

The Proof Corner

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I have just finished reading Sidney Harris's "Newfoundland News" about catalogues and I cannot help saying "amen" to his soliloquy. However, I should not give all the "Kudos" to Stanley Gibbons. The Catalogue is good, but it too omits many varieties and its color descriptions are sometimes not the best.

At the risk of starting a good "rumble", I'll add another catalogue. Here, I'll say that it seems to be the only catalogue that remembers there are such things as proofs. More about this later. I refer of course to Holmes Specialized Philatelic Catalogue of Canada and British North America.

This catalogue has its troubles with colors and dates but it at least recognizes covers, blocks of 4 and imprints. Booklets are shown for what they are and many of the imperforates are recognized, so are the imperforate between.

My largest "squawk" is that no two catalogues have the same numbering or "a, b, c" system. Here as well as in colors a universal system should be devised. Neither do they agree on price.

Now about the Proofs — Holmes shows them — and lists many. A lot of the listings are incorrect and incomplete and deceptive. But at least the collector has some

indication that these things exist. I say again that no good collection is complete without proofs and a catalogue is just as much a "must" as for stamps or postal history.

The Essay Proof Society has just completed a comprehensive Proof and Essay listing for Canada and Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland are on the way. It's a shame that Gibbons, Scott or Holmes haven't picked this up and at least listed and/or priced these scarce and valuable necessities.

At least for those complete collectors the Essay Proof Society has the "dope". If you are interested too, I'd suggest a subscription.

I can't really pat any one of our catalogue boys on the head. All have their good points and all their bad ones. Someone should put them all together for Canada, Newfoundland and British North America in a manner similar to Scott's United States Specialized. Then perhaps us BNP'sers would have something worth while. I'm nuts on proofs as everyone knows, but still I do collect stamps, covers imperforates etc. It's all fun.

More around the corner

A FEAST FOR AEROPHILATELISTS!

What is unquestionably the finest collection of Airpost stamps and flown covers to be sold for many years, will be auctioned by Harmer Rooke of London on October 1st. The collection contains a wealth of rare pieces all of which justify the numerous international awards it received, amongst which may be mentioned the Grand Prix at the FISA Exhibition held at The Hague and numerous Gold Medals including that gained at the London Exhibition of 1960.

The pioneer days of flying are vividly recalled by many rare issues of Newfoundland including a mint vertical pair of the "Hawker" (only two such pairs exist), also a single copy on flown cover. Other scarce items of Newfoundland include the "de Pinedo" mint and on cover, also the rare error of colour (\$4.50 on 10c yellow) of the

1933 Balbo flight issue. A strong section of United States includes the famous inverted centre variety of the 24c. issues of 1918 and the very rare Buffalo Balloon Post stamp of 1877 apart from two mint copies there is a single on flown cover, one of the only two such covers in existence. Amongst choice items of Europe are the "Ile de France" surcharges, including an extremely rare vertical pair of the 10f on 90c showing both spacings inverted, also a vertical pair of the 10f on 1f50 showing both spacings. Germany and Switzerland are also well represented with strong sections of semi-official issues. Other items include the "Rose Smith" of Australia (mint and on cover), a strong section of Russian Consular overprints, the rare 1932 10ore semi-official of Greenland on cover and a wide range of Colombia including multi-coloured stamps.