



DAN MEYERSON (BNAPS L3)

## The "POSTAGE PAID" and "PAID ALL" Stamps of Newfoundland

RECENTLY I received a letter from Dr. Allan Wilkinson (BNAPS 935) of Old Perlican, Newfoundland. Among the covers he enclosed for my examination and comment was a handstamped "POSTAGE PAID" that I had never seen before. Just looking at the cover brought to mind the "POSTAGE PAID" and "PAID ALL" strikes that I had in my collection and it also brought to mind some old philatelic memories—the life-blood of the hobby.

Very little has been written on this subject, and I will do my best to present here on these pages as much as I've been able to learn from philatelic publications, supplemented by what I've learned from the material in my collection. One of the difficulties that will confront me is the fact that in some cases there are no postmarks on the covers to give the dates of use, so that on occasion I will have to resort to guesswork.

The first handstamp I will discuss is the "PAID ALL" found in a circle about 24mm. in diameter (Fig. 1). This handstamp was used during the sortage of 1 cent stamps in the latter part of 1897. Although there had been 400,000 of the 1 cent Cabot stamp, Scott No. 61, issued on June 24, 1897, by late September of the same year the entire stock had been exhausted and the Newfoundland postal authorities were forced to resort to provisionals (Scott No's 75-77) to tide them over the shortage. Because there was a tremendous demand for the provisional stamps, and in order to discourage local speculators from using up the entire issue, the postal officials franked all printed circulars and open letters for delivery within the Colony with the black circular "PAID ALL" handstamp. This handstamp was applied by the postal employees after postage had been paid in cash. The "PAID ALL" handstamp was in use from early October 1897 to mid-December of the same year.

The next handstamp is one of indeterminate date, but since it bears the same wording, namely, "PAID ALL", I must assume that it is next in chronological order. My example of the handstamp (Fig. 2) is struck in red on a piece of newspaper that defies accurate dating. This handstamp, though, has quite a story. It was originally part of a lot sold at auction by H. R. Harmer of New York, and because I had no need of the rest of the lot, I forewent my opportunity to bid. Imagine my pleasure and surprise when Roy Trickey (BNAPS 92, resigned) of Tonawanda, Pa., sent the item to me for comment. I wrote back and told him just about what I have said in the early part of the paragraph, and returned the handstamp to him. Subsequently, Roy Trickey moved to Des Moines, Iowa, and within

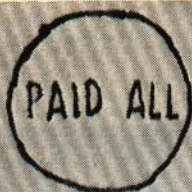


Fig. 1

PAID ALL  
G.P.O., St. John's Newfoundland

Fig. 2

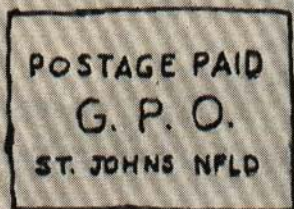


Fig. 3

POSTAGE PAID  
G. P. O.  
ST. JOHN'S NEWF'L'D

Fig. 4

Postage Paid  
G P O  
St. John's N.F.

Fig. 5

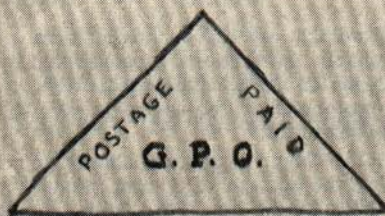


Fig. 6

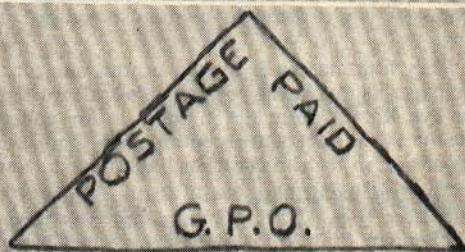


Fig. 7

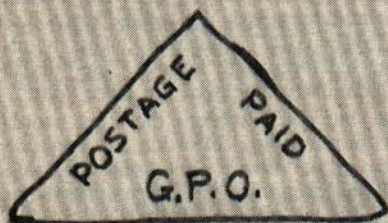


Fig. 8

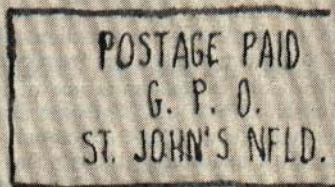


Fig. 9

a few years decided to give up stamp collecting, resigned from the Society, and put up his collection with H. R. Harmer for sale at auction. However, he didn't give them everything because included in the letter telling me of his decision to give up collecting was the "PAID ALL" handstamp under discussion.

In my opinion the next handstamp, the first of the "POSTAGE PAID" (Fig. 3), is the handstamp sent to me by Dr. Wilkinson. From the condition of the envelope I would hazard the opinion that it was used in the early part of the 20th century between 1910 and 1915, as it bears no postmark.

**The next handstamp** (Fig. 4) I have on a cover with a strike in black and no other identifying dates as to its time of use. This same strike also appears in two other colors and both of these can be definitely dated, but as to whether they predate, antedate or are contemporary with the use of the black ink pad is impossible for me to say with the material on hand. The "POSTAGE PAID" handstamp (Fig. 4) makes its next appearance in violet and the reason for its use is multiple. According to Harry E. Huber, in his "Notes on Newfoundland, 1897-1921", the use of this handstamp was necessitated by the fact that on May 16, 1918, and effective the next day, Newfoundland raised the postage rate from 2 cents to 3 cents as a wartime measure. Another of the provisions of the same act was a tax of 5 cents or 10 cents, payable in stamps, that was placed on all telegrams. The last stamp printed by Newfoundland had been the 1911 Coronation set, and as was to be expected the lower values, even though re-ordered several times, were in short supply. A rush order was put through for 200,000 of the 3 cent Queen Alexandra (Scott No. 83), as this stamp had been printed by the American Bank Note Co., and the hazard of a dangerous wartime sea voyage would thus be removed. However, even this stopgap measure was not sufficient and finally, in order to conserve the few low value stamps in stock, effective December 24, 1918, the low value 1 cent, 2 cent and 3 cent stamps were not sold save for fiscal purposes. Letters requiring stamps were handed in over the counter with the cash and if the letter was destined for a place outside Newfoundland, the stamps were affixed, but if for local or inland delivery, the rubber handstamp with a violet ink pad was used. Mr. Huber says that this practice lasted from December 24, 1918, to December 31, 1918, when the Caribou issue arrived in St. John's. Contrary to this, I have an envelope in my collection dated January 14, 1919, with a St. John's postmark and the violet handstamp, so that it is possible that the practise continued after the date listed by Mr. Huber.

In September of 1920, the postal authorities were again faced with a shortage of low value stamps, due this time to the irregular direct steamer communication with England and the fact that Whitehead, Morris & Co. Ltd., were unable to care for the postal wants of Newfoundland as quickly as the postal authorities thought they should. Finally, by September 4, 1920, the conditions in the post office became so desperate that the handstamp (Fig. 4) was resurrected from the files and applied in carmine to all local and inland letters. Letters from outside St. John's were forwarded with the postage to St. John's and there either handstamped or franked with stamps, depending on the destination. This practice remained in effect for a full month, from September 4, 1920, to October 4, 1920.

**Harry E. Huber** listed another type of handstamp in use during this same period (Fig. 5) and for a long time I doubted its existence, and even said so publicly and in print. According to Mr. Huber, this handstamp struck in grey-green was usually found on letters from the outports. In rebuttal I had seen several letters from the outports and had one in my possession postmarked at Belle Isle on September 6, 1920, and received in St. John's two days later, handfranked with the carmine handstamp (Fig. 4). I had just about given up the hope of ever seeing this latest handstamp (Fig. 5), when a chance business trip took me to Pittsburgh, Pa., on a Monday. I had checked in at the Hotel William Penn and while going to my room I noticed in the elevator that the Pittsburgh Philatelic Society was scheduled to meet in the hotel that evening. With nothing else to do, I immediately betook myself to the meeting room and in the course of the introductions I was presented to Mr. Harry E. Huber. The name struck a responsive chord and I immediately struck up a conversation with Mr. Huber. Sure enough, he was the same Mr. Huber who had collaborated with Mr. Poole in writing "The Postage Stamps of Newfoundland". After a few moments of polite conversation, I broached the one subject that was troubling me most. "Did the gray-green "POSTAGE PAID" exist?" Mr. Huber replied that if he had listed it, then it did exist and he would check his notes at home and give me the full particulars. He was true to his word for within a week I received a letter from him with his copy of the envelope franked

with the handstamp in question. I examined it thoroughly, had it photographed, and prepared to return it to Mr. Huber. I was making preparations for another business trip so I turned the cover and some notes over to a new girl we had just hired at the office and told her to type them and send them and the cover off to Mr. Huber. Certainly sounded simple enough—yet, when I returned from my 10-day trip I found a letter from Mr. Huber that really “chewed” me out. It seems that the girl, having no philatelic background, had folded the cover, which was rather brittle, and Mr. Huber had received it in deplorable condition. The envelope had cracked along the folds and when he took it out of the enclosing envelope, he took it out in pieces. I explained what had happened and offered to pay a fair price for the cover. Fortunately, Mr. Huber realized that my intentions had been of the best and the tattered envelope changed hands at an agreed price. I promptly repaired the damage as best I could and the envelope now has a prominent place in my “Provisional” collection. This example is the only one I have ever seen, and I’ve never heard of another, though I’m certain it isn’t unique.

The next three handstamps are of the same design and differ only in the lettering. They were all issued for the same purpose. During World War II when the naval forces were stationed at St. John’s, all postage was collected by the Fleet Mail Office and passed over to the G.P.O. No stamps were used but each cover was cancelled with the “POSTAGE PAID” in the triangle.

The first one (Fig. 6) is found on an envelope dated August 21, 1942. The second (Fig. 7) we have listed on an envelope for Jul. 10, 1944. The last example (Fig. 8) is very interesting as it is on a cover franked with a strip of four copies of the 1 cent, Scott No. 253, and it is postmarked at Flowers Cove on November 26, 1945. In addition to the triangular “POSTAGE PAID” handstamp, there is a black straight line handstamp 78½mm. long, “SALVAGED MAIL FROM M.V. CLARENVILLE”. This envelope is also back-stamped at Corner Brook on December 7, 1945. This cover came to me through the courtesy and kindness of Stan Wood (BNAPS 221), Auckland, New Zealand. Incidentally, I have never been able to get any further information concerning the wreck of the M.V. Clarenville, and I would appreciate word from anyone who can possibly enlighten me and give me further particulars.

The last type of “POSTAGE PAID” cancel (Fig. 9) is not a handstamp but rather a machine cancel. I bought my example from Mike Wadden (BNAPS 13), at one of the New York Group meetings better than 10 years ago. It was used at St. John’s during December of 1944. The only other example that I have ever seen was submitted to me for examination by Dr. Allan Wilkinson a short time ago. This one was also used at St. John’s during December but this time the year was 1948, so it seems entirely possible that this machine cancel is used for bulk mailings during the Christmas rush.

This then winds up what started to be a few short notes, and the entire article was started by the one envelope that was sent down by Dr. Wilkinson. There are a few unanswered questions and if any of our members can supply the answers I would be most appreciative. All pertinent information will be passed on to the members through the medium of BNA TOPICS. ★

## WILDLIFE STAMPS FOR 1956



THE Postmaster-General has announced that two new Wildlife stamps will be issued on April 12 to emphasize Canada's National Wildlife Week.

The 4c stamp in purple illustrates caribou and the 5c in blue shows a mountain goat. Both designs are by Emanuel Hahn, R.C.A., of Toronto. Both stamps will be engraved and printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company, Ottawa, using plates number 1 and 2. ★

