

# THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 137

October/December 2009

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## GOOD DUES NEWS!

As long as I can remember our group's fiscal year has ended on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Our treasurer, Martin Goebel, and I have agreed to move that to December 31<sup>st</sup>. That means we are *not* asking for renewals at this point. Actually, we have enough surplus to extend your membership to the end of the year at no additional cost to you. We will start collecting dues during the first quarter of next year. Here is what the 2010 dues will be:

Annual dues:	Canadian Dollars	\$13.00	\$5.00 (email only)
	US Dollars	\$13.00	\$5.00 (email only)
	British Pound	£8.00	£3.00 (email only)

Note reduced dues for those getting PDF's! Not too late to request the PDF version from Martin.

## NEW CONTRIBUTOR, AND THANKS TO ONE WHOSE SERIES HAS ENDED

You will enjoy the work of a new contributor and group member, A.B. Thompson. He has two pieces in this issue and will have two pages in NN #138.....For the last 13 issues, George McGowan has updated the Newfoundland slogans for us, with many new finds. Thanks so much, George! Note variety of items in the **CONTENTS** above – I need a lot of material to match this diversity in 2010.

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**NEWFOUNDLAND SLOGAN CANCELS** – George McGowan  
Part XIII

We are coming to the end of our tour through the pre-confederation slogan cancels of St. John's. The next cancel to appear, (NSSC PS16) was used on only two days. PS 16 is the "FIRST DAY ISSUE" slogan used on Apr 21<sup>st</sup> 1947 for the Princess Elizabeth stamp and Jun 24<sup>th</sup> 1947 for the 450<sup>th</sup> John Cabot anniversary.



The next and final slogan is "Help The / RED / CROSS" (NSSC PS17 & PS17a). The difference between the two can be distinguished by looking at the "R" in RED, and the "R" in CROSS. On PS17 the "R"s line up vertically, and on PS17a the "R"s are offset. I have included an illustration of both types, one over the other, for your comparison.

(Continued)



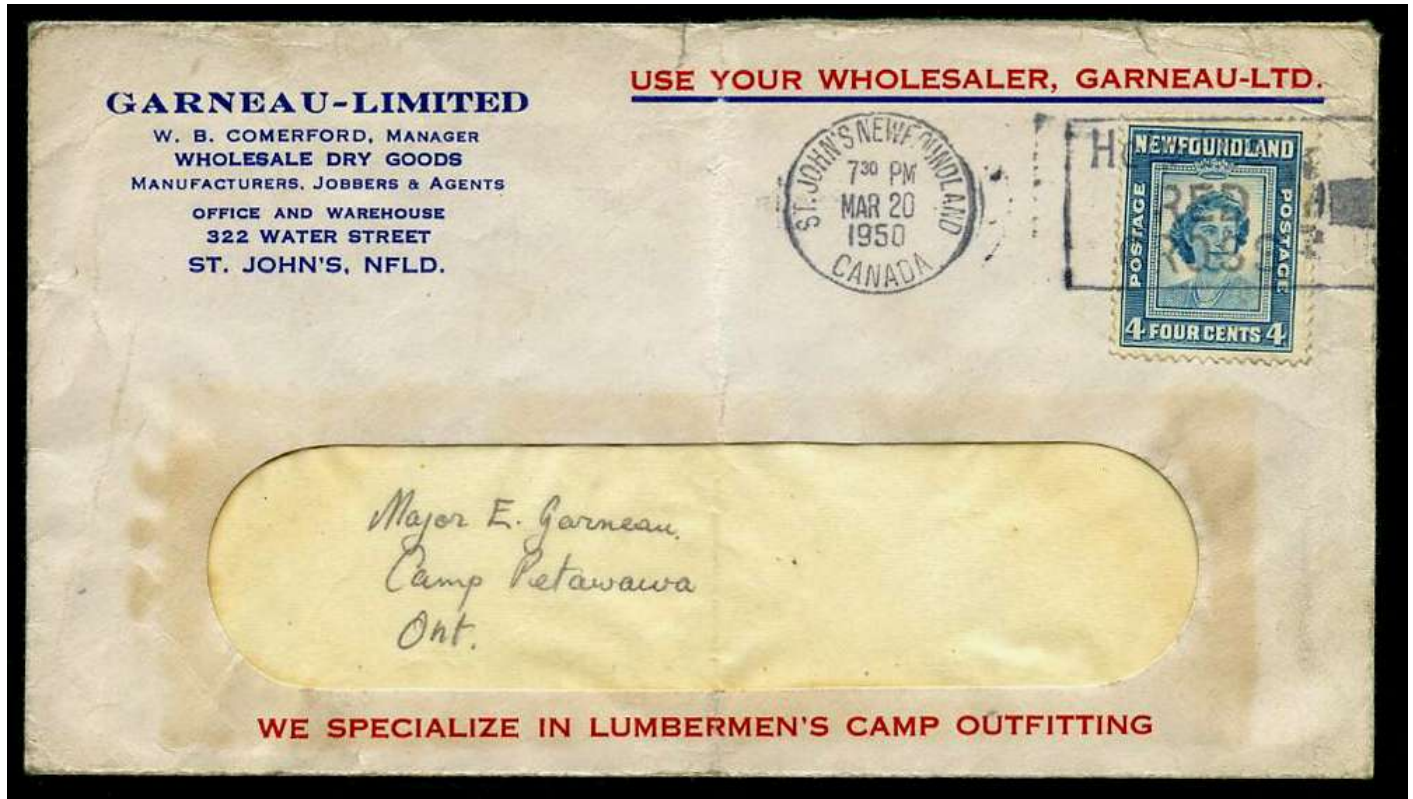
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**NEWFOUNDLAND SLOGAN CANCELS** (Concluded) – George McGowan  
Part XIII

NSSC reports the EKU for both types was Apr 1<sup>st</sup> 1948, and the last day for both as Mar 31<sup>st</sup> 1950. After Mar 31<sup>st</sup> 1949, the word "CANADA" was added to the cancel as illustrated in figure 3. Also, this cover, dated Mar 20<sup>th</sup> 1950 is a new LKU for PS17, eight days after the reported LKU of Mar12th.



From my observations, PS17a is much harder to find of the two, but that also can be attributed to the fact that I have not looked at enough covers yet. For the future, I would like to accomplish the following two goals. First, I will take these 13 installments and coordinate them into a monograph, and second, I would like to, with your help, start a survey of St. John's slogan cancels after confederation.

As always, I would enjoy your input and comments at [geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com](mailto:geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com)



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**DUPLEX HAMMERS - Carl Munden**

Any Newfoundland CDS that has a 3 line dater, NEWFOUNDLAND spelled in full and a comma after the name place is part of a DUPLEX hammer, even if the bars are missing. All of the various locations listed as using this device all have one thing in common; their offices were opened between 1891 and 1900, with the most (9 out of 13) opening 1898 or 1899. Looks suspicious to me ! Others may be found in the future. Obviously the best place to look is for locations that opened 1898 or 1899. These Duplex hammers were not made by Pritchard & Andrews. They are almost identical to Duplex hammers of the time from various US post offices which also had 3 line daters and a comma after the location and identical side bars. I have seen one from the Boston area. These two strikes are not owned by me. The **Millville** was discovered by John Oldford and the **Daniels Point** by Murray "Hawkeye" Smith.





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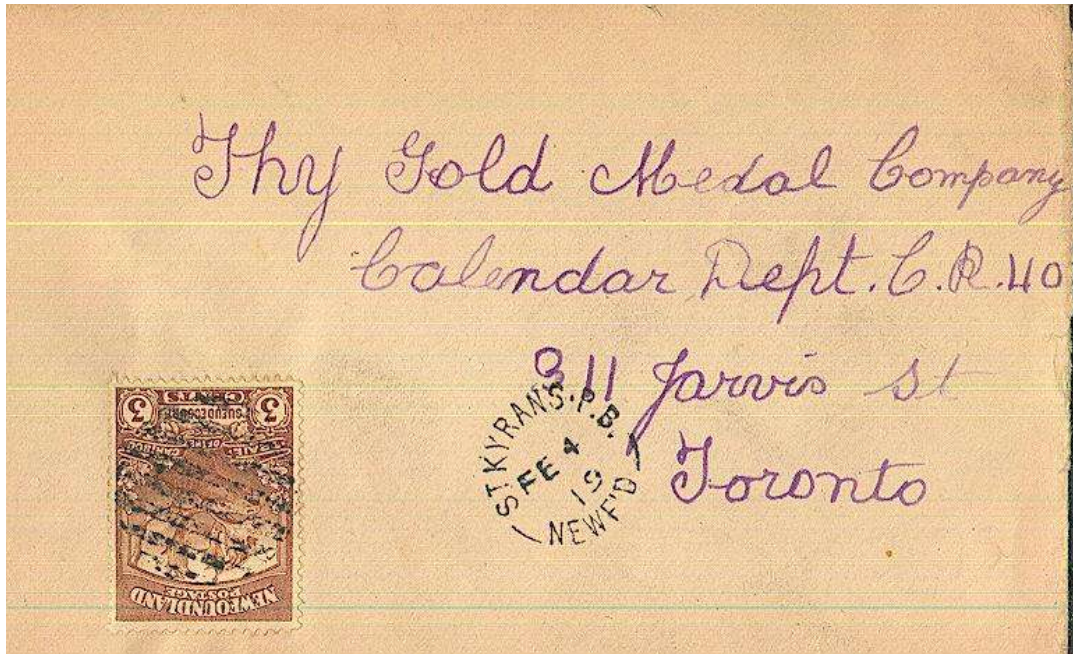
**GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN – CARL MUNDEN**

**ST. KYRANS**

Open 1912

Closed October 1, 1966

Population 116

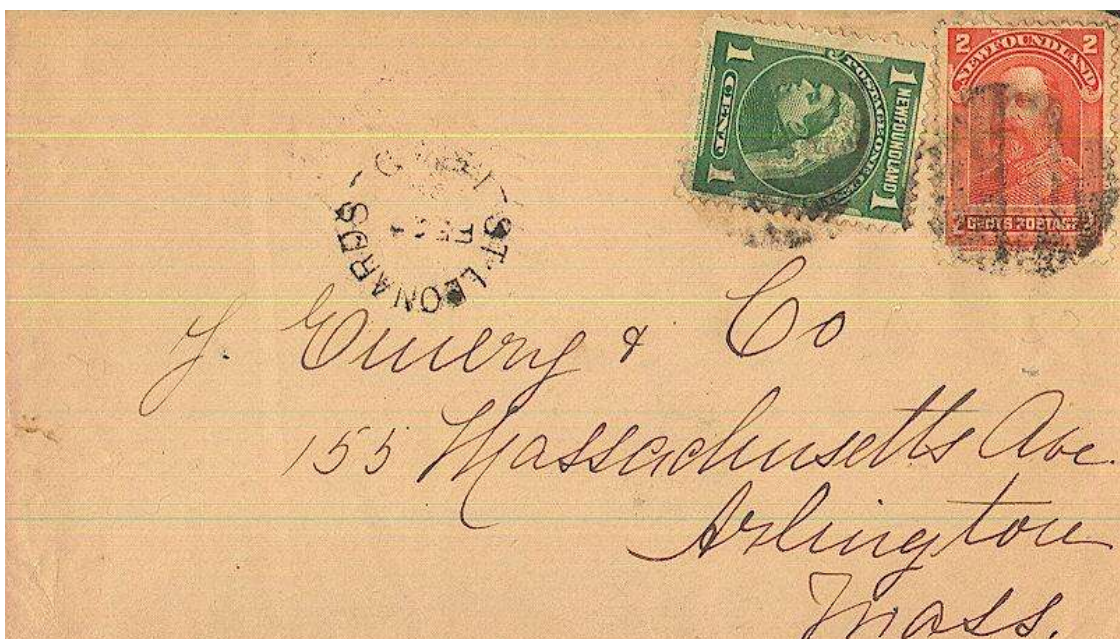


**ST. LEONARDS**

Open 1892

Closed 1931

Population 101



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**USE OF THE MARTINSYDE MANUSCRIPTED STAMPS - Updated Research**

**The Editor**

We have found two more manuscripted Martinsyde on cover (#6 and #15). As I pointed out in an article in BNATopics (October-December 2003) the literature is all over the place regarding the number of used examples, from 3-30 or so. Looking only at those on the 3¢ caribou, I estimate no more than 20 survived. C.H.C. Harmer opined that it is "unlikely many were thrown away". Harmer's of London had four of the below covers in their May 14, 2009 auction, but none sold. Estimates were from £22,500 to £100,000! This stamp is not listed in Scott's but is #AM 2 in NSSC. It is S.G. #142a.

**April 19, 1919 (Cover date)**

*Aerial  
Atlantic  
Mail  
jar*

#	ADDRESSEE	LATEST REFERENCE
<b>ON 3¢ CARIBOU</b>		
1.	H.A. LeMessurier, Esq. Bristol [with two 1/2d. stamps]	Robson Lowe, 1-64
2.	Mrs. Oscar Stone, Warwickshire	Robson Lowe, 1968
3.	James S. Ayre, Liverpool	Stanley Gibbons, 10-68
4.	To the Editor, Daily Express, London [with Hawker stamp]	C.H.C. Harmer, 1984
5.	Mrs. Harvey, London	Christie's, 3-85
6.	Major Linnewell [sic], London [stamp placed horizontally]	Siegel, 1996
7.	Mrs. S.B. Boyd Campbell, Belfast	Harmer's, 7-99
8.	Mr. James S. Ayre, Liverpool [distinct from #3]	Harmer's, 2-02
9.	Rt. Hon. A.H. Illingworth, M.S., London	Siegel, 9-02
10.	Miss K. Hilton, Oaklands, Canterbury	Harmer's, 11-03
11.	Hon. Sir E.R. Bowring, London	Harmer's, 11-03
12.	Mrs. F.O. Bell, Chellenham	Cherrystone, 12-03
13.	Major H.A. Linnewell [sic], London	Harmer's, 5-08
14.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut. G. Butt, London [with G.B. 1 1/2d. stamp]	Harmer's, 5-09
15.	Miss Ruby Ayre	Harmer's, 5-09
16.	Mrs. H.P. Martin, Surrey	Cherrystone, 7-09
17.	<i>On piece</i>	<i>Wilshire S. Co. 11-93</i>
<b>ON 2¢ CARIBOU</b>		
18.	W. Walter Read, London [with normal 2¢ caribou]	Harmer's, 5-09
<b>ON 5¢ CARIBOU</b>		
19.	Mrs. H. J. Powys-Keck, London	Harmer's, 5-09
<b>ON 12¢ CORONATION</b>		
20.	Single (off paper)	Harmer's, 2-02

## **Watermark Varieties on the Newfoundland 1c "Pile of Cod" Stamps**

by A. B Thompson

The Newfoundland 1c stamp from the resources issues has the inscription **CODFISH** "NEWFOUNDLAND CURRENCY" under an engraved reproduction of Robert Holloway's photograph entitled 'a load of codfish' (see McGrath, Newfoundland in 1911). The stamp was first printed by Perkins Bacon (PB) and issued in green on 2 January 1932 (Scott 183, Fig. 1) and in grey-black on 15 August 1932 (Scott 184). In a later issue, this same stamp was printed by Waterlow (W) in grey from 1942 until confederation (Scott 253). These stamps were recess printed on paper watermarked with the "Arms of the Colony of Newfoundland" which can be seen on the cover of the 1932 Newfoundland booklets (Fig. 2). The orientation of a normal watermark, when viewed from the back, is sideways with the elk (that represents Newfoundland's caribou herds) on the left and the head pointing to the top of the stamp. The watermark on a rectangular sheet of printing paper could have four possible orientations: normal, reversed, inverted, and reversed & inverted, depending on how the paper was positioned in the printing press.

The 2009 Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps lists no watermark varieties for the 1c PB green or the 1c W grey, but lists an inverted watermark for the 1c PB grey-black. The 2009 Stanley Gibbons Catalogue of Commonwealth and British Empire stamps lists the 1c PB green and the 1c PB grey-black as having "top of shield to right" (as seen from the back of the stamp), but does identify if these are reversed or inverted varieties. The 2006 Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue lists these two PB stamps as inverted. No varieties are listed for the 1c W grey.

The watermark orientation of cancelled (used) 1c stamps was here examined by immersion in a watermark detection fluid. It was always possible to identify if the top of the shield was to the left or right, but occasionally the elk could not be seen when the watermark was off-centre. In this case, the stamp was assigned to the most common category. The perforation measurement on the examined stamps was 13.5×13.5 for the Perkins Bacon printings and 12.5×12.5 for the Waterlow printing.

All three watermark orientation varieties were seen in the PB printing (Table 1). Only one 1c PB green stamp examined showed a watermark variety, but only 183 stamps were examined and hence meaningful watermark variety frequencies cannot be estimated. The most common watermark variety seen on the 2,356 1c PB grey-black stamps examined was the reversed watermark (2.3%), followed by the reversed inverted watermark (0.6%), and the scarcest was the inverted watermark variety (<0.1%) that was seen only once. By contrast, only the inverted watermark variety (2.6%) was seen in the 1,394 1c W grey stamps examined; no reversed or reversed inverted watermark varieties were found. The reason for the differences in frequencies of watermark orientation among printing factories is unknown.

(Continued Next page)



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**Watermark Varieties (Continued)**



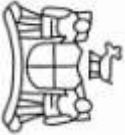
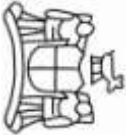

Orientation	Normal	Reversed	Inverted	Reversed Inverted
				
1c green Perkins Bacon	99.5	0	0	0.5
1c grey-black Perkins Bacon	97.0	2.3	<0.1	0.6
1c grey Waterlow	97.4	0	2.6	0

Table 1. Watermark orientations as seen from the back of the stamp and the percentage of varieties found for the 1c green Perkins Bacon (N = 183), 1c grey-black Perkins Bacon (N = 2,356), and the 1c grey Waterlow (N = 1,394) printings.



Fig. 1. 1¢ printed by Perkins Bacon in 1932 (Scott 183)

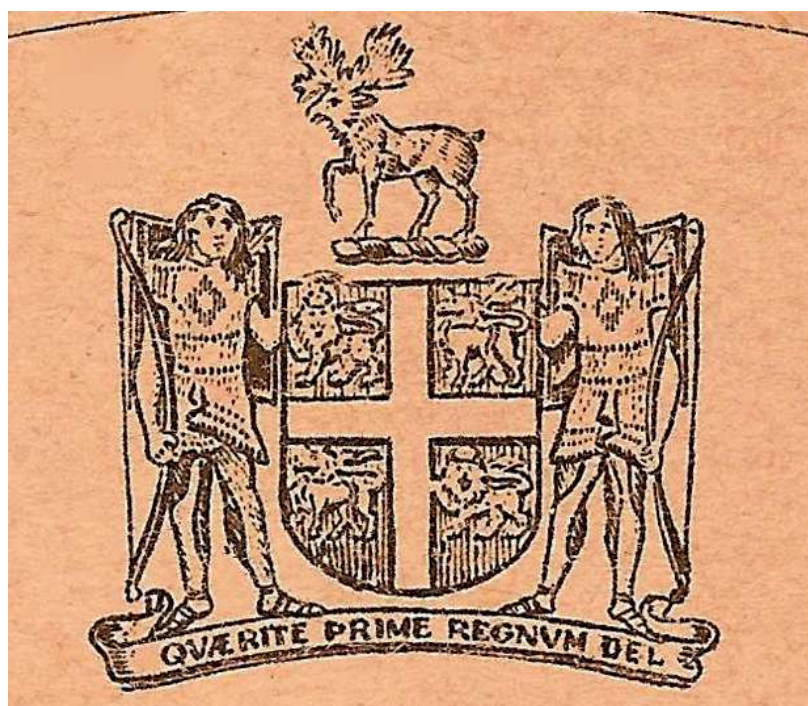


Fig. 2. The Arms of the Colony of Newfoundland

Comments should be referred to me at [Tony.Thompson@swipnet.se](mailto:Tony.Thompson@swipnet.se)



**Early Watermark Errors !**

by Jean-Claude Vasseur

The first postage stamp, the 1d black of Great Britain, was printed on watermarked paper and with the advent of such paper, watermark errors occurred, happening in two ways; the sheet of paper was gummed on the wrong side and the watermark shown reversed; or, the sheet was printed upside down and the watermark inverted. A combination of such errors could result in the watermark inverted/reversed! Occasionally the watermark could be sideways by error, but this was very rare and required the paper sheet to be square.

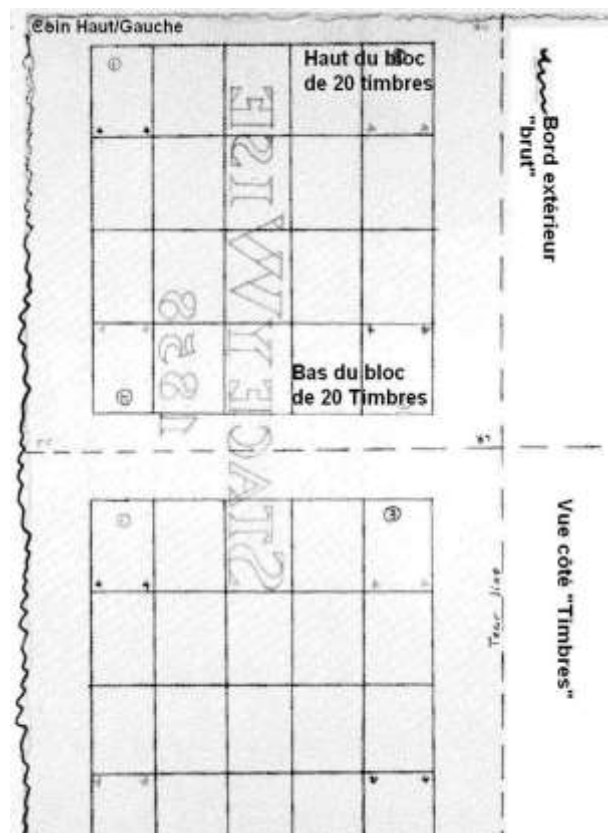
The first stamps of Newfoundland, the "Pence Issues", printed in London by the same Company (Perkins & Bacon) that produced the 1d black did not escape placement error. In his authoritative book, "The Pence Issues of Newfoundland 1857-1866", Robert H. Pratt mentioned the possibility of such errors on the second and third printings (watermarked paper) but did not shown examples. Also, they are not listed in any catalogues and seem to be quite rare.

It should be remembered that, according to Pratt, all values were printed on a same mill sheet of about 23inches x 25½inches accommodating different number of plates :

- 2 plates of 120 stamps for 1d
- 6 plates of 80 stamps for 3d
- 12 plates of 40 stamps for 5d
- 16 plates of 20 stamps for the inter-colonial stamps  
(2d, 4d, ...)

The mill sheet had only one watermark about 6 inches tall, positioned vertically in the upper left corner and reading properly on gum side. Here it is shown from stamp side:

(Continued next page)



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**Early Watermark Errors (Concluded) - Jean-Claude Vasseur**

The stamps were printed before the paper was gummed. Thus the reversed watermark error could occur by printer error, contrary to modern stamps.



Scott 19i violet brown (3rd printing) showing “ST” inverted and reading downward, thus inverted.

**FANCY CANCEL ON SCOTT #74 -Gregory Pope**

Recently I acquired this used block of #74 (see attached), partly because used multiples of this one are scarce but more so because of the cancel. I have never seen it before. Thought you might be able to shed some light. Any ideas? *If so, let the Editor know.*





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**WATERMARK LETTER CHART**

Normal	Inverted	Vertical Flip	Horizontal Flip	Normal	Inverted	Vertical Flip	Horizontal Flip
A	V	V	A	N	N	И	И
B	8	B	8	О	О	О	О
C	Ɔ	C	Ɔ	P	Ԁ	б	9
D	Q	D	Q	Q	О	О	Q
E	Ǝ	E	Ǝ	R	Я	Ɔ	Я
F	ɹ	ɹ	ɹ	S	S	2	2
G	Q	Q	Q	T	⊥	⊥	T
H	H	H	H	U	и	и	U
I	I	I	I	V	Λ	Λ	V
J	ɹ	ɹ	ɹ	W	M	M	W
K	K	K	K	X	X	X	X
L	ɹ	ɹ	J	Y	Λ	Λ	Y
M	W	W	M	Z	Z	S	S

*Got this at a regional BNAPS meeting, and since this issue has a watermark theme, I thought it might be of interest. The topic was OS 1 and the search for the papermaker's letters.*

The Editor



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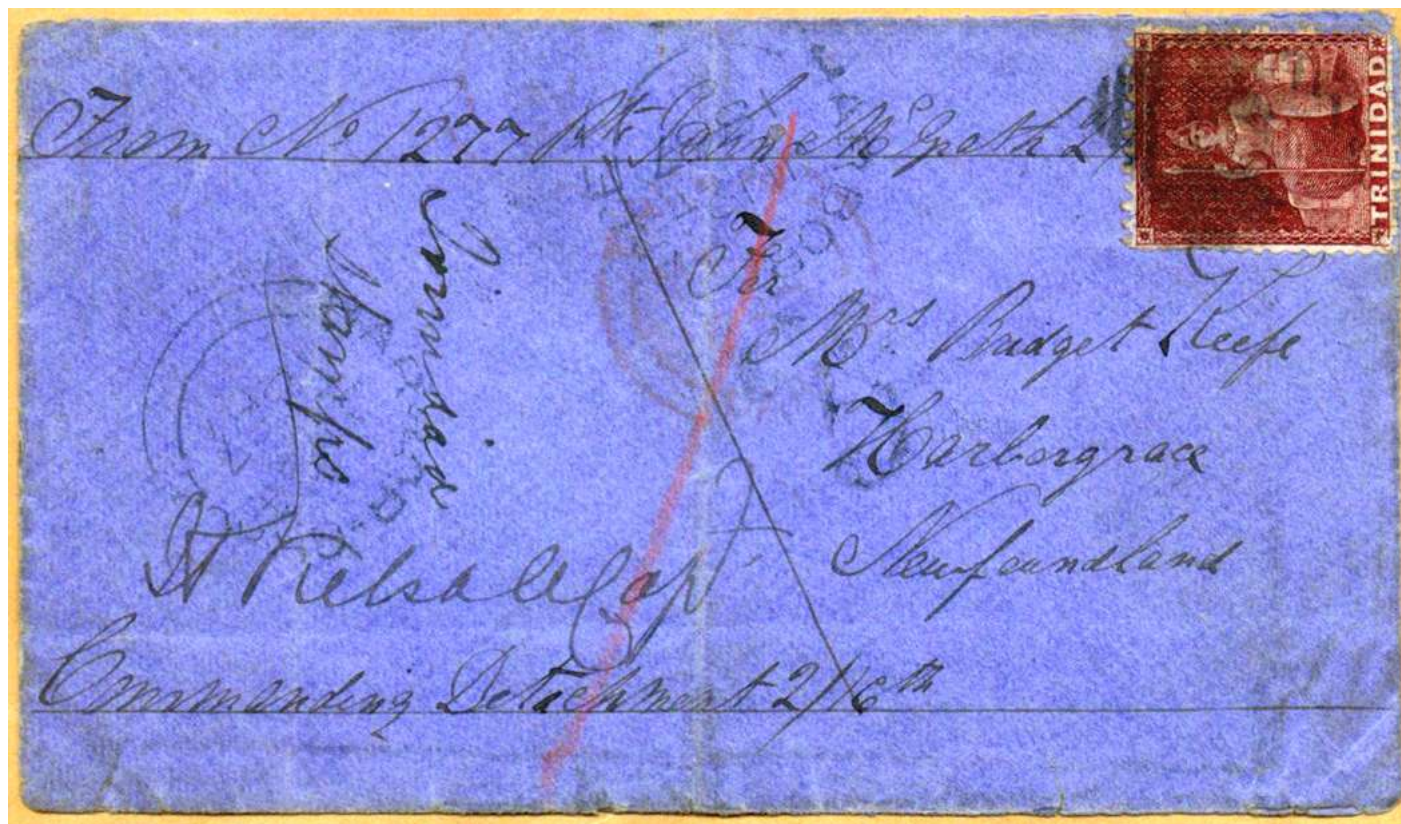
**Pre 1900 Military Mail – Colin D. Lewis**

Nineteenth century privilege rate letters from soldiers or sailors serving in Newfoundland would be very rare, that is if there are any that have survived. I have yet to see one, over the many years that I have been interested in the postal history of Newfoundland. The rate for such a letter would have been one penny during the pence period or two cents post decimalisation.

Although I do not own an outgoing letter I do have one that is incoming. It was mailed by No. 1277, Private John McGrath, serving with the 2nd Battalion of Her Majesty's 16th Regiment of Foot in Trinidad and addressed to Mrs Bridget Keefe of Harbour Grace. The 2nd Battalion had its base in Barbados and had deployed detachments to other islands including one in Trinidad.

As is normal practice for privilege rate military mail the cover has been marked with a diagonal line and signed by the soldier's commanding officer Captain H. Kelsall in the left section. The cover is franked by a deep lake non-denominated Trinidad 1d stamp that is tied by a numeral 1 in oval barred obliterator. To the left of the stamp is a Trinidad / Paid MY (22) 1867 circular handstamp in red and the 1d rate also shown in red crayon.

Trinidad was provided with a packet boat service through twice monthly inter island vessels of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company that sailed via Barbados to the British Packet Station on the island of St. Thomas, where it arrived on May 30 (backstamp). The letter was then forwarded by Royal Mail Steamer to Halifax, Nova Scotia and by feeder vessel to St. John's where it arrived on June 23 (backstamp). the next day it was sent inland to Harbour Grace where the June 24 front receiver was struck.



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**Codfish on Newfoundland Stamps**

A.B. Thompson

Perforated stamp issued in 1865 depicting a codfish from the first cents issue and printed by the American Bank Note Co., New-York (right). This was the first fish to appear on a postage stamp. Newfoundlanders were apparently critical of the straight tail. The same codfish illustration was used on £5 and £10 Union Bank of Newfoundland notes also printed by American Bank Note Co. from 1865 to 1883 (far right).



Photographic essay of codfish (far left), engraved by Charles Henry Jeens who worked with Perkins Bacon in England, and set in a machined oval vignette. This was used on various denomination "Commercial Bank of Newfoundland" notes (left) between 1867 and 1884 that were also printed by Perkins Bacon.

Essay of engraving for the British American Bank Note Co. that was established in Montreal in 1880 (far right). The striking feature is the forked tail. This illustration was never reproduced on any Newfoundland stamps or notes. However, a new stamp was printed by the British American Bank Note Co. in green in 1882 and in orange in 1888 (right) and the codfish now has forked tail. This replaced the criticized earlier cod stamp. It is likely that the engraver was influenced by the essay.



The last Newfoundland stamps to show cod had the inscription "CODFISH Newfoundland Currency". The "cod and king" stamp was issued in 1937 and shows a less forked-tail (far left). The "load of codfish" stamp was issued in 1932 (left) and re-issued in 1942, but there are no tails visible to discuss.

Cod have a fairly straight tail as shown in the photograph. Therefore, the tail in the cod stamp of 1865 was correctly drawn. The forked tail in the 1882 cod stamp bears little resemblance to a cod's tail. Even the 1937 issue has an exaggerated tail fork, but at least the fish look cod-like. Writing about the cod [and seal] stamps of the first cents issue, the renowned Newfoundland journalist Albert Perlin said in his 1937 article on *The Stamps of Newfoundland* "Two of these stamps illustrate amusing errors on the part of the engraver, the two-cent having a codfish minus the split tail that every Newfoundlander, at least, knows it should have in its tail". This comment regarding split-tailed cod seems strangely incorrect, but further judgment on this is reserved until every Newfoundlander is asked a question on the shape of a cod's tail!



I thank the "National Currency Collection, Currency Museum, Bank of Canada" for permission to reproduce part images from two notes held in their collection, and Hank Heessen (IMARES) for the cod photograph. I am also grateful to Don Power, an expert on cod, for his helpful comments on this article.

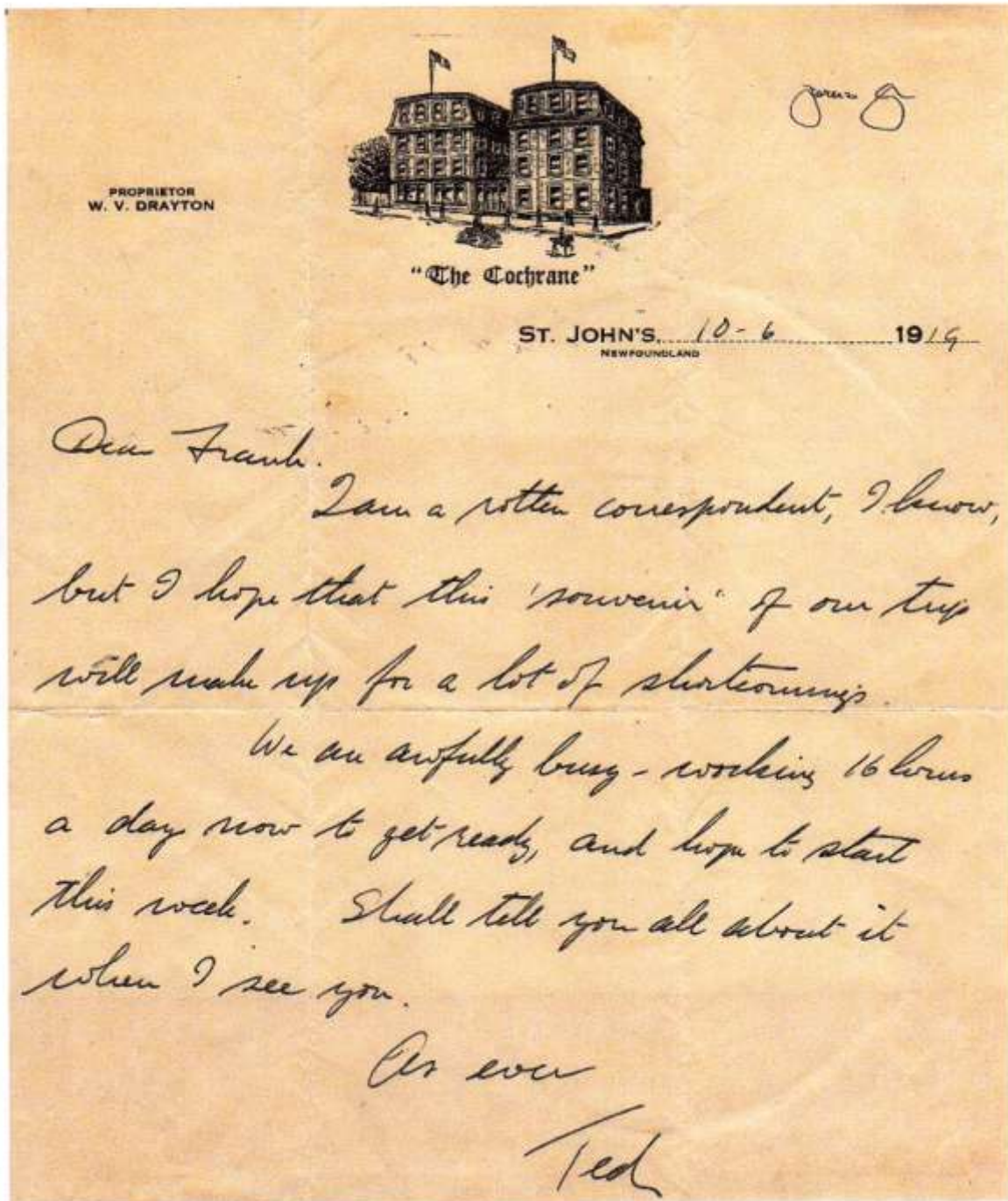


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**ANOTHER LETTER FROM LT. BROWN**



Here is another letter from Lt. Arthur Whitten Brown on June 10, 1919, four days before he and Alcock left to cross the Atlantic. This is similar in style to the letter I showed in NN #134, addressed on the same date. Once again, Lt. Brown signed his letter "Ted". Note they were working 16 hours a day to get the Vickers-Vimy ready. Thanks to Jean-Claude Vasseur for this scan. *The Editor*



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**The perfin corner by Barry Senior**

1923 - 1924 Pictorial Issue

All values except the 6, 11, 20 and 24 cent are reported.



Position 1



Position 2



Position 2



Position 2



Position 1



Position 1



Position 3



Position 5



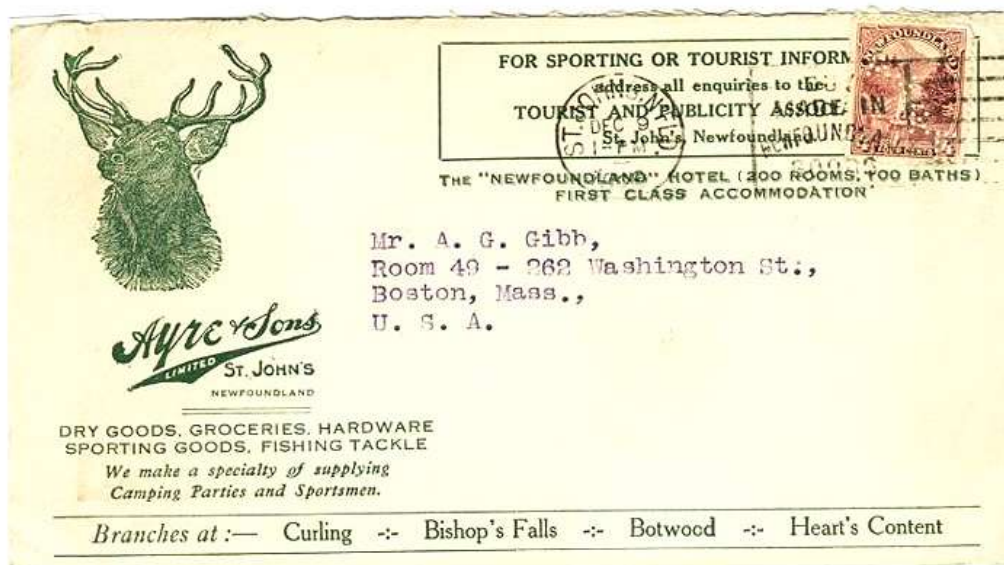
Position 1



Position 1



Position 1



Letter rate to the USA, 1926. One of two recorded covers.

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**HOW WOULD YOU LIKE THIS FOR CHRISTMAS?**



NF C 4 60c Black "De Pinedo" tied on cover by "ST. JOHNS, N.F.L.D. MAY 20 10 - AM 1927" machine cancel. "TRESPASSEY T.P.O. MY 20/27" split-ring at left. Missing backflap.  
PF cert #2787.

A GREAT "WORLD CLASS" AIRMAIL RARITY! Ex "JAL".  
109282.0 VF on Cover . CS \$30,000.00

From C.H.C. Harmer's *Newfoundland Air Mails*, Page 87:

Mail destined for the flight to Italy [De Pinedo] was machine-cancelled at St. John's on May 20, 10 a.m. It was railed to Trespassey where the unframed local postmark of May 21 was added. Exceptions to the above dates are known: (1) **A cover, addressed to the Postmaster, Rome, and another to the High Commissioner of Newfoundland, have the usual St. John's and Trespassey postmarks (as described above) *plus* an additional cancellation TRESPASSEY T.P.O. MY 20 27 NEWF'D.** Probably these letters come under the heading of official mail

As of this publication the above cover was for sale at CS \$27,000!!!!