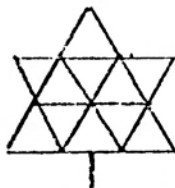


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NEWSLETTER
Number 3, October 1981
by Murray Freedman and
Douglas Irwin

On Friday September 25, 1981, three members of the Centennial Definitives Study Group (Bob Prince, Douglas Irwin and Murray Freedman) travelled to Ottawa to attend the BNAPS Convention. We enjoyed the activities, exhibits and bourse at the convention.

We met with Larry Paige, co-ordinator of the BNAPS Study Groups to discuss our study group being officially recognized as a BNAPS Study Group. Larry was very helpful by giving us a lot of tips about the successful running of a study group, and he agreed to recognize our group as an official BNAPS study group.

At present, our current list of study group members is twenty-nine. We have decided to publish an average of six newsletters per year. We also decided that an annual membership charge of \$6.00 should be paid by each member of the study group to offset partially the cost of the newsletter, personal correspondence, etc. We would appreciate receiving your cheque made out to Douglas Irwin.

In Ottawa, we met with Mike Street, the new editor of BNA Topics. He was very enthusiastic about our regular Centennial articles in the Topics. He promised to continue to publish our articles, and to give us a front cover, in the near future. He was most apologetic about some of the problems encountered in reproducing some of our photos. We hope that this situation will be rectified in the near future.

On Saturday September 26, 1981, the Centennial Definitives Study Group held a two hour seminar under the chairmanship of Douglas Irwin at the BNAPS Convention. More than twenty BNAPS members attended the seminar. Considerable interest and enthusiasm was expressed by everyone attending the seminar. We convinced J. Paul Hughes (from Keane and Hughes "The 1967-73 Definitive Issue") to attend our seminar. Useful contributions were made by many people attending the seminar. We were grateful to all participants for their questions and comments (especially to David Gronbeck-Jones and Leopold Beaudet).

A number of different topics was covered during the two hour seminar. Since we did not keep notes during the seminar, we will discuss only some of the salient points made.

Regarding 459iii and booklet #59b, we continued to question whether this variety exists with both fluorescent orange and fluorescent red inks. The consensus of opinion was that certain varieties that appear to be printed with fluorescent red were due to different paper shades rather than due to different shades of fluorescent ink. Doug Irwin showed the group a copy of 459iii(?) sent to him by William Muttera,

which looked like 457 under an ultraviolet lamp.

We questioned whether there exists a copy of booklet #53 corresponding to booklet #52a (Centennial cover with Cameo 5¢ pane). We were told that a Centennial cover with Cameo 1¢ and 4¢ panes has been seen, but it is thought to be a fake. We showed a copy of booklet #53 with a Cameo cover containing Centennial 1¢ and 4¢ panes. This variety (2 copies) was found in Montreal by Dave Bartlet. It was sold to him as two copies of booklet #53. Nobody attending the seminar had seen a copy of this booklet. The booklet does not appear to be a fake. The two Centennial panes were still glued to the Cameo outer booklet covers.

We questioned whether 459biii is a real or faked variety. Gronbeck-Jones reported that he has found about 25 used copies of this variety, in a large unsorted mixture of Centennial stamps. Some of these stamps had town cancels from Manitoba. He also reported on one copy on cover with one edge of the stamp not stuck to the cover still showing part of the original gum.

We discussed the numbers found on the top selvage of booklet #58. Leopold Beaudet suggested that these numbers were BABNC security printing numbers, one number occurring on each complete sheet of booklet panes. A different number should be on each successive sheet. During the BNAPS Convention, Doug Irwin found a similar variety on booklet #59. Gronbeck-Jones reported seeing all the numbers on this variety on the 6¢ black booklet varieties. A search of the #59, #62 and #65 booklet varieties in Toronto failed to yield additional copies with numbers on the selvage.

We discussed the occurrence of luminous-number overprints on Centennial stamps (Keane and Hughes, page 58). Keane and Hughes show a picture with the overprint "9959". We have two mint copies of 459ii with an overprint of "5955". We have also seen this variety in a 458 used stamp. It was discussed at the seminar that a wealthy collector has Centennial stamps with at least five different luminous-number overprints. The feeling was that these items were probably faked.

We discussed the "PVA Gum Enigma" (BNA Topics, Vol. 38, No. 1, page 37). It was felt that 463iv plate 3 was probably a weak plate, and that plates 1 and 2 were probably then reused for the 463iv and 463v varieties. Gronbeck-Jones reported that a stamp dealer in Winnipeg purchased a matched set of 463iv plate 3 in a sealed Post Office envelope. When he opened the envelope, all 4 plate covers had PVA gum, but one plate corner was plate 1 while the other three were plate 3. This variety was not due to a paper fold-over like the two varieties shown in our BNA Topics article. We also discussed whether plates meant to be removed by the printer for field stock were scratched by the printer. We have examples of scratched and unscratched plates. No decision on this matter was made at the symposium. Doug Irwin is attempting to resolve this matter by writing to the printer. Participants at the seminar were not too optimistic about receiving this type of information from the printer.

We questioned how we can determine if booklet #63a is real or a fake. We were told that the additional horizontal perforated gutter should lie exactly on the centre-fold, and the size of the additional perforations should be exactly the same size (corresponding in diameter to the diameter of a standard paper clip) as all of the other standard perforations. I examined a known faked copy of #63a. The gutter perforators were not on the centre-fold and those perforators were smaller than the other standard perforations. In contrast, another copy of booklet #63a had the additional horizontal perforated gutter on the centre-fold and all perforations were identical and the end of a paper clip exactly fit through all perforations.

We would appreciate hearing your thoughts or opinions on the above or other similar matters. We would also appreciate receiving your cheque for \$6.00 to show your sincere interest in our study group.

Please don't be discouraged if all of your contributions don't appear in the very next newsletter. We do not know what the volume of contributions for the newsletter will be, so until this becomes evident, some information has to be saved for future newsletters. Remember, OUR newsletter needs CONTINUAL contributions of information and queries.

A list of paid up members of the study group will be included in either the first or second newsletter of 1982.

*We recently received the September-October copy of BNA TOPICS, the printing quality of the journal is certainly different, and our six photos were certainly of inferior quality.