

AN UNCHRONICLED NEWFOUNDLAND VARIETY

By H. A. MacMASTER

It is common knowledge that the Postage Due stamps of Newfoundland were lithographed in sheets of one hundred subjects on thick, soft, unwatermarked, wove paper. The original transfer was made up in twenty-five subjects (5x5) repeated four times to make up the lithographic plate of one hundred.

I have seen hundreds of these Postage Due stamps and until quite recently believed that they were always on the same paper and from the same plate. Some short time ago, a friend of mine told me that she had seen the 10¢ value on watermarked paper. This interested me greatly and I immediately set to work running down this variety. I have since procured a block of four and seen two complete sheets.

The stamp is on thin, hard, curly, watermarked paper similar to that used for the regular issue of 1941-44. The original transfer has been made up of fifty subjects (5x10) repeated twice to make up the plate of one hundred. An interesting feature of these stamps is the fact that the sheet is watermarked Coat of Arms for one hundred subjects with no watermark in the sheet margins which are quite wide. Thus, if the sheets were not properly fed into the press it would be possible to have one vertical or horizontal row of stamps appear without watermark.

There are numerous minor varieties on the sheet which are always repeated in the same position in each vertical half of the sheet. This would seem to prove that the original transfer was made up in fifty subjects and repeated twice to make up the plate of one hundred. The best of these minor varieties is on stamps #91 and #96 on the sheet and takes the form of a large white period in the label after the word "Due." This variety is very pronounced and easily discernable. On stamps #1 and #6 there is a broken "S" in "Cents" and on stamps #2 and #7 there is a small colored dot dropping from the base of the "1" in "10." These are

all constant varieties.

Of major importance is a variety which appears on the twenty-third and twenty-eighth stamp on the sheet, or stamp #13 on each vertical half. This is a breaking down of the "D" in "Due" which eliminates the curved portion of the "D" making it appear as a perfect letter "L" and thus making the inscription read "Postage Lue" rather than "Postage Due."

The over-all size of the sheet is 10 $\frac{5}{8}$ by 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ while the measurement of the whole image as well as the image of the watermark is approximately 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x11. The separation is line perforated 11 all around.

Worthy of note and of added interest to the specialist is the fact that the cutting guide lines, instead of being printed on the corners of the sheet are watermarked right into the paper at each corner in the shape of a double-lined cross.

Various and Sundry By G. E. Foster

So far this year, the 10¢ split provisionals of New Brunswick appear quite frequently in the auction sales. In the February-March sale of the Reford collection by Harmer-Rooke, this stamp fetched \$90, which, I believe, we can hang up as a record price. On May 16, H. R. Harmer offered three copies from the Moody collection. One of these, lot #233, is from the Seybold collection, originally dispersed by J. C. Morganthau in a sale in March, 1910. John R. Seybold was a dry goods merchant in Syracuse, N. Y. and in the "nineties," and early part of this century was engaged in making a collection of U. S. and foreign stamps on original covers. He was prejudiced against collecting bi-sects, claiming that he was collecting whole stamps and not pieces. On all of the covers in his collection, he had stamped on the back with a large rubber stamp, John R. Seybold, Syracuse, N. Y.