

Trail of the Caribou

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As a result of the meting of the minds, W. D. Van Ness, BNAPS #1062, Chestnut Hill, Mass., my principal aide on the Specialized listings we have decided that on occasion we are prone to list perforation varieties that are too close to the major listed variety. This is principally true in the case of Scott #145-159 which appeared in the Jan. 60 TOPICS. In that listing purely on my own I listed the 2c, Scott #146 as comb perf 13.5 x 12.7 with a sub-listing of 13.5 x 12.5. Subsequently Van came up with a similar variety in the case of the 4c, Scott #148, only this time it was listed as 12.7 x 13.5 and we added the sub listing of 12.5 x 13.5. Van has now come up with the same variety in the 20c, Scott #157, but we have decided that rather than list that one as well, we should delete all 12.5 x 13.5 or 13.5 x 12.5 listings as they run too close to the regular listing which is only two tenths away on one side. We feel we are getting too picky and we hope you agree.

On page 85 of the Apr. issue of TOPICS we came across an item that jostled our memory. The item in question is an Airmail Essay that first made its appearance in 1931. According to this squib in TOPICS the lot was sold for \$1,050 to an English collector. Now we have always prided ourselves on our memories philatelic, and certainly this time we were vindicated. Only once in the past 25 years had we seen this Essay sold and it seemed to us that it had been sold by Eugene Klein in Philadelphia. So recourse was had to our pile of old auction catalogues and sure enough in Eugene Klein's auction of Feb. 24, 1941, we found the item. The price it sold for: hold on to your hats, a very meagre \$22.50, a far cry from the \$1,050 it realized some 23 years later. A careful examination of the photo proves to us rather conclusively that the item sold by H. R. Harmer is not the same stamp that was sold by Klein, so that somewhere in this wide world there should be another of these stamps. It is reputed by Dalwick & Harmer that only 3-6 exist. At any rate, we can

vouch for two. Incidentally the one illustrated in the Dalwick & Harmer book seems to be the one that was sold by Eugene Klein. Who has it?

This bit really belongs in the Editors Mailbag as it is a further elaboration on the bit put in by Ron Kitchen, BNAPS #1049, Chomeday, Quebec. Some years ago the late Alec MacMaster brought this variety to my attention by submitting several used copies, none on cover. Since I had several mint sheets of this stamp purchased from the post office, I put a glass to them to see if I could position this variety. To add to my troubles, it seems as though these stamps were printed in sheets of 400 and then quartered to make the sheet of 100 that we know. I believe I had 5 sheets on hand and it was not until I got to the fourth that I found the variety in position #49. Incidentally it did not exist on the fifth mint sheet in my accumulation so all I can say is that it is position #49 on one of the four sheets that made up the master sheet of 400. If any reader of this column can tell me how to position the sheets of this last printing I will be able to give you more pertinent information as to where the variety can be found. Incidentally I have never found it on stamp #246, but then I haven't looked too hard either and it may be there as those were only printed in sheets of 100 if my memory does not serve me false.

That's the way it goes, for some 25 years we had never seen the "235" cancel on the 1c post card, Holmes #1672, until we purchased one some few months ago. Now evidently as a result of that article we were offered another one by a reader of this column. We don't know what we will do with a second example but when it was offered to us by Douglas Chasmer, BNAPS #1947, Essex, England, we accepted and we are now the proud owner of two of the 1c cards with the "235" cancel. Won't someone please come up with a logical explanation of what the cancel means?