

Trail of the Caribou

By DAN MEYERSON (BNAPS L3)



THAT was a singular Newfoundland booklet lot that Jim Sissons sold in his sale of January 26 and it offered incontrovertible proof that the unique plates of the three booklet panes shown by Al Cook (BNAPS 320) of Ithaca, N.Y., at BNAPEX '58 in the Laurentians and written up in the April 1957 issue of TOPICS, had been broken up into at least four blocks of nine and two blocks of 12. In this manner a showpiece that can only be in one collection can now grace at least six and all of them tell the same story. The three blocks of nine, one of each value, brought \$330. At the same time die proofs in issued colors complete with die number, of Scott's No. 245-248 sold at the very reasonable price of \$50, or about \$12.50 per die proof. Die essays of the head and frames only for Scott Nos. 245-247 went for \$70.

At the February 15 sale held by the Equitable Stamp Co., in New York, a complete set of the Cabot plate proofs in issued color sold at \$82.50, and in the same sale a set of die proofs of C6-C8, complete with die number but with the \$1 proof with a small thin, changed hands at \$100.

We have just heard from London that at the sale held on December 14, 1960, by H. R. Harmer, a block of four of the 3c, Scott No. 246, from the right of the sheet, variety imperf between stamp and margin, sold for \$35. We've never seen this item before, though there should be at least 10 pairs.

It started innocently enough. Late in January we received a Newfoundland price list from Bill Lea, BNAPS 687, London, England, and one of the items listed was

described as the 5d brown purple, Scott No. 5, with re-entry (No. 34). We immediately wrote to Bill for a look-see, and back came the word that the stamp in question had been sold but that Bill had been able to borrow it back from the purchaser so that we could have a look at it. In our collection we have a full sheet of 40 (8x5) of the 5d reddish brown, Scott No. 19, and sure enough when we checked position No. 34 there was the re-entry as described by Bill, and in a subsequent letter he advised that he had looked at a full sheet of the 5d chocolate brown, Scott No. 12a, and the re-entry was present there as well, in position No. 34. By this time we had come to the conclusion that it was not a re-entry in the true sense, but rather a fresh entry, as it appears on the plate before the plate went to press. For proof positive of this contention the same variety would have to be found on the plate proof. Who has it? The variety, faint traces of the old impression that was rocked-in in the wrong position and particularly evident in the white space around the crown and emblem, showing that the original misplaced impression was not completely burnished out. Thanks, Bill, for coming up with this new variety.

John A. Fox, the New York auctioneer, had three nice Newfoundland lots in his February 20 sale, and evidently those bidders in attendance thought so too, as a superb copy of the 5d Scott No. 5 sold for \$70 against a catalogue valuation of \$55; a superb 4d orange, Scott No. 12, sold at \$175—full catalogue—and an extremely fine copy of the 1 shilling orange, Scott No.

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