

# THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Mike Dicketts



Although I've touched on the work of volunteers in past columns, I trust you'll bear with me if I devote this issue's corner to the subject in greater detail.

It is a truism to state that without the devotion of the officers of our Society to maintaining services to members, BNAPS would cease to function within a month. It's all too easy for us to take things for granted — just pay annual dues and rely on someone to bend over backwards whenever we need guidance, help, or a particular service.

BNAPS has survived because members have collectively, down through the years, given of their knowledge and their time to further the aims of this organization. Anyone who has attended our annual conventions will have experienced that tremendous sense of members sharing with others, whether it be philatelic knowledge or in organizational skills. It is unfortunate that the latter is often taken too much for granted; yet it is only through the gift of hours and hours of work by volunteers that a convention, regional meeting, or service division can be hailed as a success.

Most of our volunteer organizers and officers are not retirees but active men and women earning a living and having many interests. Their one common trait is a willingness to help others by serving BNAPS in whatever function they feel best will benefit the membership as a whole. Because there is always a percentage of 'burn-out' among incumbents, there is a constant need for new people to fill positions.

I would like to appeal to anyone who is interested in taking a more active role in running BNAPS to put their names forward. Please write to me at 61 Alwington Avenue, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4R4 if you would like to serve as a director or officer in the future, and your interest will be kept on file. If you have any questions about a position I'll be glad to answer them, and I'll also be happy to discuss how you can be a more active member and help shape the future direction and growth of BNAPS.

Volunteering is the life-blood of an active organisation like ours. It offers the reward of personal satisfaction which money cannot buy. To all members who give that little bit extra go my personal thanks for their unselfish approach to membership.

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## LETTERS

### 5¢ CARIBOU REBUTTAL

I read the article on the Newfoundland 5 cents Caribou by Mr. Derek Paul in the March-April edition of BNA TOPICS with great interest. However, as a collector of the Industrial issue of Newfoundland, I have a number of problems with his assertions and conclusions.

First, while the catalogues typically give the

comb perforation gauge for the Industrial issue as 13½, the stamps will actually measure 13.3, 13.4 or 13.5 depending on which Instanta gauge is used (see page 50 in Meyerson's *Newfoundland Specialized*). Also, Marshall Kay's study of the Industrial issue (*BNA TOPICS* March 1958) found all comb perforated Industrials have the same number of holes (19) between comb teeth and almost the same number of holes in the

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teeth (15 or 16). In other words, all comb perforated Industrials are the same gauge. The catalogues have simply rounded the perforation measurement off to 13%.

Second, the differences in width can be due to several printing causes. One difference results from using the wet (damp) paper as opposed to dry paper. The wet printed stamps shrink relative to stamps printed on dry paper. Another cause of differences is the use of rotary presses as opposed to flat bed presses. Curving the printing plate causes the image to be stretched in the direction of curvature. Thus stamps printed from curved plates are slightly larger in one dimension than stamps printed from flat plates. The Industrial series was printed on rotary presses by both Perkins Bacon firms and by Waterlow & Sons. The differences in width measured by Mr. Paul are due entirely to paper shrinkage and are not a significant characteristic of the variety that he has studied.

Who produced this stamp is my next problem. It is known that the stamps of Newfoundland were produced by the second Perkins Bacon firm until 10 May 1941 when their printing plant was destroyed during the German air bombardment of London (see Robert H. Pratt's *The 1941 War Issue of Newfoundland*, ESSAY—PROOF JOURNAL, vol. 22, no. 1, 1965). Waterlow & Sons then picked up the production of Newfoundland stamps. But, their records indicate the 5 cents Caribou was first printed in February 1942 (see John Ayshford's *The Last Stamps of Newfoundland* Robson Lowe Ltd., 1978). So, from May 1941 till February 1942 who produced Newfoundland's stamps?

Part of the answer is the Canadian Bank Note Company, who provided the Grenfell issue. With Perkins Bacon's plant destroyed and Waterlow not yet geared-up, it is not at all surprising that the Grenfell issue almost totally displaces the Caribou during the winter of 1941-42. The rest of the answer requires a lot more research than has been done to date.

The kind of research Mr. Paul has done is the kind of work a Newfoundland Study Group should be doing. Towards the establishment of such a study group I offer myself as the contact person. I would be most interested in hearing from anyone interested in Newfoundland philately in general or the 1932-1947 Industrials specifically.

C. A. Stillions  
Washington, D.C.

#### HERITAGE DEFINITIVE CHANGES

*For The Record* (May-June) discussed some of the recent changes in the 'Heritage' definitives. Besides the change of printer, from Ashton Potter Ltd. of Toronto to Canadian Bank Note Co. Ltd. of Ottawa, there are other changes which might be of interest to members.

One significant difference between the work of the two companies (as evidence by the 2¢ Fishing Spear) is the perforation gauge. The Canada Post specification is the usual '13+', which doesn't really mean much to collectors. Ashton Potter used a gauge of 14 x 13½, so catalogues will have to identify the CBN printing as a minor number.

There is also a visual difference between the

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