

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



G. Lewis

Alec MacMaster, BNAPS #484, has let us have a looksee at an item that may possibly be unique. If not unique, it hasn't been listed anywhere nor has it been written up in any of the philatelic journals that have crossed our desk in the past ten years. The item in question is what seems to be an imperforate pair of the 1c green, Scott #145, used on a post card on Aug. 1, 1929 and beautifully tied by the slogan in use at that time. Nowhere in Boggs, Gibbons or Holmes is there any mention made of an imperforate pair of #145. It has not appeared in any recent auctions either and no one that we have questioned as yet has any knowledge of its existence. The stamp in question was issued Jan. 2, 1928, and according to Boggs the re-engraved 1c was not issued until Sept. 26, 1929, so that this imperforate pair was used during the life of the stamp. It is very difficult to examine the paper closely but it does seem as though it might be a bit heavier than the regular stock which would introduce the possibility that the pair in question might be plate proofs. Pursuing this possibility still further we find no listing at all of plate proofs of this issue, and the S. A. Brown collection of Newfoundland proofs, which was the most complete collection extant when sold by Robson Lowe in London in 1943, contained no plate proofs of this stamp. The L. T. Vowles sale likewise did not have plate proofs of this issue. We would appreciate any and all correspondence on this subject.

For the past few years we have seen occasional notes concerning the 1c and 2c Guy stamps, Scotts #'s 87 and 88, that we have questioned. In the case of the 1c value both Scott and Gibbons list it as existing in three different perforation varieties, 12x12, 12x14 and 12x11. These three varieties are not uncommon but Boggs lists still another variety, 12x11½. Although we

have examined hundreds of copies, we have never found this variety and wonder if it exists. In the case of the 2c Guy, again Scott and Gibbons agree on two perforation varieties namely perf 12x12 and 12x14. Gibbons however lists a third perf variety 12x11½ and prices it at £10. Boggs, in his excellent book on Newfoundland, concurs with Gibbons on this point and also lists a perf 12x11½. Again in the case of the 2c, we have examined quite a number of copies and have yet to come across one of the 12x11½ stamps. Since this stamp is advertised rather extensively in London we felt that some copies should be here in the States. We were very happy to note in a recent auction catalog that one of these stamps in mint condition was being offered for sale. Needless to say we went down to examine this stamp and after checking it closely we called over one of the employees and asked him to check it carefully and sure enough our suspicions were vindicated, instead of being the rare perf 12x11½, it was the common perf 12x12. Incidentally our "Instanta" gauge reads 11.8x11.8. We don't mean to sound conceited, but in our minds this variety will not exist until we personally have had a chance to check it ourselves. If any member has a copy, please send it along we promise to pay all expenses involved, it will be worth it to find out if the stamp really does exist.

CHARLES McDONOUGH WINS

BNAPSer Charles McDonough is also a member of the Oklahoma Philatelic Society, and this group held their exhibit and convention on the same dates as BNAPS. Mr. McDonough exhibited a complete collection of U. S. airmail stamps and air mail postal stationery and won a first award, a blue ribbon. He has placed collections in the shows of this society for the past three years.