

Trail of the Caribou

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AS WAS TO BE expected it was Dr. Allan A. Wilkinson (BNAPS No. 935), Old Perlican, Newfoundland, who came up with an entirely new plate number that had never previously been recorded. He sent along an upper right plate block of four of the 1c, Scott No. 81, with a reversed "2" in the upper right selvage. A close examination of the block in question showed that it seemed to be on thinner paper and recourse to the *Postage Stamps of Newfoundland* written by Poole and Huber shows that on page 26 of this book they reveal that in 1907 a shipment of the 1c, 2c and 3c appeared on thin paper. This plate number therefore is evidently found on this later 1907 printing rather than the earlier 1898 printing as we have never seen this plate number before and this is the first time that it has been brought to our attention. I would appreciate a note from any of our readers who might conceivably discover that they have plate numbers on this stamp.

At the *Sissons sale* in Toronto on October 12, some interesting Newfoundland items were sold. An unused copy of the 6½d scarlet realized \$210 while a mint block of four of the 8d. scarlet with a bottom sheet margin sold for \$160. A block of 16 of the 3d. green on thin paper with the full watermark went to a BNAPSer at \$160 while a complete o.g. sheet of 20 of the 6½d. rose with part of the sheet watermarked went to another BNAPSer at \$210. An o.g. block of four of the 2c roulette came into the collection of yours truly at \$45 but we weren't even close when a block of four of the 3c brown lilac, Scott No. 60b, with Ottawa imprint at the bottom, was knocked down at \$26. Just for the record the block catalogues at \$6. No wonder we didn't get it even though we thought that our bid was generous.

How much longer is the Scott catalogue going to continue to perpetuate a mistake and thus be responsible for a price of \$170

as was realized for an essay in the October 27 Harmer, Rook sale in New York? The fancy price was what it took to purchase a copy of Scott No. 160b, an essay or trial printing in black of the 3c Provisional, Scott No. 160. That is the rub—for some reason or other this variety has been dignified with a catalogue number and as a result the price is three to four times what it would bring as an uncatalogued item. If No. 160b deserves catalogue recognition then why is it withheld from the trial printing in red of the Provisional of 1920, Scott No. 127. There are only 25 of the latter and their realizations at auction do not approach this latter which is even characterized in the footnote as a first or trial printing. My recommendation—take Scott No. 160b and 160c out of the catalogue or be consistent and add the trial printing of Scott No. 127.

It has been about six months since we last heard from E. H. Hiscock (BNAPS 2344), St. John's Newfoundland, but this letter that recently came in was most welcome as Harold sent along a cover showing the second Newfoundland duplex, used on October 13, 1902, as against my previous early date of December 6, 1902. So we've pushed it back about seven-eight weeks—who can do better? The second bit that was sent along is a cut-out cancel dated September 19, 1916, but the cancel is misspelled as it reads KILLEGREWS instead of KELLIGREWS. We sure would like to see this misspelling on cover.

The October 10th sale held by the London office of H. R. Harmer moved some very interesting Newfoundland essays. A photographic essay very similar to the 3c, Scott No. 133 and marked "rejected 18-12-22" went for \$89.60 as did a photographic essay of a rejected 6c photo. This one is also marked "rejected 23-12-22" and like the first is also on a large sunk card. Then a photo-

graphic essay of the 20c, Scott No. 143, with additional work in sepia by the artist and mounted on a large sunk card with the pencilled notation "accidentally approved 23-12-22", changed hands at \$89.60 as well while another essay of the same value with a different picture and marked "accidentally rejected 23-12-22" was the belle of the

ball at \$134.40. Then a photographic essay similar to the issued stamp, Scott No. 144, and marked "rejected 18-12-22, but accidentally passed 23-12-22" also sold at \$89.60. The last interesting item, the De La Rue essay for the 2c postage due in bright rose mounted on large sunk card and dated "27 November 22" realized \$72.80. ★

Rounding up Squared Circles

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THERE SEEMS A NEED for a third edition of the handbook before very long. Much new information is now available and one or two new fields can be opened up to squared circle collectors, whether beginners or advanced.

New record dates, early and late, have been reported, and I should like here and now to thank the many who have contributed to our important branch of collecting. I always welcome and acknowledge these contributions, and I hear regularly from J. Millar Allen, Clarence Kemp, Douglas Crawford, Aubrey Smith, Ed Richardson, W. F. B. Martin, Commissioner Brakefield-Moore (RCMP, Newfoundland), Lewis Ludlow, Mrs. J. A. C. Kirk and Brian Milne. Other writers have contributed their quotas also, and to them go my sincere thanks. It makes me realise how many fine collections there are, and how unlucky I am to live so far away from them and their keen, well-informed owners.

It was stated recently that squared circles are "out . . . dead." This simply isn't true. Judging from my own correspondence, most of the 'elder statesmen' are continuing their interest, have accumulated most impressive collections, and have acquired a vast store of varied information, general and minute, as would astonish philatelists working in other fields. Too, there is a steady stream of new collectors of these fascinating markings, most of them not only anxious to attain the '200' or '250' level, but what is more important, to add to their real knowledge of the subject.

The tremendous progress made during the past two years or so will be shown by a revision of the R.F.'s. because of new finds

of some of the rarities in the 100-250 R.F. classes. Also by new stories of the big towns, almost as complete as can be hoped for (Halifax, St. John, Belleville, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Paris, Peterborough, Toronto, York Street (Toronto), Winnipeg and Victoria). These will be brought up to date, in some cases with information not even guessed at when the second Edition was prepared, some of this information being of the first importance. I have already in my mind the names of the collectors best able to write these stories. There will be chapters on *Late Usage and Revivals*, and *Contemporary Markings*, especially in the case of towns where the use of squared circles was sporadic — Wolfville, Sherbrooke, Nanaimo, to name the probably outstanding examples. But contemporary markings (circular date stamps, in most cases) play a real part in the story of the other squared circles, such as Halifax, Hamilton, London and Winnipeg. This almost unexplored field enlarges the possibility of forming 'matched groups' (varied indicia, all same date), this kind comprising squared circles and c.d.s. I now have many such groups, for Halifax, Hamilton, Sherbrooke, Belleville, London, Owen Sound, to name only a few.

The chapter on Indicia in the second Edition, thought to be ample and even record-breaking, to quote one enthusiast, is now hopelessly inadequate, especially in the department of erratic indicia. So many collectors (I am only one) are hunting for these rare and fascinating things that there is now a good-sized list of them. There is also a growing list of *corrected* indicia — the most desirable of all. No corrected in-