

THE NEWFOUNDLAND NEWSLETTER



OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 172

July - September 2018

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NSG NEWS

We are pleased to announce that Chris Hargreaves will give a presentation at our Study Group Meeting in Quebec City. The title of his talk is "*Air Mail Through Botwood, 1939 - 1945: History, Covers and Censorship*". The presentation will cover Botwood's role in the development of Trans-Atlantic Air Mail covers produced in 1939 and 1942, and questions about censorship. The meeting will take place on Saturday September 22 between the hours of 11:00 -12:00.

I have no articles in the bank for the October – December newsletter. Please send me your contributions whenever you can. By that time the BNAPS meeting in Quebec City will be history, and I am sure there will be good stories to share and new treasures to brag about in the next issue.

Remember that JC made the suggestion to dedicate the spring 2019 edition of the newsletter to the 100th anniversary of the "Challenge" and crossing of the North Atlantic by Alcock & Brown. We are therefore requesting submissions towards this special edition.

Have a great summer and great collecting!!

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UNIQUE PRINTING ERROR ON SCOTT 83 QUEEN ALEXANDRA

by Terry Rhoades

Perusing through a local stamp dealer's website, I found a unique captioning for a Pre-Printing crease on the Newfoundland Orange Three Cent Royal Family Queen Alexandra stamp. Intrigued I decided to purchase the stamp online and received it a few days later.

The stamp is used and it has what looks like a partial St. Johns East circular cancel with a "R 8 19" (Mar 8 1919). What is intriguing about this stamp is not its color or postal mark, but this diagonal whitish line that extends from the bottom left hand frame line to the middle right of the stamp exiting through the stamp perforations. Upon further examination reveals that it is definitely not a pre-printing crease but an example of a foreign object that was on the paper during the printing process. It would probably be safe to assume that it might have been a small piece of string. From the back side, there is a very minute impression showing, almost like an embossing.

What is also unique is that the stamp measure 19.3mm wide by 25.3mm high, which was issued in 1905. (per. The Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalog) Hence being post marked 13 years after initially being issued.



Scott 83 NSSC 74b

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FLOWERS COVE COVER; WHAT IS YOUR ANALYSIS OF THE RATE?

by John M. Walsh, FRPSC

This Flowers Cove cover is a most interesting to be rated cover. I am asking the collective group, what is the postal analysis of the rate on this cover?



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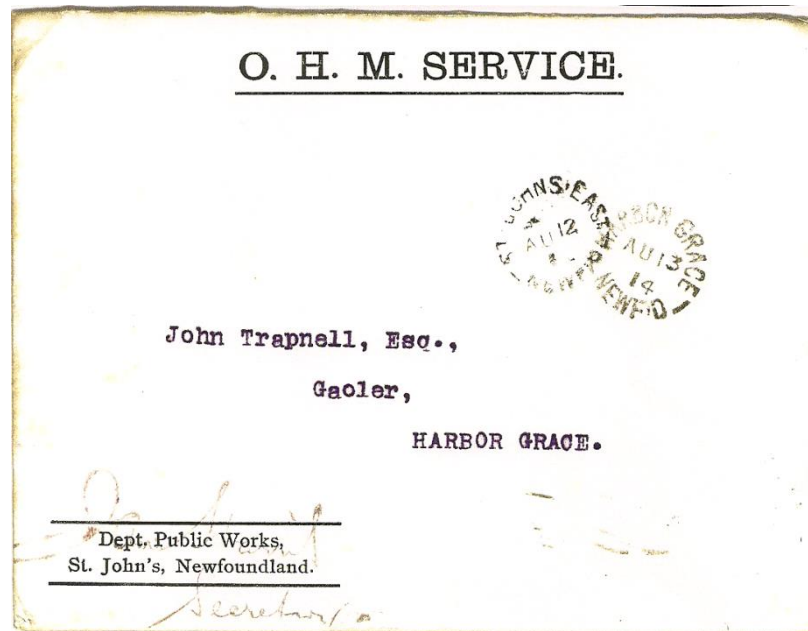
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THE LIGHTS WERE ON ... REALLY

by Dean Mario

While postal history collectors mostly treasure their covers, some of the most interesting aspects of postal history (if one is fortunate) is the presence of interesting enclosures.

Here is one from the Department of Public Works, St. John's, attractively embossed in blue, dated August 11, 1914 to John Trapnell (the well-known jailor at Harbor Grace). A large part of his official correspondence came onto the market years ago but I believe most of the accompanying enclosures have been lost.



It is interesting that official government red-tape and "the bureaucracy" never seems to change. One would have thought that there were more important things to be concerned with, given the fact that Newfoundland was officially at war just a week earlier (when Great Britain, along with the British Empire, declared war on Germany and her allies on August 4, 1914). I suppose that a light bill is a light bill and such trivial matters as those outlined in the letter, at least to a government department official, seemed more than mundane.

I wonder what Magistrate W.A. Oke, JP thought of the entire matter? Many of us know the old adage "the lights are on but nobody's home". In this case the lights at the Harbor Grace Court House, according to a "good working order" meter were, truly on!



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THE LIGHTS WERE ON ... REALLY

- conclusion

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">N^o <i>In replying the number & date of this letter should be quoted.</i></div> <div style="text-align: center;"></div> <div style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;"><i>Department of Public Works. St. John's, Newfoundland.</i></div>	<div style="text-align: right; margin-bottom: 20px;">H-P. 11th August, 1914</div> <p>Sir,</p> <p>I beg to inform you in reply to your letter enclosing a bill from the United Town Electrical Company for lighting Harbor Grace Court House which you refused to certify on the ground that no light was used in the Court House during the quarter specified; that the said Company have had their meter tested by the Reid Newfoundland Company and the same has been found correct and in good order. In view of this I would thank you to let me have a report upon the whole matter at your earliest convenience. I am sending copy of this letter to Magistrate Oke.</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">I am, Your obedient servant,</div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;"> Secretary.</div> <div style="text-align: left; margin-top: 20px;">John Trapnell, Esq., Harbor Grace.</div>
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MORE TESSIER "STAMP DEALING" CORRESPONDENCE 1899

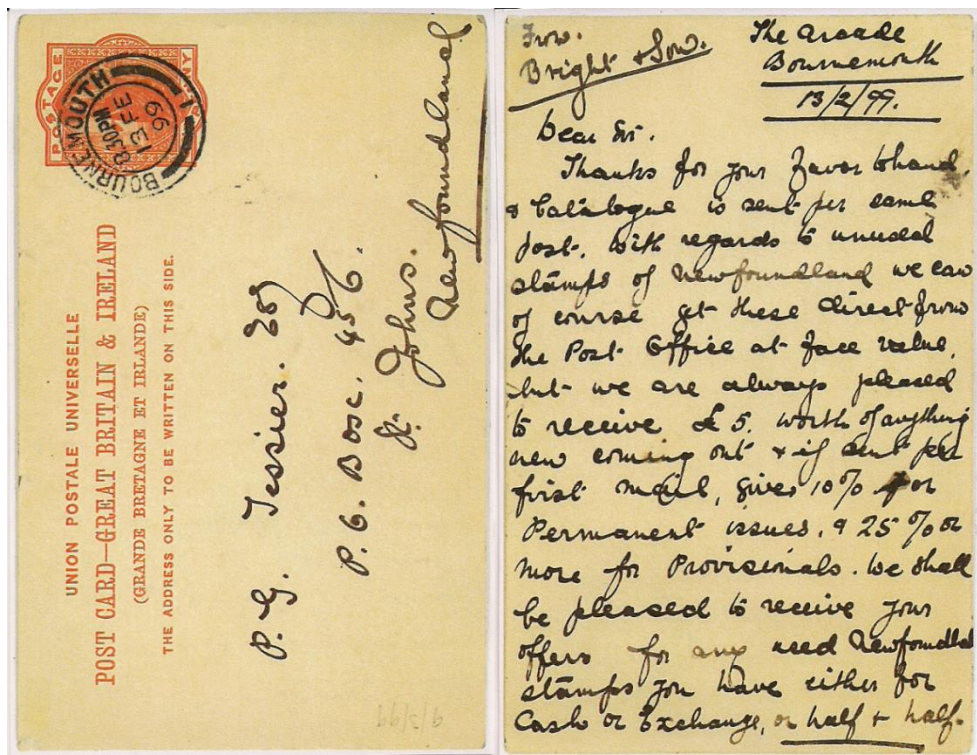
by Dean Mario

Past issues of the Newsletter have featured interesting articles on attorney, collector, and dealer P.G. Tessier (also well-known for his 1897 bisect covers). Here is an item which focuses on Tessier the stamp dealer (part-time?) from the well-known British stamp firm of Bright & Son, The Arcade, Bournemouth, dated February 13, 1899:

"Dear Sir,

Thanks for your favor to hand & catalogue is sent per same post. With regards to unused stamps of Newfoundland we can of course get these direct from the Post Office at face value, but we are always pleased to receive £5 worth of anything new coming out & if sent per first mail, give 10% for permanent issues & 25% or more for Provisionals. We shall be pleased to receive your offers for any used Newfoundland stamps you have either for cash or exchange, or half & half."

Representatives of the firm must have been recalling the great popularity of the 1897 provisionals, and given their premium offer for any subsequent provisionals which may result from the post office, perhaps wished to be among the first to offer them to their clients.



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NSSC 238 aj, CROSSHATCHED VARIETY NN171: AN OPINION

by John M. Walsh, FRPSC

In the NN171 issue is information entitled NSSC 238 aj, CROSSHATCHED VARIETY: A SECOND COMMENT which is provided by Anthony Thompson as given to him by RPSL Expert Committee. Their answer as provided seems to have caused Thompson to accept their conclusion. Amazing he is told “*it is an issued stamp printed in normal ink treated to create a blurred impression and is not an issued variety.*” This statement, to me, says that the printer Waterlow and Sons deliberately mistreated their printed stamp sheets to create an inferior product from an obviously correctly printed product. The committee says they have seen this from other countries. Fascinating! What a connivance the company pulled on its customers, the different ordering countries Government Post Office, selling them defective product. Most interesting. I will suggest here that all use a grain of salt in accepting this ‘opinion’. Why you may ask? Because, during this 2017 Christmas time an opinion was asked of the RPSL on a Newfoundland item that had been sent in to RPSL by a UK member of RPSL.

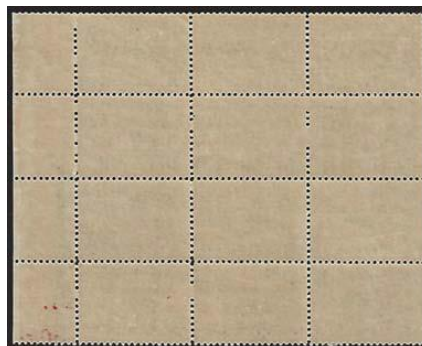
The item sent in was the answer to a question posed in an article that appeared from Walsh in Maple Leaves for Jan-Mar. 2018; *Newfoundland: unreported constant flaw found on 1880-98 BABNCo Montreal 5¢ Seal “falling blue ice cubes.”* The variety is shown; the front and back image is provided here.



NSSC 47 d; shows position 30



NSSC 47 d
compliments Sandy Parker



NSSC 47 d; yellow gum

This large piece was sent in to RPSL for its expert opinion and certificate as to its colour being pale, dark or bright blue. They were asked as well to view the gum and to comment on its colour, whether white or brown. The answer received by the owner makes no mention of the gum but does state the colour as being pale blue. So to be the pale blue variety which was the first printed issue, the gum has to be white.* This opinion on the 5¢ Seal is incorrect. I believe the Thompson item RPSL opinion is the same. Possibly the same committee viewed both.

(*Bertram W.H. Poole Booklet No. 37; pg. 15; page 14) says brighter colour with yellowish not white gum for 1896. To demonstrate an example is shown.



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THE OTHER NEWFOUNDLAND

by Bruce Robertson

This article briefly explores two different 'Newfoundlands': the former 'Britain's oldest colony' and now a province of Canada – here abbreviated to NFLD; and the U.S.A. township of Newfoundland in the state of New Jersey – here referred to as Newfoundland N.J.

There can be no doubt which is the older: European discovery of NFLD dates back to 1497. In the previous year an Italian navigator, John Cabot then living in England and engaged in the fish trade with Iceland, obtained from Henry VII a charter giving him and his sons authority to "sail to all parts, countries and seas of the East, the West and of the North, under our banner and ensign. and to set up our banner on any new-found-land". An entry in the Privy Purse of England records the discovery: "August 10, 1497: To hym that found the new isle, 10£".



Newfoundland N.J.'s settlement, in the hills some 46 miles north-west of New York, appears to be somewhat later, with Dutch missionaries recorded in the area in 1713. Iron works in the area were the main economic industry, but by the early 1800s the area was becoming a popular 'country' resort for discerning urbanites of New York, spurred-on by the arrival of the New Jersey Midland Railway in 1872. Hotels, guest houses and summer homes began to spring up, attracted by the 'alpine' climate, lakes, forests, and beauty spots.¹

Fig 1. Newfoundland's first commemorative issue, *The Cabot issue*, was released on June 24, 1897, the 400th anniversary of the Island's discovery by John Cabot 2¢. As no portrait of John Cabot existed, one of his son, Sebastian, was used. The portrait was done by Holbein for King Edward VI. [Internet]

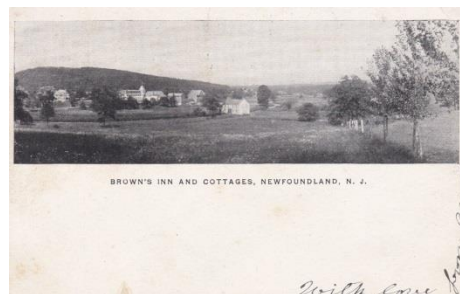


Fig 2. Newfoundland N.J.'s popular hotels included Browns Inn, Green Pond Hotel, Hotel Bon Air, and Idylease Inn. This postcard shows Brown's Inn and was posted May 27, 1907. [Author's collection]

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Tourism was a little later to arrive in NFLD, herald-in with the Publicity Issue of 1928 - a set of fifteen stamps which were engraved and printed in London. The lavish pictorial series was intended in part to publicize Newfoundland and thereby promote economic development in general and tourism in particular. Despite the island's rugged natural attractions, the tail-end of a world economic recession and the onslaught of the Second World War made progress as a tourist destination painfully slow.



Fig 3. From the NFLD 'Publicity' issue of 1928. "Newfoundland Hotel, St. John's." The Hotel depicted with Harbour and Southside Hills as a backdrop. Although a private enterprise, the Government guaranteed a bond issue of \$450,000.00 to facilitate construction of a modern hotel that would promote tourism. [internet]



Fig 4. A 1945 NFLD War-time Newfoundland Hotel corner cover with the slogan 'The World's New Playground' [eBay]

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I am sure I am not the only collector who enjoys the various by-ways that our marvellous philatelic hobby can take us down. It was the Newfoundland NJ cover below that first caught my eye and the idea for *The Other Newfoundland* came about. Miss Suzie Biglaow married Charles A. Monks in 1866 and they settled in Newfoundland NJ and went on to rear eight children. Monks turns out to be quite a character, signing up to fight in the American Civil War with the Seventh New Jersey Volunteers, seeing service in the battles of the Potomac, Bristow Station, Second Bull Run and Appomattox. After his return, and in between farming and his civil duties as coroner and constable of Passaic county he wandered the wild west plains of Nebraska. Dating the cover was an interesting challenge. The best I can do is to suggest it must have been between the Washington 3c. issue of 1861/2 and Suzie's marriage in 1866. In later years, Monks became engaged in Newfoundland NJ's hotel trade.



Fig 5. Cover addressed to Miss Suzie Bigalow at Newfoundland N.J. (date between 1861/1866)
[Author's Collection]

^I Newfoundland in Story and Picture: http://www.idylease.org/newfoundland-nj.html#Newfoundland_Story_Picture/page1

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**A REPLY TO NN171
A SCARCE PICTURE POST CARD: THE REST OF THE STORY**

by Carl Newswanger

The last issue of the Newfoundland Newsletter included my inquiries regarding a scarce post card that I had purchased on eBay. I assumed the origin of the card was Wilfred Grenfell since Grenfell sold a number of post cards in support of his mission. The card was signed with a monogram, "WG." There was mention of equipment for Labrador where Grenfell had already begun hospitals and nursing stations. The card was addressed to a "Reverend" in Albany, New York. Grenfell's mission was supported by churches and religious organizations both in North America and Europe. Albany is not far from an area of New York where Grenfell vacationed and where he eventually retired. To me Grenfell seemed to be the obvious solution.

How surprised I was when I found that all my assumptions were incorrect! Two much-appreciated email replies by Study Group members steered me in the right direction.

The first had to do with the origin of the picture post card. Study Group member Brian Bursey identified the postcard as being produced by McFarlane of Toronto. He states, "The design on the back distinguishes it as a McFarlane card. There were a series of these. While 'McFarlane', with 'Toronto' below, runs up the left side of the card design, this was often mostly or entirely trimmed off during the manufacturing process." He identifies the image as showing "the entrance to St. John's Harbour as viewed from the sea. Fort Amherst is at the extreme left...Cabot Tower is hidden by the iceberg."

The second email from Study Group member, Brian Stalker, unlocked the message and its sender. His search of the archive of Periodicals at Memorial University website (<http://collections.mun.ca>) led him to the conclusion that the post card was probably from Colonel Willard Glazier (another "WG") of Albany, New York, who was leading his second expedition to Labrador. It seems that this expedition focused on the Hamilton Inlet, mapping previously unrecorded islands, lakes and streams, and collecting mineralogy, ethnology and botany samples. It was reported that Glazier took some 1,000 photos along the way.

The St. John's Evening Telegram reports that Glazier and the 6 members that made up his expedition were delayed in St. John's several days until August 6 because in mid-July the ship they had chartered for their expedition, the SS Virginia Lake was diverted to St. Pierre to assist with the rescue and salvage of SS Monterey.

Even though Colonel Glazier assured all that the purpose behind his work was only for science and understanding, there were some who doubted, thinking that those who supported his work were interested in exploiting the area. Several letters to the Evening Telegram including a letter in the Oct 22 edition refute "Adverse Criticism" of the expedition.

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WATERMARKS ON NEWFOUNDLAND'S 10c POSTAGE DUE

by Anthony Thompson

John Dickinson & Co. Ltd (JD) was deeply involved in the production of Newfoundland stamps, mainly acting as the agent and contractor for Perkins Bacon Ltd (PB) (and later WW Sprague & Co. from 1936) producing stamps by intaglio recess printing at their Southwark Bridge Road location during 1929-1941 (Stillions, 1991). Waterlow & Sons Ltd took over the printing from 1941 (Pratt, 1965) presumably still under contract with JD. The paper was watermarked with the Coat of Arms and supplied by JD at their Croxley Mill near Watford, England (Calder, 1949; Easton, 1990). PB used a 10×10 pane watermark layout that had various cutting guidelines between the panes, whereas Waterlow converted this to a continuous format that had no cutting guidelines (Thompson, 2011, 2014).

Newfoundland issued a postage due set on 1 May 1939 using a completely uncharacteristic lithograph method and printed by JD directly on un-watermarked paper, and not through a printing company as was normal (Figure 1). These were also reprinted by JD between 1946-1949 on unwatermarked paper, except for the high value 10c (SG D6a, Sc. J7) that was on printed on paper with the earlier Perkins Bacon 10 × 10 pane layout (Figure 2), rather than the modified continuous watermark layout used by Waterlow from 1942. It is likely that this represented the last chance for JD of utilizing excess watermarked stamp paper prior to Newfoundland joining the Dominion of Canada on 31 March 1949.

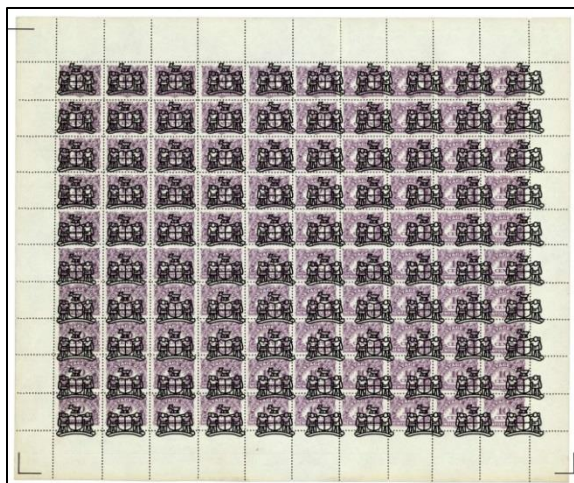


Figure 2



POSTAGE DUE STAMPS.	
	
106	D 1
(Litho. John Dickinson & Co., Ltd.)	
1939 (1 MAY)-49. P 10.	
D1 D1 r c. green	.. 0 4 0 4
a. Perf. 11 ('49)	.. 10 0
D2 " 2 c. vermilion	.. 2 0 2 6
a. Perf. 11 x 9 ('46)	.. 4 0 4 6
D3 " 3 c. ultramarine	.. 0 8 0 8
a. Perf. 11 x 9 ('49)	.. 10 0
D4 " 4 c. orange	.. 0 8 0 9
a. Perf. 11 x 9 ('49)	.. 5 0 5 0
D5 " 5 c. brown	.. 0 9 0 9
D6 " 10 c. violet	.. 2 0 3 0
a. Perf. 11 (W 106) ('49)	.. 10 0

Figure 1

Interestingly, the sheet size of the issued 10c postage due stamps (281 × 335 mm) was only slightly smaller than the sheet size between the watermarked cutting guidelines (287 × 337 mm). This was not the case for the other issued watermarked sheets of stamps (Thompson, 2011). The watermark cutting guidelines can often be seen at the corners, and these are the only sheets produced that can show all the guidelines in one

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WATERMARKS ON NEWFOUNDLAND'S LAST STAMP

conclusion

piece. A sheet of the 10c 1949 issue does not show the cutting guidelines in their entirety, but it is very close, indicating limited further trimming may have occurred. The guidelines at the four corners are as follows: Two 13 mm lines at right angles (part of a Maltese Cross); part of a 20 mm line, and one corner with no guideline (Figure 2).

Complete images of these individual watermarked guidelines can occasionally be seen on other issues (Figures 3 and 4).



Figure 3



Figure 4

An additional cutting guideline exists and is known as the key watermark that occurs in pairs though often trimmed (Figure 5; Stillions, 1991). There are only a few examples of the complete Maltese Cross known and these are only on the 15c 1933 airmail stamp which commands a considerable price mark-up (Figure 3). The 20 mm line probably has no price mark-up. Stamps showing the keys watermark in the selvage also seem to be very rare, and good examples would surely be expensive. These watermarks can usually be seen in catalogues and scans, and so the diligent collector may pick them up at no extra cost!

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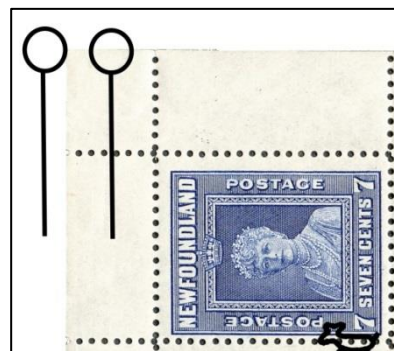


Figure 5

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NEWFOUNDLAND LATHEWORK

by Anthony Thompson

Newfoundland has issued several stamps with lathework along one of the sheet margins, but this is far from the norm. Examples are the lithographed printed 1c by Whitehead Morris (1910, Sc 87; Fig. 1), the recess printed 1c (1932, Sc 184; Fig. 2) and 5c (1932, Sc 191; Fig. 3) by Perkins Bacon, and the recess printed 1c proof by Waterlow (1942; Sc 253P; Fig. 4). The 1c stamp by Perkins Bacon shows only a narrow part of the original lathework, the rest has either been burnished off or not inked, but the full lathework was present on an early proof printing (Fig 5 *upper*). The Waterlow proof shows a tiny part of the lathework as an offset and is the only Newfoundland example I have seen with lathework by Waterlow. However, Waterlow were well known users of lathework and the full beautiful scroll pattern is shown on a proof of the 10c Ruanda-Urundi stamp (1942, SG121, Fig. 5 *lower*). There are a few other examples from Newfoundland as well. The 5c stamp is seen here with an improvised lathework pattern scratched on to the plate presumably before it was hardened (Fig. 3). In many instances the lathework is far from the stamps and removed during sheet trimming.

But what was the function(s) of the lathework? Williams & Williams (1960, a) and Muller (1982, b-e) suggested the following possibilities:

- security feature
- obtaining a uniform wipe of the plate after inking
- early detection of plate wear
- lathework was "hold down strips" preventing the paper from lifting from the plate before the first row of stamps was printed
- served no useful purpose at all.

I have yet to see any definitive answers in the more recent literature, but surely someone has the answer by now?



Figure 1: Courtesy of John Jamieson, Saskatoon Stamp Centre

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IN-COMING COVERS TO REV E.A. BUTLER

by Bruce Robertson

Given the thousands of letters sent out by Reverend Butler, (the eponymous stamp dealer who conducted a thriving business from the rectory on Sandy Point, St Georges on the west coast of Newfoundland), there can be very few NFLD collectors who don't have one or two of Reverend Butler's covers in their collection.

Reverend Butler received a continuous stream of offers to either buy stocks of other countries' stamp collections, or to accept stamps for payment in lieu of cash. In all cases, Butler refused these offers, stating politely but firmly that he dealt only in NFLD stamps and covers.

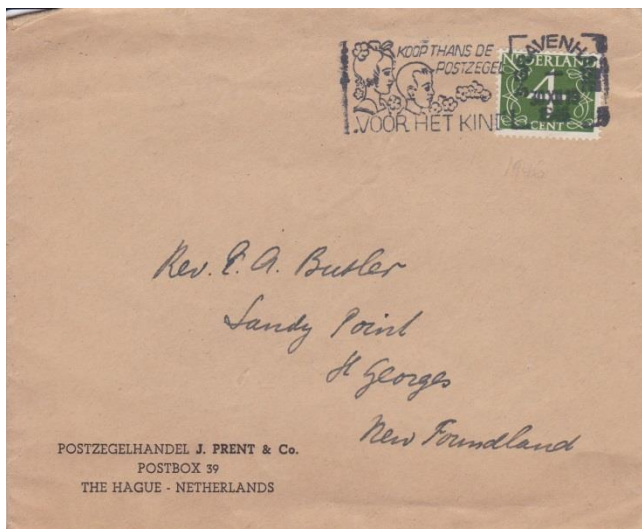
Of course, the curious amongst us wondered what happened to Butler's huge amount of 'incoming' mail from customers. Surely, they were not indiscriminately thrown away? Butler would surely have realized their potential value - either disposing of them to other dealers, or perhaps distributing them to parishioners of church charities.

I don't know the answer, but over the years I have accumulated a couple of hundred 'in coming' covers. Here are five examples from the 1940s – collectors in RPO material might be particularly interested in the Censored Registered cover from New Zealand.



1946. U.S.A. 1st Day Cachet Cover '100 years of Statehood, Iowa. Stuck-on photographic image of the State Capitol building, Des Moines. A pair of 3¢ Iowa Centennial tied with an Iowa City FDC cancel. Aug. 3. 1946.

Netherlands: Bottom Corner Cover from Postzegelhandel J Prent & Co (stamp dealers) of the Hague, Netherlands. Pictorial cancel Gravenhag on 4¢ green.



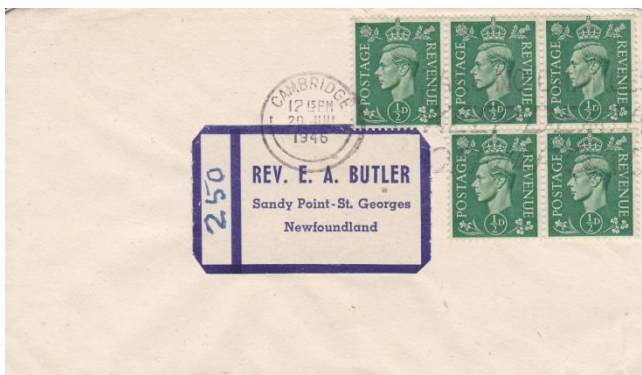
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- conclusion



1946. (Great Britain) Butler's 'stubby' address label with chamfered corners. Five KGVI 1/2d with Cambridge 20 June 1946, slogan cancel 'Take nothing – keep death off the roads'.

1947. Airmail cover (Rev Frank T Hallett) from Provident RI, USA. 1¢ stationery uprated 3¢ Roosevelt and 6¢ Edison and sticker 'Please cancel lightly, philatelic mail'.



1943. New Zealand. Registered Wanganui. Opened by Censor. Reverse: C. & V. R.P.O. B.C. cds, Tor. & Ft. Wm. R.P.O. No.4 cds, Levis & Camp'b'ton Exp. R.P.O. cds and Halifax & Camp. R.P.O. cds.