

A NEWFOUNDLAND POSTAGE DUE FIRST DAY COVER

by John M. Walsh



What follows is the story of how this First Day Cover came to be, as told to me by the original owner, The Honourable W.J. Browne, former Solicitor - General for Canada.

"On May 1, 1939 I went to the Main Post Office in St. John's to mail a letter to my wife,

who was in Providence, Rhode Island.

"At the wicket I bought the 5¢ Caribou stamp paying the regular postage rate to the United States. While talking to the clerk, he mentioned that a series of Postage Due stamps were being issued on that day. He,



by the way, knew I was a stamp collector.

"Right away my interest was piqued. 'Could I acquire a set?', I asked. 'Yes,' he said, and then he told me that the set had 6 stamps, with 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 4¢, 5¢, and 10¢ denominations. The cost, he told me, was twice the face value, and the stamps would be placed on the envelope.

"Quickly my hand slid into my pocket, and out it came with all the coins that were in there. Oh, how sad and disappointed I felt when upon counting the handful of change I found that I had the goodly sum of 25 cents. With it I could buy only the 5¢ regular postage, plus the 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, and 4¢ Postage Due stamps."

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BNA TOPICS: see Page 2

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