

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

Number 100

May/June, 2003

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

THE 100TH ISSUE!!!



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To celebrate our anniversary, we've decided to present *four* pages in full color (colour). It costs a lot to do color, and we may have to tighten our budget after this issue but our main intent is to provide you some beautiful items as they really look. We're fortunate that members have items like this that they are willing to share – at least allowing you to take a peek at them.

BUTLER CHALLENGES – *Early Cover? Early Price List?*

On page 4, you'll find what is probably the *last* philatelic cover by Reverend Butler, the famous Newfoundland dealer who operated his business from 1916 to about 1948 when he sold his remaining stock. Check your Butler covers – there were thousands of them. **We're looking for an early example that is prior to 1920.** If you have one, send me a nice Xerox (or "jpg" if you use computers). Even Butler's price lists are popular. In a recent ebay auction one of them from 1932 went for \$32.50 (USD)! Another from 1940 went for \$25. I managed to "win" one from 1936 for considerably less (bad year?) recently and will share any insights from it in the next newsletter. **That looks like another challenge – does anyone have a price list prior to 1932?**

Support our dealer members:

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NEWFIE NEWSLETTERS 1985-2003



**THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
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Vol. I, No. 1

Whole No. 1

July/August 1985

It gives me great pleasure to send this first newsletter of the Newfoundland Study Group to each of you. I am hopeful this will be only the first of many. The BNAPS librarian tells me that there are no newsletters or bulletins of any previous Newfoundland study group in the BNAPS library--which makes us the first Newfoundland study group in the 40 years of the Society's history.

Our group has been allocated a time and place for a semi : this year's BNAPS convention in Calgary. The time is from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, 12 September, and the place is the Jasper Room of the Westin Hotel. There will be a short program and the remainder of the time devoted to organizing the group. So plan now to attend.

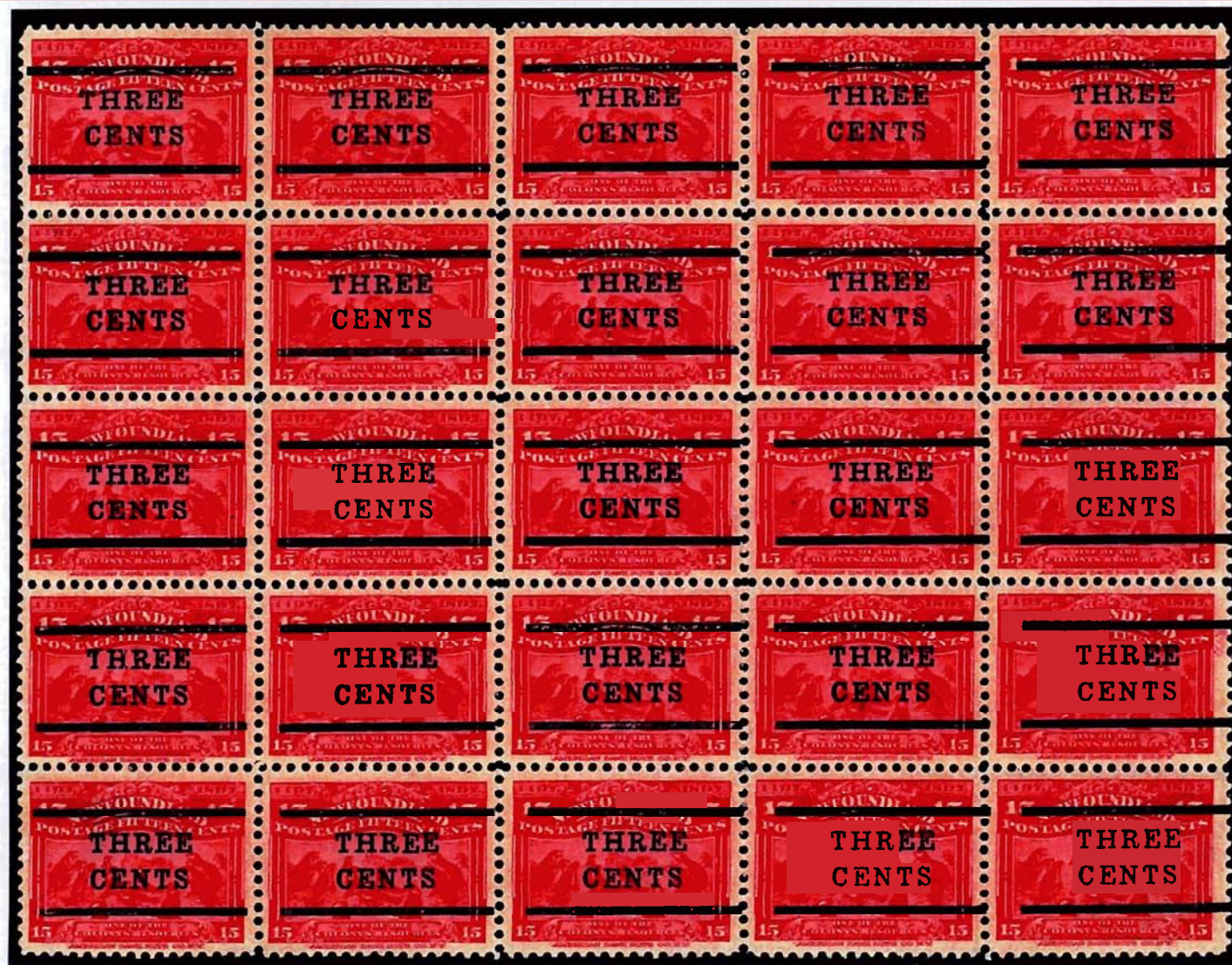
Above are the first two paragraphs of **NEWFIE NEWSLETTER #1**, edited by C.A. Stillions, still a member of our group, from 1985. It was two pages long. On Page 2, Stillions wrote:

This effort at establishing a Newfoundland Study Group is an outgrowth of correspondence between Derak Paul and myself concerning his study of the wartime 5 cents Caribou (see BNA Topics, March-April 1984, p. 33-36).

Stillions edited the Newsletter for the first 40 issues. There was a break in early 1992, and then John Butt took over the newsletter for the next 44 issues over a period 1993-2000. After his tragic death I took over as editor with issue #85.

The Newfie Newsletter is only strong and effective when our members share their love for Newfoundland philately with others. The Editor's job is much easier when he/she has lots of contributions submitted - they can be by email or normal mail. My address is on Page 1. At this point I have absolutely no idea what will be in Newfie Newsletter #101!!! Once again - Help!!

A NEWFOUNDLAND RARITY



Full setting of 25 of first 1920 surcharge, bars 10.5 mm apart

This is Scott #128, NSSC #122. The stamp is often seen as a single at auction – but seldom in the complete setting of 25, as almost all were broken up the morning of September 13, 1920 when the stamp came out – the stamps were gone by noon! I am only aware of six settings having come to market since 1969, making this item scarcer than even full settings of the 1897 surcharges or of the Alcock air mail. Scott cat. as singles (20 are N.H.)- \$5900, NSSC \$6125. Can you add to the known settings?

May, 1969 – HR. Harmer, New York, Lot #247
October, 1991 – Cavendish, Zurich, Lot #273
March, 1996 – Eastern Auction, Lot #378

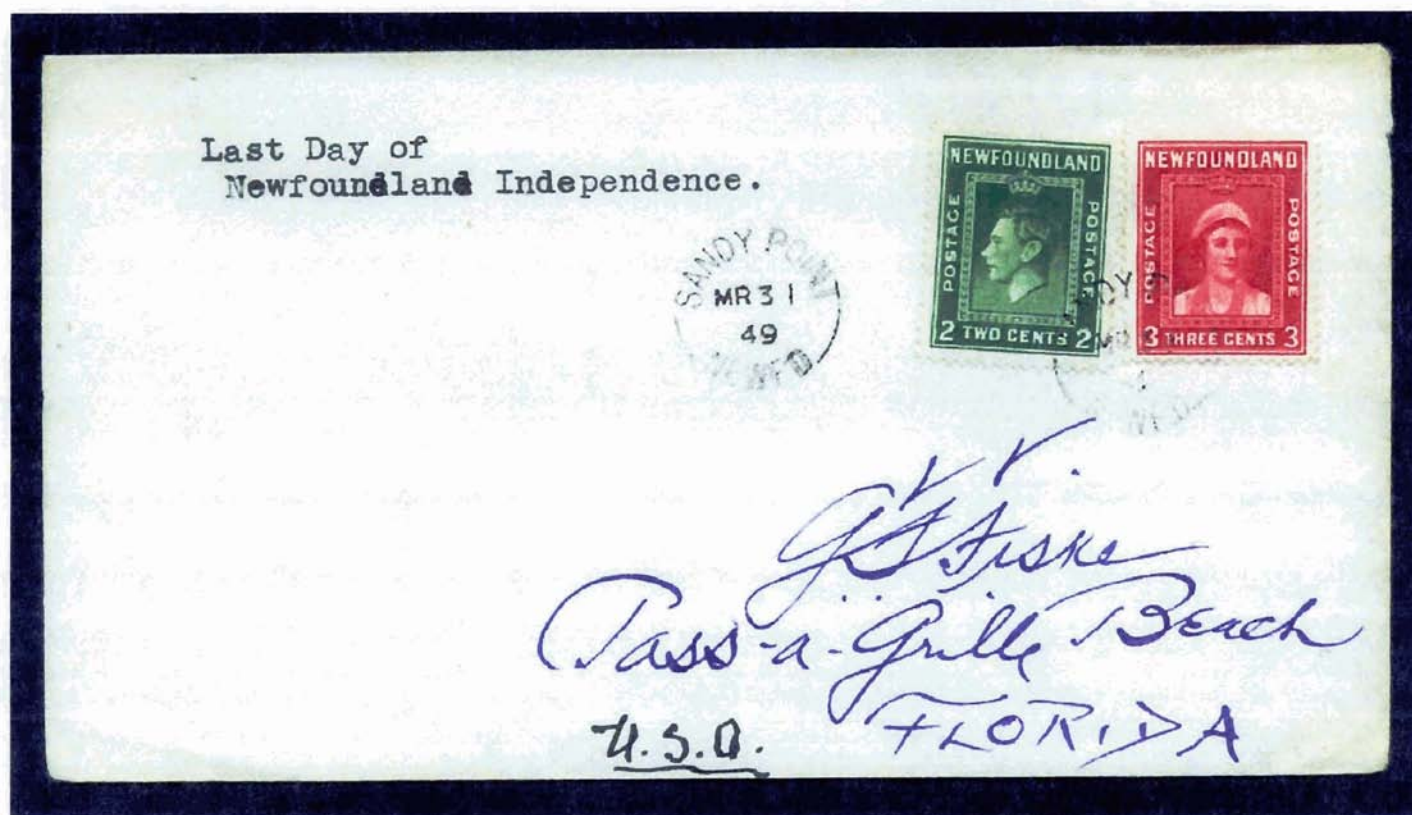
March, 1991 – Cavendish, Zurich, Lot #603
October, 1991 – Cavendish, Zurich, Lot #274
September, 1997 – West Island Phil., retail.

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IS THIS THE LAST KNOWN REVEREND BUTLER COVER? – Jim Luetje



Note back scan

As usual, I enjoyed the last copy of the Newsletter....I particularly enjoyed learning more about the good Rev. Butler. Whether intentional or not, you've challenged the Study Group to come up with the EKU and LKU of Butler covers. So here are my entries. My EKU is May 8, 1921. I didn't scan it because I'm not confident it will stand up. But my LKU (above) of MR 31 49 is, at least, interesting...Since this last day cover was obviously addressed by Rev Butler, he was still involved in the business to some degree. **[Any challenges, Group? The Editor]**

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THE 8 PENCE BISECT



From the beginning there have been Newfoundland postal shortages, including an early shortage of 4 & 6 1/2 Pence stamps. Most of the correspondence to the U.S. used one or the other or these values, so it was decided to bisect the 8 Pence to make two 4 Pence stamps. This article looks at the use of such a bisected stamp on a cover to the U.S.

The cover was mailed from Out-port of Harbour Britain on April 27 1861 to the town of North Oxford, Mass. where it arrived on May 17. From there it was redirected to Essex Vermont. It had transitted St. John's on May 1, and Boston on May 16 where it received the Boston British Packet mark showing 5¢ was to be collected for U.S. inland postage.

It is necessary to understand that there were two forms of currency as legal tender in Newfoundland during this period. There was British Sterling currency and Newfoundland domestic currency. They were inter-changeable but not valued on par with one another. To understand this cover's rate, you must know that the bisected 8 pence stamp is a *Sterling* value, and as such is worth 4 Pence Sterling. The 3 Pence triangular stamp is valued in Newfoundland currency and had a primary use of paying domestic covers up to 1/2 ounce. This stamp had a convertible Sterling value of 2 1/2 Pence.

Mail sent to the U.S. had to be paid in Sterling. The rate from St. John's to Boston was 4 Pence Sterling per 1/2 ounce but this cover from an out-port also required 3 Pence Newfoundland currency per 1/2 ounce, also. The actual rate from an out-port to the U.S. was 6 1/2 Pence Sterling and had a 6 1/2 Pence stamp been available, no doubt it would have been affixed. The cover went from St. John's by steamer to Halifax, Nova Scotia where it was carried aboard the Cunard "Europa" to Boston. It has Philatelic Foundation New York and BPA expertization certificates.

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FOUR COVERS FROM DOUG HANNAN

On the next page you'll find four nice 19th century Newfoundland covers belonging to Doug Hannan. Here are Doug's explanations. Note that the covers include usage by Scott #33-36.

Top Left

This is a 3¢ inland cover franked with Scott #33 (NSSC #34) to Brigus. The stamp is cancelled with a St. John's cancel with cork cancel in the center. This cork is not listed in Pratt's Nineteenth Century Postal History. The cover is cancelled by St. John's Newfoundland/Paid/AP22/1872. The receiving backstamp is Brigus double split ring AP 25/1872. This cover is not found in Pratt's Cents Issue Covers. [But will be in Sammy Whaley's study].

Top Right

This is an example of Scott #36 (NSSC #51) on a registered cover from Trinity/MR 31/96 to St. John's. It traveled by HALL'S BAY R.T.P.O./NO 1/AP 7/96 and has a St. John's barred circle receiver dated 8 AP 6.

Lower Left

This is a 6¢ cover franked with Scott #35 (NSSC # 37) to Poole, England. The stamp is cancelled by obliterator. It is cancelled by Fogo/JY 15/1873 double split circle. There is a wax seal on the back and a StJohn-Newfoundland/JY 18/1873 double split circle transit marking. The front of the cover received the Paid/Liverpool/Parcel/8 AU 73/2A transit marking and then on back is the small circle POOLE/B/AU 9/73 receiver. This cover would be #16 on Page 66 of Pratt's cover book.

Lower Right

This is a 3¢ cover franked with Scott #34 (NSSC #35) to Harbor Grace. The stamp is cancelled by Channel/Nov/4/1874. There is a StJohn's-Newfoundland/NO 11/1874 split circle transit mark on the back. The Harbor Grace double split circle on the front does not have a readable date. This cover would appear to be #16 on Page 17 of Pratt's cover book.





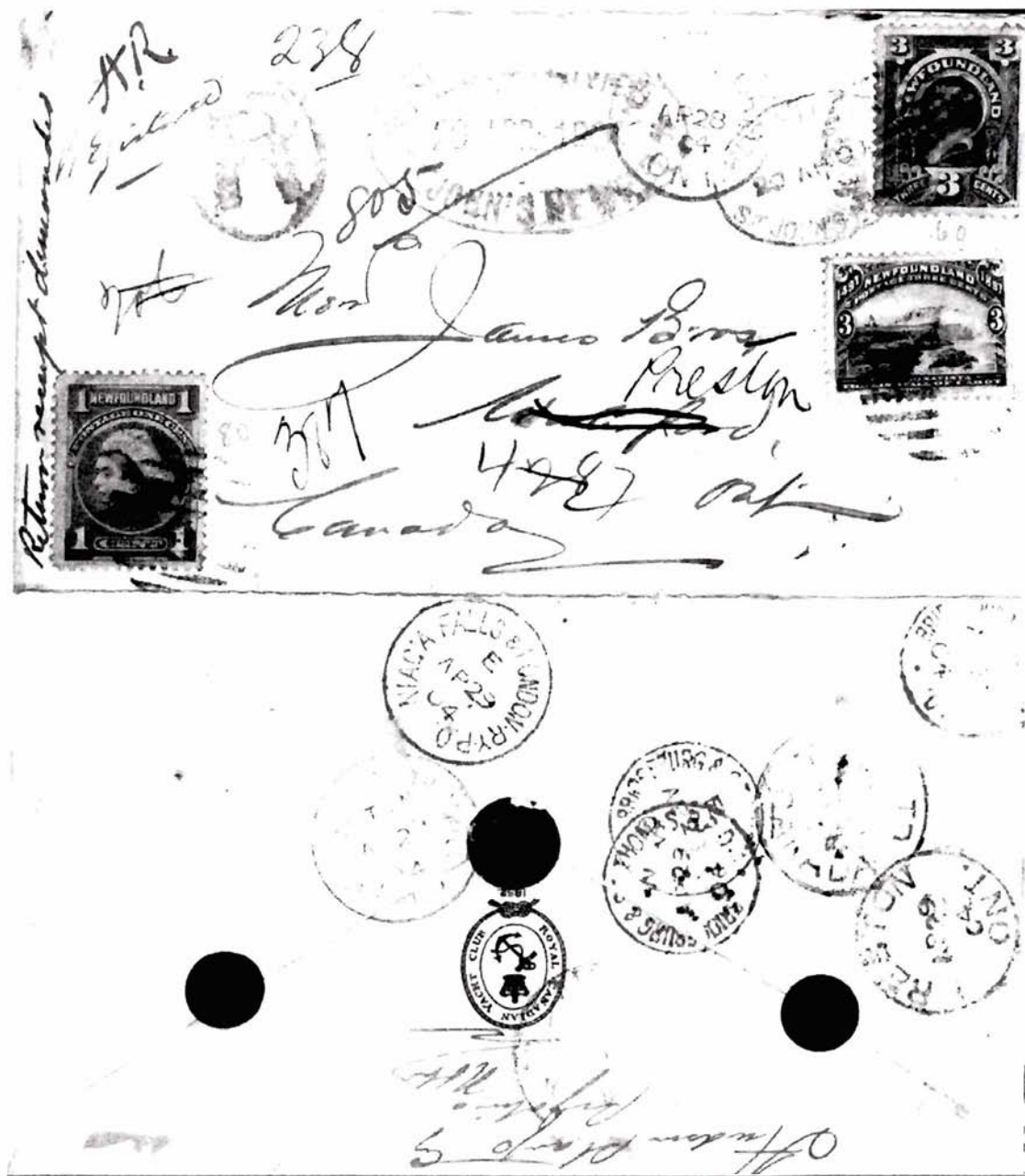
◀◀◀ See descriptions on facing page

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1904 AVIS DE RECEPTION COVER – David Handelman



This is a 1904 registered cover to Canada; it is the earliest AR (*avis de reception*, although the few Newfie AR covers I have seen always use the American expression, return receipt requested/demanded) cover I know of from Newfoundland – all the others are at least quasiphilatelic, and typically from Butler, and much later. This one, alas, is also quasiphilatelic, the return address is Hudson Stamp Cy, but at least the postage is correct (the AR fee was paid on the accompanying form, not on the cover, at least for Newfoundland and Canada.) For more information on worldwide AR, there is a new book published by the PHSC, "AR ---avid de reception", by me.

RARE MULTIPLE OF 1870 3¢ VICTORIA



BY SAMMY WHALEY

THE ABOVE STRIP OF THREE IS A RARE EXAMPLE OF A USED MULTIPLE OF THE SCOTT/UNITRADE #33 (NSSC #34). THIS STAMP WAS ISSUED IN 1870 TO

PAY THE NEWLY INTRODUCED (MAY 9, 1870) 3¢ DOMESTIC RATE. IT WAS SELDOM USED IN MULTIPLES AND ONLY SEVEN COVERS ARE RECORDED FRANKED WITH MORE THAN ONE STAMP. LIKewise, USED MULTIPLES OFF COVER ARE SELDOM SEEN. IN A PERUSAL OF AUCTIONS CATALOGUES DATED WITHIN THE PAST 30 YEARS I HAVE LOCATED ONLY THREE EXAMPLES OF USED STRIPS OF THREE.

THIS STRIP IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTING IN THAT IT HAS EXAMPLES OF THREE TYPES OF CANCELS USED DURING THE CENTS PERIOD: (A) THE 10-BAR GRID, WHICH WAS THE OFFICIAL GPO ISSUED CANCEL; (B) THE QUARTERED CORK, WHICH WAS CARVED BY LOCAL POSTAL WORKERS; AND (C) A MANUSCRIPT "X".

ALTHOUGH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW FOR CERTAIN WHERE THE STRIP ORIGINATED, IT IS FUN TO HYPOTHESIZE BASED UPON THE CANCELS. AS THE 10-BAR GRID WAS NOT USED OFTEN IN ST. JOHN'S DURING THE EARLY 1870'S, THIS STRIP WAS LIKELY USED ON AN ITEM FROM AN OUTPORT. THE PARTICULAR STRIKE OF THE GRID ON THESE STAMPS WOULD INDICATE IT CAME FROM FOGO. THE QUARTERED CORK IS A SIGNATURE STRIKE FROM THE CORK USED AT ST. JOHN'S DURING THE 1870-72 PERIOD - SO LET'S SAY FROM SOMEONE IN FOGO TO THE SPANISH VICE COUNSEL IN ST. JOHN'S (PERSONAL LETTERS VERY RARELY MADE USE OF MULTIPLES). THE DATE SENT - PROBABLY SUMMER, 1872.

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NEWFOUNDLAND'S POSTAL STATIONERY 1873-1941 – Horace Harrison

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