

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



We have a correction to make in our last paragraph of the December "Trail of the Caribou." In that issue, in answer to Dr. Willan, we stated that there were only three stamps in the sheet of #59 that had the line through the letters "CE" in the word "CENTS," and that their positions were 33, 38 and 43. We passed the information on to Dr. Willan and he disputed it, asserting that he had seen at least six different positions of the line through the "CE." Well, Dr. Willan is right—when we originally examined the sheet we only did so superficially. Since then we have had the time to go over it more carefully and we find that the same sheet bears three more examples of the line through the "CE," these last three however are much fainter than the three previously recorded. They are in the center row directly above the first three recorded positions. Stamps 18 and 23 have a very faint line through the lower part of the "CE," stamp 28 has a faint line thru the center of the "CE," and stamps 33, 38 and 43 have the rather heavy line that is evident to the naked eye through the upper portion of the "CE" in "CENTS."

We purchased two very fine items recently, one from a dealer and the other at auction. At auction we purchased a superb used horizontal pair of the 50c unwatermarked airmail of 1931, imperforate between. Only 10 such pairs are believed to exist, and our pair cancelled at Carbonear on Feb. 1, 1931, may be the only used pair in existence. The second item is a mint block of 8 (4x2) of the 2d. rose, Scott #17. In our collection we have sheets of 20 of the 4d., 6d., 6½d., 8d. and 1/., but previously had nothing larger than a pair of the 2d.

Previous to this block now in our possession, the largest block we had recorded of was a block of 6. Both of the "Pack" sales held in 1944 and 1945 had blocks of 6, and on one other occasion a strip of 5 was offered for sale at a New York auction. We are justly proud of our new acquisition and until we learn of a larger block, or a complete sheet of 20, this block will constitute the largest piece known. We would welcome comment from any of our readers as to any larger pieces that they may know about.

The other day in looking through Boggs book on Newfoundland we re-read the chapter on the Caribou Issue and were surprised to learn that Boggs lists the 5c value as existing in comb perf and in line perf. The blocks in our collection are all comb perf and we wonder if any of our members can submit a block of the 5c value to show us that it does exist in the line perforation. At the same time we have an addition to the plate number information. Boggs lists the 1c value as existing in plate #3, but a block used on cover in 1923 that is in our possession is from plate #2. Are any additional numbers known?

It has just been revealed that the stock of proofs owned by Clarence Brazer, BNAPS #149, was stolen on or about Jan. 6, 1951. If any proofs are offered to a reader at a very low price from other than a reputable dealer, it might be wise to communicate with Mr. Brazer before making the purchase.

Make your plans now to attend CAPEX and BNAPEX—two big events in one—September 1951.