



Newfoundland

Status: British Crown Colony
Area: 155,364 sq. miles
Population: 353,526 (1951 est.)
Currency: 100 cents = 1 dollar,
 1 Newfoundland dollar = 1 Canadian dollar (in 1949)



As the eastern-most extension of the North American continent, Newfoundland has been an important stepping stone for transatlantic communications for five centuries. It is not clear when Europeans first discovered Newfoundland. Its fisheries were well known to sailors even before John Cabot made his famous voyage in 1497 for the English king. Cabot played a prime role in promoting the island and by 1583, when

Sir Humphrey Gilbert formally annexed Newfoundland for England, a number of English fishing settlements were already well established. Despite continuing conflicts with France and others, settlement continued. But much of its population was seasonal, with many returning to Europe each fall at the end of the cod-fishing season. Fishing was Newfoundland's economic mainstay well into the 20th century despite attempts to diversify the economy.

The island's economy collapsed during the Great Depression. In 1933, a Royal Commission was highly critical of the country's political leadership and recommended the temporary suspension of responsible government. Newfoundland, a self-governing dominion since 1855, reverted to a Crown Colony. Following World War II, no longer able to count on British subsidies, the government held a referendum on its future government. In late 1948, Newfoundlanders voted narrowly to join the Canadian confederation. On March 31, 1949, it became Canada's 10th province.

The vast territory of Labrador was disputed by Canada and Newfoundland. The issue was appealed to the King's Privy Council, which in 1927, upheld Newfoundland's claim, officially adding an area almost three times larger than the island itself.

Early correspondence was transported by shipmasters and typically received no distinctive markings. In 1805, the London General Post Office recognized Simon Solomon as the postmaster in St. John's. Solomon, a jeweler by trade, engraved a handstamp, which was placed in use in 1810. After 1840, the London GPO supplied handstamps. The Postal Act of 1852 provided for the use of postage stamps, but no action was taken to implement this until after self-government was achieved. The first stamps were produced in London by Perkins Bacon and placed on sale on January 1, 1857. Over the next 92 years, Newfoundland issued about 300 stamps.

Under the confederation agreement, responsibility for the postal services was transferred to Ottawa, though Newfoundland stamps remained valid.



A 6-penny rose of 1860, Scott 20.



A 1/2-cent black Newfoundland Dog of 1894, Scott 58.



A 1931 Newfoundland airmail (Scott C6) overprinted "L. & S. Post," Scott 211. L. & S. stands for land and sea.



A 15-cent Harp Seal Pup stamp with an inset portrait of King George VI, Scott 239.

A cover postmarked August 21, 1953 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island franked with stamps from Canada (Scott C8) and Newfoundland (Scott 191, 270).



A 2-cent green Codfish of 1865-94, Scott 24.



The 2-cent rose carmine Map of 1908, Scott 86.

Newfoundland

Statistical facts about Newfoundland:
Area: 152,000 sq miles
Population: 258,000 (1951 est.)
Currency: 100 cents = 1 dollar
Newfoundland dollar = 1 Canadian dollar (in 1952)



The east coast settlement of *St. John's* (the capital) is the largest city in Newfoundland. It is a beautiful harbor town with a long history. The city was founded in 1497 by John Cabot, an Italian explorer in the service of England. The city was known as *St. John's* until 1929 when it was renamed *St. John's West* to distinguish it from the city of *St. John's* in the United States.

The island of Newfoundland was discovered by John Cabot in 1497. It was named in his honor. The island was first settled by the English in 1607. The settlement was named *St. John's*. The island was a part of the British Empire until 1907 when it became a separate colony. The island was a part of the British Empire until 1907 when it became a separate colony. The island was a part of the British Empire until 1907 when it became a separate colony.

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1 cent green
1952

1 cent rose
1952

1 cent blue
1952

1 cent black
1952

A cover
postmarked
August 11,
1952
St. John's,
Newfoundland

Newfoundland
1951
1 cent
1951

1 cent
1952