

Trail of the Caribou

By D. C. MEYERSON, 69 FENIMORE DRIVE, HARRISON, NEW YORK

A vote of thanks is due to Mr. Kenneth Hart, BNAPS #770, Dumont, N.J., for carefully checking our list of plate blocks in the Sept. '62 issue of TOPICS and the discovery of an omission in that list. The list first appeared in the Sept. '53 issue but no notice was made of the omission at that time. The passage of 9 years had added to our knowledge somewhat and when we ran this newer corrected list we lifted part of the old listing from the 1953 TOPICS and never noticed the omission. Will all members please add to the list:

Scott # 252, Plate Number 1, All positions. Lower left block also has #16124

This addition is recorded from a sheet printed from plates prepared by the Canadian Bank Note Co. of Ottawa.

Narl W. Scales, BNAPS #1058, Evansville, Ind., has sent along two items of considerable interest for the Newfoundland Specialist. The first is the earliest stampless from Newfoundland that we have ever recorded, it was sent from St. John's as per the super-scription on Oct. 10 1746, and delivered evidently somewhere in England on Apr. 23, 1747. We had previously never bothered with early dates on stampless as we are primarily interested in the Newfoundland markings and prior to 1805 we don't seem to find any. This one however precedes the one in our collection by some 20 years so we thought we would give it a go. The second item is a Presentation Sheet of the Cabot issue, in Jun. '55, we recorded a sheet of the 1928 Publicity Issue, in Nov. '57, of the 1911 Coronation and in Feb. '58, of the Guy Issue. Well, we seem to be working in reverse because here at the last is the oldest. The sheet in question had evidently been exposed to sunlight or very bright light in the past as the 2c, 5c, 24c, and 35c have definitely bleached out and it is our belief that the color make-up contained some ingredient that was not sun fast. Truly a pity, but it is a nice item anyway.

And so it goes, this time it was a letter from Dr. J. J. Matejka, Jr., BNAPS #1625, Chicago, Ill., and this time strangely enough it didn't concern Newfoundland airmails. Maybe that is why Jim sent it down to us.

At any rate it is one of those covers that pushes the date back on one of those cancellations that is usually ignored. This time it was the machine slogan "POSTAGE PAID P.O. ST. JOHN'S NFLD." first illustrated in the Mar. '56 issue of TOPICS. This cover however is dated Dec. 15, 1938, or 6 years earlier than our previous record. I see that I've neglected to mention that it is the one listed as #9. Back in 1956 we advised that we thought this cancel was only used during the Xmas Season and our belief seems to be borne out as every example that we have ever seen was used during the Xmas Season.

This time it was Ray Peters, BNAPS #1202, Phoenix, Ariz., who showed us a magnificent cover at the recent BNAPEX '62 at the Alpine in the Laurentians. It is a cover franked with the 1c, 2c and 3c Canada Small Queens but it is cancelled at Blanc/Sablon Newfd. Ty July 23, 1893. The cover is addressed to Baddeck, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and has the following backstamps on the back; Coastal T.P.O.W., late in July, '93, St. John's, Jy. 31, '93, Halifax Au 4, 1893 and finally Baddeck, Aug 5, '93. As near as those assembled at the Show could make out, the letter was evidently written in the Canadian section close to the Newfoundland border of Labrador and the nearest post office was in Newfoundland Territory. There must have been some agreement in vogue at that time because the letter was accepted and cancelled and passed on through. A right interesting cover.

I've always questioned whether being an early riser, as I am, is a virtue or not. However, I do know that it is apt to be expensive. At BNAPEX '62 I was up early one morning and so was George Wegg, BNAPS #308, Toronto, Can., and in the course of conversation he showed me a magnificent unhinged block of the 5c brown seal, Scott #25. To add frosting to the cake this mint block had a right margin and an imprint in the right margin. I've checked with everyone I know and the only other block known was the one Jim Sissons, BNAPS #17, also of Toronto, showed back

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