

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



G. Lewis

The other evening we caught up with some work we had promised to do for Mr. Makepeace, BNAPS #107. We promised him at the BNAPEX in September that we would check the perforations on our copies of the 5c and 10c King George V Inland Revenue Stamps of Newfoundland. With our Gibbons "Instanta" gauge we went to work and checked all our copies. The findings seemed rather conclusive so we would like to set them down here and perhaps some of our readers may have some comments. We examined 17 copies of the 5c value and found that 16 were perforated 11x11 and the 17th was perforated 12x12. An examination of the stamps as to cancellation revealed that the 12x12 copy had the earliest dated cancellation of the eight that were legible. This stamp was cancelled Dec. 21, 1917, the others ranged from Sept. 7, 1921 to sometime in 1935, our latest legible year. The obvious deduction from the limited material at hand was that the 12x12 was the earlier printing and the scarcer of the two. These findings were substantiated when the 10c was examined. Of the 12 copies on hand, 11 were perforated 11x11 and the 12th, 12x12. The only stamp with a dated cancellation was the one perforated 12x12 and that was cancelled Mar. 3, 1916.

Mr. Leslie Mitchell, BNAPS #535, 57 Hemingway, Blackpool, Lancashire, England, is looking for collectors of RPO's and TPO's that are current in Newfoundland at the present time. He has considerable information on this score and wishes to compare it with fellow-collectors in the hope that new strikes and cancellations may turn up. All collectors interested in this phase of collecting should communicate with Mr. Mitchell and maybe at some future date he may submit an article for BNA TOPICS that will supplement those we did on Newfoundland before the Confederation.

Mr. Frank W. Campbell, BNAPS 143 is busy writing a new book dealing with the Postal History of Canada and Newfoundland and he needs some help from Newfoundland collectors. He is looking for a list of Newfoundland post offices for the various years before 1900 and he would like them divided by districts. If any readers believe they can help Mr. Campbell, they may either write him direct (1112 Pinehurst, Royal Oak, Mich.), or address their letters to us and we will forward them on to Frank.

The announcement last month about the sale of the world famous BNA collection of the late Dr. Lewis L. Reford is of great importance to all collectors of B. N. A. While the collection is most famous for its Canada, the next section in importance and size is probably Newfoundland. It is believed that many items long sought by Newfoundland collectors throughout the world will come to light. As we receive more detailed information concerning the Newfoundland contents, we will pass it along to the readers.

Irwin Heiman, prominent New York stamp dealer, has a part sheet of the Newfoundland 5c Labrador Airmail, #C13, that has aroused a bit of speculation. This part sheet is of a different shade than the stamp usually seen, it is much lighter and seems to be a distinct color variety. However, what is even more surprising is that the shade of the stamps in Mr. Heiman's possession is exactly that of the imperforate and part perforate varieties of #C13. It has long been known by Mr. Heiman that the imperforate and part perforate stamps were of a slightly different shade than the issued stamps and this is the first time he has ever seen the fully perforated stamps in the shade of the imperforates. He has no explanation and plans to submit the part sheet to catalog compilers as a definite shade variety of #C13.