

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



There is an advertisement in the November issue of the "LONDON PHILATELIST" that is of interest to the Newfoundland specialist. The London branch of H. R. Harmer has a page of offers by Private Treaty and two of the items concern the Newfoundland specialist. The first is a copy of the 15¢ Air of 1931 with the L & S Postage overprint, only in this case the overprint reads up instead of down. Reputedly only one pane of 25 are supposed to exist. The asking price is 55 Pounds. The second one is described as "Postage Due, 1949 perf. 11, 10¢ violet, a complete vertical strip, top pair variety imperf between". Only 3 sheets with this variety have ever been recorded so that at best there can only be 30 such pairs. The asking price for this item is 65 Pounds. It is interesting to note that the three sheets with the part perf pairs were discovered in the stock of the Stanley Stamp Co., of Vancouver, B. C.

Alec MacMaster who first reported the aniline paper in the case of the 4¢ Geo. V Coronation Issue of 1911, now turns up another variety that we have had the privilege of examining. The stamp in question is the 5¢ Royal Visit, Scott #249, and the design of the stamp is clearly visible through the back. According to Alec the ink is not aniline as he checked it with a lamp, yet that is the impression it gives. Since at least one sheet must exist, Alec is curious to know if any other member has an example of this variety.

The Dec. 11, 1953 issue of "Stamp collecting" carries an advertisement by the firm of Bridger & Kay, Ltd., that is of interest to Newfoundland collectors. It is described as follows "1911 Engraved (S. G. 113) 9¢ sage green, block of four showing part of

papermaker's watermark, the letters E T & O in double line capitals". The asking price for this block is 25 Pounds. We have never heard of the papermaker's watermark found on this issue previously but we are certain that Dr. Willan will be able to give us a full report on that matter after he reads this bit.

Recently in going over some covers that we haven't looked at for the past 6 or 7 years, we came upon one that struck our fancy, it was an airmail cover with the following printed in the upper left corner "First Day Cover / Inaugural Air Service / Gander, Newfoundland, to / Helsinki, Finland / June 19, 1947. The cover is postmarked at Gander on Jun. 19, 1947, and backstamped at Helsinki, on June 22, 1947. We immediately checked the bible for Newfoundland Airmail collectors, "Newfoundland Airmails" by Harmer and Dalwick, and surprised to find that this flight was unrecorded. We're sure that a letter to Cyril Harmer in London will provide us with all the information that we need concerning this flight.

In the March '52 issue of TOPICS, we mentioned having discovered plate "2" in the lower left selvedge of the 3¢ brown, Scott #133. Not too long ago while rummaging through some old magazines we started to read an article in the June 1929 issue of "The Stamp Lover" written by A. B. Perlin. We were surprised to read, "I have seen some sheets of the three-cent showing the number "2" in the extreme left corner at the bottom of the sheet . . . I was informed at the wholesale department of the G. P. O. that only a few sheets showed this number and that none were seen until recently (April 1928)." So much then for what we thought was an original discovery.