

NEWFOUNDLAND: THE CARIBOU ISSUE

Though there seems to be some argument as to whether the entry of Newfoundland into Canadian Confederation has meant decline in the popularity of its stamps, there is no doubt that there are few countries in the world who have so consistently and graphically shown their history and resources on their postal emissions. Newfoundland stamps have been favorites the world over for many years, and the fact that no further issues will appear from this one-time country, should not have any great adverse effect on those already issued.

One of the main reasons for the popularity of Newfoundland stamps is the variety and attractiveness of the designs used on the various issues. The Caribou Issue of 1919, although it does not have the variety of design which marks other issues, is a very attractive set, and one that has always had great popularity. Although preparations for this series of stamps were made while the First Great War was still being bitterly fought and it was intended more or less as a patriotic gesture, its appearance in 1919 coincided with the Victory Issues from a great number of the victorious Allied nations.

These stamps were printed by Whitehead, Morris & Co., of London. Of the 12 stamps issued, four bearing the word "Ubique" (meaning "everywhere"), commemorated the work of the Newfoundland naval units. The other stamps of the series each commemorate a World War I engagement in which Newfoundland soldiers took part.

Boggs' "Newfoundland" calls attention to the variation in the placings of the inscription on these stamps. "Every stamp on the sheet will show some variation from every other stamp in the sheet. The reasons for these variations has not been fully explained, but C. P. Rang in Gibbons Monthly during 1932 offered the theory that master die of the design and ornaments was made, and two duplicate dies, from which the plates were laid down. After the plates were

laid down certain parts were panto-graphed in, viz:

"On the 2c, 5c, 8c and 12c—figures of value.

"On the 1c, 3c, 4c, 6c, 10c, 15c, 24c, 36c—figures of value, and name of engagement."

We present the following article by Mr. Boggs in which further light is shed on this interesting theory. The article in question first appeared in The Essay Proof Journal.



TWELVE STAMPS PRODUCED FROM ONLY TWO SECONDARY DIES

By WINTHROP S. BOGGS

In 1919 Newfoundland decided to commemorate the exploits of the Newfoundland Contingent in World War I, by issuing a series of stamps.

Designs were submitted, by invitation, and two were chosen, both by J. H. Noonan, Cashier of the Customs Department at St. John's. The designs depicted a Canadian moose and a caribou, respectively. The phrase, "Trail of the Caribou" was originated by Lt. Col. Nangle, Roman Catholic Chaplain of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. The original badge of the Newfoundland Regiment consisted of the head of a caribou over a ribbon with the inscription "Newfoundland." It was adopted before the first contingent sailed October 4, 1914.

After the design was accepted, the Legislative Assembly appropriated the sum of \$50,000 to defray the cost of the new stamps. Accordingly, the designs were sent to the stamp contractors, Whitehead, Morris & Co., of

London, England. In May 1918, proofs in green and purple were submitted. The final design combined the best features of the two original suggestions so that the head is a composite of the moose and the caribou.

The accepted design may be divided into two main types. Those with the inscription "Royal Naval Reserve—Ubique" (That is "everywhere," in honor of the sailors, as the little Dominion lost more sailors in the war than all the rest of the British Empire!); and those with the inscription "Trail of the Caribou" and the name of the engagement commemorated.

The "Ubique" group includes four denominations, viz—2c, 5c, 8c and 12c; while "The Trail of the Caribou" group includes the remaining denominations, namely—1c, 3c, 4c, 6c, 10c, 15c, 24c and 36c. One of the curious facts about these stamps is that every stamp on the sheet will show some variation from every other stamp on the sheet. The idea that every stamp was retouched, or that the inscriptions were hand cut on each subject of the plate is hardly credible in view of the fact that the stamps were made in 1918, when there were many mechanical methods of producing stamps more quickly and accurately than hand cutting each subject.

Ordinarily a master die would have been made, and 12 secondary dies, one for each denomination. In this case, however, in addition to the master die only TWO secondary dies were made! One with "Royal Naval Reserve," and the other with "Trail of the Caribou" inscribed on the ribbon.

We illustrate herewith a die essay, in black on thick white wove paper, of "The Trail of the Caribou" secondary die. It will be noted that the denomination and the name of the engagement is lacking.

From the two secondary dies, transfer rolls were made and the plates were laid down. Each plate consisted of 100 subjects, arranged in ten rows of ten.

After the plates had been transferred they were coated with wax, or

a similar substance, and placed in a pantographing machine. The denominations and lower inscriptions were then PANTOGRAPHED ON EACH SUBJECT OF THE PLATE! When the pantographing had been done the exposed surface of the steel plate was then etched, and the plates finished for printing.

This unusual method eliminated the cost of ten secondary dies, as well as at least one transfer roll. It also obviated the danger of transferring the wrong denomination to any one plate because of the similarity of the designs. In passing we might say that the plates cost \$225.00 each.

This method of producing a series of similar designs is rather unusual but not unique. We might point out that the 1882 issue of Argentine Republic, Scotts Type A23, and the 1871 designs of Hyderabad, Scotts Type A3, as other examples of pantographed plates. The entire subject of pantographed plates for line engraved stamps is a field for further investigation by students, and we venture to say that the answers to a number of perplexing problems lie in the study of this type of plate production.

COLOR CHANGED

The Canada Post Office Department has announced that it has been considered advisable to change the color of the new \$1.00 fisheries resources stamp from green, as originally announced, to a dark blue.

"NIAGARA" RE-ENTRY

E. Shipton writes from England: ". . . I have recently found a re-entry in the 20 cent Niagara stamp of 1935, consisting of a doubling of the top left-hand corner. I am submitting this to Mr. Lees-Jones for his comments."

CENTENNARY RUMOR

It is rumored that a nice set of stamps is being issued by the Canadian Post Office Department for the CAPEX show, which will please those collectors who are historically-minded.