

## AN INTERESTING VARIETY OF NEWFOUNDLAND #128

by Dan Meyerson

At the S. A. Brown sale of Newfoundland stamps held by Harmer-Rooke on December 19, 1940, an interesting and unlisted variety of Scott's #128 made its appearance.

This stamp was one of four provisionals issued late in 1920 because irregular direct steamer communication with England made it necessary to surcharge some stamps to take the place of the 2c and 3c stamps which had not arrived in time to take care of the existing shortage.

All of the provisionals were surcharged in panes of twenty-five (5 x 5), at the offices of the Royal Gazette in St. Johns.

The first of these stamps to be surcharged was the 15c Cabot. The surcharge consisted of the words THREE CENTS between two bars that were 10½ mm. apart, and 3000 stamps were so surcharged.

Boggs in his excellent book on Newfoundland says, "This setting was not satisfactory as the lower bar did not obliterate the figures '15' at the bottom of the stamp." Yet, when the S. A. Brown collection was sold there were two complete panes of twenty-five offered for sale. The first pane was the normal variety, but the second lot was described as a complete mint sheet of twenty-five showing variety in position of surcharge. The variety in question was that on this pane the surcharge was placed much lower and the lower bar did obliterate the figures "15" at the bottom of the stamp, but the upper figures were then left unobliterated. This sheet was purchased from the collection by Stanley Gibbons, and I have a block of four from said sheet.

Do any of our readers know whether or not this sheet was unique, since I have never seen any other copies. It would be interesting to know if anyone has a copy used on cover during the time of issue.

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### CHATTER

Henry Gates of Alliance, Ohio, well-known collector of Canadian postage, visited with the members of the New York group at their last meeting. Mr. Gates showed the members some of the Canadian Die-Proofs he had with him, and provided much Philatelic pleasures for the observers. Thanks for stopping in, Mr. Gates. It certainly was nice having you, and we hope you will afford us the pleasure of your company at any time you are in the city.

A very kind thank you to A. L. Brophey of Montreal for his telephone call while passing through New York.

To J. R. Barraclough of Westmount, Quebec, and to John B. Kilton of Providence, R. I., also go our very sincere appreciation and thanks for their commendable cooperation in offering lists through the Sec. of prospective members. We hope and expect that other members will follow this fine example.

The "TOPICS" inadvertently provides interesting reading and informative news, but, the July issue contained bits of regrettable advices even though expressed as being temporary. No. 20's column, and the newsy bits contained therein, and Mr. Pollock's regular contribution of his informative articles, were features of the "TOPICS" that I am certain all the members looked forward to reading. We hope No. 20 catches his quota of fish in one month, and that Mr. Pollock means that he will be able to favor us with articles every other issue.

The membership list of E. N. A. P. S. certainly looks like the Who's Who of Collectors of E. N. A. postage.

On the Canadian map stamp of 1898 there occurs a variety where the color of the waters appears as "Ocean in Buff." Is this due to a chemical reaction in the inks, or was it caused by dirty plates while printing?

The Secretary still has all the available Precancels of the George VI, 1937 issue, and the present War Effort, 1942 issue. Any members who have not written for theirs yet, had better do so since the supply is almost exhausted.