

1949 CONVENTION COVER

Norris (Bob) Dyer

The cover pictured below was sent on July 30, 1949 from River Edge, New Jersey to T.B. Higginson of Finch, Ontario. On the lower left is a label that says:

ATTEND
BNAPEX 1949
HOTEL STATLER
Buffalo, N.Y.
Sept. 16 -17-18

This was the first BNAPEX convention! This was a timely eBay purchase as the organization prepares for our 2013 convention, 64 years later. The cover has two 1¢ U.S. stamps and a tiny piece of a third. The U.S. rate to Canada at the time was 3¢ so the cover was underpaid. It also has a 2¢ postage due *Newfoundland* stamp! Of course, Newfoundland had united with Canada months before. Research has shown that surplus Newfoundland stamps were on sale by the Canada Post but there is no record that postage due stamps were. The postage due stamp is just tied at the top by an August, 1949 Finch postmark.



Robert Lemire's research shows that the likely sender was Harry Lussey, OTB and BNAPS president from 1953-54. The recipient was also a BNAPS member. So, what is the story?

The penalty, at 2¢, was probably correct and Newfoundland stamps had not been demonetized. Since Higginson was a long-time member (1947-55) and Finch a small town of about 400, it is probable that Higginson talked the local postmaster into using a stamp he provided. It is hard to believe a Canadian post office would use Newfoundland postage due stamps, unless on a favor basis.