



THE NEWFIE NEWSLETTER

of the Newfoundland Study Group of BNAPS

Number 13

September/October 1987



TWO CENTS KING GEORGE V OF AUGUST 1932

by C. A. Stillions

Recently sold at auction, this spectacular block of twenty (2 x 10) with the sixth stamp in both rows completely imperforate. In L.N. and M. Williams' book Fundamentals of Philately, a similar block of twenty is pictured. The Williams brothers explain it as an experiment in registering vertical comb perforations.

Comb perforating is when perforations are punched on three sides of a stamp at the same time. The pins which make the holes on two opposite sides of a stamp are aligned at right angles on a line of pins like widely spaced teeth of a comb; hence the name, comb perforation. The perforating pins are mounted in a machine that would advance the sheet of stamps after each vertical stroke of the perforating head. Thus two strokes of the perforating head is required to perforate all four sides of a stamp.

This particular block was from a sheet used to adjust the amount of advance following each vertical stroke. The sheet was placed sideways under the single comb perforating head, which descended five times; the sheet was then removed, turned through 180 degrees, and again placed sideways under the perforating head which descended four times (or vice versa). The sequence of operations is proved by: (a) the imperforate sheet margins at left and right of the block of 20; (b) the perforation characteristic, the joined holes, that occurs between holes 8 and 9 from the bottom in the right half of the block, and between holes 8 and 9 from the top in the left half of the block; and (c) the absence of a line of vertical perforations at both the left and the right side of the center pair. NOTE: from an examination alone of the places where the rows of perforation apparently cross, and because of the encroachment of holes at those places, the perforation at first glance might be thought to be line; that it was not line is proved by the imperforate sheet margins. In my opinion this block is not the result of an experiment, but is a direct product of the production process. It was produced from a test of the perforating equipment much the same way an engraver tests his work by taking prints from the die or a printer taking a proof impression to check the plate quality. Thus this can be called a perforation proof.

Since there are 100 stamps to the sheet (10 x 10), there can be 4 other blocks similar to this one. The curious thing about this block of twenty is that it is from the same position in the sheet as the block pictured by L. N. and M. Williams, rows 5 and 6 from the center of the sheet; but they are not the same block. In addition to these two blocks, I have recorded two additional blocks of twenty and a strip of ten. One is a top margin block of twenty from plate 4. I have always assumed that there was only one sheet and that the one illustrated by the Williams brothers was a 2cents green first issued on 15 August 1932, as the top block from plate 4 is green. Since the item is identified as "Newfoundland 1932 (1 Jan.) 2¢" it could be the rose issue; but

that is doubtful as the catalogues only give one date for both stamps. None of the four blocks or the strip appear to be adjacent pieces. Therefore there have to be many more of these dramatic perforation proofs out there.



MEETING AT CHARLOTTETOWN

A meeting of the study group was held during the BNAPS convention in Charlottetown, P.E.I. The meeting was very well attended with seventeen people present. There were 11 members, 4 new members, and 2 visitors. We really filled the room. Jim Catterick, a visitor, reminded the group of the Newfoundland perfin survey the Perfin group is conducting. He requested that if you have not sent in your survey form, please do so, and to contact him if you need additional forms. After a short business meeting, John Walsh of St. John's presented a slide program on the plate number blocks of Newfoundland. John had a slide of almost all the known plus many unknown stamps with plate numbers. Some lively discussion of some of John's conclusions as to plate composition ensued. All in all John has put together quite a collection of plate number blocks without much assistance from the literature. He has an article scheduled for a coming issue of BNA TOPICS.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Report period	September 1986 - August 1987	
Balance as of 1 September 1986		\$80.74
Income	Dues from 10 new members	\$30.00
	Profit from Infofinder sales	20.88
	total	50.88
Expenses	Postage for 6 issues	92.56
Balance as of 31 August 1987		#39.06

Due to the condition of the treasury, it was voted to require dues for 1987-88 of \$3.00US, \$4.00CAN, or 2.00Stg.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership as of 31 August 1987	
U.S.A. members	18
Canadial members	22
Overseas members	5

total	45

NEW MEMBERS

Lewis M. Ludlow, 5001-102 Lane N.E., Kirkland, Washington 98033
C. A. Lindsay, Apt. 306, 13507-96th Avenue, Surrey, British
Columbia V3V 1Y8
Nigel Rusted, 28 Monktown Road, St. John's, Newfoundland A1C 3T3

Peter C. Prebble, 682 Sand Cove Road, St. John, New Brunswick E2M
3C8

Hank Lubke, 1515 Oak Forest Drive, Ormond Beach, Florida 32074

John M. Walsh, 9 Guy Street, St. John's, Newfoundland A1B 1P4

INFOFINDER

As of 31 August 1987, 22 copies of Bob Pratt's INFOFINDER, the index to his postal history of Newfoundland, have been sold. There still are a number of copies available. If you do not have one, you can get one by sending your check to me, C. A. Stillions, 5031 Eskridge Terrace, N. W., Washington, D.C. 20016. The price is \$5.00US to study group members or \$7.00 to nonmembers.

COMING EVENTS

VAPEX '87, November 20-22, the Pavilion, Virginia Beach, Virginia fall meeting of the BNAPS Mid-Atlantic regional group Saturday 21 November at 10am

NIAGARA FRONTIER STAMP EXPO '88, McKinley Park Inn, Blasdell, NY, April 22-24, 1988, Richard Hedley General Chairman

BNAPEX'88, September 8-10, 1988, Virginia Beach Resort and Convention Center, Virginia Beach, VA annual convention and exhibition of the British North America Philatelic Society

BNAPEX'87

The annual convention, bourse and exhibition held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island was well attended and a whole lot of fun. Because of space limitations, the exhibition was by invitation and each exhibit was limited to two frames. There were four Newfoundland exhibits: John Siverts showed classic Newfoundland, John Butt showed '32 Resources, John Walsh showed Plate Blocks and C. A. Stillions showed "Back of the book" Postal Stationery. The best of show was awarded to J.J. MacDonald for a super showing of the Connell issue of New Brunswick. Eventhough there were only 60 frames, the two frame limit meant the full diversity of BNA collecting was on display. The bourse was small but still capable of separating one from his cash. Food, fun and fellowship were also in abundance. Jim Lehr and his helpers are to be congratulated for an excellent convention at a delightful venue.

WANTED

Articles for the Newsletter. If you have any items you want to showoff, questions about something you don't understand, or opinions you would like to express, this is the place. So send a photocopy of your favorite item, your question, or your essay to me and I'll use it in the newsletter.

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