

# Further Notes on Newfoundland Booklets

by Dan Meyerson

At the time that I wrote the article on Newfoundland Booklets that was published in the November issue of "TOPICS," there was one phase that was not covered at all. That was the question as to whether or not separate plates had been laid down for the printing of the booklet panes or whether the panes of 8 in the case of Type 1, or the panes of 4 in the case of Type 3, 4 and 4A, had been torn from the tops of the regular sheets issued to the Post Office.

Cursory examination would lead the collector to believe that the stamps were torn from the regular post office sheets since the panes in the booklet in all cases are perforated all around. The only bit of information that would tend to make one believe otherwise is found in an article written for "STAMPS" by George B. Sloane, several years ago. In discussing the Type 4A Booklet, Mr. Sloane has the following to say, and I quote:

"In the second, and later printings, while the panes are again in blocks of 4, and perforated all around, it is evident that the stamps were printed from plates specially designed for use in the production of stamp booklets. The blocks show wider margins all around the outside edges, and one booklet I have shows definite proof that the stamps are from a special plate. In this, a block of the 1c stamp shows not only the sheet margin at top, but also an extra margin at the bottom, which is wide and with no traces of any stamps below it. These special plates are probably so arranged that the stamps are grouped in a series of double horizontal rows, with a sufficient space between each double row so that when the printed stamps are perforated, and the stamps divided into blocks, each block will have the necessary sheet margin at the top for binding. Very likely there is also a wider vertical spacing than usual separating each two vertical rows, which accounts for the wider margins at the sides of the stamps."

Not being satisfied with the above logical explanation I wrote directly to Whitehead Morris Ltd., producers of the stamps in the Type 1 Booklet, and to John Dickinson & Co. Ltd., who subsequently secured the contract for the stamps that appear in the Type 3, 4 and 4A Booklets.

Both of the firms mentioned were kind enough to reply, and Whitehead Morris Ltd. had this to say:

"In reply to your letter, I have made inquiries regarding the Newfoundland Pictorial set of Postage Stamps. The booklets were made up of stamps cut from the standard sheets of 100 as supplied to the postal Authority; no special plate was engraved for the booklet order."

Yours faithfully,

For Whitehead Morris Ltd.

A. S. TILYARD

The answer that I received from John Dickinson & Co. Ltd., is as follows:

"In reply to your letter regarding the Newfoundland Stamps we regret that we cannot give you any definite information since all our records were destroyed when we lost our offices by enemy action in 1941.

As far as our memory goes, the stamps that were supplied in booklet form were taken from the regular sheets of 100 and no special plates were prepared."

Yours faithfully

for John Dickinson & Co. Ltd.

A. H. B.

In conclusion, judging from the contents of the above two letters, it is with certainty that we can say that no special plates were laid down for the printing of the Newfoundland Booklet panes, and that all of the stamps used in the booklets came directly from the standard sheets of 100 that were supplied to the Postal Authorities.

A vote of thanks is due to Whitehead Morris Ltd., and to John Dickinson & Co. Ltd., for taking the time and trouble to answer a question that has long posed a philatelic problem.