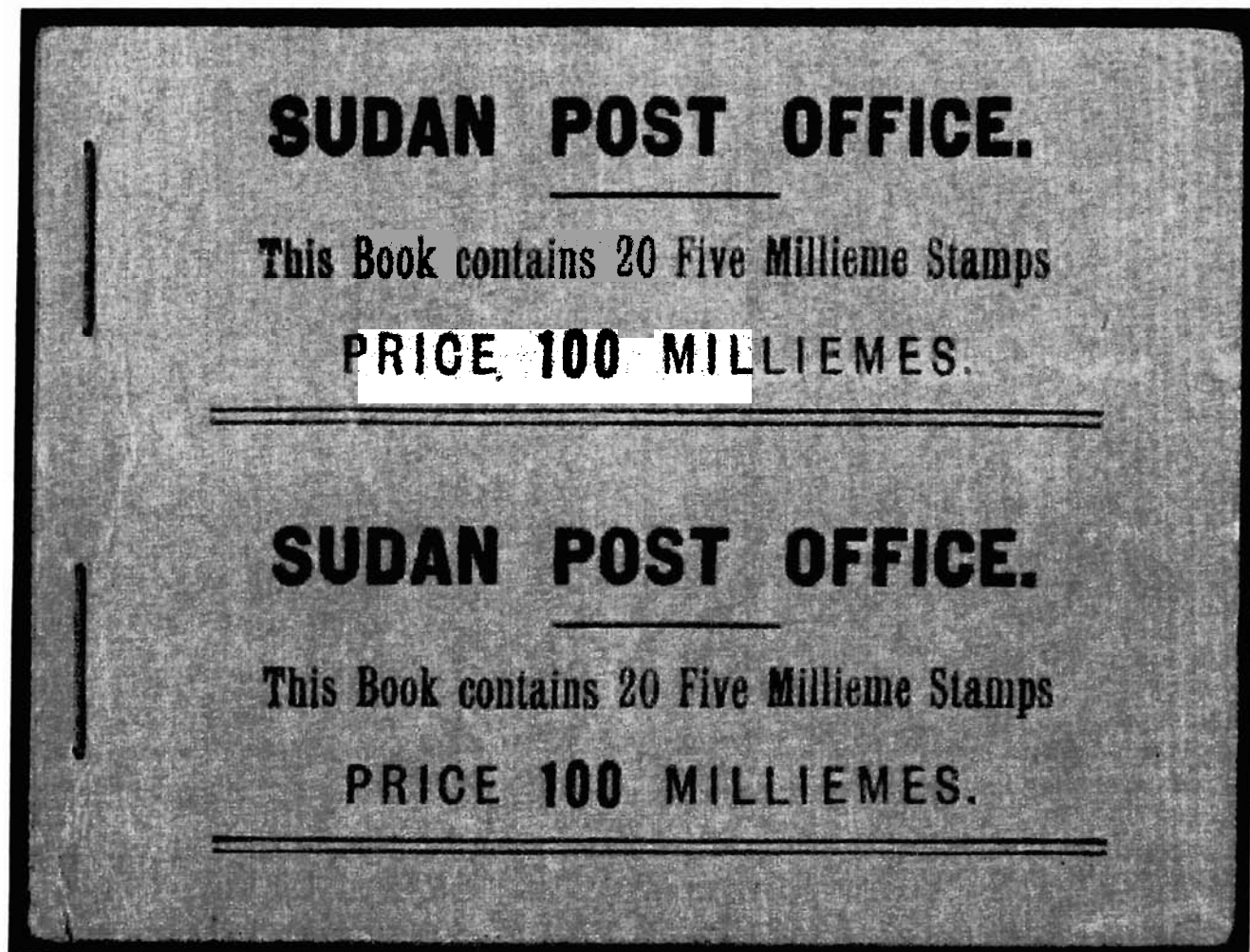
The boxed **PENZANCE / SHIP LETTER** which is classified as Robertson type "S3" (see *Note* below) was struck and in use from 1814 to 1848. The Postmaster then assessed a charge of 1 shilling 9 pence to be collected from the addressee. This was calculated as 8 pence ship-letter charge that included the 2 pence master's gratuity, plus 1 shilling 1 penny for the inland postage on a letter carried over a distance of between 300 and 400 miles. As this letter was a single sheet of paper it was assessed at the single rate. Had this letter contained multiple sheets, or separate bills of exchange as enclosures, each sheet would have been subject to the ship-letter fee and inland mileage rate. It was the practice of the day to write letters on large sheets of paper to avoid this multiple sheet charging arrangement.



The docketing on the letter reveals that it was received in Liverpool on 15 November 1820, making the overall transit time 26 days.

Note: Alan W. Robertson was a renowned ship-letter postal historian and in 1955 he produced a three-volume work entitled "The History of the Ship Letters of the British Isles" in a limited edition of 600 copies. It is his numbering system that is used in the classification of all ship-letters.

The 1919 'SUDAN' BOOKLET – UNSOLVED MYSTERY ?



Above we see the cover of a rare Newfoundland booklet, now listed as #BK1, in the NSSC, for \$9,500 (U.S.) It sold for \$8,000 Cdn (+15%) at the Eastern Auction of August 23, 2002. Eastern lot description for #764 stated, in part:

“...this booklet was prepared for use in Northern Africa by Newfoundlanders stationed there or recovering in hospital, this is the only surviving example which has come to light just a few years ago in the personal effects of a veteran of World War I....”

Two articles on this booklet have previously been published in the **NEWFIE NEWSLETTER** – #52, January/February, 1995 and #66, May/June of 1997. I am not aware of any other published information on it. One of our members recently contacted me with continued doubts about its authenticity. Consequently, I'm reprinting previous articles so we can look at its history again.

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NEWFOUNDLAND POSTAGE – THE CARIBOU ISSUE OF 1919

PRO Sudan Booklet -- from NEWFIE NEWSLETTER #52 January/February, by C.F. Rowe

During WW I, 1914-1919, and for some time after, Newfoundlanders served in the Sudan, a British possession dating from 1897 until it was proclaimed a Republic in 1956. This stamp booklet could have been prepared by the Sudanese Government for use by Newfoundlanders stationed there and supplied through the Military Base postal service.

NOTES FOR INFORMATION

It is said that soldiers suffering from injuries or lengthy illness whilst serving in the Dardenells were sent to Egypt to recuperate. Letters by the soldiers were exempt from Egyptian postage. Mail was franked as Postage Paid, bore no stamp or were permitted to carry the stamps of the country to which they were addressed. From the illustrated "Sudanese Booklet" it appears that the similar conditions prevailed in the Sudan where the Newfoundland One Cent Stamps of the Caribou issue of 1919 (Stanley Gibbons 130) were made available to fill the need for Newfoundland stamps if the sender chose to use stamps of his own country.

Stamps for the setting up of the booklets could have been obtained from the Newfoundland High Commissioners Office in London, England.

The Caribou Issue of Postage Stamps was printed by De La Rue and placed on sale Jan. 2, 1919.

Sudanese stamps were also printed by De La Rue.

The original owner was from Newfoundland and served as an officer in the Royal Navy (Captain?) with service in the Mediterranean, Red Sea and Indian Oceans during WW 1, 1914-1919.

The perf of the stamps in the booklet is 13.9 X 14.1.

Rowe ended his article with the following two questions:

1. What is the true history of this booklet?
 2. Where and by whom was the booklet assembled?
-

THE 1919 "SUDAN" CARIBOU BOOKLET – REVISITED

CON Sudan Booklet -- from NEWFIE NEWSLETTER #66, May/June 1997 by Dean Mario [Edited]

Although information on the [Sudan] booklet was solicited from the membership at the time of publication, no response was forthcoming. Unfortunately the original owner of the booklet has passed away and the writer does not know where this item is at present. Given some research, and having failed to find any concrete information on the booklet's original intent, I can offer an hypothesis that this item is indeed bogus and an illegitimate concoction. I am basing this opinion solely on an imagined purpose for the booklet. Some evidence for members follow.

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SUDAN BOOKLET CONCLUDED - Dean Mario

Firstly, there was no apparent need for this booklet to be issued from a military standpoint. Newfoundland (and British) servicemen and women sending mail from August 28, 1914 to August 24, 1920 to the U.K., the Colonies, or the Dominions (including Newfoundland) could do so for free (for letters 4oz. and under). ¹ If Newfoundlanders were ever in the Sudan on military service and used the civilian post office there, Sudanese stamps would surely have been used. It is doubtful that any foreign stamps. Including those from Newfoundland in this booklet would have been accepted as proper payment for postage....

There may be another possibility surrounding this booklet to give it some credibility. In the **NEWFIE NEWSLETTER** (#35, May/June 1991, p. 4) an interesting remark may be related to this unusual booklet. In the "Trail of the Caribou: From the Collection of Robert H. Pratt" by C. A. Stillions, it is noted that:

"An interesting offer was made September 25th [1918] when De La Rue submitted six books of twenty 1¢ stamps, made by cutting a sheet of stamps in a manner undisclosed. The covers and interleaves were indicated as being from waste material. As with the coils, nothing further is heard and none of the examples remain. [My emphasis].

Despite the fact that the "Sudan" Caribou booklet has four panes (3 X 2) of the 1¢ stamps (24 instead of 20), might this booklet be one of the samples issued by De La Rue and sent to postal officials for approval? Note the "waste material" notation. Is it possible that this "waste" could have been from the Sudan Post Office (Sudanese stamps were also printed by the De La Rue firm)? Company representatives could have "made-up" a booklet of stamps using whatever they had at hand for a sample to show Newfoundland officials.

Perhaps the above is wild speculation on the writer's part but it would help to explain the booklet's parentage and possible legitimacy. It certainly does not, given all the evidence, have any military connections that I can determine. It is one of the interesting oddities within Newfoundland philately. Members' opinions and observations are certainly solicited and I'm certain the Editor would be pleased to hear others' thoughts on the above.

¹ History of British Army Postal Service, Vol. II (1903-1927), E.B. Proud (Dereham, Norfolk: Proud-Baily Co. Ltd., n.d.), p. 10.

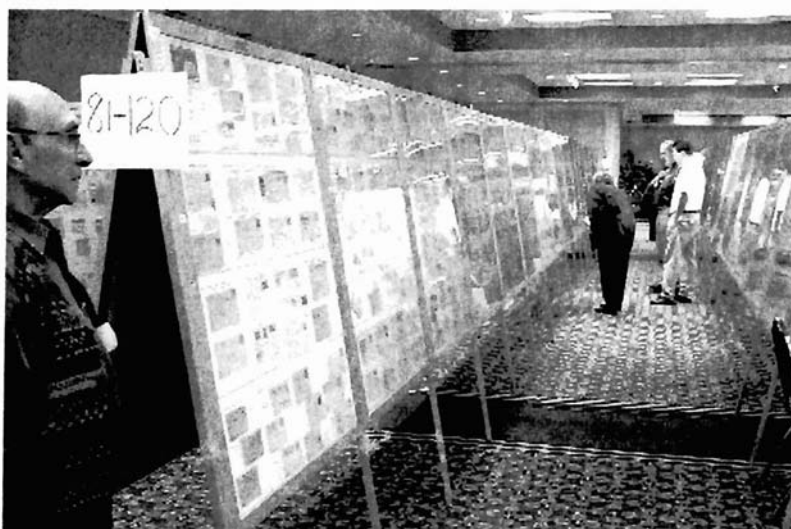
Editor's Comments, September, 2002 I note that the Eastern lot mentioned no certificate of authenticity although the lot was accompanied by "...some background and write-up material..." which may have been the NEWFIE NEWSLETTER items. It would be nice if more authentication of some sort could be provided for our members in a future issue. Final comment – someone obviously believed in its authenticity given the high price paid for what does appear to be a unique Newfoundland item.

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PIPEX AND BNAPEX 2002



20 Frames of Newfoundland Material (320 pages!) At PIPEX in Richmond, B.C., Sept. 20-22

Three of our group members had exhibits. Ron Battersby (seen at left, perhaps guarding the material) exhibited **Newfoundland : Selected Covers** (6 frames), for a Silver. Randall R. Martin's exhibit, **Newfoundland Surface Mail** (8 frames) won a Vermeil. My exhibit, **Postal Shortages, and Surcharged Issues of Newfoundland** (6 frames) won a Gold. PIPEX is an APS show.

BNAPEX 2002, SPOKANE, WASHINGTON , SEPT. 27-29



Sammy Whaley, seen at the left, wowed a dozen of us during our study group's workshop with his study on **Cents** covers. The study includes covers with the New York printings produced prior to 1880: Scott #24-40, excluding #29 and #36 (produced in 1894). His study is an update and expansion of Robert Pratt's **Newfoundland Cents Issues Covers**, from 1989. Whaley includes any covers with these stamps postmarked prior to January 1, 1900. While Pratt had 756 covers in the 1989 study, Whaley is already up to 937 covers, *and still searching for more*. Besides data from the covers, he's also attempting to obtain photographs of as many as possible, and already has images of over 60% of them. A number of group members have been helping. His address is PO Box 727, Opp, Alabama, and email is Onycha2@aol.com

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NEWFOUNDLAND'S POSTAL STATIONERY 1873-1941 - Horace Harrison

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CREAM TO BUFF
SHADE OF PAPER
OF RATHER HEAVY
STOCK

ORANGE INK WITH
MINOR SHADE
VARIATIONS

ISSUED
JANUARY
1880

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BNAPS Newfoundland Study Group

Financial Statement as of August 15, 2002

	Item	Debit	Credit
Aug 15, 2001	Balance Forward from Previous Year		\$823.88
	Bank Interest		.31
	Service Charges (Cheques, etc.)	5.70	
	BNAPS Stipend and Memberships <small>(applies to 2001/2002 memberships)</small>		226.00
	54 Paid Memberships <small>(9 memberships were paid in advance in 2000/2001)</small>		702.00
	Membership dues paid in arrears		0.00
	Membership dues paid in advance		52.00
	Donations		33.75
	Newsletter Postage	363.05	
	Typing	80.00	
	Paper and Copying	456.44	
	Misc. Stationary	17.25	
	Totals	\$922.44	\$1,014.06
Aug 15, 2002	Balance on hand end of this year		\$915.50

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE ON PAGE 2.

NEWFOUNDLAND LOOK 'EM UPS



- D- HAEC TIBI _____ FERO
- I- TYPE SEAL DEPICTED ON 15 CENT RESOURCE ISSUE
- V- FIRST _____ ISSUED IN 1889
- E- ONLY AMERICAN ON NEWFOUNDLAND STAMP
- R- FIRM RECEIVING MOST CENTS COVERS
- S- ELECTED PRESIDENT BNAPS 2001
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