

The Proof Corner

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On page 174 of his fine book "The Postage Stamp and Postal History of Canada" Winthrop Boggs describes a different "SPECIMEN" overprint. He states as follows:

"In 1879 the National Bank Note Co. of the Continental Bank Note Co. and the American Bank Note Co., all of New York, merged to become an enlarged American Bank Note Co. At that time or shortly after, proof impressions were taken from various plates, among them the 6d Canada. These prints were overprinted SPECIMEN in sans serif capitals 11mm long by 2½mm high (in red)."

I have never seen the Canada stamp but I have seen a block of 4 of the 2c New Brunswick in red with one stamp overprinted and also a single of the 12½c blue overprinted the same way.

Both of these seem to be very scarce items. My question is — Does anyone else have any of these items or other values overprinted the same way?

It should be interesting to find out just how many of the American Bank Note plates were so overprinted. Theoretically some Nova Scotia and Newfoundland proofs should show up with the same overprint.

It would also be interesting to know how

many of the hand stamped SPECIMEN overprints occur on a sheet.

On the same page Boggs comments about the orange yellow proofs from the Canada ½d, 3d, 6d, 7½d and 10d plates. These same colors show up on the Nova Scotia 1c, 2c, 5c, 8½, 10c and 12½c. Also on the N.B. 1c, 2c, 5c (Connell) 5c (Queen) 10c, 12½c and 17c, and finally on the Newfoundland 1c and 6c. The 5c "seal" and 13c "ship" are a darker shade and the 1c (National) and 12c are a shade lighter. As the 1c and 6c (American) were not issued until 1871 and 1870 respectively, this would seem to indicate that the orange yellow proofs were not made until after 1871 and therefore the 1864 date of Boggs would not seem to be correct. Does anyone have any more factual knowledge of these proofs?

Were they made at the same time as the Goodalls?

There is another variety of the plate proofs of New Brunswick, the 12½c blue on vertically ribbed card. The only reference I have seen to this paper is in the Queen's Collection. Do any more exist? If so, what values and colors, and where did they come from?

Any help anyone can give is welcome. Do search your collection — you may have a rare variety.

—More around the corner—

NEW CANADA PLATE NUMBERS COME TO LIGHT AFTER 60 YEARS

2c Edward Imperf found in three unknown plates

Three full sheets of 200 subjects each of the 1903 2c Edward imperforate of Canada (Scott #90a) have been discovered with plate numbers that have hitherto been unknown. The plate block catalogue lists plate numbers 13 and 14 as the only known plates for the 2c imperf and Jarrett's catalogue also mentions plates 1 and 2, but these sheets are inscribed with plate num-

bers 31, 32, and 43 respectively in both upper left and upper right positions. The lot is believed to be part of an old Post Office stock that has been hidden away for many years. There is some speculation that this lot may have been of an experimental nature since all the stamps have been neatly defaced with pen and ink in horizontal lines through the centre of each stamp, although