

Trail of the Caribou

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In order to make printing deadlines this column is being written in early Sept. before the season has really started and as a result there isn't too much to say or too much that has happened. We do see that Jim Sissons, BNAPS #17, of Toronto, Canada sold some nice pieces at auction on July 31st. Amongst those bits that changed hands were a very fine copy of the 2d rose, Scott #17 at \$19, a superb vertical mint pair of the 6½d. rose, Scott #21, with sheet margin at the bottom at \$24, near full catalogue and a mint corner block with sheet margins of the 1/. rose Scott #23, at \$26. An imperforate horizontal pair of the 15c, Scott #114, realized \$23 and a copy of the "THREE CENTS" Provisional, Scott #130, with most of the "THREE" missing went at the very nice price of \$50. This is a variety not often seen and exists in various stages with the "THREE" entirely missing to the "THREE" partially missing. This is not to be compared with the same stamp which is known with the lower bar of the surcharge entirely missing or partially missing because in the latter case those that show any part of the bar, even the slightest trace have little extra value whereas the variety without the "THREE" is a difficult item to come by whether it is completely missing or only partially missing. Then a pane of eight of the 2c rose, Scott #132, complete with selvage and taken from the first Newfoundland booklet is now part of someones collection because he was willing to pay \$40 for it. Two mint copies of the DO-X, Scott #C12, brought \$42 and \$40 respectively while mint imperforate vertical pairs of the 5c and 10c Labrador Air Scott #'s C13 and C14 each brought \$65. A mint Balbo, Scott #C18 went under the hammer at \$45 and a mint example of the Officially Sealed stamp now has a new home at \$21. This is some few dollars less than the more recent auction realizations but still a very nice price for the stamp. The last item in the sale was a used copy of the \$20 Inland Revenue in used condition and in the perf 11.9 that realized \$38.

H. R. Harmer, London, also had a sale that contained a few interesting Newfoundland items not the least of which was a set of the proof blocks of the Guy issue in perforated condition affixed to sunk cards. The issue was complete with the exception of the 15c value and the 6c value with the "Z" corrected. At any rate this lot which has never before been seen by me in more than 30 years of looking at auction catalogues and collections and exhibits brought \$175. Then the 1918 essay "TWO 2 CENTS" in three lines in red on the 60c Cabot which was considered at the time Newfoundland resorted to the "POSTAGE PAID" hand-stamp realized \$36.40. Incidentally this stamp had the surcharge double but in this instance it means very little as in our life it seems to us that we have seen more with the surcharge double than with the surcharge normal. In the Air Mails a mint DO-X, Scott #C12, was knocked down at \$43.40 and a mint Balbo, Scott #C18, went well we thought at \$56.

The pedigree of odd and interesting stamps has always been most interesting to me and I am always most pleased when I can trace an item back some 20 years or so. Such an item is lot #345 in the Sept. 17th sale of Robson Lowe to be held in London. The lot in question is a block of four of the 5c black seal, Scott #26, and described as centered a bit low. Going through our library of old auction catalogues we find that this very block readily identifiable with lot #345 because the photos match exactly was sold by the firm of Harmer Rooke in New York on Jan. 13, 1944, when they auctioned off the collection of the late John Kay of Detroit. Then we lost sight of it for some 17 years as we never saw it offered again at auction until Harmer Rooke again put it up for sale when they dispersed the collection of John Morton of New York on Jan. 27, 1961. Now the pendulum has swung all the way back again and it is again coming up for sale, and this time we hope to take it out

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