

# Trail of the Caribou

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We have recently received a letter from Bill Russell, BNAPS #587, Melrose, Mass, with an enclosure of the rectangular POST OFFICE cancels that has finally compelled us to make up our mind and list those that Bill sent down, those previously received from Dr. Allan Wilkinson, BNAPS #935, Old Perlican, Newfoundland, and those reported by Ray Peters, BNAPS #1202, Phoenix, Ariz., plus those that are in our own collection. We know now that we made an original mistake in not listing the date of use nor the color of the cancel, but we are too far gone for that now and will merely list the towns reported by the four of us. They start with ANGLEBROOK B.B., AQUATHANA, BATTLE HARBOUR, BAT DE VERDE, BELL ISLAND, BELL ISLAND MINES, BRIGUS, BURIN NORTH, BADGER, CATALINA, COACHMAN'S COVE, GAMBO, HAMPDEN, HOWLEY, LONG BRANCH B.D.V., MILLERTON JUNCTION, PORT ANSON, PORT DE GRAVE, RATTLING BROOK N.D.B., ROSE BLANCHE and ST. ANTHONY. In every case reported the name of the town is at the bottom. Additions are certainly welcome.

In the June issue of TOPICS we had advised that George Davis, BNAPS #1414, Ridgefield Conn., had submitted an early date on the second St. John's Newfoundland duplex. He didn't hold the record long as amongst the covers sold by Jim Sissons the Toronto auctioneer on July 18th, was a card cancelled with the second duplex and used on Oct. 25, 1901, to Bowmanville, Ont. The cancellation was on the 2c, Scott #82, and predates our previous early by 6-7 weeks.

It has just come to our attention that we haven't kept our list of plate numbers up to snuff and have been remiss in reporting our new acquisitions. In the past 10 months we have made three new purchases and they were all in the field of imperforates. We have added to the collection imperforate upper left plate block #3 of the 3c, Scott #187, and imperforate plate block, upper left, #2, of the 2c Scott #189. Both of

these were added some time ago and just the other day we added the third, imperforate upper right plate block #5 of the 1c, Scott #184. We now have an imperforate plate block of Scott #184, 186 (Die 1), 186 (Die 11), 187, 189 and we know that an imperforate plate block exists of 191. Whether the other values are known with imperforate plate blocks we do not know nor do we know whether the additional plate numbers are also known in imperforate plate blocks, as in every case we only have a record of one plate number from each catalogue number. However we are sure that time will tell — and we are patient.

As a necessary corollary to the preceding paragraph it is necessary that we add the imperforate plate block of Scott #184 to the Specialized Listing that we first made up and had printed in the Jan. 1959 issue of TOPICS, and it should be listed as "E5b" under Scott #184. Will you please make the necessary additions to your list.

For some years I have been concerned about a listing in both Scott and Gibbons that has puzzled me and I believe that this is as good a time as any to bring it to light. It concerns the bisects of the 1865-66 issue and there is one that I just can't explain. Both list a bisect of the 2c codfish and this is rather explainable as the 1c value was needed in the mid part of 1870 when the rate was reduced from 5c to 3c for inland mail and it would explain the existence of the bisected 12c for the 6c rate as the rate to England had been cut in half at the same time and there were no 6c stamps in existence for a brief period. The bisect of the 10c, Prince Albert to serve the 5c rate may conceivably have occurred during the shift from the 5c brown to the 5c black in 1868 or possibly due to a temporary shortage of either of the stamps. But what stretch of the imagination could account for the presence of a bisect of the 5c brown seal to make a 2½c rate when there was no need for such a rate as such

(Continued on page 241)

# GIBBONS AND WINGFIELD

## JOIN FORCES

Two of the already biggest forces in the retail trade are to unite and pool their efforts and experience. Such is the meaning of the announcement issued to the Press from 391 Strand on June 27th.

Negotiations have now been concluded for the acquisition by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., of 391 Strand, London, W.C.2, of the business of H. E. Wingfield and Co., their neighbours next door at No. 392. The merger will come into force as from August 7th. The combined organisation will be known as the Gibbons Group, but will trade under the title of Stanley Gibbons Ltd. from 391 Strand.

The new organisation will thus cover the field of retail dealing, catalogue and album publishing, as well as auctioneering, on a scale hitherto unknown in this country. Total staff will number some 120.

### Best Years Ever

The merger comes at a time when Stanley Gibbons Ltd. have just completed the two most successful trading years since their foundation in 1856, with a revitalised Harmer, Rooke and Co. Ltd. already at their side as an associate company. On the other side of the table, few firms anywhere in recent years could show such a meteoric upward surge in terms of trading and prestige as H. E. Wingfield and Co., under the guiding hand of the jovially rubicund A. L. (Mick) Michael.

The whole of the Wingfield staff will henceforth come under the Stanley Gibbons roof, along with the extensive stock for which Wingfield and Co. are already well known. The nature of the new structure will ensure that customers will still be able to deal personally, whether over the counter or by post, with the same people who have looked after them in the past. To this end, a Wingfield's Rare Stamp Department is to be established, with the help of Miss Rose Titford, Sydney Rutter, Norman Collett, and other members of both staffs.

As was to be expected, the *Strand Stamp Journal* will be merged with *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*. In albums, the field of publica-

tion is to be further developed and the present range extended.

### Joint Managing Directors

Mr. A. L. Michael, hitherto sole proprietor of H. E. Wingfield and Co., now joins the Stanley Gibbons board as joint managing-director with Mr. W. F. Deakin. Prior to the war he was a collector, as many in the trade will remember. It was in 1946 that he acquired the firm of Wingfield and established himself with energy and imagination next door to the firm with which he has now entered into so cordial a partnership.

Otherwise the composition of the Gibbons board of directors remains the same, with Mr. A. Cyril Andrews as Sales Director and Mr. F. S. Wall as Publications Director and Editor in Chief of the Gibbons Catalogues.

Mr. Deakin's association with Gibbons goes back a generation, and many older members of the trade will have known him since the effervescent days of F. B. Smith way back in the 1920's and 30's.

Mr. Cyril Andrews has been with the firm for over 30 years, while Mr. F. S. Wall actually began his career there in 1927 as junior assistant to the late Stanley Phillips.

Everybody has come a long way since then, and we extend to the enlarged Gibbons Group our congratulations and best wishes.

—Philatelic Magazine

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(Continued from page 240)

a rate did not exist. Upon checking further we find that Boggs also listed this bisect but that Poole and Huber in their early book on Newfoundland did not. We have never seen the bisect in question but this is not the criterion because we have never seen the bisect of the 12c stamp but at least there is a reason for the existence of the bisect of the 12c stamp, what reason for possible existence does the bisect of the 5c stamp have.