

AN INTRIGUING NEWFOUNDLAND AIRMAIL COVER

by John M. Walsh



On May 19, 1932 air mail service was offered from Newfoundland to Europe via the German flying boat, Dornier DO-X. The flight originated from Holyrood in Conception Bay on May 21, 1932 with arrival in Horta, Azores that same evening. Southampton, England was reached several days later with the mail being backstamped either May 25 or May 26, 1932. Round trip mail covers generally have St. John's, August 5, 1932 backstamped on the envelope.

This cover is quite unusual, and possibly unique, due to its return backstamp date of June

2, 1932. To my knowledge no other cover with this early a backstamp date has been reported.

It seems that the cover, addressed "c/o The Postmaster General, London, England" was received at the London Foreign Section (F.S.). It was recognized for what its intention was — to be returned to sender, and received the blue X marks for the British manner of indicating the address change. It was most likely dispatched from the Postmaster General's Office by the next outgoing official mail bag, which resulted in its speedy arrival in St. John's on June 2, 1932.

AN INVITATION

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