

Trail of the Caribou

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

We know that Bob Pratt, BNAPS #1982, Milwaukee, Wis., won't like us for saying it but nevertheless it is true and if we can't buy stamps we will buy proofs. Our latest acquisition has set us to thinking however that there may be more of a certain variety than we had thought existed. We are referring to the perforated gummed proofs with quadrille lines across the face of the stamp, Scott #32. I daresay that we have about a dozen trial color proofs of this stamp in the imperforate condition on India paper and knew of the existence of the above mentioned gummed perforated proof in 2 shades of violet, a red orange, green and blue but always in color approximating those of the trial color proofs. Well the other day we bought three gummed perforated proofs in violet (a duplicate), red orange and wonder of wonders, in brown. So we have now come to the conclusion that most likely all of the trial color imperforate plate proofs also exist in the gummed perforate condition with quadrille lines. Do you agree Bob?

On Oct. 5, 1963 at a Robson Lowe sale in London a mint copy of the 3c, Scott #246, in the very scarce line perforate condition sold for \$61.60, a most handsome realization as our bid was quite a distance below that so that we know we weren't even a close second. In the same sale a mint copy of the 7c Coronation, Scott #235, in the comb perforation realized \$32.20.

We should have known better as Dr. Willan, BNAPS #568, Lancashire, England, gave us the first inkling in June 1959, through the medium of his article on early Newfoundland postmarks in "MAPLE LEAVES", but we evidently ignored though it was evidently stored back in a corner of our brain as we knew right where to go when we wanted to check the information. We had always believed that the quartered corks and the various leaf types were individual cork or wood cancels, but we now know better. At BNAPEX '63 held at Williamsburgh, Va, Jim Culhane, BNAPS #280, Norristown, Pa., showed a cover of the 5c black seal that clearly showed evi-

dence of a metal ring with the inscription "ST. JOHNS NEWFOUNDLAND" around a quartered or barred cork or wood cancel. This type of cancel is illustrated by Dr. Willan as his type 14, 15 or 16 on page 261 of the June 1959 issue of *Maple Leaves*. Then on Oct. 19th Bill Pollitz, BNAPS #763, Boston, Mass., had a sale that contained a used example of the 2c postcard of 1879. This used card is scarce enough but when you add to it the fact that it was cancelled with a very nice leaf cancel, you enhance it's value. Evidently Harry Lussey, BNAPS #167, New Milford, N.J., thought so too because he had the advantage of being present at the auction and took the lot away from me. What was most interesting about this cancel is that about the outside of the leaf were rather definite impressions of the word "ST. JOHNS NEWFOUNDLAND" which proved quite conclusively that like the previously mentioned cancel this one too had been set in a metal ring. Sure enough reference to Dr. Willan's article showed that it might be anyone of his types 17 to 23. It was all there for me all these years but I had to see it to believe it.

I think it is time that I said something against the growing practise of auction houses to put reserves on the material that they are selling without letting the bidder know beforehand. I can remember the day not so long ago when all auctions were unreserved and went to the highest bidder and I can make a promise that I'm through bidding at auctions that do not state that all items will be sold to the highest bidder. If there is to be a reserve I want to know it and I would much rather buy it directly from the seller at what he considers his reserved price if I think it worth it rather than get mixed up in a fictitious auction that is truly not an auction. No sir, I've had my fill at this type of dealing and from now on I'll bid at what I call legitimate auctions or not at all. This is one boy that is going to start reading the fine print under the conditions under which it is being conducted.