

THE NEWFOUNDLAND NEWSLETTER



OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 179

April - June 2020

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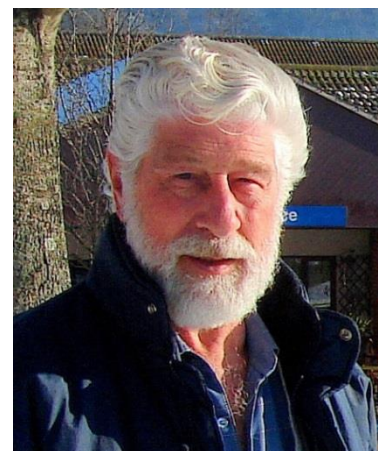


PETER MOTSON - BNAPS MEMBER #6431

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you that Peter Motson died aged 78 at around 10pm on Monday 20th January 2020 at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

After a long battle with Motor Neurone Disease, Peter's condition deteriorated suddenly on the night of Sunday 19th Jan and he was taken by ambulance to hospital in Exeter. He died less than 24 hours later.

Regards,
Stuart Motson, Trevor Motson
and Mavis Motson



Peter Motson was an aircraft model maker at the age of eight. He was also a "schoolboy stamp collector", but his philatelic interests did not connect to aerophilately until after 1968 when he had left his first career, in the Fleet Air Arm, Royal Navy, where he served for nine years as an aircraft engineer on carrier-borne "front line" squadrons. He later worked at the Westland Aircraft manufacturing company, thus his knowledge of aircraft is better than average. He is well read in the history of aviation as far back as the Wright brothers.

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PETER MOTSON - BNAPS MEMBER #6431

- Continued

Although collecting material for his *Newfoundland Airmail Stamps and Air Mail Flights: 1918-1949* exhibit first started in 1970, the acquisition of scarcer items was minimal until after the sale of his business interests in 2002. The exhibit was first shown in 2004 and attained a Large Vermeil award in London, England. His study of north Atlantic airmails was rewarded in 2005 with the British Aerophilatelic Federation 'Medal for Research'. In 2006, the exhibit won the coveted British Aero Philatelic Club Trophy in addition to a Gold medal. At BNAPEX 2008 NOVAPEX in Halifax, Nova Scotia the exhibit again received a Gold medal, as well as the Meyerson Award for 'Best Exhibit from a Province of Canada before Confederation'.

Peter first toured Newfoundland with his family in 1981 and his interest in the island's history is comparatively well founded. While skiing at Newfoundland's Marble Mountain holiday resort in 2007, he "discovered" the superb golfing facilities there and a summer golf vacation was always high on his calendar list.

New Members

We are always pleased to welcome new members to the Newfoundland Study Group. Welcome to Jim André, Andrew Hussey and Jamie Hennebury. We trust you will enjoy your association with the Study Group.

**Collectors Club of Chicago
Col. Robert H. Pratt Award -2019**

Initiated in 1997, the CCC Pratt Award is named for Col. Robert H. Pratt, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the pre-eminent Newfoundland stamp and postal history collector, researcher, and author. The Pratt Estate bequeathed funds to the CCC for the establishment of an annual award for the best English language article, series of articles, book, or electronic presentation related to Newfoundland's philately. Congratulations to the winners.

Clarence A. Stillions, of Washington, DC, for "The Blitz Stamps of Newfoundland", which appeared in *The Canadian Philatelist / Le Philatliste Canadian*, Vol. 70, Sept./Oct. 2019.

Julian J. Goldberg and **John M. Walsh** co-authored "Newfoundland 1887 1/2-cent Dog: A Detailed Study of Its Correct Release Date and Other Discoveries," appearing in *BNA Topics*, Whole No. 559, 2nd Quarter 2019.

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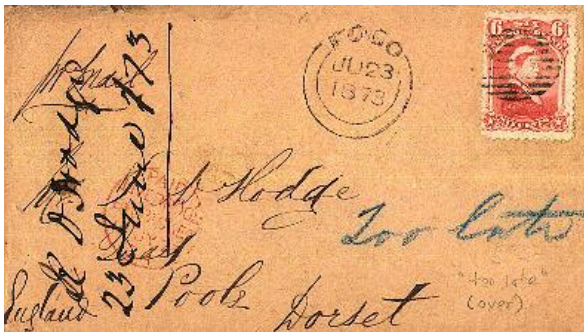
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POST OFFICES OF PRE-CONFEDERATION NEWFOUNDLAND

Carl Munden's "Post Offices of Pre-Confederation Newfoundland" the definitive study of the cancels of this time period is now on line and downloadable from the BNAPS website. Carl has spent countless hours putting this fine work together and he is hoping that it will stimulate input from other collectors and historians to fill in some of the missing pieces. John Walsh and Malcolm Back spent a lot of time working with Carl to put the file into a PDF format that would be accessible on the BNAPS website. Leo Beaudet, the BNAPS website manager is also thanked for his efforts. Congratulations Carl on an amazing piece of Philatelic work.

<http://www.bnaps.org/ore/Munden-NfldPostOffices/Munden-NfldPostOffices.htm>



CARL MUNDEN

January 2020 edition: Carl Munden author; Malcolm Back and John M Walsh, FRPSC
reformatted and edited



CANPEX 2020 National Philatelic Exhibition
October 31 – November 1, 2020, London, Ontario
The Hellenic Centre,
133 Southdale Road West,
London, Ontario
Show hours; Saturday 10AM – 5PM
Sunday 10AM – 4PM
Free Admission, Free Parking, Lunch Counter
Information, info@canpex.ca
Web site; www.canpex.ca

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AN EXHIBIT BY DAVID PIERCEY The Cancellations of Newfoundland 1865-1908

- continued from NN178

FANCY CANCELS

LEAFS

Using the category consistent with Lacelle (2018), these particular fancy cancels resemble, though somewhat fancifully, the vein patterns found on leaves.



Issue current 1865-



Issue current 1870-1879
(white paper)



St. John's May 1879
"fishbone"



Issue current 1870-1879
(white paper)



Issue current 1870-1894
(white paper)



Issue current 1870-1879
(white paper)



St. John's
1877



Issue current 1875-1887
(white paper)



Issue current 1870-1879
(white paper)



Issue current 1877-1880



Issue current 1870-1879
(white paper)



Issue current 1877-1890



St. John's
1879



Issue current 1877-1880



Issue current 1877-1880



St. John's
1878



Issue current 1877-1880

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AN EXHIBIT BY DAVID PIERCEY The Cancellations of Newfoundland 1865-1908

-continued

LETTER AND NAME CANCELS

Very few different letter and name cancels are found on Newfoundland stamps. Those that have are often ascribed to coastal mail services before regular postal employees began to be placed aboard mail vessels, beginning about 1887. However, other letter cancels also exist, as indicated below.



Coastal North Mailboat
(wide bars in "N")



Issue current 1876-1880



Issue current 1879-1880



Coastal North Mailboat
(often found with outer ring)



Issue current 1879-1880



Coastal North Mailboat
(narrow bars in "N")



Issue current 1880-1887



Issue current 1880-1887



Coastal West Mailboat?
(Very little is known about this cancel.)



Issue current 1880-1887



Issue current 1880-1887



S.S. Volunteer
(coastal mail boat, sunk 1891)
This cancel only rarely seen



Issue current 1887-1897



The "N" is only rarely visible



Issue current 1870-1879



Issue current 1877-1880



Issue current 1880-1887



Issue current 1876-1880



Issue current 1880-1887



Issue current 1880-1887

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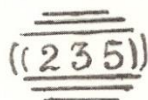
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**AN EXHIBIT BY DAVID PIERCEY
The Cancellations of Newfoundland 1865-1908**

- to be continued next issue

NUMERAL CANCELS

Only one numeral cancel is known for Newfoundland, the "235" barred cancel, believed to have been appropriated from a British post office, then used locally. (Other numeral markings occasionally seen are instead rate stamps that can be found inadvertently overlapping onto a cover's postage stamps, and were not intended to be used as postal obliterators.)



*St. John's
1873-1888*



Issue current 1865-1887



Issue current 1877-1880



Issue current 1880-1887



Issue current 1880-1887

CROSSES AND STARS



Issue current 1876-1880



Issue current 1877-1880



Issue current 1898-1910



Issue current 1887-1897



Issue current 1887-1897



Issue current 1887-1897



Issue current 1873-1877

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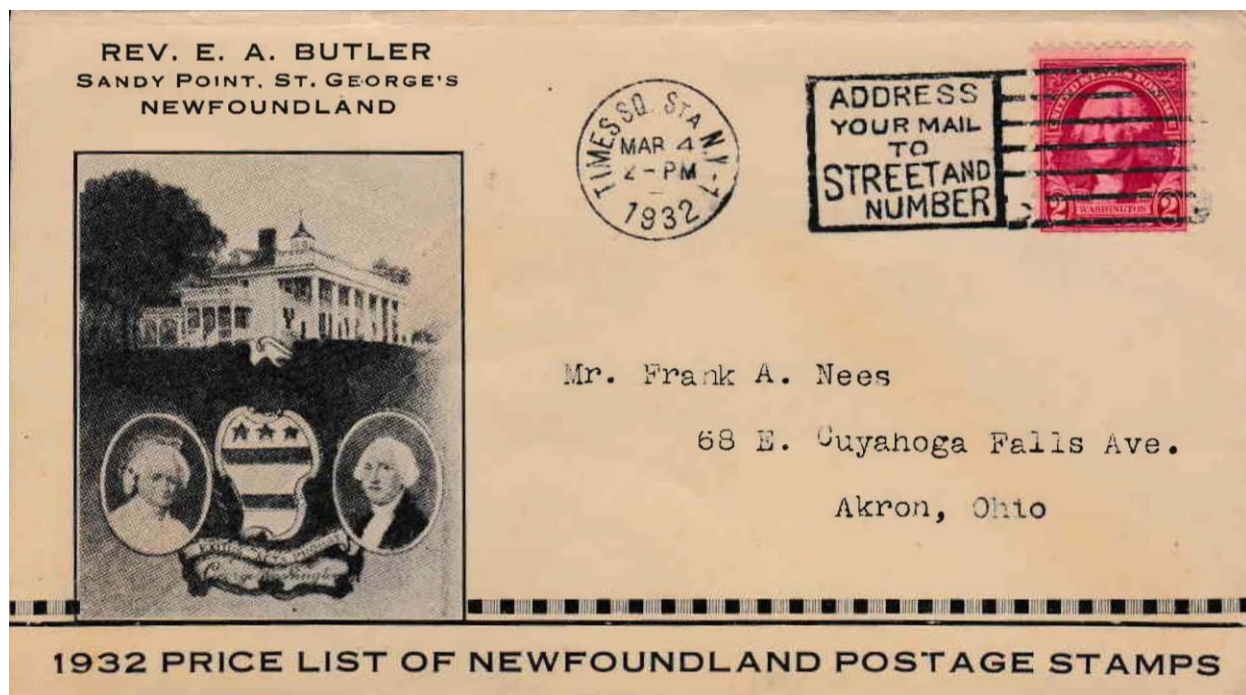
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ANOTHER REVEREND BUTLER COVER

- by Barry Senior

I was wondering if any of our members can shed any light on how this cover came to be. It bears Butler's corner card and advertises his 1932 price list but has an obvious US cachet and was mailed from Times square Station in New York. It is possible that Butler was a visitor to New York and mailed the cover from there but why this cachet?



MORE TO THE "MISSING LINK" STORY

- by Barry Senior

Reading in the last edition of the Newfoundland Newsletter No.178, another variety filled issue, please see attached scans in response to Andrew Hussey's "The Missing Link". As you can see there were several more links in that chain. This is a page from my Gold Medal exhibit titled "Perforated Initials and Insignia on Stamps of Newfoundland" (see page 6). By the way, the earliest known usage of this A12 perforator was Oct 24, 1925 on one of the very same 2 cent stamps used for revenue purposes.



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MORE TO THE MISSING LINK STORY

- Conclusion

Pre Perfin Identity Markings

It is apparent that Ayre and Sons Limited had begun experimenting with several methods of identifying their stamps before settling on the use of perfins. It would seem that they tried at least 4 different versions before Perfins became the norm. This all transpired over a period of several years using the 1923 - 24 Pictorial Issue. Of the three companies in Newfoundland which came to use perfins Ayre & Sons is the only one known to have experimented with any other type of Identity marking.



⇒ "A. & S. L." typewritten in black which would have been a very time consuming task to perform on each individual stamp.



⇒ The same format along with the typewritten date as would have been used for Revenue purposes. It would have been even more time consuming and was tried in 1923.



⇒ To save some time they began to hand write the date on the stamp as was the practice in 1924. This would still be a slow process.



⇒ Next came a rubber handstamp with the "Ayre & Sons Ltd" logo. This would speed up the process of marking the stamps but each stamp still had to be done individually.



⇒ By 1925 the use of Perfins had found favor and with a multi die head punching several sheets of stamps at once it became a real time saver. This form of protection would continue for over twenty years.

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AN UNLISTED AYRE PERFIN

by Andrew Hussey

In the most current issue of the Perfin Handbook, available online at the British North American Philatelic Society's (BNAPS) website, there are up to date (as of October 12, 2019) listings of all their recorded perfins and positions. This reference includes all of the known perfins and positions for Newfoundland stamps. Currently there are two listings for the perfin of the St. John's, Newfoundland Company of Ayre & Sons Limited, these being the A11 and A12 perforators. It is my understanding that both of these perforators were intended for use on the then current Pictorial Issue stamps, one perforator for each of the two different layout styles. Based on the listings in the Perfin Handbook, it appears that the A11 perforator also saw prolific use on the subsequent three different Publicity Issues but saw very limited use afterwards with only 11



subsequent stamps currently listed as having this perforator. On the other hand, the A12 perforator was also used on the Pictorial and Publicity issues (to a somewhat lesser extent) but was also nearly exclusively used on many of Newfoundland's subsequently issued postage stamps. The A12 perfin is fairly commonly found on the Silver Jubilee King George V Issue of May 6, 1935. It is listed as being found in various positions on

the 4¢, 5¢, 7¢ and 24¢ values. The 5¢ issue (Scott Catalogue "SC" #227) has the most positions listed, most likely because this was the common postage rate to Canada, the United States, Great Britain and the British Empire for 1935 (2016 Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue, "NSSC"). The Perfin Handbook currently lists SC#227 as having the A12 perfin in positions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8 with the image shown to the left having it in position 2. Note that the images all have a black background in order to make the perfins show up better. Currently, the A11 perforator is only listed as being used



on the 4¢ value (SC#226) of the 1935 Silver Jubilee King George V Issue in position 2. The image to the right shows the same stamp as above (SC#227) with the A11 perfin also in position 2 so they can be directly compared. They are distinctly different patterns. It is probably not a big surprise that the 5¢ value is found with the A11 perfin if the 4¢ is known to have it as both were common postage rates in the period. Notably the A11 perfin stamp has a portion of the St. John's slogan cancel "Buy Goods Made In Newfoundland" which according to the NSSC was in use between May 3, 1934 and November 23, 1937. There are two varieties of this slogan listed with different usage periods but without the hub dater it is not possible to tell which it is. It does, however, indicate that the stamp had to be perfined and used within the time frame of May 6, 1935 (issue of

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stamp) to November 23, 1937 (latest known use of slogan cancel). The 4¢ and 5¢ values of the 1935 Silver Jubilee King George V Issue were “replaced” with the 4¢ and 5¢ values of the 1937 Coronation “Omnibus” Issue on May 12, 1937 such that use of SC#227 after this date would probably be somewhat limited and probably narrows down the usage period noted above. To make a long story short, the picture says it all, Newfoundland stamp SC#227 should be added to the Perfin Handbook under the A11 perforator in position 2.

IN RESPONSE to “A RE-ENTRY ON PLATE PROOF SC72P / NSSC63”

by John Walsh, FRPSC

I enjoyed Robert Coulson’s article in NN178, so I wanted to find what position it was on the sheet, and to possibly list its sheet position in NSSC. An examination of the full proof sheet shows that these re-entries are on all of the stamps in the sheet (a piece is attached). It would seem that the original single die had this re-entry.



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THE NEWFOUNDLAND 1920 PROVISIONAL 2c. on 30 c. CABOT SLATE

submitted by John Walsh, FRPSC

34 COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST

The Newfoundland 1920 Provisional 2c. on 30c. Cabot Slate

By C. W. WICKERSHAM

A CAREFUL examination of a sheet of the Newfoundland 1920 Provisional 2c on 30c Slate shows several differences in the relative positions of the letters comprising the overprinted words TWO CENTS. The *O* of TWO is normally over the *T* of CENTS. In four of the subjects it appears over the *S*, and while this position has been commented on (See Poole, p. 53), I have seen no mention of the other positions, which are as follows:

- I. *O* of TWO over right end of *T* of CENTS: Nos. 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 24, 25. This is the commonest position, occurring in thirteen subjects. It is most pronounced in No. 24.
- II. *O* over center of *T*: Nos. 1, 6, 11, 16, 18, 21, 22. In Nos. 1 and 22 the *O* is not squarely over the center of the *T*, being slightly to the right in No. 1 and to the left in No. 22. The position in the latter approaches that in No. 23 (Class III. below).
- III. *O* over left end of *T*: No. 23. This is the rare setting on the sheet. No. 22 is close to it, but in No. 23 a vertical line through the center of and bisecting the *O* just hits the left edge of the top line of the *T* and leaves the edge of the down stroke barely visible along the ruler, whereas the same line on No. 22 exposes the whole of the down stroke at the left of the top line.
- IV. *O* over *S*: Nos. 2, 7, 12, 17.

The sheets used were half-sheets of the 30c. to facilitate surcharging, and there are therefore only 25 subjects, 5 x 5.

It should be noted that the position III. (left end of *T*) differs more from the common position I. (right end of *T*) than does the latter from position IV. (*O* over *S*).

The sheet shows as follows (using the classes stated above):

II	IV	I	I	I
II	IV	I	I	I
II	IV	I	I	I
II	IV	II	I	I
II	II	III	I	I

Omitting very small differences, the varieties might be classified as follows:

September 23, 1920 * — 2c on 30c Slate (or deep Indigo) Cabot (*O* of TWO commonly over right end of *T* of CENTS.

- a. Inverted surcharge.*
- b. Diagonal surcharge.*
- c. Red surcharge. (Probably a proof.)
- d. *O* over center of *T*. Nos. 1, 6, 11, 16, 18, 21, 22 (Class II above.)
- e. *O* over left end of *T*: No. 23. (Class III above.)
- f. *O* over *S* of CENTS: Nos. 2, 7, 12, 17. (Class IV above.)

*See Poole, p. 53.

Collectors Club Philatelist of 1927

Used by permission of Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation

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THE NEWFOUNDLAND 1920 PROVISIONAL 2c. on 30 c. CABOT SLATE

- continued



IV	I
IV	II
II	III

The full setting of 25, with slight upward slanting up left to right Block of 6 with all 4 varieties

Images courtesy of Derek Parsons

Omitting very small differences, the varieties might be classified as follows:

September 23, 1920 * — 2c on 30c Slate (or deep Indigo) Cabot (*O* of TWO commonly over right end of *T* of CENTS.

- a. Inverted surcharge.*
- b. Diagonal surcharge.*
- c. Red surcharge. (Probably a proof.)

- d. *O* over center of *T*. Nos. 1, 6, 11, 16, 18, 21, 24 (Class II above.)
- e. *O* over left end of *T*: No. 23. (Class III above.)
- f. *O* over *S* of CENTS: Nos. 2, 7, 12, 17. (Class IV above.)

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- continued



The full setting of 25, with slight downward slanting overprint left to right
.Notice the problem of contrast with the black overprint on a black stamp.

Image courtesy of Gregory Pope

THE NEWFOUNDLAND 1920 PROVISIONAL 2c. on 30 c. CABOT SLATE

- conclusion

Some other varieties of this stamp



Red surcharge proof
Type I
© Kelleher Auctions



Inverted surcharge
Type IV
©Walsh



Slanted surcharge with no value on the right hand stamps ©Walsh

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THE USE OF THE ST. JOHN'S 1846 'CROWN CIRCLE' PAID
HANDSTAMP SOMETIME IN THE 1880'S

- David Piercey, FRPSC

An intriguing postal cancellation has recently been found on the 5-cents pale blue British American Bank Note Company issue of 1880 (Scott #53). It is the Crown Circle "Paid at St. John's Newfoundland" postal marking produced by the British GPO for Newfoundland, and used in Newfoundland beginning July 1846. Pratt says this marking was used only in the period 1846-49, and Robson-Lowe says only in the period 1846-52.



(Illustration from Robson-Lowe
Encyclopedia of British Empire
Postage Stamps (1973)- Vol. 5)



My discovery copy

There is no apparent report of its use into the stamped-era, and indeed is not included in any cataloguing of stamped-era postal cancellations in any of the major reference books we would normally consult. Why then does this postal marking, apparently used as a cancellation sometime in the period 1880-1888 (i.e., the period within which this 5-cents stamp was current), even exist? It is easy to surmise that it was simply put into general use, some forty plus years after it was apparently retired, perhaps when it was rediscovered during the Post Office move of 1886. We also know that the Newfoundland GPO continued to use other St. John's postal markings originally issued in the 1840's and 1850's sometimes up to the 1870's, and that as they wore out as datestamps they were repurposed into holders for the various cork obliterations that were being created by the postal clerks throughout the 1860's and 1870's. But, if it had been placed into general use, we would expect to find many more examples. After about 30 years of looking at stamps and covers from this era, I have yet to discover any additional examples.

It is perhaps more interesting to speculate under what circumstances did this particular marking come back into use? And, why was it apparently used as a postal cancel, as its use on this stamp strongly indicates?

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HANDSTAMP SOMETIME IN THE 1880'S**

- conclusion



Photo-enlargement to show detail of cancellation

I do have a tentative hypothesis. In 1887 a late letter office was opened on Water Street in the jewelry store of Nils Ohman, which was close to the steamship docks which took the foreign mails. A late letter fee of five cents was expected of any late letters posted after the closing of the foreign mails. Perhaps Ohman had been provided this obsolete postal marking to use as an indication that the late letter fee had been paid. (Certainly, I think, the Post Office and its clerks would have had little or no other use for it, as they were handily supplied with a full array of date stamps and cancelling devices of sufficient quantity for their daily needs.)

So, is this an example of late letter use for this postal marking? One would of course need to substantiate this by discovering its use on an actual late letter cover in the period 1887-1889 (after which Ohman's late letter office had been closed), and only on a similar 5-cents pale blue stamp. However, covers that can be attributed to late letter use through Ohman's office are currently unreported, and remain one of the more intriguing missing links in the postal history of St. John's.