

NEWFOUNDLAND PLATE NUMBERS 1897-1947

Purpose: COMPREHENSIVE STUDY of the NUMBERED PRINTING PLATES of Newfoundland postage stamp issues utilizing original research and discovery.

Background: detailed study featuring only those issues having printing plates with a numeral engraved into the outer edge of the plate.

Research Criteria: aspects of research and discovery cover six study areas:

- (a) Unreported plate numbers
- (b) Evidence contradicting the reported printing plate size
- (c) Undetermined and unknown multiple perforation sizes (S.G. Instanta Gauge 9.8-18.2 used)
- (d) Different plate format styles utilizing same plate number
- (e) Plate numbers found on printing errors
- (f) Usage

Research Study Discoveries:

1897 Royal Family: literature does not record plate numbers for the ½¢ value and states 1¢ value does not have plate numbers; reports incomplete printing plate size for the ½¢, 1¢ and 3¢. *Discovery copy evidence is presented.*

1919 Caribou: literature states plate 1 does not exist for 1¢ value. *Presented is contrary discovery copy evidence.*

1923 Pictorial: literature states print sheet was 100 subjects. *Contradicting discovery information is provided with usage.*

1929 Publicity: literature lists some plate numbers and perforation size. *Presented are discovery copies of unreported plate numbers and other perforation sizes.*

1932 Resources: literature lists some plate numbers; perforation size and printing plate size. *This study shows discovery items for unlisted plate number varieties and errors; printing plate size correction; format styles of the plate numbers; different perforation sizes and usages.*

1938 Royal Family: literature does not list plate numbers existing on plate proofs; utilization on mail of stamps with the plate number still attached be it from any issue is nearly nonexistent. *Plate numbers existing on plate proofs are shown; usage is demonstrated.*

1942-49 Resources: literature lists only one perforation size for this issue; makes no mention of plate format styles or some printing errors; does not report existence of some plate numbers. *Discovery of three new perforation sizes; five different plate styles; printing errors and new plate numbers.*

1947 John Cabot: *Discovery evidence showing the unreported development of different plate formats; plate numbers on errors.*

Difficulty:

Where used, M represents in thousands the number of sheets produced that would have had plate numbers. Considering the quantity of sheets produced having plate numbers attached to them, a market search will show that very few plate number formats left remaining. The plate number examples shown are often the only ones remaining or are the original discovery items. *The presence of plate numbers used on mail is quite noticeable by their absence; usage is practically nonexistent.*

Bibliography:

Prior research by:

1. Winthrop S. Boggs, *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Newfoundland*, 1942.
2. Robson Lowe, *The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, Volume V, North America*, 1973.

3. John Ayshford, *The Last Stamps of Newfoundland*, 1978.

The "Newfoundland Plate Numbers" articles by John M. Walsh in *BNA Topics* generated much controversy and discussion.

- Vol. 44, No. 5, Sept-Oct 1987, pp. 18-20
- Vol. 44, No. 6, Nov-Dec 1987, pp. 26-28
- Vol. 45, No. 1, Jan-Feb 1988, pp. 25-27
- Vol. 46, No. 1, Jan-Feb 1989, p. 9
- Vol. 46, No. 5, Sept-Oct 1989, p. 7
- Vol. 46, No. 6, Nov-Dec 1989, p. 6
- Vol. 47, No. 3, May-June 1990, pp. 8-9
- Vol. 48, No. 3, May-June 1991, pp. 22-23
- Vol. 50, No. 4, July-Aug 1993, pp. 12-13

Research has been updated in award winning *Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue*.
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