

The American Philatelist describes as being "very fine."

Mr. R. J. Duncan of Armstrong, B. C., deserves a "Twelve penny black" for his untiring efforts to make our Society a bigger and better organization.

Mervyn V. Quarles
Chicago, Ill.

17c N. B. genuinely used

Dear Sir:

I think the following might interest readers of BNA TOPICS.

In the Robson Lowe, Inc. sale of the Langstroth collection, held October 23, 1948, in Philadelphia, there was this New Brunswick item which merits more than just passing attention because of its postal significance. Lot 347 was described as follows: "1c to 17c compl. on 5 covers. 10c cover torn along top. Others fine (6-10, 12)." Actually, the lot consisted of the following: (1) the 10c on registered cover, 1867; (2) the 12½c, 1867 St. John to London; the 17c on a cover from St. John to London nicely tied, dates Sept. 14, 1866, and bearing a manuscript "via New York" and the London red "Paid" receiving mark; and, (4) a pair of the 2c orange and 1c lilac making a five-cent rate, Memramcook to St. John, Jan. 4, 1868.

In some twenty years of collecting, the writer had never seen the 17c genuinely used as a single, but this cover was "it"! The cover confirms the fact that the 17c was intended for use on letters by packet out of New York, as was the 17c blue Canada. The great difference between the Canada 17c and the New Brunswick 17c is that, in the case of the former, mail service from New York was more expedient than during the winter months when the St. Lawrence was frozen. On the other hand, letters from New Brunswick points would be forwarded overland via New York only when there was positive information that delays in packet sailings out of Halifax would

make the New York route a quicker one. This would occur only under exceptional conditions. A good many covers with a combination of the 17c, 2c and 1c have been seen, but, with one possible exception, these were all spurious manufactures that should deceive no one but a tyro.

The 2c also is little known on cover, either as a single or in combination. The presently discussed cover appeared perfectly genuine and its date of use was well before the Dominion stamps were issued on April 1, 1868.

I am sending you a much longer article that I have written on Prince Edward cover valuations.

W. W. Chadbourne
Wilmington, Dela.

ED—Mr. Chadbourne's article on P. E. I. cover valuations will be published soon. Watch for it.

Newfoundland Dead-Letter Stamp

Dear Sir:

Back in February 1948, John Siverts in an article (p. 17) drew our attention to the fact that his copy of this stamp showed part of a watermark which he could not define. As soon as the "Topics" with this information arrived I let a good lunch go cold whilst I examined mine and was gratified to find that this copy also showed part of two letters faintly watermarked. I couldn't make them out but passed the stamp on, through a good friend of mine, to a philatelist who is busy with the compilation of a list of papermakers watermarks which show on stamps and his verdict is that the part showing is a portion of the words "OLD LINEN." As this stamp has always been looked upon as without watermark, this probably showed on a comparatively small number of stamps and it is therefore of particular interest.

Stanley C. Calder
Cheshire, England

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