

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



G. Lewis

We have some further information concerning the Air Letter forms we discussed in the June 1949 issue of BNA TOPICS. In the "Trail of the Caribou" we mentioned in discussing Type I that we had received our copy late in '45 or early in '46. Our memory must have been exceedingly hazy as we are in receipt of a letter from Mr. R. R. Smith, BNAPS #91, who encloses one of these forms postally used from Harbor Grace on June 4, 1947. The content of the letter advises "This letter sheet should make a collectors item. Apparently our P. O. ran out of regulation forms late last Fall and borrowed some from Canada. You will note the obliteration of Canada and the Newfoundland imprint." I guess that fixes the time of issue rather conclusively as late in 1946, particularly as we got our copy from the same chap that Mr. Smith got his.

We are in receipt of a letter from BNAPSer Bill Kemp, #85, concerning plate numbers on the latest issue of Newfoundland stamps. As all readers of the "Trail" know by this time, we have reported all values except the 7c value, Scott's #258. Bill advises that he checked with Ottawa and they tell him the 7c value was never issued with a plate number. Confirmation enough we would say.

Joe Chambers, BNAPSer 545, writes in to ask about the various dies used for the printing of the 5c Caribou, Scott's #s 191, 191a, 257. This is a question that bothers many Newfoundland collectors judging by the mail we get, and the best answer we can give is they read Arthur Moll's authoritative article on the subject published in a 1945 issue of BNA TOPICS. If you don't have a copy, write Bob Duncan, our Librarian, and he will lend you a copy from the Society Library. We understand Arthur is doing some more work on the subject and we two (and many other members) sure would like to see a subsequent article in a not too distant issue of BNA TOPICS. What say, Arthur?



Al Kessler, BNAPS #334, has submitted a cancellation to us that has us puzzled and we are printing a photograph (above) of the cancellation in the hope that one of our fellow-members can help us with an explanation. The cancellation which reads "T. S. S. NORTH STAR/PURSER'S OFFICE" in circle with the words "POSTED ON THE HIGH SEAS" in the center, is struck on a postcard written on Aug. 14th. The year however is missing. The postcard is franked with the 3c Coronation, Scott's #234 and is not tied to the card. Can anyone enlighten Mr. Kessler and ourselves with the story behind the postmark.

In the March '49 issue of TOPICS, we advised that the 1c, 2c and 3c stamps of the last issue had appeared with new plate numbers. At that time we said we didn't know whether new plates had been made or whether new numbers had been placed on the old plates to designate a re-order. The printer has written us to the effect that a new 2c plate was definitely laid down and we assume that this is true of all the other values that appeared with new numbers. The printer also advises that plate #43078 was made on Aug. 19, 1946 and plate #43968 on Sept. 9, 1948. The latter plate however was first recorded from Newfoundland on Dec. 10, 1948.