

# Perforation Varieties in Some Later Newfoundland Issues

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## Part III\*

PICTORIAL ISSUE of July 9, 1924; Scott 131-144; Gibbons 148-162

All values of this issue were released on July 9, 1923 except the 20 cent and 24 cent, placed on sale on April 28, and 29, 1924, according to Boggs. Comb perforate forms are known in all values, and line perforate in most in four types combining two gauges. There are shades of several of the values, and doubtless several printings.

The comb perforate (type #1) stamps are rather constantly about 13.8 x 13.9 for the short and long dimensions. The comb bar ran vertically along the left of horizontally elongate stamps, with comb teeth projecting to the right; in vertically elongate stamps, the bar was at the base with teeth extending upward. The line perforate stamps were impressed by pins in perforating bars of gauges of about 13.7 to 13.8 and 14.0 to 14.1 in all possible combinations. Thus there are four types represented. For short and long dimensions of stamps these have been numbered: #2, 14.0 x 13.7; #3, 14.0 x 14.0; #4, 13.7 x 13.7; and #5, 13.7 x 14.0. The types #2 and #3 are known in several values commonly, whereas the #4 and #5 are infrequent. Types 2 and 3 are like the two gauges in the succeeding first Publicity issue made by the same Whithead, Morris and Company. The separation of the four combinations may prove helpful in identifying printings, for as will be shown, covers seem to have concentrations of certain types for spans of time. The similarity of gauges is such that considerable care must be taken to separate them, particularly along the short side of single stamps. A greater number of mint blocks needs to be examined before concluding that all values in each type have been discovered. The writer's blocks and a few other collected by Ralph Holmes are included: Type #2 in 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 20 cent values; type #3 in 1, 2, 5, 12, 15 and 24 cent; type #4 in 1, 2 and the uncommon 10 cent; and #5 rather rarely in the 3, 4 and 5 cent denominations. Nearly all

\* The first part of this series was published in TOPICS, Vol. 10, No. 1, January, 1953, pages 23-26, the second in Vol. 10, No. 5, May, 1953, pages 139-142.

Corrections: The following errors in statements in the preceding articles in the series have come to my attention:

1. Long Coronation Issue. The base of Table 2, page 25, should record type #3 as 14.1 line, not comb, perforate.

2. Sir Humphrey Gilbert Issue. E. H. Hiscock, T. R. Hutton and D. C. Meyerson have noted that the type #2 line perforate gauge should be recorded as about 13.7 rather than 14.1 in three places on pages 139-140.

3. First Publicity Issue. a) Study of marginal blocks shows that there are two distinct perforation types in the 1 cent value. The "19-hole" variety is as described on p. 142, type #2, 14.1 x 13.8, comb bars horizontal and teeth extending toward the top of the stamp. The "20-hole" variety has nearly the same gauge, 14.1 x about 13.9, but the bars ran vertically and the teeth extended toward the left as in the comb Caribou varieties. This type will be listed as type #5 for this issue. Readers with first-day covers and date cancelled stamps can determine the order of the two printings having these two types of comb perforate stamps.

b) E. H. Hiscock has called attention to the omission of the number 3 after "149 - 5 cent #1," in Table 7, page 141.

used copies also are limited to these types and values, though there are a few additions.

The writer has seen only comb type #1 forms in the 6, 8, 9 and 11 cent values and in some shades. Booklet panes that have been seen are also of this type, produced in 1926. Boggs lists all values as in two combinations, 14 x 14 and 13.5 x 14, but without reference to kind of machine; his types cannot be confirmed.

Distinct color varieties are in several values of the issue, with a number of perforation types among them. The four values known only in comb perforate type and of only one color probably had but one printing. The 6 cent must have been printed in excessive numbers, for it was used for the provisional issue of 1929. The colors listed in several catalogues do not all agree, nor do they seem to confirm to those gained by reference to the new Stanley Gibbons guide. There are several comprehensive color catalogues to which colors can be referred, the Munsell Book of Colors being most widely used, but such books are not accessible to most collectors, have symbol-designated colors, and are of little practical use. Differentiation can be made most readily by comparing them as darker and lighter varieties; often it is difficult to do this without a standard stamp at hand for reference, for most of us do not remember the colors accurately enough.

There are differences among the 2 cent values tending toward scarlet and carmine; the writer has not studied them systematically, but probably they can be correlated with printings. The colors of the 4 cent varieties are very similar, though separated in at least one old catalogue, the Kenmore; they are darker and lighter shades of dark brown-purple or reddish chocolate or plum. The darker is known only in comb type 1 perforation, the lighter in types #2 and #5, the latter infrequently. The 5 cent has quite distinct color shades, dull ultramarine and blue, the darker. Both are known in type #1 comb and the former in type #5 line, the latter in types #2 and #2 line. The 10 cent value is called dark violet by Scott, and listed as #157, violet, and #157a, purple, in Stanley Gibbons, the latter at the higher price, and I

Table 9: Percentage Frequencies of Perforation Varieties in the Pictorial Issue:

Scott No.	Value	Types	(1)		(2)		(3)			Known line types
			Comb #1	Line #2-5	Comb #1	Line #2-5	Comb #1	Line #2, 4	Line #3, 5	
131—	1 cent		56	44	45	55	34	20	46	2, 3, 4
132—	2 cent		54	46	43	57	24	19	57	2, 3, 4, 5
133—	3 cent		62	38	71	29	67	22	11	2, 5
134—	4 cent*		63	37	69	31	65	15	20	2, 5
135—	5 cent*		42	58	32	68	14	19	67	2, 3
136—	6 cent		100	0	100	0	100	0	0	—
137—	8 cent		100	0	100	0	100	0	0	—
138—	9 cent		100	0	100	0	100	0	0	—
139—	10 cent*		96	4	97	3	91	8	0	4
140—	11 cent		100	0	100	0	100	0	0	—
141—	12 cent		67	33	61	39	54	0	46	3
142—	15 cent		47	53	52	48	54	0	46	3
143—	20 cent		73	27	76	24	62	36	2?	2, 73
144—	24 cent		57	43	44	56	36	0	64	3

Types: #1—14.0 comb; #2 and 4 have 13.7 line on long side; #3 and 5 have 14.0 line on long side; see text for further differences not here recorded. (1) 100 or more stamps in each value, nearly all mint; (2) about 90 lots in which multiples were counted but once; includes all stamps not separated into different gauge line types; (3) 50 to 75 stamps in each value, mostly mint, additional to those in other columns. \* Shades, see table 10.

assume the darker. The two are quite distinct, and seem to me more reddish-violet and violet. The lighter shade is common in comb perforation and rare in type #2 line, and the darker or "purple" shade is known only in comb perforation.

Stamps of several types of all values were examined under ultra-violet lamps of several wave-lengths of light. None seem fluorescent. The color differences were somewhat accentuated in some, and some 20 cent stamps that seemed quite similar in ordinary light showed distinctly darker and lighter shades under ultra-violet light. Perhaps more thorough study would yield significant results.

The writer did not separate or in fact recognized the types of line perforate stamps until he had made many counts. Hence, Table 9 indicates the determined frequency of comb and line perforate stamps.

The most dependable measurements of gauges of the line perforate types have been made on mint blocks, where the perforations on the short sides can be taken over a distance greater than that of one stamp. But dated covers must be examined to gain information about the possible printings of the issue. Several hundred of these were available for the lowest values, most in the collection of Dan Meyerson. These were measured and classified as carefully as possible with an Instanta gauge beneath a lens. The records may include a few errors, for there are inaccuracies in separating gauges that differ by so little as .3; readings on individual stamps involve such factors as shrinkage, irregularities in placement of perforating pins and slight errors in the reference gauge. But it is believed that each listed variety is represented by stamps definitely of that type. Most of the covers of the 1, 2 and 3 cent values are in the Meyerson collection, of the 4 in the writer's. In all, 21 covers have 1 cent stamps, 37 have 2 cent, 267 have 3 cent and 31 have 4 cent. Even the abundant covers of the 3 cent include very few for some spans of time. Any collector having a number of these covers should add to our knowledge by reporting similar information, using a similar gauge.

Some of the records show pretty significant changes in the perforations of stamps in use at one time or another, as shown in Table 11. The 3 cent gives the best records, though many gaps should be filled. The comb perforate type #1 stamps were dominant through 1924, in late 1926 and late 1928, when the first Publicity Issue was already in use but comb stamps had been placed in booklets. Line perforate stamps of type #5, about 13.7 (short) x 14.0 (long side) are known from June 18, 1925 to mid-1928; and of type #2, 14.0 x 13.7, almost exclusively in late 1927 and early 1928 with June 8, 1927 the earliest date seen. This suggests that the original printing was comb perforate, and that successive printings were dominantly line #5, comb #1, line #2 and comb again.

The number and distribution of covers for the other values is only barely

Table 10: Pictorial Issue—Order of Frequencies among Stamps of different Shades and Colors by Perforation Types:

No.	Value	Color	Types:	Comb Line		
				#1	#2-5	
134—	4 cent	brown-purple, darker		6*	0	*Frequencies are expressed by a scale of 1 to 10, the percentage within each value being roughly the frequency number squared; thus 9 is about 80% and 4 is about 15%. Counts are too few for more than mere approximation.
134A		lighter		3	7	
135—	5 cent	ultramarine, lighter		3	8	
135A		blue, darker		2	5	
139—	10 cent	dark violet, "purple"		6	0	
139A		reddish violet		8	2	

suggestive. In the 1 cent value, line type #3 (14.0 x14.0) is the only one seen until the appearance of comb type #1 in late 1925, and #2 in June, 1927. In the 2 cent, type #3 is again first represented, and abundant in late 1923 and early 1924, when presumably rates permitted widest use of that value. The earliest comb type #1 is on a cover of October 7, 1925, and of line type #5 on one of January 9, 1925. Single covers with line #2 and #4 are dated March 8, 1928 and January 28, 1928, thus giving representatives of all possible gauges in this one value.

The earliest of the 4 cent covers, of October 21, 1925, long after issue, is with comb type #1, which is exclusively represented until the appearance of type #5 on November 4, 1926, and of #2 on June 8, 1927, the dates being of the oldest covers seen. But these records of earliest years are sparse for the lowest values. And the writer has not seen dated covers of the higher ones. The covers supplement the mint blocks and add types not found among the mint blocks studied. Type #1, comb perforate, is found in all four values; type #2, gauge roughly 14.0 x 13.7 for the short and long sides, in all four; type #3, 14.0 x 14.0 in the 1 cent and 2 cent; type #4, line 13.7 x 13.7, in the 2 cent, and type #5, 13.7 x 14.0, in the 2, 3 and 4 cent values.

Table 11. Pictorial Issue—Frequency of types among Dated Covers:  
Number of covers of each type:

Year	Quar.	#151—1 cent			#132—2 cent					#133—3 cent			#134—4 cent		
		#1	2	3	#1	2	3	4	5	#1	2	5	#1	2	5
1923	3rd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
	4th	..	..	1	..	..	..	7	..	21	..	..	..	..	..
1924	1st	..	..	..	..	..	..	22	..	29	..	..	..	..	..
	2nd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36	..	..	..	..	..
	3rd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	..	..	..	..	..
	4th	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	..	..	..	..	..
1925	1st	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
	2nd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..
	3rd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..
	4th	5	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
1926	1st	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	4	..	1	1	..	..
	2nd	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	11	..	4	..	..	..
	3rd	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	1	2	..	..
	4th	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	17	..	..	1	..	1
1927	1st	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	3	..	..
	2nd	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	5	7	..	4	1	1
	3rd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	20	..	..	1	..
	4th	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	17	..	..	1	2
1928	1st	2	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	13	2	3	4	1
	2nd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	2	..	..
	3rd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1	..	..	..	..
	4th	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	..	..	..	1	1
Totals		12	4	8	4	1	31	1	3	198	59	10	17	8	6

Types: Comb type #1, 13.8 (short side) x 13.9 (long side); Line types, #2, 14.01 x 13.8; #3, 14.0 x 14.0; #4, 13.7 x 13.7; and #5, 13.7 x 14.0. Note the varying numbers of covers through different periods of time.

The Pictorial Issue offers one of the best opportunities for further study, for there are several perforation types, shades of some of the values, and prospects that there were several printings of some values of this relatively long-lived issue. For general purposes it can be described as composed of stamps of comb perforation in all values and of line perforation in most in combinations of 13.7 and 14.0 gauges. Only true enthusiasts will be willing to undertake the separation of the four types of the line perforate stamps.

This issue has perforations of two types, comb 14.0 (type #1) and line 14.1 (type #2). Line perforate type 1 stamps have been found in each of the values from 1 cent to 5 cent, inclusive, but not in any higher value. The stamps are all vertically elongate, the comb teeth in type 1 stamps normally projecting from right to left. A few stamps of each of the lowest four values, at least, had the sheet placed in the machine in reverse position so that the teeth project from a comb bar on the left toward the right when the stamp is oriented with the letters right side up; this type is designated #1a.

The perforating needles on the teeth extended a little too far along the short sides of the stamps so that the teeth on the comb bar either slightly intersect or very closely approached the holes made by the endmost needles of the comb teeth of the preceding impression. Normally a single stamp has the appearance of a comb stamp in the upper and lower right corners, a corner hole with perforations evenly spaced to the left and on the side. But the upper left and lower left corners have little or no nib between the corner perforations and those next along the top and bottom of the stamp; in type 1a, this relationship pertains to the right corners. The close approach of perforations of successive impressions is a condition intermediate between the variety of the 1 cent Publicity, type 2, in which the 19 perforating needles on each side were insufficient and left a broad nib below the top corners, and the Gilbert type 1 stamps in which an extra needle brought perforations by the comb bar at the lower corners into nearly the same position as those made by the end needles on the teeth of the preceding impression.

There are distinct shades of several of the values. The line perforate stamps seem limited to single shades, and to represent perforations of parts of printings made in or prior to 1922 but later than September, 1920. Gibbons' and Sissons' catalogues separate shades of the 2 cent as scarlet and carmine-red, of the 3 cent as red-brown, brown and black-brown, and of the 4 cent as mauve and purple. Line perforate type 2 stamps are of carmine-red, black-brown and mauve shades, though other stamps of these shades are also comb perforate. The writer has not been able to separate shades of the 1 cent; line 5 cent stamps tend to be lighter blue than most comb types. The Gibbons catalogue lists the 15 cent as indigo normal color and (as 139a) Prussian blue of much higher price, rising to 6 pounds in recent editions; these shades are barely distinguishable, but not recognizable to the writer except by direct comparison.

There are known to have been plural printings of some lower values, for provisional stamps were printed in September, 1920, to alleviate shortages of 2 cent and 3 cent values, and withdrawn on October 4th, presumably on the arrival of new stocks. The writer has not seen a date stamped line perforate stamp of earlier date than this, nor stamps of the shades of the line perforate stamps. Moreover, illustrations of the Hawker and Martinsyde air mail stamps prepared by overprinting 3 cent Caribou stamps in April, 1919, show them to be comb perforate.

Dated covers in the collection of Dan Meyerson and some in the writer's possession have been studied. The earliest dates for line perforate cancelled stamps on covers is given in Table 12, with data on frequency counts. Line perforate stamps for the lowest four values, 1 cent to 4 cent, are on 13, 10, 18 and 10 covers. A 3 cent of type 1a was cancelled February 27, 1919 at St. Johns East, but others much later. The writer has not seen line perforate type #2 stamps of any value greater than the 5 cent, and except for the shades of the 15 cent which seem comb perforate, it seems very improbable that more than one printing is represented. Though cancelled line-perforate 5 cent stamps have not been seen, one assumes that they were of two print-

ings like the earlier values. Perhaps there were more than two printings of some values.

The frequency counts are of interest in showing the prospects of finding line perforate stamps. But as there are printings, the covers of some years have greater abundance of line perforate stamps than others. For example, the writer has about a score of covers with 4 cent stamps used for postage to the United States after the succeeding Pictorial Issue had been released. Of ten from scattered post offices in 1925, 6 are line perforate, but of an equal number in 1926, only 1 is line perforate. The only conclusion seems that some line perforate sheets were still in use late in the distribution of the Caribou stamps, and retained in local post office and private stocks.

Table 12. Percentage frequencies of perforation varieties in the Caribou Issue:

Scott Value No.	Mint		Used		All counts			Earliest seen and color of line Type #2
	Comb #1	Line 2	Comb #1	Line 2	Comb #1	Line 1a	2	
115—1 cent	91	9	85	15	90	1	9	April 2, 1923
116—2 cent	94	6	92	8	90	2	8	Oct. 21, 1922, carmine-red
117—3 cent	93	7	85	15	90	2	8	March 15, 1923, dark brown
118—4 cent	90	10	75	25	85	1	14	May 12, 1923, mauve
119—5 cent	64	36	too few		64	0	36	light blue

Types: #1—14.0 comb; #1a—14.0 comb perforated left to right; #2—14.1 line. Almost 100 mint stamps of each value from sets, few in blocks; used stamps nearly all from collections of covers, 36, 60, 151 and 34 in each of lowest four values; cancellations mostly of late 1921 and later.

This article concludes the description of the perforation types of several issues of twentieth century Newfoundland stamps. Two perforation types, one comb and one line, were described in the Caribou Issue; of five types in the Pictorial Issue, four are line in combinations of two gauges; three comb and two line types are present in the First Publicity Issue, one of each in the Gilbert Issue, and a comb and two line types in the Long Coronation Issue. There are distinct shades among the stamps of the first three issues that are related to plural printings of some of the values. There is a dearth of information on dates of printings; cancelled stamps on covers should be reported.

Many have been helpful in the preparation. The interest in Newfoundland stamps goes back to the chance that my father in 1897 was selling stereopticon views along Sir John Reids' railroads and steamships when the original provisionals came out. A stamp from his sheet was the first in my boyhood collection. Interest grew and waned interruptedly through the years. A few years ago, the late W. O. Kuempel, an enthusiastic Empire collector, suggested my examining perforations. Edson Fifield, Bill Cheney and Al Leavitt gave particular encouragement in my first venture into Long Coronations; subsequently, dealers have been remarkably patient at my critical appraisal of their stocks and lots. Inevitably I "discovered" Dan Meyerson, who encouraged preparing these articles, and generously placed collections at my disposal. The Editor has been most successful in arranging the text and tables, and in seeing them through without significant errors.

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● In a concluding article in a later number of BNA TOPICS, Mr. Kay will summarize and illustrate the perforation varieties of the several issues of Newfoundland stamps that have been discussed. In the meantime, comments and criticisms will be welcomed.