

any examples been found of vertical straight edge. Nor of a stamp with two straight edges.

(10) These straight edges are practically confined to this one plate and brief late printing, and are not found on other plates or printings.

These are the relevant facts so far as they are known. What do they suggest as the probable or plausible reason for their appearance? It was thought at one time they might be due to guillotine action, but the guillotine was not required to sever two

panes on this plate, and anyway would not be used near the top and bottom of the sheet. They are obviously not due to trimming after purchase from a post office, nor to the omission of a row of pins in the perforating machine. Why are they limited to this one brief printing and to smaller post offices? Had the unique and unsatisfactory lay-out of this peculiar plate something to do with it? It is quite a problem? I hope some ingenious reader of this note will think out a plausible explanation of these "straight edges", for I frankly confess I cannot.

The Proof Corner

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Newfoundland "progressive die" proofs form a most interesting study. They exist for the De La Rue issues and the later Perkins Bacon issues. Even the Guy issue of 1910—1911 have some interesting varieties.

To start with the first "burin" scratches on a die block and follow the stamp to its completion and then plate proofs, the stamp with its varieties and finally to covers in actual use is the "final" in stamp collecting.

Only in this way can a complete record of any one stamp be gathered together. It is particularly interesting if the artist sketch can be located and the various die proofs are dated.

For instance the 4c Perkins Bacon of 1929 received its first scratches on the die block on the 29th and 30th of May 1929. The die was "finalized" on the 3rd of July 1929 and assigned die #797. The stamp issued on the 26th of August 1929, relatively a short span.

The 10c value of the same issue began life on the 18th of July and after several changes in sky shading was "finalized" on the 29th of August. The die number was added September 2, 1929 and the stamp was issued Oct. 5, 1929, again a relatively short span.

The 8c value is a different story. I don't know where it was started but it was

"finalized" 25 Nov. 1929, received its die number (855) 20 Feb., 1930 and was not issued as a stamp until 1 April, 1931—a long time.

How many of you know that die and plate proofs of the 14c and 28 values, similar to the 1928 De La Rue values, were prepared in 1929 and 1930 but never issued. In fact two dies of each were prepared with the early one of each being rejected.

Unless you collect proofs you will be unaware of the "Color Trials" that were submitted for the De La Rue 1928 issue. Some four groups were sent for approval. They make an interesting study and I fear very few collectors would know how to separate the color trials from die proofs. It can be done and the results are a most satisfactory "page" for your collection.

The photographic "essays" used by De La Rue for preparation of their stamps from 1911 has some 21 essays of which only 6 were finally used to prepare stamps. The 2c value of this stamp has the same vignette as that used in South Africa 1c issued in 1910.

Without the proofs to study, all this "trivia" probably would not be known. It does something to the completeness of the study and the pleasure of your hobby to add this data to your pages. Proofs are fun — and scarce.

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