

## THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER

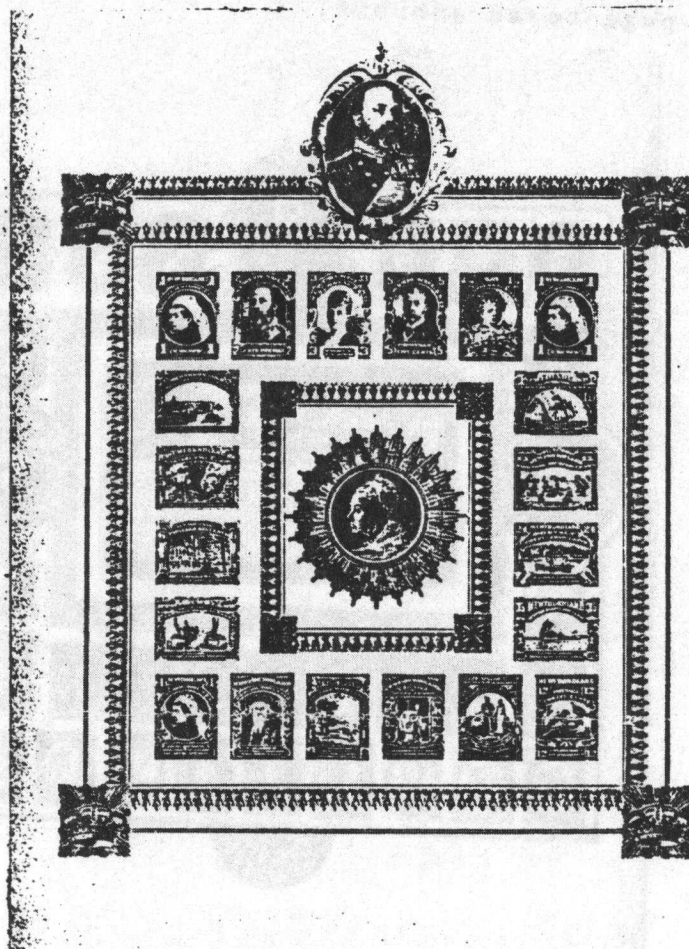
of the Newfoundland Study Group of BNAPS

Number 19

September/October 1988

### AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY ARCHIVES

A very interesting sale was held Wednesday, 28 September 1988, in New York at the auction house of Christie, Manson & Woods International. The entire sale consisted of student compositions from the archives of the American Bank Note Company.

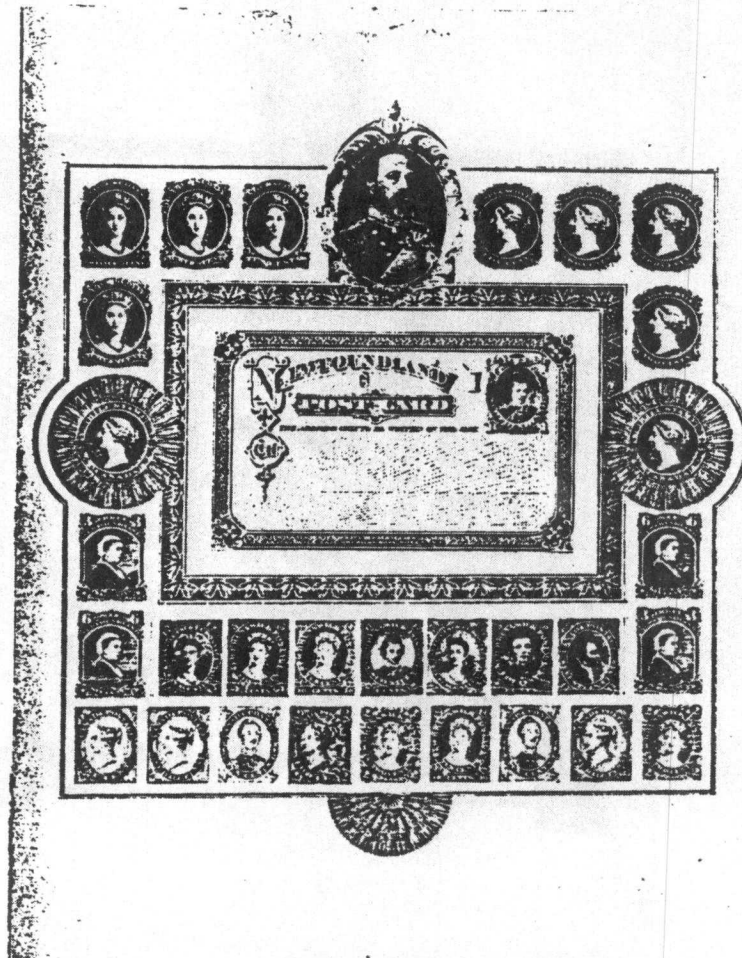


Victoria as the widowed Queen is the central portrait in slate with a matching sunburst surround. At the top is a slate portrait of Edward VII as Prince of Wales, in a blue foliate border. The four corner vignettes are the Imperial Crown mounted on a rayed square, all in indigo.

Two issues are represented in the stamp proofs. The set of fourteen pictorials issued in 1897 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of Newfoundland are in the issued colors. The second issue is the six Royal Portraits of 1897 and 1898, also in the issued colors.

The lathework double frame is indigo.

In the last years of the 1890's apprentices in the bank note company's art school took prints from various plates in the archives, cut them into pieces, and mounted them along with decorative borders into various compositions. The compositions were bound into two volumes which remained in the Chairman's office until recently. Three of the compositions used Newfoundland postage stamps and one used a post card. The compositions are very striking. The composition using Cabot and Royal Portraits of 1897 is very attractive and would look great as the first page to an exhibit.



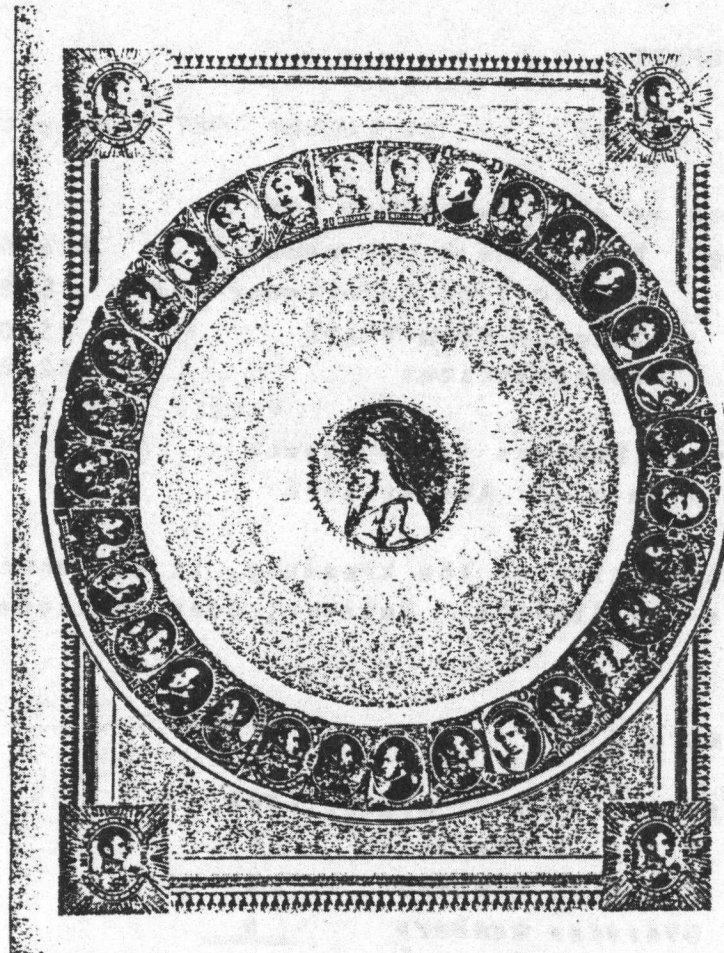
At top center is a portrait of King Edward VII as Prince of Wales, in gray with a carmine foliate frame. In the middle of the design is the Newfoundland 1c postal card showing the Prince as a boy in Highland costume. At each side is the vignette portrait of young Queen Victoria in violet, with the legend 'Bill Stamp/Canada' and a rayed surround.

The stamp proofs shown are Canada 1857 7½d Green, 1858 ½d Rose (two), 1859 1c Orange, 10c Orange (two), 12½c Deep Blue, 17c Blue, 1864 2c Rose; New Brunswick 1860-63 2c Orange (two), Connell 5c Brown, Queen 5c Green, 10c Vermilion (two), 17½c Black; Newfoundland 1870 3c Brown (two), 6c Brown, 6c Dull Rose; Nova Scotia 1860 2c Gray, 2c Gray Lilac, 2c Slate Blue, 5c Blue, 8½c Violet, 8½c Red Brown, 12½c Black.

The other frame line and half-medallions are in carmine.



The estimate was \$5000 to \$6000 and had a reserve close to that. The actual knock-down price is unknown to me, but it doesn't matter. After the individual pages were auctioned, the entire two volumes were offered and knocked-down at \$132,000 for each volume to a floor bidder. That is an average price of \$8500 per page. If these volumes are ever broken up and the stamp impressions sold as proofs, they will be very expensive proofs in order to justify the initial price. The high prices realized could prompt the American Bank Note Company to bring out more of their archives.



The central motif is Liberty from a bank note design. In the corners are the central part of the 1893 Venezuela Simon Bolívar 5c Orange at the top, and the 10c Olive Green at the bottom.

The background is from engraved security paper in three colors with the names of Kounze Brothers and United States Mortgage and Trust Company in intertwined ribbons.

Forming a large circle are thirty overlapping stamp proofs, all in the issued colors. These are the United States 1883 4c; Hawaii 1883 \$1.00; Argentina 1873 4c, 1884 2c; Costa Rica 1883 10c, 1887 10c; Honduras 1889 1c, 1/2r, 2r, 4r, 1p; Newfoundland 1897 1/2c; Venezuela 1882-88 Escuelas 5c, 10c, 25c (two), 50c, 1b, 3b, 10b, 20b (two), 1882 Correos 5c, 10c, 50c, 1b, 1893 Correos 5c, 10c, 25c, 50c, 1b.

The top portion of the border is orange; the bottom is olive green.

MEETING AT VIRGINIA BEACH:

A meeting of the study group was held during the BNAPS convention in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The meeting was not well attended with only seven members present. There were two other study group meetings going on at the same time. After a short business meeting, Palmer Moffat discussed the survey of the Boxed and Oval cancellations. He also showed a number of examples of these very interesting cancels. The remaining time was spent discussing the new NEWFOUNDLAND SPECIALIZED CATALOGUE.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Report period	September 1987 - August 1988	
Balance as of 1 September 1987		\$39.06
Income:		
Dues from 8 new members	\$24.00	
Profit from Infofinder sales	5.80	
Stipend from BNAPS	25.00	
Contributions	42.00	
	total	\$234.80
Expenses: Postage for 5 issues		\$109.28
Balance as of 31 August 1988		\$164.58

Due to the condition of the treasury, it was voted **NOT** to require dues for 1988-89. However, contributions will be welcome.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership as of 31 August 1988	
U.S.A. members	20
Canadian members	29
Overseas members	<u>6</u>
total	55

An increase of 10 members over 1987-1988.

#### NEW MEMBERS

S. Morris Engel, 650 Briar Hill Avenue, #401, Toronto, Ontario  
CANADA M5N 1N3

Robin Moore, P. O. Box 13964, St. John's, Newfoundland, CANADA  
A1B 4G8

Ralph E. Trimble, P. O. Box 532, Station 'A', Scarborough,  
Ontario CANADA M1K 5C3

#### INFOFINDER

As of 31 August 1988, 7 additional copies of Bob Pratt's INFOFINDER, the index to his postal history of Newfoundland, have been sold. There still are a number of copies available. If you do not have one, you can get one by sending your check to me, C. A. Stillions, 5031 Eskridge Terrace, N. W., Washington, D.C. 20016. The price is \$5.00US to study group members or \$7.00 to nonmembers.

#### COMING EVENTS

VAPEX '88, November 18-20, The Pavilion, Virginia Beach, Virginia  
fall meeting of the BNAPS Mid-Atlantic regional group Saturday 19  
November at 10am

BNAPEX'89, September 22-24, 1989, Sheraton Hamilton, Hamilton,  
Ontario, Annual convention and exhibition of the British North  
America Philatelic Society

#### BNAPEX'88

The annual convention, bourse and exhibition held on the beach at  
Virginia Beach, Virginia was well attended and a whole lot of  
fun. Of the thirty-five competitive exhibits, four were devoted  
to Newfoundland. Alan Selby showed NEWFOUNDLAND 1865-1888 and



received a gold. Paul Burega received a silver for his exhibit of NEWFOUNDLAND POSTAL HISTORY 1890-1897. Robert Pratt received a gold and a vermeil for his two exhibits DE LA RUE'S NEWFOUNDLAND - THE 1911 EMISSIONS and DE LA RUE'S NEWFOUNDLAND - 1918-1921. The Grand Award went to Harry Lussey for his exhibit of REVENUES OF SOME EASTERN PROVINCES which was mostly revenues of Newfoundland. There were 144 frames with no exhibit having more than four frames. This meant that the broad diversity of BNA was on display. There were only six dealers, but they had good selection. There was also a lot of good food and good fellowship. It was a fun convention, even from my biased viewpoint.

#### SUPPORT OUR DEALER MEMBERS

Gary J. Lyon, EASTERN AUCTIONS LTD., P.O.Box 250, Bathurst, New Brunswick, CANADA E2A 3Z2

Ed Wener, INDIGO, P.O. Box 308, Guelph, Ontario CANADA

John M. Walsh, 9 Guy Street, St. John's, Newfoundland CANADA A1B 1P4

Neil Conners, ISLAND STAMPS, 22 Greenwood Avenue, Grand Falls, Newfoundland, CANADA A2A 1S8

#### BOXED AND OVAL CANCELLATION SURVEY

Palmer Moffat reports receiving a few survey reports to date. If you have not looked over your collection and sent Palmer your survey form of the Boxed and Oval Cancellations of Newfoundland, please do so today. Send it to Palmer Moffat at 4542 E. Camino de Oro, Tucson, Arizona 85718, U.S.A. Additional report forms are available from the newsletter editor or from Palmer.

### CANADIAN BANK NOTE COMPANY PLATE NUMBERS

Those strange numbers in the lower left hand margin of sheets of the Grenfell issue, Memorial University issue, and view of St. John's airmail (Scott numbers 252, 267, and C19) have confused collectors for a long time. In the late 1930's and early 1940's the Canadian Bank Note Company placed their name and the plate number in the top and bottom margins at the corners. They also placed a number vertically in the lower left margin. It is this number that has always generated confusion.

The confusion was so bad in 1947 that early BNAPS member Lloyd R. Day took pen in hand and reported the following in the September 1947 issue of BNA TOPICS (Vol.4, No.8).

Editor, BNA TOPICS

Dear Sir:

I have been confused with the so-called "plate" and "imprint" on Canadian stamps. Many times when asking for "plate Nos." at a post office they will say they have none even though they may have stacks of the so-called "imprints"; the impressions being that the "large number" on certain sheets was the "plate No.". I was confused too until the "Bell" stamp appeared with plate Nos. 1 and 2 but, the "large number—977" remained the same on both plates, so obviously it wasn't a plate number.

I wrote to Ottawa for some explanation and received the following:

"In reply to your letter, I may say that the "large number" to which you refer is the Bank Note Company's reference number and has no postal significance. The true plate numbers are the small numbers which appear at the corner of each sheet.

In view of the confusion which has arisen in this connection, we have arranged with the manufacturers that commencing with the Citizenship stamp the large number will not appear on the sheets although it will still be engraved on the plates at a point which does not show up in the printing."

The confusion must have been considerable to have caused the Department to take measures to have this "reference number" omitted from future printings.

I sincerely hope the foregoing will prove of interest to the readers.

Sincerely,

LLOYD R. DAY

As the printer's reference number, it shows up on whichever country's stamps the Canadian Bank Note Company was producing be they Canadian or Newfoundland.



PRINTER'S  
REFERENCE  
NUMBER

