



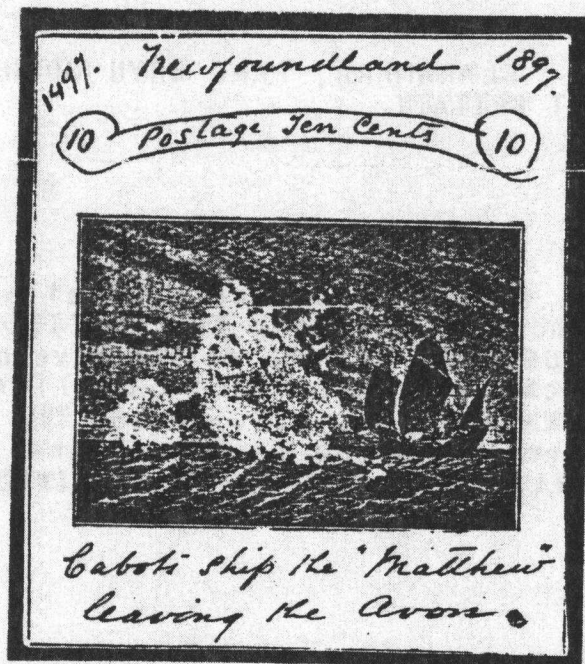
THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER

of the Newfoundland Study Group of BNAPS

Number 30

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SALE OF THE AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY ARCHIVES



1897, 10¢ artist's preliminary composite model

On Thursday the 13th of September 1990 a very important sale will take place in New York City. The archives of the American Bank Note Company will be sold at auction by Christie's. The ABNCo. produced many of the postage stamps of the western hemisphere countries including Newfoundland. Of the almost 800 lots in the BNA portion of the sale, 109 lots are drawings, models, proofs and specimens of Newfoundland stamps and stationery produced by the company between 1865 and 1943. The original drawings and models for the 1897 Cabot Issue are particularly striking. Even if you are not a collector of proof material and do not plan to bid in this sale, you would do well to add a copy of the sale catalog to your philatelic library. The catalog is well illustrated with many plates in color. It is a very good record of what the ABNCo. produced for Newfoundland. Catalogs can be obtained from CHRISTIE'S, 502 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022, telephone 212/546-1087 or toll free 800/247-4558.

NEW MEMBERS

Allan C. Crane, 9272 North Thrush Lane, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53217

MOVING MEMBERS

Brian T. Stalker, GLARAMARA, PARC BRYN COCH, UPPER BRYN COCH, MOLD, CLWYD, GREAT BRITAIN

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.

COMING EVENTS

BNAPEX'90, October 18-20, 1990, Tremont House, Galveston, Texas, Annual convention and exhibition of the British North America Philatelic Society, Annual meeting of the Newfoundland Study Group. The program at the annual meeting will be the "Last Definitives" by C. A. Stillions. Information can be obtained from Vic Willson, P. O. Box 10420, College Station, Texas 77840, U.S.A.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

NAPEX: At the national philatelic exhibition in Washington, D.C., actually held in Arlington, Virginia, June 1, 2, and 3, 1990, not one but two Newfoundland exhibits were on display. Horace Harrison showed four frames of postal stationery for which he received a silver medal. C. A. Stillions showed seven frames of the last definitives to which a vermeil medal was awarded.

THE PERKINS, BACON ENGRAVING BOOKS
1899 to 1935
Extracted by JOHN EASTON
NEWFOUNDLAND

During the greater part of the period covered by these extracts the Export Department of John Dickenson & Co. Ltd., acted as Perkins, Bacon's representatives abroad. Their travellers carried specimens of postage stamps and other security printing produced by Perkins, Bacon and a current price list. The volume of orders thus received was considerable, consisting mostly of orders for postage and revenue stamps, stamped papers and other forms of security printing from the independent Indian States as opposed to the Government of India. The paper used for these orders was supplied by John Dickinson at their Croxley Mills near Watford, and the negotiations and financial side of the business was also conducted by them. It was through this connection that Perkins, Bacon, after an interval of seventy years, resumed printing the Newfoundland postage stamps in 1929.

There is no entry in the Engraving Books, nor is there any correspondence which links Perkins, Bacon in any way with the five duties of the Coronation Issue of 1911 which were not printed by De La Rue for Whitehead, Morris and Co. Ltd. The latter had printed the John Guy issue of 1910 by lithography, and continued to supply the definitive issue of Newfoundland, printed by the recess process although they were unable to produce the dies and plates or print by that method. As a result of the intervention of John Dickinson the contract passed to Perkins, Bacon.

1. PUBLICITY ISSUE, 1929

A single sheet of typescript, listing the first six duties from 1¢ to 10¢ and giving quantities of each that would be required, formed the basis of the estimate. On this sheet pencilled notes, presumably by George Taylor or James Dunbar Heath, give the following extra information--

Plates and dies probably with Whitehead Morris

Better paper desired.

Perforation--stamps should be centred better.

Quote for stamps, including plates.

Dies to be provided.

The estimate, accompanied by six sheets of stamps, was addressed to Mr. Gill of Dickinson, and was dated 2/4429. It is the only item of correspondence from the period that apparently has survived, and is given in full.

NEWFOUNDLAND POSTAGE STAMPS

I find that the stamps now to be quoted for are part of an issue of 13 values, all different designs, made in 1927. The other seven values, viz. 6, 8, 9,, 12, 15, 20 and 30 cents are apparently not wanted at present.

I see by 'Whitaker' that the Post Office there deals with about 4,000,000 letters and postcards and about 4,000,000 newspapers and parcels a year.

These stamps are not printed by Whitehead Morris Ltd., themselves, as they have no plate-making plant. Probably they were engraved by Macdonald and we are inclined to think they were printed on machine by De La Rue, also gummed and perforated. Possibly De La Rue engraved the dies, but some plates are very irregularly laid down, and on the whole we think De La Rue only did the printing, etc. for Macdonald.

The size of the 1 cent stamp (including margins) is 30 by 24½ millimetres - say 1 3/16" x 31/32", so that for 3,000,000 with spoilage, 33,000 sheets about 13" x 11" is necessary or 66 Rms 500s, stretch 11" way, to suit our perforating heads. The sizes of the 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 cents are all the same (taking average of perforation which is erratic as is the laying down, the 4cents being about 1/8" shorter than the others) 28 by 22½ millimetres or 1 3/32" x 7/8".

The 10,250,000 of these five values will therefore require 113,000 sheets about 12" x 10" or 226 Rms, stretch 10" way.

Our Croxley Special Postage Paper is 26" x 34" (stretch 34" way) 34½ lb. 500s at 34s.6d., and cuts six out either of above sizes, so that paper for the 1 cent, 11 rms, and the others, 38 rms, works out at 1½d. per 1000 all around bare cost only. From the figures you can calculate cost of other classes of paper if required.

With regard to plates, it is just possible we can use the 5 cent and 10 cent plates, which seem fairly well laid down, but not any of the others, and it is possible that we may find it necessary to touch up the dies supplied.

But assuming dies supplied are suitable, the 1 cent plate would cost £15, and the others as required £12 each, to lay down and harden. They might probably do a repeat order before wearing out.

ESTIMATE

Suitable dies supplied
Paper supplied

Plates. For 1 cent £15
For 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 cents
(unless any plates supplied can
be used) each £12
Printing, including gumming, perforating
and parcelling in packets of 500 sheets,
with labels, etc. as usual, and delivering
to Sumner Street:
3,000,000 1 cent at 1s. 1d. per 1000
10,250,000 assorted 2, 3, 4, 5 & 10 cents
at 1s. per 1000

Net cash monthly

Supplies could be given within about two months of receipt of
dies and paper.

NOTE: I call your attention to the 2 cents, which bears a scroll
at one edge, which does not appear in the others, this I think
shows it was printed by machine. The 5 cents was evidently
perforated straight line and not comb as the others.

Will not Mr Thistle be dealing with the Revenue Stamps also, for
which we like to quote?

The Government I believe issue Treasury or Currency Notes
supplied by Whitehead Morris & Co. Ltd. At any rate, I saw some
years ago a specimen of a hideous looking Newfoundland note
produced by them, and supposed unforgeable (designed by A. E.
Bawtree) but do not know if these are still in circulation. You
might make enquiries.

The prices given above are I think very moderate, and are based
on the information given. If we have misunderstood the
particulars in any respect of course the estimate can be revised
accordingly. As there is not very much time, it might be as well
to cable price, as there is bound to be some delay before the
order to proceed is given, and it might also save time if we were
allowed to inspect the dies and plates at the High
Commissioner's.

The following are the dates for the various duties, with the
names of the engravers where mentioned. Each die was charged at
£25.

DIES: 16/5/29, 1¢; 29/5/29, 2¢ (Wolfenden); 5/6/29, 3¢ (Downey);
13/7/29, 4¢ (Downey); 7/8/29, 5¢; 29/8/29, 10¢; 25/11/29,

8¢ (Sigrist); 29/11/29, 15¢ (Downey); 30/4/30, second die 14¢; 23/5/30, 30¢ (Sigrist).

There is also an entry dated 11/3/30 for 'Re-engraving lettering on 28¢.'

It will be noticed that the 14¢ and 28¢ are not included in the catalogue among the duties printed by Perkins, Bacon. These were completely engraved by Sigrist; its date however is later than the first printing attributed in the Catalogue, and it is described as 'View'. It would appear therefore that Perkins, Bacon received the original dies and printing plates from the High Commissioner and only re-engraved where they thought it was essential to do so. The re-engraving of the letters on the 6¢ is not mentioned in the Engraving Book.

The last surviving Hardening Book ends in August 1929, and only provides the following information:

PLATES: 17/6/29, 1¢ (100-on); 17/6/29 2¢ (scrapped); 20/6/29, 3¢ (100-on); 24/6/29, replacement of 2¢ (100-on); 9/7/29, 4¢ (100-on); 20/8/29, 5¢ (100-on).

Unfortunately there is no surviving record of printing dates or quantities.

2. AIR MAIL, 1931

The sketches for the three designs were entered in the Engraving Book on 31/11/30. The dies were engraved as follows:

DIES: 27/11/30, \$1 (J.Y.S.); 28/11/30, 15¢ (Downey); 5/12/30, 50¢ (Downey).

The surname of J.Y.S. is not disclosed [James Y. Scott]. He should not be confused with C. Sigrist.

3. NEW DEFINITIVE ISSUES, 1932

The details from the Engraving Book are as follows:

SKETCHES: 20/4/31, 1¢, 5¢; 4/5/31, 10¢, 14¢, 15¢, 20¢, 25¢, 30¢; 4/6/31, revised 10¢; 10/6/31, second 30¢; 17/6/31, second 25¢; 25/6/31, 2¢, 3¢ (Royal Family); 30/6/31, second 5¢; 3/7/31, third 5¢; 13/7/31, second 2¢; 15/7/31, 3¢ (Queen); 17/7/31, 4¢; 24/7/31, second 3¢ (Queen), 6¢; 15/9/31, third 10¢, (W.J.A.)

DIES: 5/6/31, 1¢ (Downey); 8/6/31, 20¢ (Wolfenden); 10/7/31, 15¢ (Wolfenden); 24/7/31, 5¢ (Sigrist); 13/8/31, 25¢; 31/8/31, 3¢ (Downey); 16/9/31, 2¢ (Downey); 22/9/31, 4¢ (Downey); 19/10/31, 10¢ (Sigrist); 9/11/31, 6¢ (Downey).

There is no mention of the engraving of the dies for the 14¢ and 30¢, sketches for both of which duties were included in the batch sent 4/5/31.

MENDINGS ETC. There is an entry dated 23/5/32 'Rebiting and recutting a new original 5cts.', with a pencilled note 'not acceptable', followed by a further entry on 31/5/33 'recutting 2nd die 5cts. Newfoundland postage for machine ptg'.

There are two entries dealing with the second die of the 2¢; 13/7/32 'Repairing stp on curved plate and touching up bent plate for machine Newfoundland 2c.' and 29/7/32 'Taking out scratches and touching up bent plates Newfoundland 2cts.' There is no entry suggesting that the 2¢ die was completely re-engraved. One day was spent on the repair of the 4¢ plate, 13/9/32.

4. AIR MAIL ISSUE, 1933

The following details are taken from the Engraving Book:

SKETCHES: 6/4/33, 30¢; 13/4/33, second 30¢; 19/4/33, 60¢, 75¢; 27/4/33, 5¢, 10¢; 1/5/33, second 5¢.

DIES: 24/4/33, 30¢ (Sigrist); 1/5/33, 75¢ (Sigrist); 5/5/33, 14¢ (Sigrist), 60¢ (Downey); 10/5/33, 5¢ (Sigrist).

5. HUMPHREY GILBERT SERIES, 1933.

Work on this series, which was issued on 3rd August, 1933, began as late as the middle of May. The details are as follows:

SKETCHES: 19/5/33, 1¢, 2¢, 4¢, 24¢; 22/5/33, 9¢, 20¢; 29/5/33, 3¢, 14¢; 1/6/33, 7¢, 10¢; 8/6/33, 5¢, 15¢, 32¢; 19/6/33, 8¢.

DIES: 31/5/33, 1¢ (Downey), 2¢ (Phillips), 3¢ (Downey), 4¢ (Sigrist); 7/6/33, 9¢ (Sigrist); 14/6/33, 7¢ (Wolfenden), 14¢ (Downey); 16/6/33, 5¢ (Sigrist), 24¢ (Downey); 22/6/33, 10¢ (Sigrist); 26/6/33, 15¢ (Downey); 27/6/33, 32¢ (Sigrist); 29/6/33, 20¢ (J.Y.S.); 4/7/33, 8¢ (Downey).

Perkins, Bacon Co., Ltd. had closed down at the end of December, 1935, and their records up to that date were acquired by the Society, and included the source of the above notes. The next Newfoundland Coronation Series of 1937 was produced by the new Company which rose from their ashes.

Perkins, Bacon Ltd. continued to print all the postage stamps for Newfoundland until she joined the Confederation of Canada in

1949, except for the Royal Visit commemorative of 1939, printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson, and three commemoratives printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company.

The last stamp to be issued by Newfoundland as a separate stamp producing unit, commemorating the 450th Anniversary of Cabot's Discovery of Newfoundland, rightly remained with Perkins, Bacon Ltd.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This article originally appeared in volume 73, number 855, 1964, on pages 44 - 48 of THE LONDON PHILATELIST, the journal of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. It was part of a series of articles by John Easton where the philatelic contents of the Perkins Bacon archives not covered by Percy de Worms in the RPSL's PERKINS BACON RECORDS were summarized. The PERKINS BACON RECORDS and the series by John Easton represent the published records of the Perkins Bacon Company.

In January 1936 the assets of the bankrupted Perkins, Bacon Company were acquired by another security printing firm, W. W. Sprague & Co., Ltd. W. W. Sprague operated Perkins, Bacon as a wholly owned subsidiary until the early 1960's when they in turn were acquired by another corporation. The records of the original Perkins Bacon company were acquired by Charles Nissan, a British stamp dealer, and were eventually given to the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

It is interesting to note that in 1964 the philatelic community did not know that the Perkins, Bacon Division of W. W. Sprague & Company had not printed any Newfoundland stamps since May of 1941.