

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



IT'S SURPRISING how often multiples of fairly common stamps are much undervalued. We had occasion to see this fact brought to light once again. The March 13 sale of Bruce G. Daniels, Boston, listed as lot No. 574, "Id. violet brown (15a) fine block, o.g." It seemed to us that we had never seen this block offered before and we remarked that Jim Sissons had once commented on the scarcity of this stamp in block form. We decided to check further and went to our library of auction catalogs that go back to 1940, and lucky we were that we went that far back. We checked all the famous Newfoundland collections, the "Moody", "Pack", "Green" and several others, with no results and it was not until we examined the catalog of the S. A. Brown collection that was offered for sale in 1940, that we found one example of what we were looking for. We had felt that it was scarce, but we didn't think it was that scarce. At any rate we are happy to report that the block now graces our collection, so keep an eye peeled for a block—it is a tough one!

* * *

Mr. J. J. Morrison of Worcester, Mass., sends along a rather interesting variety. It consists of a block of four of the 5c. Scott No. 167. The upper right stamp has a broken strand of wire at the lower part on the right. It is the bottom strand and there is a distinct break between the post and the edge of the stamp. The background lines go through the break and show no indication of a break. We checked through about 10 blocks in our collection and we found one that had a partial break but nothing as complete as that shown on the block that Mr. Morrison sent us. Our horseback opinion is that it was issued this way and is not the result of a plate break as the background lines would not have been intact. If they were repaired then the lower strand of wire would also have been repaired. Do any of our readers have this interesting variety?

We've just had word from Bob Woolley, Secretary of the BNAPS Perfin Study Group, relative to our article in the March issue of TOPICS. Bob adds an entirely new variety and sends along a 5c Caribou, Scott No. 120. The initials in question are K G K G in a continuous line of letters with a perforated dot between the G and the K. The letters are 12mms high and we would appreciate any help that we can get on the subject. Bob reports that he has the same perforated initials on the 3c Caribou No. 118. We are perfectly willing to act as the clearing house for the Newfoundland perfins, so send along a record of what you have and we will compile the list and publish it from time to time.

* * *

At the March meeting of the New York Group those in attendance, and we were numbered among them, were favored by a talk on Newfoundland perforation varieties by Marshall Kay. Two of the sets that he discussed were the Caribou and the Pictorial Issues, both the subject of an article by him in the February issue of TOPICS. After the talk we took the first opportunity to check our plate number blocks and sure enough we found that we had plate No. 2 L.L. on Scott No. 133 in the comb perf and the line perf 14.1 x 13.7. We then turned to the Caribou issue and can report that our example of plate No. 2 R. C. on Scott 115 is line, plate No. 1 L. C. on Scott No. 116 was found both comb. and line, while plate No. 2 R. C. on the same stamp was found in the comb perf. Plate No. 1 L. C. on Scott No. 117 was comb perf. We are relatively certain that all varieties of the Caribou issue will be found both comb and line and we will report them as we examine them. ★ ★

Plan to attend BNAPEX-54 at Niagara Falls, Oct. 27-31. Entertainment for the whole family.