

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



In the March issue of the TRAIL, we mentioned one of the lots from the forthcoming Reford Sale. It was described as an 8d. rose, Scott #22, used on piece during 1864. Well, the sale has been here and gone, in fact the sale was completed before the March issue went to press. As was to be expected, we bought the lot with the fond belief and expectation that we now had conclusive proof that the 8d. rose had been sold over the counter and that it had been postally used prior to the time when Newfoundland changed over from the pence and shilling currency to cents and dollars. Alas and alack, we are still looking for the aforementioned conclusive proof. A close examination of the piece in question revealed the fact that it was a combination of two pieces expertly joined together. The stamp with an appropriate cancellation was on one piece and the circular "Kings Cove, Ju. 9, 1864" postmark was on another piece. The paper matches exactly and even the watermark in the paper matches up but the fact remains that the stamp and postmark are on two separate pieces and while it may be entirely legitimate and bonafide, it doesn't supply us with that clincher that would enable us to say that the stamp in question does exist in postally used condition used during the time that the stamp was current.

We spent a very interesting evening with Les. Mitchell, BNAPS #535, from Blackpool, England. He had just landed on these shores and was en route to the Mid-West in the company of the very charming Mrs. Mitchell. No, we regret to say that Mrs. Mitchell is not a collector! A few of us, including Arthur Moll, Ken Minuse, Harry Lussey, Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Meyerson went over to the Collectors' Club to look at the BNA material from the collection of the late Alfred Lichtenstein, that was being shown by his daughter, Mrs. Dale, preparatory to

being taken overseas to be shown at the forthcoming International Show to be held in London later this month.

Needless to say, most of the items defy description and we are sure that some of the items we looked at, particularly the covers, must have been unique. The Newfoundland exhibit only consisted of two and a half frames, but what frames. The first issue of the scarlet vermillions were truly superb, every copy was represented in brilliant mint condition. The one item that had all of us drooling was a horizontal pair of the 1/-, with truly boardwalk margins. As for the bisects, there were so many of them that they seemed common, there were bisects of the 8d., in every possible combination. In fact there were even combinations of bisects on cover. Another item of particular merit was a cover with three copies of the 6d. Just imagine, most collectors spend their entire life seeking out just one copy in presentable condition, and here were three superb copies used on one cover. The orange and lake issues were also suitably represented, but not as profusely as the scarlet vermillions.

As an anti-climax, we all went back to our apartment and spent the next three hours just mulling over our collection and talking stamps. It is strange when stamp collectors get together, how the sight of a particular stamp will bring forth a story. We had many such occasions and the time virtually flew by. We were very sorry to see Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell go and we hope that they can spend some more time with us on their way back. We enjoyed it immensely, we hope they did. We promised Les that we would try to have our TPO's written up by the time he gets back, but we think we will fail him on this score, the fishing season will be in full swing by the time this magazine goes to press and les Freres intend to put their stamps aside for the nonce and try to catch some trout.