

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



G. Lewis

I am in receipt of a letter from a stamp collector who is a member of the World War Cover Society. He encloses a Newfoundland cover franked with 5c in Newfoundland stamps and addressed to the United States. The cover has been censored. However, what bothered the collector in question was the circular postmark "ST ANTHONY N. F./I.G.A.P.O./DE 15 42." He wanted to know if it was an APO marking. No, we regret to advise that the initials in question are merely an abbreviation of the words INTERNATIONAL GRENFELL ASSOCIATION. Another cancellation from this same source is occasionally seen. It consists of a rather large oval with the following markings, "ST. ANTHONY NFLD/I.G.A./JULY 31, 1948." The initials I. G. A. mean in this instance exactly what they did on the cover mentioned above.

Alec MacMaster, BNAPS #484, has just bought a few nice items of the pence issue. One of the pieces he sent down for our inspection was a used copy of the 6d. rose, #20, on thick paper. Another was a very nice copy of the 6½d rose of the same issue that may or may not be on the thick paper. It was a moot question and we couldn't give him an exact reply. The piece de resistance, however, was a superb 1/ rose, beautifully tied to piece and cancelled at St. John's on Feb. 30, 1863. We will admit that the date was rather strange but it was undoubtedly the result of a mistake in the date stamp. The piece, though, is really an eye-opener and we hope that Alec will exhibit it at Philadelphia in September.

We picked up a couple of nice pieces ourselves at the recent Sissons auction. We think rather well of our provisionals, and as a result we try

and add to them wherever and whenever possible. Jim's sale gave us a chance and we made the best of it. After all these years we finally purchased the invert of the 3c on 6c gray, #160a. The second item was one that we needed and were glad to purchase. It was the TWO CENTS on 30c Cabot Essay in red overprinted in 1920, the companion piece of the two essays on the 6c Cabot printed in red and in black. The third and last item was one that we had never seen before. It was a block of the Halifax overprint, C2, in what can be called a diagonal surcharge but is undoubtedly the result of a misfeed. Only one sheet of 25 is reputed to exist and what makes our new block so outstanding is that it consists of positions 4, 5, 9 and 10. Positions 4 and 5 are the rare date shifted positions, so the block in question may well be unique.

If anyone wants to accumulate a Gold Medal collection of Newfoundland in a hurry, we can tell him just where to go. In last week's mail we received a letter from Francis J. Field, Ltd., quoting on a few Newfoundland airmail items—but what items! They have for sale a mint pair of the Hawker, a Martinsyde manuscript on cover, a complete sheet of 25 of the Alcock-Brown, a mint de Pinedo, a Balbo invert and a copy of the Balbo surcharge on the 10c yellow. Last but not least, they have complete mint sheets of 50 of the 5c and 10c 1933 Labrador airmail issue in imperforate condition. A fellow trying to complete his Newfoundland Airmail collection including all of the rarities would be more than half way home after the purchase of the items listed above. We have a sneaking suspicion that all of the pieces mentioned are ex-Sir Lindsay Everard, and if so, we are not the least bit surprised that his collection won innumerable medals and awards.