

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



In the April '51 issue of TRAIL we mentioned that we had examined 600 copies of the 4¢ rose lake, Scott #189, for the presence of line perforated copies and had found none. Our observation at that time was that these line perforated copies were not included in the first printing as all of our copies were used between 1933-35. In the recent issue of "Stamp Collecting" for Dec. 14, 1951, Mr. F. B. Kettle of Bromborough, Cheshire, writes to the editor to the effect that the line perforated 14.1 stamps were in use between November 1936 and June 1937 from the dated copies in his collection. The only copies of the 13.7 line perforated copies that he has appear to be dated 1938. Does anyone have any additional information.

This matter of plate numbers is really becoming more and more intriguing each day as numbers are discovered on stamps printed prior to the 1932 issues that are popularly

supposed to mark the beginning of plate numbering. The earliest record of a plate number thus far is the one found on the 3¢ Queen Alexandra, Scott #83, issued in 1898. (See Fig. 1). The block illustrated shows a reverse "4" in the upper right corner selvedge and the number "F-5610" over the top pair. Both these markings are in the color of the stamp and we are anxious to learn if any other numbers are known for this particular stamp or any of the other stamps in this series.

Boggs lists the existence of plate numbers on the three lower values of the Caribou issue of 1919. Quoting from Boggs:

"The plates consist of one hundred subjects (10x10), arranged in two panes of one hundred for the 1¢, 2¢, and 3¢. Each pane is surrounded by double marginal lines 4mm apart, and spaced about 10mm from the stamp design, at the top and sides, and 15mm from the stamp design at the bottom. Outside the



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

marginal lines, and opposite the fifth horizontal row, at the right or left depending on the pane, is the plate number. The 1¢ is plate 3, 2¢ plate 2, and 3¢ plate 1."

In the Feb. '51 issue of TOPICS, we advised that a block of four of the 1¢ used on cover during 1923 showed a plate 2. It is therefore possible that other plate numbers exist for the 1¢, 2¢, and 3¢ values.

While visiting the stamp dealers in Boston last Fall, we came upon still another stamp with a plate number that had not previously been listed. In this instance it was the 3¢ value of the 1923 set, Scott #133. (See Fig. 2). The block in question shows a "2" in the lower left selvedge corner. Information is required as to whether any other values in this same set have also been found with plate numbers.

ANOTHER "KICKING MULE"

By RICHARD S. SOLOMON, Ph. D. (#125)

Several months ago an article appeared in the "Western Stamp Collector" concerning a newly discovered "kicking mule" cancellation, by Herman Herst Jr.; the article illustrated the cancellation on a 3¢ small queen, and subsequently another article on the same stamp and cancellation was published by Mr. Herst in the September, 1951 year book issue of TOPICS.

It was pointed out in both of these articles that the cancellation was normally used by three small west coast U. S. postoffices on U. S. stamps. Heretofore no example had been found on a Canadian stamp, although mention is made of the existence of this cancellation on Canadian stamps of the Small Queen issue in both Lee Cornell's hand book on the kicking mule cancellation, and Fred Jarrett's hand book on Canada. Mr. Herst's Canadian kicking mule was sold to Mr. Cornell.

Evidently the 3¢ Small Queen referred to above has been the only published example of this cancellation as used on a Canadian stamp.

Illustrated here is another kicking mule cancellation, this time on the 1¢ yellow small queen which is in the author's collection. There is probably one other kicking mule cancellation on the 1¢ yellow Small Queen which was sold several years ago at auction by Mr. A. C. Needham of Boston, Mass. Mr. Needham writes that



as far as he can remember the cancellation illustrated here is not the one he sold. Therefore altogether there probably are three examples of cancellations of this type and that is all that we have knowledge of at present.

The writer has not been able to exactly identify the date of the 1¢ Small Queen illustrated here. The stamp, by analysis of the paper and color, appears to be of the intermediate period between 1885 and 1887. The stamp itself is not in perfect condition since it has a thin spot and a crease, but considering the rarity of this cancellation, we cannot complain. The writer has measured the dimen-