
The Canadian Stamp Collector

Glen Hansen's further notes on Newfoundland

The Alcock-Brown flight of June 14, 1919 was the real first flight of Newfoundland. The 15c value of the 1897 Cabot issue was overprinted "Trans-Atlantic Air Post, 1919. One Dollar." The flight was successful, taking 16 hours and 20 minutes to reach Ireland. Several varieties exist of this type-set overprint.

An airmail flight to Halifax was the subject for overprinting the 35c value of the 1897 Cabot issue with the words "Air Mail to Halifax, N.S. 1921." Both wide- and narrow-spaced overprints exist. This variety involves the distance between the words "Air" and "Mail". Inverted overprints are known with both wide and narrow spacing.

In 1927 the De Pinedo flight to Rome was the subject for an overprint on the 60c value of the 1897 Cabot Issue. The overprint read "Air Mail—De Pinedo—1927" in three lines.

The 36c Caribou stamp was overprinted "Trans Atlantic Air Mail By B.M. Columbia September 25, 1930 Fifty Cents" in seven lines. As with the De Pinedo overprint only 300 stamps were so overprinted

and there are, as usual, a number of varieties. The flight actually took place on October 9.

Although there were no regularly-scheduled flights at the time, Newfoundland issued a set of three airmail stamps in 1931. The values were 15c for flights within Newfoundland, 50c for flights to Canada and the United States, and \$1 for trans-Atlantic flights. The stamps were engraved and printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co. on an unwatermarked white wove paper. Perforation was a combination $13\frac{3}{4} \times 14\frac{1}{4}$ on the 15c and $14\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ on the other two values. January 2, 1931 was the date of issue and by late March of that year a new printing appeared on the watermarked "Coat of Arms" paper that the colony had been using.

The German Dornier DO-X flying boat took on mail at St. John's for England and Europe on May 19, 1932, and the \$1 stamp of the 1931 airmail issue was overprinted "Trans Atlantic West to East Per Dornier DO-X May, 1932/One Dollar and Fifty Cents". The overprint was applied in blocks of four and inverted overprints are known. Newfoundlanders had become aware of the value of these special overprinted issues being produced and on May 19 the post office at St. John's was overrun by people anxious to secure copies of the stamp both for use on mail and as souvenirs. About 8,000 stamps were overprinted and copies bought for speculation were being sold within a few days for ten times their face value.

TOPICS: THE NEWSFRONT

A protest to the postmaster, and a word about a proposed new study group . . .

The Edmonton Stamp Club sent a letter to the Postmaster General, Hon. Eric Kierans on March 16, stating that it is concerned "at recent developments which appear to be aimed at exploiting the stamp collector." This is being done for "the sole purpose of increasing revenue, with no corresponding improvement of postal services. For example, the release of a 50c commemorative in 1968 can scarcely be justified . . . a 5c denomination would have served equally well." The 25c 1970 Expo stamp was also cited in the protest, which went over the signature of the Edmonton club's president, Stewart Kenyon.

William Pekonen, of Surrey, B.C., is attempting to organize a new study group, dealing with "Canadian official stampless covers since 1963." He has presented a lengthy outline of the terms of reference of such a group which includes, basically, stampless (an un-metered) covers "which received postal usage, for which a postage fee was paid, upon which there is no postage stamp and no postage stamp required." William Pekonen