



NEWFOUNDLAND NEWSLETTER BNAPS NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP



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STUDY GROUP NEWS

Malcolm Back

You will notice a new logo on the masthead of this Newsletter. It was designed for us by Sylvia Ficken of the Saint John's Philatelic Society. She is the editor of their Newsletter. If you are not a member of that Society check it out. Robin Moore is their President; Martin Goebel is Treasurer; and John Walsh is Chief-Auctioneer. The Newsletter is always a good read. Thank you, Sylvia, for the new logo.

St. John's Philatelic Society (RPSC Chapter 121)
153 Ridge Road, St. John's, NL, A1C 6L8

College of the North Atlantic, St. John's, NL. 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month (excluding July and August), 7:30-9:30 p.m. For further information, contact: Martin Goebel, treasurer, goebel@nf.sympatico.ca, St. John's, NL.

CLARENCE A. STILLIONS

I am pleased to announce that Clarence has accepted an appointment as the first Honourary Member of the Newfoundland Study Group. He is a founding member of the Study Group, Chairman and Editor from 1985 to 1992.

ROBERT JOSEPH LLOYD COULSON

We are saddened to report on the passing of Robert Coulson. While not a member of the Study Group, Robert was a BNAPS member and I had frequent e-mails from him discussing various aspects of Newfoundland Philately. In particular, he was very interested in perforations and re-entries, and often sent me images, some of which I have used in the Newsletter. He went under the e-mail pseudonym "flyspeckerwert" which you may have come across on various websites. Our condolences to Robert's family and friends.



STUDY GROUP ZOOM SESSIONS

On February 19, 2022, your Study Group held its 12th ZOOM session. We were treated to two excellent presentations by Klaus Wehlt on Correspondence from W.H. Davidson, a St. John's entrepreneur, and by Brian Damien on Robert Holloway, the photographer responsible for some of the images on the 1923 Pictorial issue.

Our next session is booked for April 16, 2022. I have one speaker booked but could use 1 or 2 more depending on the length of presentation. If you are interested, please contact me directly. As always, I am also looking for articles for the Newsletter. Thank you for your continued support of the Study Group.



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STUDY GROUP NEWS

- continued
Malcolm Back

Congratulations to Anthony Thompson, John Walsh and Robin Moore on being awarded the Pratt Award for 2021. All three are members of the Newfoundland Study Group and we appreciate their contributions to our group and to Newfoundland Philately. Well done gentlemen.

Collectors Club of Chicago
Col. Robert H. Pratt Award
Col. Robert H. Pratt

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.

The Award

The award consists of a one thousand dollars (\$US 1,000) honorarium awarded annually in its entirety to one (or pro-rated to two or more) author(s) for articles or other publications related to the philately of Newfoundland as judged by the Pratt Award Committee as being significant and of academic merit. It is awarded in the year following the year in which the best judged Newfoundland philatelic research work was published.

CCC Pratt Award Representative Contact

All submissions to be considered for the CCC Pratt Award must be submitted to the Committee's Chairperson. In the event of questions or communications, also please contact the Club's representative:

George P. Fabian
CCC Pratt Awards Chairman
230 Fir St
Park Forest, IL 60466-1717
E-Mail: GFabian@CollectorsClubChicago.org

2021 CCC Pratt Awardees

The 2021 recipients are the following (listed with their award-winning works):

- **Anthony B. Thompson**, of Sweden, for "Newfoundland's Moiré Patterned Bookend Paper 1937-1940" in the first quarter 2021 *BNA Topics* whole number 566.
- **John M. Walsh** and **Robin J. Moore** (both residing in Canada) for two articles: "Newfoundland: Discoveries in the Design Sizes of the 1933 Gilbert; 1937 Long Coronation and 1938 Royal Family Issues" in the January 2021 issue of *Maple Leaves* whole number 359 and the follow up article: "Newfoundland: Discovery Design Sizes Found on the 5 Cent, 2 Cent Die ii, 4 Cent Rose Lake and 8 Cent Values of the 1932 Perkins Bacon & Co Issue. (Further Proof of Their Different Printing Press Uses and Capabilities)" in the July 2021 issue of *Maple Leaves* whole number 361.

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NEWFOUNDLAND: DISCOVERIES IN DESIGN SIZES

continued by John M. Walsh, RPSC and Robin Moore

Plates demonstrating examples of observed perforation styles. And other interesting items.

2 holes top margin

2 holes top margin
+ holes across
left margin

2 holes top margin
+ holes left margin
with a break before
left column holes

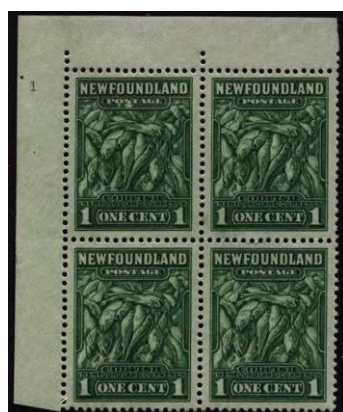
1 hole top margin

1 hole top margin
+ holes across
right margin

1 hole top margin
+ holes across
left margin

holes through
top margin
+ holes across
left margin

no hole top margin



2 hole top margin



2 holes top margin + holes left
margin with break before left
column holes



1 hole top margin + holes
across right margin



2¢ die II; no hole top margin



2 holes top margin +
holes across left margin



1 hole top margin



2¢ die II; 1 hole top margin +
holes across left margin



2¢ die II; plate 4;
full offset under gum



Holes through top margin + holes
across left margin + perf. 14.3 x 14.3

Plates demonstrating examples of observed perforation styles. And other interesting items - continued

2 holes top margin

2 holes top margin
+ holes across
left margin

2 holes top margin
+ holes left margin
with a break before
left column holes

1 hole top margin

1 hole top margin
+ holes across
right margin

1 hole top margin
+ holes across
left margin

holes throughtop
margin
+ holes across
left margin

no hole top margin



2¢ die I horizontal and vertical double perforation



5¢ partial offset under gum



2¢ full and partial offset
under gum



5¢ die I; 20.4 mm;
small perf. 14 x 14



holes through top margin + holes
across left margin +
14.3 x 14.3 x horiz. imperf.



2¢ die II; holes through top margin +
holes across left margin + 14.2 x 14.2
x vert. imperf.

Observed perforation styles show basic perforation 13.5 x 13.5 utilized, with several other differing sized perforation gauges seen. From manner of the sheet perforation runs, it suggests that some denominations had several panes positioned on the sheet during the printing process. As well it shows perforation technique was in the line formation not just comb. 5¢ die II perf, 13.5 x 13.5 design size 21 mm has been seen.



As found 5¢ die I and II sized images. The die and size differences are readily observed when the pairs are overlaid. Descending order die II 21mm, die I 20.4mm, die I 21 mm, die II 20.4 mm.



5¢ die I; unwmkd. No gum; design size 21
mm



5¢ die I; wmkd gum; design size 21 mm



5¢ die I wmkd. no gum;
design size 21 mm

The black 5¢ die I is shown in design size 21 mm with stated information.

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Newfoundland: Discoveries in design sizes

- conclusion

To give further proof to the ownership and maker of these design size 21 mm stamps are the colour pairs as acquired and received from estate of Perkins Bacon & Co chairman A.J. Hubbard, by K. Bileski and sold by him.



5¢ c die II plate 2; design size 20.4 mm



5¢ die II plate 2; design size 20.4 mm;
shade difference



5¢ die II plate 2; design size 21 mm.;
thin paper; Plate Ptrs 7 March 1939
6800 Hand Plate Order No. DB291 A.S.C.



5¢ die II plate 2; design size 20.4 mm
on blue moire paper



5¢ die II plate 4; design size 20.4 mm



5¢ die II plate 4; design size 21 mm; written on
sheet top: "very first stage"



5¢ die II plate 4; design size 21 mm;
written on sheet: Sept 23rd 1938



5¢ die II plate 4; design size 20.4 mm;
on blue moire paper; written on sheet:
"last impression 5,500 Pulls 15/11/38"



5¢ die II plate 5; design size 21 mm;
on blue moire paper; written on sheet:
"8000 sheets 12/1/40 A.S.C."

The coloured pairs compliment those 5¢ black die I with a variety of coloured 1932 issue 5¢ Caribou die II plate proof imperforate stamps. There are different printing plates displayed as well colour shades. When they are measured it is found that there are two designs sizes for this image. The stated pre-1941 dates are from the sheets they were cut from.

As shown the design sizes are 20.4 mm and 21 mm. The stated dates shown prove that they are pre-1941. **The 21 mm cannot be only from the new printer Waterlow & Sons of 1941 as is alleged.**

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The Registered Markings of St. John's General Post Office to 1949

John Butt's 1992 Analysis

revisited and updated by Brian Stalker

Introduction: between July – August 1991 and March – April 1992 BNA TOPICS featured four articles by John Butt on “The Postal Markings (of) St. John's General Post Office and Sub Offices 1840 – 1949” – the fourth and final article being on the Registration markings. An illustrated update to Butt's analysis was given to the Newfoundland Study Group ‘ZOOM’ meeting held on December 18th 2021 and this article, based on that presentation, provides the following:-

- (1) Improved illustrations* of Butt's listings (RM 1 to RM 19);
- (2) Illustrated variations and angular analysis of Butt's listings; and
- (3) Illustrations of new listings

* illustrations are tracings of original strikes - they show all discernible significant features but may not be precise. Butt's colour descriptions are given, supplemented by colour shades from my collection in the form ‘■’.

(1) Improved illustrations of Butt's nineteen listings.

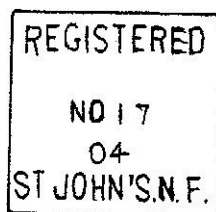
We do not have items RM 1, RM 8 and RM 12 so Butt's sketches are included for completeness. Butt noted that RM 1 and RM 2 are exactly the same except that RM 1 is undated but includes what is probably a handwritten registration number whereas RM 2 includes a date. Revised periods of use are shown in **red**.



RM 1
30 mm oval
1872 – 1876
black



RM 2
30 mm oval
1890 – 1906
black



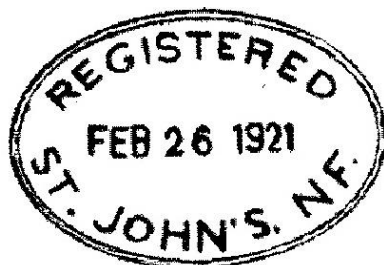
RM 3
28 mm box
1904 - 1905
black



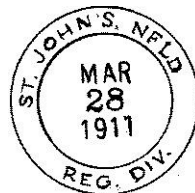
RM 4
47 mm oval
1903 – 1917
black



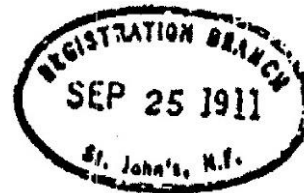
RM 5
24 mm circle
1906 - 1909
black



RM 6
50 mm double oval
1910 – 1921
carmine, blue, black



RM 7
25 mm double circle
1910 – 1912
violet



RM 8
38 mm double oval
1910 – 1911
violet

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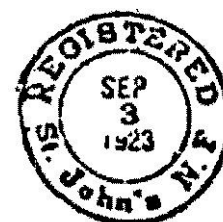
RM 9
42 mm double oval
1921
carmine



REGISTERED

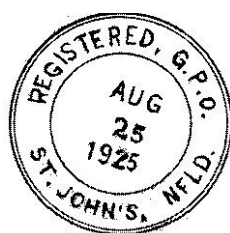


RM 11
30 mm double circle
1923 - 1927
violet

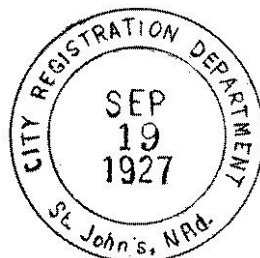


RM 12
28 mm triple* circle
1924 - 1927
violet

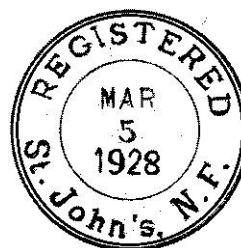
* described as triple circle,
but only 2 circles are shown.



RM 13
28 mm **triple*** circle
1925 - 1929
violet
* described as double circle,
but 3 circles on early strikes.



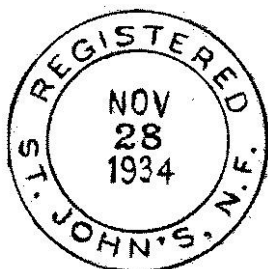
RM 14
36 mm double circle
1925 - **1933**
violet
several varieties known.



RM 15
32 mm triple circle
1927 - 1932
blue
outer circles merged on later strikes



RM 16
36 mm double circle
1928 - 1937
black, carmine



RM 17
34 mm double circle
1932 - 1939
blue, black



RM 18
28mm double circle
1937 - 1943
black



RM 19
30 mm double circle
1941 - 1948
black

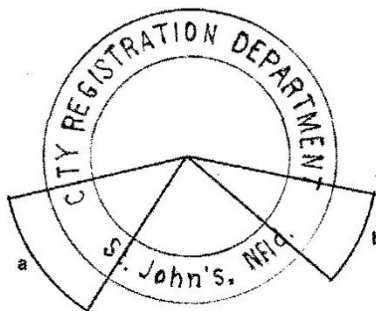
The Registered Markings of St. John's General Post Office to 1949

- continued

(2) Illustrated variations and angular analysis of Butt's listings

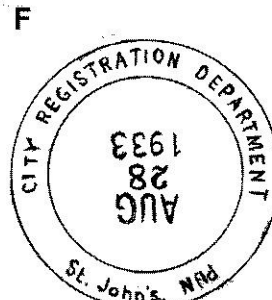
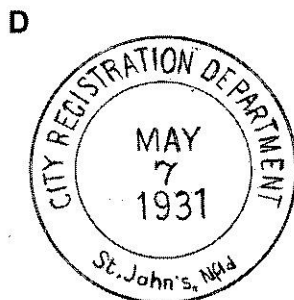
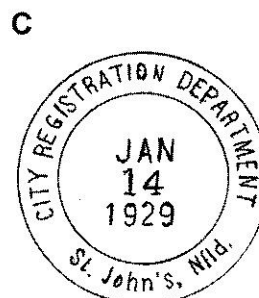
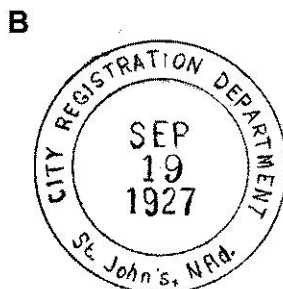
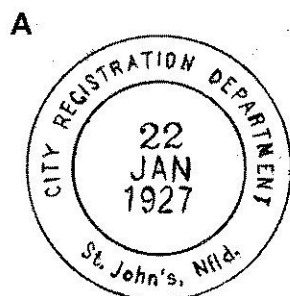
During the period 1925 – 1933 at least six varieties of Butt RM 14 have been identified; they vary slightly in overall diameter and letter height but angular measurement, as below, is probably the best differentiator.

Butt RM 14 Analysis



Dimensions (mm) and Angles (°)

Hammer	Outer diameter	Inner diameter	Letter height	Angle 'a'	Angle 'b.'
A	35	23	2.2	48	36
B	33	23	2.2	42	28
C	33	23	2.5	42	30
D	35	23	3.0	50	38
E	34+	23+	2.3	43	30
F	35+	26+	2.6	56	46



RM 14A is found with dater formats, DD/MMM/YYYY and MMM/DD/YYYY.

The Registered Markings of St. John's General Post Office to 1949

- continued

Butt RM 16 is listed as a 36mm double circle in use between 1928 and 1937 – the lettering is **upper case serif font**. For that period we have identified several different **upper case serif font** date-stamps with outer circle diameters ranging from 30 mm to 37 mm, one with a double inner circle, as illustrated below:-



1
30 mm double circle



2
34 mm triple circle



3
36 mm double circle
RM 16 state 1



4
37 mm double circle
RM 16 state 2

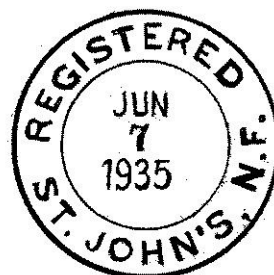
We are drawn to the following preliminary conclusions:-

1. Items 1 and 2 are new listings, pre-dating the introduction of RM 16, and are included as such in the New Listings section.
2. Item 3 is an early strike of RM 16 and item 4 is a later distorted state of RM 16 where the hammer has expanded by ~5%.
3. It seems likely that many purported strikes of RM 16 after 1934 are probably of RM 17 which is very similar in overall design but with sans-serif font.

Butt RM 17 (34 mm double circle): similar in overall appearance to RM 16 but the lettering is sans-serif. Two versions are illustrated below, the key difference being the spacing between the outer and inner circles – 5 mm on RM 17A and 6 mm on RM 17B, the latter also having slightly heavier lettering:-



RM 17A
33/23 mm circles.



RM 17B
34+ /22+ mm circles.

The Registered Markings of St. John's General Post Office to 1949

- continued

Butt RM 18 (28mm double outer circle): only one version is known but it appears in several different states: the double outer circle is clearly evident on the earliest strikes (state 1) but the circles gradually merge (states 2 and 3) and some of the lettering is barely legible on late strikes (state 4).



State 1



State 2



State 3



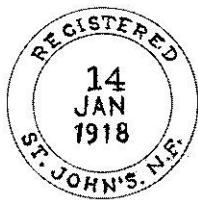
State 4

(3) Illustrations of new listings

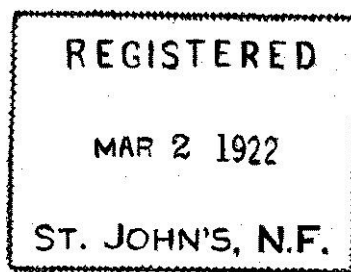
Rather than attempt to interleave these new listings into John Butt's chronological sequence (RM 1 to RM 19) we number the following additions chronologically from RM 20:-



RM 20
 28 mm double circle
 1916



RM 21
 25 mm double circle
 1918



RM 22
 40 x 34 mm serrated box
 1922



RM 23
 30 mm double circle
 1929



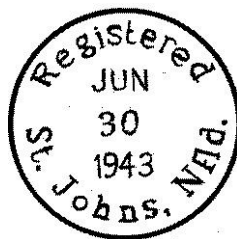
'N F' punctuation uncertain



RM 24
 34 mm triple* circle
 1931 - 1932



* inner double circles merged by 1932



RM 25
 30 mm single circle
 1943 - 1947



RM 26
 30 mm double circle
 1946 - 1948



The Registered Markings of St. John's General Post Office to 1949

- conclusion



RM 27
1948

31 mm double circle



RM 28
1949

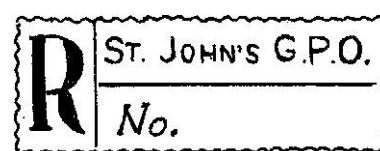
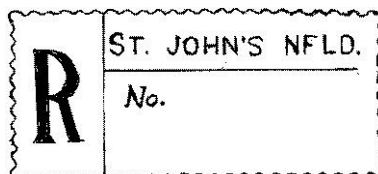
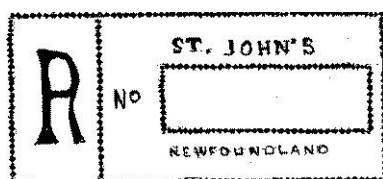
30 mm single circle



Concluding Comments

John Butt's work of 1992 has been an excellent starting point for this updated analysis. It seems likely that more St. John's GPO registration markings along with earlier and later dates of use remain to be found and reported.

Despite including the straight-line **REGISTERED** hand-stamp (RM 10) the various rectangular 'R' hand-stamps have not been studied – three examples are illustrated below:-



These,

along with the 'stick-on' labels, provide scope for further study:-



Apart from the East End sub-office (1947 onwards), registration date-stamps seem not to have been issued to the St. John's sub-offices during the pre-Confederation period. However boxed 'stick-on' labels are known from St. John's East, St. John's West and Harvey Road sub-offices from about 1940.

Study Group members are invited to send scans of new finds and earlier or later dates to the Newsletter Editor, Malcolm Back (mback1217@rogers.com) copied to Brian Stalker (brianstalker63@sky.com). Scans of Butt RM 1, RM 8 and RM 12, missing from my collection, would also be appreciated.

D-DAY VETERAN WAS LAST SURVIVOR OF TRAGIC SS CARIBOU SINKING



Hedley Lake shakes hands with Newfoundland and Labrador Lieutenant-Governor Judy Foote in 2018. After the Second World War, Mr. Lake helped build the fish-processing plant in Fortune, Newfoundland where he was also employed.



By Joan Sullivan, St. John's, Newfoundland

The Newfoundlander, who only started talking about his wartime experiences about 20 years ago, “was living history”

On Oct. 1, 1942, Able Seaman Hedley Lake of the British Royal Navy, most recently posted to Alexandria, Egypt, sailed from England to New York for training and a new assignment on HMS LST 303, the latest in amphibious landing craft. By happenstance, he met up with a fellow Newfoundlander from his hometown of Fortune, Able Seaman Mack Piercey, in the breakfast lineup at the Brooklyn naval yard. Able Seaman (abbreviated as AB) Lake's 28-day leave wasn't due to start quite yet, but AB Piercey was able to talk their way into travelling to Fortune together.

Arriving in Sydney, N.S., on Oct. 13, they also met with AB Piercey's brother, Harvey, who was on the HMCS Medicine Hat. They toasted their reunion before AB Lake and AB Piercey boarded the Sydney to Port aux Basques passenger ferry SS Caribou. On board were 73 civilians (including 11 children), 118 military personnel and a crew of 45, with Captain Benjamin Taverner bringing the total to 237. Escorting the ferry was the Royal Canadian Navy minesweeper HMCS Grandmère. It was a moonless night in the Cabot Strait, but the Grandmère's captain, Lieutenant James Cuthbert, was uneasy with the amount of smoke the SS Caribou was producing.

He was right to worry. The entry of the United States into the Second World War after the attack on Pearl Harbour on Dec. 7, 1941, had prompted German Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz, head of the submarine arm of the German Navy, to unleash his submarine wolfpacks, and the North Atlantic was perilous. Over several months of 1942, 44 ships were sunk in Canadian waters, with only two U-boats lost.

Just before 4 o'clock in the morning of Oct. 14, U-69, under the command of Captain-Lieutenant Ulrich Graef, was searching for a grain convoy when the SS Caribou was spotted. The submarine fired one torpedo and struck the SS Caribou starboard; the ship went to the bottom with 136 lost, including 10 children. The 101 survivors, including AB Lake and AB Piercey, spent four hours in the water, desperately trying to save anyone they could. The distress was widespread and since family members often travelled together or crewed together, some families had multiple losses—Capt. Taverner and two of his sons died in the attack, for example.

The survivors were brought back to Sydney, recuperating at the Jubilee Hotel before resuming their trek on the SS Burgeo, which replaced the SS Caribou, but without night-time crossings. Finally, AB Lake and AB Piercey

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arrived a week late in Fortune to enjoy their 28 days of leave, although AB Lake had lost all his souvenirs including photographs of the pyramids and a German Luger.

Despite their ordeal, the men were expected to return to duty on time, which they did. AB Lake went on to fight in the Battle of Sicily (July and August, 1943), the invasion of Salerno (September, 1943), the Battle of Anzio (from January to June, 1944), and the June 6, 1944, D-Day landings in Normandy, France, on Sword/Juno beach, where LST 303 unloaded cargo of Sherman tanks and lorries, then took aboard wounded to transit back to Southampton.

Petty Officer First Class Wayne Rose of the Royal Canadian Navy interviewed Mr. Lake many times about his war experiences. "His memory was remarkable. He never deviated. And he was living history. How many people can you sit with and touch that were at D-Day?"

Mr. Lake died Dec. 1 in Burin, N.L., at the age of 103. Hedley Whitfield Lake was born Aug. 12, 1918, in the town of Fortune, N.L., on the Burin Peninsula on the southeastern boundary of Fortune Bay, where his parents, Samuel and Ada, farmed. He was the oldest of four with a sister, Eleanor, and two brothers, Fred and Eli. He went to school in Fortune until Grade 10 or 11, and then took up the family enterprise of farming.

He was 24 on July 28, 1940, when he was recruited as part of the 10th contingent of Newfoundlanders with the British Royal Navy.

"He just wanted to go," his daughter-in-law Eva Lake said, and he had also had a namesake uncle fight in the First World War, she said. He sailed to St. John's and Halifax before docking in Southampton, England, where he was assigned to HMS Ganges for training. He was later assigned to serve on the HMS Hyacinth, a corvette patrolling the Palestine coastline, and the battleship HMS Queen Elizabeth.

After the war, he helped build the fish-processing plant in Fortune, where he was also employed. "He was an active person, the hardest worker on the Burin Peninsula," Ms. Lake said. "He started the day at 4 or 5 o'clock, would have breakfast, and then go feed his 10 or 20 cows. Over the years, he also kept horses, hens, pigs and sheep. He also grew many vegetables in a large garden: cabbages, turnips, carrots, potatoes, parsnips, radishes and green peas. He would get his vegetables ready, get his wood ready and then go to work in the plant. Then he'd feed the cows again. On Sunday he'd go in the country and cut his wood – 10, 20 cords of wood every year. He never wanted to sit down."

When he did make time for recreation, he liked to attend card games and loved to play many games of soccer (locally called football).

Mr. Lake did not talk about his war experiences until about 20 years ago, when his grandchildren started asking him about it for school projects. "He would talk quite a bit about when he went overseas, but mostly about what happened on the Caribou," Ms. Lake said. Mr. Lake was the last survivor of the ship's sinking.

He was a faithful member of the Royal Legion and never missed Remembrance Day ceremonies until last November, when he was bedridden. Since he could not go to Remembrance Day, the town brought Remembrance Day to him, with official visitors, photographs and a cake. "Remembrance Day, he was the rock star," Mr. Rose said.

Predeceased by his wife, Jane (née Petten), whom he married on Dec. 5, 1946, and who died Nov. 15, 1994, Mr. Lake leaves his sons, David, Paul and Samuel; daughter, Elizabeth; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Mr. Lake was known as a humble and generous person, "a magnificent man," Ms. Lake said, and one who, his great age notwithstanding, is sincerely missed by his community. His funeral was attended by many provincial officials, including Newfoundland and Labrador Lieutenant-Governor Judy Foote.

Ms. Foote had also attended Mr. Lake's final birthday party, where he told her, "I do not want to leave this planet yet." He was an active person, the hardest worker on the Burin Peninsula. EVA LAKE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

Editor's Note: This article appeared in the Globe and Mail, January 5, 2022. It is reproduced here with the kind permission of Joan Sullivan, who is the managing editor of The Newfoundland Quarterly, one of Canada's longest-running arts and culture magazines. She lives and writes in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Thank-you Mike Street for bringing it to our attention.

PROOF OF DEFACED PLATES

by Earl Noss

I recently acquired this interesting defaced proof (fig.1) along with the letter from K. Bileski explaining the significance of this piece (fig 2). Since the defacement was done manually, each impression will be unique (fig 3). The printed stamp is shown in figure 4.



Figure 1 Defaced Proof

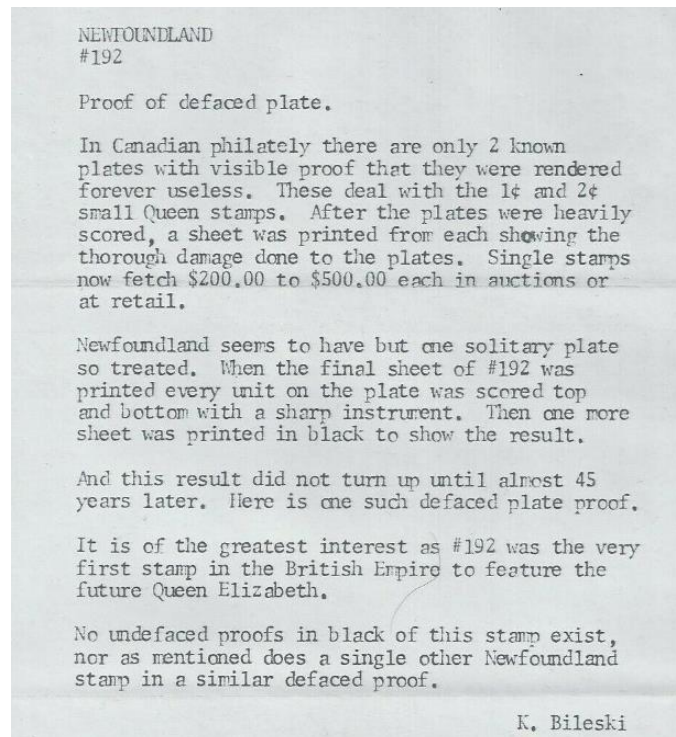


Figure 2 K. Bileski's letter



Figure 3 Another example.

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Figure 4 The printed stamp

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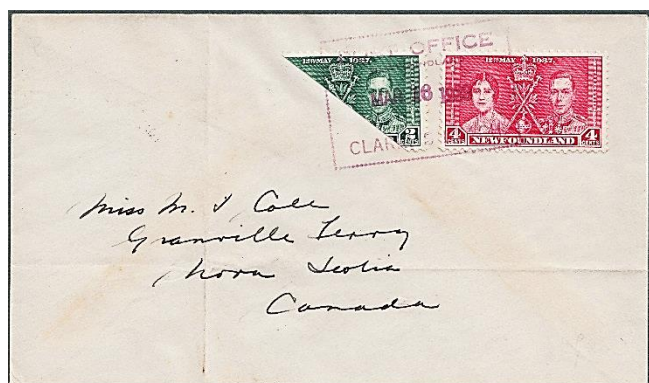
MORE NEWFOUNDLAND VARIETIES

by Earl Noss

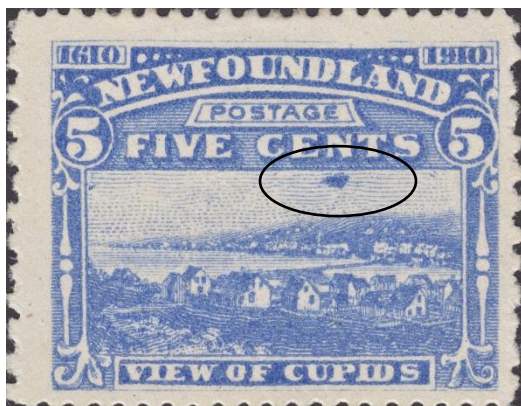
I recently acquired this margin pair of Scott 262. It was printed from Plate 41794 and is from pos.50. There is a dot above the tail of the seal. This was noted on the first proofs, but never corrected. Notice also the positional dot and + in the margin, and the guide-line in the lower margin.



Clarks Beach dotted line box cancel March 16, 1938 with a bisected Sc230, and 231 paying the correct 5¢ rate to Canada. The reverse receiver cancellation dated March 21, 1938, Granville Ferry, Nova Scotia.



Two varieties on Scott 91; Cloud in the sky and the Polar Bear. Does anyone have positions for these?



DID WATERLOW SHEET-FEED THEIR ROTARY PRESSES FOR THE 1940S NEWFOUNDLAND STAMPS?

by Anthony Thompson

Thompson (2011, 2014) recorded that Waterlow added extra watermarks to fill the unwatermarked horizontal and vertical gutters of the Perkins Bacon 10×10 four-pane layout (Fig. 1). He stated that this was because the watermark panes of the Perkins Bacon printing paper would not be acceptable on a rotary press, since stamps could be printed in the unwatermarked gutter area. His general thoughts at the time were that the pre-gummed paper was feed in to Waterlow's rotary press using large continuous rolls.



Figure 2 Plate block from an Oct. 1947 printing showing the inverted watermark. (Sc253 Plate 42430)

A roll-feed press would not have any watermark varieties, since it would only be possible to feed the paper into the press

in one orientation, assuming that the printers produced the rolls in a constant manner. Thompson (2009) recorded that 2.6% of 1,394 Newfoundland 1c cod stamps (Sc 253) examined had inverted watermarks. And these have been found on a plate block from an order dated October 1947 (Ayshford, 1978, Fig. 2). The most likely cause for the inverted watermarks arises by the operator occasionally feeding the rotary press with inverted sheets.

Some of the early Waterlow printings in late 1941 and early 1942 were on pre-gummed Perkins Bacon style paper and the watermarks were placed under the stamps and not in the selvage (Fig. 3). The gum on these early printings was of the same Waterlow type found on the later printings (Thompson, 2018). The most likely cause was for the watermarks to align with the stamps is if the rotary press was sheet fed.

There also exists near perfectly aligned offsets on the gum side from the Waterlow printing that have either a sharply defined edge (Fig. 4a), or a soft edge (Fig. 4b) according to the paper having a clean cut or torn edge. The author has similar offsets to Fig. 4a for the 1c and 7c stamps (Sc 253, 258, 263 and 266). Details of the offset show that it is blurred and caused by transfer from a softer material (Fig. 4c, d). Offsets like this are most likely to occur when the press runs without a sheet of paper and deposits an image from the plate cylinder to the make-ready cylinder (the cylinder that presses against the plate cylinder), which is then passed on to the reverse side of the following sheet. The straight edge is most likely caused by a misfeed and is the edge of a second sheet. Again, this is evidence that the press was sheet-fed.



Figure 1. Perkins Bacon used a 10x10 four-pane watermark layout (black wmk). Waterlow filled the gutters (red wmk) to remove the possibility of printing stamps without watermarks (Sc 253 from Waterlow archive)

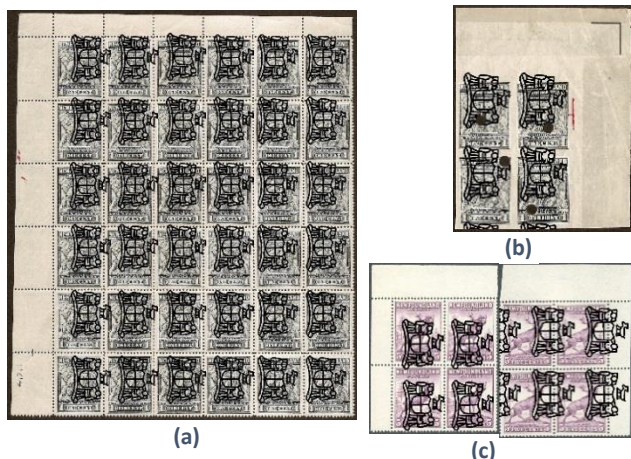


Figure 3 Early Waterlow printings on Perkins Bacon style paper with the pane watermark layout. (a) May 1942 printing of plate 41711 (Sc 253), (b) Block from Waterlow archives dated 13 May 1942 (Sc 253), and (c) corner blocks from the Blitiz printings in late 1941 to early 1942 (Sc 257)

DID WATERLOW SHEET-FEED THEIR ROTARY PRESSES FOR THE 1940S NEWFOUNDLAND STAMPS?

-conclusion

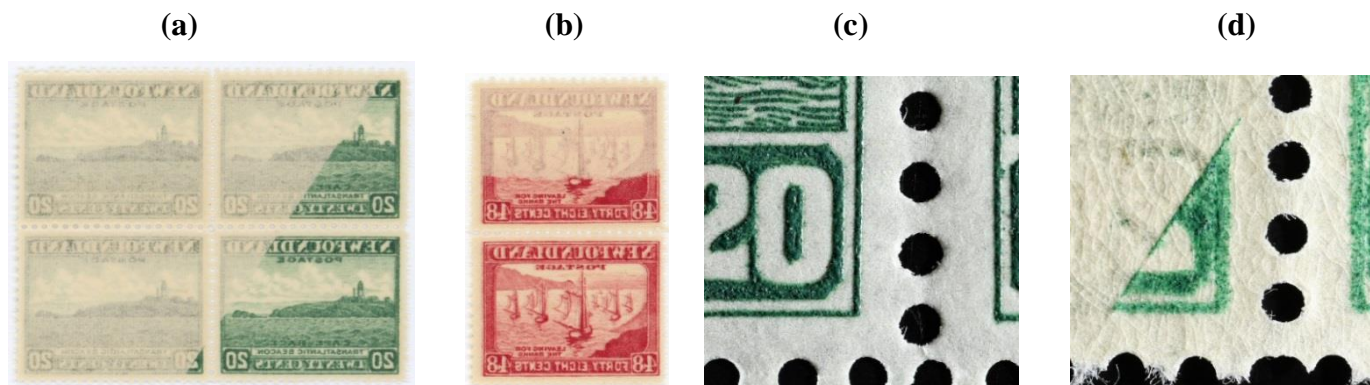


Figure 4. Offsets showing (a) a sharp cut edge (Sc 263) and (b) a soft torn edge (Sc 268), and details of the (c) front and (d) back of Fig. 4a

It seems there is little information on the paper fed to Waterlow's rotary presses. Baxter's (1992) detailed description of the printing of the Britain's High Castle values in 1952-1955 indicates that the press was sheet fed. He also makes the comment "Continuous feed printing presses which appeared later could have an all-over sheet watermark, the paper remaining uncut until the sheets of stamps were printed." This certainly gives the impression that sheet-fed rotary presses were the norm in the 1940s.

Afterword

Following an informal read of the above, Mr C.A. Stillions advised that I check the *Waterlow Study Circle Journal*. These have not been digitized but the author visited the Royal Philatelic Society London in 2009 and copied some articles of interest. A re-read showed that an article by Ketch (1982) contained information on Waterlow's printing process, with considerable details on the continuous rotary press. This was indeed sheet fed, with paper being laid by a *layer-on* operator on to a 'lay-board' which was then gripped by the 'gripper' and drawn into the press.

The article also describes the set-up of the make-ready cylinder, which was covered by two thicknesses of card, 20-40 layers of calico, and a layer of American cloth. The stamp paper was fed between the cloth and the plate cylinder.

The article notes that the taker-off, a second operator, removed the sheets one by one and stacked them, using an interleaving sheet in between to prevent offsets of the design from the sheet below. The offsets observed in the Waterlow stamps in Figure 4 are very different from those caused by the taker-off forgetting to include an inter-leaf sheet. These have much less ink and are not well aligned.

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