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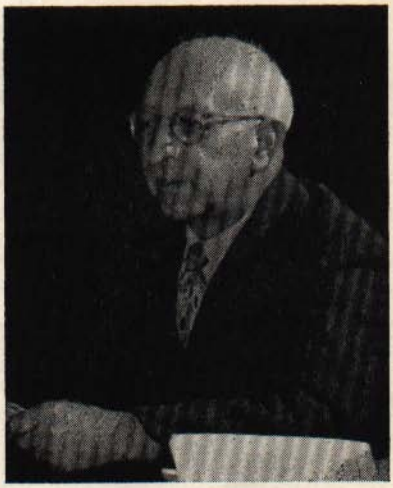
A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

A FEW THOUGHTS ON THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE C.P.S.

1. It is no use blinding ourselves to the fact that the C.P.S. has neither the status nor the importance it should have as the NATIONAL Philatelic Society of Canada.

2. This may be due to a number of reasons, the main two of which might be the fact that quite a number of important and influential collectors should be members and are not, and that financially, we are in a somewhat insecure position.

3. I find it somewhat alarming that practically, there is no Constitution in existence. This should be rectified. Perhaps a committee might be appointed to go into this and draft a proper Constitution.



L. M. LAMOUROUX
President
Canadian Philatelic Society

4. In conjunction with such a work, it might be useful to go into the possibility of the Society having a NATIONAL President, to be elected each year from a different section of the country. The administrative control of the Society could remain in Toronto, in the hands of a Chairman of the Board or some such designation.

5. The funds of the Society are not what they should be and give a feeling of insecurity. An objective to be attained within the next few years should be set. A suggestion is three years' income.

6. Obviously, such a programme is not to be carried out in a day. I would suggest setting a term of five years in which most, if not all, the measures necessary to place the C.P.S. on the high pedestal it deserves, could be carried out.

7. I would suggest the drafting of a note incorporating these ideas and any others which may occur to the members of the Board, to be sent to all the directors, vice-presidents and chapter presidents, requesting them to mull over it, discuss it with their leading local collectors and let us have their remarks and criticisms, to be used as a general directive.

Yours philatelically,
L. Lamouroux,
President.

CANADA-BOOKLETS, COILS & STRAIGHT EDGES

By E. C. Powell

This article was awarded the $10.00 prize for this issue. No further prizes will be awarded but members are still invited to submit articles for publication.

ABOUT 30 years ago I found myself running into an impasse with my Canadian collection. I could not afford the early varieties that I did not already have, yet I wanted to continue collecting "Canada's". I decided to start a side line collection of "straight edges" and it is the group of stamps included in this collection that I am now describing.

At that time the stamps of Canada were printed into sheets which were afterwards cut into panes resulting in the stamps of two sides of each pane being without perforations ,i.e., having a "straight edge." About 19 per cent of the Canadian stamps issued at that period by the Post Office had these straight edges. The four central stamps in each sheet of 400 would have 2 sides inperf, each one, of course, being different to the other 3, and I arranged my specimens so that these particular ones were corners, and the other part perfs were used to fill in the square, thus a completed square would show stamps which had no perforation on the outer edge.

As I began to develop this collection some of the low value stamps presented a different appearance to others of the same value, notably a much wider margin, and thus I became aware of the booklets and their varieties. This is a point worthy of special notice because I have read articles in which it is claimed that sheet stamps can be faked by trimming to resemble booklet stamps whereas it is my opinion that the reverse is more accurate.

As the years went by I found that not all the sheet stamps presented the same appearance as regards straight edges. In 1927, the Sixtieth Anniversary of Confederation was marekd by a set (S.G. 266-270) #266 can be found with straight edges all round. By this term I mean in all possible positions, including the central "corners." 267 and 268 had straight edges on the top and bottom only, thus there are none with two sides imperf. 269 is the same as 266, and 270 is top and bottom only. The Special Delivery, S 5 has straight edges only on the sides. 271, 272, and 273, are all round.

In 1929-30 changes occurred, and we find #284, the 50c. "Bluenose" has no straight edge issue and also in a new format. A narrow gutter divides the panes, the stamps are all perforated and the division is made by cutting down the center of the gutter. 281, 282, 283, 285, are top and bottom straight edge only.

The year 1930 brought other changes, amongst them being a different outside margin on some of the low values, and 297 occurs with straight edges on sides only, the only stamp of this shape that comes that way.

The last straight edge sheet stamp is the Jacques Cartier, 332, and this one is straight edge on the sides only.

There has been a lot of confusion regarding these straight edges and Scott's used to claim they were not regularly issued. This inaccuracy did not help matters. Another hand book states that no commemoratives were issued in that condition. Actually, most of them were.

A Booklet appeared on June 11, 1900, the G.V. Numeral, 2c Rose

carmine. This came in panes of 6, 2 panes to a booklet. This was followed by a similar booklet for the 2c Edward, Rose Carmine.

I do not know when the change was made in printing methods but it must have been close to this date, because panes for both the Victoria and Edward booklets are known "tete-beche" but none since.

Booklets have been known in more than one format; with the backs bound; later, stapled; and two recently appeared with sewing replacing the stapling, thus providing a smooth surface for use in vending machines.

One interesting feature in regard to booklet panes, is the changing collector attitude. First, no one wanted them, then, after they were given catalogue status some collectors wanted the marginal tabs intact, and now some of them want the outer tabs as well, the ones showing the stapling holes. This places the panes so appearing as being almost certain to be cancelled to order as in normal use no one would ever take these tabs out. It can only be done by taking the booklet apart.

I have read that you should not, under any circumstances, collect singles as they can be faked from sheet stamps. My own idea, as already expressed, is exactly the reverse, that is, that you can fake sheet stamps from the booklet stamps because in so many cases the latter are slightly larger. I still collect singles.

The 1943 4c Carmine booklet has an interesting error. The Postage rates were increased but the booklets fly leaf was not corrected. Thus there are 3 booklets, one with the wrong fly leaf, another with the wrong postal rates struck out, and the corrected ones printed below, and the third with a fly leaf showing the correct rates.

The first coil stamps of which I have any knowledge were issued in November, 1912, and Sept., 1913, and they were Perf. either 12 or 8, horizontally or vertically. Perf. 12 were intended for use in vending machines and came in rolls of 1000, and those Perf. 8 or 8½ were for use in stamp affixing machines. They came in rolls of 500.

There are some very interesting varieties amongst the coils, commencing with the Geo. V. 3c Brown, perf. 12, horizontally. Originally made for a Montreal firm, it was later found that they were intended for philatelic purposes, so Ottawa put supplies on sale through the Philatelic Bureau and ended that little scheme.

Caution must be exercised in collecting coil stamps because it is possible to trim portions of booklet panes to resemble strips of coil stamps. I have some strips of three of this nature. This does not apply to all coil stamps and is not a great danger once you learn the various varieties.

In July, 1918, a coil stamp appeared perf. 12 x Imperf. (1c Green which had also two holes, 4½ mm. in diameter, and 7 mm. apart. It is stated that these were used for two days only in the Toronto General Post Office as an experiment. It was not regarded as a success, and its use was discontinued.

In 1926, pairs of the 1c. Yellow, 2c Green, and 3c Red, appeared Imperf x 8. These came from a very small number of uncut coil sheets which in some manner came into the hands of the public. Ottawa made an attempt to discount the value of these at once by issuing the 1c and 2c in quantities, but apparently the 3c plate was not available, as this value was not reissued. The re-issue, however, was on thinner paper so that, instead of discounting these coil pairs, their status, especially that of the 3c, was considerably improved.

In 1931, the 3c Red appeared Perf. 12 x 8. This was, apparently due to the same cause as the 1916, ITC Carmine, 12 x 8, that is a temporary shortage of regular 3c sheet stamps. The printer using sheets of stamps prepared for use as coils but not yet cut, perforating them 12 horizontally, and releasing them as regular sheets.

The 1930-31 issue of coil stamps has numerous points of interest, such as the "Bad-eye" variety on various of the 2c stamps, and also due to the fact that a change of printing methods occurred. Up to this time the coils were linked together with a small tab which was perforated, and is found adhering to the underside of a stamp.

These "Joints" are no longer found but we now have a guide line appearing between every 24 stamps.

This guide line did not appear in the 1935 coils, and other changes took place at this time. the "hidden dates" appeared with the 1935 regular issue, and have continued up to now. Printing methods also were changed and the following comment from the "Western Stamp Collector" by F. Walter Pollock is of interest.

"Canadian coil stamps, as produced by the Canadian Bank Note Company since 1935, are printed from plates which are curved, but not to form a complete cylinder; therefore, after each revolution of the press, the web of stamp paper must be drawn back to compensate for the open space between the two edges of the plate, as coil stamps must run with no margins or gutters greater than the normal spacing of adjacent stamps. Obviously, when the paper is drawn back, it may shift ever so slightly, so that the next impression does not align perfectly with the previous impression—and thus the faulty horizontal alignment is accounted for.

Stamps are, of course, printed under terriffic pressure, and as a matter of fact, the dry process used in Canada requires about twice the pressure which, in this country (U.S.A.), is used to print stamps on dampened paper. The pressure must be released when the web is drawn back; when reapplied, the paper may "creep" or surplus ink may squeeze out of the engraved lines of the plate, thus causing malformation or defective printing of the left frameline.

Also, when the web is drawn back, it is extremely difficult to maintain spacing between one impression and the next, as accurately as between two subjects entered consecutively on the plate, and thus, variations in the measurement of the spacing have been observed, running from two to six mms.

As a matter of fact this variety, in one or more of its aspects, is the only clue to the break-down of a long coil strip, to allocate a particular stamp to its position on the plate (each plate is 25 subjects long horizontally) as there are no joint lines to be found on Canadian coils of the last 18 years."

There have been more than one method of linking the coil stamps. The "joints" of the earlier issues; continuous printing with the guide lines; and since then "patch ups" can be found. This simply being an extra piece of paper joining either a break or two sheets of paper, the extra piece of paper being irregular on its sides.

From 1938 the coil stamps have strips of colored paper at one end to enable easy feeding into the machine. At the present time the coil stamps of Canada come in rolls of five hundred stamps; at each end is a series of blank perforated tabs, the outside one colored, the inner, white. In some cases the tabs are a different perforation to the stamps.

Except for a reference to the early booklets, I have not gone back beyond the year 1912 in this review. I have a few stamps from earlier periods that show straight edges, but as far as the small cents issue is cornered I think that only the half cent could show any. They were printed in two panes of 100 each, separated by a space of 11 mm. All the other values were printed in sheets of 100 (Montreal) or 200 (Ottawa).

Although Imperforate stamps of necessity have straight edges, they do not belong with the range of this review. The 3 values which appeared in 1924 are included in this collection.

Another development of which this type of collection is possible concerns the outer margin of the sheet. Here we run into plate blocks, marginal imprints, the engine turning which was once a feature of the margins, and the later deckle edges, and the guide arrows.

Special Delivery and Postage Due stamps also occur with straight edges, as well as some of the Air Mails.

In building up this collection I found it to be an inexpensive way of maintaining an active interest in Canadian stamps. The pages gave me many color varieties, and they helped me realize how varieties could be faked. They aided me in learning more about the methods employed in printing Canadian stamps, and collectable varieties occur in this group that are not to be found in sheet stamps. Most important, probably, I have had a lot of fun doing it.

NOTICE

Beginning with the next issue, The Canadian Philatelist will be published monthly, with the exception of July and August.

The next issue, to be mailed about January 2nd, will be our Year Book issue.

In this will be compiled a complete list of all members of the Canadian Philatelic Society.

All members are requested to have their dues paid by November 15th, 1953, otherwise their names will be deleted in the Year Book.

The publishing of the "News-Letter" will be terminated by the Society at the end of this year.

Westminster Abbey Auctions

The President and Executive of the Canadian Philatelic Society feel that the Chapters of the Society might care to hold auctions during CANADA'S NATIONAL STAMP COLLECTING WEEK, 8-14 November, for the purpose of raising funds for the preservation of Westminster Abbey, in response to the Dean's appeal for the sum of one million pounds to make the Church of the Coronation secure for the future.

It seems appropriate in this, the Year of the Coronation, that philatelists all over Canada should help in this worthy cause, and it is felt that such an auction would do much to stimulate public interest in Stamp Collecting during Canada's National Stamp Week. It is suggested that each Chapter should run its own auction and send the proceeds directly to the Dean of Westminster Abbey, mentioning its Chapter number in the Canadian Philatelic Society.

On this, the first celebration of Canada's National Stamp Collecting Week, no more fitting gesture could be made by members of the Society than to support this appeal for the Church of the Coronation.

The idea of raising funds by auctioning stamps for the Governor General's Fund for European Flood Relief was successfully carried out by the Westmount Stamp Club of Montreal, one of our own chapters, when over $1,000 was raised for this purpose. This same Club is planning to hold an auction for the Abbey Appeal on the 12th November.

It is very sincerely hoped that many of our Chapters, if not all, may decide to support this urgent appeal for funds for the preservation of Westminster Abbey, which stands as the centre and symbol of the way of life and unity of all the Commonwealth peoples.

WHAT'S THIS NATIONAL STAMP WEEK ALL ABOUT?

Some five years ago the American Stamp Dealers' Association inaugurated National Stamp Collecting Week to celebrate and further interest the general public in the greatest hobby on earth. The Canadian Stamp Dealers' Association has taken up the cudgel and, with the help of all collectors and clubs throughout the Dominion of Canada, should eventually produce a good show annually.

What Can You Do?

Have your club or society celebrate this particular week with bang-up meetings, exhibitions, displays in store windows, etc! Invite the public to your meetings and exhibition! Go all out to interest the public in your hobby. Your club will benefit in the long run. Your memberships in the club should increase.

Publicity

All sources of advertising should be used to create interest, such as newspapers, magazines, radio, television, correspondence, window displays and continually reminding the club members at all meetings previous to the official dates.

Junior Interest

We must not forget the Juniors, the collectors of tomorrow. The good word should go out to all the schools, colleges and all organized groups such as Rotary, Lions Clubs, Women's Auxiliaries, etc. General invitations should be sent to all to attend your club meetings and exhibitions.

Exhibitions

The main attractions during a National Stamp Week should be Exhibitions, which will be held either in your clubroom or in some public building and the public invited to attend. Such cities as Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Victoria and many others are in a splendid position to take the initiative in this respect.

What Has Developed To Date

The C.S.D.A., with its headquarters in Toronto, has started the ball rolling and donated a sum of money and will accept further donations to this fund, which will be used for the promoting of the hobby of stamp collecting only. An exhibition will be staged in Toronto by the local clubs on the dates of November 11-12-13 in the Knights of Columbus Hall, Sherbourne St., Toronto. Admission free. Donations to the above fund should be sent to Mr. H. Martin Sr., 1152 Yonge St., Toronto 5.

Time Is Limited!

There is only limited time to accomplish what we would like to do. We ask the co-operation of all collectors and clubs concerned across the Dominion to assist in this endeavour in putting over Canada's National Stamp Week. Invite all your friends to your club meetings and exhibitions. Your club will reap the benefit from increased memberships.

I have just returned from a visit to our Chapters and members in Quebec, Montreal, Kitchener-Waterloo and Stratford. I have had a wonderful time, seen great enthusiasm and flourishing societies everywhere. Time is pressing and I have not much space, but I want to thank all our members in these places who have given me such a wonderful reception and to say that I am very pleased indeed to see that the Canadian Philatelic Society is very favourably considered everywhere.

Je viens de visiter nos sections régionales à Québec, Montréal, Kitchener - Waterloo et Stratford. On m'a fait un accueil merveilleux et partout j'ai constaté un enthousiasme qui n'a pas manqué de me surprendre. Le temps presse et je ne dispose pas de beaucoup de place, mais je tiens à exprimer à tous nos membres dans ces endroits qui m'ont si bien accucilli, mes remerciements les plus sincères et à dire que c'était un immense plaisir pour moi de constater de visu l'estime dont la Canadian Philatelic Society jouit partout.

L. Lamouroux,
President.

NINETEENTH OR TWENTIETH CENTURY STAMPS?

HOW should I limit my collection? Should I collect classics or new issues?

Few questions are oftener asked by average collectors, and no single answer can be given, unless the inquirer has the unlimited time and funds necessary to 'collect everything'.

The great classics, like the Old Masters of the art world, are unquestionably the 'gems' of philately. Many of them are exquisite masterpieces of engraving, and combine the dignified simplicity that is 'classical' with proven rarity.

Of course, no intelligent collector is long taken in by the glib assumption that classics are the only 'real' thing. Because great old examples exist is no reason why one should not own today the stamps which will with time also become 'the issues of long ago.' Philatelic history shows that the present high prices of classics are largely due to the increased number of collectors brought in by frequent and interesting new issues.



"But aren't the early issues more valuable without perforations!?"

Like the Old Masters the great classics are high priced items for the privileged few, and their percentage price rise per year is small. Obviously it is much easier for a $1 stamp to double in value than a $5,000 one. To buy and sell classics at a profit it requires infinite patience. Sometimes the pleasure derived from their posession is more than cancelled by the unpleasantness of often having to deal with merchants who try to squeeze every penny out of every transaction whether buying or selling.

Condition is one of the primary price determinents of nineteenth century stamps. New collectors usually do not know the reputable dealers who can supply or advise them. They may be attracted to dealers who profoundly pretend to 'expertize' other dealers stamps, or they may unknowingly buy from firms that do not even really guarantee the stamps they sell.

Low priced classics of a 'popular' nature also exist, but here again the man of moderate means is at a handicap. So many varieties exist of each stamp that specialization is almost a necessity. For example the first U.S. stamp catalogues a modest $27.50. Most collectors can afford a nice copy of it. But soon it becomes evident that one copy is not enough.

This stamp exists in distinct color types, with different cancellations, on cover, in pairs and blocks, and so on. One each of just the major 49 varieties of this one stamp are shown in the Specialized Catalog at a price of $5,837.50. Add one each of the known proofs and reprints and you add another $5,000. Add all available varieties and multiple pieces that should go into a specialized collection, and you could spend a few hundred thousand dollars on this one stamp and still not be complete!

Twentieth century stamps are refreshingly different for the average collector. They may lack the thrill that comes from possessing a British Guiana or post office Mauritius, but they have many attractions of their own.

The new issue collector can buy

his stamps on a 'cost plus' basis at their starting prices, and condition is not a factor in stamps bought promptly as they appear. Starting prices are usually so modest that many stamps will show large percentage increases as time passes.

Specialization is the slave and not the master of the collector of new stamps, and he is free to specialize or not. With improvements of printing processes, new issues are so vivid and interesting that the collector of current stamps enjoys a whole psychological field and historical pageant unknown to the classic specialist.

When a philatelist is posed with the problem of choosing between nineteenth and twentieth century stamps, most will decide—without regrets—to collect the latter.

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THE REMARKABLE STORY OF THE FAMOUS STAMP TWINS "PEM & BINA"

One of the most fantastic stories in the world of philately had its beginning on November 2nd, 1858, in the little town of Pembina in North Dakota. The story began when a Canadian free fur trader arrived in this town to mail a letter, bearing an imperforate pair of 7½ penny green Canadian stamps, issued in 1857, and later to become very rare.

It is known today that this Canadian letter, mailed in the United States, contained complaints on the living conditions which the early Selkirk settlers had to endure in that far away country which we know today as Manitoba.

In those days, the Hudson Bay Company was the undisputed ruler of the region. They enforced their authority by imposing a strict censorship on all the settlers' mail, in order that the London government would not become aware of the adverse conditions.

Many years later during the winter of 1906, a philatelist who was in urgent need of money, decided to sell his holdings which included the pair of Canadian stamps cancelled "PEMBINA". The owner, unconscious of the real value of the pair, washed it from the envelope, in which state it would have been of great importance today. Being rare stamps and of high value even at that time, the owner was unable to find a client who would purchase the pair. For this reason, he separated the pair with scissors to facilitate their sale. In 1906, one of these stamps bearing the "PEM" portion of the postmark, was sold at auction in London. The other stamp bearing the "BINA" portion was sold at auction in New York about the year 1921.

The stamp carrying the "BINA" portion became the property of Dr. Lewis Reford, an outstanding authority on Canadian stamps, and the "PEM" portion found its way into the property of Colonel J. S. O'Meara, another Canadian specialist.

The eminent Canadian specialists, both members of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, were great friends and often spent long hours together studying their stamps. One day in 1936, when Dr. Reford was making a meticulous examination of Colonel O'Meara Stamps, he noticed the 7½ penny green with the "PEM" cancellation. This greatly intrigued him, as he knew he had one himself bearing the letters "BINA". To satisfy his curiosity, he placed his copy beside that of the Colonel and found that they lined up perfectly, establishing without a doubt that they had been an original pair. Both men being wealthy, a drawing was agreed upon to determine who would become the first owner of the re-united pair, a considerable sum of money which the loser would receive having been decided upon beforehand. The honor of ownership fell upon Dr. Reford and the famous "PEMBINA" pair were re-united.

Dr. Reford had a friendly spot in his heart for his colleague, and upon his death, willed the pair to Colonel O'Meara. Following the death of Colonel O'Meara, in 1952, the pair was purchased by Paul H. Dolbec, of Quebec City, who has since that time refused some very interesting offers for the renowned "PEMBINA" twins. The Quebec Philatelic Society just hope that this treasure will long stay in the walled city for the benefit of each member.

Guy Des Rivières, President,
Quebec Philatelic Society,
71 St. Peter St.,
Quebec, P. Que.

THE PEROT POSTMASTERS

BERMUDA

1848-61 ONE PENNY FIRST ISSUE

The first issue of the group of islands called Bermuda consists of two of the rarest stamps of the world. Unknown until about fifty years ago, this issue resulted from the ingenuity of two Americans, and has a fascinating story.

Bermuda had a functioning postal system as far back as 1784, and an official government post office was opened in 1811. The postmaster from 1818 to 1862 was a former Philadelphian, William B. Perot, who rarely allowed his official duties to interfere with his gardening. The postmaster was allowed an annual salary of £70 in addition to any inland postage which he might collect.

Perot's duties did not require much time and whenever a customer happened into the tiny post office, his neighbor, the American proprietor of a drug store next to the post office, obligingly called the postmaster from his garden. Mail was simply dropped in a slot in the door.

However when in 1846 an Act was passed making the prepayment of mail obligatory, the letters would be left with postmaster Perot, or his druggist friend, Mr. J. B. Heyl, together with one penny in prepayment of the postage. But this soon became a bother, and prevented people from mailing letters at night. So a box was provided by Perot in which letters and pennies could be dropped when he was not available.

Before long, however, he began to find more letters than pennies in the box and there was no way to tell which had not been prepaid!

Since every missing penny was a penny less for Perot himself, he consulted with his neighbor as to how to solve this problem. Heyl, who perhaps was familiar with the postmaster provisionals of the United States, suggested that he issue postage stamps, for the convenience of persons who wished to mail letters at night or other times when the postmaster was unavailable. Any unstamped letters found in the box could then be treated as unpaid.

The novel idea appealed to Perot and in 1848 he issued his first stamps. The stamps were produced at almost no cost, as a modification of the ordinary postmark. He simply removed the day

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and month, but not the year, from the center of the cancellation, and stamped it twelve times on a piece of bluish paper. He then wrote in ink 'one penny', added his signature, and placed them on sale for the use of the local residents when the post office was closed.

He would manufacture additional quantities as they were needed. At first he stamped them in black and later on in red ink. No one can even guess as to how many were made as they were in use for a dozen years. During this time, when the post office was opened letters could be prepaid in cash and were cancelled in the regular manner. Perot did not bother to cancel the stamps used, as the idea of their being used again probably did not occur to him.

The first discovery of these interesting stamps was made in 1897, almost fifty years after issuance. A Bermuda collector sent it to the conservative stamp London firm of Alfred Smith & Co. As with so many other rare stamps, it was regarded with the greatest scepticism and returned to the owner. A short while later it was sold to the ever alert Baron von Ferrari. At the Ferrari sale in 1922 it was bought for $2,800.00 by M. Burrus.

A second copy was discovered in 1898 and was sold for about $750. Gradually other copies have turned up, until today ten examples are known of this first issue. Four are black and six are red. Not one has been sold since 1935.

In 1946 the philatelic world was surprised to hear of the discovery of another type of this issue. It was made from the 'crowned circle' type of cancellation which was also used by Perot. In 1948 two other examples of this type were also found, bringing the total known to three. No sales have been recorded as yet.

No other copies of any of these stamps have come to light despite intense search. Unknown for fifty years, then known but often disparaged as locals, or as issues not authorized by the government, for another fifty years, these most interesting stamps have finally come into their own. Last year Bermuda even pictured them on a special commemorative issue.

The original price for these thirteen stamps was one penny each. At the turn of the century they were worth about $750 each even though they were the subject of attack. Twenty years ago, the stamps were worth about three times this amount, and today the value of the thirteen stamps can be conservatively estimated in excess of $100,000.00.

THE LANGUAGE OF STAMPS

When the stamp is placed upside down on the lefthand corner of the envelope it means that the writer loves you. If crosswise on the opposite corner: "My heart belongs to another and can never belong to you." Placed in the proper way on the same corner: "Good-by for the present, dearest." If at right angles on the lefthand top corner: "I hate you." The lefthand corner at the bottom placed in the same way: "I wish or desire your friendship, but nothing more." Lefthand bottom corner, upside down: "Write soon." If put on a line with the surname on the lefhand side, it means, "Accept my love." If upside down in the same position: "I am already engaged." If placed upside down in the right hand corner, it asks the question: "Do you love me?" If on the righthand side of the surname, proper way: "I long to see you, write immediately." At the bottom righthand corner, crosswise: "No." At the same place upside down: "Yes."

THE CARIBOU ISSUE OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Few nations have more graphically portrayed their history and their characteristics on their postage stamps than has that far northern island of Newfoundland. Beginning with her fourth issue of stamps, in 1866, every new series has been pictorial in nature, and in their sum may be seen the story of Newfoundland from its discovery down to the present day. For their dramatic value if for nothing else, the stamps of Newfoundland would have surely been favorites the world over.

The Caribou issue of Newfoundland, is in reality a victory issue similar in nature to those special stamps issued by so many of the Allies shortly after the Armistice in 1918. This particular series of stamps is not as handsome as some, nor does it portray such diversified subjects as is the case with almost every series of stamps issued by that dominion, but even so, the Caribou stamps, or, more properly speaking, the Trail of the Caribou issue, has its points of interest.

Early in 1918 stamp supplies in Newfoundland were running short, and it was evident that either a reprint of existing values must be made, or else an entirely new issue designed. With four years of warfare behind her, and with a great percentage of her manpower lying under French and Near-Eastern sod, and especially as almost every able-bodied man in the Newfoundland Posts and Telegraph Department had joined the colors overseas, it was logical that any new series of stamps should bear some patriotic motif. Note that at the time the Caribou stamps were designed the war was still on with unabated fury, so the stamps reflected not so much the joy of victory as the determination to "carry on." That they were actually issued shortly AFTER the end of the war was mere fortuitous circumstance, although most appropriate.

The official desire for stamps of a patriotic design brought results in the form of two sketches from a Newfoundland artist, Mr. J. H. Noonan, who also happened to be close to the Department in the capacity of First Clerk and Cashier of the Newfoundland Customs Department, at St. Johns. One of these pictured the Canadian moose, while the other portrayed the Caribou. From available records it appears that the first design was much more attractive, but as the Caribou was the official insignia of the Royal Newfound-

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SPIER BROS.

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land Regiment it was adopted regardless of appearance. As a matter of fact the resulting picture is a cross between the moose and the caribou, being an animal never seen on land or sea. But to the average spectator that means nothing, as few have ever seen either animal closely enough to judge the fine anatomical differences.

The suggested designs were sent to the firm of Whitehead, Morris & Co., Ltd., of London, England, who held the contract for printing the stamps of Newfoundland. By May, 1918 proofs of the completed designs were back in St. Johns. During the same month an appropriations bill was passed by the Newfoundland Assembly allocating the sum of $50,000.00 for the new series of stamps. Final orders were placed with the London printers shortly afterwards, and production was under way. Several delays put off the arrival of the stamps in Newfoundland, and it was not until Dec. 31, 1918 that they arrived on the steamer Graciana, of the Furness & Withy Line. Unpacked and checked immediately the stamps were at last placed on sale at St. Johns at the General Postoffice at 3.30 p.m., Thursday, January 2, 1919.

There are twelve stamps in the series, all bearing the same central design of the Caribou (?) head, but each bearing on a scroll beneath the design either the name of some military engagement of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment or else the name of the Royal Naval Reserve, with the Latin word "Ubique," which means "Everywhere," indicating the extensive operations of the marine contingent of the Newfoundlanders. The values, covers, and scroll phrases of the series are as follows; with the number issued as shown:

1c Green (Suvla Bay)—5,000,000
2c Scarlet (Ubique)—4,000,000
3c Brown (Queudecourt) —6,000,000
4c Violet (Beaumont Hamel) —250,000
5c Ultramarine (Ubique) —1,000,000
6c Gray (Monchy)—50,000
8c Magenta (Ubique)—50,000
10c Dark green (Steenbeck) —250,000
12c Orange (Ubique)—50,000
15c Dark Blue (Langemarck) —50,000
24c Bistre (Cambrai)—50,000
36c Olive Green (Combles) —50,000

The above figures represent the original print orders, and are fairly accurate. Of the 4c, 5c and 10c there were a few more furnished, while of the other values there were slightly less. The 6c and the 8c values were the first to be exhausted, not because they were more heavily used than any other values, but because there were far less of them than of any of the lower values. They naturally were the first to rise in catalog value, and were quoted at a dollar or more long before the higher values caught up with them. Today the old law of supply and demand has ironed out temporary scarcities, and the catalog values more truly reflect the relative scarcity of the twelve values. The series is not rare, but is just scarce enough to make its acquisition a minor triumph. The series sold rapidly, and several values disappeared quickly, but by September of 1920 all values had been exhausted except a very few of the 1c, which lasted slightly longer due to its limited use.

Jarrett reports that two values, the 4c and 8c, have been forged, and very well forged, but the forgeries are really scarcer than the originals so they may be forgotten except by the specialist.

The 3c value was also overprinted to the tune of 200 stamps for the Hawker air stamp of 1919, and the 36c was overprinted fifty cents in 1930 for the Columbia flight, a few of that value having been saved for some unexplained reason. These air stamps, however, are another story.

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