

Trail of the Caribou

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The Jan. 18th, issue of Stamp Collecting lists an interesting item in the advertisement of B. Kleinberg, London, England, it is an item very seldom seen, that 3c, Scott #246, in the line perf 14.1, in used condition. While it is catalogued at 40 Pounds in an unused state it is uncatalogued as a used stamp. Mr. Kleinberg's asking price is 22 Pounds and 10 Shillings and we hope he gets it because it will make our copy that much more valuable. Incidentally at the time we purchased our copy we have a feeling that it was catalogued some 2 pounds or so. A nice stamp seldom offered.

On the front cover of the Feb. 22nd, issue of Stamp Collecting, W. E. Lea, BNAPS #687, London, England, advertises for sale what is probably the most famous BNA cover of them all, it is the cover franked with the strip of 3 of the 2d. scarlet, Scott #2, to pay the 6d. rate to Devon. This is the very same cover that once graced the collection of the late Alfred H. Caspary and brought \$12,500 when it was sold in 1956. Bill Lea doesn't put a price on the cover now, he merely advises that it is available. I wonder what it will bring now?

In the same issue of Stamp Collecting the London firm of B. Kleinberg offers a mint copy of the 7c Coronation, Scott #237, in the very elusive comb perf at 9 Pounds and 10 Shillings. Rather a scarce 20th century variety and yet available from time to time in dealers stocks.

We revenue collectors had our eyes opened the other day when we saw the results of the recent Jim Sissons Sale up in Toronto. Jim offered for sale single used copies of the \$20 and \$50 Inland Caribou Revenue, Holmes #'s NIR 33 and NIR 34. They are catalogued at \$35 and \$50 respectively in Holmes but realized \$52.50 and \$77.50 at the sale. Little wonder that we didn't get the one we bid on, we didn't realize that they had become so popular and we were commanding such fancy prices. At the same sale Jim sold an imperforate mint horizontal pair of the 5c Labrador Airmail at \$92.50, a right handsome realization for this variety.

By the time you read this bit, the auction that motivated it will be a thing of the past, but we've just come back from a vacation (mid-March) and we were faced by this fantastic catalogue of the "Burrus" material put out by Robbie Lowe in England. Had we known what was coming up we would have saved our "coppers" in the hopes of getting a few of these items for our collection. We'll make a try anyway but it won't have anywhere near the power it would have had if we hadn't gone on our vacation first. Among the gems offered for sale are absolutely superb copies of the 2d. and 4d. scarlet, Scott #'s 2 and 4. The first is unused and the estimated valuation is 600 Pounds, far too little if the stamp measures up to the illustration in the auction catalogue. The 4d. is brilliant mint and also estimated at 600 Pounds. Then there is a magnificent mint copy of the 6½d, Scott #7, complete with left margin that should certainly bring a pretty penny. There are 2 mint copies of the 1/. scarlet but though they are valued at rather a high figure we are not too much impressed with them just from looking at the photos. Amongst the used scarlets the outstanding stamps seem to be a truly superb copy of the 4d., Scott #4, a very handsome copy of the 6d., Scott #6, and a superb copy of the 6½d., Scott #7, used on piece Nov. 3, 1858. Last but not least is a brilliant example of the 1/. scarlet, Scott #8, that must be truly magnificent if the stamp measures up to its photo. In the orange pence we find a very handsome copy of the 4d., Scott #12, with a tiny scissor cut in the lower left margin. This stamp is unused as is the very lovely 6d., Scott #13, that follows it. Then there is a piece that we have never seen before, a copy of the 1/. orange in mint condition with the letters "SPECI" overprinted across the face in black. It sure us a lovely bit and would be completely out of reach in its present condition were it not for the specimen overprint. Among the three used copies of the 1/. orange, Scott #15, is a very lovely one that I have singled out. It is truly a magnificent example of a very rare stamp.

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