

Perforation Varieties in Some Later Newfoundland Issues

By MARSHALL KAY (#760)

PART II

SIR HUMPHREY GILBERT COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE of August 3, 1933; Scott 212-225; Gibbons 236-249

The values in this issue are all known in 13.2 comb perforation (type 1), and seven, the 7, 9, 10, 14, 20, 24 and 32 cent values, have been found in 14.1 line perforation (type 2). Table 5 gives the percentage of the latter present among (1) about 200 stamps of each value in collections and dealer's stocks, (2) those not in sets, about 40 stamps of each value, principally in a single dealer's stock, and (3) the values in each of 116 sets, including 12 sets of blocks in which each was counted as but a single stamp.

Table 5: Percentage frequencies of line perforate 14.1 varieties (type 2) in the Sir Humphrey Gilbert Commemorative Issue:

Scott No.	Value	(1)*			Scott No.	Value	(1)		
		All	Not in sets	In sets			All	Not in sets	In sets
217	7 cent	24	47	19	224-24	15	18	15	
219	9 cent	3	2	4	225-32	17	26	16	
220	10 cent	3	3	2					
221	14 cent	26	45	25	Of above 7 values	14	26	16	
223	20 cent	25	55	20	Among 14 values	7	13	8	

*See text for fuller explanation

The varieties have been listed partially but not priced in the later editions of the Stanley Gibbons catalogues. Five were recorded in 1951, all but the 9 and 10; the former was added in 1953, but the 10 cent is still unrecorded.

In addition to the above frequency count, a record was kept of the number of line perforate (type 2) stamps in each complete set to enable judgement of the probability that all stamps of both types were originally issued together as compared to the probability that the two types were initially distributed at different times. If the original issue were wholly of comb perforate stamps, a larger number of sets would be completely of that type than would be the case if the two types were issued together and indiscriminately. Table 6 shows (1) the number of values of line perforate stamps in each of 100 sets—if a set had three line perforate stamps, it would be listed as 3, (2) the number that should be expected if the stamps were mixed indiscriminately at the beginning in the proportions in the first 100 sets counted in Table 5, column 3, a figure gained by computing the probability of appearance of every possible combination of comb and line perforate types in the seven values, and adding the probabilities of the combinations with 0, 1, 2 and larger numbers of line perforate types. Statistical tests show that there is not one chance in 100 that the distribution is one of indiscriminate original mixing—that there should be as many as 51 sets having not a single line perforate stamp out of 100, for instance. Thus, either the line perforate stamps were later issued, or the sets were assembled with selection of the two types. The latter is very improbable. Sets were units purchased from dealers or post offices which did not distinguish and separate the types, for they have not been sold or catalogued as different. Moreover, if there had been selection, it would have been very peculiar in that the percentage of sets having increasing numbers of line perforate values decreases in normal progression

such as would occur by adding line perforate values to a preponderance of earlier issued comb perforate types; purposeful segregation should have produced a larger number of sets having several line perforate type stamps.

Table 6: Sir Humphrey Gilbert Issue—number of line perforate 14.1 (type 2) values in each of 100 complete sets:

Number of line perforate values in each set	Percentage counted in 100 sets	Percentage expected if distributed by chance
None	51*	32
1	17	41
2	15	21
3	11	6
4	6	1
5, 6 or 7	0	virtually none

*That is, there is little better than an even chance that a collector will lack line perforate stamps in his set, 17 chances in 100 that his set will have one line perforate (type 2) stamp, etc.

If there were two printings, they would be more certainly indicated by shades and by cancellation dates. Moreover, occasional stocks might have a preponderance of line perforate stamps of several values, because the stock might have been gained from post office stocks late in the period of distribution of the issue after the line perforate stamps had been released. There are slight differences in shade, apparent when stamps of the two types adjoin in an album; the shades are not sufficiently distinct to assure that they are not simply within the range of variation in a single printing. The four first day covers seen by the writer had only comb perforate types; such should happen only once in sixteen times if the original distribution had both types. I have not seen a date cancelled line perforate stamp or one on cover—unfortunately they are not represented among the lower values that are most numerous on covers; I will be pleased to learn about any such cancellation dates, and see that the information is placed in print. With regard to dealers, few have other than complete sets. A single stock had an exceptionally large percentage of line perforate stamps in each of five values, the factor responsible for the higher percentages in the column in Table 5 for stamps not in sets. Moreover, after the table was prepared, an auction in New York had a set of mint blocks including six of the line perforate type; as these were on carefully prepared album pages with comb blocks of the other values, and without notes on perforation, they seem to represent a late purchased set of blocks. Thus, each line of evidence supports the view that line perforate stamps were not distributed from the very beginning, but were introduced to circulation later.

There may have been two printings, as suggested in the 1953 Stanley Gibbons catalogue. The colors are so nearly alike that they do not require it. If there were two printings, the first was comb perforated, and the second at least partially so, too, for there are so few line perforate 9 and 10 cent values that they cannot reasonably be considered to represent the whole of a second printing. It is perhaps conceivable that a single printing was perforated at two different times, the distributions being successive. Evidence of cancelled stamps will be interesting in indicating when the line perforate types were first available; the writer has seen no date cancelled line perforate values.

There is a peculiarity about the comb perforate types. The continuous bar was along the right side of each stamp, and the projecting comb teeth with their suspended perforating needles ran along the top and bottom of the vertically elongate values. But the comb teeth seem to have been so long that the outermost perforations, on the upper and lower left corners of the stamps, were again perforated by the continuous comb bar's needles when the

next impression was made after the sheet had been moved the width of a stamp. Thus the corner perforations are not always simple round holes, but elliptical ones, because the holes cut by the needles projecting from the straight comb bar did not coincide exactly with those made by the previously impressed terminal needles of the comb teeth. It will be shown in the discussion of the Publicity Issue that in some other stamps there were too few needles instead of too many, and in the Caribou Issue, terminal needles so closely approached the corner as to reduce or eliminate the nibs near two of the corners.

The comb (type 1) and line (type 2) values of this issue have not been priced separately in any catalogue to my knowledge. If one can judge by the prices in analogous cases, the frequency of the 7, 14, 20, 24 and 32 cent values in line perforate types is sufficiently great, and their normal price so high, that they would be catalogued at perhaps one-fifth or one-fourth higher than the comb stamps. The 9 cent and 10 cent are relatively so rare that one would expect them to be catalogued at about five times the price of the ordinary stamp; the price ratio would be relatively lower than those in the Long Coronation Issue because the normal price for each stamp is much higher. The line perforate stamps in the Sir Humphrey Gilbert Issue have greater significance than those of the Long Coronation Issue, for they seem to be of a later printing than most of the comb perforate stamps.

In conclusion, it seems that there was an initial distribution of comb perforate stamps, and a subsequent printing or distribution of stamps of seven values that had been line perforated. This second printing must have been partly comb perforated, too, as line perforate types of the 9 and 10 cent are quite rare.

After the above was submitted, the writer observed in a lot sold in the Harmer, Rook and Company auction in New York on March 12th a used 7 cent line perforate stamp with St. Johns postmark, the month not impressed, but the date and year 3 and 1933. Hence, line perforate Gilbert stamps were in use within four months of the date when the issue was first released, on August 3, 1933.

FIRST PUBLICITY ISSUE of 1928; Scott 145-159, Gibbons 164-178

The values of this issue were placed on sale on January 1, 1928, with the exception of the 14 cent and 28 cent, issued in August and December, according to Boggs. The issue has quite a variety of perforation types, both simple and compound. There are compound comb perforate values of 13.5 x 12.8 (type 1) for horizontally elongate stamps, and 14.0 x 13.7 (type 2) found in two varieties in the 1 cent value; and in line perforation, stamps of gauge 14.1 x 13.8 (type 3) for horizontally elongate stamps, and of 14.1 x 14.1 (type 4) in the 14 and 28 cent values. No more than two types are known in any one value, and several stamps are known only in one gauge and type. Gibbons

Table 7. Percentage frequencies of several perforation types in the First Publicity Issue

Scott No.	Value	Types	Percentages	Scott No.	Value	Types	Percentages
145	—1 cent	#2	100	153	—10 cent	#1, 3	28 : 72
146	—2 cent	#1	100	154	—12 cent	#3	100
147	—3 cent	#1, 3	34 : 66	155	—14 cent	#1, 4	26 : 74
148	—4 cent	#1	100	156	—15 cent	#3	100
149	—5 cent	#1,	82 : 18	157	—20 cent	#1, 3	52 : 48
150	—6 cent	#1, 3	97 : 3	158	—28 cent	#4	100
151	—8 cent	#3	100	159	—30 cent	#3	100
152	—9 cent	#3	100				

Types: #1, 13.7x12.8 comb; #2, 14.0x13.7 comb; #3, 14.1x13.8 line; #4, 14.1x14.1 line perforate.

catalogues give three types without pricing them, but with distribution differing somewhat from that observed so as to leave uncertain any comparisons; their type "b" is clearly the above type 1. The distribution and frequencies of types are shown in Table 7, based on about 100 stamps of each value, nearly all in sets; six values have representatives of two perforation types, one each comb and line. Only the 6 cent line perforate type is particularly rare.

The 1 cent with perforation type 2 comb has two peculiar varieties, each quite common and not separately counted for frequency. The sheets had the projecting needles on the long bar of the comb with 14.0 gauge, producing the holes across the base of each row of stamps, and the needles of the short comb "teeth" perforating the longer sides of the stamps with 13.7 gauge. But at one time the machine had 19 perforating needles in each short comb bar, and at another, 20 needles. As the gauge is 13.7, the holes in the 19-hole variety do not extend as near to the top along the sides as do those in the 20-hole form, so the 19-hole stamps have a long imperforate nib just below the upper corners. Stamps in blocks are all of one kind or the other insofar as observed, so presumably the two forms represent two times of perforation. It is of course necessary to measure the gauge of comb perforate stamps along the side of a single stamp so as not to involve the varying gap between perforations of successive impressions of the comb bars. In the 2 cent and other type 1 perforate horizontally elongate values, the continuous perforating bar of 12.8 gauge bounded the left side of the stamps, the 13.5 perforate projecting bars of 12.8 extending to the right; the nibs nearest the right corner frequently are thin.

The 4 cent value has two shades, both of type 1 comb perforation; they are listed in Gibbons as mauve (#167) and rose purple (#167a of 1929) the former a little higher priced. The 14 cent seems to have shade contrasts in which the comb perforate type 1 is more reddish brown and the line perforate type 4, darker brown. Careful study might reveal other constant shade differences.

The 14 cent and 28 cent were issued in August and December, 1928, later than the others, according to Boggs. They are unique in having type 4 perforation, 14.1 line. But the 14 cent also has type 1 perforation in another shade, suggesting that it was reprinted; the rose purple shade of the 4 cent in the same perforation type is said to have been printed in 1929 (Gibbons). Thus types 1, 2 and 3 were in the original issue of this set, type 4 came into use later in the year, and type 1 seems to have been applied again to printings in the following year. Some of the values having types 1 and 3 perforations must have been perforated at one time, for it is not probable that a variety that occurs as rarely as the 6 cent in type 3 represents a separate printing order. Some of the values having these two types may have been issued in each at a different time. As the issue has the different types in low value stamps, and nearly all types are common in their respective values, there should be abundant information in covers and date-cancelled stamps to establish whether types in some values are from successive printings.

This is but the first of the three Publicity issues, followed by the re-engraved and watermarked re-engraved. The first is particularly rich in perforation types, but these have not been studied as critically.

Thus, the first publicity issue has unusual variety in perforation types. There are values with both line and comb perforate forms, some compound; one comb perforate type has varieties of the same gauge but with differing numbers of perforations.

● A third article by Mr. Kay will appear in a later edition of BNA TOPICS, in which he will discuss the perforation varieties of other issues of Newfoundland. All enquiries or additions in connection with Mr. Kay's articles should be addressed to D. C. Meyerson, 69 Fenimore Drive, Harrison, N. Y.

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



Back in the Jan. '52 issue of TRAIL we discussed a plate flaw on the 3¢ dark carmine, Scott #246, that Alec MacMaster had submitted. The flaw was to be found in the upper right corner of the frame surrounding the portrait and it consisted of a red line extending diagonally through the corner pearl. At that time we advised that Alec had several used copies but was unable to position the flaw. E. H. Hiscock, BNAPS #234, St. John's, Newfoundland has just sent Alec an upper left corner block that definitely fixes the position as Stamp #21. Thank you Mr. Hiscock for the cooperation.

E. H. Hiscock comes through with a plate flaw of his own which is confirmed by Alec MacMaster. Rather a good double play combination. The one that Harold Hiscock lists is to be found on the 48¢ stamp, Scott #266. The flaw in question is to be found on stamp #31 in the sheet and it consists of a semi-circle in the color of the stamp directly beneath the "4" in the lower left corner. The block of 6 that Harold submitted is a beaut as it has the left margin and shows the divider between stamps 41 and 51, and it also shows the side plate number #41793 in the margin alongside stamp #51.

Back in Feb. '52, we did a bit on the Newfoundland APO markings. This was supplemented by an article in the May issue for the same year. As a result of the second bit we received a letter from Dr. C. J. Nemmers, BNAPS 797, of Anamosa, Iowa. He questioned some of our information and suggested that we contact Mr. Hiscock for the full story. At long last the letter from Harold that brought the information on the block of the 48¢, also brought an answer to our request for clarification on the subject. The changes and additions

according to Mr. Hiscock are these. The first detachment of troops in the transport "Edmund B. Alexander", arrived off St. John's on Jan. 25, 1941, but, owing to heavy weather did not enter St. John's until early the morning of the 29th. The Alexander remained at St. John's until sometime in the summer serving as a floating barracks for the troops until a temporary shore camp (Camp Alexander) was established on the outskirts of St. John's. According to Dr. Nemmers, 801B should be Gander and not Fort Pepperell as we wrote and should not be Stephenville as cited by Mr. E. Jagger in "Stamp Collecting". Dr. Nemmers continues and advises that 801C should be Stephenville and not Stephenland as we said earlier. Both Dr. Nemmers and Harold Hiscock agree that 801D is definitely not Quidi Vidi, but rather Fort Pepperell.

Mr. T. D. L. White, BNAPS #717, of Vancouver, Brit. Col., has submitted a very interesting variety of the 5¢ Caribou, Scott #119. Mr. White has made rather an exhaustive study of this stamp and submits two copies showing the following varieties. The fact that he has two copies, one acquired about two years ago and the other about 6 months ago lends credence to his assumption that the varieties are constant. We would like to position the variety and we are listing the characteristics as follows: The lower left numeral "5" shows a duplication in the form of a single line paralleling the bottom of the figure. This same condition is found in the lower right figure "5" as well. In addition the lower left "5" also shows a slight doubling in the lower left part of the center of the numeral. There is a distinct flaw to the right and parallel to the upright stroke of the "L" in the word "NEWFOUND-
(continued on next page)

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED COVERS

By E. L. PIGGOTT (#629)

No. 3



While the Montreal, Canada, cancellation on this cover does not reveal the year date, the backstamping at Victoria Mines and Sydney, Nova Scotia, indicates the cover was through the mails in 1890. Holmes' Catalogue of Canada and B. N. A. tells us the commercial telegraph of the Dominion was and had been for many years carried on by the Great North Western, the Canadian Pacific and the Western Union telegraph companies. The Standard British North American Revenue catalogue mentions covers of this type were printed in black. The one illustrated is printed in brown. The writer also has one printed in blue as well as the black one.

It will be noted the cover is addressed to Sydney Lights, N. S. Mr. F. A. Crawley (No. 881) informs me Sydney Light is properly termed "Flat Point Light" and is the main beacon at the entrance to Sydney Harbour in Nova Scotia. It was established in November 1832 as "Low Point Light" but the name became so confused with Low Point in Inverness County, where there was a post office, that it was officially renamed Flat Point Light in June 1909.

(continued from previous page)

LAND". Last but not least of the varieties there seems to be a line representing a possible cracked plate through the "TAGE" of the word "POSTAGE". All in all it is a very interesting variety and one that is readily recognizable.

Our copy of "NEWFOUNDLAND AIR MAILS" by R. E. R. Dalwick and C. H. C. Harmer has just arrived too late to review. We will have something to say about it in the June issue. However we feel that every collector of Newfoundland Air Mails must have a copy. A word to the wise should be sufficient.

British North America

... is often extensively represented in the H. R. HARMER, Inc. auctions.

Write for FREE catalogue and buy the right way—the H. R. HARMER way.

H. R. HARMER, Inc.

The Roosevelt Auctioneers

32 East 57th Street
New York 22, N. Y.