

# *Additional Data on the Stamps of Newfoundland*

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## II—THE CARIBOU ISSUE, 1919

The first release of this series outlined the reference data and the reasons for these articles. In this article, information will be given for the first time on a recent offering to collectors of imperforates of this issue.

The Caribou issue was the complete product of De La Rue. The initial essays, made on March 9, 1918, were typical De La Rue hand colored photographic reductions. Three still survive, labeled 'A', 'B' and 'C'. 'A' is in bottle green with the numerals 5 below the head on an unrealistic Caribou facing right and the numerals 3 in all four corners and 'C' is in red with the Caribou facing properly to the left and the numerals 5 below the head and in mss 'approved'. 'A' and 'C' have the inscription 'guedeucourt' while 'B' is inscribed 'monchy.'

Die proofs also exist in black, red and brown for the initial master die. When the Naval forces objected that the 'Trail of the Caribou' did not properly represent them, a second master die (which exists in black and red) was prepared, changing the 'Trail' slogan to 'Royal Naval Reserve' and adding UBIQUE for the engagement. This appeared on the 2c, 5c, 8c and 12c values.

Color trials were only needed for the higher values as De La Rue was instructed to use the colors of the previous set for the lower ones. Color trial proofs were run off on the 1c plate for the 8c, 10c, 12c, 15c, 24c and 36c values. These scarce items exist singly, imperforate in the final colors of these stamps.

Master plates were prepared for each value, and the inscription of the engagement (where needed) and value were pantographed on each stamp.

The attached table, (Table I) showing the orders and the deliveries against them are relevant to the shortages that occurred at various times. They also indicate the slowness with which De La Rue sometimes-filled orders. As these were postwar times, the delays were probably caused by a tremendous increase in business and an associated lack of production facilities. Changes in the administration of the post office, which failed to make a decision on a new issue of stamps, in the summer of 1920, delayed action until late 1922. Poor requisitioning and delivery could also be a consideration.

The recurrent shortages were thus a result of many factors.

### SEE TABLE I

Not shown in the table are the following values for which one delivery of 50,000 each was received at the post office, 2 January 1919, except for the 6c of which 48,400 were sent.

- 6c Exhausted 10 Dec. 1919
- 8c Exhausted Mar. 1920
- 12c Exhausted 9 Nov. 1920
- 15c Exhausted 13 Feb. 1921
- 24c Exhausted Apr. 1928
- 36c Exhausted Still on sale in 1928

This brings to mind the rare "Prussian Blue" 15c variety catalogued by Gibbons. How did it come about if there was only one printing? This also causes one to wonder about the light and dark colored shades of the above values, which are noticeable but never commented upon. Were these due to poor mixing of ink or from other causes?

My thinking is influenced by the statement in Arnold Strange's article that De La Rue was advised by Whitehead Morris on 6 December 1918 that they might be required to furnish additional stamps for dealers in England. It should be noted that later it became common practice for the Newfoundland commissioner in London to sell stamps for the account of the government. This had already happened with the packets of Guy stamps. These stamps, therefore, probably would never appear on the books of the Post Office in St. John's.

At the time of the advice (6 Dec. 1918) the orders for the six higher values were increased by 250 sheets or 25,000 stamps. As we shall see a bit later on, this increase came after the printing of all of the values, except the 36c, had been completed. No doubt a second printing was necessary, and from this, the slight differences in color would occur. How many of the 25,000 were disposed of in London is at this time unknown. The "Prussian Blue" probably came from this printing. These 25,000 stamps of each were not reported as received by the post office.

How many printings were there of the other values? The number of orders can be ascertained, but because of the erratic filling of the orders, it is difficult to assign print-

**TABLE I**  
**CARIBOU ISSUE**

	1c	2c	3c	4c	5c	10c
Ordered 22 July 1918 ....	5,000,000	4,000,000	6,000,000	250,000	1,000,000	250,000
Delivered 2 Jan. 1919 ....	1,900,000	1,500,000	1,800,000	100,000	650,000	283,400
Delivered 24 Feb. 1919 ....	2,200,000		650,000			
Delivered 8 Mar. 1919 ....				75,000		
Delivered 24 Apr. 1919 ..	839,000	200,000	50,000	81,900		
Delivered 23 June 1919 ..		1,600,000	1,600,000			
Delivered 28 July 1919 ..		425,000	1,759,000			
	4,939,000	3,725,000	5,859,000	256,900	650,000	283,400
Ordered 19 Jan. 1920 ....	1,000,000	1,000,000				
9 May 1920 ..		30 April				
		Exhausted	2,000,000			
Delivered 10 May 1920 ..		200,000				
Delivered 31 May 1920 ..			85,000			
Delivered 2 June 1920 ....	952,000	696,500				
Delivered 10-19 July 1920			250,000			
Delivered 9-21 Aug. 1920		70,000	300,000			
Delivered 27 Sept. 1920 ..		1 Sept.				
		Exhausted	1,200,300			
	952,000	966,500	1,835,300			
Ordered 27 July 1920 ..		1,600,000				
Ordered 3 Sept. 1920 .....	2,000,000	3,000,000	4,000,000			
22 Oct. 1920 ....				100,000	1,000,000	
Delivered 4-22 Oct. 1920		500,000				
Delivered 3 Nov. 1920 ..		300,000	800,000			
Delivered 14 Dec. 1920 ..		85,000	350,000			
Delivered 30 Dec. 1920 ..	700,000		500,000			
				31 Dec.		
				Exhausted		
Delivered 25 Jan. 1920 ..	400,000			106,900	700,000	
Delivered 11 Feb. 1921 ..	600,000	600,000				
Delivered 7 Apr. 1921 ....	219,000	1,572,500	2,492,500		293,300	
	1,919,000	2,172,500	4,142,500	106,900	993,300	
N.B.—Hubers delivery figures end 7 April 1921						
Ordered 8 Nov. 1921 ....	250,000	250,000	250,000			
Ordered 11 Apr. 1922 ....				2,000,000		50,000
Ordered 31 July 1922 ....				2,000,000		
Ordered 19 Oct. 1922 ....	1,000,000	1,000,000	500,000			50,000
Ordered 21 Dec. 1922 ....	1,000,000	1,000,000				
Ordered 25 Jan. 1923 ....		Last Order				
		Cancelled				
Overrun .....		400,000				
Total ordered through						
22 Oct. 1920 .....	8,000,000	9,000,000	12,000,000	350,000	2,000,000	250,000
Delivered by						
7 Apr. 1921 .....	7,810,000	7,749,000	11,836,800	363,800	1,643,000	283,400
Total Ordered to						
25 Jan. 1923 .....	10,250,000	11,250,000	12,750,000	4,350,000	2,000,000	350,000
N.B.—Huber's delivery data ends 7 April 1921						
Strange's order data seems to be complete						

ings. A minimum number can be guessed at, but not the maximum. By study of the table, assumptions can be made up to 7

April 1921 when Huber's data ends. It is too bad that further information is not available now.



Figure 1

- 1c—6 Orders, possibly 8 printings, or more  
 2c—7 Orders, possibly 12 printings, or more  
 3c—5 Orders, possibly 10 printings, or more  
 4c—4 Orders, possibly 5 printings, or more  
 5c—2 Orders, possibly 3 printings, or more  
 10c—3 Orders, possibly 3 printings, or more

It is not known if the supplies for the London sale were taken from the above printings or from a special one for the purpose. The many color varieties from the 1c, 2c and 3c can now be understood.

A group of 15 imperforate, un gummed "record sheets" became available recently. All values were represented, and two sheets each of the 1c, 2c and 3c were included. All except 1 sheet of the 2c carried a date, stamped or written in the lower left corner. Several of the sheets fortunately also bore plate numbers. From these notes much can be learned.

1c—13 Nov. 1922, (2) plate number 2 shows (Fig. 1). 9 Jan. 1923, M/S printed 200 set.

2c—28 Oct. 1922. No Date. Plate number 1 shows.

3c—10 Nov. 1921, almost severed number appears as 3 left center margin. (Plate 3) (Yellow Brown). 1 Nov. 1922 (Purple Brown).

4c—31 August 1922.

5c—2 Nov. 1918.

6c—16 Nov. 1918.

- 8c—23 Oct. 1918.  
 10c—24 Oct. 1922.  
 12c—22 Nov. 1918.  
 15c—28 Nov. 1918 (Indigo Color). (Fig. 2).  
 24c—6 Dec. 1918, M/S left border opposite 3rd row "perforate this way".  
 36c—13 Dec. 1918. (Fig. 3).

The 5c, 6c, 8c, 12c, 15c, 24c and 36c sheets are thus from the first printings. All others are from the last or next to last printing of the value. Other perforated sheets were in the lot, but as they did not bear a date, they do not add to the story.

What does this tell us?

- (1) Printing of the first order was completed by 13 Dec. 1918.
- (2) The 1c, 2c, 3c and possibly the 4c were printed 200 up. Two plates were set side by side in the chase.
- (3) Plate numbers exist for the 1c, 2c, 3c and possibly the 4c.
- (4) By comparison with these dated examples, the colors of the known printings can be ascertained.
- (5) The odd plate numbers (1, 3) always appear in the left border outside the double border line at the middle of the plate. The even numbers (2, 4) appear in the same place in the right border. (Confirming Huber).



Figure 2



Figure 3

(6) Normally plates were locked in the chase so that the number appeared in the gutter (Plate 1 on the right—Plate 2 on the left, looking down at the Chase) but this did not always have to be the case.

Arnold Strange reported in his article that there were 4 plates of the 1c, 5 plates of the 2c, 4 plates of the 3c and 2 of the 4c. All the rest had only one. This is why the assumption is made that there exists a possibility of plate numbers on the 4c. Also, it is possible that the 4c was only printed in groups of 200 during the last two sizeable orders. This is probably when the second plate for the 4c was made. (April 1922).

Several interesting blocks of the 1c and 2c exist with manuscript notations in the margins. Two of them are from Plate 2 of each value, and bear the notation "1 stamp color book." These are probably from the first printing. The third block, of the 1c, bears the notation "1 stamp used as specimen for making of new issue." This probably is from one of the last printings and the new issue could have been the 1923 pictorial. (Fig. 4).



Figure 4

(Other Fig. 4 illustrations on next page)



*1 stamp  
used as specimen for the making of 5511*



*Stamp Catalogue*