

# Trail of the Caribou

By DAN MEYERSON (BNAPS L3)



**M**R. W. D. VAN NESS (BNAPS 1062), Chestnut Hill, Mass., is in with two additions to our specialized Newfoundland listing as published in the January 1950 issue of BNA TOPICS. His first is a comb perf copy of the 4c, Scott 148, but this one is comb perfed 12.5x13.5 instead of the regularly listed example which is comb perfed 12.7x13.5. This is the second example of this perforation in this issue as the 2c value, Scott 146, is known perforated 12.5 along the short side of the stamp. This new variety will be listed as No. 148B. The second new addition occurs in the 3c, Scott 165. This new variety is line perf 14.1x14.1, the sixth stamp in this issue to be found so perforated, as we have previously recorded the 1c, 2c, 5c, 6c and 20c values. This new addition will henceforth be known as No. 165B3. Let's see if we can now discover the 4c, 10c and 15c values in the line perf 14.1x14.1.

A record of recent realizations for the odd and interesting item is important for the specialist regardless of the country he collects. In the July 8 issue of Stamp Collecting, the English firm of M. W. Muscott advertises the 3c Long Coronation, Scott 234, in the Die 2 in a vertical strip of three with one pair imperforate between. The asking price is £80. Our records show that we reported in the March 1960 BNA TOPICS that a vertical pair imperforate between sold for £21. We have just noted that this is Die 2, and we have no record of what the other lot was; it might well have been Die 1, which is listed in Gibbons at a more realistic figure. Our pardons, as they are probably two different items. However, we would still like to know the perforation so that we could record it for eventual use in the specialized listing.

The July 23 issue of Stamps contains an advertisement announcing the forthcoming sale by auction of the Tom Matthews

airmail collection. The sale is to be held by F. W. Kessler, prominent New York airmail dealer, and all of the Newfoundland airmail rarities are included. More details when the catalogue appears.

Our stampless cover collection is now back from UNIPEX and we can pursue further the matter of the abbreviation for the month of July as discussed in the May and June issues of TOPICS. In the May issue we had questioned the authenticity of a cover party because the month July was abbreviated "JL" in the cancellation instead of the usual "JY." Then in June we reported that one of the Tucker covers sold in the Caspary sale had the month also abbreviated "JL." Both of the covers mentioned were used on July 4, 1860. When we checked back on our collection we found that our only July PAID handstamp was "JY"—it was for July 3, 1850. We found seven examples, though, of the backstamp used at St. John's, ranging from 1847 to 1868, and the first six were all abbreviated "JY"; the seventh, however, cancelled on July 8, 1858, was abbreviated "JL." Further confirmation that the month is sometimes abbreviated in that manner.

Newfoundland a second-rate country, huh! Following up on the success of the four prize-winning entries at UNIPEX, the Newfoundland exhibits did just as well at the London International. Exhibits by Harry Goody and Sidney Harris (BNAPS numbers 1585 and 1500 respectively), repeated their performance and took gold medals. The exhibit of Mrs. Barratt of Eire, which took a silver-gilt at UNIPEX, repeated the performance at London. In addition, the collection of Alan J. Stott, of Hale, England, also took a silver-gilt. This collection includes the famous strip of the 2d scarlet on cover from the Caspary collection, as well as an unused copy of the 1/- orange

(Continued on page 234)



# Rounding Up SQUARED CIRCLES

EDITOR: DR. A. WHITEHEAD, 52 Havelock St., Amherst, N.S.

**THREE-LINE DATES.** The handbook, p. 20, refers to these, a subject in which I am very interested. Can any collector add to their story? Please write me.

**MOUNTING.** To those who have advanced collections, certainly those who intend to exhibit at shows or club meetings, this is a most important subject. This page is wide open for a discussion of the matter.

**SPECIALIZING.** There are many forms of specialization in the squared circle field. Perhaps the most popular is to take up one town, to study its chronology, especially in relation to the hammers used (if a multiple hammer town) and its indicia (see pages 20-24 of the handbook) and many collectors are now busily engaged in the fascinating pursuit of both normal and abnormal indicia of this favorite town/s. This has been going on for some years and already there are in existence advanced collections of Ottawa, Halifax, Belleville, Hamilton, Kingston, Paris, Peterborough, Winnipeg and Victoria. Much of the history of these squared circles, most of them common and still available cheaply, is now fairly well known.

Other collectors are beginning to look for new towns to study, towns which as yet have not received attention, and we should do all we can to help them.

Brian Milne has lately commenced on LONDON, both types, and my guess is he may be led to include LONDON EAST (Type I) in his scheme.

Mrs. J. A. C. Kirk is dealing with CHARLOTTETOWN, a most complex study in spite of only one hammer being used. There is a varied and complex succession of indicia here: A.M., P.M., 1, 2, and for abnormal indicia, 3, 5 and 5-inverted (also 'blank above').

I suggest that duplicates of the above towns should be sent to the two specialists respectively.

Other towns awaiting further special attention are ST. JOHN and LINDSAY. The handbook is fairly explicit about these, but the stories are still incomplete. Who will volunteer for this work? And who is interested in other towns not mentioned here? Let me hear from you.

**COLLECTING ON SPECIAL STAMPS.** I have referred to this on page 19 of the handbook, but the trend towards this form of collecting is becoming so marked that a word or two here may be useful. At present the favorites are: (1) **Small Queens**, with the 3c far ahead in the group. It is surprising how many collectors will not look at a squared circle on the 1c Small Queen, despite its excellent yellow color, so good for postmarks. (2) **The Jubilees**. Here again the 3c is the one in greatest demand. I suppose the larger size of the



Jubilee stamps has led to their present popularity for postmark collecting. There are already at least two collections of 200 towns on Jubilees, and I have heard of one of two other eager collectors (one in England) who are in sight of the magic total. It is being more and more realized that

some towns are almost unattainable on Jubilees. I myself have let such rarities go far too easily, as must be the case with many others. Already it has been proposed that we should have a new and special listing of RFs on Jubilees, and I am sure that many general collectors of squared circles will gasp in amazement at the increased values. (3) **The Map Stamp of 1898.** This, for obvious reasons, will prove a limited and difficult field. But how chal-



lenging! I wonder if Editor Lewis could be persuaded to tell us of his experiences here. Of course, the handbook RFs would be meaningless for some squared circles on Map stamps.

**LATE SPECIAL USE OF SQUARED CIRCLES.** See TOPICS, November 1959, for a cover of 1925 with special late use of the Port Arthur squared circle. J. A. McCallum of Dorval, P.Q., has recently reported a cover showing the REGINA squared circle as a backstamp on "returned mail." I shall be glad to hear of other similar covers. Are covers of a different nature known, besides the now well-known use of LONDON II on modern airmail? Let me hear from you. ★

## TRAIL OF THE CARIBOU

(Continued from page 232)

on laid paper. The last Newfoundland entry, the specialized collection of the 5c Caribou entered by Stan Wood, Auckland, New Zealand (BNAPS 221) took a bronze, a singular achievement for the exhibition of a common 20th century stamp. In addition, Dr. J. J. Matejka (BNAPS 1625), of Chicago, Ill., took another silver-gilt with his collection of Newfoundland airmails. It must be a source of great pride to our members to know that three of these exhibits were shown at Atlantic City at BNAPEX-59. The collection of Harry Goody took the Grand, Dr. Matejka a gold and Stan Wood a bronze—rather close to International standards! With tongue in cheek . . . how did the exhibits of Canadian material fare?

Among the lots of interest to the Newfoundland specialist in the July 19th sale of H. R. Harmer, London, were an unused horizontal imperforate pair of the 6c, Scott #192, which sold for \$35 and an unused imperforate block of the 48c, Scott #243, which changed hands at \$112. An o.g. imperf horizontal pair of the 2c, Scott #186, realized \$17.50.

W. E. Fyndem in his column in the July 29th issue of "Stamp Collecting" writes that in his estimation the Newfoundland long coronation set should be on its way up shortly as the previous heavy stocks in the hands of dealers have well nigh disappeared.

A new variety in the Newfoundland long Coronation set has just made its appearance; it is a block of the 3c, Die II, in an ungummed imperforate condition. There might be some question as to whether it is a proof or not but the 48c value is also known only ungummed and sells all the time as the imperforate stamp as both the new block of the 3c as well as the 48c are on watermarked stamp paper. The 3c in the Die II is not known gummed and imperforate.

That indefatigable collector of all things BNA, Ed Richardson, BNAPS #168, La Marque, Tex., is in with an earlier date of use on C.A.P.O. #4 than has previously been recorded. In the June 1958 issue of TOPICS we had adjusted the early date of C.A.P.O. #4 to Dec. 15, 1942 and now Ed is in with a date of Aug. 20, 1942, almost four months earlier than any previous recording. ★