

reported five times or more and might reasonably be expected to show in most good collections.

Because these perforated stamps are not generally collected and have little commercial value don't be fooled into the presumption that they are easy to come by. After working for a year or so on them, any collector is making good progress who can show one hundred designs or approximately half of the number of designs required for completion.

As to your chances of completing a collection we can mention that the most complete collection of designs yet reported lacks twenty-six of the known designs, and three other very good collections are still short of from twenty-six to forty of the listed numbers.

It would be difficult to decide which could be considered as the scarcest of our known perfins, but our vote would go to C31, CUD/AHY. The one known copy of this type comes on E1, from which we presume that an American office of the Cudahy Company required some special delivery stamps to speed delivery of their mail in Canada, and bought Canadian S.D. stamps for this purpose, punching them in the American office that purchased them. We are also presuming that they would require only a limited number for this purpose and did not at any time punch the normal Canadian postal issues. Their mail would carry U.S. postage, but would require a Canadian special delivery, or equivalent Canadian 10c postage stamp for the special delivery service in Canada.

Some of the other scarce items which have been reported once only are also the designs of American companies and would also possibly have had only a limited use by the company. P1 is one of these and is believed to have been used by the Pullman Company from its Chicago office to pay the 3c tax on cheques payable in Canada when the company made refunds to Canadian travellers or had other accounts payable in Canada.

One or two others listed only once are on our customs duty stamps. B7 is one of these with initials BM/C, user not identified, and another is G8, Guaranty Trust Company (GT). These were probably used to pay the duty on printed matter entering Canada for advertising purposes.

A few of the others appearing once only on the lists are also American companies, some of whom may have had a branch office or agent in Canada for a short time only or may have bought Canadian stamps

to prepay return postage when enclosing return addressed envelopes. Some of these may be such listings as A1, D6, D7, L5, M14, P9, R3, S7 and S9.

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What are the possibilities of finding some of these scarcer items?

Stamp collectors in general are perennial optimists and in this particular field there are still many unexplored opportunities. There are no doubt still many million ungraded 1c and 2c Edw.VII, 1c and 2c Queen Victoria numerals and the 1c to 3c Geo. V. Admiral issue, and if Perfin collectors can acquire the Perfins these accumulations contain, many of the scarcer items will show up in them, although perhaps in very limited numbers, and there may well be the additional reward of a previously unrecorded design.

Although the laid paper 2c of the 1868 issue may be rarer than the 12 penny black to collectors of Canada's postal issues there are literally dozens of perfin designs that are scarcer than either of them.

As to value, the factor other than supply that makes for value, is demand and the demand for Canada's postal issues is still many thousand times as great as the demand for Perfins. For which we collectors of Perfins should be truly thankful. ★

TRAIL OF THE CARIBOU

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the Apr. 27th issue of "Stamp Collecting" can be used as a criterion. His offer is as follows "Newfoundland, 1923 (May). Labrador-St. John's flown cover with cachet and backstamp 'My 17' - - \$30." This is the highest asking price we have ever seen for a Newfoundland "Cotton" cover and we don't know if it is worth that kind of money, but evidently someone does. ★

Prof. R. DeL. French of Montreal died May 23, after an extended illness. We wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife and family.

Roger French has been connected with Canada and Canadian revenue stamps for many years. He was one of the founders of the Canadian Revenue Society and since the formation of the Revenue Group in BNAPS, he has served as treasurer and editor of the Revenue column. All Revenue collectors will greatly miss Prof. French.