

THE POSTAL MARKINGS ST. JOHN'S GENERAL POST OFFICE AND SUB OFFICES 1840 - 1949

by John Butt

The Postal Markings of the St. John's Offices have always intrigued me. These markings have received very little attention from the collectors of Newfoundland Postal History. Except for a few articles by Dr. R. Willan in the *Maple Leaves*, which gave me the impetus for this article, very little has been written.

I am very fortunate to have several friends in the St. John's area who, along with myself, collect Newfoundland Postal History. Their collections, my own collection, a collector friend in Toronto, and a good spread of auction catalogues gave me a good basis for compiling a year to year record of each marking. I would be remiss if I did not mention that although a lot of care was taken in researching this article, other types and years may be found to add to the list.

The purpose of this article is to record all the known date stamps and related markings of the G.P.O. and Sub Offices. This seemed such an easy task when I started in 1988. After reading Dr. Willan's articles in *Maple Leaves*, I noticed that different dates and cancels were in my own collection. A photostat of each cancel was put in chronological order, the information from my

friends' collections was added, plus the information from the auction catalogues and a very concise list was made of the G.P.O. Markings. The registry, sub offices, and section markings were organized in the same fashion.

Newfoundland joined the *Imperial Postal System* in 1840. This article is concerned only with the Postal Markings from that year to 1949 when Newfoundland entered into Confederation with Canada. St. John's which served as the only Post Office in 1840, was issued the first marking, which I call PM #1. All the markings are explained individually because of the difference in size, colour, and so forth.

All markings were in red (prepaid) or black (unpaid) until 1865. This practice was supposed to stop with the issuance of the Cents Issue in 1865. The practice continued until 1876, in which year PM #11 may be found in red and black.

The markings and abbreviations are PM (Postal Marking), MC (Machine Cancel), RM (Registry Markings), SS (Special Section), SO (Sub Offices), and PP (Postage Paid).

THE POSTAL MARKINGS, ST. JOHN'S G.P.O. AND SUB OFFICES 1840-1949

ST. JOHN'S G.P.O. POSTAL MARKINGS

- PM 1: Applied in red for paid and black for unpaid letters. Usage 1840-1846.
- PM 2: Stamped in black only. 1840-1877
- PM 3: Crowned Circle, red only. 1846-1849
- PM 4: Arcs 6mm long. Black only. 1846-1858
- PM 5: Red only. 1849-1877
- PM 6: Same as #4, but arcs 13 mm long. Black. 1858-1876
- PM 7: Used as obliterator. Black. 1865-1896
- PM 8: PM 5 with cross cork obliterator in center. Black only. 1871-1881
- PM 9: PM 5 with leaf cork obliterator in center. Black only. 1871-1881
- PM 10: First Full Circle. Red only. 1873-1876.
- PM 11: Arcs 4.5 mm long. Black and red. 1876-1883.
- PM 12: Arcs 8 mm long. 1882-1896.
- PM 13: 28mm full circle. 1884.
- PM 14: Arcs 2.5 mm long. 1886-1895.
- PM 15: St. John's duplex. 1883-1902.

- PM 16: St. John's roller. First with no number, second numbered 2. 1890-1905.
 PM 17: 24 mm full circle. Dots at sides. 1890-1894.
 PM 18: St. John's barred circle. 1893-1908.
 PM 19: 24 mm full circle. No dots at sides. 1893-1904.
 PM 20: 24 mm full circle. Full 7 in St. John's. 1898-1903.
 PM 21: 24 mm full circle. Apostrophes between N'F'L'D. 1899-1910.
 PM 22: 24 mm full circle. As PM 21 but also has dots at sides. 1899-1910.
 PM 23: 24 mm full circle: with N.F. after St. John's. 1903-1911.
 PM 24: 22.5 mm full circle. 1914-1915.
 PM 25: Large double oval. 1915-1918.
 PM 26: 28 mm full circle. 1920 (Pollitz, 137th SALE, 1976).
 PM 27: 28 mm full circle. Violet and black. 1923-1925.
 PM 28: 30 mm full circle. 1933.
 PM 29: 24 mm full circle. 1933-1934.
 PM 30: 35 mm double circle. 1934-1937.
 PM 31: Serrated oval. 1937-1938.
 PM 32: 28 mm double circle. 1938-1939.
 PM 33: 36 mm circle. 1941.
 PM 34: 30 mm circle. 1943-1946.
 PM 35: 30 mm double circle. 1948-1949.



1840-1846
PM 1

SHIP-LETTER
NEWFOUNDLAND

1840-1877
PM 2



1846-1849
PM 3



1846-1858
PM 4



1849-1877
PM 5



1858-1876
PM 6



1865-1896
PM 7



1873-1881
PM 8



1873-1881
PM 9



1873-1876
PM 10



1876-1883
PM 11



1882-1886
PM 12



1884
PM 13



1886-1895
PM 14



1883-1902
PM 15



1890-1905
PM 16



1890-1894
PM 17



1893-1908
PM 18



1893-1904
PM 19



1898-1903
PM 20



1899-1910
PM 21



1900-1910
PM 22



1903-1911
PM 23



1914-1915
PM 24



1915-1918
PM 25



1920
PM 26



1923-1925
PM 27



1933
PM 28



1933-1934
PM 29



1934-1937
PM 30



1937-1938
PM 31



1938-1939
PM 32



1941
PM 33



1943-1946
PM 34



1948-1949
PM 35

SECOND DAY CABOT COVER

by Dean Mario



This Cabot registered cover (paying the 3¢ letter rate and 5¢ registration fee) was sent on the second day after issue. Although the 8¢ value would have been more practical, the sender may have wanted to convey a more multi-coloured representation of the series. One may presume that it was sent on official P.O. business, but if so, why wasn't an O.H.M.S. envelope used?

Deacidifying Covers

by George B. Arfken

Some cover collectors have asked about a way of protecting their covers from possible acid deterioration. The paper from which the covers were made may have acid in its structure, a heritage of the manufacturing process. One way to combat this acid threat is to spray the covers with a deacidifying solution such as Wei T'o. The spray transports magnesium ethyl carbonate into the paper. Reaction with the air changes this chemical into basic magnesium carbonate. The carbonate neutralizes any acid

in the paper and arrests the yellowing and embrittlement that built in acids may cause.

Wei T'o is available from University Products Inc. P.O. Box 101, Holyoke, MA 01041-0101. They have telephone numbers (800) 628-1912 and (413) 532-9431 for ordering and (800) 762-1165 for customer service. Their 1992/1993 catalog lists Wei T'o spray no.11 at \$20.95 for a 22 oz (624 grams) spray can. You can write for their 160 page catalog or call for more detailed information.