



Maple Leaves

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CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF GREAT BRITAIN**

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EDITORIAL

With the arrival of summer our thoughts start to turn to the Society Annual Convention. The ongoing constraints caused by the pandemic, particularly those relating to international travel and large social gatherings, have prompted us to opt for something completely different this year – a virtual Convention. Over the last year many of us have discovered the possibilities of meeting up and viewing philatelic displays via the medium of *Zoom*. I know that many local groups have been holding regular meetings this way and managing to maintain at least some aspects of the social side of our hobby. Our 2021 Convention will take this virtual meeting concept a step further and allow all members who have internet access the chance to participate in Convention from the comfort of their own homes at no cost. Our President, Brian Stalker, has put together a varied programme of some 10 philatelic displays (see page 179). In addition, you will have opportunities to raise queries on items you need help with and a chance to participate in a bit of social chit-chat with fellow members.

I would also encourage all members to have a go at entering the Society one-frame competition. The closing date for this is **15th August** and details can be found on page 152. This is primarily a ‘fun’ competition and there are no big cash prizes but on the other hand it costs nothing to enter (no restrictions on numbers or frames) and you do get the opportunity to brag if you win along with nice certificate! The entries will be posted online on the Society website (in an entirely anonymous way) to form an exhibition during the week of Convention, so you will also get a chance to view all the other entries and decide who you think should win so give it a go – we would love to see some of the prize items in your collections.

One thing we have opted against doing on-line and live during Convention is our customary room auction. Experience tells us that this takes a lot longer to conduct online and may well severely limit the number of lots we could include. We will, therefore, be holding the 'Convention' auction via the Society website as a postal/internet sale; similar to the last few auctions. The closing date will be Friday 9th October – a couple of weeks after Convention itself and I hope to have the auction catalogue online to view by the middle of August. My thanks go out to all those members who have sent in material for sale in this auction.

Finally, I extend my apologies to Dean Mario. When putting together the last issue I somehow managed to miss the references from his article entitled 'When the Cat's Away' on pages 106 – 108. I include them here for those of you who like to get the complete story.....

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NEWFOUNDLAND: DISCOVERY DESIGN SIZES FOUND ON THE 5 CENT, 2 CENT DIE II, 4 CENT ROSE LAKE AND 8 CENT VALUES OF THE 1932 PERKINS BACON & CO ISSUE. (FURTHER PROOF OF THEIR DIFFERENT PRINTING PRESS USES AND CAPABILITIES).

John M Walsh, *FRPSL* and Robin Moore

Maple Leaves (Vol. 37 No. 1 January 2021 Whole No. 359) has three offset blocks labelled by us as being printed under the gum. This was the original thinking. Examination has proved this to be incorrect. Our apologies.

Having discovered that Perkins Bacon & Co (*ref 1*) had the ability and machinery to print on both wet ungummed paper and dry pregummed paper, a further study of Newfoundland postage stamps was undertaken. Initially we chose the 5¢ Caribou violet (generic colour name) and 2¢ King green denominations because co-author Moore's collection contained much mint material from these two denominations. We also knew that covers containing these denominations would be in widespread use in line with the 1932-41 postal rates. With fortuitous access to several cover collections we also got to examine covers having the 4¢ rose lake and the 8¢ denominations posted on them. This research study presents discoveries that clearly show the two design size differences found with these stated stamp images. Proof that Perkins Bacon & Co utilized two different printing press types; one was for wet ungummed paper while the other used dry pregummed paper.

Nowhere in the literature did we find any references that Perkins Bacon & Co printed different stamp design sizes for their Newfoundland 1932 postage stamps. Any references to these 1932 denominations by Perkins Bacon & Co always stated that the size was < 20.5 mm. We found that in 1987, Robert H Pratt (*ref 2*) wrote that it was in June 1976 that he saw material belonging to Perkins Bacon & Co in the possession of A. John Hubbard, who was the chairman of the board for Perkins Bacon & Co. Furthermore, Pratt states that he saw sheets of errors, colour trials, printed on the gum-side, erratic perforations, lathework examples, different paper types and sheets both ungummed and gummed. He does show samples he received from Hubbard. There is no mention by him of doing any design size measurements.

Kas Bileski later acquired this same material from the estate of A. John Hubbard. Bileski noted that this material had the same stamp design size as that made by

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Waterlow & Sons in 1941. He proceeded to market this material as belonging to or originating from Waterlow & Sons. Interestingly many of the samples that he sold had the stated date of production written on them, with the dates well before 1941.

When we examined this material we saw that it presented a detailed chronological timeline. The products show, with their stated dates, that these developments were made by the printing processes ongoing at Perkins Bacon & Co. Remember the material was acquired from the estate of A. John Hubbard, the chairman of the board for the Perkins Bacon & Co. This development shows what was required and necessary to stay competitive in the printing industry. With his working position in the company, he became the recipient or keeper of these ongoing development attempts. Hubbard was also a known stamp collector.

An observation we have made, is that a study of this material has to be done by the hands-on method. We have found, from being given physical access, that there are at least two design sizes < 20.5 mm and 21 mm on those original single die proofs. Nowhere in the literature have these engraved design sizes been mentioned. Our understanding of die proof sizes leads to the acceptance that to have an engraved image printed in a larger size, then the die proof has to be in that larger size. But smaller printed sizes can be produced when use is made of the wet paper printing presses. We observed these sizes. From our studies, we believe many discovery opportunities remain for the items of Perkins Bacon & Co products.

Presented in fig 1 below is the Perkins Bacon & Co **Presentation Booklet**. It was acquired from the 2006 Sir Gawaine Baillie stamp auction. The ornate frontispiece clearly states the maker. Inside are nine coloured images of Newfoundland stamps. The stamp perforations are partially hidden under the matting. Upon examination it is discovered that the 2¢ King green is die II with a design size of 21 mm and that the 5¢ Caribou violet is die II with a design size of 21 mm. The rest are sized < 20.5 mm.

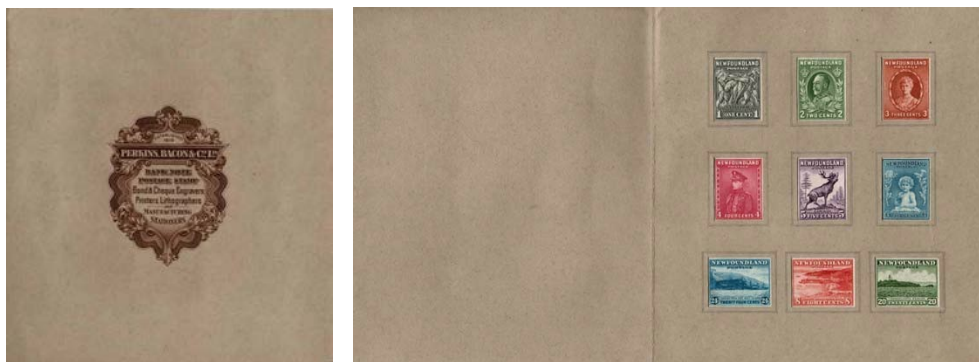


Fig 1 Perkins Bacon & Co. Presentation Booklet

As gum has been discussed, we present the images in fig 2 below to illustrate how the gum looks when applied to the paper. The appearance shows what occurs when gum is applied after drying the wet ungummed printed paper. The step after printing is to dry the paper. This is to enable the adherence to the paper of a gelatinous material, called gum. The gum is applied by using a brush to spread this material under the area that has the stamp printed onto it. To limit gum wastage the applied gum is not brushed out into the outer margins of the printed sheet. At times gum is even missing from under some of the stamped image area. Usually, the gum presents in a brownish colour. The printing company does this gum application. With pre-gummed paper the gum presents in a translucent colour. It is found spread out over the entire paper sheet without any ungummed area remaining. This pregumming is done at the papermaking mill.



On the left:

1) deep violet < 20.5 mm, die I; Gum, wmkd, perf. 13.5 x 13.5; gum does not extend into margin above top frame; indicates gumming after printing;

2) violet < 20.5 mm, die I; Gum, wmkd, perf. 13.5 x 13.5

On the right:

Same stamps viewed from the back

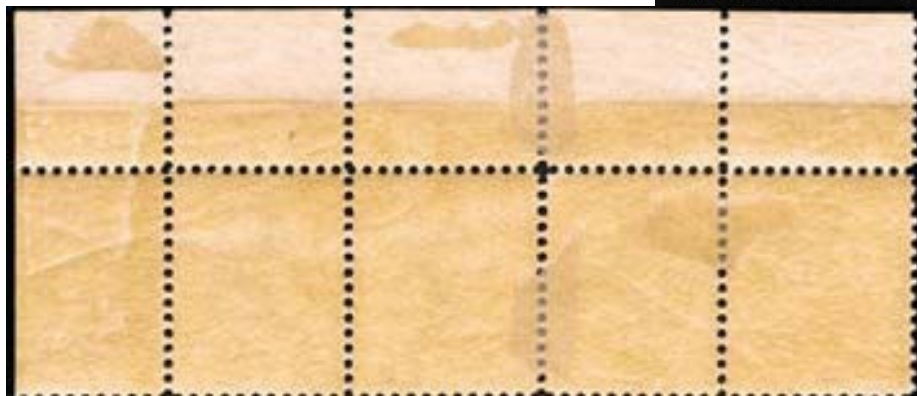


Fig 2 - Above: full wet paper after drying; shows gum applied only to edge of the printed image.

The images in fig 3 below and figs 4 and 5 overleaf present described design sizes as seen with 5¢ die I and with 5¢ die II stamps in different perforation gauges.

Fig 3:-

From the top:-

- 1) violet 21 mm, die I; Gum, wmkd, perf. 13.3 x 13.3*
- 2) violet < 20.5 mm, die I; Gum, wmkd, perf. 13.5 x 13.5*
- 3) violet < 20.5 mm, die I; Gum, wmkd, perf. 14 x 14*





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Scott #1454i VAR

Well the moment has arrived! After 15 years of negotiations, the owner of these three UNIQUE imperforate sheets has finally agreed to sell. The editors of the Unitrade Canada Specialized were aware of their existence and they were listed in a footnote. Orders will be taken on a first come first basis and cut up accordingly. Sheets are all VF Never Hinged and were originally bought from an Archive Sale. Prices will be as follows. Payment plans can be arranged. Both offers are unlisted in Unitrade Catalogue.

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Fig 4:-

From the top:-

- 1) violet 21 mm, die I; Gum; wmkd; imperf
- 2) violet < 20.5 mm, die II; Gum, wmkd, imperf
- 3) violet < 20.5 mm, die II; Gum, wmkd, perf 14.2 x 14.2
- 3a) dark violet < 20.5 mm, die I; Gum, wmkd, perf. 13.5 x 13.5
- 4) violet < 20.5 mm, die II; Gum, wmkd, perf 14.2 x 14.2 x imperf. vert.
- 5) violet < 20.5 mm, die I; Gum, wmkd, perf. 14 x 14



Fig 5



- 1) violet < 20.5 mm, die I; Gum, wmkd, perf. 13.5 x 13.5
- 2) black 21 mm, die I; NG, unwmkd, imperf.
- 3) violet < 20.5 mm, die I; Gum, wmkd, imperf.



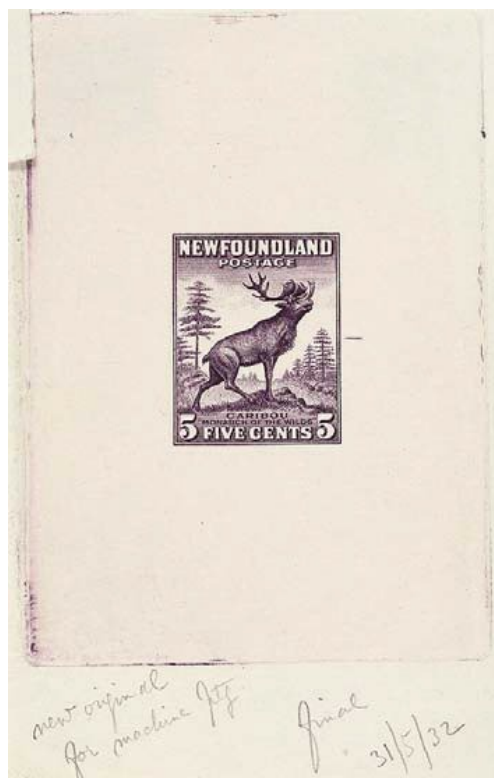
- 1) violet < 20.5 mm, die I; Gum, wmkd, perf. 13.5 x 13.5
- 2) black 21 mm, die I; Gum, wmkd, imperf.
- 3) deep violet < 20.5 mm, die I; NG, wmkd, imperf.
- 4) violet 21 mm, die I; Gum, wmkd, imperf.

From the Library Archives Canada website we found the two images in fig 6. They provide further proof of the printing press development that was happening within Perkins Bacon & Co. Interestingly it shows that the 5¢ die II was undergoing trial printing development.

We were not able to do a design measurement on these two items.



Fig 6 LAC e0006110251
(above) 1932 5¢ die II
with manuscript 'Flat-
bed' and LAC
e000610251 (at right)
1932 5¢ die II with man-
uscript 'New original
for machine pty final
31/5/32'



The image displays a variety of postage stamps and postal items:

- A red 1-cent stamp featuring a profile of a woman.
- A green 1-cent stamp featuring a profile of a woman.
- A blue 1-cent stamp featuring a profile of a woman.
- A green 15-cent stamp featuring a profile of a woman.
- A blue 15-cent stamp featuring a profile of a woman.
- A large sheet of 50 grey 1-cent stamps, arranged in a 10x5 grid.
- A black envelope with a red 1-cent stamp and a green 15-cent stamp. The address is: George D. McInnis, Esq., Woodstock, N.Y., via Melbourne, Australia.
- A white envelope with a red 1-cent stamp and a green 15-cent stamp. The address is: George D. McInnis, Esq., Woodstock, N.Y., via Melbourne, Australia.



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The described images in fig 7 below show perf. 13.5 x 13.5 of the 5¢ die II in design size 21 mm comparisons. The signature of Sir Humphrey T. Walwyn (Governor) is presented to provide a time frame for its appearance.



Fig 7

1) violet 21mm die II; Gum, wmkd. Perf. 13.5 x 13.5 signed by Sir Humphrey T. Walwyn, Governor 1936 - 46

2) violet 21mm, die II; Gum, wmkd. Imperf.

3) black 21mm, die II; NG, unwmkd, Imperf

4) violet <20.5mm, die I; Gum, wmkd, perf 13.5 x 13.5

1) violet 21 mm, die II; Gum, wmkd, perf. 13.5 x 13.5

2) dark violet 21 mm, die II; Gum, wmkd, perf. 13.5 x 13.5

3) medium violet 21 mm, die II; Gum, wmkd, perf. 13.5 x 13.5

4) light violet 21 mm, die I; Gum, wmkd, perf. 13.3 x 13.3

5) black 21 mm, die II; NG, unwmkd, imperf.

6) violet < 20.5 mm, die I; Gum, wmkd, perf. 13.5 x 13.5

The images of the plate number blocks shown in fig 8 provide proof that the initial printing of this denomination was with wet paper printing. Comparison here is with a perf 13.3 x 13.3 5¢ stamp die I size 21mm.

Fig 8

From the top:-

- 1) plate 2 (rev) deep violet < 20.5 mm, die II; Gum, wmkd, perf. 13.5 x 13.5
- 2) plate 3 violet < 20.5 mm, die II; Gum, wmkd, perf 13.5 x 13.5
- 3) plate 4 violet < 20.5 mm, die II; Gum, wmkd, perf 13.5 x 13.5
- 4) violet 21 mm, die I; Gum, wmkd, perf 13.3 x 13.3



Our previous discovery report (*ref 1*) showed a variety of 5¢ Caribou imperforate stamps. One was from plate 2 with 1939 printed onto the stamp. This was observed to be from die II with a confirmed discovery design size 21 mm. And yes, plate 2 was also found in die II with design size 20.4 mm. In addition, plate 4 was found with 23 Sept 1938 written on the sheet. It was found to be die II with a confirmed discovery design size 21 mm, and yet plate 4 was also found in die II with design size 20.4 mm and the plate 5 from 12/1/40 with ACS initials was found as die II with a confirmed design size 20.4 mm.



Fig 9 showing from the top:-

- 1) plate 4. Handwritten, violet 21 mm, die II; NG, heavy wove, unwmkd, imperf.*
- 2) violet 21 mm, die II; NG, wmkd, imperf.*
- 3) black 21 mm, die I; NG, unwmkd, imperf.*
- 4) violet < 20.5 mm, die I; Gum, wmkd, imperf.*

With this block shown in fig 9 above and the comparators applied against it, is a confirmed and detailed look at the stamp size capabilities that Perkins Bacon & Co had prior to their plant destruction in May 1941. This was well before Waterlow & Sons were contracted to print the Newfoundland 1941 - 49 issue. Waterlow & Sons used a 5¢ Caribou denomination albeit in the die I not die II design. This clearly demonstrates that the capability of Perkins Bacon & Co extended beyond only using wet ungummed paper presses. They had the capability of using dry pregummed paper presses to print stamps.

The cover, shown overleaf in fig 10, dated 16 Apr 1937 provides positive proof that Perkins Bacon & Co produced the 5¢ Caribou; die II; size 21 mm; perf. 13.5 x 13.5 well before 1941.



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Fig 10 Cover dated 16 Apr 1937 with 5¢ Caribou die II, size 21mm, perf 13.5 x 13.5. Detail at right confirms the design size.



While searching through the postal history cover collection of local collector Brian Bursey, we observed a discovery he had made. It was of *Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue* NSSC RE 2 Registered Envelope B size. This example has the earliest known recorded use dated 28 April 1938 for this Registered Envelope type B (see fig 11 overleaf).

We did a further studies of the stamps present paying the postal rates of 5¢ basic weight postage plus 10¢ registration fee. Our examination found that this envelope has doubled its importance. This envelope is observed having the 5¢ Caribou die II denominations with design sized 21 mm wide and having 13.5 x 13.5 perforation.

This provides absolute proof that the 5¢ Caribou die II design size 21 mm was printed by Perkins Bacon & Co. This size is indicative of printing on dry paper printing presses. This manner of printing is similar to what was eventually used post 1941 by the Waterlow & Sons printers for the 1941-49 Second Resources issue of Newfoundland.

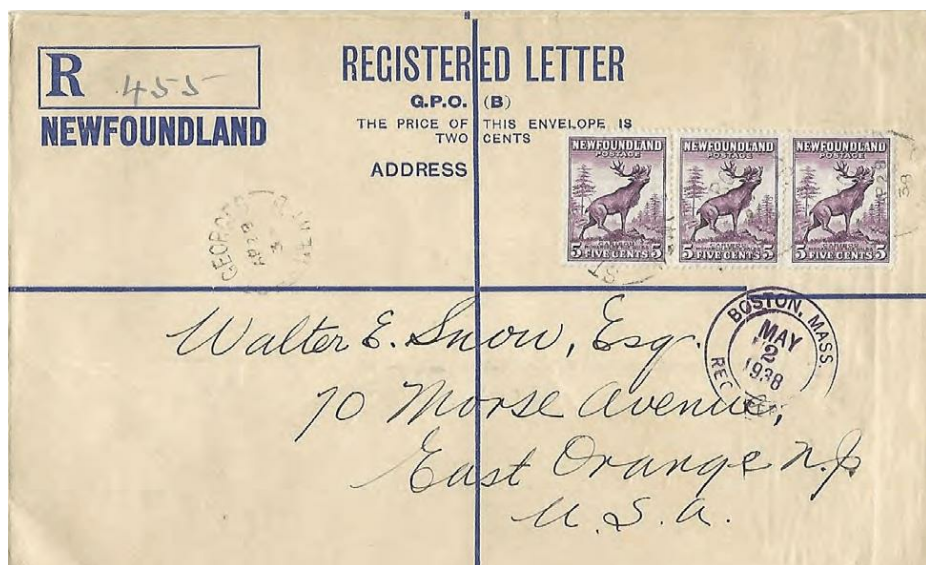


Fig 11

A variety that occurs infrequently is the same image appearance being printed onto the backside of the printed sheet. The term usually applied to label such occurrences is offset. The offset is the mirror reverse of the front image. This usually happens when the printing press is running too fast. The previous printed sheet does not have time to dry before the following sheet lands on its still wet ink surface. The wet ink is transferred to the underside of that following sheet. When wet paper printing is used this transferred image will be found below the gum. This resulting occurrence can be readily seen on some issues printed prior to 1900 when wet paper printing was the method of use. With dry pregummed paper printing, the image is found on top of the gum surface.

On fig 12 opposite, offsets are shown from the 1932 issue on pregummed paper and from the later 1941 issue on pregummed paper. This shows that the 1932 Perkins Bacon & Co printing method, although used well before 1941, was similar to the later 1941 Waterlow & Sons printing method. Images offset onto the gum surface present with clarity.

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1932 2¢ 21mm, die II; offset on top of gum;
perf 13.5 x 13.5



1932 5¢ 21mm die II; offset on top of gum;
perf 13.5 x 13.5



1941 7¢ 21mm; offset on top of gum; perf
12.5 x 12.5



1941 20¢ 21 mm; offset on top of gum; perf 12.5
x 12.5

Fig 12 Offsets

We next turned our attention to the 2¢ value of the 1932 issue. Illustrated overleaf in fig 13 are a number of trial proofs and stamps of this value which clearly show that it was printed in two different design sizes; < 20.5 mm and 21 mm.

With confirmation that there were two sizes for this green 2¢ die II stamp, a search for use of the different sizes in its time period was undertaken. The cover shown on page 142 (fig 14) dated 14 Sept 1938 has a digital cut taken. This clearly shows the use of the 2¢ die II in the large design size 21 mm. The stamp is compared to a violet colour die II design size 21 mm and a green colour die II design size < 20.5 mm.



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Fig 13

From the top:-

- 1) indigo trial colour 21 mm, die II; NG, unwmkd.
- 2) green proof 21 mm, die II; NG, wmkd
- 3) violet trial colour 21 mm, die II; NG, unwmkd.
- 4) green <20.5mm, die II; Gummed, wmkd, perf 14.2 x imperf vertically
- 5) green <20.5mm, die II; Gummed, wmkd, perf 13.5 x 13.5 with imperf right margin
- 6) green 21mm die II; Gummed, wmkd, perf 13.5 x 13.5, offset





Fig 14. 14 Sept 1938 cover franked with a 2¢ green stamp 21mm design size, die II perf 13.5 x 13.5.

This has been overlaid with two pairs of the same value for comparison. These are:-

2¢ violet 21mm die II imperf and

2¢ green <20.5mm die II imperf.

(For the avoidance of doubt, only the perforated stamp is actually on the cover)

At left is shown a blown up picture of the stamps to allow easier comparison of the design sizes.

Continuing the search, we found another example which was used for receipt purpose. A comparison of this stamp, shown in fig 15 with the one in fig 14 above shows the 1938 uses of the 2¢ King green die II design size 21 mm in perforation 13.5 x 13.5 were available in and used from different Newfoundland locations.

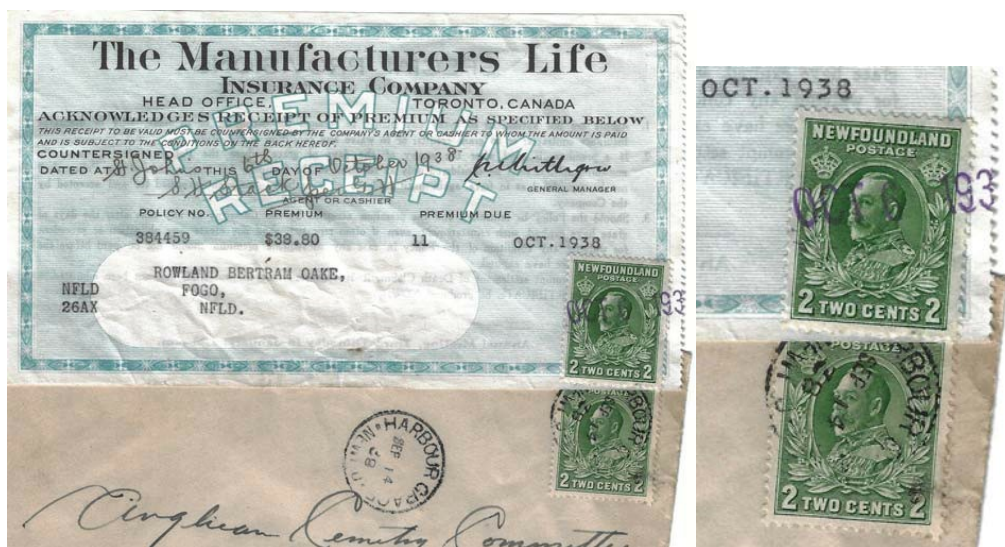


Fig 15 Example used on receipt dated 6 October 1938 with cover and stamp from fig 14 shown alongside for comparison.

A comparison of die I products of the 2¢ denomination was also made against the 2¢ King rose stamp. It showed that this 2¢ King rose die I has its design sized < 20.5 mm. (see fig 16 below)



Fig 16 Cover mailed on 2 June 1934 franked with pair of 2¢ rose stamps, <20.5mm, die I perf 13.5 x 13.5. Overlaid for comparison with black 21mm die I imperf and green 21mm die I imperf.

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Our final comparison of the 2¢ types is shown in fig 17 which shows a range of imperf pairs.

Fig 17 at right

From the top:-

- 1) indigo, 21mm die II, NG, unwmkd, imperf*
- 2) green, 21 mm die II, NG, wmkd, imperf*
- 3) violet, 21mm die II, NG, unwmkd, imperf*
- 4) black, 21mm, die I, NG unwmkd, imperf*
- 5) green, <20.5mm, die I, NG, unwmkd, imperf*

Continuing our studies we found differences in the design sides on both the 4¢ rose lake and on the 8¢ orange red denominations.

The 4¢ rose lake cover shown in fig 18 opposite and dated 11 May 1933 was compared against a 4¢ black proof size 21 mm and a ruler that shows 21 mm size. The stamp on the cover matches the 21 mm sizes with a digital cut shown.

To contrast this cover another 4¢ rose lake dated 13 Oct 1936 is shown in fig 19 that presents as < 20.5 mm as compared against both the black 21 mm stamp and a ruler.

To definitely prove that design size differences exist on the 4¢ rose lake, the image in fig 20 shown overleaf, presents five differing items having two different design sizes. Note the size of the die proof. Thus, two die proof sizes had to have been made. Reporting the outside paper dimensions, that the image is impressed upon, is fruitless.





Fig 18 Cover dated 11 May 1933 franked with 4c rose. The stamp is compared to a pair of black proofs with 21mm design size and also measured with a rule at 21mm.



Fig 19 at left.

Cover dated 13 Oct 1936 franked with a 4c rose stamp with design size <20.5mm.

The stamp has been overlaid with a pair of black proofs with 21mm design size and is also shown against a ruler - see detailed scan below.



Fig 20 Clearly demonstrating the two different design sizes to be found on the 4¢ value.

From the top:-

- 1) 4¢ black 21mm imperf*
- 2) 4¢ die proof <20.5mm*
- 3) 4¢ rose lake <20.5mm perf 14 imperf between horizontally*
- 4) 4¢ rose lake <20.5mm imperf*
- 5) 4¢ rose lake 21mm on kraft paper*



When looking on the Library Archives Canada website for examples of the Newfoundland 1932 4¢ rose lake stamps printed by a stated press we found this example shown in fig 21 below. Stated on it is: *rotary, plate No. 3 and date destroyed 5 Oct 32*. This certainly provides information that two types of presses were in used by Perkins Bacon & Co during this timeline study.



Fig 21 1932 4¢ rose lake LAC e000610732

From several Newfoundland corner card collections we had the opportunity to view many covers.

One specific cover dated 1 Oct 1932 and shown in fig 22 on page 153, has both 7¢ red brown and 8¢ orange red stamps both of which were measured for design sizes. The 7¢ design size was < 20.5 mm while the 8¢ presented as 21 mm.

Our search for other denominations of the 1932 First Resources issue in design size 21 mm was not so fortunate. Our access to those denominated stamped covers was minuscule. Hopefully, others will try to find the other 1932 denominations in size 21 mm. We believe this will be daunting. It is possible, since we have shown that Perkins Bacon & Co had the ability and the equipment to print Newfoundland postage stamps utilizing both wet ungummed and dry pregummed paper methods.

With our study we were fortunate to examine many 2¢ and 5¢ 1932 issue covers. Only a few showed design size 21 mm. We found the covers as dated in this study. Other researchers may find earlier ones. Considering that both the 2¢ and 5¢ stamps would be the values used in greatest quantities, we interpret the results as suggesting that Perkins Bacon & Co were past the stage of their dry pregummed printing press development in this time period. Possibly re-orders were being printed by their dry

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Fig 22 Cover dated 1 Oct 1932 and franked with 7¢ stamp with design size <20.5mm along with 8¢ stamp with design size 21mm - detail of latter shown below.

pregummed paper presses. We offer the observation that the higher denominations would be in lesser demand. Thus, repeat orders, if any for these values, would be minimum. We do notice the early 1932 date on the 8¢ orange carmine size 21 mm denomination. Also realize that during this same time three new issues were developed in 1933, 1937 and 1938 and released. They were printed having these higher valued denominations. The previous report (ref 1) presents the initial findings that do show and report that dry pregummed paper printing was occurring.

Hopefully, others will find them postally used. They would have to be in any perforation other than 12.5 x 12.5; 12.5 x 12.8; 12.8 x 12.5 and 12.8 x 12.8 perforations, because these were the ones used by the 1941 printing company Waterlow & Sons when they printed the Newfoundland 1941-49 issues. Happy hunting.

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 Bilek

Sometime in the spring of 1952 one of the printing machines in the Canadian Bank Note Company shops “hiccapped”, “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)

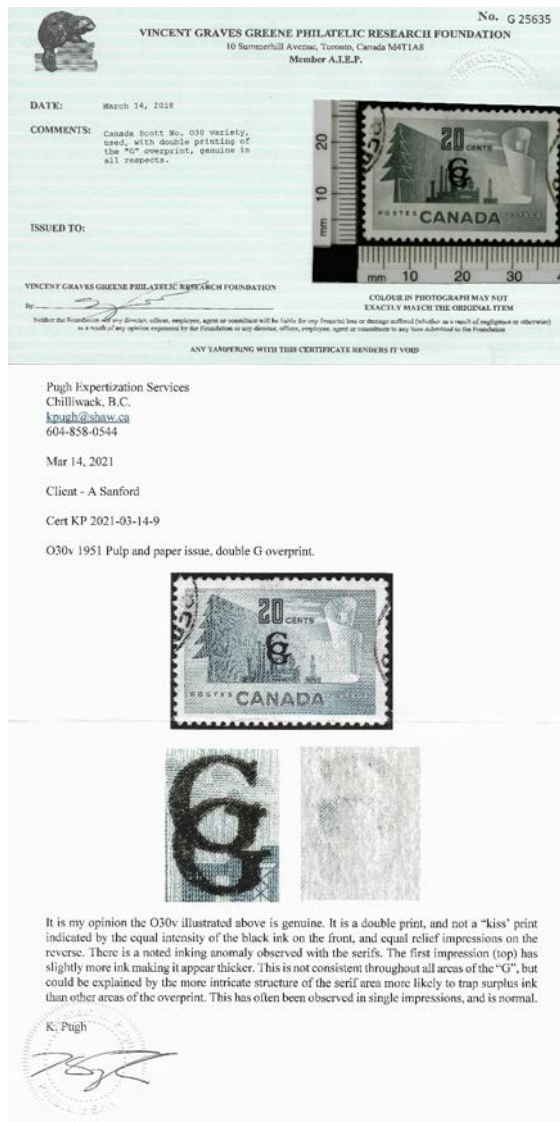


Fig 2 The two certificates that have been issued for the stamp.

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."

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.

Choice Early Classics to Modern Errors & Varieties

[illegible]

Keith Mackay

CROWNS

I wonder if any of our members can identify the two different crowns which appear on the advertising covers shown in fig 1 below?



Fig 1 - can anyone identify the crowns?

John Walsh

THAT INVERTED OVERPRINT ON THE 3 CENT RED ADMIRAL

I read the detailed VGGRF analysis provided in Maple Leaves Vol 37 No.2 April 2021 Whole No. 360. The key notes of how they made their assessment frighten me. I list below the key notes as they spell them out.

1) Stamps are genuine. Overprint is by favour. No inverts sold.

My interpretation of this note: to be made by favour means the printing company did make them. As this expertizer group have no definite proof that inverts were not sold; making such a factual statement is a terrible prescient. Collectors have found out as history rolls on items are discovered contrary to previous beliefs.

2) Stamps are genuine. Surcharge matches overprint. Probably a favour or a private overprint.

My interpretation of this note: stamp is still genuine and overprint is the same as was positioned onto the 3¢ stamp. Thus a definite genuine finding. A favour means the printing company did the job using their original equipment and ink. Private means the post office who oversaw this printing fiasco gave this sample to the same favoured collectors as was done with the other unintentional errors that have been found and this same expertizing group have called genuine. Imagine the ideas that would be formed if the single 1 cent British Guiana was presented!

3) VSC6000 used could not find any error or non agreement of the invert to a genuine overprint. Design match is good.

My interpretation of this note: as the expertizers say the invert matches the genuine overprint. Thus the inverted item has to be genuine.

A read of the VGGRF three issued certificates for this same inverted item, that were done over three years, still misidentifies the submitted item as the wrong Scott catalogue number; not what was sent in for examination (the certificates quote a Scott number of 130b, the stamps in question are clearly Scott number 139). Someone, or is it all, are not paying attention. This is dangerous inattention by a service group after a fee has been paid and makes it most difficult for me to accept their findings with such inattention to detail. It is reported APEX was hired with a fee paid by the item submitter as a separate expertizing group to use their separate and unbiased expertizers. They used their own VCS6000 and their own expertizers and they give their opinion of genuineness.

Then we are told by VGGRF that they got in contact with APEX and encouraged them to somehow change their unbiased and uncorrupted opinion to match VGGRF. This is with both using the same but separate VCS6000 instruments that gave the same results. Both are supposed to be separate entities. Something is not correct.

It makes me wonder why there are two certifying groups. Especially if one group can pressure the other to kowtow. It would seem to me that fees paid for separate uncorrupted examinations should be that; unbiased and unpressured.

*Editors Note:- For clarity, I should point out that John is **not** the owner of the block in question! I had rather hoped that, with an Editorial mixture of naivety and optimism, the VGG article might put this subject to rest but I guess I should have known better. Science or no science, with philatelists there will always be different opinions!*

This is the second in an occasional series looking at some of the modern Canadian stamp issues and the scope that exists for forming a specialised collection.

THE PATH TO A SPECIALISED COLLECTION – PART 2 THE MAMMAL DEFINITIVES OF 1988

Robert McLeish

Following the demise of the Centennial issue in the early 1970's, Canada reverted to its practice of issuing partial definitive stamp series. One of the more popular of these, both with collectors and the general public, were the issues featuring Canadian Mammals. Stamps covering the low values from 1 cent to 25 cents were in use between late 1988 and mid 1992. Similar designs covering the medium values were in use between early 1988 and the end of 1991. High value stamps with thematically similar designs first appeared in 1998 and remain in use to this day.

Whilst these issues did not create the same huge number of varieties as the earlier Centennial issue, they still provide ample scope for the formation of a specialised collection. This article will deal only with the low and medium value issues in use between 1988 and 1992. I will start with the medium values which were the first to be issued and had the earlier period of use.

THE MEDIUM VALUES

On the 18th January 1988 the Canadian Post Office issued three new definitive stamps featuring Mammal designs (see fig 1). These covered the following postal rates:-



Fig 1 First day cover for the first three medium value stamps issued on 18 January 1988

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43 cents – letter rate to the USA (<30gms)
 57 cents – domestic letter rate for overweight items (>30gms <50gms)
 74 cents – international airmail letter rate (<20gms)

Over the course of the following three years there were three increases in postal rates each of which required the issue of three new values in the series, making for a total of twelve different designs ranging from 43 cents to 80 cents. All these stamps had very limited lives of no more than a year. By the end of 1991 there were twelve sheet stamps in the set and a further six booklet stamps.

All these stamps have a few things in common. They were all printed by the same printer, Ashton Potter Limited and all come with General Tagging type GT4 (tagging on all four sides of the stamp). Somewhat remarkably, given the track record of the security printers since 1973, only one of the stamps has ever been reported with the tagging missing.

If all this is starting to sound a little dull, there were a number of reprints of the stamps during their lifetimes, on different papers and with different perforations. In total, some five different types of paper were used and five different perforations exist, making for an extensive list of varieties, a few of which are very scarce indeed providing the collector with something to hunt for!

I set out below, the information on each individual stamp in the series:-

First set - 1988

43 cents Lynx

Which was the U.S.A. rate at the time of issue. There was only one printing of this stamp

Issued	Printer	Perforation	Paper	Tagging
18th January 1988	Ashton Potter	12 x 12½	Harrison Paper	GT4

57 cents Killer Whale

This was the Overweight Domestic rate at the time of issue

Issued	Printer	Perforation	Paper	Tagging
18th January 1988	Ashton Potter	12 x 12½	Rolland Paper	GT4
26th September 1988	Ashton Potter	12 x 12½	Harrison Paper	GT4

As you can see this value had two different printings by the same printer, the same perforation, two different papers and both printings had GT4 tagging

74 cents Wapiti

This was the International rate at the time of issue

Issued	Printer	Perforation	Paper	Tagging
18th January 1988	Ashton Potter	12 x 12½	Harrison Paper	GT4
Late 1988	Ashton Potter	12 x 12½	Rolland Paper	GT4

Canada Post issued the second printing of this stamp without telling customers and it only exists from field stock (i.e. without imprints). This second printing of the stamp is very scarce (only 200 -300 copies are thought to exist). Although they were printed in 1988 on Rolland Paper, they were only discovered in a Post Office in Ontario in 1992 (see fig 2).



Fig 2 The holy grail for collectors of this issue – corner block of the 74 cents stamp on Rolland paper (Courtesy of Saskatoon Stamp Company).

This value had two different printings by the same printer, the same perforation, two different papers and both printings had GT4 tagging.

Second set - 1989

44 cents Atlantic Walrus

This was the U.S.A. rate at the time of issue

Issued	Printer	Perforation	Paper	Tagging
18th January 1989	Ashton Potter	14.4 x 13.8	Harrison Paper	GT4
18th January 1989	Ashton Potter	12½ x 13.1	Slater Paper	GT4 bk1
<u>This issue is a Booklet Stamp (see note below)</u>				
17th March 1989	Ashton Potter	12½ x 13.1	Slater Paper	GT4 bk2
<u>This issue is also a Booklet Stamp (see note below)</u>				
9th June 1989	Ashton Potter	14.4 x 13.8	Slater Paper	GT4
November 1989	Ashton Potter	13.8 x 13	Slater Paper	GT4

Canada Post issued this fifth printing of the stamp without telling customers and it is only found from field stock without imprints. It is a scarce stamp as it was only available

from very few Post Offices and there are only around 1000 mint copies reported. It is the only stamp in the entire series to be found with this compound perforation which was, quite possibly, a printer's error.

This value had five different printings by the same printer, three different perforations, two different papers and all printings had GT4 tagging and two different booklets.

Booklets of the 44 cents Atlantic Walrus

There were two Booklets issued with three types of adverts on the back cover (see fig 3 overleaf).

BK-1 Front Cover with two walrus stamps overlapping and Canada Post Corporation printed on a blue background

Type -1 Back Cover -Lunch Savers

Type -2 Back Cover – Stamps by Mail

BK -2 Front cover with two walrus stamps overlapping and new logo Stamps Timbres printed in white

Type-3 Back Cover with EMS Priority Post Courier

59 cents Musk Ox

This was the Overweight Domestic rate at the time of issue

Issued	Printer	Perforation	Paper	Tagging
18th January 1989	Ashton Potter	14.4 x 13.8	Harrison Paper	GT4
Autumn 1989	Ashton Potter	14.4 x 13.8	Slater Paper	GT4
1st November 1989	Ashton Potter	13 x 13	Slater Paper	GT4

Canada Post issued the second printing of this stamp without telling customers. Unlike some of the other unannounced varieties, this one can be found with plate imprints, however plate blocks of this printing are very scarce due to the fact that new postal rates were introduced two months after this printing

This value had three different printings by the same printer, two different perforations, two different papers and all printings had GT4 tagging

76 cents Grizzly Bear

This was the International rate at the time of issue

Issued	Printer	Perforation	Paper	Tagging
18th January 1989	Ashton Potter	14.4 x 13.8	Harrison Paper	GT4
18th January 1989	Ashton Potter	12½ x 13	Slater Paper	GT4 bk1
<u>This issue is a Booklet Stamp (see note below)</u>				
17th March 1989	Ashton Potter	12½ x 13	Slater Paper	GT4 bk2
<u>This issue is also a Booklet Stamp (see note below)</u>				
25th August 1989	Ashton Potter	14.4 x 13.8	Slater Paper	GT4
November 1989	Ashton Potter	13 x 13	Slater Paper	GT4



Fig 3 Examples of the different styles of booklet cover – fronts and backs

Canada Post issued the fifth printing of this stamp without telling customers. This issue is another scarce stamp as it was only available from very few Post Offices and only about 3000 copies have been reported. New postal rates were introduced two months after this printing.

This value had five different printings by the same printer, three different perforations, two different papers and all printings had GT4 tagging. Two different booklets can be found.

Booklets of the 76 cents Grizzly Bear

There were two booklets issued with three types of adverts on the back cover BK-1Front Cover with two bear stamps overlapping and Canada Post Corporation printed on a blue background

Type -1 Back Cover -Lunch Savers
Type -2 Back Cover – Stamps by Mail

BK -2 Front cover with two bear stamps overlapping and new logo Stamps Timbres printed in white

Type-3 Back Cover with EMS Priority Post Courier

Third set - 1990

45 cents Pronghorn

This was the U.S.A. rate at time of issue

Issued	Printer	Perforation	Paper	Tagging
12th January 1990	Ashton Potter	14.4 x 13.8	Slater Paper	GT4
12th January 1990	Ashton Potter	12½ x 13	Slater Paper	GT4 bk
<u>This issue is a Booklet Stamp (see note below)</u>				
June 1990	Ashton Potter	13 x 13	Slater Paper	GT4

Canada Post issued the third printing of this stamp without telling customers and it is only found from field stock with no imprints.

This value had three different printings by the same printer, three different perforations, printed on the same paper and all printings had GT4 tagging. One booklet type is found.

Booklet of the 45 cents Pronghorn

There was only one Booklet issued with one advert on the back cover.

BK-1Front Cover with two Pronghorn stamps overlapping and Stamps Timbres printed in white on a red background

Advert on Back Cover -Priority Courier

61 cents Timber Wolf

This was the Overweight Domestic rate at the time of issue

Issued	Printer	Perforation	Paper	Tagging
12th January 1990	Ashton Potter	14.4 x 13.8	Slater Paper	GT4
June 1990	Ashton Potter	13 x 13	Slater Paper	GT4

Canada Post issued the second printing of this stamp without telling customers and it is only found from field stock with no imprints. This type is relatively scarce.

This value had two different printings by the same printer, two different perforations, printed on the same paper and all printings had GT4 tagging.

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Draft programme is on page 179 with any updates posted on our website. Register by email to searle711@btinternet.com and/or brianstalker63@sky.com by Wednesday 15 September to receive the access links.

78 cents Beluga Whale

This was the International rate at the time of issue

Issued	Printer	Perforation	Paper	Tagging
12th January 1990	Ashton Potter	14.4 x 13.8	Slater Paper	GT4
12th January 1990	Ashton Potter	12½ x 13	Slater Paper	GT4
<u>This is a Booklet Stamp (see note below)</u>				
April 1990	Ashton Potter	13 x 13	Slater Paper	GT4

Canada Post issued the third printing of this stamp without telling customers and it is only found from field stock with no imprints.

This value had three different printings by the same printer, three different perforations, printed on the same paper and all printings had GT4 tagging.

Booklet of the 78 cents Beluga Whale

There was only one booklet issued with one advert on the back cover.

BK-1 Front Cover with two Beluga Whale stamps overlapping and Stamps Timbres printed in white on a red background

Advert on Back Cover - Priority Courier

Fourth set - 1991

46 cents Wolverine

This was the U.S.A. rate from 1 January 1991

Issued	Printer	Perforation	Paper	Tagging
28th December 1990	Ashton Potter	14.4 x 13.8	Peterborough Paper	GT4
28th December 1990	Ashton Potter	13 x 13	Peterborough Paper	GT4
Note that the two sheet stamps with two different perforations were issued on the same day				
28th December 1990	Ashton Potter	12½ x 13	Coated Paper	GT4
<u>This is a Booklet Stamp (see note below)</u>				

This value had three different printings by the same printer, three different perforations, printed on two different papers and all printings had GT4 tagging

Booklet of the 46 cents Wolverine

There was only one booklet issued with one advert on the back cover.

BK-1 Front Cover with two Wolverine stamps overlapping and Stamps Timbres printed in white on a red background

Advert on Back Cover - 1990 Souvenir Collection

63 cents Harbour Porpoise

This was the Overweight Domestic rate from 1 January 1991

Issued	Printer	Perforation	Paper	Tagging
28th December 1990	Ashton Potter	14.4 x 13.8	Peterborough Paper	GT4
28th December 1990	Ashton Potter	13 x 13	Peterborough Paper	GT4

Note that the two sheet stamps with two different perforations were issued on the same day

This value had two different printings by the same printer, two different perforations, printed on the same paper and all printings had GT4 tagging

80 cents Peary Caribou

This was the International rate from 1 January 1991

Issued	Printer	Perforation	Paper	Tagging
28th December 1990	Ashton Potter	14.4 x 13.8	Peterborough Paper	GT4
28th December 1990	Ashton Potter	13 x 13	Peterborough Paper	GT4

Note that the two sheet stamps with two different perforations were issued on the same day.

28th December 1990	Ashton Potter	12½ x 13	Coated Paper	GT4
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This is a Booklet Stamp (see note below)

This value had three different printings by the same printer, three different perforations, printed on two different papers and all printings had GT4 tagging

Booklet of the 80 cents Peary Caribou

There was only one booklet issued with one advert on the back cover.

BK-1 Front Cover with two Peary Caribou stamps overlapping and Stamps Timbres printed in white on a red background

Advert on Back Cover - 1990 Souvenir Collection

Postal rates were raised again on 1st January 1992 and some new definitive stamps featuring Fruit Tree designs were issued on 27th December 1991 to cover the increased rates; bringing to an end the life of these Mammal definitives.

How to tell the various stamps apart.

The different perforations to be found on these stamps should not present too much difficulty provided a good quality perforation gauge is to hand. That said, the differences between the perforations on some of the sheet stamp varieties are quite small and, if the budget allows, comparison of blocks of stamps will make identification easier.

The papers are a different matter. If you only collect used stamps you have less to worry about as it is impossible to differentiate all of the various papers on used stamps. If your budget will stretch to collecting imprint blocks then identifying the papers is fairly easy – as the printers had the foresight to put code letters on the imprint blocks – thus ‘S’ for Slater, ‘H’ for Harrison etc. (see fig 4) Fortunately, most of the varieties that are only



Fig 4 Imprint blocks showing the paper type indicated by code letters; P for Peterborough, H for Harrison, S for Slater and R for Rolland are shown above.

found from field stock with no imprints also come with different perforations to potential confusion varieties. Mint singles of the stamps can be matched to paper types by looking at the colour of the gum. Harrison paper always shows a blue green tinge on the gum whereas Slater paper has a light cream coloured gum and Rolland paper a bright white gum. If in doubt, a good trick is to acquire a plate block of the cheapest available value on each of the papers in question which can then be used for comparison purposes.

Errors and varieties.

Although the issue is spared the usual plethora of missing tag and missing colour errors, it did not stop a few bits of 'printers waste' finding their way into the philatelic world.

Imperforate varieties are known on at least three of the values; 45 cents, 78 cents and 80 cents and others may well exist. The only reported missing tagging error is found on the 80 cents value and this only on stamps which also show a band of missing colour at the top of the design. None of these errors is common and needless to say a certificate of genuineness would be a good idea if you are tempted to add them to a specialised collection.

The Ultimate Challenge

Given the fact that none of the values in this issue had a life of more than a year, the ultimate challenge would be to find examples of every value used alone to pay a relevant postal rate on a commercial cover in the correct period of use (see fig 5 for some examples).

Philatelic and first day covers abound but single use commercial covers – particularly of the domestic overweight and USA rates – are a different matter. If you can find them, they will not be expensive, after all these are stamps that are only some 30 years old. Good hunting!!



Fig 5 Examples of some of the medium value stamps used on cover. From top to bottom; 44 cents value used on cover to the USA in October 1989, 57 cents value correctly used to pay the printed matter rate to the UK in November 1988 and 80 cents value used on cover to Germany in July 1991.

THE LOW VALUES

Following the release of the first medium value Mammal definitives, the Canadian Post Office introduced a set of low value Mammal stamps on the 3rd October 1988. There were seven stamps in the set consisting of: 1 cent, 2 cents, 3 cents, 5 cents, 6 cents, 10 cents and 25 cents values. None of these values prepaid a postal rate on their own so they were primarily used as 'make-up' stamps for higher rates and with all the postal rates changes of the following years they no doubt enjoyed plenty of use.

The stamps were printed by Ashton Potter Limited initially on Slater paper with a perforation of 13.1 x 13.6. Only the top two values were tagged (with General Tagging type G4), the other values being untagged. The designs were similar to those of the medium value stamps but the design size was smaller.

Over the next few years until 1992 when a new definitive set was introduced there were various reprints with different papers, perforations and tagging but the printer remained the same Ashton Potter Limited.

The following information comes from my plate block collection of this issue. It should be noted that, as with the medium value stamps, to distinguish the different stamps of this issue the stamps must be mint stamps as you cannot tell the different papers on used stamps.

I will set out the information on each individual stamp starting with the first stamp of the set:-

1 cent Flying Squirrel

Issued	Printer	Perforation	Paper	Tagging
3rd October 1988	Ashton Potter	13 x 13½	Slater Paper	None
25th October 1991	Ashton Potter	13 x 13½	Coated Paper	None
Later in 1991	Ashton Potter	13.1 x 12.8	Slater Paper	None

Canada Post issued the third printing of this stamp without telling customers and it is only found from field stock with no imprints. Given its' relatively short life it is much harder to find than the other two types.

This value had three different printings, by the same printer, two different perforations, two different papers and there was no tagging on any of the printings.

The second stamp in the set is:-

2 cents Porcupine

Issued	Printer	Perforation	Paper	Tagging
3rd October 1988	Ashton Potter	13 x 13½	Slater Paper	None
25th October 1991	Ashton Potter	13 x 13½	Coated Paper	None

This value had two different printings by the same printer, the same perforation, two different papers and no tagging.

The third stamp in the set is:-

3 cents Muskrat - there was only one printing of this stamp.

Issued	Printer	Perforation	Paper	Tagging
3rd October 1988	Ashton Potter	13 x 13½	Slater Paper	None

The fourth stamp in this set is:-

5 cents Varying Hare - there was also only one printing of this stamp.

Issued	Printer	Perforation	Paper	Tagging
3rd October 1988	Ashton Potter	13 x 13½	Slater Paper	None

The fifth stamp in this set is:-

6 cents Red Fox - there was also only one printing of this stamp.

Issued	Printer	Perforation	Paper	Tagging
3rd October 1988	Ashton Potter	13 x 13½	Slater Paper	None

The sixth stamp in this set is:-

10 cents Skunk

Issued	Printer	Perforation	Paper	Tagging
3rd October 1988	Ashton Potter	13 x 13½	Slater Paper	GT4
25th October 1991	Ashton Potter	13 x 13½	Coated Paper	None
February 1991	Ashton Potter	13.1 x 12.8	Slater Paper	GT4

Canada Post issued the third printing of this stamp without telling customers and it is only found from field stock with no imprints.

This value had three different printings, by the same printer, two different perforations, two different papers and there was tagging on the Slater paper printings (GT 4 which is General Tagging on all four sides of the stamp) but no tagging on the printings on Coated paper.

The seventh stamp in this set is:-

25 cents Beaver

Issued	Printer	Perforation	Paper	Tagging
3rd October 1988	Ashton Potter	13 x 13½	Slater Paper	GT4
22nd April 1992	Ashton Potter	13 x 13½	Coated Paper	None

This second printing was issued just 2½ weeks before the introduction of a new definitive issue on 8th May 1992.

This value had two different printings, by the same printer, one perforation, two different papers and there was tagging on the Slater Paper printings (GT 4 which is General Tagging on all four sides of the stamp) but no tagging on the printings on Coated paper.

Overall, in the lifetime of this set of stamps we have 13 different stamp varieties by the same printer Ashton Potter limited. Two different perforations were used and two different types of paper. Ten of the stamps had no tagging with the other three having the GT4 tagging.

How to tell the various stamps apart.

Armed with a good quality perforation gauge, the two different perforations should present no difficulty. As with the medium values, comparison of blocks of stamps makes the differentiation easier.

The two papers can only be distinguished on mint stamps. As with the medium values, imprint blocks will have the paper type shown as a code letter (i.e. 'S' for Slater, 'C' for Coated). Single mint stamps can best be told apart by looking at the gum. On the Slater paper the gum shows a light cream colour. On Coated papers the gum shows a slight greenish-blue colour. With these low value stamps, the imprint blocks are relatively inexpensive so this can provide a fool-proof way of telling the varieties apart.

Errors and varieties.

This small group of stamps has produced only one variety of note the so-called 'Odourless skunk' variety on the 10 cents value. The variety results from the shading above the animals' tail being very feint. It is not particularly rare but will require some hunting down.

In addition, all the values apart from the 25 cents stamp are known imperforate in error. The stamps were never issued to the public in this form, and these represent bits of printer's waste that escaped the not very vigilant quality control at Ashton Potter. None of these imperforates are common with the 5 cents and 6 cents values being the scarcest and thus most expensive (see fig 6).



Fig 6 Some of the imperforate varieties to be found on both the low and medium value stamps.

Final thoughts.

When you are collecting plate blocks most of the information contained in this article is there in front of you and this is when patience and good detective skills are required to track down the different printings.

However, I have found the most important skill is listening and learning from fellow collectors who pass on valuable knowledge so we all can improve our displays with the most up to date information and have fun collecting stamps.

Finally my thanks go to our Editor who has provided the pictures in this article.

References for this article

The Unitrade Specialised Catalogue of Canadian Stamps 2018

Wildlife & Architecture Definitive Series 1987 – 1996 by D. Robin Harris

Standard Catalogue of Canadian Booklet Stamps 3rd edition by Bill McCann

Canada Post Souvenir Collection of Postage Stamps 1988

Canada Post Souvenir Collection of Postage Stamps 1989

Canada Post Souvenir Collection of Postage Stamps 1990

Canada Post Souvenir Collection of Postage Stamps 1991

Plus..... Various articles read in

Maple Leaves – The Journal of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain

Topics – The Journal of the British North America Philatelic Society

and conversations with fellow collectors in the various stamp club meetings in Scotland; in particular my own Perth Philatelic Society.

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SOCIETY NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

If all progresses as planned, this will be my final “From the President” column in “*Maple Leaves*” – the October 2021 issue will see Karen Searle firmly in the driving seat! It has been my pleasure and privilege to have served three terms as President with the present term spanning two “Covid-dominated” years. Regrettably, Eastbourne 2020 and Eastbourne 2021 were not to be, but we do have a virtual convention planned for the period Monday September 20th to Thursday September 23rd, details of the draft programme can be found on page 179. We have a wide range of 10 philatelic displays and I hope that many of you will ‘zoom-in’ or submit entries to our one frame competition (see the entry form on page 152).

The President may be ‘front-of-house’ but support and guidance from other officers is essential and I wish to acknowledge the huge contribution made by others – particularly Graham and Karen Searle and our secretary, John Watson. The future of our Society relies on members coming forward to take an active role in its management. In the April issue of “*Maple Leaves*” I made a plea for someone to support Graham by becoming Assistant Editor and for a new Librarian to replace Mike Slamo who has done sterling service over many years. The response has been a deafening silence! We also need additional vice-presidents so I end my term of office with yet another plea – your Society will all too soon wither and fade into the has-beens of history unless **you** do something about it. I fervently hope that our Society does not join the many that have folded in recent years due to a lack of officers.

Enjoy our virtual convention in September, stay safe, be kind to one another and thanks for allowing me to play my part in promoting and sharing the friendship of our truly ‘social-philatelic’ Society.

Brian Stalker

FROM THE SECRETARY

Annual General Meeting

The Society’s Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd September commencing at 1500hrs. The meeting will be held this year over *Zoom*. If any member has any item or issue they would wish to see added to the Agenda under ‘Any Other Competent Business’, they are asked to contact me no later than 31st August 2021 with the Agenda Item(s) and sufficient background information that I can raise the matter on your behalf should you not be planning to attend the meeting in person.

John Watson

FROM THE AUCTION MANAGER

Our next Auction will be timed to follow the 2021 Convention and it will be a postal/web based auction with a closing date of Friday 8th October 2021. I hope to have the auction catalogue on line for viewing by the middle of August. As usual, paper copies (without the pictures) will be mailed out to any member who has requested this service in the past. Expect the usual eclectic mix of lots. I have already noted a large collection of Admirals including both mint and used blocks and varieties, some nice early letters from Canada to India and a nice lot of Official 'Free' mail with handstamps.

Graham Searle

LONDON GROUP

With the final relaxation of Covid restrictions in England delayed into July at least, we are awaiting confirmation of when and how meetings at the Royal P.S. may resume. There are, therefore, no firm plans for the resumption of London Group Meetings at this time although we hope to be able to resume our programme in the autumn. Further updates will be provided on the Society website when we know more and a full update will be given in the October issue of *Maple Leaves*.

Colin Banfield

SCOTLAND AND NORTH OF ENGLAND GROUP

The next meeting of the Scotland and North of England Group will be held on **Saturday 24th July 2021 commencing at 1400hrs**. We will once again be meeting virtually, via *Zoom*. Please contact the Editor if you would like to join the meeting (proof of Scottish residency is not required!) and I can send you the *Zoom* link. Following this, we live in hope that by our next planned meeting on **23rd October** we may once again be allowed to meet in Glasgow (see below), if not we will be repeating our now usual virtual meeting via '*Zoom*'. If meeting in person, we will be meeting 'chez George' at 'Kilmory', 20 Mirrlees Drive, Kirklee in Glasgow. The postcode is G12 0SH and Mirrlees Drive is located just off the Great Western Road to the west end of the Royal Botanic Gardens. All members (and their guests) are welcome to attend, please bring along a few sheets to display or any items you need help with identifying. Please contact the Editor for any further details or if you would like a map! Confirmation of the arrangements will be circulated by e mail nearer the time and an update will appear in the next issue of the Journal.

Graham Searle

2021 CONVENTION Draft programme of events.

Note that all sessions will be conducted via 'Zoom'.

Monday 20th September 7 pm BST (2 pm EDT)

Brian Stalker **Welcome to our Virtual Convention**
Graham Searle **Early Stamps from the Colony of Canada 1847 – 1868**
Ken Flint **Mail Delivery Methods in Canada**

Tuesday 21st September 7 pm BST (2 pm EDT)

Bill Burden **Finding Images for Marler**
Brian Stalker **Newfoundland's Railways 1881 - 1949**

Wednesday 22nd September 2.30 pm BST (9.30 am EDT)

Alan Spencer **The Canadian Expeditionary Force August 1914 to February 1915**
Ken Flint **Ernest Ottaway – a life in the Army**
Alan Spencer **An introduction to the Canadian Semi-Official Flights 1920 – 1930**

7 pm BST (2 pm EDT)

Jim Bisset **Transatlantic Mail**
Adri Veenstra **Centennial Definitives – International Rates**

Thursday 23rd September 3 pm BST (10 am EDT)

Annual General Meeting

Judging Critique for the One Frame Competition

Graham Searle **Numerical Cancels of the 19th Century**
Brian Stalker **Concluding comments, thanks and over to you Madame President!**

Please note: we expect afternoon sessions to run for approx. 2 to 2½ hours. The evening sessions will be longer as each evening's displays will be followed by the opportunity to show one-off items of interest or to ask "What is this?" - so if you have philatelic queries this is your opportunity to find the answers! The link will then remain open as a "Chat-room" and for philaholic discourse.

Important – how to participate:

Members will be able to register either for all the sessions or just for those sessions of interest. Each afternoon or evening session will have a separate 'Zoom' link so please ensure you sign up for all the sessions you want to 'attend'.

Graham Searle will be hosting our 'Zoom' sessions so please pre-register your intent of joining all or any of them by contacting Graham on searle711@btinternet.com, copied to brianstalker63@sky.com not later than **Wednesday 15th September** when we will e-mail out a finalised programme with links for each session which you can copy and paste into your browser at the appropriate time. Updated information will also appear on our website at about that time.

to 15th JUNE 2021

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN 2019/21

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