

Additional Data on the Stamps of Newfoundland

by Robert Pratt, BNAPS No. 1982

I — THE CORONATION ISSUE, 1911

This is the first of a series of three articles which will deal with the latest information on the Newfoundland issues contracted for by Whitehead Morris and printed by De La Rue. The early supporting information has been extracted from the fine series published in the *London Philatelist* during the months of October, November and December 1958 by Arnold Strange. (Further Information on the Stamps of Newfoundland 1911-1928) and the Notes on Newfoundland 1897-1921 written by Harry E. Huber in 1921.

The reason for bringing this information together has been the recent introduction into collector's hands of certain "record sheets", which came from the original files and reached the market through correct and proper channels. In addition, more information has been gleaned and is now in collector's hands than was previously available, so it is fitting that it be collated in one place.

In order not to stir up the perennial argument over what to call an imperforate, un-gummed or gummed sheet (the un-gummed sheets never had gum on them) these will be called "record sheets". There is no doubt that they came from the retained records and these sheets can be appropriately called by that name.

The 1911 Coronation Issue was a combination of the talents of De La Rue as engraver-printer for some stamps, and MacDonald as engraver with Alexander & Sons as printer for certain values. De La Rue handled the 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, and 10c values, while the 6c, 8c, 9c, 12c and 15c values were prepared by the second team.

THE DE LA RUE STAMPS

A beautiful, incomplete set of photographic essays, a part of the initial fifteen suggested values, still exists today. The De La Rue collection in their offices in London had a complete set in 1964. In addition, photographic masters of the six values prepared by De La Rue also remain. In this group there were two 4c essays, one of which was indicated as, and did become,

the 3c value while the 3c essay became the 10c value. It is interesting to note that the Kings Head vignette of the 2c value was an expanded version of the vignette of the 2½ d. Union of South Africa stamp of 1910.

Die proofs in black of all values exist on .0045 thin glazed wove paper as do plate proofs in the same color. In addition, there are also several sets of 13 die proofs of the 2c in various colors which were prepared in 1928 as color trials for the stamps of that issue. Most of them were trimmed to stamp size, but a very few exist with the full impression on the die.

Two perforated sets of record sheets of the 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c and 10c stamps survived. Each bore a series of marginal notes in manuscript which are of great interest. Before getting into the details of the notes, a summation of the printings as described by Arnold Strange is in order.

1c — Six or more possible printings (Dates shown are dates of ordering):

25 March 1911	3,000,000
28 July 1913	4,000,000
16 March 1915	3,000,000
11 January 1916	4,000,000
2 May 1916	600,000
22 September 1916	5,000,000
2c — Seven or more possible printings.	
25 March 1911	5,000,000
28 July 1913	8,000,000
15 November 1915	3,000,000
29 August 1916	2,000,000
22 September 1916	7,000,000
13 April 1918	1,000,000
23 August 1918	200,000
3c — One printing:	
25 March 1911	50,000
4c — One printing:	
25 March 1911	50,000
5c — Two printings:	
25 March 1911	500,000
22 September 1916	500,000
10c — Two printings:	
25 March 1911	10,000
7 June 1911	10,000

The inscriptions on the first set of sheets, with one exception, are all the same. They read "1 stamp color book", and just be-

neath "1 stamp DLR's collection". Obviously these can only have one meaning. The two stamps which were removed went into the record books of the De La Rue Company. In fact, they were in the De La Rue master collection. The one exception is most interesting because it dates the stamps

and because of the contents. It reads, in addition to the notes cited above, as follows: "1 Stamp Sir E.D. 28/7/11." This message is in a different color red ink and was done with a different pen, thus proving it was accomplished at a different date. (Fig. 1).



Figure 1



Figure 2

This date would postdate the shipment of the last part of the first order, which was required by "Wednesday, June 28". Sir E. D. could only have been Sir Edward D. Bacon, and the stamp, which showed the face of King George V, could only have been meant for his collection. A fitting recipient. The dates determine that these stamps were from the first printing as no further orders with the exception of the 7 June 1911 order for the 10c were received until 1913.

The second set of inscriptions again are all the same. They read "6 stamps White-head Morris Dec. 21/17." Why these were given to the contractor at this late date is uncertain. The blocks consist of all values printed by De La Rue. Obviously the 3c and 4c must be from the first and only printing. The 5c and 10c could be from the first or second printings of each, and the 1c and 2c from one of many printings. After I have discussed the imperforate "Record Sheets" we will be able to come to a conclusion about the 5c and 10c. (Fig. 2).

The imperforate "Record Sheets" are now considered. These consisted of full un-gummed sheets of the 1c, 2c and 5c. They are interesting because of two facts; (1) the stamped dates in the lower left corner of the sheet, and (2) the marginal notes on the full sheet of the 2c. In the top margin it reads as follows: "The paper shrinks this way of the sheet" with a double arrow the width of the stamps". In the right vertical margin it reads: "The way the paper travels from the machine," (the perforating machine?) with a double arrow the height of the stamps.

The stamped dates are as follows:

1c 16 October 1916 H.C.
 2c 22 April 1918 H.C.
 5c 6 Oct. 1916 H.C.

It is, therefore, apparent that the 1c and 5c were from the last printings of each, and that the 2c was from the next to last printing of that value. (Fig. 3).

What can be told from all of this?

Comparing the colors of the 5c, which I had noted came in two shades, it is apparent that the last printing is the lighter of the two. The two perforated blocks were from the first printing. The last printing of the 1c is in a definite shade of apple green, much lighter than the first printing. The late printing of the 2c is in a rose shade



Figure 3



Figure 3

of red, while the first printing is much darker.

I had also seen that there were two different shades of the 10c, both dark green but one darker. Comparing the colors of the two perforated blocks indicates that the darkest color came from the last printing of 10,000, and the lighter shade came from the first printing of 10,000.

The marginal notes on the sides of the 2c sheet also help formulate certain conclusions. One should note that the shrink of the paper was from side to side and not vertical. I carefully measured the gauge of the perforated blocks and the following table resulted:

	1st Printing	2nd Printing
1c	13.5 x 13.8	13.5 x 13.8
2c	13.8 x 13.8	13.7 x 13.8
3c	13.8 x 13.8	
4c	13.7 x 13.8	
5c (dark)	13.5 x 13.8	13.5 x 13.8 (pale)
10c (pale)	13.8 x 13.8	13.5 x 13.8 (dark)

It therefore appears that two perforating heads were used horizontally, 13.5 and 13.8, and that the vertical head was a constant 13.8. The catalogues call these 13½ x 14 and 14 x 14. It is interesting to note that the direction of paper shrink can have an effect upon the gauging of the perforations. Consider the 3c and 4c, which had only one printing, where the horizontal perforations measure 13.8 and 13.7. There does not seem to be enough evidence to allocate printings to perforations.

The blocks containing the inscriptions from these remainder sheets are undoubtedly unique.

THE MacDONALD-ALEXANDER STAMPS

The story about the Coronation Issue would not be complete without a mention of the 6c, 8c, 9c, 12c and 15c values, which were undoubtedly printed for Whitehead Morris by Alexander & Sons. Comparison of the engraving work on the die proofs and plate proofs of these values can only lead one to the conclusion that the work was performed by MacDonald, who also prepared dies for the Guy Issue and the 1911 Issue of Greece.

The die and plate proofs of this group are particularly interesting. Die proofs in black on board about .01 thick exist **without an identifying number** above the impression. This is the same thickness board used for the Guy Issue proofs. These are

very scarce. In addition, and scarcer, are trimmed dies proofs, **in color**, on thick wove paper. The 6c is red, the 9c green and the 8c brown—none of which are the issue colors. They could be color trials as the colors are the same as those used for certain Guy Issue proofs.

More intriguing and still undecipherable are the series of large die proofs, in color, of the 8c, 9c and 12c on thin wove, each of which has the inscription 2 over 18-23 stamped into the die above the stamp. Each die has a slightly different placement of the figures, showing that they were individually placed on the die. One can only conclude that this numbering was a job number or a die number placed on the die by the engraver.

The 8c die exists in a steel blue color, the 12c in orange red and indigo and the 9c in dark brown, (in an incomplete state) and in red violet (with the mss 'approved 9 cent') in the complete state. The incomplete state is identifiable by the fact that the shading in the upper and left outer border is very weak. In the approved state, these areas have been strengthened.

Two unique sheets of 100 plate proofs in black on yellowish wove stamp paper also exist. On the 8c sheet, the upper left (NW) corner of all of the stamps is broken, as earlier reported by the late Dr. R. Willan in *Maple Leaves* 1955. It is possible to prove from later plate proofs on .01 board, from known positions, that this was an initial state of the plate and that all the broken corners were corrected by hand re-entry. The 9c sheet can easily be seen to be from the incomplete state of the die, and therefore, was never used. It is a plate essay. Also it was so poorly entered that it would have been extremely difficult to properly clear it for stamp printing.

In addition, all values were plate proofed in black on .01 board in the final state.

The 15c value is known on stamp paper, imperforate, gummed and ungummed in slightly different shades. It was also proofed in issue color on thick yellowish board .009 thick.

The 6c and 12c are believed to exist in color of issue on stamp paper, imperforate and gummed.

In Arnold Strange's article, he clarifies the so-called "Aniline" stamp and explains that it came about through too much thinning of the ink. This article also indicates

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