

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 144

July/September 2011

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BNAPS WORKSHOP

There will be a Newfie Study Group workshop, Friday afternoon, September 2nd, at BNAPEX2011 in North Bay, Ontario. From 2-3 P.M. C.A. Stillions will brief us on the Robert Pratt slide restoration project and take questions. I have a short PowerPoint presentation (20 minutes or so) - **Short Reign of the Red Queen** on the 1¢ red Queen Victoria stamp of 1897. We still have time for another presentation, and I am hoping one of you can accommodate the group with one.

HORRID HAWKER



Jean-Claude Vasseur, spotted this obvious forgery of the Hawker stamp in an eBay auction of April 24th. An unused Hawker catalogues for \$25,000 in Scott's (C1). The minimum bid was \$2,999. He contacted the seller promptly, with no response. The item was not sold – so no one was suckered this time around.

BALBO CHALLENGE!!

Pages 5 & 6 speak to some interesting forgeries (?). One purports to be Position #3 of the inverted setting on C18a, which catalogues \$120,000. The same Bennett auction showed a copy of the surcharge on the 10¢ Labrador. Are the stamps actually genuine? This issue has Part I of the story. The Greene Foundation is working on an analysis of the stamps which we should have by the next issue.

MATERIAL

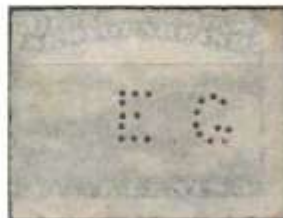
In this issue you will note more *The Editor* contributions than I prefer. This means I am running out of material – so please send me something – by email or hardcopy - address below.

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NEWFOUNDLAND ODDITY

Maurice Harp

This item, illustrated below, has come to the Societies attention via **Stephen Steere, Mike Behm** and **Barry Senior**. The stamp is a rouletted Newfoundland 5c blue (1876-79) with the perfin E.G – simple enough you might think, except that it appears to be the British perfin E1720.04! Electronically I have overlain the perfin with a scan of the 1d red which is in my collection and the two strikes lay perfectly on top of each other.



E1720.04

This die, which is unfortunately scarce is known used between 1875 and 1890 and was used by Ernest Grether a machine exporter of 29 Blackfriars Street, Manchester. To date it has been recorded on a 1d Red plate 183, a QV 2½d plate 11 and ½d vermillion. Ernest Grether was a successful company that went on to become Ernest Grether & Co in the early 20th century. I have tried to establish a link between the company and Newfoundland but although I have established that in later years they exported bleaching equipment to the wood pulp industry a check of an 1876 Newfoundland directory yields no mention of Grether. I also passed the information to **Michael Miller** in Canada but a check of the Canadian Perfin catalogue yielded nothing.

So I am lead to the conclusion that a bored office boy at Grether's used the companies' perfin machine to make a "one off". He would probably have done better to leave the stamp alone as it's a fairly scarce stamp. But of course someone might know better and maybe can supply a bit more information.



Bulletin 363 (December 2009) Page 13

Courtesy G.B. Perfin Society, Bulletin #363.

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THE DO-X COVERS AND CARDS – Jean-Claude Vasseur

Throughout its 18 month round trip over Europe, West Africa, South, Central and North America, the DO-X flying boat transported and delivered mail from place to place. The second pilot was also in charge of the on-board Post-Office. His duty included stamping the mail with the appropriate DO-X special flight hand stamps on covers delivered to him as well as franking, with German air mail stamps, and stamping special flight envelopes and cards, on order.

The demand was so great that the flying boat Post Office stock of stamps went short. Thus on the return flight to Germany, via Southampton, from Holyrood, a number of envelopes and cards can be found with stamps replaced by a hand struck stamp accounting for appropriate franking in French: “AFFRANCHISSEMENT PERCU 4RM” (or 6RM for envelops), RM standing for Reich Mark. This material received a Berlin May 27

cds on arrival and was then sent to the New-York DO-X Office for dispatch. Envelopes or covers having received the hand-struck franking instead of stamps were accompanied with the attached letter (next page) explaining the situation.

At the left is a DO-X Envelope franked 6DM (4DM + 2x1DM) cancelled by DORNIER hand stamp 19 MAI 1932. Flown to Berlin with cds dated May 27 on reverse. It also had a special hand stamp “AMERICA EUROPA DO-X Flugschiff”



This DO-X card is franked by hand-struck stamp “AFFRANCHISSEMENT PERCU 4DM” cancelled by DORNIER hand stamp 19 MAI 1932. It was flown to Berlin with cds dated May 27 with special hand stamp “AMERICA EUROPA DO-X Flugschiff”

The quantity of these covers and cards has been estimated to be about 60 overall.

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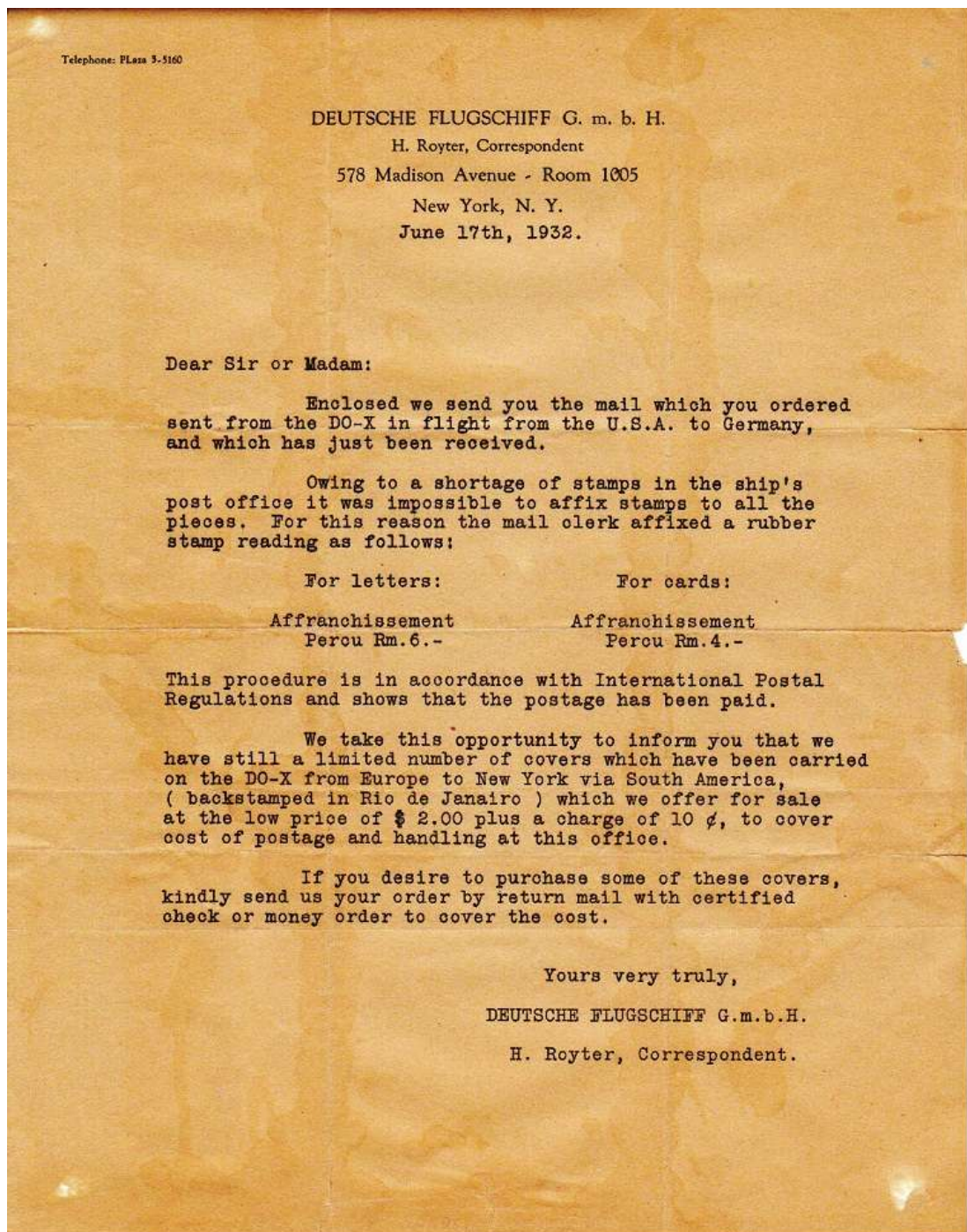
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THE DO-X COVERS AND CARDS (Concluded) – Jean-Claude Vasseur

Letter from DO-X Office in NY, accompanying envelopes and cards franked with hand stamp instead of German stamps.



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RARE(?) NEWFIE AIR MAILS IN BENNETT AUCTION – WHAT WENT WRONG?

Editor

Newfoundland Airmail, 1933, \$4.50 on 75¢ Balbo Flight, *inverted surcharge* (C18a), position 3 in the setting of four, beautifully centered and remarkably bright and fresh with barely hinged original gum (we could see no trace of hinging, but the accompanying certificate notes only "mint, OG"; Extremely Fine and choice. Scott \$120,000



Expertization: **2010 V.G. Greene Certificate.**

The 75¢ Labrador airmail was surcharged for the return flight of Balbo's squadron of sea planes from Chicago to Rome. 8,000 of the stamps were overprinted in block of four. In an attempt to prevent the sale of errors (more than 50 of the 1923 DO-X with inverted surcharge had gotten out) the post office utilized four "checkers" to inspect the stamps and, in fact, several blocks with the surcharge inverted were discovered and subsequently destroyed. However, despite the added precautions, a few of the inverts still managed to reach the public.



Newfoundland Airmail, 1933, \$4.50 on 10¢ Balbo Flight, *surcharge on the 10¢ instead of the 75¢ (C18 var.)*, perf. 11, position 3 in the setting of four, well centered with bright color and never hinged original gum, fresh and Very Fine. Unitrade C18ii C\$91,000,

FROM AN EXCEEDINGLY RARE TRIAL PRINTING, ONLY A FEW OF WHICH REACHED THE PUBLIC.

Expertization: **2010 V.G. Greene Certificate.**

RESULTS: Per Ted Nixon of the Green Foundation:

The two items were pulled from the Bennett auction by Harvey Bennett following a discussion with me in which I indicated it now appeared that our genuine certificates issued in 2010 were probably incorrect. My revised opinion was based on a closer comparison of the two items to position #3 in enlarged photos of two genuine blocks of the four positions. In addition the provenance of the items explained to me in 2010 seemed difficult to reconcile with other statements of their origin many years ago. The two submitted items also seem to match an item identified as a new dangerous forgery in an article by Richard Gratton in the 2010 Fakes and Forgeries Journal which we had not seen at the time of preparing the genuine certificates in 2010. Accordingly Bennett felt it advisable to remove the items from his auction. The Greene Foundation has continued to pursue analysis and advised the agent for the owner that the genuine certificates were being replaced with "bad " certificates. **Editor: We hope to report the analysis in the next issue. Meanwhile see the next page and form your own opinion!**

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GENUINE BALBO SETTINGS – The Editor

Be a Balbo expert! Form your own opinion. Look at Position #3 in these genuine settings and compare against the two stamps on the previous page. Are they legitimate Position 3's? Issue – forgeries or just a minor variety? I do not have the answer – one of things being looked at closely is **1933**.



Genuine setting. Note lower left for comparison with forged copies.



The Balbo setting with inverted surcharge *before it was split up*.

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NEWFOUNDLAND'S 1897 POSTAL SHORTAGE - ANNOTATED

Norris (Bob) Dyer - Page 6

FINAL SURCHARGE

Sheets of 100 of the 1890 Victoria were divided into two for surcharging with top margins stripped.

Sheets previously rejected because of poor centering were now used.



On the lower settings of 50, the bottom margins were retained with an inscription below pos. 45-46.

Ex-Pratt



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NOTES ON 1897 SURCHARGE EXHIBIT – PAGE 6

My research suggests that 792 settings of 50 of the surcharged stamp were produced. Sheets of 100 were split into blocks of 50 with only the bottom blocks retaining selvage. This would mean that only 396 full inscription blocks were produced. The one on Page 6 was also pictured on Page 74 of Robert Pratt's article *Newfoundland - The Gray 1890 Three Cent - Ten Years of Turmoil* in the **Fifty-Second American Philatelic Congress Book, 1986**. In this article (Page 73-74) Pratt describes the "tumult" at the St. John's GPO when the surcharged stamps were released on October 19, 1897:

"Two of the clerks had stamps to sell at the windows while the chief clerk [LeMessurier] and the auditor had the privilege of selling them 'behind the counter.' Some sheets were sent to outports, just a few of the 397 [396 ?] sheets overprinted; the rest were sold in St. John's. The clerks were given five or six hundred stamps. They disappeared immediately. Then orders were given to limit the sale to 50 a customer, and by afternoon the first day the limit was lowered to 20 and soon thereafter to five a customer."

There were three *major* types in each setting (detailed on my exhibit page in the next newsletter). The scarcest type was in positions #49 and #50 of setting, in gothic font. This is Scott #77 (NSSC #71). I wonder how long it took collectors to discover the various types? Settings known to me are:

#	DATE	AUCTION/REF.	LOT/PG	DESCRIPTION
1.	3/91	Cavendish Zurich	505	Major seps.few stamps cut design, F-VF
2.	7/94	Paradise Valley	1486	Glazed gum, thins, seps. Hinge reinf.VG- F
3.	4/98	West Island –retail	-----	Major seps., some thins, VG-F
4.	1/99	Harmer of London	996	Sep, one horizontal row, Mostly NH, VG- F
5.	9/99	Brigham Auctions	299	Off-centered pane stuck to album leaf
6.	5/06	Sotheby's	431	Major seps.(reattached?), creases, NH, VG-F
7.	5/06	Sotheby's	432	Most stamps cut design, intact, N.H. VG-F
8.	5/06	Sotheby's	433	Most stamps cut design, seps. N.H. VG
9.	1/11	Shreves	308	Most N.H. major sep. 4 th row , VG-F

Why are there so few settings left?

- Poorly-centered, leftover 1890 Victoria's were used so most settings were not very attractive;
- Many have simply fallen apart over the years (note record of separations above);
- Much of the value lies in the varieties in the bottom row, with the balance probably used for postage at the time;
- Early philatelic writers point out the popularity of a block with the three Types – positions #38-39 and 48-49); and,
- Things happen!

There are actually *five* constant varieties, as you see in the next issue.

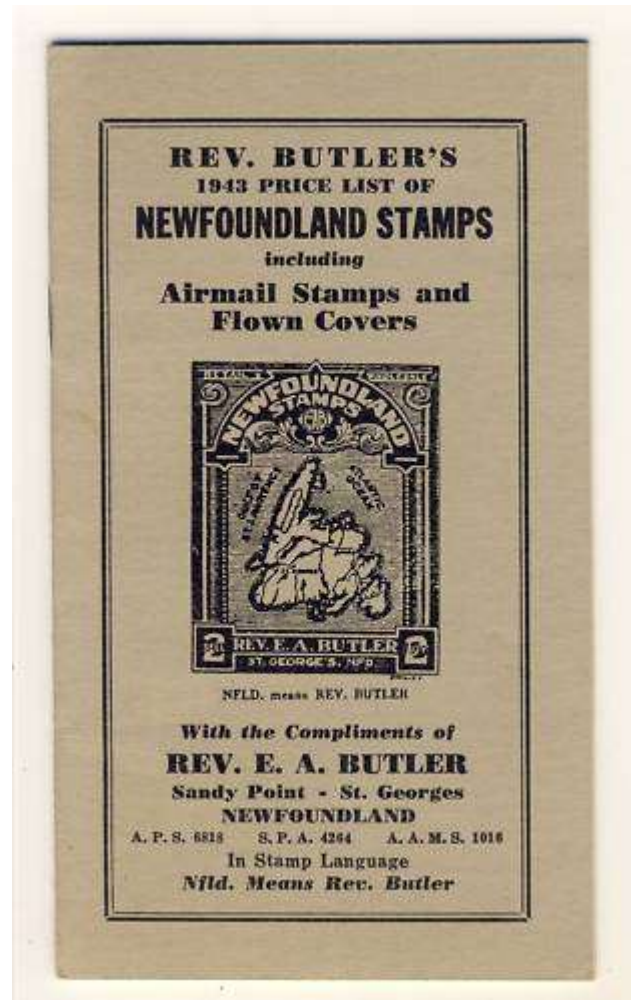
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REVEREND BUTLER 1943 PRICE LIST ON EBAY – The Editor

This 1943 annual price list from our old friend, Rev. E.A. Butler, sold for the amazing price of **\$89 U.S.** in February on eBay! His price lists prior to 1940 always had a photo, but starting in 1940 the format seen was used through his last list in 1947. Examples from the 1930's are pictured below.



1897 “PAID ALL” WARNING – Dean Mario

Members may not know that the actual “**PAID ALL**” hammer device, part of the late J. Don Wilson’s holdings, was sold in Lot #1253 in the December 12, 2009 sale conducted by Charles G. Firby Auctions.

While it may be highly unlikely that the new owner would use the device for improper gain, members are reminded that any “**PAID ALL**” markings which “suddenly” appear on covers or single stamps should be viewed with extreme caution.

After decades of research, I have yet to hear of any reports of strikes earlier than that of September 24, 1897 or later than December 4, 1897 so members are cautioned accordingly.

Reference:

Mario, Dean W. *Newfoundland’s “PAID ALL” and “POSTAGE PAID” Markings, 1897-1948.* BNATopics, Volume 58, Number 3, July-September 2001, Page 6.

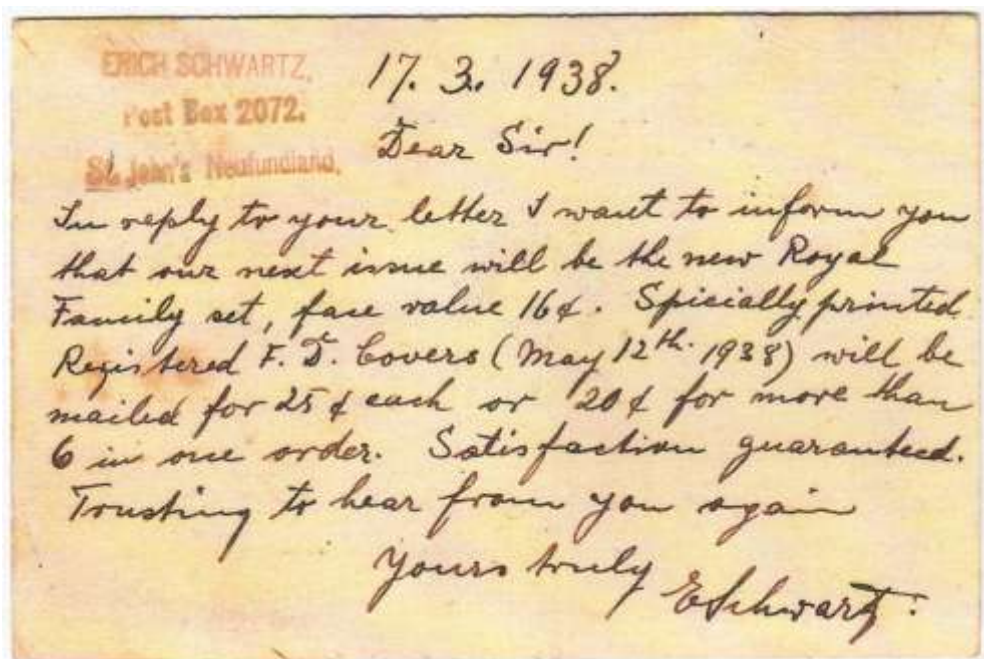
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YET ANOTHER NEWFOUNDLAND STAMP DEALER – Dean Mario

Here's another (presumably part-time) stamp dealer to add to Terry Harris' listing in *Newfie Newsletter* #135 of April/June 2009. Note Erich Schwartz's spelling of the word "Neufundland"! Perhaps the additional 1911 Coronation issue to make up the 3¢ post card rate to the U.S. was intentional for the St. Patrick's Day mailing.



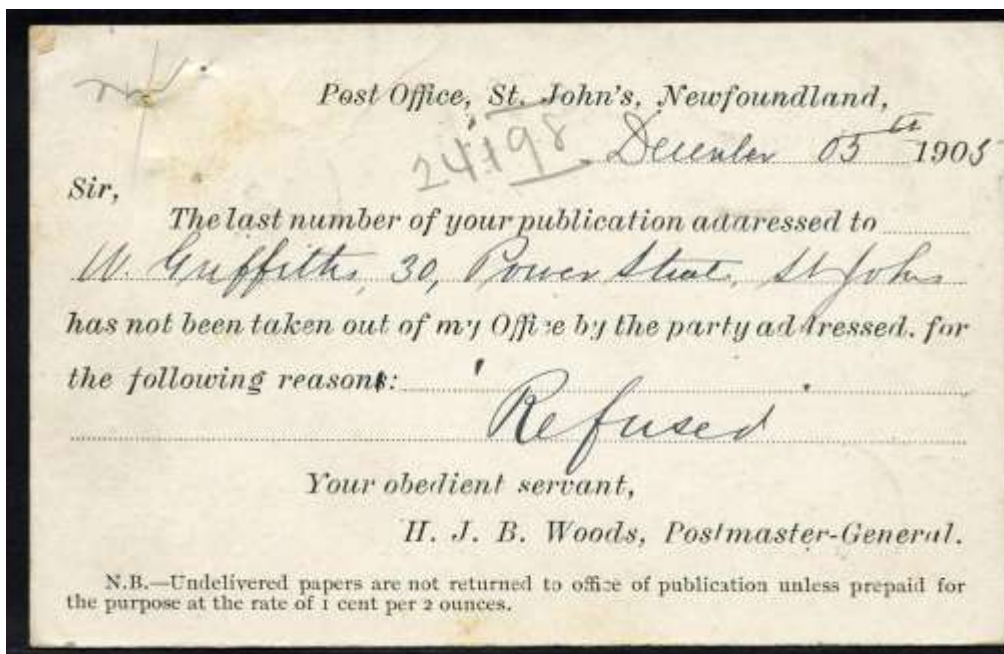
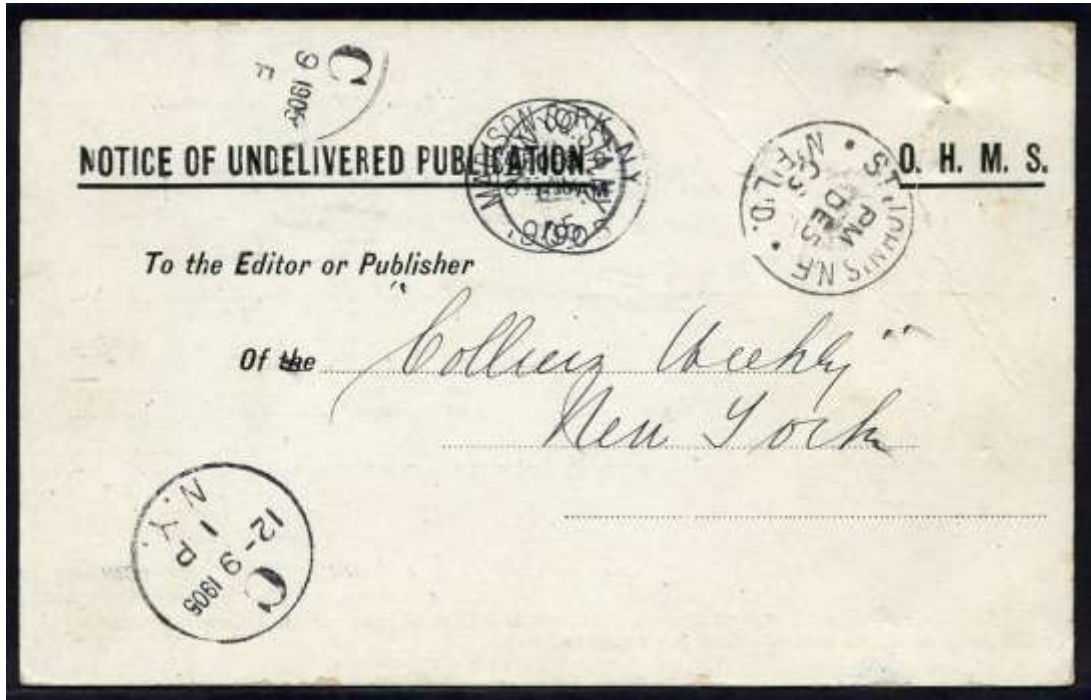
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UNUSUAL OHMS CARD FROM 1905 – Doug Hannan

Here are pictures of an OHMS card I recently purchased on eBay that I thought may be of interest for the newsletter. I have never seen a similar item before.



Collier's Weekly was an [American magazine](#) founded by [Peter Fenelon Collier](#) and published from 1888 to 1957. With the passage of decades, the title was shortened to *Collier's*. As a result of Peter Collier's pioneering [investigative journalism](#), *Collier's Weekly* established a reputation as a proponent of social reform. Other magazines became involved in what [Theodore Roosevelt](#) described as "[muckraking](#) journalism." [Wikipedia](#)

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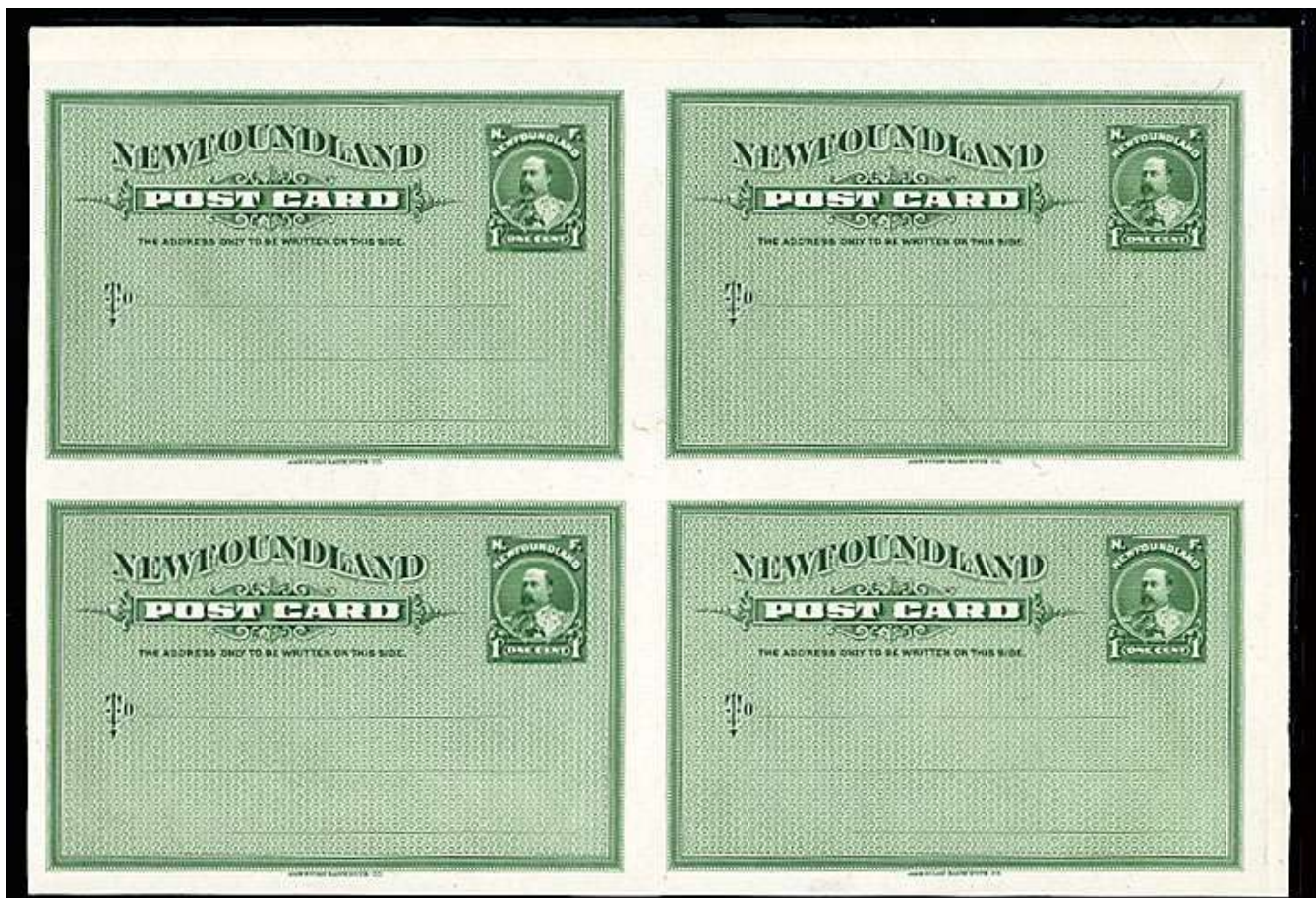
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SEVERAL INTERESTING ITEMS FROM EASTERN APRIL 16TH MAIL AUCTION



Lot 2868 – Steve Fossett-signed cover from 2005 (remember?) went for \$137



Lot 3090 – 1¢ green Edward VII post card plate proof on card mounted India paper - \$1,380

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SCOTT 130a OFTEN MISDESCRIBED – The Editor

Scott #130 is the 1920 3¢ on 35¢ provisional and #130a has the “Lower bar omitted”. It is also SG #147b and NSSC #124c. It is position #15 of the setting of 25. The stamp immediately to its left (position #14) is seen with just a partial lower bar when adjacent to a proper #130a. The first block below shows position #15 with the bar *entirely* missing and #14 with a partial bar. There can be *no* black smudges on #15 or it is not #130a. There are intermediate versions with some residual inking usually near the lower date tablets. Such examples are worth considerably less – don’t be fooled as they are often described as #130a.



Scott 130#a is upper right.



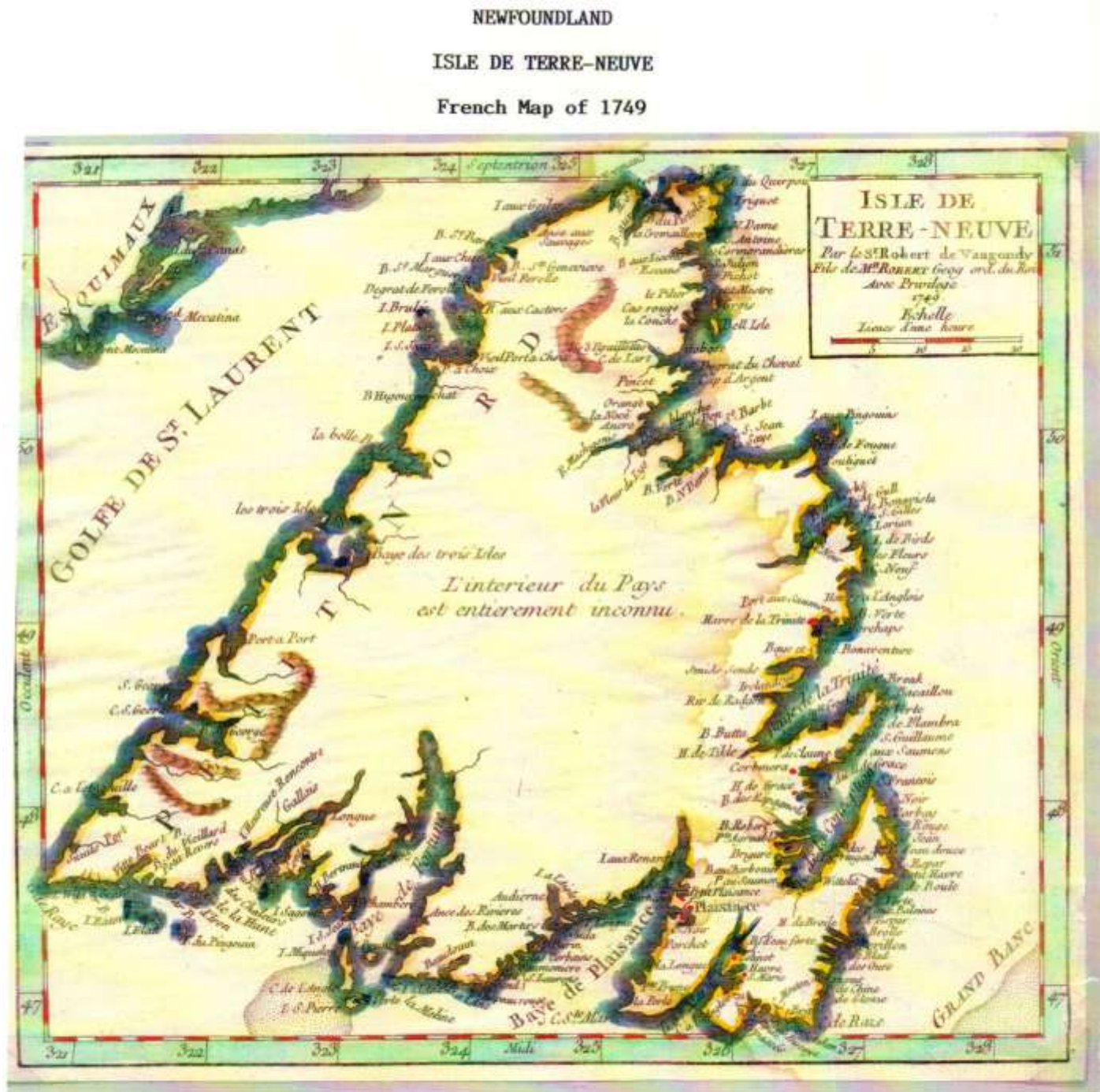
Scott #130a is upper right in this used example (probably unique, with 1993 PFD certificate).

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HISTORIC MAP – Courtesy of Colin Lewis



Notes: Drawn by French Cartographer Robert de Vaugundy
a Paris Geographer and Publisher by royal appointment.

The scale is in lines of one hour rather than distance.
Many French place names survive today in anglicised form.

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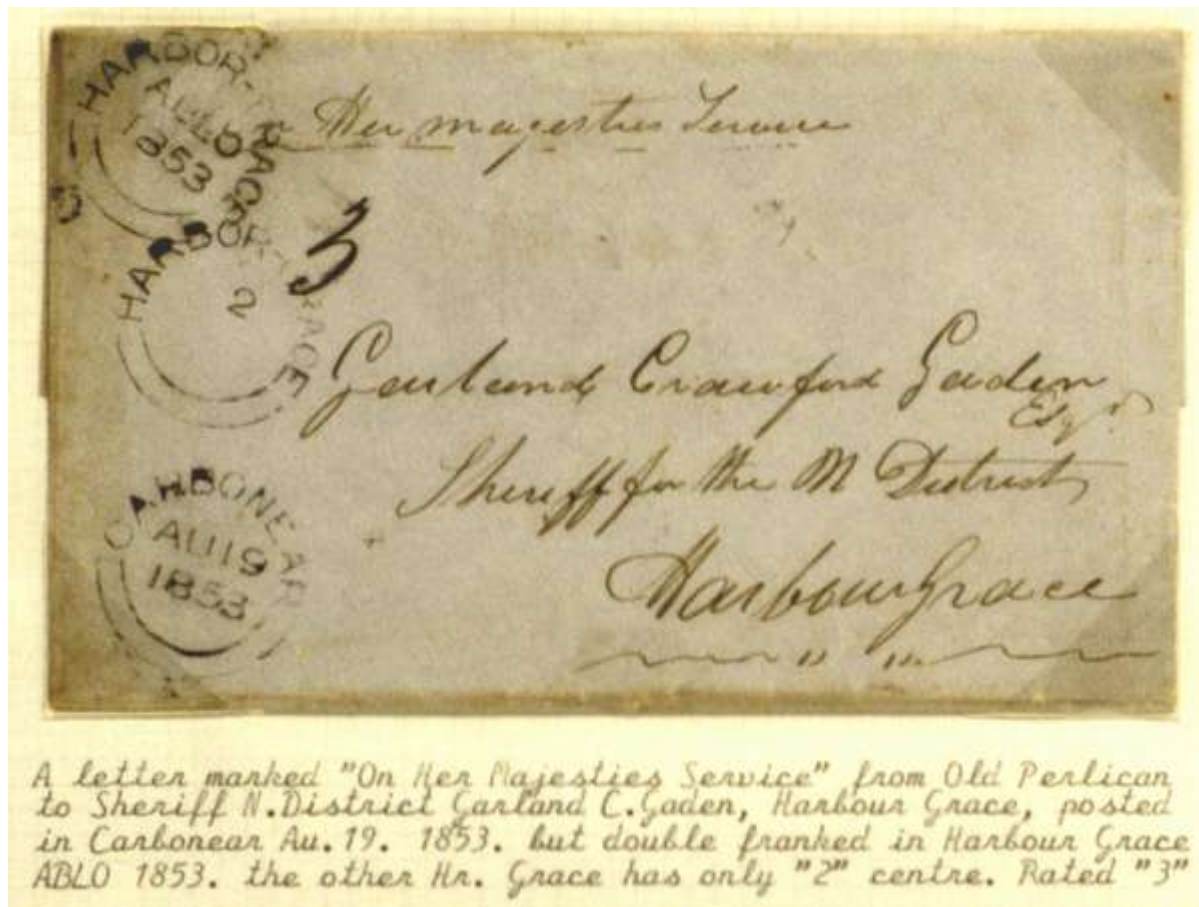
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ROBERT PRATT PROJECT – STATUS REPORT – C.A. Stillions

Demands on my time have kept me from completing the cataloging of the images. The slides have all been scanned and all the scanned files have been given new file names to correspond to the slide's filing number, so image file number 19-073 is the same filing number for the slide which in this example is the seventy-third in box nineteen. The catalogue is setup in an ACCESS data base with entries for file number, country, item, issue, description, image link, and, when available, Pratt's slide number. What remains to be completed is the description for each of the images and determining what queries are to be established. Beyond queries for Newfoundland, Pence, stampless covers, trade samples, First Cents, Trail of the Caribou, proofs, revenues, etc., I am open to suggestions from the membership. I will be at the convention at North Bay and will bring the images and the data base.

See you there. C.A. Stillions

Editor: C.A. has been invited to speak to the project at the Newfie Workshop at the convention. With his report he submitted jpg's of a number of items from Pratt's extensive collection. Three of them are shown here. Comments below the stampless covers are Pratt's.



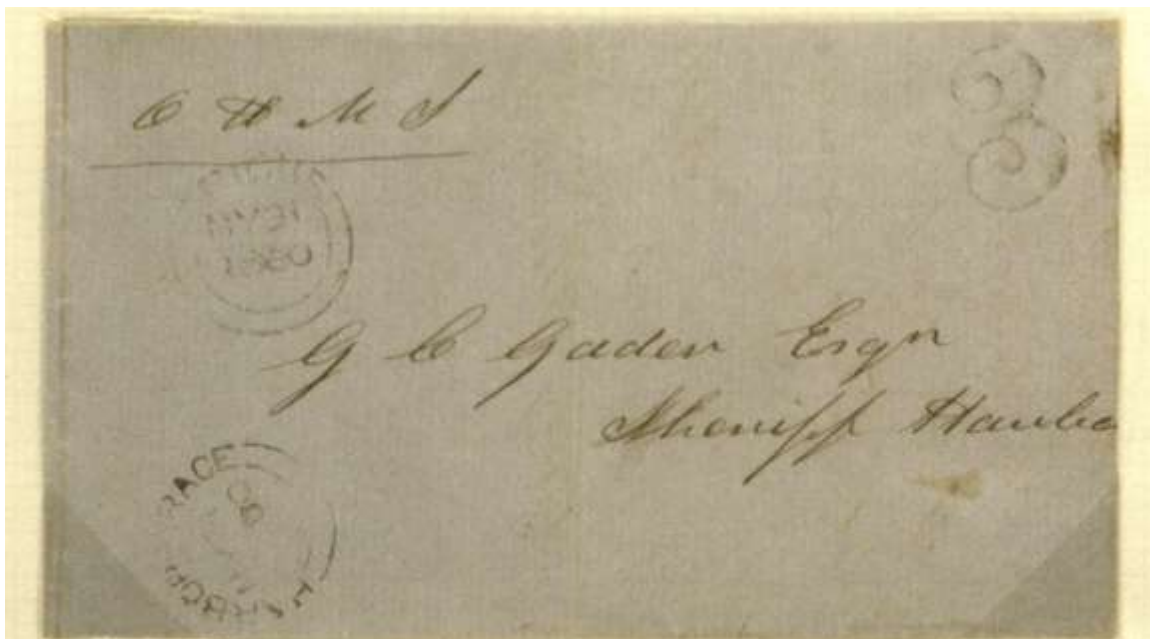
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PRATT COVERS (Concluded) – C.A. Stillions



*An Official letter marked O. H. M. S. from Brigus dated May 31. 1880
To G. C. Gaden, Sheriff Harbour Grace, franked May 31. and rated "3".*



Editor: This cover has no description below. It shows the 2¢ Prince Edward stamp from the 1897 Royal Family set overlapping the Canadian "Patriotic Queen Issue" (Webb #EN9) with a **AU29 00** marking from the **N.&W. RAILROAD**.