

SYNOPSIS

The Colony of Newfoundland The Gilbert Issue of 1933

Purpose of Exhibit: This traditional exhibit examines the 14 stamps comprising the Gilbert Issue. It discusses designs and production of the stamps, showing proofs, stamps and the many varieties. It will also discuss the rates applicable to each denomination, and where possible show these rates on covers.

Exhibit Plan: Page 2 discusses historical aspects of the issue and notes on production. The exhibit is then organized into chapters, by denomination, beginning with the 1 cent and progressing through to the 32 cent stamp. Each chapter will discuss the origins and historical aspects of the stamps' design, noting designers and engravers. Die proofs in colours issued and trial colour die proofs in black are present in every chapter. Where they exist the different perforations are shown. Some chapters will also show items such as watermarks in different positions, Company perfins, imperf pairs, known varieties, and one of a kind items. Chapters will end showing the rates each denomination was used for and examples of these rates on covers where applicable. There is a separate chapter showing the "SPECIMEN" perforated stamps.

Observations: As this set was only offered for public sale for less than 5 months, dealers and auctioneers have often described this set as scarce. I would disagree and have found the set readily available. What *is* scarce are the many available or predicted varieties to be found within this set.

The die proofs are in the category of rare, as only a handful of complete sets are known.

Single uses of the stamps properly used on cover are rare and difficult to find, particularly higher denominations.

Until recently the only stamps catalogued as being perfed "SPECIMEN" were the 1 and 2 cent denominations. Walsh now lists all stamps as having been perfed "SPECIMEN". This exhibit contains examples of the perf of **all** denominations.

What's New: Since the last showing of this exhibit a very rare "AND" perfin has been acquired, and is *shown on cover* in the 4 cent chapter.

Items of Impact in the Exhibit: Naturally the presence of a complete set of die proofs on watermarked thin paper highlights this exhibit. There is also a complete set of the trial colour die proofs in black. Among other rarities is a large block of the 4 cent showing a dramatic misperf and a paper crease misprint on the 32 cent. A copy of the 8 cent brown-red is present. This variety was once listed in Unitrade as "100 thought to exist". Unitrade now claims "200 thought to exist". Still rare since this represents just two of the 4700 sheets delivered. All other known varieties are also shown. "AYRE" and "AND" perfins are present. The AYRE is scarce while the AND is rare and extremely rare on cover. **Red text or boxes frame items of rarity.** Proper use of the 1 cent used singly on cover is rare and examples are found in the one cent chapter. A rare single use of the 20 cent denomination is shown.

About the Exhibit: The exhibit was first conceived around 2010 when looking to do more to add to my Newfoundland collection. The first showing was at BNAPEX 2019 and was 32 pages featuring the colour die proof set. It attained Vermeil. Later that year and with a bit of tweaking it was awarded Gold at Novapex (regional). Over the covid period much more material was obtained including the black die proof set and a number of varieties. It was then completely revamped into a 48 page exhibit and in 2022 the exhibit was shown at the National level for the first time at Novapex where it received Gold. Earlier this year it received a Large Gold at Orapex 2023. There has been one dramatic addition since then resulting in the alteration of two pages.

Research: Considerable reviewing of material in the bibliography is reflected throughout the exhibit regarding the designs of the stamps, particularly in relation to the 20 cent denomination, where the image used is unrelated to Gilbert. Additionally, notes on production have been brought together through information sourced in the bibliography.

Bibliography :

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