

Trail of the Caribou

By DAN MEYERSON (BNAPS L3)



YOU'LL have to forgive me for crowing, but what ever happened to all those pundits who, about 10 years ago, were saying that Newfoundland was to become a "dead" country as soon as it stopped issuing stamps of its own? So what has happened? At BNAPEX '59 the Grand Award went to that outstanding display of the Pence issues by Harry Goody (BNAPS 1585), Bramhall, England. And what collection did Mr. Goody beat out for that Grand Award? . . . the Newfoundland airmail collection of Dr. J. J. Matejke Jr. (BNAPS 1625), Chicago, Ill. Dr. Matejke's collection took the Gold in the 20th century exhibits.

Dr. Wilkinson (BNAPS 935), Old Perlican, Newfoundland, is the first to submit an additional item for the specialized listing of Newfoundland which ran in the January 1959 issue of TOPICS. The item is the upper left block of the 4c Scott No. 189, with the reversed "2", with watermark reversed. This now takes the number of E1a, and since it shows conclusively that the stamp does exist with the watermark reversed we must also make an additional entry at the very end under J2. I see that I neglected to state that the reversed watermark is found in the comb perforate, 13.2x13.2.

The Harmer, Rooke auction held in New York on October 15, had some interesting proofs. They were described as large die proofs of the 1941-44 set but this was a mistake as the 14 proofs contained stamps from 1931 to 1947. All of the proofs were in black and most of them contained the full die sinkage and die number. The 1c was a die proof of Scott No. 253 and bore die number 17048; the 2c and 3c values, also in black, seem to be Scott Nos. 254 and 255 but they contained no die numbers. The 4c Princess Elizabeth, Scott No. 269, bore die number 18040. The 5c, 10c,

14c, 15c and 20c die proofs were those of the 1931 issue and bore those die numbers, namely, 960, 972, 957, 958 and 956 respectively. The 7c, 8c and 24c die proofs were from the 1932 issue and bore numbers 1029, 1024 and 1028. The 25c die proof was of the 1941 issue and bore a five-digit number that was not legible. The last value, the 48c, was issued in 1937 and bore die number 1232. It certainly was a superb lot of die proofs even if not exactly as described. The 14 die proofs sold for \$375.

It is an old saying, that them as has, gits. Last January we wrote up the Harry Goody collection of Newfoundland for TOPICS and said at that time that the covers were the finest possible ever. Yet the collection shown at Atlantic City had several additional covers that had to be seen to be believed. Among the outstanding covers was a magnificent 4d scarlet used on cover to Boston in 1858; it was used in conjunction with the 5c Boston Br. Pkt. strike to make up the 6½d rate. Then there was a magnificent left vertical bisect of the 1/- orange used to show the 6d rate to England in 1861, as well as two diagonal bisects of the 6d rose used on separate covers during 1863 to prepay the 3d rate from New Perlican to St. John's. Then the last cover was only the second example of mixed franking that we've ever seen—the first is also in the Goody collection and was described last January. This cover, used in 1874, shows the 6c rate to England and the stamps on the cover are two copies of the 1d (Scott No. 1) plus a copy of the 2c (Scott No. 24). They are used together from St. John's to Brighton, England. Certainly beautiful covers!

At an **H. R. Harmer sale** in London on October 6, the entire Guy issue, Scott Nos. 87-97, in mint horizontal pairs, sold for \$322. ★