

making a separate article on this subject, but wishes to assure readers that the topic will be fully covered in the handbook material during the next three months.

The Freres Meyerson have been working on Newfoundland perfin stamps and have a checklist of Newfoundland stamps perforated by Ayre & Sons, Anglo-Newfoundland Deve-

lopment Co., and George Knowling Ltd. There is no doubt that it will be seen in TOPICS before long. One copy only of the fourth Newfoundland perfin is so far reported—initials CH and so far unidentified.

**Last call** for any items not on our check list for inclusion in the handbook. Send immediately to the secretary, please. ★ ★

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# The Editor's Mailbag

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## Consular Fee Stamps

In the July-August issue of TOPICS there appeared a short note on page 212, concerning the Canadian Consular Fee Stamps. I would like to elucidate on this issue a little.

I believe I have started the hunt for the Canadian Consular Fee Stamps after I came in possession of the first two specimens of this kind of stamps. In October 1953 I found two one dollar stamps in a common mixture of postage stamps. Since I had never heard of these stamps before, I wrote—after consultation with the secretary of the now disbanded Canadian Revenue Society—to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Ottawa for information. I submitted the result of my enquiry to the secretary of the C.R.S. who then issued a revised page for the Catalogue of the Federal Revenue Stamps of Canada, which included a complete listing of the Consular Fee Stamps (viz. page 1-10).

I am of the opinion, that these stamps are not used solely for purely consular fees. This is borne out by the fact, that one of my two specimens is still on a piece of thin white paper and not on a passport, also bearing a rubberstamp cancel: Canadian Government Trade Commissioner, Hong Kong. I feel therefore, that it should be possible to obtain these stamps in other ways than by waiting for expired passports,

**Josef Schonfeld (1146)**

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## 5c Registration Perf. 12x11½

More than a year has passed since I was privileged to announce the discovery of the 5c Registration stamp perforated 12X11½ (vide BNA TOPICS, April 1953) and although the discovery was widely publicized, and created keen interest, only ten other copies have since been reported—nine of

which I have been able to examine. All have been held by members of the B.N.A.P.S.—five from the United States and the others from points in Canada as widely distributed as Halifax, Ottawa, Vancouver and Victoria. There may, of course, have been further finds that have not been reported, but since this 5c denomination was used from 1878 for mail to Great Britain it is somewhat surprising that no finds have yet been reported from across the Atlantic, where interest has been keen.

While the 2c stamp bearing this perforation is found on both horizontal and vertical mesh paper all copies of the 5c, so far examined, have been vertical mesh. There is one noteworthy variation in the 11½ perforations of the 5c, however—BNAPSer Dilworth (No. 692) holds a copy perforated 11¾X11½—to be exact, 11.7X11.5 by Gibbons Instanta Gauge. With this exception, all copies seen have gauged a true 12.

The point that emerges, I think, is the extreme rarity of this 12X11½ perforation on the 5c. Following the finding of the 2c with this perforation many years ago it was only logical to assume that a contemporary issue such as the 5c would prove to have a similar perforation, and during the intervening years keen search was made for it, but not until last year was a copy brought to light. According to Boggs, only 12½ millions of the 5c were printed, as against 30 millions of the 2c. BNAPSer G. R. C. Searles (No. 423) after examining thousands of copies of the latter found that only an average of five copies per thousand proved to be perforated 12X11½, so the ratio of incidence for the 5c would naturally be expected to be much less.

In actual fact, however, in view of all the circumstances—the smaller quantity

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 271**