

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 113

July/August 2005

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This Issue:

Page 2 – Why is this Cover Worth \$250 U.S.? -Editor

Page 3-4 –The Vickers-Vimy Mail – *The Latest News* – Editor

Page 5 - Newfoundland Postal History January 1857 – June 1893, Page 28 – Colin Lewis (Colin says his cover census' may be outdated given S. Whaley's book.)

Page 6 - New Candidate for Earliest 14¢ Reg. Cover –J.Edwards

Page 7 - Those Were the Days!!! - Editor

Page 8 - Information Sought About These Varieties – C. Bulloch

Page 9 - Rare Variety of Scott #128 – Editor

Page 10 –Newfoundland's Postal Stationery, Page 44 H. Harrison



THE PASSING OF J. DON WILSON

Members of BNAPS were saddened to learn of the death on May 1, 2005 of J. Donald Wilson of St. John's, Newfoundland at the age of 80. Don had a long 'career' with the British North America Philatelic Society, serving as a member of the Board of Directors from 1989 to 1994, Chairman of the Board from 1995 -1998, and again as a Director from 2000 until he passed away. He also served as Chairman of the BNAPS Ethics Committee from 1989 through 1994, and was Chairman of the tremendously successful BNAPEX 1997 in St. John's. Don was elected a member of the Order of the Beaver the same year. He was also a very active member and Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, and a member of the Postal History Society of Canada and the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain. In addition, he served as President of the St. John's Philatelic Society.

A fervent collector of the stamps and postal history of Canada and Newfoundland, Don also collected Newfoundland revenues. He was Chairman of the BNAPS Newfoundland Study Group in the early 1990's and served for many years as Distribution Manager of the group's Newfie Newsletter, copying and collating the editions at his home and then mailing them. [Martin Goebel has taken over these duties now.]

Don was known for his generosity. Stories of him and Jean showing visitors around St. John's are common. Although very busy with convention duties, in 1997 he went out of his way to drive a friend all around St. John's helping him research the elusive spot from which the Vickers-Vimy departed on its successful transAtlantic flight in 1919.

Many collectors on both sides of the Atlantic can recall how an envelope or package would arrive, often unannounced, containing philatelic material Don knew or thought would be of interest to the recipient. He would also slip material under a friend's hotel door during the wee hours of the morning at a stamp convention, and on at least one occasion took a valuable cover from his pocket and simply gave it to a friend as a gift.

After being hospitalized in January of this year Don returned home determined to attend BNAPEX '05 in Edmonton, but it was not to be. A second illness returned him to the hospital where, although weak and on oxygen, he continued to talk stamps with friends who telephoned until just a few days before his passing. Modest to a fault, Don was a true gentleman and his counsel and friendship will be missed. Our sympathy goes out to Jean, their four children and twelve grandchildren.

I spoke with Don shortly before his death. He continued to be up-beat, and interested in the Vimy project.

- Bob Dyer, Colin Lewis and Mike Street

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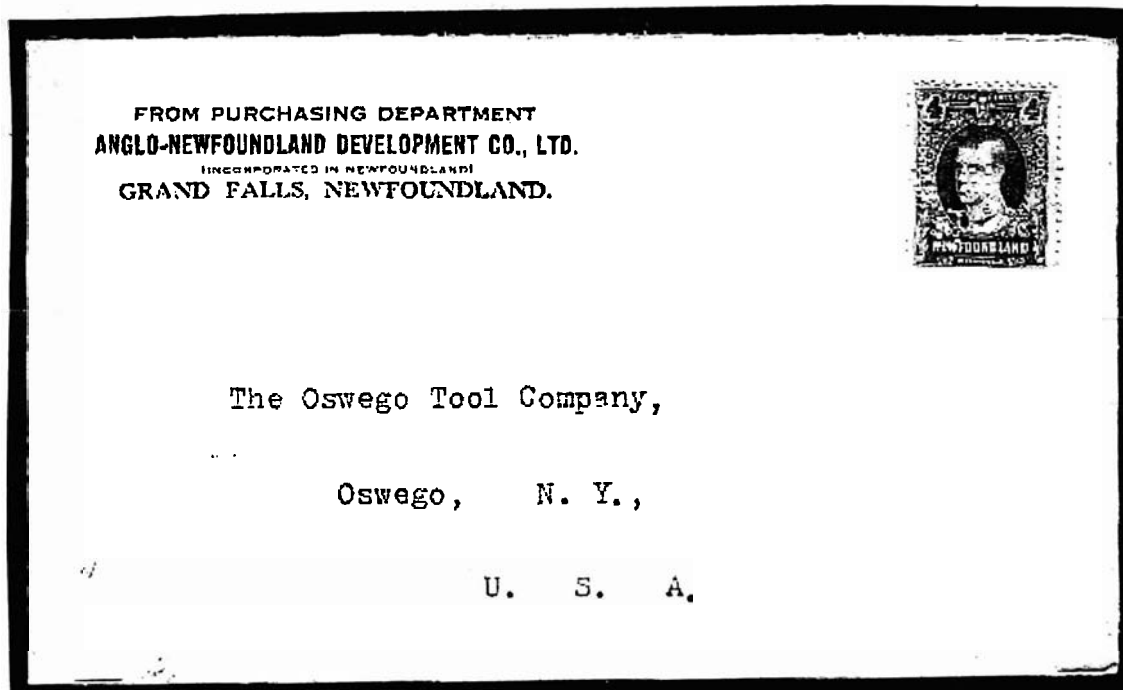
Treasurer: Martin Goebel, 13 O'Mara Place, St. John's, Newfoundland A1A 5B7 goebel@nf.sympathico.ca

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WHY IS THIS COVER WORTH \$250 U.S.?

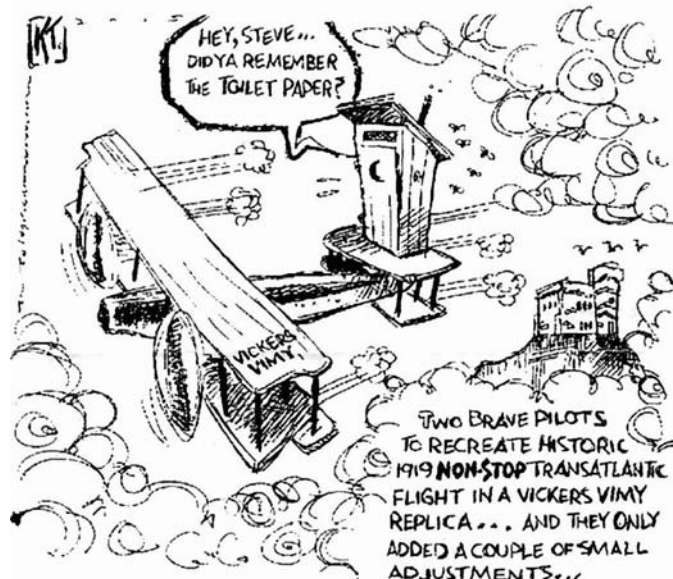


This cover sold on eBay on March 17, 2005 for \$250 after 30 bids! The winner went by the name **rosk.perfin**. The cover does show a **A N D** perfin but there is no clear usage date and the underlying stamp could be Scott #166 or #175. The rate to the U.S. increased to 5¢ in 1933, so it was used before that point. I emailed our resident perfin expert, Barry Senior, about the cover, asking him why it went for \$250. His response was that two different bidders were bumping heads over the cover. He was right, as the last 22 bids were by **rosk.perfin** and **shearwater69**.

The winner obviously collects perfins. The perfin was properly mailed from **Anglo-Newfoundland Development**. Perhaps the addressee also increased the interest in this cover.

Short answer to question posed in the title of this page – **Because two bidders both wanted the cover badly!**

THE FINAL DAYS OF THE VIMY AIRMAIL PROJECT – Editor



Courtesy of the St. John's Telegram, June 11, 2005

In the May/June issue #112, I detailed a contract with Vimy Corporation to carry 500 covers from St. John's, Newfoundland to Clifden, Ireland, half of which would belong to the St. John's Philatelic Society, and the balance to Vimy. The covers would be postmarked in St. John's and backstamped in Clifden, on a beautifully cacheted envelope created by Sylvia Ficken of the club. I am writing this as the "final days unfold", *on an on-going basis*.. The cartoon above was inspired by a comment by navigator and co-pilot, Mark Rebholz upon arrival in St. John's on June 10th from Quebec – his first statement upon landing was – "Where's the restroom?"

I have an understanding with the St. John's club that Study Group members will each be eligible to purchase one cover at \$40 CDN, *if the mission succeeds! Hold your breath!*

Here are on-going extracts from the Vimy website (www.vimy.org):

- June 13** Thousands of people are still visiting the Vimy as it makes its final preparations for the Transatlantic flight. Close weather watching is happening to ensure the best possible day for flying across the Atlantic!
- June 15** Steve Fossett flies to St. John's in preparation for a weekend departure on either Saturday, June 18th or Sunday, June 19th – being weather dependent, of course. At 7:30 p.m., Mark Rebholz gave a talk, told fascinating stories and answered questions for an hour and a half before the Vimy this evening. As quoted by Martin Goebel [our group Treasurer, of course], a Vimy enthusiast and supporter in St. John's, "Mark is a very entertaining speaker!" Martin – thank you for keeping us up to date back here in California!
- June 18** John LaNoue (builder/mechanic) has flown back out to Newfoundland to be a bit more maintenance on the Vimy before a departure later in the week. There is a new weather window of opportunity on Wednesday, June 22nd.

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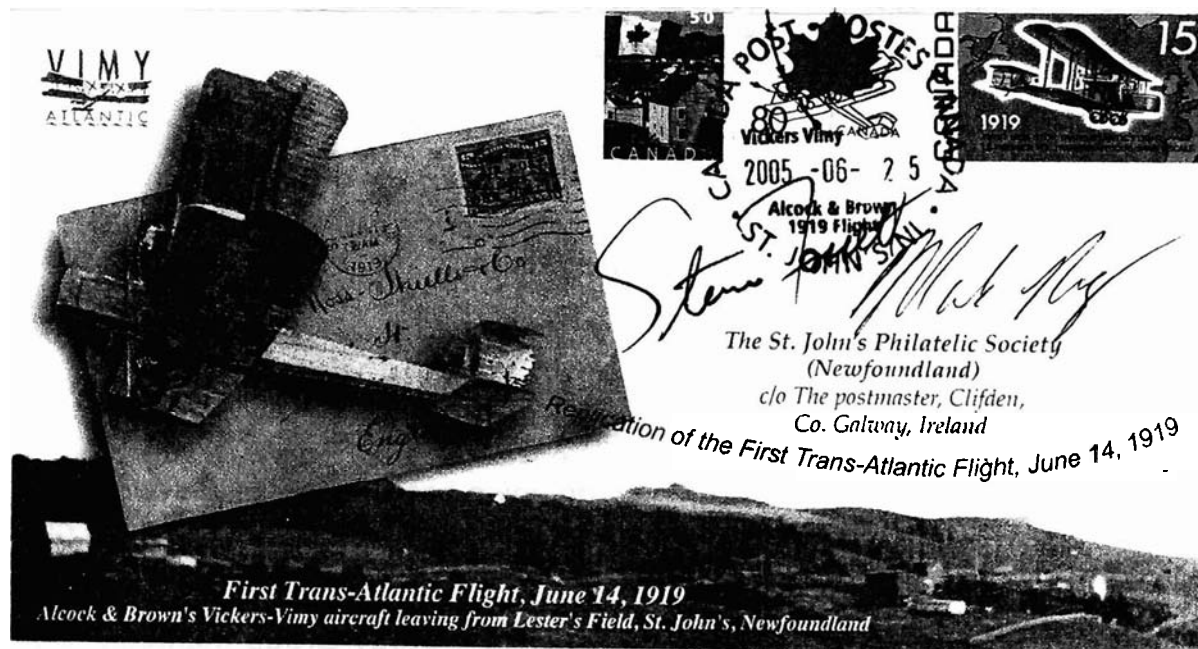
July/August 2005

THE FINAL DAYS OF THE VIMY AIRMAIL PROJECT (Concluded)

June 25 Transatlantic flight is delayed due to a small part malfunctioning on the Vimy – until the part is shipped to Newfoundland from California. The next possible weather pattern looks to be to the mid to end of next week. [Problem is an alternator.]

This last minute delay was frustrating, as it occurred only two hours before scheduled departure and mail was ready to go. Roger Squires is in daily contact with Mark Rebholz, and watching the situation closely.

June 27 The Vimy was taken out on a test flight today. So far so good!



The Vimy Mail, signed and postmarked

July 2 The Vimy departed today at 7:21 P.M. NFLD time! Martin Goebel reports the mail is aboard.

July 3 The Vimy safely landed in Ireland. Engines off at 5:04 P.M. Ireland time. Colin Lewis reports the covers have been backstamped by the Postmaster. Shortly, the Club's 250 will be rerouted back to St. John's.

BY A SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE ST. JOHN'S CLUB, GROUP MEMBERS ARE EACH ENTITLED TO PURCHASE ONE FLOWN COVER. SEE PAGE 10A FOR DETAILS!!

Hear all about the history of the Vimy mail project at BNAPEX2005 in Edmonton. This will be at the Newfoundland Study Group workshop, Friday, Sept. 2 at 4:00. Colin Lewis and I will be the presenters.

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Number 113

July/August 2005

NEWFOUNDLAND POSTAL HISTORY JANUARY 1857- JUNE 1893 - COLIN LEWIS

Page 28

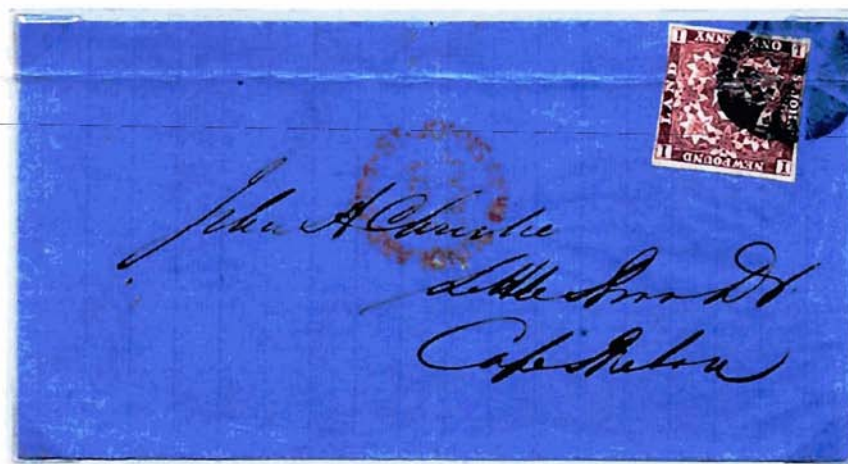
Act 28 Victoria Cap. II April 7th 1865

Rates Applicable After Cents Currency Introduced

April 7th 1865 to October 31st 1872

Provinces – Nova Scotia

Circular Rate 2 Cents (1 Penny Sterling) Per 2 Ounces



St. John's July 25th 1865

Note: The only recorded Circular to Cape Breton. Ex Dale Lichtenstein.

Single Letter Rate Port-to-Port 10 Cents (5 Pence Sterling) Per ½ Ounce



St. John's June 28th 1865

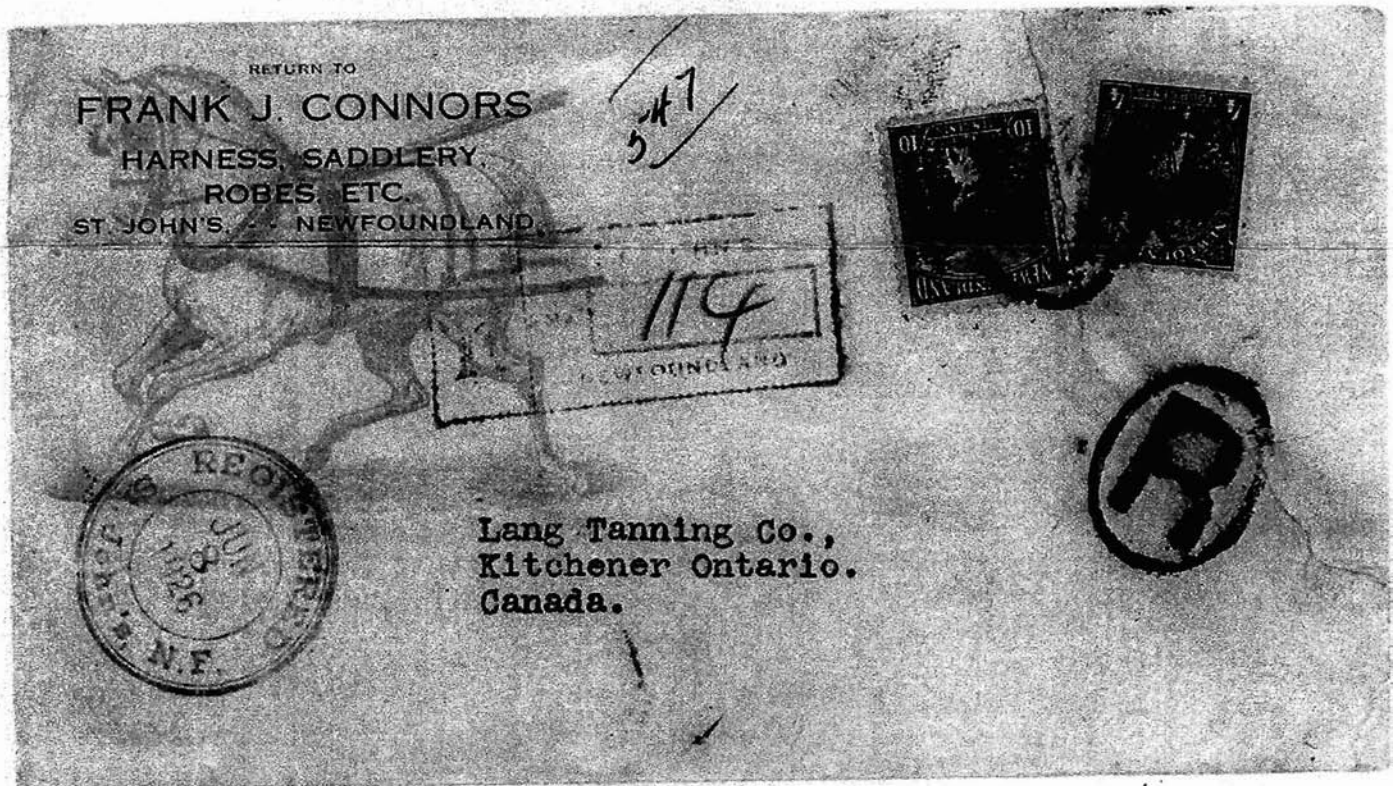
Note: The earliest recorded cover of this franking in the First Cents Period. On July 1st 1867
Nova Scotia joined the Dominion of Canada when Canada Rates applied.

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A NEW CANDIDATE FOR EARLIEST 14¢ REGISTERED COVER



Registered from St. John's to Kitchener, Ontario, Jun 8 1926 at 14¢ rate.

In Newsletter #111, Page 3, I showed an article from the St. John's Evening Telegram announcing the increase in registry fees 5¢ to 10¢ for mail to any place outside Newfoundland, effective June 1, 1926. That was provided us by C.A. Stillions. This meant a total fee of 14¢ for registered first class mail to Canada, the U.S., Great Britain and the British Empire.

On the same page, I showed a cover from Jun 16 1926 to the U.S. with this new rate, as a candidate for earliest surviving cover reflecting the new rate. The above cover, sent to us by member Judith Edwards of Great Britain, is eight days earlier!

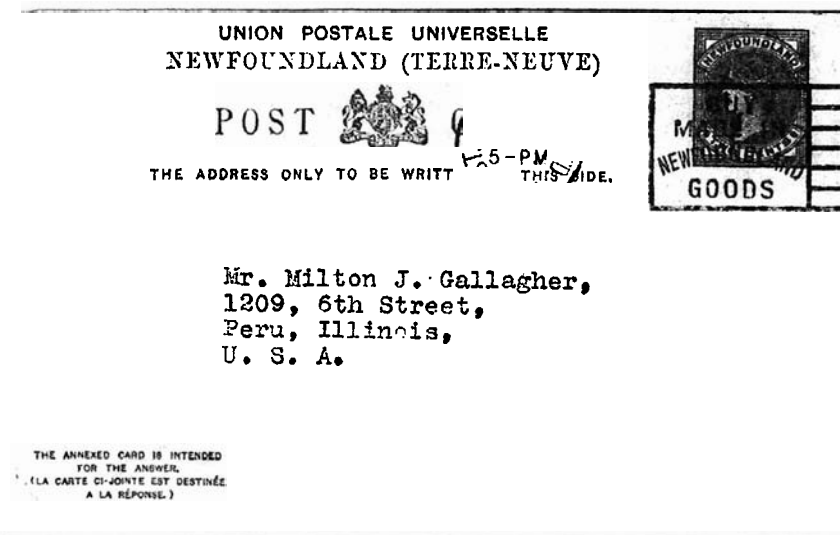
Can anyone provide a cover at the 14¢ rate earlier in June, 1926?

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THOSE WERE THE DAYS!!!!



EAT MORE COD FISH CAKES.

From Britain's Oldest Colony

We announce with pleasure the formal opening on Saturday, May 9th, of our largely increased offices where we will be better equipped to fill your valued orders more promptly..

Note our new Mailing Address:

C. BURNELL, Box 5123,

St. John's, Newfoundland.

Philatelically, this post card is nothing special. It is a late usage of the UY6a (1892) in 1931. I bought the item because of the nostalgic message on the back. I wish we could eat more cod fish cakes from Newfoundland! Anyone know anything about C. Burnell?

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INFORMATION SOUGHT ABOUT THESE TWO VARIETIES

Colin Bulloch

Broken 15



Plate
crack
1947



"I would be very pleased if you could give me some information about these variants which I cannot find in any catalogue:

1. 15¢ KGV, Guy issue, engraved perf. 14, no watermark. **Broken 1 of 15 upper left.**
2. 1947 Cabot issue 5¢, perf. 12 ½ wmk. It would appear to be to be a plate crack affecting at least two stamps [in the "47" of "1947" upper right].

You may wish to publish this in the next newsletter and ask for information on these two varieties."

Dr. Colin Bullock 11 The Avenue Taunton Somerset TA1 1EA UK [or contact Editor].

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RARE VARIETY OF SCOTT #128 – The Editor



#128 variety

Having on-line access to all the older issues of **BNA TOPICS** back to its start in 1944 has been a research blessing. For example, I found an article by Dan Meyerson speaking to the #128 variety seen above. How is it different? Meyerson, in 1944:

At the S.A. Brown sale of Newfoundland stamps held by Harmer-Rooke on December 19, 1940, an interesting and unlisted variety of Scott #128 made its appearance. One pane [of #128] was normal variety, but the second lot was described as a complete sheet of 25 showing...the surcharge... much lower and the lower bars obliterate the figures "15" at the bottom of the stamp, but the upper figures were then left unobliterated. This sheet was purchased by Stanley Gibbons and I have a block from said sheet. Do any of our readers know if this sheet was unique, since I have never seen any other copies?

Nineteen years later, in 1963, Meyerson reported on some auction transactions:

Then we picked up a very nice item at a very remarkable figure, a copy of the 3¢ on 15¢ surcharge, Scott #128, with the lower value obliterated. We haven't seen a copy since the S. A. Brown sale in 1940..."

In another article, Meyerson explained what had happened. The initial trial surcharges were on the 6¢ Cabot, bars 10.5mm apart, with the upper bar obliterating the top value tablets – but there were no values at the bottom! When it was decided to use the 15¢ Cabot for surcharging no one noticed the bottom value tablets until some 3,000 had been produced. **One block, the "S.A. Brown" block, was misfed.** Then the distance between the bars was increased, leading to the creation of Scott #129.

In 1995 Ed Wener of Indigo pointed out that he had been luckier than Meyerson and had found two copies, one in 1982 and the second in 1994. I bought my copy from a Florida dealer several years ago and a copy recently surfaced in Robert Lee's November, 2004 auction. It sold for \$160 Canadian + 15% commission.

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NEWFOUNDLAND'S POSTAL STATIONERY 1873-1941 – Horace Harrison

Page 44

