

ment, and the stamp paper is of a thicker and stiffer variety than that of NSLL1, almost like thin cardboard. The imperf. copies have large margins, making it virtually impossible to counterfeit these stamps, while the stamps of NSLL1 have close perfs. which often cut into the design. The earliest known imperf. copy is dated Dec. 23, 1891, and the latest Apr. 2, 1892. Does anyone have earlier or later dated copies?

Holmes NSLL6 with two distinct colours of overprint, is a scarce stamp, not more than 500 copies having been reported issued. To determine which colour should be listed first in the catalogues, it would be interesting to hear of the earliest date used of each variety. The earliest dates reported seen are: July 9, 1956 for the rose-pink shade of o/p, and Dec. 10, 1955, for the crimson-red o/p.

MANITOBA VACATION PAY STAMPS

These stamps were discontinued on July 1, 1960, and all stamps in government possession were destroyed. Taking into consideration the few copies in collectors' and dealers' hands, these should command quite a high price shortly.

MANITOBA TELEPHONE FRANK

The 1908 5c frank (Holmes TM1) exists watermarked. No catalogue mentions watermarked copies of the Manitoba Telephone Franks, and since this is the first copy reported, it is apparently quite scarce, much scarcer than the watermarked copies of Bell, British Columbia or Saskatchewan watermarked franks.

MANITOBA LAW STAMPS

There are two more scarce unlisted Manitoba Stamps. The JF handstamp o/p exists in *black*, while the catalogue mentions red and purple, on the 10c and 50c nine scallop variety. The 10c exists dated Apr. 8, 1889, in a double circle with the words "FILED. PROTHONOTARY'S OFFICE / WINNIPEG", while the 50c, with the same type of cancellation, is dated Apr. 10, 1889. Are there any other examples of the black o/p?

MANITOBA OPERATING AND FIREMEN'S ACT STAMPS

These stamps are of a design closely resembling the dollar values of the Manitoba Vacation Stamps, and are issued by the same government department, the Department of Labour. However, whereas the Vacation Stamps have control numbers in red or blue, the Engineers' Stamps have control numbers

in black, and in place of denomination is the year of use in black.

Approximately only 8000 of all four classes together are reported issued, to be used over a period of ten years, thus making these stamps very rare. Another reason for their rarity is that they pay the fees for the yearly renewal of the Operating Engineer's or Fireman's Certificate, and certificate holders are rather loath to part with them. As rates are listed on the certificate, although the stamps have no value stated on them, they should be regarded as bona fide revenues as are Holmes FWM23A and NSLL5, both of which have no denomination, and not as tax paid or labels.

These items should be listed, therefore, as follows in the next Holmes Edition:

- ME1 (\$3.00) red (1st class)
- ME2 (\$2.00) light blue (2nd class)
- ME3 (\$1.50) green (3rd and 4th class)
- ME4 (\$1.00) violet (Provisional and Fireman)

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How long will the Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue in its obstinacy continue to perpetuate a mistake. In the Mar. 20th sale held by H. R. Harmer in New York, a copy of the 3c on 6c surcharge, Scott No. 160b sold for \$180, certainly a fancy price for a trial printing. Why does Scott continue to dignify a trial printing with a catalog number? If this stamp is to be listed then certainly the red TWO CENTS on the 30c Cabot, Scott No. 127, should be listed as well as the red surcharges and the red and black surcharges, Scott No.'s 75-77, should all be listed. Personally we believe that none of them belong in the catalogue.

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For nearly all of these there are examples of the covers and interleaves where necessary to illustrate the differences, all of which came from "exploded" or partial booklets, four volumes of them. Add to this six volumes of panes, mint and used, mint and used booklet and pane stamps, plus covers, and it all adds up to about 1970 before we get them all into print—IF YOU CAN STAND IT!

Charlie Arnold and Ed Richardson have agreed to help to get this and their material, too, into print, and a start of this listing is in TOPICS, April 1957, July-August 1960, January 1962, and February 1962.