

## January/February 2004

**Trans-Atlantic  
AIR MAIL  
By B. M.  
"Columbia"  
September  
1930  
Fifty Cents**

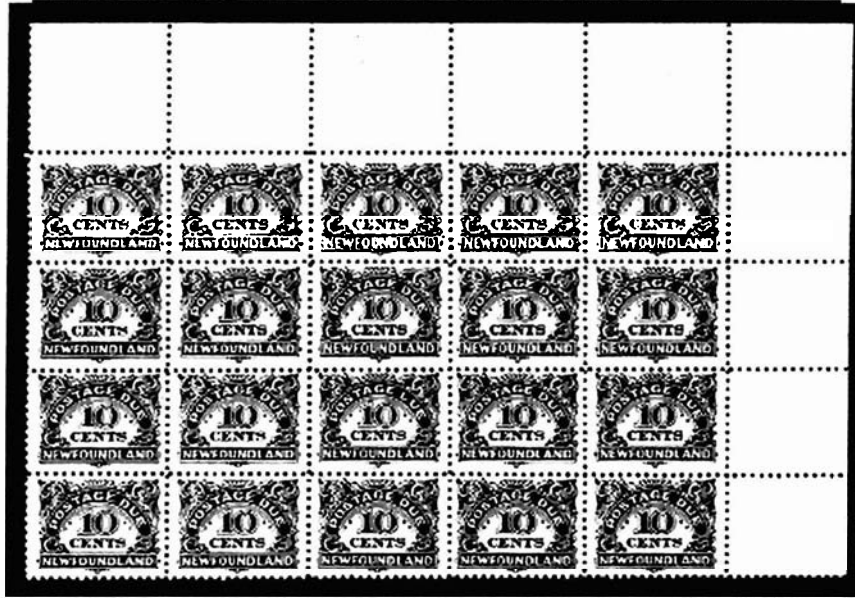
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**THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER**  
**OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS**

**Number 104**

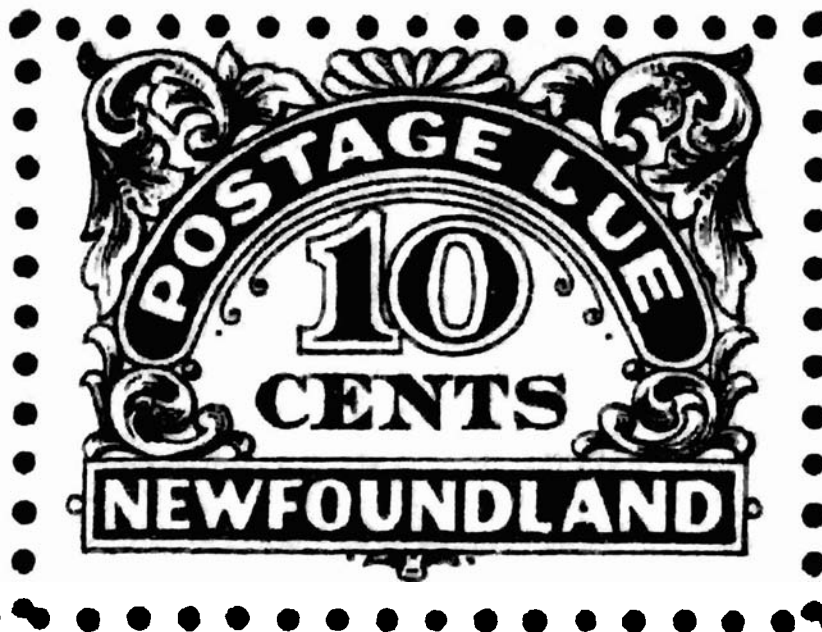
**January/February, 2004**

**NEWFOUNDLAND'S LAST STAMP AND ITS VARIETY**



**Newfoundland Scott # J7, Perf. 11. Watermarked Arms**

It's not certain why this stamp was issued several months before Newfoundland joined Canada. It's doubtful the colony was out of the unwatermarked stamp issued in 1939, and Newfoundland postage due stamps were infrequently used, in any case – that's why they are worth so much on cover. This stamp is virtually unknown used and I don't know if it exists on cover. All the remainders were purchased by Eaton's Department Store. There is an interesting variety at Positions # 23 and 28 of the 100-stamp setting – "POSTAGE LUE" . Does anyone have a J7 on cover? If so, how do you know it's the watermarked version? Let the Editor know.



"POSTAGE LUE" from the block of 20 above – can you place it?

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**Number 104**

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**NEWFOUNDLAND CINDERELLAS HIT HIGH MARK ON EBAY**

Norris R. Dyer

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On June 19, an eBay seller with the moniker of "chalmersston," listed the Newfoundland lot shown in Figure 1.

Figure  
1.



The seller called them "funny looking airmails, can't be anything else but fantasies or fun stamps." The stamps looked like they could be a set of airmails (or trial proofs) from Newfoundland, with values from 2¢ to \$5. The seller set no reserve but had a "Buy It Now" offer of £25. Chalmersston was to be surprised. To begin with, no one took him up on his £25 offer, although several buyers tried to get the set for less. The "Buy It Now" features disappears after the first bid below that level is tendered.

But the set has obvious appeal for Cinderella collectors and soon the serious bids started coming in, running the price higher and higher. By June 26, about one hour before scheduled closing time for eBay auction No. 2935983018, and after 18 bids, the lot stood at £631 (\$1,050). For that price you could buy a choice block of four (complete setting) of the famous Newfoundland Balbo airmail stamps.

At this point there was still plenty of time for the inevitable online sniping (last-second bidding) seen on such competitive lots. Then Chalmersston abruptly pulled the plug on the auction. In a response to my email inquiry, he introduced himself as David N. Stirling, and wrote: "I never expected they would go sky high. I was away from home and, on return, was horrified to see someone bidding £631. Fortunately I had just time to cancel bids and auction. If it had ended before I returned, I would have had to reach an agreement not to sell and not to buy, and that can be messy."

So what was this all about? What were these stamp-like labels? Why was the auction called off? Who is Stirling? Colin Lewis, a member of the Newfoundland Study Group of the British North America Philatelic Society, and I decided to investigate. Email is a wondrous thing, and within a short period we had the answers.

First of all, look again at the set, shown from a scan downloaded from eBay. (Continued, Page 4)

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**Number 104**

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**Cinderellas (Continued)**

The designs may seem familiar, and they should to Newfoundland specialists. You can find them pictured in C.H.C. Harmer's *Newfoundland Air Mails*, on Page 58. In 1919, a daily air service to Montreal was envisaged, as were regular flights to Halifax from the colony. Whitehead Morris and Co. Ltd. of London was asked to submit designs. It submitted two essays. Both were die sunk on cards. One was a 5¢ value in brown and black in a vertical format showing a biplane over forests and a cameo of a caribou. The second, shown in Figure 2, had a similar design, in a horizontal-format at 10¢, in green and blue. The horizontal-format cinderellas were clearly based on this essay.

Figures  
2. and 3.



A third essay in a vertical format similar to the first essay, but with different inscriptions, and denominated 10¢, is pictured on the book's page 58, but is not described in the text. The vertical-format cinderellas were clearly based on this essay, shown in Figure 3.

Nothing came of this proposed air service. The dream vanished when the Imperial Aircraft Co. to which the House of Assembly had granted rights was not ready to proceed. The Whitehead Company was not authorized to go further with the designs, and it certainly did not produce the set offered by Stirling. Stirling wrote: "I withdrew the lot because I reckoned the bidders had gone mad. I understand they are adaptations of a Newfoundland essay of 1927 [really 1919] and they did not belong to me. The price they ran them up to was, in my mind, crazy. They are quite nice, but £631! It would be like paying £250 for an ice cream cone. I collect cinderellas, have done so for years but don't let myself get carried away, even if I really want them."

I noted from this communication that Stirling disclaimed ownership of these Cinderella items that he was auctioning. Stirling really is into cinderellas. He has a website "The Foundling Exchanger Club" dedicated to them – [www.geocities.com/david\\_m\\_stirling/](http://www.geocities.com/david_m_stirling/). In his interesting introductory statement at the website, we learn he is the author of the "Some Curious Weeds" column that ran in *Linn's* during 1963-70.

Here are some biographical extracts from Stirling's website: "I run the Foundling Exchanger Club for cinderella exchanges. I am Scottish or British, nothing else. I live in central Scotland at Dunipace, seven miles from Stirling, the ancient capital of Scotland. Anyone who degrades these United Kingdoms by calling them 'England' need not contact me. I do not wish to have anything to do with uneducated buffoons! You may offer me old collections of cinderella stamps. I have duplicates for trade. Check the prices similar items fetch on eBay auctions! Email me and visit Cinderella Finder. If you really want some lovely Cinderella items, then email Gerry King. You won't be disappointed." (CONTINUED PAGE 5)

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

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***Number 104***

***January/February 2004***

**Cinderellas (Continued)**

I hope you spotted the clues as to the cinderellas ownership and authorship. On June 25 Colin Lewis received the following, revealing email, undoubtedly prompted by Stirling: "I must confess to being the perpetrator of this production. I must say I never dreamed that it would cause so much consternation and receive such amazing bidding figures. It is and never was my intention to 'rip-off' collectors. I amuse myself and others by producing fun and fantasy stamps, which have proved immensely popular since the 1960s. I noticed these two essays in a catalogue and thought they would make a nice airmail set.

"I enlarged the prints 8X, managed to delete most of the 'dotty' bits, strengthened the main design lines, added values to the now blank tablets, brought them back to stamp size and printed out a series of 'color trials,' selected the ones I liked best and had them printed thus, gummed the paper, had them perforated and another fantasy set is born. I think perhaps I have set some sort of record as far as bidding on eBay is concerned; I must say it just shows how many chumps there are with more money than sense! No harm meant."

The author of the email styled himself "Gerry M. King, Postmaster-General, Wonderland, Snark Island, Alternative Lundy, Elizatoria, etc."

After reading the above, I contacted Stirling once more to determine whether he ran the set for King. He responded, "I put the set up, by request, from Gerry as I have a seller's account and I don't think he has ever set one up. The set is apparently a very limited edition and took a lot of work to produce. As you can see, I pointed out they were fantasy or fun things. I'm going to get a set myself, to add to my Cinderella collection (but I will not be paying £631 for it)." Stirling was obviously sincere and did the right thing by pulling the lot before things went too far, if still acting as an apologist for his associate King. Stirling's final comment was: "Collectors are funny. I put up some rare genuine proofs and they sold for peanuts. I put up private fantasies and they hit the roof! I'll never understand my fellow collectors."

The story could end at this point, but the more I stare at the fantasy set the more nervous it makes me. After all, 20th-century Newfoundland stamps have never been demonetized, and mint Newfoundland stamps can still be used in Canada.

Colin Lewis' response to King's email puts everything together in neat perspective: "Thanks for getting in touch. You really caused a commotion over this particular fantasy group of stamps. Whereas, indisputably, you listed this as a fantasy [at least, Stirling did], when you base it on a genuine item people will be misled. Selling something like this on eBay when many people do not have English as their first language can inadvertently mislead. When I first looked at these I thought how good they looked and immediately thought they could pass off as color trials to the less well informed. This has truly been borne out in this case. I would respectfully suggest that your future creations should not be based on representations of actual stamps, essays, proofs, etc. whilst to show the name of a bona fide stamp authority on the labels can only lead to further difficulties."

I was able to contact the fellow who placed the highest bid. The lead eBay bid, in this case £631, is one advance over the second highest bid. **(CONCLUDED PAGE 6.)**

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---

**Number 104**

**January/February 2004**

**Cinderellas (Concluded)**

The high bidder said that he placed a top bid of \$1,250. Since the bidding was in pounds sterling, I compute this to be about £750. He knew the background of the legitimate 1919 essays and added: "I decided the eBay lot was some sort of fraudulent set of stamps and was 'quite keen' to add them to my forgeries collection, hence my 'high' bids."

Colin Lewis now knows of at least one party who purchased from Sterling a set of these fantasy labels subsequent to the cancellation of the auction. Meanwhile, Stirling continues to get email 'from bidders and prospective bidders.' I would not be the least surprised if these "curious weeds" show up again. Watch out for them.

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**NEWFOUNDLAND CINDERELLAS FOLLOW-UP**

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The published story recalled events through the middle of August. Much has happened since. In Late August, lots of "Fantasy Air Mail Imperf Colour Trials" appeared on eBay, all by Gerald King, but sold by a different party. I informed Colin Lewis about this since the seller was from the U.K. He complained to eBay there that the lots were "unethical on the grounds that they could be offered as genuine items at some future date." On August 21<sup>st</sup>, the offending lots were delisted. Not a cure! The lots along with a complete set of the cinderellas showed up again on the 28<sup>th</sup>. This time, Colin's request to delist was turned down by eBay on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ebay stated:

Thanks you for contacting eBay about the seller "mt99999".

I have reviewed the information you sent us regarding a possible violation of our Listing Policies. At this point I do not have enough evidence to show that the member has violated any current eBay listing.

There is no evidence in the auctions that the items the seller is selling are not authentic therefore, no action will be taken at this time on this issue."

Granted, mt99999 stated that "This is a fantasy Airmail set to \$5.00 based on unadopted essays from the 1920's...Please note that none of Gerald King's stamps are 'official' in any way." The problem was that eBay felt bidders had been warned.

About this time APS' board unanimously approved a philatelic code of conduct for eBay. One pertinent paragraph follows:

I agree not knowingly to sell, trade, **produce**, or advertise repaired, reperfected, regummed, altered, otherwise modified philatelic items unless that condition is clearly stated. I further agree not to sell, **produce**, or advertise counterfeit material in any form, unless **indelibly** marked a such." (My italics).

Colin and I are concerned since these fakes are not *indelibly* marked. In October, Stirling was back with a complete set stating "This is the last set available" Sure! It sold for £25, as did the previous set mentioned – the colour trials for less. We expect King has not "destroyed his plates" and that more of these (unmarked) sets will show up. There is no justice.

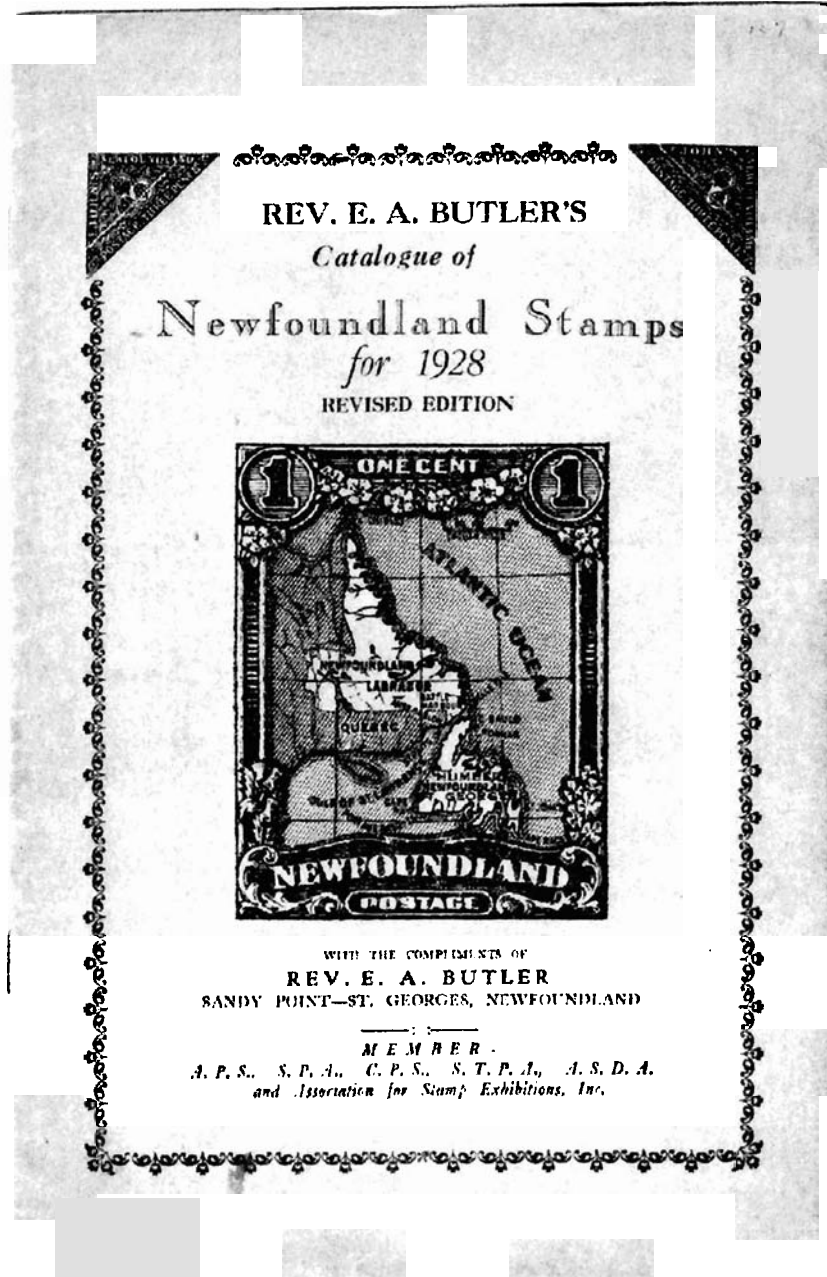


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**REVEREND BUTLER'S 1928 PRICELIST (REVISED, May 1928)**



This was Rev. Buler's second published catalogue. The first one was also for "1928" but came out in October, 1927, according to C.R. McGuire.

Page 10 (After 1918 Caribou Issue);

***Newfoundland is a small Colony but we did a big "bit" in the Great War, and our sailors and soldiers were among the first to offer their services. We lost more sailors in the War than all the rest of the Colonies and Dominions put together! And our soldiers were equal to the best. I have a parish of about 300 families, and from these 75 young men took part in the fighting on land and sea. Of these 22 laid down their lives, and many of the others came back crippled for life. Our Caribou Issue of stamps shows to the world something of what our Newfoundland boys did...***

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**LONGLEY AUCTIONS, OCTOBER 4, 2003**

I hadn't seen much interesting material (especially postal history) for quite a while. Bill Longley is a member of our group and this auction did contain some nice covers in the mid-range of value. The prices reflected that it is now a great time to be a *seller* - tougher if you are a *buyer*! There was a lot of competition and some "new blood" per Bill. The lot descriptions below have been shortened. I've included Bill's estimates and the prices realized, in Canadian dollars. The prices do **not** include the 15% buyer's fee. Quick math shows that the prices realized (before adding fee) were about 20% higher than the estimates, on average. Here are 38 lots from the auction.

594.	1872 12¢ to U.K. Scott #28.	Est. \$150	Realized \$95
595.	1876 Harbour Breton to St. John's, with #34	Est. 150	Realized 210
596.	1877 3¢ domestic, #34, St. John's to Trinity	Est. 150	Realized 210
597.	1879 Brigus, #39 (not tied), Brigus to St. John's	Est. 150	Realized 240
598.	1880 5¢, #40, to North Sydney, (cover creased)	Est. 110	Realized 210
599.	GPO stampist, #48 St. John's (DE 16 95) on postcard	Est. 150	Realized 190
600.	1880 St. Pierre, #49, via St. John's to Harbor Grace	Est. 400	Realized 375
601.	1886 5¢ to U.S., #54, St. John's to Boston	Est. .75	Realized 45
602.	1897 Shortpaid to U.K. #55, St. John's to Liverpool with "T2/25" and British "5d" hs.	Est. 150	Realized 250
603.	1898 10¢ to Germany, #55, 81 & 83, double rate	Est. 150	Realized 120
604.	5¢ to New Zealand, #55,(1996) St. John's, via Canada and U.S.	Est. \$200	Realized \$325
605.	5¢ to UK, #55, St. John's to England, St. John's Newfoundland "Paid All" cork insert, 1887. [illustration wrong, not certain what this looked like]	Est. 150	Realized 130
606.	Post office notice, #62 on GPO postcard with stamps available, foxing around stamp.	Est. 150	Realized 210
607.	1897 registered #66, Carbonear to St. John's, 6¢ internal reg. rate	Est. 100	Realized 95
608.	1897 registered, #68 on GPO OPS cover, 10¢ to Halifax with St. John's precursor	Est. 100	Realized 180
609.	1¢ circular with #75 surcharged value. To U.S. No date. From N. Ohman	Est. 75	Realized 110
610.	1901 1¢ to U.K. with #80 from St. John's at printed matter rate	Est. 75	Realized 120
611.	10¢ reg. rate to U.S. with #82 (2) & 83 (2) from St. John's, 3 JA 01	Est. 75	Realized 95
612.	2¢ private postcard with #82 from St. John's to N.Y. AP 9 03	Est. 75	Realized 70
613.	2¢ #82 tied by Norris Arm duplex (JUL 15 6) on postcard to U.S	Est. 75	Realized 85
614.	1898 6¢ registered with #83 (2) FROM channel to St. John's	Est. 100	Realized 55
615.	1900 5¢ to U.S. with #78 (2), 80, 83, St. John's to Iowa	Est. 75	Realized 55
616.	1901 postage due to U.S., #83 pair from Carbonear with "Collect 8 Cents" with U.S. postage due stamps 3¢ (2) and 2¢ on reverse	Est. 100	Realized 45
617.	15 registered to France with #84 (3) 78 (6) St. John's 10 AP 02	Est. 200	Realized 280
618.	1902 5¢, #85, to cape of Good Hope from St. John's with Transvaal TPO	Est. 150	Realized 160
619.	Early use of #160 from St. John's on local cover, AUG 24 1929 [2 <sup>nd</sup> day of use]	Est. \$100	Realized 35
620.	#191 5¢ Caribou tied by intaglio crown seal, St. Lawrence to U.S.	Est. 100	Realized 160
621.	25¢ rate to U.S. #64, 65 (2), 67, 83 from St. John's, JU 224 99 paying quintuple rate	Est. \$150	Realized 210
622.	½¢ 7 JA 99, #78 (22) from St. John's (precursor) to , NS paying 11¢ reg. letter	Est. 100	Realized 90
623.	15¢ to U.S. with #69, 79, 81, St. John's (precursor) 29 DE 97, paying 15¢ reg. rate	Est. 100	Realized 95
624.	10¢ to U.K. , 1901, #78 (8) 80 (6) St. John's to West Hall, registered rate	Est. 100	Realized 200
625.	RPO N-57, #80 (2) Connors Druggist cc, to Montreal, OC 21 00	Est. 50	Realized 65
626.	1901 short to U.K. #82, St. John's to Dundee, "T" "2/10" "2d 468" markings	Est. 75	Realized 150
627.	1907 to Norway, #82, St. John's on postcard DE 7 07	Est. 100	Realized 90
628.	11¢ to U.K., #82 (4), 83 (4) , St. John's, 13 OC 02 to London, triple rate reg.	Est. 100	Realized 65
629.	1900 10¢ registered to U.S. #83 (3) 80, St. John's to New York, registered	Est. 100	Realized 75
630.	8¢ quadruple rate #84 - 4¢ pair, St. John's, 1906 to Montreal	Est. 100	Realized 85
631.	1913 5¢ UPU to Denmark, #85, St. John's on Danish Consulate cc cover	Est. 100	Realized 95

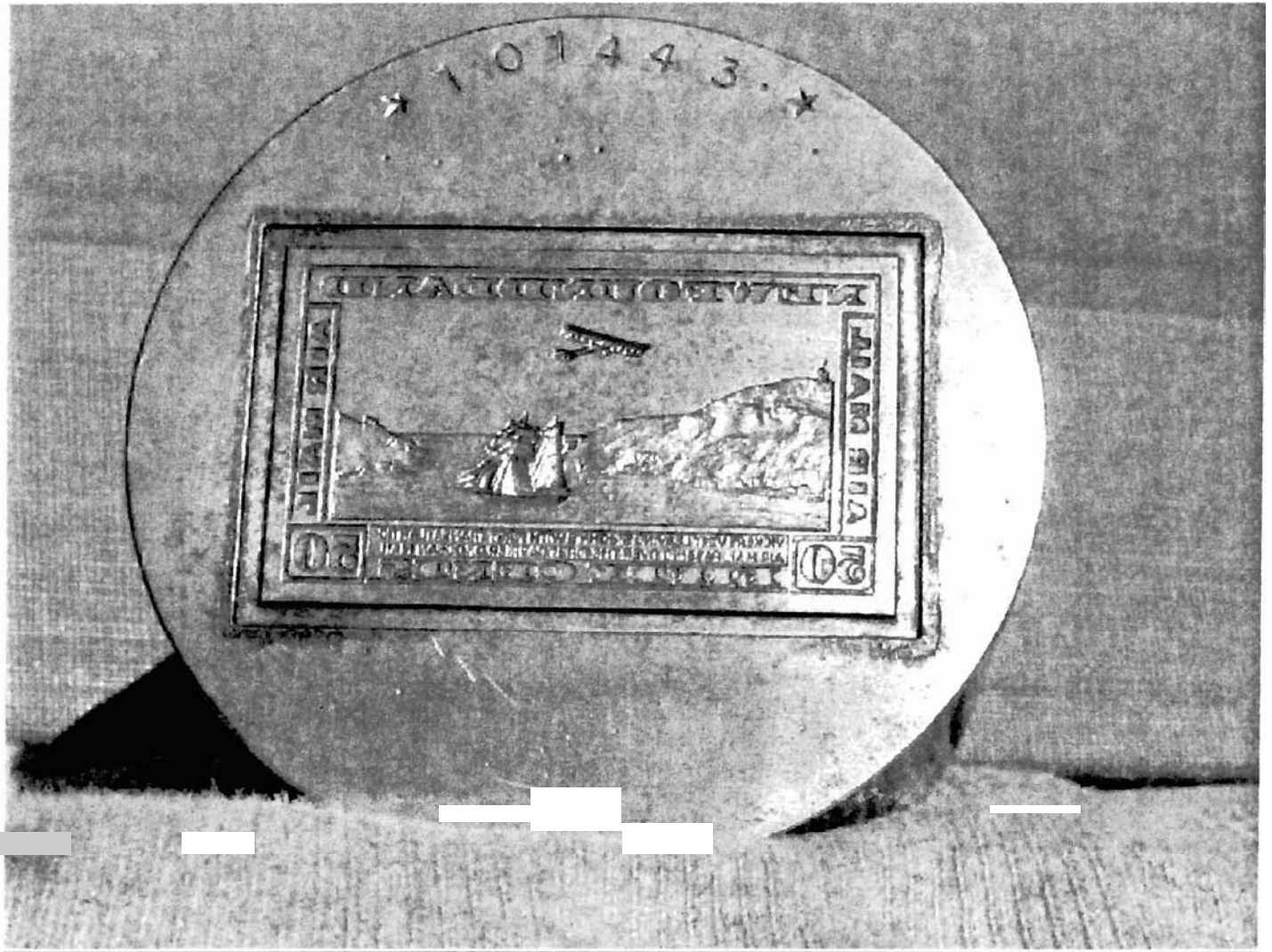


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**A NICE PAPERWEIGHT, IF NOTHING ELSE!**



Your editor purchased this on ebay in 1999. It appeared to be a progressive steel die for Newfoundland air mail C7. Note design is in reverse. It is quite hefty, at about 3" in diameter, almost 2" high, and weighing 3 pounds, 10 ounces. The seller was from Nova Scotia. She had several more of other Newfoundland air mail that a dealer friend subsequently purchased from her. She never purported that they were government dies. Come to find out they were made by a private outfit that produced silver tablets displaying classic Newfoundland stamps. You still see the tablets on ebay, every so often. I have been looking for the one that shows C7, but have not found it. The tablets sell for less than \$10. I wish I could say I paid only that for this chunk of steel. Does hold down back issues of the Newsletter well, however.

It's only a novelty.

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*January/February 2004*

NEWFOUNDLAND'S POSTAL STATIONERY 1873-1941 - Horace Harrison

Page 35

1889 ENVELOPES  
DE LA RUE HANDPAINTED ESSAYS  
DATED IN MAY OF 1889

EMBOSSSED QUEEN'S HEAD



PAINTED QUEEN'S HEAD

