

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



G. Lewis

One of our more recent members, Marshall Kay, BNAPS #760, has just come up with a very fine item at a very reasonable price. It proves once again that it pays to know your subject. Readers of this column will recall that time and again we have quoted excerpts from English magazines such as "Stamp Collecting" concerning the rarity of the 7¢ long Coronation stamp in the comb perf. 13.3. In mint condition this stamp is listed at £12 in the 1950 Gibbons and it is unlisted in the used condition. We know that the stamp is scarce as we have examined thousands since 1945 to no avail. When it was reported from England we felt that it might only exist there in mint condition, but Mr. Kay has changed our idea on that subject. At the meeting of the New York Group he showed us the entire long Coronation set used on three pieces from St. John's on June 25, 1937, and the 7¢ value is definitely the rare comb perforation. Mr. Kay knew that the stamp in question was the scarce variety before he bought the lot and we certainly congratulate him on his very good fortune. His purchase convinces us that this stamp was evidently sold over the counter at the post office in St. John's. Maybe we will be the lucky ones next time.

Bill Lea of Manchester, England, BNAPS #687, has recently let us see some Newfoundland items that we think have not been recorded elsewhere. The first is a block of four of the 2¢, Scott #185, in the line perf 13.1 (the same as the booklet) imperforate between the top stamp and the top margin. Another variety is a block of four of the 2¢, Scott #186, with a very clear offset on the reverse gummed side. The 2¢ Gilbert is there very clearly double printed with the second print a few mms.

higher and shifted to the left. The last item is a block of four of the 2¢, Scott #164, with part of the word SPECIMEN perforated through the center of the block. It would take a block of eight to show the entire word.

A very interesting article in the Nov. 9, 1951 issue of "Stamp Collecting" by W. Dennis Way, reminded us that there was one phase of Newfoundland collecting about which very little has ever been said. Prior to Pearl Harbor there were U. S. forces at many bases in the West Indies and Newfoundland. The United States took over these bases on a 99 year lease in return for 50 destroyers which were badly needed by Great Britain at that time. There are eight definite postmarks known from Newfoundland as follows: "Mar. Det. Argentina—Nov. 10, 1941"; "American Base Forces APO 801—Oct. 25 1941" (St. John's); "American Base Forces APO 801-A—Oct. 10, 1941" (Argentina); "American Base Forces APO 801-B—Nov. 1 1941" (Fort Peperell); "American Base Forces APO-C—Oct. 21, 1941" (Stephenland); "American Base Forces APO 801-D—Oct 10, 1941" (Quidi Vidi); "Naval Opr. Base, Argentina, New Foundland Registered—Apr. 19, 1947. The eighth and last cancel is one that I have never seen but it is described by Mr. Way as the rarest of the lot. The strike he describes reads "American Forces in Newfoundland—Jan. 15. 2pm 1941", that being the first day of the first post office in the Western Hemisphere defense plan.

