

Chairman & Editor: Malcolm Back, 97 Stuart Street, Stouffville, ON, L4A 4S4 [mback1217@rogers.com](mailto:mback1217@rogers.com)  
Treasurer/Circulation: Martin Goebel, 13 O'Mara Place, St. John's NL, A1A 5B7, [goebel@nf.sympatico.ca](mailto:goebel@nf.sympatico.ca)

**From Malcolm Back:** We are holding a special session of the Newfoundland Study Group at this year's ORAPEX in Ottawa. For the 2024 show, the theme is **Marcophily/ Postmarks**.

**Blair Ashford** will be presenting on the topic:

**“New” Newfoundland Registration Cancels: Hiding in Plain Sight”**

**ORAPEX 2024:** May 4, 10am-6pm, May 5, 10am-4pm, Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Avenue, Ottawa Ontario K2G 1W2

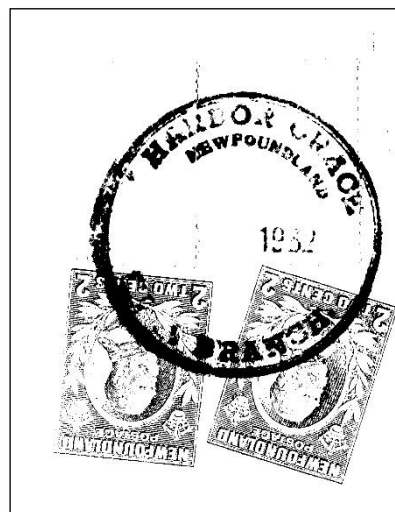
The meeting is on Sunday May 5, at 1:00PM, in Room D.

**From Blair Ashford:** I have a few more items for the SGN.

First is a MOD cover from Corner Brook. I collect St John's cancels, so I am out of my depth here - but I know that Money Order Cancels are rare on cover in St John's - so when I saw this online, I had to pick it up. Are there other MOD cancels from Corner Brook?



Next two come from a lot of stamps on cover, with a bunch of Parcel Post cancels. The Harbour Grace one is new to me (but see above - not knowledgeable outside of St John's), but I can't make out the first part before the Branch. I tried to clean it up digitally, but it really didn't really help. It seems to be from a parcel wrapper, so I don't think it is commercial/revenue usage, but I might be wrong.



Last is the block of 10 Royal Visit stamps. Cleaning it up digitally shows an “Insured/date/no”. I assume that this is a Parcel Post cancel (and is it the diamond box cancel that is common at this time), but I have never heard of one before.



Any help is appreciated.  
Cheers, Blair

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**On the Balboa article in NN195**

**From John Walsh:** I was reading the Castel article on Balbo in NN195. Nice research. As Balbo does come in two perfs., I wonder if the inverted torn or untorn items Marc has seen can the perfs be measured? (see page 3 of this Newsletter

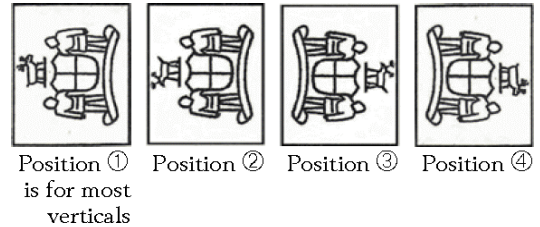
**From Marc Castel:** Thanks for this. I'll check the perf. gauge and get back to you.

**Discoveries Abound in Newfoundland:**

**75¢ Labrador Airmail issue accompanied with Balbo Sheetlet Both with Inverted Watermark**

©Walsh Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue (NSSC) by John M Walsh, FRPSC

The watermark on the 75¢ Labrador Airmail issue is normally found as positional type 4 which is shown in the drawing created by Murray 'Hawkeye' Smith. It is utilized in *Walsh Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue* where it was introduced to define the positional view types of the Newfoundland Coat of Arms watermark. These images are what can be seen from the gummed side of the stamp. Position type 4 shows Caribou to the right facing down.



No reports of the watermark on the 75¢ being found in an inverted manner was known by Walsh prior to this article date. Then in December 2013 an intriguing discovery was made when Robert Philmus sent scans of a block that he owns of the 75¢ Labrador issue. What an item! It has the inverted watermark positional type 1; Caribou to the left facing up. It has the 14.3 x 14.3 perforation. Hopefully a hunt will be on to find more of this elusive inverted watermark.

This Labrador issue 75¢ value has long been known to exist with 14.3 x 14.3 perforation. Then Ed Wener of Indigo Stamps reported in one of his 1980s price listings the finding of this value in the 13.8 x 13.8 perforation. He then suggested that it could be possible to find the Balbo stamp in the same gauge perforation. What challenges he set for the collector! The challenge was met: a time later this perforation was indeed found and was reported in the *Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue* (NSSC). It was discovered on a first flight cover dated July 26, 1933. Thus, the Balbo issue exists in both perforations: the common 14.3 x 14.3 and the other 13.8 x 13.8 perforation.



The Balbo stamp originated as the 75¢ value of the Newfoundland 1933 Labrador issue. That 75¢ value had 30,000 printed, as 5 across x 10 down in sheets of 50. From that quantity the Post Office Department selected 8040 to be surcharged to create the Balbo airmail overprint issue. This overprint was applied to a sheetlet size consisting of 2 images x 2 images. When printed, the quantity of 8000 in that format were released to the public. The remaining 40 were deemed to be defective.

Back in 2005 Jean-Claude Vasseur discovered an example of the 1933 surcharged Balbo issue having the watermark as seen in position type 1; Caribou to the left facing up. Its discovery caused a collector driven hunt to find others. Confirmation of the existence of one inverted watermark variety on the Balbo issue suggests that at least an original sheet of 50, broken into sheetlets of 4, had the watermark inverted. And in fact, NSSC has been made aware of 6 singles having inverted watermark. Some are owned by: Vasseur (2), Smith, WIP Stamps (VGG cert.) and H.P.S. stamped. Examination by Vasseur of the watermark placement suggests that at least two sheets of 50 exist. But prior to December 2013, no Balbo inverted watermarked sheetlet had been reported.



Imagine then the surprise created when in late December 2013 Robert Philmus again wrote to say that he had a Balbo sheetlet which he deemed to show the inverted watermark!

"Unheard of!" was the initial response. "But it would be a delight to see." He forwarded his scans of both front and reverse sides. Talk about Christmas and New Year wishes! The item was indeed what he thought it was.

This magnificent block and the other six Balbo stamps showing the inverted watermark are in 14.3 x 14.3 perforation. Now the question remains:

Does the perforation 13.8 x 13.8 exist in an inverted watermark format?



**From Klaus Wehlt: Newfoundland – A mysterious postmark**

Recently I was able to acquire a collection of Newfoundland censorship covers from the time of the Second World War. I had not dealt with civil censorship from Newfoundland before, although I have some censored mail covers in my collection.

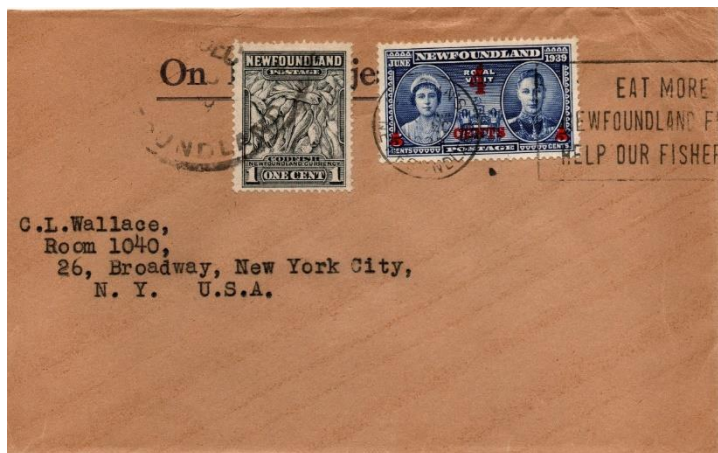
So, I went to the Munich Philatelic Library and borrowed the book edited by Peter C. Burrows: British Empire Civil Censorship Devices World War II, Section 7, Canada & Newfoundland. The book was published in 2010 by the Civil Censorship Study Group. There exists a revised new edition from 2019.

Among other things, I found two covers with a 2-line postmark on the reverse that I had never seen before: HEAD P.M. G.P.O.

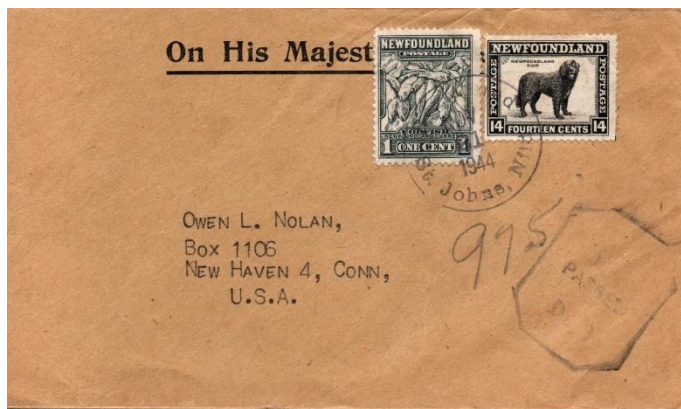
I didn't find this postmark in the Civil Censorship Handbook nor in the NSSC's postmark list. I am sure that this postmark was used in St. John's at the General Post Office, can anyone confirm this and perhaps also say what this postmark was used for?

The first letter is from December 1939, a letter to the USA. The second is from 1944 on a registered letter to the USA. Unfortunately, the postmark is relatively indistinct.

I'm not sure if the first letter from 1939 was censored. There is a very faint trace of a red postmark at the top left which I only discovered on the scan. The second letter was censored, on the front there is the octagonal postmark with crown: "Passed DC /2" Unfortunately also indistinctly canceled.

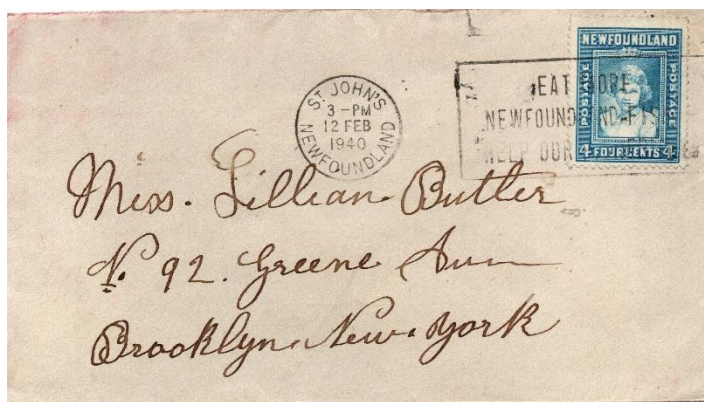


Letter from St. John's, Newfoundland, to New York, December 1939



Registered letter from St. John's to New Haven, USA, from November 1944.

**From Klaus Wehlt:** I recently acquired a lot of Newfoundland letters from the time of the 2nd World War. Mainly but not exclusively censored mail. I noticed that some letters to the USA were only franked with 4c. The postage was not objected to on any of these letters. As far as I know (according to the NSSC), domestic postage in Newfoundland was 4c, while postage to the USA was 5c at the time. Was the Newfoundland postal service so lax in controlling postage or was there a special regulation that I do not know about.



**From Malcolm Back:** I have a cover to Canada from the same time period with the same rate.

