

The Proof Corner

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A friend of mine, Warren W. Scholl of Batavia, Ohio who conducts a bulletin type stamp sales organization wrote in his October issue.

"Market Comment: When will stamp collectors develop the same high regard for for proof sets that coin collectors have for coin proof sets. It just does not make sense that a complete set of Columbian Card proofs should carry a Scott catalog of slightly over \$100 when the same set of stamps will list at several times this figure. The proofs are scarcer and more attractive than the stamps and less burdensome to take care of. Just because stamp collectors have ignored proofs in the past, it does not follow that this will always be the case. Compare the prices that proof sets of coins bring against their regular counter-part and you will get some idea what potentially can happen to the few proofs of stamps that are still around."

To this I can only say Amen!

To bear this though out, the recent BNAPEX at Chatham contained many delightful and beautiful exhibits. They were well conceived and fully studied. The Blue ribbons went to those collections with proofs. Perhaps this may sound like braggadocio but still it's true. I was amazed too at the proofs other collectors had in their possession that they did not show — bring

them out fellas they do add to your collection. They make it complete.

I must pause for a moment to pay tribute to Sidney Harris who passed away on September 4th. His fine and detailed collection contained many proofs. It's a shame he will no longer be able to write to us about Newfoundland.

Regards to Narl Scales who is beginning to become interested in Proofs. A fine letter from G. Whitworth of Yorkshire, England asks me questions on Canada Proofs. I am weak here but I'll do my best.

He raised the question of the yellow plate proofs — They exist for Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland. In my opinion they were printed after 1870 and before 1880. I should guess they were made about 1878 or 1879. I am now working on this but have no definite conclusions at the moment. I remember seeing a notice in some trade publication in the early 1900 era announcing their appearance. Next time I'm in New York I'll try and find the volume in the Collectors Club. To me they are post contemporary and probably relate to one of the amalgamations.

It was wonderful to meet the many fine people at BNAPEX, to see their admirable collections and to delight in their fine presentations of new and scarce material. I do hope that next year I can be at Calgary. I shall try.

More around the corner

STAMP DESIGNS SUGGESTED TO RAISE CANADIAN QUALITY

by A. W. McIntyre

Many persons complain about the poor designs and dull colors of Canadian postage stamps but few do anything about it. However the faculty of architecture, University of Manitoba has offered several potential designs.

From a stamp designing project for senior students in architecture that produced 400 examples of which it was declared "that at least a dozen were as good as anything in

Canada yet," the faculty has forwarded several drawings to the Ottawa postal officials.

The professors expressed the hope that some of these will be put into circulation. The two shown here were used by The Winnipeg Tribune to illustrate its story of the project and the upcoming open house of the faculty of architecture.

One design marks nearly 100 years of