

Newfoundland:

The surcharge varieties of the 3c provisional of 1929

BY GAYLE MAYO

On August 23, 1929, the Newfoundland Post Office issued a 3c provisional pending the arrival of another shipment of the regular 3c stamp from London.

One thousand sheets of the 6c value of the 1923 Small Publicity Issue were surcharged by the printing and publishing firm of D. R. Thistle of St. John's. Sheets of 100 were divided into four panes of 25 (5 x 5), and the sheet margins were removed before the stamps were surcharged.

The surcharge on the issued stamps was in red, with a spacing of 3 mm between "CENTS" and the bar obliterating the old value. Essays are known with black surcharges, with 3 mm and 5 mm spacings. In addition a proof of the complete setting of the surcharge form is known, in red on plain white wove paper.

Major reference works on Newfoundland postal history* record an inverted surcharge (75 copies or three panes), one setting variety, and three flaws of the surcharge form. Normally the "C" of "CENTS" is centered roughly under the "TH" of "THREE". However in positions 1, 15, and 23, the "C" of "CENTS" falls directly below the "T" of "THREE". This setting variety is, of course, constant. The recorded flaws are:

pos. 7: flaw at left of "C"

pos. 17: dot under right cross bar of "T" of "THREE"

E	C	H	H	H	
1	7	10	12	13	
H	T	H	N	H	H
14	17	19	22	24	25

plating - some positions

THREE
CENTS

pos. 19: dot in upper part of "H"

Of these three flaws, the one in position 7 is the only one that has appeared on every pane or block containing that position that I have seen. The other two are sometimes present and sometimes absent.

In addition to the three recorded flaws, I have seen a number of others:

- pos. 1: dot to right of "E" of "CENTS"
- pos. 10: dot in lower part of "H"
- pos. 12: dot at bottom of right leg of "H"
- pos. 13: dot in lower part of "H"
- pos. 14: dot to right of "H"
- pos. 22: dot in lower part of "N"
- pos. 24: dot in upper part of "H"
- pos. 25: dot in upper part of "H"

None of these flaws are constant. However, especially in conjunction with constant setting varieties, these flaws, where they appear, can be extremely useful in plating this stamp.

The foregoing information is based on a relatively small number of complete panes and large blocks. However, the evidence seems sufficient to indicate that previous listings are incomplete. I would be interested in information on additional plate flaws.

*Boggs, Winthrop S. *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Newfoundland*, Chambers Publishing Co., 1942, and *The Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps*, Vol. V. Robson Lowe Ltd., 1973.