

NEWFOUNDLAND *Early Legal Documental History*: **SYNOPSIS** 1/2 via Stampless Precursor and 1898 Queen Victoria First Revenue types

Exhibitor Research Findings: official registration of legal documents began March 27, 1862; costs were preprinted or fee payments were recorded by clerk in manuscript form. The discovered 17 different **stampless precursor** instrument types are listed and shown.

Then “An Act Respecting the Payment of certain Fees and Charges by Stamps”, 61 Vic., Chapter 14, passed March 30, 1898; in force July 01, 1898. Government statute stated ‘when seal is affixed to the document and cancelled, registration is assured and payment is deemed as being received by government’ stated later... ‘perforation devices could be used to demonstrate cancellation’.

With passage of this Act an engraved design, featuring a young Queen Victoria visage + INLAND REVENUE, was created to be used as indicator of fee payment and document registration. Revisions and legal fees were adjusted when needed. Chapter documents are chronologically setup.

Difficulty associated with this researched revenue history:

Pre-production issue development essay vignette was discovered by exhibitor in 2016. [1]

Pages having legalese and absence of stamps create constraints for full display. Revenue stamps were only utilized by authorities for placement onto documents; not made available for the public to use. Stamp examples in the marketplace have to come from destroyed documents. This results in few intact instruments surviving. With denominations requisitioned in finite quantities, discovery was by the exhibitor, finding them specifically utilized on document is arduous; taking years. Documents available for study are those discarded by owners or law offices. Documents held by Newfoundland Government Registration Department were never available for acquisition. Having being microfiche, these documents were destroyed in 1993 (this contrary to original Registration Act).

The front page of each document plays a vital part of this exhibit; it shows information needed for fee calculation. Any preprinted informative page creates difficulties to add explanations. Manipulating multi-page document sheets does not present embedded stamps for viewing. Photocopies are of these. **Innovative verso hangers** enable hanging > 8.5 x 14 inch oversized pages.

This is pre-eminent Newfoundland precursor and 1898 Queen Victoria revenue document exhibit. Other exhibitors had: basic stamps; no precursor presence; very few documents; no explanations of rates. Locating the cancel style examples is daunting research, with many presented here being the discoveries. The document types presented are the finest known. Definitions for legal transaction types are from law journals. This powerful compact colorful exhibit corrects, with primary evidence, many ‘inaccuracies’ found in the literature. Sequential timeline placement of the documents in their chapter titles.

To prevent disruption in following the steps of the large involved property “Carpasian”, placement in frame 7 is intentional. Several stampless precursor instruments involved are the only ones known.

- **Significant Exhibitor Research Findings:** historical discoveries correct the issue associated literature
- *exhibitor found:* all the Colonial Secretary Outgoing Letters (archive #67, 68) Nov 1898 - which state: approval; order received; remind department heads of initial day of use (July 01); from whom to get the stamps (Treasury clerk); printer of Queen Victoria revenue stamps. Initial order is not stated but subsequent orders are in Colonial Secretary Outgoing Cablegrams.
- approval of this first revenue issue was given April 30 and the initial printing order for seven denominations was delivered in May 1898 to **British American Bank Note Co., Ottawa**. To date any papers having to do with the initial order quantities have not been found. It is postulated that the initial order was delivered in person, because Newfoundland’s Attorney General had been sent to Ottawa to visit this company to verify that the printing plates for producing the government bonds were destroyed. The Governor had written to the company stating “that directions given to the company by the attorney general were fully backed by Newfoundland Government.” The Colonial Secretary notified government department heads on June 29 “that the stamps to be used designating revenue payments were available and to get their requirements from the Treasury clerk.”

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- The printing was on unwatermarked paper, perforation 12 x 12. Initially the seven ordered denominations and colours were: 5¢ carmine, 10¢ red brown, 25¢ blue, 50¢ orange, 75¢ black, \$1 green, \$5 violet. Later, the two high denominations had their initial and only order placed on November 05 and received December 22. That order consisted of 1.5 M for each of the \$20 brown and the \$25 slate values. M = thousand
- Initial order quantities not found, but *total* reorder quantities have been discovered consisting of: 5¢ (1.5 M); 10¢ (5 M); 25¢ (59 M); 50¢ (15 M); \$1 (42 M); \$5 (9 M). As only initial order had the 75¢ value it is my estimate, from its diminished marketplace availability, to have been 0.500 M. Same reasoning projects initial 5¢ order at 0.500 M giving it a total of 2 M printed.

▼ Exhibitor Significant discovery findings:

- f.1:p.1 • pre-production essay vignette was discovered by exhibitor in 2016; 1 known
- f.1:p.2 • discovery of piece having 75¢ with geometric snowflake; 1 known
- f.1:p.3 • earliest known use July 08, 1898; 1 known
- f.2:p.2 • claim of Lien under “Mechanic’s Lien Act”; 2 known
- f.2:p.3 • document having 5¢ value with geometric snowflake paying 25¢ fee; 1 known
- f.2:p.4 • document having 10¢ value with geometric snowflake; 4 known
- f.2:p.6 • discovery document with geometric snowflake cancel used in *perfin* format; 1 known
- f.3:p.9 - 12; f.4:p.1 - 4 • rarely observed licenses, mining grants, leases and renewals; an act to handle land and mining grants and leases was introduced:
1892 *Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland*, 55 Victoria, Cap. VIII, 1892.
an 1896 published version states: “After marking ones survey apply for a lease and shall deposit a fee of \$20- to register the claim location for a period of 12 months.”
After this time period the license could be extended an extra 12 months at a fee of \$30-
- f.6:p.1 • document having largest, *block of four*, known multiple of 75¢ denomination; 1 known
- f.6:p.7 - 8 • discovery documents having the small PAID cancel in *perfin* format; 2 known
- f.7:p.3 - 9 • stampless precursors illustrate 1875 lease; 1834 acquisition of properties;

The known 17 **stampless precursor** and 47 different Queen Victoria First revenue instrument types. Gloriously presented in this huge colorful exhibit of 135 documents.

17 STAMPLESS DOCUMENTS

1879 Letters of Probate
1891 Letters of Probate with Will
1885 Power of Attorney
1898 Writ of Summons
1898 Warrant of Attachment
1898 Writ of Fieri Facias
1881 Capias ad Respondendum
1897 License to Search for Gold
1834 Land Grant
1855 Deed of Partition
1855 Bill of Sale
1877 Conveyance
1885 Deed of Consent
1898 Reconveyance
1898 Assignment
1898 Mortgage
1875 Lease

47 STAMPED TYPE DOCUMENTS

26 Judicature Act
Petition for Administration
Letters of Administration
Letters of Administration w/ Will Annexed
Letters of Probate
Letters of Probate with Will
Power of Attorney
Revocation of Power of Attorney
Claim of Lein under the Mechanic’s Act
Affidavit
Order Dissolving Insolvency Proceedings
Order Declaring Petitioner Insolvent
Order Declare Monies Received
Order for Dismissal of Appeal
Writ
Warrant
Writ with Warrant
Writ of Summons
Warrant of Attachment
Writ of Fieri Facias
Subpoena
Judgment
Foreclosure Order Absolute
with Conveyance
Surrender of Lease
Assignment for Benefit of Creditors
Deed of Confirmation
Certificate of Search

10 Licenses

Dog License
Customs Duty Harbor Dues
License to Cut Timber
Retail License
License to Search for Gold
License to Search for Minerals
Mineral Lease
Lease of Mining Location for One Year
License of Mining Location for One Year
Land Grant

11 Bills of Sale/Chattel Mortgages Act

Release
Release with Mortgage
Bill of Sale
Conveyance
Conveyance; Mortgage
& Memorandum of Agreement
Reconveyance
Assignment
Assignment by Transfer
Mortgage with Conveyance and Release
Proof of Execution of Mortgage
with Mortgage
Mortgage