

# BNA TOPICS

Vol. 1

May-June 1944

No. 3

**The First George V Issue—Pollock**

**1855-7 10d Blue Cartier—O'Meara**

**Newfoundland Scott 87d—Meyerson**

**First Printing 10c Small Queens Nov. 1874—Rankin**

**Canadian Notes—Twenty**

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## NEWFOUNDLAND

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This 9c myrtle green stamp depicting the Cabot Tower is the scarcest of the 1928 Publicity Issue. Some Newfoundland specialists believe that it will reach the \$5.00 mark within a few years. That is a matter of speculation. However, if you need this stamp for your collection you will not hesitate to buy at our prices.

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I think it pertinent here to ask has he dismissed the question of shrinkage in paper?

He no longer talks of paper and admits different impressions, what does he really mean by impression?

As far as can be ascertained no one calms any distinct variety in design in this die but a difference in the size of the stamp owing to faulty reproduction from the matrix to the plate.

As regards the contention that the difference is caused by the shrinkage in the paper one must bear in mind a great difference must necessarily exist in paper accidentally shrunk or stretched and that purposely worked on.

Also it must not be lost sight of that in the stamps of Ceylon the difference is in length only whereas with the 10d blue Canada the variation applies to the breadth as well as the length. The question might be pertinent as to why one paper should shrink one way only and the other paper both ways.

Mr. Jarrett in his very extensive and comprehensive work of 1929 "B. N. A." while quoting Mr. Brouse's article leaves one under the impression that Mr. Brouse attributed the differences in size to shrinkage in the paper. This is not so and further I do not think Mr. Jarrett meant to convey the impression. He undoubtedly desired to give credit to Mr. Brouse and this done instead of starting a new paragraph began a new sentence in the same paragraph and unintentionally lead the reader to believe the whole paragraph expressed Mr. Brouse's opinion.

Mr. Jarrett also gives a detail of the stock of Mr. C. J. Phillips in June 1928.

	Wide	Medium	Narrow
10d blue thin paper .....	5	9	12
medium paper .....	8	2	0
thick paper .....	12	0	0

To my way of thinking this as a very strong argument in support of the opinions of Mr. Brouse, Mr. Castle, Mr. Tapling and Mr. Thornhill. Mr. Young claims the thin paper is the most liable to shrink and yet the thin paper is the only one to exhibit the three varieties of transfer. If thin paper shrinks it necessarily becomes thicker and you would have no narrow stamps on very thin paper as we find.

I do not suppose this matter of size will ever be definitely disposed of and we are all entitled to our respective opinions as to how these different sizes of the same die came about but I cannot for one moment imagine these varieties if occurring from shrinkage of the paper the paper would shrink so very evenly in every instance, and after examining some hundreds of them I cannot do otherwise than side with the opinion of those who attribute the varieties to faulty procedure in the reduplicating from the matrix. It must be borne in mind here that the matrix is the term applied to the secondary or intermediate die used in producing duplicate copies of a single die. The original die is also sometimes erroneously termed the matrix. Here it must be borne in mind that two avenues of error exist 1° in the reproduction from the original die, concave or "intaglio" to the matrix—2° from matrix, convex or "cameo" to the plate.

I won't necessarily call them avenues of error but rather in Mr. Brouse's terms "engravers license" the uneven hardening of the matrix or of the plate would easily account for these differences in size. And rightly or wrongly I consider that if these differences were due to shrinkage there should be no narrow stamps on thin paper and the narrowest stamps are found invariably on the thinnest paper.

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# Newfoundland—Scott's #87d

by D. Meyerson

The Regular collector of Newfoundland who wants a comparatively inexpensive stamp to specialize in can find a very fertile field in the 1c Guy, Scott's #87d. Although all of the stamps in the sheet are interesting varieties, I mean to confine myself exclusively to the one variety that has attained a catalogue listing.

The Guy set, issued on August 15, 1910, was lithographed by the firm of Whitehead Morris and Co., on unwatermarked paper. All of the stamps were printed in sheets of 200, and it is the right hand pane in the case of the 1c, that bears the interesting variety.

Stamp #41, in the right hand pane has a marked transfer flaw, a crease extending from under the 0 of 1610, down to and cutting the line that bounds the oval containing the portrait of Guy. The crease has done away with the lower arm of the E of NEWFOUNDLAND so that it is spelled NFWFOUND-LAND.

Although Scott lists the variety as #87d, no mention is made of the fact that the variety exists in all of the catalogue perforation types. This stamp therefore offers a field for the specialist in Newfoundland stamps since it can be found in perf. 12, as originally printed, and also in the two subsequent perforations in which this stamp exists, namely perf. 12x11, and 12x14.

In addition, B. W. H. Poole, in his book on Newfoundland lists the variety as existing in perf 11½x11, a perf. variety listed by neither Scott nor Gibbons.

Furthermore, the S. A. Brown collection contained a piece that may be unique. The piece in question which sold at auction in 1940 for \$250.00, was a mint block of six, perf. 12x14, two pairs of which were imperforate vertically. One of these pairs contained the "NFW" error.

Gibbons lists the same type of piece as existing in the 12x11 perforation.

In conclusion we find that the following varieties are said to exist. Those marked with an asterisk I am certain of since I am in possession of the copies, or else I have seen them.

- I Perf 12\*
- II Perf. 12x11\*
  - (a) Horizontal pair imperf between
- III Perf. 12x14\*
  - (a) Horizontal pair imperf between\*
- IV Perf. 11½x11

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## KEEP IT UNDER YOUR HAT

This has been broadcast before perhaps, but it is of the utmost importance that these regulations be observed.

Don't ask service men overseas to handle philatelic matter such as securing APO cancels.

Don't publish addresses of service men showing APO numbers in conjunction with the name of their organization or unit.

This is official, coming direct from the Security Division of the Intelligence Department of the U. S. Army.

At a meeting of a local stamp club, an Army Officer, under orders, addressed the members present, and gave the above instructions. He pointed out that enemy agents have pieced together bits of information from here and there and have added them up to cause information of vital importance to reach the enemy. He also called our attention to what great lengths our ally, Great Britain has gone to in order to prevent any information from reaching Hitler. You will recall reading of the recent decision to stop even diplomatic mail from leaving the country. This at a time when it may incur the displeasure of neutrals whose friendship is needed. Important events are shaping up, thousands of mens lives are at stake, perhaps one of them close to you, and philatelists should realize that it is most important to win the war with as little loss as possible. Allowing information to seep through will cost lives unnecessarily. A great cost for a small thing—a postmark.

## CANADIAN NOTES

by Twenty

We wonder if Canada will ever follow Great Britain in having advertising in its stamp booklets.

Sentimentally my favorite stamps are the 1898 map stamp; the three pence beaver; the 1934 seal of New Brunswick stamp; the two cent stamp of the Royal Visit issue; and the eight cent grey Victoria of 1893—in the order named. What are yours?

Applicant J. A. Siverts is now an ensign. He reports that he picked up a number of good items in New Orleans. John is a nephew of Postmaster Coan of Minneapolis.

Never have I heard a Canadian called a foreigner. He is either a Canadian or a neighbor.

Collecting Canadian stamps with perforated initials is an interesting side line. We hope that a complete check list will be printed some day. Roy Woodhouse started this back in 1938 in the C. P. S. Official Bulletin, but according to his own statements it was not complete.

The Hoover Official Catalog of Canadian Precancels appeared in July 1938. It's a long time between catalogs.

Scribners have just published an interesting history of Canada written by stamp collector Harold B. Clifford of Boothbay Harbor, Maine. Pictures of Canadian stamps are found at the end of nearly every chapter.

Twenty cannot help but do a little plugging for the stamp Description Chart being circulated by the A. P. S.

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### FIRST PRINTING OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA 10 CENT SMALL QUEEN NOVEMBER 1874

by P. L. D. Rankin

Canadian Specialists have long known that the first printing of the 10 cent small Queen of November 1874 is an elusive and very collectible item.

Probably many collectors have passed up this stamp, thinking it was just a sun-faded copy, as it has all the appearance of having been exposed to strong sunlight. Such, however, is not the case. It is a regular issue as printed by the British American Bank Note Company.

Fred Jarrett, I believe, best describes it as "PALE FADED MAGENTA."

Howe states that The American Journal of Philately of November 20, 1874, carried a notice that Canada has issued a 10 cent Rose. In the next issue of the above magazine, it is described as having been printed in a "peculiar Pale Rose—we cannot call to mind any other stamp of this peculiar tint."

The above contemporary statement is proof that the stamp was printed and issued as we know it today.

As to its unusual pale color, I find it uniform in mint as well as used condition. I possess several original gum mint copies on which the gum is as though the stamp had been recently printed—that is, smooth and evenly surfaced which would hardly be the case had the stamp been exposed to strong sunlight.

I have a number perforated 11½x12, and I feel sure it is found perforated 12x12. The paper is a medium semi-opaque to rather thick opaque wove.

I trust this short description will enable collectors to identify the stamp. It is an item well worth having.

# Report of the Secretary

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- 58 Schrage, Max, 300 Central Park W., New York 24, N. Y.
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- 60 Trufant, Dr. L. H., Peoples Bank Bldg., Oberlin, Ohio.
- 61 Whiting, P. F. C. Edward J., 414 Eddy Street, Ithaca, N. Y.

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- Norbeck, Lt. (Jg) J. L., 4932 Morgan Avenue S., Minneapolis, Minn. (C) B. N. A. 19 Century, by Jack Levine, 1.
- Jamieson, Raymond A., Almonte, Ont., Canada. Can. Phil. Lit., by No. 7.

I am preparing for publication starting with the next issue of "Topics," the listing of members by their numbers to show those who collect the same type of material. All members listed will have expressed their willingness to exchange and/or correspond. Each phase of collecting will be noted and given a designating letter—A-B, etc. New applications, when published, will show the types of collecting by means of these letters. Remember the letters that designate your own noted interests and you will then be able to recognize the new applicant who collects material similar to your own. This manner of listing is being used to simplify recognition of a members types of collecting and thereby make it easier for you to realize with whom you can correspond and exchange.

## CANADIAN PRECANCELS

I have written to the various post office Branches in Canada issuing numbered precancels and shall have all such as are available. Any member desiring any of these, please write to me and request those you want at face. No discount on these, since I incurred postage and money order charges and the difference will defray such cost to me. J. Levine, Secretary, 510 Liberty Ave., Brooklyn 7, N. Y.

# Canada—1855-7 10d blue Jacques Cartier

by Lt. Col. John S. O'Meara

Up to 1894 no mention appears to have been made in the philatelic press as to the variation in length and breadth of the pence issues of Canada and more particularly of the 10d blue Jacques Cartier. The attention of the stamp collecting public was then first drawn to these differences when at a meeting of the Philatelic Society of London, Eng., now the Royal Philatelic Society, held on 23rd February 1894 a paper on the subject by Mr. W. H. Brouse of Toronto was read to the attendance by Mr. M. P. Castle. In this article Mr. Brouse deals with the 7½d green and 10d blue and Mr. Castle added a few remarks of his own embracing the ½d, 3d and 6d of this issue as well. When Mr. Brouse's paper was submitted to Mr. Castle the latter immediately went through the stamps of this issue in the stocks of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons Ltd. and of Mr. W. H. Peckitt—his investigations fully corroborated Mr. Brouse's findings.

In this paper I propose dealing with the 10d blue only and as a start cannot do better than quote Mr. Brouse's opinion as then expounded he says,

"Of the 10d blue there are three distinct varieties in design, viz:—

1<sup>o</sup> (a) the long and narrow 22¾x17½

2<sup>o</sup> (b) the long and broad 22½x18  
22¾x18½

3<sup>o</sup> (c) the short and broad 22x18

The stamp (a) comes on thin to very thin paper.

The stamp (b) comes on thick paper.

The stamp (c) comes on thin paper.

The (b) 22½x18 is full measurement and the 22¾x18½ is bare measurement. Mr. Brouse names the three varieties, Mr. Castle supplementing the measurements and paper.

The outside edges or ornaments are in all the cases the same, but the difference lies in the fact of the oval or frame around the head, having been, as the case may be elongated or contracted or sometimes widened out.

The extreme variation in length is about 1/16" and in width about 1/32", which is considerable in a postage stamp. I doubt very much if this happened through intention, but rather think that it is the result of what may be termed "printers license." However, whatever it may be the result is that there are three distinct varieties.

Here Mr. Brouse exhibited the three varieties and I note in the illustrations of all three the oval touches the outside line of the double lined frame at the sides, the break in the inner line of the frame measuring about 5 mm, i.e. this inner line ceases altogether over that length so for the purpose of my paper I will call these stamps die I as later on I propose showing that in addition to the differences in the size of the stamps printed from this die I that another die of this stamp existed and stamps were printed from it.

Mr. Brouse continues, "It will, I think, be found that the earlier one of these is the long and narrow, on thinnish paper then the long and broad (which is the most common), on thicker paper; I have for a long time known of the above differences, and at first thought it only an optical delusion, owing to some of the copies having had their sides closely trimmed, but on closer observation the distinct differences as I have mentioned were manifest."

Mr. Brouse here goes on to state he has noticed slighter variations in the 6d and 7½d.

Mr. Castle who read the paper, then, as I have previously mentioned states he has verified slight variations in the ½d and 3d as well as the 6d, 7½d and 10d already noted.

As I am confirming my paper to the 10d only, there is a remark of Mr. Castle's that is more than illuminating regarding these stamps when he states:

"I have examined and measured some forty copies 10d blue, including a strip of three, as also a proof on very thin India paper, which corresponds exactly in measurement with Variety (b) on the thick paper (22¾x18½). It is obvious that to be absolutely accurate beyond ½ mm with an ordinary gauge is hardly possible." Personally, in dealing with the measurements I quote I have used a very fine caliper and checked every measurement over many times

and I may say I quite concur with Mr. Castle in that it is nearly impossible to be accurate beyond  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm.

Mr. Castle cannot see that the differences are to be accounted for by shrinkage in paper in view of the 10d proof on thin paper being on all fours with the ordinary stamp on thick paper.

When Mr. Brouse's paper had been read discussion ensued and Major Evans suggested the differences were due to shrinkage in paper, in the case of these stamps, the extreme variation was about 5% and he claimed in experiments he got a shrinkage of 8% in damping and drying wove bank paper. Mr. Bacon agreed in this view as he said he could not accept the explanation of two dies for the stamp. Other speakers thought the variation of the shape of the oval in the 10d from an elongated oval to a near approach of a circle, almost too marked to be due to shrinkage of paper.

Mr. Bacon is the first person to raise the question of two dies as it must be remembered that neither the author of the article or his interpreter, Mr. Castle, raised this point, their contention being that the difference arose in the transfer from the matrix.

So as to allow you to form your own unbiased opinion on the subject of the difference arising from shrinkage in paper or otherwise, I will diverge and revert to the early Ceylon stamps a reference list of which was published by the London Philatelic Society about 1874 when it was noted that these stamps of 1863 on unwatermarked paper were generally 1mm shorter than the later issue on watermarked C & CC paper although the engraved dies were identical. Major Evans found some over  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm. shorter which he attributed to shrinkage of paper and years later applied to same argument when the question of the Canadian 10d blue came before the London Philatelic Society. Still on the subject of these Ceylon stamps, Mr. T. R. Tapling, probably the greatest philatelist and student in philately of the 19th century writing in "Le Timbre Poste" of that day, claims the difference cannot be due to the shrinkage of paper because the stamps have all shrunk evenly and attributes it to some defect in the process of making the plates.

He reasons thus:

"The stamps of every value were identical in type. They were engraved on steel, I think by Perkins, Bacon and Co., each stamp by a process of reduplication being reproduced from a matrix; the plate was then hardened for printing. In consequence there is no variety in type, the engraved lines in the short stamps correspond to those in the long ones, though slightly contracted.

"In my opinion it is more than probable that the difference in length is attributable to some slight defect in the procedure of reduplicating the plates from the original matrix."

Mr. Clifton A. Howes in his "Canada," 1911, goes very extensively into the matter of these Ceylon stamps, when dealing with the variations in size of the 10d blue Canada, and to throw every possible light on the subject quotes at length from various authorities and I will now reproduce the two principal conflicting opinions that have not already been quoted in this article.

Mr. W. B. Thornhill writing in 1889 on these Ceylon stamps supports Mr. Tapling's theory, which also appears in Mr. Howes', that the difference is attributable to some slight defect in the procedure of reduplicating the plates from the original matrix.

Mr. Howes then proceeds to destroy the contention of these two gentlemen by supporting the opinions of Major Evans and Mr. Frank C. Young. Major Evans' opinion and experiments I have already alluded to and now Mr. Frank C. Young, who was in the printing business, also experimented, and with success, on stretching paper similar to that on which these stamps were printed and Mr. Howes considers these experiments "settle at once and for all the reason of the three distinct varieties in design of Mr. Brouse."

Mr. Howes, after making this declaration when giving a reference list of these stamps—states as follows:

"1855 Jan. thin wove paper  
10D deep blue, Prussian blue  
wide impression  
narrow impression  
double strike

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I regret that I cannot meet each new member personally, or that we are unable to get together at meetings, but, the Society is pleased to have you on its roster. Through the medium of "Topics" and correspondence among members, we shall be in close contact with one another. One method of getting material will be through your use of "Classified Topics Column," another by promptly accomplishing and returning the card sent out with the last issue of "Topics."

The idea of having an exchange circuit operated by the Society has been tabled due to present conditions.

The Secretary will contact, and invites volunteers to act as regional representatives to foster local group meetings.

Do not fail to suggest a fellow-collector's name, also your ideas so that we can serve you better.

## SIR HUMPHREY GILBERT ISSUE

by #3

Newfoundland's now famous stamp issue of 1933 is listed by Scott under numbers 212 to 225 incl. Perforations are given as 13½, and 14, but no indication as to which stamps bear either or both perforations. To date I have the complete set perforated 13½, but have been able to find only seven values perforated 14, viz: 217, 219, 220, 221, 223, 224 and 225.

If all values exist in both perforation varieties, it would be possible to have two Gilbert sets for future collectors of Newfoundland to hunt for.

The writer would appreciate hearing from others who have found values other than mentioned perfed 14.

### CHECK LIST:

Scott #	Perf.	
	13½	14
212	x	
213	x	
214	x	
215	x	
216	x	
217	x	x
218	x	
219	x	x
220	x	x
221	x	x
222	x	
223	x	x
224	x	x
225	x	x

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### EDITOR'S PAGE

#### Catching up with Father Time

You may be a little puzzled by the double date on this issue of "Topics," so a word of explanation. It seems that your committee was a bit more ambitious and anxious than practical in starting the publication of "Topics." We got off to a late start on number one, remained tardy on number two, but from now on, "Topics" will reach you with a fresher looking date. The regular routine will not have to be disturbed this way, and, everybody will be happy, we hope. For the July number, get your copy in before June 15th, and thereafter before the 15th of each and every month for the following month's publication.

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Mr. Pollock is again with us this month with an article that should prove to be of great interest. Urgent out of town business prevented Mr. Pollock from contributing his article in time to make the April number.

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If you know a collector interested in BNA send in his name and address. We will forward to your friend a sample copy of "Topics" with an application blank. Your name will appear on the blank as recommender. A limited number of "Topics" is reserved for this purpose.

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With this issue you will note a third display advertiser, whom we all welcome to our modest but growing list of patrons. Thanks, Mr. Holmes, of Victoria Stamp Co., for your contract.

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The BNAPS notes with regret the passing of Eugene Klein. Mr. Klein, as our readers know, was an outstanding philatelic figure for a number of years, during which time he made a host of friendships. His death will be felt as a great loss to all of them.

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No. 32, our own A. L. McCready, publishes one of the nicest little philatelic magazines extant. He calls it "Popular Stamps," a name well chosen, and if you send him the next half a buck you can spare, you too will agree that it is a good investment for a whole year's stamp reading. His address: Cobden, Ontario, Canada.

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Always mention "Topics" when writing to advertisers. It helps them and BNAPS

# The First George V Issue

by F. Walter Pollock

I haven't my Bartlett before me, and so I can't give the quotation verbatim, nor acknowledge the authorship, but it runs to the effect that error, when once it has appeared in print, is much harder to suppress than truth.

Philatelically, there is probably no better illustration of the truth of this statement, than the Die A and Die B theory advanced in connection with the series of stamps issued by Canada from 1912 to 1928, the first Canadian design to depict King George V. The theory has more lives than the proverbial cat; strike it down in one place, and a little later it shows its ugly head somewhere else. It has appeared in the pages of otherwise reputable and reliable catalogues; it has been foisted upon unsuspecting readers under the most dubious circumstances, as when an English publication alleged it to have been reprinted from Mekeel's and written by B. W. H. Poole, whereas Mekeel's never had printed it, and Mr. Poole was not the author.

It must have originated with some would-be student, unaware of the most rudimentary and fundamental rules of philatelic research—and with no knowledge of engraving and printing from recessed plates. Specifically, reference is made to the horizontal shading lines in the corner spandrels of the design; if these horizontal lines are joined at their outer edges by a vertical line, the stamp is from Die B, while if the vertical lines are absent, Die A is involved.

The fact of the matter is that the vertical lines were present on the master die, and on the working die for each value—but on most of the values, the line was cut too weakly, and soon wore off the plates. In later years, the line was restored, generally by plate re-touching, although new dies were prepared for a couple of the low denominations. Only in the case of the 20c stamp does it appear that the die may have been re-cut, from which a new transfer roll was taken in order to lay down Plate No. 9 of that value.

Where our theorist erred is in the fact that, when gathering thousands of used stamps for study, he failed to realize that mere quantity meant nothing unless the accumulation was chosen to reflect all periods; that is, to contain dated copies from the earliest days to the time of his studies. But no—these stamps were not saved in the early days when there were no varieties to look for, and little interest in research on current stamps, but in the later years, after plate wear had established itself, and been corrected.

If one examines copies used in early 1912, the line will be found in all cases, for then it had not had time to wear away. How confusing a first day cover must be to one who relies on this theory, because the stamp on such a cover would have all the appearance of having stemmed from Die B!

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## CLASSIFIED TOPICS

For members only. Rates 2c per word. Min. 15 words per ad. 500 words at will \$4.00. All ads payable in advance. Scotts numbers used unless otherwise specified.

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**WANTED—Newfoundland pre-stamp and stampless covers. Also Newfoundland Postage Paid Provisional cover handstruck in green Sept. 1920. Send priced net. Prompt replies assured. Dan Meyerson, 765 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn 13, N. Y.**

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**WANTED—Early Canadian Proofs and Essays. Submit or describe, with lowest cash price. Alexander Hyde, 884 Brooklyn Ave., Brooklyn 3, N. Y.**

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**WANTED: CANADIAN PRECANCELS; DOUBLED AND INVERTED VARIETIES. Forward with your price or preference in exchange. J. Levine, 510 Liberty Ave., Brooklyn 7, N. Y.**

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## CANADIAN PLATE VARIETIES

No.		Price
96a	½c Quebec major re-entry block .....	1.50
144a	5c Confed. dot in ball of 5, block of 9 .....	1.50
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181a	2c red, cockeyed King, strip of 4 .....	2.50
182a	2c brown, cockeyed King, strip of 4 .....	1.50
191b	3c on 2c, extended moustache, block .....	1.25
191c	3c on 2c hunched 3 variety, block .....	.75
192a	3c Conf. broken E, plate no. block of 8 .....	1.00
203a	20c Regina, broken X variety plate block of 8 .....	4.00
208a	3c Cartier wide gutter var. block of 8 .....	20.00
211a	1c Jubilee weeping princess block of 6 .....	6.50
211b	1c Jubilee cracked plate block of 8 .....	3.00
214a	5c Jubilee dash in A, block .....	1.50
216a	13c Jubilee shilling mark var., block .....	4.00
216c	13c Jubilee, hairline between stamps, block .....	2.00
217a	1c 1935 colour smear in scroll, block .....	.25
218a	2c 1935 mole on forehead, block .....	.50
226a	50c 1935 major re-entry, block .....	6.50
233a	3c 1937 creased collar, block .....	.75
C5b	6c air 1935 moulting wing, block .....	1.50
C5c	6c 1935 hairline in 6, block .....	1.25

## NEWFOUNDLAND CONSTANT VARIETIES

	2 Cent	Block
250A	no tail on 2 .....	2.00
250B	Dot instead of tall on 2 .....	1.50
250C	Broken T .....	1.25
250D	Raised surcharge .....	1.00
	<b>4 Cent</b>	
251A	CENTL variety .....	3.50
251B	Dot in C .....	1.00
251C	Broken T .....	1.00
251D	Raised surcharge .....	.75
251E	NT joined .....	1.00

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