

Trail of the Caribou

By DAN MEYERSON (BNAPS 13)



IN GOING THROUGH the various auction catalogues that have recently been coming across our desk, we are impressed with one thing—the quality of the B.N.A. material offered for sale seems to be improving. It may be with the advent of the 1956 International to be held in New York that the auctioneers are making greater efforts to get better collections as the prices realized are usually better since collectors are looking for those two or three items to raise their exhibit from a bronze to a silver or a silver to a gilt. The sale at Harmer, Rooke & Co. held on April 14, contained a complete set of the die proofs of the 1931 Airmail set (C9-C11). This set broken up into three lots is on watermarked gummed paper and the die number on C9 is “919” reversed, on C10 “920” reversed, and on C11 “918” reversed. These die proofs realized \$150 in toto.

W. Dennis Way, in his column “The Auctions Tell You”, published periodically in “Stamp Collecting”, reports that a marginal pair of the 7c Queen Mary, Scott 248, with one stamp of the pair with watermark missing, realized £13 at a recent Robson Lowe auction. The “with and without watermark” varieties have not captured the interest of collectors over here to the extent that they have on the Continent and we daresay that the price realized in the Lowe sale is at least twice what it would have realized at a U.S. auction.

A letter of inquiry from Jim Culhane (BNAPS 280) of Norristown, Pa., reminded us of the fact that there is an error in Boggs’ book, “The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Newfoundland”. On page 65, while discussing the new values and color changes (Scott Nos. 56-59) Boggs writes that the four stamps in question were printed by the British American Bank Note Company, Montreal, in sheets of one hundred (10 x 10). The mistake here is that the 10c value (Scott No. 59) was printed in

sheets of 50 (5 x 10). The change is important as it gives us the full picture when we report that the line through the “CE” in “CENTS” is found in positions 18, 23, 28, 33, 38 and 43. All of the lines are slightly different so that the variety can be plated.

Narl J. Scales (BNAPS 1058), Evansville, Ind., has come up with a very nice cover that he has submitted for inspection and examination. It is a registered cover from Sandy Point to Fort Clayton, Panama Canal Zone, and it is franked with the 3c Scott No. 83, the 1c Caribou, Scott No. 115, and the 5c Caribou, Scott No. 119. The cover was mailed sometime late in May (the date is indistinct) and it was received at Fort Clayton on June 6, 1923. The interesting thing about the cover is the 5c Caribou as it is the variety discussed in TOPICS back in May 1953. At that time two copies were submitted by T. D. L. White (BNAPS 717), of Vancouver, and the principal characteristics of the variety in question are a duplication in the form of a single line paralleling the bottom of the lower left numeral “5” and the distinct flow to the right and parallel to the upright stroke of the “L” in the word “NEWFOUNDLAND”. We would be interested in finding the position of this variety, which seems to be constant. Thank you, Mr. Scales, for a very interesting cover, indeed.

W. E. Fyndem, in his column in the May 13 issue of “Stamp Collecting”, discusses the 3c S.G. No. 269 and Scott No. 246, in the line perf. 14.1 x 14.1. Mr. Fyndem says that when the stamp was first listed it could be bought for £5 and that it is now quoted at £16. He further goes on to state that he feels that the price will continue to rise as there are no stocks held anywhere to his knowledge. It should be added that the above remarks apply only to the stamp in mint condition, as the Commonwealth catalogue lists the used copies of this same variety at a far more reasonable figure. ★