

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



We are in receipt of a very interesting letter from Stan Wood (BNA-PS 221) of Auckland, New Zealand, that adds a few minor perforation varieties to those already known to Newfoundland specialists. He set us on the track of something new in the case of the 4¢ rose, Scott #189. In the October TRAIL we wrote that this stamp existed both in the comb perf. and the line perf. Now we learn from Stan that there are two different sizes in the line perforations. Using our INSTANTA gauge we get the comb perf. as 13.3 x 13.3 and the line perf. as 14.1 x 14.1. Stan now advises that it also exists line perfed 13.7 x 13.7. We can vouch for this, as on checking our copies we found that our mint block was line perfed 13.7 x 13.7, and our used block was perfed 14.1 x 14.1. In addition Stan also reveals the presence of the 20¢, Scott #196, line perfed 14.1 x 14.1.

It's certainly surprising how odd bits of information often tie themselves together. Last July we received a letter from Dr. Willan, (BNAPS 568) in which he told us that he had just purchased some original material dealing with the production of the Guy Issue. One of his sentences reads: "The order stipulates the colour of the 1¢, 2¢ and 5¢ (in accordance with U. P. U. requirements), and requires the submission of proofs on the paper to be used, gummed and perforated. The other colours were left to the printers. I have the card on which these were submitted. Most of them were apparently satisfactory, but the 3¢ was bistre-brown and is marked 'to be more definite in colour,' the 10¢ orange is noted 'proof in another colour.'" That was the first we had ever heard about trial color proofs

on the Guy Issue in all of our years of collecting. Strangely enough though just the other day we were in receipt of some proofs from a dealer in England and sure enough numbered amongst them were the two trial color or plate proofs of the Guy Issue. It was nice to see them and confirm their existence, but it was even nicer and gave us a far greater thrill in that we knew the story and history of these two trial color plate proofs.

That item that we wrote about in last month's TRAIL that was on sale at the Mozian auction, Boggs 10¢ Essay listed on page 176 of his book, brought \$8.50 and was sold to order.

Our article in the November TRAIL concerning the 2¢ Guy, Scott #38, perf 12 x 11½ certainly produced the desired results. We admit that we seemed a bit cheeky in stating that in our opinion the stamp did not exist until we ourselves had personally perfed one. Well, we have had the opportunity and we herewith tender our apologies to Gibbons and Boggs, whose listings we had doubted. But honestly, we had checked so many supposed examples of the 12 x 11½ and found them to be 12 x 12 that we thought that if the auctioneers could make the mistake so often, why not the cataloguers. Dr. Willan has very kindly sent us a copy to check and there is no doubt about it, the stamp does exist. On our INSTANTA we catch it as 11.8 x 11.3. Dr. Willan also advises that he has a block of 16, three mint singles and one used single. Now that we have definitely confirmed the existence of the 2¢ value, let's see if anyone can turn up a copy of the 1¢ Guy perfed 12 x 11½

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