



# NEWFOUNDLAND NEWSLETTER

## BNAPS NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP



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**Editor's Note:** You will note that this is NN issue #200. The Members List shown below was published in the 4<sup>th</sup> Newsletter and is the closest thing we have to a Charter Member's List. Our Circulation Secretary has looked at this list and our records. He notes that the two members highlighted in red are still on our membership role. Congratulations guys and thanks for staying with us. If anyone can update on the status of any of these members we would like to hear from you.

### NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP MEMBERS MARCH 1986

Mel Boom, Sleman Park, PEI  
Charles F. Boubelik, Boulder, CO (deceased)  
H. W. Brice, Plantagenete, ON  
Paul Burega, Ottawa, ON  
Cap't. N.D. Campbell, R.N. Surrey, England (deceased)  
John Forrest, West Yorkshire, England  
John J. Gray, Kent, England  
Richard P. Hedley, Hamburg, New York  
Tom Jefferson, White Bear Lake, Minnesota  
John J. Kriz, Greenwich, Connecticut  
Eugene M. Labiuk, Mississauga, Ontario  
S.E. Lewis, Edmonton, Alberta  
Robert McGillivray, Vancouver, B.C.  
**George McGowan, Kinderhook, New York**  
**C.R. McGuire, Ottawa, Ontario**  
Wallace B. Mitchell, Watertown, MA  
G. Palmer Moffat, Tucson, AZ  
L. Frederick Moose, Englewood, CO  
Carl K Newswanger, Orville, OH

Derek Paul, Toronto, ON  
Robert H. Pratt, Milwaukee, WI (deceased)  
William G. Robinson, Vancouver, BC  
John S. Siverts, Wilmington, DC (deceased)  
Mrs. Anne Pallen, Beaconsfield, PQ  
C.A. Stillions, Washington DC, CHAIR (deceased)  
Frank Waite, Newberry, MI  
Bert Warr, Jr, Happy Valley Labrador, NFLD.  
Robert Waters, Calgary, AB  
Richard J. Went, Clawson, MI  
John W. White, Gresham, OR  
J. Don Wilson, St. John's, NFLD (deceased)  
Gary J. Lyon, Bathurst, NB  
Ed Werner, Guelph, ON (deceased)

#### **Courtesy Members**

John Burrnett, Study Group Coordinator, Ohio  
Don Makinen, BNAPS Library, Texas  
H. M. Street, BNA Topics Editor, Ancaster, ON

**From Glen Singer re NN199:** Another outstanding edition of the newsletter. I am learning quite a lot from reading the newsletter: helpful in that I am a neophyte when it comes to collecting NL: a newbie.



# NEWFOUNDLAND NEWSLETTER BNAPS NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP

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## OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER



### THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER

of the Newfoundland Study Group of BNAPS

Vol. I, No. 1

Whole No. 1

July/August 1985

It gives me great pleasure to send this first newsletter of the Newfoundland Study Group to each of you. I am hopeful this will be only the first of many. The BNAPS librarian tells me that there are no newsletters or bulletins of any previous Newfoundland study group in the BNAPS library--which makes us the first Newfoundland study group in the 40 years of the Society's history.

Our group has been allocated a time and place for a seminar at this year's BNAPS convention in Calgary. The time is from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, 12 September, and the place is the Jasper Room of the Westin Hotel. There will be a short program and the remainder of the time devoted to organizing the group. So plan now to attend.

The first project we as a group can do is to assist Palmer Moffit to develop a list of twentieth century Newfoundland post offices. A list of nineteenth century post offices is to appear in Robert Pratt's forthcoming handbook on the postal history of Newfoundland. Palmer has tabulated a list from searching all available published records. He now needs to confirm the years of operation for all the offices. The first half of his list is enclosed. Please look over the list and check your collection. If you can confirm a post office by a dated cancellation on stamp or cover, notify Palmer Moffit at 4542 East Camino De Oro, Tucson, Arizona 85718, U.S.A. If possible please send him a photocopy of the strike. Once all the confirmed years are tabulated, an updated list will be sent out with the newsletter.

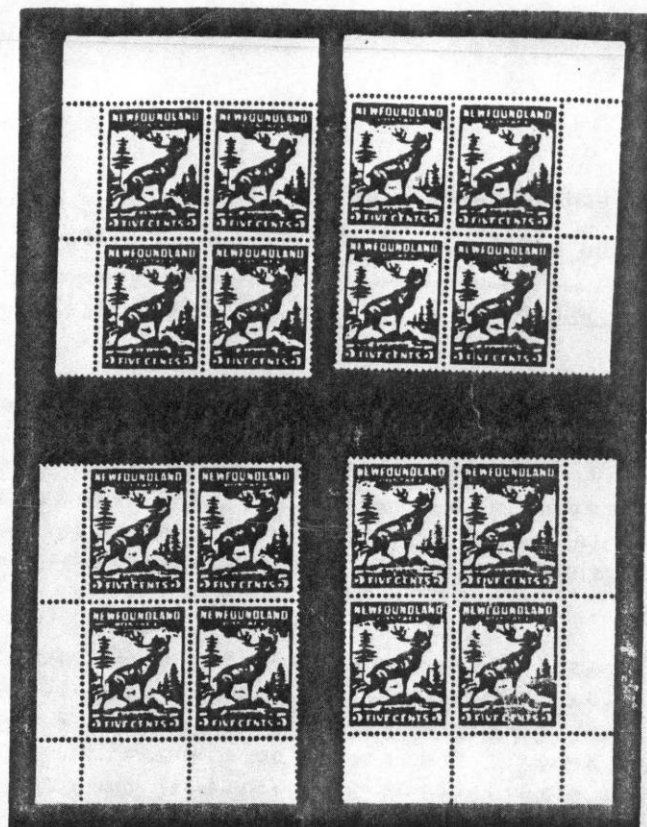
Page 1

Temporary Chairman & Newsletter Editor: C.A. Stillions, 5031  
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### OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER

-conclusion



NEWFIE NEWSLETTER  
July-August 1985

Figure 1  
from the collection  
of John Siverts

This effort at establishing a Newfoundland Study Group is an outgrowth of correspondence between Derek Paul and myself concerning his study of the wartime 5 cents Caribou (See BNA Topics, March-April 1984, p. 33-36).

We had pretty well come to the conclusion that this stamp had been printed by Waterlow & Sons and comb perforated by Perkins Bacon. The assumption being that the perforator had survived the bombing and fire of the Perkins Bacon plant.

That is--until John Siverts showed a set of corner margin blocks (Figure 1). A study of the extension of the perforations into the margins could not prove that these are single comb perforated. It appears that these are harrow perforated or are double comb perforated. Neither are characteristic of Waterlow or Perkins Bacon. In other words, someone other than Perkins Bacon or Waterlow perforated this stamp. Who did the perforated is still a mystery. Anyone having any knowledge of who did or could have done this perforating, please contact C.A. Stillions.



### Newfoundland Stamps in 3-D

- by Anthony Thompson, FRPSL

We all know that ink in line engraved (intaglio, recess) printed stamps sits above the paper surface. However, scans and magnified photographs only provide flat images (Figure 1 and 2). Strong side lighting can give the impression of a three-dimensional (3-D) effect, but it is still only a two-dimensional picture (Figure 3).

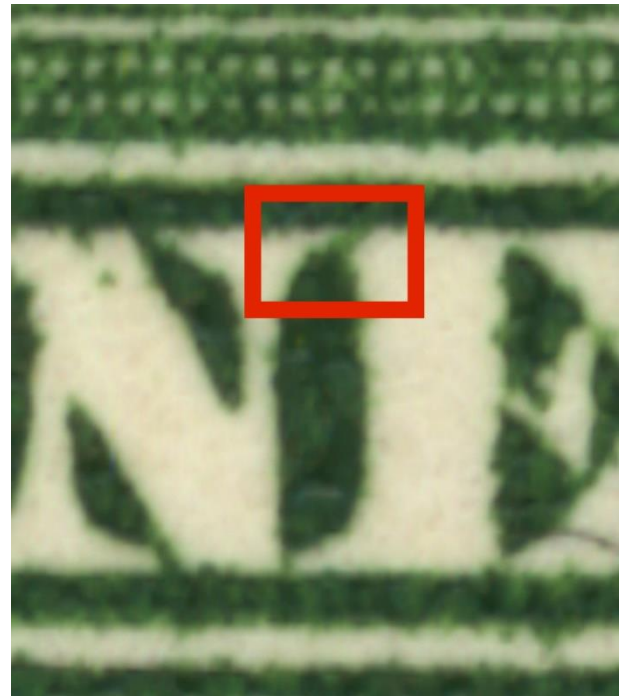
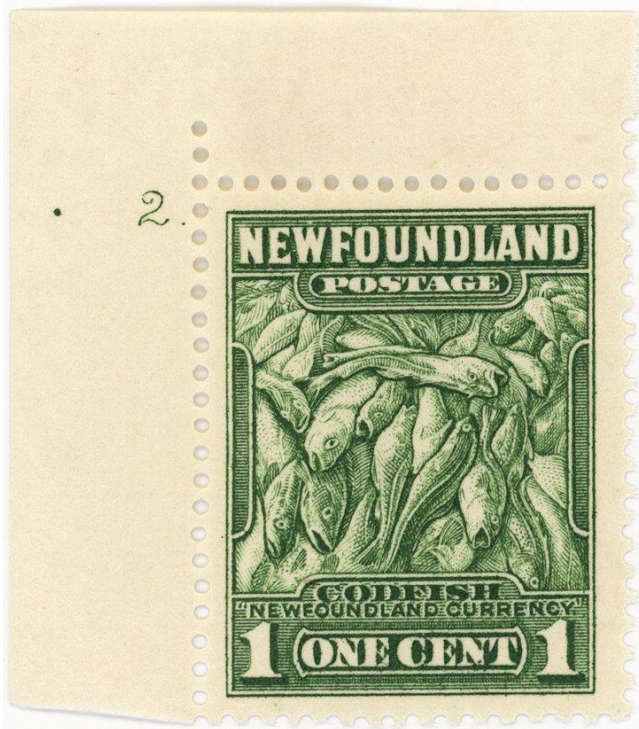


Figure 1. Scans of (a) 1932 1¢ definitive issue (Scott 183) and (b) enlarged area showing position of magnified images.

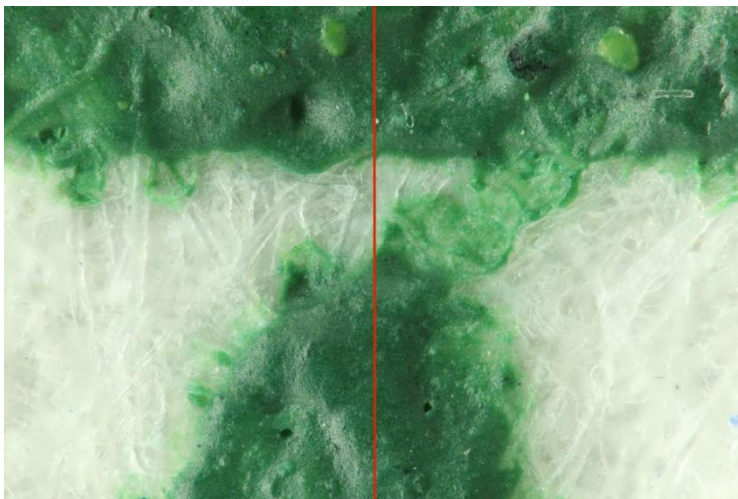


Figure 2. Photo-stacked image with diffuse lighting  
 (×50 objective lens, 0.72 × 0.48 mm)

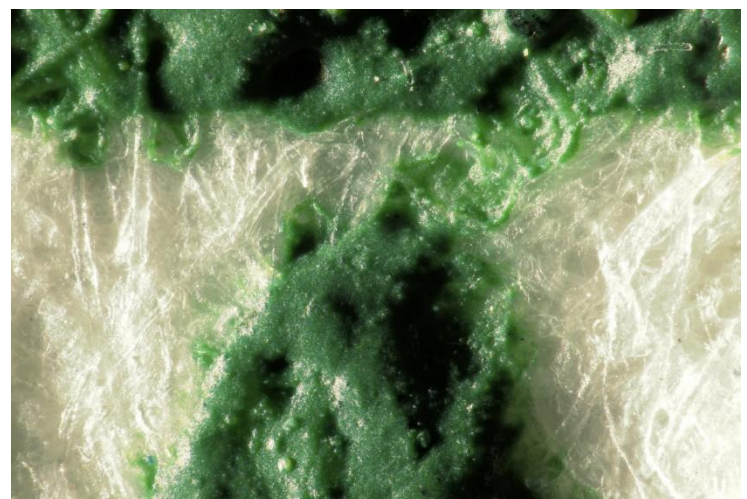


Figure 3. Photo-stacked image with lighting from left with the shadows giving more depth to the image

### Newfoundland Stamps In 3-D

- continued

Is it possible to get a truly 3-D effect? Or, I should say, it is possible to get a truly 3-D effect using equipment that can be purchased and used at home by philatelists? We all know that research equipment can do almost anything, but the costs can be prohibitive. This article shows a method for doing this, using more-or-less affordable equipment (Figure 4). The cost for items in Figure 4 is around £3500, excluding the computer and software.

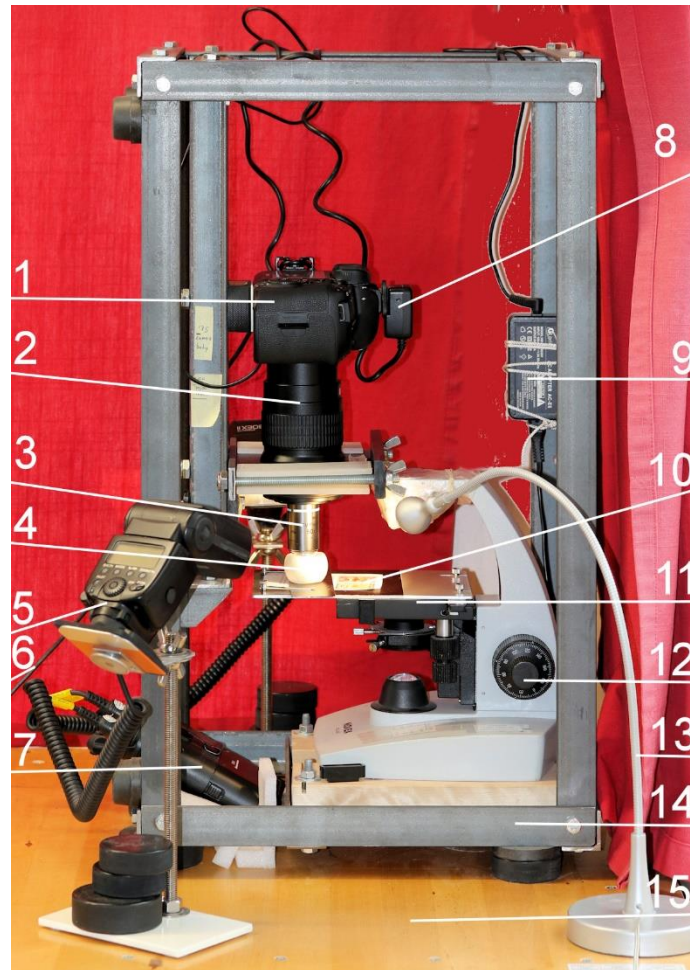


Figure 4. Equipment used to take the magnified photographs.

1	Camera (full frame) bolted to frame	9	Camera power transformed (AC-DC)
2	200mm tube lens	10	Stamp
3	Microscope objective $\times 10$ , $\times 20$ , or $\times 50$	11	Microscope stage (X, Y directions)
4	Diffuser (half ping-pong ball)	12	Microscope focus with graduated dial (Z direction)
5	Flash (and another behind)		
6	Lead to computer	13	Light for focusing (above)
7	Flash battery pack	14	Study steel frame (homemade)
8	Camera-flash control	15	Heavy anti-vibration bench (homemade)



## Newfoundland Stamps In 3-D

- continued

The photographic system is essentially a microscope. Magnification depends upon the tube lens and objective, but typically ranges from  $\times 10$  to  $\times 50$  onto the camera's sensor. The depth of field (DoF) for a single photograph is very limited, i.e. most of the photograph is blurred (Figure 5). A  $\times 10$  objective and 200mm tube lens has a DoF of only  $c.15 \mu\text{m}$  ( $= 0.015\text{mm}$ ), which becomes much less with the  $\times 20$  and  $\times 50$  objective lenses. Photo-stacking works by taking many photographs at slightly different focus levels and putting all the in-focus areas together. For example, the in-focus part of the photograph shown in Figure 5 is shown in Figure 6. Thirty-one of these in-focus layers were used in the photo-stacking to produce Figure 2 where all parts of the image are in focus.

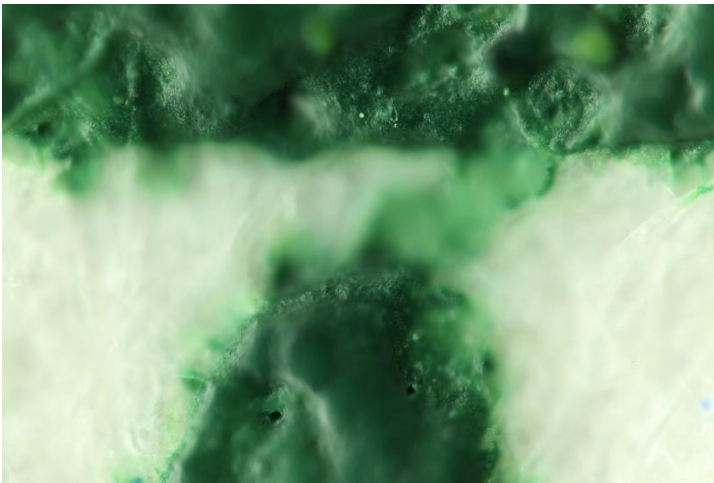


Figure 5. Single image with diffuse lighting showing only a portion of the image in focus.

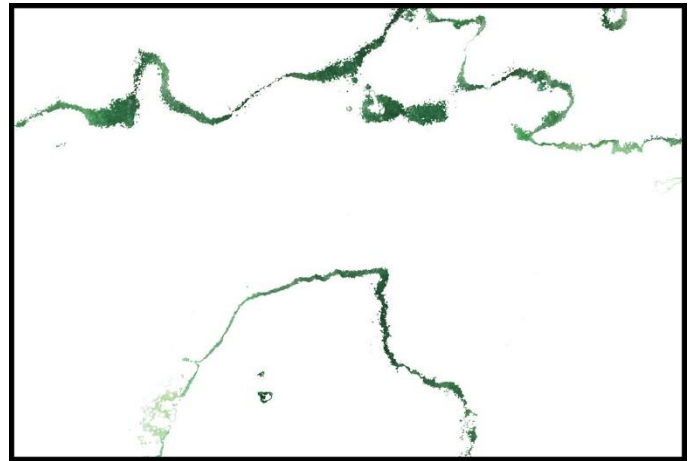
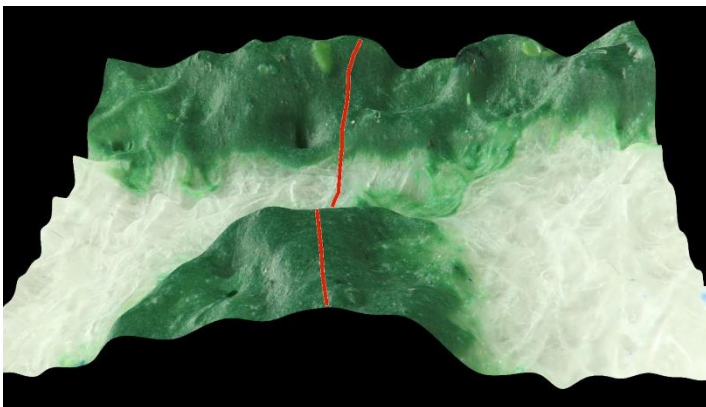
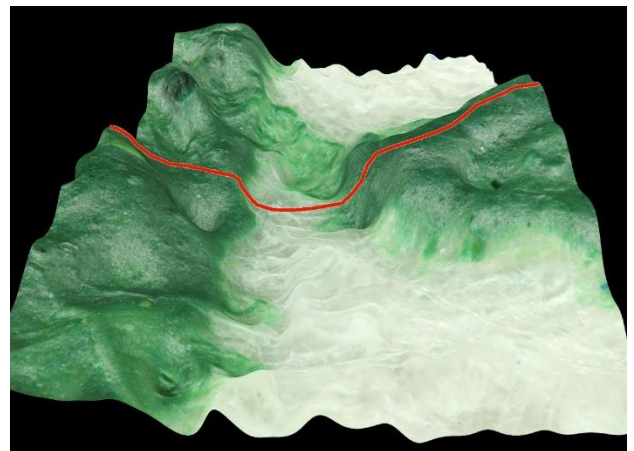


Figure 6. The in-focus parts of Figure 5

With the appropriate photo-stacking software, like Helicon Focus, it becomes possible to use these layers to generate a true 3-D model of the stamp surface, and to be able to rotate and tilt this in three dimensions (Figure 7). We really do see the surface in three dimensions with the engraved lines rising proud from the paper.



(a)



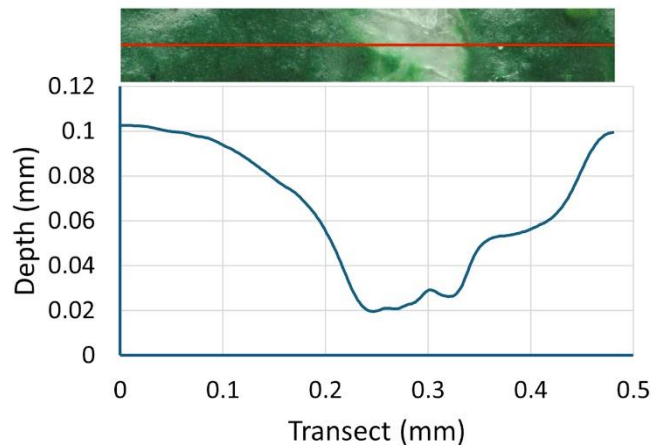
(b)

Figure 7. 3-D plots of Figure 2 from two different directions (red line is the transect). These can be rotated and tilted on the computer screen.

### Newfoundland Stamps In 3-D

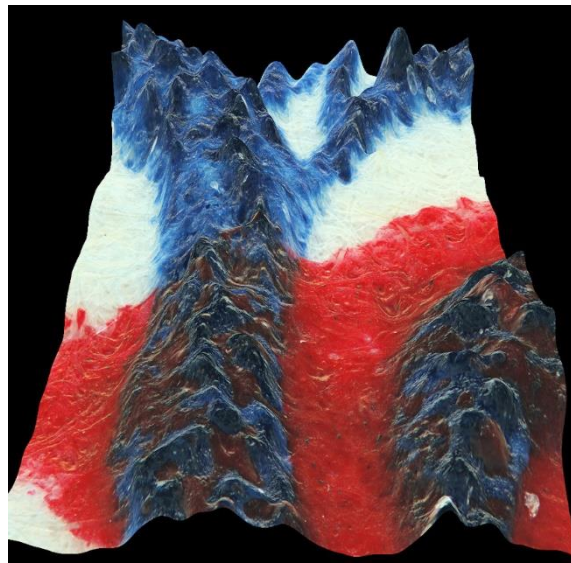
- conclusion

But there is more! The computer file used to generate the 3-D graphics, at least in Helicon Focus, is called a wavefront “.obj” file. This file contains the x, y, z coordinates of each surface point (along with colour and texture elements) that can be acquired using a text editor like “MS notepad”, fed into an MS excel file, calibrated, and used to produce a graph of the surface height in mm along a transect (Figure 8).



*Figure 8. Cross-section of the surface of the stamp at the transect shown by the white line in Figures 2 and 7. Calibration allows this to be plotted in mm.*

Dramatic results are seen with a comparison of a 2-D and 3-D images of the 1939 Royal Visit stamp that gives two very different impressions (Figure 9). The 2-D image is flat with the blue and red at the same plane. The blue ink is blotchy and the red ink more uniform, and it looks like the red ink goes over the blue ink, but that is about as much as one can say. But the picture in 3-D comes alive and it is seen that the blue lines are line-engraved intaglio (recess) printed and the red surcharge is lithographic (surface) printed.



*Figure 9. Photo-stacked image with (a) diffuse lighting of 4¢ over 5¢ 1939 Royal Visit stamp (Scott 251, ×20 objective lens, 1.8 × 1.2 mm) and (b) as a 3-D image.*



**The 1929 Surcharged Provisional of Newfoundland:**  
**A Case Study in Stamp Valuation**

by Marc Castel

Stamp value is influenced by various factors, with rarity often playing a significant role. The 1929 Surcharged Provisional of Newfoundland provides an intriguing case study in this regard with an unexpected outcome.

**Historical Context**

On August 23, 1929, the Newfoundland Post Office faced a critical shortage of 3c King George V and Queen Mary definitive stamps. To address the need, they created provisional stamps by applying a "THREE CENTS" surcharge in red to existing 6c Humber River stamps from 1923 (Unitrade #160). This temporary measure is a fascinating study in stamp collecting nuances.

**The Typesetting Error**



*The complete setting of 25 with the "C not below T" (Unitrade 160) and the "C below T" variety in position 1, 15 and 23 (Unitrade 160iii), all 3 mm above the bar.*



**The 1929 Surcharged Provisional of Newfoundland:**  
**A Case Study in Stamp Valuation**

- continued

During the overprinting process, a subtle yet significant typesetting error emerged. In sheets of 25 stamps (arranged in 5 rows of 5), three specific positions—1, 15, and 23—featured the "C" of "CENTS" positioned uniquely below the "T" of "THREE". This minute variation would become the crux of a philatelic pricing puzzle.

**Rarity and Valuation Complexities**

Renowned philatelic researcher Norris R. Dyer documented only two blocks of 25 essay stamps with this trial surcharge printed in black, 3mm above the strike-out bar (Unitrade 160ii). Mathematically, this meant merely 6 stamps would exhibit the precise "C below T" characteristic.



Figure 2. Essay "C under T" Variety  
 (Unitrade #160ii+) 6 extant



Figure 3. Essay "C not under T"  
 (Unitrade #160ii) 44 extant

**Catalog and Market Variations**

The 2023 Unitrade catalog presented intriguing pricing:

- The Standard red surcharged stamp (Unitrade #160): \$6 for mint VF (available on eBay for \$6).
- "C below T" red surcharged variety (Unitrade #160iii): \$50 for mint VF (available on eBay for \$25).
- Black surcharged essay Type II (3mm above bar) (Unitrade #160ii): \$1,750 for mint VF.



## **The 1929 Surcharged Provisional of Newfoundland:** **A Case Study in Stamp Valuation**

- *Conclusion*

Note:

- *The more rare variety of the Type II essay with the surcharge in black 3 mm above the bar and showing the "C below T" is not listed in the Unitrade catalog but I list it here as #160ii+.*
- *For completeness, another variety of the essay exists having the surcharge in black 5mm above the bar and with the same typesetting variations - Unitrade #160i; and also 75 stamps having an inverted surcharge in red - Unitrade #160a with the same typesetting variations.*

-

### **Auction Dynamics**

An October 2024 Eastern Auctions Ltd. auction revealed something unexpected. The rare black surcharge essay with the "C under T" variety (Unitrade #160ii+) sold for \$800 plus 18.5% buyer's premium—significantly less than anticipated for such a scarce item with only 6 possible copies extant.

Comparative auction records showed the more common "C not under T" variety (Unitrade #160ii) selling between \$1,260 and \$3,182, (44 possible copies extant), defying conventional rarity-based valuation logic.

### **Valuation Enigma**

This case raises profound questions about stamp valuation:

- Why do some ultra-rare stamps command modest prices?
- How do catalog listings influence market perception?
- What invisible factors determine collector interest?

### **Conclusion**

The 1929 Newfoundland Surcharged Provisional exemplifies the complex, sometimes counterintuitive world of philatelic valuation. Rarity alone does not guarantee high prices. Factors like market awareness, collector preferences, condition, and catalog recognition play equally crucial roles in determining a stamp's ultimate value.

This tiny piece of postal history reminds us that in stamp collecting, as in many specialized fields, value is a nuanced interplay of objective scarcity and subjective perception.



## **UPU SPECIMEN STAMPS – AN UPDATE**

by Klaus Wehlt

At our Zoom meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, I gave a presentation as an update to an earlier Zoom meeting, but also to my article in the BNA Topics from last year. <sup>1)</sup>

As always, I received valuable information from other members of our Study Group during or shortly after my presentation, which led to further research on my part.

When dealing with Newfoundland's UPU specimens, there are always two sides of the story. On the one hand, the Newfoundland stamps that were sent as specimens to the UPU administration in Berne and, on the other hand, the reference collection of Newfoundland with the UPU specimens of the other member states that the Newfoundland postal administration received from the UPU administration in Berne.

### **The reference collection of Newfoundland**

At first, I only found a chapter in Robert H. Pratt's book *The nineteenth century Postal History of Newfoundland* about the commission inquiry in 1900 that dealt with the condition of the reference collection, among other things. This section is well worth reading and I would like to quote just two short passages here. <sup>2)</sup>

*The Testimony: The headquarters of the International Postal Union in Berne sends a sample of every new stamp issued by a member country to each of its other member countries for identification purposes. At the time of the inquiry the number of stamps required to be sent from Newfoundland came to 736 of each value. Berne then distributed them in lots of five to each postal administration. ....*

*Neither Martin, LeMessurier or Fraser could accurately account for their whereabouts. ....*

As a result, the executives had to promise to pay more attention to the reference collection in the future and to keep it in an appropriate condition.

Immediately after my presentation, Brian Damien kindly pointed me to an article by the late C.A. Stillions that had appeared in the Newfie Newsletter in 2017. <sup>3)</sup>

The article quotes a story from Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News, 1934, offering a reward for information on the theft of three stamp albums from the museum in St. John's, Newfoundland. The three albums contained the stamps Newfoundland had received from the UPU administration in Bern.

In another news item from January 22, the arrest of Newfoundland's Minister of Agriculture and Mines, W. J. Walsh, is reported. The arrest was made in connection with the theft of the stamp collection from the St. John's Museum.

Of course, I then searched the digital archive of Memorial University, St. John's for more newspaper articles related to the whereabouts of the collection. <sup>4)</sup>

First an article from the Evening Telegram, St. John's, issued on November 27, 1933, suggesting that the Newfoundland reference collection to be transferred to the St. John's Museum so that it can be made accessible to the interested public.





### UPU SPECIMEN STAMPS – AN UPDATE

- continued

Department of Posts, they are entrusted to that Department of the Government for safekeeping. What intrinsic value they may have, it is impossible to say, but from a collector's point of view they are of the greatest interest. On that account, The Telegram would suggest that instead of being stored away, they might be available for inspection by the public, and no more suitable place for such an exhibition could be chosen than the Museum.

It is to be hoped that under the proposed reorganization of departments, this institution will also come in for its due share of attention, and will be made to assume the importance that it should occupy among the educational facilities. Such places the world over are made the repositories for articles of the greatest value, and it is to be hoped that the proper steps will be taken before long to have the collection in the local Museum placed under proper care, additions made to it—these international stamp issues, for example—and the necessary safeguards taken to prevent any such acts of theft or vandalism as have occurred in the past.

Obviously, this suggestion was followed. The collection was transferred to the museum in St. John's only to be stolen a short time later. I did not find any further articles on the arrest of Minister W.J. Walsh, but I did find this news item in the Guardian, Bay Roberts, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1934

#### W. J. WALSH DISCHARGED.

W. J. Walsh, ex-minister of Agriculture and Mines, was freed from the charge of theft of stamps from the Museum, Judge Morris delivering a written statement in which he decided after the preliminary hearing closed that there was no prime facie evidence to warrant commitment of the case before the Supreme Court. The accused was forthwith discharged.



## UPU SPECIMEN STAMPS – AN UPDATE

- continued

Presumable, the Newfoundland reference collection has not reappeared. It was probably split up and sold abroad. Since the Newfoundland postal administration, unlike some other countries (e.g. Madagascar or Mauritania), did not affix a security mark to the stamps, the stamps can no longer be assigned to the Newfoundland reference collection.

### Newfoundland specimen stamps from other reference collections

The stamps delivered by the Newfoundland postal administration after joining the Universal Postal Union were unused stamps without special markings, with the exception of the two omnibus issues for the Silver Jubilee of King George V and the Coronation of King George VI, which were perforated with a specimen perforation. These two issues are also the only ones to have found their way into James Bendon's handbook.<sup>5)</sup>



A German collector friend who collects stamps and covers of various Pacific states tells me that he has the omnibus set from 1937, Coronation King George VI, with specimen perforation of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands in his collection. According to his information, 420 sets (7 sheets à 60 stamps) were produced of which 413 sets were delivered to the UPU administration in Bern.

There are also other Newfoundland stamps with specimen perforation. However, these differ from the two Omnibus issues and probably come from the printer's archives. I suspect that only one sheet was produced in each case.

In my article, in addition to these two stamp issues, I included two other Newfoundland UPU specimens with the security overprints of the postal administration of Madagascar and the Portuguese overseas territories.

Not all postal administrations applied a security mark to the UPU specimens they received from the UPU administration in Berne. As an example, I would like to mention the reference collections of Sweden or Tunisia that have come onto the market in recent years. They were issued on old pre-printed album sheets or blank sheets.

That's why the reference collections of Madagascar or Mauritania, for example, are so important to me, because these stamps have been affixed with security marks of the respective postal administrations. The same applies to the stamps sent by the UPU administration in Bern for the Portuguese overseas territories to the Portuguese Ministry of Posts. According to James Bendon, these stamps received a security mark until 1942. First "ULTRAMAR" later "COLONINAS" and "Specimen". However, the Portuguese Ministry of Posts apparently only forwarded just one UPU specimen at a time to the Portuguese overseas territories. The other specimen remained in Lisbon. These surplus stocks entered the stamp market at the end of the 1970s.<sup>6)</sup>



## UPU SPECIMEN STAMPS – AN UPDATE

- continued

There should therefore be plenty of Newfoundland UPU specimens on the philatelic market, including those with the corresponding security marks or overprints and thus clearly identifiable as UPU specimens.

I have been researching intensively over the past few months but found very little. The collection of Robert H. Pratt proved to be the most fruitful source. The slide collection is accessible to the general public via the homepage of the Chicago Collectors Club. <sup>7)</sup>

During the last few months, I was able to acquire a set of UPU specimens of the John Guy issue from the Madagascar reference collection in the USA.



The complete sheet was in the Robert H. Pratt collection, which was obviously split up later.



**UPU SPECIMEN STAMPS – AN UPDATE**

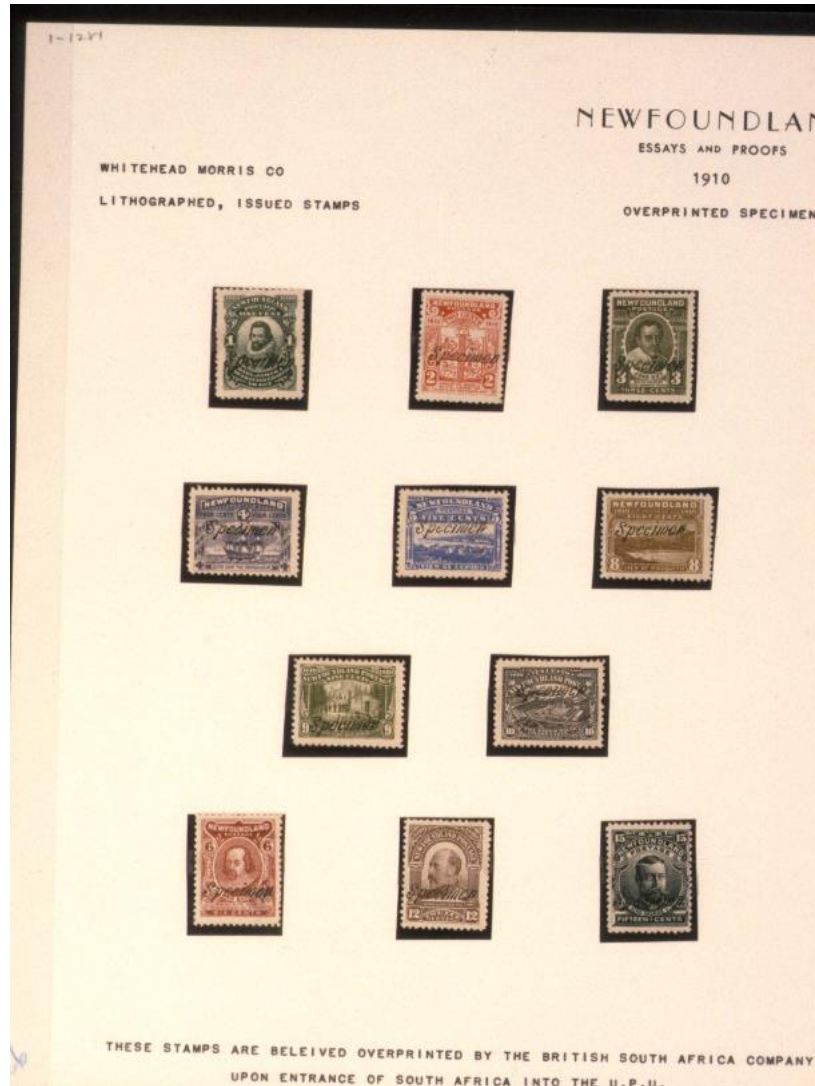
- continued



Scan of the complete sheet of the Madagascar comparison collection. Source: Collectors Club of Chicago - Col. Pratt's Newfoundland Stamp Collection

**UPU SPECIMEN STAMPS – AN UPDATE**

- continued



The collection contained further UPU specimens. Once again, the stamps of the John Guy issue, this time with a “Specimen.” overprint which, according to James Bendon, was used in South Africa. <sup>8)</sup>

SOUTH AFRICA				
TYPES				
1910	<i>Specimen.</i>	12.5 x 2/1	SA1	H/S

Robert H. Pratt wrote on the collection sheet: These stamps are believed overprinted by the British South Africa Company upon entrance of South Africa into the U.P.U.



## UPU SPECIMEN STAMPS – AN UPDATE

- conclusion

Another but incomplete set of the John Guy issue still in the R. Maresh & Son auction sleeve with diagonal Specimen overprint without further description. They may have come from the Bechuanaland Protectorate's reference collection auctioned by Robson Lowe in October 1976.<sup>9)</sup>



Incomplete set of the John Guy issue with Specimen overprint. Source: Collectors Club of Chicago - Col. Pratt's Newfoundland Stamp Collection

For comparison, two stamps of the Danish coat of arms issue with Specimen overprint from the Bechuanaland Protectorate's reference collection



### **References:**

- <sup>1)</sup> BNA Topics, Vol. 81, No. 2, 2024 second quarter, p.44
- <sup>2)</sup> Robert H. Pratt: The Nineteenth Century Postal History of Newfoundland, p.199
- <sup>3)</sup> The Newfie Newsletter No. 167, April, June 2017, p.2
- <sup>4)</sup> Memorial University: Digital Archives Initiative, <https://dai.mun.ca/>
- <sup>5)</sup> James Bendon: UPU Specimen Stamps, 1988, p.148
- <sup>6)</sup> James Bendon: UPU Specimen Stamps, 2015, p.29
- <sup>7)</sup> Collectors Club of Chicago, Col. Pratt's Newfoundland Stamp Collection  
<https://www.collectorsclubchicago.org/newfoundland-stamp-collection/>
- <sup>8)</sup> James Bendon: UPU Specimen Stamps, 1988, p.185
- <sup>9)</sup> James Bendon: UPU Specimen Stamps, 2021, Appendix G

### NEWFOUNDLAND: 1932 Perkins Bacon & Co Blue 24¢ double printed sheets!

by John M Walsh, FRPSC and Julian J Goldberg

In 1932 the Newfoundland Government requisitioned a new series of postage stamps. The order was placed through John Dickinson & Co, who contracted with Perkins Bacon & Co (PB&Co) to do the engraving and printing. Within that order was a 24¢ denomination. The detailed image featured the iron ore loading platform on Bell Island, Newfoundland and showed the docked ship, *S.S. Willemsplein*, being loaded.

The stamp was released on August 15, 1932 with other denominations from this issue. The literature, as seen by the authors, does not give the quantity printed. However in *Walsh 2025 Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue* the engraver for this 1932 24¢ denomination can be found listed as A. J. Downey. The printing timeline for this blue 24¢ denomination suggests that only one printing was done. This can be stated because shortly thereafter in August 03, 1933 a new issue, the Sir Humphrey Gilbert, had a different 24¢ image created. The quantity printed for it is 29500 per *Walsh*. It was also engraved by A. J. Downey.



Some literature does state that this 1932 blue 24¢ denomination was double printed, but no quantities are mentioned. When observed in the marketplace, this double printed 24¢ denomination convincingly shows that more than one sheet of a 100 had been double printed. Presented are captured images from different selling sources and owners.

When the paper being printed is pressed into the recess engraved printing plate, it leaves a specifically printed image that contains, in this case, 100 images that are symmetrically laid out in measured specified positional rows and columns.

When the overlaid second printing is observed, this second application does show different positions throughout these presented image samples. If only one sheet had been double printed then the second printing position would have been in the same positional location on all of the presented sheet images. Any off-centering from the initial print would be dependent on any slight sheet movement prior to the second print overlay. In the presented images it can be seen that the second overprint does not position itself in the same off-centered location. From these samples it is observed that there were at least six double printed sheets produced during the initial printing process. Our observance of the items identified as Sparks, Kelleher and Brandon show them visually to be from the same double printed sheet.

Why/how did this happen? Upon measuring the double printed images from two samples, help was received from Dave Tonet and Robin J Moore, they were found to be 20.5 mm on the narrow size which is indicative of PB&Co wet printing paper presses. The usual method for wet flat plate press for recess/engraved/intaglio printing was as follows:

- The flat plate would be laid on the bottom of the flat press facing upwards.
- Printing ink would be deposited into the plate's engraved/cut out/recessed parts.
- A sheet of wetted paper would be placed/put on top of/over the plate.
- A roller would be rolled on top of the paper (or a plank pressed on top of the paper) that would press the paper down into the inked recess/hollowed out plate in order to absorb the printing ink. (Double printing would occur at this point if the paper was slightly lifted/shifted and left there and the roller was rolled over the paper a second time).
- The printed paper would be taken off of the printing plate and put/stacked/hung to dry.
- After the printed paper was dried, it would be gummed and dried again.
- After the printed gummed paper was dried, it would be perforated.

As per the steps demonstrated this printing method is very labour intensive.



**NEWFOUNDLAND: 1932 Perkins Bacon & Co blue 24¢ double printed sheets!**

- continued

If it was 21 mm it would have indicated printing was done by the dry paper presses as stated in a series of articles since 2020 published in Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain journal *Maple Leaves*, and can be found in *Walsh 2025 Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue*. These articles indicated that printing troubles were occurring. It was shown that PB&Co were having great difficulties trying to do both wet paper and the new dry paper printing technique with its presses during this time. PB&Co found that the same press could not print on both paper types. To have so many double printed sheets created it suggests that there was trouble with the wet paper press. It leads one to believe the printing paper sheets were sticking while in the wet paper press. And before the printed sheet could be extracted it got overprinted.

Eastern Auctions provided the images as found in their public auctions labelled as PA with auction # and the lot #. Are there more double printed sheets? That will be for others to find. Happy hunting.



1 Sheet A; NSSC 190b double printed



Sheet A; from Eastern Auctions Feb 2025; same item as from PA872b 712



Sheet A; PA872b 712



**NEWFOUNDLAND: 1932 Perkins Bacon & Co blue 24¢ double printed sheets!**

- continued



*Sheet B; Moore*



*Sheet B; PA857c 788*



*Sheet C; Tonet; Brandon cert. 46500 in 2022*



*Sheet C; Sparks lot 466; 1973 RPSL cert.*



*Sheet C; via Tonet; from Kelleher*



*Sheet C; via David BrandonStamps.com*



**NEWFOUNDLAND: 1932 Perkins Bacon & Co blue 24¢ double printed sheets!**

- conclusion



*Sheet D; via Moore; from Mount Royal;  
 same item as from PA863a 273*



*Sheet D; PA863a 273*



*Sheet E; PA862 238*



*Sheet F; to show Double Printed intensive image*



## MY MOST INTRIGUING NEWFOUNDLAND AIR MAIL COVER

- Chris Hargreaves



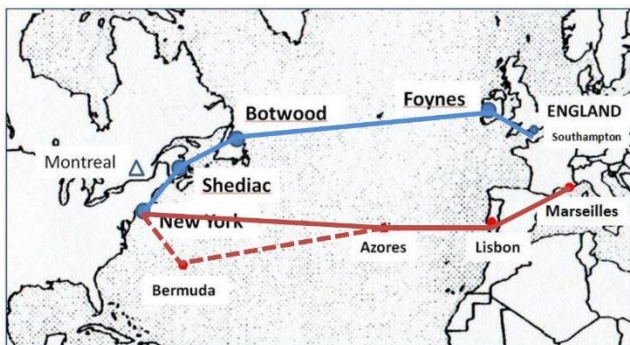
This cover was intriguing in many respects! The first question it raised, was why did a cover from May 4<sup>th</sup> 1942 refer to the “*Inaugural Flight Pan-American Airways Newfoundland to the United Kingdom Via the North Atlantic Route*”, when Pan Am had inaugurated a service from New York via Shediac, New Brunswick; Botwood, Newfoundland; and Foynes, Ireland; to Southampton, England in June 1939? – That route is shown in blue on the map below.

The explanation, according to the *American Air Mail Catalogue*, was that the original service had been suspended during 1940 and 1941 due to American neutrality regulations but was resumed in May 1942.

However, nobody I asked could explain why the neutrality regulations stopped Pan Am from flying through the British colony of Newfoundland to neutral Ireland, while it continued flying on its Southern Trans-Atlantic route via the British colony of Bermuda to neutral Portugal! (The original Southern route is shown in red below: the service ended in Lisbon after war was declared, and a stop in Bermuda was then added.)

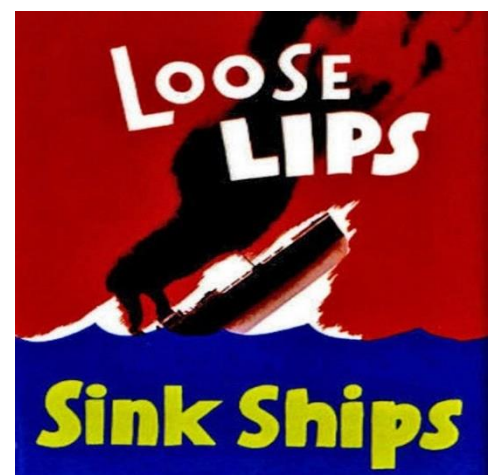
I eventually learned that the U.S. Neutrality Act of 1939 required a purchaser of arms and other goods to provide transport from the US themselves, and it prohibited American ships and aircraft from entering a precisely defined combat area regardless of what they were carrying.

Pan Am had stopped flying the Northern Route as its aircraft could not continue from Botwood to Ireland but continued flying the Southern Trans-Atlantic route to Lisbon, as Portugal was outside the Combat Area which is shown in gray on the map below.



The resumption of service in 1942 was a significant event, but this was also the era of secrecy and censorship. If “*Loose Lips Sink Ships*”, why was the date of the inaugural flight on a new air route revealed? Why did the censor who applied the red handstamp to the cover above let it pass?

It seemed possible that instead of keeping the inauguration secret, it was advertised as a sign that the war was going well, and normal activities were resuming. But: when Michael Deal examined old issues of the *St. John's Evening Telegram* from March 1<sup>st</sup> to May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1942, he found nothing regarding the inaugural Trans-Atlantic flight! A similar search was done by John Walsh, who also found no reference to the new service. Then, some years later, C.A. Stillions did find an announcement that the Northern Trans-Atlantic Air Mail service would resume on May 4<sup>th</sup>, but it was a small paragraph in a long article on page 3 of the *St. John's Evening Telegram*.

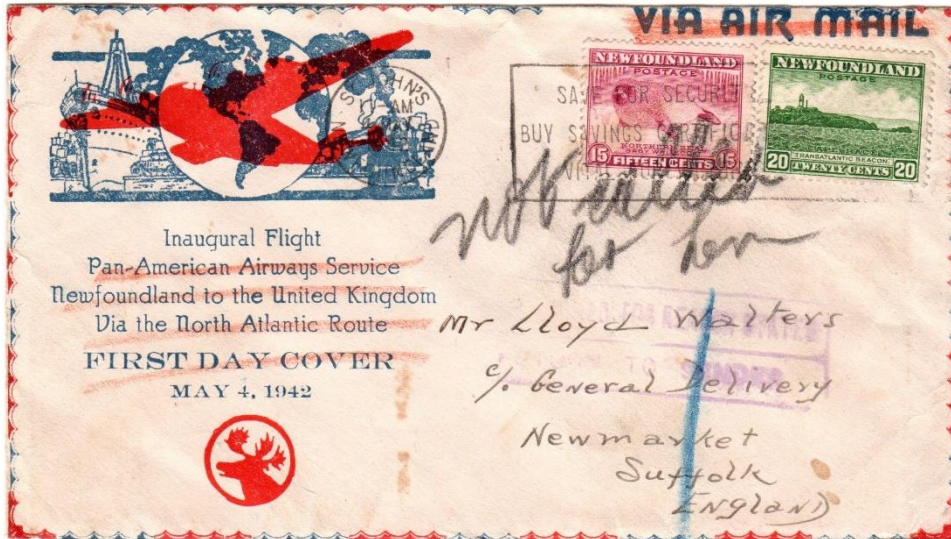




## MY MOST INTRIGUING NEWFOUNDLAND AIR MAIL COVER

-Conclusion

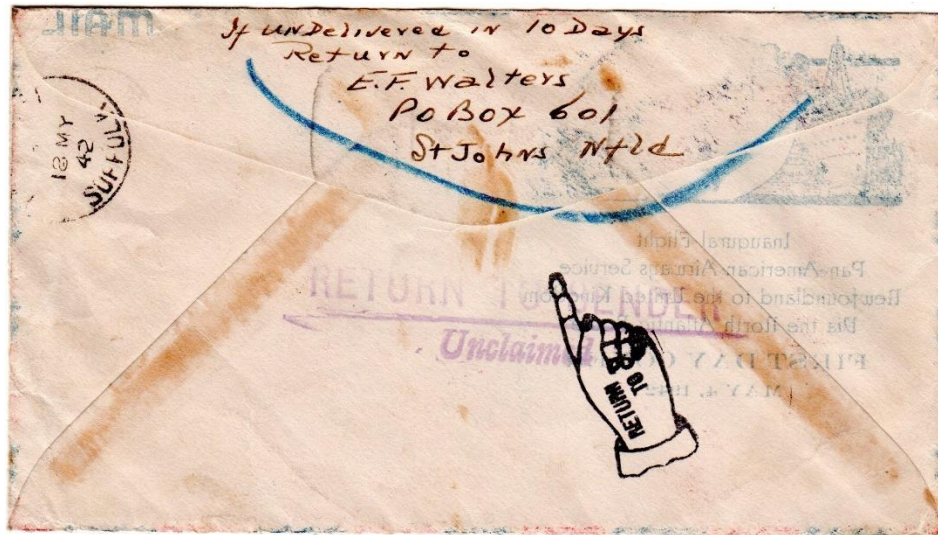
There is no date on the above cover, but the one below has a ST. JOHN'S 11AM 4MAY 1942 roller cancellation and is back stamped in England on May 18th.



The 14-day transit time was intriguing, as in 1939 covers traveled from Botwood to England in two or three days! It seemed likely that the inauguration had been delayed, but when Karl Winkelmann sent me copies of correspondence regarding the inauguration that he'd obtained from the U.S. National Archives, it turned out that the first flight had not left New York until May 18<sup>th</sup>!

Throughout the early research into these 1942 covers, everyone assumed that the new service followed the same procedures as in 1939 and collected and dropped off Newfoundland mail in Botwood.

However, in 2012 David Crotty found a collection of "Trip Summaries" in the Pan American Airways Archives in the Richter Library at the University of Miami and published a summary of them in his *Pan American Airways 1939-1944, Atlantic Wartime Operations Catalog*. It turned out that no mail had been transferred in Botwood! -



Mail was flown from St. John's and Gander to Moncton by the new Trans-Canada Airlines service. From Moncton it was either sent to Shediac which was 30 kms away and transferred to the Northern Air Mail route or flown to New York and carried across the Atlantic by the Southern Air Mail route.

The covers above were in fact flown across the Atlantic by the southern route, on Pan Am flight 2527 which left New York at 10.46 on May 13<sup>th</sup> and arrived in Lisbon at 16.24 on May 14<sup>th</sup>. They were then flown from Lisbon to England and arrived in London on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Although the first cover shown has no postal markings stating where it was mailed from, the triangular handstamp was used by HMCS Avalon in St. John's. - In 1942 sailors had free mail privileges on regular mail, but if they wanted to send a letter by airmail, they had to pay for air mail postage. Since applying Newfoundland stamps would reveal where their ship was based at the time, the triangular hand stamp was used to indicate that the additional postage had been paid. Why a handstamp designed to hide the route of a letter was used on a cover with a printed description of its route still intrigues me!



## A NEW VARIETY ON THE 7c LONG CORONATION STAMP

by Malcolm Back

When I was putting the final touches on this newsletter, I noticed that there was a blank page at the end. It was crying out for a short piece, and I couldn't resist being a part of the 200th issue of this newsletter.

I recently acquired this stamp Sc235, NSSC 219, line perf 13.9 which has a plate scratch starting behind the shoulder of the Caribou, spearing him through the chest and the scratch continues through the S of Cents into the lower margin. I believe this is an unrecorded variety.

