

Trail of the Caribou

By Freres Meyerson



BILL PETERMAN, our genial treasurer, is in with the answer to our request for information concerning the wreck of the S.S. "Labrador", as mentioned in the April issue of TRAIL. Bill says the information is to be found in Adrian Hopkins' "A History of Wreck Covers". For the benefit of those members who do not have a copy of the book, I quote a passage passed on to us by Bill Peterman. "The Dominion Liner 'Labrador' from Halifax, N.S., to Liverpool ran on the Mackenzie Rock four mile from Skerryvore lighthouse, in the dense fog and was totally lost. All passengers and the crew were saved by a German steamer, 'Viking', with the exception of one boatload who landed at the lighthouse." The wreck occurred in 1899 and evidently the mail was landed at Montreal and then forwarded on to the addressee. We are sure that all our readers appreciate Bill's work in digging out the information. Herman Herst (BNAPS 165) sent the same information along.

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That was certainly a fine list of Newfoundland perfins that P. D. van Oudenol, vice-chairman of the Perfin Study Group, had in the April TOPICS. We will list these along with a few others we have record of, and eventually we will print as complete a list as we can, and will continue to make additions as they are reported to us.

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We heard from Stan Wood recently. He is BNAPS 221 from Auckland, New Zealand, and is just about our favorite correspondent as he always has something to say that is worth putting into the column. He didn't disappoint us this time, either, for he submitted two magnificent pre-stamp covers for our examination—magnificent in that they are scarce. The first was an example of the NEWFOUNDLAND handstamp in red listed by Boggs as Handstruck Stamp "C". Though this variety has been

listed in Robson Lowe as well as Boggs, this is the first one we have ever seen. The strike in question is on the reverse of the cover and it is used during June 1846. The second cover bears an example of a red circular CARBONEAR PAID, the only one thus far recorded. The inland rate, 3d, from Carbonear to St. John's, is shown in red in manuscript form in the centre of the handstamp. The cover itself is addressed to London and was posted at Carbonear on June 1, 1853.

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H. R. Harmer, of London, England, had a previously-unrecorded item in their sale scheduled for May 25. The item in question is an unused block of four of the 48c Long Coronation (Scott 243) in imperforate condition. The block in question is from the right side of the sheet. We had previously recorded an imperforate block of the 24c, Scott 241, and a vertical imperforate pair of the 8c, Scott 236. It is entirely possible that the entire set exists in imperforate condition. Do any of our readers have any other of the varieties?

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From all that we have been able to learn thus far from our correspondents, there are only three kinds of perfins to be found on Newfoundland stamps. They are AYRE, AND and GK. Those Newfoundland stamps found with CPR and CNR were put into use after Newfoundland became part of Canada and are not truly Newfoundland perfins. We will gladly act as the clearing house for the Newfoundland perfin collectors and do our best to compile as full and complete a list as they will send us. Any information sent to us will be passed on to the membership. ★ ★

• Fun for all at Niagara Falls, October 27-31—
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