

BLITZ STAMPS OF NEWFOUNDLAND

CLARENCE STILLIONS



"During the air attacks on London in the first two weeks of May (1941) - the last of the German offensive - over seventy air craft were destroyed or more than the four winter months had yielded." THEIR FINEST HOUR by Winston S. Churchill.

Much more than German aircraft was destroyed that first two weeks in May. For in the dying flurry of the German blitz during the night of 10 May 1941, the printing works of W. W. Sprague & Co.'s Perkins Bacon subsidiary was destroyed. After the destruction of Perkins Bacon works, Waterlow & Sons, in the spirit of *"help-thy-neighbor"*, began printing Newfoundland's definitive postage stamps for W. W. Sprague & Company. The arrangement continued until Newfoundland ceased needing postage stamps upon joining the Dominion of Canada on 1 April 1949.

After the bombing and fire, some dies and some transfer rolls were recovered. To fit the Waterlow printing presses the creation of new printing plates was required. Thus new printing plates were made from the salvaged dies, salvaged transfer rolls, or from completely re-engraved new dies.

Waterlow printings can be distinguished from the earlier Perkins Bacon and W. W. Sprague printings as they are line perforated 12.5 and the narrow dimension is 21.0 mm. Unlike Perkins Bacon and W. W. Sprague plates, Waterlow plates contained plate markings: short dashed lines between positions 5 and 6, 41 and 51, 50 and 60, and 95 and 96 and a cross at the center of the 100 subject plate.

The Waterlow printings were introduced gradually as supplies of the Sprague printed stamps were exhausted and began appearing in Newfoundland in the fall of 1941. However, the printing records of Waterlow & Sons state the earliest printings of Newfoundland stamps occurred in February 1942. The 1942 and later recorded printings represent specific printing orders under a formal arrangement while the unrecorded printings of 1941 are considered the *"help-thy-neighbor"* printings or more simply as the **Blitz Stamps of Newfoundland**.

The Blitz Stamps of Newfoundland in order of appearance:



1941 October 1



1941 October 1



1941 November 14



1941 November 15

4 CENTS PRINCESS ELIZABETH



Die proof salvaged from the Waterlow archive discards with cylinder number removed from the upper right corner. The die number is in the lower margin.

The Waterlow archive discards were discovered by stamp dealer, Robson Lowe, when he went to pick-up the Waterlow archive for his auction firm. He just happened to look in a trash bin and spotted some discarded files. Upon inspection the files contained many trimmed and damaged die proofs. This proof is one of the salvaged die proofs and is the only known die proof of this denomination proofed by Waterlow & Sons.



Plate proof from the plate used to print the Blitz stamps, Plate 41420

4 CENTS PRINCESS ELIZABETH

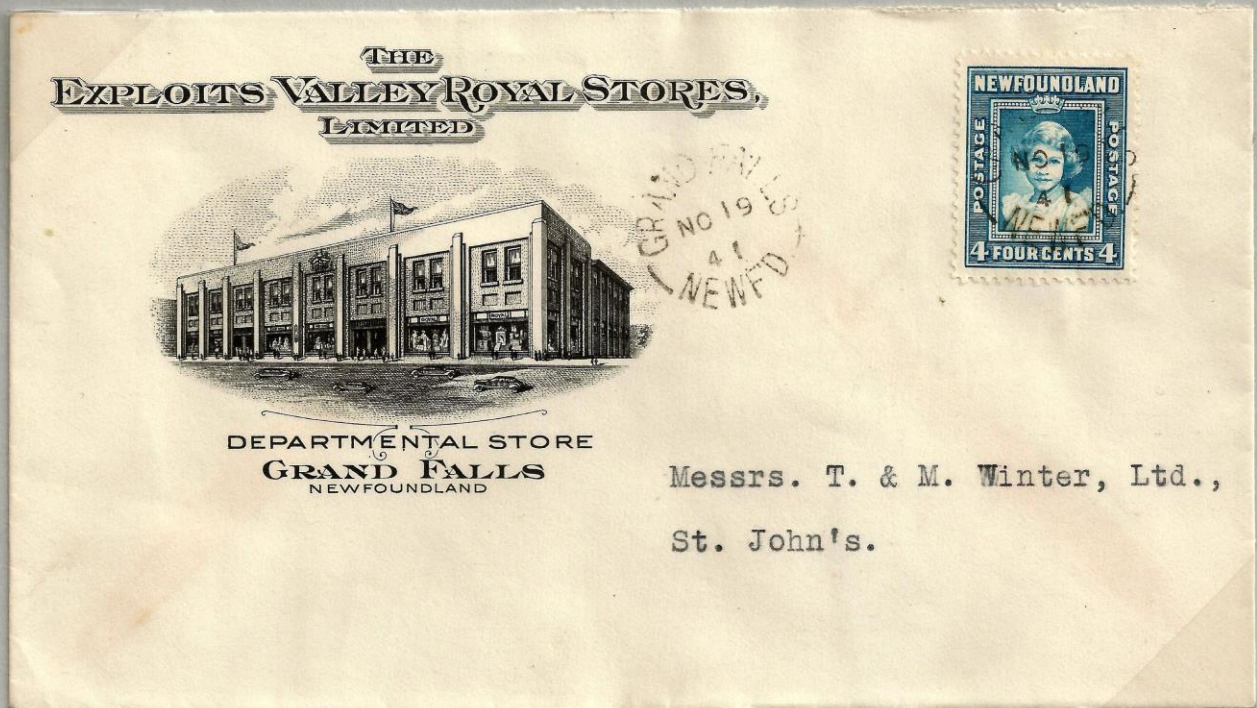
Earliest Recorded Printing: 1942 February

Earliest Reported Use: 1941 October 1



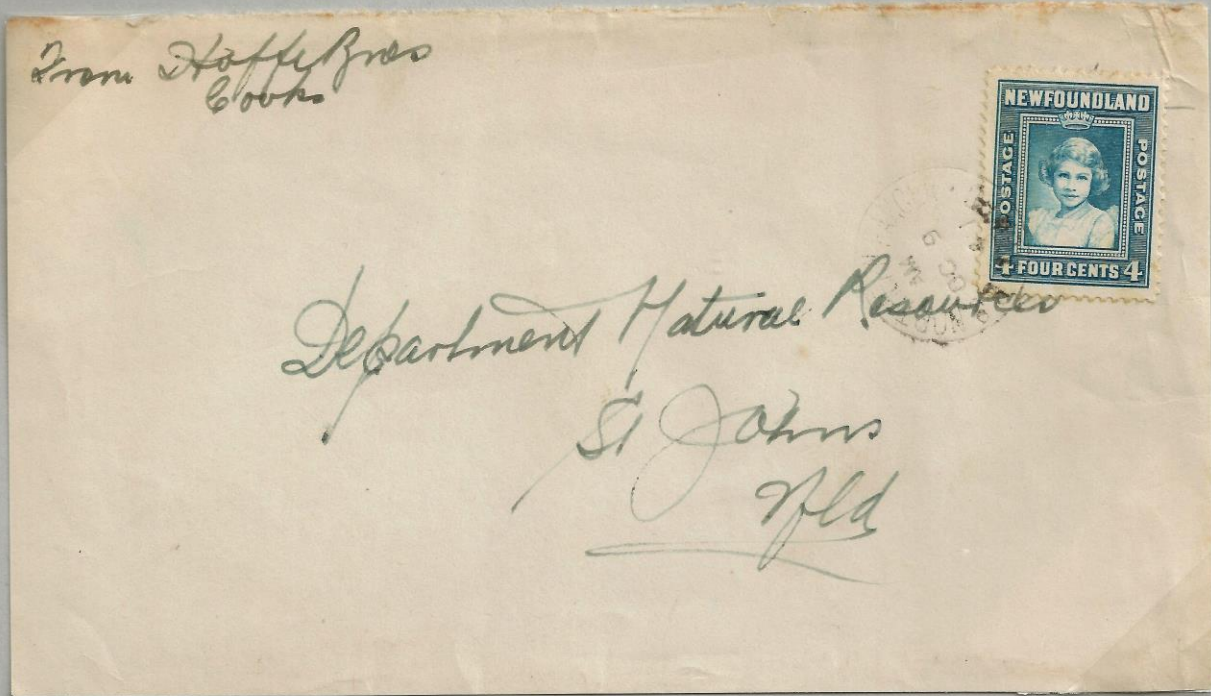
Long Beach
10 November 1941

From a new die made from the salvaged Sprague transfer roller for use on inland letters (Outport rate). Blitz stamps can only be distinguished from later printings by dated examples.



A 4 cents Princess Elizabeth used from Grand Falls to St. John's on 19 November 1941 when its first printing isn't recorded until February 1942, almost three months difference.

4 CENTS PRINCESS ELIZABETH



Posted on 9 October 1941 aboard the S. S. Northern Ranger on one of its many trips north. The return address indicates this cover front is from Cook's Harbour, the most northern outpost on the island of Newfoundland.



Used with a Perkins Bacon / Sprague printed 1 cent Codfish on 15 October 1941 from St. John's to Washington, DC.

5 CENTS CARIBOU



Large die proof of the altered Perkins Bacon die #960
Approved Die

Note the transfer roll locator marks, "+", above and below the image. The Perkins Bacon transfer roll locator mark, a shot dash line at midpoint of the right side of the image, has been removed.



Small die proof from the Waterlow Archive discards,
Die number in bottom margin



Plate proof from the plate used to print the Blitz stamps,
Plate 41419

5 CENTS CARIBOU

Earliest Recorded Printing: 1942 February

Earliest Reported Use: 1941 October 1



Aguathuna
October 1941

From a salvaged Perkins Bacon die (Die 960) for use on letters addressed to British Empire countries and to the USA (preferential foreign letter rate). This is the only blitz stamp that is distinguishable from earlier and later stamps of the same design as it is comb perforated 13.3 and is 21.0 mm wide.



At first glance this 5cents Caribou appears to be a Perkins Bacon product as it is comb perforated 13.3. However, the spot of color on the tip of the upper right corner is a plate marking found only on Waterlow printed Newfoundland stamps. It is also 21.0 mm wide and Perkins Bacon / Sprague printed stamps of this design are 20.5 mm wide. Thus, this is a Blitz stamp used on 1 November 1941 from Port Union to Washington, DC

5 CENTS CARIBOU



Position 5



Positions 9, 10
19, 20



Position 32

Position 32: Marks in A of Newfoundland and below E of POSTAGE



Positions 65, 66
75, 76

Position 76: Diagonal streak \ left of antlers to shoulder

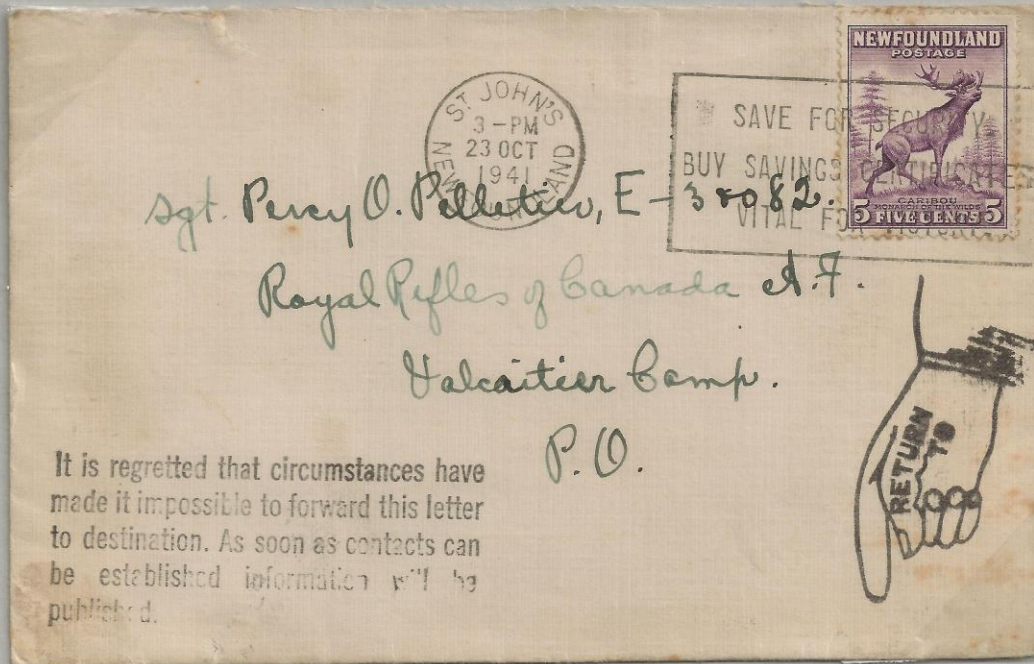


Positions 87, 88
97, 98

Position 98: faint line in lower left margin

After looking closely at thousands of these hairy beasts, Derek Paul was able to determine the 5 cents Caribou blitz stamp was produced from Waterlow & Sons' Plate 41419 and plating is possible.

5CENTS CARIBOU



The circumstances referred to in the special five line hand stamp was the fall of Hong Kong to the Japanese on Christmas Day 1941. Prior to going to Hong Kong, the Royal Rifles of Canada, were stationed in Newfoundland (25 November 1940 to 25 August 1941) as part of "C" Force and temporarily stationed at Valcartier, Quebec before leaving for Hong Kong in late October 1941. Apparently Sgt. Pelletier made a friend in St. John's and this letter never caught up with him. Sgt. Pelletier apparently survived the war since Archives Canada has not yet released his war record.

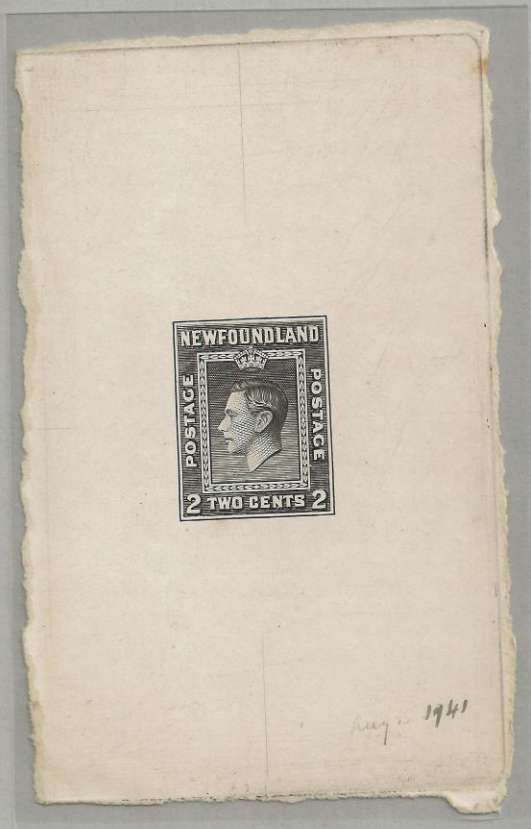
5 CENTS CARIBOU



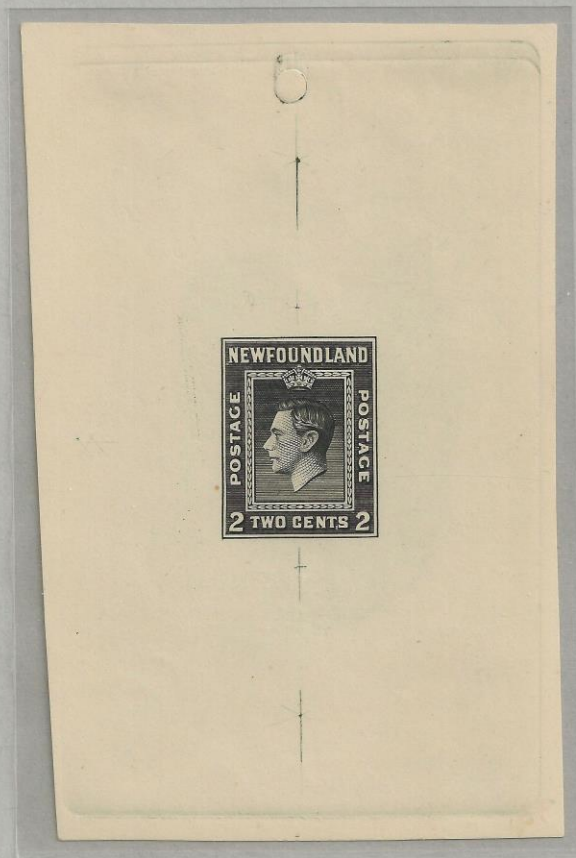
A Waterlow blitz printed 5 cents Caribou and a horizontal pair of Perkins Bacon/Sprague printed 25 cents Sealing Fleet posted at St John's on 4 November 1941 on an airmail cover to England.

The 5 cents Caribou pays the surface postage for a one ounce letter to the U. S. A. The pair of 25 cents Sealing Fleet pays the half ounce air mail letter rate to England over F.A.M. 18's southern route via Bermuda, Azores, and Portugal. Service on the northern Atlantic route via Ireland had been suspended at the end of September 1939 due to "bad weather" and did not resume until 1 May 1942.

2 CENTS KING GEORGE VI



Large die proof of the Waterlow die
 Dated 15 August 1941
 Approval State of Die



Large die proof of the Waterlow die
 Approved Die
 Note the transfer roll locator marks, "+",
 and the 4 mm diameter hole at the top
 of the die block



Small die proof
 from the Waterlow
 Archive discards,
 Die number in
 bottom margin



Plate proof
 from the
 plate used to
 print the Blitz
 stamps,
 Plate 41417

2 CENTS KING GEORGE VI

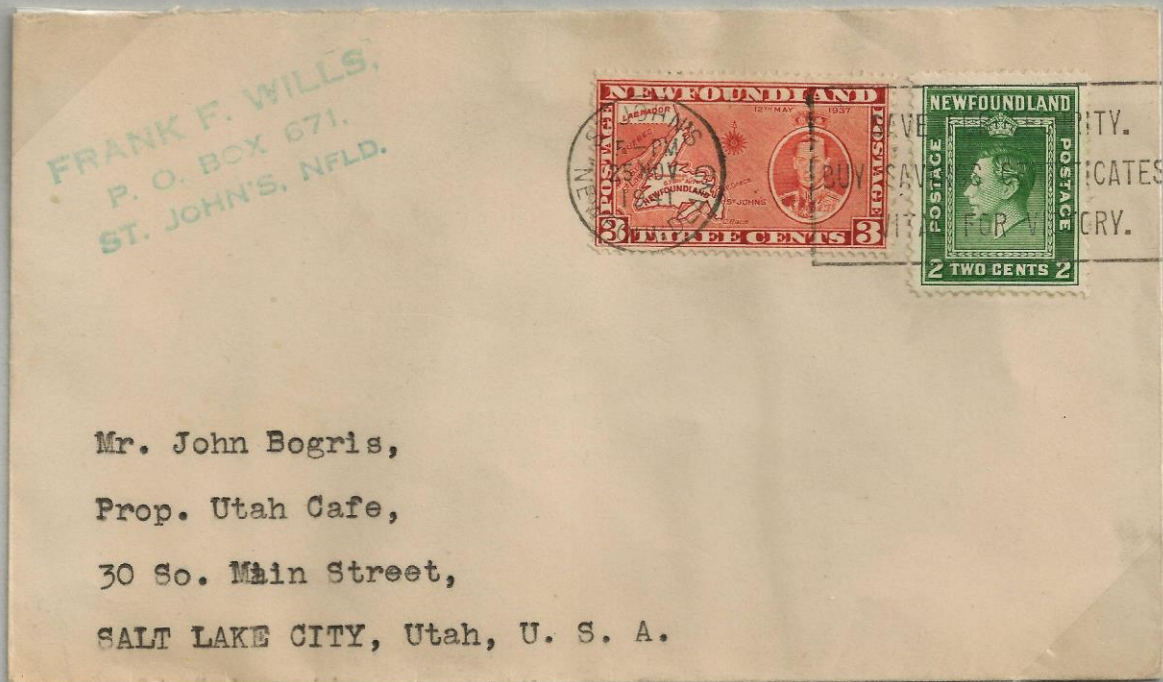
Earliest Recorded Printing: 1942 February

Earliest Reported Use: 1941 November 14



Jeffrie's
3 January 1942

From a completely new re-engraved die for use on printed matter in unsealed envelopes. Blitz stamps can only be distinguished from later printings by dated examples.



FRANK F. WILLS,
P. O. BOX 671,
ST. JOHN'S, NFLD.

Mr. John Bogris,
Prop. Utah Cafe,
30 So. Main Street,
SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, U. S. A.

A Waterlow re-engraved 2 cents King George VI and a Sprague printed 3 cents Long Coronation used from St. John's to Salt Lake City, Utah on 25 November 1941, two months earlier than its first recorded printing.

2 CENTS KING GEORGE VI



A Waterlow re-engraved 2 cents King George VI used on 27 January 1942, a month before its first recorded printing in London, to pay the local printed matter rate.

This plain, innocent looking cover would have brought terror and foreboding to its addressee as telegrams were the means by which the Government informed next of kin of the death or loss of a son, father, or husband in the service of the Empire.

3 CENTS QUEEN ELIZABETH



Large die proof of the Waterlow die
 Dated 15 August 1941
 Approval State of Die



Large die proof of the Waterlow die
 Approved Die
 Note the transfer roll locator marks, "+",
 and the 4 mm diameter hole at the top
 of the die block



Small die proof
 from the Waterlow
 Archive discards
 Die number in
 bottom margin



Plate proof
 from the
 plate used to
 print the Blitz
 stamps,
 Plate 41418

3 CENTS QUEEN ELIZABETH

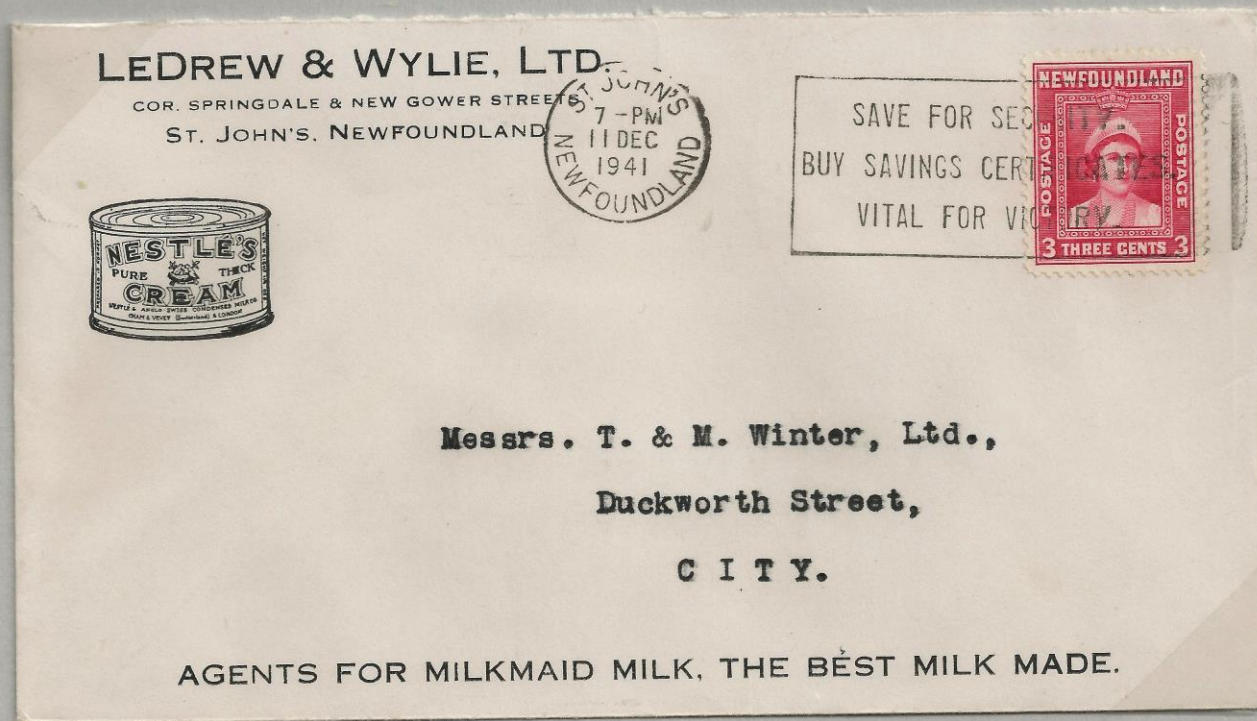
Earliest Recorded Printing: 1942 February

Earliest Reported Use: 1941 November 15



Harbour Grace
18 December 1941

From a completely re-engraved new die for use on local (within the same town or settlement) letters and on post cards to foreign destinations. Blitz stamps can only be distinguished from later printings by dated examples.



A 3 cents Queen Elizabeth use within St. John's on 11 December 1941, almost two full months before its first recorded printing in February 1942.

3 CENTS QUEEN ELIZABETH

10M 9-41

UNITED NAIL & FOUNDRY CO. LTD.

Founded 1857

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.

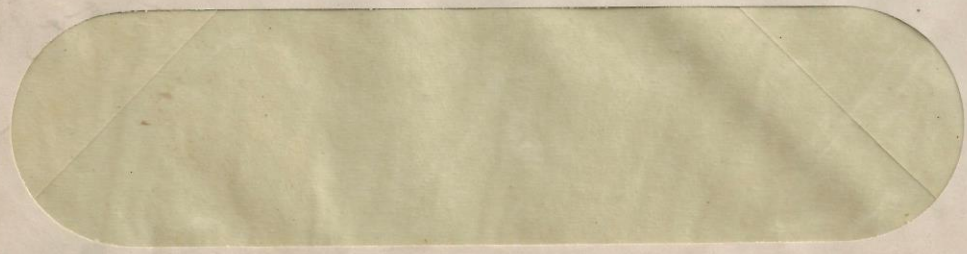
Makers of

Stoves, Ranges and Heaters; Ships' Gear, Soil Pipe and Fittings; Holloware; General Steel, Iron, Brass and Aluminium Castings; Wire, Cut and Boat Nails, Wrot Spikes, Plain and Galvanized; Galvanized Buckets, Coal Scoops and Shovels, Wash Tubs, etc.

NICKEL and SILVER PLATING; JOB GALVANIZING.



SAVE FOR SE
BUY SAVINGS CE
VITAL FOR V



USE ELECTRIC FURNACE IRON AND STEEL!

Used on 5 December 1941 paying the local letter rate.



POST CARD

CORRESPONDENCE.



SAVE FOR
BUY SAVINGS
VITAL FOR



Jan 7-
Jimmie.
With Skipper Brother-in
-Law, up here. Mrs Reid
Thurman

Printed in England

Miss Jimmy's
90 Tuden Theatre.
New Orleans, Louisiana
U.S.A.

Used to pay the international post card rate on 8 January 1942.

3 CENTS QUEEN ELIZABETH



A blitz printed 3 cents Queen Elizabeth used together with a Sprague printed 2 cents King George VI to pay the preferential foreign letter rate to England. Posted on 18 November 1941 at St. John's to a Newfoundlander serving with the Royal Air Force in care of the Newfoundland Trade Commissioner in London where it was forwarded on 6 January 1942.

Having been printed in London, this 3 cents Queen Elizabeth actually survive two crossings of the North Atlantic during one of the most deadly periods for shipping in the North Atlantic in all of World War II.