

# Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



We had a very interesting letter from Dr. Willan (BNAPS 568) concerning the 20th century Newfoundland stamps perforated SPECIMEN. Sometime ago we reported that we had seen strips of four of the 6¢, Scott 168 and the 20¢, Scott 171, with the word SPECIMEN punched through the strip. We also had seen a copy of the 2¢, Scott 164, that had evidently come from such a strip. We know that the same condition is found on the 1931 unwatermarked airmails, strips of three in the case of the 15¢, Scott C6, and the 50¢, Scott C7, and a strip of four in the case of the \$1, Scott C8. The letters are 15 mm high and 73 mm long. Dr. Willan now reports the 2¢, Scott #185, in the same condition and also reports the 3¢, Scott 187, the 4¢, Scott 188, and the 5¢, Scott 190, with the entire word on the one stamp reading vertically in letters 4½ mm high, total length 22½ mm. Boggs lists five values of the 1932 set perforated Specimen, he lists the 1¢ value, Scott 183, as well. However he makes no statement as to the type of perforation, whether on the one stamp, on a strip of four, or both. In addition the Silver Jubilee stamps, as well as the short Coronation set, have been recorded with the word SPECIMEN perforated on each stamp in a semi-circle 16½ mm across, the letters being 4 mm high. We also remember seeing the 15¢ value as well as the 50¢ value of the 1931 airmails with the same perforation. However our records don't show us whether this was the unwatermarked or the watermarked values. Can anyone come to our rescue.

We had a letter from Bill Lea (BNAPS 687) the other day, and he is asking for help. He wants to know about the Mail Boat cancellations of Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and the U. S. A. He is

particularly interested in any covers that are known with A92 to A98 cancellations. He would like to trace the port of despatch and also would like to know about any and all backstamps. The reason that we are interested in this at all is that the 1d brown violet, Scott 1, and the 8d scarlet vermilion have been recorded with the A9<sup>1</sup> strike. Dr. Willan added another stamp to this list when he came up with the 24¢, Scott 31, with the same strike. As long as Newfoundland is party to the cancellation we are declaring ourselves in, so if you have any covers, you can send the information to Bill Lea directly, or else we are willing to act as a clearing house and will forward any and all information sent us.

Joe Chambers (BNAPS 545) weighs in with a new plate number to add to the list thus far published. Joe goes back to the very beginning for his addition. He has an upper left corner block of the 3¢, Scott 83, and in the corner selvege he reports a reverse "3" to go along with the reverse "4" previously recorded in the upper right corner. Who is to be the first to report numbers "1" and "2" from the lower corners, if in truth they do exist?

Joe also weighed in with a question that may occasionally puzzle others of our readers. Joe had an upper left corner block of the 5¢ Caribou, Scott #257, that had the regular plate number over stamp #1. The number in question is 43966. However in the upper left corner of the selvedge there was a "6" in a slightly larger type and in the color of the stamp. Joe thought that this might be the plate number and the 5-digit number might be the control number. Such however is not the case as the "6" that Joe saw was merely the last digit of the number 43966 that had not been cut off.