

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



G. Lewis

We have often wondered as to the existence of the 3¢ Queen Alexandra, Scott #83, in imperforate condition. Scott merely lists #83a, vertical pair imperf between, but makes no mention of the completely imperforate stamp. Gibbons however lists both varieties. From time to time we have seen vertical pairs offered for sale that were completely imperforate, but always they were vertical pairs, never horizontal pairs. This made us a bit suspicious as the margins were always close and we felt that the margins might have been trimmed off vertical pairs imperforate between. A silly thought, but that is what we thought, nevertheless. However, we have been forced to adjust our thinking and we now go along with Gibbons and agree that the stamp does exist in vertical pairs imperf between, and completely imperforate. We even know why the stamp is only found in vertical pairs. At a recent Harmer, Rooke auction in New York, a cover used in 1903 franked with a vertical pair of the imperforate 3¢ stamp to cover the registry rate was offered for sale. Since we already have an imperf horizontal pair of the 2¢ used on cover we felt that this cover was a must and would also substantiate the existence of the imperf 3¢ value. We were fortunate enough to buy the cover at our price and immediately examined it with a powerful glass to see if any perforations had been trimmed. Our findings were in the negative and our belief in the existence of the imperforate pairs was confirmed by Bertram W. H. Poole in his article, "The Stamps of Newfoundland." In this article he states: "In 1902 it was reported that in February of that year a sheet of the 3¢ entirely imperforate was sold at the Post Office at St. John's to a non-

collector who immediately cut the entire sheet into vertical strips for convenience in separating the stamps! He had used a good many of them before a collector rescued the remainder." In view of this statement by so eminent an authority as Mr. Poole, who explains the existence of vertical pairs only, we feel that the variety should be listed by Scott in the completely imperforate condition.

Last month we omitted our bit on plate blocks as we were calling on our last resource and wanted to make sure that the article was as complete as we could possibly make it. We have had our reply and we are listing below those numbers found in the 1931-37 issue. For a good deal of this information we are indebted to the following BNAPSers: Alec MacMaster, Joe Chambers, Bill Lea and E. H. Hiscock. MacMaster and Chambers are from the west coast of Canada, Hiscock is from Newfoundland, and Bill Lea from England, showing once again how international our hobby is.

#183:

1 UL 2 UL

#184:

1 UL 2 UL 3 UL 4 UR 5 UR 6 UL

#184 line 14.1x14.1

4 UR

#185:

R2UL R3UL

#186:

R1UL R2UL R3UL 4UL

#186 line 13.7x13.7:

R3UL

#186 line 14.1x14.1:

R1UL

#187:

R1UL 2 UL 3 UL

#189:

R2UL

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