

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



Well CAPEX is a thing of the past, and all members of BNAPS have reason to be proud. There were 44 prizes awarded for the B.N.A. Group and of these our members garnered 35, truly a remarkable exhibition. Most of those in attendance with experience at former International shows admitted unequivocally that it was the finest exhibition of B.N.A. material ever gathered under one roof. At the BNAPS luncheon Sir John Wilson, curator of the Royal Collection, stated that he had never seen such an awesome display of superb material. Unfortunately we regret to say that the Newfoundland exhibits did not measure up to the standards set by the other B.N.A. material. Don't think for one minute though that the Newfoundland exhibits were below standard; it was merely that the other exhibits were so far above what is usually seen. We saw some very interesting items that we think should be reported to the members. One of the frames had a copy of the 1d. brown violet Scott #1, with the mail boat cancellation "A92" as illustrated by Boggs on page 42 of his book on Newfoundland. Previously it had only been recorded on the 8d. scarlet, Scott #8. The same frame had a copy of the 2¢ Codfish, Scott #24, overprinted "SPECIMEN" in black serifed letters as illustrated in the November 1949 issue of TOPICS on page 219. We saw magnificent copies of the 5¢ brown seal, Scott #25, and the 12¢ pale red brown on white paper, Scott #28a, with the very attractive circular "LA POILE" cancellation. We saw three complete examples of the American Bank Note Trade Sample sheet described by Boggs on page 55. Among the items that really made our mouth water was an example of a circular red "HAR-

BOR GRACE PAID" dated Oct. 9, 1860—this is an unrecorded strike. Another frame contained two outstanding pieces of Newfoundland pre-stamp material, a black straight line "St. JOHNS" used in 1821 and a magnificent circular red "HARBOR BRITAIN PAID" with a red 3d. in the circle in manuscript form used Sept. 1, 1853. This same cover had a very fine example of the circular black "HARBOR BRITAIN" postmark. It is our belief that the straight line "St. JOHNS" is the only record of this particular strike. Amongst the proofs we saw a previously unrecorded piece that was mistakenly identified as an Essay when in reality the piece which consisted of two die proofs, one of King George and the other of Queen Mary were in reality the die proofs used in the preparation of two postcards, Holmes #1678 and #1681. In addition there were die proofs in black of the 1c, 2c, 5c, 6c, 8c, 9c, 10c, 12c, and 15c values of the Guy Issue. Three other interesting items were colored trial proofs of three of the values of the 1911 Coronation set. Those seen were the 6c value in rose orange, the 8c value in brown and the 9c value in green. In addition to these items noted there were at least two frames of Newfoundland material in the Court of Honor and we won't even try to describe the magnificent scarlet and orange vermilion stamps on display.

We had the good fortune to meet W. E. Lea of Manchester and we checked with him on the matter of the re-entries described in the October "TRAIL." Sure enough he showed us the re-entry in the 6c, Scott #36, and it was rather clearly there, a doubling of the lower portion of the stamp, particularly evident in the lower left corner. Our apologies.