

The Newfoundland Geo. V Inland Revenue Stamps

by Dan Meyerson

It has been several months since anything appeared in "Topics" concerning Newfoundland Revenues. The article and check list that appeared in the first issue stimulated my interest in this little known phase of Newfoundland stamp collecting and I immediately began to canvass all dealers and collectors to see what I could accumulate.

In the first issue of "Topics," the revenues bearing the likeness of King George V had been divided into two classifications; those bearing the imprint of the British American Banknote Co., at the bottom, and those without it. By the time the second issue of "Topics" went to press a third and fourth classification had been found. The King George V issue with imprint at the bottom had been discovered in perf. 10%. In the same issue Mr. Menendian reported as the fourth classification that the stamps existed in two sizes in the perf. 10%. The two sizes in question were $21\frac{1}{4}$ mm x $28\frac{1}{4}$ mm, and $21\frac{1}{2}$ mm x 29 mm.

In the process of accumulating numerous copies to check the various types it appears that the most common variety particularly in the low values is the $21\frac{1}{2}$ mm x 29 mm in the perf. 10%. I have no idea as to the dates of issue or as to why there are 4 different varieties, but I trust that one of our members will be able to shed some light on the subject. However as an aid to those collectors who may want to know what has been discovered to date, I list below those that have been found up to now. Any further additions will be greatly appreciated. I am certain that the list below will be far from complete, but it is being listed merely to stimulate interest and to provide a starting point.

A. With imprint at the bottom

1. Perf. 12 $20\frac{3}{4}$ mm x $28\frac{1}{4}$ mm

- a 5c Orange Vermillion
- b 10c Olive Green
- c 25c Blue

d 50c Slate

e 1.00 Green

f 5.00 Purple Lillac

2. Perf. 10%, $21\frac{1}{4}$ mm x $28\frac{1}{4}$

- a 5c Orange Vermillion
- b 10c Olive Green
- c 50c Slate

3. Perf. 10%, $21\frac{1}{2}$ mm x 29 mm

- a 5c Orange Vermillion
- b 10c Olive Green
- c 25c Blue

B. Without imprint at the bottom

1. Perf. 10% $21\frac{1}{2}$ mm x 29 mm

- a 50c Slate
- b 1.00 Green.

The list above makes no allowances for shade or paper varieties though they undoubtedly do exist. Let us hope that one of the other members will take up from here so that this issue at least may be covered fairly thoroughly.

Member K. Bileski, the Canadian dealer, who does his buying and selling in Winnipeg, has just issued a booklet on the First Issue Alberta Law Stamps. Any member interested in these stamps should write for a copy. The booklet offers an entirely new interpretation of these stamps.

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NEWFOUNDLAND AUCTION COMMENTARY

by Dan Meyerson

On Wednesday, December 6, 1944, the Pack collection of Newfoundland was sold at auction in New York by Harmer-Rooke. The prices realized set a new high in a season of steadily rising prices. True the material was absolutely superb in most cases, but it seems to the writer as though the purchasers from time to time lost sight of the fact that they were purchasing postage stamps and part of the bid can be attributed to the name Pack. I don't believe there is any doubt but that upon several occasions the prospective buyers stretched their budgets more than a bit just to be able to point with pride at a philatelic gem at some future date and say with reverence in their voice "Ex-Pack."

But enough of that, I will now attempt to hit the highlights of the sale for the benefit of those of our members that may be interested.

A superb used 2d #2, sold for \$510

A superb used pair of the 3d #3, on thick paper, brought \$145.

A superb used 4d #4, sold at \$400, or exactly twice catalog.

A copy of the 8d #8, bisected horizontally and used on cover from Harbor Britain, sold at \$725. In the next lot a diagonal bisect of #8 on cover but slightly creased, sold for \$85, showing beyond doubt the tremendous premium placed on condition when dealing with the classics.

The copies of the 1 sh #9, were superb even in the midst of a collection that reeked with superlatives. The mint copy catalogued at \$1,000, was not sold until the bid reached twice that figure. The used copy, certainly as fine as any in existence was not knocked down until it had reached the fantastic figure of \$1,300, almost 4 times the catalog valuation of \$350.

The first copy to appear at auction in many a year of the 1 sh orange on vertically laid paper #10, brought \$1,100. The comparatively low bid can probably be attributed to the fact that the stamp falls in the category of those prepared for use but not issued.

The oranges unfortunately were not up to the quality of the previously discussed scarlets, and the difference was reflected in the prices. One of the so called steals of the sale was an unused copy of the 6d #13, which sold for \$225, or less than 1/2 catalog.

A copy of the 4d #12, with 1/2 the rare "CANCELLED" postmark which has been classified by Boggs as a specimen, certainly went out of its class when it sold for \$360 against a catalog valuation of \$100 for a postally used copy.

In the more common imperforate roses the most spirited bidding arose over a mint block of 4 of the 2d #17, on thin paper, and a mint block of 6 of the same stamp on thick paper. These two lots brought \$160 and \$240 each, or exactly twice the catalog value.

A bisected copy of the 6d #20a, on cover from New Perlican brought \$220.

As usual mint blocks of the roulettes led the "cents" issues. A block of 4 of the 1c #37 brought \$75 against a catalog valuation of \$32, the block of 4 of the 2c #38, though cataloging only \$28 was finally knocked down when the bidding reached \$82.50. The block of 4 of the 3c #39, sold for \$120, or almost 2 1/2 times the catalog value, and the 5c Seal #40, in a block of 6 brought \$110.

Late in November Kessler held a sale of Airmail Rarities and among those items sold were: a Martinsyde with manuscript overprint on cover which brought \$2,000. A set of the 1c, 2c, 3c and 5c values overprinted for the Martinsyde flight brought \$2,250 in mint condition. The DePinedo on flown cover sold for \$266, while a Columbia on flown cover brought \$280. A mint Columbia, described as the finest copy in existence, by the auctioneer, brought \$510, or better than full catalog.

BNAPS is very happy to welcome Dr. Lewis L. Reford. Dr. Reford has one of the outstanding collections of 19th century Canada. Most of the known facts about Canada's 3p Beaver have been established from his collection.

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