

The Proof Corner

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"Proof (pruf) sb — (Orig) An impression taken by the engraver from an engraved plate, stone or block to examine its state during the progress of his work; (Now) Each of an arbitrary number of careful Impressions made from the finished plate before printing of the ordinary issue and usually before the inscription is added".
"Essay (e se') — The process of testing.

These dictionary definitions seem to overlap, at least as the words are used in Philately. They do tell the story briefly of this little studied and scarcely followed area of interest among professional workers and amateur collectors alike.

"To examine its' state" — Here for the first time the engraver sees his artist's dream materialize and bloom into definiteness. The eye glass and mind converted mirror image takes on reality. The lack of shading here, the nuance of an added line or dot, the effect of color, and then — the Plate and a Plate Proof.

Perhaps "Color-Trials" to see which color looks best or fits into the set the best.

And finally — THE STAMP.

And this is your playground, your area of fun, relaxation and enjoyment. Perforation, no perforations, water marks (misplaced, missing, or just there). Entries, (major, minor and none at all), re-entries! Cracked, scratched, gouged or mutilated plates, plate numbers, corners blocks, etc.,

etc., etc. Cancellations, covers, first day covers, colors, papers, or just plain old STAMPS.

Each of you has his likes, his hopes and ambitions, his pride and joy. That is what makes this hobby fun.

Mine is Proofs and Essays. I like to see what started it all. I like to watch this artist's idea blossom into a final, complete, articulate and expressive result. I like to follow from beginning to ultimate sale, the development of the design, the beauty of individual artistry, and the failures to, those designs that never were issued for one reason or other.

These essays and proofs will help you to understand some of the "varieties" that are a Stamp Collector's dream, and keep him ever alert.

One example "the extra tongue" variety 1c Codfish, Scott #233, Holmes #224 (#15 on the sheet) was caused by the plate maker rocking his roller too far for stamp #14, and impressing the left hand locating marker into the middle of the Codfish's mouth in #15. Only a study of the final die and the spacing of the stamp on the printing plate could prove this. I am happy to know **how** this variety occurred. You can search for the resultant "error" and treasure it

More around the corner.

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