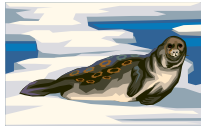


THE NEWFOUNDLAND NEWSLETTER



OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 174

January - March 2019

CONTENTS

Page 1-4	Notations On The Waterlow	Malcolm Back
	Archival Sheets of Unitrade 259	
Page 5-6	The 5¢ "Caribou"	Jean-Claude Vasseur
	1 st Resources Issue (Again)	FRPSL, AEP
Page 7-15	The Hidden Block Of The Inverted	Jean-Claude Vasseur,
	Halifax	FRPSL, AEP
Page 16	Financial Statement, Dec 31, 2018	Martin Goebel



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Welcome to Robert Humphries, a new member of the Newfoundland Study Group.

NOTATIONS ON THE WATERLOW ARCHIVAL SHEETS OF UNITRADE 259

- by Malcolm Back

When I attended a recent stamp show, I visited the booth of Bill Coates, Philatelist, Thorold, Ontario. He showed me some of the Waterlow Archival sheets of Unitrade #259. Anthony Thompson covered some of the notations found on these sheets in NN173. The reference is "The Last Stamps of Newfoundland" by John Ayshford, edited by Mike Brachi.

Bill kindly agreed to allow me to publish scans of these examples. All items shown were in his stock at the time of publication.

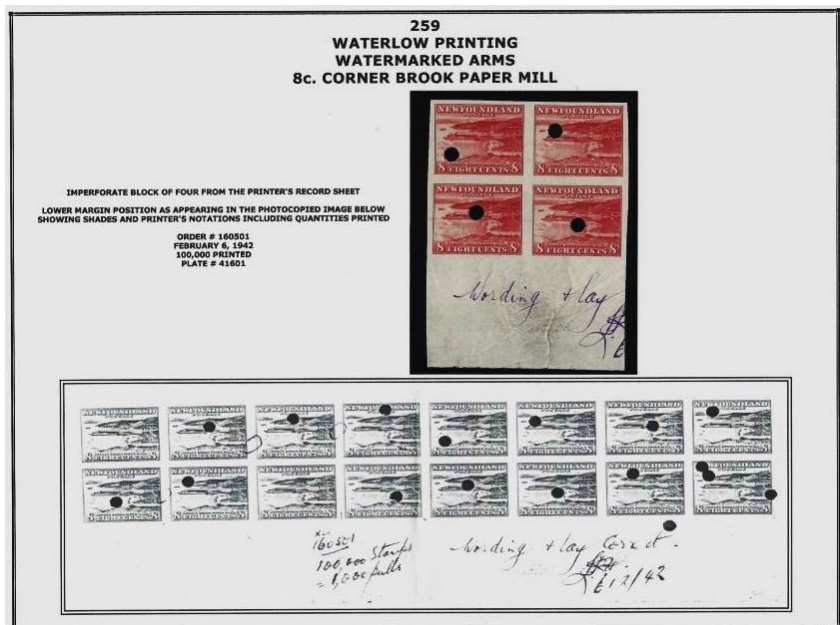


Figure 1: Order #160501, Plate 41601, February 6, 1942, 100,000 printed

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

Number 174

January - March 2019

NOTATIONS ON THE WATERLOW ARCHIVAL SHEETS OF UNITRADE 259

- continued

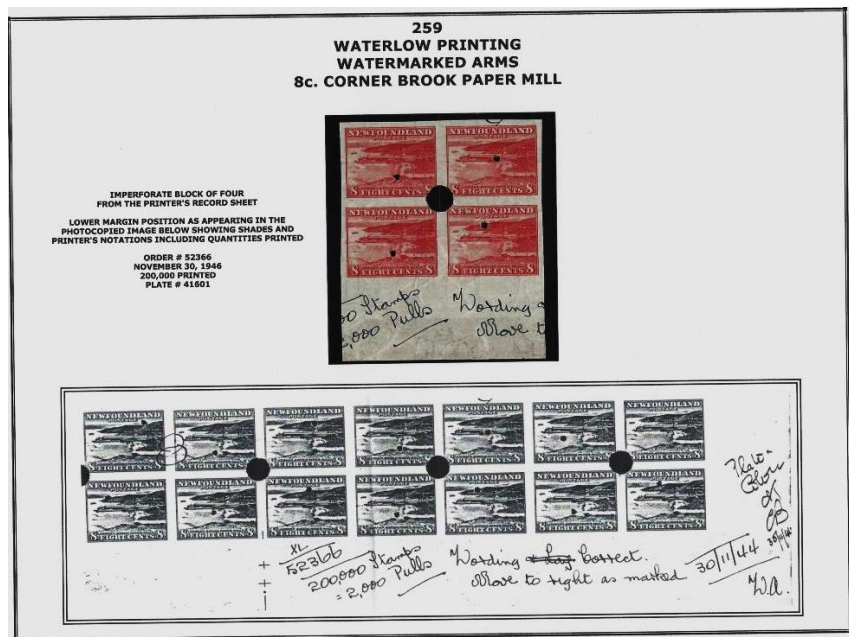


Figure 4: Order #52366, Plate 41601, November 30, 1944, 200,000 printed

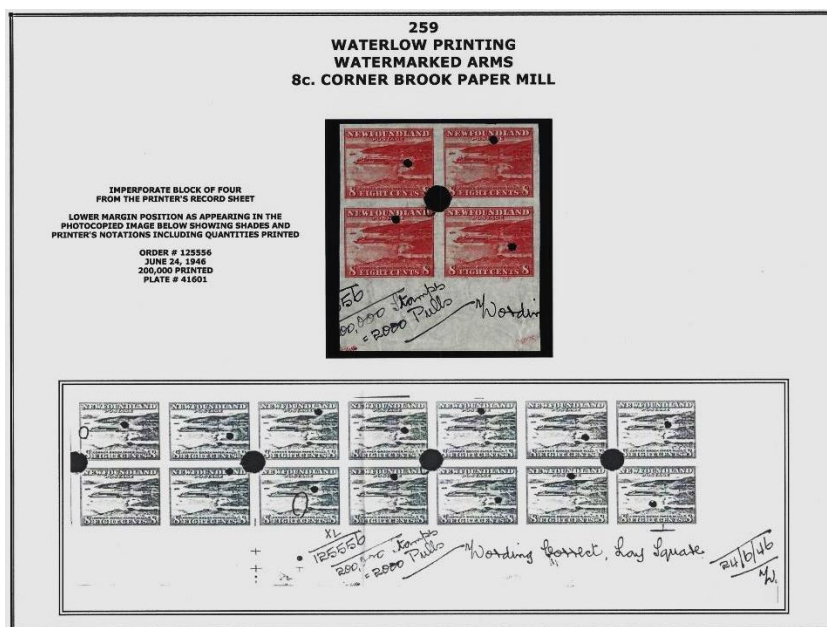


Figure 5: Order #125556, Plate 41601, June 24, 1946, 200,000 printed

THE NEWFOUNDLAND NEWSLETTER OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 174

January - March 2019

NOTATIONS ON THE WATERLOW ARCHIVAL SHEETS OF UNITRADE 259

- continued

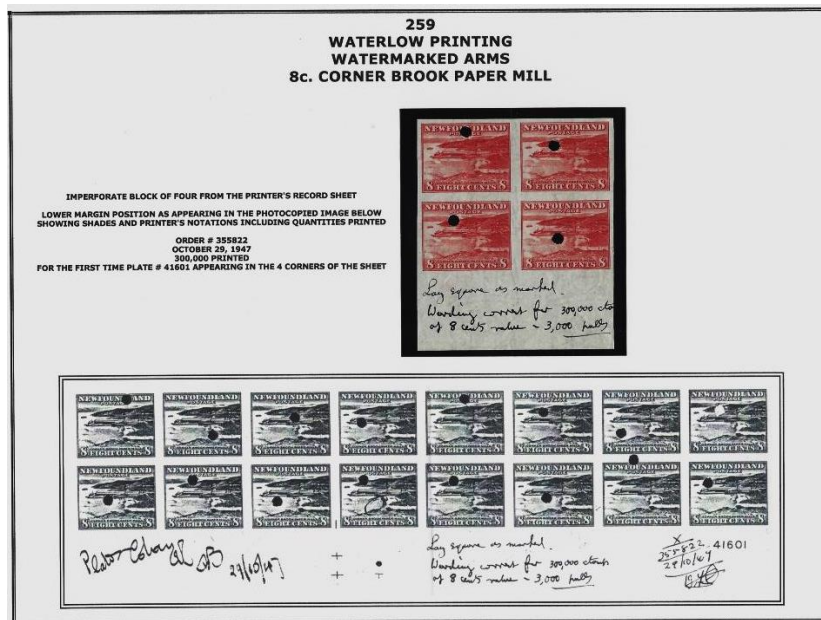


Figure 6: Order #355822, Plate 41601, June 24, 1946, 300,000 printed
Note that the plate number now appears in the 4 corners of the sheet. (see lower right corner)

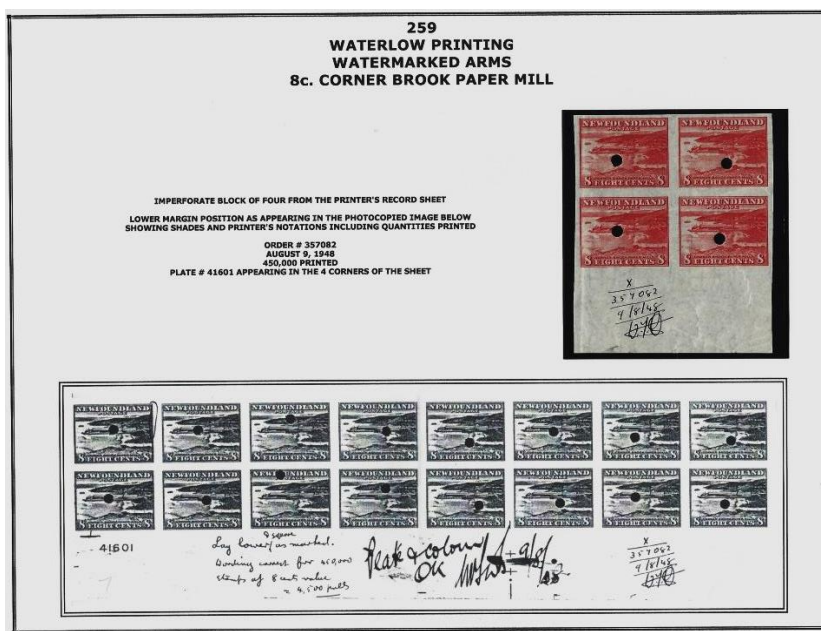


Figure 7: Order #357082, Plate 41601, August 9, 1948, 450,000 printed
Note that the plate number now appears in the 4 corners of the sheet. (see lower left corner)

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

Number 174

January - March 2019

THE 5¢ “CARIBOU” 1ST RESOURCES ISSUE (AGAIN)

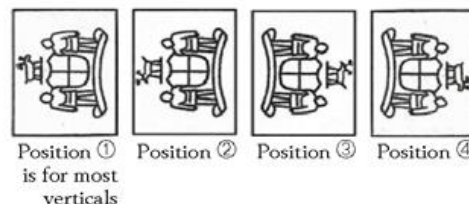
by Jean-Claude Vasseur, FRPSL, AEP

Following the last issue of the Newfoundland Newsletter showing varieties of the 5¢ Resources Issue, here we add some interesting examples, mainly proofs from Perkins & Bacon.

The (Die II) stamp is known with normal watermark - top at left from gum side - or inverted. Not mentioned in NSSC, the inverted variety does also exist in imperforate proof examples:



This marginal pair of Die II shows watermark turned to the right, see bottom of the scroll (position of the Caribou difficult to determine as always)



Note: Arrows point to the base of the watermarks. The colour was changed and contrast adjusted to enhance the watermark as much as possible. -Editor



The pair, above at right is very interesting as indicated in the book of the Chairman as “Very first stage. Plate 4”. Despite the indication of a necessary repair at right, the crisp printing shows that the top shading goes down to the level of the antler of the caribou and the left tree, and at bottom the neat design of the small trees between the legs of the caribou.

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

Number 174

January - March 2019

THE 5¢ “CARIBOU” 1ST RESOURCES ISSUE (AGAIN)

conclusion

Same can be found on the known plate proof on unusual thin paper noted ‘Plate Ptrs 7 MAR 1939’ (NSSC 182j). This should be interpreted that the pull was for the printers.

This proof is from plate #2 and at top right of the sheet, the following comment was noted :” 6800 Hand Plate Order No. DB291 (signed) A.S.C.”



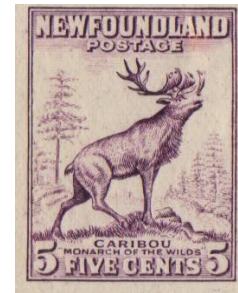
Below proofs – singles from existing pairs – of plate #4, mentioned above, at various dates up to final pull:



”Plate #4 Sept 23rd 1938”



No date “Plate #4”



” Last Impression
5,500 pulls 15/11/38”

While example at left is very close to the above example “Very first stage”, the second example start to show some weakness in the top shading at right along the frame. The interesting example is “Last impression - about three months only after example at left. Here, not only the shading has almost completely disappeared, but design is also missing between the legs of the caribou as well as the trees at right. For reference, this example is on bookend paper.

To finish, here at right, same final bookend proof for the plate #5.

The accompanying note mentions: “Along left hand side was written: 8,000 (sheets) 12/1/40 (signed) A.S.C.”

For comparison with the above, it must be mentioned that “pull” was including two sheets. Meanwhile this plate looks to do not have suffered same damaged than the previous one.



THE NEWFOUNDLAND NEWSLETTER OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 174

January - March 2019

THE HIDDEN BLOCK OF THE INVERTED HALIFAX

by Jean-Claude Vasseur, FRPSL, AEP

As described by Cyril H. C. Harmer in his authoritative book “Newfoundland Air Mail”, all catalogues of the world mention the existence of four blocks of 25 of the ‘Halifax’ overprinted stamp with the so-called “inverted overprint “, actually inverted-reversed.

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS ON THE ‘HALIFAX’ STAMPS

In the Daily News of St John’s, November 15th 1921, the Minister of Post and Telegraphs, W. W. Halfyard announced an airmail to Halifax to start from Botwood. Mail, a maximum of 5,000 letters, had to be deposited at the St John’s G.P.O. before November 27th, the date at which it should be sent by rail from St John’s to Botwood.

For this purpose, the government had signed a contract with Major F. Sydney Cotton, who had arrived in Newfoundland a year before. Cotton was expected to receive \$1,000 for the service.

In anticipation of the potential mail, the Post Office overprinted 5,000 stamps on the premises of the “Royal Gazette”. The stamps should be affixed to covers by postal clerks on presentation of the mail. Earliest known cancellation in St. John’s was November 16th. A cover cancelled November 15th in Harbour Grace is known.

The overprinted stamp was from a stock of 35¢ red stamp of the ‘400th Anniversary of Discovery of Newfoundland and 60th year Queen Victoria reign” issued in 1897. The stamp shows an iceberg described as “COAST SCENERY - AN ICEBERG OFF ST. JOHN’S”. Sheets of 100 of the 35¢ were severed in blocks of 25 and margins removed to fit the press. A printing plate of the overprint was linotyped ... leaving numerous varieties. (figs.1&2)

**AIR MAIL
to Halifax, N.S.
1921.**

**Fig. 1: Standard
overprint**



**Fig. 2: Full sheet of the “Halifax”
(author’s collection)**

THE NEWFOUNDLAND NEWSLETTER OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 174

January - March 2019

THE HIDDEN BLOCK OF THE INVERTED HALIFAX

- continued

The overprint comes as follows, as described by Harmer:

Wide spacing (2½mm) between AIR and MAIL:

- (a) No stop after "1921" (10)
- (b) No stop after "1921" and "1921" to right (1)
- (c) Stop after "1921" (7)

Narrow spacing (1½mm) between AIR and MAIL

- (d) No stop after "1921" (2)
- (e) No stop after "1921" and "1921" to right (1)
- (f) Stop after "1921" (4)

a	c	a	b	e
f	c	f	a	c
a	c	a	a	d
a	f	c	f	c
a	c	a	a	d

Fig. 3: Position of standard varieties

It is noticeable that only 11 stamps out of 25 are in conformity with the model (fig. 1). Accordingly, some catalogues are showing the 'Wide space' without stop (type a) as the standard stamp, while it is type (c) (Unitrade,...). (fig. 3)

There is a further minor fact which must be pointed out, as it will prove to be of importance here below:

The vertical position of the overprint on the upper row is different from the four others. On the block (fig.2), of which the NE corner is shown at right, the base of "1921" in top row is about 1.2mm lower than on lower rows. This is constant on all blocks seen. (fig. 4)

Obviously, the exact vertical (and horizontal) positions vary from one block to the other, but this difference could be useful when considering different severed stamps of one same block.

NOTE: It is a constant on Newfoundland overprinted or surcharged stamps that position of the overprint varies from one block to another. Finding stamps with overprint/surcharge misplaced (too high, too low, at right or at left) is common. This is related to the somewhat artisanal method of printing of such overprints/surcharges.



Fig. 4: Overprints alignment

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

Number 174

January - March 2019

THE HIDDEN BLOCK OF THE INVERTED HALIFAX

- continued

Slightly slanted overprints exist on the Halifax. One block of 25 went to the public with a strongly slanted overprint, one large piece remaining: (fig. 5)



Fig. 5: Large block of 15 of the only known slanted overprint block (Harmers, 2003)

Last thing, due to the large demand of (25,000) stamps by dealers around the world, all remainders (8,000 stamps) of the 35¢ were overprinted on November 28th. It is noticeable that this second printing was of lesser quality being somewhat greyish; inking was poor and patches without ink can be seen in the lettering giving overall the greyish aspect.

II. - GENERAL CONSIDERATION ON INVERTED HALIFAX

The overprint comes on each block with a different pattern, an easy way to identify the blocks following the description by Cyril C. H. Harmer: (fig. 6)



Type 1: Well centred



Type 2: Horizontally to right



**Type 3: Very low
Perf cutting '1921'**



Type 4: Low

Fig. 6 : The four patterns of Halifax
Inverted Overprints
(author's collection)

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

Number 174

January - March 2019

THE HIDDEN BLOCK OF THE INVERTED HALIFAX

- continued

Note: On Type 2, the overprint mentioned “to right” refers to the stamp in upright position.

As shown, the reader will notice that the two upper stamps are shown inverted with overprint upright, while the lower stamps show the stamp upright and the overprint inverted. This is in conformity with the following opinion:

The author believes that the upper stamps were overprinted with stamps upside down - the overprint still showing in centre of stamps by symmetry - while the two lower blocks were overprinted after the printing plate having been mounted upside down. The die being potentially not symmetrical caused the displacement of the overprint. Dismounting/mounting of the plate may have been necessary for the purpose of cleaning the plate.

The reasons why such varieties were released to the public is of no importance. They may well have been circulated through Post Office circuit of distribution - especially to the dealers - or sold by the printers.

At that time, in Newfoundland, searching for inappropriate printings was not an objective. This is only after 1932 - and the approximately 10 blocks of Inverted DO-X Surcharges - that the Post Office decided to search for errors of the Balbo printing ... which did not eliminate all the erroneous stamps!

Also, it has been discussed if such varieties were from the first or second printing. Type 2, 3 & 4, all show full black colour and are from the first printing. Type 1 shown here is obviously from the second printing, with white dots about everywhere. (fig. 7)



Fig. 7: Stamp from block #1 with white patches in the overprint

THE NEWFOUNDLAND NEWSLETTER OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 174

January - March 2019

THE HIDDEN BLOCK OF THE INVERTED HALIFAX

- continued

Also it is necessary to note that scheme of the varieties of the overprint is changed. A full block of stamps with inverted surcharges is now showing as follows (original stamp being upright and overprints inverted): (fig. 8). Meanwhile, this scheme is only applicable to blocks #1 & #2 as, on the two later blocks #3 & #4, stamps are mostly showing parts of two vertically adjacent overprints.

Wide spacing (2½mm) between AIR and MAIL:

- (a) No stop after "1921" (10)
- (b) No stop after "1921" and "1921" to right (1)
- (c) Stop after "1921" (7)

Narrow spacing (1½mm) between AIR and MAIL:

- (d) No stop after "1921" (2)
- (e) No stop after "1921" and "1921" to right (1)
- (f) Stop after "1921" (4)

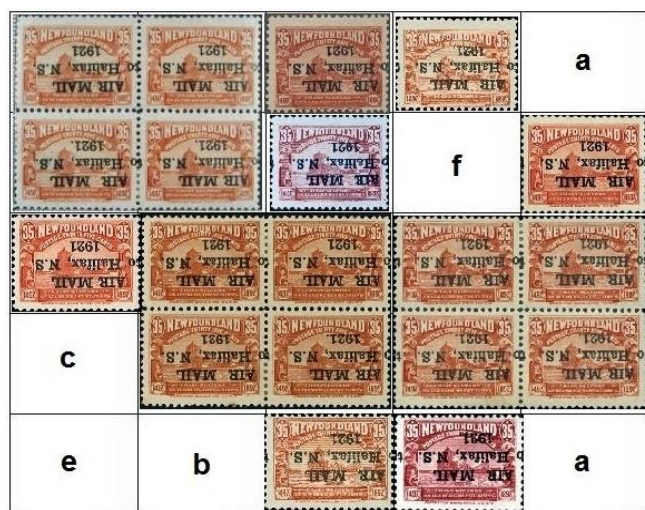
d	a	a	c	a
c	f	c	f	a
d	a	a	c	a
c	a	f	c	f
e	b	a	c	a

Fig. 8: Distribution of the inverted overprints

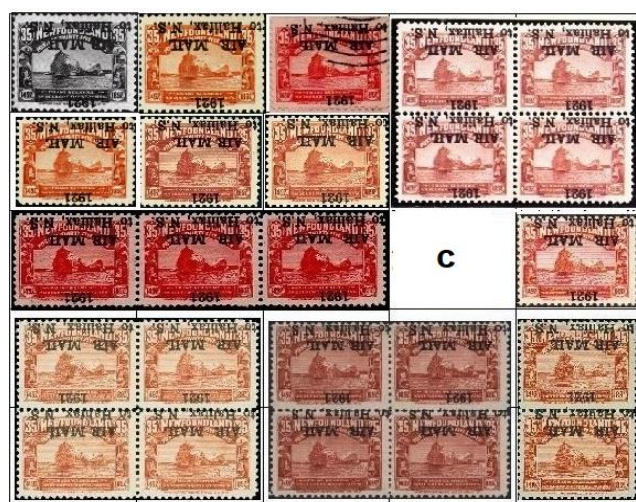
III. PLATING THE BLOCKS WITH INVERTED SURCHARGE

For years, I have collected pictures/scans of the inverted Halifax to count the still existent material and eventually to reconstruct blocks. I am now facing 82 stamps which is an enormous quantity while I believe that some stamps remain hidden ... as the last I have seen, hidden for 40 years.

III. A RECONSTRUCTION: Block Types #2 and #4 Blocks #2 and #4 were easy to reconstruct. Varieties and matching perforations made it so. (Figure 9 & 10 below)



Type #2



Type #4

Figs. 9 & 10

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

Number 174

January - March 2019

THE HIDDEN BLOCK OF THE INVERTED HALIFAX

- continued

19 stamps known on #2 and something interesting on the first upper: the four known stamps show a partial offset on reverse. This block has been the case of a discussion with authors of the Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue.

In the upper row of the above shown block, stamps 1, 2, 3 & 4 are known to show “1921” offset on reverse. (fig. 11) NSSC author believes that the origin of “mirror image” must have been another block with inverted surcharge, suggesting the existence of another block with the #2 pattern. This is one interpretation of the way the offset may be created on the gum side in such circumstances. The offset could even have been created by a blank piece of paper receiving the surcharge and remaining in the press, no matter what is printed on it.



Fig. 11: Block type #2, stamps 3 & 4

Partial offset is caused by the previous printing piece (whatever it is) remaining in the press and folded, the folded part hiding most of the previous printing leaving only the lower part exposed with ink which is transferred to the next piece on gum side.

III B BLOCK #3.

Block #3 is not shown here. I know only 14 examples (1 block of four, 1 pair and 8 singles) and reconstruction would be difficult.

III C BLOCK #1

This block has been puzzling me for a long time, despite the presence of a large quantity of material but only one pair to start. Unable to put aside two stamps with matching perforations and varieties, I quit!

When I discovered the property of the first line of the overprint (fig. 4), I started to catch a glimpse of something.

A) First Row of the surcharge (stamps position 21 to 25)

Below stamps type #1 showing “1921” very low - touching
‘NEWFOUNDLAND’ as known August 2018:



Stamp 1 block#1



Stamp 2 block#1



Stamp 3 block#1

Fig. 12: First row type 1. Stamps known before October 2018

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

Number 174

January - March 2019

THE HIDDEN BLOCK OF THE INVERTED HALIFAX

- continued

With reference to Fig. 8, stamps 1 & 2 (large space/no dot) were type (a) and consequently presumed in position 23 and 25 of the block.

Stamp 3 was interesting as it's showing large space and 1921 to right: POSITION 22. Great. The stamp was sold by Siegel a long time ago and more recently (2016) obtained by Saskatoon Stamp Centre.

Recently, Eastern Auctions presented the 'Highlands Collection' at auction. The collection includes several Halifax Inverted stamps, a pair and a single stamp showing no space between 1921 and NEWFOUNDLAND. (fig. 13)



Stamp 4 block#1



Stamps 5 & 6 block#1

Fig. 13: First row type 1. Stamps shown in the Highlands Collection, Lots 198 & 197

Stamp 4 is another stamp type (a), WHILE THE PAIR IS SHOWING STAMP POSITION 22 (large space and 1921 to right), here at left - stamp 5.

WE ARE NOW FACING 6 STAMPS(!) SHOWING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UPPER ROW OF THE OVERPRINT AND FURTHERMORE **TWO INDUBITABLY IDENTICAL STAMPS POSITION 22.**

CONCLUSION: THERE ARE (AT LEAST) TWO BLOCKS WITH INVERTED OVERPRINT SHOWING THE OVERPRINT VERTICALLY AND HORIZONTALLY CENTRED (TYPICALLY TYPE #1)

B) OTHER STAMPS WITH #1 PATTERN

IMPORTANT NOTE: All of the following stamps show a significant space between "1921" and "NEWFOUNDLAND"

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

Number 174

January - March 2019

THE HIDDEN BLOCK OF THE INVERTED HALIFAX

continued

B1) Large space no dot (a)

In addition to the 4 stamps (#1, #2, #4 and #6) above (figs 12 & 13):



Fig. 14: Block Type 1 variety (a)

Total 11 stamps while only 10 such stamps are found in a block of 25

B2) Large space no dot and “1921 to right (b)

We have above seen two stamps (#3 & #5) (figs 12 & 13)

B3) Large space with dot after 1921 (c)



Fig. 15: Block type 1. Variety (c)

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

Number 174

January - March 2019

THE HIDDEN BLOCK OF THE INVERTED HALIFAX

- conclusion

9 STAMPS WHILE ONLY 7 SUCH STAMPS IN A BLOCK OF 25.

Also, it seems pertinent to say that no block could have together stamps with perforations wide at left (stamps 14, 16 & 18) and wide at right (stamps 15, 19 & 20).

B4) Short space no dot (d)

One only example



Stamp 23 block#1

B6) Short space with dot after 1921 (f)



Stamp 24 block#1



Stamp 25 block#1

IV. CONCLUSION

The census of Type 1 variety of the “Inverted Halifax” shows:

- Overall 25 stamps while variety (e) is missing
- 6 stamps known pertaining to the first row including 4 stamps type (a) while only 2 on this row
- Variety (a) “Large space no dot” showing 11 examples while only 10 exist on a block;
- Variety (c) “Large space with dot”, showing 9 examples while only 7 exist on the block;
- And above all: Two examples of the unique variety (b) “Large space no dot and “1921” to right

**THEREFORE, THERE MUST HAVE BEEN TWO BLOCKS OF THE HALIFAX TYPE 1.
A TOTAL OF 125 “HALIFAX INVERTED” STAMPS ARE NOW KNOWN TO HAVE
BEEN PRINTED.**

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

Number 174

January - March 2019

Financial Statement as of December 31, 2018

	Item	Debit	Credit
Dec. 31, 2017	Balance Forward from Previous Year		\$1924.31
	BNAPS Stipend and Membership Credits		0.00
	50 Membership dues ^(22 memberships were paid in advance in 2017)		286.58
	23 Membership dues paid in advance		117.61
	Donations		65.06
	Service Charges (cheques, etc.)	0.00	
	Newsletter Postage (4 issues)	256.16	
	Paper and Copying	462.44	
	Misc. Stationary and Postage	0.00	
	Totals	\$718.60	\$469.25
Dec. 31, 2018	Balance on hand		\$1,674.96

-----✂----- **Membership Application / Change of Information Form** -----✂-----

BNAPS Newfoundland Study Group	
Name :	
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Postal Code :	
Email :	
Telephone : (Home) :	
	(Office) :
Annual dues: Canadian Dollars \$5.00 (postal or e-mail) US Dollars \$5.00 (postal or e-mail) British Pound £5.00 (postal) £3.00 (e-mail only)	
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<i>All new members are requested to kindly remit a copy of this form for accounting and mailing. Thank you!</i>	