

# Newfoundland News

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Dan Meyerson's particular style of writing and the wonderful information he has accumulated in his articles in B.N.A. Topics for so many years will make a successor's task extremely difficult. The information he has so willingly given over the years will be most invaluable to us and to all those future generations who will be interested in the stamps of this fascinating country.

It has been decided that the name "The Trail of the Caribou" should now be changed, and I personally think this is essential as of necessity the new column will assume a different character. You will therefore see the first of what I hope will be a new series under the heading of the title "Newfoundland News". In commencing this new series I feel that it is necessary to start with a completely new approach and possibly to start with going over some of the ground which has already been done before, but I feel that it is necessary to do some recapitulation on the stamps of Newfoundland in general, in order if possible to get more B.N.A. collectors interested in what is after all now a part of Canada, and an important part at that.

Scott Catalogue lists 270 stamps excluding "a" numbers and all the air post stamps and postage dues. The Stanley Gibbons catalogue lists 294 stamps, but this includes airmails but excludes postage dues. There is plenty of the most fascinating material for collectors of all kinds.

In this first article I should like to draw the attention to Newfoundland not only to those who already collect the country, but to those who have not considered Newfoundland as part of their collecting effort, even although many of them are members of B.N.A.P.S. Newfoundland as a stamp issuing country was severely criticized for the issue of commemoratives which were considered by philatelists in general to be unnecessary, and it must be said they were used as a means of attracting additional revenue from stamp collectors to the Newfoundland Post Office. All this however is over now, since Newfoundland joined Canada in 1949 and no longer issues any stamps

of its own. One could refer for instance to the long set of the Coronation issued in 1937 as a good example of what I mean.

Today, however, all this is in the past and we are left with a field of study in which a great deal remains to be done, particularly as so many of the issues contain varieties of all kinds, such as perforations, imperfs, and many other aspects too numerous to quote in this first article.

This field is such a wide one and consists not only of most attractive commemorative sets but the permanent issues mainly printed by the American Bank Note Co. and following on by Messrs. De La Rue but chiefly in the main printing by Messrs Perkins Bacon & Co. of London. Today only small quantities exist of a great many of both the permanent and commemorative issue, and I do not think it is generally realised how scarce a lot of these issues are, as one of the printings were comparatively small and a great many of today's catalogue prices underestimate the real scarcity of some or a lot of these stamps.

Newfoundland is a country asking for still more research by philatelists, and not only on account of their scarcity. It is true of course that the first "Pence" issues, and I refer here to the scarlet-vermilions and the second issue of the orange-vermilion, are beyond the means of many collectors. Even so a great many of these are still under-catalogued in comparison with their scarcity. It is interesting to note the 1/- orange, Scott No. 15, S.C. number the same, is equally rare with the 12d Canada, where the prices as you probably know are considerably higher. Why this should be I really do not know, except that to us in England the quaint use of the term 12d somehow makes it an attractive collectors item, if their purses can stretch as long as that.

Do not however let the prices of the first two issues dismay you. The "Pence" issues were printed in 1861-62 and are called rose in the Scott catalogue, and rose-lake in the Gibbons catalogue. Fortunately for us many of these rose-lake issues were remainders and are still obtainable in

fair quantities from all sources, but of course used specimens are scarce, particularly those with genuine postmarks.

In general terms Newfoundland offers a vast variety of proof-material right the way through from beginning to end, and there are very few difficult overprints to contend with. Newfoundland is of course famous for its rare and now classic airmail issues from 1919 onwards, but here again although some of these classics may be out of reach of the average collector there is still a vast quantity of interesting material, as Newfoundland became the centre for first flights of all kinds during this period,

and there is still a lot of very interesting material to be obtained at what are today comparatively low prices. So if you are a member of B.N.A.P.S. and reading this article and you do not collect Newfoundland, do have a look at the catalogue and see whether it would not add greatly to your pleasure to collect the stamps of this country.

I have no doubt that I shall be going over familiar ground to a lot of B.N.A. collectors, but I hope that future articles will be of help even to those specialists who do collect the stamps of this country.

# FANCY CANCELLATIONS

Day & Smythies

Supplementary Plate I — Chapter II — Leaves and Flowers

Serial No.	Description	P.O. of Origin	Date	Remarks
8a	Feathery type maple leaf central dark vein	?	1870	
9a	Feathery type leaf, central dark vein	?	about 1872	
11a	Leaf with hollow center	?	?	In blue
18a	Solid type leaf. Intaglio veins	?	about 1895	
19a	Solid type leaf. Central dark vein	?	about 1875	15 cent large Queen
34a	Fern type—12 fronds	Welland, Ont.	1875	
40a	Small fern—11 fronds	?	?	
41a	Fern type. Probably 12 fronds	T.G. & B. Ry.	1880	
54a	Five petal flower	?	?	
54b	Five petal flower. Intaglio veins make 5-point start	?	?	
55a	Eight petal flower	Ayton, Ont.	1875	
55b	Eight petal flower	Cottom, Ont.	1898	In purple
58a	Four petal flower	?	?	
62a	Flower with long irregular petals	Blythe, Ont.	1882	
61a	Many petal flower—Bunch of stamens in center	Notre Dame St. West	1896	Duplex, See Topics,, Dec. 1963
61b	Similar to 61a but no stamens in center	Notre Dame St. West	?	
65a	Moss or coral	?	?	On map stamp
69a	Dandelion in circle	Londesborough, Ont.	1884	
69b	Flowering spray in circle	Vancouver, B.C.	1903	
70a	Intaglio small spray in black oval	?	1902	