



THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER

of the Newfoundland Study Group of BNAPS

Number 24

July/August 1989

LATHE WORK ON SCOTT #184, PLATE 5



Notes from K. Bileski: "The Chairman of Perkins Bacon had one very unusual proof sheet in his own archive collection of Newfoundland stamps. It was the 1c value (Scott #184). This sheet had a distinctive lathe work running the entire left side. Another feature it also had a plate number but this was positioned not in the usual upper left hand corner. It was the only sheet that had this plate number in the upper right corner. The proof was printed on a distinctive, thin, unwatermarked bond paper."

Illustrated: the upper left and right blocks from this sheet. Both blocks are unique.

The Williams brothers in their classic book, "Fundamentals of Philately," define lathe work as closely spaced parallel lines being marked or cut by the stylus of a machine constructed for that purpose. Patterns of intricately woven lines, referred to as "engine turning" are similarly made by a geometric lathe.

Bob Pratt reports that this is the widest strip of engine turning or lathe work to be found on any Newfoundland stamp known to him.

The exact purpose of the lathe work along the edge of the printing plate is not known. One theory has it that the lathe work was placed along the edge of the printing plate as a means of checking plate wear. Another theory has it that the lathe work is a remnant of a previous engraving on the steel plate such as the border of a bond or stock certificate with the majority or the engraving burnished off and the stamp designs laid down. Still another theory has it that the lathework or engine turning was placed in the selvage to prevent the selvage paper from being used for counterfeit stamps. The first theory is the preferred reason for the engine turning.

Other Newfoundland stamps in addition to #184, can be found with engine turning or lathework in the left margin either as plate proofs or as issued stamps. While the philatelic importance of lathework is not significant, margin multiples with full engine turning are very eye catching.

NEW MEMBERS

Robert Alary, 7462 de la Deviniere, Anjou (Mtl.), Quebec H1K 3S7

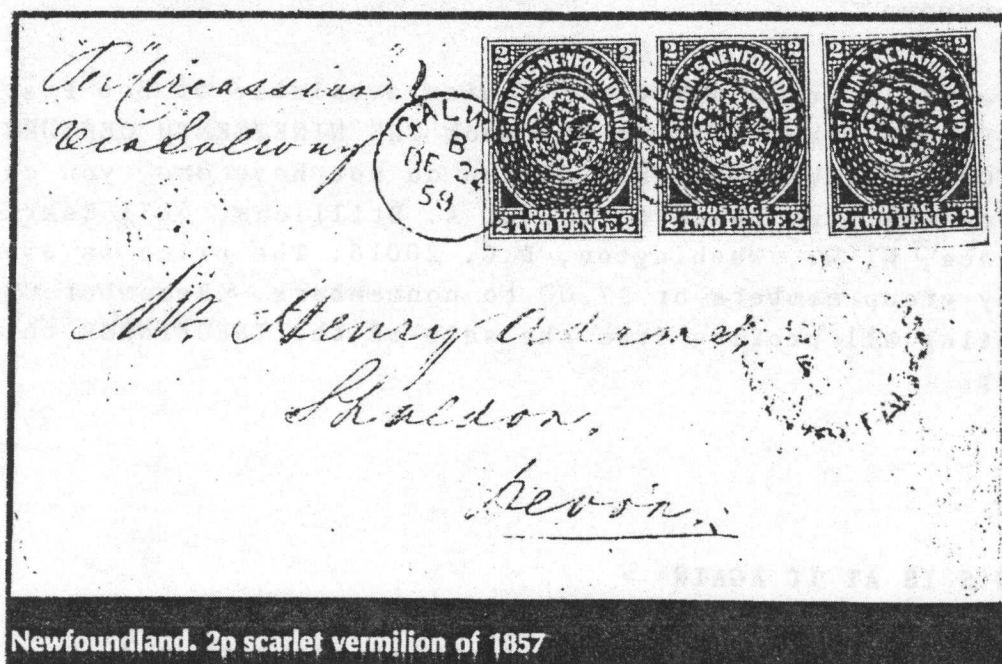
COMING EVENTS

September 27 and 28, 1989, R. Maresch & Son of Toronto will sell at public auction the Newfoundland and other BNA collections of John S. Siverts.

BNAPEX'89, September 22-24, 1989, Sheraton Hotel. Hamilton, Ontario, annual convention and exhibition of the British North America Philatelic Society. There will be a meeting of the Newfoundland Study Group at 1:15pm on Friday, September 22. The program will be Paul Burega speaking on the The First Cents Issues.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

NORTH ATLANTIC MAIL SAILINGS, 1840-75: A new book by Walter Hubbard and Richard F. Winter listing all the sailing and arrival dates for mail carrying steamships crossing the atlantic from the start of regular steamship service to the establishment of the Universal Postal Union. This book is a must for collectors of transatlantic covers. It is also of interest to Newfoundland collectors of this period as a number of the ships called at St. John's, mostly for repairs. Of specific intrest to Newfoundland pence collectors is the listing of the sailing dates for the Galway Line. The Galway Line operated from 1858 to 1864 between New York and Galway, Ireland with a stop at St. John's. Some of the most spectacular pence covers went to Europe by this route.



"North Atlantic Mail Sailings, 1840-1875" is available from the U. S. Philatelic Classics Society, 2030 Glenmont Drive, N.W., Canton, Ohio 44708 for \$39.50.

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, WALSH'S PHILATELIC SERVICE, 9 Guy Street, St. John's, Newfoundland CANADA A1B 1P4

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

INFOFINDER

There still are a number of copies available of Bob Pratt's INFOFINDER, the index to his book THE NINETEENTH CENTURY POSTAL HISTORY OF NEWFOUNDLAND. 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. Remember, Bob is donating all profits from the sale of the INFOFINDER to the study group.

LINN'S IS AT IT AGAIN

The August 14, 1989 edition of LINN'S STAMP NEWS feature "Errors in Stamp Design," again picks on Newfoundland. The featured

error is the misspelling of "COLONIZATION" on Scott #92. This time LINN'S may be correct. The backward "Z" of "COLONIZATION" may in fact be an error. However, BNAPS member Harry Ingram had a different opinion and he wrote the following article in the June 1948 edition of BNA TOPICS to explain his reasoning.

AUGUST 14, 1989 LINN'S STAMP NEWS 29

Errors in stamp design

NEWFOUNDLAND: BACKWARDS LETTER



The "z" of "colonization" is reversed on this 1910 Newfoundland stamp (Scott 92). A revised version with a correct "z" later was issued (92A). The stamps depict Lord Bacon.

BNA TOPICS

91

THE SIX CENT "GUY ISSUE" OF NEWFOUNDLAND

HARRY INGRAM

In Scott's Standard Catalogue of 1912 is found their first record of the "Guy Issue" of Newfoundland in which are included the two types of the Six Cent value with the laconic headnote, "SIX CENTS; Type 1, 'Z' of 'Colonization' reversed" and "Type 2, 'Z' of 'Colonization' normal."

It is with Type 1 of this issue that this article is concerned for since 1912, in every catalogue printed both in English and foreign languages the same brief record of these two types has occurred, but no definite explanation has been offered as to the reason for this apparently unusual error.

The observations now being made, and the questionability of Type 1 being an inexcusable error, or even an error at all, has no bearing on the scarcity or value of the stamp itself, but rather concerns the correctness, shall we say, of the usage of the phrase "The 'Z' reversed."

Let us first consider for a moment some facts that perhaps could shed a different light on the matter. First of all the stamps were lithographed by an English firm, Whitehead Morris & Company, who have acknowledged that this was their first attempt in lithographing stamps, a fact admittedly accountable for the poor workmanship. Secondly let us call attention to the fact that many words have minor differences in spelling in Britain than the same word in use in Continental North America, and this word "COLONIZATION" happens to be one of these words. The British use the "S" whereas we in the States, Canada and Newfoundland use the "Z."

Next let us observe the Two Cent value of this issue, the No. 88. The legend at the bottom of the stamp reads: "Arms of the London and Bristol Company for Colonising Newfoundland." Note the usage of the "S" instead of the "Z," and furthermore it will be noted that in Gibbons and other British catalogues, in fact in any British publication, the usage of the "S" will be found whenever the word COLONISATION or other words with the same suffix are used; such as, realise, etc.

Whether Scott or Gibbons published the first recording of this issue, or whether one was copied from the other is immaterial, but the fact remains that since 1912 every catalogue has used the same head or foot note which includes the unsupported reference to Type 1 as "Z" reversed.

It is the belief of the writer that in Type 1 the letter in question is NOT a "Z," never was intended as a "Z," but rather it is an "S," the word Colonisation being spelled in the English manner. Possibly the second type was a correction and made to conform to the Continental North American spelling of the word; hence the use of the "Z", although why a similar correction was not made in the before mentioned Two Cent value, No. 88, is not explained.

Admittedly the letter in question is badly formed and does have the appearance of an equally malformed "Z" in reverse. Why, therefore, is it not just as reasonable to suppose the letter to be an "S." Poorly formed letters are quite frequent in the lithographed portion of this issue.

In the preliminary work it seems incredible that the engraver, an expert in his line, in preparing the design for the transfer to the lithographic stone should be guilty of such an unpardonable error as to make a "Z" in reverse. Such errors as this are to be found, surely, and are not uncommon, but only among the illiterate. Similar reversals are found in the letters "N" and "B." Most of us at some time or other have seen illustrations of these "Cockeyed" letters in the home made signs by individuals who apparently have but scant knowledge of the alphabet, or at least the correct formation of some of its letters, but such evidence of ignorance would hardly be found among members of the printing and engraving fraternity. To misspell a word, yes, for even the literary genius is sometimes a notoriously poor speller, but for the engraver to reverse a "Z" would seem almost incredible, unless of course done purposely, and for some specific reason.

Surely some explanation should have been forthcoming when two stamps of the same issue, of the same denomination, printed in the same color and identical in every way but for the two letters in question, appear in the Post Office for sale and are quoted in our catalogues as two types; the statement re-

garding Type 1 which the writer believes to be unsupported and unsound.

Was the second type made upon order from the Department? Have the publishers of the catalogues any valid authority for making such a statement or is it another of those "snap judgement" decisions that occur frequently. The writer sincerely would like to know. Perhaps if these questions could be answered the facts could be established as to whether the catalogues are right and the writer "off the beam," or vice versa.

Unless the headnote of Type 1 (The "Z" reversed) can be substantiated it would seem that in cataloging these two types it would be more correct to state "Type 1, Colonisation spelled with an 'S'. Type 2, Colonization spelled with a 'Z'."

To some this dissertation perhaps may appear somewhat of a 'storm in a teacup.' Be that as it may, there is no personal attack intended but rather a wholesome desire to clarify a statement that may be the result of snap judgement. There have been too many unqualified and unsubstantiated statements made in the field of philately, and too much has been catalogued as fact without the benefits of thoughtful consideration and frank discussion.

This is not intended as a tirade against Scott's or any other catalogue, for our catalogues have a very definite and important place in philately, and regardless of their shortcomings, they must be given credit for widening the scope of the general collector who in turn makes possible greater potentialities for study among the more serious collector, the student and specialist.

Philately, after all, is not only a hobby and one of the greatest hobbies today, it is a science and an intricate one at that, and deserves consideration of the highest order in settling any problem of a controversial nature.

RECEIVED IN THE MAIL

Received in the mail the Summer 1989 Price List from Indigo. There is a very nice selection of used Newfoundland in singles and blocks. Ed Wener always includes an article on Newfoundland philately and this price list is no exception. In this issue Ed continues his series on Newfoundland fakes and forgeries. This time he looks at the forgeries of the five pence. See the list of dealer members for Ed Wener's address.

WHAT IS THIS



These three 1c King James I from the 1910 John Guy issue, Scott #87, have three sides perforated 12 and the fourth side perf 14. The right side of the left stamp is perforated 14, while the center and right stamps are perforated 14 on the left.

How is it possible for a stamp to be perforated differently on one side from the other three sides? Stamps are known perforated with different spacings on each side, so these are not that unusual. Scott #87b is perforated 12 top and bottom by 14 on left and right sides and there are horizontal pairs of #87a known imperforate between. So it is possible for a sheet to have had a row of perforations missing but discovered during the inspection process. The sheet could have been sent back for correction and had the correction done on a different machine. Thus three sides would be one gauge and the fourth side another gauge.

However, the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society, London when examining these three stamps were of the opinion that the perf 14 was added by reperforating. In other words, somebody was trying to create a new variety.