

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



The value of a name. Don't let anyone tell you that an item from a famous collection doesn't bring a higher price at auction than it would if it were part of an ordinary collection. In the January TRAIL we discussed an item formerly from the Pack collection which was being sold as part of the Brigham collection. When it was sold in 1944 it brought \$725; when sold in December 1950, the same cover brought \$260.

In the April 1948 issue of Topics we showed how it was possible to distinguish between a proof and a trade sample of the 12¢ stamp, Scott #28. We have now discovered a definite means of distinguishing between the proof and the trade sample of the 5¢ value, Scott #25. It is more important in the case of the 5¢ value as gummed perforated examples of the trade samples are known in the 5¢ value. We have seen them in black and they look exactly like the 5¢ value, Scott #26. All of the trade samples are marked with a dot in the color of the stamp about 2/5ths of the way down in the left margin just a bit to the left of the frame line of the design. Neither the proofs nor the issued stamps are marked with this dot. The perforated and gummed proof is so much like the regular stamp #26, that only the other day while examining some lots up for auction at one of the most famous of auction houses we came across just such an item incorrectly described. It was listed as "5¢ black, well centered. Very fine o.g." When brought to their attention the lot was immediately withdrawn. The mistake was made in good faith as the gummed perforated trade sample would probably command as high a price as the mint well centered copy of the black 5¢ seal. We imagine that the lot will

be sold at that time with an explanation as to the true identity of the lot and all mail bids disregarded.

We're not too sure of the facts, but as far as we are concerned the true nature of the perforated gummed trade samples has only lately been realized and it was Clarence Brazer (BNAPS 149) who first set us right on the subject. Up until six months ago they were always described as perforated trial color proofs and when Clarence first told us what they were, he had to prove it to our satisfaction. This he readily did by going through his stock of the 13¢, Scott #30, and showing us the curl in the left margin alongside the numeral circle. Reference to the sample sheet illustrated on page 68 of the June 1947 Topics will show our readers what we mean. It proved beyond doubt that they were perforated and gummed trade samples and not trial color proofs. Strangely enough, though, we have never seen any examples of the 12¢ value, Scott #28, in the perforated and gummed condition. The reason for it may be that the scroll work on the sample sheet comes so close to the design that it would spoil the appearance of the stamp. We've seen examples of the 2¢, Scott #24, the 5¢, Scott #25 and #26, the 10¢, Scott #27, and the 13¢, Scott #30. If the 12¢ does exist in this condition, we would be very much interested in hearing about it.

It's just a question of knowing what to look for. Sometime ago Ken Minuse (BNAPS 67) got us interested in the re-entry on the 24¢ blue, Scott #31. Ken specializes in this issue and has been looking for this item, stamp #9 in the plate, as shown in Boggs on page 53. Well, we looked long and

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Sketches of BNAPSers

By V. G. Green



MERVYN V. QUARLES

Recently elected to our Board of Governors, Mervyn V. Quarles was born at Augusta, Ga., on October 8, 1921. Married, no children, he is employed in the Freight Traffic Department of the Norfolk & Western Railway Company.

Mr. Quarles started collecting stamps when he was twelve but his interest lagged while attending the University of Cincinnati. After four years of active service he resumed his collecting and having been introduced to our Society, he turned his interests to the stamps of British North America. He began specializing in Prince Edward Island in 1948 and in September of that year, along with L. G. Tomlinson, Louis S. Crosby, and R. J. Duncan, formed the P. E. I. Study Group. They have collaborated in a series of articles which will appear in BNA Topics this year, entitled "Worthwhile Varieties of P. E. I." The Study Group is also working on the P. E. I. section of Fritz Billig's Handbook, Volume II.

Philatelic articles by Mr. Quarles, mainly concerning Prince Edward Island and other B. N. A. Provinces but including other parts of the Brit-

ish Commonwealth, have appeared in Straight Edge (prizewinning magazine of the Roosevelt Philatelic Society of Chicago), BNA Topics, Weekly Philatelic Gossip, American Philatelist and Stamp Collectors Fortnightly.

During the 2nd Great War Mr. Quarles was a sergeant in the Field Artillery and served in the Central Europe Campaign in 1944 with the U. S. Forces. He is a member of the American Philatelic Society, Roosevelt Philatelic Society (Chicago) and his presence on our Board of Governors should prove a benefit to the Society as well as a help to President Binks.

Circuit Sales Topics

Amount of sales since my last report totals \$189.30. Four books were retired and 30 new books were entered. One of the books retired had an original value of \$19.30—consisting of 20 items (blocks)—it just had to make one circuit to sell \$13.15 worth. Reason—good stamps, priced right will sell quickly!

Here's another good example—a book of used Newfoundland just entered last month and now out on a circuit not yet completed has accounted for over \$40 worth of sales out of an original value of \$166. The reason is obvious—the owner used good judgement in pricing his material.

If you have some desirable stamps for sale—try the BNAPS Sales Circuit. Blank books are still only 5 for 25¢. Better buy now as printing and paper costs will probably advance. Send your order to the Circuit Sales Manager:

Harold R. Mevers, 101 W. 60th St., New York 23, N. Y.

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hard and the other day a right corner block of six of the proof came up for sale. We knew what to look for and it was there. We say was, because it now is in the collection. Now to get a block of four of the stamp.