

Newfoundland's Long Coronation set

CHARLES J.G. VERGE



Figure 1. The three Newfoundland stamps from the Crown Agents omnibus 1937 Coronation issue perforated SPECIMEN.



Figure 2. A philatelic souvenir over-franked, local registered letter bearing the three Crown Agent and 11 Long Coronation issues of 1937.

The government of Newfoundland issued three stamps in 1937 for the omnibus series prepared by the Crown Agents to commemorate the coronation of King George VI. The examples in Figure 1 actually show official specimens of Newfoundland's 2c, 4c and 5c issues, Scott 230-232, with the arched "SPECIMEN" perfin.

However, Newfoundland was a dominion at the time, not a colony, and the decision was made to show Newfoundland's political difference from the other colonies that were issuing similar Coronation stamps. On the same day that its three-stamp set for the omnibus was released, Newfoundland issued an additional set of 11 different Coronation commemoratives with values ranging from 1c to 48c.

This set of 11, which collectors call the Long Coronation series, does not include stamps with the 2c, 4c and 5c denominations borne by the three Crown Agents stamps.

The registered mail cover illustrated in Figure 2 is franked with one each of the 11 Long Coronation stamps, Scott 233-243.

The three stamps issued by Crown Agents showed portraits of Queen Elizabeth — better known today as the Queen Mother (1900-2002) — and King George VI (1895-1952), the parents of Queen Elizabeth II. The

designs, based on photographs taken by Bertram Park, were engraved and printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. in England.

The paper used was medium white wove, watermarked with a multiple crown and script "CA." The stamps are perforated 11x11½. There are no imprints or marginal inscriptions on the sheets, which each contain 60 stamps in 10 rows of six.

The Newfoundland government contracted with the firm of John Dickinson & Co. to produce the 11 other values. Perkins, Bacon & Co. engraved and printed the stamps for the contractor in sheets of 100 stamps. Most of the central designs chosen were similar to those in a series of smaller stamps already in use (Figure 3), with the addition of a portrait of the king.

The exceptions were the 7c value, which was based on the 5c Caribou stamp of the 1932-38 series (Figure 4), and the 1c and 3c stamps, which used completely new designs featuring a codfish and a Newfoundland map, respectively.

As with the Crown Agents series, the paper used for the Long Coronation set was a medium white wove, but the watermark was the coat of arms of Newfoundland. As a result of the poor placement of some of the sheets in the press, all values are known without a watermark. These are best collected in pairs, with one stamp showing the watermark and one without. Figure 5



Figure 3. Some of the Long Coronation designs were derived from previously issued stamps of the same values in the 1932-38 series.



Figure 4. The design of the 7c Long Coronation stamp was based on the 5c Caribou stamp of 1932, Newfoundland Scott 190.

shows the gum side of such a pair plus an added single. Part of the watermark pattern is faintly visible on the stamps at left and right; the center stamp has no watermark impression.

The 10c and 15c stamps in the long set exist with the watermark inverted.

John M. Walsh and John G. Butt, in their *Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue* (Fifth Edition 2002), mention that imperforates with no gum exist for all values in either the color of issue or in black. These are considered to be proofs. A footnote after Newfoundland Scott 243 in Vol. 2 of the 2005 *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* states, "Imperfs are with gum" and "No. 243b also made without gum." However, Walsh and Butt list no such gummed imperforates.

Several values (3c die II, 15c, 20c, 24c and 48c) exist imperforate horizontally. The 3c die I, 7c and 8c exist both imperforate horizontally and vertically. The 8c can be found with the top sheet margin imperforate.

Only one value, the 3c, required two dies during production (Figure 6). The difference in the dies is a row of engraving dots that run along the nose from the king's forehead to the tip of his nose and is only found on die II stamps. In addition, the die II issue has an overall fuzziness to the vignette showing the king's head, which Scott describes as a "coarse impression." Stamps printed from the die II plates are generally lighter in color and have a more yellowish tone to them.

This series contains a number of varieties listed in the Newfoundland section of the *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* (2005 edition) and the Scott Standard catalog, and some varieties that are not listed in either. Varieties are known for most values; some have more than one.

The large number of varieties makes it impossible to examine them all in a single article. Philatelists have given some of the varieties very descriptive names, such as Fish Hook (1c), Cigar Stub (3c), and Extra Smokestack (20c). Figure 7 shows two varieties found on the 14c Newfoundland Dog stamp: the so-called Male Dog plate variety, and

the Newfoundland Dog inscription re-entry.

Many of these varieties were caused by the designs being re-entered on the plates at some point in the printing process. This can occur, for example, when the steel transfer roll is impressed on the printing plate to strengthen an area of the stamp design that has been weakened or worn during printing.

If you are interested in seeing some very clear blown up examples of many of the varieties in this series, I recommend Ralph E. Trimble's website, www.re-entries.com. Once on the site click on the "Re-entry Listings" icon and scroll down to Newfoundland Long Coronation Issue. There you will find some spectacular images of re-entries on the 3c, 7c, 14c, 24c, 25c and 48c stamps.

Another production element that makes this series highly complex to collect is the mix of perforations that exist. This complexity can be attributed in part to the major catalog publishers, who all list different perforations for the series.

The three catalogs most frequently used by collectors in North America are the three previously mentioned: Walsh and Butt, Scott, and Unitrade. Walsh and Butt mention perforations of 13.3, 13.7 and 14.1. Scott lists perforations of 13, 13½ and 14. Neither publisher differentiates between line and comb perforations.

Unitrade lists a comb perforation of 13½ and a line perforation of 13½×14, although, in a footnote, it states that there are two line perforations, perf 13.7 and perf 14.1, and one comb perforation. It lists this comb variety, perf 13.3×13.2, as a minor number under each stamp in the series.

Examples of line and comb perforations on the 15c stamp are shown in Figure 8. The following description of these blocks is from the Newfoundland Study Group information pages of the British North America Philatelic Society's (BNAPS) website at www.bnaps.org, and is reprinted here with permission.

"The top block was line perforated 13.5×14. In the line-perforation

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Sc. #	Price	244	895.00	405	1.20	614 NH	1.50
1	890.00	245	900.00	405b	15.00	618	1.25
2	3000.00	246	5.50	406	1.00	619	7.50
11	25.00	247	13.50	410 NH	2.90	620	1.50
11 OG	80.00	249	40.00	PR NH	7.50	621	3.75
24 cert OG	60.00	251	58.00	411	2.50	622	4.00
25	117.50	252	14.50	413	9.50	628	1.60
26	7.00	253	13.00	416	9.00	634A Ave.	
36b cert		254	37.50	421	125.00	NG	130.00
OG	200.00	255	12.75	426	3.25	636	1.10
37 OG	390.00	256	19.00	428	8.75	642	1.25
63	75.00	258	60.00	428 NH SE	18.75	644	1.00
65	15.00	258 NH	130.00	441 LPR	2.25	650	2.25
65 OG	30.00	259	80.00	443	6.25	656	4.25
67	1200.00	260	135.00	444	10.00	658 Ave. NH	1.15
68	95.00	261A	600.00	448 Ave. NH	2.25	660	1.25
70a	250.00	262	650.00	449	650.00	664	7.50
71	200.00	263	1250.00	450	3.00	667 Ave. NH	7.50
72	375.00	263 re-		455	2.70	670	1.00
73	25.00	paired	800.00	462	1.75	671 Ave. NH	1.70
75	425.00	264	1.00	463	1.25	678 Ave.	
76a	160.00	265	7.50	480 Ave.	150.00	NH	20.00
77	275.00	267	1.35	486 LPR	1.90	679	29.00
86	350.00	268	5.00	488	1.00	686 LPR	2.25
88	95.00	270	9.50	489	1.40	687	1.00
97	280.00	271	24.00	LPR	8.50	PR	2.00
99	680.00	273	23.00	490 LPR	1.10	LPR	3.25
113	80.00	274	55.00	492	2.50	695	1.00
114	31.25	275	70.00	LPR	15.00	695 Ave. NH	1.35
115	258.00	279	1.50	493	4.95	696	2.00
116	200.00	279b	2.25	494	3.00	698	2.00
117	230.00	279bd	3.25	496	1.40	699	2.50
119	195.00	279bf	2.50	LPR	7.50	700	5.00
146	32.50	280	7.50	498a	1.00	711	1.20
150	130.00	281	8.00	501	2.75	713	1.00
151	120.00	283	29.00	502	3.50	715	3.00
154	450.00	285	7.50	503	2.70	704-15	7.45
156	30.00	286	6.50	504	2.00	720b	8.75
157	40.00	287	35.00	506	3.00	721 PR	1.50
158	10.00	288	35.00	507	7.50	721 LPR	2.00
158 OG	32.50	289	45.00	509	4.25	722 PR	1.20
161	105.00	290	45.00	510	4.00	722 LPR	2.35
165	139.00	291	175.00	511	2.25	723	3.50
178	45.00	293	590.00	512	2.25	LPR	20.00
178 OG		294	4.50	514	9.50	730	12.00
NH	125.00	295	3.90	515	11.00	735	6.50
179	60.00	296	21.00	516	10.00	749	1.20
182	13.00	297	24.00	518	15.00	750	14.00
183 OG	35.00	298	30.00	527	4.20	750a	1.50
184	7.00	299	40.00	528	2.75	751	6.00
185 OG	130.00	300	1.30	528b	5.65	768	8.50
186	110.00	301	1.60	537	2.25	769	6.25
187	165.00	302	11.00	538	2.75	770	16.00
188	58.00	303	15.00	538a	15.00	828	1.60
189	35.00	304	9.50	540	3.00	833	10.00
191	250.00	305	12.00	542	2.25	834	22.00
205	27.50	306	6.70	548	1.10	842 LPR	1.00
205 OG	75.00	307	15.00	549	1.40	844 LPR	1.90
206	7.50	308	12.50	550	9.90	845	1.25
207 OG	20.00	310	110.00	552a	2.00	LPR	9.50
209 OG	44.00	311	189.00	554c	2.25	846 LPR	2.50
209b	100.00	319	1.50	555	4.50	847	3.50
210	4.00	319b	1.85	557	4.00	848 LPR	1.25
211	21.00	319f	2.50	558	8.75	849 LPR	1.85
211 OG	65.00	320	8.00	559	2.45	850	1.10
212	7.90	323	7.50	560	12.50	PR	2.20
213	2.80	324	7.00	561	4.00	LPR	2.45
215	25.00	325	22.50	562	4.50	851 PR	1.90
215 OG	50.00	326	24.00	564	1.50	851 LPR	2.20
216	17.00	327	41.00	565	1.00	2122	13.00
216 OG	65.00	328	7.50	566	6.00	C1	20.00
217 OG	100.00	329	8.75	567	5.00	C2	32.00
219	7.50	330	37.50	568	6.00	C3	32.00
219d	49.00	331	1.30	569	10.00	C4	9.50
220	5.00	332	1.30	571	12.00	C5	33.00
223	18.00	332a NG	55.00	577 PR	1.50	C6	35.00
224	18.00	334	10.60	581	2.50	C7	1.00
225	15.00	335	9.50	584	8.00	C8	1.10
226	32.00	336	16.00	585	4.75	C9	3.45
228	100.00	337	9.00	586	4.50	C10	2.50
229	160.00	346	5.00	587	2.00	C10a	25.00
230	4.00	367 NH SE	3.00	589	7.00	C11	1.25
231	3.80	370	2.25	590	1.60	C12	3.00
231v	22.00	372	3.00	591	18.00	C14 Ave.	300.00
232	12.00	372 NH SE	6.00	600	1.60	C16	1.50
233	13.00	379	9.50	PR	3.20	C18	35.00
234	12.00	380	32.00	LPR	8.00	C21	3.00
235	12.00	381	26.00	600 Ave. NH	3.75	C22	3.00
236	10.00	387	49.00	601	1.00	C24	4.50
237	29.00	392	6.25	602 LPR	3.50	C25a	1.85
238	50.00	393	14.00	611	3.50	C28	1.10
239	80.00	397	4.35	PR	7.00	C30	1.00
240	149.00	398	2.90	612	4.00	C31	3.50
241	290.00	399	20.00	615	1.50	C37 LPR	3.70
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Figure 5. A strip of three of the 8¢ Long Coronation issue. Though difficult to see here, the center stamp is unwatermarked. The stamps at left and right have a faint watermark.

method, sheets are perforated in one direction at a time. Line perforations usually overlap at the intersections, as seen in the center of this block. The lower block has comb perforations of 13.3x13.2. Each strike of the comb perforator, whose arrangement of pins resembles a hair comb, results in a line of perforations between two complete rows of stamps and perforations between each of the stamps in the row. This results in a more uniform look without the overlapping holes, as we can see in the lower block."

In an e-mail exchange, Walsh explained that he measured the perforations with a Stanley Gibbons Instanta gauge and feels comfortable with his perforation measurements. The other catalogs do not mention how they measured



Figure 6. Blocks of four of the die I (top) and die II (bottom) varieties of the 3¢ issue.

the perforations. Walsh also says that his catalog does not differentiate between line and comb perforations because the perforation listings make the distinction. He also indicates, rightly so, that a block of stamps is needed to see the difference between the two. He cautions, "at times a block made with a line perforation can demonstrate a comb look."

Continued on page 30

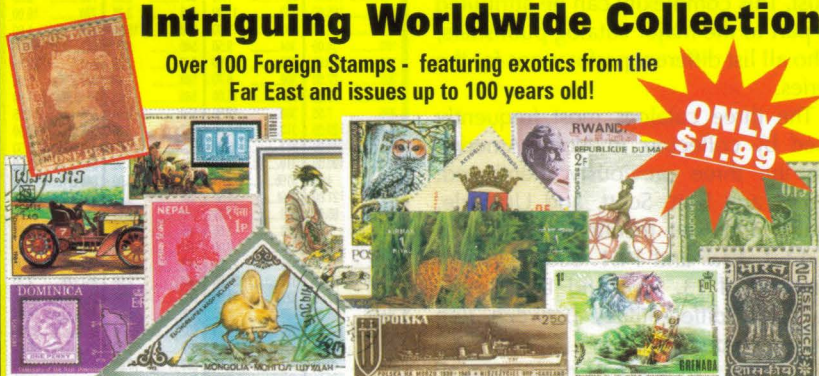


Figure 7. At top, the so-called Male Dog variety, which shows a re-entry mark on the inner back leg of the Newfoundland dog on the 14¢ stamp. At bottom, a re-entry in the words "Newfoundland dog" on the 14¢ stamp.

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Figure 8. Blocks of the 15c stamp showing the line perforation (top) and the comb perforation (bottom). Images courtesy of British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS).

Continued from page 28

Several of the comb varieties of the Long Coronation issue are quite scarce. C.A. Stillions, a BNAPS member, is an expert on perforation varieties of the modern Newfoundland stamps and he believes that only two copies of

the 14c value are known with comb perforations. In fact, the value of the 13.3×13.2 comb perforation 14c stamp has risen dramatically in the last two years. In the 2003 edition of the Unitrade catalog it was listed in Canadian dollars at \$3,000 for a mint copy and \$1,500 for a used version. In the 2005 edition, the same stamps have risen to \$15,000 and \$3,000 respectively. This increase is the result, Walsh tells me, of a single 14c stamp perforated 13.3×13.2 (described as "comb perf 13") that was sold by Victoria Stamp Co. of Ridgewood, N.J., on Feb. 7, 2004, for \$18,000 (U.S.) plus buyer's premium.

The accompanying table provides information of use to the postal history collector, showing the purpose for each of the values of both Newfoundland Coronation series. The information is excerpted with permission from the Walsh and Butt catalog.

RATES PAID BY NEWFOUNDLAND STAMPS IN 1937

- 1c Inland printed papers, circular letters and local postcards
- 2c Local letters
- 3c Local double weight letters and postcards to Canada, the British Empire and United States
- 4c Inland letters
- 5c Letters to Canada, the British Empire and United States
- 7c Letters to foreign countries and local registered letters
- 8c Double weight to Canada, the British Empire and United States
- 10c Foreign double-weight letters, inland registered letters and small packets up to 10 oz.
- 14c Canada and United States parcels, per 1 lb.
- 15c Registered letters to Canada, the British Empire and United States; airmail letters to Europe
- 20c Parcel post and foreign double-weight registered letters
- 24c Parcel post to the United Kingdom (minimum charge)
- 25c Air parcel post to Canada per 1 lb. and special delivery airmail
- 48c Parcel post to the United Kingdom, up to 3 lbs.

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