

References:-

1. Newfoundland: Discoveries in the Design Sizes of the 1932 First Resources; 1933 Gilbert; 1937 Long Coronation and 1938 Royal Family Issues by John M. Walsh and Robin Moore. Maple Leaves January 2021 Vol 37 No 1 pp 3 – 32
2. Newfoundland – The Long Coronation Issue 1937 – A Problem part 3; Robert H. Pratt. BNA Topics Vol 44 no 4 Mar – Apr 1987 pp 41 – 46

NEW VARIETY ON ‘G’ OVERPRINT 20 CENT STAMP OF 1952

David Biltek

Sometime in the spring of 1952 one of the printing machines in the Canadian Bank Note Company shops “hiccupped”, “stuttered” or in some manner caused a printing error that resulted in a rare variety on the 20 cents grey Pulp and Paper stamp of 1952. The stamp with this error is displayed below in fig 1:



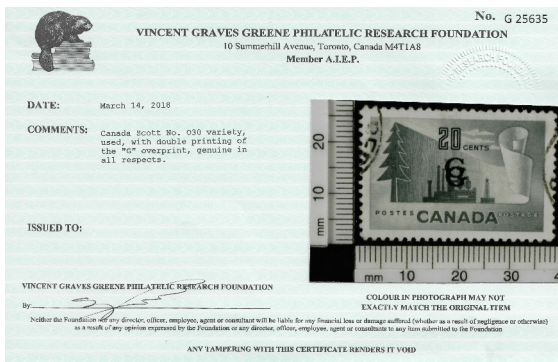
Fig 1 20 cents Pulp and Paper stamp of 1952 with ‘G’ overprint doubled.

This variety or error is not listed in any current catalogue or in any old issues of Wrigley’s, or Bileski’s Basic Catalogues. An extensive literature search reveals nothing about the possibility of this variety.

Although issued on 1 April 1952 and overprinted shortly thereafter the above stamp did not make another “public” showing until April 2020 at the Daniel Kelleher Stamp Auction where it was purchased by a Canadian Stamp dealer who subsequently sold it to the current owner

Is this authentic?

When two of the leading expertization services in Canada agree that it is, the likelihood is that yes, this stamp is authentic. (see fig 2 below)



On 14 March 2018, the Vincent Graves Greene Foundation issued a certificate which stated:

“Canada Scott number O30 used with Double printing of the “G” overprint, is genuine in all respects.”

and in March 2021, Ken Pugh issued a certificate wherein he commented:

“It is my opinion the O30v...is genuine. It is a double print, and not a “kiss” print as indicated by the equal intensity of the black ink on the front, and equal relief impressions on the reverse. There is an inking anomaly observed with the serifs. The first impression (top) has slightly more ink making it appear thicker. This is not consistent throughout all areas of the “G”, but could be explained by the more intricate structure of the serif area more likely to trap surplus ink than other areas of the overprint This has often been observed in single impressions and is normal.”

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Cert KP 2021-03-14-9

O30v 1951 Pulp and paper issue, double G overprint.



It is my opinion the O30v illustrated above is genuine. It is a double print, and not a “kiss” print indicated by the equal intensity of the black ink on the front, and equal relief impressions on the reverse. There is a noted inking anomaly observed with the serifs. The first impression (top) has slightly more ink making it appear thicker. This is not consistent throughout all areas of the “G”, but could be explained by the more intricate structure of the serif area more likely to trap surplus ink than other areas of the overprint. This has often been observed in single impressions, and is normal.

K. Pugh



Fig 2 The two certificates that have been issued for the stamp.

How did this happen?

The following is speculative but is based on what is known with similar varieties: the 1 cent

Cameo Double G overprint and the Missing G's in the 2 cents Cameo.

The stamp was printed in sheets of 200 composed of four panes of 50. It was then overprinted with a G and finally perforated. There were 3,300,000 overprints issued.

Here are two scenarios:

Firstly, as the sheet was printed it was not discharged all the way through the press, leaving perhaps the last row or two rows still in the printing area. The plate printed again, but in slightly different areas on these last one or two rows. It is suggested that this only happened to one or two rows which could explain why the error was missed by inspectors. The sheets so overprinted were perforated, bundled and sent to the Post Office without the error being noticed.

At the Post Office the bundles were unpacked, separated into the 50 stamp panes, and sent to various Government departments depending on requisitions, and to the Philatelic Bureau. Clearly the sheets/panes with the error were not sent to the Bureau, where the error would have been more likely to have been noticed.

At the department level, the stamps were received, again with no one noticing the error, placed in the stamp drawer or box and subsequently used.

At that time 20 cent stamps were mostly used for: Domestic Registration, Some AR cards, International Registration and/ or International airmail.

Given these uses it is quite possible that most of the stamps with the error were sent overseas or to larger departments where the envelopes were trashed, however one such stamp was used for airmail or registration to the USA, where a collector saw the stamp, rescued it and added it to his collection as an "oddity" If the collector was not knowledgeable about Canadian Officials the nature of this error may have been missed until that collection ended up at The Kelleher Auction previously mentioned.

A second scenario sees the sheets being perforated first and then separated into panes of 50 stamps; after which the panes are overprinted with the G. A different press is used, and the ink is also different, but as in the first scenario there is a printing error, which results in a whole pane being double overprinted. Again, the inspectors miss this and send stamps to various departments.

In one of these departments one or more of the stamps are put on an envelope and mailed. Someone at the receiving end recognises an error, takes the stamp home puts in their collection, but since they do not collect Canadian stamps, do not recognise the significance of the error. Meanwhile, back in the department someone recognises the error and returns the remaining stamps to the post office.

No doubt more speculative stories can be created and it would be instructive to hear these, as well as theories about the stamp, observations, or questions....all of which would be welcome.

To further the speculation, one prominent Canadian dealer reports: "...having seen this stamp floating around for a couple of years. I think it is owned by some British fellow ...". It may be that there are more examples, or that this one somehow made its way to the Kelleher Auction.

There is also the possibility that the stamp is an amazing forgery, but given the assessments by VGG and Ken Pugh, it would need to be an astonishing one. It is more likely to conclude this is an authentic variety and further that it may be unique or one of very, very few.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lawrence Pinkney

LARGE QUEENS

Thank you for the most recent April journal.

I am personally glad that you have printed the article authored by Brian Hargreaves. His discussion seems to have centred on the 2 cent Large Queen varieties that he has uncovered. He did mention that he consulted with the Duckworth text. He has concluded that "some of Duckworth's observations" might be questioned.

I thought that I was the only person who questioned Duckworth's observations. My detailed observations have focused on the 15 cent Large Queen. I have concluded that both Duckworth and Firth, and thus Unitrade, need to be updated to include the 11.75 x 12 perforation. Both Duckworth and Firth are totally silent on this particular perforation. So much so, that I thought that I must be wrong. But I have too many of them to be that wrong! So, I recently took all of my 11.75 x 12 15 Cent Large Queens to the expert committee at the VGG. Very fortunately, the stamps and the perforations were instantly recognized. They are a scarce perforation printed in 1876/1877 during the Montreal printing period. The only reference to that very specific perforation is on page 25 of the Hillson and Nixon text. Thus, a Small Queen perforation of 11.75 x 12 was applied to a Large Queen printing of that time.

I will thus join Hargreaves in his conclusion of Duckworth's observations - and also Firth's observations.

Perhaps your readers may also have Large Queens that do not seem to fit with any observations made by Duckworth or Firth. It would be very interesting to learn of them.