

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

Number 110

January/February 2005

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This Issue:

- Page 2 – Gilbert Auction Prices Realized**
- Page 3-5 – Smitten by a Cover – Sammy Whaley**
- Page 6 – Balbo Stamp – Linn's "Tip of the Week"**
- Page 7-8 – Postage Stamp Availability Lists from the 1890's,
Part II - The Editor**
- Page 9 – Newfoundland Postal History January 1857- June 1893
Page 22 – Colin Lewis**
- Page 10 – Newfoundland's Postal Stationery (Page 41) – Horace
Harrison**



SAMMY WHALEY'S BOOK READY TO BE RELEASED

You'll find a flyer inserted in this edition about **Newfoundland: 1865-1879, The New York Printings**, Sammy Whaley's long-awaited study of the Cents covers. Study Group members will be offered copies of the first printing at only \$25 U.S. postpaid. This is a very significant work. The book is in color and provides details on approximately 1000 covers.

COLIN LEWIS'S EXHIBIT

You will note that I have jumped from Page 8 last issue to Page 22 now. Colin felt it would provide some variety to move from Colonial usage to provincial usage. We welcome the opportunity to show these pages from his exhibit which (I remind you) has won a Large Vermeil internationally.

MAIL FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I was pleased to have received the follow email from Charles Livermore:

I've just taken a look at the Newfoundland page you and the Newfoundland Study Group have created for the BNAPS website and want to congratulate you on a great job and contribution to the Society and philately. I had fun reading and learned a few things along the way. This is the kind of page I hope other groups will create. Again, my thanks personally and from the Society as a whole for the wonderful thing you've done. **Please pass my thoughts on to the other members in the group. [WWW.bnaps.org]**

Bob Lane has told me we can still add to the pages. If any of you want to highlight an area not covered, send me a good-quality color jpg or photo with a paragraph or so of text.

KING FANTASY AIR MAILS APPEAR AGAIN ON EBAY – WATCH OUT!!!

In Newsletter #104, I provided an article on the Gerald King fantasy air mails. Once again a set has been sold on eBay, this time for \$162. The seller was **kingbram**, probably the creator's eBay name. He skirts eBay restrictions by text that states:

You are bidding on a set of fantasy airmail labels apparently based [he knows they were] on adopted essays submitted in the late 1920's to early 30's [1919].

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT OF OUR DEALER MEMBERS!!

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GILBERT AUCTION PRICES REALIZED

H.R. Harmer conducted the Edward M. Gilbert auction on October 22, 2004. I was told that all members of the study group were sent catalogues, so I will only report the prices below with no attempt to describe any lot. Prices are in U.S. dollars. Add 15% for the buyer's fee.

1 - 19,000	26 - 900	51 - 400	76 - 1,900	101 - 150	128 - 35,000	151 - 900	176 - 1,150
2 - 4,000	27 - 350	52 - 425	77 - 1,600	102 - 1,200	129 - 400	152 - 250	177 - 1,700
3 - 3,000	28 - 2,900	53 - 260	78 - 160	103 - 1,100	130 - 700	153 - 1,900	178 - 400
4 - 180	29 - 1,150	54 - 280	79 - 2,200	104 - 170	132 - 2,100	154 - 650	179 - 450
5 - 1,500	30 - 3,750	55 - 230	80 - 3,000	105 - 270	133 - 2,500	155 - 675	180 - 850
6 - 575	31 - 950	56 - 170	81 - 4,250	106 - 350	134 - 850	156 - 600	181 - 42,500
7 - 12,500	32 - 3,250	57 - 250	82 - 3,250	107 - 500	135 - 550	157 - 425	182 - 525
8 - 14,000	33 - 2,700	58 - 200	83 - 5,250	108 - 160	136 - 5,000	158 - 550	183 - 450
9 - 170	34 - 550	59 - 200	84 - 28,000	109 - 8,500	137 - 7,250	159 - 475	184 - 1,000
10 - 1,050	35 - 12,000	60 - 210	85 - 4,250	110 - 1,150	138 - 1,050	160 - 250	185 - 3,750
11 - 1,100	36 - 375	61 - 2,200	86 - 450	111 - 40,000	139 - 575	161 - 550	186 - 2,100
12 - 17,000	37 - 2,200	62 - 725	87 - 170	112 - 2,500	140 - 750	162 - 375	187 - 3,250
13 - 12,500	38 - 600	63 - 160	88 - 750	113 - 3,500	141 - 550	163 - 400	188 - 2,300
14 - 6,500	39 - 950	64 - 625	89 - 210	114 - 32,500	142 - 550	164 - 800	189 - 425
15 - 290	40 - 220	65 - 1,400	90 - 300	115 - 4,500	143 - 525	165 - 725	190 - 800
16 - 250	41 - 550	66 - 6,500	91 - 250	116 - 2,600	144 - 750	166 - 1,000	191 - 250
17 - 950	42 - 900	67 - 700	92 - 525	117 - 30,000	145 - 675	167 - 4,250	192 - 60
18 - 950	43 - 1,200	68 - 325	93 - 625	119 - 1,250	146 - 675	168 - 1,600	193 - 525
19 - 350	44 - 350	69 - 450	94 - 800	120 - 13,000	147 - 675	169 - 1,600	195 - 1,100
20 - 8,500	45 - 625	70 - 290	95 - 500	121 - 1,700	149 - 160	170 - 2,000	196 - 325
21 - 325	46 - 4,250	71 - 475	96 - 550	122 - 6,000	150 - 220	171 - 4,000	197 - 270
22 - 170	47 - 110	72 - 11,500	97 - 375	123 - 50,000		172 - 1,500	198 - 5,250
23 - 1,800	48 - 290	73 - 475	98 - 450	124 - 1,700		173 - 1,300	199 - 3,250
24 - 2,200	49 - 475	74 - 240	99 - 210	125 - 1,600		175 - 4,500	200 - 1,200
25 - 525	50 - 270	75 - 3,750	100 - 8,000				

201 - 650	221 - 1,500
202 - 1,300	222 - 550
203 - 800	223 - 1,700
204 - 700	224 - 425
206 - 750	225 - 2,100
207 - 1,600	226 - 2,000
208 - 1,100	
209 - 1,250	
210 - 950	
211 - 1,350	
212 - 625	
213 - 325	
214 - 425	
215 - 15,000	
216 - 725	
217 - 850	
218 - 625	
219 - 1,900	
220 - 1,450	



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SMITTEN BY A COVER - Sammy Whaley

On previous occasions I have mentioned I consider the period of Newfoundland postal history from November, 1865, when the Cents stamps were introduced, to 1880, when the printing of Newfoundland stamps was moved from New York to Canada to be a giant 1000-piece picture puzzle with each of the approximately 1000 recorded covers making its own contribution to the final picture. We can even take the analogy a little further by stating that, although all covers add to the final picture, some covers, like vital pieces in a puzzle, are more important in that they give us essential information that enables us to better understand where the remaining pieces/covers belong in the overall picture. Such is the case with the cover pictured below.



When I first saw this cover described in the auction catalog, I was virtually certain it was spurious as it is franked with two copies of Scott #31 (NSSC #31, Gibbons #30), the 24-cent 1865 issue. This stamp, printed to pay the double 12-cent rate to Great Britain (effective 7 April 1865) and for domestic packages to $\frac{1}{4}$ pound, was rarely used prior to 1890 as is evidenced by the fact that only *one cover* is recorded during the 1865-1890 period and that cover has been the subject of serious controversy over the years. **CONTINUED NEXT PAGE**

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
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Number 110

January/February 2005

SMITTEN BY A COVER (Continued)

It is certainly incredulous to believe a cover having a multiple of this stamp would go unrecorded all these years.

I decided to take a nibble at the bait and investigate a little further, thinking I could at least caution the auction house if I felt the item was obviously not legitimate; so I requested a scan. The one I received only made me nibble more as it showed the center portion of the cover, dated from Harbor Grace in November 1866! This not only would make it the earliest recorded usage but also predate the previous one by ten years. Now things truly were becoming interesting, but not entirely convincing. I tried to find a contemporary cover with which I could compare the cancels but cancels from Harbor Grace in 1866 are scarce as hen's teeth so I couldn't reach a definitive conclusion as to the cancel's legitimacy.

The addressee was well known to me and one I had speculated on before and no doubt the cover went there – but more about that later. However, I remained skeptical as to the cover actually going through the mail with these two stamps on it. I then asked the auction house if they had more Newfoundland material from this same seller, to which they replied they did not. Now I was curious as to why a cover of this interest would travel alone through life. But the bait was so tasty I decided to swallow it with the proviso the item clear certification should I be high bidder.

Well I was high bidder and in due time the cover arrived - no doubt its first trip to South Alabama. I opened the package and introduced myself to the cover and it was love at first sight. This cover had many stories to tell! First the thing opened up and told me it wasn't a folded letter but rather a *letter sheet that had enclosed a package*. Now things got very interesting as it was much more plausible to believe two 24-cent stamps would have been used on a package as that paid the double rate for a ¼ pound package to the Provinces or a single rate if that package had money enclosed (I am not 100% sure about this money part; perhaps one of you can correct me if I err).

Furthermore, when I turned the item upside-down I saw a most significant inscription – *Ridley and Sons, 26 Nov. 1866*. As I mentioned earlier I was quite familiar with the addressee, Mr. Archibald and Co. as it is found on many notable Cents and Pence covers and I had given more than a little thought as to whom the descriptive handwriting belonged. I had, in my own intuitive way, decided it was the notable mercantile house of Penton and Munn which had sent all these letters to Archibald & Co. Now the mystery was solved as it was their *competitor*, John Ridley, who had written all these letters, packages, etc. (One day we will have another session about the other amazing letters to Archibald & Co.)

Well, by this time, the 24-cent multiple and I were becoming good friends but I still had reservations as to the cancels, as they were too well tied for me. So I sent it off to the Big Apple to have the Philatelic Foundation take a look at it. Three months elapsed but it finally returned, radiant (and irradiated by the USPS) with the accompanying certificate shown on the next page.


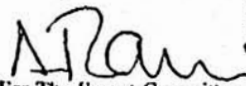
CONCLUDED NEXT PAGE

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 110

January/February 2005

SMITTEN BY A COVER – Concluded

		The Philatelic Foundation		No. 0414079
		70 West 40th Street • 15th Floor New York, NY 10018		9/01/04
		EXPERT COMMITTEE		
We have examined the enclosed item, of which a photograph is attached, and described by the applicant as follows:				
Country: NEWFOUNDLAND				
Cat. No.	Issue	Denom.	Color	
31	1865	24¢	blue	
<small>Post's value estimate specified.</small>				
HORIZONTAL PAIR, QUARTERED CORK CANCELS, ON FOLDED ADDRESS SHEET TO SYDNEY CAPE BRETON, 1866 HARBOR GRACE PMK WITH ST. JOHNS NEWFOUNDLAND AND NORTH SYDNEY BACKSTAMPS.				
AND WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT:				
IT IS A GENUINE USAGE, THE LEFT STAMP WITH A SMALL TEAR AT TOP, THE RIGHT STAMP WITH A VERTICAL CREASE FROM A FILE FOLD, AND THE COVER WITH A SMALL TEAR AT TOP CENTER. * * * * *				
* *				
				E111057
For The Expert Committee Chairman				
<small>Photocopies of this Certificate are not valid.</small>				
Submitted by SAM WHALEY				

Certificate of authenticity for the 24-cent cover

So now we have moved the earliest recorded date of the 24-cent up to November 27, 1866, and have doubled the number of recorded covers for this adhesive during the proper time frame. Also we have determined, in our mind, the writer. So we didn't do too badly for one cover. Certainly this piece adds greatly to the overall picture and helps us place some of the other pieces of the puzzle.

Seriously, folks – this is a great cover! Yes, it's tattered and folded, torn in places, but that just makes it look *used* to me. It's here now having the time of its life meeting some more old and tattered Newfoundland Cents covers – but I have to go now so I can eavesdrop on their conversation – I might learn more Newfoundland postal history from them – I promise, if I hear anything worthwhile, I'll pass it on to you.

Sammy Whaley, Opp, Alabama

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Number 110

January/February 2005

BALBO STAMP "TIP OF THE WEEK" IN LINN'S STAMP NEWS

In recent years, **LINN'S STAMP NEWS** has had a column *Stamp Market Tips*, which I read every week. For the first time the "Tip of the Week" item is from Newfoundland, the 1933 Balbo airmail



The Balbo stamp was issued in settings of four.

Here is what David Kols of **LINN'S** had to say on October 11, 2004:

"On August 8, 1933, Newfoundland issued a special airmail stamp to commemorate the return flight of Gen. Italo Balbo's squadron from Chicago to Rome, Scott C18. This was done by surcharging the 75¢ Labrador, The Land of Gold airmail stamp of June 9, 1933, with a new value of \$4.50. The Scott Catalogue values the stamp mint, never-hinged at \$475 and at \$325 for both unused, hinged and used. The printing was 8,040 stamps but 40 were destroyed because of defects. This stamp can be collected mint, used and on cover. Each is equally popular and obtainable. A cover does not command a large premium over the used price unless it was mailed at Harbor Grace.

The Balbo overprint is in demand and should remain so. As with all Balbo issues, it embodies the romance and adventure of early aviation as well as collectible value. The stamp is readily available in the U.S. I suggest that you add this stamp to your collection when the opportunity presents itself.

Scott catalogue values for the stamp have not changed since 1997. At the height of the stamp boom of the early 1980's, it catalogued \$700 for a mint copy. 1,150 copies were used to frank mail on Balbo's Sm.55X seaplanes. That meant almost 7,000 mint copies were available. Scott catalogues the stamp on cover at \$800. There are two perfs – 14.3 X 14.3 and 13.8 X 13.8. The latter is scarcer. Finding a nice used copy can be a challenge, also. Many auctions include Balbo's, and I have seen them on eBay. You should be able to get the stamp or cover at no more than 65% of the Scott Catalogue prices.

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 110

January/February 2005

POSTAGE STAMP AVAILABILITY LISTS FROM THE 1890S', PART II - The Editor

In the last issue I introduced the topic of G.P.O.- created post cards used to inform collectors of stamps and postal stationery available for sale. I showed two different cards, which I called "Type I" and "Type II" and mentioned there was also a "Type III." It is shown directly below.



GENERAL POST OFFICE, ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND,		189
The following Stamps are on sale at this Office:—		
CABOT ISSUE, 1897, Fourteen varieties, viz.:		
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, 35 and 60 cents, or the full set,		\$2.15
N.B.—The One and Two Cents of this Issue cannot be obtained outside the full set.		
FORMER ISSUE, Nine varieties, viz.:		
1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 12 and 24 cents, or the set,		.64
N.B.—This Issue is sold only in sets.		
NEW PERMANENT ISSUE, 1 and 2 cents,		.03
POST CARDS, 1, 2, 2x2, or the set,		.07
ENVELOPES and WRAPPERS, the set		.19
Postage and Registration, on one set,		.20
Total cost of One each of all the above,		\$3.28
J. O. FRASER, Post Master General.		

Type III card from early 1898, note pre-Cabot stamps again on sale

I have found an useful summary on these cards from Robert Pratt's 19th century postal history:

"As early as 1895, he [PMG Fraser] had special unstamped post cards prepared by the post office, advising philatelists of the stamped adhesives, post cards, envelopes and wrappers available to them. Known as early as May 5, 1895, the card [Type I] was used as late as May 4, 1897, with a notation signed by Fraser reading *No reprints (re-issue of 1896). Cabot Memorial issue will be soon issued...* [Postmasters] were advised in a postal notice of June 14th to return all other issues and sell only the Cabots. By August 6th the post office had prepared another post card [Type II] advising philatelists that only Cabot stamps would be sent to them. Early in 1898 (February 5th) still another card [Type III] advised that this order had been withdrawn and that earlier issues were again on sale in sets..."

What is left to me at this time, is to amplify what Pratt wrote, and correct several dates. On the next page you'll find a description of all three cards and usage dates I have found.

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 110

January/February 2005

POSTAGE LISTS (concluded)

Type I post card – Horizontal space for stamp. Lower left text block is 48mm.

Usage dates: 1895: **May 5**, June 6, July 15, August 24 (unaddressed), December 16

1896: April 1, May 25, August 11

1897: May 7

Type II post card – Vertical space for stamp. Text block is 58mm (est.)

Usage dates: 1897: **July 12**, July 27, August 6, Sept. 13, Sept. 14, October 2, October 29

Type III post card – Vertical space for stamp. Text block is 70mm (est.)

Usage dates: 1898: **January 14**, February 5

Note that Pratt's earliest usage dates were incorrect for Type II and Type III. Also note I have corrected several of the dates in the Newfie Newsletter of November/December 2004.

What happened in February 1898 and why were there no later cards? Pratt reports that by February 18, 1898 the advertising card issued by Frazer had come to the attention of [Colonial Secretary J. Alex] Robinson, and that Robinson proclaimed that sale of stamps other than for other than postal purposes was not the "province of, but only incidental to your department...withdraw cards immediately and hope that none were sent abroad...Pardon me for reminding you that the Post Office was established for the convenience of the people, and not as a stamp speculating concern."

A question someone has asked me is why stamps were used at all on G.P.O.-issued cards, since they were "official" mail. Pratt (again) provides an answer. In 1899, comptroller and auditor general, F.C. Berteau, was having trouble balancing stamps accounts at the G.P.O. and it was discovered that Fraser retained a large stock of stamps in his desk. When pressured by the A.G. Fraser responded:

I beg leave to explain that since I first occupied the position of Postmaster General, I have kept in my drawer a general assortment of stamps for the purpose of prepaying foreign postage, which is exclusively done by me, except postage on foreign correspondence of departmental offices. None of these stamps have been sold or exchanged in any way, being used exclusively for postage on foreign correspondence, which is very bulky principally for information on stamps, but also on all kinds of subjects. Very rarely is postage sent for replies in such cases, but believing benefits will accrue and the sale of stamps increased, the practice has been to prepay such correspondence which is attended to wholly by the Postmaster General, as the clerks, with their other duties to perform, could not be depended on to act promptly.

This suggests that PMG Frazer was a one-man philatelic clerk. He attached the adhesives to the post cards and apparently addressed them, also. If you look back at the last issue, you will note that both cards pictured were written in the same hand (see the word "Street", for example).

ERROR ON TYPE II CARD BACK. In the last newsletter I mentioned a mistake from the back of the 1897 card. The problem? The card promised "fifteen varieties" in the Cabot set. Alas, there were only **14**. ----- The Editor

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Number 110

January/February 2005

NEWFOUNDLAND POSTAL HISTORY JANUARY 1857- JUNE 1893 - COLIN LEWIS

Page 22

Act 19 Victoria Cap. IX May 12th 1856

Rates Applicable Upon the Introduction of Postage Stamps

January 1st 1857 to April 6th 1865

Provinces – Nova Scotia

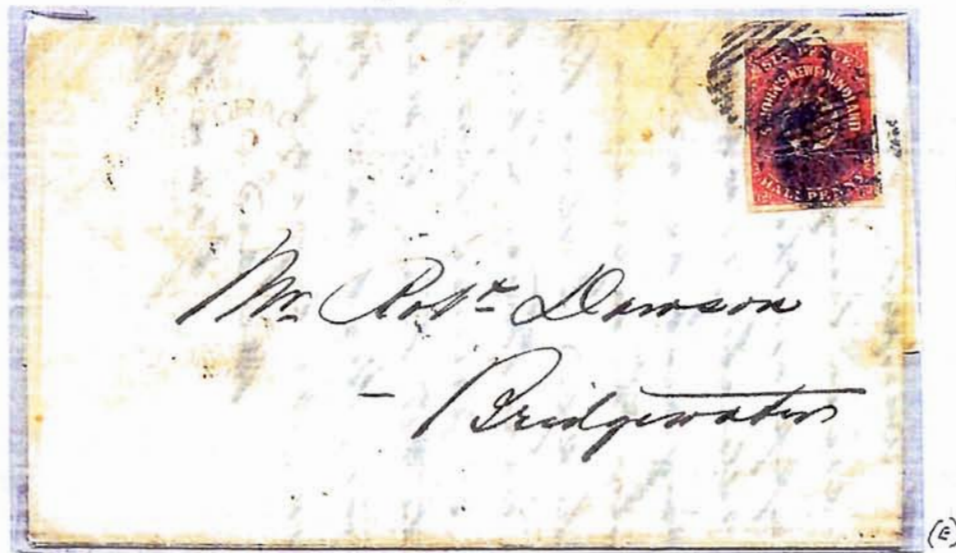
Single Letter Rate Interior to First Port 6½ Pence Sterling Per ½ Ounce Paid in Cash

Nova Scotia Internal Rate Collect Fee 5 Cents Per ½ Ounce



Harbor Grace September 24th 1862

Prepaid by Adhesive



Harbor Grace October 19th 1864

Note: The only recorded cover of this franking to Nova Scotia. Although the 5 Cents Nova Scotia Currency collect fee is not shown on the bottom cover it was likely levied as bulk payment on a batch of mail.

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 110

January/February 2005

NEWFOUNDLAND'S POSTAL STATIONERY 1873-1941 – Horace Harrison

Page 41

