

Trail of the Caribou

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The following was located amongst Mr. Meyerson's papers

It is probably more than circumstance but everytime that we have to make the 200 mile trip to Boston on business we always seem to have an hour or so to spare visiting the stamp dealers of that fair city. This time we stopped by at the New England Stamp Co., as Bill Bogg, BNAPS #768, usually has some oddity lying about that is of interest to the Newfoundland specialist. I wasn't to be disappointed this time either as Bill dragged out 4 presentation cards that had been issued by Newfoundland down through the years. They ran the gamut from the Cabot issue of 1897 to the Publicity issue of 1928. A check of our records showed that over the past 9 years they had all been recorded in TRAIL OF THE CARIBOU but this was the first time that we had seen them all at once. The 1928 Publicity card had been reported by the late Alec MacMaster in June '55, the 1911 Coronation issue had been purchased by the author and reported in the Nov. '57 issue of TOPICS. The late Alec MACMASTER also turned up with the Guy issue on card and it was recorded in the Feb. '58 issue of TOPICS. Finally in the Jan. '63 issue of TOPICS we reported that Narl Scales had submitted an example of the Cabot Presentation card. So it was nothing new that Bill was showing us, but it was certainly nice to see them all at once. Thanks Bill.

Ray Peters, BNAPS #1202, Phoenix, Ariz., has certainly come up with a nice item that very closely parallels an item that we wrote up in the July '62 TOPICS. It was a bisect of #48 that we wrote up and the only reason that we did is that it was used during the period of emergency to pay the drop letter rate within St. John's. Now the cover that Ray has submitted is a bisect of the 2c Cabot, Scott #62, well tied to cover with a grid and postmarked at St. John's on Oct. 2, 1897 right in the midst of the emergency. We have never seen or heard of an authorisation for bisected stamps at that time but at least this one has some vestige of legitimate use. It's a

nice piece Ray, wish it had come across our desk before it fell into your hands.

Narl Scales, BNAPS #1058, Evansville, Ind., one of our old reliables is in with some lovely Newfoundland used envelopes. The one that really intrigued us was a copy of the 3c Envelope, Holmes #1600a, used to Halifax from Nippers Harbor on Jy. 19, 1895, addressed to Halifax, N.S. The envelope was forwarded to Cape Breton and in the course of forwarding the envelope received a Halifax Squared Circle directly on the stamp. If Narl was collecting Cut Squares he would have a magnificent example of a Canadian Squared Circle on a Newfoundland stamp. Then Narl sent along another example of the 3c Envelope, Holmes #1600a with two additional copies of the 1/2c, Scott #78, to make a 4c rate addressed to Pov in British India, via Simla. The envelope was then forwarded to Kotgarh and bears the originating cancel of Labrador T.P.O. of Oct. 30, 1906, a transit cancel from Liverpool of Nov. 26, a backstamp of St. John's of Nov. 10, 1906 and a further backstamp at Kotgarh in India of Dec. 20, 1906. It took the envelope 12 days to get from the Labrador T.P.O. to St. John's, then another 16 to Liverpool — we wonder at the length of time — and another 24 days to reach its destination in British India. All in all the envelope was some 52 days en route. They certainly are nice envelopes particularly when written up to bring out their peculiarities.

We certainly consider ourselves most unfortunate as from the collection of Postal Stationery accumulated by Stan Calder, BNAPS #326, Cheshire, England, we have just received the used reply card for Holmes #1675. This card used even out of Newfoundland is very scarce but we have never seen one sent back into Newfoundland. For some years now the collection has had a used copy of #1675 addressed to Berne, Switzerland and now Stan has sent us the second half used from Omdurman in the Sudan on Nov. 1, 1937. Amongst the back-

stamps that we can decipher are one from Khartoum and another from Cairo with an Omduran postmark on the face of the card. We would much have preferred an earlier usage but when it is the first we have seen we do not look a gift horse in the mouth. Aren't we fortunate though that both halves are #1675 instead of having ½ half #1675 and the other half 1675a. Now, we will try to complete #1675a.

Back in the April 1960 issue of TOPICS we ran a bit about Newfoundland letters posted aboard ship. Since that date we have added three additional covers through purchases at various auctions and another just the other day through the kindness of Stan Calder, BNAPS #326, Cheshire, England. The three purchased at auction are as follows; the first franked with a copy of the 3c, Scott #165 is cancelled with an elliptical canceller in blue that reads "British Mail Branch St. John, N.B." The date on the cancellation is Jan. 19, 1931. In addition the cover bears the lenced in violet "Posted on board the/British ship 'Montcalm'/on the High Seas/Date 17 JAN. 1931". The second cover franked with the same stamp has the handwritten notation "S. S. 'Duchess of York'" and it is cancelled by a black circle 28 mm in diameter that

reads "PAQUEBOT/POSTED AT SEA/RECEIVED/24-1-31/ SAINT JOHN N.B.". The third is a postcard franked with the 15c, Scott #211, with a black "PAQUEBOT" cancelling the stamp and tying it to the card plus a circular red cancel 31mm in diameter and reading "T. E. V. QUEEN OF BERMUDA/POSTED ON THE/HIGH SEAS" and cancelled at Hamilton, Bermuda on Apr. 28, 1936. The fourth and last cover from Stan Calder is an envelope addressed to Winnipeg and franked with the 2c, Scott #116 and the 2c, Scott #146. The date of the receipt of this cover in Winnipeg is Nov. 16, 1928. The back of the cover bears a blue straight line "S. S. NERISSA/ST. JOHN'S" 4mm. high and 52mm long for the first line and 46mm. long for the second.

Also from the collection of Stan Calder comes a Trinidad cover with a Newfoundland cancel that is unknown to us and we would appreciate any help that we can get from our readers. The cover in question was posted at Port of Spain, Trinidad on Aug. 29, 1933 and bears on the reverse a 20mm. black circular cancellation reading "ST. JOHNS, L.C.D. N'FLD. 1933/SEP. 7". What does the "L.C.D." cancellation stand for?

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the Original and Retouched Dies, but other identifiable variations can be separated out now and save time later, these would be:—

Original Die — Dated copies — Perfins — Variations — Coils — Hairlines — Guide dots — Guide lines — Retouched Die — Precancels — Booklet Stamps — Special cancels, numeral, sq. circle etc. — Retouches — Re-entries, etc.

Do not discard torn or damaged stamps they may be of no use for a collection but as long as the points of identifications are clear they are of value to our counts.

Do not make the mistake trying to sort far too much at once, it is too confusing and will only lead to more work later.

Having completed your first sorting, the varieties for both Dies as listed above might come out as follows; —

Dated Copies—941
Booklet Stamps—53
Numeral cancel—74
Guide Lines—43

Coils—113
Perfins—123
Sq. Circles—
Retouches—6
PreCancels—82
Hairlines—24
Guide Dots—153
Re-Entries—18

I should have said as far as the varieties go pick out those you notice, you do not need to look specially for them as they will be gone over again.

The total of the above is 1630 which at present should be taken from our 10,000 and the percentage of the 10,000 found, it would be 16%, after we have finished sorting for plate varieties these can be sorted back into them, so that you know where the varieties came from. Mean time, it means that our plate counts should be reduced by 16% if our total quantity is approx. 10,000.

A count of the Original die stamps should produce the estimated quantity of
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