

Trail of the Caribou

By DAN MEYERSON (BNAPS L3)



THIS time it was Alec MacMaster, BNAPS 484, Vancouver, B.C., who amazed us by showing two previously unrecorded cancellations on postage stamps of Newfoundland. The first was a copy of the 2c yellow green, Scott, No. 46, issued in 1880, with a clear black "PAID AT ST. JOHN'S NEWFOUNDLAND" Crown Circle. The last time that we saw this strike was on a cover dated sometime in 1849; it was introduced in mid-1846 and remained in use until it was replaced by the circular "ST. JOHN'S NEWFOUNDLAND PAID." It was always struck in red and we never saw other than in red on the covers of the correct period. Yet here is Alec with the cancellation in black on a stamp issued in 1880. We checked as thoroughly as we could and the cancellation certainly seems genuine. The answer? We haven't the slightest idea. Can anyone help?

As though the above wasn't confusing enough, Alec also sent along a copy of the 24c, Scott No. 31, with a "91" strike in a barred ellipse. No, it wasn't the "A91" found on the stamps of the Virgin Islands at a later date, but rather a distinct "91." Can anyone help us out on either of the two above mentioned cancels?

In the March 15 issue of "Stamp Collecting" Richie Bodily, London dealer, advertises two Newfoundland "SPECIMENS" that are very interesting. The first is a block of six of the 6c, Scott No. 168, with a large-lettered "SPECIMEN" perforated across the block of six. The second item is a block of six of the 25c, Scott No. 197, with the same description. Both items are listed at £5. While we have seen "SPECIMENS" of the 6 cent value before, this is the first recorded on the 25 cent value. In our collection we have a strip of four of the 6c, Scott No. 168, perforated "SPECIMEN" in a word 72 mm. long and 16 mm. high. We wonder as to the size of the "SPECIMEN" in the two advertised items.

All Newfoundland airmail collectors

should have been in New York at the office of John A. Fox on February 26, when he auctioned off the Dr. Charles C. Lieb collection of airpost stamps of the world. And we must say that Newfoundland was a rather large part of that world, as among the items offered were the following: A mint Hawker sold for \$1500, while one on a flown cover went very reasonably at \$1100. A pane of 25 of C2, showing the complete setting of the surcharge, changed hands at \$275, and a flown 'Alcock-Brown' cover franked with a copy of C2 realized \$75. In the case of the Halifax issue, a stamp with inverted overprint, wide space and no period, was knocked down at \$265. An absolutely superb mint copy of the De Pinedo, Scott C4, sold at a new high of \$3600, while a block of four of the same stamp (one of two known) didn't stop until it reached \$16,500.

A flown cover of C4 sold for \$475 and a flown cover with the uncharged stamp went at \$145. A mint block of the Columbia Scott C5, changed hands at the very reasonable price of \$1300. A copy of the 50c, Scott C7, with imperforate left margin (an oddity) was knocked down for \$12.50. A horizontal pair of the 50c imperforate vertically sold for \$87. This was the water-marked stamp, Scott C10. A vertical pair, imperforate horizontally, of the \$1, Scott C11, brought a much higher figure when it sold for \$135. A block of four of the Balbo, Scott C18, went at \$92, and a flown cover brought the very handsome price of \$57.50. Die proofs in color on white bond of Scott C9-11 brought \$70, \$50 and \$110 respectively, and a set of the Labradors in the same condition and sold as one lot, didn't stop until the figure reached \$430. A strip of three of C9 and C10 and a strip of four of C11, all perforated "SPECIMEN," brought the fantastically high price of \$170.

We apologize for a printer's error in the April issue which named our genial librarian "Bob Armstrong." He lives at Armstrong, B.C., but the name is still Duncan. ★