

-THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER



OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 168

July, September 2017

CONTENTS AND NEWS

- Page 1-2 **Norris Robert "Bob" Dyer**
The Dyer Family and Mike Street
- Page 3-7 **Recollections** *various contributors*
- Page 6-7 **Rusted Memories of Bob Dyer** *Capt'n Bruce (Robertson)*
- Page 8-15 **Varieties of the Labrador Air Mail Issue**
J.C. Vasseur, FRPSL, AEP
- Page 16 **Waterlow Die Index Books** *Clarence A. Stillions*



Your Newfoundland Study Group needs you!! With the untimely passing of Bob Dyer, we need someone to step up and take on the role of Chairman of this study group. See page 5. -editor

Norris Robert "Bob" Dyer, OTB Aug. 20, 1935– Apr. 3, 2017

The Dyer Family, with additions by Mike Street

Bob Dyer passed away unexpectedly at his home in Petaluma, California, on Monday, 3 April 2017. A member of BNAPS since 1994, he was active in all major areas of BNAPS activities as a writer, exhibitor, Newfoundland Study Group Chairman and newsletter editor, and Director, Vice-President and President of the Society.

Bob was born in Portland, Maine, in 1935, and lived there until the family moved to California in 1952. He attended San Diego State College, graduating in 1958, then joined the United States Air Force and served as an active duty officer from 1958-1962. While touring in Europe, he met his wife, Brigitte (Schneider), whom he married in 1964.

After serving with the Air Force, Bob joined the State Compensation Insurance Fund in 1965, and worked his way up to State Contract Services Manager with a staff of over 500 employees. While employed, he attended the University of California San Francisco, earning a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Administration in 1979. Bob officially retired in 1997, after working for 32 years.



Chairman: vacant

Editor: Malcolm Back, 97 Stuart Street, Stouffville, ON L4A 4S4

Treasurer/Circulation: Martin Goebel, 13 O'Mara Place, St. John's NL A1A 5B7

mback1217@rogers.com

goebel@nf.sympatico.ca

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 168

July, September 2017

Norris Robert "Bob" Dyer, OTB

- Continued

Bob and his family moved to Petaluma in 1975. After his retirement, his passion for wildlife, nature photography, writing, stamp collecting, and education all came together. In his later years, he spent much of his energy supporting the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance. In 2008, he was awarded the designation of “unofficial Mayor of Shollenberger Park”, where he acted as a senior docent leading tours and educating children about the wildlife in the area. Bob was also an active, award-winning member of the Madrone Audubon Society since 1998, and contributed photos, essays, and presentations about the birds and animals of the Petaluma wetlands. As a senior docent, he trained other docents and led tours for thousands of park visitors over two decades. He also wrote a section in the book *Celebrating Petaluma* published in 2007.

In December 2000, Bob became Chairman of the Newfoundland Study Group and Editor of the *Newfie Newsletter*, for which he received the John S. Siverts award in 2004, 2010 and 2012. He compiled and edited the ‘Exhibit Awards Won by BNAPS Members’ on the BNAPS website from 2001 to 2014, and was Coordinator of the BNAPS Youth Program from 2005 to 2013. Bob served as a Director of BNAPS from 2006-2010, First Vice-President from 2010-2012 and President from 2012-2014. Illness cut back his activities in 2013 and 2014, but he and Brigitte attended BNAPEX 2015 Niagara Falls and BNAPEX 2016 Fredericton. Bob was elected a member of the Order of the Beaver in 2008.

Over a period of twenty-five years, Bob published almost 40 articles on Newfoundland philately in *BNA Topics* and many more in the *Newfie Newsletter*, as well as in *The American Philatelist*. He was the author of BNAPS Exhibit Series Volume 19: *Postal Shortages and Surcharged Issues of Newfoundland*. In addition to many Gold and Vermeil awards and two Meyerson Awards at BNAPEXes, Bob received an International Gold at Washington 2006 for his multi-frame ‘Postal Shortages and Surcharged Issues of Newfoundland’, the Prix d'Honneur at the APS AmeriStamp Expo 2004 Single Frame Champion of Champions for 'Newfoundland's 1897 Postal Shortage'; and Gold and the 2004 BALPEX Grand Award for 'Newfoundland's 1920 Postal Shortage' (single frame). Bob was very pleased to receive a Large Gold for his single-frame exhibit 'Shenanigans at the Newfoundland General Post Office 1889-1900' at AmeriStamp Expo 2017 in Reno, NV, just a month before his death. He served as the Internet contact for the Redwood Empire Collectors Club in Petaluma, CA, was Resident Philatelist for the Vickers Vimy Atlantic team, which in 2005 recreated the 1919 Alcock & Brown Transatlantic Flight, and was an active supporter of the American Philatelic Society, the Council of Northern California Philatelic Societies (Norcal) and the Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California (SESCAL).

Bob is survived by Brigitte, their two sons and a granddaughter, a brother and sister, and many close friends within and without BNAPS.

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 168

July, September 2017

RECOLLECTIONS

Having never met in person, Bob Dyer is another lad that I became friends with over the telephone. We had many chats about our interest in Newfoundland and my articles for the newsletter. There were times I did not feel like writing but Bob's constant requests and enthusiasm made me submit what I did. Over the years he brought the newsletter to its present professional standard; recognized by the several awards it received. In various ways, Bob also promoted the collecting of Newfoundland to a new and elevated level. His many well researched articles covered numerous aspects of the Dominion's philately and fascinating postal history. Bob and his efforts will long be remembered and appreciated by me, as I am sure they will be by others who knew him.

During a conversation in 2014, Bob mentioned another major interest---photography and particularly taking pictures of birds. While I am not a true bird watcher, I have always enjoyed watching our local feathered friends and their antics, especially the Chickadee. Bob was soon sending me examples of his wonderful photographs, actually works of art. Figure one is the last photograph he sent along with his 2016 Christmas greetings. It depicts one of his favourites, the Cedar Waxwing, appropriately eating Christmas berries. May he rest in Peace.



Figure 1

CR {Ron} McGuire OTB, FRPSC

I was extremely saddened, as we all were, to hear of Bob's sad passing. Looking back at our initial correspondence (snail mail) going back to the late 1990's, one thing that especially struck me was Bob's detailed attention and keen interest in Newfoundland philately--especially with the ground-breaking work he had done with the various Newfoundland surcharges and overprints. His voluminous correspondence, and the occasional phone call, was always filled with tales of recent acquisitions, his dedication and work on the Newfie Study Group and its Newsletter, the enthusiasm with his research and writing, and the much-appreciated occasional "heads up" for items he thought I might be interested in. I always looked forward to his contact because my interest in the 1897 "PAID ALL" and subsequent "POSTAGE PAID" markings coincided with his "overprint" interest and we shared a common goal to establish the most up-to-date information we could discover. Bob was a true philatelist and postal historian and his intense desire to publish his findings and his contagious dedication to Newfoundland philately and postal history was something I greatly admired. Bob was also quite humble and often let others share the spotlight when it came to some of his writings and research.

**THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS**

Number 168

July, September 2017

RECOLLECTIONS

-continued

I had the great pleasure of first meeting Bob at the Vernon, BC BNAPEX IN 1999. After years of corresponding and phone calls it was especially nice to finally meet him in person. We subsequently met again at the 2005 Edmonton BNAPEX and then at the 2007 BNAPEX in Calgary. Bob was always a pleasure to talk with and share information as we "spoke the same language".

Obviously Bob's many philatelic accomplishments within BNAPS will be recorded elsewhere. He was a wonderful, kind, helpful, and dedicated philatelist and was a cherished friend. It was an honour and privilege to have known him. He will be greatly missed but will always be remembered. My sincere condolences are extended to his family and friends.

Dean Mario

I first came to know Bob Dyer when he attended the St. John's BNAPEX in 1997. John Butt was the chairman of the Newfoundland Study Group and editor of the Newfie Newsletter at that time but sadly in October 2000 John passed away and Bob stepped in as chairman/editor to continue this study group and newsletter until now. I had a great working relationship with Bob for all those years and I truly appreciated his dedication, hard work and initiative to produce a newsletter which was enjoyed by so many Newfoundland stamp collecting enthusiasts.



A particularly fond recollection of Bob goes back to around 2005 when Steve Fossett and Mark Rebholz flew the replica Vickers Vimy to St. John's for the Atlantic crossing re-enactment. It was Bob who first established contact with the Vimy organization and in collaboration with the St. John's Philatelic Society and the Newfoundland Study Group, a flight cover was produced. The idea was to replicate the 1919 Vimy flight covers that are so important to Newfoundland philately. I think the \$1 Trans-Atlantic overprint stamp might have been one of Bob's favorites. Here is a photo of Bob posing next to the tail section of the Vimy aircraft.

It was an honour to know Bob and he will be missed by everyone in this study group.

Martin Goebel

It was a great shock as, even if we never met, we had a constant relationship via internet, during the last twelve years. It happens that he had great knowledge in my domain of research (aerophilately) and it was always fruitful to share ideas and discoveries in this domain (and others). It is a great loss for everybody.

J.C. Vasseur, FRPSL, AEP

**THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS**

Number 168

July, September 2017

RECOLLECTIONS

-continued

THE GOLDEN WEST REGIONAL GROUP REMEMBERS BOB DYER

Compiled by Joe Schlitt with input from various Golden West members

Those of us in BNAPS remember Bob Dyer, OTB for various reasons, be it his years as an officer, his Youth Program, his articles and exhibits, or his Newfoundland Study Group with its *Newfie News*. Bob was also an active member of the Golden West Regional Group and members of this group have somewhat more personal memories of Bob. Some of these are shared below.

Jim Woodfill probably knew Bob the longest and considered him to be his best friend in BNAPS. It was Bob who convinced Jim to dump his world-wide collection and focus on Canada/BNA. It was also Bob, along with Gary Lyon, who convinced Jim to join BNAPS at CAPEX 96. Bob and Jim also attended both the BALPEX/BNAPPEX shows together.

Robert Martin, the newest regional group member (in Hawaii!), remembers how thrilled he was to receive a letter and check from Bob. This was a BNAPS grant to support Robert's various school stamp clubs.

Arno Kolster remembers how Bob was a frequent visitor at both our regional group meeting and other area shows. Bob was a constant source of information, sometimes providing the program and always inspiring others to become better collectors and collecting advocates.

Joe Schlitt remembers discussing the Newfoundland "One Cent" surcharge issue, one of Bob's greatest interests. This included a double printed red essay that was one of the lots in the Dale-Liechtenstein sales, but has been off the market ever since. After Joe took over as the regional group contact person, he initially went back to Bob on a regular basis for advice on running the group.

The entire regional group is certainly saddened by Bob's unexpected passing, having lost a good friend and active group member. He was often our source of BNAPS information and will be remembered as a gentleman and philatelic scholar.

A New Chairman is sought for the Newfoundland Study Group

A couple of years ago Bob put out a plea for someone to help him with the editor's job. I was able and was privileged to be able to accept Bob's request and had the honour of working with Bob for the last 2 years. I only met him once in person, but was immediately taken by his dedication to this group. Bob's passing has left a great void. Bob was the heart and soul of this group and it is only fitting that we try to carry on and keep this group strong and growing in his memory. We need someone to step forward to take on the role of Chairman of the Study Group. If you would be willing to take on this responsibility, please contact Martin Goebel.

And yes, as always, we are looking for material for the next newsletter.

Malcolm Back - editor

**THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS**

Number 168

July, September 2017

RECOLLECTIONS

-continued

RUSTED MEMORIES OF BOB DYER

by Capt'n Bruce

I never met Bob Dyer, but he was very much instrumental in raising my interest in Newfoundland philately. I had 'discovered' Rev Butler of Sandy Point and was captivated by the story of this 'man of the cloth' running a world-wide stamp dealing business from a south-west coast out port - and then after a storm swept away the connection with the mainland in 1951, the steady decline of the township itself until the 1970s when the last residents left, leaving only a 'ghost town'.

As I tried to acquire as much information on Butler and Sandy Point as I could, emails were exchanged. Mine were long and full of questions. Bob's emails were taciturnly brief – a couple of snippets from his own collection, or perhaps pointing me to an article he had written in the past. Bob did not waste much time with polite salutations or 'shooting the breeze'. It was rare that a message extended to two paragraphs – sometimes one sentence was sufficient to say all he had to say.

All that said, a degree of trust and understanding was built up to a point that Bob suggested I might like to submit a few pieces for the Newfie Newsletter. He also suggested I should come to a BNAPS Conference, and take in a trip to Sandy Point whilst here, but living in England, this was just one step too far for me.

Over the years we swapped images of Sandy Point covers and other items of Butlerania and I managed a relatively sustained record of articles for the Newsletter. Bob, as editor, was surprisingly benign, but could always find a little 'something extra' – a fact, or a reminiscence, that added a bit of extra interest to the piece.

Then I mentioned to Bob that I had been assembling a collection of Rusted Covers – not only those of Canon Rusted (another clerical stamp dealer from Carbonear) but also his remarkable family¹. I explained that my idea was to end-up with an article on the whole family – illustrated with covers to or from individual members.

Bob's reply was very much in character, saying that he too had a 'Rusted file', and how he too had been thinking of a Rusted article. Bob was gracious enough to 'put out the word' in the Newsletter that I was looking for Rusted covers, and although my arm was not twisted, I had the impression that his article was to take precedence.

And so it was to be. Bob's article appeared in Topics at the end of 2015². It is a most evocative article of Bob's visit to Newfoundland in 1997 and his meeting with Nigel Rusted, one of Canon Rusted's sons. The article reveals a sensitive side of Bob's character not commonly evident in his general correspondence and a gentle depth of feeling and a love for Newfoundland and its heritage.

**THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS**

Number 168

July, September 2017

RECOLLECTIONS

-conclusion

RUSTED MEMORIES OF BOB DYER

-continued

Somehow, time has slipped by, and I find I have some 57 images of Rusted covers, many sent to me by fellow BNAPS members. Perhaps the time is approaching that I got on and wrote my Rusted article.

In the meantime, here, is an interesting example from my 'Rusted File'. It is a cover sent from the British Empire Exhibition, 1924-25 displaying both values of this much-desired issue and mailed from the Exhibition on the First Day.

Postal markings: 23 March 1924. Special 'Hey Dolphin' machine cancellation applied at the North West District Office, London N.W.1

On reverse: 10 MY 24. Spaniards Bay Newf. 10 May 24
Carbonear, Newf'd



¹ Rusted family info taken from 1935 Census (Carbonear South, Bay of Verde District)

Name	Position	age	Vocation
Ernest E	head	55	
Faith AE	wife	50	
Nigel FS	son	28	Doctor
Winifred FE	daughter	26	Dietician
Sybil G	daughter	24	Nurse
Joan	daughter	18	Nurse
Edward C	son	16	Minister
Ian L	son	14	Doctor

² BNA Topics. Volume 72 Number 4. Oct-Dec 2015. Available to be read on-line at <http://www.bnaps.org/hhl/TopicsCovers1994-Current.php#Restricted>

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 168

July, September 2017

VARIETIES OF THE LABRADOR AIR MAIL ISSUE

by J.C. Vasseur, FRPSL, AEP

The Labrador Air Mail Issue came out June 9 1933, at dawn of expected large (gold) mine discoveries in the East Labrador area, now re-attached to Newfoundland since 1927.

The design was by J. Scott and recess by Perkins Bacon of London. In all, very descriptive pictures of activities in the area from entertainment (fishing, hunting) to gold mines, accompanied by planes regarded as the only effective mean of communication in the area.

Printed in London, the paper was from a “surplus of the watermarked paper in usage since 1931 and the third ‘Publicity’ Issue”. Only problem was that the setting of the watermarks was dealing with sheets of 100 of small format of this last issue, which did not cope the sheets of 50 stamps (5 hor. X 10 vert.) of the Labrador Issue. The only possibility was to print the stamps on sideways watermarked paper, thus with the Coats of Arms facing to left (seen from front).

Here below (fig. 1), a set of Die Proofs on watermarked paper, all showing (from front) the watermark with caribou at left facing down which seems the adopted arrangement for the issue, even if it is not sure that formal instructions were given to the printers; the 10¢ larger picture, clearly showing the watermark.



Fig. 1: Set of Die Proofs on watermarked paper on issued color

For clarity, in the following, the position of the watermark will be indicated using codification shown in the NSSC Catalogue representing the **watermark as seen from the gum side**:

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 168

July, September 2017

VARIETIES OF THE LABRADOR AIR MAIL ISSUE

- continued

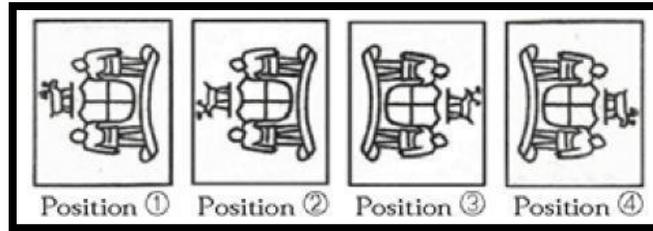


Fig.2: Watermark positions code, seen from gum side (NSSC Cat. 2016, page 103).

As such, the Labrador Issue comes with watermark position (4), which we shall call “upright” (!?), for simplification, while it is “sideways”.

The alternate, improperly named “inverted” in various North American catalogues, being position (1). In the English way, position (1) is “inverted/reversed”, position (2) is “reversed” and (3) “Inverted”. To go from (4) to (1), the paper shall be rotated 180°, and is the result of an error by the printer. “Inverted” (2) and “reversed” (3) are the result of an error by the paper manufacturer, gumming the wrong face of the paper. Being somewhat rare, these two last errors are found on stamps printed in UK until the end of Georges V reign.

The Watermark Sheet Setting

Below, a sheet of 50 of the 10¢ Labrador Issue (fig. 3), seen from gum side, with stamps and positions of the watermarks outlined. This sheet was selected as, being imperforated and without gum (Essay), no curl or shrinkage disturb the picture.

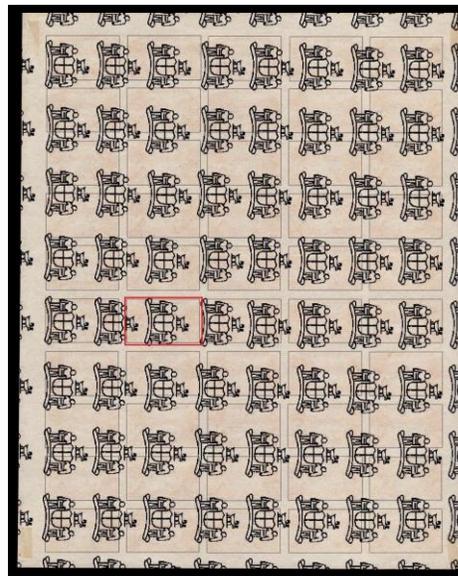


Fig. 3 Sheet of 50 of the 10¢ imperforated no gum (Essay) seen from the back with stamps and watermarks outlined.

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 168

July, September 2017

VARIETIES OF THE LABRADOR AIR MAIL ISSUE

- continued

Remarks:

- Almost part or whole of the 100 watermarks can be seen ... but the first one in the NW corner; the watermark is here in its normal position: caribou at right facing down (4).
- 80 watermarks are seen on the back of the stamps, and the printer has taken care to properly print the 50 stamps in the center of the sheet of watermarked paper; this is confirmed by the corner block of four gummed and imperforated of same (fig. 4) showing the same pattern in the SE corner seen from the back;

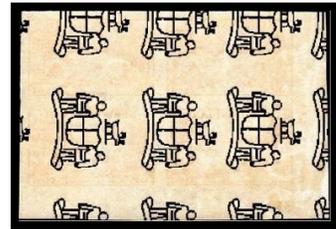


Fig. 4

- On fig. 3, there is only one column of stamps (second on back) where the watermark is approximately well centered, considering the cross in center of the Coat of Arms as the center of the watermark; obviously, whatever the positioning of the paper made by the printer, this is a constant rule: no more than one column can show the watermark horizontally well centered on stamps;
- On fig. 3, there is only one horizontal row of stamps (sixth) showing a full watermark; as above this should be considered as a constant rule: no more than one row can show the watermark vertically well centered on stamps.

Consequently, there is only one stamp - here stamp position 29, outlined in red - which can carry a watermark in full, well centered.

The 10¢ stamp and Varieties

Until early years 2000, the 10¢ was the only value reported with a different position of the watermark, described in catalogues as “inverted”, position (1), showing the Caribou at left facing up, seen from gum side. Latest NSSC catalogue (2016) shows two “inverted (!)”, position (1) – inverted/reversed – and position (2) –reversed. As said above, the two varieties must be differentiated as resulting from different types of errors by printer or paper manufacturer. Here below the demanding variety “reversed” as shown in the catalogue (fig. 5). From the gum side, the head of the caribou is to the left facing down.



Fig. 5: 10¢ value with watermark type (2) “reversed” (Col. Robert Philmus)

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 168

July, September 2017

VARIETIES OF THE LABRADOR AIR MAIL ISSUE

- continued

As far as color is concerned nothing much to say on the regular issue – except the elusive pale yellow. Other variations do exist, but are difficult to discern.

Something different with the so called “prerequisite” imperforated gummed stamps. Here below, four different examples in different shades ... and watermarks:



Fig. 6.1 Yellow-orange Fig 6.2 (mid. upper) Orange-yellow 6.3 (mid. lower) Orange Fig 6.4 Brownish-yellow with watermark (1)

As described – the scans do not reflect exactly actual colors – they are all different ... and vary from the issue adopted color. Quantity, color and watermark is a question. I doubt that this was issued at the demand of the Postmaster General. It looks to be (numerous) essays of color. Additionally, the demonstration of the existence of at least 4 sheets of stamps in the imperforated/gummed mode is far above the expected quantity. Thus, overall not so rare ... but rare if considering the variations in color.

Note: Variety (fig 6.4) with “inverted/reversed” watermark type (1) is a recent finding (February 2017)

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 168

July, September 2017

VARIETIES OF THE LABRADOR AIR MAIL ISSUE

- continued

The 75¢ Stamp With Watermark Inverted

The three below examples (75¢ surcharged “Balbo”) came to my hands, the first one (fig. 5) in 2005 making the discovery (first known 75¢ with inverted/reversed watermark).



Fig. 7.1 (pos 3 of the block)



Fig. 7.2 (pos 3 of the block)



Fig. 7.3 (pos 1 of the block)

Additionally, it should be noticed that, if the well centered positioning of the sheet, as described above, is constant, a further conclusion can be made starting from stamp fig. 7, and from the reconstructed (picture 3 rotated 180 degrees) sheet with “inverted” watermark shown fig. 8.



Fig. 7.3 bis: Enhanced gum side showing wmk.

Stamp fig. 7.3 is in sheet position 22, here outlined in red – remember you are looking at the back of the sheet and position 1 is in the NE corner. This stamp is position 1 of the Balbo block, which is shown here in blue. It is noticeable that the stamp is in all respect like the Inverted/reversed picture deduced from fig. 3. (rotation of 180°)

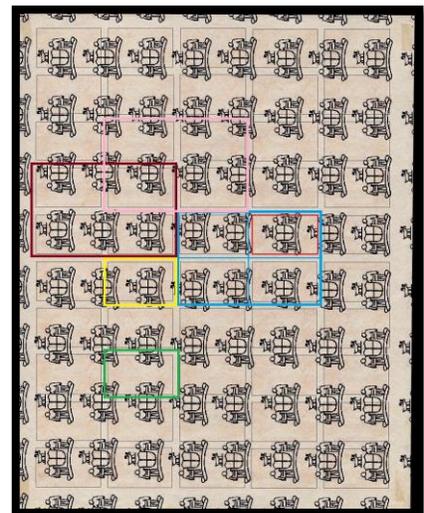


Fig. 8: Reconstructed sheet with “inverted” watermark

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 168

July, September 2017

VARIETIES OF THE LABRADOR AIR MAIL ISSUE

- continued

Furthermore, stamp fig. 7.1 (Balbo pos. 3) find its place in position 29 (outlined in yellow) and stamp fig. 7.2 (another Balbo pos. 3) find its place in position 39 (outlined in green). Both stamps pertain to blocks at left of the sheet seen from back.

Accordingly:

- **The three stamps are likely from the same sheet;**
- When preparing blocks of four for the Balbo surcharge, the printer discarded the 1st vertical column on this sheet (here at right);
- The pattern of the sheet of watermarks of the original sheets seems constant.

Everything seemed fine, even when, as expected, inverted/reversed stamps were found on the original issue without surcharge. For example, the block shown by J. Walsh (NSSC page 103 top) finds its place position 19/25 – in brown on figure 8.

Meanwhile, enthusiasm declined when looking to the Balbo block shown at bottom of the same page 103 (NSSC). Looking for the only 8 positions of such block – stamp 1 of the Balbo block in positions 2, 4, 12, 14, 22, 24, 32, 34, 42 and 44 of the sheet - no position matches with above scheme. (Figure 9). *Idem* for the stamp sold by WIP years ago: (Figure 10)



Fig. 9 Balbo “inverted block” found by Robert Philmus (NSSC)



Fig. 10 Balbo “inverted” position 4 (WIP)

Furthermore, it is obvious that the horizontal position of the WIP stamp watermark cope with similar stamps of the NSSC blocks.

Digging the subject, the WIP stamp could be position 34 outlined in yellow (!), the Philmus’s block being position 23/29 outlined in pink (fig. 8).

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 168

July, September 2017

VARIETIES OF THE LABRADOR AIR MAIL ISSUE

- continued

This would require that in such case, the last vertical column – here at left - has been removed (instead of the first), stamps position 1 of Balbo blocks being now at positions 1, 3, 11, 13, 21, 23, 31, 33, 41 and 43 of the sheet.

Consequently:

- **There are at least two sheets of Balbo inverted/reversed (80 stamps);**
- **When preparing block of four for the surcharge, printers removed either right or left column of the sheet of 50.**

Nowadays, a dozen of “Balbo” with inverted/reversed watermarks have been reported, including the eight shown above. Also it took 72 years to make the discovery. Why? The main reason comes from the difficulty to identify the variety. The easiest way is by looking to the curved scroll at the base of the watermark ... while numerous stamps show only part, if not small portions of the watermarks.

The 75¢ Imperforated Gummed Stamp

As above, such stamps are reported to come from PMG prerequisite sheets; quantity of sheets unknown.

John Walsh of St John’s asked me how was the watermark on my examples and sent me a picture of a block showing the usual watermark (4). Looking at my three examples, I have found:

- A vertical pair (position unknown) with the watermark in the normal way, as John Walsh’s example;
- A left marginal pair and a bottom-left corner vertical pair with “inverted” watermark. BOTH HORIZONTAL POSITION OF THE “INVERTED” WATERMARK AND COLOR COPE, thus from the same sheet ... BUT DO NOT FIT A SIMPLE ROTATION OF THE REGULAR PATTERN as shown above.

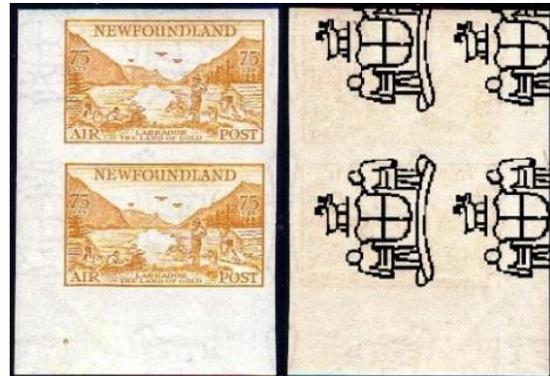


Fig. 11: 75¢ Imperf gummed

Consequently, at least, two sheets of such stamps were printed, one “inverted” with a different pattern of watermarks.

Also, the above assertion that these sheets were all well centered is false. Disappointing!

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 168

July, September 2017

VARIETIES OF THE LABRADOR AIR MAIL ISSUE

- conclusion

75¢ ‘Imperforated Gummed Stamps And Color

While looking to the above mentioned vertical pairs, placed side by side, another evidence appeared: they were in different colors. Moreover, colors are different from the issued stamp. See fig. 12.

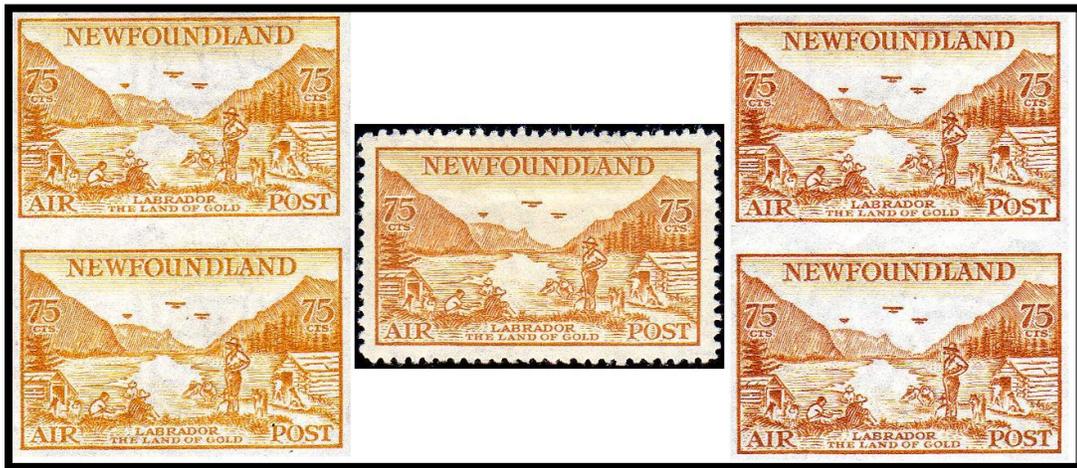


Fig. 12: Left: Imperforated gummed vertical pair with inverted/reversed watermark; center: issued stamp; right: other imperforated gummed vertical pair.

Imperforated stamps at left are slightly paler and yellowish – quite close from example fig. 6.4 -, while example at right is pale brown.

I do believe that these stamps pertain to essays of color, not documented in the literature, as above for the 10¢ value.

E ... and more ?

While two values only (10¢ and 75¢) are confirmed with such varieties, I doubt that these do not exist on the three others values.

Note: unless otherwise indicated, all material in collection of the author and scanned in similar conditions. Color varieties do exist, but what is shown here may vary from what an eye perceives.

THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND STUDY GROUP OF BNAPS

Number 168

July, September 2017

WATERLOW DIE INDEX BOOKS

by Clarence A. Stillions

Die proofs normally become available to collectors from engraver's scrapbooks or work portfolios, Post Office approver's files, or from printing company archives. It has recently come to my attention of another source; what the printer's referred to as "Die Index Books". At Waterlow & Sons the Die Index Books were an illustrated listing of dies and where the dies were stored. The Die Index Books were used by the engravers to retrieve stored dies for the re-use of previously engraved designs or portions of designs. An example of this purpose would be the use of the 4c Little Princess (Scott #256) frame engraving to produce the 1947 4c Adult Princess (Scott #269). Platemakers would also use the Die Index Books to determine where in storage they would find the transfer roller for a particular engraved image from which a new plate was to be made.

In 1985 Christie's Robson Lowe published a listing of the Newfoundland dies found in the Waterlow Archives. In these Archives there were only nine die proofs of the sixteen known Newfoundland stamps produced by Waterlow & Sons. There were eight trimmed die proofs from the Die Index Books - seven are illustrated in Figure 1.



Figure 1

The eighth is a trimmed die proof of the 1947 Cabot's Discovery Anniversary stamp. It is not clear in the listing if the ninth (17048 "Stamp Die 1c Newfoundland" 16.4.42) was from a Die Index Book or from some other file in the Waterlow Archives, or even if it was trimmed or not. Of the eight trimmed die proofs from the Die Index Books, only the 8c Paper Mills did not have a number removed from the upper right margin -- see Figure 1. What number was removed is unknown.

Most die proofs enter the philatelic market from engraver's personal scrapbooks. Occasionally when they come from a working file, they remind us that these works of art also had a practical purpose.

References:

1. Fraser, Colin and Robson Lowe, *The Die Proofs of Waterlow & Sons, Part 1 Great Britain & the Empire to 1960*, Christie's Robson Lowe, London, 1985.
2. Conversation with Colin Fraser, January 2017