

# NEWFOUNDLAND

## The Long Coronation Issue – 1937 –

### A Problem

#### PART 2



Figure 4

#### PERKINS BACON DESIGNS THE DIES

The first die to be designed was the one containing the vignette for the effigy of the King. The vignettes from three progress proofs in blue are shown in Figure 4. The basic difference between them is the amount and degree of shading around the head. The final completed die, known as Die #1214; is the lowest number Die in the Long Coronation series. (Figure 5) Cross marks on the die from which the right hand vignette in Figure 4 is taken are above and below rather than from side to side. These cross marks are indicators provided to the siderographer so that he may start his roller in the proper place on the Die or Plate.

An interesting recent development indicates that there were seven proofs in the group retained by the engraver. Lot 218 in the Phillips Auction held on 21 April 1983, states that each is dated in pencil. The photos in the catalogue show a late date of 23/4/37 on a Black proof with Die number and cross marks, and one early Blue proof dated 8/2/37 with the pencil notation "first proof pulled from original Die for touching up". There was evidently difficulty with this Die from the beginning. With this Die completed the base Dies could now be enhanced. The table gives the die numbers for the entire completed set.

It is obvious that the die numbers for the 1, 7 and 14 cent values could be any one of the three missing numbers. Numbers were usually

allotted in the order in which the Dies were completed and approved. Date marks on progress proofs of the 1 cent indicate work on them was done in early February 1937, while dates on the 3 cent show late March. The Three cent therefore was near the end of the line. If the King's Head vignette was not completed until April it would



Figure 5

DIE NUMBERS

| VALUE | DIE # | DESIGN                              |
|-------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| Blank | 1214  | New King's Head Vignette            |
| 1¢    | None  | New Codfish Motif                   |
| 7¢    | None  | Caribou from old 5¢ value           |
| 14¢   | None  | Newfoundland Dog from old 14¢ value |
| 10¢   | 1218  | Salmon from old 10¢ value           |
| 20¢   | 1219  | Cape Race from old 20¢ value        |
| 3¢    | 1220  | Map of Newfoundland, new design     |
| 8¢    | 1221  | Corner Brook from old 8¢ value      |
| 15¢   | 1222  | Seal from old 15¢ value             |
| 25¢   | 1223  | Sealing Fleet from old 25¢ value    |
| 48¢   | 1224  | Fishing flotilla from old 30¢ value |
| 24¢   | 1225  | Bell Island from old 24¢ value      |



Figure 6

have been difficult to meet a date of 12 May 1937.

The engraver started off with a soft iron die block, 10.8 by 7.0 cm in size. The first progress proof contained only the left vertical border with the inscription *POSTAGE* and 3, the outline *Map of Newfoundland* (with certain towns), a portion of *Labrador* and the *Compass Rose* above the map. It is important to note the construction lines for the top and bottom of the frame which extend way beyond the design area. (Figure 6) The next improvement was the addition of the *King's Vignette* from a roller made from Die 1412. This appears clear and not too sharp. (Figure 7) Thereafter the design was completed (border and shading). In the proof dated 25.3.37 the entire design is dark and the *Compass Rose* quite heavy. Note also the vertical construction line through the center of the *King's Vignette*. (Figure 8) After this was finished the entire design was progressively lightened, probably by burnishing. (Figure 8A) The marker crosses at left and right were then added, and the Die number 1220 (in reverse) at top left was punched in. On the Black impression the construction lines are still visible (Figure 9) It should be noted that an unnumbered die exists, upon which are engraved the three types of *NEWFOUNDLAND* used on the various stamps. (Figure 10)

Now it was time for the Plate. One was prepared with 100 replicas of the die impressed in it by rocking the roller into the soft iron. Subsequently it was hardened to take the wear of printing. It would seem, however, that this process was not done too well as the Plate would wear with use.

A number of stamps were run off, how many



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 8A



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11

we shall see later, and were perforated 14 Comb (Figure 11) and 14 Line (Figure 12) The Comb perforated varieties appear to be less fuzzy and therefore are presumed to have been printed first. The usage of this stamp was defined as being 'Cheques', which would not seem to call for a very big printing. Remember that 1,250,000

to 2,000,000 each of the 2 to 5 cent Coronation stamps had been ordered; it is assumed that probably only 1,000,000 stamps, or 10,000 pulls, of the 3 cent Plate were needed to satisfy the order.

*(To be continued in the next issue)*



Figure 12

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