

Perf Varieties of the Newfoundland Coronation Set

by Dan Meyerson

For a good many years a good deal has been written about the varieties that exist in the long "Coronation" Issue of Newfoundland. By long I mean those additional 11 values that were printed by the Newfoundland Government in conjunction with the regular 3 values as issued by all the other Crown Colonies to commemorate the coronation of King George VI.

However in virtually every instance the varieties mentioned were re-entries on the plates and they seemed to be found on the plates of every value. Hardly a year goes by but that several new reentries are not reported as students make a further study of the stamps. The 1c, 3c, 7c and 14c values are the greatest offenders and there are reentries on several of the stamps which definitely fix their position on the plate. In fact in the case of the 3c stamp, not only were reentries found but it has been established that 2 different Dies were used. However very little has been said about the perforation varieties that exist. Scott merely mentions that there are 3 possible perf varieties, Boggs lists 2, and Gibbons lists 3. None of the authorities mentioned specifically state which stamp appears in which perforation variety, they are merely lumped together.

A careful check of hundreds of stamps confirms the fact that these stamps appear in three perf varieties. Evidently a line machine gauging $14\frac{1}{4}$ and $13\frac{1}{4}$ was used as well as a comb machine gauging $13\frac{1}{4}$. The strange thing about the various perforations is that all three examples were sold at the Post Office on the first day of issue.

I have in my possession a First Day cover used May 12, 1937, that has the 3c in the original die, the 10c and the 20c in perf $13\frac{1}{4}$; the 1c, 8c, 14c and 24c in perf $13\frac{1}{4}$; and the 7c, 15c, 25c and 48c in perf $14\frac{1}{4}$. Subsequent checking has shown that the 3c in the original die exists in all three perforations as does the 3c in the reenforced die. Since the 2 dies are listed in Scott's, we will consider them as separate stamps.

The following table will show the result of my findings to date, and at the time of going to press there are only three more varieties yet to be reported. All three of these in the missing category are in the perf $13\frac{1}{4}$, which incidentally appears to be the scarcest in number available. Perhaps one of the members of our Society knows something of the quantity that was printed in the various different perforation gauges. If such were to be the case we could quite definitely establish the comparative scarcity of the various stamps in each of the different gauges.

	$13\frac{1}{4}$	$13\frac{1}{4}$	$14\frac{1}{4}$
1c	X	X	X
3c Original Die	X	X	X
3c Reenforced Die	X	X	X
7c		X	X
8c	X	X	X
10c	X	X	X
14c		X	X
15c	X	X	X
20c	X	X	X
24c	X	X	X
25c	X	X	X
48c		X	X

Does any member of the Society have in his possession any of the three missing values, namely the 7c, 14c and the 48c in the perf $13\frac{1}{4}$. If so, I would appreciate a note to that effect so that the list could be brought up to date.

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