

# Newfoundland Caribou

## 1897 - 1941

### Introduction

Caribou have roamed the Newfoundland and Labrador barrens and woodlands for centuries; they have been hunted for food and sport. This exhibit looks at the caribou in its wild element and also as a symbol of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment in WWI

### Material

Newfoundland – plate proofs; stamps & varieties; covers; mail card

#### Plan

Page 1 – Title page

Page 2 – Caribou country

Page 3 – Caribou hunting

Pages 4-9 – 1919 Trail of the Caribou; honouring soldiers of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment in WWI

Pages 10-16 – Caribou

[Green  = significant item]

Caribou are remarkably strong swimmers; they will swim out to islands, and sometimes even far out to sea

1923



perf 14

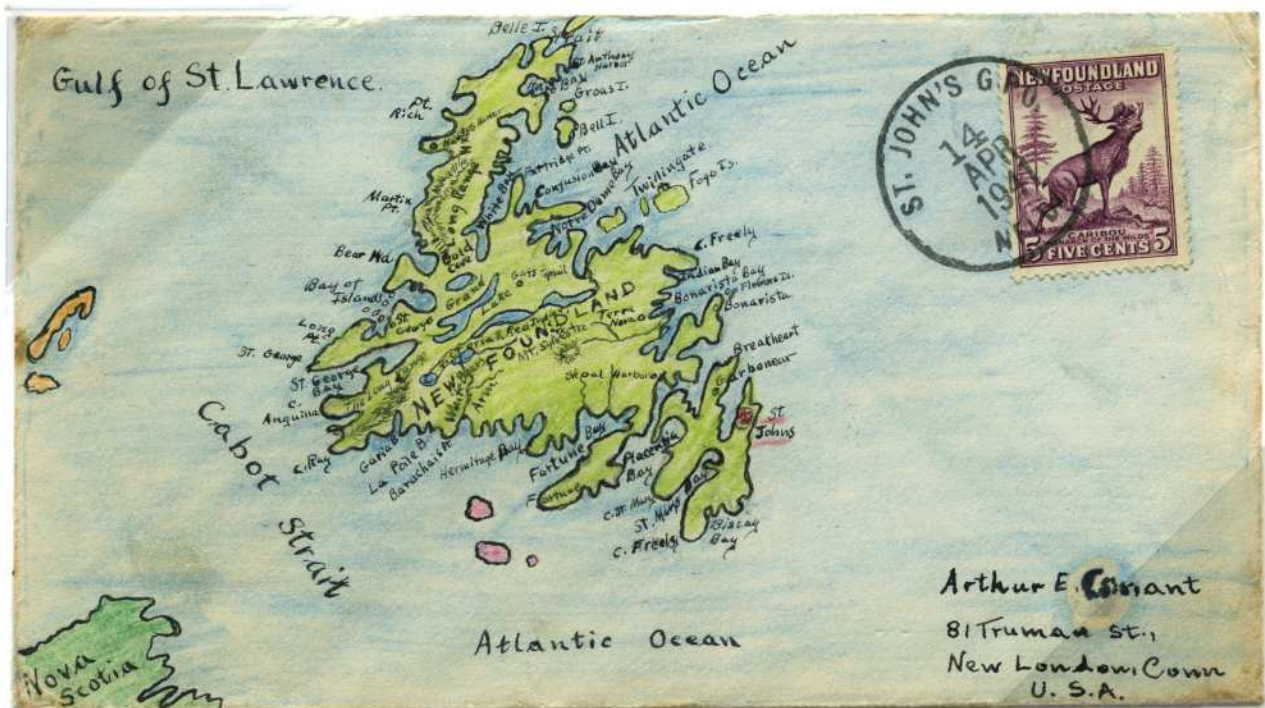


perf 14.1 x 14



stamp detail

Hand drawn cachet – a map of the island portion of Newfoundland; posted in April, 1941 paying the 5¢ United States letter rate



**Caribou country; the wilderness near La Manche, along Newfoundland's southern shore on the southeast Avalon**

**Mail card** c. late 1800; a chromolithographic photograph of the chain of lakes near La Manche is seen when the card is unfolded

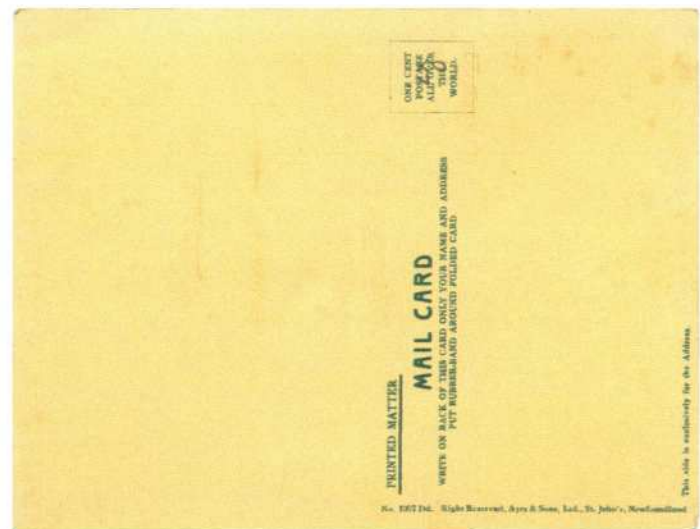


—Ayre & Sons, Ltd., St. John's, Newfoundland

This rare MAIL CARD folds in the centre with the picture on the inside; the letter and address area is on the outside, with these instructions: "Put rubber-band around folded card"

In the place for a stamp are the words "One cent postage all over the world"

The open MAIL CARD measures 180mm x 138mm, and when folded is the size of a regular post card



Letter and address area of mail card – (scan at 25%)

# Caribou hunting

In 1900 the Newfoundland woodland caribou were plentiful and numbered more than 100,000; by 1930 these numbers had declined to under 10,000, largely due to over-hunting

1897



Plate proof on card

Issued for the Cabot 400th anniversary; featuring American, H. C. Pearce, hunting caribou; perf 12

Registered letter, 1910; paid is the United States 2¢ letter rate + 2¢ overweight charge + 5¢ registration fee



Below:  
Front cover dated 1904 paying the 2¢ letter rate to Canada + 5¢ registration fee



## Trail of the Caribou

The native Newfoundland caribou, a symbol of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, was featured as a badge worn by every soldier in that unit

After the end of the World War I, 12 stamps were issued to commemorate the soldiers of the Newfoundland Regiment; four are marked '**Ubique**', meaning 'everywhere,' honouring the Royal Naval Reserve; the other eight mark specific engagements in which the Royal Newfoundland Regiment took part; those shown below are perf 14.1 with some slight colour variations

1919



Cover to Pennsylvania; charged is the 5¢ basic U.S. letter rate + 5¢ registration fee



The **Trail of the Caribou** design combines features of both a moose and a caribou taken from two drawings done by Mr. J.H. Noonan, First Clerk and Cashier of the Customs Department at St. John's

Higher value stamps showing examples of the two perforation sizes

1919



perf sizes: 14.1 X 14.1    14.1 X 13.9    14.1 X 14.1    14.1 X 13.9    14.1 X 13.9

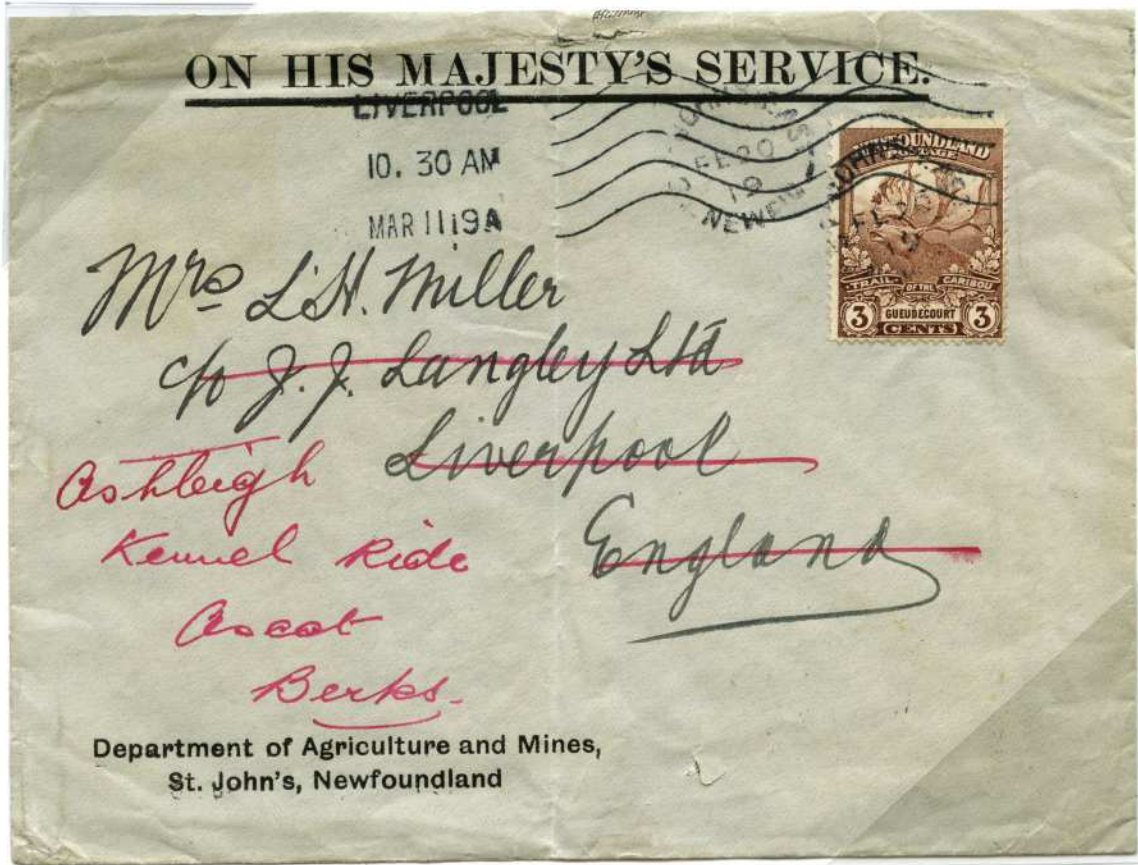


14.1 X 14.1    14.1 X 13.9    14.1 X 14.1    14.1 X 13.9    14.1 X 14.1    14.1 X 13.9

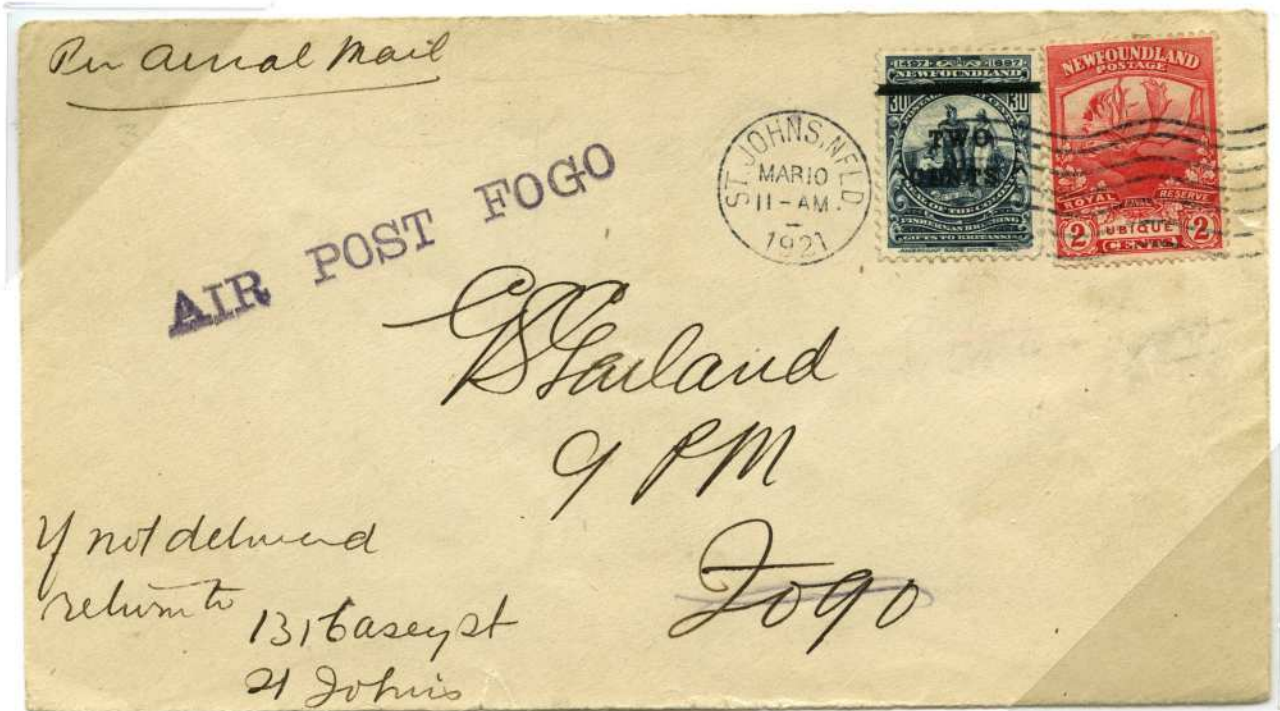
Registered letter with 2¢ United States basic rate + 1¢ war tax + 5¢ registration fee



Letter sent in 1919; postage is 2¢ to Great Britain rate + 1¢ war tax



3¢ inland rate + 1¢ war tax



At the Battle of Beaumont Hamel casualties suffered by the Royal Newfoundland Regiment were proportionally much higher than in any other branch of the British army; the 4¢ Trail of the Caribou stamp is in remembrance of that battle at Beaumont Hamel

Registered letter; pays 3¢ inland rate + 5¢ registration fee



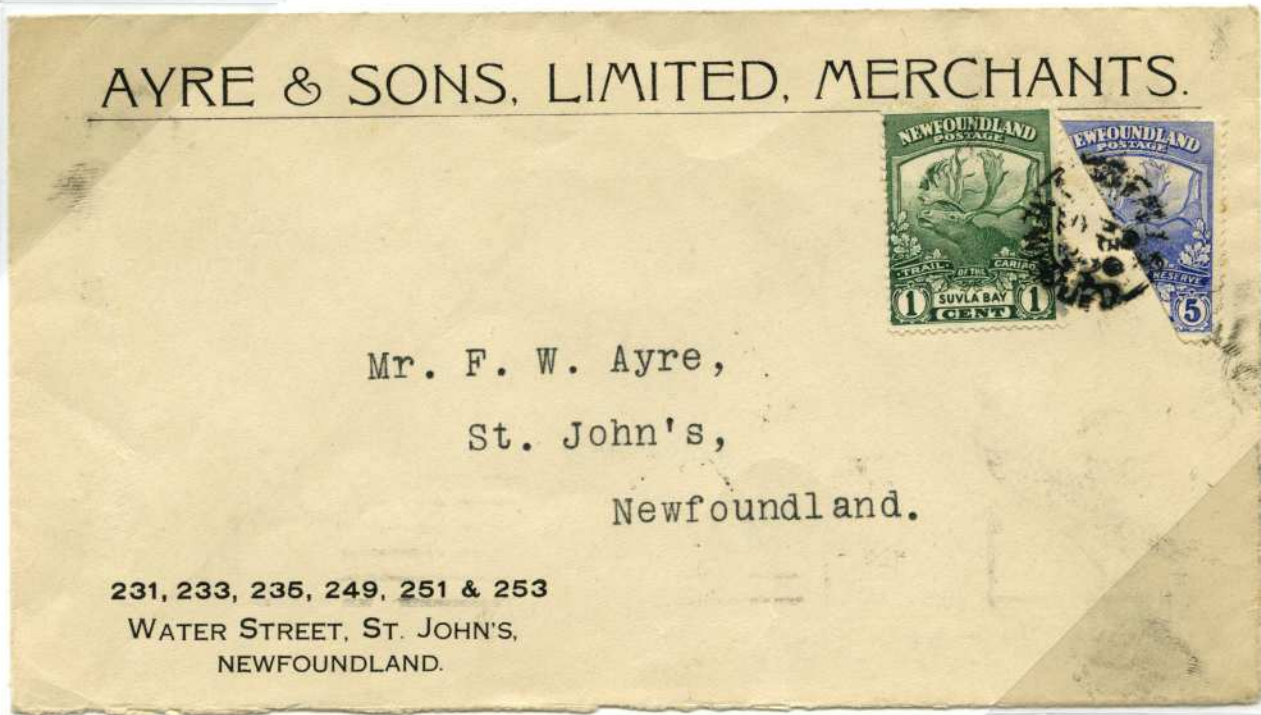
4¢ letter rate to Great Britain



4¢ United States letter rate

The Royal Naval Reserve had a war record of exceptional bravery

A 5¢ value was cut in half [bi-sected] for use along with the one cent stamp



5¢ rate to Canada

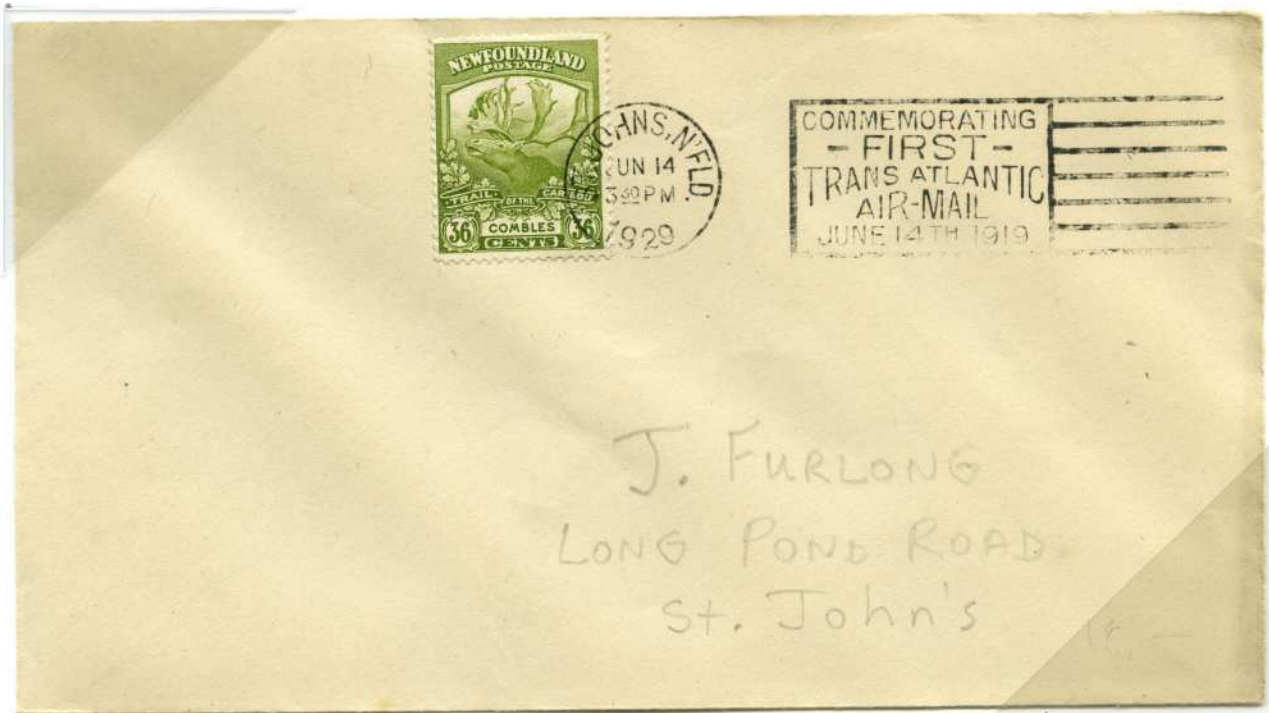


Soldiers of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment who fought along the Trail of the Caribou will be long remembered and honoured

Registered letter sent from St. John's with the 5¢ United States letter rate + 5¢ registration fee



Local letter sent to J. Furlong, St. John's



# Caribou

The Newfoundland caribou stand about 4.5 feet high. Bulls weigh from 180 to 250 kg, while cows average 130 kg; they live in herds or groups varying in size according to location

High demand for 5¢ values created a need for more than one printing plate, resulting in minor differences of design and colour; Coat of Arms watermark; all shown are perf 13.5 x 13.5

1932

Die I



Die II



trial colour plate proof on stout wove paper; black

Die II



pale violet variety



imperf pair



LL margin plate proof; bookend paper



inverted watermark



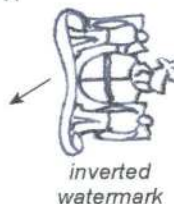
front of stamp scan @ 75%



Die I: the antler point under 'T' in 'POSTAGE' is shorter than in Die II

Die I

Die II



inverted watermark



normal watermark

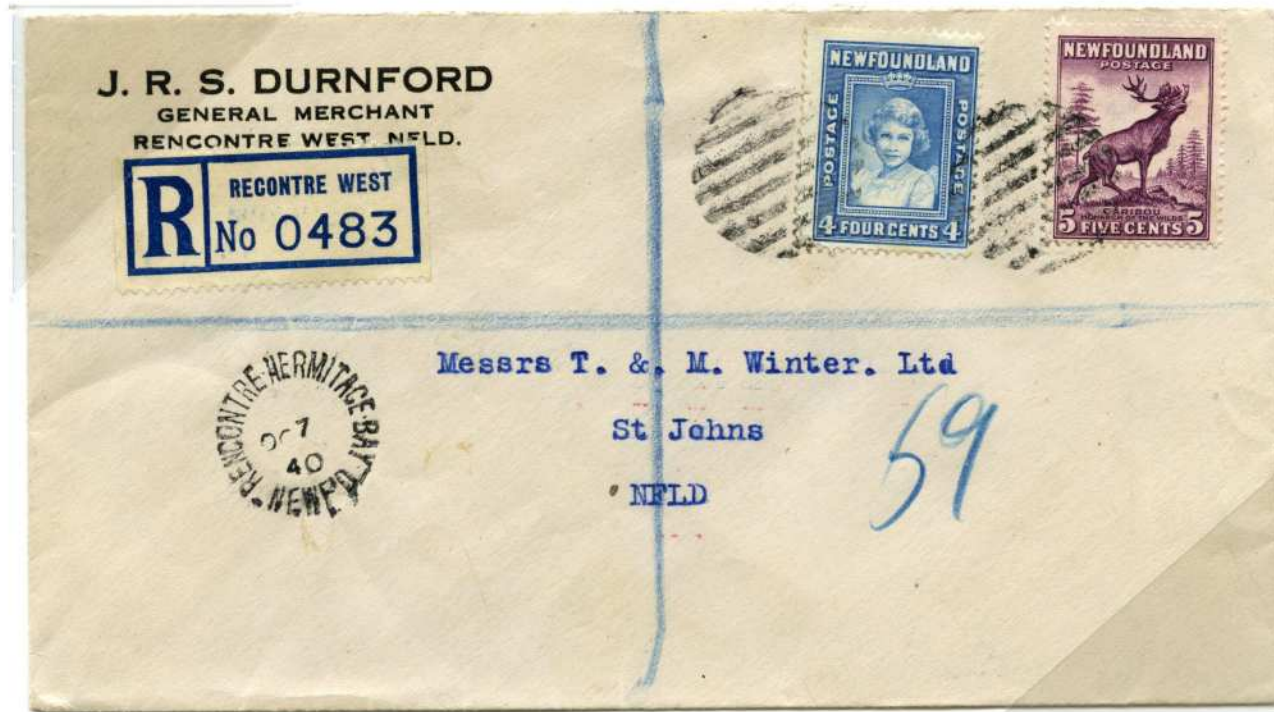
Both male and female caribou have antlers, the bull's antlers being larger, growing from over 3 to 3.5 feet wide.

1939 Trans-Atlantic First Flight cover from Botwood to the United States via Ireland; paid is the 30¢ airmail postage

1932



Registered letter; 4¢ inland postal rate + 5¢ registration fee



1932



Above:  
First Flight Air  
Mail from  
Wabush-Katsao  
to St. John's;  
35¢ air mail  
rate



Left:  
Registered cover;  
United States 5¢  
postal rate + 10¢  
registration fee



Registered  
letter paying  
the Canada 5¢  
letter rate + 10¢  
registration fee

After the Newfoundland wolf became extinct in the 1930s, the caribou's only natural predators were lynx and black bear

Long Coronation stamp featuring the 1932 caribou design with a portrait of King George VI; all three perf sizes shown

1937



rare perf 13.3 x 13.3



perf 13.7 x 13.7



perf 14.1 x 14.1

Corner positional block with re-entry LL on the oval



perf 13.7 x 13.7



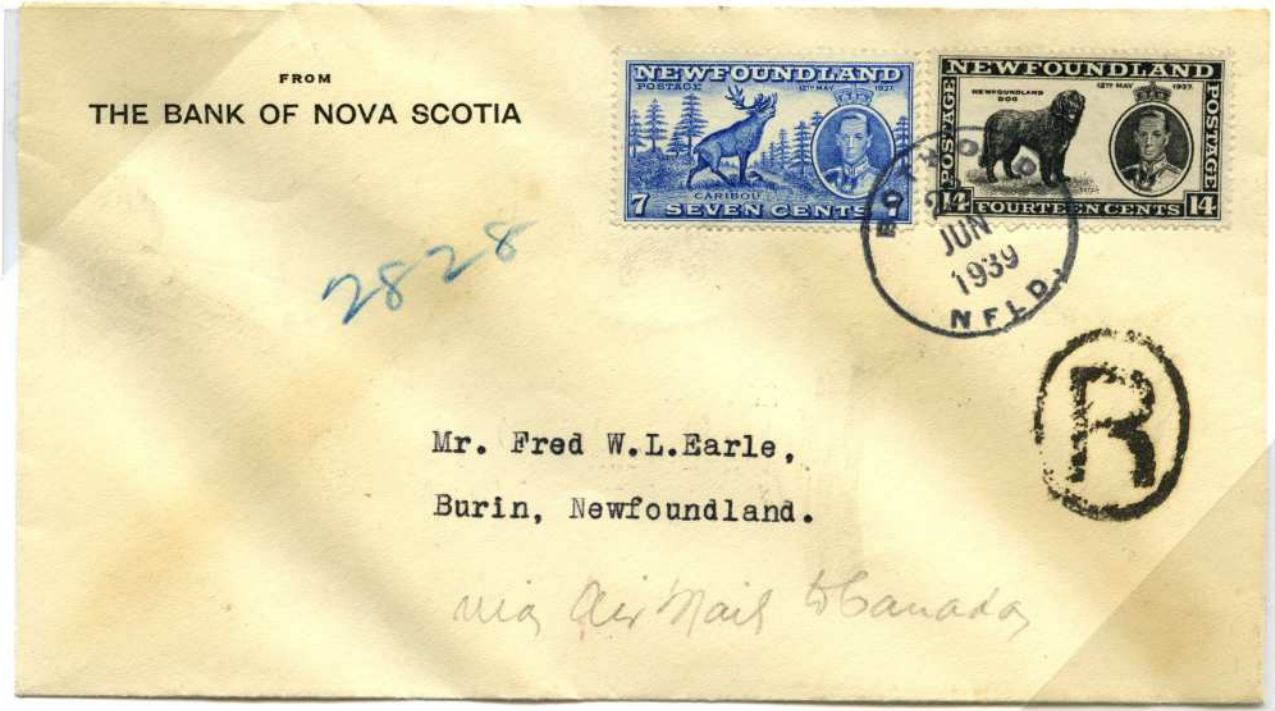
re-entry

Caribou are found all over Newfoundland and in  
Labrador; Newfoundland has the most southerly herd

Registered cover ; postage is 5¢ United States rate + 10¢ registration fee



Registered cover from Botwood to Burin via air mail to Canada;  
charged is 5¢ basic rate + 6¢ air mail + 10¢ registration fee



Dark brown in summer with a white neck, chest, underside and rump,  
the caribou's deep colouring fades to grayish brown in winter

A new issue; lighter in colour and .5mm wider than the 1932 issue

1941



plate number UR perf 12.5 x 12.5



perf 12.5 x 12.8



Double printed  
rare perf 12.5 x 12.8



detail of double printing

Registered airmail to U.S.A.; 7¢ airmail rate + 10¢ registration fee



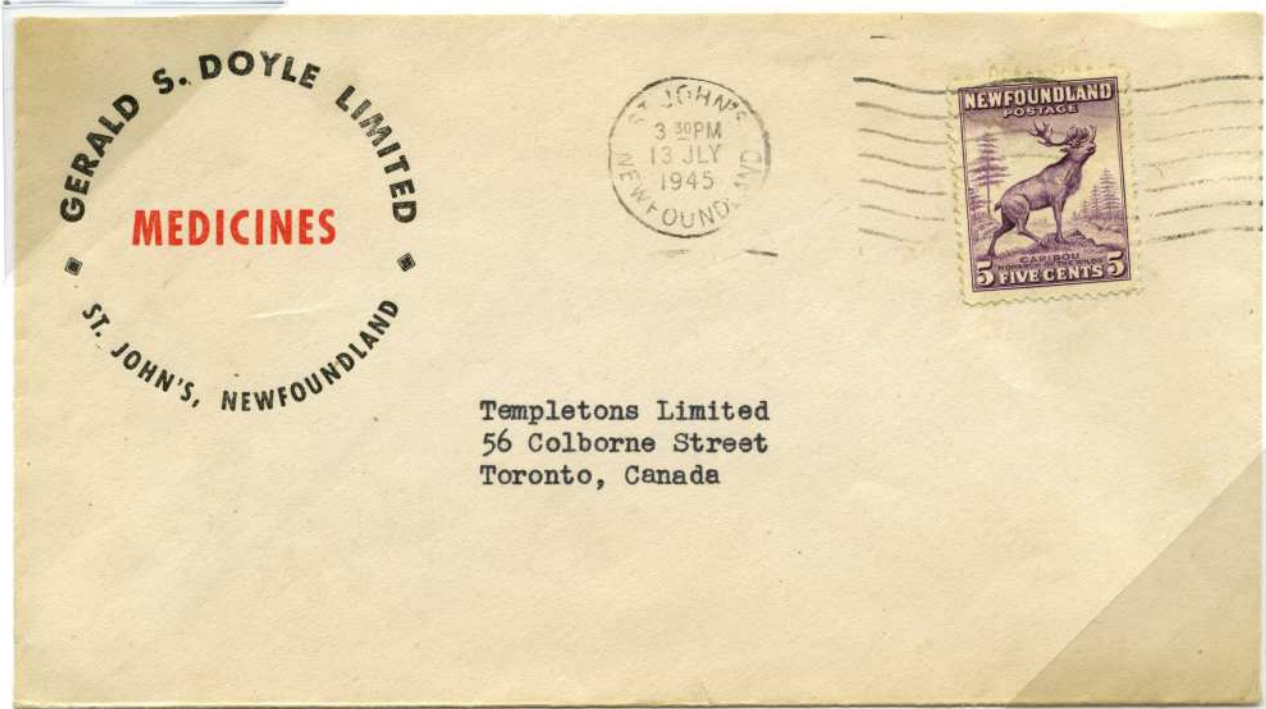
The Newfoundland woodland caribou were plentiful; they provided necessary food, and sport hunting in the tourist trade helped the economy in a small way. Caribou are herbivores and eat lichens, mosses, shrubs, grasses and kelp

United States 5¢ letter rate

1941



Canada 5¢ letter rate



[Final note: Caribou can still be seen all across Newfoundland, though the Avalon herd has been somewhat reduced due to an outbreak of the Scandinavian brainworm; Newfoundland is now the only place to hunt this species of woodland caribou in North America]