

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



Those readers interested in Newfoundland SPECIMENS will remember that we first discussed the subject in the Nov. '49 TRAIL. At that time we advised that we thought the diagonal black serifed SPECIMEN was overprinted at the time that Newfoundland entered the U. P. U. and that the stamps overprinted were those that were in stock at the time that were still valid for postage. We listed the overprint on Nos. 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 28, 30, 31, 32a, 33 and 35. In the Nov. '51 TRAIL we listed the 2¢ Codfish, #24, with this overprint and we neglected to mention that the Royal Collection showed the same overprint on the 2d. rose, Scott #17. Recently we were able to add still another variety previously unrecorded, the 5¢ black Seal, Scott #26. Boggs lists #15a, 11a and 12a existing with this overprint as well. If our assumption is correct this same overprint should be found on Nos. 27 and 34 as well. Does anyone know of their existence?

There is just one subject on which we are rather particular, namely our insistence that all covers be franked with the correct postal rates and that all of the stamps used on the covers be used during their period of issue and not after they have been superseded by another stamp. As an example, if we wanted a copy of the 3¢ vermilion, Scott #33, on cover we would insist that it be on a cover postally used between July 1870 and April 1, 1873. It would also have to pay the rate within Newfoundland. The reason, the stamp was issued in July 1870 to prepay the rate within the Colony and it was replaced on Apr. 1, 1873 by the 3¢ blue, Scott #34. Similarly we would want the 3¢ blue used on a local cover sometime between

the day it was issued and late 1877 at which time it was replaced by the 3¢ blue roulette, Scott #39. It has long been an ambition of ours to amass a collection of all of the Newfoundland stamps used on cover at the correct time showing the local rate, the rate to Canada, the rate to the U. S. and the rate to England. It isn't as easy as it sounds as very little has been recorded about the Newfoundland postage rates, particularly between the period from 1873 to 1900. Boggs covers the early postal rates of Newfoundland very thoroughly, but where do we get the later day information that we so sorely require. We would appreciate any help that we can get, and if we eventually arrive at any degree of completeness in the rate question we promise to publish a table of same in TOPICS.

Alex MacMaster has just submitted a nice reentry on the 3¢ dark carmine, Scott #246. Alex sends us two used copies and states that he has at least 6 more. However he has no mint copy and has no idea as to the position of the reentry. On second thought we shouldn't call it a reentry as it is undoubtedly a plate flaw. The flaw in question is found in the upper right corner of the frame surrounding the portrait. It is a red line extending diagonally through the corner pearl and best of all it is apparent to the naked eye. Let's see if we can position this plate flaw for Alex, we will gladly act as the clearing house.

There seems to be increasing interest in plate numbers and we think it might be a good idea through the medium of this column to try and record all those that exist on Newfoundland stamps. We don't mean those

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