

was turned upside-down in an effort to find the stamps, but in vain. The stamp trade was circulated without result. Those 12d blacks had simply vanished into thin air."

Then as now the Editor was seeking articles for publication. The Sales Manager

begged the members for material to sell and the officers urged BNAPSers to recruit new members.

Remember BNA Topics holds a treasury of information. Let's keep it that way by recruiting a new member in '65 and contributing an article.

The Proof Corner

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After Paris via a roundabout tour through Europe, came England and London. The dealers that many of you know, Stanley Gibbons, H. R. Harmer, Bill Lea, John Taylor and the rest, were most charming and helpful. Meeting such fine people as Bill Stone, John Hubbard and Sidney Harris proved once again, that stamp collecting attracts the finest.

Special thanks to Bill Stone, who knows more about the early Perkins Bacon Die Proofs than anyone else, for his tireless escorting of me around London. Of special interest, was our conducted Tour of the British Museum and its' marvelous Tapling Collection of BNA, under the personal guidance of Jim Mackay, Curator — Department of Printed Books. Jim is a fine chap and enthusiastic about our hobby. He has in his charge, a wonderful collection of Die Proofs made by Waterloo and Sons (unfortunately no BNA) for later showing, and other items which do have BNA of various countries.

The afternoon and evening at the annual meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society, London was productive of much valuable data on Perkins Bacon. I had a chance to examine and study the remaining defaced original dies and plates. One is immediately impressed by the fine and delicate workmanship of those early Engravers in the infancy of stamp printing. It is too bad the Classical Era has passed. The record books and examples of die proofs are outstanding. What a record to base history on, even if some of it was lost during the war. It is too bad the same data is not available here from our American Bank Note Company. Many controversies could be settled if the information were forthcoming. There also was an exhibit of the frames many of you

saw in New York at the Collector's Club in May. This was a treat to see, and I hope more international exchanges can be arranged.

The De La Rue Company graciously allowed me to browse through their Newfoundland Die and Plate Proofs under the expert and careful guidance of Leslie Newman, Curator. As an aside, my wife and daughter became entranced by their collection of Playing Cards which predated stamps by many years. This is a subject any stamp collector could get intrigued with. The De La Rue Museum is a delightful experience for a "stamper".

Cyril Harmer's collection of "Newfoundland Air Mails" is outstanding. His book on this subject is based on this collection. It is well worth reading.

Last but not least, John Hubbard and Sidney Harris made the visit memorable by showing me their collections. John has proofs we never knew existed, and plate proofs and number blocks never recorded here. The Sidney Harris collection is out of this world — this collection is complete — I really don't know what adjective to use. He is a careful collector and his specimens are superb.

If this collection is not written up, the world will have a great loss. His proofs are the most comprehensive I have even seen. More power to you Sidney — can we help you record this wonderful group?

All in all, I returned feeling that Europe had much more material available than we do here. To say the least, I was envious — but it is a challenge we should take up. Perhaps some day we can take the "cake" over here.

More around the corner . . .