

MY IMPRESSION OF VOLUME TWO OF THE BILODEAU GUIDE

by Jacques Lemay #463

After having been one of the lucky people chosen to review Volume Two of the Guide, it gives me great pleasure to share my opinions with you. Like Doug Adams, I also found the first reading a bit hard to understand, probably because I was so anxious to check out what the authors had done. I put it aside for a while and when I had a little more time to myself and no distractions, I re-read it and it all made sense.

Not only was it simple but efficient as well. The reason it seemed so complicated from the beginning was the multitude of new and different codes. But, once you understand the simplicity of the codes, it all falls into place. The reason there are a lot of codes is because there are a lot of varieties.

I have a weakness for the broken signature varieties of the S18 to S21 series along with all the different variations. The reason I enjoy these is that there is so many of them and they are still all easy to find on circulating coupons whether they come from the stores or our friends stashes. Now that we finally have a classification system available to us we are going to be busy for a long time wheeling and dealing amongst us to "get them all" for our own collection. Now when we use the variety or error code for a particular coupon everyone will know exactly what we are talking about.

Coupons can now be sold in the mail auctions or in the want ads with no mistakes possible. Nothing is more frustrat-

ing than buying a coupon and realizing that we already had one in our collection. In the past the only place to buy them were at live auctions due to the fact that broken signatures almost always have more than one anomaly per coupon.

As far as my broken signatures are concerned, I managed to catalogue all of them (nearly 200 different) in two evenings using the new Volume Two of the Guide. It took only a few minutes to get the hang of the coding system and I was sorting them out almost mechanically. The letters used to make the codes are an abbreviation of the error or variety ex: (bma) for "back missing A" or (bccl) for "back clipped C on left".

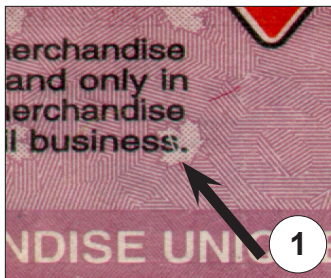
I sincerely believe that if you are interested in varieties, you will benefit in several ways. The fact that since the coupons are often issued in different parts of the country, varieties may be scarcer in your area than in others. This gives you a chance to meet new people in the Club while wheeling and dealing to find all the different varieties to complete your collection. Sounds to me like a Win / Win situation.

The making of Volume Two was an enormous task and I am convinced that the authors had to really be dedicated collectors and believe in what they were doing to manage to sort out all this information and present it to us in the way they did. Being into varieties, I for one, will spend some quality time on my favorite hobby now that I have Volume Two to work with.

DISCOVERIES

by Jerome Fourre #120

Here are a few discoveries sent in by different members. First in figure 1 we have an S21-G \$2.00 note where the last "S" in business has a vertical line that runs from the top center to the bottom right. This variety has been temporarily name a "Broken S" (bbs).



Lastly in figure 3 we have a S18-F \$1.00 coupon that has been transformed into a First Day Cover by some enterprising Stamp/Coupon collector. Several different issues of this type of note were put into circulation by individuals but the Corporation never sanctioned these notes. This particular one was brought to my attention by member Don Green #770 who purchased the 5¢ version on Ebay. The \$1.00 shown below was on Ebay for sale at the time. These ones were cancelled with the official CTC First Day Cover cancellation stamp and were done on all denominations of the 75th Anniversary series including the \$2.00.



Next in figure 2 we have an "Open top 8". Notice the top of the 8, this particular note is from the S6-B 5¢ series but several have been found in all denominations of this series. Some have been found with an "Open top 9" also. No name has been given to this variety yet.



I have seen some from different Post Offices from different parts of the country. I remember having a complete set in my possession that were cancelled at a Post Office in New Brunswick, if I remember correctly I think Fredericton. This set also was cancelled on the same date as the First Day Cover but not with the official CTC stamp, just the local Post Office.