

Some Reflections on the Earlier BNA PROOFS of the American Bank Note Co.

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(Second of two articles)

At the close of the previous article, the writer was exploring the theory that the trade sample sheets of 1864 were actually color charts used by the banknote company's salesmen.

I propose an alternative explanation: that management was under considerable pressure from influential people for free philatelic gifts or souvenirs. This fact is recorded many times; the National Banknote Company made presentation booklets of "fake" large die proofs for this purpose, and the American Banknote Company had given way to this pressure before.

What would have been easier than to give away sample-sheets for these requests? They were not security items. They had monetary value to the stamp dealers. I feel that they printed and reprinted such sheets from the "trade sample" plate time after time and the more variation of ink and paper the better. I suggest that all (or the vast majority of) these sheets were printed for this purpose and distributed in this manner. Nothing else makes sense to me.

Perforated Die Proofs

I believe these were made from the above sample sheets. (If anyone has multiples of any of the distinctive sample-sheet papers, please report them as it would disprove this theory.) It is not impossible there are perforated plate proofs — though anything seems possible to find in this area — but the colors and papers should identify them as plate proofs. I don't believe that multiples exist. Many of the identifying marks of the sample-sheet proofs are present on the perforated proofs — position dots, etc. However, many of them are missing as they may be trimmed off outside the perforations. Many, but not all, of the perforated die proofs show the position dots of the

trade-sample sheet. The inks and papers are not much help, as the perforates usually have very intense colors, with the papers much thicker than the non-perforated copies — as if special printings were made for the perforates.

As the layout of the sample sheets is not suitable for perforating, I believe they were perforated individually on perforating machines of the ABN Co. It is amazing that such artificial items are so sought-after, but they were probably made entirely within the banknote company's premises.

Goodall Die Proofs of About 1879

The Goodalls were certainly die-proof reprints and unofficial as far as the various governments were concerned, but how official were they with the Company? They may have been made clandestinely by employees, their production may have been authorized by an officer of the company for purposes of inventory, or they may have been made as "favors" for influential friends or customers. Let us consider the choices separately:

- There are 30 BNA Goodalls, more or less, printed in five colors each and, sometimes, black. There is a remarkable consistency in the color of the ink, indicating they were all made from the same ink batches. In view of the length of time necessary to produce all these items, it is difficult to believe that they were made as a private project after hours.

- The inventory is the currently accepted one. However there are certain objections to this theory. For inventory, a single black proof would be sufficient or even preferable as black ink gives the best engraving impression. Why would color trials be of

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RPO Cancels - Updated

The following is a list of additions to the supplement to the Canadian Railway Cancellations handbook, as of September, 1971. It was compiled by F. P. G. Shaw of Shawinigan, Quebec.

Serial	Route	Type	Dir'n	Period	Rarity Factor	Reported By
M-41A	Hal & Camp TR 11 Feb. 8 F. M. Quinn	22G		460	200	116
M-44E	H & C 60 Nov 20 R. Cooke	22G		400	200	116
Q-165I	Mont. & Tor. RPO	18		412-520	150	116
Q-171F	Mt. & Tor. 50 9 Nov. 66 A. J. Saunders	22H		412	200	116
Q-184D	Father Point Paquebot	12A		107-248	150	38
O-92B	Gue. & O.S. RPO	17		353	200	24
O-138F	Long & Wpg. RPO Tr. 106. Mar. 10/68 A. Janssens	22H		500	150	116
O-357J	T.L. & W. 220 J. J. Miller Jun. 16/67	22H		450	150	116
O-369A	Tor. & Mont. GT Ry.-10	13H	DE	90	200	116
W-57D	Hope & Van	17F		149	150	10
W-153H	Squamish Oct. 22, 1917 Clinton TPO	3A		135	200	32
W-160AF	Van. P.R. Run Jul. 14, 1914 Str. Prince George	3C		106	200	124
W-179-O	Winnipeg Division J. Nolan	12C		412	200	116
R-40B	GB & LE Ry	9A		37	200	24

CORRECTIONS TO SUPPLEMENT

N-87C read St. J. Lew & S.C., TPO
 M-104C Type is 4I
 M-114BE should be under DIR'N.
 Q-18B Transfer O-87 to this number
 Q-55D read type 5I
 Q-156A Reported by 116
 Q-156B Reported by 16
 Q-165H RF is 100
 Q-184A Lower case should be used
 Q-254A read Q-245A
 O-188A after COCHRANE add PRO

O-342D TOR. GUELPH O. SOUND
 172
 July 6, 1946
 T. A. PARKER Type 12A, Per 268, RF 200,
 Rpt by 16
 W-83H per is 252
 W-120I read type 6E
 W-161F use lower case
 R-26A is type 15B
 R-44B cancel P after G.T.

value for an inventory? They were hastily made; they were printed on irregularly cut pieces of wove paper impressed on ordinary card; the die numbers were usually below the wove paper directly on the card; sometimes the plate number was on the wove paper, sometimes half on and half off the same. If they were truly for inventory purpose, would there not have been 30 large die proofs in black with die numbers recessed on the card for filing purposes?

• Favors for influential people or friends were made, we know. Boggs prints some correspondence with the Canada Post Office dated 1865, regarding some envelope die proofs of a current issue that were being sold by New York dealers. "... we recognize this stamp as one of a few impressions

of the die given by us, as specimens, to friends or customers, some time ago. None of these specimens were printed on envelopes, but all on slips of paper similar to that enclosed in your letter". This satisfied the Canada Post office. They did not care as long as they were not being used as postage. I believe this to be the best explanation of the Goodalls. It explains the five colors, the limited printing of a few dozen sets, and the hurried production of the die proof (as it was the stamp impression that was wanted, not the die number). Furthermore, it could have been explained to high officers or shareholders of the company that these were inventory items.

To recapitulate, just what were the origins
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