

The Proof Corner

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How many of you have seen a series of Progressive Proofs. Here is one of the most interesting studies in Proofs.

Start with some lines scratched on a plate in very rough outline. A small date in the corner tells when it all began. Add more lines and the frame appears. Then some script and the name of the country and value show in outline. More lines and the lettering becomes full. Then shading, incomplete at first.

The next step is the vignette. In earlier stamps this was usually prepared first as a separate item. Later, the picture was engraved in the space reserved for it. First in outline, then gradually taking form and shape and shading.

A final pull — a request for approval — possibly denied — more refining of the design — then the final OK. Now the guide mark for the roller is added and the final proof has been made. Later the die number and the die is complete.

Take for instance the 1931 Newfoundland issue. The 30c value shows the frame on 7 May 1930, the frame and partial design 13 May, the full design lightly shaded 19 May, a heavily shaded type on 22 May, shading lightened 23 May, a color change on 27 May and the guide mark added 28 May which indicated the final approval. The die number (873) was added 2 June 1930. The stamp was issued in July of 1937.

This type of presentation exists for all values of the 1929, 1931, 1932, 1933 and 1937 Perkins Bacon Issues. They are not easy to find and when found require constant revision of your pages. If you get hold of a proof which does not have a die number be sure and compare it to others in **detail**. It is never **final** until the guide mark and die number are added.

Canada too, in the 20th century issues, has progress proofs which are extremely interesting. Many values appear in progressive increments which outline the growth of the design.

If you are a student of a certain issue or stamp, how can you show its development any better than through progressive proofs.

If you are looking for a catalogue of these interesting proofs I highly recommend a sister society, the Essay Proof Society which has just completed a listing of all known and observed Canada proofs. To follow soon are New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and finally Newfoundland. There are articles too of interest to BNAPS'ers and you will find their quarterly volume of extreme interest.

If you have specific questions particularly about New Brunswick, Nova Scotia or Newfoundland I shall be most happy to try and answer them. I do collect stamps and covers too, but there are many more knowledgeable folk in these fields than I.

More around the corner

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writer on examining panes of the overprinted 2c and 5c values which have the wide spacing variety, where fresh type has been inserted in the plate to replace worn type, the new type giving clear and sharp "G" impressions as compared with the heavy and worn overprint impressions on immediately

adjoining stamps. No such repair work has been noted on examining panes of the 4c denomination, nor on later issues of the 1c, 2c and 5 denominations which do not exhibit the wide spacing variety.

Comments from readers in connection with the foregoing would be much appreciated by the writer.

Please send changes of address to the Secretary

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