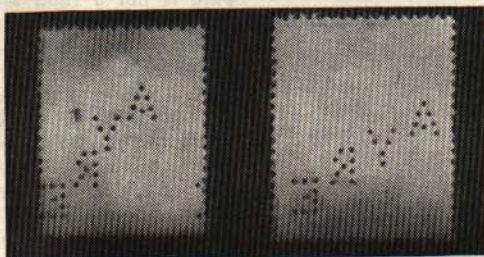


stamps, and which we did not previously have recorded.

Now that the handbook is available, we hope to have some help from those collectors who have been waiting for a reference work before attempting to sort and mount their accumulation of perfins. We would appreciate hearing from anyone who finds a new design, who is able to report usage on Excise Tax, Customs Duty or precancel

not so listed in the handbook, or earlier usage than we have noted.

Only by having these reports from other collectors can we attempt to keep a complete record of Canadian perfins, and we may at some time in the future wish to revise the handbook, or at least put out a few pages of revisions, so don't neglect to send us any new information you may have. New designs should be sent along for photographic record, and for use in this column.



A8

A9

Ayre & Sons, St. John, Newfoundland

When our checklist was originally sent out, we listed only one of the Ayre & Sons designs, as we did not at that time know of the second type. There was insufficient time to recheck with all collectors who had been good enough to report their collections, and our handbook may be inaccurate as to the range of issues of each design.

We would like to hear from any collector who may be able to extend the range of usage of either.

In checking for earlier usage, Scott No. 83, the 3c Queen Alexandra, was issued in June 1898 in an orange shade. However, there was an emergency wartime printing from the old plate in June 1918. This later printing is in red orange on bluish paper and can be distinguished from the earlier

printing which had been in use from 1898 to 1910.

The Perfin Study Group wishes to pay tribute and express our thanks to Gordon Lewis, our genial editor. Only by his help and professional guidance in the planning and production of the handbook have we been able to put out such a reference work which we believe to be a credit to the Society.

Gordon is a very unassuming sort of chap who works endless hours for the benefit of us all and only we contributors realize the amount of time and effort he gives to BNA TOPICS each month.

(P.S.—Dear Gordon: Please don't cut this last paragraph.) ★

THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG

Express Companies Study

At the suggestion of President deVolpi, Mr. J. Russell Harper of the New Brunswick Museum, St. John, and the undersigned will undertake a study of the express companies operating out of St. John, New Brunswick, during the period from approximately 1840 to 1860. These companies in-

clude Gunnison's, Colonial, Favor's, and U. S. Express Mail. We would appreciate having any of our readers communicate with us concerning historical material that they have pertaining to these companies, and we would also like to have any covers bearing the markings of the same transmitted.

If the study seems to merit publication, it