

Trail of the Caribou

By DAN MEYERSON (BNAPS L3)



TO OPEN the New Year we have the list of prices realized on the Newfoundland imperforate blocks that were sold at the London auction of H. R. Harmer Ltd. on Oct. 16. An imperforate block of the 1c grey, Scott No. 184, brought £8 10d, while a block of the 2c green, Scott No. 186, went at £9. An imperforate block of the 3c orange brown, Scott No. 187, sold for £8 10d, as did an imperf. block of the 4c, Scott No. 189. A scarcer block in this series, the 5c violet brown, Scott No. 190, was knocked down at £10 10d, while an imperforate block of the 5c deep violet, Scott No. 191, set a higher figure of £12 10d. The block of the 10c, Scott No. 193, went very reasonably at £8, while a block of the 20c grey green, Scott No. 196, sold for £13, and a block of the 25c grey, Scott No. 197, went for £9. The scarcest of the series, the 30c ultramarine, Scott No. 198, in an imperf. block with one stamp thin, realized £16 10d. In the Labrador air mails imperf. blocks of the 5c, 10c and 30c values, Scott Nos. C13, C14 and C15, brought £34, £34 and £63 respectively. From the Gilbert set imperforate blocks of the 1c, 2c, 4c, 9c, 10c and 24c values sold for £5, £5 10d., £5 10d, £6 10d, £9 10d, £8 and £11 respectively.

John Siverts, BNAPS No. 59, of Wilmington, Del., has submitted another of the early 20th century patriotics for our consideration. In layout it is exactly like the one pictured on page 81 of the March 1954 TOPICS. It differs only in the design of the registry emblem. This one, like the one illustrated, also bears the notation "Copyright by E. Krippner, P.O.B. 481, St. John's, N.F." In addition, the underside of the envelope flap bears the signature of E. R. Krippner. This is further confirmation of our belief that all of these so-called patriotics prepared in the late 19th and early 20th centuries were all prepared by Mr. Krippner.

Bob Duncan, BNAPS No. 37, Armstrong, B.C., has just submitted an interesting block of four of the 2c surcharge on the 30c stamp, Scott No. 268. A careful examination of the block shows a few ink smudges as well as several faint prints of the surcharge TWO CENTS throughout the block. This condition was first described by E. H. Hiscock, BNAPS No. 234, St. John's, Newfoundland, when he wrote about the stamp in the August 1946 TOPICS. His words, and I quote: "I don't believe there are any constant errors, but there are any number of 'phantom' double overprints."

Supplementing our note in the December 1956 issue of TOPICS, N. W. Scales, BNAPS No. 1058, has sent along a cover that is supposed to have been carried across the Atlantic from Newfoundland to England by bomber. The cover shows no point of origin as is to be expected from wartime covers, and is addressed to Leeds, England. On the face there is a two-line handstamp in red, AIR POSTAGE PAID/PORT AERIEN PAYE, and still another two-line handstamp in black, RECEIVED FROM/H.M. SHIPS. Coupled with these two handstamps is a tombstone-shaped censor marking bearing the manuscript date of Jan. 28, 1941. The back of the cover merely bears a pencil notation, "Bomber Flight". If there was definite proof that this cover was of Newfoundland origin, it would make another addition to the POSTAGE PAID list first published in TOPICS back in March 1956. Might I add that the censor marking is similar to several others seen on covers originating in Newfoundland.

Mr. Scales also submits a copy of the 6c Caribou, Scott No. 120, that quite clearly shows signs of doubling over the lower third of the stamp. We have seen signs of doubling in some of the other values of this issue but have never thought to list them before.