

Squared Circle Roundup

Gordon Jarrett writes:

In the September-October issue under Excerpts From the Squared Circle Newsletter, there is a sub title on squared circles on the Map Stamp.

There is a report of a finding of a squared circle on the Map Stamp from Cornwall, Ontario, which had not been known before.

In checking my collection I have found a squared circle on this stamp, date of July 5, 1899. A photograph is shown here.

Mr. Jarrett first submitted the stamp [top], and later the other two examples. — Ed.



NEWFOUNDLAND— A SIXPENNY MYSTERY

N. L. Clifford-Jones of Mitcham, U.K., writes:

Without doubt the rarest of the first issue of Newfoundland (the scarlet vermillions) on cover are the sixpence and eightpence values. Only one cover bearing examples of each value seems to have survived.

In the case of the eightpence this paid no rate in common usage at the time and the eightpence is most commonly known bisected to pay the fourpenny rate to the U.S.A. or in combination with the threepence to pay the sixpence halfpenny rate from the interior to the U.S.A. The example known was sold in the Dale Sale and paid the double rate to the U.S.A. This eightpence is a relatively common unused value existing in complete sheets and multiples.

The rarity of the sixpence is, however, an enigma as this was the single letter rate to England at that time and yet the only cover bearing the sixpence stamp (a pair and a single) was paying the rate to Rome and was recently sold at the Cartier sale in London for £12,000. Pre-stamp material to England is common; two separate sixpence covers bearing the sixpence orange vermillion (2nd issue) exist to England as do many bearing the sixpence rose stamps of the third and fourth issues. The twelve cent rate introduced in April 1865 to England is common, rather more so even than the local 5 cent rate, although it is easier to find examples of the twelve cent red brown first issue than the chestnut which followed on.

The sixpence scarlet vermillion is also a very rare stamp unused proving that there was a ready demand for that denomination for postal use.

It may be that some reader of this article knows of a single sixpence scarlet on cover in which case I would be most grateful to

hear of it. However, it seems more likely that this will remain an inexplicable mystery.

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Topics invited Robert H. Pratt to comment on Mr. Clifford-Jones' observations. His reply:

There were several common usage rates involving the eightpence stamp at the time of its use. The rate to the U.S.A. changed from 8d sterling to 4d some time between 1 Jan. 1856 and 1 Jan. 1857. The stamps were ordered in 1855 in a letter to the Governor dated 31 August. Among the quantities ordered were . . . "United States, 8d . . . 7,050" thus proving the origin of the stamps.

On 1 January 1857 (the date that the scarlet vermilion stamps were issued) a British Postal Convention with France changed the rate to France through England to 8d sterling. Rates to other countries through England and France were additional. On 3 Sept. 1863 the rate to England by closed mail through the U.S.A. was reduced to 8d sterling. Thus there were many uses for the eightpence stamp throughout its existence.

The 6d presents quite a story. There were 5000 ordered and received. Only one cover remains as indicated by Clifford-Jones. This was the rate to England and most of the mail went to that country. The remaining cover was sent to Rome and the rate to Rome at that time was ½ stg. It is extremely doubtful that a Newfoundlander would overpay a letter by 4d stg. at that particular time. It is my feeling that the letter was sent properly paid at ½ with a pair of 6d (which on this cover are properly tied) and an added 2d which later fell off and was replaced with another 6d by someone who did not know the rate. The single 6d is not tied to the cover.

A single sixpence showing the proper use at the proper time has never appeared. This is indeed strange. Mr. Clifford-Jones should search the South Coast of England for one of these goodies.

The late Albert Perlin

With deep regret we learn of the death on January 19 of Albert B. Perlin, associate editor of The Daily News of St. John's, Nfld., and a keen Newfoundland philatelist. Col. Robert H. Pratt writes:

"Albert was the person who designed the air mail stamps of 1931, and also the featured speaker at our meeting in St. John's in 1972. He was the one person who knew Newfoundland history and in particular personally witnessed all of the early air mail flights that initiated in Newfoundland."

Among the first tributes were a lifelong friend, former premier Joseph R. Smallwood who described Albert Perlin as "one of the most dedicated, honorable and loyal Newfoundlanders I have ever known."

BEAVER CHATTER — PRAIRIE BEAVER

Stampless covers are a challenge

We still feel that a reasonably comprehensive collection of early stampless covers can be put together at modest cost. For example, at the November Maresch sale in Toronto there were some very high prices for 1859s, proofs, covers etc. However in this same sale there were a lot of DOUBLE CIRCLE Covers, twenty to the lot which went for \$290. Which is only about \$14.50 per cover in Canadian funds, approx. \$13.20 U.S. A lot like this would have made a wonderful start on a postal history collection of this material. Mind you these were not late stampless, but were all of the 1829-47 period.

There was another cover lot which we consider was a bargain for the lucky buyer. This contained twenty seven of the double split ring postmarks, all of the 1829-1845 period. It was sold for \$475 or about \$17.50 can. (\$15.90 U.S.) each.

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Ed Richardson's Admirals in Toronto

Ed's Admiral Collection will be auc-