



Fig. 3

years. The crown of the first mace he used as Sergeant-at-Arms was made from a hub of a Red River cart.

I would be glad to hear of any other theories about this origin of the Fort Garry "M".

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## The Proof Corner

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### Walk Around The Corner With Me To The Land Of Rarity

One of the most delightful aspects of proof collecting is the exploration of the unknown. As there is no catalogue to guide the uninitiate, and very little written to help in identification, each new lot brings the thrill of expectation.

Poor lot descriptions add to the joy (and sometimes frustration) of receiving a new purchase. It is this attack on the unknown that excites me.

In the last few years, as I have learned to recognise the hallmarks of the engraver and the mechanical identities of the printer, more and more pieces fit into their proper place.

For instance — all final proofs of the later Perkins Bacon issues (1929 onwards) bear an index or locator mark (line) perpendicular to the middle of the long side

of the stamp. After approval the reversed die number is added. Any Perkins Bacon die proof without the index mark is a progressive proof. Any trimmed proof may be a progressive one, the final type, or one with the die number cut off.

From 1937 onward, two small + marks appear at a point removed from the long sides opposite the middle of the short end. These are the new type index marks. Re-worked early dies also bear these same marks in addition to the line.

Waterlow and Sons also used these + marks, but their proofs are identifiable by the readable die number.

De La Rue is a different story. Neither final proofs nor progressive proofs bear a die number or index mark. These proofs are identified by the smaller size of the die sinkage and close comparison with the stamp or other proofs. A difference in de-

tail can mean the difference between a progressive proof or the final one.

To the discerning eye die proofs can be found among lots of plate proofs. Many American Bank Note engravers kept scrap-books which were filled with trimmed-to-stamp-size proofs and plate proofs. It is too bad they cut them up so, but I can understand how full proofs would soon fill a book to overflow. I have discovered many die proofs thus, discarded among the common plateproofs — many times more valuable, but alas not as rich a find as a full proof.

This is why my proof pages are never noted in ink. There are too many changes and an inked page must be thrown away when a rare find is added.

Comparison has shown many plate proofs have been made at different times for different purposes. From new plates, from

reentered plates, to provide samples for a new color (Color Trials) to record plates in possession of a merged company (Post contemporary), etc. All of a sudden one pops up with a SPECIMEN overprint. Where do you put it?

Proof collecting is fun — and informative. Here is where the new finds are, the rarities, and the sometimes unexplainable oddities — until a piece comes along that ties the lot together and explains all.

Why not join me in this new land and open for yourself the book of thrills. Find for yourself the joy of a new discovery and the satisfaction of filling in that last “believed to exist” hole in your page.

You travel a new trail — alone and unguided, for the most part — but if I can help you, write.

More Around the Corner

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## P. D. Q.

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### Rollers Used As Precancels Part III

Brampton RP No. 241 was reported by G. E. L. Manley in **Maple Leaves** June 1955. R. B. Hetherington also wrote in that issue of information received from Mr. Phil Miller, Editor of **Canadian Philatelist**.

“The Canadian Philatelist is printed by the Charters Publishing Co. whose plant is located in Brampton, Ontario some 25 miles from Toronto.

“The usual procedure in mailing our magazine is for the printers to go to the Post Office and purchase the required number of 1c stamps and affix them to the envelopes and afterwards deliver them to the Post Office.

“As the issue was mailed about 10 days before Xmas and as most Post Offices at that time of year are extremely busy, the clerk at the Brampton P.O. merely ran a roller cancellation down the sheet of stamps so that when they were later delivered they would already be cancelled and ready for mailing. The Post Office at Brampton does not have precancelled stamps.

The total number of stamps thus cancelled amounted to 1175”.

The Director of Financial Services, P.O.D. wrote to Mr. Hetherington:

“The regulations of the Post Office Department are very explicit to the effect that no Postmaster may cause postage stamps to be precancelled and that the only authorized precancelled stamps are those issued by this branch. At the present time the only authorized markings are the horizontal bars printed on the stamps. For the stamps in question it appears the Postmaster did not have in stock 1c precancelled stamps and, therefore, he precancelled quantities probably in full sheets, with a cancelling roller prior to their being separated and affixed to the mail.

Two provisionals from one city who said that lightning doesn't strike twice.

Kingston, Ont. RP No. 120 has also been reported by Mr. F. W. G. Keane in red dated 1926 Nov and 1927 Mar (Precancels June-July 1965)

Ponqka, Alta. RP No. 85 was reported by Mr. R. L. Stone who advised: “Jack Goodall here in Edmonton has a full sheet of the 1c Green admiral that were roller cancelled at Ponqka (in red) for use as precancels.

Hetherington and Smythies are continuing their studies. Please report to them any Roller precancels not listed.