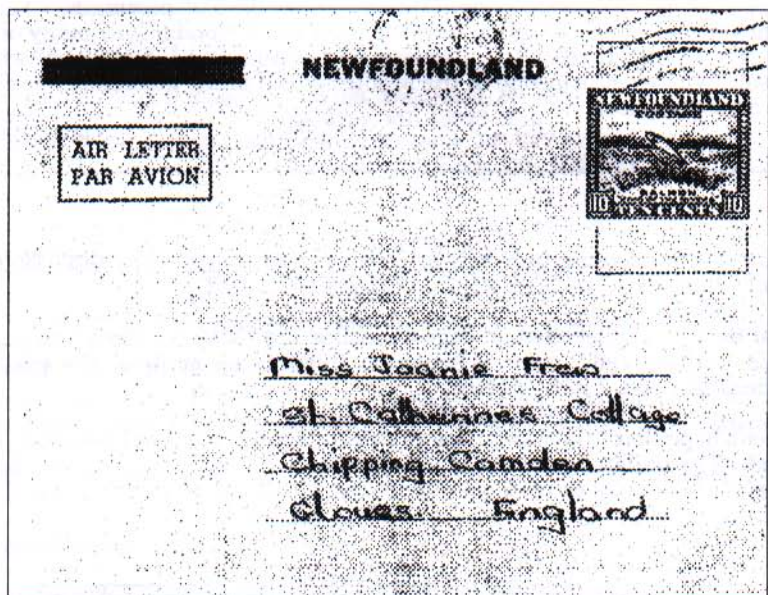


## Readers Speak

*This is a column where the readers of TOPICS can express their views, ask questions, and add information to previously published articles.*

Sir:

Pierre Gauthier's article on the unstamped letter sheets of Canada and Newfoundland (*BNA Topics*, Vol. 55, #3, pp. 7-20) sent me to my safety deposit box to look at my two copies of his Newfoundland Air Letter sheet TYPE I to see if either were watermarked. Examined under a tensor's strong light, I was not able to find any trace of a watermark on either the mint or used copy. Since my used copy is machine cancelled with wavy lines at John's Newfoundland, 12:30 p.m., 7 NOV. 1946, and is addressed to Miss Jeanie Frew, at Catherines College, Clipping, Camden, Gloues, England, I presume it is the earliest reported postmark referred to in Pierre's informative article. Both were acquired from the late Allan Steinhart in 1996, probably at the Texas BNAPS convention, and they cost me dearly, which is probably why Pierre didn't buy them when offered to him by Allan, as seems likely.



I had a devil of a time in locating the article "published at the time in *BNA Topics* [3,4]" because I do not know how to read the numbers in parentheses. I looked in Volume 3, #4; Volume 3, page 4; Volume 4, #3, Volume 4, page 3; whole number numbers 3 and 4 and came up blank. Finally, I realized that I had just bought the essential BNA Collectors Assistant and turned to Pomeroy C. Livermore's "Cumulative Index to *BNA Topics*, 1944-1997." I found this citation: "Newfoundland - Air Mail / Trail of the Caribou (1942 air letter forms described with varieties noted.) Meyerson, Daniel C. and William S., Jun 1949, #060, v6 n6

p 137 il)," followed by a similar citation "(Date of air letter forms fixed in 1946.); ... Oct 1949, #062, v5 n8 p 192 il."

This cumulative index is worth its weight in gold to the BNA collector/student, especially since the entire run of *Topics* is now directly available from to BNAPS members from the APRL Library in State College, Pa. The Index itself is for sale from the BNAPS Book Department at P.O. Box 66660, Stoney Creek, Ontario Canada L8G 5E6 for \$20.00 U.S. The Canadian dollar is changing value so rapidly I am afraid to quote the price in Canadian funds.

Horace W. Harrison

(editor's note: your fearless editor will wade in where Horace fears to tread—the price of the Index is \$28.50 Canadian)

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Sir:

Being a collector of BNA fakes, forgeries, frauds and phantoms, I was particularly interested in George McGowan's letter concerning the Wayzata stamp being used in 1950 (*Topics*, Vol. 55, #3, pg. 77).

The illustration looked familiar and, sure enough, I have an identical cover; same markings, same addressee, same date and same time of postmark. The only difference is that the registration number is 00057. I wonder how many of these covers Mr. McIntosh received. Perhaps he posted a batch to himself while in Montreal. Whatever, someone in the Montreal post office was either very sleepy or else an accomplice.

David Sessions

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Sir:

My letter is with reference to Norris R. Dyer's article, "Newfoundland's Columbia Air Mail—Revisited," in *BNA Topics*, Apr-May-Jun 1998.

I owned the block illustrated on page 41 (called the "Matejka Block" on page 47) from 28 October 1989, when I bought it (bidding by mail) at the auction of Huys-Berlingen AG, Liechtenstein.

Mr. Dyer's hope that "the block does remain intact for historical reasons" will be realized. The philatelic section of the National Archives of Canada is now the owner of the block, and thus we can be sure the block will remain intact and never leave Canada again.

William Henry Pope

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