



## A NEWFOUNDLAND PATRIOTIC COVER

By H. A. MacMASTER (#484)

In June 1898, the 1¢ Royal Family (Scott #80) in its proper color, green, was issued and a month later the 2¢ vermilion (Scott #82) was placed on sale. At the same time a new 3¢ value was issued showing a portrait of Queen Alexandra while Princess of Wales.

In August 1898, a ½¢ value was added to the series showing a portrait of the present Duke of Windsor and in June 1899 a new 5¢ stamp, bearing a portrait of King George 5 as H. R. H. the Duke of York was issued thus making up a set of portraits showing four generations of the Royal Family.

Early covers of any significance in Newfoundland are rare but patriotic covers in this period are practically unheard of. The cover shown here is, therefore, a most unique piece.

The art work on the cover is all done by hand and beautifully executed. The background of the stamps is rose except for the 1¢ Victoria in the centre which has a gold background. The frame around the stamps is done in reddish brown and grained lightly in black to make it appear

like wood. The Crown and VR above Victoria is in red and gold while the lettering "Our Royal Family" under the portraits is black with fine shading lines in red. The red, white and blue flag in the lower left of the cover has a black staff with a gold knob and below the flag attached to the staff is a pennon bearing the word "Regist'd" lettered in blue on a gold background. The whole combines to make a beautiful and tasteful design.

Registered at St. John's on December 15, 1899 to London, Eng., the cover is backstamped "Halifax & Moncton—West—Dec. 18, '99"; "St. John, N. B.—A. M.—De. 19, '99" and a "Registered—LL—30, De. '99—London" in a red oval. There is also an indistinct strike "Point T—, De. 18, '99—M. O." in a circular cancellation.

There appears to be no particular significance to this cover apart from the fact that the artist was probably inspired by the fact that four generations of the Royal Family, all living at that time, appeared on the then current stamps of Newfoundland. At any rate, whatever the motive, his efforts have not gone unappreciated.