

# Trail of the Caribou

By DAN MEYERSON (BNAPS L3)



**N.** W. SCALES, BNAPS 1058, Evansville, Ind., is in with a bit of information concerning the method of franking letters from Gander and Goose Bay during World War II. According to Mr. Scales he has learned from covers in his possession that early in the war letters franked by Newfoundland stamps were carried across the Atlantic by bombers for delivery to Great Britain. He submits a copy of the 5 cent, Scott No. 257, on piece cancelled on Oct. 7, 1943. Subsequently we are advised that the Newfoundland stamps were applied but that they were not cancelled. During the latter part of the war Canadian stamps were used but the name and the date slug was first removed from the obliterator. After Oct. 23, 1944, all covers from Goose Bay airport in Labrador bore Canadian stamps as the airport and base had been leased by the Newfoundland Government to Canada for defence purposes. That is the reason that one will find Canadian stamps on letters originating from what is basically Newfoundland territory. It is similar to the arrangement that existed between the U.S. and Newfoundland whereby all letters posted at the U.S. bases in Newfoundland were franked with U.S. stamps.

**As everyone knows** who reads the philatelic press, the outstanding Newfoundland item in the Caspary B.N.A. sale was the strip of three of the 2d scarlet used on cover to England to pay the 6d rate. That the piece brought \$12,500 at the auction only substantiated the belief that most Newfoundland collectors had. The auctioneers described the strip as unique and generally considered the most outstanding Newfoundland entire in existence. Evidently one has to be very careful in describing a philatelic item as unique, as Stanley Godden, in writing a letter to the editor of Stamp Collecting, advises that he knows of the existence of another such cover plus a third cover with a copy of the 2d scarlet and the 4d scarlet to make up the 6d rate.

Mr. Godden advises that these two covers were found in the effects of an English lady who died shortly before World War II and left these covers. Both, according to Mr. Godden, now repose in a collection in Britain.

**Of late** we have seen a considerable number of offerings of the imperforate and part perforate varieties of the Labrador Airmails, Scott Nos. C13-C17. In fact, a recent catalogue received from H. R. Harmer lists the entire set for sale in vertical imperforate pairs. In addition, a vertical pair of the 5 cent, Scott C13, imperforate between, is also offered for sale. The sale is to be held in London on December 4, and we will report the prices realized at a subsequent date. The same sale also lists a considerable number of other Newfoundland 20th century imperforates such as Scott Nos. 183, 184, 186, 187, 189, 190, 191a, 193, 196, 197, 198, 212, 213, 214, 215, 219, 220 and 224. The part perforates were well represented by a vertical pair imperforate between of No. 183, a block of four, variety imperforate horizontally except at top, of No. 187, and another block of four imperforate horizontally of the 4 cent, Scott No. 189.

**The Nov. 29th sale** of Harmer Rooke to be held in New York, lists a part perforate variety of Newfoundland airmail that I don't recall seeing offered ever before at auction. The variety in question is a horizontal pair imperf. between of the 5 cent Labrador Airmail, Scott No. C13. According to the auctioneer, the stamp is Sanabria No. 20b and is catalogued at \$1800. It must certainly be a rarity as even the famous Sir Lindsay Everard air stamp collection didn't contain an example of this variety. It will be interesting to see what it realizes, and we will try and pass the information on to our readers.

SEASON'S GREETINGS!