

Newfoundland-Labrador Essays??

By BILL and DAN MEYERSON



Illustrated herewith are photos of the so-called Labrador Essays. The reason for illustrating and commenting on them is two-fold; the first to show Newfoundland collectors what they look like, and the second to correct an honest mistake made by Fred Jarrett in his 1929 BNA Book. In this book the \$1 stamp was priced at \$10 in error. Mr. Jarrett has endeavored to correct this mistake innumerable times. On several occasions he has published and written articles in philatelic magazines correcting the misprint and offering to sell copies of the \$1 stamp for 50c. However, several dealers and auctioneers still continue to list these so-called essays at \$10 per stamp. When a collector, unaware of the true story, does succeed in purchasing one of these at \$2-\$3, he thinks he has made a phenomenal buy, when in truth he has greatly overpaid.

These alleged Essays appeared in 1908 and were printed in Montreal by a group that claimed to have a charter from the Newfoundland Government. It was intended to sell these stamps to the simple fishermen fishing off the Labrador banks. About \$1,000,000 face value of the three stamps was printed. However, there had been no agreement with the Newfoundland Government and a good deal of the issue was seized and destroyed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in co-operation with Federal Agents from Washington. The United States Government was very much interested in the case because the inscription that appeared on these bogus stamps would have led one to believe that the United States was a party to the scheme to defraud fishermen. They were never recognized by the Newfoundland Government and none of them did postal duty. They are nothing but labels and as such may be of interest to the Newfoundland specialist. From our own observations, the most common variety is the \$1 value.

We do trust that this article will at least serve to protect many collectors from getting "stuck."

Officially Sealed Stamp of Newfoundland—A Variety

By JOHN S. SIVERTS

The Canadian Officially Sealed stamp on blue paper, which was issued in 1905, is a very elusive item. I've included this on my want list for years and so far, I'm still looking for a nice copy.

However, I did have a "close call" a few years ago which produced a very unusual stamp and makes an interesting story. A Canadian dealer sent me a selection of stamps including what I thought to be this rare officially sealed stamp on blue paper. After purchasing the stamp for about \$4, I discovered that I had a Newfoundland Officially Sealed stamp which closely resembled the Canadian item. I looked it up in my Jarrett and found it cataloging \$10.00, but regardless of this higher value, I contemplated returning it. I had not gone that deeply into Newfoundland stamps to warrant buying such a specialized item.

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CORRECTION

Volk, F. Snyder, instead of the incorrectly listed Snyder-Volk.

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As you've guessed by now, I did keep the stamp and was blessed with a very fortunate purchase. "Souping" the stamp produced a watermark consisting of two double-lined letters which looked like "C" and "O". There is nothing unusual about a watermark except that Boggs specifies but one printing and that on **unwatermarked** paper.

I have sent the stamp to a few club members, but no one seems to know the answer. If anyone has the stamp with watermark, I would appreciate hearing from them in the hope that the mystery might be cleared up.