

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



W. E. Lea of the firm of John E. Lea (BNAPS #571) of Manchester, England, has certainly come to our aid in response to our query concerning the line perforation varieties of the 5¢ Caribou, Scott #191 and Gibbons #225. He just forwarded two blocks to us for inspection, but what blocks. The first was a left hand top corner block showing the plate number 3. It was a beautiful example of Scott #191 and Gibbons #225b in the line perf 14.1. The other block was an equally superb block of Scott #191a and Gibbons #225 in the line perf 13.7. I immediately sent them on to Arthur Moll, my expert in these stamps, and he confirmed my findings. In the case of the line perf. 14.1 block, Stan Wood had showed us a block previously but according to Arthur's examination of the color and the wear on the plate, Stan's block was probably from Plate #2, whereas this one was definitely from Plate #3. Arthur's conclusions are not definite but he suspects that the line perf 14.1 may exist from the two plates. In the case of the Die 1, Scott 191a and Gibbons #225, in the line perf 13.7, this is the first example ever recorded and we were exceedingly pleased to see it and be able to confirm its existence. No, these two blocks don't grace our collection now—we would have liked to add them but in this one stamp we always give Arthur first refusal, and this time he didn't refuse. We're in hopes that Arthur will write up his collection and exhibit it at CAPEX. What say Arthur?

And still they come! In W. E. Fynden's column, published in the March 31, 1951, issue of "Stamp Collecting," still another line perf 14.1 variety is recorded. This one concerns the 1¢ grey, Scott #184 and Gibbons #222.

We haven't seen the stamp so we can't confirm its existence, but we will say that Fynden's sources are unimpeachable so we will go along with him until we have occasion to check the stamp.

It took Stan Wood (BNAPS #221) from far-off New Zealand to come up with an example of the 5¢ Caribou, Scott #120, in the line perf as first mentioned in Boggs and then again brought to light in our column in the February 1951 issue. The block as submitted by Stan for our examination is line perfed 14, whereas the rest of the issue is comb perfed 13.7. It's an interesting variety to look for. We can't comment on the comparative scarcity of the line perf stamp as we have not had the opportunity to examine enough of the stamps. We hope to get at that sometime in the immediate future and we'll tabulate the results.

At least once a year, the "235" strike on Newfoundland stamps is the subject of an inquiry. This time it is part of a letter from R. W. T. Lees-Jones (BNAPS 493) to Jack Levine. We really don't know what it is but we are rather certain as to what it isn't. It definitely is not a registry marking as suggested by Boggs, as we have it on a 1¢ postcard, Holmes #1670, posted at St. John's on Apr. 18, 1878, and addressed to Jersey City, N. J., with no signs of registry at all. It is not a mail box cancellation from Is'and to Mainland as we have this cancellation on a cover posted at St. John's on July 3, 1886, addressed to Harbor Grace. The cover is franked with the 3¢ blue, Scott #49, and has no other markings. Incidentally our earliest record of use for this cancellation on cover is June 11, 1873. Does anyone have a cover used prior to this date.